

# The Laurens Advertiser.

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## LACONIA CASE IS CONSTRUED AS OVERT ACT

**Official Dispatches Confirming the Death of Americans on the Laconia Which Was Sunk Without Warning Tend to Establish Case as "Overt Act" in the Opinion of Washington—No Action Taken.**

Washington, Feb. 27.—Official dispatches confirming the death of Americans on the Laconia torpedoed without warning, establish the case of an "overt act".

The sinking of the Laconia is regarded as another Lusitania case in principle.

The situation is the same as the president left it yesterday, but the sinking of the Laconia is expected to hasten action by congress.

It is indicated the government's first step will be to arm American merchantmen.

President Wilson and the state department took the position that no further steps should be taken until congress had an opportunity to act on the president's request.

President Wilson, it is said, is opposed to calling an extra session of congress unless it is absolutely necessary. Word has been conveyed to him that the republicans may filibuster in an effort to force an extra session.

### MANY DIED FROM EXPOSURE.

London, Feb. 27.—American Consul Frost at Queenstown telegraphed the American embassy that Mrs. Mary E. Hoy and daughter, Elizabeth, American passengers aboard the Laconia, died of exposure and were buried at sea.

A Central news dispatch from Queenstown said eight American negro firemen on the Laconia also died from exposure. According to Frost the total number landed from the Laconia was 281 out of 294 aboard.

Six persons are in Queenstown hospitals but their condition is not serious.

A Queenstown dispatch says the Laconia was torpedoed in comparatively calm weather. The first torpedo struck the ship near the stern and when the vessel was struck a second time she listed to starboard. The boats got away with difficulty but there was no panic among the passengers or crew.

### TWELVE DEAD OR MISSING.

New York, Feb. 27.—The following cablegram was received by Cunard line officials from their Liverpool offices: "Regret to advise Mrs. Hoy and daughter; also C. P. Ivat, of London, dead and buried at sea. Dr. Fortunat Zyndel and William I. Robinson, cabin passengers, unaccounted for. In the second cabin William Eva missing as are two firemen, three coal trimmers and ship barber from crew, making a total of twelve, dead and missing from ship."

### SURVIVORS' ACCOUNTS.

Queenstown, Feb. 27.—After being landed Father Warcing and F. B. Gibbons declared the voyage had been very pleasant up to the time the submarine torpedoed the ship. Sunday night, they said they were startled by an explosion of the first torpedo which struck the ship by stern. The vessel kept steady and the crew with great discipline got boats and provided passengers with life belts. All hands took to boats, the passengers first. Shortly a second torpedo struck the vessel amidship. She sank in twelve minutes.

### COURT IN MARCH.

**Court of General Sessions to Convene March 12th.**

The court of general sessions will convene here Monday morning, March 12th, for the spring term. Judge Hayne F. Rice, of Aiken, is to preside. H. S. Blackwell, the newly elected solicitor, will represent the state here for the first time. He will have had considerable experience before the Laurens session, however, as he will serve in Abbeville, Greenwood and Newberry counties before the session here.

The jury commissioners met Friday morning and drew the new grand jurors and the petit jurors. The hold-over grand jurors are W. E. Griffin, W. J. Fleming, J. Walter Moore, J. H. Culbertson, E. F. Fincher and A. L. Nabors. The new grand jurors are A. B. Hand and U. B. Poole, Dials township; E. T. Woodruff, Scuffletown; Jno. W. Tumblln, Cross Hill; J. O. Stone and W. F. Simpson, Waterloo; G. R. Davidson, Hunter; J. L. Simpson, Jacks; S. R. Nelson, Sullivan.

The petit jurors were drawn as follows: Laurens Township—B. O. Jones, S. S. Boyd, W. H. Gosnell, C. M. Burgess, J. G. Wham, J. H. Tumblln, W. H. Coleman, A. F. Templeton. Jacks—Jno W. Risser. Youngs—J. O. Garrett, S. C. Brownlee, J. R. Franks, A. W. Rhodes, J. Ben Hunter. Dials—J. D. Woods, W. C. Gray, C. W. Aberchombie, D. P. Curry, E. L. Bennett. Scuffletown—F. W. Little.

### McSWAIN MAY RUN.

**Prominent Greenville Lawyer Mentioned for Congress.**

Greenville, Feb. 24.—Congressman Sam J. Nicholls of the Fourth South Carolina district will have opposition in the primary election next year in the candidacy of J. J. McSwain, prominent member of the local bar, and chairman of the Greenville County Democratic executive committee, according to information learned yesterday upon good authority. While Mr. McSwain preferred not to make positive announcement at this stage of the game, he intimated strongly that he is interested in the congressional race.

