

RUSSIAN EXPEDITION IS OFF THE BULGARIAN COAST, SAYS DISPATCH

Russian Cruiser and Destroyers, Convoying 16 Transports, Are Bombarding Port of Varna Vigorously.

London, Dec. 21.—The arrival of a Russian expedition off the Bulgarian coast is reported by the Athens correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph company, who says a Russian cruiser and two destroyers which conveyed 16 transports carrying troops, have arrived off the Bulgarian coast and are bombarding Varna vigorously.

The Bulgarian port of Varna on the Black sea a few miles south of the Roumanian border. It is a railway terminus. This city and Burgas, fifty miles farther south, are the principal Bulgarian Black sea ports. On several occasions since the beginning of the Teutonic drive through Serbia it has been reported that the Russian forces were being concentrated at Odessa for this purpose.

Previous reports that Russian naval demonstrations before Varna or Burgas were presumably for the purpose of effecting a landing of troops were not borne out.

London, Dec. 21.—The Albanian front of Durazzo is said to be the latest objective of the Teutonic-Bulgarian campaign in the Balkans. Strong forces are believed to be marching across Albania in an effort to forestall the Italian occupation of that port.

While the Germans, Austrians, Bulgarians and Turks are orientating troops on the front of the Greek-Macedonian border, the allies are ceaselessly debarking men and munitions at Saloniki. Several months will be necessary, however, before the entente armies can hope to undertake an offensive on a scale that promises possibility of success.

Paris reports that the Germans are preparing for two gigantic strokes—one against Calais and the other directed toward Egypt, in the hope of ending the war by a smashing blow at some vital point.

The German guns are busy on the western front but there is no further evidence of an offensive there.

In an effort to prevent British aerial reconnaissance, according to British official news, the Germans sent up squadrons of aeroplanes resulting in 44 conflicts in the air, with the loss of two German aeroplanes and one ally machine.

On the French front an incessant fire against the German positions is being kept up.

The British public are awaiting with intense interest details of the withdrawal of the allied armies from the Gallipoli peninsula. Newspaper comment shows a mingled feeling of regret and relief at the development.

The feeling of relief is reflected in the attitude of the public toward the whole near-eastern venture and in confidence of the increasing fortune of the allies in that region, which having reached its lowest point must begin to rise.

LONDON WOMEN DO MILITARY STABLE DUTY

London, Dec. 21.—Women now form the staff of three horse depots at Reading, where they are not only doing military stable duty and grooming the horses, but are actually instructing soldiers in riding. This is the most startling kind of war work undertaken by women. All of them are used to horses and to riding and are to be seen at the depots, and enjoy their new duties.

Second Ancona Note To Austria Goes Forward

Washington, Dec. 21.—Secretary Lansing announced today that the second American note to Austria concerning the Ancona had gone forward Sunday and should reach them by tonight.

While Secretary Lansing gave no indication as to the contents of the note it is understood that it is a virtual reiteration of the original American demands with the implication that it is the United States' last word on the subject. The text of the document will be made public by the newspapers of Wednesday afternoon, Secretary Lansing stated.

The note is about 600 words long and although characterized by those acquainted with its wording as firm in tone, is said to be somewhat less sharp than the first note in the tenor of its demands. It is based squarely, according to those officials, on the Austrian admiral's own version of the Ancona sinking and while reference is made to American victims and survivors, the reference is said to be more incidental than direct.

The names of twelve Americans said to have been on the Ancona when she was torpedoed were received today by the state department from Ambassador Page at Rome. The cablegram reads as follows: "Twelve Americans known to have been aboard Ancona. They were: Mrs. Cecile L. Greil, first cabin; Joseph Terrisi and daughter, Carmela, second cabin, bearing American passport 2880 and 2887; and third cabin, Alexander Potalivo, wife, Maria Nicola Potalivo; two sons, Kurio, aged 19, Irlando, aged 17, and two daughters, Maria Irmibia, 14 years, and Nuria, 11 years. Previous spelling Paltativo was erroneous. Pasquale Laurino, formerly mentioned as Saurino, naturalized. Mrs. Francis Nascola Lamuta, reported as wife of naturalized American citizen and child, name not given.

