

THE RUSSIANS' ADVANCE RAPID

Making Marked Progress in Pursuit of Turkish Forces Retreating For Fortress of Erzerum.

FLEEING OTTOMAN ARMY IN PERILOUS CONDITION

Reports Say Two Army Corps Going to Relief of Erzerum Turned Back on Hearing of Capitulation.

The rapid advance of the Russian troops in Turkish Armenia following the fall of Erzerum has complicated the task of the Turks in their efforts to reform their scattered forces. From Russian headquarters in the Caucasus comes the report that two Turkish army corps which were on their way to Erzerum turned back when they heard that the fortress had fallen. It is assumed, according to this report, that the Turkish forces in eastern Armenia lost the prospect of an important help in extricating themselves from what appears to be a perilous position.

Unofficial accounts of the Russian movements record advances both in the south and north. The former directed toward Diarbakir and to the Bagdad railway, 55 miles beyond; and the latter in an effort to cut off the retreat of the Turkish forces which are operating along the Black sea coast.

The Russian army which captured Erzerum in Armenia is endeavoring to cut off the retreat of the Turks, who are retreating with as much speed as possible. Dispatches from Petrograd report the capture of the towns of Mush and Aclat, to the former heavy fighting preceding their taking by storm. The next objective of the southern wing of the Russian army is Diarbakir, which lies within striking distance of the Bagdad railway. This line would open up the road for the Russians into Syria.

Along the Black sea coast, Russian warships are pounding at the Turkish batteries and harassing the retreating troops. The northern wing of the Russian army has captured the town of Widge and is driving the Turks back in the direction of Gumish Khan, which is on the road to Trebizond, while large Russian forces are moving westward from Erzerum with the object of cutting off these Turkish troops before they can reach a new line of defense.

The Germans have been operating vigorously against the British and French along the Yser canal in Belgium, to the north of Ypres. From the British 359 meters of a position were captured and held despite hand grenade attacks to recapture it. After a heavy bombardment the Germans attempted to cross the canal and occupy French positions and several groups of them did succeed in making their way to a first line trench. The French, however, immediately drove them back.

The British to the south of Loos in a lively engagement, succeeded in making an advance to the edge of a mine crater held by the Germans. The French in Champagne, between the Meuse and Moselle rivers and to the west of the forest of Apremont, have bombarded successfully German positions while in the Argonne forest a mine exploded by the French shattered the German works.

Only isolated engagements have taken place on the Russian front. On the Austro-Italian line the artillery duels continue. Continuing their advance in Albania the Austro-Hungarians report the capture near Basar-Sjak, a short distance northeast of Durazzo, of an advanced Italian post. This is the first indication that the Italians are cooperating so far north in Albania, the belief having prevailed that their activities had been confined to the locality adjacent to Avlona.

That progress is being made by the Teutonic allies in the direction of Avlona seemingly is shown by the report that the Albanians who are fighting with them have occupied the town of Berat, situated about thirty-one miles northeast of Avlona.

Four German seaplanes have raided the east and southeast coast of England, dropping bombs. Lowestoft and Walmer were visited. Two men and one boy were killed and a marine was wounded. The raiders escaped.

NEWSPAPERS TO OPEN BUENOS AIRES OFFICES

Washington, Feb. 21.—A group of the leading American newspapers have announced that they will open representative offices in Buenos Aires as the first step in a movement in line with the suggestion which was unanimously approved at the recent Pan-American congress for drawing the business men of the American countries closer together. It is announced that similar representative offices will be opened in other cities in South and Central America.

G. O. P. TRYING TO AVERT OPEN SPLIT

Republicans Striving to Compose Differences Over Chairmanship—Row is Over Displacing Woods For Longworth—Leader of Progressive Republicans Theaters to Take Fight Before Public.

(By Parker R. Anderson.) Washington, Feb. 21.—Party leaders in the senate and house are striving desperately to avert an open split of dangerous proportions in the republican congressional committee and the party over the proposal to displace Representative Frank P. Woods, of Iowa, as chairman of the committee in favor of Representative Nicholas Longworth, of Ohio.

