

A MILLION MAY STARVE

Unless America Send Relief the Near East Will Be a Death House

Columbia, Dec. 24.—Calling attention to a statement issued by President Wilson in which he said that at least a million people in the Near East will be in imminent danger of starvation unless aid is sent them by America...

"None of our allies in the great war suffered more severely in proportion to their numbers than did the Armenians, Assyrians and other peoples of the Near East, who fought so bravely with us and for us."

"During the last few years these peoples have suffered untold hardships and losses, and now, at the beginning of winter, when it was hoped these burdens would be lightened, another great disaster has overtaken them. Through the activities of their enemies on all sides Turkish nationalists, Kurds, Bolsheviks, the Armenian republic has been overrun and thousands of people who had begun to rehabilitate themselves have been driven from their homes. Recent cables state that the roads to Batum are jammed with refugees, women and children, shoeless and without food. Large numbers of refugees are also appearing at Tiflis, Aleppo and other centers in the Near East. At least 1,000,000 people will be in imminent danger of starvation unless aid is again sent to them."

"Relief work in this section of the world is entirely under the direction of Near East relief, incorporated by congress. Since this organization was formed it has raised and disbursed with great economy and efficiency, more than \$41,000,000 in cash. It has commissioned more than 1,000 workers, of whom more than 500 are now in the Near East, administering 229 orphanages, 63 hospitals, 11 rescue homes in addition to an enormous relief work. A nation has been saved and at least 1,000,000 persons are alive today who would have perished but for the generosity of Americans."

"The 110,000 orphans who are now being cared for by Near East relief and wholly dependent upon it for all the necessities of life will furnish the future leadership of the Near East. We dare not let them perish now."

"Since the only hope of these stricken peoples is in America, I once more call upon our people to contribute generously out of their abundance that these needs may be met and the organization which is worthy of utmost confidence may be enabled to continue its life saving work."

The Matter of Telephone Rates

Columbia, Dec. 23.—Increasing losses are reported by the Southern Bell Telephone Co., to the South Carolina Railroad commission, as argument for granting the proposed increased charges. However, as yet no decision has been reached by the railroad commission and none is expected at an early date. The commissioners stated today that they had not framed any decisions in the case and they were totally in the dark as yet as to what would be the outcome of the case. They are giving consideration to the petition of the phone company and to the evidence submitted at the hearing early in the month, and they are also consulting with other railroad commissions in regard to the matter. Members of the commission were today asked for an expression as to the case, but they refused to talk. "The case is one of great importance, and we cannot reach any decision or make any statement until we have gone into every phase of the situation," stated chairman Shealy.

The telephone company stated in its petition for the increased rates that the company, for the first half of this year, operated at a profit of only one and a quarter per cent. Statement made by company officials to the railroad commission today are to the effect that the profits have greatly decreased since July, being less than one per cent. The company claims losses in South Carolina for the month of September of approximately \$37,000. The company also refers to its new plant and equipment being installed in Columbia, which it claims will cost, when completed, more than three quarters of a million dollars.

The railroad commission does not look with favor just at this time on that phase of the telephone company's petition which says the higher rates are needed for wage and salary increases though it is disposed to give consideration to the truth concerning the company's profit basis in the state.

It is not likely that any decision in the case will be rendered at an early date, though the matter is being given careful consideration. The railroad commission has been advised by the North Carolina commission that it is having an audit made of the company's books. The Georgia railroad commission has advised that it is still giving consideration to the petition, no decision having as yet been reached. No state commission has decided the case as yet.

Asks to Issue Certificates.

Washington, Dec. 22.—The Atlantic Coast Line Railway company asked authority today of the interstate commerce commission to assume obligations amounting to \$6,220,000 imposed by a trust agreement and lease payable to the Safety Deposit Trust company, of Baltimore, of which \$1,720,000 is payable in cash upon delivery of certain equipment. The company plans to issue trust certificates amounting to \$4,500,000, to be sold at not less than 94 per cent of their par value.

