

THIRD ENGAGEMENT BETW'EN AMERICANS AND VILLISTAS OCCURRED TUESDAY AT CIANEQUILLA; BANDITS LOST TEN DEAD

Carranzistas Helped United States Troops, Says War Department—Two Outlaws Captured—American Detachments Believed Close on Heels of Villa in Country South of Chihuahua City—Report Says Fugitive Chieftain Has Two Thousand Men With Him and Is Awaiting Arrival Dodd's Men—Only Advanced Parties from Punitive Expedition About to Run In Upon Guerillas, Rumored

(By the United Press)

Washington, April 7.—Americans and Villistas fought a third engagement Tuesday at Cianeguilla. Ten Villistas were killed, two captured. Carranzistas helped the Americans. The news reached the War Department today. The Department also confirmed reports of the fight between Villistas and Americans at Agua Calientes Saturday.

Americans Nearing Villa's Position.

San Antonio, April 7.—American advanced detachments are believed to be near Satevon, forty miles south of Chihuahua City, hot on Villa's trail.

Villa Reported to Have 2,000 Men.

El Paso, April 7.—Villa has gathered two thousand men at Parral for a stand against the Americans, according to information reaching here from Mexican sources. Dodd's advance cavalry is reported to be nearing there. The Villistas' reported numbers surprised officials here who believe they may be exaggerated.

HEFLIN WANTS THE COTTON CHANGE AT N. Y. INVESTIGATED

To See If Bears Are Conspiring to Lower Prices—Greatest Reduction in Years of Winter Wheat Crop—24 Points Off

(By the United Press)

Washington, April 7.—Representative Heflin today introduced a bill asking for investigation of the New York cotton exchange to find whether the market is controlled by a conspiracy of bear operators trying to lower prices.

Winter Wheat Fourth Short.

The reduction of 24 points of the winter wheat crop as compared with last year, is indicated in a report by the Department of Agriculture. The crop is estimated at 495,000,000 bushels. The falling off was due to bad weather and reduction of acreage. The production was lower than in any year since 1904.

Chicago, April 7.—Senator Warren G. Harding of Ohio was chosen temporary chairman of the Republican National Convention by the unanimous vote of the committee on arrangements of the Republican National Committee here today.

VOLUNTARY BANISHMENT TO CHINA BY CONTRACT

W. C. Boone, who will leave the U. S. about April 15 for a four-year stay in the Orient, is spending two or three days here bidding good-bye to friends. Mr. Boone came from Lumberton, his home town. He was stationed here in 1915 as demonstration agent for the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Boone is under contract with the British-American Tobacco Company to teach Chinese farmers how to grow better weed. He will be stationed in Shanghai, the Chinese coast metropolis, where there is a large foreign population. He is thankful that he will have the chance to live in the city, although his work will carry him into "rural districts" of China frequently, and far away from the habitats of white men, it is presumed.

GOLDSBORO YOUTHS ARRESTED IN CITY

Trio Had 22 Pints of Whisky—One Takes Blame But Police Hold All—Woman Got Away—Prisoner Members Good Families and Have Good Characters Generally, It Is Said

The police seized 22 pints of whisky from an automobile in South Kinston this morning between 2 and 3 o'clock, and arrested R. L. Coker, Marvin Best and S. F. Pate, charged with violating the prohibition law by transporting and having too much liquor.

Chief of Police Heath says Coker declared ownership of the whisky and automobile and exonerated his companions. Assistant Chief Skinner and policemen discovered the machine in the resort section. They had spotted it previously. One of the men was asleep in the car, apparently very drunk. Skinner removed the whisky. The others came out of a house and one commenced a tirade against the person or persons who had "stolen" the whisky. The couple were arrested. The woman, who was not identified, concealed herself, it is thought. She was not located. The three men, all youths, remained in custody, failing to give bond. All are from Goldsboro. The Chief states that the Goldsboro police give Best and Pate rather good characters. They are said to be well connected. Coker, he says, has been suspected there for some time. The trial was expected to be held this afternoon.

