

# The Laurens Advertiser.

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## MOTHER AND SIX CHILDREN PERISH

### Flames Cause Horrible Christmas Holocaust

#### ALMOST WIPES OUT FAMILY

Mother and Six Children Meet Death by Flames in Their Home Near Greenwood. Father Was Not at Home. Neighbors Try in Vain to Make Rescue.

Greenwood, December 25.—Mrs. J. Lambert Whitman and her six children, aged from three to thirteen years, were burned to death last night at midnight in their country home four miles west of Greenwood. This horrible tragedy on Christmas brought to Greenwood a sadness that was very noted.

Mrs. Whitman and her six children had presumably made their preparations for Christmas, and the father was in town. A neighbor, Mr. J. H. Davis, one of the cotton weighers here, was late getting home, and had just arrived in his yard when he saw the fire. Hastily putting his horse back in harness he rushed down the road to the house. Although the building was blazing from every side he could hear the cries of the unfortunates inside. Wrapping his laprobe about him, he attempted to enter time and again, but was driven back by the flames. The cries increased, and this morning all that was left of seven beings of the day before was a charred heap of bones.

The frame of the mother was clearly apparent, lying across a bed, where she had possibly tried to rescue some of the children and had fallen, overcome by smoke.

The charred remains have been brought here and are in the R. W. Blythe undertaking establishment. Tomorrow they will be started to Due West in a single coffin and buried that way at the former home of the mother. The oldest child, a young boy, was away from home on a visit. He and the father survive out of a family of nine. The house was known as the Rykard place, just beyond Salak, and was one of the landmarks of that section of the country, where Mr. Whitman had lived only one year, working a crop on the place this year.

## TURKS CONDUCTING GUERRILLA WARFARE

### Driven From Jerusalem Ottoman Troops are Trying to Harass British Country Suffered For It.

London, Dec. 23.—Since the Turks were driven out of Jerusalem they have been conducting guerrilla warfare to the north and east of the city, splitting up into numerous small bodies to attack British outpost, to snipe patrols and generally to make themselves unpleasant, says Reuter's correspondent at Jerusalem, telegraphing under date of Dec. 15.

"Such tactics," the correspondent continues, "are greatly facilitated by the fact that the country is so hilly and intersected by so many ravines and small rivers. A remarkable opportunity to view this fighting is afforded by the Mount of Olives, which makes what is probably the most wonderful observation post in the world. In the clear atmosphere of Palestine, objects that are from 1,000 to 6,000 yards away look as if they were within pistol shot. The winding course of the Jordan is clearly visible and motor boats may be seen skimming the surface of the Dead Sea.

"One of the most brilliant pieces of work during the recent operations was the capture of Bethlehem. The Turks had strong fortifications here with numerous field guns on the outskirts of the town."

## DUGAS FINALLY FREE.

### Bolshevik Release Former American Vice Consul.

Petrograd, Dec. 22.—Victor Hugo Dugas, of Nebraska, the former American consul at Liege, Belgium, and later vice-consul at Petrograd, who was arrested in August, 1916, at the Finnish frontier on suspicion that he became a German spy after he had left the consular service has finally been granted permission by the Bolsheviks to leave Russia. He left Petrograd this morning for Stockholm.

## DEATH OF MR. W. P. THOMASON SR.

### Death Occurred at His Home on Sullivan Street Friday Afternoon After Illness of Several Weeks.

William Poole Thomason, Sr., a life-long resident of the county, except during his early youth, and one of its most respected citizens, died at his home in this city Friday afternoon after a short illness of a week or ten days. Interment took place at the Laurens cemetery Saturday afternoon, the services being conducted by Rev. S. H. Templeman, pastor of the First Baptist church. In his death the county loses an upright and honest citizen, one who was greatly admired by those who knew him.

Mr. Thomason was born in Douglasville, Ga., Feb. 26, 1842, but was brought to this county upon the death of his mother and reared by his grandparents near Tumbling Shoals. At the age of 17 he volunteered for service in the Confederate army, being a member of Co. C, Capt. Matt Jones, Fourteenth South Carolina Regiment; in 1862 his regiment was transferred to Virginia and placed with Gregg's brigade and participated in more than 20 battles before the close of the war. At the battle of Frazier's Farm, June 30, 1862, Corporal Thomason received a cross fire scalp wound from a minie ball and this would give him much pain at times through the 54 years that he bore it. At the end of six months he returned to camp and took part in some of the great campaigns that marked the summers of 1863 and 1864, including Gettysburg. In the spring of 1865 he with his comrade and inseparable companion, L. Hiram Mahaffey, afterwards his brother-in-law, were captured and sent to Hart's Island, N. Y. In June they were sent to Savannah and from there walked home, a distance of 180 miles. A few years ago Mr. Thomason wrote an interesting sketch of the war campaigns that he and his friend Mahaffey participated in.

