

RUSSIANS NOT COVETING PORTS OF SCANDINAVIA

Russian Foreign Minister
Makes Striking Statements
in Regard to Russia's At-
titude Toward Sweden.

IS SEEKING PORT IN ANOTHER QUARTER

Also Gives Impression of Be-
lief That Roumania Will in
Due Time Join With
Entente Powers.

In his speech opening the Russian
duma Foreign Minister Sazonov
made striking statements in regard to
Russia's attitude toward Sweden and
of Roumania's attitude toward the
two groups of belligerents. Russia,
the foreign minister declared, is not
impelled toward the coast of Scandi-
navia and her sentiments toward Swe-
den are those of friendship. Russia is
looking for an outlet to the sea in
quite another direction, he stated.

As to Roumania, the official gave
the impression in his speech that he
believed that in due time the Rou-
manians would be found on the side
of the entente allies.

"She will know how to realize her
national unity at the cost of her own
blood," M. Sazonov declared; "and
will find ready support in defending
herself against the attempts of a
common enemy to interfere with the
independence of her decision."

Petrograd announces the continued
pursuit of the remnants of the Tur-
kish forces which fled from Erzerum
after its capture by the Russians.

The Italians, after hammering at
the Austrian positions with their big
guns have captured the mountainous
region of Cidlo (Collo) in the Sogana
valley, and also have occupied the
towns of Roncigno and Ronchi.

The Italians now are almost within
striking distance of one of their chief
objectives of the war—the city of
Trent—which lies, protected on the
north, east and south by a line of forts,
fifteen miles west of the captured re-
gion.

Again there has been vicious fight-
ing in the Artois region of France, in
Champagne and along both banks of
the Meuse above Dinu. To the
east of Sochez, after heavy bombard-
ment, the Germans attacked and
captured eight hundred metres of
French trenches and took seven officers
and three hundred and nineteen
men prisoners.

So powerful was the attack that the
Germans, seven battalions strong, got
alone occupied first line trenches but
at points gained access to some of the
communicating trenches.

The French by a counter attack, it
is officially announced by Paris, suc-
ceeded in driving out the Germans
suffering heavy casualties.

At Brabant-Sur-Meuse the Germans
also broke into the French trenches
but here again they were driven out
and back to their original positions.

The entire crew of about twenty-
two men of the Zeppelin airship, which
was shot down by the French near
Brabant-Le-Roi, perished in the
flames which enveloped the aircraft
as it fell from a height of six thousand
feet, Berlin admits the loss of the
Zeppelin.

There is no change in the situation
along the front in Russia and Galicia.
Russian Duma Opens.

Petrograd, Feb. 23.—(Via London).
—The new session of the duma was
opened here yesterday. Emperor
Nicholas visited the chamber and ad-
dressed the deputies, the president
of the duma replying.

DEATH LIST AT TEN IN NEW HAVEN WRECK

New Haven, Conn., Feb. 23.—The
death list as the result of a rear end
collision of two passenger trains on
the New York, New Haven and Har-
ford railroad in Milford, yesterday,
stood at ten this morning. Of the
more than three score of injured pas-
sengers who have been or are at present
under medical observation only
one was reported to be in a dangerous
condition.

Inquiry into the cause of the wreck
was begun by Coroner Mix this morn-
ing.

SOU. RY. FEATURES ITS NEW PULLMAN PROGRAM

The Southern Railway company has
selected some unusually attractive
literature for its letters advertising
the new Pullman service from Jack-
sonville and Augusta to Asheville after
March 1. Tourists coming to this
city after that date can make the
trip without any change of cars.

A quarter of a page on the new
stationery shows a fine view of Pis-
sah mountain.

MAY SECURE SECRET FOR DEADLY ENGINE

House Committee Recommends That U. S. Government Pur-
chase Patent Rights For Wireless Control of Torpedoes
—Hammond System Directs Torpedo From Shore or
Aeroplane.

(Parker R. Anderson).

Washington, Feb. 23.—The United
States will be the owner of the new-
est and deadliest engine of modern
warfare within a few months, if con-
gress follows a recommendation now
included in the house committee ap-
propriations bill for fortifications.

This news came today from the sub-
committee of the appropriations com-
mittee in charge of the bill.