"Of foregoing only three are known to survive, namely: Mrs. Greil, who left Rome to sail today from Bordeaux by steamer Roehambeau; Joseph Terrisi, in hospital at Ferryville, Tunisia and Irlando Potalivo."

Committees Will Frame U. S. Law Against Ueury

Washington, Dec. 21.—The banking and currency committees of congress are prepared to begin work soon after the holidays on a federal law to prevent ueury. Several bills have been introduced, one by Senator Gore, which proposes that every national banking association shall keep a schedule under the regulation of the treasury showing the rate of interest charge on any loan, discount, note or other evidence of debt and that all accepted interest charges be reported by

the comptroller of currency to the attorney general. The attorney general would institute proceedings to recover the amount of excessive interest. The offenders would also be liable to the government for an amount equal to the excess charged.

Representative Howard of Georgia has prepared a resolution which he will submit after the holidays directing an investigation into the allegations recently made by certain treasury officials that some banks were charging excessive rates of interest.

XMAS PROGRAM AT CENTRAL CHURCH

Children to Bring Gifts for the Poor—Special Musical Program Prepared.

Christmas will be observed a little early at Central church tonight in order that the gifts to be given by the children can be presented to the poor of the city.

The church helps support the Welfare cottage near the Asheville Cotton mill, which is under the supervision of Miss Murphy, the Deaconess. She will have charge of the distribution of the presents among the poor.

The service will begin promptly at 7 o'clock in the main Sunday school room. Special music has been prepared by the choir under the direction of Miss Daisy Smith. Kelly Gorrall will sing "The Ninety and Nine"; Rev. F. W. Stanton, pastor of the French Broad Methodist church, will lecture with slides shown, on "Master Artists of the Early Life of Christ."

After the program in the main Sunday school room, a special program will be given in the primary department for the smaller children. Santa Claus will be there to give presents to the small children. The public is cordially invited to attend this service.

BELGIUM'S KING AND QUEEN TARGET OF AIRMEN

German Aviators Shell Village as Couple Return From Church.

Paris, Dec. 21.—Details of a narrow escape from death recently by the king and queen of Belgium, when German aviators threw bombs on a fishing village where the royal couple reside, are printed in the Petit Journal.

The king and queen were coming out of church from mass with the rest of the congregation, says the paper's correspondent, when six German aeroplanes appeared, flying low. Apparently the machines came from Ostend.

PROBABLE CAUSE IN HALL'S CASE

Fred Hall of Newfound Held Under \$2,500 Bond on Seizure Charge.

MADE BOND.

Fred Hall, a young man of the Newfound section waived preliminary examination before Magistrate T. F. Hunter yesterday afternoon and was held to Superior court under a bond of \$2,500 on charges of seducing Estelle Morgan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Morgan of the Newfound section.

The Morgan girl, her sister and W. B. Saunders, a brother-in-law, were examined by the prosecution, but the defense offered no testimony. Hall made the bond of \$2,500 for his appearance before the term of Superior court for the trial of criminal cases, which will convene here on January 10 for three weeks.

The defendant was arrested several weeks ago and held under a \$2,500 bond by Magistrate B. L. Lyda for a preliminary hearing, the girl's condition at that time being such that she could not appear in court. It was stated at the time of the arrest that Hall was attempting to leave the state.

Stevens and Anderson of this city and J. Bat Smathers of Canton represented the defense at the hearing yesterday afternoon and Judge T. A. Jones and R. M. Wells were attorneys for the prosecution.

