

AMERICANS ACTIVE ON WESTERN FRONT NUMBER OF CASUALTIES IN THE AMERICAN SECTOR AUSTRO-GERMAN ARMIES MAKING LITTLE PROGRESS NO RELIABLE REPORTS RECEIVED FROM PETROGRAD

AMERICANS CARRY OUT SUCCESSFUL AMBUSH OF PARTY OF GERMANS

Number of Americans Killed or Wounded By German Shell Fire—American Artillery Has Claimed Quite a Few Victims—American Patrol Surprised and Routed Germans

CONFLICTING REPORTS OF RUSSIAN MUDDLE

Persistent Reports That Kerensky Controls Petrograd—Not Many Teutons Have Crossed Piave River—U-Boat Campaign Losing Effectiveness—Report That Ex-Czar Made Finland Emperor

American soldiers have carried out a successful ambush of a German party in No-Man's land on the western front, killing and wounding a number of the enemy, while German shells have caused a number of casualties in the American lines.

An American patrol one night recently lay in the mud in wait for an enemy party for which they had arranged an ambushade.

GERMANS PUT TO FLIGHT.

A German detachment of more than twice the size of the American party fell into the trap. The enemy troops were surprised and did not stop to fight, scurrying away with their dead and wounded. The Americans suffered no casualties.

The American artillery firing in the American sector is becoming more active and the Germans have been shelling our trenches heavily. A number of Americans have been killed or wounded, a shell which dropped into a trench causing several casualties. American artillerists also have been belaboring the Germans strongly and it is believed their shells have claimed quite a few victims.

Fail to Cross Piave.

Austro-German attempts to cross the Piave have been foiled generally by the Italians and the party that crossed at Zev. on has not been able to debouch. Several attempts have been made to cross the river between Zenson and the Adriatic but only in the marshland on the coast have the Germans been able to make progress. Here they are under heavy fire and it is improbable that any large number of Austro-Germans will be able to take advantage of the break because of terrain conditions.

Tעות Pressure Heavy.

On the line from the Piave to Lake Garda the Italians have retired between the river and the region north-east of Asiago, reducing the bulge in the Italian line. Austro-German pressure here and around Asiago continues heavy. The invaders have gained some vantage points on the Asiago plateau and on Sette Comuni, west of Asiago. Another threat to the new Italian defense is noted in a strong German effort between Lake Garda and Lake Ledro. It was the first in this region but was repulsed.

All the moveable art treasures have been taken from Venice and the cities of Vicenza and Treviso also have been shorn of their works of art in the event of Austro-German success in breaking the Piave line and forcing Italians to retire to the Brenta or Adige.

The U-Boat Campaign.

Germany's submarine campaign apparently is losing its effectiveness as British losses during the past week were only one ship over 1600 tons and five under that weight. This was the poorest week the submarines have had since the beginning of ruthless

warfare in February. The lowest previous week was that ending on November 4, when twelve vessels, including eight of more than 1600 tons, were lost. The best week for the Germans was that ending April 22 when 55 vessels—40 of more than 1600 tons and 15 of the lesser category—were sent down.

Conflicting Reports.

Although Petrograd has not been in communication with the Nystad cable station in Finland for several days, from Scandinavia reports persist that Premier Kerensky has gained control of the capital. Reports come also from Sweden that the Bolsheviks retain their hold on Petrograd and are preparing for a stout resistance against the forces of Kerensky and Generals Korniloff and Kaledines.

Korniloff Takes Kremlin.

In Moscow the Bolsheviks apparently have been overpowered, an unofficial report received in Copenhagen being to the effect that General Korniloff has taken the Kremlin where the extremists were besieged several days ago.

Has the Czar "Come Back"?

Another rumor says that Siberia has announced its independence and proclaimed former Emperor Nicholas as emperor.

False Rumors, Says Mouravieff.

