

# ALMOST A SCRAP IN LOWER HOUSE

REPRESENTATIVES HEFLIN AND MOON COME CLOSE TO ACTUAL BLOWS.

## DISCUSSION OF POSTAL BILL

Rule for Amendments Made Subject of Bitter Passages, Involving Several Members.

Washington.—After two days of hot words which culminated in exchange of invitations to personal combat between Representatives Hefflin of Alabama and Moon of Tennessee, the house adopted a special rule to consider legislation for reforms demanded by the postoffice in connection with the annual appropriation bill. A deflection of democrats defeated a similar rule, which provided for a consideration of an amendment decreasing postmasters' salaries, elimination of assistant postmasters, experimental substitution of contract service for the rural delivery service, increase of salaries for rural carriers, changes in the compensation paid railroads for carrying the mails and other reorganization plans of the department.

The rule was passed late with provisions for cutting postmasters' salaries, abolishing assistant postmasters and the rural service substitution scheme eliminated.

A speech by Representative Moon after defeat of the original rule, in which he intimated that "some railroad influence" had operative to shift Democratic votes caused a bitter debate here. Representative Hefflin denounced Mr. Moon's statement as "false and untrue." Mr. Moon challenged him to make the same statement off the floor of the house, and Mr. Hefflin expressed his willingness to do so. The two representatives were advancing threateningly towards each other when half a dozen members stepped in between them.

Republican Leader Mann, who had led the fight against the original rule, later renewed the controversy.

"The charge has been made on this floor," he said, "that the influence of railroad interests has been felt in this house. I believe it is the duty of the house if the charge is not true, to repudiate the charge and condemn the man who made it. If it is true, then the house owes it to itself to investigate the charge and punish those men whose votes have been changed by railroad influence."

Representative Ragsdale of South Carolina said that "when the gentlemen charge that there is railroad influence enough on the Democratic side of the house to defeat this legislation I do not believe it and repudiate it."

"Well, the gentleman has his opinion," replied Representative Moon. "If the bit dog yelps, let him yelp."

Representative Webb of North Carolina said he "was not influenced by railroads, but by my own colleagues, who I think are high-minded, honest and conscientious men."

A little later Representative Moon in a brief speech disclaimed any intention to "reflect on the honor or integrity of any member of the house." He said that his speech was made "in the heat of debate" and "may have been a little too rough." He offered to withdraw any "offensive language" he might have passed.

### SMALL GAINS AND LOSSES.

All Sides are Claiming Some Few Successes.

In the offensive operations of the allies in the western war arena, interesting features are the loss in the neighborhood of Nuve Chapelle of several of the trenches recently captured by the British and an advance by the East Indians toward Richebourg l'Avouise, as reported in the latest French official communication. This statement also indicates that the Germans have not been lacking in the offensive. It records, in addition, the annihilation of a German column at Lihons.

In the east the situation is still in doubt.

According to the official statement from Petrograd, the Germans have been repulsed in an attempt to cross to the right bank of the Vistula river in Poland and fighting in the Baura river district is developing. Regarding the victory which Germany was reported to have won in Poland, Berlin remains silent.

Austria claims important successes in the battle of Limanowa in Galicia, where 26,000 Russians are said to have fallen into their hands.

A Berlin dispatch says that Emperor William has paid a visit to the wounded soldiers at Potsdam.

Army Gets All Asked For.

Washington.—The army appropriation bill, aggregating \$101,000,000 agreed upon by the House military committee, carried a special fund of \$15,000 for United States military observers in Europe. The bill closely follows the War Department's estimate. "We gave them practically all they asked for," said chairman Hay, referring to appropriations for armaments and other materials for defense. Increase of 25 regiments in the regular army was proposed by a bill introduced by Representative Anthony.

### JULIUS KAHN



Representative Kahn of California is president of the National Defense League and holds that preparedness for war is the only insurance against war.

## GERMANS MAKE BIG RAID

WHITBY, SCARBOROUGH AND HARTLEPOOL ATTRACTED BY SWIFT CRUISERS.

