

## COURTS WILL HAVE TO DECIDE GAME WARDEN FIGHT

Wade Hampton Gibbes, of Columbia, Receiver Appointment from Governor.

RICHARDSON WON'T VACATE Governor's Construction of Law Governing Action—Statement by Incumbent.

Columbia, Feb. 26.—Whether Alfred Aldrich Richardson, or Wade Hampton Gibbes is chief game warden of South Carolina will be decided by the courts. Mr. Gibbes was this morning appointed game warden by Governor Manning, and with his commission duly signed called on Col. Richardson to turn the office over to him, but this the latter declined to do, and mandamus proceedings to oust Mr. Richardson will be the next move, which will throw the whole matter for decision into the courts. Governor Manning construes the act relating to the chief game warden as giving him the right to appoint because it says, in section 747 of the Criminal Code:

**How the Law Reads.**  
 "The Audubon Society of South Carolina shall send in the name of suitable person to the Governor. On approving this nomination the Governor shall transmit the name, with his recommendation, to the State Senate. Should the Senate approve, the chief game warden shall assume the duties of his office by taking oath to administer the laws before any notary, magistrate or judge or clerk of court, and shall furnish bond in the sum of \$2,000, to be approved by the Secretary of State. Should the Governor or Senate not approve any nomination sent them, the name shall be returned to the said Audubon Society of South Carolina, until a person suitable to both the Governor and the Senate shall have been named."

**Adams Stuck to Richardson.**  
 The Audubon Society, of which Dr. E. C. L. Adams, of Columbia, is president, recommended Col. Richardson for reappointment. The Governor returned the recommendation as not satisfactory to him and asked for another name. The society stood by Col. Richardson and the Governor went ahead this morning and appointed Mr. Gibbes without any recommendation.

Mr. Gibbes was formerly auditor of Richland County, was for four years Mayor of Columbia, and has recently been in the employ of the federal government as Indian agent.

The Senate adjourned at its recent session without having passed on the veto of Governor Manning on the bill placing the election of game warden in the hands of the people and retaining Col. Richardson in office until that time.

Mr. Gibbes was president of the Audubon Society, which recommended Mr. Richardson to Governor Blease for appointment as chief game warden four years ago after Mr. Blease had declined to reappoint James Henry Rice, Jr.

Governor Manning, in appointing Mr. Gibbes as chief game warden, sent the following notice of it to the Secretary of State, which constitutes the official appointment:

"To Hon. W. H. Dove, Secretary of State:

"Whereas, under section 747 of the Criminal Code of South Carolina, Volume 11, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1912, the privilege is given to the Audubon Society of South Carolina to send in to the Governor the name of a suitable person for appointment as chief game warden; and

"Whereas, on the 18th day of December, 1916, the said society sent me name of Alfred A. Richardson for appointment; and

"Whereas, the said nomination was satisfactory to me and was on the day of February, 1917, returned me to the said society with the best that the said Audubon Society should forward me further nominations; and

"Whereas, the said Audubon Society failed to make a further nomination, and again nominated Alfred Richardson for reappointment;

"Whereas, the nomination of Alfred Richardson for the position of game warden is still unsatisfactory to me and I cannot approve the same; and

"Whereas, by the law of South Carolina the term of office of the chief

## FIGHTING "BONE DRY" AMENDMENT.

Enemies of Prohibition Working by Indirection to Defeat Reed Amendment.

Washington, Feb. 27.—The failure of the house and senate conference to break the deadlock over the postal bill amendment to renew the pneumatic mail tube contracts for another year has caused the opponents of the Reed "bone dry" amendment to believe the postal bill may not be passed at this session.

## GEORGIA ARTILLERY TO ENTRAIN MARCH 5

San Antonio, Feb. 27.—The First Battalion, Georgia Field Artillery, has been ordered to entrain at El Paso, March 5. The dates for the return home of the other Georgia troops have not been announced.

game warden has expired and the office is, therefore, vacant, and it is important and necessary that the said office be filled at once in order that the interests of the State be protected.

"Now, therefore, I, Richard I. Manning, for the reasons above stated and by virtue of the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the State of South Carolina, do hereby appoint Wade Hampton Gibbes, of Columbia, South Carolina, chief game warden for the State of South Carolina, for the term provided by law.

"Given under my hand and the seal of this State, at Columbia, this 26th day of February in the year of our Lord, 1917, and in the one hundred and forty-first year of the Independence of the United States of America.

"Richard I. Manning, Governor."

