

THE COMMONWEALTH.

VOLUME XXXIV.

TWICE-A-WEEK

SCOTLAND NECK, N. C., TUESDAY, FEB. 13, 1917.

NUMBER 25.

Washington Thinks War Imminent

Senate Resolution To Open Ports

White Star Steamer Afric Submerged Today and Seventeen of Her Crew Are Miss.

PRESIDENT LIKELY IN FAVOR

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—In the Senate today Senator Saulsbury introduced a resolution to remove neutrality bars by opening all American ports to allied warships. He said might enable this government, without the declaration of war, to assist in preventing violations against merchant marine ships at sea, and thus aid those countries engaged in combatting these violations. It is generally understood that the resolution has the approval of President Wilson.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—The United States is rapidly preparing for war. If war should come army men, railway heads, navy officials, heads of the American Federation of Labor and financial kings have mapped out detailed plans for mobilization of men and munitions, which will take care of the three most important items in modern war preparedness, viz: Labor—Capital—Transportation.

LONDON, Feb. 13.—White Star Steamer Afric is reported sunk today.

This is the biggest so far reported as victims of the submarine.

LONDON, Feb. 13.—(later)—Seventeen of the Afric's crew are reported as missing.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—The United States has flatly rejected Germany's offer to discuss differences between the two nations while the ruthless submarine campaign is in progress.

In view of the fact that the United States has taken the most vigorous course possible short of war to denounce the ruthless submarine warfare, officials of the government regard the German proposal to negotiate while the campaign is in progress as utterly insincere. From the first the move has been looked upon and resented as a piece of propaganda designed to becloud the issue and put the United States into a false position of belligerency.

The question of whether navy guns shall be provided for American ship owners desiring to arm their vessels for defense against submarines has been submitted to President Wilson.

Gerard Characterizes the Attempt as "Sand Bagging"

Copenhagen, (via London), Feb. 13.—The attempt of the German government to negotiate through James W. Gerard, who had retired as ambassador to Germany, desired concessions and pledges, was of a nature to lead Mr. Gerard to characterize it in conversation with a foreign office representative as "sand bagging," and to refuse to even transmit the text of the concessions desired, unless he was allowed to report in code—a privilege of which he had been deprived since the rupture of relations.

Germany Holds Americans

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—Formal notification of the retention in Germany of the 72 sailors brought in as prisoners on the prize ship Yarrowdale was given to the State Department today by Dr. Paul Ritter, Swiss minister here, acting for the German Government, together with the inquiry as to the status of the crews of the German war-bound ships in American harbors.

German Ambassador and wife Leaves Tonight

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—Count and Countess Von Bernstorff said farewell to a host of personal friends made during their eight years in Washington. The former Ambassador, his wife and the Embassy staff will leave Washington for New York late tonight, to sail for home Wednesday on the Danish liner Frederick VIII.

GIBSON—THE BAD MAN, CAUGHT IN HOBBY TODAY

A clever piece of detective work by the chief of police of Weldon is what R. P. Gibson, of Rocky Mount, N. C., has to thank for being a prisoner tonight in Halifax jail.

A quick change artist too, with false whiskers and armed with screwdriver and cold chisel, included in part the equipment with which Gibson was safeguarding two trunks full of whiskey, and a grip with two quarts and 9 pints.

The worst offense, and for which he stands in danger of being sent to the penitentiary is that in Weldon he changed the shipping point of the trunks from Washington, D. C., to Washington, N. C., the destination being Kingston. The checks for these trunks were fastened to his garters, and the false whiskers were concealed in the crown of his hat.

Scotland Neck sheltered this man for a few hours this afternoon awaiting the train to take him back to Weldon and chief Everett says he will have him tried as soon as he arrives and take him on to Halifax tonight for safe keeping.

News From The State Capitol

(By Llewaxam)
RALEIGH, Feb. 13.—Although the senate committee, by the vote of 5 to 3 made an unfavorable report on the Garnishment Bill, the minority is seeking to secure a vote on it on the floor of the two houses of the legislature. The State Merchants Association, its agents and attorneys are still active in the attempt to secure its passage but the chances are against the bill, unless its opponents are caught napping.

In the house, where the committee ordered a favorable report, by one majority (5 to 4) the bill may be more popular than in the senate. But its fate there also is in doubt, unless materially amended—especially that section which effects the homestead exemption, against which the opposition is stronger than against the garnishment feature.

It is the homestead change which the Farmers Union is attacking the hardest. Of course, even if the bill is passed, any change in the constitution with reference to the homestead exemption would necessarily have to be submitted to the voters of the State for ratification or rejection.

County School Boards Muddle
Although the Oates Bill is set as a special order in the Senate for today, it now looks like there will be still further delay and that out of the middle the State law will be allowed to remain as it now is with respect to the appointment of the county boards of education—except that several counties may be added to the six exempt from the law, and which elect their county boards. Some of the Republican counties are sure to ask for it, if Bertie, Franklin and other counties are exempted—and be denied the privilege almost certainly.

