The Anderson Daily Intelligencer

VOLUME II, NUMBER 19. Weekly, Established 1860; Daily Jan. 13, 1914. ANDERSON, S. C. WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEBUARY 3, 1915. PRICE FIVE CENTS

ANOTHER PERPLEXING PROBLEM THRUST UPON THE UNITED STATES

GERMAN OFFICER DYNAMITES BRIDGE IN CANADA AND FLEES

CLAIMS OFFENSE AN ACT OF WAR

And Cannot Be Surrendered Legally to an Enemy of the Fatherland.

(By Associated Press.)

VANCEBORO, Maine, Feb., 2.—Another international problem incident to the war was thrust upon the United States today by the action of Werner Van Horn, who, operating on the Canadian side of the border, dynamited the railway bridge over the St. Croix river, and then escaped into Maine.

A few hours later in a room at a hotel here Van Horn submitted to arrest, but immediately proclaimed himself an officer of the German army and set up the claim that he had committed an act of war and, having fled to a neutral country, could not be surrendered legally to an enemy of the Fatherland.

The Canadian authorities took a different view of the matter and immediately instituted proceedings to extradite the prisoner on a charge of destruction of railroad property. Pending the outcome of these efforts Van Horn is held at the immigration office here in custody of a deputy sheriff.

The bridge which Van Horn sought to destroy was not greatly damaged. Within a few hours cars were shunted across one at a time, the passengers walking over on the ice. By morning, railroad officials said, the bridge would be strong enough for trains to use it without uncoupling.

The St. Croix river for some distance forms the boundary between Maine and New Brunswick. The bridge is owned jointly by the Maine and Central and the Canadian Pacific railways and is on the direct route of the Canadian Pacific from western Canada to the maritime provinces. Over this road have been shipped large quantities of war materials for the allies which were dispatched from St. John and Halifax.

According to the police, Van Horn, a man of middle age, and of military bearing, told them that he left Germany five years ago and for the past four years had been managing a coffee plantation in Mexico. Recently he made unsuccessful attempts to return to his native land.

Friday night Van Horn left New York city, arriving here Saturday night and staying at a hotel. That same night by appointment he met at the east end of the bridge a man unknown to him. The man gave him a satchel containing dynamite. Van Horn suspended the satchel from the side of an end post of the bridge and about 2 o'clock this morning discharged the explosive.

Attorney General William R. Pattangall tonight ordered that Van Horn be held until further orders. While there was no formal charge preferred against him at first, arrangements were made to have a warrant issued if necessary in order to make certain his detention.

Van Horn, the officials state, could be charged with damage to a railroad bridge which is an extraditable offense or with damage to property on the American side of the border where windows were broken by the explosion.

The attorney general of New Brunswick, J. A. M. Baxter, telegraphed to officials of the Canadian Pacific Railway here asking them to make a complaint against Van Horn which might be the basis for extradition proceeding to be begun forthwith. Ottawa was also advised of the situation.

When Van Horn was searched the police claim to have found upon him a drawing of the bridge. He has steadfastly refused to explain this and has denied that he knew the identity of the man who supplied the dynamite. The police are searching for this man, but had found no trace of him tonight.

Much Comment In Washington.

WASHINGTON, Feb., 2.—Application for the extradition of Werner Van Horn reached the British embassy here late tonight and probably will be presented to the state department tomorrow. Officials of both the embassy and the department declined to discuss the case, pending formal presentation of the application.

Secretary Bryan said he had heard nothing about the case and of course would not have anything to say until it was before him officially.

There was much comment in official circles upon the probability that Van Horn would set up a claim of immunity from extradition on the ground that his offense was political, not criminal. It was said, however, that even if such a claim were recognized, the prisoner probably would be prosecuted under the neutrality laws of the United States.

All Records Are Broken

Trade Balance for January in Favor of U. S. Greatest in Nation's History.

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—The balance of trade in favor of the United States during January was the greatest for any month in the nation's history. Returns today from 13 ports which handle 86 per cent. of the country's total imports and exports, show a favorable advance from January 2 to January 30, of $131,133,888. Officials pointed out that a complete report probably would materially increase that figure.

Exports for the four weeks through the 13 ports reporting were $238,574,096, an average of $59,643,524 a week. Imports were $107,440,208, an average of $26,860,052 a week.

The week ended January 30 produced a favorable balance of $35,901,535, the largest for any one week in more than ten years. Exports totalled $63,668,139 and imports $27,766,604.

Cotton exported during the week ended January 30 amounted to 387,775 bales, making a total of 2,250,699 bales for the last eight weeks.

