

The Watchman and Southerner.

THE SUMMER WATCHMEN, Established April, 1880.

"Be Just and Fear not—Do all the ends Thou Aims't at be thy Country's, Thy God's and Truth's"

THE TRUE SOUTHERNER, Established June, 1894.

Consolidated Aug. 2, 1881.

SUMTER, S. C., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1915.

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SITUATION FAILS TO CLEAR.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS OF UNITED STATES AND AUSTRIA ARE STILL STRAINED.

Conference Between Austrian Consul and Secretary Lansing Does Not Affect Situation—Monarchy Will Not Punish Commander of Submarine—Big Battle Threatened Between Allies and Bulgar-Teutonic Forces on Greek Soil.

Washington, Dec. 24.—The punishment of the submarine commander who sunk the Ancona is the chief obstacle in the adjustment of the differences with Austria, Austrian sources here report. Regarding the disavowal of the act and the indemnity, Austria can yield to American demands and maintain prestige at home. Conferences are now in progress relative to the punishment demanded.

MONTENEGRO COMPLETELY CONQUERED.

King and Queen Will Seek Refuge in Italy.

Rome, Dec. 24.—The conquest of Montenegro by the Teutons is complete. King Nicholas and Queen Milena will take refuge in Italy. It is reported that the royal family has already left Cetinje.

SALONIKI ATTACKED NEXT.

Germans Making Ready for Drive Against Allies' Base.

Paris, Dec. 24.—A French war correspondent at Saloniki states that the Germans and Bulgars are making swift preparations for an attack on the Allies in Macedonia. Sixty thousand Germans are massed at Monastir and thirty-six thousand Turks are in the Struma valley. The bulk of the Bulgarian army is concentrated in the Varnar valley.

BRITISH AEROPLANE DESTROYED.

Significant Announcement From Egyptian Battle Front.

Constantinople, Dec. 24.—The war office has announced the destruction of another aeroplane of the enemy on Egyptian soil.

GHASTLY CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

Premier Asquith Publishes British Casualty List.

London, Dec. 24.—Premier Asquith announced today that the British casualties up to date on all fronts number 528,000.

BATTLE AT YPRES.

Hard Fighting Resumed on British Front in France.

London, Dec. 24.—Hard fighting has been resumed on the front held by the British troops south of Ypres. Improved weather permitted the renewal of hostilities.

Greek Steamer Seized.

Italians Capture Ship Carrying Oil to German Submarines.

Rome, Dec. 24.—Two Italian torpedo boats have captured a Greek steamer carrying oil for the Teuton submarines in Mediterranean, says a Brindisi dispatch.

Two Great Armies Massed.

London, Dec. 24.—Two great armies of a half million men are only forty miles apart in the Balkan theatre of war. The German and Bulgarian forces massed along the Serb-Greek boundary number at least a quarter of a million, and the British-French forces, equally as strong, rests north of Saloniki on Greek soil.

Russia Not Ready to Make Peace.

Petrograd, Dec. 24.—Reports that Russia is ready to make peace are characterized by Foreign Minister Sazonoff as "senseless."

Turkish Cruiser Sunk.

London, Dec. 24.—Athens advices say that the Turkish cruiser Midirli has been sunk by the Russians in the Black Sea. The Midirli was formerly the German cruiser Breslau.

British Steamer Missing.

Dundee, Scotland, Dec. 24.—The British steamer Moor is missing. It is believed it was sunk by a German submarine. The crew's fate is unknown.

Germans Regain Position.

Berlin, Dec. 24.—The war office announced today that all German positions lost to the French at Harismannswellerkopf have been recaptured. A cessation of activities in the Balkan theatre is reported.

BRITISH CABINET CRISIS.

SPECIAL MEETING HELD TODAY AND SENSATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS EXPECTED.

Germans Preparing for Great Offensive Against Allies in Greek Territory—Turks Continue Attack on British in Mesopotamia—Japanese Liner Was Sunk Without Warning.

London, Dec. 27.—With a cabinet crisis imminent, ministry met today to take final action on Lord Derby's enlistment scheme. The continued attacks on the government has weakened the present government's strength. Sensational developments are anticipated.

PREPARING FOR DRIVE.

German Forces Gathering on Greek Frontier to Attack Allies.

