

LINER SUNK; AMERICANS MAY BE LOST

British Steamer "Persia" Torpedoed by a Submarine. 87 Women and 25 Children on Passenger List. FOUR LIFE BOATS LAUNCHED Official Information of Catastrophe Is Withheld. Robert McNeely, U. S. Consul in Arabia, Was on Ship.

Washington, Jan. 1.—Bulletin.—Official dispatches from London today said the liner Persia was torpedoed and sunk "while approaching Alexandria" and that "nearly all perished."

London, Jan. 1.—The British liner Persia was sunk Thursday and most of the passengers and crew were lost. Robert McNeely, American consul at Aden, was a passenger on the Persia. It is believed the ship was torpedoed by hostile submarines of either Austria or Germany which have been preying on vessels in the Mediterranean of late.

A Lloyd's dispatch says most of the passengers and men of the Persia were lost. Four boats got clear before the Persia sank. The message to Lloyd's says the Persia was on her way from London to Bombay. She was sunk at 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

In addition to the passengers who sailed from London, a large number embarked at Marseilles. The total booked at these points was 234. Of these 87 were women and 25 children. Lord Montagu was on the passenger list.

The Peninsular and Oriental line estimates that 160 or 161 passengers sail from London on the Persia. A number of these landed at Gibraltar, Marseilles or Malaga. No official figures are available.

Owned by London Company. The Persia was a steamer of 7,974 tons gross. She was owned by the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation company of London. She sailed from Bombay November 14, for London and was last reported at Gibraltar on December 2. Robert N. McNeely was appointed a consul at Aden, Arabia, in October, 1914. He is a native of North Carolina.

In addition to Mr. McNeely two other Americans are known to have been passengers on the Persia when she left London. Charles H. Grant was on his way to Bombay. Edward Rose, a school teacher, was assigned to Aden. His home is at Monroe, N. C., and he was a member of the North Carolina legislature from 1908 to 1910. He was 32 years old.

Case Ends in a Row.irate Parents of H. S. Girls Put Lawyers to Flight.

Following explosive arguments by attorneys for both sides in the high school security case a storm with attorneys for the school board and parents of the suspended girls as the elements, broke in the first division of the district court. Argument in the case was completed at 11:15 and the judges had retired to their private chambers when Matt Weighman, ex-cout treasurer, walked up to Judge Garver and made a statement which intimated that Garver during the course of his argument had "called the girls liars."

Judge Garver protested that he had not. Next, C. M. Hill took up the debate where Weighman had left off. A heated contest followed between parents and the lawyers. Sharp words passed between Mrs. A. T. Lucas and Attorney Larimer, while sharper ones were hurled by Hill. The row terminated when Judge Garver and Attorney Larimer left the court house.

The decision on the temporary injunction will be handed down, according to the judges, as soon as possible. It is expected Monday.

Wilson Holds No New Year Fete in D. C.

Washington, Jan. 1.—New Year's Day in the national capital was unusually quiet with President Wilson away and congress in holiday recess. There was no reception in the White House in the absence of the president and his bride and the usual "diplomatic breakfast" by the secretary of state to the diplomatic corps was omitted. Secretary Lansing was out of the city. There were, however, the usual receptions at the homes of most of the members of the cabinet. A diplomatic circle also the day was observed with the usual exchange of greetings, though many diplomats were unable to meet old friends, being enemies at least officially, because of the war.

PERSIA SINKING NEW DIPLOMATIC CRISIS AT HAND

Comes to U. S. Hot on Heels of the Ancona Settlement. President Wilson Begins Immediate Quest for Facts.

BLAME DIRECTED TO AUSTRIA

Washington Official Circles Are Shocked by New Tragedy. American Diplomat May Be Among Those Lost on Ship.

Washington, Jan. 1.—A new and most serious submarine controversy today confronted the United States in the torpedoing of the Peninsular & Oriental liner Persia in the Mediterranean. Hot on the heels of the virtual settlement of the Ancona case with Austria, the submarining of the Persia, with American Consul McNeely, of Aden, on board en route to his post, renewed tension.

