

## BRITISH FORCE IN SO ARABIA NOW IN PERIL

Loss of Territory Held for  
Protection of Suez Canal  
Route Threatened by  
Turko-Arab Attacks.

## SUFFERED ENORMOUS LOSSES BERLIN HEARS

Implication Is That Army of  
20,000 Men Is Virtually  
Cooped Up Near Red  
Sea Entrance.

Berlin, Jan. 27.—A Cologne newspaper publishes a dispatch from Cairo, Egypt, which states that the British forces in Southern Arabia are in a dangerous position as the result of fierce attacks by Arabs and Turks. It is stated that the British casualties up to December 30 amounted to 15,000 killed and 20,000 wounded.

Bristol, England, Jan. 27.—A resolution protesting in the name of the National labor party against the adoption of conscription in any form was passed by the National Labor congress by a vote of 1,796,000 to 219,000.

The British possession of territory for the protection of the Suez canal route at the southern end is imperilled by attacks of large number of Arabs and Turks on the British forces in southwest Arabia, according to advices from German sources. The British have been driven from all the territory held in that section of the country and have suffered extremely heavy losses in the fighting, the report asserts.

The implication from the Berlin dispatch carrying this report is that the British army of 20,000 men is now virtually cooped up in Aden near the entrance of the Red sea which must be held if the southerly approach to the Suez canal is to be protected.

A situation quite similar to this was reported through German agencies several weeks ago, but London announced officially that no apprehension was felt of the outcome of the operations, which were said to be in the nature of mere skirmishes.

The Austrians having secured possession of virtually all of Montenegro, whose remaining defenders, according to Vienna reports, are fast laying down their arms, are pushing southward into Albania, but apparently are moving deliberately, although they are not meeting with much resistance.

Advices from Albania indicate that the progress of the invaders will probably be slow owing to the condition of the roads.

British labor has decided by an overwhelming majority to support the government to the full in the prosecution of the war. The German ambassador at Washington has presented to the American government a draft note concerning the sinking of the steamer Lusitania which is believed to meet all the American demands on this troublesome issue, and which, if accepted by the German government, will finally end the controversy.

Great Britain has answered tentatively the American protest against the holding up of mails, but will reply more fully when France has signified her approval of Great Britain's attitude. Simultaneously comes the announcement that French warships are to aid the British navy in blockading the English channel and the North sea and take part in the examination of mails as well as cargoes.

Hand-to-hand fighting between the French and Germans near Neuville took place when the French tried to retake trenches captured by the Germans. Berlin reports that all the attacks were repulsed. The French, however, have taken from the Germans mine craters they had occupied several days ago and in mining operations in the Argonne forest have destroyed German trenches.

On the Austro-Italian front Italian positions near Osavia have been captured by the Austrians, who made prisoners of forty-five officers and 1,187 men, according to Vienna.

The Turks claim another attack by the British near Menlaric, east of Kut El Amara, was discontinued after the British had suffered "appalling losses."

An unofficial dispatch says that Bulgarians invading Albania have come in contact with and met defeat at the hands of Albanian troops led by Essad Pasha, provisional president of Albania, co-operating with the entente allies.

The representatives of the Montenegrin government, according to a Vienna dispatch coming by way of Berlin, at last have signed articles regarding the disagreement of the Montenegrin army and the Montenegrins are everywhere laying down their arms.

The British house of lords has passed the third reading of the military service bill.

## EXPLAINS STAND ON COMMISSION

President's Letter to Kitchen  
Tells Why He Changed  
His Mind About Tariff  
Commission.

## SAYS CIRCUMSTANCES OF WORLD ARE CHANGED

Letter Says the Commission  
Would Have Nothing to Do  
With Theories of Policy  
of Protection.

Washington, Jan. 27.—Representative Claude Kitchin of North Carolina, chairman of the house ways and means committee, had before him today a letter from President Wilson setting forth the considerations which had most weight in causing the president to withdraw his opposition to the creation of a tariff commission by congress, and no wto urge that such a commission be established.

The president in the communication admits that he changed his mind "because all the circumstances of the world are changed" but declares that he has no thought whatever of changing his attitude toward the so-called protection question.

The proposed commission, the letters says, will have nothing to do with the theory of protection but it will be charged only with the duty of seeking facts to be used to guide congress in enacting legislation.

The president's letter is supplemental to one he sent to Mr. Kitchin on Monday in which he gave his idea of what a tariff commission should be and urged that the committee consider the matter immediately.

The president favors a non-partisan expert body.