### New Model Car Here.

The Laurens Motor Car Company has had on exhibition for several days one of the new model Haynes Twelve automobiles. The car is equipped with wire wheels and all the latest improvements and is one of the prettiest cars ever seen in Laurens. Mr. McKee, president of the local company, states that this is the first car of this model brought to the south.

Waterloo—W. W. Culbertson, Jno. R. Burton, G. W. Moore. Sullivan—W. F. Bolt, W. W. Aberchombie, Jr., Ernest E. Simpson, J. C. Beeks.

Hunter—H. A. Moore, R. E. Copeland, S. W. Bryson, Geo. T. Brown, C. C. Bailey, J. D. Boland, F. C. Smith. Cross Hill—R. C. Smith, J. G. Brown.

### J. J. PLUSS DIED YESTERDAY AFTER A SHORT ILLNESS

**Had Been in Declining Health for Several Years. Native of Switzerland.**

Mr. J. J. Pluss, president of the Palmetto Bank and a long time resident of Laurens, died yesterday afternoon of pneumonia after an illness of several days. Mr. Pluss had been in declining health for several years and his weakening constitution was unable to stand the attack of this recent malady. The funeral services will be held this afternoon at 3:30 o'clock, the interment to take place in the Laurens cemetery.

John Jean Pluss was born in Switzerland in 1844 and came to this country in early life. He stayed a short while in Newberry and then removed to Laurens, where he has since made his home. As a young man he engaged in the lumber business. In 1895 he and the late Dr. E. M. Caine founded the Bank of Laurens. He served that institution as cashier until elected to the presidency of the newly formed Palmetto Bank in which position he remained until his death. In 1874 he was married to Miss Susie Byrd Davis, daughter of the late Captain James Davis of this county, and she survives him. No children were born of the union.

The deceased was a man of wide sympathies and integrity of purpose. He was particularly interested in the young and took a great deal of interest in public education. He was active in the inauguration of the first graded school here and was for many years, until his resignation, a member of the board of trustees. He was a liberal giver to many good causes and aided many struggling young people in their efforts to succeed in life. In his business affairs he was known as a man of the highest honor and integrity and always held the respect of his associates. He was a steward in the Methodist church and displayed much interest in church life. In his passing the city loses one of its best men.

### THE BEST MALE QUARTETTE.

**Coburns Minstrels to Come With an Unusually Fine Show.**

Joe Coburns Big Minstrels always brings a cracker jack attraction with oldtime features and, up to the minute clean enjoyable novelties delightfully intermingled in a real minstrel melange which never disappoints their patrons. One feature that never grows old is the male quartette when it is a good one. The Ragapation Minstrel Four this year is the best they have ever carried. Lester Lucas the well known basso, Clyde E. Clifford who possesses a magnificent robust baritone with dramatic ability to display it, Percé Dilcher robust lead tenor and Earl Rowland first or top tenor comprise a real quartette that is one of the really enjoyable numbers of the show. Don't miss them Saturday night at the Opera House. Each are soloists and appear singly in the American Hunt Club in India first part. Mr. Lucas as the Rajah renders two new numbers, "The Port of Missing Ship—Down Deep in a Submarine" and "Only Lucas can sing. Clifford's "Will-O-The Wisp" and encore, are splendid numbers, while Dilcher and Rowlands sentimental selections are beautifully rendered.

### Passed Through Blockade Zone.

New York, Feb. 26.—Two freight steamships, the Falkland, Norwegian, from Manchester, and the Manxuan, British, from Genoa, arrived here today, after passage through the German submarine zone. The Belgian steamship Escout sailed for an unnamed port in Europe.

### Sugar 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.

### Decital War Postponed.

On account of the bad weather the music recital and oyster supper which was to be given at Gray Court-Owings Friday night, Feb. 23, has been postponed until Thursday night March 1st.

### Rev. W. A. Clarke Ill.

Rev. W. A. Clarke is very ill at his home on East Main street. On account of his advanced age and the nature of his illness much uneasiness is felt over his condition.

