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PRICE TWO CENTS

LACONIA SINKING AN ADMITTED OVERT ACT; WILSON MAY PUT QUESTION UP TO CONGRESS

TORPEDOING OF LACONIA DECLARED AN OVERT ACT

Everybody Agreed That Sinking is Another Lusitania in Principle--To Furnish Guns and Gunners to American Ships--Republican Filibuster Regarded L. Kelly.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 27.—Official dispatches confirming the report of deaths of Americans on board the Laconia, sunk without warning, will establish the case of an "overt act." The situation, however, was unchanged from where the president left it yesterday when he asked congress for authority to deal with the submarine peril. President Wilson and cabinet officers took the position that there was nothing new. The view prevailed that the sinking of the Laconia should hasten action by congress. The first step of the government will be to furnish American ships with guns and gunners and insure them in

What a Thrift Garden in Your Back Yard Can be Made to Produce

A Thrift Garden in the back yard, 25x50 feet will—
At a cost not exceeding \$2. for best seeds and \$5 for fertilizer.—
If properly cultivated very material-ly reduce the cost of living.
Supply a family of six with fresh vegetables throughout the season.
It can be made to yield produce, in cash value, from \$50 to \$100 per season.
It will provide wholesome and profitable exercise for mind and body.
It will make a more contented people.
It will teach preparedness and economy.
It will conserve the resources of the country.
Thrift Gardens will be the innovation and one of the dominant features of the fifth annual crusade of the National Clean Up and Paint Up Campaign Bureau, which is being directed from the national headquarters, Security Building, St. Louis.
The Thrift Garden idea, which means the utilizing of the backyard, vacant lots and waste grounds of a community, was originated by Allen W. Clark, chairman and founder of the National Clean Up and Paint Up Campaign, with a view of directing the attention of the people of the nation and cities to an immediate and effective way of reducing the high cost of living. A way which lies near at hand—the backyard.
Mr. Clark has been engaged in working out the details of such a campaign since last August. His foresightedness in this will help solve a most serious problem now confronting every household. The distressing "food riots" now raging in some of the Eastern cities and the high cost of living makes this the psychological time for directing the attention of the people to the means of relief at hand. In this he has received the cooperation of the officials of the Missouri Botanical Gardens—popularity known as Shaw's Gardens—who are devoting the February Bulletin of the Garden to authoritative and helpful directions on backyard garden and beautification.
D. A. George, T. Moore, director of the Missouri Botanical Gardens, has granted permission to Mr. Clark to reprint that portion of the Garden Bulletin bearing upon the Thrift Gardens. This reprint will be widely distributed by the National Clean Up and Paint Up Campaign Bureau. It contains valuable suggestions as to planting, soil preparation, culture of plants and the best variety to plant under given conditions and in certain surroundings.
It has been estimated by authorities on gardening and production that a backyard Thrift Garden, 25x50 feet, will supply a family of six with an abundance of fresh vegetables, sufficient to supply all needs through the season if judiciously planted and given the proper care and attention.
The vegetable garden department of the Missouri Botanical Gardens, through experimental gardens and careful study and investigation, finds that a plot of ground 25x50 feet can be made to yield vegetables in cash value of \$100 per season, and in not less than \$50, if planting is carefully planned, so that the soil is in constant use and properly nourished by fertilization and cultivation. The estimated cost for the best seeds necessary for planting such a plot is \$2.00, while the cost of fertilizer for the poorest soil even in a city Thrift Garden should not exceed \$5.00 the season. Soil in a smoke-infested district will require lime in addition to the soil produced by the acid taken at the lowest estimate of \$50 per plot of 25x50 feet per season.
The Rev. Dr. J. M. Clark will leave Friday or Saturday for Unity church, Rowan county.

BRITISH ADVANCE CONTINUES IN FRANCE

(By Associated Press.) Military operations of high importance on the Somme in France are in progress, where the British continue to push forward after the retreating Germans. The British advance at last accounts was but three miles from the German stronghold of Bapaume, and there is as yet no indication as to how far the Germans have withdrawn. Elsewhere except on the Tigris, where the British are pushing the Turks westward after capturing Kut-el-Amara, military activities do not appear to have been of great importance.