10,000 GRANTED AMNESTY BY JAPANESE EMPEROR

Seoul, Korea, Dec. 21.—The special coronation amnesty proclaimed by Emperor Yoshihito has caused considerable rejoicing in Korea especially among the relatives and friends of convicted people of whom 10,000 benefit by the amnesty. In the Seoul prison alone, which contains male prisoners, 1,468 out of the total of 1,576 were either pardoned or had their sentences commuted.

The last Sunday edition of the New York Herald gives a large amount of space to southern resort cities. In this write up Asheville has a conspicuous place.

CHICAGO LIVESTOCK.

Chicago, Dec. 21.—Hogs, weak; receipts 4,000; bulk of sales 6.15@6.50; pigs 4.75@5.50.
Cattle, weak; receipts 5,000; native beef cattle 5.80@10.40; calves 6.25@9.50.
Sheep, weak; receipts 19,000; sheep 6.10@6.40; lambs 6.85@9.60.

PENDER WOMAN GIVEN RESPITE

Mrs. Gussie Hand, Convicted of Killing Brother, Gets 30 Days to Prepare Petition for Pardon.

NOT A FAIR TRIAL DEFENSE CONTENTS

Wealthy Wine-Seller's Case Before the Supreme Court—Several Big Corporations Allowed Charters.

Raleigh, Dec. 21.—Governor Craig has given a respite of 30 days to Mrs. Gussie Hand of Pender county who is under sentence of two years for killing her brother, George Pierce Jordan.

Mrs. Hand was convicted by a jury and sentenced by Judge Cooke. When the Supreme court heard the case it upheld the lower court but Chief Justice Clark writing in his opinion that this might be a case for executive clemency. In granting the respite Governor Craig gave the chief justice's suggestion as one of the reasons and also desired that Mrs. Hand be given time to prepare her petition for pardon or commutation. The judgment will not take effect until January 20, 1916.

No case that has come to the Supreme court in a long time has brought quite the sympathy that this one did. The defense contends that Mrs. Hand did not have a fair trial. It held all the time that the action should have been moved to another county. When it was called for trial the solicitor decided not to ask for murder in the first degree but in the second and passed the jury to the defendant. When the defense asked any jury who believed Mrs. Hand to be guilty of any crime to excuse himself, ten arose and walked off. The box was filled and the same question as to the formation and expression of opinion as to guilt was repeated, and six or eight jurors left. Again the box was filled and the question repeated when three members started to leave. Judge Cooke stopped them and asked the examination of each juror separately. They thought they could give the defendant a fair trial despite their prejudgments. But they were excused.

Judge Cooke had previously expressed his beliefs that there were men of courage enough in that county to give a defendant a fair trial. The defense holds that the defendant learned for the first time of the feeling against her and did not have time then to file an affidavit for the removal of the case to another county. The conduct of the jurors showed a good deal of feeling which the defense had not expected.

The evidence was conflicting. Mrs. Hand and her father testified that George Jordan came to Mrs. Hand's home and violently cursed and abused her. He was charged with having kicked the door down and having threatened when he went away "to leave her G—d—carcass under the sod." The end of it was her shooting him in the neck with a shotgun. He was instantly killed. She testified that he had a pistol in his pocket. Witnesses disagreed as to his armament when the coroner examined him. The suggestion that these weapons might have been placed in his pocket was raised by some of this testimony.

The defense made many exceptions to the charge. The evidence that the defendant and her brother had quarreled, that he had slept in the barn during the summer and refused or failed to eat his meals with Mrs. Hand was used to show feeling. The state held that Jordan while swearing and kicking the door down and having threatened when he went away "to leave her G—d—carcass under the sod" was not advancing upon her. She testified that this trouble occurred just a few days before the birth of her last baby.

The feeling in Pender seems to have been against her, but the lawyers and those who have read the briefs have been with the woman defendant.

Johnson Case Again.

The J. H. Johnson case from Cumberland involving the six months sentence of a well-to-do man who sold wine in quantities smaller than allowed by the 1908 act was heard by Governor Craig.