CLOTHING PRICES CHEAPER IN SOUTH

Anderson Merchant, After Visit to New York, Talks Conditions

Columbia, Dec. 9.—Clothing prices are lower in the south than elsewhere in the union, according to B. O. Evans, a prominent clothing merchant of Anderson.

Mr. Evans made this statement in Saturday's Anderson Mail. The statement follows:

"While clothing is being sold today, now, at prices no one dreamed of three months ago, spring clothing in my opinion, is not going to be as cheap as some dealers predict, for the simple reason that manufacturers right now are figuring on spring business. And this, of course, is being based on the present prices of cloth, trimmings, and whatever they may decide on as to labor costs, plus a profit. With these figures complete they will solicit business, and if they do not get it on this basis, why, they say they just won't make up the goods. But that is some months ahead yet, and whatever comes there will be clothes for spring."

"When I had finished my business in New York," concluded Mr. Evans, "I visited the retail district, or some of New York's larger retail clothing stores. It may sound strange to you, but in one of these stores, I am confident there were in stock 6,000 suits of clothes and 4,000 or more overcoats. In a store like that you would think, with a stock like that, one could buy a suit at almost his own price, wouldn't you? There is not a clothing store in Anderson but what has in its cases today clothes that in every particular would compare with what they showed me—and the cheapest suit I saw in this particular piece was priced at \$47.50. Nowhere else, except perhaps in the West, is good clothing being sold as cheap as it is by the southern clothier, the clothier who, like us here, knows his customers by their first names, sells them from year to year, rejoices with them in prosperity and sticks along with them in adversity."

"Regardless of what he has paid for his stock, the southern clothier, like the southern cotton farmer, is selling his stock at a price he never dreamed of some months ago."

GOLD FISH IN GREAT ABUNDANCE.

Port Clinton, Ohio, Dec. 21.—Many tons of gold fish have been caught in the fishing grounds of the Portage River here, by local fishermen, during the past few weeks. Where these fish come from is a mystery, although they have been seen in this section, but never in such large quantities. According to some of the fishermen they first scattering of the fish was found in 1913 after the big floods of Ohio and the Lake regions, and it was thought at that time that the fish may have been liberated from some of the park and resort aquariums, by the overflowing of the flooded artificial ponds.

The first fish were found in small numbers at intervals by the fishermen who had their nets in Lake Erie, and an occasional fish would be brought ashore as a curiosity. Later the fish found their way to the marshes and inland waters of the fishing grounds of the Portage river, and it has been only during the past few months that they have been caught in such large quantities. Hauls of from a ton to a ton and a half have been reported at a single time by the fishermen, who have their seine grounds for carp fishing, and these fish have appeared in large schools, making a very interesting sight when they are being rounded up for the lifting of the nets.

The fish are not of the glass bowl variety, but seem to be more of a carp species, and will measure several inches and weigh as much as a half pound each. They are placed in live cars and brought here to be loaded into express cars and shipped in tanks alive, to the New York markets where they are sold to the retail and local trade. Up to this time the local trade has not indulged in the gold fish for a food product, although it is said that the fish are of a very good quality, but have very fine bones.

They seem to have no trouble with the other members of the carp family, and their habits are said to be the same. The larger fish have the features of a carp, with the large scales, but a decided difference in the coloring. These fish are highly colored in the yellow and gold shades, with a little sprinkling of red which makes them very attractive.

It is said that some of these fish have been placed in glass jars, and held for some time, but that they did not take on additional size.

Charles Klingbeil of the United States Hatcheries here, is of the opinion that these fish came from the aquariums of Belle Isle and Detroit during the flood times of 1913, and that during these past seven years have multiplied until the shallow waters of this vicinity have become inhabited by millions of fish. As the gold fish are adapted to the warmer waters, they have found the marshes of this section desirable quarters for their summer maneuvers, and during the winter months they seek the deeper waters of the Portage river where they are protected from the ice and freezing which would confront them in the marshes.

