

## CAUSE OF SHIP FIRE MYSTERY

### Unusual Features About Blaze Which Forced Norwegian Steamer Sygna Back to Port.

### ORIGINATED IN HOLD CONTAINING STEEL

### Will Be Partly Unloaded in Ef- fort to Determine Whether Blaze Was Incendiary Going to Russia.

New York, Jan. 22.—Mystery surrounds the fire which forced the Norwegian steamer Sygna to put back to port today after she had sailed yesterday for Archangel carrying a large cargo consigned to the Russian government.

The officers and crew of the steamer said that so far as they know no explosion preceded the fire but they were unable to offer an explanation as to how it originated in a hold which they said contained only structural steel and railroad material.

When asked if there was any evidence indicating that the fire was incendiary, the officers said, "It is too soon to make an investigation," and declined to comment on the unusual features of the blaze.

Members of the crew who covered the hatch of the fore hold yesterday said that there were no indications of fire when the ship sailed and it was early yesterday evening before one of the men saw smoke escaping from around the hold. The cover was hurriedly taken off and while no flames were seen, a great quantity of smoke came from the hold.

The steamer will be docked, partly unloaded and thoroughly examined to determine the cause of the fire. Steel rails and various forms of structural steel was said to have been in the bottom of the fore hold, while on top of that material was a large amount of railroad supplies, chiefly steel car parts to be assembled in Russia. It could not be learned whether the steamer had any munitions aboard.

The fire on the Sygna is the latest of a long series of fires and explosions which have occurred on ships shortly after they had left this and other ports carrying munitions and supplies for the allies. In numerous cases it was found that the fires were caused by incendiary bombs or fuses.

## PRESIDENT ON YACHT PREPARING ADDRESSES

### Going Down Potomac With Mrs. Wilson on Two Days' Trip on Mayflower.

Washington, Jan. 22.—President and Mrs. Wilson were aboard the presidential yacht Mayflower today, going down the Potomac to Chesapeake bay on a trip which will occupy two days, taken to enable the president to prepare in seclusion the address he is to make in New York on January 27 at the Railway Business association's banquet, and to make tentative drafts of other speeches on national preparedness which he is to deliver on his western trip.

President Wilson carried with him a mass of data from the navy and war departments which he will use in dictating his addresses to his stenographer.

The president is keeping in touch with the white house by wireless.

Gazette-News Bureau,  
Riggs Building,  
Washington, Jan. 22.

President Wilson informed Senators Simmons and Overman yesterday that he would not be able to visit North Carolina on his first swing around the circuit which begins some time next week, but that he will make another trip shortly after he returns and he expects to visit at least two North Carolina cities. Green who is certainly to be included in his southern itinerary. It is said, and he will stop, a few, probably at Raleigh or Wilmington.

Representative Godwin stated yesterday that it would be a very fine thing for the president to visit Wilmington, where he spent part of his boyhood days and deliver a speech as president of the United States. Mr. Godwin does not care what the president speaks about; he is only interested in having him visit the state, and especially Wilmington.

There are others in the delegation, however, who do not look with favor upon the proposed visit of the president to the state to make a "preparatory" speech and if he goes he will do so without being asked by quite a few of the state's congressmen who are opposed to Mr. Wilson's "preparatory" program.

## MEXICAN REBEL PLOT SERIOUS

### Opponents of Carranza Formally Decreed Death to Americans in Mexico in Con- vention Assembled.

### AGREEMENT REACHED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO

### Complete Details Just Learned —Washington Looks to Car- ranza Government to Pre- vent Scheme's Execution.

Washington, Jan. 22.—Revelation that Mexican bandit leaders had in convention assembled decreed death to Americans in Mexico as well as armed opposition to the de facto government, was the outstanding feature in the Mexican situation today.

It became known that the agreement had been reached at a formal convention near Cordoba, Mexico, according to information which came to the state department at that time. The participants in the agreement, it is said, included representatives of Francisco Villa, Zapata and other leaders.

The murder of the American mining men near Santa Ysabel recently is believed to have been carried out pursuant to the Cordoba agreement.

