

DRIVE FOR BUCHAREST NOW IN FULL SWING

Rumanian Capital Is Menaced And Government Officials Get Ready to Flee.

ADVANCE IN PROGRESS. FROM THREE SIDES.

Peace Parleys Between Rumania and The Central Powers Being Talked Of—Von Falkenhayn Issues Proclamation to His Army.

London, Nov. 25.—The final phase of the campaign against Rumania, the drive on her capital, Bucharest, is in full swing. Having crossed the Danube—so far as officially known at two places—Field Marshal von Mackensen's Bulgarian army is advancing on the historic fortress from the southwest, along two railways, working toward a junction with the forces of General von Falkenhayn, whose legions are sweeping down upon the capital from the west and northwest. The last natural barrier, the Alt river, was crossed today. The Teuton junction and the subsequent siege of Bucharest, are conceded here to be only a matter of time. Mackensen is now less than seventy miles from Bucharest; Falkenhayn some thirty miles.

The most menacing blow is yet to be struck, it is believed, when Mackensen's center crosses the Danube at Turulici Bridgehead, only 37 miles southeast of Bucharest. The advance on the capital now is in full progress from three sides. The next few days are expected to bring reports of peace parleys between Rumania and the central powers and Bulgaria. The case of Montenegro, it is believed, will be repeated. As in that case the reports will be based upon vague proposals made by factions in the invaded kingdom independent from the real rulers.

Plat-footed Rumanian capitulation will not become, even the most pessimistic observers here believe, until Bucharest has fallen. The unquenchable hatred of King Ferdinand—a hatred which is fully mutual—will stand in the way of any such development, it is believed.

Meanwhile the Rumanian government is expected to flee shortly from the menaced country.

The latest official news from the Rumanian theatre of war came from Berlin tonight. "Parts of the army group of Field Marshal von Mackensen that crossed the Danube near Sibow gained ground," said a bulletin of the German office.

Further progress by Falkenhayn on the middle and lower Alt also was reported.

The German afternoon report stated that in the "wooded mountains northeast of Turnu-Severin, Rumanian battalions cut off from the main army, are still offering tenacious resistance."

The stubborn defense put up by this ill-fated Rumanian force, the last of King Ferdinand's army chain to hold out, battling to the last even in the certainty of doom, is seen one of the most impressive chapters of real heroism of this war.

The German official statements are significantly silent as regards the points where the Danube was crossed by Mackensen. The bulletins of the Rumanian and Russian war offices show, however, that crossings were effected near Zimnita, seventy miles southeast of Bucharest, and at the mouth of the Alt, south of Islaza.

From both these points railways lead northward, converging at Rosiori, toward which town Falkenhayn is driving from Craiova.

Bucharest this afternoon reported that the forces which crossed the Danube were halted in their advances by Rumanian resistance. This was prior to the latest Berlin report, however.

The Bulgarians have occupied a series of islands in the Danube south of Craiova.

OVERTON WILL SOON KNOW HIS FATE.

Testimony Closed in Case and Argument Will Begin Tomorrow.

Huntsville, Ala., Nov. 25.—Both sides in the case of David D. Overton, charged with the murder of Judge W. T. Lawler, closed this afternoon, and is now ready for argument by attorneys Monday morning. This will require at least the entire morning session which will begin Monday at 9:30 and some of the afternoon session, so the case will not reach the jury until the afternoon. The crowd that attended the afternoon session was composed of many country people, who were in the city for weekend and many brought their lunches and remained in the court room all day. Judge Miller announced that all who come to the court room Monday will be searched for firearms.

The prosecution scored at the afternoon session when Mrs. Robert Phillips, widow of the ex-sheriff, and Mrs. Tom Lawler, Jr., daughter of the dead sheriff, testified that Sheriff Phillips remained at home all night June 14-15, the night Judge Lawler disappeared and did not leave home until after breakfast. They also testified that he received no telephone call during the night or early in the morning. The defendant had sworn that he called Phillips and he came to the court house in the early morning of Thursday, June 15th.

