

CONGRESS RECONVENES AFTER HOLIDAYS WITH FOREIGN RELATIONS THE UPPERMOST TOPIC

President Back in Washington Giving His Personal Attention to the Matters of Grave Concern to the Nation—Senate Made a Hurried Adjournment Today—Report from Consuls and Minister Penfield Awaited—Associated Press Gets the First Statement from Survivor on the Persia, American Citizen Grant Issues a Statement Relative to the Sinking of the Persia—President Issues a Statement on the Administration Handling of the International Situation

Consul General Skinner at London today informed the State Department that the telegraphic list of the survivors of the Persia does not include the name of Robert N. McNeely.

Washington, Jan. 4.—Official announcement was made today from the White House that the government will act in the new submarine phase without delay.

Secretary Tumulty issued the following statement for the President: "The President and Secretary Lansing are taking every means possible to obtain the cold facts in this grave matter and will act just as soon as the facts are obtained."

In the absence of the facts upon which to base the next step the President cancelled the meeting of the cabinet set for this afternoon and conferred with Senator Stone, chairman of the Foreign relation committee.

President Wilson instructed Secretary Lansing to bring to the White House all new information and then busied himself in reading the official dispatches at hand and in generally going into the subject.

The administration is depending largely on the inquiries which Ambassador Penfield at Vienna has been instructed to make on the facts which American consuls are gathering elsewhere to establish the nationality of the submarine which sank the Persia.

Alexandria, Egypt, Via London, Jan. 4.—Charles Grant, of Boston, one of the two Americans known to have been on the Persia, when she was sunk by a submarine has arrived in Alexandria and gave the Associated Press:

"I was in the dining saloon of the Persia at 1:05 p. m. when a terrific explosion occurred. The saloon became filled with smoke, broken glass and steam from the boiler which evidently had burst. There was no panic. We went on deck as if on fire drill and reported to life saving boats on the starboard side, the vessel having listed to port. I clung to the railing.

"As the vessel had listed so badly it was impossible to launch from the starboard side, I slid down the railing into the water. I climbed to some wreckage. The last I saw of the Persia she had her bow in the air, five minutes after the explosion.

"After floating about in the water until 4 in the morning I saw five boats. I was pulled into one of these. We rowed about looking for others from the sunken ship. The boats became overloaded and four of them were tied together with the fifth following.

seen during the escape from the liner perhaps because his cabin was on the port side."

M'NEELY NOT AMONG SURVIVORS LANDED AT MALTA.

London, Jan. 3.—The Peninsular & Oriental Steamship Company has received a dispatch from Malta saying that 11 more survivors of the steamer Persia have been landed including Lord Montague.

Robert N. McNeely, the American Consul at Aden, was not among the survivors landed at Malta.

The Peninsular & Oriental Co. says the survivors consist of three English, one Italian and seven Lascars.

CHILD AT BURLINGTON ACCIDENTALLY KILLED.

Eighteen Months Old Baby Was Playing With Shotgun When the Weapon Was Discharged.

Burlington, Jan. 3.—The 18-months-old child of Ray Morton an employe of the Lakeside mill, at this place, was instantly killed this morning when a gun it was playing with discharged its load into the left eye, scattering the pieces of its head over the room. It is not known just how it happened, as no one was present but it is supposed that the child got hold of the gun which was left by the bed and dragging it about the room, as the gun was too heavy for the child to lift, and that the hammer caught in a crevice of the floor.

Hoffman Bros., jewelers, made an assignment for the benefit of their creditors Saturday. They had been in business little more than a year, and finding business did not meet their expectations decided that it would be better for all concerned to go into bankruptcy. G. W. Patterson, of this county, is the largest creditor, though he was not pressing his claim. It is estimated that assets will total about \$1,700 and the liabilities are about \$2,000.

PUBLICITY FOR CHURCH ADVOCATED BY MINISTER

Kinston, Jan. 3.—"I believe in publicity and plenty of it," said Dr. B. W. Spilman, the famous Sunday school worker of the Baptist church, here today. Dr. Spilman was defending the use of electric signs by churches. He told of a Disciple of Christ minister who came here some years ago and blundered into a Baptist church by mistake. "The deacon who was to have conducted the services had the visitor preaching before he knew where he was at," said Dr. Spilman. "I run around and see thousands of churches, which impressed me as being owned by congregations who care very little to let the people know that they are in business. Not a sign of any kind to tell people what church worships there. A grocer who does business that way is not on to the job."

There will be a meeting of the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce this afternoon at 4 o'clock at the chamber's rooms in the Community building.

EXPLANATION.

Wire troubles throughout England today interfered with the news from the war zones. The Post is not using the few insignificant reports that came late in the day from London. There was practically nothing from the fields of activity worth relating and the reason is stated herewith.

CONGRESS IN SESSION ONLY SHORT TIME WILL TAKE UP PREPARED PLANS AT ONCE.

Washington Jan. 4.—The expected attack on the administrations foreign policy did not materialize in a few minutes until Wednesday at noon.