Administration officials are looking to the Carranza authorities, who have been fully informed of the developments, to prevent the carrying out of the threat against Americans. They are believed to have the situation fairly well in hand now, although the rebel leaders are still conducting operations.

Meager reports of the gathering came to the state department long ago but they were not made public, and until last night few people in Washington knew that there was a general conspiracy against Americans, or even that the various rebel factions in the field in Mexico had effected any kind of an agreement for concerted activities against the de facto government.

Officials think the long period elapsed after the Cordoba meeting before the murders because of the time required by the various delegates to make reports to their commanders, and the fact that news of the convention's decision had to be carried to subordinate military commanders by courier. Cordoba is on the railroad between Vera Cruz and Mexico City, and some one thousand miles from Santa Ysabel.

## MEXICAN TRAIN BLOWN UP; TWENTY-THREE DIE

### Outrage Supposed to Have Been Perpetrated by Fol- lowers of Zapata.

El Paso, Jan. 22.—Twenty-three persons were killed near Puebla recently when a passenger train was blown up supposedly by Zapata adherents, according to A. J. Trumbo, wealthy mine owner of the state of Oaxaca, Mex., who arrived here yesterday.

Only one passenger survived, it was reported. Trumbo said the train was immediately ahead of one which he was traveling from Mexico City.

"Several voices were fired into our train," said Trumbo.

With Trumbo and his wife was H. C. Tanner of Mexico, who is convalescing from a bullet wound inflicted, he said, by a military officer when Tanner resented insulting references to the United States.

Trumbo reported typhus fever rampant throughout southern and central Mexico.

The party had only dry tortillas to eat during the journey and at every stop officers demanded money.

Trumbo's story of the blowing up of a passenger train near Puebla with 23 casualties is the first intimation of such a tragedy to reach the border.

## DEFENSE IN MRS. MOHR TRIAL OPENS NEXT WEEK

Providence, R. I., Jan. 22.—Mrs. Elizabeth Mohr, who has been on trial for two weeks with two negroes whom she is accused of having hired to kill her husband, Dr. C. Franklin Mohr of this city, last August, rested over the Saturday court recess in the assurance that next week will see the beginning of introduction of evidence in her defense.

Testimony for the prosecution was acknowledged to be hearing its end when court adjourned yesterday.

## ASHEVILLE'S BIG TRADE WEEK HUNDREDS OF OUT-OF-TOWN SHOPPERS HERE

### This is the first day of Asheville Trade Week and the big co-operative fare-refunding sale inaugurated by The Gazette-News opened this morn- ing with more than forty of Ashe- ville's leading stores and business men co-operating.

Although the day has been none too pleasant on account of the rain and mud encountered by a great many of the out-of-town shoppers, the business houses have had a very satisfactory opening for the first day of the big sale, and the prospects for a week of unprecedented sales for each store participating are very bright and encouraging.

A large number of out-of-town shoppers are in evidence on the streets and in the stores and judging from the number of inquiries received in The Gazette-News office, next week will be a busy one for everyone promoting and participating in this sale. The Gazette-News has from day to day carried instructions and information in detail for the benefit of the thousands of shoppers within the trading zone of Asheville.

Because of the limited space on the first page of the Special Bargain Issue of last Thursday, the names of several towns within the trading zone of Asheville had to be omitted, but it should be understood that all fares or their equivalent will be refunded during the big trade week providing the towns are within the trading zone of Asheville in accordance with

## BANDIT ROBS, KILLS AND THEN ESCAPES

### Bandit Makes Most Daring Robbery of Years in Chicago —Woman With Him.

Chicago, Jan. 22.—A bandit, accompanied by a woman, yesterday robbed the tourist agency of Thomas A. Cook & Son of \$900, wounded the cashier, killed a policeman and escaped.

According to the police the deed was the most daring of years in this city. It was accomplished on one of the busiest streets of the downtown district at an hour when the thoroughfare was congested with automobiles and workers on their way home. The woman did not participate in the actual robbery. She ordered a taxicab at the Great Northern hotel and John McCabe responded. The woman instructed him to drive to 15 East Jackson street, the Cook office. There she waited without alighting.

Meanwhile the robber had entered the office. The cashier, Ernest J. Walsh, attempted to reach a revolver, but was shot and painfully injured and backed into a vault with four other employes.