The state scored again with two witnesses who testified that they saw Overton, the defendant, in the city after 8 o'clock, Wednesday night, June 15. Sam Thompson, a merchant, testified that at 9:35 o'clock he saw Overton and George Blanton, a city policeman, step into the vestibule of a store on the north side of the square and converse for a moment, while J. H. McDonald swore he saw Overton driving on Randolph street after 10 o'clock. Overton claimed, when testifying, that he and Judge Lawler drove out of the city toward Whitesburg at a few minutes past eight. Blanton, who is a county commissioner, was called as a witness for the defense to testify that he had not seen Overton at the time Thompson claimed and had been with Policeman Walter Sanders the whole night. Sanders, when placed on the stand, verified Blanton. Defendant was called to the stand to testify that the night McDonald saw him driving on Randolph street was not Wednesday.

TOM WATSON GOES ON TRIAL MONDAY

Georgia Editor Who Attacked Catholic Church Must Face a Jury.

Augusta, Ga., Nov. 25.—The second trial of Thomas E. Watson, anti-Catholic editor of the Jeffersonian Magazine, former Populist vice-presidential nominee and congressman, will begin Monday before Judge Lambkin in Federal Court.

Watson is charged with sending obscene attacks on the Catholic church through the mails. As at the former trial, Mr. Watson will act as his own chief counsel, but he will be assisted by Attorneys W. H. Fleming, J. Gordon Jones and Samuel L. Olive. A formidable array of character witnesses, including two former governors, have been subpoenaed.

The prosecution will be in the hands of District Attorney Donaldson and Assistant District Attorney Miller.

An iron grip. Where he had to be crushed he was pulverized. Where he had to be beaten he was hit into the heart.

Both sides today claimed relative successes in the fighting in Macedonia, north and west of Monastir.

GOVERNOR SAVES YOUNG MAN FROM ELECTRIC CHAIR

Sentence of Tom Merrick, of New Hanover, Commuted As Last one By Gov. Craig

PREMEDITATION WAS NOT SHOWN IN CASE.

Declares the Chief Executive in Assigning Reasons—One Juror Sought Clemency and Another Opposed It

Raleigh, Nov. 25.—Governor Craig has issued his last commutation in a capital case, according to his statement given out late Friday evening, saving Thomas Merrick, of New Hanover, from a death sentence which was to have taken effect December 15.

Governor Craig's term of office ends early in January and so far as the record now show he has no other prisoners in death row who are seeking clemency. There may be two who are awaiting action of the Supreme Court and one is in the penitentiary for safekeeping.

Governor Craig has allowed as many, relatively, to suffer death as any of his predecessors, an uncommon number having been executed this year. Two Wilmington murderers whom Superior Court juries convicted of the highest crime received new trials and lost the second time. Governor Craig saw his way to give them a life term. The first, Melvin Horne, was of doubtful sanity as the Governor saw it. Little Merrick's case was different and rested purely upon premeditation. Judge Frank Daniels, who tried him first, joins in the request for commutation and one of the jurors asks it while another demands death.

Their attitude very well symbolizes the public's view of most pardons and commutations issued by Governor Craig. He has received more criticism for his clemency toward prisoners than any other public act has caused him to receive. Last year he sent hundreds home on a Christmas visit and had the remarkable luck to get all back, save one. The Governor isn't long on capital punishment, but has allowed many to die.

His reasons are thus given: This prisoner has been convicted of murder in the first degree by two juries of New Hanover county. He appealed to the Supreme Court, and the judgment condemning him to death was affirmed. The evidence was substantially the same at both trials. This case is exhaustively discussed by the Supreme Court in the 171 N. C. 788. The testimony at the trial tended to establish the following facts:

There was no previous animosity existing between the prisoner and the deceased. The homicide occurred in a bottling establishment in the city of Wilmington. This plant consisted of a house about thirty feet wide and sixty feet long, divided midway by a partition. The door opened from the front to the back compartment and a large door led into the back yard. The prisoner was in the front room of this establishment without objection of the owner. He often worked there. While sitting on a crate talking to one of the hands, the deceased, who drove a delivery wagon for the establishment, came into the front room, and asked the prisoner where his hitching rein was. The prisoner replied, "It is my hitching rein." Hudson, the deceased, replied, "It is no such a damn thing," and starting toward the boy said: "You get out of here." The boy replied, "Mr. Hudson, you do not own this plant, and you have no right to put me out." Hudson, said to be a fine specimen of manhood, weighing about 165 pounds, continued to advance, caught the boy, the prisoner, and pushed or shoved him off the box, and two of the witnesses say, struck him on the back of the neck twice. The defendant getting loose ran into the back room, returned and got his hat, which had fallen off his head, went again into the back room and returning with a gun applied to Hudson the vilest epithet and fired and killed him. The boy had borrowed the gun to hunt birds—rice birds or coots, which were killed for eating at that time of the year, and had the gun somewhere in the back room. It was loaded with shot something like No. 6.

