

Austria Contemplates Asking For Cessation Of Warfare

Will Sue For Peace Independent Of Germany Says Report Reaching Petrograd. Nine Persons Killed In Holland When Mine Explodes. Germans Take Twenty-Three Thousand Prisoners. Entire Teuton Regiment Annihilated.

Athens, Nov. 16.—Diplomatic dispatches from Petrograd state that information has reached the Russian capital to the effect that Austria is contemplating asking for terms of peace independently from Germany.

NINE PERSONS KILLED IN MINE EXPLOSION.

West Kappelle, Holland, Nov. 16.—Nine persons were killed here this afternoon by the explosion of a mine which had been washed ashore. They were killed while endeavoring to secure the mine. West Kappelle is near Flushing on the west coast of the Scheldt river.

RUSSIAN ARMY CORPS DEFEATED BY GERMANS.

Berlin, Nov. 16.—The war office announces officially that the Germans operating in Russian Poland defeated several Russian army corps thirty miles northwest of Plock, taking twenty-three thousand prisoners and many pieces of artillery.

JAPANESE GUNNERS ARE TO AID THE FRENCH.

Paris, Nov. 16.—Japanese gunners, skilled in the use of the heavier types of artillery are on their way to France to aid the Allies.

FRENCH AND BRITISH TROOPS BEGIN CAMPAIGN

Paris, Nov. 16.—French and British troops today opened a vigorous aggressive campaign in western Belgium after having defeated all efforts of the Germans to break through their lines at Dunkirk. Important strongholds near Ypres has been taken by the Allies and an entire German regiment of three thousand men were annihilated at Bixshouts.

THE N. C. CONFERENCE CONVENES TOMORROW

SEVENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION WILL BE HELD IN WASHINGTON.

Bishop Richard Green Waterhouse will call the seventy-eighth session of all North Carolina Methodist Conference to order in the Methodist church at Washington, N. C., Wednesday morning, November 18, following the opening service and annual sermon by Rev. H. A. Humble of Kinston on Tuesday evening. The conference now has a membership of more than 85,000 members with more than 700 Sunday schools and 75,000 Sunday school members.

Rev. Eugene M. Snipes is the present pastor and will be the host of the conference. This is Mr. Snipes' first year at Washington, having been appointed to that charge by Bishop McCoy at the last session of the conference at Oxford. He had just completed a four years pastorate at Roxboro. Rev. J. T. Gibbs, presiding elder of the Washington district, is completing his four years of service and will this year be one of those looking for a new home.

Washington entertains the conference for the third time, the sixty-third having been held there in 1899 and the ninth session in 1845. Since the last session of the conference there in 1899 the body had grown largely. The membership was then 65,394. At the session at Oxford, 1913, a membership of 84,245 was reported. The membership this year will reach over 85,000. Bishop E. R. Hendrix was the presiding officer when conference met in Washington in 1899, Mr. W. L. Cunningham being secretary.

No member of the conference is now living who attended the first meeting in Washington in 1845. This was only the sixth session of the conference

after it was set off from the Virginia Conference in 1837. Bishop Andrew presided and there were only 20,493 members, including the colored members who were a part of the conference at that time. One hundred and fourteen Sunday schools were reported then with a membership of 4,414.

The North Carolina Methodist conference was set off from the Virginia conference in February, 1837. In 1850 and again in 1870 North Carolina territory in the South Carolina conference was transferred to the conference in 1890 North Carolina territory in the Holston conference and in the Virginia conference, except that beyond the Chowan River, was transferred to the North Carolina conference and the conference was then divided into the North Carolina and the Western North Carolina conferences. The remaining North Carolina territory in the Virginia conference was transferred in 1894 so that the two conferences now embrace the whole of North Carolina.

VICTIM OF SHOOTING DIES AT WILMINGTON

FATAL AFFAIR AT MULLINS, S. C., LAST SATURDAY NIGHT.

Wilmington, Nov. 16.—B. D. Strickland, a prominent merchant and farmer of Mullins, S. C., died in the James Walker Memorial Hospital in this city yesterday afternoon, following three bullet wounds in the abdomen received Saturday night at his home near Mullins, said to have been received, following a fight on one of the principal streets of the town earlier in the night with Frank Price, also a farmer and a next door neighbor of Strickland.

It was stated that Price fired five shots at Strickland three of which took effect and that the shooting followed the fight earlier in the night after Mr. Strickland had driven in his buggy to his home where he was met by Price. It is stated that Price fired while Mr. Strickland was still in his buggy having been met there by the former. Further than this, no particulars could be learned yesterday after the death, though several telegrams of inquiry were sent to Mullins.