CROWN JEWEL AN IMITATION.

London, Dec. 6.—Sir George Young, husband, keeper of the Jewel House at the Tower of London, has just revealed the fact that one of the British crown jewels, of which he is custodian, is an imitation. The stone was believed to be a magnificent aquamarine, but proved on examination to be only a piece of colored glass. It figured first in the crown of King James II. The mystery of when the imitation was substituted for the real stone has not been solved.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 24.—A half million dollar fire occurred in the business district last night.

REPUBLICANS PLAN TARIFF REVISION

Chairman Fordney of Ways and Means Committee to Begin Hearings in Few Days

Washington, Dec. 8.—Republican members of Congress took the first steps today towards revision of tax and tariff laws at the extra session to be called soon after next March 4.

Chairman Fordney of the House ways and means committee announced that his committee would begin hearings within a few days on revision of the tax laws, these hearings to continue until January 6, when hearings will be started on tariff legislation. Almost simultaneously with Chairman Fordney's announcement, Senator McCumber, of North Dakota, acting chairman of the Senate finance committee, issued a call for a meeting of that committee for tomorrow, when plans will be made for hearings similar to those contemplated by the House committee.

The Senate and House committees alike hope to conclude their hearings by the end of the present session. The House committee, Chairman Fordney said, expects to be able to begin the work of tariff measures as soon as the extra session is convened. The Senate committee's hearings are expected to be briefer than those planned by the House committee.

Chairman Fordney's announcement followed a conference of the majority members of the committee. He said that as soon as the committee had had time to study the tax recommendations contained in the annual report of Secretary Houston of the treasury sent to Congress today, he would invite Mr. Houston to appear before the committee and explain his views more fully. The treasury secretary will be asked to designate an official to represent him at the committee's sessions. The committee's program, the chairman said, will be announced from day to day as the hearings proceed.

Chairman Fordney said today that he had in mind a definite plan for simplification of the tax on corporation incomes. One of his proposals is a flat rate on the incomes of all corporations "having no qualifications of other modifying provisions."

Mr. Fordney also said it was his purpose "that the income tax laws be made so simple that a corporation will not have to hire an expert or a lawyer to figure how much it owes the government."

The ways and means chairman declared that a study of Secretary Houston's report had shown him that the "estimates for governmental expenditures are ridiculous high."

"I can go down the list of estimates of the secretary and chop out approximately a billion and a quarter dollars as unnecessary," Mr. Fordney said. "Just for example, he wants \$181,000,000 for the War Risk Insurance Bureau. I think that is a hundred million dollars or more too high."

"With the proposed consolidation of the various soldiers' relief agencies into one bureau we can save a hundred million and eliminate 35,000 clerks in Washington. The secretary wants \$75,000,000 for rivers and harbors improvement. I do not think Congress will grant any such sum this year."

Dr. Kendall Begins Jail Sentence

Columbia, Dec. 23.—Dr. Francis D. Kendall, well-known Columbia physician, who was sentenced in the federal court in Charleston last week to serve six months in the Florence county jail and to pay a fine of a thousand dollars, but who was allowed a few days in which to arrange his affairs in Columbia, left here Wednesday morning and began serving his sentence in the Florence jail in the afternoon. Mrs. Kendall and her son, Frank, are with him and will spend Christmas with him. Dr. Kendall pleads guilty before Judge Smith of violation of the Harrison narcotic act.

Dr. Kendall's cell in the Florence jail, according to information received from Florence today, is made attractive by a carpet on the floor and other comforts. The jail is steam heated.

Asking to Be Relieved of Income Tax

Shanghai, Dec. 22.—American commercial bodies here and American commercial interests generally in China are engaged in a campaign to induce the United States congress to pass a law relieving them from the payment of income tax to the United States treasury.

