

MYSTERY STILL CLOAKS CAUSE OF SHIP'S SINKING

American Consul Says He Thinks Dutch Steamer Struck a Mine.

CREW DECLARES IT WAS A TORPEDO

Holland Aroused Over Sinking of Big Steamer—American Agents to Investigate.

Amsterdam March 17. (Via London) The newest and finest steamship sailing under the Dutch flag, the Tubantia of the Holland-Lloyd line, was sunk shortly before dawn yesterday, 20 miles off the Dutch coast.

Although it is not positively established whether the sinking was due to a mine or a torpedo there is apparent unanimity on the part of those on board in attributing it to a submarine act. The crew base their belief in this regard chiefly on the intense violence of the explosion and on the fact that it occurred midships. The vessel was outward bound from Amsterdam to South American ports, carrying a crew of 294 and 82 passengers, the latter mostly neutrals and among them it is said there were three Americans. The ship bore the usual identification marks of her neutral character, including an illuminated name and flag.

The disaster has created a profound sensation throughout Holland where the ship was a great popular favorite, owing to its size and luxurious appointments. The press comment reflects anger and indignation. It is now believed there was a small number of lives lost in the sinking of the vessel either in the explosion or in an attempt to launch a lifeboat. The steamer remained afloat for several hours.

Mine Says American Consul

London March 17.—A Reuter dispatch from Amsterdam says: "Richard Schilling, the American consul, who with his wife and daughter arrived here this morning with other survivors of the Tubantia, expresses the opinion that the liner struck a mine. The steamer, he said, soon came to a standstill, after being struck, and almost immediately heeled over. The passengers and crew rushed on deck, leaving all their belongings behind, and consequently lost all their baggage."

"Mr. Schilling had heard that some persons on board lost their lives, but the correspondent was unable to obtain any confirmation of this."

Instructed to investigate. Washington, March 17.—American consuls in Holland have been instructed to investigate the sinking of the Dutch liner, Tubantia, with Americans aboard, said to have been torpedoed.

Consular agents at Gibraltar and Lisbon have been instructed to investigate the reported unsuccessful attempt to torpedo the French liner, Patria.

GERMAN FLEET MAY COME OUT TO FIGHT

Retirement of Von Tirpitz Interpreted by Paris in That Way.

Paris, March 17.—The retirement of Admiral von Tirpitz is considered in French official circles, according to Paris newspapers, to be due to the fact that he has opposed the coming out of the German fleet while Emperor William desires to see it engaged by the British naval forces.

The conclusion is consequently drawn that a change may be looked for in the German naval policy and that the recent appearance of the German warships in the North Sea is a sign that preparations are being made for early action by the high sea fleet.

Mrs. S. Mitchell of New Berlin, was a visitor in the city, Thursday, an Orion Hotel guest.

BRITISH SAID TO BE IN RETREAT

Berlin, March 17. (By wireless to Sayville)—British forces on the Tigris, below Kut-el-Amara, began a general retreat after their defeat at Felahie on March 8, with the Turks in pursuit, according to today's dispatches from Constantinople received here.

WASHINGTON IS PLEASED WITH THE SITUATION

Reports Show Carranza Forces Are Co-operating With Americans.

BELIEVES DANGER IS GROWING LESS

Republican Senator Introduced Resolution Approving President Wilson's Course As To Mexico.

Washington, March 17.—Very satisfactory assurances regarding the attitude of the Carranza government towards the entrance of American troops into Mexico have been conveyed to the State Department by Consul Silliman, who is with General Carranza. He reported that no trouble from the Carranza forces may be expected.

Overnight dispatches received by Acting Secretary Polk of the State Department, and Secretary Baker were optimistic. It was said by the administration that the Mexican situation seemed entirely satisfactory.

President Wilson received the report before the cabinet meeting. The administration believes the danger of active opposition by the Carranza forces is growing less. Consul Silliman's dispatches from General Carranza's headquarters reviewed favorably the sentiment there.

Senator LaFollette, Republican, today introduced in the Senate a resolution, which was adopted without opposition, approving President Wilson's course in sending a punitive expedition to Mexico and assuring the Mexican people further that the object of the expedition was merely punitive.

Calles' Troops Are Helping

Douglas, Arizona, March 17.—The Carranza troops, under General Calles, military governor of Sonora, were making every effort today to co-operate with the soldiers composing the expedition from the United States in pursuit of Francisco Villa, according to reports received here.

ANOTHER DUPONT PLANT FOR VIRGINIA

Wilmington, Del., March 17.—Announcement was made today of the acquisition by the DuPont Powder Company of a site for a new dynamite plant of moderate capacity on the York river, near Yorktown, Va. This site comprises about 3,000 acres and is a few miles northwest of Yorktown.