London, Dec. 27.—Athens dispatches announce the arrival of heavy forces of German and Austrian artillery on the Greek frontier, particularly at Dorian, Gievelli, and Monastir. The German general staff intends using the same tactics pursued in the drive in Serbia. Famine and anarchy are reported to be prevailing in Albania.

MONTENEGRINS RENEW FIGHT.

Attack Austrians and Capture Strong Position.

Rome, Dec. 27.—The Montenegrins have captured Biljofoljs, driving out the Austrians who lost two thousand, according to the Montenegrin legation statement.

DICKERING WITH ROUMANIA.

Russia Offers King Ferdinand Territory to Attack Germans.

Rome, Dec. 27.—The Giornale D'Italia states that Russia is making fresh advances to Roumania, offering territory to King Ferdinand if he puts his army in the field against the Germans.

WAR IN MESOPOTAMIA.

Turks Begin New Attack on British Forces.

London, Dec. 27.—The Turks have begun a new offensive in Mesopotamia. An official dispatch from Gen. Townsend states that the Turks have begun a fresh series of attacks against British positions at Kutel Amara on the Tigris. The assaults were repulsed with heavy losses.

British Steamer Submerged.

London, Dec. 27.—The British steamer Hadley has been sunk by a submarine.

Fighting in China.

London, Dec. 27.—The Chinese cruiser Cha-Ho is reported to have been captured by rebel students, who abandoned it after the vessel was bombarded by other warships.

Swiss Steamer Sunk.

Amsterdam, Dec. 27.—The Swiss steamship Emden is reported to have been sunk off Dogger bank. The crew was saved, according to a Ymuiden dispatch.

Germans Occupy Crater.

Berlin, Dec. 27.—The Germans occupied a crater made by explosions in front of their trenches in the western theatre.

Three Spies Shot.

Amsterdam, Dec. 27.—Three spies are reported to have been shot by the Germans at Charleroi.

Bombarded African Coast.

Paris, Dec. 27.—A French cruiser bombarded the north African coast, in the Gulf of Sollum, and destroyed a Turkish battery, the ministry of marine announced.

SUNK WITHOUT WARNING.

American Consul Sends Report on Sinking of Japanese Liner.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The State department has announced the receipt of a cable from Consul Bristow at Port Said, announcing that the Japanese liner Yasaka Maru was sunk without warning. Consul Bristow stated that one hundred and twenty passengers and a hundred and sixty-two members of the crew were picked up by a French gunboat and landed at Port Said. W. J. Leigh, American, was among the passengers. Bristow's message stated that the periscope of the submarine was not seen until the liner was sinking. The vessel sank twenty-nine minutes after being torpedoed. The submarine's nationality is unknown.

FORD PARTY OFF FOR SWEDEN

LEAVE FOR STOCKHOLM ON SEPARATE TRAINS.

Friends of Peace in Norway Inclined to Look Askance at Motor Maker's Peace Efforts.

Christiania (via London), Dec. 23.—Henry Ford, who has been sick during his stay here and unable to attend the meetings of the peace mission, left this morning on the regular train for Stockholm. The other members of the party left later on a special train with the exception of Gov. Hanna of North Dakota, who proceeded to Copenhagen.

The invitation to Norwegian friends of peace to join the party has met with no response. The Christiania papers express doubt that a representative Norwegian would accept the invitation.

The press and public are unanimous in giving praise to Mr. Ford for his good will and high idealism. The newspapers call him "a most congenial gentleman," but regard that he has not consulted experts on international law.

The general opinion voiced here is that the mission will do little towards promoting peace negotiations.

FORD DENIES STORIES.

No Dissension in Party, He Cables Back.

Chicago, Dec. 23.—Reported dissension among members of the Ford peace party was denied in a cablegram received from Henry Ford by Miss Jane Addams at Hull House today. It was dated Christiania, Norway, December 21 and read as follows:

"All press rumors about dissension on board unfounded. Only a few journalists tried to make separate stories for their papers by inventing everything through vivid imagination. Hope your faith in the success of our mission is as unshaken as ours. Norwegian people are splendid. Hope to see you join our party.

"Respectfully,
"Henry Ford."

THE ANCONA DISPUTE.

German Diplomats Trying to Help Austria Settle Trouble.

