

## CONGRESS DOWN TO REAL WORK

Senate Proceedings Expected to Be Enlivened by General Republican Attack on Mexican Policy.

## CHIEF INTEREST SEEMS IN NATIONAL DEFENSE

Action on Tillman's Armor Plate Plant Bill Defined—Webb Prohibition Resolution Is Offered.

Washington, Jan. 5.—When congress met today members of both houses were ready to settle down to the real work of the session. Chief interest seemed to center in the question of national preparedness although in the senate it was expected the proceedings would be enlivened by a general republican attack on the administration's Mexican policy.

Senator Fall's resolution calling on the president for information as to which government in Mexico Henry Prather Fletcher, nominated as ambassador to that country, was to be accredited to, was to furnish the basis for the attack.

Senator Tillman, chairman of the senate naval affairs committee, was unable to move a quorum of his committee to discuss his bill for the construction of a government armor plate plant, and action on the measure was deferred until Tuesday.

The house naval committee heard witnesses in connection with the annual naval appropriation bill, Rear Admiral Stanford, chief of the naval bureau of yards and docks, was the first to testify regarding the requirements for government yards.

In the house the farm loan bill was up for debate.

Representative Webb, of North Carolina, has introduced his resolution for nationwide prohibition. The resolution is similar to the one introduced by former Congressman Hobson, of Alabama, and which passed the house by a majority of 18. Two thirds vote, however, is necessary for the passage of this resolution, because it provides for a change in the constitution.

Briefly, the resolution is intended to strike down the saloons. It provides that it shall be unlawful to manufacture for sale, import for sale or export for sale, spirituous liquors. It also provides that the law shall be enforced by congress and by the several states. The resolution would not prohibit the keeping in one's home or private business of whiskey for one's own use. Neither would it prohibit the manufacture of liquors for private use in such states that do not object to the manufacture for one's own consumption.

Mr. Webb believes he will win by from 40 to 50 more votes than last year.

Many letters are coming to congressmen and senators, urging them to vote for the resolution which is to be introduced within a few days placing an embargo on arms and all munitions of war intended for any of the European countries now at war. Representative Webb received a letter today from a prominent business man of Charlotte asking him to vote for the resolution. The Charlotte man's letter read:

"As a constituent of yours, and as one who desires to see an early end to the great European war, I write imporing you to use your great influence and to vote for the measure about to be proposed placing an embargo on the shipment of war munitions to any of the warring countries."

"America, it seems, has become so thirsty until we willingly and gleefully hold the coats while Stephen is being stoned to death. Why pray for peace in our churches on the Sabbath and arise early Monday and ship more ammunition to prolong the war we so much dread?"

"If you place humanity above the bloody dollar, work and vote for an embargo on all shipments of munitions of war."

Representative Godwin was unable to be in his seat in the house today, having been detained at home on account of sickness in his family.

## STORM WARNING BY U. S. WEATHER BUREAU

Washington, Jan. 5.—The weather bureau has issued the following storm warning: "Advisory, 10 o'clock, a. m., south-west storm warning; 11 o'clock, a. m., Baltimore to Washington, N. C.; storm over western Ontario moving east, northeast; strong southwest wind."

## SENATOR SMITH TAKES THE OATH OF OFFICE

Washington, Jan. 4.—Senator Ellison Smith of South Carolina who was absent when congress convened, took the oath of office today.

## AUSTRIANS DRIVEN FROM CZERNOWITZ

Russians Are on Offense Throughout the Volhynia Regions.

London, Jan. 5.—The Petrograd correspondent of the Havas agency announces that the Austrians have evacuated Czernowitz, the Russians having seized all the heights dominating the town.