Casualty List Totals 110, Dead 31; Big Property Loss—Unusual Excitement.

London.—For the first time in centuries England has been struck by a foreign foe. A squadron of swift German cruisers crept through the fog to the eastern coast and turned their guns against the Britons.

When day broke they began bombardment of three important towns—Hartlepool at the mouth of the Tees, Whitby, noted as a pleasure resort, 15 miles beyond. Hartlepool suffered most. There two battle cruisers were engaged. The British war office fixes the number of dead at Hartlepool as seven soldiers and 22 civilians.

At Scarborough, shelled by a battle cruiser and an armored cruiser, 13 casualties are reported while at Whitby two were killed and two were wounded.

Men, women and children of the civilian population were left dead or wounded struck without warning while at work. In all the casualty list totals 110, according to the official estimates, of whom 31 are known to be dead.

At Hartlepool, churches were damaged and the gas works and lumber yards were set afire, while the abbey at Whitby was struck. The Balmoral Hotel at Scarborough received the full effect of a shell. A number of houses and shops were shattered and partly burned in each of the towns.

The hostile squadron escaped in the mist after an encounter with coast guard vessels.

CARRANZA AND VILLA CRASH.

Armies in First Big Battle East of Torreon.

El Paso.—The first important battle between the Carranza and Villa armies is in progress near San Pedro de las Colonias, east of Torreon. Several columns of Carranza troops from Coahuila State, aggregating about 5,000 men under Colonel Ilfonse Vasquez, are engaged by a slightly larger force under General Villa.

Both sides have ample artillery and the fighting is described as desperate. The Carranza forces made a threatening movement to take Torreon and to shut off Villa's communication with the North. Villa's garrison in Northern Mexico have been depleted by the movement into Mexico City and troops from the National Capital probably will be sent to the northern theater of war.

It appears that Carranza, from Vera Cruz, has ordered a general movement into the North. Four hundred men from General Hill's forces in the extreme east of Sonora are moving on Juarez, held by a small Villa garrison. Five hundred Carranza troops from Coahuila recently passed below Sierra Blanca, Texas, on their way toward Juarez.

Goethals Again Asks for Fleet.

Panama.—Governor Goethals has again cabled to Secretary Garrison setting forth need for destroyers in canal ports to preserve neutrality. Colonel Goethals says he has no means of preventing the use of canal or Panamanian ports as a means of communication and that these ports apparently are being used to that end. Colonel Goethals expressed opinion that there was as much necessity for destroyers at canal ports as at any other American ports where they were stationed to prevent breaches.

Right Side of Balance.

Washington.—November foreign trade statistics show a balance in favor of the United States of \$79,399,417. For October the balance was \$56,530,650, for September \$18,341,722, while in August it was \$19,400,406 against the United States. November's exports announced by the Department of Commerce totaled \$205,766,434 and imports \$126,367,027. There is a decrease of \$11,000,000 in cotton exports compared with November, 1917.

Methods Still Asunder.

Atlanta.—No definite action on the proposed amalgamation of the Northern and Southern branches of the Methodist Church was taken by the Church Commission on Federation, which adjourned here after three days of deliberation. Three bishops from the Southern Church, four bishops of the Northern Church, six ministers and six laymen comprised the commission. All sessions were strictly executive, but it was stated that more progress was made than at any time previous.

Teach Farmers to Sell.

Atlanta, Ga.—Establishment of a "marketing agent" in every state "who will instruct farmers in the scientific marketing of their crops" was advocated by Judge E. R. Kone, Texas commissioner of agriculture, in an address to the final session of the annual meeting of the Association of Agricultural Commissioners of the Southern States here. Judge Kone said that "the most important work of a state department of agriculture lies in teaching farmers how to profitably market their crops."

Mexican Bullets Still Flying.

Naco.—Five bullets from the Mexican fighting around Naco, Sonora, struck near shelters built by United States troops on the border. Many other shots fell on United States territory.

