

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.

Washington
Enlargement of the national forest reserves by 23,700 acres acquired through purchase in the Southern Appalachian and White mountains is announced by the reservation commission. This brings the total up to 1,373,131 acres.

The Supreme court has been asked to decide whether the federal government shall pay \$68,000,000 to former slaves and their heirs for cotton picked in slavery times after the famous emancipation declaration.

An amendment to the federal reserve act, proposed by the reserve board, to make immediately effective the provision requiring all reserves of member banks to be kept in federal reserve banks, has been approved by the house banking and currency committee.

Contracts were awarded Hadfields, limited (England), for \$3,141,000 worth of 14-inch and 16-inch armor-piercing shells at about \$200 apiece less than the lowest American bid. Secretary Daniels has not received official notice that the British government has declined to permit the Hadfields to fill its contract. "I will wait until I get official announcement," he said, when asked what alternative presented itself.

The amount of whiskey consumed by the American people in 1916 apparently was greater than in any previous year since 1909, according to tax returns to the treasury department.

The amount of revenue collected by the government on whiskey, beer and cigarettes during the year was the greatest on record.

Consumption of cigarettes in 1916, which reached the highest mark in the history of the country, is attributable to the large number of women who have become devotees of the weed.

Frank P. Glass of Birmingham, Ala., vice president of the American Newspaper Publishers' association, voiced his objection to restrictions upon newspaper publishers in the Owen corrupt practices bill, before a senate sub-committee.

President Wilson has under consideration the making of a speechmaking tour in different parts of the country in a campaign of education concerning the ideas expressed by him in his recent convention-smashing speech to the senate.

For the second time since it began consideration of railroad legislation to supplement the Adamson law, the senate interstate commerce committee declined to approve a provision suggested by President Wilson forbidding a strike or lockout pending investigation of a labor controversy.

The board designated by Secretary Daniels to inspect proposed sites for the government armor plate factory is expected to leave Washington soon for a tour of locations already held to be safe in time of war.

Protests against the recommendation that the armor plant should not be located within 200 miles of the coast line were made to Secretary Daniels by a delegation from Richmond, Va.

Cotton ginned prior to January 16 amounted to 11,147,118 running bales, exclusive of linters, including 189,094 round bales and 115,163 bales of sea island, the census bureau announces.

Domestic
Detectives summoned from several cities are in Lakeland, Fla., seeking clues to the identity of the thief or thieves who robbed the residence of C. G. Memminger, a wealthy phosphate operator, of \$20,000 in jewels and \$75 in cash.

Baltimore reports that shipping circles there that three steamers which left Baltimore recently, presumably with coal, also took out several million dollars in gold eagles and half eagles. The gold, it is reported, is for Germany and is to be transferred at sea to the raiders sweeping the South Atlantic.

The United States ship Ausable left Norfolk December 28 with \$2,000,000 in gold to be delivered to German agents at Buenos Aires, but nothing has been heard of her since her departure.

A New York dispatch says that the American commission for relief of Belgium is preparing for at least another year's work and the necessity of raising approximately \$150,000,000 more will be discussed by the commission in New York.

A tract of eight thousand acres on Mount Mitchell, N. C., has been purchased by the federal reservation commission.

The federal reservation commission announces that it has purchased forty-five hundred acres of land in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. It is stated that on the collateral deposited by the allied nations of Europe, they are entitled to a loan of seven billion two hundred million dollars.

Small Woman, former wife of Sitting Bull, who annihilated Custer and his command in Little Big Horn in 1876 and who herself was slain in battle fifteen years later at Wounded Knee, is dead at the North Dakota Fort Berthold Indian reservation. She died from injuries sustained in the burning of her cabin, from which she escaped uninjured, but returned for an old shawl which she prized highly, and it was then that her clothing took fire with disastrous results.

It is stated that the loaning capacity of the federal reserve banks will be increased by \$300,000,000 by next November.

