

ALLIES' COUNTER OFFENSIVE FINDS A STRONG RESISTANCE

Hand-to-Hand and Bloody Fighting Is Report from Western Arena

AUSTRIANS ARE DEFEATED

Russians Defending Lovicz Have Cut Forces of General Mackenzie to Pieces. Struggle Goes On With Terrible Fierceness

(By the United Press) Paris, Dec. 14.—Desperate fighting is in progress on the extreme western battle front in the region of Ypres, through Armentieres and Labasse. The allied counter offensive met very strong resistance which resulted in bloody hand-to-hand fighting. In a charge by the Allies on the Labasse canal at Endre the German remnant there was practically wiped out.

Point of German's Advance Swept Away Short range fighting is going on in the Lowicz region. The German advance north of the Vistula from Miwa to the Przasnysz region has been destroyed.

French Attempt to Flank St. Mihiel. In serious fighting in the Woivre region the French are making a flanking movement against the Germans holding St. Mihiel. A German attack on Ansbach has been repulsed. German Bulletin Says Defence Holds Berlin, Dec. 14.—It is officially announced that light French attacks on the line between the Meuse and Vosges were easily repulsed.

German Trenches Ruined by Shells. Paris, Dec. 14.—German trenches were destroyed during heavy cannonading in the Souanir region. Advances were made in the Laguerrie woods by mining.

Russians Strike Hard at Invaders Petrograd, Dec. 14.—The Russians defending the Lowicz region have inflicted serious losses upon the forces of General Mackenzie, whose lines must be re-formed before he can attempt another offensive movement.

Servians Successful in Clash With Invaders. London, Dec. 14.—An official report from Nish says that in the direction of Milanowitz and Belgrade the Servian advance was successful. In the battle which followed their meeting with the Austrians the Servians captured seven officers and more than 2,100 men.

French Troops Still Advancing. Paris, Dec. 14.—An official communique says there is a continued advance by the French forces. Five hundred yards of trenches were taken by the French in an attack in the region of Woivre, forcing the German retirement northward in a diagonal line between the Meuse line or fortresses and Metz.

BULLETINS

(By the United Press.)

RUSSIANS DRIVE ENEMY BEYOND EUFRATES

Petrograd, Dec. 14.—An official statement of fighting in front of villages Pyrousk, Esmer and Doutak says the enemy was repulsed and pursued beyond the Euphrates river with severe losses.

TWO AUSTRIAN TORPEDO BOATS SUNK BY MINES

Rome, Dec. 14.—A message from Trieste says two Austrian torpedo boats are reported sunk in the Adriatic. They struck mines and both crews and ships were lost.

BRITISH SUBMARINE SINKS TURKISH SHIP

London, Dec. 14.—British submarine B-11 is reported to have torpedoed the Turkish battleship Mesoudieh in Dardanelles. B-11 dived under five rows of men-of-war, launching without difficulty the torpedo, which struck the Turkish warship. The submarine escaped.

AMERICAN TROOPS MAY BE COMPELLED TO CROSS THE LINE

To Stop Firing from Mexican Side, Which Continues Despite All Warning

CARRANZA'S NOTE TO U. S.

Tells Bryan He Will Regard Use of Force By This Government as a Hostile Act—Executioners Shoot Down Five Persons

(By the United Press.) Washington, Dec. 14.—Despite the withdrawal of the Mexican convention forces, bullets still land north of the boundary line. Each faction blames the other. It is accepted in official quarters that a continuation of the carelessness will force the United States to act.

Carranza Warns the United States. General Carranza officially informed Secretary Bryan that the use of force by the United States at Naco will be considered an act of hostility.

Five Shot to Death by Firing Squad. Special Agent Silliman today wired the State Department that General Puentes, whose son is the husband of Huerta's daughter, and four minor officials were executed by a firing squad in the Spanish cemetery at Mexico City.

Carranza stated that although he considered it impossible for constitutional troops to wound Americans for the reason that the constitutionalists are fighting with their backs to the American side, he had given instructions to General Hill to avoid such firing as would endanger the lives of Americans. Carranza declared any hostile act by the United States at Naco would directly siding with Villa.

