

BATTLE WITH VILLA TROOPS IS EXPECTED

General Funston Awaits News That Fighting Has Begun Along Mexican North-western Railroad.

THE OPPOSING FORCES IN SAME VICINITY Reported That Villa Troops Have Assumed Offensive—Carranza Troops Prepare to Resist.

two sons, and Mucio and his one son, Villa said: "I am going to kill you because you are too Americanized. You are gringo lovers." But instead of killing them outright, Villa had them partly stripped and then beaten with the flats of heavy swords. Mucio Polanco broke away from his captors and got one hand locked about Villa's throat before he was beaten off.

San Antonio, Tex., March 31.—General Funston today awaited news that fighting between the American troops in Mexico and the Villa forces had begun along the Northwestern railroad line between Madera and Chihuahua. Information that General Funston styled as "unofficial" has reached headquarters here since yesterday and had concentrated in that region and that the American cavalry was moving forward in strength. Carranza troops also were reported to be preparing to resist the Villa followers who were said to be assuming the offensive.

Washington, March 31.—The fight against the house immigration bill which prescribes a literacy test for the admission of aliens into the United States, has been transferred to the senate, though it is fully expected that it will pass there as it did in the house yesterday.

MADISON COURT HAS ADJOURNED

Corporation's Own In Damage Suits Heard at Marshall By Judge Harding.

The civil term of Superior court in Madison county adjourned yesterday with the docket practically cleared and Asheville attorneys in attendance on the sessions and Judge W. F. Harding returned to the city this morning.

AIR RAID WAS ATTEMPTED TO FORCE GREECE'S HAND

Athens, March 29, by way of Paris, March 31.—A high court official declared to the Associated Press today that in his opinion the only conceivable explanation of the aerial raid on Saloniki was that Germany is attempting to drive Greece to assist in the expulsion of the French and British forces from Saloniki.

Many Scenes Filmed for A "Romance of Asheville"

With the finishing of a number of scenes for the Times screen-play, "A Romance of Asheville" yesterday, the picture gradually nears completion.

without a hitch, bringing words of praise from even the exacting director. Much amusement will be afforded to theater patrons when they see the busy corner in Asheville scene on the screen, the scene being taken on Park square with a large number of people walking on the street. It will be made into a trick picture, people looking as though they were flying down the street at a great degree of speed.

IMMIGRATION BEFORE SENATE

Fight Transferred From House—Passage of Measure Is Also Expected in the Senate.

OPPOSITION CENTERS ON LITERACY TEST

Author of Bill Predicts That It Could Be Passed Over President's Veto, of Mr. Wilson Opposes.

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DEBATE CONTESTS HELD THIS EVENING

Greensboro and Asheville Determine Entry For Aycock Cup—State-Wide Event.

Tonight at 8 o'clock in the auditorium of the Asheville High school building, debating teams representing the Asheville and Greensboro high schools will debate in the state-wide debating contest on the query: "Resolved, That the United States should adopt the policy of greatly enlarging its navy."

WATTLE TREES TO MARK GRAVES OF AUSTRALIANS

Cairo, March 31.—When opportunity comes the graves of the Australians buried in Gallipoli are to be marked with wattle trees brought from their native land.

PREDICT VICTORY FOR IMMIGRATION BILL

Washington, March 30.—With the prospect of final action on the immigration bill with the literacy test and the oriental exclusion feature by tonight, the house today resumed consideration of the measure.

WAR IS FEARED DEMANDS MADE WITH CARRIERS ON SOUTHERN RY

N. C. Roads Indicate They Will Take Advantage of I. C. C. Ruling to Raise Intra-State Fertilizer Rates.

STATE OPPOSITION TO SUCH ACTION CERTAIN

N. C. Shippers Disappointed That Railroads Take Advantage of Technicality to Increase Rates in State.

Raleigh, March 31.—The carriers doing interstate business in North Carolina having indicated no intention of abandoning their substandard campaign, North Carolina is again on the point of a diplomatic rupture with them.

COMPANY ISSUES A STATEMENT IN REPLY

The Question Will Be Considered by Officials—Further Discussion With Men Is Suggested.

Washington, March 31.—The following wage demands identical with demands submitted to other railroads throughout the country were submitted yesterday to Vice President and General Manager E. H. Cushman of the Southern railway by a joint committee representing the engineers and firemen, conductors, trainmen and yard switchmen.

Men's Demands.

