

PATIENCE OF AMERICA EXHAUSTED WITH SINKING OF PERSIA--IS APT TO GIVE TEUTONS A SLAP IN THE FACE

Robert McNeely, Consul at Aden, Going Out to His Post May Be Dead—Most of Passengers and Crew of British Steamship Submerged Near Crete Perished—Near Ultimatum Expected From This Government—Consular Agent Appointed From This State—Two Other Americans Were Aboard—Certain That Submersible Was Attacker—Most Serious Situation for This Nation Since Outbreak of Hostilities

(By the United Press)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—Robert McNeely, United States Consul to Aden, Arabia, was aboard the Persia, sunk in the Mediterranean, it is learned by the State Department. He was from Monroe, N. C. There is no attempt to disguise the fact that the news will be of tremendous importance in the submarine controversy.

The State Department has received a report from American Consul-General Skinner at London, of the sinking of the Persia. McNeely was en route to his post.

Secretary Lansing said he is awaiting a further report before taking action. He is seeking to learn if Mr. McNeely was saved. Skinner said most of the passengers perished. If McNeely was killed there will have arisen the most serious situation the United States has faced in the submarine controversy.

United States Will Issue Near Ultimatum.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—If the Persia was sunk without warning, State Department officials said this afternoon, this Government will issue a note close to an ultimatum. Aden was McNeely's first post. He was appointed October 18. The station is important commercially.

Sunk Thursday; Many Perished.

London, Jan. 1.—The British liner Persia of 7,874 tons, was sunk in the Mediterranean Thursday, presumably by a submarine. Many lives were lost. Only four boats containing passengers and crew are reported to have been saved. The ship was en route from London to Bombay.

The British steamer Abelia was also submerged.

Scene of Sinking Near Crete.

London, Jan. 1.—The Persia was sunk off the Egyptian coast, southeast of the island of Crete. The fact that only four boats got away indicates that she sank rapidly. The survivors were picked up by a steamer en route to Alexandria. It is believed they were landed there today. Line officials said there were no war munitions aboard. It is estimated that 75 to 200 were killed, including many women and children. Charles H. Grant and Edward Rose, Americans, were aboard when the liner left London.

President in Touch With Developments.

Hot Springs, Va., Jan. 1.—The President is in close touch with the Persia developments. He has received a report from Secretary Lansing on the facts that have reached the State Department. He refused to comment.

London, Jan. 1.—Latest dispatches establish definitely the fact that the Persia was submerged. The offices of the steamship company here today said the Persia carried many passengers and a large crew. Not more than 200 could have escaped in four boats.

PECULIAR FACTS ABOUT WELL KNOWN PEOPLE.

Washington, Jan. 1.—Senator Tillman's voice has become so feeble that he can scarcely be heard in the Senate chamber. He leans wearily against his desk as he speaks. Tillman's once energetic manner earned him the title of "Pitchfork Ben."

MISSOURI FREIGHT AND PASSENGER RATES UP.

Jefferson City, Mo., Jan. 1.—Increased transportation rates became effective in Missouri today. Passenger rates were increased from two to two and one-half cents a mile. Freight rates were increased approximately 5 per cent. The increases were allowed by the Missouri Public Service Commission after almost a year's consideration of the application.

WILSONS HOLD NEW YEAR'S RECEPTION

Hotel Guests and Residents of Hot Springs Guests of First Couple Today—President's Colored Valet, Too, In Social Swim—Honor Guest at Big Time Affair Cullud Folks

(By the United Press)
Hot Springs, Jan. 1.—The President and his bride today held a New Year's reception for hotel guests and natives. Arthur Brooks, the President's valet, was a guest of honor at a reception and banquet given by the negroes of Hot Springs.

PROSPEROUS YEAR FOR MINES OF U. S.

Total Production May Reach \$2,500,000,000 in Value—Geological Survey Report Bears Out Estimate of Secretary Lane Last Summer—Great Mining Revival in Nation

Special to The Free Press.)
Washington, Jan. 6.—The midyear review of mining conditions reported to the Secretary of the Interior on July 1 by the Director of the United States Geological Survey is well supported by the preliminary reports for the year submitted today.

A review of these statements confirms Secretary Lane's comment of last July to the effect that the mining revival is in full swing. In the Western States alone the metal production shows an increase in value of more than \$130,000,000 over the corresponding figures for 1914; and the year's increase in output for the principal metals measured in value is more than \$250,000,000. Moreover it is not unreasonable to expect that when the full returns for all mineral products are compiled they will show that 1915 was the country's most productive year in the mining industry. The total may even reach two and one-half billion dollars.

In the response to bettered conditions the production figures for copper, iron and zinc show the largest increase.