New County of Jarvis

This week will witness activities in the State House again to create the new county of Jarvis, and with better chances of success than at the last two sessions of the legislature. One reason why its chances are better is because it does not propose to take in a slice of Cumberland county, as it did originally—for it was the Cumberland opposition which contributed most to defeat it before. Otherwise the bill is very similar to that of 1913 and 1915, and provides for the formation of the new county out of parts of Harnett, Johnston and Sampson, with hte county seat at Dunn. Its promoters only ask that the people in the affected territory be allowed to vote on the subject. The new county would include the towns of Duna, Benson and Newton Grove.

Good Bill Killed

The bill designed to require the N. C. Fire Insurance Companies to contribute their mite to the support of the Fireman's Relief Fund (one-tenth of one per cent in premiums collected on property located in towns having organized fire departments) the same as outside fire insurance companies are required to do, was killed in the senate on motion of Senator Seales of Greensboro. The State Fireman's organization asked for the law, and its president, Capt. J. D. McNeill, of Fayetteville, came here in its interest. But the influence of the home companies seemed to be too much for them, and it failed.

Legal Advertising Rate Measure

During the week the bill endorsed by the N. C. Press Association to increase the legal rate paid for advertising legal notices will probably be introduced. After hard sledding because of the opposition of some members of the legal fraternity (who were not correctly, or fully, informed on the subject) favorable reports have been secured in both branches of the legislature. If the bill passes, as now seems probable, chairman M. L. Shipman, of the press association, will deserve much credit for the constant and effective work he did for the measure.

More "Prohibition" Improbable

The indications today seem to warrant the assumption that there will be no addition prohibition legislation at this session. The killing of the Anti-Saloon League Bill almost took the breath out of the bodies of the promoters and the public generally. But the truth is, the extremists, as usual, tried to go too far, and the law makers would not stand for some of the provisions of "Brother Davis," bill. However, more practical leaders like Joseph A. Brown, of Columbus, who is chair-

It Looks Like Conscription

Washington, Feb. 12.—The Senate military committee reported favorably a bill framed by a sub-committee creating a military and naval citizen reserve force based on universal military training and service.

The bill requires six months training without pay for all youths during their 19th year. Exemptions are confined to the members of the regular army and navy, those physically unfit, those who are the sole support of dependent relatives and those affiliated with religious creeds which forbid them to bear arms. The latter class are liable, however, for training in the non-combatant branches of the army.

It is estimated the bill would provide for the training of 500,000 boys annually, each of whom would be furloughed into a reserve for nine years after his training period. With allowances for shrinkage of classes due to various causes as the years pass, this plan would give a total force of 3,165,000 men who had had six months training, at the end of the first nine year cycle, all subject to call for service only in the event of a "defensive" war or the imminence thereof.

SPANISH WAR VETS TO PICKET WHITE HOUSE AS SUFFS DID

—WANT PENSIONS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—A corps of Spanish war veterans, Thomas Allen of the Fourth Virginia Volunteer Infantry says, will picket the White House today just like the suffragists did. The veterans want pensions and they feel, according to Allen, that they are being ignored by the President and Congress.

Many of them he said, are more than 50 years old, incapacitated in part by wounds and troubles suffered during the Spanish-American war, and they need help. There is a \$12 pension for Spanish war veterans, Allen admits, but they want "back pensions, the pensions they didn't get during the seventeen years they had to struggle with the government to get any at all."

RUSSIA TO RECALL MUNITION AGENTS HERE AND SEND THEM TO THE TRENCHES

(BY UNITED PRESS)

NEW YORK, Feb. 9.—Wary, it is said of paying high salaries and getting low efficiency from his staff of 200 munition buyers with headquarters in New York, Czar Nicholas is expected to order most of them home within the next few days and put them in the trenches at the front. The Russian government was extremely displeased with the loss of millions of dollars in the Black Tom explosion and Kingland explosions.

CANADIAN PARLIAMENT ADJOURNS TODAY—PREMIER BORDEN GOING TO LONDON

(BY UNITED PRESS)

OTTAWA, Ont., Feb. 9.—The Canadian Parliament is expected to declare a two months' vacation beginning today in order to permit the Premier, Sir Robert Borden, to go to London for the Imperial War Conference. The conference is called for the last of this month. The plans for the Premier's departure are, naturally, kept secret.

SEEK TO MAKE AMERICAN LABOR DISTINCTIVELY AMERICAN BY EDUCATION

(BY UNITED PRESS)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—A campaign to Americanize, by education, all foreigners employed in American industry and commerce was started here today at the opening of the "National Conference on Americanization Through Education."

Dr. P. P. Claxton, U. S. Commissioner of Education, called the meeting to order and explained the plan to the members of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Mills Kitchin returned this morning from Asheville where he has been visiting friends.

Mr. Joe HHouse returned from Raleigh this morning, where he had been on business.

Man of the league committee on legislation, tell us a more acceptable bill will be introduced and he hopes it will be enacted.

