

The Laurens Advertiser.

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3 AMERICAN SHIPS SUNK BY GERMANS

Vigilancia is Sunk Without Warning.

THE SUBMARINE DID NOT APPEAR

Fourteen men from the *Vigilancia* are missing and some of the men of the City of Memphis. All the officers and some of the sailors are Americans.

London, March 18.—The sinking of the American steamship City of Memphis, Illinois and *Vigilancia* was announced today. Fourteen men from the *Vigilancia* are missing, as are some of the men from the City of Memphis. The crew of the Illinois was landed safely.

The City of Memphis, in ballast from Cardiff for New York, was sunk by gunfire. The second officer and fifteen men of the crew have been landed. A patrol boat has gone in search of the other members of the crew. The Illinois, from London for Port Arthur, Texas, in ballast, was sunk at 8 o'clock this morning.

The *Vigilancia* was torpedoed without warning. The submarine did not appear. The captain, first and second mates, first, second and third engineers and twenty-three men of the crew have been landed at the Scilly Island. The fourth engineer and thirteen men are missing.

The American steamship City of Memphis, which left Cardiff Friday in ballast for New York, was sunk Saturday when she left port. The City of Memphis had the Stars and Stripes painted on both sides. She encountered a submarine about 5 o'clock Saturday evening. The German commander ordered the captain of the steamer to leave his ship within fifteen minutes. The entire crew entered five boats and the submarine then fired a torpedo, which struck the vessel on the side tearing a great hole, through which the sea poured. The steamer settled down quickly and foundered within a few minutes.

During the night the boats became separated and at 4 o'clock Sunday morning three boat crews were picked up by a patrol vessel and landed. These boats contained thirty-three men, mostly Americans.

All of the officers were Americans. The officers believe that the other boats will be rescued.

The following American officers of the City of Memphis are known to have been landed: Chief Officer C. G. Laird, Chief Engineer W. E. Percy, Assistant Engineer F. Beville, Third Engineer W. M. Thompson, Third Officer M. Dierland, Wireless Operators J. Welch and P. J. Donahue and Electrician Phillips.

London, March 18.—Third Engineer Thompson in an interview with the Central News said that the submarine fired a warning shot for the steamer to slow down and subsequently signalled for her to stop and for the crew to abandon ship.

Ten or eleven shots were fired at the vessel, which began to sink. Then followed a terrific explosion, which caused the vessel to tremble all over and within twenty minutes she sank, stern first.

The crew suffered a great deal from exposure during the night. Thompson said the ship was on charter to discharge her cargo at Havre. From Havre she went to Cardiff and the skipper, knowing he was in the danger zone, kept the flag, which was yards in length, flying at the masthead. Nobody aboard seems to have expected an attack.

Capt. Borum briefly consulted with the officers after the Germans ordered him by megaphone to leave the ship because it was intended to sink her, said Thompson.

All agreed that there was no alternative.

Will Whitener Married.

Will Whitener, the well known colored barber, and Mary Claude Golden, daughter of Thomas Golden, were married during December and announced the fact just several days ago. The marriage was kept secret until the return of the bride from a school where she was teaching until last week.

PREPARATIONS ARE NOW UNDER WAY

President May Call Congress in Session.

NAVAL WORK IS BEING HASTENED

Generally Conceded that State of War Already Exists Between This Country and Germany in Spite of the Technically Armed Neutrality.

Washington, March 19.—President Wilson is expected within the next 48 hours to indicate definitely that he believes a virtual state of war exists between the United States and Germany.

News received from Plymouth that fifteen men, some of them Americans had been drowned when the American merchantman *Vigilancia* was sunk without warning by a German submarine, added, if possible, to the already grave view of the situation held here as a result of the destruction of the *Vigilancia*, the Illinois and the City of Memphis.

Whether the President will hasten the extra session of Congress, already called for April 16, or will take additional steps to protect American commerce without this move was not disclosed tonight. No official pretended to know his plans, and the general view was that he was still considering the question in his usual deliberate way.

A cabinet meeting probably will be held tomorrow afternoon and at that time the situation arising out of the new acts of aggression on the part of Germany is expected to be thoroughly canvassed.

Preparation for aggressive action to protect American rights began today when the President visited the Navy Department personally and directed Secretary Daniels to utilize the \$115,000,000 made available by Congress to hasten naval building plans. The New York navy yard was directed to begin the construction of sixty submarine chasers and announcement was made that bids for 200 more will be opened Wednesday. Through the early graduation of two classes at Annapolis, and the mobilization of reserves it is proposed to make it possible to man quickly all ships of the navy.

The question was also taken up of getting into communication informally with Great Britain and France to discuss cooperation in the protection of commerce lanes across the Atlantic. This step probably will not be taken until the course of the United States has been finally determined.