The state department received reports from American Consul Skinner at London regarding the sinking of the Persia and that Consul McNeely was a passenger and other Americans were believed to be aboard. Skinner had news of the passengers were lost. McNeely's fate was in doubt. If the American diplomat met death, the attack upon the Persia promises to make one of the most acute and serious issues which this government has yet met.

President Interested. President Wilson and Secretary of State Lansing gave the Persia disaster their personal attention. The president was promptly sent every scrap of information received at the state department.

While officials were openly amazed at the attack upon the Persia, particularly so soon after the transmission of Austria's reply on the Ancona, they were disposed to withhold judgment and comment until the facts were more fully ascertained. They especially were interested in whether the Persia was warned and her passengers given opportunity to reach safety. Shock over the Persia's sinking was aggravated by the short lapse of time since the Ancona case. This country was delivered. This was handed to Ambassador Penfield at Vienna on Wednesday, and within 24 hours of the attack on the Persia.

From such incomplete information as was at hand today it was generally presumed in official circles that, as was the case in the Ancona case, Germany, the Austrian admiralty and the Vienna foreign office are working at cross purposes.

Admiralty Not in Line. It was regarded as a strong possibility that while the foreign office is ready to accede to the contentions of the United States, the admiralty, bent on the success of the submarine, has not yet been brought into line. There is, however, the added possibility that the submarine which sank the Persia, being far from home, had not been instructed in the new policy of the Austrian government. The destruction of the Persia, coupled with the recent sinking of the Japanese liner Yasaka Maru and the French liner Ville de La Cote, lends strength in official quarters to both those possibilities.

Severance of diplomatic relations, with all its possibilities, looms up as one of the eventualities in the same as it did in the case of the Lusitania, the Ancona and the Ancona. Although the nationality of the submarine which sank the Persia remains unestablished, the assumption generally is that it was an Austrian, because Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, recently declared that no German or Turkish submarine was operating in the Mediterranean.

KAISER TO TROOPS

New Year's Greeting Teams With Victory Sentiment. Can't Conquer Us, He Declares in Thrust at Allies.

London, Jan. 1.—The Amsterdam correspondent of Reuters Telegram company says that Emperor William, according to a dispatch from Berlin, has sent the following New Year's address to the army, the navy and the colonial troops:

"Another year of severe fighting has elapsed. Wherever a superior number of enemies have before your lines, they have fallen before your loyalty and bravery. Wherever I have sent you into battle you have gained a glorious victory. Thankfully, we remember today above all, our brethren who joyfully gave their blood in order to gain liberation for our beloved fatherland and imperishable glory for the fatherland. What they have begun we shall accomplish with God's gracious help."

In prominent addresses enemies from the west and east, from the north and south still seek to deprive us of all that makes life worth living. They long ago buried the hope to conquer us in honest fighting. On the weight of their masses, on the starvation of our entire people, on the influence of their campaign of calumniation which is as mischievous as it is malicious, they believe they can still reckon. Their plans will not succeed. Before the spirit of determination which unites the army and the people at home, they hope will be miserably disappointed.

"With a will to discharge the duty to the fatherland to the last breath, and determination to secure victory, we enter the new year with God for our protection of the fatherland and for Germany's greatness."

HERE'S THE YOUNG RASCAL, AND YOU CAN SEE THERE'S MISCHIEF IN HIS EYE



FIFTY YEARS AGO IN STORM'S GRIP

First Railroad Train Came Into Topeka Jan. 1, 1866. Heavy Blanket of Snow Covers All of Colorado.

Celebrated Completion of U. P. Track Into Town. Forty Inches Deep in West Part—Railroads Paralyzed.

IT WAS A RED LETTER DAY

There Was a Champagne Dinner at the Tefft House. Senator Jim Lane Was a Guest of Honor.

Fifty years ago today the first regular passenger train arrived in Topeka and made January 1, 1866, an important day in the early history of the town. The famous Tefft house was the center of social festivities, many celebrated and prominent visitors were guests of the town and—sssh! A champagne dinner was staged right here in the famous dry resort of the world.