Two Americans Killed in Sonora. Washington, Dec. 14.—Two Americans were killed by Mexicans between Agua Prieta and Naco, in the State of Sonora, the consular agent at Cananea has reported to the State Department. H. Perry Meaker, an Englishman, is imprisoned at Navajo, Sonora, charged with transporting enemies of the dominant powers in an automobile. Vera Cruz street railway employees are on a strike. No cars are running.

DRESDEN FLEEING TO WATERS OF PACIFIC

Sole Remaining Ship of Von Spee's Squadron Eludes Pursuing British Ships and Passes Punta Arenas Under Full Speed.

(By the United Press.) Buenos Aires, Dec. 14.—The German consulate at Punta Arenas today reported that the cruiser Dresden, of Admiral Von Spee's squadron, passed that port, escaping from the British fleet uninjured. A cruiser reported aground at the mouth of the Galagos river is not the Dresden, but is believed to be a British cruiser. The Argentine government has announced that the cruiser has departed. Two British dreadnoughts and six cruisers were engaged against the fleet of Admiral Von Spee. Punta Arenas is four hundred miles from the Falkland Islands. It is believed the Dresden was headed for the Pacific.

LEADING LADY IN A REAL LIFE DRAMA.

Goldsboro, Dec. 13.—The piercing screams of a woman, which caused a good deal of excitement at a local boarding house last night about 11 o'clock, proved to be the hysterical emotions of Miss Edna Elizabeth Murphy, the leading woman of the Gordon stock company, which is playing an engagement at the Crystal Theater in this city, caused by the receipt of a telegram announcing the death of her fiancée in Virginia. Following the screams of Miss Murphy, other female members present when she received the message, so it is alleged, fainted, and for a while the little boarding house was a scene of a melodrama that was exciting.

DEAF MUTE "USED ABUSIVE LANGUAGE" TO HIS WIFE

San Bernardino, Cal., December 13.—Rather paradoxical are the charges made by Mrs. Elizabeth Russell against John Wilson Russell in her suit for divorce, filed in the Superior Court.

FULL DOCKET FOR CLOSING TERM OF CRIMINAL COURT

Two Hundred and Eleven Cases Before the Bar of Justice

JUDGE DANIELS PRESIDING

His Last Sitting Here for a Long Time—Berns' and Convict Whipping Test Cases Probably Most Interesting on the List

With 211 cases docketed, Judge Frank Daniels this morning at 10 o'clock opened the last term of Superior Court of the year for Lenoir county. Incidentally, under the present plan of rotation, it will be Judge Daniels' last sitting here in ten years, except by exchange or special appointment. He has conducted the courts of six months in Kinston with one exception, when he exchanged with Judge George Rountree.

The term is for one week and the trial of criminal cases only. Although the docket is large, there are no cases of more than passing interest. David Berns, a palmit, will be arraigned for defrauding a farmer of money. Berns' case attracted considerable attention several weeks ago when he was arrested, it being alleged that he had by a systematic artifice swindled a Cove City man named Heath out of more than \$50. E. W. Mintchew's appeal from a magistrate's fine of \$25 will be heard. Mintchew, a convict guard, was assessed the fine for whipping Elvin Sparrow, a young white convict, for repeated violation of sanitary rules of the camp. The case is a test, County Commissioners and the superintendent of roads taking the view that Mintchew's action was warranted. Diminutive black Annie McGee, who some months ago shot to death "Big Boy," her consort, in a North street house, will be tried for murder, but it is not expected that she will get more than a minimum sentence.

Clerk of the Court Jesse T. Heath sat in the courtroom for the first time. The new clerk called the jurors and attended his multifarious other duties in a snappy, business-like manner. He has already proven himself efficient so far as his work in the court is concerned.

In his charge to the jury Judge Daniels spoke for two hours, reiterating his views, expressed at previous courts here, on vice segregation, blind tigers and fornication and adultery. He devoted some time to a discussion of gambling. He criticized some local conditions, including the submitting of misdemeanors out of police court, and also touched upon night sessions of that court, for which, however, there is a precedent of long standing and contended by municipal authorities to be preferable for all concerned over day sessions.