### ONLY THREE STATES IN SOUTH UNTOUCHED

**Florida, Louisiana and Texas Only Ones Which Are Not Made Bone Dry by Federal Regulation.**

Atlanta, Feb. 21.—Into only three States in the South—Florida, Louisiana, and Texas—may liquor in any quantity be imported legally for personal use after June 30 next. They alone have retained local option.

Congress by its action in adopting the Reed amendment makes absolute the Statewide prohibition legislation of Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi. Thus they join the "bone dry" states—Arkansas and Tennessee—which already had enacted statutes forbidding the importation of liquor.

The Florida legislature at its biennial session in April is expected to adopt a resolution providing for a referendum on Statewide prohibition, although there are only five out of 52 counties in the state where liquor can be sold legally. Dry forces in Louisiana are preparing to fight for a Statewide bill at the next session of legislature in 1918. About half of the Louisiana parishes are dry under the local option law.

Virginia became dry only on November 1, last, as the people had declared for prohibition by 30,000 majority on a referendum in September, 1914.

North Carolina became a prohibition State on January 1, 1909, after the people had ratified a Statewide bill by a majority of 41,000 at a referendum election in May, 1908.

South Carolina adopted prohibition by a referendum vote in September, 1915, after having had a dispensary system since 1891. The law permitted each person to receive a gallon of whiskey, beer or wine a month.

Georgia has been classed as a dry State since January 1, 1908, but the prohibition law was not strictly enforced in some of the cities until May 1, last when a drastic law abolishing locker clubs became effective. Under this law each person was limited to a monthly shipment of two quarts of whiskey or one gallon of wine or 48 pints of beer.

Alabama enlisted under the prohibition banner in 1915 after several ineffectual efforts to make the State dry under the administration of Gov. Comer from 1907-11. The prohibition law permitted a citizen to receive a shipment of two quarts of whiskey, two gallons of wine or four dozen bottles of beer every two weeks.

Mississippi has prohibited the manufacture and sale of liquor within its border since 1908 but no limit was set on importations until 1914, when a law was passed restricting each individual to a shipment of a gallon at a time. In 1916 a more drastic law was passed making it unlawful for any person to receive more than a half gallon of vinuous liquor or three gallons of malted or fermented liquors or one quart of spirituous liquor within 15 days.

Arkansas voted for Statewide prohibition by 50,000 majority last fall and became the first "bone dry" state in the South.

Tennessee adopted prohibition in 1908 but the law was not enforced in the larger cities until 1915 when the legislature enacted nuisance and outer laws aimed at city officials who failed to enforce the prohibition laws. At a recent session the legislature passed a "bone dry" bill prohibiting the shipment of liquor into the state after March 1, next.

### Narrow Escape for Negro Child.

The home of Paris Parker, a colored man living on the place of Mr. J. C. Smith, near Waterloo, was struck by lightning one day last week and a child in the house escaped death by an almost miraculous margin. The lightning struck the cable end of the house and entered the room in which the child was sleeping on a bed. The end of the house was almost totally destroyed, as was the bed the child was sleeping on but the child escaped without a scratch.

### "The Christian" Postponed.

"The Christian", the fourth of the big series of attractions being shown at the Idle Hour Theatre and which was scheduled to be shown tomorrow and Friday will not be shown until March 15th and 16th, according to an announcement made by Mr. Perry.

## PRESIDENT ASKS AUTHORITY TO PROTECT AMERICAN LIVES

**Congress Listens, Deeply Impressed by Grave Occasion. Nation's Chief Tells Legislators Request is Made Not For War, But to Protect American Lives and Commerce. Republicans May Refuse His Request.**

Washington, Feb. 26.—President Wilson today took the inevitable step and asked congress for authority to use the forces of the United States to protect American ships and lives against the German submarine menace—to put the nation in a state of armed neutrality.

The immediate response was the introduction in the house of a bill approved in advance by the president, empowering him to furnish guns and gunners to American merchantmen; to employ such other instrumentalities and methods as may become necessary, and providing for a \$100,000,000 bond issue to be used at his discretion for war insurance to encourage American commerce to brave the submarine peril. The bill may be brought up in the house tomorrow with special rules for its immediate consideration.

A similar bill will be considered to-

morrow by the senate foreign relation committee.

The president's long expected action, while received in the main with expectations of support, threatens to force an extra session if congress.

Republicans, disinclined to grant him blanket authority while congress is in recess, give evidence of opposing the legislation the president asks. Not for the purpose of withholding it, but to force congress in special session to take a hand in the next steps which they feel will lead to war.

The republicans are receiving passive support from the democratic element classed as pacifist.

