

MILITARY OPERATION IS AT LOW EBB

Campaign of Field Marshal Von Mackensen in Rumania Now Seems Nearly at An End.

DEVELOPMENTS AWAIT REPLY OF THE ALLIES

On Franco-Belgian Front There is Quieting Down of Recent Activity at Verdun.

(By Associated Press.) Further developments in the peace movement in Europe now awaits the presentation of the formal reply of the allies to the proposal of the Central powers.

Military operations in the European field of war are at a low ebb.

The campaign of Field Marshal von Mackensen in Rumania seems nearly at an end. Whether or not some further important move is in contemplation in this war theatre the reports show comparative quiet to be prevailing at present.

On the Franco-Belgian front also there is a lull with a quietening down of the recent activity at Verdun, while the latest reports from both the Russian and the Austro-Italian fronts show little but artillery duels and skirmishes.

In Macedonia the reports show rain and fog prevailing with no military movement except patrol engagements.

FIRE IN ATLANTA DOES BIG DAMAGE

One Department Store, Building and Stock Destroyed by An Early Morning Fire.

(By Associated Press.) Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 20.—Fire that started on the 5th floor of the department store of J. M. Allen & Company on Whitehall street early this morning destroyed the Allen building and the stock of goods. Mr. J. M. Allen estimates the loss at \$20,000. The origin of the fire is unknown.

The authorities excluded people from the Kress store adjoining the burned building, fearing that damaged walls might fall on the 3 story building occupied by the store. Also people were not permitted to enter another store adjoining, it being feared that the fire wall between was seriously damaged.

BIG FIRE IN BIRMINGHAM.

Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 20.—Fire believed to have been caused by defective wiring in an elevator shaft of The Parisian, a woman's ready-to-wear store on 3rd avenue here early this morning destroyed the contents of the entire establishment valued at more than \$200,000. The Parisian was a four-story brick building and was stocked with Christmas goods. The building and contents were partly insured.

HIGH POINT VOTES TODAY ON R. R. BONDS

Question of Issuing \$25,000 of Bonds for Extension of Carolina & Yadkin River Railway Being Decided in the Township.

High Point, Dec. 20.—Citizens of High Point township today were voting upon the question of whether the proposed extension of the Carolina and Yadkin River Railway shall be aided by a \$25,000 bond issue, to be secured by capital stock of the road when the first train is operated over the new line. It is proposed to extend the road from Denton, Davidson county, to Mount Gilead, Montgomery county, thereby giving High Point the advantage of another trunk line. A road and opening up for development one of the richest sections of the state.

The principal argument in favor of the issuance of the bonds is that the proposed extension would give access to a section in which timber abounds and which now is not available for the mills. Local advocates of the bond issue were confident they would carry the election but no pains were spared to see that the question was put squarely before the people. More than a week ago they launched a newspaper advertising campaign in an effort to win more support.

NEW WAR COUNCIL OF FRANCE.



ALBERT THOMAS GEN. LYAUTEY

PREMIER BRIAND ADMIRAL LACAZE ALEXANDRE RIBOT

Quickly following the British example of choosing a small council to manage the war the French have selected five well-known men. They are, besides Premier Briand, Alexandre Ribot, who continues as minister of finance; General Hubert Lyautey, as new war minister; Rear Admiral Lacaze, as new minister of marine, and Albert Thomas, promoted to be minister of munitions

SERGEANT GONZALES DIES AT EL PASO, TEX.

Son of United States Minister to Cuba and at One Time Connected With Columbia, S. C., State, a Victim of Pneumonia.

(By Associated Press.) El Paso, Texas, Dec. 20.—Sergeant Robt. E. Gonzales, of the machine gun company of the 2d S. C. Infantry, son of W. E. Gonzales, United States minister to Cuba, died at the base hospital at Fort Bliss last night of pneumonia, after being ill four days. Minister Gonzales is now en route from Havana, Cuba, to El Paso. A military funeral will be held here among the national guardsmen and regular army during the last eight days.

Connected With Columbia Paper. Columbia, S. C., Dec. 20.—Robert E. Gonzales, prior to enlistment as a private in the 2d S. C. regiment when the national guard was mobilized for Federal service last June, was for a number of years connected with the State, writing editorial paragraphs. He was 28 years old and was a native of Columbia. His parents and one sister survive.