Representative Longworth, of Wisconsin, generally regarded as the leader of progressive republicans in the house, threatens to take the fight to the public and declare war on the "stand patters" in the party unless Woods is re-elected.

Representative William B. McKinley, of Illinois, former chairman of the committee, and recognized as the most potent forger of the "war chest" of the committee, will resign from the chairmanship of the finance committee and from the congressional committee itself if Woods is re-elected.

Representative Longworth, who has been advanced as a compromise candidate, the son-in-law of the progressive party leader, and one who could gather in the golden sinews of war, has not announced his candidacy, but will take the chairmanship if tendered by a safe majority.

Representative Woods has pledged to his candidacy a number of votes in the committee. Whether he would hold these members to their pledges at the cost of an open rupture has not been tested.

As the row sized up last night, the regulars and backers of Longworth had the votes to "put him over," but were unwilling to force a "show-down" until more certainly apprised of the strength of the Woods-Longworth cause in the party.

In other words, if Mr. Longworth is able to line up behind him all the progressive republican strength he claims, making the displacement of Woods, a Progressive, a vehicle for the reopening of the old factional fight, a further compromise may result. If, on the other hand, as Mr. Longworth's friends claim is the case, Mr. Longworth is leading a one-man fight and without the ability to create a factional alignment on the strength of it, the steam roller will be placed in commission and Mr. Longworth's election staged within the next few days.

James R. Mann, minority leader of the house, is striving to harmonize the various elements. Rather than have a factional row placed before the country, Mr. Mann will throw his strength to the Longworth-Woods side. Woods insists that his former affiliations do not enter into the question. They declare that what the committee needs at its head is one who can raise funds, that the committee's strength and the chances of a republican house depend upon the size of the campaign fund raised by the campaign demonstrated that Mr. Woods is not a good forger in this respect.

Mr. McKinley, on the other hand, was the best man the committee had at its head. McKinley, however, sensing trouble, refused to accept the clear majority which he could have commanded, and urged that another man, but with the same qualification, be determined upon. Mr. Longworth was put forward and is supported by McKinley and his friends.

Rescuers Are Penetrating Remote Flood Districts

By Means of Light Draft Boats Are Enabled to Reach Back Country With Food Supplies—Break in Levee at Buck Ridge is Rapidly Widening.

New Orleans, Feb. 21.—With four steamers actually engaged in rescue work and numerous flat boats in service and more under construction, reports early today from the districts flooded by the crevasse waters pouring through the breaks in the Mississippi embankment at Buck Ridge plantation wear more optimistic.

Reports from Nowellton state that a number of parties carrying supplies of food have gone into the back country in scores searching for the persons who up to the time shallow draft boats were obtained, it was impossible to reach. By the use of these

boats many rescues are expected. The waters from the continually widening crevasse at Buck Ridge are reported to be rapidly filling up the basin formed by the four parishes of Tenness, Concordia, Franklin and Catahoula. The natural flow of the waters will take them slowly to the Red river it is asserted by engineering authorities. Due to this fact the Red river and its tributaries are already out of banks. The Mississippi river is mingling with the Red river, a short distance below Vidalia, it is announced and it is believed by the end of the week the pressure on the Red river embankments will be much higher.

Charges Of The "Hammer Nagger" Fall Completely

Under the heading, "Hammer's Nagger," the Charlotte News declares that the charges against District Attorney Hammer have fallen flat. Says The News: "It was Marion Butler this time who superintended the attack upon District Attorney Hammer. A bill of complaint long and loud had been prepared against Mr. Hammer, and Butler was chosen as the mock columnist who up to the time shallow draft boats were obtained, it was impossible to reach. By the use of these

"The charges fell flat. The department of justice thought so little of them that it threw them out entirely and did not even send a copy of them to Mr. Hammer. "It was announced recently that Butler, of fraudulent bond fame, planned to return to North Carolina to live. Recently he has been engaged in the hopeless task of trying to erect a marble-nest of so-called democratic 'extravagance' out of fragments of imagination. Mr. Maxwell has only recently shown the utter idiocy of the Butler claims, and now his scheme to dethrone Hammer falls flat. "Manifestly the bond-peddler is finding his pathway studded with stumps which refuse to vanish before the wave of the politician's wand."