Stockholm, Nov. 14.—(delayed)—Lieut.-Colonel Mouravieff, commander of the forces defending Petrograd, according to an undated dispatch from Haparanda to the Dagens Nyheter, has issued the following proclamation: "Kerensky has circulated a false rumor that the troops in Petrograd have gone over voluntarily to the provisional government. The troops of the free Russian people are not retiring and are not surrendering. They only have evacuated Gatchina in or-

No Official Advice. Washington, Nov. 15.—The government is still without further official advice today from Russia. The last received on Saturday dated November 8, were far behind the news dispatches of that time. The latest information to the state department came through Stockholm last Tuesday and reported the Bolsheviks in control of Petrograd. Dispatches of later developments, however, have since come through in news cables.

der to avoid useless bloodshed and take a defensive position nearer Petrograd. The position now is strong enough to resist forces ten times as strong as Kerensky's. Our troops are in the best of spirits. Order and calm prevail in Petrograd. "Beside the cruiser Aurora, the warships Sarga and Svobody, the training ship Afrika and six torpedo boats of the Baltic fleet have arrived from Helsingfors and anchored in the Neva near the Nicholas bridge, in the center of Petrograd, whence they can bombard the entire capital. Their crews are made up of Bolsheviks."

Food for Petrograd. Stockholm, Nov. 14.—(delayed)—The revolutionary committee in Petrograd, according to a dispatch from Haparanda, has taken measures for revictualing the Russian capital. Arrangements have been made for increasing the stock of wheat and workmen have been ordered to continue their work without interruption.

SOUTHERN TEACHERS MEETING IN ATLANTA

Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 15.—Educators from many parts of the south were here today to attend the opening session of the 23rd annual meeting of the Association of College and Secondary Schools of the southern states. Morning and afternoon sessions were to be held today, and a session at Agnes Scott college was planned for tonight.

The association includes in its membership forty southern colleges and universities.

COKE PRICES WILL NOT BE CHANGED

Washington, Nov. 15.—Coke prices fixed by the fuel administration will not be changed, it was announced today, unless producers establish beyond question that their costs of production justify alterations. If changes in prices are sought the applicants will be required to make out a schedule of their costs in a manner approved by the federal trade commission.

Agree to Arbitrate.

Washington, Nov. 15.—Employees of the St. Louis Southwestern railway (Cotton Belt) today accepted the services of the federal board of mediation and conciliation for settlement of their differences with the railway management. A strike had been called for 2 o'clock this morning because of the discharge of six conductors for alleged infraction of rules.

John W. Foster Dead.

Washington, Nov. 15.—John W. Foster, former minister to China, dean of the American diplomatic corps and father-in-law of Secretary Lansing, died here this morning after a long illness.

Drug Clerks Organize.

Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 15.—Drug clerks in this city are organizing to reduce their 90 and 95-hour work week.

Say Petrograd In Flames.

London, Nov. 15.—According to press reports from Stockholm travelers who arrived yesterday evening in Haparanda, Sweden, from Finland, say rumors are current there that Petrograd is in flames.

BULLETS, AND NOT MISSIONARIES, ARE POPULAR JUST NOW

Some Methodists Would Rather Shoot Heathen Than to Preach to Them

LITTLE INTEREST IN FOREIGN MISSIONS

J. H. Bennett, Formerly of Greensboro, Expelled From Conference

"My people, some of them and good people they are, too, would rather shoot the heathen full of buckshot than send a missionary to preach to them," said one of the preachers this morning, the second day of the twenty-eighth session of the Western North Carolina Methodist conference, when making his report of the year's work. The remark came as a burning message from the heart of the man who had, as he believed, done his best to teach the truth and had received a kindly rebuke at the hands of the bishop. Like an exploding bomb, the statement went through and over the room filled with preachers and a hearty laugh followed after a second of tenseness.

Continuing the work at Wednesday, Bishop Atkins was calling the roll of preachers and time after time, the report that the "salary was paid in full but that there was a deficit in conference assessments." Bishop Atkins refused to bring up the collection for their salaries they should do the same thing for conference claimants. The next pastor called unfortunately had a similar report. He said, "Bishop, the people loved me so well that they just would pay my salary but there is a deficit in the matter of conference claims."

The pastor explains. "But you should have made them love the work," remarked the bishop. "If you don't believe that I can preach foreign missions, ask the presiding elder," came the response from the preacher. "I have preached and with all my power, but I have people in my church, and they are good people, who will not do what I want them to do. My people, some of them and good people, too, would rather shoot the heathen full of buckshot than send a missionary to preach to them. They are kind-hearted and good to me, but they will not give to missions."

The conference was stilled for a second and they the humor of the situation was felt. The preacher had made his defense and done it well. Bishop Atkins caught the spirit of the moment and smiled as he suggested that the preacher was certainly up against a proposition.