Washington, Dec. 27.—German diplomacy is seeking to aid Austria in settling the Ancona dispute and adjusting the trouble to satisfy the United States without making concessions which will disrupt Austria-Hungarian naval forces. Officials here are certain on one point, namely, that there will be concessions which will throw the dispute into a diplomatic tangle, necessitating prolonged exchanges between the two governments. Arbitration of principles involved will not be considered. A pessimistic air prevails at the White House and State department. The statement is made that no information has been received indicating that Austria desires anything more than to throw the controversy into diplomatic conversational channels.

CHRISTMAS EVE TRAGEDY.

Orangeburg County Farmer Accused of Killing Neighbor.

Orangeburg, Dec. 25.—Herbert Carson is reported to have shot and killed Tom Watts, his neighbor, in the Livingston section of the county, yesterday afternoon. It is said the tragedy was the result of a dispute over some hogs Watts is alleged to have locked up belonging to Carson.

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WILL PUSH PREPAREDNESS.

WILSON TO URGE NATIONAL DEFENSE PROGRAMME.

President Has No Desire to See Preparedness Plans Rushed but Wants Action.

Hot Springs, Va., Dec. 26.—Congress will be urged by President Wilson to concentrate its attention upon the administration's national defense programme immediately after the holidays. It was learned here tonight that while the president has no desire to see the preparedness plans rushed through without full consideration and debate, he is most anxious to have the army and navy bills disposed of as promptly as possible. He not only believes it is essential to put the war and navy departments in a position to begin work on their new programmes without delay, but wants the congressional calendars cleared for general legislation later in the winter.

Snow fell here all night last night, covering the ground to a depth of more than a foot. This did not keep the president and his bride from having their daily automobile ride, however.

Tonight there was a meeting in the hotel held under the auspices of the Marquis and Marchioness of Aberdeen and addressed by Mrs. Barton French, recently returned from her Red Cross work in France. The president and Mrs. Wilson declined invitations to attend.

The president will celebrate his 59th birthday Tuesday. He will be surprised at dinner with a great birthday cake, bearing 59 candles, which the hotel management today ordered the chef to prepare. Officers of the volunteer fire department here having heard of the president's election as an honorary member of the Pass Christian, Miss., department two years ago, have invited him to attend a celebration at the fire house and add another honorary membership to his list. President Wilson won his place in the Pass Christian organization by aiding it in putting out a fire.

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SAYS POLES NEED BREAD.

AMERICAN DECLARES THERE IS HARDLY AN INHABITABLE BUILDING IN COUNTRY.

Mr. Hamilton Says Effort Will be Made to Have England Relax Blockade as There is Danger of Four Million Poles Starving.

New York, Dec. 23.—More than four million of the population of Poland are destitute and entirely dependent upon soup kitchens and a pint of soup daily, according to William H. Hamilton, of the American mercy and relief committee, who reached New York today on the steamship Rotterdam.

Mr. Hamilton has been in Europe several months looking into relief work for his organization. He added that he had traveled from Alexandria to Warsaw and in the entire country evacuated by the Russians there was hardly an inhabitable building standing.

"I was in Warsaw two weeks ago," said Mr. Hamilton. "The temperature was zero, and I saw every day long lines of old men, women and children, many of them without adequate clothing, standing for hours in the cold wind waiting their turns at the food distributing centres. In Warsaw alone it is estimated that 75,000 people are destitute; and unless relief reaches them soon the majority will not be alive when spring comes.

"Money is not needed, for there is no food or clothing to be purchased. I am going to urge my committee to bring every possible pressure to bear to induce the British to relax their blockade sufficiently to allow at least 25,000 tons of supplies to go into Poland each month. I have assurances that the Germans will do what they can to assist in its distribution. While the German authorities are doing what they can to relieve distress, there is no use trying to disguise the fact that they have not much more food than they can use themselves. The soup furnished is made mainly from carrots, of which there appears to be an abundance in Germany.

"Complained with the distress occasioned by lack of food and proper clothing there exists a menace to health in the form of vermin and filth. The German military authorities are doing their best to cope with this condition, but with no bathing facilities it is a hard task. To prevent a possible spread of disease no one is allowed to leave Poland without a health certificate which specifically states that the bearer is free from vermin."

BRITAIN DENIES CHARGE.

The Embassy Makes Statement Concerning Hospital Supplies.