"I dare say you feel as I do," says the letter, "that it would be folly at this time, or until all the altered conditions are clearly understood, to attempt to deal with questions of foreign commerce by legislation and yet, having dealt directly and clearly with the whole question on unfair competition within our own borders, it is clear that as soon as we know the facts we ought to deal with unfair methods of competition as between our own nation and others, and this is only one of the many things that we would probably wish to deal with. The other matters I have attempted to indicate in my previous letter to you. I am glad to supplement that letter by this explicit statement of the consideration which have been most influential with me.

"You will remember that in my last message to congress I foreshadowed just the considerations which were operating in my mind in this matter. The passage to which I refer was this:

"Many conditions about which we have repeatedly legislated are being altered from decade to decade, it is evident, under our very eyes, and are likely to change even more rapidly and more radically in the days immediately ahead of us, when peace has returned to the world and the nations of Europe once more take up their tasks of commerce and industry with the energy of those who must bestir themselves to build anew. Just what these changes will be no one can certainly foresee or confidently predict."

## TAKES UP CONVICT GOODS BILL NEXT

Congress Will Consider Measure  
After Child Labor Bill  
Is Disposed of.

Washington, Jan. 27.—A bill to regulate the sale of convict-made goods will be the next measure to be taken up in the house after the child labor bill is disposed of. The house labor committee in favorably reporting the bill says it is designed to remove the impediments to the effective operation of state laws on the sale of convict-made goods within its borders, imposed by the construction of the interstate commerce clause and the enactments of congress on the subject. An identical measure passed the house of the 63rd congress but failed in the senate.

The committee pointed out that though more than 500 laws have been passed by the states in attempting to regulate the sale of convict-made goods the commerce clause of the constitution has been successfully invoked in the state courts to defeat its execution of the legislation. The bill, the report adds, therefore carries out the principle of home rule in respect to the state.

Confidence is expressed that the measure will not be amenable to constitutional objections.

## The Biggest Days of Asheville's Re-Funding Sale Yet to Come

Friday and Saturday Will Be Given to a "Feast of Bargains" by Merchants Who Invite  
Out-of-Town Shoppers to Visit Stores at Their Expense.

The matter to which various merchants are now turning their attention is for giving this unprecedented clearance sale a grand wind-up Friday and Saturday. People who have shopped here during this sale have found things exactly as advertised, and all promises as to fare refunds kept to the letter. It stands to reason that these newly made friends of Asheville's mercantile world will come again because they know they can come free of charge and up to the closing hour Saturday night take advantage of the special bargains. Moreover, many of the merchants are preparing a wind-up feast of clearance. They propose to reduce stock to the greatest possible extent while this sale is on, taking advantage of the presence of neighboring townspeople to display their wares and put-

ting a price on the goods that will be sure to move them.

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.  
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 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-Bruus Clothing Co.  
Brown Hardware Co.  
Gem Clothing Co.  
Sisquahanna 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.  
Piedmont Electric Co.  
J. H. Law.  
Smith's Drug Store.  
Hood's Millinery.  
Crystal Cafe System.

## CONSULTS LEADERS ABOUT SHIP BILL

President Seeks to Learn  
Their Attitude Toward Measure—Details Made Known.

Washington, Jan. 27.—President Wilson summoned to the white house yesterday leaders of senate and house to learn their attitude toward the new shipping bill. Most of the leaders with whom the president talked opposed the shipping bill which failed of passage last congress, and he desired to know their position toward the new bill.

As the result of the conference the details of the new ship bill which will be supported by the administration became known for the first time. The measure does not include the feature of the old bill which provided for the continued operation of ships by the government. Instead the new bill provides that the government shall purchase or build ships and then lease of sell them to corporations or private individuals. Only in case no offers to lease or buy the ships does the bill allow the government to operate them. The government could buy the vessels back at reasonable prices for naval auxiliaries in time of war.

A bond issue of \$50,000,000 for the purchase of construction of ships would be provided by the bill which also includes provisions for a shipping board to control ship rates.

## PEOPLE WON'T STAND FOR THE STAMP TAX

Members From All Sections  
Are Serving Notices It  
Must Be Repealed.

(By Parker R. Anderson).  
Gazette-News Bureau  
The Riggs Building  
Washington, Jan. 27.

Members of congress from all sections of the country are serving notices on Majority Leader Claude Kitchin that the present war tax must be repealed and that they will not vote for any measure which proposes to put an additional tax on the poor man. Representatives Doughton and Small came out Tuesday in opposition to any form of stamp taxes. Mr. Doughton, in a letter to Mr. Kitchin, declared that he would never again, under any circumstances, vote for a stamp tax.

The statement of these two gentlemen reflects very clearly the sentiment of a majority of the democratic members in the house. They are hearing from home and these reports say the people will not stand for the stamp tax.

