

The Reidsville Review

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ISSUED TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS

DECLARATION OF WAR FORECAST BY EXTRA SESSION CALL OF CONGRESS

PRESIDENT WILSON CALLS BODY TO MEET APRIL 2

LAW MAKERS EXPECTED TO PASS A RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT A STATE OF WAR HAS EXISTED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND GERMANY.

UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR WILSON

President Wilson, recognizing that German is making war on the United States on the seas, has called Congress to assemble in extraordinary session on April 2, to deal with the situation.

The purpose of the session—now called two weeks earlier than the date first set—as announced in the President's proclamation is to receive a communication from the chief executive "concerning grave matters of national policy, which should be taken immediately under consideration."

The President in his address to Congress will detail how Germany practically has been making war on the United States by the ruthless destruction of American lives and ships on the high seas in contravention of all the laws of nations and humanity.

Congress then is expected to pass a resolution declaring that a state of war has existed between the United States and Germany for some time. Such a resolution, in itself, will not be a declaration of war in a technical sense, although practically it will amount to the same thing.

As a consequence, the United States will take further steps to protect its interests on the high seas and elsewhere against the warlike acts of Germany and whether an actual state of war will come to exist in its full sense will depend on the future acts of the imperial German government.

Since last Sunday when three American ships were sunk in quick succession with loss of American lives—bringing the total number of Americans lost through German submarine operations to more than 200—the President and all his advisers have recognized that a state of war existed. From all parts of the country have come calls for immediate summoning of Congress in extra session.

Although, the President by the provisions of the constitution must leave it to Congress to make the practical declaration of war—such advice as have come to the White House from members of Congress, governors of states, public officials and many hundreds of citizens have contained statements of support of such a policy in its fullest sense.

Navy department speeds plans for fleet of "submarine chasers".

Defense council organizes board to take shipping of entire nation ammunition output of nation to provide immediate and continuous supply.

Army board recommends combina-

tion of army and navy air service at once. Civil service commission takes steps to recruit skilled labor for army and navy plants. War risk insurance bureau puts rates on basis and plans to handle all real war risks. Congressional leaders plan non-partisan compromise organization of house to handle defense measures on "American" basis. Secretary Daniels hastens bids for construction of destroyers. General board of the navy and general staff of the army take up plans for impending hostilities. Pacifist organization rebuked by Secretary of Commerce Redfield. War and navy department heads call conference tomorrow of aeroplane manufacturers to speed up building of aerial fleet.

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New Firm Will Open Here

Messrs. S. Holner & Co., the well-known merchants of Martinsville Va. have leased the Felix Miles store on Scales street and will open up a general merchandise store in April. The store room will be remodeled and both floors will be used for the display of goods. This is a progressive firm and is well known to many of our readers. They will carry a complete line of dry goods, clothing, shoes, dress goods, haberdashery, etc. This firm has been in the business in Martinsville about thirty years and has built up an enormous trade. They enjoy the fullest confidence of the people of Henry county. The Review bespeaks for the new firm a liberal patronage and we are sure they will build up a large trade here. Formal announcement of the date of the opening will appear soon. Mr. C. J. Petuske of the new firm was in town Wednesday making necessary arrangements for the opening of the new store.

Later—since the above was put in type the fire in Miles Racket Store, (the building to be occupied by Messrs. Heiner & Co.) occurred which may delay the opening of the new store a few days. The building will have to be repaired throughout and this will doubtless require a couple of weeks.

ANNUAL MEETING OF REIDSVILLE B. & L. ASSOCIATION

The eighth annual meeting of the stockholders of the Reidsville Building & Loan Association was held in the Rest Room of the Commercial & Agricultural Association last Tuesday evening. There was a large attendance of stockholders and officers, and a large majority of the stock was represented. A very satisfactory statement was submitted by the Secretary and Treasurer, with the announcement that the seventh series would mature March 31st, next, and a new series would be opened for subscription on the 14th of April following. This association, owing to the flourishing condition in which it finds itself is in a position to mature stock two weeks earlier than is the case with similar organizations. This fact of itself denoted careful management on the part of the officers and proved a gratifying piece of news to the stockholders.

The association closes its eighth year of operation with an asset sheet totaling \$17,913.04, and with a record of construction buildings, and one church edifice, at a total of \$38,228.00. Its average roll of subscribers is 50.

