

TWO IMPORTANT WAR QUESTIONS NEAR DECISION

British Labor Organizations Are Meeting to Define Attitude Toward Compulsory Military Service.

House is discussing blockade question. Intimated unofficially that British government has decided against formal blockade of Germany.

The position of the British government on two matters of prime importance in the conduct of the war is to be determined as the result of proceedings under way today. The attitude of the labor organizations toward compulsory military service is to be decided at a great conference of labor men which meets in Bristol today, and the debate on the question of a formal blockade of the German ports before the house of commons.

Because of the renewal of heavy fighting on the west front the belief expressed that there was a serious German attempt to break through the French lines close to the Flanders front on Monday and newspapers predict that German activity in the west will probably reach its highest effort on Thursday, when the German emperor celebrates his fifty-seventh birthday.

The following official statement on the Mesopotamia campaign was given out today, under Monday's date: "Sir Percy Lake, the new commander in Mesopotamia, reports that General Aylmer attacked the Turkish position at Esin on Friday. Fierce fighting continued through the day with varying success. The weather throughout was atrocious, a pounding rain rendering movements of troops extremely difficult.

CONTINUED ARTILLERY FIGHTING AT NIEUPORT

Result of Exchange Described as Favorable to French—Other Fighting.

Paris, Jan. 26.—The French war office statement on the progress of hostilities yesterday says that last night there was continued artillery fighting in the vicinity of Nieuport, Belgium. The result of the exchange is described as favorable to the French.

PRESIDENT FOR TARIFF BOARD

Mr. Kitchin Is Informed That President Will Seek to Have Congress Create Tariff Commission.

FAVORS CREATION OF ENTIRELY NEW BODY

Kitchin Would Have Power Invested in Federal Trade Commission—Supports Anti-Dumping Bill.

Washington, Jan. 26.—President Wilson told House Leader Kitchin of the ways and means committee yesterday he favored creation of a tariff commission and that he would attempt to put through a bill for it during the present session of congress.

The president is expected to discuss the question in a special message to congress in the near future. Mr. Kitchin favors putting the powers of a tariff commission with the federal trade commission, instead of creating a new body, but the president believes a separate commission should be created.

Mr. Kitchin said after his conference with the president that he did not know whether or not he would oppose the plan; he added that he thought the majority of the ways and means committee was in favor of it. The president's plan is said to be for a non-partisan commission to be created for the purpose of collecting facts for congress.

The president made it plain he did not think the proposed commission should be established with the view of upholding or criticizing any particular tariff policy, but should be entirely non-partisan, and capable of gathering facts without any political bias.

As proposed by the president, such a commission would have specific powers to: Investigate the administrative and fiscal effects of customs laws now in force or which may be passed in the future. Determine the relations between rates of duties on raw materials and those on finished or partially finished goods. Investigate the effects of ad valorem and specific duties and of those which are a compound of ad valorem and specific.

In addition the president believes a tariff commission would be able to collect as much data throwing light on the tariff relations between the United States and foreign countries, the rates of duty imposed on American products by foreign countries, the existence and effects of discriminating duties, the effects of commercial treaties and preferential agreements, the results of export duties, and the effects of any special or discriminating duties imposed by the United States.

LAST DAYS OF TRADE WEEK PROMISE TO BE BUSY ONES

Only Three More Days Remain of Great Co-operative Refunding Sale—Response of Asheville and Out-of-Town Shoppers so Far Indicate Great Business For Merchants Between Now and Saturday Night When Sale Closes.

Just three days of the big co-operative sale instituted by The Gazette-News through the merchants of this city remain, Saturday being the last day and those last days give every indication of being history makers for the mercantile annals of Asheville. Yesterday was another good day.

A great many shoppers from out of town made their presence felt in Asheville stores, where they made substantial purchases. The business man is anxious to extend his trade; he wants new customers, for that means new life to his business, and naturally everything was done to establish friendly relations with the men and women from out of town who responded to the offerings of the sale and had come to Asheville to see what the stores here really contained. Without exception the merchants reported that the shoppers were greatly pleased with their experience and promised "to come again."