Everywhere in the Stripa and Volhynian districts of Russia and in east Galicia the Russians are on the offensive, the official communications from both Petrograd and Vienna reveal. Czernowitz, capital of Bukovina is now the position around which the most important fighting is in progress. The Russian war office reports that the Russians have occupied a line of trenches northwest of Czernowitz and have repulsed strong counter-attacks. A Reuter dispatch from Petrograd gives a report of the evacuation of Czernowitz and the capture by the Russians of a large number of prisoners, including Germans.

There has been a strong advance by the Russians on this front, although Vienna says that the Russian attacks have been unsuccessful and that their losses have been appalling. In one sector six miles in width 2,300 Russian dead have been counted.

Unofficial advices from Athens report 30,000 Bulgarians as having reached the region of Iramna, northwest of Elbassan in Albania, and that Albanian irregulars commanded by Bulgarian officers, have exchanged shots with the Italian outposts near Durazzo on the Adriatic. It is asserted that there are 100,000 Serbs now in Albania who will soon be ready to re-enter the fray.

## GREEK KING SEEMS TO BE CHANGING HIS MIND

Venizelos Reported to Have Been Twice Approached About Government.

Athens (Via Rome, Jan. 5).—The king of the Greeks appears to have considerably altered his viewpoint in the last month. Speaking to the Associated Press correspondent on the present situation in Greece the king, while reiterating his determination not to be forced to persuade to abandon neutrality, no longer spoke of demobilization and seemed to be reconciled to the idea of the allies remaining in Saloniki until the end of the war.

On good authority it is asserted that M. Venizelos has already twice been approached with respect to the terms on which he would accept the premiership and he is said to have refused to consider the proposal at the present time on the ground that Greece would now be unable of any practical assistance to the entente powers beyond what it is already doing. He, however, left the matter open for further discussion, presumably in the spring, when Greece's aid may be valuable.

Even those in royal circles begin to admit that Greece possibly may be forced sooner or later to join the entente although they cling to the hope that this may be put off as long as possible. Despite the efforts of both sides, the equivocal situation in Macedonia as the result of the presence of the allied armies constantly gives rise to annoyance of which advantage is being taken by the various influences.

## STEAMER THESSALONIKI STILL CALLING FOR AID

Has Been in Distress at Sea Since Dec. 22—Passengers Are Taken Off.

New York, Jan. 5.—The Greek steamer Thessaloniki was still afloat early today and was sending urgent calls for help. A wireless message received from the steamer United States brought this information and also denied the belief that the crippled steamer had been entirely abandoned, and that the captain and crew had been picked up by the United States. The three hundred passengers of the Thessaloniki have been taken off the vessel by the steamer Patria, due here sometime today.

The Thessaloniki has been in distress at sea since December 22 and has been sought by many steamers in response to her calls for help. The Patria was the only vessel which found the Thessaloniki and attempted to tow her into New York, but the tow line parted in a gale.

Gen. Lawrence Dead.  
New York, Jan. 4.—General Lawrence, one of the prosecutors of the assassin of Abraham Lincoln, died here today at the age of 77 years.

## SURVIVORS OF PERSIA INJURED

All Bear Traces of Shock and Most of Them Are Bruised and Battered—Arrive at Alexandria.

## SUFFERED SEVERELY WHILE IN THE BOATS

Spent 30 Hours on Water Exposed to Cold—Are Now Being Provided With Every Comfort.

London, Jan. 4.—(Delayed)—The survivors of the British steamer Persia torpedoed in the Mediterranean Thursday reached Alexandria, Egypt, according to the Reuter's correspondent at that point, all bearing traces of shock and hardship. Most of them were badly bruised or had bandaged limbs.

The tragedy was enacted so rapidly that the survivors hardly had time, they say, to realize what was happening. The passengers were at luncheon, everyone in a good humor and an atmosphere of gaiety prevailed. Five minutes later those who escaped were in boats or clinging to wreckage and the luxurious liner was gone.

Luncheon had just started when a terrific explosion took place. The liner trembled violently and a moment later listed sharply to port. Only those who left their seats instantly or who had not come down to the dining salon had any chance to escape.

