

## AMERICAN VESSELS SUNK BY GERMANS.

**THREE STEAMSHIPS TORPEDOED  
AND SOME LIVES LOST--NO  
WARNING IN ONE CASE.**

London, March 18—The sinking of the American steamships 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. A 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 Islands. 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.

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, most Americans.

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

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

The alumni of the University of South Carolina held their annual banquet Friday night. Among those present was F J Watson of Little Rock, who married Miss Mary James Britton of Kingstree in December.

## VIRTUALLY STATE OF WAR NOW EXISTS.

**PRESIDENT URGING AN IMMEDIATE  
SESSION OF CONGRESS  
TO CONSIDER MEASURES.**

Washington, March 18:—With the announcement of the ruthless destruction of three unarmed American merchant ships by submarines, it was unofficially admitted here tonight that virtually a state of war exists between the United States and Germany.

Technically the United States remains in a position of armed neutrality. Whether this shall be changed before April 16, the date fixed for a special session of Congress, the war making branch of the government, President Wilson has not decided.

One step the President is contemplating is a call for an immediate session of Congress to hear an address asking for authority to adopt aggressive measures against the submarine menace.

Already American ships are being Armed to defend themselves; the next move must be to send warships with orders to seek out submarines and clear the transatlantic lanes.

Some of the highest officials of the government hold that the executive has power to declare that a state of war exists and to proceed with aggressive protective steps pending the assembling of Congress. There is no indication, however, that President Wilson will follow that course. Of the three ships destroyed, two were unloaded and were homeward bound. All were American built, American owned and officered and manned largely by American citizens. Meagre dispatches indicate that all were sunk with complete disregard for the safety of those on board and that some of the members of the crew may have been lost.

Today's developments brought the government face to face with the problem of formulating a definite policy for the nation in case the United States actually enters the war. This possibility was mentioned by the President in his inaugural address March 5.

### Locals from Salters.

Salters, March 20:—A number of our farmers took advantage of the fine weather last week and planted corn.

From all we can learn, there will be an abundance of tobacco plants for putting out. Those whose plants were killed by the cold weather in February have replanted and many of them are now up.

Mr T B Gourdin, who recently underwent an operation at the Sumter infirmary, is improving, we are glad to say.

Mr and Mrs D Bone of Charleston spent a short while here Sunday night with Mr and Mrs H T McClary. Mr Graham, a timber man of North Carolina, was here several days last week on business. He was accompanied by his brother.

Mr S Aronson of Lanes was here Friday on business.

Miss Lou Ferguson, principal of Indiantown school, spent Saturday and Sunday with her sister, Mrs T E Salters, of this place.

Miss Florrie Bell, of the Johnsonville school faculty, spent Saturday and Sunday here with Mrs T E Salters.

Mr Spann of Lake City was here on business Saturday.

Mr Epps of Kingstree was here a short while Saturday.

Children's day for home missions will be observed next Sunday by the Sunday-school of Union church with appropriate exercises, at the close of which an offering will be taken for home missions. A cordial invitation is extended to all.

Mr Faison McDaniel, a student at the University of South Carolina, spent Sunday with his parents here. **LOOK OUT.**

The 45th annual meeting of the South Carolina Teachers' association was brought to a conclusion with the business session Saturday morning, when officers for the year were elected and many other matters of routine assignment disposed of. Jas P Kinard, Ph D, superintendent of the Newberry city schools, was made president; D P Kinard of Dillon and Mrs E S Watkins of Columbia, vice presidents. R C Burts of Rock Hill and W S Black of Lexington were re-elected secretary and treasurer, respectively.

## Here Is a Question:

Are we forty years behind the times or ten years ahead of them? In the selling of Hardware we are maintaining the standards of honesty and thoroughness which we established many years ago. There are no shams, no cheapness, no concealed faults in any Hardware sold by us. If we are behind the times in such principles we will stand whatever criticism we merit. For many years we have been selling Hardware from our store, always with the same ideals of integrity and worthiness.

Coffins and Caskets We Lead; Others Follow

# Kingstree Hardware Co.

## CZAR OF RUSSIA ABDICATES THRONE

**TOLD BY DUMA THAT THE HOUR  
HAS STRUCK--WILL BE-  
COME A REPUBLIC.**

Petrograd, March 15—Czar Nicholas II has abdicated. His brother, Grand Duke Michael, is Regent. All the leading members of the reactionary bureaucracy, deposed from power, have either been imprisoned or are in flight. The Duma, representing the people, and backed by the army, is in complete control of the Russian Government. The Emperor is reported to have been placed under guard.

This end was achieved in Petrograd only after three days fighting in the streets, but today, with a brilliant spring sun emerging from the clouds as though to hail the new regime, shops and banks are once more opening, the street cars are running, and the capital apparently is already acclimating itself to the tremendous change so suddenly brought about.