Mr. Thomason is survived by his widow, who was before marriage Miss Eveline Mahaffey, of the county; two daughters, Mrs. Lena Snellgrove, of Atlanta, and Mrs. Charles M. Wolf, of Laurens; three sons, Joseph K. Thomason, of Hickory Tavern, William P. Thomason, of Laurens, and J. Furman Thomason, now at Columbia University, New York (taking a post graduate course). The second son, W. Hosea Thomason, died a few years ago. Mr. Thomason was 50 years an active member of the Baptist church, being an officer for a greater part of the time. He was a member of the Rabun Creek church, which he joined in 1859. He was also an active member of the Masonic order and filled many of the stations in the lodge. For several years he was a member of Laurens lodge, No. 260. Until a few years ago Mr. Thomason was engaged in farming, but failure in health forced him to give it up and recently he moved to the city.

## SUBMARINE CHASER DESTROYED BY FIRE

### Burns to Water's Edge After Blaze Originates in Engine Room. Two Sailors Hurt.

An Atlantic Port, Dec. 22.—A United States submarine chaser was burned to the water's edge near here late today by a fire which is said to have originated in the engine room. Two of the crew were injured and taken to a naval hospital.

The chaser carried 1,800 gallons of gasoline, which was dumped into the water by another chaser firing a shot through the tank after two shots from a nearby battery had missed their mark.

The chaser was beached by the crew after it was found that the flames could not be controlled. An attempt then was made to puncture the large gasoline tank by projectiles from short batteries. Two shots missed their mark. Another chaser then came in and put a hole through the tank with a well-aimed shot. The gasoline spurted out, flames shot upward and a short time later the little craft was a total wreck.

Naval officials in charge of this district refuse to discuss the burning of the craft and few details were available tonight. After a valiant attempt to put the blaze under control the crew of the chaser took to the small boats. It was during this operation that two of them were injured.

Mr. C. E. Parker has joined Mrs. Parker here at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Richey.

## GOVERNMENT TO OPERATE RAILROADS

### President Wilson Makes Far-Reaching Proclamation Christmas Day. To Become Effective Friday.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Government possession and occupation of the nation's railroads for the war was proclaimed by President Wilson tonight, to become effective at noon Friday, December 28. William G. McAdoo, retaining his place in the cabinet as secretary of the treasury, is placed in charge as director-general of the railroads.

Every railroad engaged in general transportation with appurtenances, including steamship lines is taken over and all systems will be operated as one under the director-general.

In a statement accompanying the proclamation the president stated as soon as congress reassembles he would recommend legislation guaranteeing pre-war earnings and maintenance of railroad properties in good repair. Government backing will be given to new issues of railroad securities that a market be found.

### COMES AS A SURPRISE.

The president's move, although forecast for weeks, came at this time as a great surprise to nearly everybody in Washington including railroad officials. It had been generally believed he would await the reassembling of congress before taking any step. He acted through Secretary Baker under authority conferred in the army appropriation act.

Direct management of the roads will remain in hands of officials and the railroad board, comprised of five railroad heads, will continue to direct actual operations under Secretary McAdoo's general supervision.

## EX-CORONER HAIRSTON DEAD.

### Buried at Leesville Church Tuesday Afternoon.

R. O. Hairston, for eight years coroner of Laurens county, died at his home near Clinton Tuesday morning and was buried at Leesville Methodist church, of which he was for many years a member and officer, Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Rev. W. L. Mulliken conducting the services, a number of his friends from various parts of the county, including Laurens, being present to pay him a last tribute.

Mr. Hairston was 70 years of age. At the outset of the War Between the States he enlisted for service and fought gallantly throughout the conflict, always being spoken of as a brave soldier and good citizen.

He is survived by his wife and two children, Mr. C. L. Hairston, of Clinton, and Mrs. Lillie Bailey, of Greenville.