Virginia Legislature Adopts Governor's Bill

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 2.—By a vote of 60 to 38 the house of delegates today adopted what has become known as the "governor's bill," providing for the segregation of taxes on real estate and tangible personal property for local purposes, and segregating the taxes on the rolling stock of all corporations operating railroads by steam, for State purposes. The feature of the present law levying a 10 cent tax on every $100 of the assessed value of real estate and personal property is retained.

Increase in Bread.

CHICAGO Feb., 2.—A threatened increase from 5 to 6 cents a loaf in bread prices, if it becomes effective, will cost consumers here about $10,000 a day, an increase of $3,650,000 a year Frederick Fox, municipal librarian, today began an investigation into the expected increase.

Agree to Pope's Proposal.

ROME Feb. 2.—(6:40 p .m.)—According to reports in circulation at the Vatican Great Britain, Germany and Austria have agreed to Pope Benedict's proposal for an exchange of civil prisoners—women and children and men above the age of 55.

1,279 German Jurists Killed.

BERNE, Switzerland, Feb. 2.—(via Paris, 5:30 p. m.)—Official statements given out in Berlin today say 1,279 German jurists have been killed in the war. The total is made up of six professors, 275 judges, 240 lawyers, 334 assessors and 424 barristers

Operators and Miners Reach Agreement.

CLEVELAND, O., Feb. 2.—Operators, striking miners and federal conciliators today agreed on a tentative form of arbitration in the eastern Ohio coal field difficulties. Details will be worked out tomorrow.

QUIET PREVAILS AT MEXICO CITY

Owners of More Than One Horse Ordered to Sell Half of Them to Government.

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—State department reports today said comparative quiet prevailed at Mexico City.

Several of Carranza's cabinet had arrived from Vera Cruz it was reported, and were considering removal of their departments from Vera Cruz.

Street car service in the capital had been interrupted by Zapata forces who had taken and still hold many of the cars.

General Obregon, Carranza leader, who had been in military command of Mexico City, the report said, had gone to Vera Cruz to confer with Carranza and during his absence General Benjamin Hill, recently in command of the Carranza forces at Nacozari, Sonora, was ruling the city.

All persons except oreigners and city coachmen who own more than one horse have been ordered by the military authoritics of the capital to sell one-half of them to the government on pain of confiscation.

General Villa telegraphed the convention agency here tonight that General Tomas Urbina captured San Luis Potosi yesterday. Urbina's column is supposed to be the vanguard of the Villa force marching on Tampico.

No details were given, though it was intimated that the Carranza garrison had evacuated without a fight. Urbina's force numbered about 5000 men.

Food Scarce in Capital.

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 2.—Severe fighting took place in the suburb of Tacubaya, near Chapultepec Castle, and Xochimilco. Zapata forces everywhere were driven back with losses. Eleven officers and 73 men in the Zapata ranks are said to have been killed. The Constitutionalist losses are reported insignificant.

Scarcity of food in the capital has brought about an acute situation. The chamber of commerce has collected $600,000 as part of a $1,000,000 fund for the purchase of provisions to be sold at cost to the poor.

STOP PAYMENTS OF STATE DEBTS

Until Some Provision is Made Relative to Financial Program for Alabama.

(By Associated Press.)

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Feb. 2.—Governor Henderson today issued an order to State Treasurer Lancaster immediately stopping the payment of salaries to members of the legislature, State officers, judges, solicitors and school teachers until some provision is made relative to a financial program for Alabama.

Both branches of the legislatures have voted to recess after their twentieth working day until July 13. Today was the twelfth working day. The governor is opposed to a recess until measures to care for State indebtedness, now past due, are considered.

Fear Steamer is Lost.

LONDON, Feb., 2.—(3:10 a. m.)—Fears are expresed in Copenhagen, says a dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph company, that the Danish steamship Marselisborg, from Pensacola December 15, and Norfolk December 23, for Copenhagen, has been lost by striking mines. The Marselisborg is a vessel of 1,775 tons, with a crew of 25.

TRYING TO SAVE THE SHIP BILL

SENATE LEADERS STRUGGLING TO PREVENT THREATENED DEFEAT

PREPARING TO REVISE MEASURE

In Effort to Draw Support From Progressives and Win Back Deserters.

Pledge Every Member to Secrecy.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—A plan guarded with the utmost secrecy was adopted by administration Democrats of the senate in caucus tonight to break down opposition to the government ship purchase bill. The program includes parliamentary maneuvers, which will be actuated tomorrow afternoon in the senate, and, according to leaders of the party, calculated to bring support for the measure to offset Monday's Democratic revolt.

