

ATHENS LOOKS FOR INVASION

Reports, However, Conflict Concerning the Possibility of Attack on Allied Forces at Saloniki.

BULGARS SAID NOT TO BE EAGER FOR ATTACK

Other Reports Say Austro-Germans Will Invade Greece, Supported by Bulgarians and Turks.

London, Dec. 27.—Conflicting reports continue to reach London from the scene of the near-eastern campaign. Statements from some sources make it appear that the Teuton forces are preparing steadily for an offensive movement against the allies in conjunction with the Bulgarians and Turks. Other advice, however, are to the effect that the Bulgarians fear to attack lest they be caught between two fires in the strip of territory from the Saloniki-Doiran to the Saloniki-Belgreville railroad.

The central powers are still negotiating with Greece. An interview with Premier Skoufendis forecasts the failure to prevent an invasion of Greek Macedonia. It is intimated that if an invasion is undertaken the Athens government will devote its efforts toward obtaining guarantees of the evacuation of Greek territory immediately after the completion of military operations.

On the western front Paris reports successful artillery action by the French in the Champagne. Woevre and Vosges districts. Berlin says that operations are restricted by incessant rains.

The British public are looking to today's cabinet meeting. It is expected that the cabinet will consider the report of the Earl of Derby in regard to his enlistment plans, with special reference to the effect of the report on the question as to whether military service shall be compulsory.

Denies Cruelty.
Berlin (Via Sayville, Dec. 27).—The London Times on November 25 and 26 published an article about the misery caused by the German authorities in the occupied parts of Russia and Poland, says an item given today by the Over-Sea News agency.

In reality the German authorities did everything in order to restore activity and furnish food to the occupied districts.

"The grain harvested there was used entirely for population. Since it was impossible to bring raw materials for the re-opening of factories, the German authorities began road building in order to give work to the population. Now 250,000 Poles are occupied in this way. Besides, the authorities worked outside their home districts."

Disorder in Moscow.
Berlin, (Via wireless to Sayville, Dec. 27).—The Over-Sea News agency gave out the following:
"Reports about Russian law court proceedings give a vivid picture of the street riots during 1915. Thus it is now proved that in the Moscow suburb of Bolshaya Presnya, 2,000 people gathered and looted the bread stores. The Moscow judges stated that the people acted under the influence of hunger and famine. There were similar riots at Kostroma. According to the court records, it is proved that the Kostroma crowd tried to free working men arrested by the police a few days previously. During the riots the police threw stones at the police and the police killed one and wounded sixteen persons. The rioters are now before a court martial."

meeting at which it was decided to ask the Serbian government where the Serbian parliament could reopen."

To Report on Derby Plan.
London, Dec. 27.—A cabinet council postponed from Friday will be held today and it is expected will make a decision of the question of whether the results of the Derby scheme of recruitment justify continued adherence to the voluntary system, or whether some form of conscription will become necessary.

The Times suggests this morning that the conscriptionists are in a majority in the cabinet and that should force be decided upon, some anti-conscription ministers will resign. They, however, will not go to this extreme until all hope of securing unity in the cabinet is abandoned. Their plan, according to the Times is to give the single men another chance for a fortnight.

Another proposed solution to the problem is a general election the question of which it is stated that the ministers also have discussed.
Shells for Christmas.
Arras, on the French Front, Dec. 27.—Hundreds of big shells tore the air over Arras all Friday afternoon. The echoes of these were the last compliments of the season and they had no sooner died away than the life of Arras began to show itself through re-opened cellar doors and windows in preparation for the usual Christmas eve festivities.

The people of the Artois region rise above their afflictions due to the war and the spirit of Arras survives among the heaps of ruins.
After the usual systematic shelling died down, rifle shots and the occasional rattle of machine guns was all that broke the stillness of death that settled over the city. The cathedral, where midnight mass was said last year under the thunder of cannon, stood out against the twilight in ragged ruins like a spectacle with crumbling walls of demolished buildings all around giving the aspect of a gigantic cemetery with decaying headstones.

