

## FIGHTING WITH VILLA'S BANDIT SOLDIERS MAY BEGIN AT ANY MOMENT

Expectancy Along Border Is  
Keyed to Highest Pitch by  
Knowledge That U. S.  
Troops Are Near Villa.

NO CLASHES AS YET  
REPORTED, HOWEVER

Very Satisfactory Assurances In  
Regard to Attitude of Car-  
ranza's Adherents  
Are Received.

San Antonio, Tex., March 17.—The  
American expeditionary force has had  
no casualties and no clashes with the  
Villistas to date, according to reports  
received today at Fort Sam Houston.  
There have been no instances of snip-  
ing reported here.

Washington, March 17.—Very satis-  
factory assurances in regard to the at-  
titude of the Carranza government  
toward the entry of American troops  
into Mexico were conveyed today to  
the state department by Consul Silli-  
man, who is with General Carranza.  
He reported that no trouble from the  
Carranza forces was to be expected.

Near Villa Territory.  
El Paso, March 17.—Expectancy  
along the Mexican border was keyed  
to the highest pitch today by the gen-  
eral belief that before nightfall the  
advance guard of the American expedi-  
tionary forces would have entered  
Villa territory in the mountains of the  
Caucas Grandes region of Mexico.

While the censorship prevented any  
official news of the whereabouts of the  
American columns from arriving here,  
intimations coupled with the calcula-  
tions of men thoroughly familiar with  
the territory over which the expedi-  
tionary forces would pass, made it reason-  
ably certain that the United States  
soldiers must be close to the district  
where Villa is believed to exercise his  
greatest influence and has the largest  
number of sympathizers. With the  
possibility that active fighting with  
the Villa followers might begin at any  
moment, interest was redoubled in  
every item of intelligence that might  
throw any light on the attitude of the  
Carranza forces, and more especially  
on the five detachments of Carranza  
troops who are declared by officials of  
the de facto government to be assist-  
ing in the operations against Villa.  
Rumors of disaffection and revolt  
are plentiful as there are people to  
spread them, but all reliable infor-  
mation is to the effect that thus far  
at least the first chief and his lieutenants  
have maintained strict order.

## MIAMOSA INN IS DESTROYED BY FIRE

Resort Hotel Near Tryon To-  
tal Loss—Guests Escape;  
Trunks Burn.

A message from Tryon at noon to-  
day stated that Miamosa inn, a popu-  
lar resort hotel one and a half miles  
from the town, was totally destroyed  
by fire this morning. The inn was  
filled with winter visitors and it is  
stated that while no lives were lost  
the guests lost all their trunks and  
belongings, except what they could  
carry out with them.  
The fire started in the boiler room  
about 10 o'clock and the structure  
burned rapidly. The fire department  
went out from Tryon but the conflag-  
ration was beyond control. The  
amount of the property loss or whether  
it was insured was unknown.

## REV. DR. SWOPE IS NAMED CHAPLAIN

Alexander B. Andrews, Jr., grand  
master of the Grand Lodge of An-  
cient, Free and Accepted Masons for  
the state of North Carolina, has ap-  
pointed Rev. Dr. Rodney Rush Swope,  
rector of All Souls' church, Hillsboro,  
associate grand chaplain of the Blue  
Lodge.  
A letter of notification just  
received by Rev. Dr. Swope from  
Master Andrews says in part: "I do  
this not only because of your stand-  
ing as a man and as a Christian min-  
ister, but also on account of your  
work for the order and especially be-  
cause you have served as master of  
your lodge."

The Hillsboro rector has taken an  
active interest in Masonry during the  
many years he has been a resident  
here and this honor conferred upon  
him will be a matter of gratification  
to his friends and to his fellow crafts-  
men of the order.  
Rev. Dr. Swope is also a member of  
the Scottish Rite, having taken the  
32nd degree.

## About 5000 Troops Have Crossed Mexican Border

Aeroplanes Are Part of Equipment — Clear Atmosphere of  
Mexico Makes Aerial Navigation Easy—All Arms of  
Service Represented in Expedition.

Columbus, N. M., March 17.—Gen-  
eral Pershing, commander of the  
American expeditionary force, ac-  
companied the troops as far as the  
border and then returned with an-  
other part of his troops who entered  
Mexico to the flank of the main  
army.  
Despite the rigorous censorship, it  
became known that about 5,000  
men had entered Mexico. Aeroplanes  
on motor trucks are believed to have  
passed into Mexico with the expedi-  
tion. Flying conditions, owing to the  
clearness of the atmosphere, are  
ideal.