They have appealed to legislators and members of commercial bodies in the United States to aid them in bringing about the passage by congress of a federal incorporation act for American companies in China which is expected to come before congress in December.

The American business men here have claimed that they are at a disadvantage owing to the fact that the British doing business in China are exempt from payment of an income tax. The Shanghai Chamber of Commerce has sent representatives to Washington to present data to members of congress in support of their appeal.

FUME IS IN DARKNESS.

Flume, Dec. 22.—Flume has been compelled to dispense with virtually all lights except those of candles because the Italian blockade has stopped the importation of coal. When The Associated Press correspondent arrived here, he found the city in absolute darkness. Railway employees bearing a few kerosene candles met the travelers as they alighted from the train from Trieste and escorted them to a small room where the officer, also by the light of a candle, examined their passports.

Outside the railway station there were neither porters nor cabs, nor was a light to be seen in the streets anywhere. Weighed down with their baggage, the travelers groped their way to the hotel only to find that also in darkness.

TROUBLE IN HAMPTON COUNTY

The Treasurer Reported Short, And Charges Against the Auditor

Columbia, Dec. 23.—Governor Cooper stated today that he would immediately confer with the attorney general regarding the situation in Hampton county, where the grand jury reported a shortage of over seventeen thousand dollars in the county treasurer's office and other irregularities in the management of the county affairs, and that suit would probably be brought by the attorney general against the bondsmen of the Hampton treasurer, W. A. Mason, if this was found to be the correct course. "We will do whatever is right for the protection of the public," the governor stated.

Copies of the grand jury presentment were filed with the governor and with Attorney General Wolfe, and these are being investigated closely. The amount of shortage in the office of Treasurer Mason is reported at \$17,801.91. "The affairs of the county are not being conducted in the manner required by law," the presentment says. It says there are outstanding tax executions in the hands of the sheriff and constables, where the persons against whom they are issued have the actual tax receipts. It says that executions for \$32,133 of 1918 and 1919 taxes, are not yet presented for collection, and says that if these are not presented immediately, action should be taken to remove from office those officials failing to perform their duty.

In addition to mentioning the shortage in the books of Mr. Mason, and urging that action be taken against his former bondsmen, the presentment scores the county auditor, T. Hazood Gooding, for not opening the tax books prior to December 14, and suggests that the governor be asked by the legislative delegation not to re-commission him. Mr. Gooding has been auditor of Hampton for twelve years and was re-elected this year. His new term is due to start July 1, 1921. It recommends that he should be forced to perform the duties of his office, even to the extent of being required to show cause why he should not be removed from office.

TO CONSTRUCT HIGHWAY ROADS

Dorchester and Clarendon County Projects

Columbia, Dec. 23.—The state highway commission announced yesterday that bids for the construction of approximately 12 1-2 miles of roadway in Dorchester county, running from Reevesville through St. George and to Dorchester, would be opened January 4.

The project will be sand-clay and will cost \$90,000, one-half of this being federal aid.

The county law provides for the expenditure of this sum, and unless the bids are equal or below this amount they will be rejected. The \$90,000 includes the road and bridge work.

Bids will be advertised for in the next few days for the construction of approximately eight miles of highway in Clarendon county, the road to run from Manning to the Sumter county line. These bids will be opened January 20.

AMERICANS IN POLAND DECORATED.

Lemberg, Dec. 17.—Nine members of the Kosciuszko air squadron, made up chiefly of Americans, were decorated recently with the highest military honors of Poland and, simultaneously with the presentation of the medals, each aviator was kissed on the cheek as is the Polish custom by General Stanislas Haller, commander of the Sixth Polish army. The presentation took place at the squadron aerodrome near Lemberg which city was defended by the Americans during the bolshevik drive in August.