DR. GREIL SAYS NOTE FROM VIENNA WRONG

(By the United Press)
New York, Jan. 1.—Dr. Cecil Greil, the American survivor of the Aconcagua, today contradicted an Austrian report embodied in the last note. He said the submarine fired on the ship after she had stopped and that the attacker fired no warning shot.

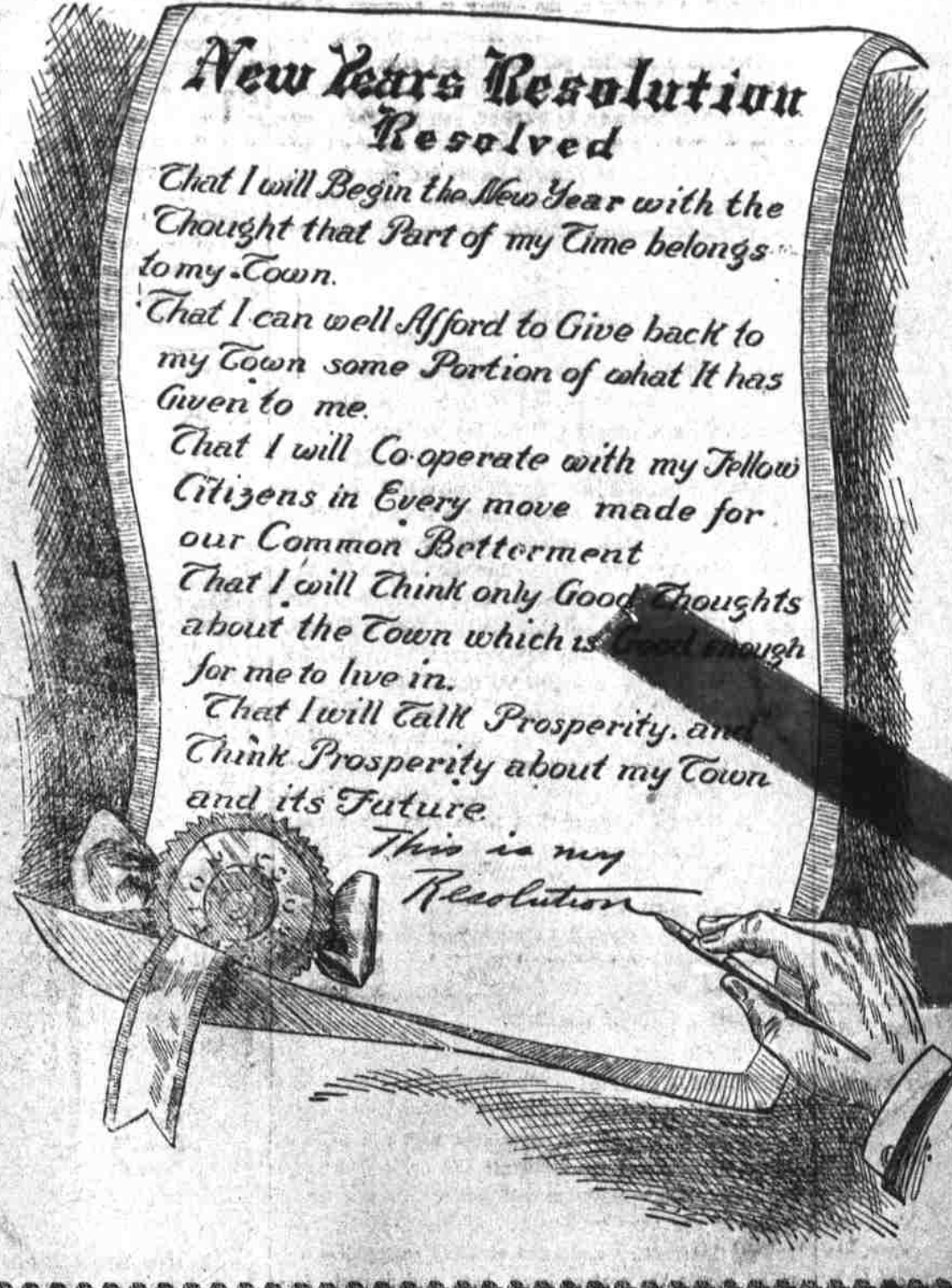
DR. SPILMAN LIKES THE SIGN BEFORE THE NEW CHRISTIAN CHURCH AND ENDORSES ADVERTISING

Dr. B. W. Spilman, Sunday school secretary of the Baptist church, endorses the idea of churches advertising, likes the sign placed in front of the new Christian church and tells of some experiences of his own in finding places of worship in various cities visited in his work. His interesting article follows:

"Have you seen that sign out in front of the Christian church? If you have been around town during the past few days you have seen it. That is the reason for placing it there—that the passer-by might see it. And he can see it all right."

