

H. A. London
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR
Terms of Subscription
\$1.50 PER YEAR
Strictly in Advance

The Chatham Record

VOL. XXXVIII. PITTSBORO, CHATHAM COUNTY, N. C., FEBRUARY 23, 1916. NO. 29.

THE CHATHAM RECORD
Rates of Advertising
One Square, one insertion - \$1.00
One Square, two insertions - \$1.50
One Square, one month - \$2.50
For Larger Advertisements Liberal
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IMPORTANT NEWS
THE WORLD OVER

Happenings of This and Other Nations
For Seven Days Are
Given.

THE NEWS OF THE SOUTH

What is Taking Place in the South-
land Will Be Found in
Brief Paragraphs.

Foreign

The allied powers met at Havre,
France and renewed the agreement
to fight until Belgian independence
had been completely established and
the nation is properly indemnified.

Six prisoners under death sentences
were marched through the streets of
Juarez, Mexico, for half an hour, es-
corted by three drum corps and a re-
giment of soldiers, prior to the execu-
tion of three of the accused. The execu-
tion was public.

Carranza officials in Vera Cruz,
Mexico, have informed the United
States state department at Washing-
ton, D. C., that they have heard a
report of a plot to blow up the battle-
ship Kentucky in Vera Cruz harbor,
the object being to force intervention
by the United States government.

The English government has no in-
tention of yielding to the agitation in
favor of creating an aviation ministry
charged with the defense of the coun-
try against air attacks, but, in lieu
thereof, will institute a great air de-
fense department with headquarters
at Whitehall under Field Marshal
French, who will be solely responsible
for air defense.

European War

Before the capture of Erzerum, it
is asserted that the Kurds mercilessly
massacred thousands of Armenians.

The exact number of Turkish troops
captured at Erzerum is not known,
but the greater part of the garrison
got away, as the fortress was not in-
vested, but carried by assault.

Erzerum, Turkey's chief city in Ar-
menia, is in the hands of the Rus-
sians. Heavy assaults by the Rus-
sians against the long line of detach-
ed forts protecting the city, lasting
over a period of five days. Unofficial
reports say that German Field Mar-
shal von der Goltz, with 80,000 men,
surrendered.

The capture of Erzerum is consid-
ered one of the biggest feats of the
war, and Grand Duke Nicholas is
now being lauded to the skies in the
capitals of the allied nations. Er-
zerum fortifications extend in a straight
line for 24 miles. The city is sixty
miles west of the Russian border,
and has belonged to Turkey for four
centuries.

Switching their offensive from the
Artois and Champagne regions in
France to the Belgian sector around
Ypres, held by the British, the Ger-
mans have smashed their way by an
artillery bombardment and infantry
attacks into a British front line trench
over a distance of between 600 and
800 yards.

In the Artois region between Lens
and Bethune the crater of a mine
blown up by the Germans was occu-
pied by them, while the French guns
have been busy shelling German or-
ganizations in the neighborhood of the
road to Lille.

The French exploded a mine and oc-
cupied a crater in the Argonne dis-
trict.

The Bulgarians have occupied El-
bassan in Albania.

The Russians in the Caucasus have
occupied one of the Erzerum forts and
have taken large numbers of pris-
oners.

Several Turkish batteries on the
Trebizond coast have been silenced by
Russian warships.

The French cruiser Admiral Char-
ner has been sunk off the Syrian coast
by a German submarine, with the loss
of 374 men. The vessel went down in
two minutes, and the loss was 374
men.

The whole western fighting front is
the scene of heavy engagements. At
some points the big guns have been
roaring incessantly for days; the in-
fantry have been engaged in hand-
to-hand struggles; grenade fighting
and mining operations have played a
prominent part in the battles, while
the airmen have fought each other above
the lines and have been cannonaded
from below by the anti-aircraft guns.

The Germans have followed up their
successes in the Champagne district,
but their movements have been an-
swered in kind by the French in the
neighborhood of Massiges and Na-
varin.

The New York City commission for
the relief of sufferers in Belgium an-
nounces that since the beginning of
its winter campaign it had sent 298,000
pairs of shoes to the destitute in
Belgium and northern France.