The coming of the Union Pacific and real passenger trains was an event that required an entire day to celebrate. More than 300 citizens of the town met the train at the depot with a brass band and railroad officials ate and slept and dined at the expense of the town while the little cracker box locomotive made demonstration.

HIS FEET FROZEN

Young Kansas Negro Lies in a French Hospital. Was Forced Into Military Service by the French.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 1.—S. L. Rogers, a well known young colored man of Ottawa, Kan., has served in the European war during the past year as a member of a premier regiment of France. Today he lies in a military hospital at Camp Valbonne, Ain, with frozen feet and other permanent disabilities which may sooner or later result in his death.

He has written to his father, Smith Rogers, at Ottawa, telling of his plight and urging that photographs of his parents be sent him that he may look at them and think of his Kansas home before he dies. His father sent the correspondence received from his son to Congressman Joseph Baggart with the urgent request that he impudently Secretary Lansing, of the state department, to have young Rogers released from the service and sent home.

Mr. Baggart says that everything is being done by the state department to secure the release of young Rogers, and he has hopes of having him sent home at some early date, if he is able to be removed from the hospital and is strong enough to make the ocean journey.

Young Rogers had a position in Bordeaux at the time France joined the allies against Germany and Austria a year ago. He had sufficient funds to return home but was forced into military service by the French authorities and placed in what is known as the Premier regiment at Camp Valbonne, Ain. This regiment is made up entirely of foreigners. Through the American consul at Bordeaux, Rogers enlisted under the name of Henry Williams. He is 21 years old.

Court Rules People Must Read Papers

Osnabruck, Prussia, Jan. 1.—The court here has decided that the refusal of newspapers is now a duty of citizens.

Residents in a neighboring village sold a small quantity of wool contrary to regulations and pleaded in defense that the particular regulation was not placarded in the village as had been customary and appeared only in the newspapers which they did not read. The court ruled that, "The persons who do not read newspapers act culpably and cannot plead ignorance of war time regulations as justifiable."

The defendants were sentenced to a day in jail.

FOOTBALL GAME TODAY

Brown and Washington State University Clash at Pasadena, Cal.

Pasadena, Calif., Jan. 1.—Eleven of both Brown university and Washington State colleges were declared to be in splendid shape for the football game which was to be played here this afternoon. The weather is ideal for the contest. Brown outwished their opponents five pounds to the man. Walter Bekersoll, of Chicago, was chosen as referee.

2 KINGS ARE SICK

Greek Monarch Operated Upon by German M. D. Kaiser Still Uneasy; More Boils Appear.

Athens, Jan. 1.—King Constantine will be operated on today or tomorrow. Professor Strauss, the German specialist who attended the king during the summer, accompanied by Professor Eiselsberg, is expected to arrive here late today to perform the operation.

It was stated officially that the operation will be only "of a minor nature" and that the king will be able to be out of doors in a short time. A fortnight ago it was rumored that King Constantine had been ill and would be unable to participate in public affairs for many weeks. No confirmation was obtainable at that time. The king only recovered a few months ago from a serious illness that threatened death last summer.

Amsterdam, Jan. 1.—Private advices from Berlin today repeated the disquieting reports about the Kaiser's health and said that he was still suffering from a number of malignant boils. Efforts to obtain an authoritative statement from Berlin met with failure.

POLICE GUARD 'EM

Ford Peace Pilgrims Are Menaced by Merry-makers. "Interned" in Copenhagen Banquet Hall for Three Hours.

Copenhagen, Jan. 1.—The Ford peace party had some anxious moments last night. For several hours the delegates were virtually prisoners guarded by the police to prevent them from becoming objects of attack by New Year's eve merry-makers in the streets.

The delegates were invited to attend a banquet in the Royal shooting club. They promised United States Minister Egan they would not leave while the banquet was in progress. For three hours the entire delegation was "interned" and when the banquet was over they were escorted to their hotels by the police.