Col. Richardson in a statement said:

"Mr. Gibbes came to my office this morning and demanded that the office be turned over to him. He showed me a commission that the Governor had given him, dated today, and contended that my commission expired yesterday. My commission is for four years, from March 7, 1913, and in my judgment will not expire until March 7, 1917. I have only been drawing my salary from March 7, 1913. I told Mr. Gibbes that I refused him the office upon the ground that I did not consider his commission legal, for the reason that he did not have the recommendation of the Audubon Society, as required by law. neither did he have the confirmation of the senate. I further called to his attention the fact that both branches of the General Assembly had passed acts putting this office in the hands of the people, and providing that the incumbent retain the position until the next general election, that this act had been returned to the Senate with the Governor's veto, which the Senate had as yet failed to act upon, carrying the matter over until the first day of the next session. The General Assembly, I told Mr. Gibbes, left Columbia under the impression that no action could be taken until the charges of the Governor against this department had been investigated. I further called to his attention that, inasmuch as the above-mentioned act which was vetoed by the Governor, provided that the incumbent hold office for two years, that then, upon their return next year, the General Assembly, if it failed to sustain the Governor's veto, the law would have stood as at present, with the incumbent holding the office. I told Mr. Gibbes that there was not any personal feeling in this matter whatsoever, and he agreed with me on this point—that we could remain personal friends. He left my office with the understanding that when the matter was decided by the courts, if the decision should be in his favor the emoluments of the position from now on would go to him, and if the decision should be in my favor that the emoluments of the office should go to the present game warden and his assistants.

"I am in this fight to the finish. By taking this attitude, I am making a personal sacrifice, because I am offered a position, which is no open to me, that would pay me \$500 per year more than the position which I now hold. It is possible that I would not have taken this decided stand had it not been for the bitter message of the Governor against me and this department, but on account of this message I expect to hold this office, if possible, regardless of whether or not I receive one cent of money for the work I do for the State from now on."

## GREAT LINER LACONIA SUNK BY GERMANS

Queenstown, Feb. 26.—The Cunard line steamship Laconia, of 18,099 tons gross, which sailed from New York February 18 for Liverpool, has been sunk.

### Without Warning.

London, Feb. 26.—It is stated authentically that the Laconia was torpedoed without warning.

Wesley Frost, American consul at Queenstown, telegraphed the American embassy here today: "Cunarder Laconia torpedoed 10:50 Sunday night. Two hundred and seventy-eight survivors landed. Details lacking but known some missing, one dead."

### Americans Aboard.

Washington, Feb. 26.—The sinking of the big Cunarder Laconia, apparently without warning, and with twenty-six Americans on board, loomed up tonight as the most serious disregard of American rights since the ruthless German submarine campaign began. Government officials made no attempt to conceal their concern.

Consul Frost at Queenstown, reported to the State Department the sinking of the vessel and the loss of one life, but sp to a late hour tonight had not been able to say whether it was an American who met death. He expected to get full information from the 267 survivors due at Queenstown at 11:30 o'clock tonight.

Officials pointed out that while final reports may show that no American lives were lost, the fact will remain that the twenty-seven Americans were illegally assaulted on a peaceful mission and escaped death only by good fortune.

The United States is concerned in the sinking of the Laconia also because a large amount of official diplomatic mail had been entrusted to her after the American liner St. Louis had cancelled its sailing.

In the absence of official information expected hourly from Consul Frost no official would venture an opinion on the outcome of the sinking beyond saying that it would gravely complicate the already critical situation with Germany. Whether it may prove to be the "overt act" will depend entirely on the actual facts expected tomorrow.

## SINKING OF CUNARD LINER LACONIA IS A CLEAR VIOLATION OF AMERICAN RIGHTS AND PRESIDENT FEELS THAT ANSWER SHOULD COME FROM CONGRESS

Washington, Feb. 27.—The sinking of the Cunard Laconia by a German submarine was stated officially today to constitute a clear cut violation of American rights.

Conclusive official information at the State Department shows that two American women lost their lives, that of four other Americans among the passengers and the fourteen among the crew were saved, it was only by good fortune; and that the vessel was sunk without warning in direct defiance of all the principles for which the United States has stood.

Consul Frost's reports from the survivors show that the vessel was struck by a first torpedo without warning at 10:30 Sunday night 150 miles off Fastnet. The engine was stopped as the ship listed to starboard, wireless calls were flashed broadcast and six rockets were sent up. Thirteen boats with passengers and crew got away in a heavy sea.

About twenty minutes after the first torpedo, the reports add, and while some of the boats were still nearby, a second torpedo was driven into the vessel, which sank three-quarters of an hour after the original attack. The small boats with survivors pitched about during the long hours of the night until rescue ships came up. During this time the two

### BERLIN LEARNS NEWS.

Berlin, (Via Sayville, Wireless,) Feb. 27.—News of the sinking of the British liner Laconia, greatly delayed, reached the Berlin public this afternoon, when interest was concentrated upon the chancellor's speech in the Reichstag. Advice received here gave assurance that no American lives were lost.