They were shown that Asheville is the logical place for them to trade in; that the stores in this city cannot be excelled by any in the state, and that there is a variety of goods, an up-to-dateness in style and a genuineness in the values that is unimitable—and also that Asheville stores are served by trained clerks who are well qualified to give advice as to purchases, advice which many a shopper has felt the need of and has been grateful for receiving.

Co-operation all around has proved its value; the customer and the merchant have been satisfied and the city is bound to benefit by the visit of so many strangers. A great many shoppers have visited personal friends in the city, making an overnight visit, for instance, and have accomplished this without the expense which would follow a call made to the city for that purpose alone, for under the terms of the sale fares are refunded—of course, a reasonable limit being placed as to the amount spent in the stores. It is a sensible proposition which has worked out well. Everybody says so and it must be so.

This out of town shoppers are not the only ones who are taking advantage of the generous price reductions in effect in most of the stores that are participating in Asheville trade week for Asheville people to a great extent are availing themselves of the various bargain offerings being made by the local merchants and trade "brisk" in spite of inclement weather for the last several days.

Where to Get Bargains. Here is a list of stores where bargains will be found and where fares will be refunded: Bon Marche, McGraw Dry Goods Co., M. V. Moore and Co., Lowenbels-Rutenberg.

Chas. E. Henderson, The Rackety Store, Nichols Shoe Co., Green Bros, Otis 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 and Sons, I. X. L. Dept. Store, Asheville Paint and Glass Co., Dunham's Music House, Teague and Oates, H. L. Finkelstein Loan Office, Williams-Huffman Music Co., Smith-Bruns Clothing Co., Brown 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. McCasless, The Fair, Carolina Paint and Varnish Co., Piedmont Electric Co., J. H. Law, Smith's Drug Store, Hood's Millinery, Crystal Cafe System.

El Paso, Jan. 26.—General Villa, now in western Chihuahua, defying the forces of the Carranza government, is using for his cry, "Remember Orozco" to stir up hatred against Americans and to gain recruits for himself, according to foreigners who reached the border today.

Orozco was Villa's most formidable follower until he was driven across the border into the United States nearly two years ago. Orozco was shot and killed last September in the mountains on this side of the boundary line, some time after he had forfeited the bond under which he was being held for violation of the United States neutrality laws.

Villa has taken advantage of the circumstances surrounding the death of Orozco, it is declared, using his name as a rallying cry for recruits. Western Chihuahua was the home of Orozco as well as that of Villa and the dead leader had a large following which is said to have been inflamed recently when Villa informed them that Orozco was murdered in Texas by Americans.

Several persons arriving from Chihuahua City declare that 36 Americans were thrown into prison just before Villa evacuated the city; that a number of Chinese were shot and stores belonging to Chinese and Japanese were looted and burned.

Villa announced, it was said, that he would hold the Americans for a \$20,000 ransom, but they were finally released.

Latest advices concerning Villa say that he is in the vicinity of Guerrero, where, according to a statement by his supporters, he is safe from the pursuing Carranza forces pending the completion of his plans for the reorganization of his army to take the field against the de facto government.

SURPRISED AT CLARK DENIAL

Members of House Labor Committee Surprised at Editor's Statement as to Report of Testimony.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TO ISSUE STATEMENT

According to Record Clark Used Words Attributed to Him Concerning Western N. C. People.

Considerable surprise was expressed today by members of the house labor committee when they read the statement of David Clark, of Charlotte, denying that he had made certain statements with reference to the mountain people of North Carolina. Chairman Lewis is out of the city, but his chief clerk said that Mr. Lewis would have a statement to make when he returned.

Insofar as Mr. Clark was quoted in the Washington correspondence of The Gazette-News, the writer states now that Mr. Clark was not misquoted, even to the leaving out of a comma, according to the official record.

According to the official report, now a public document, and the stenographer's notes and also the statements of gentlemen who heard Mr. Clark make this charge against our mountain people, he stated that they did not believe in education. Mr. Clark read over the stenographer's notes before they were printed in the official document, and made such corrections as he thought necessary, according to the clerks of the house labor committee. Here is what he is quoted as saying about the mountain people in answer to a question by Representative Summers:

Mr. Summers—"If you leave the question of education to the judgment of the parents after they are 14 years of age why not leave it to them all the time, why leave it to them any time?"

