

## PERSIA TORPEDOED WITHOUT WARNING; SINKS IN FIVE MINUTES; 158 SAVED

### RUSSIANS BATTLE ON 300-MILE LINE IN BESSARABIA

Hurl Sledge-Hammer Blows at Opposing Force Numbering 1,500,000 Men.

### CONSIDERABLE SUCCESSES CLAIMED BY PETROGRAD

Dispatches Emphasize Excellent Equipment, Supplies and Munitions.

### AMBITIOUS STRATEGIC MOVE

Nothing to Support Report That Roumania Is to Enter War on Side of Allies.

LONDON, January 2.—Russia's campaign in Bessarabia continues to be the most important visible war activity. From the Tiber to the Roumanian frontier, over a frontier of at least 300 miles, a huge Russian force, with a great appearance of confidence, is hurling sledge-hammer blows at the opposing force, which, according to all accounts, totals at least 1,500,000 men.

Petrograd still claims considerable successes in the early stages of the campaign, and dispatches emphasize the excellent equipment, supplies and munitions that Russia laid up for this purpose during a period of comparative passivity.

Some London observers, speculating on the meaning of the Bessarabian move, hail it as one of the most ambitious strategic plans since the beginning of hostilities, and predict that it will prove a colossal attempt to break the backbone of the Germanic allies' whole line across the Balkans. Thus, one critic says:

"The plan is that Russia and the other allies, moving from different sides, shall meet in the Balkans and gain complete mastery of that peninsula. If they succeed, Turkey will be subdued and the vital of Austria-Hungary menaced."

### ATTITUDE OF ROUMANIA GROWS IN IMPORTANCE

So long as Russia keeps up her present activity just north of the Roumanian border, the attitude of Roumania will continue to grow in importance. There have been many assertions in the entente capitals that Roumania was about to enter the war on the side of the entente allies, but nothing to support this has yet been heard from creditable Roumanian sources. Meanwhile, in the south of the Balkan Peninsula the entente allies continue their expectant attitude toward a threatened attack, although Greece seems mainly occupied in making various protests, in following up her policy of protest to the entente allies against the arrest of the consul of the Teutonic powers by a polite protest to the central powers against their aeroplanes flying across Greek territory in a raid which killed a Greek shepherd and a few sheep.

The sinking of the steamer Persia with the death of an American consular officer, brings up in the European capitals, the familiar query as to what the United States will do now. Dispatches from English correspondents picture the sinking of the Persia as a particularly aggravated case, owing to the fact that the ship was not only hit without warning or opportunity for the passengers to escape, but also was hit in a most vital part, so that she sank almost immediately, the whole time from the launching of the torpedo to the disappearance of the liner being only five minutes.

### REPORT ON ACTIVITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

In connection with the submarine activity in the Mediterranean it is interesting to note that an official report shows a total of only twenty British ships sunk during the month of December with the loss of twenty-seven lives, while eight more were sunk by mines with the loss of thirty lives. For the English Cabinet, Wednesday will find a red letter, for on that day Premier Asquith will introduce compulsory, and the Premier has never had a more difficult task than he will in engineering this measure, and his speech presenting it to the House is expected to be one of the finest efforts of his career.

### INVISIBLE AEROPLANES MAKE DIFFICULT TARGETS

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] PETROGRAD, January 2.—Two German aviators just captured describe the new German aeroplanes recently put into commission. They are of the Albatross type, fitted with transparent wings, which are impregnated with a secret composition. While the planes are not entirely invisible, they make difficult targets, as they always appear to be flying much higher than they really are.

### BRIDGE ACROSS SAVE NEAR BELGRADE, OPENED

AMSTERDAM (via London), January 2.—The bridge across the River Save, near Belgrade, was opened on Thursday, according to a telegram from Vienna, and direct railway communication was thus re-established between the central powers and Bulgaria and Turkey. Archduke Frederick, commander-in-chief of the Austrian army, assisted at the opening ceremony.

### Day's Fatalities Reach Even Dozen

Unusual Number of Deaths From Accidents and Suicide in New York.

NEW YORK, January 2.—Twelve deaths from accidents and suicide marked the first Sunday of 1916 in New York and its vicinity.

Two Brooklyn boys were drowned when they broke through thin ice on a pond, and a tugboat mate, who slipped from a pier in Jersey City, perished in the Hudson River.