Intermittent firing on the Mexican side continued all day. Hill's Carranza troops, defending Naco, seemed to be doing most of the shooting.

Moore Troops to Naco.

Washington.—Further demonstration was made by the United States government of its determination not to tolerate continued firing by the Mexican factions at Naco. President Wilson, after a brief discussion with his cabinet, instructed Secretary Garrison to comply with the request of Brig. Gen. Tasker H. Bliss at Naco, Ariz., for reinforcements to handle a possible emergency situation. Three regiments of infantry and three batteries of artillery were ordered to Naco.

# INCREASED FREIGHT RATES ARE GRANTED

EASTERN RAILROADS ARE ALLOWED INCREASE OF FIVE PER CENT.

## THE PRESIDENT IS PLEASED

Wilson Expects Decision to Have Immediate Effect on Business. Will Add \$30,000,000.

Washington.—Further increases in freight rates were granted to the Eastern railroads by the Interstate Commerce Commission in a decision from which Chairman Hallan and Commissioner Clements dissented vigorously.

Except on lake and rail traffic, coal, coke, iron ore and certain other traffic, upon which the commission heretofore has fixed rates adjudicated "reasonable," all railroads operating in the territory between the Atlantic seaboard and the Mississippi, north of the Potomac and Ohio rivers, were allowed the flat five per cent increase for which they have been asking for four years.

The railroads hoped to get increases which would add to the annual revenues some \$50,000,000. The commission's decision is expected to give them additional revenue approximating \$30,000,000.

The roads east of a North and South line drawn through Buffalo, Pittsburgh and Charleston, W. Va., won by today's decision from the increases other than upon the traffic excepted which were denied them in the commissioner's decision last August. The roads west of this line, which got partial advances in the August decision, received further advances; so that now all the roads in what is described as official classification territory will enjoy uniform advances in both class and commodity rates.

The majority of the commission held that the roads had established in the latest hearings a greater need of additional net income than ever before. This was due, the decision held, to exigencies arising out of the war and to an already existing necessity for additional revenues to maintain the railroad properties.

Chairman Hallan in his dissenting opinion, held that sufficient aid had been given the roads by the August decision and that the findings of the majority was "morally wrong." Commissioner Clements based his dissent upon what he regarded as the inability in law, of the commission to take cognizance of anything in the making of rates other than their justice and reasonableness.

### UP AND AT 'EM NOW.

England Rises in Anger—Would Avenge Scarborough.

London.—Although there seems no doubt the Russians are retreating, and that for the present any expectation the Allies may have held of an early invasion of Germany must be dismissed, considerable mystery surrounds the reported decisive German victory which Berlin celebrated.

Vienna gives a few details of fighting in the East. The claim is made that the Russians have been driven from their positions north of the Carpathian mountains from Krosno to Zalkicyn which would indicate that part of the Southern line of railway in Galicia again is in the hands of the Austrians and that Piotrkow and another Central Poland town have been stormed, but silence is maintained as to North Poland where the German victory is said to have been achieved.

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### NISS DOROTHY DRAKE



Miss Dorothy Drake, one of the prettiest of the Washington debutantes of the holiday season, is a sister-in-law of Commander Adelbert Althouse, U. S. N.

## ADVANCE MADE BY ALLIES

AUSTRO-GERMAN FORCES ADMIT FALLING BACK TO OLD POSITION IN WEST.

Replenished Supplies From the Austrians Driven Back From Borders of the Little Country.

London.—The offensive movement of the French and the British has become general and is being pushed with strong forces, particularly in Flanders, the Argonne, the Woevre, and Alsace. While the French claim success at all points except Steinbach in Alsace, the general official reports from Berlin say the Allies' attacks have been unsuccessful at several places.

On the whole, however, it would appear that the Allies, who now have a superiority in numbers as well as in artillery, have made some progress and have withstood vigorous German counter-attacks.

In the Argonne region the French say: "We have made progress and maintained our advance of the preceding days."