The new military device is the sys-
tem of wireless control for torpedoes
for harbor and coast defense, invent-
ed by John Hays Hammond, Jr. It
is reported that all the appliances,
mechanisms, and patent rights em-
bodiment in over 130 secret patent ap-
plications can be purchased exclu-
sively for the United States govern-
ment.

A practical torpedo to be control-
led from shore has been sought by the
army since 1886, and many types have
been tried and given up. Wireless en-
ergy is considered as the ideal en-
ergy for torpedo control, since wireless
waves travel from the operator to the
torpedo practically instantaneously.

The ordinary uncontrolled type of
torpedo as used by the navy is uncer-
tain even at ranges of less than 4,
000 yards and firing against slow
moving targets. If the target changes
its speed or course after the firing
of a standard torpedo, the torpedo
misses, whereas with the controlled
torpedo, it is possible to follow up the
target until it is struck.

The Hammond torpedo control sys-
tem can use the wireless power of a
shore station or an aeroplane to con-
trol the torpedoes. At Gloucester,
Mass., army officers have steered the
radio controlled destroyers out to
distances of eight or nine miles
against moving targets. The accuracy
of hitting is practically 100 per cent
inasmuch as it is possible for the op-
erator to constantly compensate for
any error in the course of the torpe-
do.

With aeroplane control the torpe-
do mechanism is being operated with
over two and one half miles distance
between the aeroplane and the mov-
ing torpedos. In the control from aero-
plane.

Committee Considering Nomination Of Fletcher

Expected to Recommend Confirmation of President's Nominee
for Mexican Ambassadorship at Early Date, Despite Re-
publican Dissatisfaction With Mexican Policy.

Washington, Feb. 23.—Henry Pra-
ther Fletcher's nomination as am-
bassador to Mexico was taken up today
by the senate foreign relations com-
mittee, with prospect of prompt report
to the senate recommending the con-
firmation of the nomination, despite
the fact that the republican members
of the committee are still dissatisfied
with the president's report on the
circumstances which led up to the

planes of these torpedoes, it will be
possible for the aeroplane to be 10,
000 feet above the enemy's ships
controlling with accuracy the swift
movement of the torpedo below. The
question of visibility of the torpedoes
wake from this height is not serious,
inasmuch as the explosion of individ-
ual shell bursts are being observed
today in Europe by aeroplanes 10,000
feet above the ground.

With aerial control the Hammond
system will not be limited to the de-
fense of harbors, but may be em-
ployed along the entire coast line, to
meet an enemy's fleet at any point.
Numerous other and secret uses of
the device and its modifications are
contemplated by the coast artillery
corps. Radio experts of the navy have
expressed great interest in certain
phases of the system for naval use,
and are in agreement with the army
for purchase of the Hammond inven-
tions.

As an economical means of de-
fense, it may be stated that the cost
of the complete equipment for wire-
less torpedoes for the defense of a
harbor would only equal the cost of
a battery of two 12-inch guns, or
about half the price of one subma-
rine.

Decision was reached by the com-
mittee to purchase the Hammond
system only after the most exhaus-
tive investigation had been made by
Chairman Shirley, of the fortifica-
tions sub-committee of the commit-
tee on appropriations. It is taken for
granted here that the house will pass
the appropriation, which is approx-
imately three quarters of a million
dollars. Sentiment in the senate to-
ward the proposition is also favor-
able.

Offers have been made to Ham-
mond by several foreign governments
for the purchase of his inventions,
but the young engineer took the jo-
b that, as a patriotic American,
he preferred to have the United
States own all the rights to the new
war engine.

Major Steadman today recommend-
ed for appointment to the Naval
Academy W. C. Robbitt, of Oxford.
No alternatives were selected.

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the fact that the republican members
of the committee are still dissatisfied
with the president's report on the
circumstances which led up to the

recognition of the de facto government
which is headed by General Carranza.
Some of the republican members
think it would be unwise to delay
longer in sending a diplomatic repre-
sentative to Mexico to look after
American interests.

Pending the confirmation of Mr.
Fletcher's nomination, James Linn
Ridgers, consul general at Havana
will act as special agent of the
state department before the Carranza
government in Mexico.

Mr. Brown says that Florida has
the largest crowd for the past four
years, and that the European war has
turned thousands of people of the
north to seek recreation and pleasure
around the resorts of this country
rather than take chances on going to
Europe. He says that in the cities he
visited in Florida and in other cities
from which he heard, the business
this season is record breaking, nearly
a 11 of the leading hotels turning peo-
ple away. Mr. Brown thinks that
hundreds of these people will stop in
Asheville on their way north and he
expects the spring season to be ex-
cellent.

