TORPEDO STRIKES **AMERICAN OIL SHIP**

CAPTAIN DIES OF HEART FAIL-URE AS A RESULT OF THE SHOCK.

FEW OF THE DETAILS KNOWN

Gulflight is Struck Off Scilly Islands. -Washington Believes It Was Accident.

London.-The American oil tank steamer Gulflight which sailed from Port Arthur, Texas, April 10, for Rouen, France, was torpedoed off the for Sicily Islands, according to a Central

News dispatch.
The captain of the Gulflight, according to the same advices, died of heart failure as a result of shock. Two seamen jumped overboard and were

The other members of the crew were taken off by a patrol boat. The vessel was towed into Crow Sound

The Gulflight was a steel vessel of 2,202 tons net and was built at Cam-den, N. J., in 1914. She was owned by the Gulf Refining Company. The vessel was 383 feet long, 51 feet beam and 30 feet deep. She was aquipped with wireless apparatus.

Washington.—Press reports of the torpedoing of the American steamer Gulflight and the loss of her captain and some members of the crew creat ed a stir in official circles here.

The course of the United States in the case of the Gulflight is not likely to be determined for several days a some time probably wil be required to get the facts. The possibility of any action other than a demand for damages is considered remote because of the belief of officials that the attack on the Guiffight probably will be found to have been accidental.

FIRST PLACE IN FINANCE.

America May Lead World at End of Creat War.

Philadelphia.—First place in the field of international finance may come to the United State as a cone quence of the European war, W. P. G. Harding, member of the Federal Reserve Board, said in an address to the session of the American Academy of Political and Social Science.

To obtain the pre-eminence in international finance, however, Mr. Harding warned his hearers that the Unimust resist any tendency tward inflation, and a wild temporary boom, such as history has shown frequently follows the conclusion of wars. He declared the nation now was in a commanding position as the only great world power not in-volved in war, and pointed to the big trade balance that has been in favor of the United States. This balance he predicted might reach \$2,000,000,000 by the end of 1915.

Conditions Are Better.

Washington-General improvement in business conditions with "return-ing confidence" is announced in the Federal Reserve Board's digest of reports of agents in the 12 reserve dia tricts into which the country is divid-ed. Development of considerable activity in certain industries in connec tion with the war are pointed out.

Colon Fire Loss \$2,000,000. Colon.-The city of Colon, half or which was destroyed by fire, present-ed a scene of desolation. According to police records, 10 persons, two or

whom were Panama policemen, per-ished and many were injured. The still estimated at \$2,000,006 The American consulate was among the bulldings destroyed. Charles E. Littlefield Dead

New York.—Charles E Littlefield, former representative from Maine. died in a hospital here, after an opera-tion Mr. Littlefield was born in 1851, He was a Republican-

Switzerland Preparing. Switzerland.-The Federal Council decided to call out the sixth division of the Swiss army.

Increase Rural Mail Service.

Washington.-Plans for a general readjustment of the rural postal service through the country by July to provide mail facilities for a million persons not included in the present routing system, were announced by Postmaster General Burleson. Motor vehicles will be provided under the new plan where highways will per mit. "Rural service will be extended to exery farmer reasonably entitled to it," said Mr. Burleson, "as rapidly as the new adjustments can be made.

Meat Prices Are Lower

Washington.-Prices of meat animals were lower on April 15 than fo two years previous, though they still were higher than in 1911 and 1912 the Department of Agriculture an nounced. Producers received an av erage of \$6.59 a hundred pounds, compared with \$7.40 last year, \$7.35 in 1913, \$6.30 in 1912, \$5.80 in 1911 and \$7.74 in 1910. Farmers sold beef cattle at \$5.96 a hundred this year, a de crease of 33 cents from last year; veal calves \$7.31, a decrease of 37 cents hogs \$6.48, a decrease of \$1.32.



DR. LOUIS E. VAN NORMAN

Dr. Louis E. Van Norman, who for ten years has been in charge of the foreign department of the American Review of Reviews, has been made editor in chief of The Nation's Business, the official magazine of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States issued in Washington.

FRENCH CRUISER IS SUNK

AUSTRIAN SUBMARINE SENDS CRUISER LEON GAMBETTA TO BOTTOM.

Cruising at Entrance of the Otranto Canal.-All Officers Perished at Their Posts.

