

# The Polk County News

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ESTABLISHED MAY, 1894.

## ENGLAND'S ANSWER IS A BIG BLOCKADE

ASQUITH SAYS GERMANY WILL  
GET NO MORE SUPPLIES  
FROM NEUTRALS.

## IS TAKEN IN SELF-DEFENSE

Asks Patience of Non-Belligerents,  
Saying That Allies Find It Ne-  
cessary to Adopt This Policy.

London.—If the combined fleets of Great Britain and France can prevent it, no commodities of any kind except those now on the seas henceforth until the conclusion of the war shall reach or leave the shores of Germany. This is England's answer to Germany's submarine blockade and it is to be effective forthwith.

Premier Asquith reading from a prepared statement, made this announcement in the House of Commons at a session. Studiously avoiding the terms "blockade" and "contraband"—for these words occur nowhere in the prepared statement—the Premier explained that the Allies considered themselves justified in attempting and would attempt "to detain and take into port ships carrying goods of presumed enemy destination, ownership or origin."

The Premier emphasized, however, that vessels and cargoes so seized were not necessarily liable to confiscation, and begged the patience of neutral countries in the face of a step likely to injure them. He added that in making such a step the Allies had done so in self-defense.

"We are quite prepared," he went on, "to submit to the arbitrament of neutral opinion and still more to the verdict of impartial history, that in the circumstances in which we have been placed we have been moderate; we have been restrained; we have abstained from things that we were provoked and tempted to do, and we have adopted a policy which commands itself to reason to common-sense and to justice."

Every member of the House not at the front in khaki or unavoidably detained was in his seat and there was frequent cheering. The galleries were packed. When the Premier concluded his set statement and turning to the speaker said:

"That sir, is our reply!" There was a tremendous outburst.

Before the Premier had finished the newspapers were on the streets proclaiming:

"Our answer to Germany."

It was apparent everywhere that the entire Nation had been chafing for reprisals against the sinking of merchant craft by submarines.

The Premier prefaced the reading of his statement with these words:

"The statement declares in sufficiently plain and unmistakable terms the view we take, not only of our rights, but of our duties."

## BOYCOTT JAPANESE GOODS.

Chinese Society of San Francisco  
Starts Far-Reaching Embargo.

San Francisco.—A nation-wide and ultimately world-wide boycott on Japanese products is the announced aim of a Chinese society organized here. The embargo has been started by Chinese-Americans in an attempt to force Japan to recede from her demands on the Chinese government.

A propaganda-spreading campaign for the formation of similar societies in all the larger cities of the United States was begun simultaneously with the organization of the parent society.

Numbered in the new society, which has not been named, but is described by its secretary, M. Q. Fong, a merchant, as a purely patriotic organization, is every Chinese merchant in the city.

## Mexican Gunboat Blown Up.

Washington.—Private advices received here from headquarters of the Ward Line in New York report the blowing up of the Mexican gunboat *Progreso* in Progresso harbor with the loss of 19 of her crew.

## Idaho Prohibition Bill Signed.

Boise, Idaho.—Governor Alexander signed the prohibition bill which makes the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquor in Idaho unlawful after January 1, 1916.

## Russia to Get Free Passage.

Paris via London.—The Temps asserts that an agreement has been reached between France Great Britain and Russia regarding the future status of the Dardanelles which will give Russia free passage to the Straits.



## MISS MARIAN BANKHEAD

The honor of being the most beautiful and charming of the South's fair representatives at the national capital has been awarded to Miss Marian Bankhead of Jasper, Ala., granddaughter of United States Senator Bankhead. She was selected as queen of the cotton ball, the event which closed the social season in Washington. Miss Bankhead is a student in Fairmont seminary.

## PASS AGRICULTURAL BILL

ONE MORE BILL CARRYING AP-  
PROXIMATELY \$23,000,000 PUT  
THROUGH.

Seven of the Fourteen Appropriation  
Bills Have Been Passed.—Con-  
tinue Free Seeds.

Washington.—The senate added the agricultural bill, carrying approximately \$23,000,000, to the rapidly growing list of supply measures passed and debate on the naval bill began. Seven of the appropriation bills have been disposed of, and seven are still awaiting action.

After considerable argument the senate declined to support the action of the agricultural committee in striking out an appropriation of \$235,000 for the free distribution of seeds. One of the principal new provisions in the bill is the \$2,500 appropriation for combating the food and mouth disease among cattle.

Debate on the naval bill centers upon committee amendments adding several missions to the house bill including provisions for five sea-going submarines instead of one and 16 coast defense submarines instead of 11.

The house began work on the list of the supply measures for consideration in that body, the general deficiency bill. It also adopted the conference report on the seamen's bill. The senate now must act on it. Conferences on other measures which have passed both houses are progressing favorably.

