

# The Polk County News

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SALUDA, POLK COUNTY, N. C., FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1915.

ESTABLISHED MAY, 1894.

## MAIN RUSSIAN ARMY IS BUSILY ENGAGED

CZARS TROOPS APPEAR TO BE MENACING THE ARMY IN EAST PRUSSIA.

## BAYONET FIGHTING IN WEST

Germans and Allies at Standstill, However Both Claim Minor Successes Near La Boisselle.

London.—Characteristic fighting is going on in northern France, where the village of La Boisselle, 20 miles northeast of Amiens, was taken from the French by the Germans and later re-captured by the French.

At this point there has been much work with the bayonet. A French ammunition depot blew up and part of the village was destroyed by fire. The Germans, taking advantage of this incident, attacked the French with the steel and drove them to positions beyond. In a fierce counter-attack some hours later the French re-captured the position.

A French eye-witness with official authority gives some idea of the nature of fighting that has been going on in the West. He describes the fighting near Soissons 10 days ago as resulting favorably for the Allies but later the waters of the Aisne, swollen by the heavy storms, came over the banks, washed away bridges and prevented the Allies from sending reinforcements to points where the French troops were being hard pressed by the Germans. This resulted in a retirement of something like a mile and the establishment of a strong front in a good strategic position on the right bank of the river.

The long-awaited decisive action in Russian Poland has not developed, probably because of the unfavorable weather conditions which have prevailed for some weeks, but the Russian statements tell of small engagements at certain points along the trenches which indicate preparedness on both sides to take advantage of any opening that offers.

In Galicia the Austrians have succeeded east of Zakliczyn in forcing the Russians to evacuate their trenches for several miles.

No further word has been received regarding Russian operations in Kiribaha Pass, through which they expected to carry their aggressive campaign into Hungary.

## SULLIVAN ASKED FOR GRAFT.

W. Lee Sisson Makes Bold Statement Against Dominican Minister.

New York.—James M. Sullivan, minister to the Dominican republic, whose conduct is under investigation here before Senator-elect Phelan of California, was represented by witnesses as having insisted in sharing profits of a construction company organized to obtain work contracts from the Dominican government.

W. Lee Sisson, a construction engineer, who said the late Samuel L. Jarvis, controlling the Banco Nacional of Santo Domingo, had asked him to become president of the construction company, testified that F. J. R. Mitchell, president of the bank, had said to him:

"We'll have to take the minister in with us and I think it advisable to do so, as he can be of considerable service in the way of throwing contracts to us."

The witness said he had objected and that Mitchell had replied: "Well, the minister insists on it," and he (Mitchell) suggested that "we might give him a five or ten per cent interest in the company."

## Wilson Is Proud Grandfather.

Washington.—President Wilson's talks with callers centered mainly about the new White House arrival, his first grandchild, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis B. Sayre. Thousands of congratulatory messages and many presents arrived.

The grave look Mr. Wilson has worn since his wife's death was supplanted by a broad smile.

Maj. Elbert M. Bacon of Houston, Tex., who was baptized by the late Mrs. Wilson's grandfather, was one of the first to congratulate the president.

A large heap of rattles was sent the baby by members of the Wilson and Sayre families and close friends. Several baby baskets had also been sent to the White House, but the one used was prepared by Mrs. Sayre herself.

A toy Princeton tiger for the Sayre baby was given to President Wilson by a committee from the Princeton Alumni Association.

## MME. JOFFRE



Mme. Joffre, wife of the generalissimo of the French forces in the field.

## GERMANS MEET SUCCESS

FRENCH OFFICIAL STATEMENT ADMITS REVERSES ALONG THE AISNE.

Were Not Forced But Retired to Concentrate Troops—Furious Fighting in Poland.

London.—A reverse of the Allies along the Aisne in the neighborhood of Soissons is admitted in the latest French official statement although the possible effect of the German advance is officially minimized. After continuous engagements, which lasted nearly two days, the Germans forced the French to yield in front of Vregny, east of Crouy. The French war office explains that the flooding of the River Aisne destroyed several of the bridges and thus rendered precarious the communications of the troops operating on the right bank. These troops were withdrawn, as it was thought impossible to send reinforcements to their support.

"The success is a partial one for our adversaries," says the French statement, "but will have no influence on the operations as a whole."

Emperor William himself was present at these operations which resulted in capture of several thousand French prisoners and were continued throughout January 12 and 13.

Petrograd claims progress on the right bank of lower Vistula, where the German cavalry was repulsed. On the other front fighting is made up largely of skirmishes and artillery duels.

The general staff of the Russian Caucasus army devotes a statement to operations in Azerbaijan, where it is explained, it became expedient to regroup the Russian forces, necessitating evacuation of certain places previously occupied. No important action took place.

