

THE COMMONWEALTH

AFTERNOON DAILY

SLOGAN: "EVERY ONE FOREACH OTHER AND ALL TOGETHER FOR SCOTLAND NECK"

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TELEGRAPH SERVICE

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Bernstorff Deep In The Mire Of German Anti-American Plotting

ASKED FOR \$50,000 TO INFLUENCE CONGRESS

SECRETARY OF STATE OFFERS IN EVIDENCE TELEGRAM FROM FORMER GERMAN AMBASSADOR ASKING FOR POWER TO SPEND MONEY WITH UNNAMED.

U. S. CLINCHED WRONGFUL GERMAN ACTS

(By United Press)
Washington, Sept. 21.—The former German ambassador, Count von Bernstorff, was active as an anti-American plotter while his nation and the United States were still on friendly terms, and he asked the Berlin foreign office on January 22 for \$50,000 to influence the United States congress, "as on former occasions."
The state department made this fact public today in announcing the text of the message he forwarded on that date.
Announcement of the state department said, "the secretary of state issues the following message from Ambassador Bernstorff to the Berlin foreign office under date of January 22, 1917. I request authority to pay out up to fifty thousand dollars in order, as on former occasions, to influence the congress of the United States, through the organization you know of, which can prevent war."
"I am beginning in the meantime to act in accordance with the above circumstances as a German public official in a declaration in favor of Ireland being freed, as it is highly desirable, in order to gain the support of the Irish influence."
The activity of Count Bernstorff was in the nature of influencing the American congress through unnamed organizations which he informed his government "could perhaps prevent war."

FRISCO STRIKE UNSETTLED

(By Chas. P. Stewart.)
Washington, Sept. 21.—Mediator W. T. Boyce of the San Francisco strike situation has advised the department of labor that conferences day and night had failed to produce a "satisfactory common ground settlement."

The Irish-Americans has been known to this government for something like a year, and showed rather conclusively that Germany was seeking Irish-American sympathy in trying to stir up trouble for England.
The state department did not announce the name of the organization that was to handle the \$50,000, though probable investigation has given the government a line on its identity.
Just how the message came into the hands of the American government has been kept a secret, as in the case of other documents proving Germany's guilt.
The date of the communication was at the time that Germany and the United States were on the verge of breaking off relations, and less than ten days later Germany put into effect her unwarned submarine decree.
News of the state department's latest expose of German intrigue stirred congress as no previous circumstance. The senate is not in session but in the cloakrooms and committee rooms and corridors there is a buzz of conversation mingling on the mysterious "organization" through which Bernstorff is alleged to have operated.
Long before the house met at noon there was talk of investigation and a call for an answer from every representative in the lower branch.
It planned to hear Lansing's revelation in both houses this afternoon.
Both houses developed strong anti-war sentiment during various crisis through which Germany and the United States struggled previous to the declaration of war.
Washington, Sept. 21.—Determination to unearth the organization through which former ambassador Von Bernstorff had worked in his efforts to prevent war has developed in congress.
House and senate leaders are astounded at the spectacular announcement.

(Continued on page eight.)

ROCKY MOUNT FAIR READY

Rocky Mount, Sept. 21.—Among the items of special interest to the farmers in this vicinity are the amateur races, confined to mules and horses, owned and driven by residents of the surrounding counties. These races will be pulled off between heats of the regular speed program and a large number of farmers in the vicinity have already signified their intentions of entering. There is no entry fee and no charge of any kind is made.
The Rocky Mount Fair is again offering larger racing purses than any other fair in the state and with its fine track, in the best of condition, it is expected that records will be broken before the fair is over. Already fifty horses have been entered and it is yet a week until the entries close.
Among the most interesting exhibits are those entered for the special prizes offered for North Carolina Food products. A special section has been appropriated for these entries and the demonstration agents of the nearby counties assure representative exhibits from each county. Competition for the county prizes will be keen.
Making its debut last year with the avowed intention of becoming the leading fair in Eastern Carolina, the Rocky Mount Fair Company believes it is in position to claim its laurels and leaves the judging to its patrons.

PHILADELPHIA'S MAYOR ARRESTED

(By United Press.)
Philadelphia, Pa., Sept. 21.—Mayor Thomas Smith, common councilman, Isaac Duetsch and police lieutenant David Bennett have been summoned to appear in the municipal court on charges of conspiracy to commit murder and other crimes.

Local Couple Secretly Married

Intending to keep their marriage secret until Christmas, or until the bride could be released from her school duties, two of our local people met in Weldon two weeks ago and were married by the Methodist minister at the parsonage.
The story leaked out when a travelling man, waiting in Weldon for a train, saw Mr. P. E. Shields come out of the parsonage with Miss Ella Mae Miller, and knowing Pete Shields thought the matter suspicious. It was not however until this travelling man recognized the lady here in town last week that he told what he had seen in Weldon.
Mr. Pete Shields came from Henderson last night, not anticipating the secret had leaked out, and when told about it this morning admitted the truth of the story, but stated that both he and Miss Miller had wished to keep the matter quiet until the Christmas holidays.