TO PAY JUDGES TO EXAMINE LAWFULNESS

Raleigh, Feb. 27.—The first equal suffrage bill in the history of the state to get through either branch of the general assembly, was that passed last night by the senate which gives the voters of Bryson City the right to vote on the question of giving the women of the town the right of municipal suffrage. This bill was introduced by Senator Kelly Bennett of Bryson City, who already has to his credit, in the way of progressive legislation, the bill preventing the sale of certain fraudulent remedies which is now a law.
A bill to establish the office of prohibition commissioner was introduced by Senator Tucker.
That a bond issue of considerable proportions appears inevitable and is likely to be made at this session in addition to the \$2,700,000 issue necessary to refund the bonds which will fall due in April, 1919, was gained from the statement and comments of the committee on appropriation. The committee on appropriations has not completed its hearings and therefore has not completed its detailed statement. So far the amounts asked for maintenance of institutions aggregate \$4,329,135 for 1917. For permanent improvements for the same period \$3,070,161 is asked. This makes a total of \$7,399,296.
The senate passed the house bill relative to the examination of applicants to practice law. This provides that the examination shall be held by three members of the supreme court two weeks prior to the beginning of the spring and fall terms of the court and gives each judge \$100 compensation for conducting these examinations, aggregating \$600 for the two examinations. This compensation comes from the library fund and the compensation is given as the time consumed is during the vacation of the judges. Senator Burgwyn opposed this change and lodged a motion at the morning session, when the bill passed to reconsider the vote by which the bill passed its third reading. His motion at night to reconsider after some sharp debate, was lost.

EQUAL SUFFRAGE WINS IN COLLEGE DEBATE

The Christian Literary Society of Lenoir College celebrated its 26th anniversary Monday night with the following program:
Piano solo, Miss Ruth Rhodes; address of welcome, J. W. Motteler; "The Master Key," an oration, R. G. Sigmon; vocal solo, Miss Mary Huffman.
Debate: "Resolved, That the women of the United States should have equal suffrage with men." Affirmative, C. T. Carpenter and C. H. Reitzel; negative, C. J. Rice and D. L. Wessinger. Judges were Dr. J. L. Murphy, Supt. C. E. McIntosh and R. H. Shuford.
The affirmative won, Mr. Reitzel securing the medal for the best debate.

STEAMER AIRES IS SUNK BY U-BOAT

(By Associated Press.) London, Feb. 27.—The British steamer Aires of 3,072 tons, has been sunk by a German submarine, Lloyd's announced today. The crew was landed.

REFUSE TO GIVE WILSON ALL POWER

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 27.—On an unofficial vote the house foreign affairs committee today agreed to strike from the administration bill the phrase to empower the president to take "other instrumentalities" and to substitute "use the naval forces of the United States, including the naval militia." The senate foreign relations committee considering the bill showed a disposition to modify the "other instrumentalities" phrase. The Republican senators voted solidly against it and got some support, it was said, from Democratic senators.
No formal action was taken in either committee and while the house committee was in adjournment until 1 o'clock this afternoon, Chairman Flood took to the white house proposed amendments, including one preventing the arming of ships carrying munitions and contraband.
The senate committee has decided to redraft the bill to make it more explicit. The right to arm ships, it was said, would make the form of the resolution so as to give owners the power to arm ships.

BRYAN OPPOSES PRESIDENT'S PURPOSE

(By Associated Press.) Jacksonville, Fla., Feb. 27.—William Jennings Bryan, in a statement given out here today, said that he was opposed to giving power to the president such as Mr. Wilson asked yesterday.
After sending out a number of telegrams, Mr. Bryan said he had decided to proceed to the capitol and use his influence to have the request declined. He cancelled five engagements yesterday.
"Whatever power is conferred upon the president should, I think, be so limited as not to constitute a surrender of the power of congress," he said today.
Mr. Bryan said he had the greatest faith in the president's high purpose, but it is his opinion that it will be unwise to delegate power to the president, however wise he may be.

CROWDED HOUSE TO SEE PLAY TONIGHT

From present indications the farce comedy, "A Midnight Elopement," will be rendered before an audience that will tax the Hub theatre to capacity tonight. The Hickory Dramatic Club, like good wine, needs no bush, but it may be said that the artists are being praised yet for their first performance. The show will not be long and tiresome, and everybody will have a laugh.

MARKETS

	Open
March	16.40
May	16.46
July	16.39
October	15.87
December	15.97

HICKORY MARKETS

Cotton	None
Wheat	\$2.00

THE WEATHER

(By Associated Press.) For North Carolina: Cloudy and colder tonight and Wednesday moderate to fresh west winds becoming north.

BONE DRY LAW YET MAY BE WETTED

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 27.—Opponents of the bone dry prohibition amendment were optimistic today because senate and house conferees on the house postal bill were unable to break their deadlock on the proposal of the senate amendment directing the postmaster general to renew pneumatic tubes for another year. Unless the deadlock is broken and the bill finally passed by both houses the bill cannot become law and the Reed amendment will not be in force after July 1.
Senate and house conferees absolutely refused to budge from their positions.