B. A. Johnson, a traffic policeman, was attracted to the scene, but found that the bandit had locked the door after entering. Johnson was trying to force an entrance when the robber suddenly threw it open and fired a bullet into the officer's heart.

The robber scattered the throng on the sidewalk and leaped toward the taxicab. Pointing his weapon toward McCabe, the robber ordered him to drive away, but McCabe jumped. The bandit hesitated a second and then sped up an alley. The woman followed. The gasped for a moment at the face of the dead policeman, and, according to witnesses, seemed about to faint, but recovered and disappeared in the crowd.

McCabe was interviewed at headquarters and allowed to return to work. The police were satisfied of his innocence.

The crowd attracted by the tragedy blocked all traffic on State and Jackson streets for some time. A few attempted to pursue the bandit, but soon gave it up.

## STATE REFUSES GIFT OF REPUDIATED N. C. BONDS

Raleigh, Jan. 22.—That Missouri state authorities have refused to accept a gift of old repudiated North Carolina reconstruction bonds, offered with a view to getting that state out of North Carolina for their recovery, was the official information that came to Governor Craig yesterday afternoon. The governor brands this as another futile effort of "adventurers to get a standing in court for these bonds tainted by all manner of fraud and corruption."

## MRS. MARTHAGARLAND DIED HERE YESTERDAY

Mrs. Martha Garland, aged 59, died yesterday afternoon at her home at No. 32 View street. The funeral services will be held at the residence this afternoon and the interment will take place at Riverside cemetery.

a special computation to be seen at The Gazette-News office.

The carriage schemes have been thoroughly worked out and carefully studied by those who will have charge of the refunding of fares and just as soon as a refund slip is presented to the clerk in charge at The Gazette-News office the cash fare will be handed out.

Refund week is a big advertisement for Asheville and for this reason Asheville merchants have joined heartily in promoting it. While it may be said that in one way no merchant expects to reap a rich harvest in this sale everyone of them expects to attract new customers who, by reason of courteous treatment and honest values at low prices, will become regular patrons. In short, these merchants are dealing in futures; by making satisfied customers they expect to build up a trade for years to come and establish firmly in the minds of people that Asheville is the best place to trade.

Where to Get Bargains.

Here is a list of the stores where bargains will be found and where fares will be refunded. Cut it out and send it to your relatives and friends residing outside of Asheville. It will give them some idea of the magnitude of this sale and what it will mean to them:

- Bon Marche.
- McGraw Dry Goods Co.
- M. V. Moore and Co.
- Lowenbein-Rutenberg.
- Chas. E. Henderson.
- The Racket Store.
- Nichols Shoe Co.
- Green Bros.
- Ottis Green Hardware Co.
- Brown Book Co.
- Pack Square Book Co.
- Asheville Power and Light Co.
- Coopers, "On the Square."
- Globe Sample Co.
- Hills Market.
- J. L. Smathers.
- J. K. L. Dent.
- Asheville Pan and Glass Co.
- Dunham's Music House.
- Teague and Oates.
- H. L. Finkelstein Loan Office.
- Williams-Huffman Music Co.
- Smith-Bruns Clothing Co.
- Green Hardware Co.
- Gem Clothing Co.
- Susquehanna Furniture Co.
- Asheville Furniture Co.
- Falk's Music House.
- Allison Drug Store.
- Star Market.
- The Call Co.
- Asheville Package Co.
- Carolina Paint & Varnish Co.
- J. M. Hearn & Co.
- J. M. McCanness.
- The Fair.
- Carolina Paint and Varnish Co.
- Hedmet Electric Co.
- J. H. Law.
- Smith's Drug Store.
- Hood's Millinery.
- Crystal Cafe System.
- The Battery Park Bank.

## ANTIVARI NOW AUSTRIAN GOAL

### One Invading Army Marching Toward Important Port With Resumption of Monte- negrin Campaign.

Teheran, Persia, Jan. 22.—(Via London)—Russian columns operating in Persia have occupied Sultanabad, one hundred and fifty miles southwest of Teheran and about an equal distance northwest of Isfahan. The garrison and the German consul have fled to Bouroudjir, fifty miles west of Sultanabad.