That there is some hope of passing the bill providing Philippine self-government and ultimate independence at this session became apparent. President Wilson told several administration leaders he wished the measure could have the right-of-way over any other general legislation and be passed in the midst of appropriation legislation if necessary.

Senator Simmons conferred with Chairman Hitchcock of the Philippine committee and later Mr. Hitchcock said he believed the bill would pass.

## WAR NEWS IN BRIEF.

London.—One sailor lost his life when the small British steamer *Deptford*, 230 feet long and 1,208 tons, was sent to the bottom in 20 minutes either by a German torpedo from a submarine or by coming in contact with a mine in the North sea at a point off Scarborough. The 15 other members of the steamer's crew were saved and were landed at South Shields.

## Turks Report Victory.

Berlin, by via London.—Reports from Constantinople say that a Russian attack in the territory east of Artzin, Trans-Caucasia, has been beaten off by the Turks with heavy losses to the enemy.

## FIRST RESERVES TO BE READY FOR WAR

AMERICAN LEGION IS NEW OR-  
GANIZATION COMPOSED OF  
FIRST RESERVES.

## INCLUDES ABOUT 300,000 MEN

Numerous Public Men, Including For-  
mer President Roosevelt, Endorse  
the Movement

New York.—Formal announcement was made here of the formation of an organization of first reserves, to be known as the American Legion and to be composed of former Army, Navy and militia men, which will better insure the nation's preparedness in case of war. Capt. Gordon Johnston, aide-de-camp to Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood, made the announcement on behalf of a group of Army and Navy men acting in an unofficial capacity with civilians in promoting the movement. Captain Johnston said it was planned to establish within a short time a first reserve of between 250,000 and 300,000 former Army and Navy militiamen for instant call in case of emergency.

Major General Wood has given the plan his unofficial endorsement and former President Roosevelt has written a letter approving the proposal. Numerous other public men have endorsed the project, and a statement by the promoters says that former Secretaries of War and of the Navy have agreed to act in an advisory capacity.

Asserting that he and his four sons will become members of the Legion, Colonel Roosevelt in a letter to the organizers, says that in the event of war he intends to ask Congress for permission to raise a division of cavalry. Mr. Roosevelt's letter in part says:

"I and my four sons will gladly become members. I very earnestly hope and pray that there will be no war; but the surest way to avert war is to be prepared for it; and the only way to avert disaster and disgrace in war is by preparing in advance.

## OUTBREAK OF CATTLE DISEASE.

In One Herd Near Richmond 125 Af-  
fected.—Governor Alarmed.

Richmond, Va.—Following the discovery of 125 fully developed cases of foot and mouth disease in a herd of 300 dairy cattle on a farm in Henrico county, seven miles north of this city Gov. Henry C. Stewart issued a quarantine proclamation and announced that he would go before the Circuit Court at once and apply for an injunction against 13 railroads and steamship lines in Virginia to enforce their full compliance with his recent proclamation requiring that no cattle or cattle feed be moved without the proper Federal certificates. Governor Stuart also ordered that within a radius of five miles around the farm where the outbreak has occurred there be no movement of cattle or cattle feed. Special deputies have been sworn in by the sheriff of Henrico county and a virtual blockade has been put into effect.

The city has suspended its regular inspection of dairies to prevent inspectors carrying the disease from one herd to another. Gov. Stuart takes an alarming view of the situation.

## Russian Offensive Along Whole Front

London.—The Russian offensive operations appear at the present time to extend along their whole front—an indication that they have brought strong reinforcements into the field. They have checked the German advance in North Poland, where the Germans are reported in retreat, and the recapture of Przrasnys after severe fighting, has given them an excellent pivotal point from which to carry on further operations.

All the Petrograd correspondents refer to the capture of a large number of Germans as a new phase of the war, and credit it to a lack of officers among the German armies and the large number of young untrained men drafted into them.

The Russian offensive extends to what is now known as the Bzura-Rawka front, where they successfully opposed Field Marshal von Hindenburg's attempt to advance on Warsaw. There has been heavy fighting in Western Galicia and in the Carpathians, but no notable changes in the situation. In Eastern Galicia the Russians report another repulse for the Austrians who again have lost a number of prisoners.

With Russia it would seem to be a case of keeping up the supply of ammunition which the opening of the Dardanelles would greatly assist.



## WILLIAM J. HARRIS

William J. Harris of Atlanta, the present director of the census, has been selected by the president as a member of the interstate trade commission, according to generally accepted report.

## NOTE BEING CONSIDERED

BASIS FOR FURTHER NEGOTIA-  
TIONS IS PRESENTED, IT HAS  
BEEN LEARNED.