In addition to his conference with Secretary Daniels, the president saw Secretary Lansing and McAdoo and William Denman, chairman of the Federal shipping board and there was every indication that he was mapping out comprehensive plans for the protection of American interests in any eventuality.

It is generally conceded that already a virtual state of war exists with Germany in spite of the technical armed neutrality status of the United States.

A suggestion advanced tonight was that the president might issue a call for Congress to meet within ten days, and in his proclamation point out the new situation facing the nation since he asked authority to establish a state of armed neutrality. No one professed, however, to be in the president's confidence.

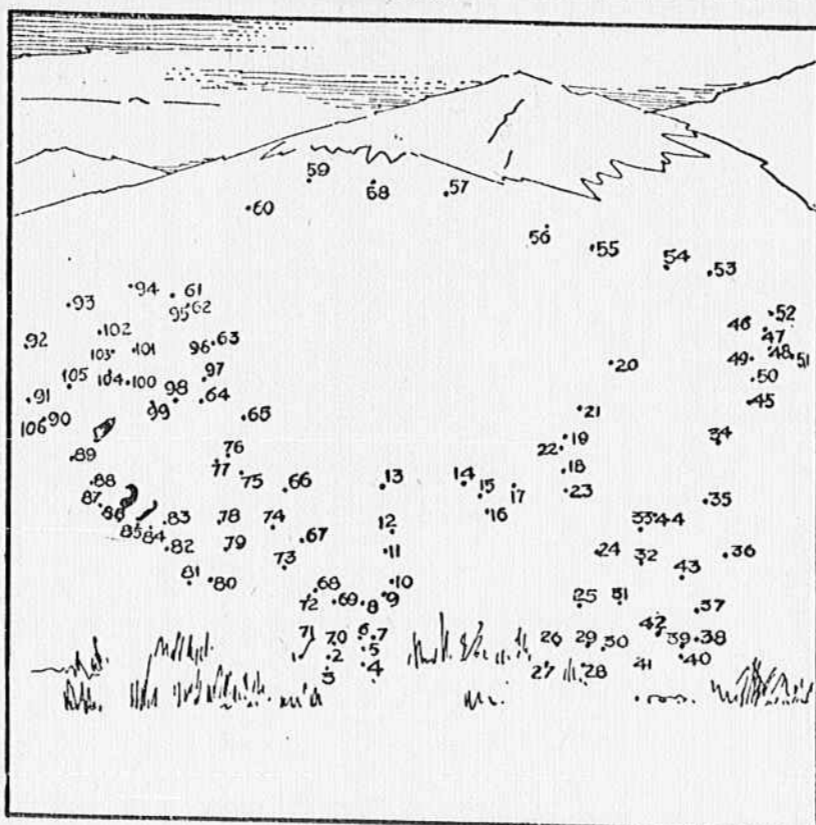
Mr. Balle Makes Change.

Mr. L. G. Balle, who was elected cashier of the Palmetto Bank at a recent meeting of the board of directors, has taken charge of his work there. For a number of years Mr. Balle was assistant cashier of the Enterprise National Bank and goes to his new position with a fine record as a business man of excellent judgment.

Cherokee Votes Bonds.

Cherokee county voted heavily in favor of issuing bonds to the amount of \$225,000 for road improvement last week. Cherokee has been making great strides in agricultural and other lines during the past few years and the voting of bonds for road improvement is considered there as another step forward.

Fill In Picture Puzzle No. 9



The seal you drew in No. 8 did make you think of cold weather, didn't it? Sealskin is very valuable. If you don't believe it, ask mamma. The oil of seals also is valuable. There are not many more seals. They are fast dying out. Now, try your pencil on this picture, starting from No. 1 to 2, 3, 4, etc. You'll draw another animal almost extinct. A big city in northwestern New York is named after him. Thousands of these animals used to roam the plains of the United States.

HOW TO SEND DRAWINGS IN

The picture puzzle contest ends today. A committee of judges, composed of Miss Frances Thames, teacher in the kindergarten at the Laurens mill, Miss Mary Simpson, principal of the Laurens mill school, and Miss Ella Roland of the city schools, has consented to review the pictures.

All participants in the contest should send their pictures in by Saturday of this week. No names should be written on the pictures themselves but the name of the contestant with address and the name of the person to whom the subscription is to be credited should be written on a separate sheet. The sets of pictures will be numbered in The Advertiser office so that the judges will not be embarrassed by knowing the names of the contestants.

The successful contestant will be announced in the next issue of The Advertiser and the pictures placed on display in The Advertiser office after next Wednesday.

GOOD CHAUTAUQUA PROGRAM IS MADE

Reed Miller and Wife Will Appear on the Program this Year. Congressman Rankin Also Expected. Creator's Band.