### Bound for Liverpool.

New York, Feb. 26.—The British passenger liner Laconia, one of the largest vessels of the Cunard fleet whose sinking by a submarine was reported today, sailed from here February 18 for Liverpool.

On board were thirty-three first and forty-two second cabin passengers, among them seven Americans. Twenty Americans were in the crew of 216. Eight of her passengers had been transhipped from the Holland-America liner Ryndam. There were no steerage passengers.

Officials received confirmation of the vessel's destruction from the British admiralty with the information that one life had been lost. It was not stated whether it was a passenger or one of the crew.

The Laconia carried a large cargo, including war supplies and 5,000 sacks of United States mail, of which 1,300 were to have gone on the American liner St. Louis.

### American Passengers.

The names of the American passengers and their addresses as given by the line here follow:

Floyd P. Gibbons, of the Chicago Tribune.  
 Mrs. F. E. Harris, wife of Lieut. Col. Frank E. Harris, U. S. Coast Artillery, stationed at Fort Dupont, near Philadelphia.  
 Arthur T. Kirby, Bainbridge, N. Y.  
 Mrs. Mary E. Hoy, Chicago.  
 Miss Elizabeth Hoy, Chicago.  
 The Rev. James Wareing, said to be from Norfolk, Va.

The Americans among the crew gave New York and Brooklyn as their places of residence and ere stokers, coal trimmers, wipers and seamen.

It was learned at the office of the company that the following were among the principal commodities in the Laconia's cargo.

Bar silver, wheat, 2,843 bales of cotton, fresh fruit, shell casings and other war supplies and provisions.

Line officials stated positively that there ere no explosives on board.

The Laconia carried 5,000 bags of United States and Canadian mail. Sailing on the same date, the Holland America liner Ryndam returned to port after being turned back from her voyage to Rotterdam by the submarine menace. She also had on board nine of the Ryndam's passengers.

American women, Mrs. Mary E. Hoy and Miss Elizabeth Hoy, of Chicago, died of exposure and were buried at sea. There were several other deaths, not of Americans.

It was stated officially that no other facts are needed by this government. Officials are entirely clear in their belief that Germany has committed the act which President Wilson has said it was impossible for him to believe she would commit.

Both White House and State Department officials seem to feel that the answer must come from Congress. The President, they point out, asked for authority to take steps to prevent just such an act at the very moment when the first news was coming over the cables.

Naval officials are puzzled by the fact that the Laconia was torpedoed at night. It has been an accepted condition of submarine warfare heretofore that the U-boats were hampered by darkness and that ships in open waters were in little danger at night.

It is submarine practice to recharge electric storage batteries at night and it is regarded as probable that the boat which torpedoed the Laconia was on the surface engaged in this operation when the liner came along.

### NOT ON LACONIA.

San Francisco, Feb. 27.—W. H. Thatcher, interpreter at the Angel Island immigration station, was not a passenger of the torpedoed liner Laconia, although his name was on the passenger list. Thatcher is safe in San Francisco and unable to explain why his name was on the passenger list.

## GUNS TO ARM SHIPS; GUNNERS LACKING

Sufficient Weapons Stored at Navy Yard if Need Arises for Their Use.

### EXPERT GUNNERS NEEDED

Naval Experts Oppose Idea of Naval Convoys as it Would Impair Fleet.

Washington, Feb. 25.—Guns and mounts sufficient to arm any reasonable number of American merchant ships are stored at navy yards, it was stated officially at the Navy Department today after President Wilson's appearance before Congress to ask authority to provide weapons and men should the need arise. Efficient gunners are lacking, however, unless they are taken from active ships, which can ill spare them.

Naval officers pointed out that men of special skill, trained to the minute, would be required as gun pointers for anti-submarine work, since a U-boat is difficult to hit. Often a periscope hardly visible at more than a few thousand yards is the gunners' only target.

Recent figures show that 250 ships under American registry are engaged in transatlantic trade, but it is estimated that not more than 100 would apply for guns and take the risk of crossing the German submarine zones. There will be no difficulty in arming that number of vessels, but supplying trained gun pointers for 100 guns would take just that many valuable men away from fighting ships.

### No Expert Pointers.

There are about 1,000 men in the fleet reserve, but it is said that no sufficiently expert gun pointers for merchant craft could be obtained from that source, although some ammunition handlers and other members of gun crews might be obtained. Navy officials construe the President's language as asking for authority wide enough to include naval convoys, but naval experts oppose such a step because it could not insure ships against submarine attack and because the efficiency of the fleet as fighting machine would be seriously impaired if its units were thus scattered.

The available guns range up to six-inch calibre. Most of them are old models, but have ample range and power for the work desired. It is important that the underwater craft be assailed before she gets into torpedo range. The majority of cases reported show this to be 500 yards or less and the skill of the gunners should be sufficient to make it dangerous for a U-boat to show herself at 5,000 yards.