Newspaper dispatches from Vienna report that active operations have been resumed by the Austrians against the Montenegrins. One Austrian army is said to be marching toward Andriev, while other forces are reported to be within fifteen miles of Scutari, Albania.

Little further light is thrown on the situation in Greece where the entente powers are said by German reports to be applying further coercive measures.

## OFFICERS ORDERED TO KEEP OUT OF QUARRELS

### Commanders of Troops in Strike Zone Are Given Specific Instructions.

Washington, Jan. 22.—Federal army officers commanding troops where strikes or riots have occurred are warned by instructions announced today at the war department against participating in questions of a political character or the equity of disputed issues between the parties to the controversy.

In announcing the policy the department indicated a reply to the criticism raised by labor organizations and officials against the conduct and management of soldiers who are doing duty in riot and strike zones.

The order, however, does not apply to regular army officers holding commissions in the organized militia, they being guided by state laws and regulations on the subject.

## THE N. Y.-N. O. LIMITED DERAILED NEAR MOBILE

Mobile, Ala. 22.—The southbound New York-New Orleans limited train operated jointly by the Louisville & Nashville and the Southern railways between New Orleans and Washington was derailed early today on the L. & N. bridge over the Mobile river 12 miles north of this city. Railway officials stated that no passengers or members of the train's crew were injured.

The engine is reported to be nitely off the track and an express car was derailed. Traffic was suspended.

## REBEL SMALL STANDING PAT

### Insurgent at Soldiers' Home Scouts Idea That He Will Leave Because Authorities Think He Will.

### HEADS OF HOME URGE VETERAN TO RETIRE

### Daughters of the Confederacy, However, Will Do All in Their Power Against Re- tention of Lineberry.

(By W. T. Bost).  
Raleigh, Jan. 22.—Insurgent C. W. Small of the Soldiers' home has announced that he will not budge as the result of Thursday's meeting of the directors of the home and that he will take his \$60 and go south is a great mistake.

Chairman A. H. Boyden disagrees with him about that and certainly do Auditor William Penn Wood, whose Quaker blood is not so non-combative as the name implies, and Superintendent Lineberry, both of whom confess themselves weary of the lusty kicker.

"Me go? Hell no," Captain Small said yesterday afternoon. How he is to stay with a superintendent against him, with a great array of comrades opposing him; with Chairman Boyden, the real boss, urging him to retire gracefully and Auditor Wood, the paymaster and defender of Captain Lineberry, the eagerest of all, how he can stand upon the order of his going, does not appear. But Captain Small says he will stay.

Today the Daughters of the Confederacy reading the announcement in the papers that Captain Lineberry is to remain the active head of the institution arose in protest, called a meeting to be held within a day or two at which time they will war with all their power against Captain Lineberry's retention, and will call upon the chapters all over North Carolina to protest the longer superintendency of the present head.

The bouncing of Old Man Small does not appear to be worrying the daughters. It is generally thought in Raleigh that it was an unwise thing to do in the face of the fearful report against the Soldiers' home that had been prepared by persons employed by the state to investigate. It is true that Superintendent Lineberry has not been in the institution since Mr. Small cannot get along and that Mr. Small's threats of murder on grand scale out there have been disagreeable rather than dangerous. But the conduct of the one-armed insurgent is regarded as entirely secondary and to have had no effect upon the general dissatisfaction as expressed in the reports of Mrs. Price and Mr. Webb.

The source of the daughters' protest is their declared inability to do for the old soldiers what they should have. "For years the Daughters of the Confederacy have not been going out to the home because they were unwilling to be offended by Captain Lineberry. Miss Martha Hayward, one of the most prominent of them, has twice declared to your correspondent, "My chapter has not had an opportunity to do much in several years. We were not willing to go out there and be offended by the superintendent who showed that he did not want us there."

"But while our chapter absented itself I told the members that I did not intend to allow any incivility to keep me away. I want to be just to Captain Lineberry and say that he has not treated me rudely. I cannot say that the treatment has been particularly cordial but he has not been offensive."