The new plant, it is said, will be in no sense another Hopewell, as it will not have to hurry-up the work of munition making.

POPULAR TRYON HOTEL BURNED DOWN TODAY

Asheville, N. C., March 17.—The Miamosa Inn, a popular resort near Tryon, was destroyed by fire today shortly before noon. The hotel at the time was filled with visitors and although no lives were lost, in so far as known here, many guests lost their trunks and personal belongings. The fire is said to have started in the boiler-room.

The amount of damage and insurance are not known here.

COMMISSIONERS ARE READY TO REPORT

Washington March 17.—The commissioners appointed by the supreme court to mark the boundary line of North Carolina and Tennessee reported today that their task had been completed. The commissioners are D. B. Burns, D. D. Hale and Joseph Hyde Pratt.

ANNUAL INSPECTION

State And Government Think High Of Wilmington Light Infantry With every man present except two, one of whom was sick while the other was out of the city, the second company coast artillery corps, North Carolina National Guard, more familiarly known as the Wilmington Light Infantry was inspected Thursday night by Capt. A. Greig, U. S. A., instructor-inspector, of the corps and Col. Thomas Stringfield of the State militia and attained a high mark with some exceptions.

In speaking of the company Capt. Greig said that they made their usual excellent showing and while there is room for improvement in the artillery work, taking the company as a whole, it is in fine shape and there is no better personnel in the State. He stated, however, the government expects the companies to have a strength of 63 men and three officers. The W. L. I. has only 56 and three officers.

ONE OF VILLA'S CUT-THROATS AND HIS HORSE KILLED



DEAD VILLISTA AND HORSE SLAIN IN ATTACK ON COLUMBUS, N. M. - (INTL. FILM SERVICE.)

This interesting picture shows one of the band of Villista outlaws, who raided Columbus, N. M., lying beside his dead horse. Both horse and rider were brought down by the mounted rangers in the back.

COTTON SEED CRUSHED OF THE 1915 CROP

Census Bureau Makes These and Other Cotton Figures Public Today.

Washington, March 17.—Cotton seed crushed from the 1915 crop, the census bureau announced today, amounted to 4,132,466 tons, compared with 5,779,665 tons from the 1914 crop. Linters obtained were 880,730, equivalent to 500,000 pound bales, compared with 856,900 from the 1914 crop.

The bureau's includes 502,698 tons of seed to be crushed and 121,606 bales of linters to be obtained after the date of the march canvass.

Active mills operated for the 1915 crop numbered 840. Linters obtained numbered 895,274 running bales. Seed crushed and linters obtained by States were North Carolina, seed crushed 292,291 and linters obtained 52,531; South Carolina, seed crushed 322,922 and linters obtained 67,337.

SHOULD HAVE A NITRATE PLANT

Establishment of One On North Carolina Line Advocated.

Washington, March 17.—A government nitrate plant to be located near the intersection of Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee was recommended today to the Senate agricultural committee by Thomas H. Norton, former American consul at Chemnitz, Germany, who is now attached to the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce. The committee had under consideration the bill of Senator Smith, of South Carolina, to appropriate \$15,000,000 for establishment of plants for the manufacture of nitrogen for fertilizers, for munitions of war and for arts.

Such a location would be reasonably free from invasion of a hostile army an cheap water power could be obtained, Dr. Norton said. This plant for the manufacture of fertilizer would be so constituted that within 24 hours nitrate acid could be made for explosives.

HOUSE TO HURRY UP THE ARMY MEASURE

Washington, March 17.—Under a rule limiting debate to 10 hours, The House today began consideration of the army bill, the most extensive preparation for military forces ever laid before it in peace. If possible a final vote will be reached by tomorrow night.

California's Jap "Picture Brides."

San Francisco, March 17.—The number of Japanese "picture brides" entering this port and the number of Jap weddings in California, mostly picture weddings, are gradually increasing. In 1911 there were 589; 1912, 906; 1913, 718; 1914, 887, and 1915, 915. The custom consists of a match made by an exchange of photographs.

COTTAGE MEETINGS

The following cottage prayer meeting in connection with the Chapman-Alexander revival will be held this evening at 8 o'clock at the places named: Section No. 1, Mrs. Donald McRae, Corner Third and Dock. Section No. 2, Mrs. M. J. Fowler, 512 Nun street. Also Mrs. Wm. Bryan, 810 Fourth street. Section No. 3, Mrs. R. F. Bass, 1416 South Fourth street. Section No. 4, Mrs. William Struthers, 1012 Market street. Section No. 6, Mr. J. C. Stewart, 220 North Second street. Section No. 7, Catherine Kennedy, Home corner Ninth and Princess. Section No. 8, St. John's Mission. Carolina Mrs. Eugene Philpaw, 1808 Market street.