As already stated in these dispatches, whatever additional revenue that is needed must be raised from the income tax and a tax on munitions of war. One member expressed the situation very well today when he said that if we ever have another war it will be the poor man who will have to do the fighting and his widow and orphans who will suffer when the conflict is over. Therefore let the rich man pay the monetary cost.

## COL. HOUSE IN BERLIN; HE IS "VERY RESERVED"

Berlin, Jan. 26.—Col. E. M. House arrived in Berlin this morning. A correspondent of the Lokal Anzeiger interviewed Colonel House at Karcherstrasse and found him "very reserved" in regard to the purposes of his trip.

## CHILD LABOR BILL NOW BEFORE HOUSE

Bitter Fight, Especially by  
Southern Members, Expected—Webb Leads.

Washington, Jan. 27.—The child labor bill was taken up in the house yesterday and was expected to be a very bitter fight, particularly on the part of some of the southern members, was begun. The bill would prohibit the interstate shipment of goods in the manufacture of which the labor of children under the age of 16 years was employed.

Representative Webb of the Judiciary committee, a North Carolinian, led the attack on the bill, principally from the standpoint of its constitutionality.

## JUDGE CLARK ANSWERS GOV. CRAIG'S CRITICISM

Says It Is Astounding That  
Governor Intimated He  
Excused Lynching.

Raleigh, Jan. 27.—Chief Justice Walter Clark has issued a reply to Governor Craig's criticism of the letter of the chief executive to John D. Langston, of Goldsboro, blaming the courts and other departments of government for lynching in North Carolina.

He declares it to be astounding to him that the governor should intimate that in his Langston letter he excused the mob who hanged the negro, Richards.

He says he began the letter with a denunciation of lynching and stated that it was anarchy, and that there is not a line of apologety in the letter is not a line of apologety in the letter.

The reply of the chief justice makes seven typewritten pages. He says no one acquitted of a guilty murder, or a dozen, nor the lack of confidence caused by any one judge, nor the excessive use of pardoning powers by any one governor has brought those conditions. But that the trouble is of long standing, else the people would not have been goaded on any occasion to take the law into their own hands.

He reiterates his position that the excessive number of homicides in North Carolina and the consequent lynchings that occur are not the fault of the people, who, he says, are as a mass law abiding. The chief fault, he says, is the system by which our jurors have been drawn, and the excessive number of challenges given the prisoners.

Much of that statement by the chief justice is a recitation of personal experience and statistics as to homicides in North Carolina as compared with the whole country, taken from the university news letter and citation from efort opinions bearing on these matters and concludes with the plea that the people of the state are not interested in the controversy between he and Governor Craig as individuals, but with curing the evils that effect the public.

## JEWISH RELIEF DAY.

New York, Jan. 27.—Funds for the relief of the Jewish war sufferers are being collected today throughout the country under President Wilson's proclamation designating today as Jewish relief day. A number of Jewish organizations are engaged in the collection of money and look for a general national response.

## CONGRESSMEN TOLD TO HURRY

President Wilson Insistent  
That Legislation Be Speeded  
Up For Possible Adjournment by June 1.

## STIR IS CAUSED BY PRESIDENTS' REQUEST

Many Statesmen Skeptical as  
to Possibility of Getting  
Work Done by First  
Part of June.

Gazette-News-Bureau,  
The Riggs Building,  
Washington, Jan. 27.

President Wilson wants congress to hurry along its work and adjourn the session before the national convention. He is urging the leaders to speed up legislation and quit for the summer about June 1.

This fact became known at the capitol following the conference between the president and Leader Kitchin, of the house democrats. President Wilson was insistent in his conference with Mr. Kitchin that the session end before the conventions.

When the facts concerning the president's desire to crowd through a legislative program and end the session by June 1 or thereabouts became known at the capitol, a stir was caused among both democrats and republicans. It is anticipated that strong efforts will be made to do away with dilatory proceedings. House leaders as well as those on the senate side, indicated they had no disposition to drag out the session. Many are skeptical about the possibility of ending the session early in June. One effect of the president's attitude will undoubtedly be to force preparedness legislation to a head much more quickly than had been anticipated.

President Wilson will have introduced in congress this week a bill creating a non-partisan tariff commission of from five to seven members, with powers to investigate and report to congress on all facts concerning trade and production necessary to the proper adjustment of the tariff.

In deciding to get behind such a commission the president has departed from a position taken by him in a letter to Governor Cox, of Ohio, last September, in which he expressed the opinion that the federal trade commission and the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce already had sufficient powers to perform all the functions of a tariff.

One trouble which would face the proposed commission at the outset would be to devise changes of some kind in the tariff law which would prevent the dumping of goods on the close of the war. Officials of the government have strong reason to believe that at the close of the war the exporting houses of Germany and other countries will, in a desperate effort to regain their lost markets, flood the United States with cheap commodities.