GOOD ROADS SHOW OPEN.

Chicago, Dec. 14.—With expert road builders from nearly every important city in the United States represented and with exhibits of ideal streets and roads and road-making machinery, the annual Good Roads Show and Congress opened at the International Amphitheater today. The convention will be in session for the entire week.

The opening of the show and the exhibition of moving pictures picturing the finest highways of the country is the program scheduled for today. Exhibits from the federal government, the various states and colleges showing methods and materials of constructing are being shown. A feature which is attracting most attention is a section of a modern boulevard, in the arena of the exposition building twenty feet wide and about 400 feet long, constructed of the different kinds of materials used in modern highway engineering.

Part of the money received from the sale of "made in America" products will be used to employ destitute men and women, who will be set to work making garments for the war victims.

TERROR OF NAVIGATORS



This big steel ball is one of the deadly mines that are feared by all navigators. It was washed ashore at Sizewell, Suffolk, and its explosives were removed by a torpedo instructor. Many of these mines have been beached along the coast of England.

REMARKABLE EXPERIENCE OF NOTED LAWBREAKER

Assumed Name Almost Cost Him Life Term in Atlanta, and Did Result in Execution of Fourteen Year Sentence

Jonah Houston, who about fifteen years ago fired into a posse of Federal officers who raided his still near here, wounding F. Trumbo Harper, was Saturday evening taken from here to the Edgecombe county roads to begin a sentence of fourteen years. Houston is a most remarkable prisoner. Mr. Harper, who accompanied the officers upon the eventual raid as a posseman, is now a mail carrier working out of the local postoffice. Houston was brought here, with four negroes, from Jones county Superior Court at Trenton.

After the capture of Houston in the raid in which Harper was wounded, the moonshiner was sentenced to three years in Atlanta Federal penitentiary. At the expiration of his sentence he came back to North Carolina and got into trouble in Jones county. This netted him a sentence of fourteen years, with the alternative of banishment from the State. He chose the latter, but in time returned and located around Elizabeth City, where he went under the name of a life-terminer with whom he had become acquainted in Atlanta prison. Some time afterward the life-terminer escaped, and Houston's neighbors marked the similarity of the names. He was arrested and taken to Atlanta.

In the prison a strange thing happened. The warden positively identified Houston as the life-terminer, and sent him to a cell to stay the remainder of his mortal existence. This forced Jonah Houston to reveal his identity and ask that the sheriff of Jones county be sent for to confirm it. The sheriff arrived, satisfied the warden, and Houston was brought back to Jones county. Last week at Trenton he was re-sentenced.

At the conclusion of his sentence in Edgecombe, in all probability, Houston will be returned to answer to a murder charge. He is suspected of slaying James Burney, a negro of Jones county.

QUAKER CITY OPENS THREE-DAY RELIEF FETE

Philadelphia, Dec. 14.—Although Philadelphians have already contributed a cargo of Christmas gifts for the war orphans of Europe and donated over \$20,000 to the Red Cross for relief work on the battlefields, the first large-scale endeavor to assist the victims of the European conflict—both the poor in this country and abroad—was launched here today by the Emergency Aid Committee when a three-day fete opened at Horticultural Hall.

Many products "made in America" and donated or secured at cost prices, were put on sale. That the campaign would be international in scope, a "booth of nations," containing products of all foreign countries, was arranged. These were presided over by representatives of the various consulates.

Part of the money received from the sale of "made in America" products will be used to employ destitute men and women, who will be set to work making garments for the war victims.

SCHOOL LEADERS ARE GETTING READY FOR 1ST COMMENCEMENT

Lenoir Will Join Other Progressive Counties of State in the Spring

IS SPLENDID INCENTIVE

Has Already Stimulated Interest of Large Boys and Girls—Proposed "Rural School Day" For Lenoir Fair Next Fall

(Contributed.)

About the second week in April, 1915, the rural schools of Lenoir county will hold their first county commencement. At the January meeting of the Lenoir County Teachers' Association definite plans and dates will be arranged for holding the commencement.