LUMBERMEN MEET NEW YEAR'S DAY

Re-classification of Lumber Will Be Considered by the Members of Ass'n.

On New Year's day at 10 o'clock in the morning the semi-annual all members meeting of the Western Carolina Lumber and Timber association will be held in the offices of the organization in the Electrical building.

In sending out the call for this gathering, Secretary-treasurer and Traffic Manager George L. Forester stated today that the important matters will be considered by the lumbermen at that time. The chief subject for consideration will be the matter of reclassification of rates on lumber proposed by railways in the United States. The Interstate Commerce commission has under way an investigation of the carriers proposals and lumbermen in all sections of the country have prepared answers to the 17 questions sent out by the commission. The answers compiled by Mr. Forester in behalf of the local organization have been endorsed by the National Lumber Manufacturers association and will be filed with those of the national body. Twenty other lumber organizations of lumbermen are affiliated with the national association.

Important Matters.
The presentation of the case for the lumber industry before the commission in Washington is one of the most important matters to the lumber trade, said Mr. Forester, that has arisen since the first order of lumber was loaded into a box car for shipment. If the proposition of the railways should prevail, said the secretary, it will mean an added toll on lumbermen of from five to ten millions of dollars annually.

The lumbermen have employed Judge William A. Wimshis of Atlanta to represent them before the commission. Judge Wimshis has had wide experience in cases of this nature and has won a number of famous suits before the Interstate commission.

In regard to the New York embargo on shipments of freight, Mr. Forester stated that conditions at the present are changing from a day to day; and that at present lumber, not for export may be consigned to New York, within lighterage limits, over to Baltimore and Ohio railway, and to Philadelphia by way of the Pennsylvania road.

RECOVERS FROM STORM DAMAGE

East Suffered Severely From Storm of Unusual Character—Many Deaths and Accidents Reported.

SHIPPING WAS DRIVEN ON SHORE BY WIND
Storm Was Succession of Rain, Snow, Lightning, Sleet and Thunder, Winding Up With High Gale.

New York, Dec. 27.—Northern and Eastern New York and New England are slowly recovering from the damages inflicted by yesterday's storm. A succession of rain, snow, lightning, sleet and thunder, winding up wires, snle which tore down trees and wires, unroofed houses and drive shipping ashore, caused widespread damage and many deaths and accidents.

Telegraphic communication in many sections is still interrupted, owing to the leveling of telegraph poles by the wind.
The phenomenon of trunder and lightning in the midst of a driving snow awakened New Yorkers at the height of the storm about 7 o'clock in the morning. The local weather bureau reported at total precipitation of 5.5 inches, of which 2 was snow.

The wind shifted to the northwest and increased in violence, reaching its ninety miles intensity at 9 o'clock and soon after carrying off the storm clouds. The gale continued, however, throughout the day, blowing in hundreds of plate glass windows, hurling signs and copings to the streets and demolishing several partly built structures. The storm had its center in Massachusetts, the weather bureau reported. Several land lines of the cable companies between New York and Nova Scotia were put out of business. Shipping of all kinds scurried to shelter and several ocean liners dropped anchor until the gale abated. Twenty-five persons aboard fifteen canal boats driven ashore off Sandy Hook were rescued by the coast guard and the crew of the coast guard cutter Seneca. James O'Neil, in command of one of the boats, was knocked into the sea by a flying board, and drowned.

A barge in tow of the tug Seneca from Norfolk to New England ports, sprang a leak and sank twelve miles east of Ambrose lightship. Seven Erie railroad barges loaded with automobiles, sank in the East river.

U. C. V. STAFF APPOINTED BY MAJ.-GEN. J. BETTS

General Order Issued Announcing Staff—G. H. Bell of Asheville is Aide.