But Still Points Out That Food Has  
Not Been Declared Absolute Con-  
triband of War.

Berlin, via London.—The American identical note on marine warfare, sent to Great Britain and Germany, is in the hands of Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, Imperial German Chancellor, and Gottlieb van Jagow, the German Foreign Minister.

The German Government is not ready to make public the contents of the note, but it is said they may be regarded as the basis for further negotiations. Certain of the proposals, as an example the removal of the mine fields around England, probably will be unacceptable to Germany.

The German Government, it is said, does not expect that Great Britain will accept any proposals permitting the importation of foodstuffs in to Germany.

The Lookal Anzeiger says it learns that the American note presents a basis for further negotiations.

"Washington," the newspaper adds, "now takes up the suggestions outlined in the final passage of Germany's answer and makes proposals which apparently are addressed equally to Germany and Great Britain."

## PUTTING UP A GOOD FIGHT.

Fear That Renegade Utes Will Join  
Old Polk's Band.

Salt Lake City, Utah.—Fear that renegade Utes from the reservation in Colorado will join Old Polk's band of Piute Indians which has been battling United States officers near Bluff is expressed in a dispatch to The Desert News.

Reports from the Colorado reservation say the Indians believe the white men have killed 25 squaws and papooses and they are greatly incensed.

Marshal Nebeker has wired the United States District Attorney at Salt Lake City and also the Department of Justice at Washington that he will use the 20 Navajo Indian police he has requested be sent him to assist in tracking the hostiles.

"My men will take care of all the fighting," he said.

A scouting party found that Old Posey, leading a small band of Indians had crossed the San Juan River to Navajo Reservation on the south side.

Another scouting party followed the trail of Old Polk and about 10 mounted warriors to re-capture Wash, eight or 10 miles east of Bluff, but was unable to determine whether his movement indicated an attempt to escape or an effort to obtain reinforcements.

## Alabama Prohibitionists Get Hearing.

Washington.—Alabama's plan to prevent liquor advertisements and solicitation of liquor orders from being sent through the mails to prohibition territory was incorporated in a bill introduced in the national house of representatives by Representative Abernethy. The bill was drafted by a delegation sent here by the Alabama legislature to confer with President Wilson, Postmaster General Burleson and members of the Alabama congressional delegation.

## IMPRESSION MADE BY AMERICAN NOTE

ENCOURAGING REPORTS ARE BE-  
ING RECEIVED FROM LONDON  
AND BERLIN.

## GERMANY REPORTS WILLING

Difference of Opinion in England,  
Some Favoring, Others Wanting  
Further Restrictions.

Washington.—Encouraging reports from both Ambassador Page at London and Ambassador Gerard at Berlin were received concerning the attitude of Great Britain and Germany toward the latest American proposals for the safeguarding of neutral commerce and the unrestricted shipment of foodstuffs to the civilian population of belligerent countries. The United States does not expect complete replies for several days.

Germany's willingness to make concessions and negotiate for an understanding on the submarine food and mine question already has been made known informally, and the United States expects a formal acquiescence in a day or two. All eyes now are turned on London, where opinion is understood to be divided on the merits of the suggestions. Some leading British Cabinet members are said to favor in principle the American proposals as a means of solving the problem with as little inconvenience to neutral countries as possible. Another element, however, is said to be impressed by the military value of further restricting supplies to Germany.

The exact nature of the American proposals is still unknown because of the rigid reticence of officials here and abroad, but each day adds information on the subject. Briefly this much of the contents of the American suggestions now has been confirmed.

The United States has asked that the previous rules of international law with respect to shipment by neutrals of conditional contraband destined to the civilian population, and not the belligerent forces of an

The removal of all floating mines by Germany and Great Britain, is proposed except mines used for protection of coast defenses and harbors, pilots to be furnished to guide neutral ships through fields that remain.

## MANY BIG SUPPLY BILLS PASSED.

Congress Speeding Up to Be Ready  
For Adjournment.

Washington.—Congress worked steadily on its task of cleaning up supply bills which must be out of the way before adjournment on March 4. The Senate passed the naval bill, \$152,000,000, the fortification bill, \$6,000,000, and the diplomatic bill, \$4,200,000 while the House spent the day debating the general deficiency measure, with interruptions now and then to dispose of conference reports.

The Senate added about \$8,000,000 to the naval bill as it passed the House, providing the two-battleship construction program, for five sea-going submarines instead of one, for 16 instead of 11 coast defense submarines, for a gunboat and a hospital ship, and adding \$1,000,000 for an armor plate and \$500,000, for a projectile factory.

Senator Smoot vainly sought to have authorized the construction of 50 sea-going and 25 coast defense submarines, declaring that "no man can tell when the European disturbance will involve this country in difficulties."