THE DAY ON THE COTTON EXCHANGE

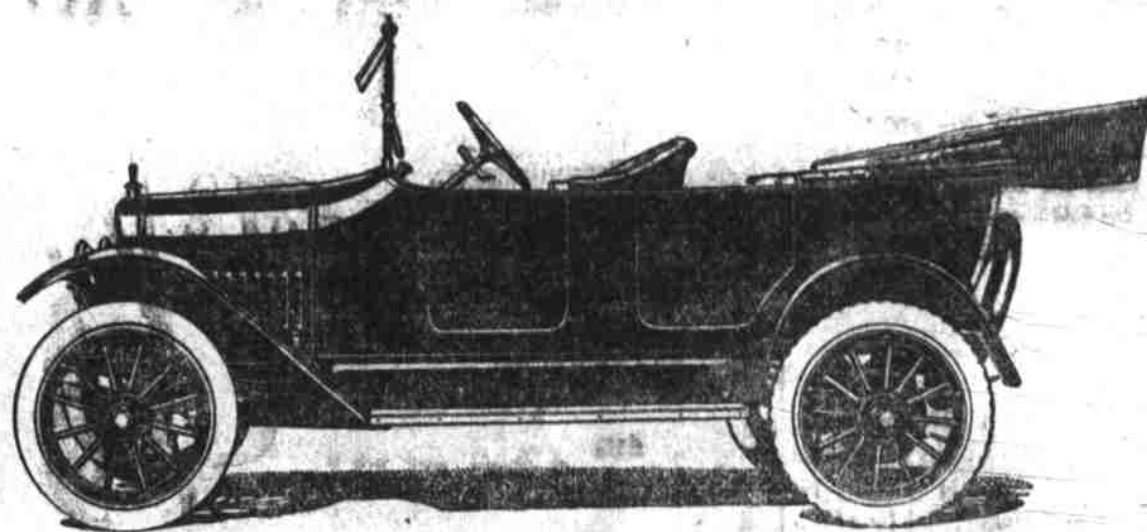
Sales on the local cotton market were larger today, a score of bales having been disposed of before noon. The best price by then was 11-1-2. New York futures quotations were:

Open	2:40
May	11.90 11.83
July	12.06 12.03
October	12.23 12.19
December	12.40 12.37
January	12.43 12.39

BULLETINS

SHIP SUNK; 11 DROWNED.
London, April 7.—Eleven Asiatic members of the crew were drowned when the Peninsula & Oriental liner Simla sunk in the Mediterranean.

THE LATEST MODEL MAXWELL



Two of these Cars form the Capital Prizes in The Free Press Voting Contest.

UNITED STATES NOT WAIT LONG FOR THE GERMAN STATEMENT

Government Is Absolutely Convinced Teuton Torpedo Hit Sussex

GERARD SEES NO DANGER

Of Break Between Nations. Reichstag More Friendly Toward America Since Chancellor's Address, Says Dr. Hecksher

(By the United Press)

Washington, April 7.—The government is absolutely convinced that a German torpedo struck the Sussex. A German statement of intentions is awaited in the light of this fact, and this government will not wait long. These facts were made known today as the Cabinet assembled to consider the question.

Gerard Not Worried.

By CARL W. ACKERMAN, (United Press Staff Correspondent)
Berlin, April 7.—Ambassador Gerard doesn't believe the German-American situation is serious. Despite English reports, he believes, Germany may meet America with complete willingness to settle the questions on five ships now pending. Dr. Hecksher of the Reichstag foreign relations committee today said the whole tone in the Reichstag, formerly anti-American, has changed since the chancellor's speech Wednesday.

IS NOT ONE STICK DYNAMITE IN CITY, SAYS FIRE CHIEF

Rumor That Had Reached Officials to Effect That Hardware Dealers Kept Explosives in Places Business Flatly Denied

"There is absolutely no foundation for a rumor that explosives are stored in local hardware stores," declared Fire Chief T. V. Moseley today. He had been advised that it was reported that dynamite or powder or both were kept in considerable quantities in certain of the establishments. "I have the word of every proprietor that such is not the case," he stated; "and, in fact, I believe there is only one concern here selling explosives."

The law requires explosives to be stored in places a certain distance beyond the corporate limits of a town. The law is being obeyed by the local dealers, Chief Moseley said with positiveness. He is satisfied there is not a stick of dynamite nor a keg of powder anywhere in Kinston.