JONES SUFFRAGE BILL ALMOST PASSES

Record's Special Legislative Report. Raleigh, Feb. 27.—The Jones suffrage bill shorn of its municipal suffrage feature and applying only to the vote for presidential elector came close to getting through the senate today, but was lost by a vote of 20 to 24.
Jones was aided in his championship by Jonas and Gregg, Republicans, Jonas stating that he was going to vote his convictions in spite of the fact that Jones charged the women of the west "with all that devilment"—meaning the election of Wilson.
The senate knocked the rivets out of the boiler inspection bill.
In the house following the passage of the machinery act, the meeting resolved itself into a heated discussion of fisheries.

HICKORY MAN ELECTED TRUSTEE OF UNIVERSITY

Mr. A. A. Shuford, Jr., of Hickory was elected trustee of the University of North Carolina at the joint session of the general assembly Monday afternoon, and Senator C. A. Jonas of Lincolnton also was elected. The complete list is as follows:
For terms expiring November 30, 1927—David, C. Barnes, Hertford; D. F. Ray, Cumberland; Dr. A. E. Abernathy Orange; J. S. Carr, Durham; Joseph Daniels, Wake; A. W. Graham, Granville; J. Bryan Grimes, Pitt; J. S. Cunningham, Durham; L. T. Hartsell, Cabarrus; Perrin Busbee, Wake; J. W. Hinsdale, Jr., Wake; F. P. Hobgood, Granville; W. Stamps Howard, Edgecombe; Paul Jones Northampton; H. A. Landon, Chatham; G. M. Rose, Cumberland; G. C. Green, Halifax; James Sprunt, New Hanover; A. W. McLean, Robeson; George Stephens, Mecklenburg. Terms expiring November 30, 1923—Stanly Winborne, Hertford; George A. Holderness, Edgecombe; Chase Brenizer, Mecklenburg; George Pritchard, Madison. Terms expiring November 30, 1922—J. L. Patterson, Halifax; C. G. Wright, Guilford; C. A. Jonas, Lincoln; A. H. Price, Rowan; Claudius Dockery, Montgomery. Term expiring November 30, 1919—Leonard Tufts, Moore. Twenty additional trustees by special act: to expire November 30, 1925—R. L. Haymore, Surry; H. P. Grier, Iredell; Dr. J. G. Blount, Beaufort; J. R. Warren Jones; A. L. Beaufort; Scotland. Terms to expire November 30, 1923—K. E. Donnet, Swain; T. C. Bowie Ashe; R. L. Smith, Stanly; Julius Duncan, Carteret; S. R. Hoyle Lee. Terms expiring November 30, 1921—J. H. Pearson, Jr., Burke; E. L. Gaither, Davie; W. M. Person, Franklin; J. C. Kittrell, Vance; J. S. Mann, Hyde. Terms expiring November 30, 1919—A. A. Shuford, Jr., Catawba; Dr. E. J. Tucker, Person; Frank Linney Watauga; I. P. Davis, Dare; B. L. Banks, Jr., Gates.

Mr. C. L. Berry of Marion spent Sunday and Monday with his sister, Mrs. W. C. Burns on Tenth avenue.

BAPTIST EDITOR DEAD

(By Associated Press.) Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 27.—Dr. Edgar E. Folk, editor of the Baptist and Reflector, the organ of the Tennessee Baptists, died here this morning as the result of blood poisoning.

THIRTEEN PERSONS, TEN AMERICANS, AMONG LOST

Mrs. Hoy and Daughter and Eight Negroes Lose Lives on Laconia, Which Was Sunk Without Warning--Bulletins From London and Queestown on Calamity.

(By Associated Press.) London, Feb. 27.—A Queenstown dispatch to the Daily Mail says that it is certain that Mrs. Hoy and her daughter, American passengers, on the Laconia, have lost their lives.
AMERICAN PASSENGERS
(By Associated Press.) London, Feb. 27.—American Consul Frost at Queenstown has telegraphed the American embassy here that Mrs. Hoy and her daughter, Americans are dead and were buried at sea.
EIGHT AMERICANS
(By Associated Press.) London, Feb. 27.—Eight American negroes, members of the crew of the Laconia, died of exposure, according to a Central News dispatch from Queenstown.
THIRTEEN ARE DEAD
(By Associated Press.) London, Feb. 27.—A later telegram from Consul Frost at Queenstown says 281 persons out of 294 were rescued from Laconia. Five were drowned and eight died from exposure.