Mr. O. E. Behymer, advance man of the Redpath Chautauqua was in Laurens Friday and gave out an interview to the Advertiser outlining some of the leading features of the coming Redpath Chautauqua which is to open here May 9. It will be noted with interest, that Reed Miller, an old Laurens boy, is on the program.

"We have, without question," said Mr. Behymer, "the very best chautauqua program that has ever been assembled. I regard the dates as the choicest of the year for this climate, coming as they do at a time when there is every assurance of favorable weather."

"Since our last assembly here there has been some change in the list of 119 Redpath Chautauquas, which includes Laurens and that change is significant. The largest cities, attracted by the programs are asking for places in the circuit, and Chicago is to have five chautauquas, each with the identical program which will be heard in Laurens. These are guaranteed by the Associated Advertising clubs, Louisville and Nashville, too, are with us. The acceptance of these cities, however, has made it necessary to omit an equal number of smaller towns, where the receipts fell below the cost of putting on the chautauquas.

"This dropping of smaller cities and increasing of the average receipts, together with the fact that practically every chautauqua renews its contract for the following year during the assembly, is making a larger fund available for the program each year, and the principle of syndicated buying and distribution is proving its worth more and more each year in the chautauqua field.

"Glancing at the program for the coming assembly, Creator and his great band, coming the seventh or final day, usually excite the greatest comment, but scarcely more than the Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company, of thirty-four people, which appears the fifth day. In the afternoon they give a mixed festival program, and in the evening an all-star revival of the best loved, cleverest and cleanest musical entertainment ever written, 'The Mikado.'"

"Antonio Saa, the Spanish 'cello

virtuoso; Wahtawasso, the Penobscot Indian princess, who is an accomplished singer and teller of Indian folk tales; the Roumanian Orchestra, the Renlah Buck Quartet and the Oratorio Artists, headed by Reed Miller, the noted South Carolina tenor, are some of the other musical features.

"We have a contract with America's first Congresswoman, Miss Jeannette Rankin, to speak in every one of the Redpath Chautauquas, which was made when it was thought a special session of Congress was improbable, but now that President Wilson has called the special session, her place will be filled by one of several eminent speakers we have in reserve.

"Fraulein Marie Myer, the beautiful Bavarian woman, of Oberammergau, who played the part of Mary Magdalene in the last decennial production of the Passion Play, is to speak of her participation in the play and of the conditions of her unhappy land now. 'Gatling Gun' Fogelman, the virile efficiency expert; McNutt, 'the dinner paid man'; Dr. Harden, the eminent divine, and a number of other speakers will also be heard.

"One of the newest features of the Laurens Chautauqua will be the community singing, in charge of one of the assistants of William L. Tomlins, the famous choral singer master of Chicago. In this, the great crowds will participate, the songs being projected on a great screen, and it is expected that the enthusiasm which the movement has met on the municipal pier in Chicago and at numerous other large gatherings last summer will be repeated.

"Then, at the close of every night's program we will devote fifteen minutes to showing a series of unusual moving pictures, including some of the recent deep-sea series, encounters with animals and experiences in the remote parts of the world. We anticipate these novel pictures will receive a warm welcome.

"There are a number of especially interesting features which will be announced as soon as the regular program comes from the press, which will be shortly.

Mrs. Joel L. Minick will give in marriage her daughter, Bessie Lavenia, to Mr. Lady Davenport Milam, of Laurens, S. C., on Tuesday, the twenty-fourth of April, Nineteen Hundred and Seventeen, high noon, Sardis Baptist church, Saluda, S. C.

ENTENTE ARMIES PRESSING TEUTONS

Advance on Wide Front in France.

GERMANS COMMIT DEVASTATION

Russians and British Keeping up Strong Offensive in Eastern Theatre. Situation on Eastern Front in Russia Remains Unchanged.

The British and French forces in France are still pressing rapidly behind the retreating Germans all along the front from the region of Arras to the northeast of Soissons.

Forty more villages have been taken by the British, who during Monday gained ground at various points, extending from one to eight miles in depth, while twenty additional villages and small towns in addition to 100 occupied during the last three days, have recaptured by the French. So rapid has been the advance of the French that they have penetrated beyond the village of Ham, 12 miles southwest of St. Quentin and beyond Chaules, which lies some 15 miles to the north of the line from which the offensive was started. These operations from the south and southeast are menacing the St. Quentin Laon line and if the rapidity of the movement is kept up for any length of time will menace the town of St. Quentin itself.

The Germans in their retreat are devastating the country, burning the villages and destroying orchards and even blowing up farm lands, in which great craters have been left by explosions. In addition, bridges have all been destroyed and roads of communication cut. The inhabitants of the places evacuated are said to have been left destitute.