Those decorated were Captain George M. Crawford, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Lieutenant Elliott W. Chess, El Paso, Texas; Lieutenant Harmon C. Robinson, Wilmington, N. C.; Lieutenant Kenneth O. Shrewsbury, Charleston, W. Va.; Lieutenant Carl Clark, Tulsa, Okla.; Lieutenant George Weber, Pekin, China; Lieutenant Wladyslaw Konopka and Alexander Senkowski, the last two named being liaison officers.

The list of those decorated also included the name of Captain Merian G. Cooper of Jacksonville, Fla., who at last accounts was a prisoner in the hands of the bolshevik; having been shot down in his airplane last summer.

Lieutenant Colonel Cedric E. Fauntleroy, of Chicago, and McGhee, Ark., commander of the air forces of the southern front, and Lieutenant Edwin Noble, of Boston, wounded early in the spring, were decorated previously.

WHOLE WHEAT BREAD BEST.

Adelaide, Australia, Dec. 6.—Dr. Hargreaves, a distinguished Australian chemist, declared at a conference of master bakers here that the nations which eat white bread were getting close to the border line of neuritis. He advocated brown bread, saying that modern science demanded that wheat should be milled whole.

He said that, undoubtedly, campaigns in favor of whole meal bread will be shortly launched in the United States and England, and it behooves Australia to take prompt action.

The members of the conference agreed with the doctor's observations, but said that Australians, with the exception of cranks and dyspeptics, refused to eat brown bread.

Jacksonville, Dec. 24.—Carter W. Johnson, a Chicago traveling salesman, died last night after taking one drink of liquor purchased from a bell boy.

WOOD USED FASTER THAN GROWTH

Washington, Dec. 18.—Forests east of the Rocky Mountains are being devastated so rapidly by cutting and burning that the nation soon will be dependent for the bulk of its construction lumber upon the forests of the Pacific coast, William B. Greeley, United States forester, declares in his annual report made public today. The situation, Mr. Greeley says, is one that affects the public welfare of the entire country and he urges a federal law to stop the devastation of the remaining forests and to put the idle forest lands at work.

"Two-thirds of the original forests of the United States have been culled, cut-over or burnt, three-fifths of the merchantable timber is gone," said Mr. Greeley. "The country is taking about 26,000,000,000 cubic feet of wood annually from its forests and is growing about 6,000,000,000 cubic feet. We are cutting timber of every class, even trees too small for the sawmill, much faster than they are being replaced in our forests. There are still large quantities of timber in the United States, but they are not in the right place. Sixty-one per cent of what is left lies west of the Great Plains, far from the bulk of our population, agriculture and manufacturing. The exhaustion of one forested section after another in the Eastern states has been reflected in rising transportation costs. The distance between the average sawmill and the average home builder is steadily increasing; and we shall soon be dependent for the bulk of our construction lumber upon the forests of the Pacific coast. These conditions have had a vital bearing upon the high cost of lumber, which, during the year, reached a prohibitive figure for many uses and checked the building of homes which is so urgently needed."

"We have used up our forests without growing new ones. At the bottom of the whole problem is idle forest land. The United States contains 326,000,000 acres of cut-over and denuded forests containing no saw timber; 81,000,000 acres of this have been completely devastated by forest fires and methods of cutting which destroy or prevent new timber growth. The area of idle or largely idle land is being increased by from 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 acres annually as the cutting and burning of forests continue."

"To stop the devastation and put idle lands to work the first step must be the enactment of a federal law whose two chief provisions are (1) a comprehensive plan of federal cooperation with the states in fire prevention and the development of forestry practice, and (2) extension of the national forests through purchases, through the inclusion of other timberlands now in federal ownership, and through exchange."

Speaking of a national forestry policy, Mr. Greeley said the program laid down by C. I. Graves had been further developed.

"This program," he said, "is based on the conviction that the problem of halting forest devastation is fundamentally a national, not a local, program, and must be faced and handled as such. At the same time it is felt that the speediest, surest, and most equitable action can be secured through dependence on the police powers of the states for the enforcement of such reasonable requirements as should be made of private owners and on the state governments for providing organized protection of private lands against fire."

