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Agriculture is the Most Useful, the Most Healthful, the Most Noble Employment of Man.—George Washington.

WE HAVE A CIRCULATION OF TWELVE HUNDRED AMONG THE BEST PEOPLE IN THE EASTERN PART OF NORTH CAROLINA AND INVITE THOSE WHO WISH TO GET BETTER ACQUAINTED WITH THESE GOOD PEOPLE IN A BUSINESS WAY TO TAKE A FEW INCHES SPACE AND TELL THEM WHAT YOU HAVE TO BRING TO THEIR ATTENTION. OUR ADVERTISING RATES ARE LOW AND CAN BE HAD UPON APPLICATION.

Turkish Armies Badly Defeated By Russians in Caucasus at Ardahan

Austrian Armies are Also in Full Retreat Through Carpathian

GERMANS ADVANCING SLOWLY

It is Believed That a Big Battle is Soon to Happen in Poland When Another Advance Begins.

London, Jan. 5.—Two of the three Turkish columns which last week invaded the Russian Caucasus have met with disaster and the troops not killed or captured are in disorderly retreat. The column which took Ardahan two days ago has been driven out of that town, according to Petrograd official dispatches, and is almost surrounded by the Russians, who hold the main roads. Another column which crossed the frontier near Sari Kamysh, on the road to Kars, has suffered even worse defeat, one of the two army corps which composed it being captured in its entirety.

Austrians in Full Retreat.

The Russians also report another victory over the Austrians in the Uzsok Pass of the Carpathians. Emperor Francis Joseph's army in this region is declared to be in full retreat in a mountain pass deep in snow with Russian cavalry attacking its flank and rear.

By forcing this pass, the Russians gain control of some of the most valuable oil fields in Austria, and thus shut off another source of fuel supplies, which the Austro-German armies are said to so much need.

While forcing back the Turks and Austrians the Russian troops are holding the line of the Mazurian Lakes in the East Prussia; are fighting strenuously to withstand the German offensive in North Poland; are advancing towards Cracow and have crossed Bukowina, which is now virtually in their possession.

In North Poland, where Russia is confronted with the most serious task, the weather is proving a useful ally. The Germans, according to their accounts, are making only slow progress with their offensive operations.

Big Battle Imminent.

Military men look for bigger events in the lower Vistula and the east Prussian frontiers. The Russians hold the greater part of the intervening territory and unless engaged when the river freezes would fall on the German flank south of the river. It is believed here, therefore, that the Germans plan a movement from Thorn and East Prussia to prevent this action. The fighting would take place in the open.

Tunnel War in West.

Except at the two extreme wings on the Belgian coast and in Upper Alsace, where the allies have gained some ground, fighting on the Western

front has done by sappers miners and artillery.

Only at isolated points has the infantry been given its opportunity. A few hundred yards have been gained by the allies among the dunes of Flanders.

Hot Time in Alsace.

Great interest attaches to French operations in Upper Alsace. The capture of Steinbach was accomplished after almost superhuman efforts. Now the French are attempting to force their way through to Cernay (Sennheim), the possession of which would open the door to Muelhausen.

One of the lessons the war has taught Russia is that the port of Archangel, its only large seaport on the North coast and the most northerly point in the railway system of Europe, can be kept open most of the winter with the aid of ice breakers. Archangel generally is frozen over for months but it has been kept open thus far.

The House of Lords will meet tomorrow and Earl Kitchener, Secretary of War, is expected to make a statement on the progress of the war and British preparations.

Turks in Desperate Shape.

London, Jan. 5.—A Reuter's dispatch from Petrograd says:

"Accounts of the Turkish defeat at Sari Kamysh say the Turks displayed great bravery and made frequent desperate bayonet sorties. When they were compelled to vacate they made violent but futile efforts to cover their retreat by a rear guard action, even the wounded continuing firing from the ground when they were struck down.

According to a telegram from Tiflis the Turks pressed their attack in the Sarikamysh district to enable their troops in the Ardahan region to retire without heavy losses. Their operations were conducted under tremendous difficulties. They lacked proper equipment and had no transport train.

"The Turkish force at Ardahan also is threatened with disaster. The enemy in his orderly flight has been almost surrounded by the Russians, who hold the main roads. The Turks are striving frantically to find an outlet, but have to face passes deep in snow. The Russians have attacked Ardahan on two sides, the artillery playing a prominent part."