Many people seemed paralyzed with fear and their indecision was fatal as the water poured in and the list increased. Some of those who gained the deck lost their footing and slipped immediately into the water, while others were swept away by the waves.

It was possible to launch boats only on one side of the liner and only the prompt action by officers and crew enabled them to launch four boats.

The chief officer was said to have been in his cabin at the time of the explosion. He rushed to the bridge and did everything that was humanly possible. He went down with the ship but was rescued from the water. He thinks the captain sank with the ship, although some of the passengers say they saw the captain swimming.

Many passengers believe that in addition to the boats in which they escaped two other life boats got clear of the sinking vessel. The chief officer, however, thinks this improbable and that if other boats were seen, as the passengers say, they must have been empty boats which broke loose from their fastenings when the liner turned over.

The survivors lost everything they owned on this ship, and during the thirty hours they were in the open boats they suffered severely from cold. None of them had warm clothing. There was a sufficient supply of water and provisions, however.

Everything possible is being done here for the comfort of the survivors.

Charles Grant of Boston, who so far as is known is the only American able to tell the story of the disaster, is a guest aboard the United States cruiser Des Moines.

Alexandria, Egypt, Jan. 5.—Charles Grant of Boston, one of the two Americans known to have been aboard the British steamer Persia when the liner was torpedoed in the Mediterranean sea, has arrived at Alexandria. Mr. Grant gave the Associated Press the most detailed account that has yet been received of the disaster.

"I was in the dining saloon of the Persia at 1.05 p. m., when a terrific explosion occurred," said Mr. Grant. "The saloon became filled with smoke broken glass, and steam from a boiler which apparently had burst. There was no panic among the passengers. We sat went on deck as orderly as if in a drill and reported at the lifeboat on the starboard side, as the vessel had listed to port.

"I clung to the rail. The last thing we did was to tie on Captain Strickley's life belt.

"As the vessel was then listing so badly that it was impossible to launch the starboard boats I slid down the starboard rail into the water. I got caught in a rope which pulled off one shoe but I broke loose and climbed up a piece of wreckage to which I clung.

"When I last saw the Persia she still had her bow in the air five minutes after she was struck.

"After floating about on the wreckage until 4 o'clock a. m., I saw five small boats and was pulled into one of them. We rowed about for other stragglers. The boats became overloaded and the occupants were redistributed.

## DETERMINATION TO GET SATISFACTION FROM COMBATANTS

Congressmen Think It Time For a Showdown From Beligerent Nations.

Gazette-News Bureau, The Riggs Building, Washington, Jan. 5.—Unless Austria hastens to disavow the act of the submarine commander in connection with the sinking of the Persia, with the loss of consul McNeely and makes reparation, there is no doubting the fact that congress will take drastic action to end the submarine warfare even to the extent of placing an embargo on arms to the allies and breaking off diplomatic relations with Germany and Austria.

Senator Hoke Smith, of Georgia, a champion of those who believe this country should act as strongly towards Great Britain as Germany, stated yesterday that he intended to make a vigorous speech in the senate and it is understood that he will be followed by Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, and other statesmen who think this country must have a "showdown" from Germany and all her allies on the submarine question and that England should be compelled to cease interference with American commerce. Senator Smith, it is understood, will ask that an embargo be placed upon arms, if necessary in order to bring the warring countries to their senses.

## KAISER HAS CANCER OF THROAT ASSERTS MATIN

Paris Paper Declares German Emperor Is No Longer Able to Speak.

Paris, Jan. 5.—The Matin affirms, notwithstanding denials, that the German emperor is suffering from cancer of the throat and is no longer able to speak.

"In February, 1911," according to The Matin, "the doctors were considering whether it was necessary to remove the entire larynx in order to stay the progress of the disease. They raised the question as to whether the emperor would be able to speak if such an operation were performed. The leading specialists of every capital in Europe were consulted. It was learned that an eminent surgeon of Paris had, with an artificial larynx and a breathing tube opening into the trachea restored the power of speech to cancerous patients who had undergone total ablation of the affected organs.