This case went through the courts a few weeks ago and the Supreme court was unable to find anything to help Mr. Johnson. The pardon was opposed by some strong reasons. The defendant was convicted by a jury and sentenced by Judge Oliver H. Allen. (Continued on Page Two).

THE LARGEST Advertisement appearing in The Gazette-News today is that of H. L. FINKELSTEIN ON PAGE EIGHT.

CALLING ATTENTION TO
CHRISTMAS SPECIALS

GEN. VILLA CAN COME INTO U.S.

Mexican Leader Will Be Afforded Asylum in This Country if He Desires to End His Military Career.

WOULD BE RECEIVED AS POLITICAL REFUGEE

Would Not Be Immune From Prosecution in United States on Charges of Ordinary Character.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Official advice fails to disclose the exact whereabouts of General Villa, but a report from General Pershing at El Paso indicates the Villa is on his way from Chihuahua to the border. General Pershing reported that according to the best information General Villa had with him about 400 men. The belief prevails that Villa will appear in this side of the frontier.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The state department has decided that General Francisco Villa will receive the asylum accorded political refugees, should he enter the United States. This decision was made known last night to General Frederick Funston by the war department, to be transmitted to General Villa or his representatives.

State department agents report that alleged intermediaries have requested for Villa immunity from arrest, saying that if it is given, they believe that Villa will abandon his fight against Carranza and retire to private life in the United States. The state department does not conceal its desire to have Villa eliminated from the Mexican situation. Without him the revolution in northern Mexico would certainly fail, officials believe.

The intermediaries are also said to have planned for the retirement from the field of the entire Villa army.

Much interest is displayed by officials as to whether Villa will accept the promise of immunity as a political refugee. Such immunity would not protect him from prosecution in the United States on charges of an ordinary character. This government has nothing on which charges might be brought against Villa but it is said that local officials at El Paso have information concerning alleged irregularities in cattle deals which include Villa which might be made the basis for prosecution.

Secretary Lansing announced that Villa had the right to enter the United States would be given the same facilities to do so as any other foreigner. Dispatches to that effect were sent to General Funston last night to be delivered to General Villa.

The Carranza de facto government is in official control of the former Villa state of Chihuahua by virtue of an agreement reached between General Roberto Limon, Manuel Bandin, Lieutenant Colonel Flaviano Paliza and Colonel Eduardo Andalon, and Andreas Garcia, of the Carranza consulate here, by which about 4,000 troops and the organization of the Villa government, including the cities of Juarez and Chihuahua and all border points, accept Carranza domination. The agreement grants amnesty to all but General Villa and his brother Hipolito.

The generals entered into conference Sunday as delegates from General Villa to confer with Mr. Garcia under plans to turn over the entire territory and all troops and arms, and for himself to leave the capital without any following.

They reported the result of their conference Sunday night to General Villa at Chihuahua City.

Late yesterday they had received no reply from General Villa and instead, learned that after receiving their advice, General Villa gathered 400 men and left Chihuahua City and that his whereabouts were unknown.

Upon opening the conference with the Carranza consul, the Villa generals announced they would proceed on the unrescinded authorization as given by General Villa. They said they believed Villa feared that the delegates would not be able to secure him immunity from prosecution should he cross the international line.

The surrender of the Villa organization includes most of his army, about seventy-five per cent, of the rolling stock of the railroads of Mexico and the state of Chihuahua, the richest mining and livestock district in Mexico.

According to officials here the foreign interests in Villa controlled territory have suffered a loss estimated at \$50,000,000, due to confiscation and alleged thefts of ore, cattle and other property and the depreciation of Villa currency. These officials charge that churches were stripped of their specie and confiscated goods given away to satisfy people ruined by lack of employment and depreciation of Villa currency.

C. S. Edinger is sought. Rev. Dr. R. F. Campbell recently received a letter from W. A. Peterson of 2920 LaSalle street, Chicago, asking for information in regard to C. S. Edinger, whose whereabouts are said to be unknown. The inquiry has been referred to the local board of trade.