SWEDISH CHARGE WONT COME TO UNITED STATES

FOLKE CRONHEIM HAD PLANNED PREVIOUS TO EXPOSURE TO MAKE TOUR OF THIS COUNTRY WITH CALIFORNIA AS OBJECTIVE

FEAR SAFETY SINCE SCHEMES UNCOVERED

TO FORM NEW STATE GUARD

(By United Press.)
Raleigh, Sept. 21.—Plans for the organization of a home guard for North Carolina, to be composed of citizens of over 31 years of age, for the purpose of maintaining public order on the absence of the regular guard, was presented to the state counsel of defense by Governor Bickett, federal government, it is said, will furnish all the necessary arms.

(By United Press.)
Mexico City, Sept. 21.—Folke Cronheim, the former Swedish charge de affairs, whom the German minister, Von Eckhardt, thought worthy of a decoration for his services to Germany, decided to delay his visit to the United States until the whole matter had been cleared up.
Folke Cronheim had previously planned a visit to California.

ASSAULT ON RALIEGH LADY

(By United Press.)
Raleigh, Sept. 21.—Making good his promise made to the enraged mob during the early hours of the morning as they stormed the jail here demanding the life of the negro, Earl Neville, for assault on a white woman, Mrs. F. S. Coley, the wife of a street car conductor, Governor Bickett ordered an immediate special term of Wake county court.
The speedy trial of the negro, it is believed, alone will prevent mob violence as the most extreme fury is engendered throughout this section.
The assaulted woman, Mrs. Coley, declares that the negro entered her home in the absence of her husband, who entered through the window while she was rocking her baby to sleep, and pointing a revolver at the woman accomplished his dastardly purpose.

COAL FAMINE IN WEST N. C.

(By United Press.)
Charlotte, Sept. 21.—Western North Carolina and surrounding sections face the worst coal famine in all history.

What Makes The Men so Foolish?

A good show appeared here last night, and the people generally enjoyed it, but this does not excuse the men who were around town all night long kicking up a disturbance, shooting, shrieking, and doing all manner of unseemly things, that made last night stand out as a reflection upon a law abiding community.
Are men so besides themselves that a dozen chorus girls can make fools of a town full of men? Surely not, and we must put the onus of the wild night upon the shoulders of young men who know better, and failed to live up to their up-bringing.
Darkness is ever the time for misdeeds, and for this season there is a reflection upon both men and women who are known to keep late hours upon the streets, but that is no excuse for the madness of some men in rushing off to see the last of these disturbing show women.

MASKED MEN HOLD UP TRAIN

Jackson, Tenn., Sept. 21.—Three masked men late last night held up the northbound Mobile and Ohio passenger train at Finger, Tenn., thirty miles south of here, detaching the engine and express car from the coaches, and after running at express rate for several miles dynamited the safe.
The railroad company say they secured virtually nothing of value.

FLAG MAKERS ARE ARRAIGNED

(By United Press.)
Washington, Sept. 21.—The exploitation of the stars and stripes for illegal profiteering is charged by the commission in formal complaint against the association of flag manufacturers of America, and twenty other of the largest banner makers of the country.

RUSSIANS CRY ALOUD FOR CITIZENS BLOOD

PEOPLE DEMAND THE LIVES OF FORMER SECRETARY, DUMA'S PRESIDENT AND OTHER PROMINENT MEN

ALL PART OF GERMAN PROPAGANDA

(By Wm. G. Shepherd.)
Stockholm, Sept. 21.—Russia has reached the reign of terror period. Today the cry is for blood, for wholesale executions. Bolshevik members are demanding the lives of the former secretary, Paul N. Miliukoff and Michael Rodselanko, the president of the Duma, as well as 20 other Duma members.
Nothing could strikingly show the horrible distortion, that is menacing Russia, developed by the German propaganda, than this growth of the guillotine spirit in Russia.
Boltekevik are pacifists and they demand universal brotherhood, and are resorting to killing and executions to obtain their demands.
Germany's propaganda, more than Germany's armies, menaces the life of the Russian democracy today.
Teuton intrigue is reaching even into the winter palace in its attempt upon Kerensky's life. It tempted Korniloff to revolt. It is spreading scandalous stories about Russia's great leaders to create dissention and has succeeded in befuddling the Russian mind almost to the point of helplessness to the point where the insane cry is for blood.
The Russian armies are holding at bay ninety and a half divisions of German troops, in all 1,357,000 men, while Germany concentrates her intrigue upon the Russian officers, keeping together enough of their forces to prevent damage being done.
A mysterious story emanating from German sources is that Kerensky is a morphine fiend. Another lie created is that Kerensky has divorced his wife to marry an actress. Though utterly untrue these stories find some credence.