"This doctor whose name The Matin withholds for reasons of professional etiquette, was asked to go to Berlin by the German ambassador. He was offered 100,000 francs and all his expenses and was requested to bring with him a patient who had been fitted with the apparatus, so that the emperor himself might see if he was able to speak.

"Meanwhile, as a result of a minor operation with a history and a few weeks' absolute rest, the emperor's condition improved, as is often the case in this disease, the progress of which is implacable but slow. It is another operation of this kind which has just been performed. But it is only palliative."

## CRISIS IN ENGLAND IS FAR FROM ENDED

London, Jan. 5.—It again becomes evident that the cabinet crisis in England is far from being ended. The only definite point is that Sir John Simon secretary of home affairs, has resigned. He had a long interview with Premier Asquith yesterday in which the premier did his utmost to prevail on Sir John to remain in the cabinet, but without avail and it is almost certain that his resignation will be officially announced on the re-assembling of parliament.

## ADMIRALS WILL NOT DISCUSS NAVAL PLANS

Washington, Jan. 4.—Secretary Daniels disclosed today that he had declined to permit Rear Admiral Fluke and Rear Admiral Knight to speak on the navy program, even though he was convinced their addresses would not be made public. A request for them to speak was made by John W. Scott, president of the commercial club of Chicago in a telegram to the president.

## GOULD BEGINS SUIT FOR NEARLY \$2,000,000

New York, Jan. 5.—George Gould has begun suit in the Supreme court against the Texas & Pacific Railroad company to recover \$1,741,000 on promissory notes, held by the executors of the estate of the late Jay Gould.

## URGE FIGHT ON DEFENSE PLANS

Letters Pouring in on Congressmen Asking Them to Vote Against President's Preparedness Scheme.

## STRONG OPPOSITION IN HOUSE AND SENATE

Hon. J. J. Britt Thoroughly Convinced That People Are in Sympathy With the Preparedness Idea.

Gazette-News Bureau, The Riggs Building, Washington, D. C. By Parker R. Anderson.

Washington, Jan. 4.—That the national defense program as outlined by President Wilson is to have a hard time in both house and senate, is the opinion of practically every thinking man who has returned here from a visit with the folks at home, during the holidays. A representative or senator will tell you that he does not care to be quoted because he dislikes to get into print opposing the President's policies, but he will tell you confidentially that at heart he is against this immense sum of money being expended at this time and he hopes the plan will be defeated.

A prominent man from North Carolina, who was here Monday, said that he had traveled through 20 odd states within the last three months and that he had not found sentiment anywhere for the President's program. This man holds a very responsible position and his visits throughout the country has given him an opportunity to get in touch with the people.

What Democratic congressmen and senators—those who think for themselves—believe will happen is that a "reasonable" defense program—about on a par with the appropriation of last year—will be passed by both houses. It is either this or an army and navy appropriation bill which meets with the approval of the Republicans in both branches of congress. Even the most ardent supporters of Mr. Wilson in everything he asks for, regardless of whether they believe it right or not, will probably back at following minority leader Mann on a proposition that will mean votes one way or the other at next year's election. They must either follow Jim Mann or vote for a very much decreased army and navy appropriation bill. It is reasonable to believe that most Democrats prefer the latter.

Thousands of letters are pouring into Washington by every mail urging senators and congressmen not to vote for the national defense measures. They point to the fact that the treasury is already depleted; that the people are now being taxed to the limit of all endurance, and if this additional burden is placed upon them by the Democratic party, there is no telling what the people will do at the next election.

At least one congressman from North Carolina will vote for the navy program recommended by secretary of the navy Daniels. This man is congressman James J. Britt, the only Republican member from the state. Mr. Britt is thoroughly convinced that the people want national defense. He says, however, he is afraid these same people will "cuss" the party that opposes the taxes to raise this large amount of money.