Four or five of the employees testified that when the boy went out the first time he stayed three or four minutes, and returning for his hat, went out and stayed the same length of time before he returned with the gun and fired. One of these witnesses, however, on cross-examination, said that he would not say definitely that those periods when the boy was out of the room were three or four minutes. It might have been "one minute," and again that "it did

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Call To The People To Pay The People's Debt

The amount that North Carolina must, or is asked to raise to help make up the \$300,000 Democratic campaign deficit has been specified, and, no doubt, this sum will be quickly raised, to the glory of the Old North State.

A clarion call has been sounded by Hon. A. W. McLean, chairman of the North Carolina campaign fund and the State's National Democratic executive committeeman. It is now up to the people to readily respond. The deficit was incurred by the National Committee in the closing days, so that the Democratic gospel might be carried into every corner of the country and thus clinch the glorious victory. To pay this debt the party looks to the people, as the Democratic party is of the people and stands for the masses. It can only look to them. It does not want friends among the plutocrats, and would not seek, nor be under obligations to such.

The Dispatch has received the following wire from Mr. McLean:

Lumberton, N. C., Nov. 25.—W. W. Marsh, Treasurer of the Democratic National Committee, New York, wires urging North Carolina Democrats, through our committee, to raise \$8,400, the amount apportioned to North Carolina for liquidating the present indebtedness of the National committee.

The appeal is urgent. We cannot allow the National committee to be embarrassed, after they have won the greatest political victory ever achieved by any party.

Please publish this appeal in your paper, so that the auxiliary committees in various towns in the State, as well as individual Democrats not members of the committees, can aid in this patriotic service.

A. W. McLEAN.

MANY ALREADY ENROLLED ARE DETERMINED TO WIN

Women of Wilmington and Territory Alive to Opportunities — Nominations and Votes Received From All Parts of Territory—Extra Votes on First Subscription.

- THE PRIZES. \$685 Overland Automobile. Ford Automobile. Building Lot. \$100 in Gold. \$75 Victrola. \$50 O. K. Mystic Range. \$40 Sellers Kitchen Cabinet. \$25 Wrist Watch. Two \$60 Diamond Rings.

There has been an awakening in Wilmington and vicinity in the last three or four days which is the greatest of its kind that The Dispatch has ever been responsible for. But it is only natural that offer to give away, absolutely free of any charge, two automobiles, a building lot, \$100 in gold, Victrola, range, kitchen cabinet, wrist watch, and two diamond rings should arouse the greatest and keenest enthusiasm.

Those who have already enrolled themselves as contestants have expressed themselves forcibly as intending to win, and an active canvass for votes is now commencing.

Do you know what this contest means?

It means that The Dispatch is going to give away hundreds of dollars' worth of prizes.

It means that The Dispatch is making an offer to all the women of Wilmington and territory of good character, married or single, such as is seldom presented.

It means that there is getting under way one of the merriest races ever participated in by the daughters of North Carolina.

It means that there are any number of young ladies alive to opportunities and ready to take advantage of them. From everywhere that news of the great plan has spread have come letters of nomination and inquiry. There is no speculation or chance about the winning of these splendid prizes. The winners become winners only by work—persistent, energetic work.

The Dispatch is engaged in extending its already large subscription list and for the efforts of its friends in assisting, it will repay them one hundred fold with rewards of magnificent value. Those who desire to benefit by the opportunity will secure votes, and those votes, if superior in total value to those of any rival, will secure the attractive awards.