## German Fleet Expected To Engage The British

Now That Von Tirpitz Has Retired Paris Believes German  
Warships Will Leave Refuge and Give Battle to English  
Foe as Emperor William Has Desired.

Paris, March 17.—The retirement  
of Admiral Von Tirpitz, head of the  
German admiralty, is considered in  
French official circles, according to  
Paris newspapers, to be due to the  
fact that Von Tirpitz had been op-  
posing the coming out of the Ger-  
man fleet, while Emperor William  
desired to see it engage the British  
naval forces. The conclusion is con-  
sequently drawn that a change may  
be looked for in the German naval  
policy, and the recent appearance of  
German warships in the North sea is  
a sign that preparations are being  
made for early action by the high  
seas fleet.

## MAN WITH MANY ALIASES IS HERE

McNeelis Bound to Court—  
Negro Confessed He Was  
Tool of McNeelis.

E. T. McNeelis, alias Harry Ham-  
mond, alias C. J. Crawford, alias Ed-  
win Lovett, who was brought here yester-  
day by Detective Fred Jones, from  
Durham, and who the police claim is  
one of the most noted crooks in the  
country, was tried in Police court here  
this morning on charges of bringing  
in and robbing the apartment of  
Sam Pappas on Biltmore avenue last  
December. Probable cause was found,  
and at the request of attorneys for the  
defendant, he was held to jail without  
bond, although the right was reserved  
by the defendant to have the case re-  
opened at any time and bond named  
by the court.

Ed. Davis, colored, who was recently  
held to Superior court by Judge Glenn  
on 13 charges, bond of \$100 in each  
case being named, testified this morn-  
ing that he acted as a tool for Mc-  
Neelis and told of many cases of where  
they had worked together. Davis, keep-  
ing the goods which he claimed had  
been stolen.  
Homer Cathey and Sam Pappas  
testified that they had seen McNeelis  
here last summer, the defendant stat-  
ing to the police that he had never  
been in Asheville before being brought  
here by the officers.

## MRS. E. BRACKETT, AGED 65, DIES HERE

Following an extended illness Mrs.  
Eliza Brackett, aged 65, died yester-  
day at her residence at No. 129  
Poplar street. The deceased was the  
wife of Thomas Brackett, who has  
been in the employ of the city for the  
past 35 years. She was a native of  
Asheville and is survived by eight chil-  
dren.  
The funeral services will be held at  
the residence this afternoon at  
2:30 o'clock and Rev. Mr. Devault will  
conduct the services. The interment  
will follow at Newton academy cem-  
tery.

## COLLEGE GIRLS TO DEBATE

Poughkeepsie, N. Y., March 17.—A  
triangular debate between repre-  
sentatives of Wellesley, Mt. Holyoke and  
Vassar, three of the leading colleges  
for girls in this country, will take  
place tomorrow evening and promise  
to be one of the notable events of  
the college year. The subject selected  
for debate is: "Resolved, That the  
Federal Government should own and  
control all railroads."

## CANNOT ANSWER CALL FOR SEED

Commissioner Graham Unable  
to Meet Request of Constitu-  
ents—State Does Not  
Provide Seeds.

## WIDE INTEREST IN YOUNG WINSTON'S RACE

Prominent Young Lawyer to  
Run For Lower House From  
Wake, Is Announcement  
—Other News.

Special to The Times.  
Raleigh, March 17.—Major W. A.  
Graham, commissioner of agriculture  
today indicated that his office has  
some shortcomings which the consti-  
tuency does not appear to know.

"I get many calls for seed," Major  
Graham said today, "but as you know  
the state department has none to dis-  
tribute and there are so many calls  
from so many directions that it is  
hard to reach all the applicants. The  
office never had any seed to send  
out. Doubtless this function of the  
congressman has led many to believe  
that the state officers have the same  
privilege."

The major, now having opposition  
from S. H. Hobbs of Clinton, might  
wish a seed department, but cannot  
promise it. He can merely promise  
that Mr. Hobbs would be no better off  
than the present official.

Chairman E. L. Travis of the cor-  
poration commission said today that  
in the event of the filing of the sched-  
ule of coal rates by the Interstate  
commerce commission as expected  
yesterday, he will go to Washington  
to make objection to the new rates  
if the advance information is what  
the parent commission has decided  
to do.