## DEATH OF D. B. ROPER

### Native of This County Dies at His Home in Fountain Inn After Short Illness.

Mr. D. B. Roper, a brother of Messrs. C. H. and M. L. Roper, of this city, a son of Mr. L. H. Roper, died at his home in Fountain Inn Monday morning after an illness of several weeks. He had been critically ill for several days and death was not unexpected. The funeral services were held in the Baptist church in Fountain Inn Christmas day, being conducted by the pastor. Mr. Roper had been for many years a deacon and Sunday School superintendent in this church and was one of its most active workers.

Besides the two brothers and father already mentioned, Mr. Roper has two other brothers, Rev. L. M. Roper, of Petersburg, Va., and Mr. P. J. Roper, of Fountain Inn, to survive him, in addition to his wife, who was Miss Abercrombie, and six children. He was 39 years of age.

Although not a resident of this city, Mr. Roper was well known here and was held in the highest esteem by all his acquaintances.

Lieut. Joe Smith has been spending the holidays in the city.

## J. N. LEAK DEAD.

### Prominent Farmer of Upper Part of County Died of Blood Poison.

Mr. Jas. N. Leak, a prominent farmer of the upper part of the county, who served as mayor of Gray Court, while a resident there, died Tuesday morning, his death being due to blood poison caused from a slight cut from a razor with which he had shaved himself a few days before. The funeral services were held at Dials church Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock, being largely attended by relatives and friends. Mr. Leak was a jovial and kindly friend and very popular wherever he was known. He was a successful and progressive farmer, besides dealing in real estate from time to time.

Mr. Leak is survived by his wife, who was a Miss Garrett, and a grandson, Nye Wilson, who was reared by Mr. and Mrs. Leak.

## REUNION AT CLINTON

### Confederate War-Horse Celebrates His 79th Birthday Among Many Relatives.

On the 19th, inst., at Clinton, Mr. R. Press Adair, one of the old Confederate war-horses of that town, celebrated his 79th birthday, by giving a sumptuous dinner to his children grand-children, great-grand-children and a few friends, fifty-two in all counting himself. Before and after the spread, or spreads, the party gathered around the fireside and enjoyed the pleasure of reunion and conversation, the day being counted by all of them as one of joy and delight. Counted among the party were four children, three sons-in-law, two daughters-in-law, twenty-one grand children (four not present), seven great-grand-children, six great-grand-children (one not present), six of his old neighbors and two of his young lady friends. Mr. Adair, who is 79 years "young" was about the happiest person present as it is seldom that he is able to have so many of his family and friends around him.

Calhoun McGowan, Esq., of Charlotte, spent Christmas day in the city with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. P. McGowan.

## IS MAKING COMMERCIAL GAINS

### Says Petrograd Correspondent of The Post. Germans are Expected to Arrive at Petrograd.

By the Associated Press.

London, Dec. 21.—Petrograd dispatches report that attempts are being made by the Bolshevik commissaries to negotiate with the Ukrainians for a settlement for the difference which have arisen, and it is also reported that the authorities of the new Ukrainian government are ready to accept proposals looking toward a peaceful arrangement. There are numerous further reports of military activities on the part of the Ukrainians and Cossacks, and of the sending of more Bolshevik troops southward to oppose the Ukrainians; apparently there have been no hostilities on a large scale.

Many news dispatches from Petrograd speak of the supposed impending arrival of the Germans there, which is said to be the universal topic of discussion in the city, but every one seems to have a different version. Many of these stories center around the reported concentration near the capital of a large force of released German war prisoners to whom arms are being handed over, according to some of the reports.

The Petrograd correspondent of The Post says the Germans are making the most of a commercial opportunity such as the world has never seen before, inasmuch as Russian industries are nearly dead and the Germans have no competition, and have been pushing trade since the frontier was opened.

The Germans have refused to admit that M. Zinoff, a close associate of Nikolai Lenin and other Bolsheviks, whom the soldiers' and workmen's delegates wished to send in to spread their doctrines in the German army. They also declined to admit Trotsky's newspaper printed in German for army propaganda. The Bolsheviks are negotiating with the social revolutionists of the left for the formation of a coalition government.

The trial of persons who have been arrested by the Bolshevik authorities was to have begun yesterday before a military revolutionary court, according to delayed dispatches from Petrograd.

A dispatch from Tashkent, capital of Turkestan, describes the lynching under horrible circumstances of General Korovitchenko, who was Kerensky's military commander in the province.