Misses Lillian and Fanny Britt are here with their father, congressman J. J. Britt. They expect to remain in Washington the balance of the winter.

## ASKS FUND TO FIGHT PELLAGRA

Washington, Jan. 5.—Pellagra has become such a menace in the south that Secretary McAdoo has asked congress to rush through an appropriation of \$100,000 for study and demonstrations with a particular view to checking this disease and typhoid. He submitted a report from the public health service bureau which said:

"Increased demonstration is urgently requested to prevent pellagra from becoming a veritable scourge in the rural communities. In Mississippi alone there were 10,954 cases and 1924 deaths from pellagra last year and in certain other states the disease exceeded tuberculosis in the number of fatalities accorded to it. It is estimated there were 75,000 cases of pellagra throughout the country last year and more than 7500 deaths from the disease."

The report states that the country population is not keeping pace with urban communities in sanitary lines and that unsanitary conditions and improper food are largely responsible for the increased prevalence of pellagra.

## TO PRESENT ALLEN AS A CANDIDATE

North Carolina Delegation Will Ask for His Appointment to the Bench.

Gazette-News Bureau, The Riggs Building, Washington, Jan. 5. (By Parker R. Anderson.)

Senators Overman and Simmons and probably the entire state delegation in the house, will call at the White House within a few days and ask the president to appoint Judge William R. Allen, of Goldsboro, as a member of the Supreme court of the United States to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Justice Lamar.

As North Carolina, nor the fourth circuit, for that matter, has been represented on the Supreme court bench in nearly 75 years, the North Carolinians believe they will have a good argument to offer in favor of the North Carolina jurist.

At the present writing, however, it looks like John W. Davis, has the best chance to get the place. Mr. Davis is a native of West Virginia, and that state, like North Carolina, is embraced in the fourth circuit.

Mr. Davis' friends are very active. Likewise Senator Hoke Smith, of Georgia, is said to be active in behalf of a Georgia lawyer whose name he has not yet given to the public.

Senator Smith will contend that Georgia should have the appointment because of the fact that Justice Lamar lived in Georgia, and that his successor should be named from the same state.

Those who have candidates in other states senator's contention cannot stand, for should the president follow such a policy, there would be only a few states in the United States who would ever be represented on the highest tribunal of the land. There are only nine members of the Supreme court and the members are appointed for life.

Should the president follow a policy of selecting a man from the states already represented, in case of a vacancy, nine states would be represented for the balance of time.

Whether Judge Allen is appointed or not the fact that members of the house and the two senators from his state will recommend him for this high place is a compliment that most men would feel proud of.

## USES FOR MONEY FROM SEALS SALE

Most Important Question to Be Decided in Sale of Red Cross Seals.

Proceeds and per cents are now being reckoned with as a result of the sale of the Red Cross Christmas seals. How to use the proceeds is the next question to settle and is probably the most important one connected with the Red Cross campaign.

It is well understood that 75 per cent of the proceeds is retained by the committee selling the seals to be used in local anti-tuberculosis work in the way that the committee thinks best. Many of the larger towns of the state last year and year before used the proceeds from the sale of Red Cross seals to employ or help to employ a tuberculosis visiting nurse. Other towns sent patients to the state sanatorium to take the treatment for tuberculosis, while others and various organizations and committees aided in the fight by caring for needy tuberculosis sufferers at home and through various educational means.

One of the plans devised is to use the funds as the nucleus for the salary of a visiting tuberculosis nurse. Many city and town authorities, boards of education and local organizations have been induced to subscribe dollar for dollar toward such a cause if the Red Cross seal fund is offered as an incentive.

Bridges are guarded from German attack. Harbin, Jan. 5.—Three German prisoners disguised as Chinese were arrested on the night of November 15 on a trans-Siberian train at Tatsienkang, two hundred miles west of Harbin.