While the auditor's office was Jennings the first story carried in the Raleigh correspondence and declaring that this opposition all comes from the Small contingent, the daughters were expressing indignation and the reports of Mrs. Price and Alex. Webb were in the making. The auditor is standing by Mr. Lineberry. But Governor Craig had reference to the charges of the daughters when he declared that he had heard of offensiveness to the ladies.

Newspaper men have interpreted the action of the home management to mean the retention of Captain Lineberry and also the early demotion and final displacement of that official. This correspondent having started the trouble in simple chronicle, read the result to mean a new man, an infusion of new blood into it, a gradual change to a hospital with a young man, perhaps a physician in charge. It appears that way now, but this correspondent prophesied last week and prophecy and fulfillment must be justified even though it take bull-dozing of the language to bring it about.

Away, the daughters are depending the retirement of Mr. Lineberry and Old Man Small sits on the lid cussing and saying: "Me go? Hell no."

## NO U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, HE SAYS

### Henry Wise Wood Before Na- tional Security League At- tacks Administration for Lack of Definite Code.

### NATION-WIDE REACTION IN OPINION PREDICTED

### Geo. Von L. Meyer Points Out Defects in Navy Depart- ment; System of Direc- tion Wrong, He Says.

Washington, Jan. 22.—A letter on military conditions by Eilihu Root, former secretary of state, and an address endorsing the administration's continental army plan by Henry L. Stimson, former secretary of war, featured the program of the closing session today of the National Security League's congress. The congress will close tonight with a banquet at which Senator Lodge and former Attorney General Wickersham will be the principal speakers.

Unqualified endorsement of the administration's continental army plan was given by Mr. Stimson, who declared himself to be in favor of compulsory universal military training as the true solution of the defense problem and said that he regarded Secretary Garrison's plan as a sound initial step.

If congress is not ready yet to sanction the movement for such training, the measures which it enacts should be those which so far as they go are in accord with the great fundamental duty and which as time passes and experience ripens should lead most naturally to the establishment of such a system, Mr. Stimson stated.

Washington, Jan. 22.—Attacks on the administration's foreign policy featured the addresses of speakers yesterday before the National Security League. Henry Wise Wood of New York, declared that the United States has no foreign policy at the moment. Mr. Wood said it was to be doubted whether at this moment we will enforce by armed intervention such of our domestic policies as are inimical to the interests of foreign nations.

"To discuss a naval policy at this time for the United States seems a mere academic occupation," said Mr. Wood, were it not for certain indications that we are about to experience a nation wide experience of public opinion which cannot fail to crystallize in a national spirit, finding expression in a definite code of policies for dealing with our foreign affairs in order to sustain which the United States, if need be, would declare war."

Mr. Wood said that the United States should formulate a naval policy which could bear the full brunt if necessary of a coalition of powers. He advocated a naval policy which would maintain at all times in the Atlantic a force superior to that of Japan, to protect the Panama canal against capture or destruction by land or sea or from injury by air.

George Von L. Meyer, former secretary of the navy declared that the "fundamental defect in the navy department is that it has no brain, no competent military organization charged with the preparation of the fleet for war and with its condition in war and in consequence the navy is being built and administered on a peace basis and is not being effectively prepared for war service."

"In this respect it differs from that of the admiralties of all other navies whose energies are all directed by a thoroughly trained and educated military staff."

"Leading officers of the navy have for year advocated continuously the importance of organization, but congress has always refused to grant it."

Mr. Von L. Meyer urged the fortification of the Panama canal and additional protection of it by naval defense, the abolition of useless navy yards, the establishment of a national council of defense, organization of a naval reserve of over 25,000 men and the creation of a naval general staff.

## COLD WAVE MAY STOP THE RISING OF STREAMS

Chicago, Jan. 22.—The cold wave which is said by the weather bureau to be sweeping eastward from the Rocky mountain region today was held as bringing hope for relief from the flood conditions which have prevailed in northern Illinois and neighboring states as the result of recent heavy rains which were followed by rapid rise in the streams. Thousands of people were rendered temporarily homeless and the property loss will be hundreds of thousands of dollars. Several cities also face possible epidemics as the result of the pollution of drinking water by the floods.