Good Year Everywhere. There is very apparent interest evidenced as the reports are read from the various charges. It has been a good year, conversions everywhere, largely increased Sunday school enrollment and the financial reports show a gain over the previous year. The fact that war is on and that most are leaving every community comes to the surface every little while as some pastor tells of the effect the selective draft has had in his community.

Bishop Atkins announced this morning that a message from the bishops of the church would be published shortly, directing the church concerning its opportunity and duty in this hour. "Never before," said the bishop, "has the church faced an opportunity so great. There is work before us. I urge you to read carefully the address when you receive it and do your duty."

J. H. Bennett Expelled. J. H. Bennett, formerly pastor of the Centenary Methodist church of Greensboro, if no longer a member of the Western North Carolina conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, south, and for that matter no longer a member of the denomination.

At the morning session Rev. W. A. Newell, moderator of the special committee appointed by Bishop Atkins for the purpose of trying J. H. Bennett on charges of gross immorality, read the report of the committee.

The report is signed by all of the members and was adopted by the conference without discussion. The report follows:

"We, the committee of trial in the above case (Methodist Episcopal church, south, versus J. H. Bennett), have heard and prayerfully considered the evidence submitted to us and find as follows: That specifications No. 1 and No. 2, in the bill of charges, are sustained and that the specifications proven sustain the charge of immorality and the verdict of the committee is that J. H. Bennett be and is hereby expelled from the ministry and membership of the church. Signatures, Ira Erwin, J. E. Woolsey, W. N. Robbins, W. E. Poovey, C. M. Campbell, C. E. Williamson, C. G. Herman, A. S. Roper, G. A. Stamper, J. J. Edwards, W. T. Albright, and E. Myers.

W. M. Curtis, representing the conference, presented a case before the committee and because of the absence of J. H. Bennett, J. E. Thompson was appointed by Bishop Atkins to represent the defendant before the committee. The discussion and trial were behind closed doors.

Devotional Exercises.

In the opening devotional exercises of the second day of the conference, Rev. W. E. Abernathy, of Monroe, led the prayer invoking divine guidance and blessing upon the day.

A motion was adopted that the presiding bishop appoint a committee of five who would provide ways and means to raise the balance due from this conference toward the expense of the construction of the church building in Washington, D. C. Reports of the work in Washington showed that the building is in course of erection and that individual subscriptions are being promptly paid, but some instances conference subscriptions are behind. Bishop Atkins heartily endorsed the work of the creation of this building and urged the conference to take steps to meet its obligation.

Rev. W. E. Hummelt was recommended for the superannuated relation.

In making the report of the work at Statesville, Dr. L. D. Thompson, president of the church, reported that the church debt had been paid and the new building would be dedicated on the first Sunday in December and that Bishop Atkins had promised to preach the dedicatory sermon.

In Waynesville District.

Splendid reports were made from all the churches in the Waynesville district. The Canton church reports that the church debt paid in full and the church at Clyde reports 200 more in the Sunday school than in the membership of the church. Following this report Bishop Atkins remarked: "It looks like you referring to the churches of this conference will report a Sunday school enrollment equal to the church membership. This is our minimum task."

One pastor reported that he had baptized 40 more to baptize a baby and Bishop Atkins remarked that it was worth the trip.

In the Waynesville district a report came from a Sunday school in the mountains which has a woman as its superintendent and who has not missed a single service in five years. The church has thirteen members, but this woman has 40 enrolled in her Sunday school.

G. H. Crowell was transferred to the Louisville conference.

Rev. W. O. Goode, pastor at Thomasville, made a remarkable report. He said that his Sunday school has an enrollment of 1,200 while the membership of the church was something over 600. This breaks the record of the conference and puts the Thomasville church in the front rank in this respect.

Yesterday Afternoon. Dr. Plato Durham, dean of the School of Theology of Emory university at Atlanta, presided over the afternoon sessions of the conference and one of the interesting addresses was given.

PREMIER'S SPEECH CAUSES CRISIS IN BRITISH POLITICS

Lloyd-George Asked to Explain His Speech in Paris in Which He "With Blunt Frankness" Criticised the "Too Late" Policy of the Allies—Debate on Interpellation Begins Monday

The proposed new inter-allied war council has provoked a near crisis in British politics. Challenged in the house of commons yesterday to explain his Paris speech on the needs for such a council, Premier Lloyd-George read the terms of the agreement which, he declared, made it clear that the council was merely advisory. Formal debate on the interpellation will begin in the house next Monday.

The Premier's Speech.