BETHINGO'RT SEEMS HAVE SMALL CHANCE ESCAPING CAPTURE

Fall of Haucourt Makes Garrison's Position More Perilous, Stated

GERMAN GUNNERS BUSY

Pounding Away at Salient to Prepare for Great Infantry Attack—Teutons Bent On Taking Verdun From the Northwest

(By the United Press)

London, April 7.—The French position at Bethincourt is greatly imperilled by the surrender of Haucourt. It was under a terrific German bombardment all day yesterday. The Germans apparently are preparing to concentrate for a heavy smash against this salient as the next move in the new Verdun drive from the northwest.

Russians Take a Town.

Petrograd, April 7.—Destruction of a German airship southwest of Dvinsk and the capture of the Galician village of Svetkavtze are reported officially. Much booty was taken at Svetkavtze.

Russian Naval Activities.

Petrograd, April 7.—The Russians are advancing on Trebizond, the Turkish Black Sea port, from the east and south, official dispatches today said. In a naval battle Russian submarines saw a Turkish steamer, conveyed by a torpedo boat, and eleven sailing ships laden with coal. A Russian battleship bombarded the former German cruiser Breslau, now flying the Turkish flag, which fled.

HAVE ROADS AGREED BUILD STATION ON DESIGNATED SITE?

Reported That N. S. and A. C. L. Have Decided Not to Fight Location at Gordon and Independent—Might Be Bluff, Opinion

Rumors known to have emanated from reliable sources state the Norfolk Southern and Atlantic Coast Line Railroads have agreed to abide by the Corporation Commission's decision that the new union passenger station should be put at the Southeast corner of Gordon and Independent streets. No verification can be had from any source, however.

Whether the railroads believe that (Continued on Page Four)

BRITISH SCOFF AT TERMS OFFERED BY GERMAN CHANGE'L'R

Peace No Nearer From Von Bethmann-Holweig's Speech to Reichstag

MORE MODERATE, THOUGH

Verdun Offensive's Failure and Food Problem Have Caused Teutons to Modify Tentative Demands, Say English Officials

(By ED. L. KEEN.

(United Press Staff Correspondent)
London, April 7.—Peace is no nearer as a result of the German chancellor's Reichstag speech. Every British official interviewed today scoffed at the idea that England would agree to the terms suggested. It is believed here that the terms of the chancellor are modified from former suggestions. Officials give two reasons, namely, the Verdun failure and the increasing seriousness of the German food problem.

Chancellor's Speech From German Point of View.

By CARL W. ACKERMAN, (United Press Staff Correspondent)
Berlin, April 7.—The papers here generally interpreted Von Bethmann-Holweig's Reichstag speech as laying before the world Germany's terms for ending the war.

GROUP COMMENCEM'T FARM VA'LEY SCHO'L LARGELY ATTENDED

Six Schools Participating In Exercises at Central School—Address by State Inspector High Schools—Big Country Dinner

Six or seven hundred persons attended the group school commencement at Farm Valley school, Falling Creek, today. The exercises commenced at 10:30 o'clock. At 1 o'clock an elaborate dinner was set by the patrons of the school for the guests, who were from a large territory surrounding.

The following schools, members of the Farm Valley group, participated: Hickory Grove, Daly's, Aldridge, Institute, Oak Dale and Farm Valley. The group center school is one of the model institutions of the county's system.

One of the best declamation contests ever heard in Lenoir county featured the exercises. Miss Mabel Pollock, daughter of Supl. George R. (Continued on Page Two)

CRAIG WILL TRY TO SEND SOME OF THE LYNCHERS TO PRISON

Expected to Offer Reward Today—Act of Mob Worries the Governor

TALKS WITH OFFICIALS

Solicitor Expects Developments In Investigation Soon or Will Call Halt to Wait Until Somebody Has Talked, Indicated

Governor Craig talked with local officials over long distance telephone Thursday night in regard to the lynching of Joseph Black, colored, taken from the Lenoir county jail Wednesday and shot to death by a mob in Greene county.

The Governor seemed to be worried over the affair. He intends to press the investigation, and prosecution of suspects as well, to try to place responsibility for the lynching and send some persons to the penitentiary, it is said. He suggested offering a reward, and asked the advice of the officials on that matter. He is expected to announce the reward in a few hours.