British aviators early in the week dropped bombs on the German position in Antwerp, according to a Netherlands newspaper dispatch. The damage has not been ascertained.

Eighteen Russian generals have been discharged from important positions, according to The Hamburg Fremdenblatt.

## DON'T WANT COTTON MONEY.

No Applications Received After February 1st—Only Few Made.

Washington.—The Federal Reserve Board acting as the central committee of the \$135,000,000 cotton loan fund, decided not to comply with requests recently received to extend the time limit for loan applications beyond February 1. Applications mailed on that day will be the last considered.

It developed that bona fide applications to the New York committee in charge of actual administration of the fund amount only to about \$10,000. This fact is taken here to indicate that probably not more than a few millions of the sum subscribed ever will be applied for. In view of this, members of the board felt that it was not just to keep all the money of the subscribing banks tied up for a period beyond February 1.

In connection with its action on the loan fund the board announced that W. P. G. Harding its Southern member, shortly would visit each of the Southern Federal reserve banks to discuss with them questions of discount rates, eligible paper and other matters. He also will investigate and report on the cotton market and the probable acreage of the next crop.

## MEXICO AGAIN HAS A NEW PRESIDENT

GUTIERREZ HAS FLED THE CITY AND CONVENTION NAMED ROGUE GARZA INSTEAD.

## CITY UNDER MARTIAL LAW

Capitol City Placed Under Martial Law and is Patrolled By Mounted Policemen.

Mexico City.—Gen. Roque Gonzalez Garza was named Provisional President of Mexico by the convention in session here over which he has presided. The former Provisional President, Gen. Eulalio Gutierrez, together with Generals Blanco, Robles and Jose Vasconcelos, left Mexico City early in the morning for Pachuco.

Martial law has been declared by General Garza and the city is being patrolled by mounted police.

In electing Garza the convention declared itself to be supreme and until a new President is elected has assumed the legislative, executive and judicial powers.

Washington.—Confirmation of the designation of General Garza as Provisional President by the Mexico City convention was received at the State Department in a dispatch from Consul Silliman. It added that the convention had issued formal orders for the withdrawal of forces at Naco, Sonora.

El Paso, Texas.—The sudden change of the Chief Executive at Mexico City was made at an extraordinary session of the convention. The reason for Garza replacing Gutierrez, who was reported re-appointed a few days ago by the Villa-Zapata convention was not disclosed here.

General Villa with all the troops he hastily could assemble, is hurrying to the Capital from Aguas Calientes.

Washington.—Col. Roque Gonzalez Garza, elected Provisional President of General Villa's principal officers.

## CARRANZA REMOVES EMBARGO.

Danger of Serious Complications Has Been Removed.

Washington.—The British Embassy received word through the British legation in Mexico City that General Carranza had lifted the Tampico embargo on exportation of oil, which had threatened the fuel supply of the British fleet. No details of the extent of Carranza's modification of his previous decrees was received but danger of serious complications was believed to have been removed. Negotiations still are being conducted to enable American and British owned companies upon whom prohibitive taxes had been levied to re-open their plants.

## Italy's Dead May be 50,000

Rome.—Detailed reports of Italy's latest earthquake disaster increase the appalling list of dead and the enormous property loss.

The Messaggero after a careful computation announces that the number of dead and injured in the Abruzzi alone is 30,000 without including the Sora district. San Atollio has 200 dead and 500 injured. Morino, 1,500 dead. Canistro 600 injured. Curvoro 300 victims. Borgo 50 dead and Valleroveto 1,800. At Civitella Roveto almost the entire population escaped because they were working in the fields when the shock occurred.

## Charlotte Has Another Big Fire.

Charlotte.—Fire which originated at the rear of the store of S. H. Kress & Co., at 11:30 p. m., ravaged the entire interior of the building, wrecking the structure and resulting in a complete loss of the stock of goods.

The stock of Kress & Co., who operated it as a 5 and 10-cent store, was worth in the neighborhood of \$20,000. The building is the property of Mr. D. Parks Hutchison and was worth about \$35,000. It consists of three stories and a basement in front and two stories and a basement in the rear.

## Ship Purchase Bill Worries.

Washington.—Division in Democratic ranks over the form of the government ship purchase bill developed at a party caucus held to clarify the legislative tangle which threatens the administration program for the short session. Although a resolution was adopted to make the shipping bill the unfinished business of the Senate after passage of the District of Columbia appropriation bill, it was accomplished only on decision to hold another caucus to pass on amendments to the ship purchase bill.

## PRINCE VON BULOW



Prince von Bulow, the new representative of the German Kaiser at the Italian court, has arrived in Rome. He was formerly chancellor of the German empire and is considered a great political force.