After reaching an agreement in the caucus adopted a resolution pledging every member to secrecy. Senator Kern, chairman of the caucus, announced that secrecy was necessary for the obvious reason that to make the plans public might mean their frustration. It was learned that included in the plan was an agreement to amend the bill to conform with suggestions from various sources that within the last few strenuous days

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—Extraordinary efforts were started today and tonight by administration senate leaders to save the government ship purchase bill from threatened defeat or consignment to a pigeon hole for this session of congress.

Up to late tonight the Democratic majority struggling with the dilemma had disclosed nothing but tentative plans of proceedure. These included preparations for revision of the bill to draw support from progressive Republicans and proposals designed to win back at least six of the seven Democrats who joined the Republicans yesterday in an effort to send the measure back to committee.

Preliminary skirmishes at the capitol and White House were begun early in the day. President Wilson conferred with several progressive Republican senators regarding the bill. The Democratic majority considered methods of proceedure to regain its lost ground and the seven recalcitrant

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VETERAN BANKER AND PHILANTHROPIST DEAD

Jno. Patterson Branch Dies at His Home in Richmond, Va., Last Night.

(By Associated Press.)

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 2.—John Patterson Branch, veteran banker and philanthropist, died at his home in this city tonight at 8 o'clock. He had been in failing health for several weeks, although until recently hope was expressed for his recovery. He was president of the Merchant's National Bank and head of the firm of Thomas Branch & Co., private bankers. Besides being prominent in social and business affairs, he was active in the work of Centenary Methodsit church and of hte Virginia Methodist conference.

When the war between the States broke out he enlisted in the Confederate army and became first lieutenant in the 44ht Virginia battalion. He remained in the service of his State until the close of the war and was at Appomattox when General Lee surrendered.

Mr. Branch's most conspicuous monument in this city is the system of public baths which bear his name, and which were made possible through his liberal donations.

At the time of his death he was a trustee of Randolph-Macon College and for years was a trustee of the Virginia Methodist orphanage and of the Methodist Institute for Christian Work in Richmond. He built and equipped the Branch dormitory at the Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, as a memorial to his wife. He was a steward and trustee of Centenary Church and repeatedly was a delegate to the annual general conferences.

GERMANS SUFFER TERRIBLE LOSSES

Eyewitness Tells of Attacks Between La Bassee Canal and Bethune Road.

(By Associated Press.)

LONDON, Feb. 2.—The Germans suffered terrible losses in attempting to take British entrenchments, according to an account by the British official eye witness of two German attacks between the La Bassee Canal and the Bethune road January 25.

In the center, says the report, our men, firmly established in the brick fields gave the Germans a very warm reception and the latter fell back, leaving 50 dead in front of this potat alone.

To the south of it they temporarily gained possession of a small portion of one of our trenches, but immediately were counter attacked with the bayonet and every man in the trench was killed. The same thing happened close to the Bethune road where the Germans gained another of our trenches only to be bayonetted to a man.

After the fighting was over, the enemy's dead, to the estimated number of 200, lay thick all along our line. Our casualties were slight.

This attack, like those delivered at Givenchy and at Zonnebeke, on the 25th, was a costly failure, resulting only in a great waste of life. It was made by some three hundred men in the first line and three hundred more in support occupying the trench vacated by the first line when it moved forward.

Prisoners say there were 100 dead lying in this trench before the Germans advanced and that none of the troops making the assault had attacked before.

Three Drown.

PORT JEFFERSON, N. Y., Feb. 2.—Three of the crew of the steam suction dredge Eastern were drowned, a fourth drifted away on a raft and seven others floated for six hours in the icy waters of the Long Island Sound today after the dredge had been overturned by a gale and blown to pieces by a boiler explosion. Tonight

ing.

SPARTANBURG BOY 2ND LIEUTENANT

Goes to England and Takes Oath of Allegiance to Great Britain.

(By Associated Press.)

SPARTANBURG, Feb. 2.—Montague M. Nicholls, of Spartanburg, who went to England soon after the outbreak of the European war and enlisted in the British army, has taken the oath of allegiance to Great Britain and been promoted to the rank of second lieutenant in the royal artillery. This information was contained in a letter received by his family today.

Until a year ago when he resigned, Nicholls was a cadet at the United States Naval Academy and the star quarterback of the Navy team of 1913. He captained the team in the Army-Navy game of that year.

Patterson-Chappelier.