An ocean freight rate of \$4 a hundred pounds will be paid on one thousand bales of cotton booked for export from Galveston, Texas, to Havre, France. This is the highest rate ever paid for the transportation of cotton from Galveston.

The president of the American Newspaper Publishers' association says that prohibition against printing news of election betting, which is contained in a section of the Owens corrupt practices bill, might become a stepping stone toward further restrictions.

Governor Rye has attached his signature to three anti-liquor bills, thus putting the state of Tennessee in the "bone dry" class.

A New York dispatch announces that leading financiers of Wall street will co-operate with the congressional committee in going to the heart of the leak scandal. The committee announces that collateral issues will be entirely ignored until all available information about the "leak" on the note of December 21 and the alleged resultant profits have been obtained.

European War

Spirited fighting has taken place northwest of Verdun on the front in France. Attacking on a front of sixteen hundred meters against Hill 301 northwest of Verdun, Teuton soldiers stormed French trenches and took 500 prisoners.

The German troops have gained considerable ground on Le Mort Homme and Avocourt.

West of Riga, in the Tirul swamp region and along the River Aa, the Germans and Russians continue heavy fighting. Germans claimed to have taken 500 prisoners and gained some ground.

The Turkish first line trenches on a front of 1,100 yards were gained by the British in their attacks southwest of Kut-el-Amara.

There is no great activity in Roumania.

On the northern portion of the French front, the British have carried out successful raids.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the London City and Midland bank, Sir Edward Holden, managing director of the bank, said that 232,000,000 pounds of gold which had flowed into America up to the end of 1916, about 212,000,000 pounds represented the amount contributed by the entente allies to form the basis of loans.

The British government has refused permission to the Hadfields, limited, to proceed with work on the contract for shells for the American navy "so long as the exigencies of war continue."

Capture by German forces of 1,500 Russian prisoners, as well as considerable ground near the River Aa, at the northern end of the Russo-German front, is announced.

A Ymuiden, Holland, dispatch says an encounter occurred in the North sea between fourteen German torpedo boat destroyers and a British flotilla. Sixteen severely wounded Germans have been landed at that place by a Dutch steam trawler which took them off the badly damaged German torpedo boat V-69. That boat was afterwards towed into Ymuiden with twenty dead aboard.

London reports from Ymuiden say that German torpedo boats attempted at night to leave Zeebrugge to avoid the ice, which was very thick, and were immediately attacked by a large British squadron. The action opened at short range and early in the fight the bridge of the German destroyer V-49 was swept away by two other officers being killed.

The sinking of a British torpedo boat destroyer in an engagement with another German destroyer in the vicinity of Schouwen bank, with the loss of three officers and forty-four of the crew, is announced by the London admiralty.

PERSHING'S TROOPS ARE WITHDRAWING

FINAL CHAPTER IN THE OCCUPATION OF MEXICO BEING
WRITTEN.

BAKER ISSUES STATEMENT

Border Militia Question and Sending of Fletcher to Mexico Capital Now Hold Interest.—Villa and Carranza Are Busy.

Washington.—The final act in the entrance into Mexico of 12,000 American soldiers as a result of the Villa massacre of 17 Americans at Columbus, N. M., on March 9, 1916, was written with official announcement by the War Department that General Pershing had been ordered, and actually had started to bring his troops back to the United States.

Secretary Baker issued the following announcement: "General Pershing has been ordered to bring his troops out of Mexico. The movement is to be an immediate one, and probably is already under way. Later advice to the department said that the troops already had begun the evacuation of Colonia Dublan, 110 miles from the border, where they had been concentrating during the past few weeks. The last American soldier is expected to recross the border in about a week."

No official information is at hand as to whether Villa or Carranza troops will occupy the territory left vacant by the Americans, but the belief is strong here that the bandit, who is credited with, at least, 8,000 well-armed men who is now, at least, four times as strong as when the American troops went across the border, will make a desperate effort to take the territory, particularly for its moral effect. The two other phases of the Mexican problem on which interest centers now, are the disposition of the more than 50,000 militia still on the border, and the sending of Ambassador Fletcher to his post at Mexico City. Officials say no decision has been reached in either of these questions, but that both are dependent on the turn of events in Mexico.