## EARTHQUAKE KILLS 30,000

ROME SHAKEN HARDER THAN EVER BEFORE.—TOWN AVEZZANO DESTROYED.

Building Where American Ambassador Lives is Cracked, Several Villages Destroyed.

Rome.—Fear of additional shocks is entertained throughout the earthquake devastated district, according to reports brought to Rome by refugees. Basis for this anxiety is found in a dispatch from Sora, which says another strong earthquake occurred there demolishing the walls of partly ruined buildings.

Only scant reports of death and damage in remote places have been received and information from the larger places still is incomplete but there is no reason to doubt that when the death roll is made up it will contain fully 30,000 names. Probably twice that number were injured.

## The Worst Sufferers.

The places which apparently suffered most were: Avezzano, with about 10,000 killed; Pessina, 5,000; Celano, 4,000; Cenchio, 2,400; Marsi, 1,900; Daterno, 1,000; San Pelino, 650, and Fratturo, 200.

It is reported that Maza d'Albe lost one-eighth of its population while Pesocassero was completely burned.

Rome.—A terrific earthquake, the strongest ever felt in Rome, lasted several seconds and caused a serious panic, people everywhere rushed from their houses in terror. Many buildings were damaged by the shock.

The town of Avezzano was virtually destroyed by the earthquake. The dead are estimated at 12,000. One thousand persons escaped from the ruins but most of them were injured.

The dome of the Church of St. Charles Catinari was cracked. A large piece of the cornice of the Jesuit Church of St. Ignatius fell with a crash, adding to the fright of persons in the neighborhood.

Ceiling in many of the houses fell, a number of persons being injured in that manner.

## TWO DREADNAUGHTS PROVIDED.

Also Number of Smaller Vessels in Committee Report.

Washington.—Provision for construction of two great dreadnaughts, six torpedo-boat destroyers, 16 coast defense submarine, a hospital ship, a transport and a fuel ship at an aggregate cost of \$53,168,828 is made in the naval appropriation bill agreed on by the House Naval Committee. All told the bill carries \$145,500,000 of which \$22,903,988 is for new construction.

Chairman Padgett protested that the committee was "running wild" with appropriations.

The program proposes the building of:

Two battleships at not more than \$7,800,000 each, exclusive of armor and armament.

Six torpedo-boat destroyers at not more than \$825,000 each, exclusive of armament.

One sea-going submarine at not more than \$1,400,000 exclusive of armament.

Sixteen submarines at not more than \$550,000 each.

One hospital ship at not more than \$2,250,000.

One transport at not more than \$2,129,700.

## STATE DEPARTMENT WARNS CARRANZA

SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES MAY FOLLOW CONFISCATION OF FOREIGN-OWNED WELLS.

## MAKES AN URGENT PROTEST

Sent By British Ambassador to the British Consul at Vera Cruz for General Carranza.

Washington.—The United States Government has warned Gen. Venustiano Carranza that "serious consequences may follow" his threatened confiscation of foreign-owned oil plants in Tampico. This announcement was made by Secretary Bryan to day after a conference with Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British Ambassador and representatives of the American oil concerns.

Already the Carranza officials have enforced a virtual embargo on the exportation of oil by a big English company.

The British Ambassador at Mr. Bryan's suggestion, sent to the British Consul at Vera Cruz an urgent protest for General Carranza. As the British fleet obtains much of its fuel from the Tampico oil fields, the possibility of serious complications over Carranza's attitude is fully realized by the American government.

Mr. Bryan said that the foreign owned oil companies "feared confiscation of their wells" by Carranza and that today's action had been taken to forestall such action. A decree issued by the Carranza government makes it impossible for some foreign oil companies to operate without the consent of the Carranza authorities and it is said some American concerns have been forced to pay so heavy a tax that they have been compelled to shut down.

The prospect of a battle on the outskirts of Tampico is expected here to develop the situation further. If Villa forces are victorious, a solution of the problem is confidently expected because of previous assurances by the Villa Gutierrez officials.

## EVERY BUILDING DESTROYED.

Only 2 or 3 Per Cent. of Avezzano's Population Escaped.

Rome.—William Marconi who returned here from Avezzano on board the train with King Victor Emmanuel, said words could not describe the horrors he had witnessed. The town had been wholly leveled, he said, and residents who escaped death were destitute.

"King Victor Emmanuel told me," said Mr. Marconi, "that he had visited the scenes of all earthquake disasters in Italy since he was a child, but that this surpassed all, including Messina. The king said survivors of Avezzano were only between two and three per cent of its population, while in Messina one-third escaped."

Describing the damage in Avezzano Mr. Marconi said:

"Avezzano has ceased to exist. In Messina some buildings give one the impression that they are still intact, their facades having survived the shock."