Married last evening by the Rev. S. W. Danner, pastor of Bethel Methodist church, at the parsonage, Mr. R. H. Chappelier and Miss Sallie Patterson. Mrs. Chappelier is the daughter of Mr. M. M. Patterson, and an attractive young woman who numbers her friends by the score. Mr. Chappelier conducts a barber shop at he Anderson Mills and is a popular and energetic young man.

GERMANS MAKING DESPERATE EFFORTS TO BREAK DEADLOCK

Highest In 17 Years

Price of Wheat More Than Doubles Since European Hostilities Began.

(By Associated Press.)

CHICAGO, Feb. 2.—May wheat today rose 8 3-4 cents to $2.65 a bushel, the highest in 17 years and more than double the price of spot cash in July before European hostilities began. The mark has been exceeded only twice since the civil war, in 1898, when Joseph Leiter paid $1.85 and in 1888, when $2 was exacted during the Hutchinson corner.

Today it simply was a question of getting the wheat. Buyers appeared to regard the subject of price as merely a detail. Excited purchasing, which began at the opening, reached its wildest pitch in the last few minutes. Final quotations were the highest and the market in the end virtually was bare of offerings.

"Fighting Methodist of Texas" Dead

(By Associated Press.)

DALLAS Tex. Feb. 2.—Rev. George C. Rankin, aged 68, editor of the Texas Christian Advocate, known among Southern Methodists as the Fighting Methodist of Texas, and one of the leaders in Texas State-wide prohibition movements died accidently here today. Mr. Rankin became a Methodist circuit rider in 1872, after

Carolina, Georgia, Missouri and Texas. He left a widow and six children.

YESTERDAY IN THE LEGISLATURE

Special to The Intelligencer.

COLUMBIA, Feb. 2.—A majority unfavorable and a minority favorable report was made by the police regulations committee of the senate tonight on the bill by Senator John F. Williams giving the people of the State the right to pass on the question of regulating the sale of whiskey by high license under constitutional restrictions at a referendum on September 14th. A majority favorable and a minority unfavorable report was made on the house bill providing a referendum by the people of the State on September 14th on the question of State-wide prohibition. The three who favored the high license referendum were Senators John F. Williams, Sharpe and Sinkler.

A public hearing on these bills this afternoon developed largely into an academic discussion of prohibition. Senator J. F. Williams made an argument for his referendum on high license. Mayor John P. Grace of Charleston also wanted the question of high license included in the referendum. Rev. R. C. Burts, pastor of the First Baptist church of Columbia, opposed the Williams bill and said it would muddy the question. Major Daniel L. Sinkler of Charleston was also present at the hearing as was Mr. D. W. Robinson of Columbia.

DELIVER ATTACKS WINNING ADVANTAGES ONLY TO BE LOST AGAIN

MAKING EFFORT TO CROSS YSER

A German Submarine Makes an Attempt to Sink British Hospital Ship.

(By Associated Press.)

LONDON, Feb. 2.—The Germans have been making desperate efforts the last few days to break the extended deadlock on the eastern and western fronts. They have delivered a series of attacks, always preceded by artillery activity, on the allied lines in Flanders and France and, while in almost every case they have thus won a preliminary advantage, before the fighting was concluded the French, British or Belgians have regained the trenches temporarily lost, and in some cases have occupied the German positions.

In these attacks, according to British and French official reports, the Germans have suffered severe losses.

The German artillery has subjected the Belgian positions in Flanders to severe bombardment, which suggests that the moment has arrived for another attempt to cross the Yser and thence to the French coast points.

In retaro the French have bombarded the railway station at Noyon, one of the German military centers behind their advanced lines.

Heavy attacks have been made against the Russian lines in central Poland. Foiled by freezing, more Marshal von Hindenburg made a desperate effort, which apparently is to be renewed to break through to Warsaw and thus not only gain a great military and political advantage for Germany, but at the same time release the pressure on Hungary and East Prussia, in each of which regions the Russian troops are slowly pushing forward.

The fighting west and southwest of the Polish capital has been of a desperate character and the Germans at first were successful, but the Russian official report declares that the Russians by a counter attack regained most of the lost ground. The report adds that the German losses were "colossal."

The German official account simply says of the fighting there:

"Making progress."

A German submarine was still at large in the English Channel yesterday and the French officially report an attempt to torpedo the British hospital ship Asturias. The German submarine U-21, which recently sank three steamers in the Irish Sea, has not been seen since Sunday, and it is presumed she has withdrawn. Traffic in those waters, however, continues somewhat restricted, ship owners preferring to keep in port all but the fast steamers, which, it is believed, can elude the submarines.