Governor Hanna, of North Dakota, who was seriously ill in a hospital here, is better, it was learned today. The Rev. Charles F. Aked, of San Francisco, remained in Stockholm, on the verge of a nervous collapse. Many of the delegates are suffering from severe colds.

Only twenty-three persons greeted the delegates upon their arrival here yesterday. There was no formal reception. Madam Schwimmer, who preceded the party to Copenhagen to make arrangements, was awaited at her hotel last night and warned by the police that she would not be permitted to arrange for public meetings.

Business Manager Plattiff tightened the reins a little more on delegates' expenses on the party's arrival here. He ordered the peace pilgrims to carry their own baggage. At Christiania and Stockholm their baggage was carried to the hotels at Henry Ford's expense.

SPRINGLIKE WEATHER

The Temperature This Morning Was 18 Degrees Above Normal.

This morning the weather closely resembled that of early spring. The temperature at 7 o'clock was 54 degrees, which is 18 degrees above the normal afternoon temperature for this date. Today was the warmest day since December 22. The wind was in the southwest this morning, but showed a tendency to shift to the north-west before night. The warm weather probably will not last longer than today.

The forecast calls for unsettled weather and much colder tonight and Sunday; probably light snow. "Much colder" considering the temperature today will not be an extreme drop in temperature. The mercury will hover around 32 degrees tonight, according to the prediction.

Temperatures up to noon today averaged 26 degrees above normal. The wind is blowing at the rate of 25 miles an hour from the southwest. The mercury will go below freezing tonight, today. "But nothing severe in the way of temperature is expected."

Hourly readings: 7 o'clock...54 10 o'clock...54 8 o'clock...52 11 o'clock...55 9 o'clock...52 12 o'clock...52

IT ONLY COST \$3 95 FOR ONE AND "FRIEND" IN TOPEKA LAST NIGHT

In New York city, situated in the festive east, it cost the New Year revelers \$72.50 to stage a party, according to a modest estimate published in the State Journal last night.

Here is what it cost one and a friend to see in a modest way, the New Year settle over the great White Way in Topeka last night.

Table listing costs for a party: Table reservation (dinner)...\$30.00 Dinner...1.50 Tip...25 Theater seats...2.25 Table reservation (supper)...6.00 Supper...1.00 Tips...2.00 Cab...3.00 Total...\$42.95

JUDGE BENSON A WELL KNOWN KANSAN IS DEAD

Cerebral Hemorrhage Calls Soldier-Jurist This Morning. Former U. S. Senator and Justice of Supreme Court.

HE LED A MOST UNIQUE LIFE

Narrow Escapes From Death in the Civil War. Given Appointment to U. S. Senate Over Telephone.

Judge Alfred W. Benson, 72 years old, former United States senator, supreme court and district judge, died this morning at 6 o'clock at the home of his daughter, Mrs. H. Ward Page, 801 Lane street. Paralysis caused his death.



Judge A. W. Benson, Who Died in Topeka Today.

On Thursday of this week Judge Benson was moved from his home, 915 Quincy street, to that of his daughter, Mrs. Page. He suffered a cerebral hemorrhage that day and slowly sank until his death this morning.

The members of the family were at the bedside when death came. The body will be taken to Ottawa at 7:45 Sunday morning. A number of acute indignation and for several hours before his death Judge Benson was unconscious.

For a week Judge Benson suffered from an attack of the grip. A cerebral hemorrhage followed an attack of acute indignation and for several hours before his death Judge Benson was unconscious.

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BURN STATE BONDS TODAY

Kansas Now Officially Out of Debt, Hooray. Last Issue of \$159,000 Is Publicly Consumed.

ONE OF SEVEN STATES IN UNION

And State Institutions Represent 21 Millions. Governor Capper Addresses Crowd at State House.

For the first time in her history Kansas is today free from debt. The last state bonds—an issue of \$159,000—were today publicly burned in the office of Earl Akers, state treasurer.

The ceremony was open to the public and both present and former state officials participated in the celebration which marked the wiping out of the state's financial obligations.