The many expressions from teachers, patrons and friends show their interest already in the coming event. This year 41 counties in North Carolina held county commencements in which 75,000 school children participated in parades, exhibits, and other events, and at which 2,500 received certificates for the completion of the seven elementary grades.

The effect of this movement has been tremendous in awakening the educational consciousness of the counties. They have stimulated county pride, school spirit, community rivalry, and above all things else, they have given incentive to the school children to remain in school until the high school at least is reached. Lenoir county should witness the parade of all its school children down Queen street, hear bands playing, see flags flying, catch the light of inspiration on the faces of the leaders of tomorrow and get in line for 1915. Join the sixty counties of the one hundred already planning for similar splendid county events.

The features of the county commencement may have an illimitable number of variations, so that every county may have some distinctive features peculiar to itself. The essential element, however, and the element without which it is really not a "commencement," is the awarding of county certificates to students. This certificate furnishes a goal toward which the child in elementary school will strive, and is a great inspiration to better and more continuous work on his part.

The parade is a striking feature of the commencement, and has a great effect upon public sentiment. It awakens the business men of the county to a conception of the past, pressing and everlasting need of public education.

Hundreds of children will assemble and march in the parade, school by school, township by township, bands playing, banners flying and the light of a great inspiration shining on their bright young faces. No one who has ever seen such a procession will be able to forget it. Other events of the commencement day, and all of them of great influence upon both pupils and public, are the exhibits, the recitations, and any number of other kinds of contests. The essential benefit of all these features lies in the spirit of rivalry and school loyalty on the part of the children and increased capacity in the line of literary endeavor.

The exhibits will be arranged according to schools, and will be placed in some convenient public hall for the continuous inspection of the public. Attention of both pupils and the teachers should be given to this early in the term, so that best specimens of work may be preserved for this purpose.

Following are some suggestions in regard to materials for exhibits:

- 1. Photographs of school building, teachers, trustees, children, any interesting subject connected with school life.
2. Hand Crafts. Needlework, paper-folding, domestic utensils, free-hand paper cutting, etc. Suggestion: Make a doll house by partitioning a soap box and furnish it with furniture made by primary pupils; make bed, chairs, etc., from cardboard, weave (Continued on Page Three)

FRIENDS OF CAPE LOOKOUT PROJECT NOT APPREHENSIVE

No Use for Further Appropriation Now, Is Engineer's Opinion

PENNSYLVANIA'S CONTROL

Rumor Afloat That Big System of East is Looking Over Norfolk Southern Properties With View to Adding Latter to System

No surprise attaches to the fact that no appropriation has been made this fall for the harbor of refuge at Cape Lookout, engineers say. A million and four hundred thousand dollars is already available for the big undertaking, and this is sufficient to run the work for more than a year. As it will take from six to eight months to build the railroad which it is thought will be constructed from the mainland to the cape, and which the government desires, work on the great breakwater is not likely to be started before August or September, 1915, at the earliest. Hence only a small sum of the \$1,400,000 will have been used when Congress meets next fall, and another rivers and harbors bill is brought up. It would have been poor business policy for the government to have tied up \$2,100,000 more, which will be needed to complete the undertaking, for many months before it was needed, it is pointed out. The failure to make the additional appropriation did not indicate any lack of interest by Congress, but simply was a piece of good policy. The contract for the work will be let early in February. Bids will be opened on January 5.

Will the Pennsylvania Railroad take over the Norfolk Southern in 1915? is the question that has again arisen in connection with the Cape Lookout seawall. The facts that Pennsylvania officials have this year gone over the Norfolk Southern line; and that Pennsylvania surveyors in the summer spent some time taking observations in the vicinity of the cape have led many to anticipate this.

With the Pennsy. in control of the Norfolk Southern, Eastern Carolina would soon have one of the best equipped railroad systems in the country, and the development of Cape Lookout, due east of and within easy reach of Kinston, as a great coaling station and commercial basis as well as harbor of refuge, would become a certainty.

The government, as was well known some time ago, will spend \$17,000 in digging a turning basin in Beaufort harbor. Should it become a commercial as well as refuge harbor, millions of dollars would be spent on fortifications at the cape and a garrison of several hundred men would augment the civilian population.