The proposed commission, however, will have no administrative or legislative function. It will merely be an inquisitorial body, which will report the results of its study direct to congress, leaving congress to use as much of its advice as it cares to in shaping tariff legislation.

It is understood that the democratic members of the ways and means committee from the north are practically unanimous in favor of this commission, believing it will go far toward reassuring American business interests. Feeling in the south, it is stated, is not in favor of the proposed move, the opposition of some southern members being that it would constitute an admission of weakness on the part of democrats, who, by failing to appropriate money for the expenses of the former Taft tariff commission put that body out of business.

As the result of recent conferences between the president and some of the house and senate democratic leaders, the legislative program for some months to come is pretty clearly shaped up. It includes:

The Philippines independence bill, which the Clarke amendment for freedom for the islands in two or three years.

National defense.  
Revenue legislation, chief feature of which is to be expansion of the income tax. Big incomes are to be hit with a heavier surtax.

Tariff commission legislation.  
In connection with this program, efforts will be made to head off "pork barrel" bills. This includes the good roads bill now before the house, the river and harbor bill, except as for continuing work on present projects, and the proposed omnibus public building bill.

## AGREEMENT ON SHIPPING BILL

House Leader Kitchin Agree  
to Support Measure Pro-  
vided Modifications  
Are Made.

## CANNOT BE ZEALOUS ADVOCATE, HE SAYS

Promise Contingent on Elimination of Any Possibility Government Will Stay in Shipping Business.

Gazette-News Bureau,  
The Riggs Building,  
Washington, Jan. 27.

With the understanding that modifications have been made that will meet the objections raised by him at the last session, Representative Claude Kitchin, majority leader of the house, has agreed to support the administration's new shipping bill.

Mr. Kitchin, in company with Senator Clarke, of Arkansas, another opponent of the bill which failed in the last congress, has conferred at length with the president regarding agreement was reached that the modified bill, minus the permanent government ownership feature, is to be put through the senate and house without appreciable delay. The ship purchase measure, according to present plans, will come ahead of the preparedness program.

Mr. Kitchin told the president that while he could not be a zealous advocate of the legislation proposed, he was willing to promise not to stand in the way of the bill and probably to vote for it. This promise however, was contingent upon changes in the bill that would eliminate any possibility that the government may enter permanently into the shipping trade.

The president asked Mr. Kitchin to examine the tentative draft of the modified bill and to notify the white house regarding his later views.

President Wilson is understood to have expressed the belief that Mr. Kitchin would find that the measure in its present shape is one that all democrats, including those that fought the former measure, may now support.

The new shipping bill, it is understood, follows the former measure with the exception of the clause regarding the permanent government ownership of the proposed shipping line. The bill soon to be introduced embraces the "naval auxiliary" feature contended for by Mr. Kitchin and other democratic insurgents in the last congress.

It is understood that the bill does not propose in any sense to embark the government upon a policy of perpetual ownership and operation of steamship lines and the naval auxiliary feature of the new bill will go far toward meeting the objection of democrats who refused to vote for the administration measure last session. Mr. Kitchin said his understanding is that the present bill would permit the leasing of the government ships at any time—both during and after the European war.

It is Mr. Kitchin's understanding, however, that the suggested time limit for the disposal of the government owned ships is not carried in the bill. Insurgent democrats last session agreed on a provision that the ships should be sold by the government "within two years after the expiration of the European war."

As the bill is now drawn it does not embody this specific language, but the proposed vessels will be primarily for the use of the navy as auxiliaries and their participation in the merchant trade may be terminated at any time.

"I have not had an opportunity to examine the latest shipping bill," said Mr. Kitchin, after his return from the white house. "I am given to understand, however, that the permanent government ownership feature is cured and it was to this that I particularly objected last session. If the bill is drawn so that these vessels may be considered as naval auxiliaries and not as permanent competitors of American concerns that have established routes, I will be willing to see the bill pass. I learn that these changes have been or will be made and the bill will meet the objections we raised to it last year."

Mr. Kitchin said the shipping bill probably will be reported without any considerable delay, and it may be passed before preparedness and other major legislation receive attention.

## STATE RESTS IN THE TRIAL OF MRS. MOHR

Providence, Jan. 27.—The state rested today in the trial of Mrs. Elizabeth Ball Mohr and two negroes, charged with the murder of the woman's husband, Dr. C. Franklin Mohr on August 21, last. By the testimony of more than 50 witnesses, including the physician's chauffeur who turned state's evidence, the prosecution sought to prove that the physician had been ordered at the instigation of his wife.