The state commission had under-  
stood that the railroad companies are  
to reduce the coal rates from the Ro-  
cchontos territory to certain points in  
North Carolina, as Goldsboro for in-  
stance, 20 cents a ton, where as it  
now appears that 10 cents is the cut.  
This does not affect the Winston-Sa-  
lem rate, which is already 20 cents;  
or the Durham, which is 10 cents  
less than other places are given. The  
official action of the Interstate com-  
merce commission will determine the  
course of Mr. Travis and his asso-  
ciates.

Notice of the purpose of the rail-  
roads was given thirty days ago, and  
the proposed reduction struck the  
state with considerable force as to its  
concession to settlement here. And at  
the worst it is still a 10 cent reduc-  
tion which has not been questioned.

Bob Winston for Lower House.  
Local political interest in the an-  
nouncement among some of his  
friends that Robert W. Winston, Jr.,  
will make the race for the lower  
house from Wake county is not to be  
confined to the county.

It is the first suggestion of general  
assembly races and there are four  
places open. Wake sends one senator  
and three members of the lower  
house. Several weeks ago friends of  
Judge R. W. Winston made a des-  
perate effort to get him into the sen-  
atorial race, but it had no attractions  
for a big lawyer.

Young Bob Winston's candidacy  
will be widely interesting in North  
Carolina. He is remembered in Ashe-  
ville especially, where he coached  
the Bingham school football team; and  
at the university, where he was the  
crack player of the 1909, 1910 and  
1911 and 1914 teams. He captained  
the 1911 organization which made a  
fine record until the Virginia game,  
into which he was sent with a des-  
perate case of appendicitis. He played  
throughout the game terribly out of  
form and did not get into it, until  
he went on the operating table, and  
under the spell of ether, ran signals  
in a dazing style.

Young Winston brought a great  
deal of glory to university athletics  
when he beat Todd of Virginia in the  
great sprinting contests. He is an  
immensely popular young fellow, has  
been practicing law nearly two years  
and would run in Wake even as he  
sprinted upon the cinder track and  
the gridiron, in 10-second style.  
The Fortnightly Review club of Ra-  
leigh has offered to Miss Comery,  
regent of the Mount Vernon associa-  
tion, the name of Mrs. Josephus Dan-  
iels, distinguished member of the Ra-  
leigh club, as the North Carolina  
vice regent.

Each state is entitled to a vice  
regent and the Raleigh club has pre-  
sented Mrs. Daniels with all the en-  
thusiasm of which it is capable. No  
other name was suggested and the  
entire club goes heartily on record  
for Mrs. Daniels. The vice regency  
in this association was held by Mrs.  
Alex. B. Andrews who recently died.  
The Spencer Mays plan is a Mor-  
ris bank which the secretary of state  
has chartered. The authorized cap-  
ital is \$25,000 the paid up \$200.  
Among the incorporators are two  
well known bankers, R. C. Jones,  
president of the First National bank,  
and T. Edgar Johnson, cashier of the  
same bank, in Spencer.  
The Watson company of Kenly,  
general merchandise, was chartered  
with \$5,750 paid in capital. The in-  
(Continued on page two).

## STANDING ARMY BILL NOW LAW

President Signs Joint Congres-  
sional Resolution Author-  
izing Increase in Reg-  
ular Army.

## DEFENSE BILLS TO BE HANDLED PROMPTLY

Senate and House Set Aside  
All Measures Interfering  
With Action on Prepar-  
edness Program.

Washington, March 17.—President  
Wilson today signed the joint congres-  
sional resolution authorizing the in-  
crease of the standing army up to its  
full strength of approximately 120,000  
men.

Sweeping aside intervening issues,  
congress has set the stage for prompt  
action on the national defense meas-  
ures urged by President  
Wilson since the session began.

The house yesterday voted unani-  
mously for a special rule under which  
the army increase bill will be taken  
up today, with passage by Saturday  
night in prospect. A ten-hour limit  
for general debate was fixed despite  
the fact that the bill is the most far-  
reaching military measure ever favor-  
ably reported to that body.

The senate military committee com-  
pleted its final review of the senate  
army increase bill and it is now in the  
hands of the printer. Senator Cham-  
berlain with the administration's in-  
fluence behind him, will insist that it  
be taken up promptly, displacing the  
water power bill now under consid-  
eration unless the latter reaches a vote  
in a few days. The senate measure in  
some respects proposes an even more  
drastic change in military than is pro-  
vided for in the house bill.

Indications are that the joint con-  
ference committee, which will adjust  
the two bills and frame the final mea-  
sure, will be at work within three  
weeks. The bill may be ready for the  
president's signature within another  
month.