## SHOWS SEEKING DAMAGE OF RY

A.F. Wheeler Show Co.'s Suit Against N. & H. R. R. Co. Being Held in U. S. Court at Raleigh.

## GOV. CRAIG DECLINES TO PARDON JOE GOFF

Virginia Governor Makes Requisition for Joe Scott Wanted at Hopewell on Charges of Frand.

Raleigh, Jan. 5.—Judge H. G. Connor yesterday began the hearing of the A. F. Wheeler Shows against the Northampton and Hertford Railway company in the district court, the plaintiffs alleging damages in the sum of \$5000 and the defendants countering with a claim of \$398.80.

The show company was on its way to show, it alleges, returning from a daring trip over this road of about 10 miles on which trip Providence and the country gave the traveling troupe a safe deliverance. Mr. Wheeler declares that the company transported him and company at a high rate of speed and caused them great anxiety. But on returning they struck a curve, the rail spread and the company followed suit. It picked itself up from all quarters of the compass.

The contentions contend furiously from now on. The showman alleges that he was badly disarranged and could not meet his engagements; that he lost his handsome band wagon and his opportunity to parade; that he was put to enormous expense to haul his materials away and that the company was utterly careless in handling him. He says the ties on which the rails were laid were rotten and that spikes could be drawn from these ties with the fingers. As ocular evidence of the track, an end of a tie was presented in open court. The spikes were not.

The defendant denies all the important allegations, declares that it ran its trains carefully and that railroad experts had recently gone over the roadbed and pronounced the track in good condition. It presents a bill of nearly \$400 for work done, for treatment of the injured and to cover the expense that it incurred in caring for the company. The defendant asserts that the show company's bad wheels cut up the track and caused the train to jump the rails. Col. Thurston T. Hicks is representing the show and H. Stuart Lewis of Suffolk, W. L. Long of Northampton and George L. Burghwyn of Jackson appear for the railroad.

No Pardon for Joe Goff. Governor Craig has declined to pardon Joe Goff, a Greensboro prisoner who is serving a manslaughter sentence of three years and now has about 100 days to complete his punishment.

Goff killed Claude Goff, a relative, in a drunken quarrel and some evidence of self defense was presented. The testimony seems to have been such as to baffle belief by the jury which convicted Joe Goff and remembered mercy. Judge H. W. Whedbee imposed the light sentence.

Governor Craig could not see that Joe Goff did not use a great deal more force than was necessary and he felt sure that the jury had done for Goff all that it could have done. Judge Whedbee did not join in the earlier petition for the pardon but did send a letter recently.

Goff is a trusty and went home during Christmas when Governor Craig paroled him and many others. His attorneys were promised attention later to the pardon and a probable addition of a few days to the seven months which the law gives for good behavior. The attorney says a competency now to enable Joe Goff to plant his 1915 crop.

Bailey's Collections Increase. Collector J. W. Bailey's office picked up \$475,549.21 for December and made for the six-month from July to January 1, a gain of \$460,794.84.

The December report was a considerable improvement over December of 1914, the gain of \$75,296.76 indicating a marked improvement in business of the government. The collections for the last six months of 1914 amounted to \$2,764,473.55 and for the same period in 1915 the big total \$3,227,273.39 or the \$460,794.84 gain.

Collector Bailey hasn't the Watts tobacco field but his district is making great gains every month.

Raleigh Wants Peterson. Ex-Senator George L. Peterson of Clinton and one of the officers of the national guard, talked business with Raleigh people on his way to Greensboro to attend the meeting of the guard.

Major Peterson is a merchant and is making cotton and tobacco a specialty. Raleigh has agitated a tobacco market three years without opening one of the smaller towns of the county and the markets of Granville and Durham have been taking the weed and the money for it to them.

The governor of Virginia made requisition upon Governor Craig for a (Continued on Page Three).