**SENATORS WORK OVERTIME
TO CLEAN UP MUCH WORK.**
Less Than Thirty Days to Solve Congested Legislation.

Washington.—With less than 30 working days remaining in the life of the Sixty-Fourth Congress, the Democratic Steering Committee of the Senate decided to hold daily sessions of the Senate from 11 o'clock in the morning until 10 o'clock at night, beginning Thursday, February 1.

Overtime exertions were determined upon as the first move in an effort to solve the congested legislation situation, the decision being to drive away as hard and fast as possible on essential appropriations and the revenue bill, and to undertake the big general Administration measures one by one as time permits. Whether any of the Administration bills over which there is so much dispute could be passed, among the Democratic leaders would predict.

The general understanding is that the railroad labor bills will be considered as soon as the India appropriation bill is out of the way, provided the Interstate Commerce Committee does not ultimately decide to await action on this matter in the House. In view of the fact that Representative Adamson is preparing to rush a separate bill on the subject through the House, the Senate committee may decide to wait. In that case, the corrupt practice bill or the mineral land-leasing measure may be given a try-out.

**BIG BRITISH CRUISER
MINED OR TORPEDOED.**
London.—The British auxiliary cruiser Laurentic of 14,892 tons gross, has been sunk by a submarine as a result of striking a mine, according to an official statement issued by the British Admiralty. Twelve officers and 109 men were saved.

**PITTSBURGH SUFFERS LOSS OF
MILLIONS IN BIG BLAZE.**
Pittsburgh, Pa.—Fire which swept through a section of the retail business district here destroyed the Frank and Sedar Department Store, the Grand Opera House, the Hilton Clothing Company and a dozen or more smaller buildings with a loss estimated at from \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000. Four firemen were seriously hurt and a dozen or more so badly injured that they were removed to hospital. Frozen hydrants handicapped the firemen.

**ENGLISH HAVE EXTENDED
DANGER ZONE IN NORTH SEA.**
Washington.—Warning of a considerable extension of the North Sea zone designated as "dangerous to shipping" was received at the State Department from the American Embassy at London. At the State Department it was said that what significance the enlarging of the British mine field may have was not known, but in other quarters it was pointed out that the new extension formed a cordon of mines around the German coast.

RIVERS-HARBORS BILL PASSES HOUSE

CARRIES AN APPROPRIATION OF \$38,000,000, OF WHICH \$10,000,000 IS NEW WORK.

PARTY LINES NOT DRAWN

President Wilson's Approval Expressed as to Existing Projects Concerned.—Vote Was 221 to 131.—Bill Now Goes to Senate.

Washington.—The annual rivers and harbors appropriation bill, carrying \$38,000,000, including more than \$10,000,000 for new projects was passed by the House by a vote of 221 to 131. It now goes to the Senate.

The House increased the appropriation for Norfolk harbor from \$270,000 to \$360,000 and retained as a continuing project \$1,425,000 for deepening the channels leading to the harbor at Tampa, Fla., to 27 feet, \$300,000 of the amount being made available in this bill.

The President, although opposing the proposed public buildings bill now awaiting action in the Senate, has expressed his approval of the river and harbors measure in so far as appropriations for existing projects is concerned.

The House struck out a provision to create a commission of Cabinet officers and members of the Senate and House committees to investigate river and harbor improvements, drainage, reclamation, irrigation and flood control problems, with a view to recommending to Congress next December plans for co-ordinating all such activities. This plan, favored by the President, was eliminated on a point of order after a lively parliamentary fight, but another flood control bill is pending in the House.

The vote by which the bill passed was not along party lines.

**PUBLISHING BUSINESS IS
IN HAZARDOUS POSITION
DUE TO COST OF PAPER.**
Declare Publishers, Who Say Remedy Must Be Found at Once.