That municipal tennis courts are
one of the most valuable assets of the
resorts in Florida is another piece of
information gathered by Mr. Brown.
He says that in Jacksonville and St.
Augustine, the leading cities he visited,
that municipal tennis courts where
the tourists can play free of charge,
are great drawing cards and many of
the tourists in the smaller towns in
Florida move to the cities, while there,
in order to be able to have the accom-
modation of first class tennis courts.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown were the guests
of Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Lynch while in
Florida.

TWO LUMBER FIRMS ARE ORGANIZED

Moltz Company Now Owns
Jennings Boundary—Car-
rier Co. In Carolinas.

The Moltz Lumber company, with
headquarters at Lake Toxaway, has
just completed a survey for a logging
railway, from that railroad point in-
to the famous Jennings timber land
boundary, which the Moltz people
have recently purchased. Saw mill
operations on a large scale will begin
at once. The lands contain valuable
stands of hardwood and white pine
and it is reported that the company
paid \$200,000 for the 7,000 acres
which comprise their holdings.

The president of the new lumber concern
is Jerome Moltz.

Another new lumber firm in the
same territory is the Carrier Lum-
ber company which has Brevard and
Charlotte as shipping points. Oak,
gum and ash are the three principal
woods that will be handled by this
company. Henry N. Carrier of Bre-
vard is president of the organiza-
tion.

A complaint has been filed in the
office of the clerk of superior court
by L. C. Keener against Daisy
Keener, in which the plaintiff seeks
a divorce on statutory grounds.

L. C. KEENER BRINGS
SUIT FOR DIVORCE

LORD CECIL WILL MANAGE BLOCKADE

One Man to Be Charged With
Maintaining Blockade of
Teutonic Allies.

London, Feb. 23.—The govern-
ment through the Marquis of Lans-
downe has announced in the house of
lords that it had decided to turn over
all matters connected with the block-
ade of Germany to one man who
would rank as a full fledged cabinet
minister. It is understood that the
new post will go to Lord Robert Cecil,
who, since the formation of the
coalition government, has been un-
der secretary for foreign affairs. He
will retain his post, joining the cabi-
net as blockade minister.

The new minister will be charged
with the administration of the order
in council regulating the blockade as
well as responsibility for the general
policy and practice of the government
with respect to trade passing into or
from neutral countries.

Lord Robert Cecil is a lawyer of
wide experience and a young man, as
members of the British cabinet go. In
the foreign office he has been intelli-
gently concerned with the blockade
operations, particularly in their rela-
tions to the complicated matters
touching belligerent and neutral
rights. His elevation to the cabinet
will give the unionists another repre-
sentative in the coalition council.

The whole question of the blockade
was thrashed out at considerable
length in the house of lords this eve-
ning. Baron Sydenham and Baron Be-
resford making the principal appeals
for a stricter blockade, while the
Marquis of Lansdowne and Baron
Buckmaster defended the govern-
ment.

EXPECTS SEASON TO BREAK RECORDS

Secretary Brown of Y. M. C. A.

Just Back From Florida,
Says Hotels Are Full.

WEATHER COLD.

That Asheville will experience one
of the best spring seasons for tourists
returning north from Florida, within
the next few weeks, for the past four
or five years, is the opinion of Sec-
retary Ed. B. Brown of the local Y.
M. C. A. who, with Mrs. Brown has
just returned from a week's visit in
Florida.

Mr. Brown says that Florida has
the largest crowd for the past four
years, and that the European war has
turned thousands of people of the
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ADVICES RECEIVED ON BERLIN'S REPLY

Confidential Reports Indicate That Germany Will Inform U.
S. That Previous Assurances Regarding Submarine War
Will Hold Good, Provided Liners Are Not Armed—Pres-
ident Considers Situation Grave But Not Critical.

Washington, Feb. 23.—Confiden-
tial advices from Berlin indicate that
Germany soon will inform the United
States that the previous assurances
that unresisting liners will not be at-
tacked without warning will hold
good for the future in submarine op-
erations provided, however, that
such liners do not carry armament.

Germany will contend, the advices
state, that what is now characterized
as defensive armament is in reality
offensive armament, where subma-
rines are concerned and will propose
to discuss with the United States
what defensive armament properly
means.