The books of the organization have recently been audited by the insurance department of the State, and pronounced absolutely correct, the statement being supplemented by a laudatory comment bearing upon the efficient bookkeeping done by Miss Laura Powell, who looks after the accounting end of the association. The examining committee for the stockholders, consisting of Messrs. C. L. Fire-sheets, W. S. Somers and F. S. Miles, corroborated the report of the examiner for the State, and the accounts and report of the Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. John D. Huffines, being found to be most satisfactory, the election of directors was taken up, with the result that Messrs. R. B. Chance, Scott Fillman, Chas. T. Somers, Jas. T. Smith, W. S. Windsor, J. H. Smith, John D. Huffines and Jr. J. R. Meador, were re-elected, with the addition of Mr. A. W. Way, to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of matured stock. A subsequent executive session resulted in the election of Mr. R. B. Chance, President; Scott Fillman, Vice-President; P. W. Glidewell, Attorney, and John D. Huffines, Secretary & Treasurer. Mr. Huffines had been granted a rising vote of thanks at the stockholders meeting for the neat and accurate condition of the records, and his reappointment, as well as the reelection of the other officers, was unanimous, showing a good hearty co-operative spirit in the internal management of the affairs of the association.

The Reidsville Building & Loan Association has grown steadily from small beginnings until it has become a byword in the homes of our people. It has been a strong stimulus to the best kind of thrift, and we predict for it a prosperous future, in keeping with the growing requirements of our municipality. The announcement in another column of the opening of a new series of its stock will, no doubt, be read with the interest by our citizens, and we recommend the association as the means of acquiring habits of thrift and the realization of what every thoughtful head of the family should aspire to—the possession of a home.

U. S. Commissioner Meade R. Flynn announced this morning that the directors of the firm of Hodnett, Adkins and Mobley would be served with subpoenas and required to give testimony before the Federal grand jury in regard to the alleged making of stills in the locale of the concern without a license. The list of names given by W. P. Hodnett to the Commissioner is as follows:—Pat H. Terry, C. M. McLaughlin, D. J. Holcombe, Ben L. Belcher, R. R. Mobley and W. P. Hodnett.

It was also learned this morning that the Government has five witnesses in the case, the two weakest being placed on the stand yesterday. It was said today that the Government has by no means shown all of its hand. Part of the testimony will be alleged statement made by a member of the firm that "still-making by the company was so common that little was thought of it."

That the Government worked up a case against another hardware concern in Danville not many weeks ago in that it failed to result in a coup because of alleged treachery was another point gleaned today.—Danville Register.

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HETH SHOT ESCAPING FROM VAWTER HOME

ALLEGED STORY WHICH, IT IS DECLARED, WILL BE TOLD MONTGOMERY COUNTY JURY IS OUTLINED — PROFESSOR'S EARLY MORNING DISCOVERY.

MRS. VAWTER'S CONFESSION

A dispatch from Blacksburg, Va., says: When Professor Charles E. Vawter awoke early Tuesday morning and found his wife missing from the bedroom he quietly slipped downstairs and took his revolver from the desk drawer. Going back to the upper floor he was suddenly confronted by Stockton Heth, Jr., attempting to escape from the house in his night clothes. Heth was at the top of the stairs. Without a moment's hesitation Vawter put three bullets through the young man's body. That, in brief, is the story which, it is declared here today, will be told on the witness stand by Professor Vawter when he faces the charge of murder before a Montgomery county jury. It will be shown, it is declared, that Mrs. Vawter had left her bedroom. Heth was occupying a room across the hall when Mrs. Vawter left her husband she closed the door. Professor Vawter made a slight noise in opening it. His wife was not in Heth's room when Heth was killed. She is declared to have fled into her son's room. She has made a full confession to her husband of her relations with Heth. They are said to have been of considerable duration.

When the trial of Professor Vawter begins the unwritten law will be invoked to acquit him. That the sanctity of the Vawter home had been destroyed, that he had been betrayed by his supposed friend in his own home, that the name of the family had been besmirched, the evidence will unquestionably disclose. Under the unwritten law Heth forfeited his life to the wronged husband.

Silence on the part of Professor Vawter, the prominence of the two families, their standing in the community, the horror of the whole affair, has prevented heretofore any positive statement on either side. The belief that Heth, who died in a Roanoke hospital Thursday, might recover and decline to prosecute actuated Professor Vawter, it is said, in his silence until after the ante-mortem statement of Heth.

Until evidence in the affair at the home of Professor Vawter is adduced in the Circuit Court all the facts and happenings in that home on the night of the homicide will not be known to the public. There are two bullet holes in the wall of the Vawter hallway at the head of the stairway. One of these is six and one-half feet above the floor, the other five feet. Three bullets were fired, one of which was found in the body of the dead man. The other two went entirely through Heth's body and lodged in the wall.

Mrs. Vawter has disclosed to her husband her full relations with Heth. She has not yet told a word, however, to any one except her husband since the affair.