While the naval program has ap-  
peared to progress more slowly possi-  
bly it will be completed sooner than  
the army projects. The navy bill  
hearings before the house committee  
will end about April 1 and the com-  
petition of the measure is expected to  
take but a short time by the com-  
mittee.

The essential difference between the  
house and senate bills lies in the pro-  
visions as to the regular army. The  
house measures proposes to add new  
organizations to the existing estab-  
lishment to give it a total peace  
strength of one hundred and fifty  
thousand fighting troops.

The senate bill provides for a  
sweeping re-organization of the regu-  
lar army in all departments, as urged  
by the war college in the plan of 1912.  
It provides a peace strength of one  
hundred and seventy-eight thousand.

## Y.M.C.A. BOYS ARE WORKING HARD

Contest For Members Causes  
Great Interest—Changes  
In Standing Made.

Interest in the Y. M. C. A. boys'  
membership contest is increasing  
daily and yesterday saw more points  
marked up than on any previous day.  
This great activity on the part of  
the workers caused several changes to  
be made in the standing. At the  
same time during the day the first  
four workers were in first place. The  
changes were made so often that it  
kept the workers in a high pitch of  
excitement and all afternoon the bul-  
letin board was surrounded with boys  
watching the points being entered on  
the score board.

At the close of the day William  
Leewas leading the older boys and  
Joseph Sevier the younger boys.

## ADJUTANT HAYES APPEALS FOR POOR

Adjutant Walter Hayes who has  
just taken charge of the Salvation  
army work in Asheville, succeeding  
Adjutant Bouteuse, is having many of  
the poor coming to him asking for  
help.

He wishes to appeal to the public  
for donations of either money or pro-  
visions; articles of clothing are great-  
ly needed. Those who can help the  
army to care for needy families are  
urged to communicate with Adjutant  
Hayes. His telephone number is  
1613.

## LOSS OF LINER ANGERS DUTCH

People of Holland Indignant  
Over Sinking of Country's  
Largest and Finest Pas-  
senger Steamer.

## VESSEL TORPEDOED, GENERAL OPINION

Now Believed That Some Lives  
Were Lost—Liner Had the  
Usual Marks of Identi-  
fication.

Amsterdam, March 17.—(By Way  
of London.)—The newest and finest  
steamer sailing under the Dutch flag,  
the Tubantia of the Holland Lloyd  
line went down shortly before noon  
yesterday off the Dutch coast. Al-  
though it is not positively established  
whether the sinking was due to a  
mine or a torpedo, there is singular  
unanimity on the part of those aboard  
the Tubantia in attributing the de-  
struction of the steamer to the act of  
a submarine.

The members of the crew base  
their belief chiefly on the intense vi-  
olence of the explosion and on the fact  
that it occurred amidships.

The vessel was outward bound from  
Amsterdam for South American ports,  
carrying a crew of 294 men and 82  
passengers, the latter mostly neutrals,  
including three Americans.

The ship bore the usual identifying  
marks of its neutral character, in-  
cluding an illuminated name plate and  
flag.

The disaster has created a profound  
sensation throughout Holland, where  
the ship was a great popular favorite  
because of its size and luxurious ap-  
pointments. Press comment reflects  
the anger and indignation of the peo-  
ple.

It is now believed that a small num-  
ber of lives were lost in the sinking  
of the Tubantia, either in the ex-  
plosion or in accidents which attend-  
ed the launching of lifeboats.

The steamer remained afloat sev-  
eral hours after being struck.

## COTTON SEED BUSINESS SHOWS A DECREASE

Number of Tons Crushed From  
1915 Crop Below Two Pre-  
vious Years.

Washington, March 17.—Cotton  
seed crushed from the 1915 crop, the  
census bureau announced today  
amounted to 4,132,466 tons, as com-  
pared with 5,779,665 tons in 1914 and  
4,767,802 tons from the 1913 crop.  
Linters obtained amounted to 889,789  
equivalent 500-pound bales, compared  
with 886,990 bales from the 1914  
crop and 635,881 bales from the 1913  
crop.

The bureau included 503,698 tons  
of seed to be crushed and 121,606  
bales of linters to be obtained after  
the date of the March canvass.  
Active mills operating for the 1915  
crop numbered 840. Linters obtained  
numbered 889,774 running bales.  
Seed crushed and linters obtained  
by states follow: North Carolina: Seed  
crushed, 232,291 tons; Linters obtained  
52,531 bales. South Carolina:  
Seed crushed, 322,923 tons; Linters  
obtained, 67,337 bales.