As none of the French and British
liners now clearing from American
ports carry any armament whatever,
such assurances will be in the nature
of reassurance for the safety of neu-
tral persons on such liners, even un-
der the terms of the new submarine
campaign.

There has just been a conference
between President Wilson and Sena-
tor Stone and Representative Flood,
chairman of the congressional com-
mittees dealing with foreign affairs,
and Senator Kern, democratic floor
leader. It was said authoritatively
today that the conference was held in
order that the president might in-
form the congressional leaders of the
status of the negotiations with Ger-
many on submarine warfare. Sena-
tor Stone is said to have asked to
see the president to learn what the
facts in regard to the situation really
were. The president thought that
Senator Kern and Representative
Flood should have the same informa-
tion and asked them to be present.

President Wilson told the congress

leaders that while the foreign situa-
tion was grave it was not critical.

It is understood that the president
said that the United States would re-
sist the temptation to arm for de-
fensive purposes. The president
does not believe there should be
much discussion of the foreign situa-
tion in congress because of the dan-
ger of embarrassing the negotiations
which are being carried on with Ger-
many by the state department.

How far such assurances will go
toward meeting the state depart-
ment's objections that the Lusitania
agreement as at present drawn ap-
plies only to the past and not the fu-
ture, probably will only be deter-
mined only when Germany's formal
reply is laid before Secretary Lan-
sing. When the assurances are ex-
pected has not been disclosed but it
is believed the documents will arrive in
a few days.

There has been no intimation that
the date set for the opening of the
new Teutonic submarine campaign—
March 1—has been postponed, though
this is regarded as a remote possi-
bility. Intimations from official quar-
ters are that the United States will
not permit the negotiations over the
general subject of armed ships to be
thrown out indefinitely.

In reiterating the assurances in
regard to the future conduct of sub-
marine warfare, it is considered prob-
able that Germany will state flatly
that in all previous negotiations the
German government has been pro-
ceeding under the assumption that
unarmed liners only were at issue
and that Berlin always understood
that the question of armed merchant-
men did not enter into the subject.

15 Attorneys General In Support Of Liquor Laws

T. W. Bickett Among Those Who File Joint Argument Before
Supreme Court in Cases Involving West Virginia Prohi-
bition Law—Decision's Effect Will Be Far-Reaching.

Washington, Feb. 23.—Fifteen
southern and western attorneys gen-
eral joined in filing with the United
States Supreme court yesterday argu-
ment in support of the West Virginia
liquor law which prohibits the receipt
and possession of intoxicating liquors
for personal use, and of the Webb-
Kenyon liquor law prohibiting the
shipment of intoxicating liquors into
states for use in violation of the state
laws.

Attorney General T. W. Bickett of
North Carolina was among the num-
ber who joined in the argument. De-
cisions in the West Virginia case are
now before the court for oral argu-
ment. It is expected the Supreme
court's decision will be the most im-
portant of its kind in a decade.

The cases were to have been argu-
ed this week but the presence of only
seven justices at the court's sitting
resulted in postponement.

Rivers and Harbors Bill For \$39,000,000 Reported

Washington, Feb. 23.—The annual
rivers and harbors appropriation bill,
aggregating \$39,000,000 in direct ap-
propriations and authorizations for
expenditure in various parts of the
country has been favorably reported

to the house. The bill makes a net cut
of about \$4,000,000 from the esti-
mates.

A lively fight over the New York
harbor appropriation and on other
new projects is in prospect.

WASHINGTON MEMORIAL TEMPLE SITE CHOSEN

Shooters' Hill Named—Will
Cost \$1,000,000, Most of
Which Is Raised.

Alexandria, Va., Feb. 23.—The
members of the George Washington
National Memorial association have
left for their homes after having se-
lected a site for the memorial struc-
ture for Washington which will take
the form of a magnificent temple for
the housing of the relics and pictures
of Washington.

The temple is to be erected on the
crest of Shooter's Hill, where the
capitol of the United States would
have been, historians relate, but for
the modesty of Washington, who
feared the possibility of suspicion
that efforts were being made to en-
hance the value of his real estate
south of the Potomac.

The temple is to cost \$1,000,000,
most of which has already been
raised.

DENIES MUTINY REPORT.

Washington, Feb. 23.—The
British embassy today issued a
denial of the report which came
by wireless from Berlin that
there had been a mutiny of In-
dian troops in Egypt.