GRAND JURIES PROBING PLOTS

Two Federal Bodies Investigating Alleged Plan to Blow Up Welland Canal and Munition Strikes.

DURAZZO SAID TO BE OBJECTIVE OF TEUTONS

Strong Forces Reported to Be Marching Toward Albanian Port to Forestall Occupation by Italians.

New York, Dec. 21.—Two federal grand juries are investigating today the alleged plot to blow up the Welland canal and the activities of Labor's National Peace council in instigating strikes in war munitions factories.

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, who testified yesterday in the case of the Labor's council was under subpoena today for further appearance before the grand jury with Frank Morrison, secretary. It was reported today that the inquiry into the alleged plot to blow up the Welland canal conspiracy would show that Paul Koenig, who is under arrest on a charge of conspiracy, was watched by secret service agents while on frequent trips to Washington and that he carried to that city suit cases or trunks containing documents and delivered them to persons there.

As illustrating the ramifications of the federal investigation it is said that government agents are collecting evidence in regard to an alleged plot to blow up power houses on both the Canadian side of the Niagara river and at Niagara Falls and to destroy the Michigan Central and Grand Trunk railway bridge.

Snowden Marshall, United States district attorney, has received evidence concerning an effort to ship contraband of war from New York to Germany. The fact concerning the neutrality squad of the customs service seized four trunks and eight packing cases containing about 350 pounds of rubber.

All the trunks and packing cases were checked as the personal baggage of a woman who was booked to sail for Rotterdam on the Hamburg-American line steamer Ryndam on November 27.

The exportation of goods for commercial purposes without notifying the customs officials is a violation of the federal statutes.

New York, Dec. 21.—Frederick Metzler, held in connection with alleged plots to embarrass the allies by hindering the manufacture and shipment of munitions of war, has made a full statement to the federal authorities concerning the activities of Paul Koenig, head of the Hamburg-American line, Koenig, Metzler said, had 25 agents in New York alone and reported the results of his investigations to Captain Von Pappen, German military attaché at Washington.

Information obtained by the Federal authorities from witnesses appearing before the grand jury which is investigating the alleged plot of Paul Koenig, head of the detective bureau of the Hamburg American line, to blow up the Welland canal, have widely extended the scope of the inquiry. After the grand jury had adjourned yesterday Federal officials stated that the Welland canal plot might prove to be merely an incident in a conspiracy which extended throughout the country.

Indictments against Koenig and Richard Emil Leyendecker, the New York arts goods dealer, who was arrested with him, are expected to be returned on Wednesday and Thursday. United States Attorney Marshall admitted, however, that these indictments probably would be merely the forerunner of others to be sought from subsequent grand juries dealing with other activities of Koenig.

While the Koenig case was occupying the attention of one Federal grand jury, Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, was appearing before another which is concluding its inquiry into the case of Franz von Rintelen, charged with instigating strikes in munition factories.

After leaving the grand jury room Mr. Gompers declared that he knew of no instance in which any leader of organized labor had been corrupted by German agents. He intimated, however, that he had information in regard to attempts made to bribe union heads. Mr. Gompers was to resume his testimony today, when Frank Morrison, secretary of the Federation of Labor, also was to appear before the jury.

Souvenirs of Continental Trip. The secretary of the board of trade has recently sent to Dr. William B. Gross of San Diego, Cal., ten photographs of the Southern National Rightly party while they were in this region. Dr. Gross was in charge of the logging expedition as are said to be unknown. The inquiry has been referred to the local board of trade.