The British cruiser Arethusa has
been wrecked by a mine in the North
sea, and will be a total loss. The
loss of life is not given.

Domestic

Hans Schmidt, the ex-priest, who
murdered Anna Amuller in Brooklyn,
September 2, 1913, was electrocuted
at Sing Sing prison, N. Y. He asked
forgiveness of all he had scandalized
before being strapped to the chair.

Eight parishes in eastern Louisiana
are flooded to a greater or less extent
by overflows, backwater or breaks in
levees in the Mississippi, Arkansas,
Tchafalaya and the Red and Black riv-
ers. There have been but three drown-
ings reported.

Joseph Grohol, a youth just out of
high school in Ansonia, Conn., who
speaks seven languages, holds the bal-
ance of power in the strike situation
there, and is chairman of the commit-
tee that will present the grievances of
the strikers to the company officials.

Another alleged plot to smuggle rub-
ber from the United States into Ger-
many has been revealed in New York
City.

Tumultuous scenes occurred in the
Oklahoma house of representatives
while the vote on the election law de-
signed to take the place of the "grand-
father law" declared unconstitutional
by the United States Supreme court
because it disfranchised the negroes,
was being taken. The members threw
ink bottles and paper weights at each
other, and the "he" was frequently
hurled from one to the other.

Two thousand negroes are reported
to be marooned near Newellton, La.,
as a result of the break in the levee.

At Mexico, Texas, nine persons were
killed and several were seriously in-
jured in the collapse of a theater build-
ing shortly before the doors were to
have been opened to admit several
hundred persons to view an art ex-
hibit arranged by school children.

Fire which broke out at a pier in
Brooklyn destroyed three ships and
forty barges loaded with war munitions
for Europe. An immense amount
of goods on the pier was also de-
stroyed. It was one of the most spec-
tacular fires ever seen in the city,
and the loss is estimated at about
five million dollars.

A relief train of twenty-five coaches
bearing refugees from the flooded dis-
tricts in Louisiana, was taken to Vi-
dalia, across the river from Natchez,
Miss., and a refugee camp established.
The majority of the refugees are ne-
groes. The Red Cross is attending to
their wants.

Quick work by sailors on the bat-
tleship North Dakota at the Philadel-
phia navy yard saved the ship from
serious damage by fire. They put out
the fire in three minutes. The fire
was started by the blow-out of a fuse
in a dynamo.

One man was shot and seriously
wounded and several others suffered
minor injuries when a squad of police,
escorting 200 laborers on their way
to work were attacked in New York
City. Two policemen were injured
when an automobile overturned in the
icy street.

Washington

David R. Francis of St. Louis, Mo.,
secretary of the interior in Cleve-
land's cabinet and former governor of
Missouri, has been offered the post
of ambassador to Russia to succeed
George T. Marye, resigned.

The senate by a vote of 55 to 18
has ratified the long pending and pre-
sently opposed Nicaraguan treaty,
whereby the United States would ac-
quire a 99-year option on the Nica-
raguan canal route and a naval base
in the Gulf of Fonseca for \$3,000,000.

During the long debate on the Ni-
caraguan treaty, declarations were
made in the senate that Germany had
offered Nicaragua more than had the
United States for the canal route ac-
tion, and this is said to have been
used as an argument for ratification.

Great Britain is using three times
as much American products as any
other foreign country and is absorb-
ing more than one-third of all United
States exports. Export trade figures
just made public by the department
of commerce show that British pur-
chases of all kinds in the United
States last year amounted to \$1,191,000,000.

The largest number of applicants
that has ever sought at one time to
enter the United States at Annapolis
probably will take entrance examina-
tions April 18 next.

The submarine controversy with
Germany cannot be closed until the
United States has fully considered
the possible effect of the declared in-
tention of the Teutonic powers to sink
all armed merchant ships of their en-
emies without warning after February
29. This announcement comes from
Secretary Lansing.

Cablegrams from Berlin state that
Germany's reply to the United States
government's latest representations
regarding sinking the steamer Lusitania
have been forwarded to Washing-
ton. The reply, it is stated, sug-
gests one of the two changes suggest-
ed by Secretary of State Lansing be
accepted, but proposes a new wording
for the other.