Interest in the venture is increasing daily, as the rapidly growing list shows. It is to no particular section that the interest is confined, for it is general throughout the entire field. The rapidity with which votes will accumulate and the effort necessary

to the winning of one of the prizes will be inconsiderable compared to the value of the prize. Those fortunate enough to win will never cease to congratulate themselves on their alertness in taking advantage of the offer.

The voting coupons published in the issues of The Dispatch for the first four weeks of the contest have a value of ten votes each and every contestant is permitted to cast as many of these ballots each day as she can secure. At the end of the first four weeks the value of these ballots will be decreased to five votes each. A large vote can be piled up most quickly and by the least effort by securing subscriptions to The Dispatch. With every subscription secured a Special Ballot good for a great number of votes in proportion to the length of the subscription and whether it is no word old is given. The ten vote ballots clipped from the issues of The Dispatch will, of course, help to swell the total, but the biggest factor will be the Special Ballots given for subscription payments.

Get in and win. But first telephone or call upon the contest manager, for full information about the contest and just how best to set about the work of winning the splendid prizes.

Don't hold back the voting coupons. Clip them out and send them in NOW. They may be brought to Contest Headquarters, or mailed direct to Contest Manager of The Dispatch. GET ACQUAINTED DAY.

Saturday, December 2 will be known as "Get Acquainted Day." To every candidate, who, on or before that day turns in, ONE SUBSCRIPTION for The Dispatch for three months or more, will be given a BONUS VOTE GOOD FOR 25,000 extra votes. Only one of the Bonus Votes to any contestant. Be sure and enter the contest—become active and turn in one subscription and get 25,000 extra votes. Don't forget the day, Saturday, December 2.

- Abbottsburg, N. C. Lorene Ballantine 1,100 Edna Cashwell 1,070 Margaret Craven 1,000 Ruth Johnson 1,000 Acme, N. C. Rena Bradt 1,000 Mattie Powell 1,000 Ruby Scull 1,000 Nancy F. Wall 1,000 Alma, N. C. Annie McLean 1,010 Armour, N. C. Mrs. B. L. Daniel 1,000 Mrs. W. R. Love 1,000 Ashton, N. C. Fannie Lee Armstrong 1,200 Atkinson, N. C. Mabel Henry 1,000 Sallie J. Kelly 1,120 Florence Murphy 1,000 Mrs. T. S. Teague 1,000 Autryville, N. C. Rovella Autry 1,000 Fay Cashwell 1,000 Violet Cooper 1,000 Bladenboro, N. C. Annabel Bridga 1,000

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CITY SAID TO HAVE BEEN WREST FROM CARRANZA MEN

Report Comes to American Side That Chihuahua City At Last Has Fallen.

VILLA ATTACKED FROM THE NORTH.

Hand-to-Hand Fighting In The Streets—Villistas Said to Be Engaged In Massacre.

El Paso, Nov. 25.—After three days of assault, during which he attacked the city from the south, west and east, suffering repulses each time, Francisco Villa this afternoon moved the main body of his bandit force to the north, and, returning to the assault, drove his men into Chihuahua City.

That is the report brought to El Paso late tonight.

It adds that Villistas and Carranzas are battling in the streets of Chihuahua in hand-to-hand conflicts for the possession of the city, which Villa has sworn he will take if it costs him his last man. Villa entered the city Thursday night, but was unable to hold his ground.

Following an unsuccessful attack from the east this morning Villa sent part of his force to the north to cut the railroad and telegraph lines to Juarez. Then he ordered a general assault from the level plain of the north, toward which the Carranza cannon on the heights west and south of the city could not be trained. With the artillery of his enemies rendered ineffective Villa had little difficulty in carrying the assault into the city's suburbs.

Tonight Juarez heard that Chihuahua had fallen and the Villistas had commenced a massacre of the citizens, directing their campaign of murder, especially against Chinese, of whom there are five hundred. Carranza officials in Juarez denied the report and said the wire interruption between Juarez and Chihuahua had been located at a point half way between the two cities.

GREECE SAID TO BE FOOLING ALLIES

Merely Baiting Entente Until Rumania is Crushed, Is The Report.

Amsterdam, Nov. 25.—From the maze of conflicting dispatches passed by the Allies' censorship, one report loomed large tonight as tending to support the theory advanced by the press of the central powers and shared by wide circles in the entente countries.