Wilmington, Dec. 27.—Maj. Gen. James I. Metts commander of the North Carolina division of United Confederate Veterans, has issued a general order announcing the appointment of his personal staff, as follows: Col. Henry A. London, adjutant general and chief of staff, Pittsboro; Lieut. Col. William R. Kyle, inspector general, Fayetteville; Lieut. Col. A. H. Boyden, quartermaster general, Salisbury; Lieut. Col. G. N. Hall, commissary general, Red Springs; Lieut. Col. Cyrus N. Watson, judge advocate general, Winston-Salem; Lieut. Col. I. Leon, chief of ordnance, Wilmington; Lieut. Col. C. C. Boone, chief of artillery, Winston-Salem; Lieut. Col. Henry T. Bahannon, surgeon general, Winston-Salem; Lieut. Col. E. A. Osborne, chaplain general, Charlotte; Major W. F. Wood, assistant adjutant general, Raleigh; Major Junius Davis, assistant judge advocate general, Wilmington; Major W. W. McMillan, assistant surgeon general, Wilmington; Major A. M. Powell, ensign, Vineland; Major Blum, aide, Winston-Salem; Major W. H. Smith, aide, Winston-Salem; Major Jas. A. Bryan, aide, New Bern; Major F. H. Hanes, aide, Winston-Salem; Major Henry C. Duckworth, aide, Charlotte; Major George H. Bell, aide, Asheville; Capt. J. N. Parker, bugler, Smithfield.

M. GOUNARIS RENOUNCES HIS CLAIMS TO OFFICE

Does Not Think It Wise to Change Greek Government At This Time.

Berlin, (Via Sayville) Dec. 27.—M. Gounaris, whose party won in the recent general elections in Greece, has renounced his claim to the premiership, says the Overseas News agency. An Athens dispatch to the agency says that M. Gounaris made a report to King Constantine on the result of the election and added that as the leader of the new majority party he was willing to support the present ministry, headed by Premier Skouloudis. Owing to political conditions in Greece, M. Gounaris said, he believed a change in government not only would be unnecessary but unwise. It is said that King Constantine agreed with the suggestion.

CAROLINA VENEER CO. GOES TO S. C.

\$60,000 Plant Is Being Erected at Columbia—Valuable Hardwood Products.

J. E. Kocha of Biltmore, president and manager of the Carolina Veneer company, will leave Tuesday in his automobile for Columbia, S. C., where his firm has under construction a \$60,000 plant which will turn out high veneer products for markets in the United States, Canada and England.

The company's factory at Biltmore was burned several months ago and the corporation at once began plans for rebuilding on the old site. Mr. Kocha visited northern and eastern cities to purchase machinery and some of the heavy timbers for reconstruction. Recently, however, the contractor has decided to establish their mill at Columbia.

The building will be of brick with wood framing and the larger part of the superstructure is being made of steel. The company manufactures veneer from all varieties of hardwood, including oak, ash, cherry, walnut and mahogany. Curly grain woods form the raw product for the most valuable part of the product, and Mr. Kocha stated today that he will ship large amounts of curly maple and other curly woods from western North Carolina to the Columbia plant. Fine table tops, panels and other articles will be made there.

The main office will be in the South Carolina capital and Mr. Kocha will reside there. In the summer months however, his family will return to Asheville.

TRYON MAN WAS KILLED SATURDAY

Frank Foster Held for Killing John Hayes—Occurred Near Tryon.

Frank Foster, a young unmarried man and member of a prominent family of Tryon, shot and instantly killed John Hayes, also of Tryon, last Saturday night. The killing occurred about two miles from Tryon, according to information received here, and Foster used a shotgun. He was so close to Hayes at the time of the shooting that part of the wedding of the shell went into the dead man's heart.
At a coroner's inquest held yesterday afternoon Foster was ordered committed to jail without bond. It is stated, and today he surrendered to Sheriff A. L. Hill of Polk county.
No cause is assigned for the killing, as Foster and Hayes were said to have been the best of friends and to have known that they were out of the city until the report of the killing was brought to Tryon.
The shooting caused a great deal of excitement in Tryon and throughout Polk county owing to the prominence of the people involved.