The force which has been checked at Steinbach is the left wing of the army which for some time has been fighting its way toward Muelhausen and which has cleared a considerable part of Alsace of Germans. It is evident that while the Germans are prepared to offer stubborn resistance to attempted advances in the regions mentioned in the official communications they expect the main attack of the Allies to be made in another direction or themselves are preparing for an offensive, for they have gathered considerable forces at Courtral, from where they could be transferred quickly either to Flanders or southward across the French frontier.

The Austrians again have crossed the Carpathians, and according to their own account, are driving the Russian left back toward the River San. This Austrian army assisted by German reinforcements, has undertaken to force the Russians to withdraw from in front of Cracow and also also to relieve Przemysl. The Austrians apparently have met with at least partial success in the first project.

### SEND WARSHIPS TO CANAL.

To Enforce Regulations of Radio Stations of United States.

Washington.—President Wilson and his cabinet decided to send American warships to the Canal Zone to guard against neutrality violations by belligerent ships. Just how many ships will be dispatched will be determined after a full report has been received from Governor Goethals, of the Canal Zone and Captain Rodman, naval officer at the canal.

Both Secretary Garrison and Secretary Daniels made it clear that the delay in acting on Colonel Goethals request for destroyers was due to a lack of information. Mr. Garrison explained that the colonel had asked for destroyers without specifying the purpose of their use. In reply to a message of inquiry, Colonel Goethals explained that wireless regulations were being violated in canal waters and referred to the misuse of the Canal Zone as a base of supplies.

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# MEXICAN ARMIES STILL ON BORDER

GENERAL BLISS REPORTS THE RESULT OF HIS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

## NO ULTIMATUM ISSUED YET

Denies to Secretary Garrison That He Has Made Definite, Final Demands on General Maytorena.

Washington.—Secretary Garrison gave President Wilson the latest reports from Brig. Gen. Bliss on the situation at Naco, where the Mexican generals have not yet moved their forces to avoid firing into American territory.

The reports showed that the situation had undergone no apparent change, although little firing was in evidence. While the United States is determined, if necessary, to open fire on the two Mexican forces to compel them to stop shooting into the State of Arizona, it was feared that no decisive action was planned; pending efforts to Naco to influence the two factions to adjust the situation.

The general belief in official quarters was that some satisfactory understanding would be reached.

Agents here of the Gutierrez Government to which General Maytorena is loyal, claims that he is preparing to move his force down the railroad south of Naco, so that he can continue to besiege the Carranza force under General Hill with the American border out of the range of fire.

While reports from General Bliss to the War Department were not made public it is believed they indicated that he thought he had persuaded General Maytorena to stop firing across the line. Until there is a definite understanding on the whole situation, it is thought General Bliss has warned General Hill not to take the offensive, which would draw the fire of the Maytorena troops.

### RUSSIAN ARMY RETREATING.

Falling Back From Poland to Get Better Base of Operations.

London.—"The Russians are retiring along the entire front in Galicia and Poland."

This statement officially issued at Vienna is the outstanding feature of news from the battle fronts. While there is no confirmation from other sources, such a move on the part of the Russians would be in line with the announcements in Petrograd dispatches that the Russians threatened on both flanks had decided to take up new positions where they could better meet the Austro-German onslaughts from the Carpathians to the East Prussian frontier.

The Russian delay in fulfilling expectations that they would prove a serious menace to German territory is disappointing the peoples of the Allied countries, but military men express the view that it is better for Russia to fight in her own territory, where means of communication would be more on an equality.

### Admiral Fisher Talks of Efficiency.

Washington.—Five years would be required to put the United States Navy in the highest state of efficiency to meet a hostile fleet, according to a statement by Rear Admiral Fiske before the House Naval Committee. The Admiral, who is chief of the Bureau of Operations, member of the general board and a former president of the Naval Institute, said the Navy was deficient in air craft, mines, scout cruisers, torpedo-boat destroyers, submarines and in number of trained officers and men and had no mine sweepers.