Washington, Dec. 24.—A statement was issued by the British embassy here tonight denying that Great Britain had extended to hospital supplies of all kinds its prohibition against the shipment to the Teutonic countries of such supplies made of rubber.

Difficulties encountered by the American Red Cross in obtaining permits for the passage of hospital steamers have been brought to the attention of the State department, and yesterday it was learned that the department had communicated with the London foreign office seeking to facilitate the dispatch of large quantities of goods accumulated at the New York headquarters of the Red Cross.

In view of the British embassy's statement, however, it is hoped that this situation is a result of some misunderstanding which now may be cleared away.

THE FRENCH ARE ON GUARD.

Paris Paper Declares German Attack is Expected.

Paris, Dec. 26.—"The hostilities on the French front, which thus far have consisted only of cannonades, may take on a more serious form," says the Temps in a military review. "The wind is blowing from the east, which will permit the enemy to use asphyxiating gas. It is then the most elementary prudence for us to be ready with masks and man the batteries.

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PEACE PARTY DISSENSIONS.

MRS. BOISSEVAIN DESERTS FORD EXPEDITION.

Betha Leaves Party, Personal Business Calls Lieutenant Governor—Well Known Woman Sees Failure Ahead.

Stockholm (via London), Dec. 26.—A meeting of the members of the Ford peace committee last night resulted in a disagreement over the mode of procedure and Mrs. Inez Milholland Boissevain announced her withdrawal from the expedition. Mrs. Boissevain explained that she was compelled to abandon the peace trip and would leave immediately for home.

Andrew J. Betha, lieutenant governor of South Carolina, will leave the expedition tomorrow on account of personal business. Mrs. Boissevain plans to start for London at the same time.

Henry Ford is departing for America, had invited several delegates to carry on the work of the expedition. The delegates elected the Rev. C. Lloyd Jones chairman, who announced his plans without reference to the general meeting. Mrs. Boissevain protested. She denounced the peace plan as nebulous and said that when the peace plan left New York Mr. Ford had definite plans, but she hoped later that one would develop. This, she said, had not materialized and instead there were dissensions and misunderstandings. She expressed the belief that the expedition was doomed to failure because of undemocratic principles of a small group, including Mme. Rosika Schwimmer, in controlling opinion.

"We have appeared to the public what we are, in fact, a confused mass of amiably intended persons of vague thinking and no planning," Mrs. Boissevain said. Continuing, she accused the leaders of the party with having arrived in Scandinavia without any plan convincing to the people whom it was sought to win over to peace.

Mrs. Boissevain's statements caused consternation in the meeting. Members jumped to their feet asking that the expedition proceed, with a view to harmony. Dr. Charles Aked pleaded that all should adhere to the original plan of Mr. Ford. Mrs. Boissevain said in reply that she was compelled to abandon the expedition and was leaving immediately.

Mrs. Boissevain presented to a public meeting of the delegates today a statement of her reasons for doing so and for believing the project was doomed to failure.

"The undemocratic method employed by the managers of the expedition is repugnant to my principles," she said. "Instead of all the members formulating plans the work has been confined to a few specially selected persons. When the party embarked I took it for granted that the rather vague opinion of the body of delegates would be hammered into effective shape by group action and constructive thinking throughout the voyage.

"An organization was not formed until three days before the end of the voyage. To that fact I trace all misunderstandings, dissensions, mistakes in policy, inefficiency and inability to get the idea of a mediation peace congress in comprehensive shape before the public.

"The organization when finally formed was abortive. The Scandinavian public which expected clear thinking and a definite programme were skeptical about the seriousness of the delegates. At the meetings the discussions have been purely private with the result of ill-feeling, suspicions and condemnation. For the reasons stated, I am unable to continue with the party."

Gaston P. Lantiff, the personal representative of Mr. Ford requested Mrs. Boissevain to remain with the expedition, but without avail.

WHOLESALE PRICES IN 1914.

Said to Have Been One Per Cent Lower.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Wholesale prices in the United States were nearly 1 per cent lower in 1914 than they were before. A comprehensive bulletin on the subject, issued tonight by the bureau of labor statistics, shows there were decided decreases in the prices of clothing, fuel, metals and building materials more than offsetting increases on farm products and foods. The bureau bases its conclusions upon figures for 340 representative products. Its bulletin deals only with the year 1914, before the full effect of the European war had been felt by American industry and commerce.