In Moscow, Kharkov and Nijni Novgorod, as well as the naval base of Cronstadt, the same end was gained, according to all reports, by acclamation, amid universal rejoicing and without the slightest bloodshed.

The British and French Ambassadors have already established official relations with the controlling committee of the Duma. Everywhere the army, so far as it has been heard from, has rallied to the support of the Duma.

The Military Committee of the Duma has asked all the officers not yet employed by the committee to undertake the organization of the soldiers who joined the people and helped guard the capital.

The committee issued a statement, pointing out that at the present moment, when facing an enemy who wishes to take advantage of the temporary weakness of the country, it was absolutely necessary to make every effort to maintain the power of the army. It added that the blood of the Russians who had died during the two and a half years of war pledged the people to do this.

The President of the Duma has sent telegrams to the commanders of the Baltic and Black Sea fleets, to the chiefs of the armies on the northern, southwestern, western, Rumanian and Caucasus fronts and to the chief of the general staff, requesting that the army and navy preserve absolute calm and be sure that the struggle against the foreign enemy was not suspended or weakened even for a single moment.

The orderly revolution, keeping pace with street revolt, was over in a few hours on Monday, when the Duma, refusing to accept the Czar's decree proroguing it, continued its sittings and sent the Czar a telegram saying:

"The hour has struck. The will of the people must prevail."

They announced that the government had failed to maintain order, and submitted a list of names from which the Czar might choose a new Ministry. Simultaneously they sent telegrams asking the generals to urge upon the Czar the need of bowing to the storm.

Easley Baptist church was burned Sunday, entailing a loss of \$10,000.

China has severed diplomatic relations with Germany, and the German minister at Pekin has been handed his passports.

## ESCAPED CONVICT KILLED BY POSSE.

**LAST CHAPTER OF ALABAMA'S  
SENSATIONAL MURDER CASE  
WRITTEN IN BLOOD.**

Birmingham, Ala, March 20:—final chapter in what is believed to be Alabama's most sensational murder case was written tonight when David D Overton, former official of Huntersville, under a sentence of death for the murder of Judge W T Lawler, his political rival, last summer, was shot and killed by a posse of deputy sheriffs. Overton met death in a fight in which he and six companions engaged after they had escaped from the Jefferson county jail early today. Tony Malino, another fugitive, also was killed and J L Latham, a member of the escaped band, was mortally wounded. Four of Overton's companions fled when the fight with the deputies began, and are being pursued by the posse. None of the deputies was injured. Malino was under a death sentence for the murder of a peddler here several months ago, and Latham had been indicted on a charge of forgery.

The seven prisoners fled from Birmingham about 8 o'clock this morning after overpowering two wardens and a turnkey. They were heavily armed. Thoroughfares in every direction out of Birmingham were searched and late this evening the police were informed by a negro that the prisoners were hiding back of Owenton college.

Theodore Kuker, a veteran merchant of Florence, died in that city Sunday. He was a native of Germany but had long been a resident of Florence county. Mr Kuker was formerly engaged in business at Timonville but about 23 years ago moved to Florence, where he had since made his home.

Scarcity and high price of potatoes have stimulated planting early potatoes in the South. In the six principal early potato States—South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Florida, Alabama and Texas—188,000 acres have been planted this year, against 161,000 in 1916.

## ALLIED ARMIES PUSHING AHEAD

**CONTINUE TO DRIVE TEUTONS  
BACK ON ALL LINES OF BATTLE  
DESPITE OBSTACLES.**

Notwithstanding bad weather and almost insuperable conditions of terrain and obstacles by Germans to protect their retreat, both the British and French armies in France have made further notable gains.

On their part of the line the French have thrown their cavalry to within four and a half miles of St Quentin and also have reoccupied considerable territory between the Somme and the Aisne.

Paris reports that the losses of the French troops in their pursuit of the Germans have been insignificant.

It is reported that there has been an increase in the outpost skirmishes in Russia.

In Macedonia and north of Monastir the French war office reports the capture of Teutonic allied positions, nine machine guns and 1,200 prisoners. The Berlin war office, however, says that all the French attacks here have been without result.

On the Austro-Italian front the usual artillery duels are still in progress.

Nothing new has come through concerning operations against the Turks by Russia, and by the British in Mesopotamia.

Berlin reports the sinking in the Mediterranean Monday by a German submarine of a French battleship of the Danton class. This class of vessel displaced 18,028 tons and carried 681 officers and men.



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Flooring  
Moulding  
Sash, Doors  
Screens  
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Sizes and in  
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Authorized by Federal Reserve Board to Act as Administrator, Executor, Trustee and Registrar.

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