MANY WOUNDED SOLDIERS KILLED

(By Associated Press.) Petrograd, via London, Feb. 27.—A train carrying 228 invalided soldiers who were on their way here from Germany through Sweden went off the track last night in Sweden, says an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Stockholm. Thirty insane men were among those killed.
The work of rescue was made difficult by the condition of the passengers, most of whom were blind, had lost arms or legs and were otherwise rendered incapable of helping themselves.

BRITISH TRANSPORT SENT TO BOTTOM

(By Associated Press.) Berlin, Sunday, Feb. 27.—Via Sayville, Feb. 27.—The sinking of the British transport steamer A-19 was announced by the admiralty today.
For terms expiring November 30, 1927—David, C. Barnes, Hertford; D. F. Ray, Cumberland; Dr. A. E. Abernathy Orange; J. S. Carr, Durham; Joseph Daniels, Wake; A. W. Graham, Granville; J. Bryan Grimes, Pitt; J. S. Cunningham, Durham; L. T. Hartsell, Cabarrus; Perrin Busbee, Wake; J. W. Hinsdale, Jr., Wake; F. P. Hobgood, Granville; W. Stamps Howard, Edgecombe; Paul Jones Northampton; H. A. Landon, Chatham; G. M. Rose, Cumberland; G. C. Green, Halifax; James Sprunt, New Hanover; A. W. McLean, Robeson; George Stephens, Mecklenburg. Terms expiring November 30, 1923—Stanly Winborne, Hertford; George A. Holderness, Edgecombe; Chase Brenizer, Mecklenburg; George Pritchard, Madison. Terms expiring November 30, 1922—J. L. Patterson, Halifax; C. G. Wright, Guilford; C. A. Jonas, Lincoln; A. H. Price, Rowan; Claudius Dockery, Montgomery. Term expiring November 30, 1919—Leonard Tufts, Moore. Twenty additional trustees by special act: to expire November 30, 1925—R. L. Haymore, Surry; H. P. Grier, Iredell; Dr. J. G. Blount, Beaufort; J. R. Warren Jones; A. L. Beaufort; Scotland. Terms to expire November 30, 1923—K. E. Donnet, Swain; T. C. Bowie Ashe; R. L. Smith, Stanly; Julius Duncan, Carteret; S. R. Hoyle Lee. Terms expiring November 30, 1921—J. H. Pearson, Jr., Burke; E. L. Gaither, Davie; W. M. Person, Franklin; J. C. Kittrell, Vance; J. S. Mann, Hyde. Terms expiring November 30, 1919—A. A. Shuford, Jr., Catawba; Dr. E. J. Tucker, Person; Frank Linney Watauga; I. P. Davis, Dare; B. L. Banks, Jr., Gates.

JUSTICE TO MITCHELL

The statement that Mr. Elwood Mitchell allowed his opponent to score 50 points over him in Saturday's game at Asheville was an error. As a matter of record, young Mitchell is the best all-round athlete in the Hickory schools and his friends know it. The locals are not pleading extenuating circumstances, but they had been unable to use the armory for weeks and as a result were not in practice when they met Asheville. That accounts in part for the bad score, though they are not contending that they would have won in any event.

Twenty or More Killed When Freight Train Hits Pennsylvania Passenger

(By Associated Press.) Altoona, Pa., Feb. 27.—Twenty or more persons were killed when the eastbound Mercantile express on the Pennsylvania Railroad was hit shortly after midnight by a fast freight train at the station at the little mountain town of Mount Union, 43 miles east of here, in a heavy fog. Several others were injured.
The express train had stopped to discharge passengers at Mount Union and the members of the crew were examining the train when the freight struck it.
Alongside the express train at the station was an accommodation train carrying workmen from the Mount Union powder plant and this train had barely moved away from the station when the crash occurred.
There were three steel sleeping cars to the express and these were welded together by the impact.
As the freight engine plowed into the passenger train, the rear coach of the latter pierced the next passenger coach.
The freight engine was welded into

the rear passenger car. None of the passenger cars left the track, but six of the freight cars, loaded with coal, were hurled down a 40-foot embankment.
Little headway could be made in reaching the dead and injured owing to the three sleeping coaches being massed together. The bedwood sleepers were split apart and the car ahead was forced through it, while the car ahead had plowed into the second car.
Telescoping of the cars was of such force that all the occupants in the cars were imprisoned. The train crews were unable to render assistance to the injured.
An official of the railroad here said that the list of dead may exceed 20. This official places the blame on the freight engineer, A. E. Cook, of Harrisburg, who had a leg crushed.
It was the first time in three years that a passenger has been killed in a wreck on the Pennsylvania Railroad.
At noon today Pennsylvania Railroad officials said the list of killed stood at 20, of whom 17 had been identified.