Southern Coal Investigation.

Washington, Jan. 6.—The charges of discrimination in favor of a southern coal trust, brought by independent operators in the Virginia-Tennessee-Kentucky coal fields against the Southern Railway, are set for investigation today by Congress. The charges were brought last year, but congressional investigation was postponed.

Extra Session of Congress Will be Called Unless Ship Bill Passes

Washington, D. C., Jan. 5.—Continued Republican belligerency toward the government ship purchase bill has begun to worry administration leaders. With but two months in the life of the sixty-third Congress remaining, all of the big supply bills still undisposed of by the Senate, and a minority of Senators manifesting a determination to fight the ship bill to the last ditch, fears were expressed by Democratic leaders that the administration's legislative program is in danger.

As a result of conferences among Democratic Senators today, it is probable night sessions may be forced in the near future, to test the endurance of opponents of the shipping bill.

Republican Senators today prevented consideration of the ship measure by discussing at length the urgent deficiency bill. Senator Works also talked for three hours on public health and announced he still had left 39,000 words on his prepared address, which he intends to deliver tomorrow and Thursday.

"It begins to look to me as though there were an ulterior motive behind this protracted debate," said Senator Stone, after several Republican Senators had spoken on the urgent deficiency bill. "that it is intended to waste the time of the Senate. It has the complexion of an established filibuster against consideration of the shipping bill. I want to warn Senators, however, that the bill will be considered. It's a good long time form now until Christmas."

"The fourth of March intervenes," interjected Senator Lodge, "between now and Christmas."

"Yes, I mean Christmas 1915," replied Senator Stone.

Extra Session Possible.

Later several Senators declared that should the minority prevent passage of the shipping bill at this session an extra session would be called. Intimations of a similar nature also were heard at the White House.

The Commerce Committee, in charge of the shipping bill, today adopted several amendments submitted yesterday by Senator Stone. One, designed to prevent secret shipments of contraband, would authorize the President to designate ports where customs collectors would be compelled to inspect all goods before they were loaded for foreign ports, on ships of American register or vessels to be acquired by the United States under the pending bill. Another amendment would place United States ships under international marine regulations.

House of Lords Assembles.

London, Jan. 6.—The House of Lords reassembled today, but despite the public demand that the House be in session so that the government could be called upon for explanations as to its conduct of the war, the House of Commons will not convene until February 2.

EMMETT WOOTEN FROM KINSTON MADE SPEAKER

Max Gardner From Cleveland is Elected President of The Senate

OTHER OFFICIALS ELECTED

Lively Contests Over The Filling of Several of The Offices Keeps Thing Moving Rapidly Until Adjournment.

Raleigh, Jan. 6.—Emmett R. Wooten of Kinston, Lenoir county was unanimously chosen for Speaker of the House of Representatives by the Democratic caucus held last night in the hall of the House of Representatives. His formal election to that office will take place today at noon when the House is called to order by T. G. Cobb principal clerk of the last House. When the gavel falls at the stroke of the noon hour Mr. Cobb will announce that the time has arrived for the convening of the 1915 General Assembly, the members will take the oath of office and soon thereafter Mr. Wooten will be elected to the speakership and will assume his duties.

Democratic Lovefeast.

The House Democratic caucus last night was in the nature of an old time Democratic lovefeast. Up to twelve o'clock yesterday there had been four active candidates for the speakership but when it was seen that Mr. Wooten had enough members pledged to his election on the first ballot, the other candidates, Messrs. L. H. Alfred, T. C. Bowie and A. A. F. Seawel gracefully withdrew and paved the way for the unanimous selection of Mr. Wooten.

Meeting of Caucus.

The House Democrats met shortly after eight o'clock last night and were called to order by Representative A. R. Dunning of Martin. Mr. Dunning in presenting the name of Representative John H. Currie of Cumberland for chairman of the caucus paid a high tribute to the Democracy of that gentleman saying he was one of the warhorses of the party, a man who had been weighed in the balances and not found wanting a man who would always give a square deal and a man who represented that type of the noblest work of God's creation. The nomination of Mr. Currie was seconded by Mr. Clark of Bladen, and on motion he was chosen by acclamation.

Representative Philip Frank Hanes of Forsyth, was nominated for secretary by Mr. Thomas of Anson, seconded by Mr. Pogram of Durham, he was chosen by acclamation.