The United States, it is said by
high authority at the state depart-
ment, concedes that the entente allies
are within their rights in arming all
merchant ships for defensive pur-
poses.

Investigation of the adequacy of
railroad legislation and government
ownership of public utilities, as com-
pared with federal regulation, by a
congressional committee, was provid-
ed by the senate by a vote of 45 to
13.

More than five hundred lepers are
said to be at large in the United States
and the health authorities in Wash-
ington say that this constitutes a se-
rious menace to the country unless
proper steps are taken immediately
for the segregation of these afflicted
people. The matter is now before the
senate health committee.

RUSSIAN PRESS
PURSUIT OF TURKS

CAPTURE REMAINDER OF DIVIS-
ION AND LARGE QUANTITIES
OF SUPPLIES.

LITTLE FIGHTING IN WEST

Some Important Troop Movements.—
Austrians Bring Down One Italian
Machine During Air Raid.

London.—The latest official state-
ment by the Russian War Office re-
ports the capture of the towns of
Mush, in Asiatic Turkey, lying 83
miles southeast of Erzerum, and Ahlat.
The pursuit of the Turkish forces who
retreated from Erzerum is being con-
tinued and the Russians have taken
prisoner what remained of the thirty-
fourth Turkish division, with a large
quantity of war supplies.

An air raid by a squadron of Ital-
ian machines against Laibach, Cap-
ital of Carniola, Austria-Hungary, is
officially reported from Rome. Bombs
were dropped on the town, and they
are thought to have done consider-
able damage. Austrian aeroplanes
ascended for the purpose of driving
off the raiders, and six of them sur-
rounded one of the Italians and
brought him to earth.

Asia and Africa figure more prom-
inently than Europe in the current
war news. The Russians are follow-
ing up with vigor their recent suc-
cess in Turkish Armenia; Constanti-
nople reports a reverse for the British
in Mesopotamia, while London
announces the completion of the con-
quest of the Kamerun, the important
German colony in western equatorial
Africa. The immense forces massed
in the European war areas are just
now comparatively inactive.

The Russians meanwhile are active
along the Black Sea coast and have
recently reported a landing on the
Armenian littoral, 15 miles east of
Trebizond, which city is considered
one of the next objectives of Russian
land forces by a march of about one
hundred miles northwest from Er-
zerum.

Along the Black Sea coast, Rus-
sian warships are pounding at the
Aurkish batteries and harassing the
retreating troops. The northern wing
of the Russian army has captured
the town of Widje and is driving the
Turks back in the direction of Gumish
Khaneh, which is on the road to Tre-
bizond, while large Russian forces
are moving westward from Erzerum
with the object of cutting off these Turkish
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NICARAGUAN TREATY
RATIFIED BY SENATE

FIVE DEMOCRATS OPPOSE AND 15
REPUBLICANS VOTE FOR
RATIFICATION.

OPTION ON CANAL ROUTE

Also Naval Base in Gulf of Fonseca
and Pays Nicaragua Government
\$3,000,000.

Washington.—The senate by a vote
of 55 to 18 ratified the long-pending
and persistently opposed Nicaraguan
treaty, whereby the United States
would acquire a 99-year option on the
Nicaraguan Canal route and a naval
base in the Gulf of Fonseca for \$3,000,000.

Included in the ratification resolu-
tion was a provision declaring that
the United States in obtaining the
naval base does not intend to vio-
late any existing rights in the Fon-
seca Gulf of Costa Rica, Honduras
and Salvador, which had protested
against the proposed acquisition.

Five Democratic senators voted
against the treaty. They were Cham-
berlain, Martine, Clarke of Arkansas,
Thomas and Vardaman. Fifteen Re-
publican senators joined the adminis-
tration forces in support of the treaty.

Immediately after the senate had
acted, Senator Chamorro, the Ni-
caraguan Minister, said he would at
once communicate with his govern-
ment and that he expected ratifica-
tion of the convention by his gov-
ernment would soon follow and ex-
changes made to put the treaty in
force.

Senator Clarke of Arkansas led the
Democratic opposition to the treaty,
while the Republican opposition was
headed by Senator Borah and Smith
of Michigan.