CHEMICAL PLANT NEAR BRISTOL IS DAMAGED

Lantern Explosion Causes Fire in Building of Federal Dye Stuff and Chemical Co.

Bristol, Tenn.—Va. Feb. 21.—The explosion of a lantern Saturday at the plant of the Federal Dye Stuff and Chemical company near Kingsport, Tenn., set fire to a chemical tank and threatened several buildings with destruction. Heroic work on the part of the employes prevented the fire from spreading, and only one building was damaged, according

ing to telephone messages received from the superintendent of the plant. The first reports were that the entire plant, which is valued at several million dollars, had been destroyed. The company, which manufactures picric acid as a base for high explosives, is a Delaware concern, headed by A. A. DuPont. No estimate has been given of the damage, but it is said it is not sufficient to interfere with the work of the plant.

ALL-COMERS TOURNAMENT TO BEGIN AUGUST 28

New York, Feb. 21.—The All-comers tournament in tennis single and doubles will begin on the turf courts of the Westside club at Forest Hill, L. I., on Monday, August 28, it is announced today. This brings the finale or semi-finals on Labor day.

SPECIAL CRIMINAL TERM IN SESSION

Several Road Sentences Imposed During First Day's Session of Superior Court.

LAWYERS SWARM IN.

The special term of Superior court for the trial of criminal cases, which was called by Governor Locke Craig several weeks ago, was convened this morning at 10 o'clock, with Judge W. F. Harding of Charlotte presiding and Solicitor J. E. Swan prosecuting the docket. The morning was taken up with hearing jail cases and appeal cases from the Police court and the courts of the magistrates. No grand jury is connected with this special term.

Sidney Shaver, colored, was given six months on retelling charges; one year on the roads on charges of assault with a deadly weapon and two months on charges of being drunk. Robert Forby was found not guilty of keeping liquor on hand for sale.

Harvey Bell, a young white man, was found guilty of vagrancy and given six months on the roads, the court ordering that the defendant be examined by the county physician before the road order be put in effect. Dovey Brown, colored, was given seven months on charges of retailing. Ernest Payne was given six months on charges of ordering whiskey under a fictitious name. The perjury charge against Annie Harris, colored, was continued until the next term.

The solicitor announced that the case against C. C. Koon, charged with violating the age of consent law, would be taken up tomorrow, the remainder of the day today to be devoted to the trial of jail cases.

Clinton Kelly Hughes, of Asheville who recently passed the state bar examination to practice law, was sworn in this morning before Judge Harding. Robert C. Goldstein, of whose class Mr. Hughes finished a law course, administered the oath. Mr. Hughes is now a student at the University of North Carolina, to which he will return in a few days.

MRS. M. C. ROBINSON JOINS TIMES STAFF

Mrs. Robinson Connected With Editorial and News Departments—Is Able Writer.

The management of The Asheville Times is pleased to announce the acquisition to its staff of Mrs. M. C. Robinson, who will do work in the editorial and news departments. Mrs. Robinson is an able writer. She has had large newspaper experience and was at one time special editor and editorial writer on The Gazette-News. She received her newspaper training under her husband, the late Frank E. Johnson, who was for many years editor of The Asheville Citizen, and was subsequently editor of The Detroit Journal, which position he held at the time of his death. She will be a valuable addition to the present staff connected with the paper.

MISS C. P. WALKER DIED EARLY TODAY

Charleston Woman, Resident Here For 33 Years, Succumbs to Long Illness.

Miss Charlotte Poysa Walker died this morning at 5 o'clock, at her home, 36 Ashland avenue, after a long illness. Miss Walker, who was a native of Charleston, has been a resident of this city for 33 years and a large circle of friends will learn of her death with regret. She was a member of Trinity Episcopal church and was an active worker in the departments of church work with which she was connected from time to time. The funeral services will be held at the residence tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, Rev. Willis G. Clark, rector of Trinity, officiating. The interment will take place at Magnolia cemetery, Charleston. W. J. Walker of Charleston, brother of the deceased, is expected to arrive in time for the funeral.