23 Members Present.

Mr. Doughton suggested that all be made of the members, he estimated if a program was present and of the 26 Democratic members, 23 and

Governor to Sail With Relief Ship.

Portland, Ore., Jan. 6.—When the big relief ship, bearing supplies from the states of Washington and Oregon, sails next month for Belgium, it will register as a passenger Governor West of Oregon, according to present plans. The relief committee which is collecting the shipload of emergency supplies to feed and clothe the suffering Belgians is determined that the shipment will reach the really needy and be distributed where it will do the most good.

President May Receive Suffragists.

Washington, Jan. 6.—In the hope of greeting President Wilson and setting before him their wishes that the question of equal suffrage be considered at the present session of Congress, suffrage leaders from many states have gathered here today. It is believed the President will receive the ladies and make known his views as to the possibility of Congressional action.

Wooten Chosen Speaker

Nominations for Speaker being next in order Representative Allen of Wayne in a brief speech presented the name of Emmett R. Wooten of Lenoir for that honor. Mr. Allen said that in Mr. Wooten's hands the welfare of North Carolina would be safe, that he would watch not only to the temporary needs of the hour but for the demands of the future.

The nomination was seconded by Mr. Robert of Buncombe, and there being no further nominations on motion of Mr. Grier of Iredell, the nomination was made unanimous.

Raleigh, Jan. 6.—At the Senate Democratic caucus held last night Senator Stubbs, the former caucus chairman, was called to the chair and presided over the meeting. Senator Stubbs was later elected permanent chairman and Senator Cohoon was elected to fill the secretary's chair. The first roll call showed that there were thirty-six of the Senators present.

The preliminary organization having been finished, nominations for President Pro Tem of the Senate were in order. Senator Johnson of Duplin at once nominated Senator O. Max Gardner of Cleveland for this office. This nomination was seconded by Senator Hobgood of Guilford who was Mr. Gardner's opponent for this place until yesterday when he withdrew in favor of Mr. Gardner. Mr. Gardner was elected to this office by acclamation.

Mr. R. O. Self, senator from Jackson, was elected to the office of clerk by acclamation on the motion of Senator Hobgood.

Mr. J. H. Burnett was nominated for re-election to office of reading clerk and his election was made unanimous. The other offices were then filled in their order these being crossing clerk, sergeant-at-arms, and assistant sergeant-at-arms. Mr. Aycock of Wayne was elected clerk, Mr. Gaster of Wayne sergeant-at-arms on second ballot and Mr. Perry assistant sergeant-at-arms.

PUEBLA CITY CAPTURED BY CARRANZA ARMY

General Obregon Gains Victory After Hard Fought Battle and Attack

ONE OF BIGGEST BATTLES

Pictorious Troops Claim The Zapata and Villa Army Was Almost Completely Killed or Captured When City Fell.

Vera Cruz, Jan. 5.—Puebla, Capital of the State of Puebla, evacuated a month ago by Carranza troops, was retaken today after a campaign which began with the capture of Tepeaca, a short distance southeast of Puebla six days ago.

The fall of Puebla came after six hours of what is described as the most furious bombardment to which any Mexican force has yet been subjected. General Alvaro Obregon, commanding the Carranza force, worked into a position about the city last night with troops reported to have aggregated 30,000 men. He threw nearly all his men into action, beginning the fighting early in the morning.

After pounding with 92 cannon the enemy's positions, reported held by 15,000 men, Obregon's army advanced under fire of the enemy's artillery.

When Obregon left Vera Cruz he told friends that he would be in possession of Puebla in eight days. This time was not up until tonight. Tepeaca, Amozoc and other small towns have been taken since his departure and Obregon had made his headquarters division base at Apizaco, where the railroad from Puebla joins the main line of the Mexican Railway. Last night he moved this force southward and another force toward the west, cutting both railroads over which the Villa and Zapata forces might proceed toward Mexico City.

Generals Alvarado and Mullen commanded the forces moving from the east and had under their direction most of the cannon.

One of The Biggest Battles.

How many of the Villa and Zapata troops escaped is not known, but early reports of the fighting indicate that the greater part of them either were killed or made prisoners. From these reports it would seem that in few of the battles that have occurred in Mexico has the slaughter been so swift and so great.

The hardest part of the action was fought outside the city proper. The dead and wounded are said to cover the ground at some places.

Everybody should get busy again.

The music is going again on the tobacco market.