WHY GOETHALS ASKED FOR MAN-OF-WAR PATROL

Panama, Dec. 13.—Colonel Georg W. Goethals, governor of the Panama canal zone, announced today that his request that two swift America torpedo boat destroyers be stationed at the entrances of the canal was prompted by recent activity of war ships and colliers of the belligerent European nations in the vicinity of the waterway.

The action of the Australian collier Mallina in leaving Balboa with out clearance papers, and the fact that other colliers have shown a disposition to disregard canal zone shipping laws convinced Colonel Goethals that decisive measures should be taken to preserve the neutrality of the canal.

STRANGE SHIP ASHORE SOUTH OF HATTERAS

(By the United Press.) Norfolk, Va., Dec. 14.—An unidentified steamer is ashore two miles south of Cape Hatteras Inlet. Call for assistance sent revenue cutter to her aid. The Cape Hatteras life saving crew is attempting to rescue the ship's crew.

WITHDRAWS SUIT PENDING AGAINST HIS FATHER-IN-LAW

LaGrange Bridegroom Paving Way for Reconciliation With Bride's Folks

ACTION WAS UNSOLICITED

Bride, Who Was Miss Lemoine Rouse, Is With the Groom's Family Awaiting Outcome of Peace Proposals and So Forth

U. S. Page, the twenty-three-year-old LaGrange policeman who, Wednesday night, eloped with young Miss Lemoine Rouse and caused a sensation, afterward driving with the young woman fifty-four miles in an automobile, followed by her father and two brothers with shotguns, made another newspaper story here today, when he arrived from Lumberton, N. C., by withdrawing a suit which he had instituted against his father-in-law, John H. Rouse. Page and Miss Rouse, after coming by way of Seven Springs to Kinston on Wednesday night, drove through Heritage street and out to the Iron bridge, where they stopped for gasoline, and then took a road to Mount Olive, where they boarded a train. They finally landed in the home of E. E. Page, the groom's father, in Lumberton, and were married. Mr. Page, the elder, is a prominent man, secretary and treasurer of the LaFayette Mutual Life Insurance Company and an ex-revenue officer.

The suit which Page instituted against John H. Rouse, Constable George Waters and Raymond Joyner, colored, all of LaGrange, followed the policeman's arrest and alleged malicious and frivolous prosecution. Mr. Rouse was said to have been instrumental in having Waters, who had a private grudge against the former United States sailor and now policeman, who was paying court, against the wishes of her family, to Mr. Rouse's daughter, arrest Page for some misdemeanor. Joyner, it is charged, testified falsely in the case. The three were sued jointly for about \$5,000 damages. The suit against Waters and Joyner will proceed. Page stated to The Free Press that he did not stop the proceeding against Mr. Rouse because of pressure from any source, but because it "didn't look right for him to be suing his father-in-law."

Mrs. Page, whose relatives declared she was only seventeen years of age, is now in the home of Page's parents at Lumberton. "You can state that we will take up our residence in LaGrange in a few days," the bridegroom said. Page said that a part of the time, when Mrs. Page's relatives and the sheriff and his officers were scouring the roads for them on the night of the elopement, he and the girl were in Kinston, although they avoided the principal streets, and in the darkness were not identified by anyone except friends who would not betray them.

Page has not approached his wife's relatives in person for a reconciliation. Mr. Page, senior, sent Mr. Rouse but a newspaper clipping containing an account of the wedding, and a letter, in a friendly but dignified strain, in which he said that he hoped they could come to terms. "He has such a bulldog tact about him that he is not afraid of anything," the letter said. "There is but one way you could manage him—that is to kill him." Mr. E. E. Page wrote, "I certainly would not want him to kill you or anyone of your family; neither would I want you to kill him." Young Page "apologized" to his father-in-law in a letter and declared, "I am very sorry we had to do as we did, but it was our only hope and, we thought, the surest way."

New Bern, Dec. 14.—The gunboat Elfrida, headquarters ship for the North Carolina naval militia, now being overhauled at Portsmouth navy yard, will soon be returned here thoroughly overhauled from top to bottom and as good as new. A 40-foot launch of the newest naval type will augment the naval militia's best equipment.