Meanwhile the Russians and the British are keeping up their strong offensive against the Turks in Asia-Minor, Persia and Mesopotamia. Along the Euphrates river the British have occupied the village of Bahriz and a portion of the town of Bakubah, about 25 miles northeast of Bagdad, and the Turks are reported to be in hasty retreat toward Khanikan, on the Turco-Persian frontier a little to the northeast of Kermanshah. In this region the Ottoman forces are likely soon to meet the oncoming Russians, who are reported by Petrograd to have dislodged the Turks from the town of Haranabad, 20 miles southwest of Kermanshah.

The situation on the eastern front in Russia, in Roumania is still unchanged. Reports from Saloniki say that the Germans have shelled Monastir, causing heavy loss of life among the civilians. Fighting continues in the Lake Persba and Lake Ochrida sectors.

SECOND REGIMENT IS MUSTERED OUT

The National Guardsmen Just from the Border will Leave for Their Homes Tomorrow.

Camp Moore, Styx, March 19.—The second South Carolina regiment of infantry, was mustered out of the service of the United States this afternoon and tonight and tomorrow all companies will go to their homes. The Charleston battalion comprising the Washington Light Infantry, the Sumter Guards, the Irish Volunteers and the German Fusiliers, will leave in a special train for Charleston over the Southern Railway at 6 o'clock. With them will go the Tillman Volunteers and the band from Orangeburg. The four Columbia companies will be sent over to their home in the morning at 10 o'clock and Styx will again be left deserted for the caretaker.

One hour after the orders to muster out the regiment were received, the four Charleston companies had their baggage in cars and were entrained. They were quickly paid off and mustered out of the Federal service and then went aboard the special cars which were waiting for them on the siding at Styx. The Orangeburg company and the band were paid off and mustered out and they too went on cars, which will be attached to the special train that will carry the Charleston boys home.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. James A. Cannon, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Manley, a son.

EMPEROR NICHOLAS ABDICATES THRONE

Revolution in Russia Overthrows Romanoffs.

CZAR'S BROTHER ACCEPTS REGENCY

Government, Pending a Meeting of Constitutional Assembly, is Vested in the Executive Committee of the Duma and Council of Ministers.

Petrograd, March 16.—Emperor Nicholas abdicated at midnight last night on behalf of himself and his apparent, Grand Duke Alexis, in favor of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch. At 2:30 o'clock this afternoon, Grand Duke Michael himself abdicated thus bringing Romanoff dynasty to an end.

The government, pending a meeting of the constitutional assembly, is vested in the executive committee of the duma and the newly chosen council of ministers.

A manifesto to this effect was issued by the duma committee today and it will be telegraphed to the general army headquarters this evening.

Far-reaching reforms in Russia are promised the people as a result of the revolution and the overthrow of the bureaucrats.

A constitutional assembly based on universal suffrage, abolition of all social, religious and national restrictions and amnesty for all political and religious offenses are included in the programme of the executive committee of the duma, constitutes the provisional government.

The removal of social, religious and national restrictions would give freedom to the Jews in Russia.

Liberty of speech and of the press and universal suffrage in communal elections also are contemplated.

London, March 17.—Grand Duke Michael has accepted the throne of Russia, conditioned on the consent of the Russian people, according to a statement here today from the semi-official Russian news agency.

The statement follows: "Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch, accepting the throne from his brother declares that he does so only with the consent of the Russian people, who should be a plebiscite establish a new form of government and lay fundamental laws."

A dispatch from Petrograd Friday night filed at 5:30 p. m. said that Emperor Nicholas had abdicated in favor of Grand Duke Michael and that at 2:30 o'clock Friday afternoon the grand duke himself had abdicated, thus bringing the Romanoff dynasty to an end.

The foregoing dispatch from the Petrograd telegraphic agency, a semi-official institution, was sent from Petrograd yesterday.

Direct advices yesterday said there had been some difference of opinion between the duma leaders and the workmen. The latter wished to leave undecided the form of government until after the holding of a constitutional assembly whereas the duma group, fearing dangers in the absence of a definite government, had urged a regency under the grand duke.

The qualifications which Michael is reported to have placed on his acceptance indicate that it has been decided to create a temporary central authority.

Buying Garden Seed.

Inquiry at the drug stores yesterday disclosed the fact that there has been a considerable increase in the sales of garden seed during the past several weeks, showing that the farmers and "town gardeners" are going in to fight the high cost of living. Some of the seed, of course, are being planted to take the place of those killed by the intensely cold winter weather, but there seems to be a considerable increase in sales in addition. Some garden seed are very high. Onion seed have reached such a high price that some of the stores have discontinued handling them.

In honor of her guests, Mrs. Nanulo M. Irby, of Laurens, S. C., and Mr. and Mrs. John Mershen of Omaha, Neb., Mrs. Frank W. Crisp will entertain at an informal tea this afternoon at her home on East Forsyth St.—Florida Times-Union, Jacksonville, Fla.