Vawter and his wife occupied the front room on the upper floor. Over the hallway and front entrance is a room which was occupied by their young daughter, with a door to the room of her parents and another to the hall. The hall extends the length of the house. On the same side, and adjoining, there is a bath, and next to that is a room in which the son of the Vawters slept. Back of this room there is a hall leading to the rear portion of the bottom floor of the residence. Immediately in the rear is the room occupied by Bernard Williams, the lodger, a student at the institute. Leading from the room occupied by Mr. Williams there is a bath on the right and this connects with the guest chamber, which Heth occupied last Tuesday night. The stairway comes up to the left of the guest chamber.

When Professor Vawter awoke at an early hour Mrs. Vawter was missing from his bed. He is said to have started to locate her, and when he opened the door leading to the hall the noise was sufficient to attract attention. Heth hearing the door creak thought that Professor Vawter was coming down the hall. It is apparent that, instead the husband went down to the lower floor to arm himself, and on returning met Heth at the head of the steps.

Professor Vawter was on the landing coming up. The shooting followed. As to where Mrs. Vawter was immediately preceding the shooting, and how long she may have been away

FRENCH AND BRITISH HOT AFTER GERMANS

"HINDENBURG LINE" IS NOW BEING APPROACHED BY FRENCH — WEST FRONT RETREAT OF TEUTONS NEARS END IS THE GENERAL BELIEF.

MUCH TERRITORY WAS REGAINED

French troops, pushing hard on the heels of the retreating Germans, are today within striking distance of the supposed goal of their retiring foe. The milestones on this line are the historic towns of Lille, Cambrai, St. Quentin, Laon and La Fere.

The troops of General Nevelle were pushing forward's St. Quentin yesterday at a rate almost unprecedented in the present world war, and had reached a point within five miles of the city. Unless some unhealed factor has entered into the situation the French have by this time either entered St. Quentin or the German retreat has halted.

In the meantime to the north the British are doggedly pushing forward toward Cambrai and are apparently within striking distance of that town, the heart of the Lille-La Fere line and since the days of the Romans. The British are advancing more slowly than the French but nothing either in the official reports from Paris or London, or in the unofficial stories of newspaper correspondents at the front, indicates that either army has yet to come in contact with the German forces.

The theory that the Germans propose to halt their retreat on the Hindenburg line has been put forward by military critics in the allied capitals but there has been no indication from Berlin of the plans of the German general staff and the purpose and meaning of the dramatic retreat of the invaders of France remain cloaked in considerable mystery.

French military observers estimate that the German retreat has already released 150,000 to 200,000 troops who are available for a long protracted counter-offensive to be launched against the allied lines at some speculative point. The Paris newspapers regard some such move on part of von Hindenburg as almost certain and discuss the possibility of another tremendous effort to smash a way through to Calais.

In the meantime the only indication of a German attempt to assume the initiative is an apparently sporadic fighting in the Champagne district and on the Verdun front. Nothing has developed in either of these directions to indicate an offensive on a scale great enough to offset the sensational evacuation of a thousand or more square miles in Picardy.

from her bed are secrets which only she, Professor Vawter and his array of counsel know. Vawter said his wife are the only living witnesses to what the husband may have seen when he left his room to get the pistol with which he did his deadly work.

Following the issuance of the statement made by counsel for Professor Vawter, application was made for bail for the accused man before Ball Commissioner Pierce. This was made in chambers by consent of the defense and the prosecution. The statements were taken stenographically, but lawyers on both sides decline to make known a thing touching the proceedings.

Washing Windows.

A spoonful of kerosene added to a kettle of very hot water will make windows, looking glasses and picture glasses bright and clear. Use a small, clean cloth, wring it dry and rub it over the glass after wiping down the framework with an old oiled cloth. Then proceed to the next window and treat it similarly on both sides. After that go back to the first one and wipe it dry with a large, clean cloth. No real polishing is required, and the windows or glass will look clear and shiny.

High Brow Stuff.

"What are you giving your cows now in the way of galactagogues?" asked the professor of the milkman. "Oh," said the milkman, who had just been graduated from the state agricultural college and was not to be stumped, "their sustenance is wholly of vegetable origin, rich in chlorophyll and opulent in butyrateous qualities." "A pint, if you please," said the professor. "Git up," said the milkman.—Country Gentleman.

MILES' RACKET STORE DESTROYED BY BLAZE

BUILDING, STOCK OF GOODS, AND ALSO PRESSING CLUB ESTABLISHMENT SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES. — PARTIAL INSURANCE ON BUILDING AND GOODS.