1916 CHRISTMAS IS BEST SO FAR

Greatest Christmas North Carolinians Have Ever Had, According to the Commissioner of Agriculture.

FACT IS PROVED BY BURSTING CORN CRIBS
Maj. Graham Says We Should Talk More About Good Things and Less About Illiteracy.

(W. T. Best)
Raleigh, Dec. 27.—"This is the greatest Christmas that North Carolinians have ever had," Major W. A. Graham, commissioner of agriculture said today, "and our people are enjoying their greatest prosperity."

"Our people today have reason for added happiness and satisfaction throughout the year. We are now producing 25,000,000 bushels of corn and somehow I have always regarded corn as the index to our general prosperity. I have been accustomed to measuring our prosperity in terms that include our great crop and have said in many addresses that I have never seen a man with full corn crib sold out by the sheriff."
"In my recent report to the board of agriculture I declared that North Carolina ought to talk more about her good things than about her illiteracy or ill health. We have done so many things that our people ought not to be discouraged by being told that they are illiterate. If our people are illiterate they have made more progress in agriculture than the people of any other state in the union."

Home Owners Grow.
"And while there is a lot of talk of absentee landlordism and the evil of tenancy we don't want to forget that last year 2987 new home owners and landowners were added to sixty counties in which we took a survey and only 102 were sold out. That means that about 25 times as many people acquired land as lost land. Perhaps some of these are absentee landlords, but the great majority are farmers who have acquired farms and homes by their own successful work."
"We are going to have that 65,000,000 bushels of corn this year. This will be \$1,000,000 increase over our yield in 1910. In other words this means that we have increased our corn yield in five years 91 per cent. I told the board that we have this year 180 pounds of flour for every man, woman and child in North Carolina. That means an excess of something like 80 pounds, which means that we are a flour selling rather than a bread buying people. I was just thinking about all these blessings today reflecting upon Christmas and the cause for a general happiness. Our corn is now almost as valuable as the acre of the great corn growing states of the west, the section where the crib is the emblem of its prosperity. And above all our state of eighty per cent rural population lives at home."

Old Soldiers Celebrate

Among the Christmas celebrations of the old soldiers was Major Graham speaking to them at the Home had one of the most entertaining times.
Manly's battery gave the feast and Christmas gifts. Major Graham spoke as an intimate friend and schoolmate of Basil Manly who captured the organization still bearing his name. They were at the university and were lifelong friends.
The major described the "swearing in" of Captain Manly who was elected mayor of Raleigh while things were still hot from the war. "There was only one democratic magistrate in the county," Major Graham said, "and they did not think of this phase of it until midnight the day before. This magistrate was 25 miles in the country."
"When Captain Manly was sworn in he had his company and their arms with him," Major Graham said by way of recalling the days of trouble. The old fellows at the home had a delightful evening of it and enjoyed the tribute of the patriotic body giving it.
John Wilbur Jenkins, one of the editorial writers of the Baltimore Sun, spent Christmas on the city and left yesterday for his work.
Mr. Jenkins had his first newspaper experience in Raleigh and Durham and edited the old Press Visitor a long time, a name which old timers find it impossible to forget. The paper is now the Times.
John U. Smith, business man of Raleigh, died Christmas night in a Richmond hospital after an illness of a few days.
He had been a hotel man and conducted a cafe on Exchange street. His death followed a long and steady decline which developed but a few days into an alarming illness. The funeral will be held in Raleigh this afternoon.
Miss Edith Royster, assistant superintendent of the Wake county schools, has resigned her work and will not return to the office for the spring term.
Miss Royster's resignation was offered Friday evening but has not offically been presented and was to have been kept secret until the meeting of the board of education Tuesday when its announcement would have made known the retirement of Miss Royster from all school work.

Alston Grimes, the young son of Col. and Mrs. Eryce Grimes, has greatly improved after a severe illness which necessitated the absence from his office as secretary of state, Colonel Grimes. The little fellow is able to sit up now.
The police still hold D. H. Price, the young fellow caught with more whiskey than the law likes Friday evening, while McGhee, his companion on the trip from Virginia to North Carolina and joint defendant in the case against the two for running over the Macon child in Franklington, is out on a \$5,000 bond.
Both men will give interesting testimony according to the police. W. H. King, implicated by them is still under heavy bond.