Solicitor H. E. Shaw this morning stated that he could give out nothing further about the investigation to be started. He would not say that he expected to secure the conviction of any persons. He intimated that something would develop in a day or two that the investigation would be suspended to await developments.

Greene county men today deny that the lynchers were "a Greene county mob," and assert that the majority of them were from Pitt county. Black lived near the Pitt-Greene line, they say, as does Tyson, the white man whose life was threatened by the negro. Colonel Shaw believes "both counties" furnished contingents.

INDICTMENTS IN THE CANAL CONSPIRACY

Expected In a Few Days—Man Who Assisted Tauscher in Engineering Plot to Destroy the Welland Not Likely to Be Tried—Von Der Goltze Promises to Be Government Witness

(By the United Press.)

Washington, April 7.—Indictments in the Welland Canal conspiracy, which Captain Hans Tauscher is alleged to have engineered with Horst Von Der Goltze, are expected within a few days. It is improbable that Goltze will be indicted, since he has promised to be a government witness.

AYDEN ILLUSTRATED IN HANDSOME LITTLE BOOK JUST PUT OUT

The Ayden Chamber of Commerce has just issued a handsome 36-page booklet of the vest-pocket size, setting forth the charms of "one of the most wide-awake, progressive small towns in the State, offering unlimited opportunities to the home-seeker and the investor."

The booklet is well-printed and contains many illustrations. Fine business structures, churches, schools, homes, etc., are depicted.

"During the year of 1915," says the pamphlet, "this little village—for a village it was then—inaugurated a campaign for progress, which in less than six months' time terminated into one of the greatest periods of progress and advancement in the entirety of its history." Pages are devoted to a resume of industrial activities, the schools, chamber of commerce, civic league, churches, water, lights and sewerage systems, banking houses, business houses, hotels, and "Ayden as a whole."

PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO CLOSE END PRESENT SCHOLASTIC MONTH

Eight-Months' Term Determined Upon by Trustees Thursday Night

HOPED FOR LONGER YEAR

Board Could Not Very Well Finance Extra Month—Had Made an Earlier Start Against Chance of Running Through May

The city schools will end the scholastic year on April 28, it was announced Thursday night, following a meeting of the Board of Trustees. The term will have run the usual eight months then.

The school year was started a little earlier than usual in the fall, in the hope that the board might have funds enough to increase the term to nine months. It was stated Thursday that it was possible that the board would not see its way clear to finance the schools for the proposed ninth month, and the meeting resulted in the decision to close them at the end of the eighth.

The trustees expect to be able to make the 1916-1917 term run nine months.

Members of the board say that the present year might have been stretched to nine months, but that the funds would have been cut very closely.

FIRE IN HARDWARE STORE DOES DAMAGE SEVERAL THOUSAND

Blaze of Unknown Origin In Place of D. V. Dixon & Son Early Today—Firemen Checked Flames Immediately

Fire shortly after 3 o'clock this morning did damage estimated at \$3,000 or \$3,500 in the hardware store of D. V. Dixon & Son at the Southeast corner of North and Queen streets. The figures of damage are those of Fire Chief Moseley.

The origin of the blaze is unknown. The department was quickly on the scene and checked the progress of the flames within five minutes. The fire was confined to the second story of the building, in which it started. The blaze was a more or less stubborn one, and it took the firemen about 30 minutes to completely extinguish it. Combustibles, such as paints, oils and varnishes threatened to make trouble for the fire-fighters. The water pressure was excellent.

The fire was not exactly a spectacular one, but quite "interesting," to quote Chief Moseley. The department excelled their previous best effort and handled the blaze in an admirable fashion, he said. A stranger who claimed long acquaintance with fire departments in many places declared to a group of the men that he could not believe them volunteers, so nicely had they coped with the threatening situation, for the flames had gained considerable headway before the apparatus was called. Much of the damage was from smoke and water.

Insurance men this afternoon estimated the damage to stock and building at \$5,000.

LOOKS LIKE STEIN MIGHT GET WELL, SAID

The condition of Harry Stein, ably by Margaret Partello on March 27, was stated to be improved this afternoon. Physicians say Stein's chance for recovery is better. His assailant is out on bail.