During the long debate declarations
were made in the senate that Ger-
many had offered Nicaragua more than
had the United States for the canal
route option, and this is said to have
been used as an argument for ratifica-
tion.

American officials fear that the
United States and Germany may find
themselves at the same point they
stood in the first days of the subma-
rine crisis with the United States con-
tending unreservedly for the prin-
ciples of law and humanity in naval
warfare and confronted with a long
series of diplomatic exchanges, the
result of which they cannot foresee.

Count von Bernstorff, told Secre-
tary Lansing it was his personal opin-
ion, that, in the new submarine cam-
paign, his government intended to
abide by its promise not to sink un-
resisting "liners" without warning,
given in the Arabic case and referred
to in the Lusitania agreement. Mr.
Lansing informed the Ambassador
that such a declaration from his gov-
ernment would be highly desirable.

RUSSIANS CAPTURE EZERUM.

Chief Turkish City in Armenia Taken
By Czar's Troops.

London.—Ezerum, Turkey's chief
city in Armenia, is in the hands of
the Russians. Heavy assaults by the
Russians against the long line of detach-
ed forts protecting the city, lasting
over a period of five days and describ-
ed by Grand Duke Nicholas, the Rus-
sian commander-in-chief as "unprece-
dented," having resulted in the cap-
ture of the fortress.

Unofficial reports early in the pres-
ent month said the German Field Mar-
shal von Der Goltz with 80,000 men,
was besieged in the city with provi-
sions for only a fortnight.

The capture of Ezerum is consid-
ered of great strategic importance.
From it radiate roads leading in all di-
rections. Over those to the Southeast
and South it will be possible for the
Russians now to fight their way to-
ward their compatriots operating
against the Persians and Turks in
Northwest and West Persia, or pro-
ceed south toward Bagdad.

The immediate effect of the Russian
victory on the situation in Persia
and Mesopotamia is problematical,
however, for despite the roads the
country is mountainous and there is
still something over 200 miles to be
covered before the Lake Urumiah dis-
trict of Persia is reached.

Shoes May Cost More.

Washington.—According to informa-
tion made public the foreign demand
for shoes and boots gives prospect of
a rise in the cost. The production of
hides in this country are said to be
insufficient to meet the demands that
are being received both from abroad
and from the domestic markets. It
is stated that 6,000,000 more pairs of
men's shoes were exported in 1915
than in 1914. In the shipment of
shoes abroad as well as in shipping
cotton, there is found a difficulty in
securing the bottoms necessary.

Two Steamers Burned.

New York.—The steamships Bolton
Castle and Pacific, and a 900-foot pier
belonging to the New York Dock Com-
pany, at the foot of Pioneer street,
Brooklyn, were destroyed by the most
disastrous fire on the Brooklyn front
in years. Another steamer, the Pal-
lania, was damaged, about 25 scows
and lighters were partly or wholly
burned and several coolies from the
Bolton Castle and Pacific were mis-
sing after the fire. The loss is estimat-
ed at considerably more than \$1,000,000. The origin of the fire is unknown.

merchant Ships Have Right to Arm.

Washington.—All American diplo-
matic and consular officials abroad
have been notified by the state de-
partment that the position of the United
States is that merchant ships have
a right to carry defensive armament.
This is the first formal announcement
that the United States does not accept
as legal the announced intention of
Germany and Austria to sink armed
merchant ships without warning after
February 29 as coming within interna-
tional law.

WANTS TO KNOW
ABOUT NEW ORDERS

ANOTHER HITCH IN SUBMARINE
CONTROVERSY WITH GER-
MANIC POWERS.

WILL MEAN MORE NOTES

Must Not Alter Previous Assurances
of Safety to Neutrals and Non-
Contraband.

Washington.—The submarine con-
troversy with Germany cannot be
closed until the United States has
fully considered the possible effect of
the declared intention of the Ger-
manic Powers to sink all armed mer-
chant ships of their enemies without
warning after February 29. This an-
nouncement was made by Secretary
Lansing instead of the long expected
announcement of a satisfactory settle-
ment of the Lusitania negotiations.