## ROTARIANS HEARD JUDGE J. F. GLENN

Discussed "Big Brother"  
Movement in Connection  
With His Court.

Featured by an address by Judge  
J. Frazier Glenn, in which he dis-  
cussed the "big brother" movement,  
speaking in particular about the sit-  
uation in his court in regard to the  
youthful offenders of law, yesterday  
afternoon's session of the Rotary club,  
which was held at the Langren hotel,  
lasted for over an hour.

Judge Glenn suggested that every  
Rotarian who was really in earnest  
about helping in the "big brother"  
movement, turn his name over to Ed  
B. Brown of the Y. M. C. A. who  
has charge of the work for the Juve-  
nile association and court here. In  
this way it is believed that Mr. Brown  
can call on the men for real help in  
solving the problems.

As guests of the club this after-  
noon were Walter Tribble of Syl-  
van, N. Y., and Mr. Seiger of Ra-  
leigh. Rotarians who made talks and  
Hayes. His telephone number is  
1613.

## GERMAN DRIVE NOW CENTERED ON VAUX FRONT

Crown Prince's Army Made  
Five Desperate Attacks  
Against Village and  
Fort Last Night.

ALL WERE REPULSED,  
SO PARIS DECLARES

Vienna News Indicates Import-  
ant Operations May Be De-  
veloping on the Rus-  
sian Front.

The German drive at the Verdun  
defenses has again shifted its direc-  
tion. Strong assaults were made by  
the Germans on the French line east  
of Verdun, during the night, five suc-  
cessive assaults in the Vaux region  
having been repulsed by the French.  
Paris dispatches announce today.

The German attacks were most vi-  
olent, but each was broken up by the  
French fire, Paris declares. Both the  
fort and the village of Vaux were the  
objectives of the Germans, two attacks  
being made on each, while a fifth was  
delivered in an effort by the Ger-  
mans to advance from the protection  
of the roadway to the southeast of  
the village of Vaux.

Recently the heavy fighting has been  
to the northwest of the fortress and  
only last night Paris reported massed  
attacks by the Germans who drove  
at the French position at Dead Man's  
hill, only to be forced back eastward,  
toward the Corbeaux wood, after suffer-  
ing heavy losses.

Though the bombardments have  
been continued in that region the in-  
fantry attacks have not been re-  
newed.

Important operations may be de-  
veloping along the southern part of  
the Russian front, as Vienna reports  
increasing activity by the artillery on  
both sides.

## MUSIC PERIOD IS LARGELY ATTENDED

Many Tourists Hear Attractive  
Program For Last Appreci-  
ation Period of Season.

Many Asheville visitors formed part  
of the large audience present at  
the high school this morning for the last  
music appreciation period of the sea-  
son. The program, printed Wednesday  
in The Times, as rendered by Mr. and  
Mrs. Wolslagel with Miss Rhea Rey-  
nolds as accompanist, was thoroughly  
enjoyed by the students and those  
who went over from various parts of  
the city. The next musical event for  
the high school is the annual concert  
which will be given April 23 under  
direction of Willis J. Cunningham,  
supervisor of music in the city  
schools.

These programs were originated by  
Mr. Cunningham as a means of culti-  
vating a love of good music among  
the pupils; but each performance has  
been a source of pleasure to many  
other lovers of good music.

The practice work for the presen-  
tation of "Pan" next month is pre-  
ceding in a satisfactory way and  
the director and those who have  
heard the rehearsals believe that the  
boys and girls will achieve a greater  
success than they did last year with  
the "Rose Maiden."

## PICTURES ATTRACT MUCH ATTENTION

Pictures taken at Columbus, N. M.,  
after the recent battle with Villa and  
his men, are attracting much atten-  
tion in the windows at The Times of-  
fice. Many dead Mexicans are shown  
in the post card views which were  
sent to Private Herman Banks of  
troop B, Asheville's cavalry unit of  
the national guard, by Nowell Piper  
who is a trooper in the 13th cavalry,  
stationed at Columbus at the time the  
attack was made on the town.  
The pictures will remain on dis-  
play until tomorrow afternoon.

## American Car For Spanish King

Toledo, Ohio, March 17.—His Royal  
Majesty, King Alfonso, of Spain, has  
placed his order, through the Spanish  
ambassador in Washington for a Wil-  
lys-Knight car. On account of the  
embargo on rubber tires, special per-  
mission was obtained from the British  
ambassador to ship this car with tires.  
—Motor Age.