Spirit Of The Nation--Prosperity

Next Week Will Inaugurate National Pay Up-Week in Scotland Neck

HERE THERE AND EVERYWHERE

The thing that strikes every man when he sits down to consider it is how inter-dependent we are upon each other.

No one class can gain at the expense of all the other classes. This is a fact that has been strikingly emphasized during the mighty war in Europe. There every nation has found it necessary to run every activity having even the remotest connection, on a highly efficient basis.

In our own country, the factories could not run without markets for their goods, and if the factories didn't run, the farmer could not make money for there would be no market for his surplus product. As the farmer prospers, the entire nation prospers. So, too, as the commercial interests of the country prosper, the farmer prospers.

After all we look to each other for our living and if we can throw into the channels of business the millions of dollars we all owe each other, so that we can again use the dollars to buy more things we need every man who is supplying a real need will prosper.

This is the object of NATIONAL PAY UP WEEK, Feb. 15th, to 24th. You can help and you can be helped if you will participate in the Pay Up Week campaign. Every business man in our town has pledged himself to pay all of his bills that he can at that time. Now let's all work together. LET'S PASS PROSPERITY AROUND.

Don't make any mistake in the plan. The idea isn't that you must pay me, but the idea is that we will all pay each other. If we all take it upon ourselves to start the ball rolling, we can have a real Pay Up Week here. If we sit back and wait for the other fellows to pay up, it will not be as great a success as it should be.

This movement has been taken up in our town upon the recommendations of hundreds of towns and cities which engaged in the previous National Pay Up Weeks. It is to be truly national in scope, as thousands of communities in every section of the United States, from one coast to the other, from the north line of the Gulf of Mexico, will take part in it.

During this week the energies of millions of people will be centered upon the passing of the busy dollars around, cleaning up old debts. Starting in new prosperity will certainly result from it.

TODAY'S THE DAY TO GIVE YOUR AMIABLE HENS AN EGG TO SIT ON

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—This is the best day to put eggs under your biggest and most amiable hen, or into your incubator. In a special announcement to farmers—urban and suburban—the U. S. Department of Agriculture today declared best results are to be obtained toward a satisfactory production of eggs during fall and early winter if arrangements are made to hatch pullets in March or April. Birds hatched from four to eight months from today, the announcement says, will be matured and ready for laying 5, 6, or 7 cent eggs early in the fall. And a greater portion of them will go broody early in the following spring, thus contemplating the chicks necessary for production in the fall.

THE DEVIL GETS AN AWFUL WADLUP IN FIRST ROUND OF SUN-DAY'S CAMPAIGN

NEW YORK, Feb. 13.—The devil got an awful wadlup in the first round of the Billy Sunday preliminary campaign here today. When the Old Boy picked up his spiked tail and his pitch fork and started out from Broadway on his daily round he found prayer meetings going on in every block that houses Gotham's twelve million souls.

Beginning today these "prayer" prayer meetings will be held twice a week until Sunday arrives on April 1. One of the residences opened for the neighborhood prayer meetings in the plaza section today was that of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Rockefeller both are deeply interested in the success of the Sunday campaign. The city has been divided into twenty sections and "prayer blocks" have been systematically organized. The burden of the prayers is for the salvation of "backslidden" Christians.

Mrs. Ed Newell of Rocky Mount, who has been visiting her son, Mr. Norman Howard, returned to her home this morning.

BRUIN BEARS THE BRUNT OF FRONT LINE FIGHTING, WITH HIS REGIMENT (By Henry Wood)

(United Press Staff Correspondent)
FRANCE, Jan. 20. (By Mail)—Fighting with the Russian army in France today is a huge bear from the Caucasian Mountains who seems to enjoy his sojourn on the French front fully as much as his masters enjoy theirs.

He is mascot of one of the Russian regiments that was transported half way round the world from the Russian to the French front to show the solidarity of the Allies.

When the time comes for the bear's regiment to go in the front line trenches for its six days of duty the bear goes along. He keeps the all night vigils with the sentinels and as there is nothing else to do but the regular duties brought up from the rear he permits the soldiers to divide their share with him. The Russian army has brought with it into France its own outfit, and the soup and stoves prepared would appear to be, judging from the appearance both of the soldiers and the bear, of a highly nourishing character.

When the bear has finished his time in the front line, he accompanies the regiment to the rear for the customary six days of repose. He is always ready to go anywhere provided he remains always with the men of his particular regiment.

TOKIO GROWING RAPIDLY NEW CENSUS SHOWS

TOKIO, Jan. 5. (By Mail)—In three years Tokio's population has grown from 2,450,000 to 2,884,770 according to a new census report announced today. The present population is housed in 595,897 homes, whereas in 1913 there were only 519,735 households.

Besides being one of the leading population centers of the world, Japan's capital has the distinction of probably covering more ground than any other city. There are no apartments, flats, or skyscrapers in Japan—earthquakes forbid them—so the little one and two story homes must necessarily cover a large area.