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WAR WITH GERMANY IS EXPECTED AT ANY MOMENT

LINER CALIFORNIA TORPEDOED

There Were American Citizens on Board The Big Liner when She Was Hit--Attack was Made without warning--President Had Retired but was Informed Later.

BELIEVED THAT THE LIM-IT HAS BEEN REACHED.

Washington, D. C. Feb. 7, 1917.—The steady stream of reports telling of the destruction of merchant ships by German submarines was brought to a climax tonight by a cablegram to the State Department from Consul Frost at Queenstown announcing that the British passenger liner California had been torpedoed without warning, and that an American citizen was among the survivors.

Whether this will prove to be the overt act to drive the United States into war no one would attempt to say to-night. President Wilson who must make the decision, had retired when the news came and officials did not wake him. Late in the afternoon he had been informed of the sinking of the California, but giving no details as to warning or the presence of Americans.

More than a score of merchant craft have been sent to the bottom in the war zone within the past 24 hours, and fifty or more since the German proclamation of ruthless warfare on the seas went into effect.

THE D. A. R. MEETING

The Gideon Lamb Chapter met with Mrs. John L. Hassell, on Thursday afternoon, February the first. It was the annual meeting for the election of officers, and the following were elected.

Mrs. J. H. Saunders, Regent; Mrs. A. R. Dunning, Vice-Regent; Mrs. John D. Biggs, Recording Secretary; Mrs. C. B. Hassell, Treasurer; Mrs. John E. Pope, Registrar; Miss Mayo Lamb, Historian; Mrs. John L. Hassell, Reporter.

"Maryland" was the topic for discussion, and a most interesting sketch of Charles Carroll was read by Miss Annie Lamb, and "Maryland's Relation to William Penn" by Mrs. J. H. Saunders. The patriotic song, "Maryland, My Maryland," was sung by the Chapter.

At the conclusion of the program, refreshments were served by the hostess.

Among the out-of-town members present was Mrs. Lyda Cox, of Robersonville, N. C. The meeting adjourned to meet with Miss Allie G. Little at Robersonville, on April the twelfth.

Hon. A. R. Dunning has been in Halifax this week.

PRESIDENT'S ACTION UPHELD BY SENATE

Washington, Feb. 7.—President Wilson's severance of diplomatic relations with Germany was approved by the Senate. Two Democratic Senators, Vardaman and Kirby, and one Republican, Works, voted against the resolution. Senator Lodge, Republican, the bitterest critic of the President, pledged his support and urged his colleagues to follow. Party lines vanished and all members approved with the above exception.

Startling Assertions

Cape Hatteras is today just 40 miles south of where it was when the Atlantic coast line of this continent was first mapped; Roanoke Island was 20 miles long when Sir Walter Raleigh's colonies settled there, whereas to-day it is only 12 miles long; the place on Roanoke Island which is marked as representing the site of old Fort Raleigh is not the site of old Fort Raleigh, now being buried under water six times or more from the north end of the island; the coast line of North Carolina is constantly changing, old inlets are closing up and new inlets will take their places; old Ocean already has her plans well laid to cut a new inlet thru the North Carolina banks and the new inlet probably will be at Nags Head; some fine morning after a night of storm the summer residents of Nags Head may find their cottages have been swept away and the waters of the Atlantic Ocean mingled with the waters of Roanoke Sound thru an inlet a mile wide, even as they were in the days of Amadas and Barlow.

The foregoing startling statements are made in all seriousness by Dr. J. D. Hathaway of Elizabeth City. Dr. Hathaway has made a study of the North Carolina coast for many years and has gained some little renown as an Indian relic hunter. Dr. Hathaway gets the data for his statements concerning Hatteras and Roanoke Island from many old maps and from letters written by early colonists. He bases his prediction that Nags Head may be destroyed by the natural formation of a new inlet, upon the fact that the waters of the North Carolina sounds must have a new inlet to the ocean within a few years, because most of the old inlets have been closed or are being closed by the ever shifting sands.

Dr. Hathaway has promised to give this newspaper a digest of his discoveries, observations and theories at an early date.—Independent.

Passed Over Veto

The literacy test in the immigration bill pleased Congress, who passed it over the President's veto in both Houses. Cleveland, Taft and Wilson all have vetoed similar bills, but this time the bill was passed over the veto. The Japanese Government protested strongly against the passage of the bill with the test contained therein, but Congress saw matters differently from the

President and others.