CITY OF MEMPHIS HAS EPIDEMIC OF MAYORS

Has Four Executives In as
Many Hours—T. C. Ash-
croft Perseveres.

Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 23.—The re-
organization of the Memphis munic-
ipal commission yesterday gave the
city four mayors within as many
hours and resulted finally in the
election of Thomas C. Ashcroft, cap-
tulist and former newspaper man, as
the head of the city government to
serve the unexpired term of Edward
H. Crump, which will end in 1920.

Crump, ousted from office last No-
vember on his technical admission of
failure to enforce the prohibition and
other state laws and prevented from
assuming office for a new term
which began January 1, pending a
Supreme court decision, was installed
in office as mayor at the morning
session of the commission, relieving
W. T. McLain, Crump's immediate
resigned and R. A. Utley, who had
been installed as vice mayor, assum-
ed the position vacated by Crump.

Utley's tenure was short, however,
and while papers in outer proceed-
ings against him were being pre-
pared, he tendered his resignation at
the afternoon session of the commis-
sion and Ashcroft was elected.

Crump in the outer suit last No-
vember and had been prevented from
assuming office for a new term Jan-
uary 1, owing to the same conditions
which held in the Crump case.

WAKE CO. G.O.P. MEETING QUIET

Some Discussion Created in
the Naming of Delegates to
State Convention—Dun-
can a Delegate.

26 DELEGATES NAMED AND 26 ALTERNATES

Difference Threatened Over
Suggestion as to "Seeking
Out" Suitable Material
For Candidates.

(By W. T. Bost)

Raleigh, Feb. 23.—The republican
county convention yesterday deprived
a lot of hungry newspaper men of
their dinner but it left little else by
which to be remembered more than
a day.

It was opened at 1 o'clock and
closed at 4 p. m. and in that three
hours not a word of Duncan, Taft,
Teddy, Butler, Wilson, Bryan, Craigs,
Bickett or Lacy was heard.

E. C. Duncan goes as a delegate to
the state convention and in the 26
which the county of Wake sends to
that body there is no Taft, no Teddy,
no nothing that savors of factional
politics. If the progressives ever had
any thought of demanding a two to
one representation in the state and
congressional conventions, they aban-
doned the idea.

The sole thing that caused debate
was the list of delegates. The com-
mittee that nominated them and pre-
sented them to the convention, picked
out 26 regulars and 26 alternates. It
was decided after discussion to allow
th alternates to the state conven-
tional convention and the regulars to
the state convention to go as alter-
nates to the congressional. And the
rebate on this proposition grew out of
no factional feeling. It was a mis-
understanding.

Another thing that started trouble
was the suggestion of a delegate that
a committee of five "search out"
somewhat after the scriptural plan of
locating deacons, good men who would
make acceptable candidates for office
and recommend these to a later con-
vention.

Eugene Heester was made chairman,
and J. H. Arnold, secretary. Ray
White, Mr. Duncan's private secretary,
was made assistant secretary and
then the convention took a long rest
while the delegates and the newspaper
fellows nursed the hiatus that the
long deferred meal had left. The cre-
dentials committee had remained out
long. Then the committee on nomi-
nation of delegates retired. It had 52
men to select. Thad Ivey, R. W. Ward,
W. G. Briggs, C. E. McNamara and A.
H. Dupree shouldered this burden.

Three, Ivey, Ward and Briggs were
Taft men, the others Roosevelt. Two
were Duncan men and three not, the
count goes. It made no difference.

They selected J. H. Arnold, S. J.
Bennett, J. R. Medlin, C. F. Ferrell,
M. S. Chambliss, R. L. Sorrell, W. H.
Nowell, S. M. Womand, J. S. Mangum,
N. I. Myatt, J. W. Parker, C. H. Hun-
nicutt, J. A. Woodward, C. Y. Holding,
A. D. Upchurch, S. V. Hudson, W. G.
Briggs, E. C. Duncan, F. E. Heester, W.
J. Andrews, F. N. Gattis, R. L. Snyder,
J. W. Harden, C. T. Bailey and H. T.
Jones.

These were elected by the conven-
tion without objection. The chair then
appointed A. D. Upchurch, T. Ivey, W.
T. Brown, M. S. Chambliss and W. J.
Andrews a committee of five to inquire
into candidates. The convention ad-
journing to meet at the call of the
chairman.