Dr. Spilman speaks on the Christian college. The missionary society of the Wake Forest Baptist church held its monthly meeting in the church Sunday night. Rev. Dr. B. W. Spilman, field secretary to educational institutions, for the Sunday school board of the Southern Baptist convention, was the speaker. Dr. Spilman took as his theme "The Christian college as a Factor in the Establishment of the Kingdom of God." After discussing education in general, Dr. Spilman stated that the churches which furnish money for equipment and endowment and parents who send their sons and daughters to Christian institutions, have a right to expect in the institution an atmosphere which is positively Christian; they also have a right to expect the very best of culture, not only in the realm of liberal arts, but also in Christianity. Dr. Spilman stated that education was both a process and a product and that what appeared in the product must be in the process. If the product is to be a cultured Christian gentleman, then the culture must have a gentleman to begin on and must put into the curriculum those things which will result in culture. If a Christian college is to prepare the student for effective Christian work, then the Christian college must have in its curriculum those things which will result in Christian efficiency. Dr. Spilman congratulated both Wake Forest and Meredith on the fact that they are among the foremost institutions in the country, both in their position of Christian atmosphere and in teaching of those things which result in Christian efficiency.

BUT FEW SEE WILSON COUPLE

President Spends the Morning With His Stenographer and Mrs. Wilson Answers Letters—Ride Planned

ENLARGED FORCE OF SECRET SERVICE MEN

Every Effort Is Being Made to Enable Distinguished Couple to Enjoy an Undisturbed Honeymoon.

Hot Springs, Va., Dec. 21.—President Wilson spent the morning at work with his stenographer on official correspondence, and Mrs. Wilson gave her attention to answering personal letters. In the afternoon they planned a motor ride.

Hot Springs, Va., Dec. 21.—President Wilson and his bride abandoned their plan to play golf yesterday to reply to the hundreds of messages of congratulation from rulers and officials all over the world and from personal friends. The couple have remained in such deep seclusion that only the members of their immediate party have seen them. They expected to take an automobile ride late today, however.

Arrangements for a Christmas celebration at the president's hotel have been made. There will be a large Christmas tree, and a special musical program.

Members of the president's family may come for the celebration, but no definite plans have been made.

Mountains and hills, wild and romantic, entirely surrounded the green plain of the Warm Springs valley. Winding roads and steep trails leading up the slopes of the highlands will give Mrs. Wilson unlimited opportunity for indulging in her fondness for walking with the president. Numerous motor trips have also been planned by the couple, two white house automobiles having been shipped here for their use.

Since the couple came to Hot Springs hotel guests and townspeople have been politely eager to get a glimpse of them and when it was whispered about that they would motor a crowd quickly gathered. A white house automobile with the national coat of arms served as a guide to the side entrance from which the start was to be made.

Mrs. Wilson appeared in one of the most beautiful costumes of her trousses, a gown of black velvet, with a heavy fur trimmed coat and a small toque.

After driving about five miles over a rough trail, the chauffeur turned back and with better luck took his passengers over fifty miles of smooth roads through magnificent mountain scenery and past some famous springs.

DR. SPILMAN SPEAKS ON THE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Makes Address to Missionary Society at Wake Forest Baptist Church.

Wake Forest, Dec. 21.—The missionary society of the Wake Forest Baptist church held its monthly meeting in the church Sunday night. Rev. Dr. B. W. Spilman, field secretary to educational institutions, for the Sunday school board of the Southern Baptist convention, was the speaker. Dr. Spilman took as his theme "The Christian college as a Factor in the Establishment of the Kingdom of God." After discussing education in general, Dr. Spilman stated that the churches which furnish money for equipment and endowment and parents who send their sons and daughters to Christian institutions, have a right to expect in the institution an atmosphere which is positively Christian; they also have a right to expect the very best of culture, not only in the realm of liberal arts, but also in Christianity. Dr. Spilman stated that education was both a process and a product and that what appeared in the product must be in the process. If the product is to be a cultured Christian gentleman, then the culture must have a gentleman to begin on and must put into the curriculum those things which will result in culture. If a Christian college is to prepare the student for effective Christian work, then the Christian college must have in its curriculum those things which will result in Christian efficiency. Dr. Spilman congratulated both Wake Forest and Meredith on the fact that they are among the foremost institutions in the country, both in their position of Christian atmosphere and in teaching of those things which result in Christian efficiency.