Chicago.—Newspaper publishers and news print paper manufacturers at a conference here voted to appoint committees to meet immediately after delivery to Congress this week of the Federal Trade Commission's report on the print paper situation to see if knowledge gained from the report points the way to an adjustment of the paper problem.

Publishers, representing the American Newspaper Publishers' Association, agreed that the present high price of paper has placed the newspaper publishing business in a position so hazardous and menacing that a remedy must be found without delay. On the other hand, representatives of the Print Paper Manufacturers' Association asserted that the increased cost of production justified present prices.

Many of the publishers favored an agreement by both sides to abide by any price the Federal Trade Commission may set. This would have to be a gentlemen's agreement, as the commission has power only to investigate.

Those active in the meeting included for the publishers Frank P. Glass, of Birmingham, chairman of the print paper committee of the Publishers' Association; E. B. Stahlman, Nashville, and Victor Lawson, of Chicago. Prominent manufacturers present were P. T. Dodge, president of the International Paper Company; Alexander Smith, managing director of the Abitibi (Canada) Paper Company, and J. A. Bothwell and F. A. Sabbatani, Canadian manufacturers.

**INDIANA LOWER HOUSE
PASSES PROHIBITION BILL.**
Indianapolis, Ind.—By a vote of 70 to 28, the lower branch of the State Legislature passed a bill prohibiting the sale, manufacture, distribution or advertisement of liquor in the state after January 1, 1918. The bill now goes to the senate. Fifty-two Republicans and 18 Democrats opposed it.

**COMMITTEE APPROVES
FEDERAL RESERVE ACT.**
Washington.—An amendment to the Federal reserve act proposed by the reserve board to make immediately effective the provision requiring all reserves of member banks to be kept in Federal reserve banks, was approved by the House Banking and Currency Committee.

**MODERN ATTIRE OF WOMEN
IS DECRIED BY SOCIETY.**
Wilmington, N. C.—The North Carolina Women's Missionary Society, of the Methodist Church in session here adopted resolutions deprecating the immodest attire of the modern woman, the low standard of moving picture shows, enforcement of laws regulating sale of habit-forming drugs, urged enforcement of laws abolishing liquor traffic, urged discouragement of the use of coco-cola and favored a single standard of morality.

**MEXICAN TROOPERS IN
FIGHT WITH COWBOYS.**
Tucson, Ariz.—According to telephone advice from Arivaca, Ariz., about 14 miles south of here, fighting has been in progress all day at a place called Stonehouse between Mexican troopers and American cowboys. When the cowboys attempted to drive their cattle from the boundary line, the Mexicans opened fire and reports said the Americans retreated and were reinforced by a part of troop B, Utah Cavalry, who returned fire.

LANSING PROTESTS TO MEXICAN CHIEF

SOMMUNICATION REGARDS CERTAIN PROVISIONS PROPOSED IN NEW CONSTITUTION.

RELATING TO FOREIGNERS

Objects Because Chief Executive May Expel Anyone Without Recourse to Appeal.—Not in Accord With Other Nations.

Mexico City.—Secretary of State Lansing has sent to General Carranza, through Charles B. Parker, American Charge d'Affaires here, a communication in regard to certain provisions which it had been proposed to include in the new Mexican constitution. The communication calls attention to articles vesting the Executive with power to expropriate property without judicial recourse, and also the article providing that civil commercial companies cannot own properties of a greater area than is necessary to accomplish the purpose for which they are formed, and placing the power to determine what area is necessary in the hands of the Executive.

The communication says that if the latter provision were made retroactive, it might be confiscatory as no provision is made for compensation.

Attention is called to the article providing that there be no exemption from taxation. If this were given a retroactive effect, says Secretary Lansing's communication, it would impair contracts of many foreign corporations now operating under agreements providing periods of exemption by the federal or state governments.

Regarding article 33, dealing with the expulsion of obnoxious foreigners, objection is made because the proposed article permits the executive to expel anyone, without recourse to appeal, whose presence is deemed inadvisable by him. The letter states that this is not in accord with the usual practice of nations that cause be clearly shown.