Paris.—The French armored cruises Leon Gambetta has been torpedoed and sunk in the Ionian Sea with the loss of all of her officers and all except 136 members of her crew, according to an official announcement by the French Ministry of Marine. The number of the crew was not given, but it was believed the warship carried 750. From this it was estimated that about 600 men perished.

While the French communication did not say by what the cruiser was torpedoed an official from Vienna said the warship was sent down by Austria submarine U-5, commanded by Lieut. George Ritter von Trapp.

The communication issued by the Ministry of Marine was as follows: "The armored cruiser Leon Gam-

betta, cruising at the entrance of the Otranto Canal, was torpedoed the night of April 26-27 and went to the bottom in 10 minutes.

"All the officers on board perished at their posts. One hundred and thirty-six members of the crew, in-cluding 11 under-officers were rescued by vessels sent out promptly to their help by the Italian authorities.

"The list of survivors has not yet been received at the Ministry of Ma-

SUFFERS FROM LONG DRUGHT.

Forty-Year Record Broken.—Truck Crops Suffering. Washington.—The longest early spring drought in more than 40 years now exists over eastern United States, anounced The National Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin. ' Cotton and truck crops in the Southeast are suffering.

"In Texas and Oklahoma excessive dns greatly h ered farm says the bulletin, "fields were badly washed, bottom lands were flooded and much land already planted to cot on and corn will have to be replanted, while the wet soil will further de cotton planting which is generally conidered as several weeks late.

"In the principal trucking districts to the eastward of the Mississippi most crops are suffering for rain, sepecially in the South Atlantic oast districts

"Early planted corn is coming up, but later planted over the Southern States east of the Mississippi has not germinated well on account

Labor Must Co-operate. Muskogee, Okla.-Closer relations between the employer and employe, crop diversification and more liberal treatment for the small farmer were urged by speakers at the Southern Commercial Congress as essential to commercial development of the

Details of Persian Massacre.

New York.-Details of the recent massacre of native Christians at Urumlah, Persia, by Kurds, received by the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, state that not less than 800 have been murdered there and that not less than 2,000 have perished from disease. The attacks it would appear, have not been confined to Kurds, but have been made, in at least one instarce, by Turkish soldiers. Crucifixion and burning of Christians alive have been revived, missionaries reported to the board.

FORCE THE STRAITS

TURKS OFFERED STUBBORN RE-SISTANCE BUT TROOPS WERE LANDED.

HEAVY LOSSES REPORTED

Some Sensational Happenings.—Turk ish Troop Ship is Sunk and Big Warship Set on Fire.

London.-After serious fighting in thich the Turks offered a stubborn resistance, British troops, according to an official statement issued have established themselves on the Galli poli Peninsula and advanced a considerable distance toward the Narrows of the Dardanelles, while the French have cleared Cape Kum Kaleh on the Asiatic side of the Straits, of Turks.

Thus, it may be said, that the sec and most serious attempt to force the Dardanelles has been fairly The Turks under German launched. officers placed every obstacle in the way of the invaders but against the fire of the Allied fleet and the galof the army they were forced to fall back. The Br'tish forces lost heavily in the operation.

Six points were selected for the landings, which began at daylight of April 25. At five points they were successful immediately but at the sixth near Seddul Bahr the troops were unable to advance until the evening. The Australians and New Zealanders landed on the west coast of the Gallipoli Peninsula, directly across the country from the strongly fortified Narrows. The other British across the country from the strongly fortified Narrows. The other British troops disembarked at the extreme end of the peninsula and by the twenty-eighth when it was decided to give the men a rest and time to en able the positions to be consolidated they had reached Krithia, on the road which runs along the peninsula and over which they will join their comrades from the dominions.

The French took possession of Cape Kum Kaleh after they had previous ly attacked toward Yeni Shehr to the outh on the Asia-Minor coast.

While this was proceeding the fleet, besides covering the landing of the troops kept up a bombardment of the forts in the Dardanelles and prevented reinforcements from reaching Turkey from the Sea of Marmora One Turkish troop ship was sunk the Queen Elizabeth which is be lieved again to have fired her big guns across the peninsula, directed by air-The troop ship was sunk of Maidos a town well inside the Narrows, which later the battleship Triumph bombarded and set on fire.

FLETCHER PRESIDENT AGAIN.