GYPSIES BELIEVED TO HAVE THE LAD

Kidnapped Youth Probably With Band In Vicinity of New Bern.

New Bern, N. C., March 17.—The authorities throughout Eastern North Carolina are searching for a band of Gypsies who are believed to have with them James Glass, a small boy who disappeared from a farm-house at Greely, Pa., last May, it was announced here today. A nation-wide search has been made for the boy since his disappearance and his picture has been shown in motion picture theatres throughout the country.

The Gypsies were in New Bern recently and at that time had with them a boy answering the description of young Glass. Several persons here who had seen the photograph of the lost boy and saw the lad with the Gypsies express the belief that the boy here recently was Glass. From Beaufort county today came report that the Gypsy band was near Washington several days ago.

A reward of \$500 for any information or arrest that would lead to the recovery. If the lad had been offered by his parents.

Out For Constable

Friends will be interested in the announcement of Mr. T. Piver, formerly a deputy sheriff here, who is now out for the position of constable in Wilmington township. Announced for this position are Constable John Davis, the popular incumbent; Mr. Chas. Kunold, whose friends say they will get him the job; and Mr. Piver, who views the race with all confidence.

Want Molasses.—The C. C. Covington Company yesterday instituted claim and delivery proceedings in Superior Court for 98 puncheons of molasses held by the Clyde Line here, valued at about \$4,000. It is alleged that certain charges are against the shipment and that the defendant refuses to deliver the consignment until the charges are paid. It is further alleged that the defendant is unable and will not furnish an itemized report of the charges.

COLORED REPUBLICANS ARE GETTING ACTIVE

Leagues Being Organized in State and Convention Has Been Called

Special to The Dispatch. Raleigh, N. C., March 17.—Circulars issued by prominent colored Republicans and reaching Raleigh yesterday have given to the few receiving them substantial suspicion that the colored voters will this year participate in politics as they have not done since 1898.

A call for a mass convention "of all true Republicans of North Carolina on Monday, April 24, at twelve o'clock, noon, to take such action and devise such plans as may be deemed necessary to preserve and make effective the principles of the Republican party as they were handed down by the founders and fathers of that organization," has been sent out and eighteen years have gone by since the black man has talked more seriously of his political rights.

All over North Carolina colored leagues are being organized and a strong one was given life here Wednesday night. While the call for the convention on April 20 addressed to "all true Republicans" it is very generally declared among the colored Republicans that they will never affiliate as a State element with the old organization.

"All true Republicans of whatever race or color or previous condition, are invited to join us in this movement," the circular says, "and assist us in building up a party whose old and honorable landmarks and whose grand achievements have shed lustre upon the Republic and whose victories have brought blessings to mankind the world over."

"This action has been taken by reason of the many letters coming to these headquarters from Negro Republicans in various sections of the State, and in accordance with the unanimous concurrence of the officers of this organization in informal conference with a number of the executive committee and other leading Republicans. It is hoped that those attending the convention will come with the one purpose of formulating such a course of action as will secure to all Republicans of the State of every class and color their rights and privileges in the party organization and in promoting the peace and progress of our grand old commonwealth.

"It is hoped that negro Republicans in each county will bestir themselves to the end that their county be represented by a large delegation of their most thoughtful citizens.

Against The Bosses.

"We can no longer afford to be made the football of the bosses and designing politicians. With us there is a great and fundamental principle at stake, for which we must stand united and forever contend. In the confidence that the patriotism of the North Carolina will make hearty response to this call, I am,

"Very Respectfully," "H. H. Taylor."

The writer of the call is the chairman of the executive committee. He lives in Warrenton and the circulars come from that place. It was learned a few days ago that the colored Republicans held a meeting here about the time of the regular Republican convention but nobody who attended (Continued on Page Six.)

AMERICAN ADVANCE GUARD WILL SOON BE IN VILLA ZONE

Expectation is Keyed to High Pitch On The Texas Border.

TODAY MAY BRING FORTH A FIGHT

Rumors of Revolt In Carranza's Army Given Little Credence—Censorship Still On.

El Paso, Texas, March 17.—Expectation along the border was keyed to its highest pitch today by the general belief that before nightfall the advance guard of the American expeditionary forces would have entered Villa territory in the mountains of the Casas Grandes region of Mexico.

While the censorship prevented any official news of the whereabouts of the American column report brought by Americans arriving from interior points coupled with the calculations of men thoroughly familiar with the territory over which the expeditionary force is passing made it reasonably certain the United States soldiers must be close to the district where Villa is believed to exercise his greatest influence and have the largest number of sympathizers.

With the possibility that the actual fighting with Villa's men might begin at any moment interest redoubled in every item of intelligence that threw any light on the attitude of the Carranza adherence and more especially that of the five detachments of Carranza troops declared by officials of the de facto government to be operating against Villa.