The Italian embassy has made a formal protest against the pillaging by armed men of the department of the enemy's first secretary.

It is reported that the Germans are moving troops from the Russian front and western fronts to the southwestern and Rumanian fronts.

## CHARLESTON PAPER LOSES SECOND CLASS PRIVILEGE

### The American Has Right of Entry to the Mails as Second Class Matter Revoked.

Charleston, S. C., Dec. 29.—The permit of The Charleston American, to be entered as second class mail matter, was today revoked by Postmaster J. M. Poulnot on the ground that the paper had violated the act of June, 1917. Notice was served upon Walter F. Livingston, president of the American Co., A. Clifford Thompson, managing editor and Nolly J. Sams, city editor in the absence of John P. Grace, editor and general manager.

Some time since The American was summoned to show cause why it should not be deprived of the mailing privilege. A hearing was held in Washington in November but no announcement was made as to what action the government would take until service of the papers today.

No official statement was given out by Postmaster Poulnot but it was learned that the papers served on officials of the company stated that the rights of the American Company to second class mailing privileges had been revoked because of the violation by The American of the law passed in June.

John P. Grace, editor of The American, is not in Charleston tonight and no statement was given out by the officials of the paper. The American was established in 1916.

Mr. Gus Simmons, of Kansas City, is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Simmons.

## STARTS ARMENIAN FUND

### \$100.00 Received From Unknown Contributor

#### NAME OF DONOR IS NOT GIVEN

Editor of The Advertiser Receives One Hundred Dollar Bill in the Mail Saturday to be Sent to Suffering Armenians. Others Asked to Subscribe.

Saturday afternoon an unsigned letter was received through the mails addressed to "The Editor of The Advertiser" enclosing a hundred dollar bill with the request that it be sent to the suffering and persecuted Armenians "across the sea". It was suggested in the letter that others do as the writer had done and that a fund be gathered for these afflicted people. At various times and from various sources certain sums have been sent from this county to aid the Armenians, but this is the first contribution received by the Advertiser for this specific purpose. The money has been deposited in the bank and will be held for several days until others may have the opportunity of increasing it.

In the letter the unknown writer quoted two passages of scripture, one from Second Chronicles and the other from the third chapter of Malachi in which are pictured the fruits of tithing and offerings, and the protection which the Lord will give to those who support His works. The passages quoted are as follows:

2 Chronicles 31: 5-10—And as soon as the commandment came abroad, the children of Israel brought in abundance the first fruits of corn, wine, and oil, and honey, and of all the increase of the field; and the tithe of all things brought they in abundantly. And concerning the children of Israel and Judah, that dwell in the cities of Judah, they also brought in the tithe of oxen and sheep, and the tithe of holy things which were consecrated unto the Lord their God, and laid the by heaps. In the third month they began to lay the foundation of the heaps and finished them in the seventh month. And when Hezekiah and the princes came and saw the heaps, they blessed the Lord and his people Israel. And then Hezekiah questioned with the priests and the Levites concerning the heaps. And (Continued on Editorial Page.)

## BARONESS ZOLLNER TELLS HER STORY

### Woman Who Has Husband Serving in German Army on Trial in Chattanooga.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Dec. 22.—Following a grueling cross examination of Baroness Zoller, charged with the violating of espionage act, by United States District Attorney Kennerly, the hearing was adjourned at 10 o'clock tonight until Monday morning. The baroness remained on the witness stand for two hours and a half. Her whole career and movements since her marriage the first time were heard.

Baroness Zoller, in answer to a question, said she had written her husband, an officer in the German army, many times, using as a medium of communication a woman friend in Arnhem, Holland. She described her efforts to secure the release of Zollner after he had fled America in answer to a call to the German colors and was arrested in London as an alien enemy. Baroness Zoller declared he was released on his promise as an officer and a gentleman that he would not take up arms against Great Britain and that he had later made his escape and joined the German army.

Baroness Zoller testified that when complaint was made against her presence at Annapolis she had taken the matter up with the commandant and later had gone to Washington to discuss her status with the department of justice. She claimed that under the president's proclamation she was not an obnoxious alien.

### Oysters At Ora School House.

There will be an oyster supper at Ora school house on Friday, the 28th inst., from 4 to 10 p. m. The public is cordially invited.

Lieuts. Tom Lake and James Todd, of Camp Jackson, are spending the holidays in the city with home folks.