President Wilson's argument that a man should not be debarred because he had not the opportunity of education was well taken, perhaps, but there is in the mind of Congress the probable incoming of loads of foreigners after the war is over, and they would prefer the educated immigrant to the uneducated.

A Month Of Holidays

February, though it is the shortest month in the year, is rich in holidays, feasts, etc. Mr. Ground Hog opens the series, then comes on the 12th the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, and a National holiday, in which the entire Nation, North, South, East and West join in honoring this great American, who came direct from the people. Then comes St. Valentine's Day on the 14th, and from a sentimental point of view, this day holds fullest sway. Every school boy and girl know about good St. Valentine, who is the patron saint of lovers the world over. At the present time, it has become a gift day, when friend sends flowers, or some token to remind that the heart still warms at thoughts of the absent. With very few exceptions, Ash Wednesday falls at some time in the month; this is preceded in many places by Mardi Gras, in which King Pleasure holds fullest sway. The day itself ushers in the season of Lent. But to the Nation as a whole, Washington's birthday on the 22nd, is the most important holiday. In every town, city and hamlet, the character of the man is extolled, and cherries become the favorite fruit and the hatchet the popular instrument of the non-cutting kind in the schools and patriotic societies of the country.

A Big Contract

Earl L. Byers, a trained aviator with a Curtiss tractor, has contracted with the government to deliver the mail twice a week at Nome, Alaska. The price of the contract is \$49,500. That the trip will be attended with many dangers, can hardly be denied; much of the country over which Byers will fly is covered with snow to the depth of thirty feet, and if he had to land, it would not be possible to start again. He has estimated the danger and will guarantee the delivery of the mails at the price above for one year.

To Be Higher

Those who pretend to know have said that the catch of shad will be larger this year, because the number in Florida waters is much increased. But even with a greater number, comes the announcement from the New York fish dealers that the price will be much higher. This is due to the unusual prosperity and high wages, which makes money flow more easily. Food products of all kinds are up and the toothsome shad will head the list, of course.

It is earnestly hoped and expected that Roanoke River will furnish a goodly number this season; the taste of shad was rare last season unless one had a bulging bank account.

SECRETARY LANSING SAYS THAT AMERICA HAS RIGHT TO SEAS

Secretary Lansing in a statement says that American ships have the same right to the high seas as they did before Germany's ultimatum to the world, in which she declares her intention to sink all vessels sailing in a prescribed zone around the British Isles and in the Mediterranean Sea. The statement further intimates that American ships have the right and will protect themselves if attacked. This will apply to all neutrals, if they decide to defy the ruling of the Imperial German Government, and sail upon the open seas to which no nation or nations have a title.

MR. EDWIN GLASGOW DEAD.

After a short illness, James Edwin Glasgow died at his home near Jamesville, yesterday morning at 12:30. Pneumonia had attacked him, and the united efforts of physician and loved ones failed to combat the disease. He was the son of Mrs. Mary Barnhill, and brother of Miss Annie Glasgow.

Since early manhood, he had been manager of his mother's farm, and had made the home of his family sweet in which to dwell. Retiring in nature, he loved his home and very seldom left it to mix with the world. He possessed a wonderful intellect, and perhaps, no man of like age, had stored within his mind more historical facts, and other interesting things of which he talked freely. When a boy, he attended the Williamston school, and many remember him as one of the brightest pupils of his time. Mrs. Bettie Harrell and Messrs. Clayton and Maurice Moore of Williamston, are closely related to him.

The funeral will be held today and the interment will be in the family cemetery.

Greatly Needed

The recent cold weather gave an unpleasant demonstration of the need of a coal and wood yard in Williamston. The bad roads for several weeks prevented the farmers from filling their wood orders in the town, and people were inconvenienced thereby. If there was a wood yard, and it was filled with hundreds of cords during the fall, and a large quantity of coal stored also, the situation would be much more satisfactory. Several firms here keep coal, but they depend upon ordering from time to time and often the supply gets exhausted. A regular yard would prevent the exhaustion. There is plenty of wood in two or three miles and less than that, which could be handled for the use of the public, who depends largely upon the farmer for fuel. Let's have a yard—it's needed.

Rev. W. R. Burrell was unable to preach Sunday owing to the return of the cough, which has afflicted him for several weeks.