The president's advisers deplore this situation for its effect in Germany, where they are convinced it will feed the official impression that congress will not support the president if he finds it necessary to go to war, and that he is not speaking the sentiment of a united country.

### ROAD BOND ISSUE ACT SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR

**Election to be Held March 27th. Other Legislative Matters.**

According to reports from Columbia Gov. Manning has placed his signature to the Laurens County good roads bill passed at the recent session of the legislature. This means that on March 27th the people of this county will vote on the question of raising \$200,000 by an issue of bonds for the purpose of making permanent improvements on the important roads of the county. The election will be conducted under the laws governing general elections except that it will be under the supervision of the board of county commissioners.

It is not known yet whether or not the governor has signed the other important bills passed in the interest of this county. As already published the delegation provided for a new jail to cost not exceeding \$35,000. The jail is to be erected under the direction of a commission composed of the supervisor and four men appointed by the governor on the recommendation of the delegation.

The bill providing for a teacher training school building in this city, to be paid for jointly by the county and city of Laurens passed both houses and awaits the signature of the governor. The bill calls for an expenditure of \$30,000. Of this \$15,000 is to be paid by the county and \$15,000 by the city. The county appropriation for this purpose is conditional on the city's raising its share, which will have to be done by bond issue. An election on this question will be ordered at an early date.

The present legislature repeated the act passed several years ago providing for the election of school trustees by the voters in the respective districts. Hereafter the trustees will be appointed according to the general laws of the state, by the county board of education, except in those districts having special charters.

The bill introduced in the lower house to amend the hunters license law by exempting Laurens county from the provisions referring to rabbits and opossums failed to get through the senate, where it lay at the end of the session with a large number of other local bills that were never reached.

### Text of Amendment to Postal Law.

Washington, Feb. 24.—The following is the amendment to the postoffice appropriation bill which will make South Carolina and other prohibition states "bone-dry":

"Whoever shall order, purchase, or cause intoxicating liquors to be transported in interstate commerce, except for scientific, sacramental, medicinal and mechanical purposes, into any state or territory the law of which state prohibit the manufacture or sale therein of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or six months in jail or both."

### COUNTY COMMISSIONER DEAD.

**J. T. Todd, of Clinton, Died Monday After Long Illness.**

Mr. Joseph T. Todd, a member of the board of county commissioners, died at his home in Clinton Monday after an illness of several months. Mr. Todd was stricken with paralysis several months ago and never fully recovered his health. He was buried near his old home in the Long Branch section yesterday, his funeral being largely attended from all the surrounding territory.

Mr. Todd was just entering his second term as county commissioner, already being at an advanced age. He had lived in the Long Branch section during most of his life up until several years ago when he moved to Clinton. He was a veteran of the Civil War, having fought throughout that great conflict as a member of Co. F, 14th S. C. Infantry. He was wounded and captured during the battles of The Wilderness and paroled after a long imprisonment. After his parole he entered the ranks again and fought until the war was ended. He was a stalwart, upright citizen, a member of the A. R. P. church and admired for his honesty and uprightness of purpose.

He is survived by his wife and six children, as follows: Messrs Samuel J. J. Reid and Clyde Todd, all of Clinton; Messrs G. W. Cunningham and Mrs. Wess Donnan, of this county, and Mrs. Bob Donnan, of Greenville.

### Chamber of Commerce to Meet.

The first regular meeting of the Chamber of Commerce is to be held next Tuesday evening at eight o'clock in the court house. The meeting cannot be held in the newly acquired quarters because the furniture has not yet arrived. As this is the first meeting and much important business is to be attended to, a full meeting is expected. The membership committee will have a further report to make and the directors will announce the chairman of the different departments.

### Gun Club to Meet.

The recently organized Laurens Gun Club will meet at the club traps this afternoon at 3 o'clock. The club is expecting a number of guests from Greenwood to join them in the afternoon's shooting. The traps have been put in excellent shape and the members are anticipating many enjoyable matches.

### Dr. T. B. Duckett Dead.

Dr. T. B. Duckett, well known physician of Fountain Inn, died at his home there Monday morning and was buried yesterday. Dr. Duckett was born in the lower part of this county and taught school in the upper part of the county for a number of years. He was a brother-in-law of Rev. Graves L. Knight, of this city, and was widely connected in this county.

Miss Helen Jones who is attending Limestone college, will spend the week-end in the city with her mother on Irby Avenue.