

DOUGHTON WANTS ABSENTEES GIVEN THE RIGHT TO VOTE

Introduces Bill in House To Provide For Voting In State Elections.

BRUMMITT WOULD RAISE PENSIONS

Would Also Raise Property Limit For Confederate Veterans.

Citizen Bureau, Raleigh, N. C. January 12. (By W. J. Martin.)

A bill introduced by Representative Doughton in the house today would provide for the voting of absentees in the elections of the state, the method being the sending of the ballot duly certified, to the home polling place not later than the election day.

The pension bill by Brummitt of Graniteville would raise the limit of property ownership by Confederate veterans that would bar them from receiving pensions from \$500 to \$1,000 and make a general raise in the various classes of pensions and increasing the various classes of pensions \$5 each so those now receiving \$75 would receive \$80; those now \$80, \$85; those \$85, \$90; those \$90, \$95; those \$95, \$100.

The senate discussed and defeated a resolution to spend \$250 for expert examination of the emergency acts passed the past week to correct any errors made in the rush legislation.

The appropriation of \$100,000 for 1917 and \$75,000 in 1918 toward a new fire-proof cottage system and heating plant for the North Carolina school for the blind is provided in a bill offered today in the legislature by Senator Harding, who is president pro tem of the senate.

Great numbers of the legislators, both senators and representatives, have gone to their homes for the week end.

COSTLY FIRE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN THE WORK OF PAID INCENDIARIES

Total Loss At Plant of Foundry Company Placed At \$16,000,000.

HEAVILY GUARDED

NEW YORK, Jan. 12.—A statement that the fire and explosion which wrecked the plant of the Canadian Car and Foundry company at Kingsland, N. J., yesterday was "possibly if not probably of incendiary origin," was issued here today by the officials of the company.

Of this total \$10,000,000 consists of shells and explosives owned by the Russian government. The rest was in destroyed property of the Canadian Car and Foundry company of which half was covered by insurance.

Until investigation is completed no further statement will be made as to what evidences of incendiaryism have been found, an officer of the company said.

It was explained that the danger of fire or of explosions from purely accidental causes was reduced to a minimum by the fact that no completed ordnance was on hand at the plant. The other side of the proposition was that the shells were not attached until they reached the battlefield and that the same was true as to the detonating caps by which the trinitrotoluol in the shell bodies is exploded.

INFANTRY BATTLE ALONG THE ANCRE BERLIN ASSERTS

The British Communication, However, Merely Reports Capture of Prisoners.

BRITISH WINNERS IN SEVERAL RAIDS

Teutons Continue Progress In Roumania—Roumanians Make Attack.

While Berlin asserts that infantry engagements are in progress north of the River Ancre in France, the British official communication merely reports the situation in that area by reporting the capture of an additional small number of prisoners, apparently as the result of a patrol raid.

The British have been successful in raids north of Arras and the French have captured prisoners in a sortie in the Vosges.

In the Oltuz valley in Moldavia, the Austro-Germans continue to advance against the Roumanians and Roumanians, while in the Sutchiza valley they repulsed attacks by the Russians.

The forces of Field Marshal von Mackensen are reported to be progressing between Braila and Galatz. The Russians have been pushed back further toward the Sereth and the town of LaBurtea has been taken.

A Turkish official report of January 11 says a British cruiser of the Juno type, measuring 5,600 tons, was sunk by Turkish gunfire during an attack on the island of Kastelorizo in the eastern Mediterranean.

WEATHER INTERFERES. BERLIN, Jan. 12.—(Via Sayville.)—The advance of the Austro-German troops across the wooded Carpathians into Moldavia is being hampered by the unfavorable condition of the terrain.

AUSTRIA FOLLOWS WITH NOTE MUCH SIMILAR TO REGENT BERLIN PAPER

Says That She Is Not Responsible For Continuance of War.

AIMS AND PURPOSES

LONDON, Jan. 12.—Count Czernin von Chudenitz, the Austrian foreign minister, has addressed to the diplomatic representatives of the United States and other neutrals and of the Holy See, a note defining the Austro-German government's views of the situation created by the entente's reply to the peace proposals of the central powers, according to a Vienna dispatch under Thursday's date transmitted by Reuters' Amsterdam correspondent.