AMERICANS DETAINED IN SYRIA ARE RELEASED

May Leave by Way of Beirut Where They Must Remain a Month in Order Not to Carry Away Military Secrets of Turkey.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 20.—The 200 Americans detained in Syria and Palestine by Turkish military authorities have been granted permission to leave by way of Beirut on condition that they enter at Beirut for one month to make valueless any military information. The United States has repeatedly made diplomatic efforts to free the Americans, some of whom are missionaries and others naturalized citizens, and until now each effort has been thwarted by the Turkish military authorities. The American ambassador at Constantinople reported the Turkish government's action to the State Department today. Efforts will be made to have the time of entrenchment shortened. The cruiser Des Moines, now at Alexandria, Egypt, will go to Beirut to take on the refugees.

MR. WEAVER WINS COURT'S DECISION

Supreme Court Refuses Congressmen Britt's Appeal for Injunction

Raleigh, Dec. 19.—A commission as representative in Congress from the Tenth District to succeed James J. Britt, Republican, was issued late today to Zebulon Weaver, Democrat, by Governor Craig. The commission was issued by the Governor after the State Supreme Court an hour previously had dismissed Britt's appeal from the action of Judge W. J. Adams, of the Buncombe County Superior Court, in refusing to grant a writ of mandamus to compel the Buncombe county board of canvassers to declare the vote of that county on the face of the returns as they appeared on November 9. The returns of three precincts in the county not officially reported at that time were included when the county canvassing board acted on November 17. Britt still was ahead in the county but Weaver had gained enough in the three precincts in question, to overcome Britt's lead and give him a plurality of nine votes in the district. A temporary order restraining the State board of canvassers from taking into consideration the vote of Buncombe County obtained here recently by Britt, was dissolved by Judge W. M. Boni as soon as the Supreme Court's decision was handed down. The board of canvassers then reported Weaver's election to the Secretary of State who in turn certified it to Governor Craig. In political circles here it is taken for granted that Britt will take the contest to the floor of the House of Representatives.

THE WAY CLEARED FOR VOTE ON THE DRY BILL

Washington, Dec. 19.—The way was cleared in the senate today for a final vote on Senator Sheppard's bill for prohibition in the District of Columbia and unless there is an unexpected filibuster it will be put on passage tomorrow. Friends of the measure expect it to pass. The main fight came over Senator Underwood's amendment providing a referendum of the question to District residents. After many minor changes had been made in its phraseology the amendment was beaten in committee of the whole, 38 to 35. Senator Underwood gave notice that he would ask for a separate vote on it when the bill with amendments comes up for final action. Advocates of the referendum still were hopeful tonight that the necessary majority could be found. There is little chance that the tie can be broken by Vice-President Marshall, since he is to leave Washington before the senate convenes tomorrow. Senator Sheppard showed a disposition to press for a final vote tonight but there was evidence that any attempt to do so would result in a filibuster and after such parliamentary maneuvering the senate went into executive session and left the bill to take the ordinary course tomorrow. Before the vote on the referendum the senate adopted, 54 to 15, a charge suggested by Senator Williams which would permit all persons "recardless of sex" to participate, and approved also amendments confining suffrage to the literate and those who are not delinquent in tax payments, and extending it to residents of other states domiciled in the District.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST TO RAISE OVER \$10,000,000

Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 20.—The educational committee of the Southern Baptist convention announced today that a recommendation had been adopted yesterday to raise \$10,000,000 in the 17 States connected with the organization. The recommendation will be presented to the next convention to be held in New Orleans in 1917 in May. It is proposed to devote the fund to the placing of the Baptist educational institutions on a firm basis. Plans are laid for a day to be observed in the 15,000 Baptist Sunday schools for exploiting Christian education.

FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE CENTRAL OF GEORGIA RY.

One Man Killed and Several Persons Injured When Northbound Semi-ole Limited Turned Over Near Opelika, Alabama.

(By Associated Press.) Montgomery, Ala., Dec. 20.—One man was killed and several persons injured when the northbound Seminole limited turned over five miles from Opelika, Alabama, this morning. The engine remained on the track but six cars turned over and rolled down a slight embankment. Several persons were cut by glass. A wrecking train was sent from Columbus, Ga., and a relief train with physicians went from Opelika. The accident, which occurred on the Central of Georgia tracks was due to a broken rail, it is said.