Navy officials were not inclined to discuss the change in the status of a merchant ship which might result from placing a navy crew aboard.

The naval militia, more than 9,000 strong, could not be drawn upon for gunners, because of its militia status. The terms under which the men could be called out for active service are limited by the Constitution to suppression of insurrection, repelling invasion and enforcing the laws.

### ABBEVILLE LYNCHING CASE

Abbeville, Feb. 26.—Court of general sessions convened here this morning with Judge James E. Paerifoy, of Walterboro, presiding, and Solicitor Homer S. Blackwell, of Laurens, making his first official appearance here, looking after the State's interests.

The most important cases that may be tried at this term are those growing out of the lynching on October 21 last, of Anthony Crawford, a well-to-do negro, who was taken from the jail here, hung to a tree and his body riddled with bullets. The lynching occurred after Crawford had a difficulty with a white man here.

A bill of indictment was given out this morning by Solicitor Blackwell against the following, who are charged with murder, for alleged participation in the lynching: J. V. Elgin, Sam Adams, Jess Cann, Will Cann, Sam Cann, Eugene Nance, B. Grant, R. B. Ferguson and Sam Eakin. A report from the grand jury is expected tomorrow, and in the event that a true bill is returned, a day will probably be set for the trial. All the defendants are white.

### SUGAR FOR THE ALLIES DESTROYED BY FIRE

New York, Feb. 26.—Sugar valued at \$100,000 was destroyed by fire early today on board the British steamship Bay Sura, which was being loaded with cargo for the Allies at a Brooklyn pier.

## NO BILLS RETURNED IN SESSIONS COURT AT CHARLESTON

Twenty-One Are Presented by the Grand Jury—"Remarkable," Judge Says.

### CHRISTOPOULOU TO APPEAR

Rule to Show Cause is Issued Against Him Regarding Suspended Sentence.

Twenty-one no bills were returned by the grand jury in the Court of General Sessions here yesterday, the defendants in each case being charged with violating the prohibition law. When the presentation was made there was evident surprise in the court room.

"That's remarkable," Judge I. W. Bowman, he was presiding, remarked.

During the present term of court a large number of true bills against persons charged with having violated the prohibition law has been returned by the grand jury. The larger part of the session yesterday was occupied in disposing of appeals.

A rule to show cause why the suspended sentence against him as imposed by Judge Mendel L. Smith, was issued against Constan H. Christopoulos yesterday. Christopoulos has been ordered to appear in court tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock. Should he fail to satisfy Judge Bowman that he has not violated the terms of his suspended sentence he will have to serve a term of imprisonment, according to the wording of the suspended sentence. No Jury trial is necessary. Four other persons have also been ordered to show cause why similar action should not be taken in their cases in court tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock. They are S. P. Schiadaressi, Carl Dannhauer, H. R. Rabens and E. H. Rickels.

The grand jury presented a true bill against John Martins, charged with assault and battery with intent to kill and carrying concealed weapons.

### The No Bills Returned.

The following no bills were returned: A. P. Jones, charged with selling intoxicating liquors; Edward Zissett, charged with violating the prohibition law; William Farrow, charged with selling intoxicating liquors; Thomas Laffin, charged with selling intoxicating liquors; M. G. Rikhoff, charged with selling intoxicating liquors; William Farrow, charged with selling intoxicating liquors; Thomas Marks, charged with selling intoxicating liquors; Thomas Laffin, charged with selling intoxicating liquors; Viola Banker, charged with violating the prohibition law; Edward Zissett, charged with selling intoxicating liquors; Richard Martens, charged with selling intoxicating liquors; J. L. Fox, charged with selling intoxicating liquors; J. L. Fox, charged with selling intoxicating liquors; J. L. Fox, charged with selling intoxicating liquors; J. L. Fox, charged with selling intoxicating liquors; Thomas Laffin, charged with selling intoxicating liquors; Edward Zissett, charged with selling intoxicating liquors; N. H. Thompson, charged with transporting liquor; Thomas Marks, charged with selling intoxicating liquors; Viola Banker, charged with selling intoxicating liquor.

George Hontos, pleaded guilty to the first count of an indictment charging him with violating the prohibition law. He was sentenced to serve two months imprisonment or to pay a fine of \$50 and was given a suspended sentence of four months.

### MANY DEAD IN WRECK

Serious Smashup on Pennsylvania Railroad.

Philadelphia, Feb. 27.—Two sleeping cars of the Mercantile Express from Pittsburg for Philadelphia on the Pennsylvania railroad were telescoped by a freight train near Altoona early today and officials of the road here expressed fear that a number of passengers had been killed. The two sleepers ere so tightly jammed together that little headway had been made in extricating the occupants half an hour after the accident.

### Relief Trains Carrying Physicians and Nurses Left Altoona at 1 a. m.