MUSKOGEE QUIET AFTER DISORDER

City Becomes Normal After Night of Trouble with Threat of Clash Between Whites and Negroes.

MOB OF WHITES FORMED TO LYNCH TWO NEGROES
Two Hundred Negroes Threatened to Attack Whites of Violence Occurred—Prisoners Removed.

Muskogee, Okla., Dec. 27.—With the safe removal from the county jail of two negroes arrested in connection with the murder of a policeman, Muskogee today returned to normal conditions and there was nothing on the surface to show that the jail had been besieged for five hours last night by a mob of white men threatening to lynch the negroes, while across the street from the jail 200 negroes had gathered and announced openly that they would fire on the whites when they attempted violence on the negro prisoners.

Two assaults were made on the jail by the white men and were repulsed by militiamen with fixed bayonets, although at one time the mob succeeded in battering down the jail door with railroad irons.
While a third assault was being made, the leaders of the mob were allowed to search the jail and then the mob dispersed. This eased the racial tension which at one time threatened to result in a pitched battle, when the whites declared they would charge the negroes unless they disarmed and went home.

In preparation for serious trouble a local hardware dealer opened his store and supplied all available fire arms to citizens who wished means to protect themselves.
The two negroes, William Green and Mathis Foreman, are believed to have been taken to the state penitentiary at McAlester. They are accused of slaying Samuel Neal, a patrolman, when he attempted to arrest them on the charge of burglary.
The police today arrested three young men who were charged with leading the mob and disarmed a number of negroes.

Although Company F. of the state militia was held ready for duty today, there was no sign of further disorder either by whites or by negroes.
In similar manner the signal systems of railroads running north and northeast from New York were crippled and trains were not able to make schedule time.
New England suffered more severely than New York and reports from there told of serious damage to buildings and of vessels caught in the path of the gale.
The snowfall in northern New York and New England was comparatively light, but was sufficient to interfere with suburban railroad traffic.
Eight deaths in this city, directly or indirectly were attributed to the storm.
The wind at one time attained a velocity of 90 miles an hour.

KING PETER OF SERBIA HAS REFUGE IN ITALY

Aged Monarch, Broken In Health with Kingdom Lost, Has Arrived at Brindisi.

Brindisi, Italy, Dec. 25.—By way of Paris, Dec. 27.—King Peter of Serbia has arrived here aboard an Italian cruiser. The sovereign had refused resolutely until now to leave his army and it was only on the urgent entreaty of his son, the prince regent, that he at last agreed to go into exile.
The prince pointed out that it would be better for the king to preserve his strength so as to be able to return to his country at head of a reorganized army.
A Rome dispatch of December 15 said that King Peter had accepted Italy's offer of a piece for his use at Caserta near Naples, but later reports stated that the aged king had declared his determination of dying with his people and that he would not abandon his army. King Peter has been seriously ill for several months, but was frequently with the Serbian army on the firing line before his troops were overwhelmed by the Austro-German and Bulgarian troops.

MRS. MARY LEOPER DIED LAST FRIDAY
Well Known Resident of Asheville Passes at Hiddente.

Mrs. Mary M. Leoper, wife of Rev. Dr. H. Y. Leoper of this city, died Friday, December 24, at the home of her son, Dr. Donald Leoper of Hiddente, N. C., after an illness of two months. Mrs. Leoper was 70 years of age and was widely known in western North Carolina. She was a member of the Presbyterian church and was active in religious work, being at the time of her death president of the Women's Circle of Hiddente and son the deceased is survived by a daughter, Miss Mary Leoper. The body was taken to Yellow Creek, Ohio, Mrs. Leoper's old home, and the interment will take place there.
Harry Finkelstein, who each year plays Santa Claus to the members of the police department, this year remembered each man on the force with a present.

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