**FIGHTING UNABATED IN
MARCHES NORTH OF RIGA.**
With Germans Having the Advantage—Cold Weather Halts Operations in Rumania.

The big battle between the Germans and Russians over the frozen Tirul marsh, southwest of Riga, continues unabated. Further progress for the Germans along both sides of the Aa River is reported by Berlin, which claims an advance over a front of about six miles and the capture of Russian fort positions together with 14 officers and 1,714 men and 13 machine guns.

Petrograd admits the southeast of the river, the Russians have had to fall back a third of a mile, but says the attacks by the Germans on the marsh were repulsed.

Aside from this battle, the fighting in the various other theaters continues to be carried out mainly by the artillery and small reconnoitering and raiding parties. In Rumania, the extremely cold weather has virtually put an end to the operations for the moment.

Lively fighting has taken place on the famous Dead Man Hill, in the Verdun region of France, but no details of it have been made public. Reciprocal artillery duels, which have reached considerable proportions at several points, are being fought from the Swiss frontier to the North Sea.

The British Treasury, under the defense of the Realm act, will shortly requisition such foreign securities held in Great Britain, as may be required to strengthen the country's financial position.

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NEW BASE FOR U. S. TROOPS IN MEXICO

OJA FEDERICO, EIGHTY MILES NORTH OF COLONIA DUBLAN IN CHIHUAHUA.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS

Column Will Enlarge at Columbus.—De Facto Troops Occupy Evacuated Territory.—El Valle is Permanently Abandoned as Outpost.

El Paso, Texas.—Ojo Federico, 80 miles north of Colonia Dublan Chihuahua, will be the temporary field headquarters of the American punitive expedition during the withdrawal operations. After retirement of the American troops, Major General Pershing and his staff will proceed to the border at Columbus, N. M., in the rear of the expeditionary column.

General Pershing has perfected his plans for moving the headquarters equipment to Ojo Federico at once and it was considered probable that he had already sent advance detachments there to establish the headquarters camp.

El Valle (San Buena Ventura) has permanently abandoned as an outpost of the American expedition at dawn when the Fifth United States Cavalry, which had been acting as a rear guard for this preliminary withdrawal movement started northward.

Juarez, Mexico.—Two thousand de facto troops reached Jimenez, Chihuahua, early in the day from Torreon, on route to Chihuahua City to police western Chihuahua after the evacuation of the American punitive expedition, an official message from Jimenez stated. These troops were sent north following the receipt of orders from General Obregon, Minister of War.

**PROVISION TO FORBID STRIKES
STRICKEN OUT BY SENATE.**
Committee Again Defeats Effort to Incorporate Suggestion By President.

Washington.—For the second time since it began consideration of railroad legislation to supplement the Adamson law, the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee declined to approve a provision suggested by President Wilson forbidding a strike or lockout pending investigation of a labor controversy.

The vote was ten to five, with three Democrats, Senators Underwood, Smith, of South Carolina, and Thompson, voting with the Republicans in the negative.

On the first vote 10 days ago, the committee turned down this provision seven to three. A further effort may be made to win the committee's approval, and if this is unsuccessful, a fight will be made for the provision on the floor of the Senate.

Chairman Newlands said the committee was still at work on an investigation bill with this feature eliminated, and was confident that approval would be given a measure that would prevent obstructions to interstate commerce without actually forbidding a strike.

The action of the committee came shortly after representatives of the four railroad brotherhoods informed President Wilson that they desired to suggest changes to the bills now pending. The President asked that the suggestions be submitted in writing, and promised to give them careful consideration. The brotherhood leaders declined to make public their proposals at this time, but it is understood they follow the lines indicated in hearings before the House Commerce committee provide for a permanent investigating commission composed partly of employers and employees, without any strike prohibiting feature.

**BALTIMORE NEWSPAPER
INCREASES SUBSCRIPTION PRICE**
Baltimore.—The Baltimore Sun announced that owing to the increased cost of print paper and other materials, the weekly subscription price for its 13 issues would hereafter be 13 cents instead of 10 cents.