The Germans have issued a warning that an attempt will be made to sink their transports and have advised neutral shipping to keep away from the north and west coasts of France.

Reports reaching Holland say the new bread regulations in Germany have caused so much unrest that 12,000 special constables have been appointed to guard Berlin bakeries. It is also said that following the action of the government in commandeering cereals, the military authorities are confiscating all utensils containing metals useful for their purposes. It is recognized that these are precautionary measures and are not due to any immediate shortage.

Copenhagen newspapers have a Constantinople report that the Anglo-French fleet has destroyed four Dardanelles forts and that there is a panic in the Turkish capital, where defeats suffered by the Turks in the Caucasus and Azerbaijan are just becoming known.

With the opening of the British parliament today the political truce was renewed. The government while assuming all responsibility for the war, welcomed the opposition's support and the minister's announced they would readily reply to all criticism and endeavor to avoid controversial matters.

An indication of possible action by Italy is to be found in a notification issued to Italian reservists in England to prepare to join the colors.

New National Banks.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—Nineteen new national banks with capital aggregating $737,000 were authorized to begin business during January, the comptroller of the currency reported today. On January 31, 7,658 national banks were doing business with capital of $1,674,959,175 and outstanding circuation of $982,208,133.

SUBJECT TO SEIZURE AND CONFISCATION

BRITISH FLEET ORDERED TO TREAT GRAIN AND FLOUR AS CONDITIONAL CONTRABAND

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—Ambassador Page at London cabled the state department today that the British fleet had been ordered to treat grain and flour cargoes destined for Germany or Austria as conditional contraband, subject to seizure and confiscation. This step, the ambassador explained, was taken because Germany had decreed confiscation of all grain and flour to conserve the nation's food supply.

Since the publication of the German order, the ambassador here, Count van Bernstorff, has personally assured the American government that no foodstuffs imported from the United States or other neutral countries would be seized by the German government and press dispatches have announced the issuance of an edifying decree making such exemptions by the government.

Ambassador Page said Great Britain had agreed that an exception would be made in the case of the steamship Wilhelmina, now bound from New York for Hamburg with grain and other food, because she had sailed before the German decree was issued. The vessel would be seized, it was said, but she would be released and her cargo purchased at invoice price by the British government. Warning was given, however, that hereafter similar shipments, as well as the vessels, would be seized and confiscated.

This announcement added a new phase to negotiations that have been in progress intermittently since the beginning of the war in regard to the right of neutral states to ship food to belligerents. In a recent British note it was stated that it had been decided not to interfere with such shipments provided they were intended for noncombatants and not for the army or government with which England was at war. It is intimated then, however, that exceptional conditions might warrant some change in this plan.

Found Dead In Bed.

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 2.—S. F. Clement, member of the Virginia house of delegates from Pittsylvania County, was found dead in his bed here this morning. Death was due to heart failure.

STORMS SWEEPING THE MIDDLE WEST

RIVERS REACH FLOOD STAGES AND RAIN, SLEET AND SNOW DISRUPT RAILWAY TRAFFIC

(By Associated Press.)

One of the worst sotrms of the winter is general from the middle west to the middle Atlantic States, New England and throughout Canada. Rain, sleet, snow and wind have disrupted railway traffic, hampered wire communication and in some sections raised rivers to the flood point. The weather man, however, holds out hope of speedy relief, predicting that the storm probably will pass Wednesday, leaving generally fair weather in its wake.

There have been snowstorms in the northern tier of States and there railway traffic either has been almost suspended or greatly retarded. One Chicago and Northwestern train, filled with passengers, was held in a huge bank of snow near Maribel, Wis., from 10 o'clock Sunday until Tuesday afternoon. Western Missouri, Kansas and southern Nebraska report that a heavy snowstorm has set in.

The middle west many wires have been carried down and a fall in temperature is causing additional trouble. Wire communication from Chicago to many points was difficult.

Northern and Western New York and New England have been hit hard and traffic of all kinds has suffered severely. Ogdensburg, N. Y., reports that business there has been almost entirely suspended by a gale and drifting snow. Sleet and snow at Rochester caused one of the worst tie ups in the history of interurban traffic with that city. Massachusetts and Connecticut points reported similar tying up of traffic on electric lines.

The Monongahela and Allegheney rivers have reached the flood stage as the result of snow and rain. The low lying sections of Pittsburgh are inundated and trolley and railroad traffic there were at a standstill Tuesday night. Hundreds of families have left their homes in this section and at points up the Allegheney. Many manufacturing plants located along these rivers and the Ohio have been forced to cease operations temporarily.

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