

# Primer

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## SNOW HELPS HALT AUSTRO-GERMANS

AIDS ITALIANS IN HOLDING POSITIONS—REGAIN SOME LOST TERRITORY.

## STRONG OFFENSIVE IN WEST

General Allenby Occupies Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Jericho and Gaza. British Forces Reported to Have Attained Heavy Losses in Fighting With Cossoaks.

The Germans, following their heavy artillery preparations of recent days, have attempted to drive a wedge into the British line west of Cambray, but although they used numerically superior forces, their effort brought them only a minor gain.

The attack, launched between Bullecourt and Queant, was similar to that adopted by Crown Prince Rupprecht's troops when they placed General Byng's front southwest of Tamberly nearly two weeks ago and caused a retirement of the British on the salient General Byng previously had driven toward Cambrai. The British held tenaciously to their ground, except at one point, where the enemy penetrated a front line position.

As in their previous attempt to wreck the Cambrai salient, the Germans lost heavily, the British mowing them down with machine gun and rifle fire in the fighting, which lasted from dawn until 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

Notwithstanding their failure, the Germans are keeping up an intensive bombardment of British and French positions all along the western front and daily are receiving additional reinforcements in men and guns from the eastern theater.

Snow is falling heavily in the mountains along the northern Italian front, and optimism prevails among the Italians that this will aid them definitely in holding the Austro-Germans back from the Italian plain. Amid the first flurries of the storm on Tuesday the enemy resumed his attacks among the hills and was repulsed by the capture of several positions. Later, however, the Italians in a counter attack regained their lost terrain, after which the artillery duels were resumed, but with less strength than had previously been shown.

The Cossoaks, under General Kaledin, and the Bolshevik forces are reported to have met in at least two fights, with the counter-revolutionists the victors in both. The engagements occurred at Mohely and at Tamarkowsky, and the Bolshevik losses are declared to have been heavy.

General Allenby, commander of the British forces in Palestine, has entered Jerusalem and taken over control of the Holy City. The British greeted the British commander cordially. In a proclamation, he told the inhabitants that all sacred buildings and holy places would be protected and maintained. Meanwhile, the British army continues its successful operations in Palestine, having captured several additional positions from the Turks.

## RESTRICTIONS ARE VERY FEW SAYS PRESIDENT.

President Dismicrains in Favor of Austro-Hungarians

Washington.—Austro-Hungarian subjects in the United States, most of whom are men of business and are loyal to the allied cause, will suffer few restrictions as a result of war between the lands of their birth and departing.

In a proclamation declaring a state of war with Austria-Hungary, in accordance with the act of Congress, President Wilson specified that unauthorized Austro-Hungarian, unlike the Germans in this country, should be free to live and travel anywhere, except that they may not enter or leave the United States without permission, and that those suspected of enemy activity may be interned. They may not interfere with police or postoffice officials.

## NEW HOUSE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS APPROVED.

Washington.—New house committee assignments were approved at separate caucuses of democrats and republicans subject to a second regular session. The democrats did their work quickly, but the meeting of the republicans was prolonged by the effort to recommend seven members with Miss Rankin as chairman of the special house committee on outrage, instead of the six allotted by the majority to the minority.

## 13 NEGRO BROTHERS DIE IN SCAFFOLD

EXECUTED FOR "SHOOTING UP" HOUSTON, TEXAS, DURING LAST AUGUST.

## COURT MARTIAL'S SENTENCE

Had Paid Death Penalty Before Verdict Was Made Public—Forty-One Are Given Life Terms in Prison—Faced Fate Stochastically.

San Antonio, Texas.—A trampled slain in a lonely mesquite thicket on the government reservation here, except for the ashes of two huge bonfires, showed no sign that it was the execution place of thirteen negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth Infantry. The negroes, convicted of participating in the riots at Houston, Texas, August 23, last, were hanged at one minute before sunrise.

After dark motor trucks carried the lumber for the scaffolds and a company of engineers to the clearing. The scaffolds were built by freight. Motor trucks shortly after 5 o'clock in the morning carried the condemned negroes and the officers and military guards to the place of execution. The trucks later carried the bodies to a place as indistinguishable as the execution site where the burial took place. Then they hauled back to Fort Sam Houston every piece of lumber used in the scaffold so that the site was clear before formal announcement of the executions had been issued by the southern department headquarters.

Faced Death Stochastically.

The condemned negroes had known of their fate since Sunday. Twelve of them sought spiritual counsel of army Y. M. C. A. workers. The thirteen, whose names have not been disclosed, gave no indication that they knew. Outwardly all were stoical. They did not know the date of the execution, but they were taken from the federal guardhouse where they had been prisoners more than a month and placed in separate barracks.