Immediately after the shooting Mr. Strickland was taken to the station by his physician, Dr. Smith, and hurried to the hospital here, the incoming train from Florence having been held 25 minutes at Mullins in order to get the wounded man on board. He was accompanied to Wilmington by his brother-in-law, Mr. Luther Martin, of Mullins, who was with him when he died, Dr. R. B. Slocum met the train upon its arrival and after the man was taken to the hospital, an operation was performed with the hope of saving Mr. Strickland's life, but this was in vain.

Mr. Strickland is quite well known in his section and in one of the strongest planters in that section, running about 18 plows. He was well known to many Wilmington people, enjoying their confidence and esteem. He is a brother-in-law of Miss Martin, a resident trained nurse here, and everything possible was done for him, although it was seen practically from the first that his wounds were fatal. The remains were prepared for burial and will be taken to Mullins on the 5:25 o'clock train this morning.

ELKS ARRANGING FOR MEMORIAL EXERCISES.

The local lodge of Elks are making preparations for their annual memorial exercises which will be held on the first Sunday in December. The complete program will be announced later.

POPE BENEDICT XV.



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Pope Benedict XV yesterday issued an encyclical in which he asked God to grant a reign of peace over the whole earth and to end the great struggle now going on in Europe.

Opening Service of Revival Well Attended

INCLEMENT WEATHER DID NOT HINDER PEOPLE FROM GOING OUT.

Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather on Sunday, the opening services of the revival meeting at the Tabernacle Baptist church was well attended. The sermon at 11:00 o'clock by Pastor Thibot on the "Wisdom of Soul Winning" was a masterpiece of oratory and the evangelistic address of the evening was delivered with great force and power. The singing at each service was a feature of unusual interest because of the presence of Mr. James W. Jelks, the singing evangelist. Mr. Jelks was on the scene at the opening service and was given charge of the music during the meeting. A large choir was on hand to greet him and as they began to sing under his leadership it seem to lend unusual impetus to the meeting. A large chorus is being organized which will be composed of the Tabernacle choir and all the singers from other churches who will assist in the singing during this meeting and a full musical programme will be rendered at each service.

The Sunday evening congregation was possibly the largest that has been in attendance at the Tabernacle during the present Pastorate and doubtless all who can will attend the service to-night. Mr. Calloway is expected to arrive in New Bern today and will preach at 7:30 o'clock evening and each night during the meeting.

A special invitation has been extended the pastors and congregations of the other churches of the city to attend and take part in these services, and it is hoped that the meeting will be helpful to each church of the city as well as to the community at large.

Loafing Must Stop Declare the Police

GO TO WORK, LEAVETOWN OR GO TO JAIL IS THE ORDER ISSUED

"This loafing business must be broken up" was a remark made by Captain A. L. Bryan, of the local police force, a few days ago. "As long as the people are allowed to loaf around on the streets" said Captain Bryan, "there will be a great deal of law breaking." And this is substantiated by the fact, that there has been less violation in New Bern since the officers have been so strict in enforcing the vagrancy law. About a month ago thirty negroes were arrested in Jerkins alley and in Smith's hall and carried before mayor pro tem William Ellis and tried on a warrant charging them with being vagrants, and since that time about twenty more have been tried on the same charge. Chief of Police C. Lupton, remarked that the last month has been the dulllest of any since he has been on the force, and it is largely attributed to the fact that most of the loafing element of the colored people have been either made to go to work or run out of the city.

Washington, D. C., Nov. 16.—Tranquility in Mexico hangs on the word of Villa. Carranza wired Gutierrez, so the State Department learns, that he is in readiness to retire. This is taken to mean that he is ready to leave the country. No word has been received from Villa and, lacking this, is the opinion here that Villa may try to build on to the control of Mexican affairs.

THE FARM LIFE SCHOOL MAKES ATTRACTIVE OFFER

Arranges a Three Months Course For Young Men and Women Over 16 Years of Age.

FARM WORK LIGHT DURING THIS PERIOD.

Work Will Begin On Monday November 30 and Continue Through February.

Vanceboro, Nov. 16.—The Farm Life school at Vanceboro offers a course of study of three months for young men and women over the age of sixteen. In other words, it is an opportunity to attend school three months in the year while there is very little work to be done on the farm. This work will begin on Monday, November 30 and continue until the last of February. The instruction will be given by the entire faculty of the Farm Life school. Grammar, arithmetic, spelling, agriculture and domestic economy will be taught.

Special attention will be given the boys on fertilizing the home farm, the use of lime to liberate potash in the soil. The price of potash has already advanced over 200 per cent, due to the war, and in case none is shipped from Germany, it is likely to advance still more.

We have just completed a series of fertilizer tests on corn at the school in which the various fertilizing elements were used separately and in combination of two's and three's. The test shows for the year that nitrogen was the most important element on the soil. This was expected on account of the run down condition of the soil and a lack of vegetable matter. We want to study this experiment and similar ones in the class room in order that we may save money in the purchase of fertilizers for the home farm.