Re-elected Head of Southern Com-

merical Congress.

Muskogee, Ofta.—Senator Duncan
U. Fletcher of Flor'da was re-elected
president of the Southern Commercial Congress here by the board of direc-The other officers also were tors. re-elected.

Senator Fletcher had served three previous terms, Dr. Clarence J. Owen Washington, was re-elected managing director; T. S. Southgate, Norfolk, Va., first vice president; Albert P. Bush, Jr., Mobile, Ala., second vice president and William H. Saunders Washington, treasurer. Mrs. Louis G. Lindsley, Nashville, Tenns, was re-elected president-general of the women's auxiliary to the Congress.

Views regarding the effect of gov ernmental influence upon business widely at variance with those express-ed by George W. Perkins of New York were voiced by Edwin F. Sweet, Assistant Secretary of Commerce, at the final session of the Congress

England Must Pay Losses. Washington.—Senator Hoke Smith after a call at the state department, declared that unless the cotton from the United States now held to English ports were allowed to proceed on their neutral destinations Great Britain "would be forced to pay very heavy damages."

Wilson Will Stay in Washington. Washington. — President Wilson plans not to establish an office at the summer White House at Cornish, N H., but to spend most of his time in He will make severa brief trips to Cornish to visit his fam lly and short cruises on the yacht Mayflower. It was said at the White House that these plans were made not because the president looks on the European or Mexican situations as specially critical, but because he thinks it his duty to remain in Wash ington as much as possible.

Abitration Award Signed.

Chicago.-An arbitration award advancing to some extent the pay of 64, coo locomotive engineers, firemen and hostlers on 98 Western railroads was signed here by officials. A dissenting opinion was filed on behalf of the Brotherhood of Enginemen, in which the arbitration was branded as a fait ure and the Newlands ISw under which it was arranged, an inadequate device for settlement of industrial dis-The awari, effective May Is and binding for one year only.



MRS. R. E. JEFFREY

Mrs. Robert Emmett Jeffrey is the wife of the newly appointed minister to Uruguay. Mrs. Jeffrny was Miss Nits Hoose of Heber Springs, Ark., before her marriage to the minister.

SOUNDEST IN THE WORLD

COUNTRY SMILING WITH PROS-PERITY AS RESULT OF NEW BANKING ACT.

Agriculture as a Sectional Problem, Problem, Railroads, Markets, Are Leading Topics Before Congress.

Muskogee, Okla.-The country is smiling with prosperity as a result of the Federal Reserve Bank act and as the system grows older the smile will grow into a laugh, according to Chas. S. Hamlin, governor of the Federal Reserve Board, who spoke before the Southern Commercial Congress here.

Mr. Hamlin pointed out that while formerly "we had the worst financial system in the civilized world, we now have the soundest."

He answered advocates of a single centralized bank by asserting that be-cause of the large territory involved, 12 decentralized banks are preferable to one centralized band and that the Federal Reserve Board holds all the au-

thority of a centralized bank.

"A financial panic such as that of 1907 is now impossible." Mr. Hamlin continued. "In view of financial stringency, a farmer deserving of credit can get it. We have a real chastic, a real local, liquid currency. The Federal Reserve Board is em-powered at such times to put out enormous sums sufficient to dispute any

idea of panic."

Dr. Charles Brand, chief of the division of markets and rural organiza-tion of the United States Department of Agriculture declared that the South-ern farmer and ranchman has realized the need of being more provident. The time is passing he said, when pro-ducts of the farm and ranch are shipped to market and then brought back

THE NEW JAPANESE DEMANDS.

President Yuan Has Not Reached De

cision Regarding Them.
Peking.—With the new draft of the
Japanese demands on China interest is aroused in the nature of the modification of the modification Japan has made in the original document. Presdent Yuan Shi Kai and his advisers have examined the demands as amend ed, but no decision has been rached and they are likely to be the subject for further discussions. Group one and group four of the original demands have not been altered from the form dy has agreed. Group one relates to Shan-Tung Province and group four relates to refusing a third Power, any island, port or harbor along the Chine

Storetad Responsible For Collission. Montreal.—The Admiralty Court in a decision held the collier Storstad re sponsible for the collision with the iner Empress of Ireland in the Lawrence May 29, 1914, which cost approximately 1,000 lives in the sink-ing of the liner with nearly all aboard. No blame whatever was attached to the captain or crew of the liner, the court held.