The British premier's speech—the one delivered "with blunt frankness" which started the political fireworks in England and may end in the official decapitation of Lloyd-George, was delivered in Paris Monday at a luncheon given in the premier's honor by Premier Painleve, of France.

Aluding to a centralized direction of allied efforts, Premier Lloyd-George, who has just returned from the Italian front, said:

"Unfortunately, we did not have time to consult the United States or Russia before creating this council. The Italian disaster necessitated action without delay to repair it. This made it indispensable to commence right now with the powers whose forces may be employed on the Italian front.

"But in order to assure the complete success of this great experiment, which I believe is essential to the cause, it will be necessary that all the allied states be present in the deliberations, and I am persuaded that we shall obtain the consent of these two great countries and their co-operation in the work of the inter-allied council."

The premier developed at length the reasons for not taking the step earlier. He referred to "timidities and susceptibilities" when it came to treating questions on any front not commanded by general taking part in the inter-allied consultations.

The allies had committed a great fault, he said, in not adequately assisting Serbia in holding her line, with the result that the central empires broke the blockade and secured men and supplies from the east, without which Germany doubtless would have been unable to maintain the force of her armies.

"Why was this unbelievable fault committed?" asked the premier. "The reply is simple. It was because no one in particular was charged with guarding the Balkan gate. The unique front had become a reality. France and England were absorbed by other problems in other regions. Italy thought only of the Carso. Russia was mounting guard over a frontier of thousands miles, and even without that, she could not have passed through to have helped Serbia, because Roumania was neutral."

"It is true that we sent troops to Salonica to succor Serbia. But, as always, they were sent too late. Half the men who fell in the vain effort to pierce the western front in September that same year would have saved Serbia, saved the Balkans and completed the blockade of Germany."

"You may say this is an old story. I grant you that it was simply the first chapter of a series that has continued to the present hour. Nineteen fifteen was the year of the Serbian tragedy; 1916 was the year of the Roumanian tragedy, which was a repetition of the Serbian story, almost without change."

rejection of a war continued to dis-

etc. for lack of unity. "Italy's misfortune may still save the alliance, because without it I do not think that even today we would have created a veritable superior council.

"National and professional traditions, questions of prestige and susceptibilities all conspired to render our best decisions vain. No one in particular took the blame. No one in was in the natural difficulty of obtaining of so many nations, of so many independent organizations, that they should amalgamate all their individual particularities to act together as if they were but one people."

Mr. Lloyd George later said: "I have spoken today with a frankness that is perhaps brutal, at the risk of being ill understood here and elsewhere, and not perhaps without risk of giving a temporary encouragement to the enemy, because now that we have established this council it is for us to see that the unity it represents be a fact and not an appearance."

"The war has been prolonged by particularism. It will be shortened by solidarity. If the effort to organize our united action becomes a reality I have no doubt as to the issue of the war. The weight of men and material and of moral factors in every sense of the word is on our side."

"I say it, no matter what may happen to Russia or in Russia. A revolutionary Russia can never be anything but a menace to Hohenzollernism. But even if we are obliged to despair of Russia, my faith in the final triumph of the cause of the allies remains unshakable."

MRS. DANIELS TO SPEAK AT U. D. C. CONVENTION

**Her Address Will Feature
Tonight's Session—Election of Officers**

Chattanooga, Nov. 15.—When the delegates to the United Daughters of Confederacy assembled at 9:45 o'clock this morning to begin the day's convention, they found the desks about clear of all routine business on the program and the stage set for the election.

With the election of officers out of the way the convention resumed its session and heard reports from the custodian crosses of honor, Mrs. Elizabeth T. Bell, Columbus, O., and the custodian flags and pennants, Mrs. Frank Anthony Wade, Norfolk, Va. The delegates were entertained with luncheon at noon by local chapters of the U. D. C. and they went in a body to Chickamauga park as guests of Colonel Abner Pickering, where they witnessed a review of United States soldiers.

A number of interesting events are scheduled for tonight's session, including an address by Mrs. Josephus Daniels and the presentation of flags, medals and prizes.

SEE PAGES 8 AND 9.
Weaver invites the ministers and delegates to visit that pretty city, where Weaver college is situated. The Methodists in the city, attending conference, have a peculiar interest in Weaver college, and because of that fact the progressive citizens of Weaver invite the visitors to that city. The whole story is told on pages 8 and 9. Turn to those pages.