WASHINGTON MEMORIAL MASONIC TEMPLE PLANNED

Alexandria, Va., Feb. 21.—The George Washington Masonic National Memorial association, composed of the grand masters of nearly every grand jurisdiction in the United States, began a two-days meeting today, the

GERMAN AFFAIRS TAKE GRAVE TURN

Relations Between United States and Berlin Again Strained—One Report as to Cause of Gravity is That German Embassy Officials Have Irritated American Government by Their Methods.

Washington, Feb. 21.—Developments of the last 24 hours have given a grave turn to the relations between the United States and Germany over the question of submarine warfare.

One report, lacking official confirmation, is that Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, has irritated administration officials by publicity methods to a point that may impair his future usefulness in Washington. President Wilson and Secretary Lansing are said to have become greatly irritated over publication of details of the confidential negotiations over the submarine issue at the time when the state department, feeling itself pledged to secrecy, maintained silence.

Refusal of the state department to discuss confidential negotiations, while the succeeding steps in the negotiations were given out from a source which officials believe could be no other than the German embassy, has aroused official anger.

Ambassador von Bernstorff was in New York yesterday and embassy officials knew nothing about published reports that Secretary Lansing might call on the ambassador for an explanation and that eventually the situation might lead to Von Bernstorff's recall.

Secretary Lansing declared there was no truth in the story that he con-

templated calling the ambassador to the state department for an explanation. There was no indication, he said, that the United States would ask the recall of the ambassador. He insisted that there was no change in his relations, official or personal, with the German ambassador.

Mr. Lansing would not discuss the matter further, saying he was averse to conducting diplomatic negotiations through the press. Other developments indicating that German-American relations are near or the breaking point than they have been recently may be summarized up as follows: Germany's determination expressed in news despatches to stand pat on the Lusitania case and to reject all efforts to induce it to postpone the operation of its new submarine campaign against armed vessels. The insistence of the state department that it has not contemplated any change in its policy of recognizing the rights of merchantmen to carry defensive armament.

Irritation of officials that the impression has been circulated, they believe from German sources, that the United States "flopped" on the armed merchantmen question after giving Germany to understand that it approved the German decree holding such vessels to be warships.

Are Investigating Escape Of Self-Confessed Spy

More Arrests May Follow Capture of Ignatius T. T. Lincoln, If Found That Persons Have Wilfully Aided Him—Lincoln Says He Would Be Executed as Spy If Returned to England.

New York, Feb. 21.—Agents of the department of justice are investigating the circumstances attending the escape of Ignatius T. T. Lincoln, the self-styled international spy, who was recaptured Saturday after nearly a month of freedom. It is hinted that more arrests may result if it is found that Lincoln was wilfully aided in his escape and was given shelter by persons who knew he was a fugitive from justice.

Nothing definite has been discovered by the authorities to identify Lincoln with any unlawful act as a foreign agent in this country, it is said. Lincoln is in a Brooklyn jail awaiting decision on his case by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, as to whether he is to be extradited to England to answer a charge of forgery, on which he was arrested. Lincoln contends that if he is sent to England he will be executed as a spy.

Action For Recovery Of Steamer Appam Started

Attorneys for British Owners Begin Admiralty Proceedings to Take Ship, Which United States Is Holding as Prize of German Crew.

Washington, Feb. 21.—Attorneys for the British owners of the steamer Appam which is being held at Newport News as the prize of a German crew and have brought admiralty proceedings to regain possession of the ship. The state department holds that under the Prussian-American treaty this government must treat the liner as belonging to the Germans, at least until a prize court passes on the case.

British authorities contend that the ship should be returned to her British owners under provisions of the The Hague convention.

Collector of Customs Hamilton has reported to the treasury department that a representative of the United

States marshal's office appeared with a federal court writ to serve on the Appam. The representative chartered a tug, Collector Hamilton said, and with about 30 deputies left Norfolk to serve the writ. It is considered probable that the case will be bitterly contested and that the Supreme court may ultimately have to decide it; and the case may not be settled for several years.