Kitchener Scores Gas Bombs. London.—War Secretary Kitchener in the Hodse of Lords referred to the use by the German Armies in the West of asphyxiating bombs. He declared that Germany had "stooped to acts which surely will stain indelibly her military history."

Joyner Delivers Annual Address. Chattanooga, Tenn.-The Southern Conference for Education and Industry held a four days' session here with delegates from throughout the South in attendance. Among subjects under discussion were school work, women's part in the social and economic development of the rural dis-tricts, educational progress in the South and conditions in rural com-munities. J. Y. Joyner of North Carolina, president of the conference, de livered his annual address.

INCREASED TAXES ON ALL LIQUORS

IS PROPOSAL OF DAVID LLOYD GEORGE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SOME OF MEMBERS PROTEST

There is Some Opposition to the Measure.-First Division in House Since War Began,

London.-Resolutions introduced in the House of Commons by David Lloyd-George, Chancellor of the Exchequer, to double the duty on spirits, quadruple the duties on wines and to institute an increase by graduated tax on beer-to encourage the use of lighter beers-were strongly opposed and it is generally believed that the new takes will have to be moderated before Parliament will accept them.

The O'Brienites, as protest against an additional taxation on Irish whiskles and beers, brought about the first division in the House since the outbreak of the war, by voting against the provisional resolutions which would bring the taxes into force at once so as to prevent spirits being taken out of bond while Parliament is dealing with the resolutions.

The resolution relating to spirits was passed by a vote of 89 to 5, the minority being composed of O'Brienites. The Nationalists also protested against the measure, but did not vote. The Unionists who withheld criticism until all the facts could be placed before them also abstained from voting.

The provisional resolutions impos-

ing taxes on beer and wine also were passed, the Unionists abstaining from voting and the O'Brienites opposing

Usually these provisional resolu-tions are carried without division, for should Parliament refuse to sanction the taxes, they are refunded to those who may have paid.

The Laborites promised to reply to the Chancellor's charges that a minority of the workmen, lured away by drink, were not putting their best into the work of producing war ma

GENERAL MANAGER RED CROSS.

President Appoints General Carroll A. Deval.

Washington.—President Wilson as head of the American Red Cross has appointed Brig. Gen. Carroll A. Devol. U. S. A., general manager of the Red

Cross, a newly-created position General Devol, now attached to the General Staff, was given three months leave of absence on May 1 to assume his new office and become active head of the Red Cross. He has not determined whether he will remain in the position permanently. To do so he would have to resign from the army at the expiration of the three months leave as he will not reach the age of retirement for several years.

Expects Early Recognition. Washington. — Unofficial advices that General Carranza expected early recognition by the United States attracted widespread attention in offcial and diplomatic circles here.

Carranza representatives here have been very active recently. The United States, it is said, has been advised in detail of the Carranga plans. It was said at the state department, how-ever, that the question of recognition had not been formally considered.

Damage at Friedrichshafen. Geneva, Switzerland, via Paris. Of the six bombs dropped on Zeppelin dirigible belaan worksheds at Friedrichshafen by Allied aviators four fell on empty sheds and one struck a building in which was the framework of a new Zeppelin. The French aviator who dropped the

Henry W. Miller Vice President. -Henry W. Miller of Atlants, assistant to the president of the Southern Railway, has been promoted to the vice presidency of the road, it was announced here

Told How He Stopped Panic. Syracuse, N. Y .- Colonel Theodore Roosevelt was excused from the witness stand in the \$50,000 suit for alleged libel which William Barnes has brought against him after he had told his own story of how he ended the panic of 1907 and had identified a letter in which Governor Charles S. Whitman, then District Attorney of New York, wrote that he though time was ripe to rid the state of the kind of party control mainly responsible for corrupt conditions.

Big Fire at Vancouver. Vancouver, B. C.—Fire, held by some police officials to be part of a plot to burn the city, started simul-taneously in the Cambie and Granville street bridges, connecting the business and residence parts of Van-couver. The loss was \$300,000. Aside from the bridges, however, no attempts at arson were discovered. Thousands of persons blocked on their way to work watched the flames soar from the wood and tar pavement of the Great Connaught bridge at Cambbe street. The chief damage was here.

OVER THE OLD NORTH STATE

Brief Notes Covering Happenings In This State That Are of Interest to All the People.