Perfecting by months of patient and
at times perilous negotiation, the
Lusitania agreement was presented
by Count von Bernstorff, the German
Ambassador in a form which would
have been acceptable to the United
States had not the Germanic Powers
announced their determination to re-
gard armed merchant ships of their
enemies as warships. The Lusitania
agreement will not be accepted as
finally satisfactory to the United
States until President Wilson and
Secretary Lansing have decided
whether any of its terms would be
nullified by the principles of the new
submarine campaign.

It is practically certain that the
United States will ask to be specifi-
cally informed that the assurances
previously given for the safety of
neutrals and non-combatants at sea
have not been and will not be altered
by the latest declarations of the Ber-
lin and Vienna admiralties.

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London.—Ezerum, Turkey's chief
city in Armenia, is in the hands of
the Russians. Heavy assaults by the
Russians against the long line of detach-
ed forts protecting the city, lasting
over a period of five days and describ-
ed by Grand Duke Nicholas, the Rus-
sian commander-in-chief as "unprece-
dented," having resulted in the cap-
ture of the fortress.

Unofficial reports early in the pres-
ent month said the German Field Mar-
shal von Der Goltz with 80,000 men,
was besieged in the city with provi-
sions for only a fortnight.

The capture of Ezerum is consid-
ered of great strategic importance.
From it radiate roads leading in all di-
rections. Over those to the Southeast
and South it will be possible for the
Russians now to fight their way to-
ward their compatriots operating
against the Persians and Turks in
Northwest and West Persia, or pro-
ceed south toward Bagdad.

The immediate effect of the Russian
victory on the situation in Persia
and Mesopotamia is problematical,
however, for despite the roads the
country is mountainous and there is
still something over 200 miles to be
covered before the Lake Urumiah dis-
trict of Persia is reached.

Shoes May Cost More.

Washington.—According to informa-
tion made public the foreign demand
for shoes and boots gives prospect of
a rise in the cost. The production of
hides in this country are said to be
insufficient to meet the demands that
are being received both from abroad
and from the domestic markets. It
is stated that 6,000,000 more pairs of
men's shoes were exported in 1915
than in 1914. In the shipment of
shoes abroad as well as in shipping
cotton, there is found a difficulty in
securing the bottoms necessary.

Two Steamers Burned.

New York.—The steamships Bolton
Castle and Pacific, and a 900-foot pier
belonging to the New York Dock Com-
pany, at the foot of Pioneer street,
Brooklyn, were destroyed by the most
disastrous fire on the Brooklyn front
in years. Another steamer, the Pal-
lania, was damaged, about 25 scows
and lighters were partly or wholly
burned and several coolies from the
Bolton Castle and Pacific were mis-
sing after the fire. The loss is estimat-
ed at considerably more than \$1,000,000. The origin of the fire is unknown.

merchant Ships Have Right to Arm.

Washington.—All American diplo-
matic and consular officials abroad
have been notified by the state de-
partment that the position of the United
States is that merchant ships have
a right to carry defensive armament.
This is the first formal announcement
that the United States does not accept
as legal the announced intention of
Germany and Austria to sink armed
merchant ships without warning after
February 29 as coming within interna-
tional law.

PRIME MINISTER
REVIEWS AFFAIRS

APPEALS FOR NATIONAL ECON-
OMY IN ORDER TO HUSBAND
RESOURCES.

HIS SPEECH WAS GRAVE

Expected That Heavy Taxation Will
Be Imposed at Early Date.—Vote
of Cabinet.

London.—There was little that was
spectacular or sensational about the
opening day of the new session of the
British Parliament. The Parliament
started on its business with a sober
air, benefitting the serious business
which it is to accomplish in the next
few weeks.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith, in
the House of Commons, and the Secre-
tary for War, Earl Kitchener, in the
House of Lords, reviewed the present
status of the nation's affairs. Mr.
Asquith appealed for national econ-
omy; Earl Kitchener closed with an
expression of the hope that the new
system of army enlistment would
yield the required number of men to
carry war to a decisive conclusion.

The speech of the Prime Minister,
grave in tone, but confident in char-
acter, created a deep impression on
the House of Lords. His closing allu-
sion to the economic