AMERICA SHOWING A GREAT INTEREST

From the American Viewpoint the Matter of Commanding the Mercantile Marine for War Purpose is the Most Interesting of Questions Raised by New Premier.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 20.—The nationalization of British shipping mentioned by Premier David Lloyd-George as one of the first steps of the new government commands much interest from the American viewpoint, more so than any other phase of his speech before the House of Commons on Tuesday. What effect it will have on foreign trade and on the status of ships sunk by submarines opens new and unexpected questions with regard to those concerned. The taking into national service of all mercantile marines, following the announcement that she would not guarantee to coal her stations over the world, except to conserve the coal of the allies, is thought by officials to turn over the great majority of the world carrying trade ships to war uses. The effective it will have on American commerce and its service to the allies is problematic, especially as to the completeness of its enforcement by the Premier. There is nothing the United States can do should the whole of the mercantile marine be withdrawn from American trade. It is thought that the effect on the submarine controversy will be to remove the confusion in discriminating between the private ships entitled to protection and to warning for the safety of those aboard and those not so entitled. Just where the point of distinction lies is a very complex question.

ORGANIZED CHARITY NOW AT ALBEMARLE

Citizens Meet and Plan for Taking Care of Any Cases of Worthy Need That May Arise.

(Special to the Post.) Albemarle, Dec. 19.—At a meeting called for the purpose here last night in the rooms of the Piedmont Commercial Club, and organization to be known as the Associated Charities of Albemarle was formed the purpose of which organization is to better look after those people of the town who at times need some assistance. The meeting was presided over by W. L. Mann, and J. D. Spinks acted as secretary. A representative from each of the churches in the city together with a representative from each of the fraternal orders of the city will form the governing board of the organization. This governing board will select a committee of three representative citizens in the city, the duties of which committee will be to investigate and pass on all cases of want and need and appeals for assistance in the entire city. Albemarle is fortunate in having only a few people who need assistance, and these cases are occasioned by reason of continued illness in the home, or by reason of death taking away from the family their only means of support, leaving in a few cases a widow with several orphan children. The new organization will turn its attention to these classes. While Albemarle is not expecting to have a Community Christmas tree, yet the Community Santa Claus Committee is expecting to send Christmas baskets into a few of the homes where the families do not have sufficient means to buy these things that bring Christmas cheer to the hearts of the old and the children. The family of Rev. J. E. Gay, the new pastor of Central Methodist church, arrived in Albemarle today. The congregation of the church gave them a hearty reception, and "came bearing many gifts," as is the usual custom with that generous people.

MEN ENTOMBED IN MINE EXPLOSION

Eighty Men Caught in a Coal Mine Close by Birmingham—Hope That They Will Be Rescued.

(By Associated Press.) Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 20.—One man was killed, a negro seriously burned and the lives of 800 miners endangered early this morning when a gas explosion occurred in the Edgewater mine of the Tennessee Coal, Iron & Coke Company, twelve miles northwest of Birmingham. Twelve hundred men were employed day and night and when the blast took place many of the night miners had not left the shafts. Rescue workers answering a call soon after the explosion found little difficulty in clearing the openings. Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 20.—Eighty men are entombed in the Tidewater mines of the Tennessee Coal and Coke Company, 12 miles northwest of this city as a result of a gas explosion. The blast is said to have occurred at the bottom of the shaft and was slight, and hopes are entertained for the recovery of the men. A large force of men are working to rescue of the men.

GERMAN TROOPS MAY NOT KNOW OF PROPOSAL

Out of a Group of German Prisoners Taken by British Sunday Only One Officer Knew Anything of the Proposition to Hold Peace Conference.

(By Associated Press.) With the British Army in France, Dec. 19, via London, Dec. 20.—Out of a group of German prisoners taken in one section on the British front Sunday only a non-commissioned officer had heard anything of the German Emperor's peace proposal. This circumstance, coupled with the fact that there had been absolutely no demonstrations from any part of the German trenches caused much speculation among British officers as to whether, despite the Emperor's address to the troops, the new peace overtures had been permitted to reach the men engaged on the fighting line.

BUNCOMBE SCHOOL BOY BREAKS NECK BY FALL

Thad Hemphill Stopped to Pick Up Snowball and Fell, Killing Himself—Was Prize Corn Grower.

Asheville, Dec. 19.—Thad Hemphill, son of Mr. and Mrs. P. O. Hemphill, of the Hemphill section, and a prize winner in the Buncombe county corn exhibit last Saturday, was almost instantly killed yesterday in a peculiar manner, while indulging in the boyish sport of snowballing. Stopping to pick up a handful of snow, the foot of the young man slipped and he fell, striking his head in a peculiar manner and breaking his neck. He lived about a half hour after being picked up. As a few minutes passed by and the fallen lad did not attempt to rise, investigation was made, and it was found that young Hemphill was unconscious. Medical aid was summoned at once, but efforts of the attending physicians were unavailing, the injured boy living less than a half hour after his fall. Investigation of the cause of death showed that the neck had been broken in such a manner as to affect the spinal cord, causing death. The youth was popular in his community and had a host of friends among the boys who attended the Hemphill school. He was one of the most promising members of the boys' corn club, his crop winning a prize of \$7.50 at the corn show here last Saturday. He raised 92 bushels to the acre.