A number of former state officials, invited to attend today's ceremonies, were unable to be present. Neither W. J. Bailey, former governor; J. H. Burrows, secretary of state; nor Seth Wells, auditor, were able to participate in the demonstration which featured the freedom of the state from financial debt.

The \$159,000 in bonds which were burned by the governor, were "dummys." The real bonds were sent to the office of the state auditor for cancellation and the celebration surrounded a bundle of paper that looked for all the world like the real thing and answered all practical purposes so far as the visitors were concerned.

Photographers Made Pictures. For twenty minutes the ceremonies were interrupted while photographers made pictures of state officials. Then when the governor burned the "dummy" bonds, a snap shot artist failed to get a picture. The accommodating governor courteously burned a bundle of scrap paper that the picture man might have a complete record of the proceedings.

A number of men and women prominent in the affairs attended the burning of the bonds and a delegation of school children from Iola stood on the side of the auditor's office. The principal speaker, Governor Capper made the principal speech concerning the freedom of the state from financial obligations. Earl Akers, state treasurer, presided at the meeting. Frank Grimes, state treasurer from 1899 to 1903, made a short speech.

Open to Public. Many Topeka people, including men and women widely known in public affairs of the state, attended the burning of the bonds. All state officials, department heads and members of state boards and commissions were present. State offices were thrown open to visitors and a holiday was declared in state house circles.

In his speech Governor Capper pointed to the fact that Kansas is one of seven states in the Union which is free from debt. Not only is the state debt paid, but Kansas state institutions now represent a value of 21 million dollars, the largest in the nation. Her people are rich and prosperous, he urged, and with nearly a quarter of a billion dollars in the banks and more being made each day, Kansas is able to face the world as a free and independent people.

The burden of taxation is not a heavy yoke on the neck of the Kansas property owner, Governor Capper declared, and her state levy is one of the lowest in the nation. With it all, (Continued on Page Seven.)

RESCUES A LINER

Wireless Says Crippled Greek Vessel Is Saved. Thessaloniki Now Being Towed to New York.

Newport, R. I., Jan. 1.—A message from an unidentified steamer picked up by the radio station here early today stated that she had taken the disabled steamer Thessaloniki in tow and was proceeding to New York.

Because of weather conditions the name of the vessel and her position could not be ascertained.

The message said that the Thessaloniki was short of "steaming water" which indicated serious engine trouble. The weather along the coast was thick and the radio station had great difficulty in reading the message. The coast guard cutter Seneca had reported during the night that she was still trying to locate the Thessaloniki. The steamer Florida has been searching for the disabled vessel since early yesterday.

WALLACE IN THE RACE

Principal of Lyman School Wants to Be County Superintendent.

Announcement that he will be a Republican candidate for the office of county superintendent of public instruction subject to the primaries next August, was made today by Lawrence Wallace, principal of Lyman school.

Mr. Wallace has had ten years experience as a school teacher and for the last four years has been principal of Lyman school. In announcing his candidacy Mr. Wallace said:

"As to my ability as a teacher, what I have done and what I have not done is not for me to say but it is to be left to the voters. I have not been forced into the race by thousands of friends or by other uncontrollable influences, nor do I believe that should I or any of the other candidates fail to be elected, our schools would fall to progress or advance. I am asking for the first term in any office of any kind, I would like to be the next superintendent, with a chance to prove that I can make good."

Grippe Germ 'll Get You If You Don't Look Out

Washington, Jan. 1.—Kissing, public drinking cups, cigar cutters and telephone transmitters are responsible for the widespread epidemic of grippe throughout the country, Dr. W. C. Rucker, assistant surgeon general in the public health service, declared.

Dr. Rucker said the public health service is making an investigation of the unusual spread of the malady. It is spreading from the cities to rural districts.

Dr. Rucker said the grippe usually leaves in its wake some defect in the ears, eyes or nose. Its prevalence in a community also produces enormous economic loss.

"The public health service is preparing to combat the malady by issuing nation wide warnings.