That Greece, through dexterous diplomatic evasion and well-calculated manifestations of a gradual yielding to the entente, is merely marking time until Rumania is crushed and the Teutons in a position to release sufficient forces for a drive on Saloniki.

The dispatch, which lent support to this view contained the admission that Greece may try to resist by force any attempts by the entente to compel submission to Vice Admiral Furel's demand for the surrender of Greek arms and ammunition.

Other dispatches from Athens regarding Greece's attitude toward the entente demand were conflicting. The latest word from the Greek capital said that the Greek government had yielded, but added that the allies have threatened to force submission if the demand is not immediately met. A new Greek cabinet crisis is again reported imminent.

CALLS FOR BOYCOTT ON EGGS IN CHICAGO.

Chicago, Nov. 25.—An official call upon the people of Chicago to boycott the egg market was issued tonight by Dr. John Dill Robertson, the health commissioner. He declared eggs are being held in cold storage, while the sick and destitute need and cannot get them, and he asked everybody to stop buying eggs until January 21.

***** VENIZOS DECLARES WAR. ***** Athens, Greece, Nov. 25.—Ex-Premier Venizelos' recently established Greek provisional government has formally declared war on Germany and Bulgaria, it was announced today. *****

SCENE OF LEGAL BATTLE TO SHIFT BACK TO CAPITAL

Lawyers Will Buckle Down to Work There on Eight-Hour Test Case.

TO GET HEARING ON DECEMBER 4.

Brotherhood Heads Will Go to Washington to Keep Tab on The Situation—Strike Still In Mind.

Washington, Nov. 25.—The legal battle over the Administration's 8-hour law will be transferred back to Washington tomorrow, with the arrival of the railroad attorneys and the assistance of the attorney-general's office, who have been attending the hearings in the Federal Court at Kansas City. Both sides will take up the work of preparing the papers in the Missouri, Oklahoma & Gulf Railways case, which is to be laid before the Supreme Court on Dec. 4.

The four chiefs of the railway brotherhoods will also be here in the week. Their coming, at this time, indicates that they intend to keep close watch over the government's appeal from the Kansas City decision, holding the law to be invalid, and their future course in the matter of calling a strike will be largely governed, it is understood, by the result of the Supreme Court hearing.

UPBRAIDS BRITAIN FOR LETHARGY

London Newspaper Points to Crucial Situation Presented On Plains of Rumania.

London, Nov. 25.—"Reynolds newspapers" always extraordinarily well informed, and controlled by Sir Henry Dalziel, leader of the "Ginger Group," in the House of Commons, will publish tomorrow's remarkable article, entitled "The Rumanian Outlook." It says:

"It is well that the British public should realize the length of the war, as well as the fact that the future of the British empire is now being settled on the plains of Rumania. No amount of special pleading on the part of the apologists for the government can alter this fact.

"Nothing since the beginning of the war has happened, nor anything likely to have a more powerful effect in the whole position than the threatened crushing of Rumania. It is not only that Germany will get as much wheat and oil in the new territory as will keep them going for another year, but it will lend strength to the hands of that arch German spy, King Constantine, at a moment when it is essential to the allies' position that Venizelos be materially strengthened.

"The British government wasn't without full warning of the catastrophe likely to happen unless proper and adequate steps were taken to provide for the threatened German onslaught. But like so many other things in this war, the British government only woke up to the danger of the situation when it was too late."

LABOR TAKES ISSUE WITH CARRANZA

American Federation Protests Against Strike Order of Mexican Chief.

Baltimore, Md., Nov. 25.—While reaffirming its stand in behalf of peace between the United States and Mexico, the convention of the American Federation of Labor today demanded of General Carranza, on behalf of the organized workers of both Mexico and the United States, that his decree of August 1, last, forbidding agitation of strikes under penalty of death, be withdrawn.

This action by the Federation, whose officers exerted all their influence in Washington last summer to avert war, which would have meant Carranza's downfall, created a sensation when proposed late in the day by the committee on international relations.

London, Nov. 25.—Travelers just returned from Germany report the destruction by a terrific storm of a super-Zeppelin. Only one of the crew of 28 escaped with his life, it is said.