The note follows the same lines as the German note, the dispatch states emphasizing particularly the situation existing between Austria and Serbia. In this section the note is thus quoted: "In the year's preceding the Austro-Hungarian ultimatum to Serbia the monarchy displayed sufficient proof of its forbearance towards the overtures of increasing hostility, aggressive intentions and intrigues of Serbia until the moment when finally the notorious murders at Sarajevo made further indulgence impossible."

In a later passage of the note as quoted in the dispatch, appears the following: "The question as to on which side the military situation is the stronger appears idle and may confidently be left to the judgment of the world. The four allied powers now look on their purely defensive war aims as attained, while their enemies travel further and further from the realization of their plans."

"Before God and mankind we repudiate responsibility for continuance of the war."

BIG POWDER PLANT IS DESTROYED BY GREAT EXPLOSION

Four Hundred Thousand Pounds of Powder Go Up In Smoke.

TWO LIVES LOST, IS OFFICIALS' BELIEF

Two Distinct Explosions Followed By Fire Wreak Havoc At Haskell, N.J.

NEW YORK, Jan. 12.—Four hundred thousand pounds of powder was destroyed by fire and explosion at the Haskell, N. J., plant of the DuPont Powder company at 9:30 o'clock tonight.

Officials of the company declared after checking up the workers that only two men were missing. Twelve others were cut by flying debris, but none of them was seriously hurt. No estimate of the loss was obtainable.

Two Explosions. There were two distinct explosions, of terrific force. Buildings were shaken and windows shattered far out on Long Island and up the Hudson river to Foughkeeps.

The fire then was checked by the efforts of the company's employees. The fire which resulted, leaped to the blending house and from there to three magazines. One of the magazines blew up, but the powder in the others was consumed by the flames.

The blazing magazines set fire to the screening house, from which the flames leaped across Wanauque river and consumed three drying houses. The fire then was checked by the efforts of the company's employees.

Other buildings in the plant and many in the village were shattered by the explosion.

Two Believed Dead. No estimate was available of the number of men at work when the disaster occurred, but company officials rounded up their men to check up the casualties. It is feared that two who were employed in the "glazing barrel" lost their lives.

Rescue parties were quickly organized to search for the injured and as soon as they were found they were taken to the company's private hospital. All the doctors available were summoned.

Haskell is situated in a remote section to Rancocas county and communication with it either by telephone or telegraph ceased after the first explosion. As a consequence reports of heavy loss of life soon were circulated in nearby places.

Following so closely upon the destruction of the Kingsland plant of the Canadian Car and Foundry company, the explosion threw all northern New Jersey into a panic.

CHARGED WITH PLOT TO KILL HIRAM W. JOHNSON AND 'BLOW UP' THE STATE

Berkman, Anarchist Editor of 'The Blast' Is In the Toils

OTHERS CAUGHT

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 12.—Alexander Berkman, editor of The Blast, anarchist publication, and seven others prominent in labor circles here, today were charged with having directed a conspiracy to assassinate Senator-elect Hiram W. Johnson, "blow up" the state and to overthrow the government.

Those who were alleged to be associated with Berkman include Miss M. E. Fitzgerald, his secretary, Robert Minor, treasurer for the International Workers' Defense league; Thomas J. Mooney, labor organizer, and four others who are on trial with him for murder in connection with the bomb explosion that killed participants in the preparedness parade here last July.



ATTITUDE OF PRESIDENT WILSON ON THE REPLIES OF WARRING NATIONS TO HIS PEACE SUGGESTIONS NOT DETERMINED

Preliminary Discussion of the Question Begun at Cabinet Meeting Yesterday.—Problem of How to Reconcile the Conflicting Attitude of Entente and Central Powers Confronts the Chief Executive.—Various Plans Are Outlined.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—The attitude of President Wilson toward the replies of the warring nations to his suggestion that an opportunity be given for comparing peace terms, remained undetermined tonight.

Preliminary discussion of the question was begun at today's cabinet meeting, and at conference between the president and Secretary Lansing and Colonel E. M. House, who spent the day at the white house.

Informally, officials expressed the opinion that the problem facing the president is how to reconcile the conflicting attitude of the central powers and the entente nations on the question of comparing peace terms.