ORIGIN OF THE FIRE UNKNOWN

Fire broke out in the rear part of one of the upper floors of Miles Racket Store yesterday morning about 3:30 o'clock. An alarm was sounded and the fire department answered promptly. Owing to the inflammable material which the flames fed on and the headway it had gained before discovery it required hard and persistent work to confine the flames to the store room and prevent its spreading to adjoining buildings. The store was gutted and the entire stock of goods was destroyed.

The building is owned by Mrs. Ed Walker (formerly Mrs. Ora Siddle) and was partially insured.

Messrs. S. Heiner & Company of Martinsville, Va., had recently leased the building to open up a department store and expected to move in early next month. The fire will doubtless delay their opening a couple of weeks.

The building was occupied by the Miles Racket Store, Mr. Felix Miles, proprietor. A pressing club on the second floor was run by Mr. Numa Winstead. Everything in the building is a total loss. Mr. Winstead had no insurance and his loss is several hundred dollars. Mr. Miles had only \$2,000 insurance on his stock of goods and his losses probably double this amount. He had dropped two policies of \$500 each within the last few days.

Slight damage was sustained by the Whittemore-Mobley Hardware Co. adjoining on the South from smoke and water. Their elevator rope was burned considerably. No other property was damaged.

The fire department did effective work in confining the flames to the one building. Several times it looked very threatening to adjoining buildings but the heavy fire walls and continuous streams of water kept on the flames prevented the fire from spreading.

Work of remodeling the store room will begin at once. It is thought the brick walls are practically uninjured.

Cemetery Caves In

A special from Scranton Pa. says: As a result of a cave-in of the workings of the Diamond mine of the Lackawanna Company underneath a portion of the Cathedral Cemetery, in West Scranton, several bodies were precipitated into the mines, and coffins and rough boxes were torn apart, while the ends of other boxes and caskets were left protruding from the jagged edges of the cave.

Cathedral is the big Catholic cemetery of the city, and Bishop M. J. Hoban expressed himself in unmeasured terms in regard to the desecration of the graves of those who had departed this life through the ruthless mining methods being pursued. He announced that next Sunday in all Catholic churches of the city the matter would be taken up, and all Catholics will be asked to attend a mass-meeting to protest.

According to residents near cemetery, a rumbling noise preceded the cave-in; but whether it was the detonation of a blast or not, they would not be sure. Investigation revealed a hole about 75 feet by 40 feet, and 40 feet deep, just inside the cemetery fence. A glimpse into the yawning chasm revealed broken coffins thrown about in disordered fashion, their contents exposed, and in many instances loose bone half buried in the earth. One coffin of a woman recently buried had broken in halves, and the body, clothed in white, lay half buried in dirt and rock.

On both sides of the cave-in the ends of coffins protruded and the end pieces of some of them had been broken, leaving exposed bones and other gruesome reminders that the home of the dead had been desecrated.

The Mikado's Title.

The ruler of Japan really should be called ten-o, not mikado. The latter means "royal gate" and is a title somewhat similar to sublime porte, which is used indifferently to mean the Turkish sultan, his government or the country itself. Ten-o means "heaven's highest," a title surpassing all the most grandiloquent European efforts. The original Japanese equivalent for ten-o is soumelamikoto, but the former is universally used, perhaps on account of its brevity.

WHAT HAPPENED IN THIS VICINITY 18 YEARS AGO

From The Weekly Review, 1899.

A large force of hands constructing the long distance telephone line between New York and New Orleans are at work in and near Reidsville.

Revival services are being conducted at the Presbyterian church this week. Rev. C. W. Robinson of Wilkesboro is assisting the pastor, Rev. D. I. Craig.

Mr. C. N. Evans, cashier of the Bank of Reidsville, has received an inquiry from a wealthy Philadelphia making inquiries with a view of buying a tract of land near Reidsville. His object is to erect a club house and make headquarters for his sporting friends during the hunting season.

The rainstorm Saturday night was the most terrific of any which we have had in ten years. Several of the small bridges in the county were swept away and the other end of the Settle's bridge has been carried a great distance down the stream. It is said at

least ten inches of rain fell during the night.

Mr. D. L. Blackburn, superintendent of the county roads, has photographed all of his force, so that if one escapes he will be better prepared to have him captured. He did the work himself and shows that he is a pretty good artist.

Mr. William Giles has sold his place down town to Mr. Sam Barber and will build up town on the lot next to Dr. J. C. Mills.

Mrs. L. Bearman and Mr. Jacob Bearman have returned from the north.

Mr. Charlie Jackson is arranging to erect a building on the corner of West Market and Gilmer streets.

Members of the Baptist church here will furnish a room in the Baptist Female College at Raleigh

Mr. J. C. Huffines was sick last week, but is now out again.