LLOYD GEORGE'S SPEECH APPROVED

(By Associated Press.) London, Dec. 20.—Lloyd George's reply to the German peace proposal meets with a chorus of approval in the British press and the general comment is that if Germany really wants peace she will, when the joint reply of the allies is received, state the terms which can form a basis for discussion.

PRESIDENT CALLS ON SENATOR

Mr. Wilson on Learning of John Sharp Williams' Illness Goes to His Home.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 20.—President Wilson went to visit Senator Williams of Mississippi at the latter's home here today because he knew the Senator had some State affairs to talk over and understood he was ill. It turned out that Mr. Williams was well enough to go to his office so the President drove him there. Occasion where the President has called on Senators is rare. Tomorrow, December 21st, is the first day of winter from the standpoint of the calendar and the almanac. But some of us have a slight opinion that the first day of real winter appeared some days ago. This was pay day with the Southern Railway with its small army of trainmen and others outside of the shop force here today and no small amount of money was put into circulation.

COTTON GINNINGS.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Cotton ginned to December 13th amounted to 10,845,989 running bales against 10,306,369 last year to the same time the census bureau announced today. The ginnings for North Carolina were 618,946, South Carolina 894,090.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY FOR MANY CONVICTS

Governor Craig Again Grants Permission for Trusty Prisoners to Go to Their Homes.

APPLIES TO COUNTY CAMPS, JAILS AND THE LIKE

Will Be Allowed Unlimited Freedom Sunday, Monday, Tuesday; Must Return Wed.

Raleigh, Dec. 19.—Governor Craig today repeated his 1915 order that allow in North Carolina several hundred trusties in county and state convict camps to spend Christmas at home or in places of their living and gave to the more closely watched a three-day period during Christmas. This act of a year ago brought the governor into national favor and was one of the most written incidents in the range of penology. The confidence in the convicts, was amply justified, only one man breaking the faith. Another got drunk but he had the season in his bones. The whole humane thing was so gratifying to the governor that he could not resist this further desire to gladden the unfortunate of his citizens. By the terms of the parole this time each trusty will be allowed to spend the season where he will. They have December 24, 25, and 26 with final limit noon, December 27. Only one who turned up last year missed getting back on time but he was honorable and had a good excuse. The order applies to all county camps and embraces perhaps 200 trusties. Several times as many will be allowed their holiday though shut in prison walls. The governor's order reads: "To the superintendents of the State's prison, the sheriffs of the counties of North Carolina, and to the officers in charge of convict camps and forces: "Greetings: You are hereby authorized and requested to allow each and every prisoner who is and has been a trusty for 10 days prior to this date to return to his home or other place chosen by him, and to remain away from the camp or prison during Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, the 24th, 25th, and 26th of December, provided each trusty pledge his honor and satisfy the officer in charge that he will return by 12 o'clock on Wednesday, December 27. "You are further authorized and requested to give to all of the prisoners in your charge a holiday on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, the 24th, 25th and 26th of December. "You are furthermore directed and requested to report to me on or before the first day of January your action in accordance herewith and the results, and the name and conduct of each prisoner paroled. "A request and authority similar to this was issued in December, 1915. It was universally observed by sheriffs and officers. The prisoners that were paroled kept their promise with scrupulous fidelity, and showed that they were worthy of the confidence and trust."

23,000 SOLID CARS ARE SHIPPED FROM HIGH POINT

Street Cars, Furniture, Organs, Mirrors, Plate Glass, Textile Products and Many Other Articles Sent Out From Furniture City During Past Year. High Point, Dec. 20.—Shipments of products manufactured in High Point will aggregate approximately 23,000 solid cars this year, according to local transportation men and manufacturers. This will be an increase of about 2,500 cars over 1915 when 14,500 cars were forwarded. These shipments included all steel street cars, furniture of all kinds, organs, mirrors, plate glass, textile products and numerous other articles. No estimates are obtainable as regards the value of the shipments but it will amount to millions of dollars. The eighty or more manufacturing plants in operation during 1916 will be augmented in 1917, three hosiery mills and a factory for the manufacture of locks and other furniture hardware being expected to begin operations early in the year. Plans also are under way for the establishment of other enterprises, High Point during the last three months having had more new business concerns chartered than any other city in the state.