William Dilts, son of a wealthy lawyer, shot himself at his home in Somerville, N. J.

A ten-year-old girl was found dead in bed from asphyxiation by illuminating gas, beside her mother, who was unconscious. The woman is charged by the police with homicide and attempted suicide.

A blacksmith and his child are dead from sewer gas poisoning, while his wife and another child and a boarder are in a serious condition at a hospital.

An infant was smothered by a feather pillow in her crib.

Dorothy Madden, fifteen years old, was accidentally shot and killed by a boy who was a fellow-guest at a party at Tarrytown.

A railroad brakeman was killed while coupling cars at Jersey City.

A boy was killed by an automobile while playing in the street near his home, and a woman was killed by a street car.

### WILL EXAMINE KING'S WOUND

Professors Kraus and Eisberg Return to Athens to See Constantine.

LONDON, January 2.—A Reuter dispatch from Athens, filed on Friday, says that Professor Frederick Kraus, of Berlin, and Professor Eisberg, of Vienna, who attended King Constantine during his illness last spring, have returned to Athens to examine the wound left by the operation performed in June, which has not healed.

Professor Eisberg performed the operation, which consisted of a removal of a part of the tenth rib. The King was suffering from pleurisy.

### Health Pronounced Good.

WASHINGTON, January 2.—Charge d'Affaires Vouras, of the Greek legation here, made public to-night a cable from Professors Kraus and Eisberg on the condition of King Constantine. It says:

"We have found His Majesty's health excellent. The lungs and heart work well. The excrescence of the wound, resulting from the old operation, continues, but this is necessary for His Majesty's entire recovery. This, anyhow, would not by any means influence his health nor hinder him from his work."

### DIES IN FIGHT FOR CHILD

J. B. Spier Shot and Killed After Altercation With Divorced Wife and Her Father and Brother.

ATLANTA, GA., January 2.—J. B. Spier, thirty-eight years old, of Atlanta, was shot and killed on the street here late to-day, after what police said, was an altercation between him, his divorced wife, her father and brother, over possession of the Spiers' nine-year-old daughter, Dorothy, J. V. Bishop, of Durwell, Ga., Mrs. Spier's father, and her brother, A. Bishop, of Atlanta, who were with her, were arrested. They told the police Spier tried to take Dorothy from her mother and threatened the woman with a pistol when she sought to restrain him. Spier was shot five times.

### YUAN SHI KAI MOUNTS THRONE

Announced as "His Majesty" at New Year's Reception Given for Chinese Officials.

PEKING, January 2.—Yuan Shi Kai, President of China, who has accepted the proffer of an Emperor's crown upon "request" of various elements in the nation, entered the palace in the imperial yellow chair, sat on the throne and was announced His Majesty at the New Year's Day's reception given for Chinese officials. He is already addressed as Emperor by the Chinese, although the formal coronation ceremony has not taken place.

### REV. JACOB HARTZELER DEAD

Noted Theologian, Editor and One of First American Missionaries in Japan Claimed by Rev.

YORK, PA., January 2.—Rev. Jacob Hartzeler, noted as a theologian, editor and one of the first American missionaries in Japan, died at his home here last night of old age. He was eighty-three years old and served sixty years in the ministry, being the oldest living minister in point of service of the United Evangelical Church.

### HOSIERY MILLS DESTROYED

William F. Taubel Plant, at Riverside, N. J., Fully Burned, Causing Loss Estimated at \$250,000.

RIVERSIDE, N. J., January 2.—Fire partly destroyed the plant of the William F. Taubel Hosiery Mills here to-day, causing loss estimated at \$250,000. Members of the firm believe the blaze was of incendiary origin, and have started an investigation.

### WOULD REORGANIZE STATE ROAD WORK

System Is Wasteful and Inefficient, Says Senator Harry Flood Byrd.

### NEW LEGISLATION NEEDED

No Sufficient Provision Made for Maintenance—Local Material Not Utilized.

Reorganization of the State Highway Department and complete recasting of the State laws on the subject of road construction and maintenance will be proposed at the coming session of the General Assembly by Harry Flood Byrd, State Senator from the district composed of Frederick and Shenandoah Counties and the city of Winchester. Senator Byrd is a son of Richard Evelyn Byrd, United States District Attorney for the Western District of Virginia, and a former Speaker of the House of Delegates.