Mr. Clark—"When these people come from the mountains they don't believe in education. That is the reason we don't have compulsory education in North Carolina, because the isolated mountain districts would go Republican if we forced compulsory education on them."

That is the paragraph which was sent out by the writer and which Mr. Clark yesterday denied having made. I did not hear the statement, but the official stenographer did; clerks to the committee say he did and members of the committee say so. The government printing office has issued a public document containing that statement and the above quotation is from that official paper.

JAPAN RENEWS SEVEN DEMANDS

Presents Note to Chinese Minister Demanding Concessions Included in Program of Last Spring.

21 ARTICLES CONTAINED IN ORIGINAL DEMANDS

Group Five Left For Utterior Argument After Two Governments Had Agreed on Other 21 Demands.

London, Jan. 26.—The Japanese government has delivered to the Chinese minister at Tokio for presentation to his government a note in which is embodied seven demands which were included in the program of demands which Japan made on China last spring, according to a dispatch from the far east.

On January 28, 1915, the Japanese government presented to the Chinese government 21 demands which were arranged in five groups. The first group related to the province of Shantung and to concessions to Japan of the rights and privileges which were previously enjoyed in that province by Germany, as well as new prerogatives.

The United States government addressed a note to Japan with regard to the demands on China, querying in particular with respect to three points: The selection of foreign advisers by China; the purchase of war munitions; and the question of foreign loans.

The Japanese government replied to the note on March 22 and on May 25 two treaties between Japan and China together with 13 notes were signed by the Chinese foreign office, covering it was announced, the practical conclusions reached on the Japanese demands of which, however, five articles were left for ulterior argument. It was understood at that time that the articles left for further consideration were those of group five.

The articles of group five originally numbered seven but later it was stated that article three had been eliminated and that article six had been displaced by pledges that China would undertake no military or naval preparations nor authorize foreigners to undertake such preparations on the Fukien coast in the future.

It is possible that the seven demands alluded to in the dispatch are the original seven articles of group five.

REMEMBER OROZCO VILLA'S RALLY CRY

Using Dead Leader's Name to Stir Up Mexicans and Gain Recruits.

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Advices from the interior of Chihuahua state report continued tranquility without the districts in which the forces of Villa and other rebel leaders are operating. Reports from Torreon state that the Carranza troops comprising a part of the 10,000 men which are being concentrated for a campaign to exterminate the bandits, have already taken the field in the Laguna district against the outlaw bands.

EXPORTS IN 1915 INCREASED 70 P. C.

Reached Total of \$3,555,000,000 Breaking All Previous Export Records.

BRITISH TO PROBE SINKING OF PERSIA

London, Jan. 26.—The British government has ordered a formal investigation of the circumstances attending the sinking of the British steamer Persia in the Mediterranean last month.

EXPOSURE OF THE MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

Washington, Jan. 26.—The Shackelford road bill, following its passage in the house by a vote of 281 to 111 went to the senate today where it is expected to meet with strong opposition. The measure calls for the appropriation of \$25,000,000 to aid the states in the improvement of their post roads.

FORMER ASHEVILLE LADY TO WED WEALTHY MAN

Miss Rebecca Buxton Will Marry Moses Edson Banks of Fairfield, Conn.

STILL CONFERRING ON LUSITANIA CASE

Bernstorff Will Make Another Effort to Satisfy U. S. Government.

CATHEDRAL AT NIEUPORT, BELGIUM, IS DESTROYED

Berlin, Jan. 25.—The Cathedral at Nieuport, says the German official statement issued this afternoon, has been destroyed by German artillery fire as it offered an excellent observation post.

PLANS BIG GUNS FOR U. S. SIMILAR TO GERMANY'S

Coast Defense Artillery Like 42-Centimeter Howitzers Being Considered.

CABINET DECIDES ON FRANK DISCUSSION OF PREPAREDNESS PLAN

Washington, Jan. 26.—The cabinet has discussed the preparedness speeches the president is to make on his coming trip and it was agreed that he should treat the question with the greatest frankness and tell the country that the United States needs a larger army and navy because of the present troubled conditions of the world.