"Because the problem itself is essentially national—that is, on affecting the public welfare of the entire country and requiring to be attacked as a whole, not piecemeal—both federal leadership and a large measure of federal aid are obligatory. It should be obligatory upon private owners to apply the safeguards necessary to prevent devastation. There is a practical unanimity of agreement that the first and most essential step is a nation-wide protection from forest fires, applicable to all classes of forest land and borne jointly by the landowner and the public."

Advertisement for The First National Bank, featuring an image of the bank building and listing the President (Nell O'Donnell) and Cashier (O. L. Yates).

SCIENTIST REPORTS TERRORS THROUGH WHICH SOUTH AMERICA BEFORE

Philadelphia, Dec. 21.—Terrors through which while journeying through South America, Dr. Hamilton Rice, explorer, to leave for Egypt in an effort to locate a certain species which is invaluable in medical search work.

He expressed his intention to address on South America before the Geographical Society here.

Dr. Rice said his trip through South America took him up the Negro, the largest tributary of the Amazon, through a natural canal more than 200 miles long connecting it with the Orinoco, into hitherto unexplored portions of Brazil. It was here that he came into actual contact with Guaharibos, a virtually unknown tribe of Cannibal Indians, who for seventeen days pursued his party in an effort to cut off their return.

The attack occurred in a wild spot along the banks of the Orinoco, where Dr. Rice had made camp the night before. Two of his Indian guides had gone up the river in a canoe to test the depth of the water, when they saw something moving along the banks. Looking closer they perceived the forms of Indians closing in on the camp, and hastily turning about, hurried back to warn the remainder of the party.

"A few minutes after the guide's return," Dr. Rice said, "the entire bank was literally lined with wildly shrieking and gesticulating figures who brandished bows about seven feet high, with arrows six feet long. Just opposite me I saw one huge and foaming creature, evidently the chief or leader, who was shouting and foaming at the mouth and making motions that meant to express anticipation of a hearty meal that night. He was neither negro or Indian, and he had black hair on his upper lip—a thing I have never seen on an Indian."

"We tried talking to them in every language and dialect at our command. We laid hatchet, knives and fishes on the rocks in an attempt to pacify them, but they apparently had no idea what they were for, and there was no doubting the fact they intended to fight."

"Finally when one of their arrows landed just at my feet, I decided it was time to do something, and we fired the Winchester rifle and Parker guns our only weapons, over their heads. That frightened them, for the moment, and gave us time to get out things packed together and a start down the river. Shortly afterward, darkness descended, and all night long we could hear their blood-curdling screams as they kept at our heels."

"When morning broke," he went on, "a thick mist covered the entire river, and it was this that gave us our chance to escape. When we finally reached deep water we knew that we were safe, for the Guaharibos do not use boats or canoes, and it was too deep for them to wade."

LEGAL FIGHT TO BREAK WILL.

Lebanon, Pa., Dec. 21.—A legal battle for the possession of several million dollars will be staged in the orphan's court of Lebanon county on January 14, when Judge Henry will hear the contest to break the will of the late Rosaline Parent Coleman, of Paris, France.

The contestant is her son, Dr. Guido Henckle, of Freiburg, Germany, and efforts are being made to obtain passports for him to come here for the trial.

Dr. Henckle, who was a surgeon in the German army during the world war, was a son of Mrs. Coleman by her marriage with the late Prince Donnersmark, of Germany. In her will made in 1907 she made him her universal legatee, but disinherited him in a codicil in 1915 when Germany declared war on France, declaring him "dead to her on account of the war."

The fight here will involve the Rosaline Parent Coleman interest in the Cornwall iron ore mines at Cornwall, Pa., now controlled by the Bethlehem Steel company.

Large advertisement for The National Bank of South Carolina, featuring an image of a clock and listing the President (C. G. Rowland) and Cashier (Earle Rowland).