The reason assigned was that several senators who had business to present did not get it ready and leaders adjourned the senate.

Congress reassembled today after the Christmas holidays with the plan for defense uppermost in both branches of Congress. On all sides it is admitted that the country faces the gravest condition yet existing during the European war.

The issues growing out of the submarine warfare on the part of the Central powers and Great Britain's interference with neutral commerce were expected to figure chiefly in the discussion by Senators and Representatives. The situation has caused a situation of general uneasiness.

It is believed the question of national preparedness will be taken up at once, also that the senate's foreign relations committee will take up the resolution introduced by Senator Hoke Smith and the amendment by Senator Lodge, the former with reference to investigating the interference with neutral commerce by Great Britain and the later to inquire into the activity of submarine in attacking ships and causing the loss of American lives.

A FIRE AT DURHAM DESTROYS THREE STORES NINETEEN FOURTEEN MARKED HIGH PRICES

Total Loss to Store Building and Three Mercantile Stock Estimated At \$12,500. With a Total Insurance Of \$6,000.

(By Associated Press.) Durham, Jan. 4.—Fire of an unknown origin on Tuesday morning at 3 o'clock totally destroyed a large 2-story brick building and three mercantile stores in West Durham.

Chief of the fire department Christian estimates the loss at \$12,500. The building belonged to E. G. Davis, of Henderson, and was occupied by three stores belonging to J. Winnicott, James S. Davis and R. G. Kearney. The total insurance was \$6,000.

WILL ALLOW ARKANSAS SALOON MEN TEN DAYS.

Little Rock, Ark., Jan. 4.—Although the seizure of bar stocks and fixtures the State law operative today permit and provide for their confiscation by the State, T. C. White, superintendent of the Arkansas division of the Anti-Saloon League of America, announced that the prohibitionists would make no effort to have the State carry out these provisions immediately.

Ten days will be allowed the saloon men to dispose of their property, he declared. After January 10th, an official statement by the league says, every effort will be made to destroy absolutely the evidence of the liquor traffic in the State.

Thirty-one saloons were closed last night at Hot Springs, \$4 in Little Rock, 28 in Helena, 21 in Argenta and four in two other countries.

The fellow who never knows when he gets the worst of it ought to be mighty happy.

London, Jan. 4.—Lord Derby's recruiting figures for the period between October 23rd and December 5th shows 51,500,000 unmarried men and 5,679,363 married men presented themselves for service. Of the grand total of 2,820,263 married and single men 103,000 presented themselves immediately. 340,000 unmarried and 1,344,979 married men were attested for future service and of the single men 297,000 and of the married men 221,953 were rejected.

ROSS SUCCEEDS DORTON AT P. O.

Mr. W. Livan Ross has been appointed clerk in the Salisbury post-office to succeed Mr. J. E. Dorton who recently resigned.

Mr. Ross has been connected with the clerical force of the local depot of the Southern for several years.

DEMOCRATS PLAN LIVELY CAMPAIGN.

Activity of Republicans and Progressive Causes Leaders to Spur Up. Washington, Jan. 3.—Democrats who returned from the State today said that party workers will soon have a definite plan for the campaign next summer and fall.

Congressmen are preparing to join hands with local Democratic leaders to oppose with all their might the force of former Senator Butler and the Republican organization which is more active now than it has been before since 1908, when Taft made a such a showing in the State and three Republicans were sent to Congress.

The activities of the Republicans and Progressives have caused the Democratic leaders to spur up State Chairman Thomas D. Warren has already conferred with members of Congress with a view to setting the Democratic machinery in their respective districts to work. He will come to Washington within the next few weeks to hold other conferences.

Democrats do not believe that recent rumblings heard from the State will be followed by any split in the party ranks when it is realized that Messrs. Butler, Walser and other Roosevelt Republicans are going to take a desperate effort to carry several Congressional districts this year. Senators Simmons and Overman and Representatives Pou, Webb, Page and Doughton think that the Democrats will be united in November.

MR. ATKINSON TO BOYS.

Rev. Mr. George H. Atkinson to Speak to Employed Boys Brotherhood.

Tomorrow night at the Community Building the Employed Boys Brotherhood will hold its regular monthly meeting. Rev. Geo. H. Atkinson is to speak on "Starting Right." This brotherhood is composed of working boys who are members of the various clubs in the community. It is affiliated with the national brotherhood that is fostered by the young Men's Christian Association.

The self-made man is proud of his success, but the self-made woman is stuck on her shape.

be 8 per cent below 1913 prices. Their highest point was reached in 1864 when 194 per cent higher than in 1914 and lowest in 1898 when 27 per cent below 1914 prices.

Lumber and building materials were 4 per cent lower than in 1913, 82 per cent below their highest prices reached in 1864 and 38 per cent above their lowest point reached in 1897.

Drugs and chemicals were 6 per cent higher than in 1913 and higher than they had been in 30 years. They were 230 per cent below their highest point made in 1864 and 33 per cent higher than their lowest prices in 1895.

House furnishing goods were higher than they had been in 30 years, being 25 per cent higher than their lowest prices made in 1897 and 184 per cent below the highest prices prevailing in 1864.