"Why should not people who are in business for the Lord use some sensible methods to call attention to that fact? I believe in publicity and plenty of it. It would be well within reason to say that there are a thousand people living in Kinston who did not know which was the Christian church until that sign went up. And strangers who come for a season might do what was done some years ago when a minister came to this city and made for the Christian church; by mistake he blundered into the Baptist church greatly to the delight of one of the deacons who was to conduct the worship that night. Said deacon had him preach-

ing before he discovered where he was. "I run around a good deal and see thousands of church houses. Most of them impress me as being owned by congregations who care very little to let 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.' "Some years ago I was in Vicksburg, Miss. I was to speak in the Methodist church in the afternoon. I went up one side of Main street and down the other asking every man whom I met and went into a score of stores hunting for some one who knew the name of the superintendent of the Methodist Sunday school. I spoke in the church that afternoon, but to this good hour I do not know the name of that superintendent and never have. "I happen to be a Baptist and so I was glad that Baptist people were on to the job better than that. So I went to a town of some five or six thousand people several hundred miles east of Mississippi. In fact, it is so close home that I must not talk out in meeting about it if I call the name. Tried to find the superintendent of the Baptist Sunday school. (Continued on Page Six)



New Years Resolution Resolved

That I will Begin the New Year with the Thought that Part of my Time belongs to my Town.
That I can well Afford to Give back to my Town some Portion of what It has Given to me.
That I will Co-operate with my Fellow Citizens in Every move made for our Common Betterment
That I will Think only Good Thoughts about the Town which is my home for me to live in.
That I will Talk Prosperity, and Think Prosperity about my Town and its Future.
This is my Resolution

ACCUSED OF PERJURY IN MISSTATING AGES OF COUPLE TO MARRY

John Hall, colored, who lives about seven miles from the city, is charged with perjury in incorrectly stating the ages of a colored couple for whom he recently secured a marriage license here. The mother of John H. Kinsey, the bridegroom, is said to have sworn out the warrant. Kinsey married Mary Sutton, a girl raised since her ninth year by Hall, who has a good reputation. Hall told the Register that Kinsey was 22 and the girl 21 years of age. Kinsey's mother states that he is a minor, several years younger than Hall is alleged to have attested. The woman told the Sheriff that Hall had gotten license to "marry her son."

"Do you mean that he is trying to marry your son?" asked the Sheriff. She stated the alleged facts, enlightening the official. Register of Deeds Pridden said that Hall had not taken oath to the ages of the couple and that the negro was in no wise guilty of perjury; the woman declared Recorder Wootton had been seen in the case and promised to "fix" Hall. The latter's friends advised him to let the case go on before the city judge, and see what the consequences would be before taking alarm at a statement the sincerity of which would seem impossible.

ALDERMAN IS AGAINST POOL ROOMS, HE SAYS

Alderman H. P. Fort declared against poolrooms today. He says he knows of no "evil" worse for the young men and boys of the city. Mr. Fort, regarded as a conservative member of the Board, did not commit himself to any drastic measure to rid the community of the so-called nuisance, but deplored their existence certainly.

FIFTY THOUSAND BLACKS IN PARADE

(By the United Press)
Mobile, Ala., Jan. 1.—Emancipation Day was celebrated by the colored people here with a parade of 50,000 negroes and the reading of Lincoln's emancipation proclamation.

DR. MELLON'S BEING MARRIED ABOUT NOW, IF LUCK WAS O. K.

(By the United Press)
Pittsburgh, Jan. 1.—If he had good luck after he sailed from New York for Athens some time ago, Dr. Geo. W. Mellon of this city down in Belgrade, Serbia getting ready in the midst of war for his marriage to Miss Zagorka Cabo, said to be one of the uncrowned queens of the devastated little land. Dr. Mellon, twice decorated for his work with the American Ambulance in the typhus camps of Serbia, first by Crown Prince Alexander and then by the American Red Cross, has gone back to Serbia with another hospital command commission. Dr. Mellon met Miss Cabo in the course of his first hospital work in Serbia. She was not, however, a nurse. Just a visitor. As Dr. Mellon's wife, Miss Cabo will help him in his hospital work, which they expect to continue until the war is ended. Dr. Mellon continued his wooing by letter and cable when he recently was recalled from Serbia by the Red Cross. Miss Cabo's father lost practically all his fortune in the second fall of Belgrade. Dr. Mellon is a graduate of the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania.