Another very interesting experiment conducted with corn was an "Ear to Row Test." Two varieties of corn were used and 100 rows were planted, each row from a different ear of corn. Fifty-two ears of one variety were used and forty-eight of the other. The fertilization and cultivation was the same for all the rows. In one series, the best ear yielded 86 bushels per acre and the poorest ear only 25 bushels per acre, a difference of 61 bushels per acre. The average yield of this series was 56 bushels per acre. The boys in the regular classes did the actual work of harvesting and weighing this corn and boys in the three months course will have this explained to them.

If it is true, as government figures show, that each day in school means \$10.00 to the average boy in a life time, boys cannot afford to stay out of school during the winter months, for it will cost them nearly as much to stay at home as it will to spend the time at the Farm Life school.

Board and room will be \$12.00 to \$12.50 per month if students stay all the time and \$10.00 to \$10.50 if they spend the week end at home. Books will cost about \$5.00. No tuition will be charged. Boy's and girls, get ready to attend this course and if you are pleased with it credit will be given towards the regular courses. The only requirements for entrance to this course is that you are sixteen years old and can read and write.

If you are expecting to enter school after Christmas it will be better for you and for us for you to enter November 30, when we will form new classes.

J. E. TURLINGTON, Supt.

AUSTRIANS SINK OWN CRUISER OF TSINGTAO.

Vienna, (via Berlin and Amsterdam) Nov. 16.—Official announcement was made today that the Austrian cruiser Kaiserin Augusta was sunk off Tsingtao, after her ammunition was exhausted. She was sunk by her own crew and not by a Japanese shell fire. The crew was added to the Tsingtao garrison and fought bravely on land. Eight of the sailors were killed and 80 wounded.

SEVERE WEATHER MAKES GERMAN ASSAULTS WEAK

Heavy Rains Have a Tendency To Increase Flooded Area Between Nieuport and Dixmude.

GUNS AND WAGONS HAVE BEEN ABANDONED.

Countless Bodies Lie Floating In Swamp—Fierce Effort Is Soon Expected.

Paris, Nov. 16.—The diminishing intensity of the German assault in Flanders is due to some extent to severe weather conditions. The flooded section is increasing in area as a result of the continuance of heavy rains and the country between Nieuport and Dixmude is a vast swamp in which guns and ammunition wagons abandoned by the Germans lie embedded and in which float countless corpses. The Germans have been washed out of their trenches in several places, says an eye witness, who has just returned from the front, but they continue to send an occasional shell to the French trenches. It is not probable that the Germans will make further attempts in this section of the front, but a fierce effort is to be expected from Dixmude to Arras as soon as the German troops have recovered from their tremendous exertions of last week and new men can be brought up to fill the gaps in the ranks.

The fate of the war depends now, says Colonel Feyler, an eminent Swiss military writer, essentially on the reserves of men that the armies are able to bring up, and in this respect, according to military opinion here, Germany appears to be in a state of inferiority. Not only does the Russian offensive prevent Germany from transferring men from the eastern to the western front they point out, but troops that are now being instructed in the interior will necessarily be sent against the Russians.

It is also pointed out that Germany has to operate on fronts totaling nearly 1,000 miles with twenty-five active army corps, while the allies have at their disposal twenty-nine army corps for a line less than half as long. Thus from the point of view of available troops it is argued the comparison is unfavorable to the Germans.

So far as equipment is concerned, the infantry on both sides are equally well supplied. At the beginning the Germans were much better off with quick fires, but the allies have now caught up by intensive production in the arms factories. In the artillery the allies are said to have advantage as far as light pieces are concerned, but the Germans heavy artillery is contestably superior. They are not likely to retain that superiority long, however, since both the French and British arsenals are beginning to deliver big guns and the allies have plenty of trained men to serve them, irrespective of the Japanese gunners whose early arrival at Marseilles is announced.

VANCEBORO MAN BEFORE COMMISSIONER HILL.

Barney Taylor, white of Vanceboro, was brought to New Bern last Saturday by Deputy Marshal, C. H. Ange, and carried before U. S. Commissioner Charles B. Hill for a hearing on a warrant charging him with violating the Internal Revenue Act by selling spirituous liquors without a government license. After hearing the evidence in the case, Commissioner Hill failed to find probable cause and the defendant was released from custody.

FIVE VISITED DELGADO.

Wilmington, Nov. 16.—Frightening Delgado citizens from their beds, fire consumed by a series of explosions this morning the plant of the Cape Fear Oil Company near Delgado, at a loss estimated at \$40,000 with insurance covering about \$20,000.