Rumors of disaffection and revolt among the Carranza troops are plentiful here, as there are people who spread them, but all reliable information is to the effect that thus far at least the first chief and his lieutenants have maintained the strictest order.

BIG LAND SUIT IN SPECIAL HEARING HERE

Emmett Bellamy, Esq., as Commissioner, Presiding in Federal Court Matter.

Depositions in the land title controversy between the Brunswick Land & Lumber Co. and Mr. D. L. Gore, of this city, which was designated by Judge H. G. Connor, at the last term of the Federal Court to be heard before Emmet Bellamy, Esq., appointed as commissioner to hear the testimony, were heard in United States Court room Friday morning. The evidence is taken prior to the next term of court so as not to consume too much of that session.

The land involved is a large tract formerly owned by the father of the late Governor Daniel L. Russell and the documents date back ten years prior to the civil war. Several of the oldest citizens of Brunswick are in court to testify in the case. The land is known as the "Old Russell Tract."

The defendant is represented by E. K. Bryan and J. D. Bellamy, Esqs., of this city and Messrs. Cranmer & Davis, of Southport. J. O. Carr and C. Ed. Taylor, Esqs., are appearing for the plaintiff.

JOINT RESOLUTION HAS BECOME LAW

Washington, March 17.—President Wilson today signed the joint congressional resolution authorizing an increase of the standing army to its full strength of approximately 120,000 men.

Kansas School Teachers Meet.

Lawrence, Kas., March 17.—Four hundred high school teachers from cities and towns in Kansas, are meeting here today at the University of Kansas. The educational conference will continue tomorrow, and there are many prominent educators on the program for addresses.

NO CLASH AS YET.

San Antonio, Texas, March 17.—The American expeditionary forces have had no casualties or clashes with the Villa forces to date, according to reports received today at Fort Sam Houston.

There has been no incident of sniping reported.

GERMAN DRIVE AGAIN SHIFTS ITS DIRECTION

French Claim to Have Repulsed Violent Infantry Attacks.

RUSSIANS ARE GETTING ACTIVE

Vital Developments Looked For In Southern Russia—Italians are Also Busy

The German drive at the Verdun defenses has again shifted its direction. Strong assaults were made by the Germans on the line east of Verdun during last night, five assaults in the Vaux region being repulsed by the French, Paris announced today.

The German attack was most violent, but each was broken up by the French fire, the Paris war office declares. Both the fort and the village of Vaux were the objective of the Germans, two attacks being made on each, while a fifth was delivered in an effort by the Germans to advance from the protected roadway southeast of the Vaux village.

The recent heavy fighting has been northwest of the fort and only last night Paris reported a massed attack by the Germans, who drove the French from the position at Dead Man's Hill, only to be forced back eastward to Corbeaux Wood, suffering heavy losses. Although the bombardment has been continued in this region the infantry attacks have not been renewed.

Important operations may be developing along the southern part of the Russian front, as Vienna reports increased activity by the artillery on both sides.

In Galicia the Russians have attacked along the Stripa river, but without success, the Austrian war office declares.

The Italian offensive along the Isonzo is commanding attention, although Vienna's last report on the situation declares the attack on the Austrian line has decreased in violence.

The current statement by the Rome war office records counter-attacks by the Austrians on the positions newly won by the Italians. These are declared to have been repulsed.

ORGANIZATIONS PLEASED WITH TERM'S BEGINNING

Moonlight Schools Show Prospects of Having Large Attendance Tonight.

Members of the Colonial Dames, North Carolina Sorosis and the Junior Order of United American Mechanics are highly pleased with the results of the first session of the spring term of the moonlight schools being conducted under their auspices at the Cornelius Harnett, William Hooper and the Delgado school buildings. The extreme cold weather prevented many of the scholars from attending that had signified their intentions, but nevertheless the principals and the teachers are not in the least discouraged as they expect the number to be doubled at tonight's session.

In the three of the schools there was a total of 45 persons who attending for the purpose of taking the course. They were of all ages, men and women, boys and girls. Good progress was made and great results are anticipated.

The second course of instruction will be held tonight and on Monday night the regular tri-weekly sessions will begin. The nights are Monday Wednesday and Friday, for the William Hooper and Cornelius Harnett schools and Monday, Thursday and Friday at Delgado school.

GREENSBORO HOTEL MAN MURDERED

Found In Dying Condition In Alley at Midnight—Died Today.

Greensboro, N. C., March 17.—J. W. Brady, manager of a local hotel, died here early today as results of a wound received last night in what the police believe to have been an attempted robbery.

Brady, with his throat cut and skull crushed, was found unconscious in an alley at midnight. His pockets had been turned inside out, but the police discovered that his pocketbook had been left in the hotel safe. No arrests have been made.