Graham has organized a challer of

Strawberried are now moving from the Chadbourn section.

J. C. Rogers and 77, a Confeder ate veteran of Asheville, is dead.

The Statesville Merchants Association is contemplating a Fourth of July

The announcement has just been made that passenger service would be inagurated on the Mount Mitchell railway this summer. The program for A. & M.

mencement has just been issued from the office of President D. H. Hill.

Hon. W. B. Wilson, Secretry of Lafor, will deliver the commencement address. Kinston's celebrated incubator baby, according to a statement by her physician, at the age of seven months weighs 15 pounds, a little in excess

the average seven-month-old baby's avoirdupois. The money for the Lovelady Town ship, Caldwell county, road improve ment bonds has been received, Terry, Briggs & Slayton, of Toledo, making the purchase. The \$25,000 issue brought a premium of \$325.

Suing J. H. Michael, colored, prince pal, of the Hill street school, Asheville for damages in the sum of \$5,000, Flora Nichols, colored, formerly employed as a teacher at the school was awarded damages in the sum of \$50.

It was decided at a meeting of the Whiteville Commercial Club to erect at once a tobacco warehouse to cost approximately \$6,000, assuring White-ville one of the best markets in the section of the state with a full corp

. Two car loads of sewer pipe reached Southport the past week. Other material will arrive in a few days and work will be pushed on the new \$40. 000 water and sewerage plant. It is the plan to have the whole system installed within the next four or five

All the street-cars of Wilmington in a short time are to be painted a cream white, the Tidewater Power Company having decided upon this shade after an investigation extend-ing over America and Europe. The shade is to be an almost exact duplicate of the tramcars of The Hague, Holland.

Goldsboro gets the next annual convention of the Baraca-Philathea Association of North Carolina, according to the decision of the executive committee of the organization as announced after the joint session in the Tabernacle Baptist church at Raleigh. During the day officers for all branches of the convention were chosen and with the monster parade the massmeeting in the city autdiorium and a final session in the Tabernacle Baptist church, the fifth annual convention

NORTH CAROLINA MARKET.

Prices of Cotton, Corn, Oats, Peas, Butter, Eggs, Etc., on North Caro-lina Markets During Past Week.

Ahoskie—Cotton, 54c; corn, 56c-51 bus oats, 75c bu; soy beans, 52.25 bu; peas, 52 bu; awest postaces, 75c-51 bu; West, ern creamery butter, 33c lb; eggs, 17-25c

\$2 bu; sweet potatoes, no-2, nu; ergs, 17-25c dos.

Charlotte—Cotton, 10c; corn, \$1 bu; cata, 76-72c bu; sweet potatoes, \$1.17-\$1.35 bu; eggs, 18-6 dos.

Greensboro—Cotton, 10c; corn, \$2c bu; oata, 71c bu; sweet potatoes, \$1.16 bu; Western creamery butter, 25c b; \$7. C. creamery butter, \$2b bi; eggs, 15c dos.

Hamlet—Cotton, \$c; corn, \$1.95 bu; eata, 75c bu; pean, \$2.00 bu; sweet potatoes, \$1.55 bu; Western creamery butter, \$2c bi; N. C. creamer, \$2c bi;

cata, 75c bu; pean, \$2.00 bu; awest potatoes, \$1.25 bu; Western creamery butter, \$5c lb; N. C. creamery butter, \$5c lb; N. C. creamery butter, \$5c lb; seggs, \$2c dos.

Hendersonville—Corn, \$6c bu; cats, \$72c bu; pean, \$2.25 bu; soy beans, \$2.25 bu; N. C. creamery butter, \$3c lb; eggs, \$14-15c dos.

Lumberton—Cotton, \$5c; corn, \$1 bu; west potatoes, \$5c bu; corn, \$1 bu; cots, \$10 bu; cots, \$1

Sallsbury Cotton, 9%; corn, \$1 bu each 75c bu; soy beans, \$2 bu; peans 15c bu; soy beans, \$2 bu; peans 15c bu; corn, 86c ba; down cotton, 9%; corn, 86c bu; bu; oats, 76c bu; soy beans, \$2 is bu;

nd-Cotton, 9-9%c; corn. 80c bu; Weedland—Cotton, 2-7-20-7 corresponding for the corresponding for