## Mme. Bernhardt Still Improving.

Bordeaux, via Paris.—Dr. Denuce, attending Mme. Sarah Bernhardt whose right leg was amputated recently, said the condition of the patient continued excellent and that hereafter no daily bulletin would be issued. Mme. Bernhardt continues to receive many messages. Many come from the United States.

## Chicago Players at Tampa.

Tampa, Fla.—President C. H. Thomas, Secretary R. B. Cook, Manager Roger Bresnahan and 12 players of the Chicago National League Baseball club arrived here.

## Bill Effects Common Carriers.

Washington.—Senator Newlands introduced a bill in the senate to empower the interstate commerce commission to examine all papers of a carrier, including correspondence. It would amend the law to meet the supreme court's decision that the commission did not have power to inspect the correspondence of the Louisville & Nashville Railway. Mr. Newlands submitted communications from Acting Chairman Clements of the commission and Attorney General Gregory, urging that the bill be passed.

## SPEAKER WOOTEN OF HOUSE IS DEAD

PNEUMONIA ADDED TO INJURIES  
OF ACCIDENT, ENDS BRIL-  
LIANT CAREER.

## FUNERAL HELD AT KINSTON

Body Escorted by Guardsmen, As-  
semblymen and State Officers.  
Services Largely Attended.

Raleigh.—Hon. E. R. Wooten, speaker of the house of representatives, died from the injuries he sustained on the morning of Friday, February 19, in an automobile accident that also caused the instant death of William T. Aycock, engrossing clerk of the senate. Pneumonia had developed in connection with Mr. Wooten's injuries and all efforts to buoy the sinking vitality of the patient were unavailing.

Immediately after the death the flags in the state house were placed at half-mast and Governor Craig, Lieutenant Governor Daughtridge, as president of the senate and Speaker Pro Tem Bowie of the house conferred as to arrangements for the escort of the remains to Kinston for interment. In consequence of arrangements made the remains were taken to Kinston, there, in the Wooten home, to await the funeral ceremonies. With the remains, in addition to the members of the family, were Adj. Gen. Laurence W. Young, and a military honorary guard of one sergeant and six guardsmen selected from the companies of the North Carolina National Guard here. There was also a special committee from the senate and a committee from the house appointed respectively by the president of the senate and Acting Speaker Bowie of the house.

Acting under instructions of the presiding officers of the senate and house, Senator Gilliam and Representative Thomas, of Union, had procured floral tributes on the part of the senate and house and there were quite a number of other lovely designs sent by admirers of Mr. and Mrs. Wooten here.

The special committee named by President Daughtridge to especially represent the senate consisted of Senator O. Max Gardner, Cleveland; Senator Johnson, Duplin; Senator Ward, Newbern; Senator Thompson, Onslow; Senator Harding, Pitt; Senator Snow, Wake; Senator McLeod, Robeson; Senator Washington, Wilson, and Senator Gilliam.

Those appointed by Acting Speaker Bowie to especially represent the house are Representatives Roberts, Buncombe; Thomas, Anson; Mintz, and Allen, Wayne; Clark, Baden; Hanes, Forsyth; Grant, Onslow; Kittrell; Hutchison, Mecklenburg; Tucker, Pearson and Noland.

At the bedside when Mr. Wooten died were Mrs. Wooten and children, Mrs. J. C. Wooten, mother of the distinguished young speaker. Mr. Harry Wooten arrived from Kinston soon after the death, accompanied by Mrs. Clarence Oettinger of Kinston.

Mr. Wooten served numbers of terms as city attorney for Kinston, county attorney for Lenoir, was an active and enthusiastic trustee of the University, served ably as representative in the past four sessions of the general assembly, was elected speaker of the house at the opening of the present session by acclamation and was making an exceptionally fine record as presiding officer when the accident cut short his brilliant career.

Thousands of Kinstonians and admirers and friends from all sections of the state attended the funeral. The services were conducted in Maplewood cemetery, Kinston, by Rev. C. W. Blanchard, pastor of the First Baptist church. The finale of the service was the playing of taps by a militia trumpeter, the bell of his horn to the setting sun.

Emmett R. Wooten was born in Craven County and was the son of the late Sheriff John C. Wooten and Mrs. Mary Wooten of Kinston. The father survives. He was 36 years of age.

In April, 1904, the rising young attorney was married to Miss Nannie Cox, the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Cox of Kinston. Mrs. Wooten has been with her husband since the accident, which cost him his life. Two attractive children, Emmett R., Jr., aged nine and Grace, aged seven, survive their distinguished father.

Elected representative from Lenoir county for the third time last November, Mr. Wooten was, a day or two prior to convening of the present General Assembly, named Speaker by Democratic caucus.