- Article 1. (a) In all roads service 100 miles or less, eight hours or less will constitute a day, except in passenger service. Miles in excess of 100 will be paid for at the same rate per mile.
- (b) On runs of 100 miles or less overtime will begin at the expiration of eight hours.
- (c) On runs of 100 miles overtime will begin when the time on duty exceeds the miles run divided by 12 1/2 miles per hour.
- (d) All overtime to be computed on the minute basis and paid for at time and one-half times the pro rata rate.
- (e) No one shall receive less for eight hours or 100 miles than they now receive for a minimum day of 100 miles for the class of engine used or for service performed.
- (f) Time will be computed continuously from time required for duty and responsibility at end of day or run.
- Article 2. (a) Eight hours or less will constitute a day in all yard and switchmen service. The minimum day's pay for eight-hour yards shall not be less than the per cent day's pay for ten-hour yards. The present day's pay as in effect January 1, 1915, will be continued with the eight-hour day.
- (b) Time to be computed continuously from time required for duty until time released from duty and responsibility at end of day or run. All over eight hours within any twenty-four hour period to be computed and paid for at the rate of time and one-half time.
- (c) All overtime to be computed on the minute basis.
- Article 3. (a) Eight hours or less at per cent ten hours' pay will constitute a day's work in hauling service.
- (b) Time to be computed from (Continued on Page Five).

FRENCH TROOPS FORCED TO GIVE UP MALANCOURT

BIG JAPANESE STEAMER ASHORE; PEOPLE SAFE

Chiyo Maru Grounded South of Hong Kong in Lemos Isle in Fog.

Shanghai, China, March 31.—The big trans-Pacific steamship Chiyo Maru grounded in a fog on one of the Lemos islands south of Hong Kong. Nine tug boats and launches from a British torpedo boat destroyer have gone to her assistance and are taking off the 297 passengers from San Francisco and Manila.

LEAGUE INSTITUTE LARGELY ATTENDED

Inspiring Addresses Are Heard—Sessions Continue Until Saturday at Noon.

TODAY'S PROGRAM.

- Featured by an address by Dr. Fitzgerald Parker and attended by two hundred people the first session of the Asheville District Epworth League Institute was held last night at the Central Methodist church.
- At 6:30 o'clock this morning a sunrise prayer service was held at the church by Bob Boone of the Chestnut Street Epworth League.
- The regular meeting of the institute, which was featured by three inspiring addresses, Rev. Dr. Parker spoke on "The Epworth League Constitution"; Rev. Dr. Atkins on "Responsibility of the Senior League to the Junior League"; and Rev. Dr. F. W. Stanton on "The Hunger for Righteousness."
- The institute will continue in session until Saturday at noon and the public is invited to attend these meetings.
- Afternoon Session. 2:30—Song and Devotional Service. Scripture. . . . Miss Susie Hunter. 3:00—Problem Hours. 1. Finding and Training Leaders. . . . Rev. J. H. Baruhardt. 2. How to Conduct a Devotional Service. . . . Mrs. Fred M. Felmet. 3. How to Secure New Members. . . . Mr. H. E. Walter. 10 minutes given each speaker; 5 minutes for open discussion. 4:00—The Evangelistic Side of the League. 1. Department of Spiritual Work. Presiding—Miss Amy Hackney Expert. . . . Dr. Fitzgerald Parker. 2. Department of Missions. Presiding. . . . Miss Ida Wilson Expert. . . . Dr. Fitzgerald Parker. Evening Session. 8:00—Song Service. Music by Haywood Street church. Address: "White Harvest Fields" Rev. E. L. Bain.

BAPTIST BARACA CLASS HOLDS BIG BANQUET

Featured by the election of new officers, and short addresses, the First Baptist Baraca class banquet was held last night with 76 members present.

German Pressure Too Much for Defenders Who Evacuate Village Northwest of Verdun Fortress.

ALL-NIGHT CONFLICT WAGED FOR POSITION

German Pressure Too Much for Defenders Who Evacuate Village Northwest of Verdun Fortress.

German pressure on the Malancourt-Bethincourt salient northwest of Verdun has proved too much for the French troops on the western end of their position and they have been forced out of Malancourt village. German guns had been violently bombarding the village for many hours, after the recent success of the crown prince's forces in reaching the outskirts.

DEFENSE AMENDMENTS WILL COME TO A VOTE

Washington, March 30.—The proposed amendments to all the national defense measures providing for government manufacture of armament and ammunition will be permitted to come to a vote in the house as the result of the house democratic caucus decision last night.

METRIC SYSTEM POPULAR NOW IN ENGLAND

London, March 31.—One of the changes brought about in English habits by the war is the effect it is having in popularizing the metric system of weights and measures.

Gasoline Probe Ordered.

Washington, March 30.—The agitation over the soaring price of gasoline came up in the senate today and ended in the adoption of a resolution directing the attorney general to investigate whether the rising price of the product was due to an "unlawful conspiracy."