Aside from less than a dozen officers of the southern department and the sheriff of Bexar county, no one in the city or the army camps knew of the execution, date or place. The other soldiers were ignorant of the fate of their companions until after the formal announcement had been made.

## INQUIRY ORDERED INTO WORK OF WAR DEPARTMENT

Ordered by Senate Committee on Military Affairs.

Washington.—Steps were initiated in Congress today to obtain fuller information about and establish close connections with the government's war activities, past and future.

A general inquiry into the work of the war department, especially in the arming and equipping of the army's main power, was ordered by the senate military committee. Capitol leaders said it was the forerunner of similar investigations into the executive conduct of the war, which would in a measure accomplish the purpose of the proposed joint committee for the conduct of the war.

The joint committee idea was abandoned at the last session because of President Wilson's opposition.

Inquiry by standing congressional committees into the navy department's activities and the work of the shipping board and other war-time agencies is also being considered.

The war department inquiry began, when General Crozier appeared before the senate committee to testify regarding the ordinance to be produced. Secretary Baker and general staff officers as well as departmental and field commanders will follow. Senators Chamberlain and Aldrich, said much of the testimony would be confidential and given in executive session, though some of the questions would be asked in public.

The decision to inquire into the war department's operations came after two hours' discussion of reports from the senators who have visited army camps.

## FIGURES PUBLISHED ON GERMANY'S AIR STRENGTH

On the French Front in France.

What are considered approximately exact figures of Germany's air strength which have reached the correspondent show that the German army possesses 273 squadrons, comprising about 2,500 airplanes. The squadrons are divided as follows: One hundred of artillery spotters, 80 of scouts, 23 of bombers, 40 of chasseurs and 30 battle-plane squadrons for the protection of the bombers.

## TIN MINING OPERATIONS RESUMED AT KINGS MTN.

Young Geo. S. Groves, Representing a Million Dollar Corporation, Has Taken Over the Old Foster Property and is Planning a Most Successful Mining Business.

The tin mines of Kings Mountain have again opened. The operations are to be extensive, and a great amount of money spent which will pay to this country that tin Carolina belt, being the only tin outside of Alaska in the United States, is among the richest in the world. The mines will be operated by the Groves Mining Corporation.

The company being capitalized at a million dollars will take over the old Foster property consisting of approximately four hundred and fifty acres of mining property, and includes the former mill site of Geo. S. Groves, of Alexandria, Virginia, Mt. Ida. Mr. Groves is twenty three years of age. He has been opening up the placer and deeper shaft for some time.

Removing Old Plant

The old mill building and plant that was erected during the Foster time is now being demolished and removed to the Number 6 shaft, three miles south of town. The timber will be used in some of the buildings that will be erected there. Very little of the machinery will be used in the new operations, it being out of date. A greater portion will be sold as junk.

Future Plans.

Number 5 shaft, one hundred and fifteen feet deep, is in course of construction, being retimbered with heavy permanent oak timber. There will be a one-ton bucket way, pipe drainage and ladder way. The shaft will be continued down indefinitely, and at each hundred feet a cross cut will be made, a drift driven in both directions, and the ore removed by stopping overhead process. It is Mr. Groves' idea to connect all five shafts with a long level at a greater depth. A large and sufficient pocket shaft will be erected, hitting the ore to a high elevation on a platform ready for the milling process. Owing to the time to install a milling plant the grade ore will be shipped direct to the smelter until the mill is in operation in the next few months. The ore will be hauled in flatbeds and loaded in box cars. A 30 H. P. boiler, pumps and hoister, air compressor, air-drills and a general mining equipment is now being installed, and it is hoped that the mine will be producing a car of ore daily within the next six weeks.

Mr. Groves' Experience.

During the last two years Mr. Groves owned and operated one of the largest copper mines in the Appalachian Range and from these mines he has produced more copper ore than all the mines together in the East since the war broke out. His experience in other fields, in the knowledge he has gained on a similar paying basis and his experience and expertise of such successful mining will no doubt put the Kings Mountain tin belt on a profitable basis.

Immense Wealth Interested.

Some time ago Mr. Groves induced by a number of New York men, and after securing control of the old Foster property from Loring & Cover of Maryland, came to Kings Mountain to put the mines in operation. The work has been carried on with rapid speed. Many assays have been made, maps made and future work, and the necessary machinery ordered to handle the ore with the most modern methods.