IN WHICH OFFICIAL MAKES A BLUNDER

"It's as dry as a bone on Sunday." Sheriff A. W. Taylor was telling an interested person this morning about the pleasures of a certain city. He did not know that a man compelled to be in the vicinity by business, and who overheard the remark was a widely-known minister of the city. He hastened, upon being informed of the other's identity, to assure him that he was a staunch prohibitionist, but the preacher had gone and the "damage was done."

KANSAS IS A STATE OUT OF DEBT TODAY

Topeka, Kan., Jan. 1.—Kansas got out of debt today. State Treasurer Earl Akers took up the last outstanding bonds totaling \$159,000. To properly celebrate the event, Akers has suggested issuance of \$25,000 in bonds for good roads.

POLICE WATCH OVER FORD PARTY IN THE CAPITAL DENMARK

Feared They Might Be Attacked by New Year's Eve Crowds

GUESTS OF MIN'R EAGAN

Who Made the Pacificists Promise Not to Go Out Alone—Mme. Schwimmer Warned Against Speaking in Open

By CHAS. P. STEWART, (United Press Staff Correspondent)

Copenhagen, Jan. 1.—The police guarded the Ford peace party last night, to protect them from attack by the New Year's Eve crowds.

The party attended a banquet given by American Minister Egan, who made them promise not to leave until the dinner was over. The police warned Mme. Schwimmer not to hold street meetings. Business Manager Plaintiff is economizing. He is making the delegates carry their own hand baggage.

GALLANT FRENCH SUBMARINE SUNK

Monge Had Sent Munition Carriers of Enemy to Bottom—In Turn, Became Victim of Austrian Squadron in Engagement Off Cattaro—Part of Crew Saved—Plane Brought Down

(By the United Press)

Paris, Jan. 1.—The French ministry of marine today admitted that the submarine Monge had been sunk in the Adriatic by an Austrian squadron. It was stated that the French submarine had sunk enemy munition vessels in the Adriatic. It was among those sunk in the recent naval battle off Cattaro. Part of the crew of the submarine was saved. An enemy hydro-aeroplane was destroyed.

KAISER THREATENED WITH BLOOD POISON FROM SORES, REP'RT

Carbuncles Keep Him In Bed—Also Has Severe Cold, It's Said

RUSSIANS PERSISTENT

Attack Austrians in Bessarabia Twenty-seven Successive Times—Bring Many Guns to Bear On the Enemy

(By the United Press)

Rome, Jan. 1.—Unconfirmed reports say Roumania has concentrated army corps on the Bulgarian frontier.

The Kaiser In Bed With Ailments. Amsterdam, Jan. 1.—Private advices from Berlin today reported the Kaiser to be suffering from virulent carbuncles. It is reported that he is

Pierce Fighting

Amsterdam, Jan. 1.—Pierce's hand to hand fighting has occurred on the Bessarabian front in Russia, according to Czenowitz advices. Two hundred Russian guns along three miles of the front are raking the Austrian positions for several days. The Austrians have repulsed 27 separate attacks. Russian aeroplanes are raiding the Austrian concentration camps.

NOT SUCH A STRAIGHT OLD TOWN AFTER ALL

Administration Member! Discover That Certain Local Streets Are of Varying Widths and That Sidewalks in Some Places Extend Beyond Walks in Others—One Block Even Crooked

The streets of Kinston are regarded by most residents as absolutely straight, with few exceptions, such as Railroad street, laid along the Norfolk Southern's rights-of-way diagonally across the city. Very few persons probably have ever discovered that such is not the case. The sidewalk paving proves that in some streets the width varies half a dozen times. Standing upon the corner of Caswell and McLeween, or at the intersection of Independent and Gordon, for instance, and glancing along the sidewalk in either direction will show one that one block's sidewalk paving extends inches and feet beyond another block's. In one place the paving of a block is actually bowed out. At least one member of the administration has worried a lot over the matter, but he takes solace in the fact that only a person given to searching for details will ever notice what he alludes to as "the trouble." And to say the least, Kinston is a much straighter town so far as streets are concerned than its average neighbor town now.

NOT MUCH ATTENTION GIVEN TO NEW YEAR'S DAY IN BUSY KINSTON

About the only observance of New Year's Day here was at the postoffice, where the customary holiday hours were kept, and in the banks. Good resolutions, of course, are numerous. For instance, the tobaccoists did a smaller business today, perhaps, than on any day since January 1 a year ago. Monday business will be nearer normal, the next day a little more so, and so on.

OSBORNE'S SUCCESSOR

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 1.—No conditions are attached to George W. Kirckwey's appointment as warden of Sing Sing prison, announced last night, to succeed Thomas Holt Osborne, supposed to be only temporarily out of office.