Members of the committee were particularly interested in Admiral Fiske's view as to the possibility of foreign air craft dropping bombs on American cities. He expressed the opinion that an attacking fleet might begin sending its airships on bombing flights over New York from a range of 500 to 600 miles off the coast.

One foreign Navy, which was named, the Admiral said, was more efficient than the American fleet in gunnery. This he declared however, was so only because the American marksmen had not been given adequate opportunity for practice.

### Norwegian Is Ashore.

Colon.—The Norwegian steamer Falk has been ashore on the San Blas coast near Diable for several days, according to advices received here. She has little cargo and her position is regarded as dangerous. She carries no passengers.

### Lions Escape in New York.

New York.—Six trained lions escaped from their cage on the stage of an East Eighty-sixth street theater and bounding into the audience, causing principally of women and children, created a panic. One woman, Alice, largest of the pack, escaped into a crowded street. Policemen pursued her into the hallway of an apartment and shooting at her, probably fatally wounded Sergeant Daniel Glenn. Two other officers were slightly wounded by the claws of the beasts in a battle of close range.

# NEEDS OF SOUTH TOLD BY HOUSTON

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE SPEAKS TO SAND HILL FARMERS ON BETTER FARMING.

## GREAT CROWD AT ABERDEEN

Native Carolina Man From President's Cabinet Talks, Diversification, Livestock, Etc.

Aberdeen.—Diversified agriculture, the curtailment of the cotton crop, the raising of beef cattle, hogs and poultry, dairying, and the co-operative work of the people were emphasized as the need of the South by Secretary of Agriculture D. F. Houston, who made a forcible address here, full to the core of valuable suggestions for farm and community life. This was his first address in the South on agriculture since he became a member of President Wilson's cabinet.

The occasion was one planned by the Sand Hill Farmers' Association, an aggressive organization with a membership from fifteen towns and surrounding territory in this section. Secretary Houston, a native of North Carolina, was secured to make the address at the rally and was accompanied here by Congressman Page. Nearly four hundred people were in the auditorium of the Aberdeen school



HONORABLE DAVID F. HOUSTON.

in the afternoon and the address of Secretary Houston met with close attention and frequent applause. It deserved both.

Congressman Page was happily introduced by Roger A. Derby, chairman of the executive committee of the association, and in a brief speech, in which the work of the association was praised and solid advice given, Congressman Page introduced Secretary Houston, commending him for the service he has rendered the country, declaring that wisdom had guided President Wilson in calling Mr. Houston into the cabinet.

Secretary Houston made no set address, but directed the attention of his hearers to the urgent needs of farm life. The Department of Agriculture, he said, wanted to be of service. He set forth the possibilities in agriculture and presented as a great need co-operative effort in crop making and in marketing. He commended the work of the Sand Hill Association, and following his declaration for cotton acreage reduction, he set out the need for other crops, that there are vast possibilities for them in North Carolina. He urged, too, the upbuilding of the citizen, of schools and of roads. Marketing the crops, he declared, could well be done by co-operation.

Sells \$75,000 Bonds at Par.

Asheville.—City bonds to the amount of \$75,000 take care of Buncombe's floating indebtedness and to enable the beginning of much good roads work in the county were sold recently. The 35-year, five-per-cent bonds were bid in at par, there being but two bidders.

Amateur Journalists to Meet.

Rocky Mount.—In preparation for the twentieth annual session of the United Amateur Press Association, which is to hold its national convention in this city in July, 1918, the local organization, The Barneys, in session inaugurated the preliminaries for a royal entertainment and incidentally started a fund for this purpose. The United Amateurs of the United States is representative of the great work by amateurs in journalism throughout the nation, and there are enrolled more than a 1,000 members.

New Hanover School Sanitation.

Wilmington.—The New Hanover Board of Education has made the necessary appropriation for the installation of waste tanks and sanitary closets at all the rural school buildings in the county.

The new Hanover school building, erected at a cost of \$40,000, will be ready for occupancy after the Christmas holidays. It is one of the handiwork school buildings in this section and is the third one to be erected in Wilmington within recent months.