The Groves Mining Corporation was organized to take over these mines. Mr. Groves owning controlling interest. The corporation will not be a stock proposition, all of the stock having been subscribed. Past experience has put Mr. Groves in touch with abundant Northern capital. It is hoped that it will be the means of bringing a great deal of wealth to Kings Mountain.

The Carolina belt, as at present explored, extends from near Gaffney, S. C. to across parts of Cleveland and Gaston counties to a point about four miles east of Lincoln, a distance of about thirty miles. In a general way it follows the Kings Mountain Range through that distance.

The country along the Kings Mountain Range is a belt of ancient metamorphic rocks folded into an incline, invaded later by igneous rocks such as granite, pegmatite and diabase, and then granitic gneiss.

Up to a recent date the tin mined in this country was shipped to Germany to be smelted at an enormous cost. The smelters are generally owned by the German Jews, who are perfect thieves when it comes to smelting ore. For this and many similar reasons the producer of the tin could not make the industry profitable, and the entire camps at tin mining were generally a failure. This is worth more today than ever before, and the demand is constantly growing. There are at present two large smelters in this country operated by Americans. That whole country is a great mining area, and Mr. Groves puts it, "there is enough tin in the Kings Mountain range to pay the national debt."

## OLD NORTH STATE NEWS

Brief Notes Covering Happenings in This States That Are of Interest to All the People.

Stateville is soon to have a Morris Plan bank.

Ashville police have been granted an increase in salary.

There is now no doubt about the permanency of the army camp at Charlotte.

Samuel J. Ashby, one of Charlotte's most influential citizens, died last week. Mr. Ashby was 68 years of age, having been born February 21, 1849. He was born near Denver, Lincoln county.

Hendersonville people are to enjoy a daily all-year-round passenger service between Hendersonville and Asheville. Attractive 24-passenger cars have been ordered.

The ancient industry of making tar is active in the hills of western North Carolina. With tar around \$10 every railroad station has a pile of barrels ready for shipment, and the old family smell is all over the country.

W. G. Hughes, a farmer of the mountain section, sold two bales of long staple cotton to the Flint Manufacturing

Company at Gastonia, last week for which he received \$463.93. He sold the seed for \$89.75, making a total for the two bales of \$553.68.

The University of North Carolina magazine has just come from the press with an attractive array of articles on various phases of the war. The current number is designated as "War Numbers" and has a picture of the student battalion in carried as a frontpiece.

President W. O. Riddick, of the Western Carolina Lumber and Timber association, has issued notices for the annual meeting of the organization to be held in Asheville, December 31. R. S. Kellogg, of Chicago, secretary-manager of the National Lumber Manufacturers' association, will be present and will deliver the annual address.

Commissioner of Agriculture W. A. Graham presented his annual report to the state board of agriculture volume 10, at a public hearing in Asheville. The financial statement shows a deficit of \$13,007 for the year over the year 1914, but for fertilizer sales which \$19,595 was for fertilizer sales and \$1,000 for fertilizer sales. Total sales, \$19,595 from sales of lime, \$42,224 from sales of hog serum and similar products, from other sources, \$1,000, total \$62,819 for the year 1914 to 1915, over the year 1914 to 1915, \$48,660.

## JERUSALEM TAKEN BY BRITISH TROOPS

S DESTROYER IS SUNK IN WAR ZONE

## SWAY OF TURK IS NEAR END

MOST OF THE CREW IS LOST

Holy City had been under rule of infidel twelve centuries.

London.—Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, announced in the house of commons that Jerusalem after being surrounded on all sides by British troops, had surrendered.

The chancellor said British, French and Mohammedan representatives on the east, established themselves on the Jerusalem-Jericho road. At the same time, London infantry and dismounted yeomanry attacked the strong enemy positions west and northwest of Jerusalem and placed themselves astride the Jerusalem-Sichem road. The holy city, being thus isolated, surrendered to General Allenby.

The capture of Jerusalem by the British forces marks the end with two brief interludes, of more than 1,200 years possession of the seat of the Christian religion by the Mohammedans. For 756 years the holy city has been in undisputed possession of the Mohammedans. Christian ruler of Jerusalem being the German emperor, Frederick II, whose short-lived dominations lasted from 1229 to 1244.

The Turks have held sway in Jerusalem since 1517 when they overcame the Mamelukes.

Apart from its connection with the campaign being waged against Turkey by the British in Mesopotamia, the fall of Jerusalem marks the definite collapse of the long protracted efforts of the Turks to capture the Suez canal and invade Egypt.

Another Storm Hits Grief Stricken Halifax.