Prices of all commodities combined were 1 per cent below the prices of 1913 and on the same level as those of 1912. They were lower by 137 per cent than the high prices of 1864 and higher by 33 per cent than the lowest prices prevailing in the years of 1896 and 1897.

FIRST METHODIST WILL BUILD NEW CHURCH.

The board of Stewards of the First Methodist church decided unanimously at a well attended meeting held last night that the new church house they propose to build in the near future will be built on the site of the present church. Heretofore there has been some uncertainty as to the location that might be selected for the new church.

At last night's meeting it was decided to appoint a committee to co-operate with the pastor in the matter of preparation for the series of meetings to be conducted here in the early spring by Bishop J. C. Kilgo. The Bishop has indicated his willingness to come but no date for the meeting has been set.

After the business session last night the Stewards enjoyed a social hour at the parsonage with Dr. Marr and members of the Ladies' Aid Society, the latter serving refreshments during the evening.

MINT COLA ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY EVENING

Company Had a Good Year's Business and Made a Profit Which Meant a Semi-Annual Dividend of 4 Per Cent—Old Directors and Officers Re-elected, With E. E. Barringer Succeeding the Late F. F. Smith—Will Increase the Capital to Fifty Thousand Dollars.

GOVERNMENT OWNED RAILWAY WORKING

Washington, Jan. 3.—Successful operation of a government-owned railroad, with private interests could not be persuaded to build, is causing much satisfaction to Interior Department officials. The line, extending 25 miles from Yuma, Ariz., to the Mexican boundary line through the Yuma Valley, has been in operation daily since February and has carried 300,000 tons of rock besides frequent shipments of other freight which are increasing.

Passenger traffic has been light, owing to the unpopulated region through which the road runs, but considerable progress has been made in the settlement of the country and a townsite 18 miles from Yuma has been opened. Construction of the railroad, the second government-owned line, was deemed a necessity by officials of the United States Reclamation Service. There had been unsuccessful in efforts to interest private capital which considered the prospect doubtful for the payment even of its expenses. As a system of rock movement was required by the Yuma Valley reclamation project the engineers decided the material could be placed economically only by use of a track laid upon the levee which protects the Yuma Valley from the overflow of the Colorado River. Work was begun April 8, 1914 and the first spike driven May 1 of that year. The annual summer of 1914 delayed construction work but it was completed to the Mexican boundary in February 1915. The line is 25 1-2 miles long including sidings.

Equipment of the road consists of a gasoline motor car bearing in bold letters the inscription: "United States Reclamation Service, Yuma Valley Line." The car carries 70 passengers and makes regular trips daily to the boundary and return from Yuma. A contract has been made with a transcontinental railroad for joint use of tracks at Yuma. Carload shipments destined for the Yuma Valley are taken over by the Reclamation Service and carried on its line, charges being regulated by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

The shareholders elected the board of directors and the officers. The only change made in the directorate was the election of Mr. E. E. Barringer to take the place of the late F. F. Smith. The company sold 40,000 gallons of syrup last year as against 21,000 the previous year, in other words the sales were practically doubled. It was decided to increase the capital stock, the new issue to be offered at \$1.10, a sufficient amount being sold to raise the capital to \$50,000.

The officers elected for the year were as follows: H. A. Rouser, president; L. D. Feeler, vice president; F. T. Patterson, Secretary and General manager; W. C. Maupin, treasurer.

The directors held a meeting following the meeting of the stockholders and transacted such business as came before them.

MR. H. M. COOKE BUYS MAYER DRUG STORE.

Trustee Thomas J. Smith Transfers Stock and Fixtures to Spencer Druggist.

Mr. H. M. Cooke of Spencer yesterday purchased the drug stock and fixtures of the C. R. Mayer & Co. store on North Tryon street and will begin at once preparations for reopening the store under the name of the H. M. Cooke Pharmacy.

The sale was made by Mr. Thomas J. Smith, trustee. Mr. Smith, who is experienced in the drug business, was appointed by Mr. John M. Robinson referee in bankruptcy. The sale has the approval of Mr. Robinson and the papers have been signed by Federal Judge James E. Boyd. The transfer of title was effected yesterday and the deal was completed.

Mr. Cooke is a well-to-do druggist of Spencer, where he has operated a store for about a dozen years. He will probably come to Charlotte to live, in the not distant future. For the present, however, the store here will be in charge of Mr. T. Arthur Walker, who was formerly connected with the Tryon Drug Company. For the past 11 years he has been with T. S. Smith & Co., of Asheville. He has many friends here who will learn with pleasure of the new business connection which he formed yesterday.

The store will not be open for business for a few days, as the building is to be repaired and papered on the interior. The same stand, as heretofore, at the corner of North Tryon street and West Sixth street, will be occupied.

The only way you could get some men to the front would be by kicking them in the rear.

John L. Rendleman, Jr., left today for Hickory to resume studies at Lenoir college.

The University boys get off for Chapel Hill this morning.

Takes but two peace advocates to start a war.