Combination Cornering Cotton, Heflin Charges

Washington, Feb. 21.—Representative Heflin of Alabama has told Attorney General Gregory that he believed a combination of bear operators in New York was responsible for the low price of cotton. Mr. Heflin said there was a good demand for raw cotton and that he thought the only explanation for the low price of cotton was that a corner was being manipulated by the bear operators in

the cotton market. Assistant Attorney General Todd, who is in charge of the anti-trust prosecutions, was present at the conference. An investigation to determine whether the Sherman anti-trust law is being violated is to be made by the agents of the department of justice. No formal charges were made and no evidence produced.

U. S. SHIP HELD UP; 38 GERMAN REMOVED

Shanghai, Feb. 19.—The American steamer China, which left for Shanghai yesterday morning for San Francisco was held up on the high seas by a British auxiliary cruiser and 38 Germans were taken off.

object of which is the erection of a Masonic temple in Alexandria as a memorial to Washington and as a repository for the many priceless pictures and relics of Washington stored in the Alexandria-Washington lodge.

Mrs. Poole Dies. Mrs. Emily L. Poole died this morning at the residence of her son, G. R. Poole.

TO NAME DATE OF CONVENTION

Democratic Executive Committee Will Discuss Various Things Preliminary to State Convention.

COMMUNITY SERVICE IDEA IS EXTENDED

Captain F. M. Jordan Comes to Buncombe This Week to Attend Burning and Blackmailing Cases.

(By W. T. Bost.) Raleigh, Feb. 21.—When the democratic executive committee comes here March 8 to talk primary, convention, delegates and various other things preliminary to the campaign of 1916, it will name a date for its state convention.

Prof. W. C. Crosby returned yesterday from Sampson county where he spent the week advocating the organization and the registration of four rural communities and making addresses to the people. As the director of the community service leagues, Mr. Crosby is having fine luck. Under the old plan he registered last week Salemburg, Autryville, Inngold and Laurel Hill. Clement is in the making and will soon be registered.

The community service league is designed to organize permanently the combined strength of a community. Its labors are the finding of ways to increase country life by improving the educational, social and moral conditions of the community; by conservation of health; by lightening the burdens of rural life by the introduction of modern home conveniences and farming machines and by encouragement of thrift, economy through greater productivity on their farms.

The area of the county community service league is meant to embrace twenty square miles. It organizes after the manner of nearly all clubs and chooses by its own methods its president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and executive committee. It names five important committees, education, farm progress, co-operative marketing, health, organization and social life.

Under this plan the mossback who believes that filed are a great blessing, that dirt is divine, that all contagious diseases should be given early to children so that they might be freed from those after worries, and that adult filletry is no reproach to a community, must get off the earth. He won't be killed, of course, he will be run over by the community engine and if he will not swat the fly or clean up or support the movement he is answerable to the community and his kick will never be personal. Sampson is rapidly becoming organized into this community effort and the last week broke all records for response to this movement.

Capt. F. M. Jordan, of the insurance department, goes this week to Buncombe county, where he will attend court as a witness in the Martha Prossly, Martin Rickman, and Edgar Frady burning and blackmailing case, one of the most important issues at the term of court this week. Mr. Jordan investigated two fires at West Raleigh last week.

Capt. Sherwood Brockwell is in Greenview meeting the school committee members of that city to discuss the plans of building schools for the future. Four state schools have adopted the plan of the insurance commissioner for constructing school houses with the double tower stairway.

N. E. Cannady, state electrical inspector, has been in Fayetteville and Dunn the past week working for the department.

Commissioner James R. Young has cancelled the license of the National Live Stock company which has recently gone into a receivership. Col. James H. Young, former colonel of the third North Carolina Regiment of colored troops, and Capt. James E. Hamlin, two Raleigh colored men who were the first to volunteer their services in the event of Mexican troubles two years ago, are getting their papers which would give commissions to them in the organization of such troops.

Colonel Young headed the regiment in the Spanish war and Captain Hamlin served several years in the Philippines. Though above 50 years of age they declare their willingness to organize their forces for defense or for anything else that their country demands. When they tendered themselves two years ago the administration warmly thanked them.

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