The central powers having offered to discuss peace at a conference of representatives of the belligerents, and the entente powers, though virtually declining to agree to a conference, have suggested that the president might seek a new method of having terms compared.

Plans Discussed. In his original note he said he was indifferent as to the means employed to secure this desired end, and it was thought he now would adopt putting him in a position of advocating a particular method.

It is generally agreed everywhere that the nature of the terms of the entente, with the intimations from Germany that in view of Carranza's repeated refusal to ratify the protocol signed at Atlantic City they regard further conferences as useless.

Rests With President. In the German view here it rests entirely with the president whether Mexican action will be outlined next Monday.

Believed That Pershing's Troops Will Be Withdrawn At Early Date.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—The next moves to be made by the United States in dealing with the de facto government of Mexico have been decided upon by President Wilson and will be announced after the meeting in New York Monday of the Mexican-American commission.

Secretary Lane and the other members of the American commission will meet Carranza's representatives in New York, Monday in what is expected to be the final session of the joint commission.

Carranza suggested that his refusal to sign the protocol need not prevent the commissioners from considering many questions at issue between the two governments, and the Mexican commissioners may endeavor again Monday to have the conference resumed.

It was indicated today that the withdrawal of the American troops would be carried out on conditions General Carranza was asked to agree notwithstanding his failure to give the plan his sanction.

ROYAL WELCOME IS EXTENDED TO GOVERNOR CRAIG

Asheville Pays Warm Tribute To "Locke Craig, Private Citizen."

LOCKE CRAIG, JR., IS AMONG SPEAKERS

"Hello, Daddy," Is His Welcome To Returning Governor North Carolina.

These two words, spoken in a childish treble that carried to every corner of the Majestic theatre, were the first spoken words of welcome to Governor Locke Craig yesterday at the return to Asheville and private life.

Locke Craig, Jr., three-year-old son of Governor and Mrs. Craig, was the speaker, and the welcome, coming just at the close of the opening overture, and accompanied by a wave of his tiny hand, brought a tender smile to the countenance of the man whose fellow citizens had assembled to do him honor, and called an outburst of applause throughout the theatre.

Glad to Get Home. Governor Craig was glad to get home. His voice trembled with emotion as he told the people of his desire to live and die in these grand old mountains, and he declared that despite his pride in being selected as chief executive of this great state, that no convict he had ever pardoned; the holidays had ever been more glad than he was to lay aside the burdens of office and become once more a private citizen of Asheville.

Governor Craig was met at the station by a committee headed by Judge J. D. Murphy and Mayor J. B. Rankin, and was escorted to the Majestic theatre by about twenty automobiles filled with people who had assembled to welcome the distinguished citizen to his home.

Governor Craig's train was nearly an hour late. As it pulled into the station, members of the committee went through the gates and welcomed him as he left the train.

Arrived at the Majestic theatre, where the exercises were held, Governor Craig and the members of the committee took seats on the stage, Judge Murphy acting as master of ceremonies. The speech of the governor's youngest son, received one of the greatest outbursts of applause heard during the morning.

Before introducing Dr. George T. Winston, Judge Murphy paid a warm tribute to Governor Craig. He said in safety with our country.

"Four years ago Governor Craig left the office of chief executive of this state, and returned to his private life."

ITALIAN BATTLESHIP REGINA MARGHERITA HITS MINE AND SINKS

Sent To Bottom With 675 Men On December 11, Is Declared.

PART OF CREW SAVED

ROME (Via Paris, Jan. 12.)—It is officially announced that the Italian battleship Regina Margherita struck a mine and sank December 11. Six hundred and seventy-five men on board perished. Two hundred and seventy were saved.

The loss of 600 lives by the destruction of an Italian battleship is reported by the Anzeiger of Basel, Switzerland, according to the Over-Sea News agency.

The Anzeiger of Basel reports from Rome the destruction of the Italian battleship Regina Margherita. It is confirmed that she was sunk off Avlona, Albania, by a mine or a torpedo. Six hundred out of 830 sailors perished.

THE WEATHER. WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—Forecast for North Carolina: Probably rain and warmer Saturday; Sunday clearing and colder.