Raging Blizzard Drives Relief Workers From a Task.

Halifax, N. S.—A roaring blizzard, the third to strike this sorry afflicted city since the blast from the exploding munitions steamer made 5,000 persons homeless four days ago, burst from the north, driving a deluge of the fury for which those northern winter storms are noted. It all but crushed the hearts of the brave band of workers struggling against overwhelming odds to alleviate suffering in the city darkness. Facing with a while the contingents of the Canadian army stationed here toiled doggedly amid the ice-shrouded ruins for the unrecovered dead, but when the wind veered suddenly to the southeast and blew with redoubled force, the soldiers were obliged to withdraw. Pungent bearing hospital supplies and food to the numerous relief stations were storm-bound. The crippled lighting system broke down again, leaving the city in darkness.

Burial parties who had volunteered their services were driven to cover. From the devastated areas of two and women patiently seeking their dead gave up their task for still another day and sought shelter.

Relief trains bringing workers and supplies reached the city in the height of the blizzard, but those so eager to help found themselves helpless and knew not which way to turn in the confusion of the storm, the unlighted city and the wreckage.

UNIFICATION OF ALL RAILROADS DURING WAR

Washington.—President Wilson called to Congress for special legislation to bring about unification of the railroads during the war. That the President has decided definitely on such a move became known after he had gone over the whole transportation situation with Senator Newlands, chairman of the senate interstate commerce committee. He probably will ask for the legislation in an address before Christmas holidays.

NO ATTEMPT TO CHECK UP LIST OF HALIFAX DEAD

Morgue Officials Hold to Estimate of Four Thousand.

Halifax, N. S.—No official attempt was made here to check up or revise the long list of dead and injured resulting from Thursday's disaster when a munitions ship's cargo exploded in the harbor.

A joint appeal by the morgue officials held to their estimate of 4,000 dead, but other observers said that estimate was too great by half.

A joint appeal by the mayors of Halifax and Dartmouth was made to the Canadian public for money for the relief of the homeless and the reconstruction of that part of the city which is in ruins. It was said that between \$200,000 and \$250,000 would be required.

A heavy rainstorm interrupted the system search for bodies, but by night 95 additional bodies had been placed in the morgue. Several deaths occurred among the injured.

The task of sorting the relief committee seemed almost hopeless, but later in the day the skies cleared and cheering word came from the physicians in charge of the tents in which the hundreds had found shelter. The tents had withstood the storm and the occupants were as comfortable as could be expected.

GERMAN TROOPS ARE RUSHED TO CAMBRAI

Geneva, Friday, Dec. 7.—Both Field Marshal von Hindenburg and Gen. von Ludendorff are on the Cambrai front, according to a dispatch from Straasburg today. Railway traffic through the Rhine towns has been cut off from this source, owing to the flow of troops and artillery being rushed through to this front. No civilians are allowed to travel along the Rhine and the German frontier remains closed.

Washington.—Lieutenant Commander David Worth Bagley and Lieutenant Norman Scott were among the survivors rescued after the sinking of the American destroyer, Jacob Jones, by a German submarine in the war zone last Thursday night. The navy department was so advised by Vice Admiral Sims.

These officers, two warrant officers, and two enlisted men were named in the admiral's dispatch as survivors in addition to the 37 previously reported saved. It is now established that the five line officers on the destroyer were rescued. Gunner Harry R. Hood and 63 men are missing.

Admiral Sims' report said that Commander Bagley and the five other men saved with him got away in a motor boat and were picked up and landed on the island of the Sully. The other four survivors reported besides Commander Bagley and Lieutenant Scott were:

Chief Boatswain's Mate Clarence McBride, vice Florence McBride, Syracuse, N. Y.

Coxswain Ben Nunney, father Fred A. Nunney, Edgewood, N. Y.

Fireman Joseph Krosenke, mother Anna Krosenke, Savire, Russia.

Vice Admiral Sims up to a late hour has been able to supply only meager details in reply to urgent messages from Secretary Daniels, whose brother-in-law, Lieutenant Commander David Worth Bagley, commanded the lost vessel, and was first reported among the missing. Three officers and 34 men were picked up by other vessels from the rafts to which they clung, but the names of only ten of these had been transmitted to Washington.

The Jacob Jones, one of the largest and newest American destroyers operating in the Atlantic, was the first American warship to fall victim to a German submarine, but was the second American destroyer to be lost in foreign waters. The Jacob Jones sank with her commander, Lieutenant Commander Walter B. Reno, two other officers, and 18 enlisted men, after being cut in two by the transport Rose early on the morning of November 26.