Western Weather

According to the weather man, the cold wave struck this section last Friday, accompanied by a beautiful fall of snow. The mercury which had been sitting high scampered down until it registered 8 degrees, some said, while others said ten. At any rate, it was too cold for comfort, and the wind was like a blizzard out West. The cold continued with unabated degree until Sunday, when the wind changed to the Southwest, and there was a noticeable degree of warmth. But it was left for Sunday night to usher in the worst of the season. With a velocity rare in these parts, the wind blew all night, threatening at times to take the roofs off the houses. Just before 12 o'clock, a cloud arose and when it burst upon the town, the scene presented was indeed a Western one, for the snow was blinding, coming as it did on the wings of a wind of high speed. The fall was not more than two inches as the cloud went past, and the moon shone again. When the mercury was noticed after the people arose, it had rushed down two more degrees—the lowest for years. During the continuance of the storm and about 4 o'clock fire broke out in the house occupied by Henry Hopkins on the railroad, and owned by N. S. Peel. Hopkins had just time to get out with his family, and saved only one or two articles from the fire. The house on the next lot was consumed, but by heroic effort, it was prevented from going farther though the wind was still raging like a wild beast. These houses were occupied by colored people, but the white men of the town fought the flames until they were conquered, the snow on the house-tops aiding greatly.

SENATOR WARREN'S BILL PASSES SENATE

On Wednesday, the Senate at Raleigh passed the bill of Senator Lindsay Warren dividing the State into two judicial districts with twenty-four judges and twenty judicial districts. The rotation of judges will be so arranged that there will always be two available for the holding of extra courts. The bill was sent the House, having passed without opposition, as it was the proper solution of the congested condition of North Carolina courts.

In Justice's Court

One of the interesting cases that was heard in the Justice's court here this week, was the town of Williamston against Critcher and Stokes, who are occupying the City market stalls and refuse to pay the rent or to vacate. A Writ of Ejectment was gotten out against them, and the case was up before Justice W. C. Manning. The defendants gave bond for the payment of the rent and damage that might be found and for their appearance at the March Term of Superior Court.

J. G. Staton has been in Norfolk this week on business.

FAVORABLE REPORT ON BILL.

Representative Stubbs' Bill For The Calling of a Constitutional Convention was Adopted Favorably. Will be the First in Forty-Two Years--Prohibition Clause Taken Out of Bill Submitted.

CONSTITUTION CALLED A VENERABLE INSTRUMENT

Representative H. W. Stubbs, of Martin, has received a favorable report on his bill for the calling of a constitutional convention, subject however, to the vote of the people. There was but one dissenting voice in committee on the constitutional amendments. Messrs. Stubbs, Murphy, Person and Newell spoke for the bill. If the bill passes the House and Senate, which is expected, the first constitutional convention since 1875 will probably be called. Mr. Stubbs sees great need for a revision for the "venerable instrument known as the Constitution."

Mr. Murphy stated that North Carolina was the only state in the Union which had made no change in its organic law in the last twenty-five years. He pointed out that one important revision was needed, that of the "homestead exemption" clause of the constitution. He said that it afforded to every scoundrel in North Carolina a chance to become a thief to the extent of \$1,500.

Mr. Stubbs amended his bill in deference to his friends. The original provided that no liquor clause was to be considered. He therefore, drafted the bill, leaving the liquor clause out. In his statement, he declared that any inhibition as to matters to be considered might work harm to the bill, when left to the electorate of the State.

Pleasing Recital

The pupils of Miss Helen Louise Maynard gave a pleasing recital on Thursday evening of last week at the studio in the Parish Hall. There were about sixty guests, and these were served refreshments after the program was finished. Miss Alberta Aiken and Mr. Harry M. Stubbs sang two numbers on the programme both possessing voices which charmed in "The Broken Pitcher" (Poteat), and "Who Knows" (Ball).

Among the members of Miss Maynard's class who took part in the recital were, Mary Belle Harrell, Mattie Lou Anderson, Doris Chitty, Louise Crawford, Martha Cotten Crawford, Ethel Griffin, Martha Slade Hassell, Thelma Brown, Bonner Gurganus Virginia Jordan, Annie Clyde Gurganus, Pearl Meadows, Rosa Bullock, Nina Upton.

J. A. Mizell, of Robersonville, was here yesterday.