"Not so with Avezzano. No wall there remains erect. It seemed as though the town had been ground to powder by some gigantic machine."

## Nation Unready For Fight.

Washington.—In urging upon the senate the need for a commission to report on national preparedness or a permanent council of naval defense, Senator Lodge declared that the national defense of the country "is not only imperfect and unbalanced but that it has grave and in some instances fatal deficiencies. He designated what he termed many of the defect and said they were "almost wholly due to congress."

An adequate national defense the senator said, could be obtained without additional expenditure. "Cut off our needless army posts, navy yards and stations," he advised the senate.

Lay aside for a few years appropriations for the public buildings and harbor improvements where they are not needed. Drop all the expenditures which are designed for spots where votes are lying thickest and you will have money enough to provide for a sufficient army and an adequate navy without adding to the burden of taxation."

He warned that the ocean barrier that defended the country in 1776 and 1812 had been destroyed by steam and electricity. Unarmed, unready, undefended, the nation stands an invitation to aggression and attack, he said.

## INLAND WATERWAY ALLOWED \$600,000

SEVERAL ITEMS IN RIVER AND HARBOR BILL ARE APPROVED.

## NORTH CAROLINA FAVORED

Many Important Appropriations Are Approved for Improvements in This State.

Washington.—A \$600,000 appropriation for the inland waterway from Norfolk to Beaufort Inlet, N. C., \$1,500,000 for continuing improvements on the Hudson River, to connect with the new State barge canal, were among the important projects in the river and harbor bill approved by the House.

Numerous other items were agreed to and many projects were turned down.

Advocates of the measure pointed out that it provides only for necessary work to carry on existing projects.

In the light over the Norfolk-to-Beaufort inland waterway Representative Small of North Carolina said it was the most important link in the chain of waterways along the Atlantic seaboard primarily because it lies inside of Cape Hatteras and Lookout, the two most dangerous points on the Atlantic seaboard. He said that when completed the waterway will attract a large through commerce between the ports south of Hatteras, and those to the north. He said that because of Cape Hatteras, the coastwise commerce between the North and the South now is negligible.

Mr. Small explained that the project provides for a water way 12 feet in depth at mean low water, at an estimated ultimate cost of \$5,400,000.

Other appropriations approved include:

James River, Virginia, \$100,000; Pamlico River, N. C., \$35,800; New River and Waterways to Beaufort, N. C., \$37,300; Cape Fear River above Wilmington, N. C., \$173,000; Cape Fear River below Wilmington, \$205,000; Winyah Bay, South Carolina, \$50,000; Waccamaw River, N. C., and S. C., \$55,000.

## J. W. Murry Killed on Yacht.

Newbern.—J. W. Murry, president of the Piedmont Trust Company of Burlington, Mrs. W. E. Porch, wife of the manager of Ye Old Colony Inn at Beaufort, and G. P. Dodson of Norfolk, Va., are known to have been killed or drowned when the gasoline tanks of the yacht Julia exploded recently near Longshore River at a point about 20 miles from Beaufort, Hyde County, and the vessel sank before any assistance could reach her or its occupants. Mrs. J. W. Murry, who was on board the vessel with her husband, succeeded in swimming to shore, two miles distant. The fate of the crew is problematical, as it is almost impossible to secure definite information in regard to the catastrophe.

The catastrophe is one of the most appalling to occur in the waters of eastern North Carolina in years. Mr. Murry, who is one of the owners of Ye Old Colony Inn at Beaufort, had gone to Norfolk early in the week, accompanied by his wife and Mrs. Porch, wife of the manager of the inn, to purchase the yacht Julia from R. H. Dodson of that city.

The purchase was made and they accompanied by Mr. Dodson and it is supposed one or more members of the crew, started back to Beaufort on board the vessel. The start was made, and so far as is known, the trip was uneventful until the explosion of the gasoline tanks occurred.

## Another Ice Plant For Hickory.

Hickory.—J. A. Mauney and R. A. Roseman, Jr., of Lincolnton have purchased the Prof. R. L. Fritz property near Lenoir College, adjoining Professor Fritz's residence, and will be gin work immediately on the erection of the plant for the manufacture of ice. The plant will be of 12-ton capacity within ninety days. This will make the second ice plant for Hickory.

## Physicians Are Prohibitionists.

Kinston.—When asked about the attitude of the physicians of the state toward a bill prohibiting the sale of liquor in North Carolina for medical purposes Dr. J. M. Parrott, former president of the State Medical Society, who addressed the Anti-Saloonists' meeting in Raleigh, said he believes the great majority of the practitioners would favor the complete prohibition. They have already generally stopped prescribing whiskey on account of the influence of the Medical Society's action last year.