**HADFIELD'S CANT MAKE
SHELLS FOR FOREIGN USE**
London.—The British government has refused permission to the Hadfields, limited, to proceed with work on the contract for shells for the American navy "so long as the exigencies of war continue."

The announcement is made in the form of an official notice by Doctor Christopher Addison, the minister of munitions, in which attention is called to the fact that the entire steel output is under his control.

**FORTIFICATIONS BILL
FAVORABLY REPORTED.**
Washington.—The House fortifications committee reported favorably a \$1,000,000 bill providing for a comprehensive scheme of defense for New York harbor, eight 16-inch mortars for Cape Henry, two 16-inch guns for the Puget Sound, \$4,800,000 for an elaborate aero service for coast defense, and \$30,000 for anti-aircraft guns. Emplacements are provided also for eighteen 12-inch long range guns.

MORE N. C. LAND FOR FOREST RESERVE

LARGEST SINGLE PURCHASE WAS TRACT OF 8,000 ACRES ON MT. MITCHELL.

SOME IN OTHER COUNTIES

Small Purchases in Burke, Caldwell, Henderson, Macon, Buncombe and Jackson Counties.

Washington.—Enlargement of the National Forest Reserves by 23,700 acres acquired through purchases in the Southern Appalachian and White Mountain was announced by the reservation commission. It brings the total added to the public forests in the East and South under the Weeks law up to 1,373,131 acres.

The largest single purchase among those announced was a tract of 8,000 acres on Mount Mitchell, N. C. In the White Mountains of New Hampshire, 4,500 acres were purchased, and the other tracts, scattered through North Carolina, Virginia, Georgia and Tennessee, follow:

In Burke and Caldwell counties, North Carolina, on the Boone National Forest, 4,300 acres. On the Nantux Bridge National Forest in Amherst, Bedford and Botetourt counties, Virginia, 12 tracts, comprising 3,135. In Buncombe, Henderson, Macon and Jackson counties, North Carolina, 22 acres; in Union, Fannin, Lumpkin and Rabun counties, Georgia, 744 acres; in Shenandoah county, Virginia, 741 acres and 320 acres in Polk county, Tennessee.

**RALEIGH MAN AGAIN
ELECTED SECRETARY.**
New Orleans.—Daniel T. Gray of Raleigh was re-elected secretary of the Association of Southern Agricultural Workers at the concluding session. W. R. Dodson of Louisiana was elected president and Montgomery was selected as the 1913 meeting place.

Announces Muster-Out Stations.
San Antonio, Texas.—General Funston announced the mustering out stations to which the National Guardsmen designated in a recent war department order to be relieved of border duty, will be sent. The list includes:

First North Carolina Infantry ordered to Asheville and from there to be distributed as follows:

Field and staff headquarters company, supply company and G company to Shelby; machine gun company and D company to Charlotte; sanitary detachment, Rutherfordton; A company, Hickory; B company, Gastonia; C company, Winston-Salem; E company, Statesville; F and K companies, Asheville; H company, Waynesville; I company, Mount Airy; L company, Concord; M company, High Point.

Negro Gets Bickett's First Pardon.
Raleigh.—Governor Bickett has granted his first pardon. It is for Nathaniel Bost, of Catawba county, a 19-year-old negro, who has served since last July on a 12-months sentence for larceny. The county health officers report that the negro is sick and that his trouble is such that his recovery is handicapped by confinement and the fixed diet necessary in prison life. Judge Lane and the mayor and other officials of Hickory recommended the pardon.

Salary Raise Constitutional.
Raleigh.—Attorney General Manning completed for State Auditor Wood his opinion, finding the act of the Legislature increasing the salary of Governor Bickett constitutional. It is a lengthy document, treating the whole scope of the question and holding that five sections of the Constitution must be construed together, and that officers are elected for specified periods of time, and further time in the election and qualification of successors. Rulings to the effect by numerous other states are cited.

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