Senator Byrd has made a record in road reconstruction and maintenance as president of the Valley Turnpike Company, which puts him in a position to discuss road building as an authority.

### REGARDS PRESENT SYSTEM AS WASTEFUL AND EXTRAVAGANT

Senator Byrd makes it plain that he is not making an attack on State Highway Commissioner George P. Coleman, with whom he is on most friendly terms, but is attacking a system of impracticable laws which he says have cost the State and the various counties immense sums and have left little to show for the investment. Especially Mr. Byrd objects to the present lack of any provision for the maintenance of expensively constructed roads, to excessive administrative cost through the present practice of employing both county and State engineers on each particular job, the lack of flexibility in the law which prevents localities from adopting the kind of road best suited to their needs, and the failure to take advantage of native materials to the best advantage.

Senator Byrd points to the fact that a number of counties, because of the arbitrary conditions of the present road laws find it more economical to build their own highways in their own way, sacrificing the State aid fund, rather than submit to the conditions and high overhead charges which the State aid law requires.

### ROADS NEEDED TO DISTRIBUTE FARM PRODUCTS

Senator Byrd's statement follows. Virginia is an agricultural State, and its prosperity depends upon a comprehensive system of improved highways, not only for the economical production and distribution of farm products, but for the promotion of the broader social life of communities and the enjoyment of the humanities offered by our highly developed civilization.

My seven years' experience as president of the Valley Turnpike Company has led me to give our existing State road law very careful and painstaking investigation.

As the laws have now been in operation for nine years, we can fairly take stock of results. My observation leads me to believe that:

The present laws cannot be administered with economy, its basic principles are not such as to enable steps to be taken for the comprehensive improvement of all main traveled highways, and in the Valley of Virginia, at least, the law is condemned by popular sentiment.

The law is based not upon common sense, but upon an unworkable theory and has utterly failed to produce results commensurate with the great sums expended.

### BELIEVES LAW IS BASED ON FALSE THEORY

The law is based upon the false theory that the construction of a costly type of road is permanent and makes no provision for maintenance. That is the theory, but the fact is that these costly so-called permanent roads have rapidly disintegrated.

Roads costing \$4,000 and \$5,000 a mile may be justifiable if permanent, but to expend this sum on roads, which experience has proved to be short lived and rob all other roads of any improvement is folly.

If State aid macadam roads were generally built as required by the Highway Commission both the counties and the State would bankrupt themselves. The question, therefore, is what is best to be done with the resources at our disposal.

Automobile boulevards are desirable, but the construction of roads used in the transportation of farm products should be the first consideration.

In agricultural communities, the value of good roads lie in their continuity; not in the construction of a mile or so of good roads connected with unimproved roads, but in the improvement of all main traveled roads to a general average, varying with traffic conditions.

### LOAD IS DETERMINED BY WORST PIECE OF ROAD

The average haul of farmers' produce is ten miles, and for a farmer to reach a fancy road, after traveling over eight or nine miles of mud roads, is of little actual benefit, as his load is determined by the worst mud hole and steepest grade on his route.

As the counties must pay one-half the cost of State-aid roads, all other roads are often robbed of any improvement, so that a mile or so of

### NO FATALITIES OR INJURIES REPORTED

Up to an early hour this morning, Gordonsville was cut off from the rest of the country by everything save the trains to the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, according to reports there had been no serious injuries or fatalities. A man named Warren, living on Main Street, was found asleep in bed and assisted from his room in his nightclothes. All of his clothing and personal property was destroyed.

The special trains bearing the fire engines are reported making good time for Gordonsville after leaving Orange and Charlottesville, and it was believed they will arrive in time to save a portion of the business section.

At 2 o'clock practically all of the business section was burned or blazing. Most of the buildings destroyed thus far are substantial brick or concrete two-story buildings, generally owned by the firms occupying them. Captain Wright, a Chesapeake and Ohio Rail-

### GORDONSVILLE SWEEP BY FLAMES

Two Business Blocks Wiped Out Before Fire Is Checked.

### MANY BUILDINGS IN ASHES

Fire Departments Rushed to Scene From Charlottesville and Orange.

### Spread of Flames Is Finally Checked

GORDONSVILLE, VA., January 3.—With a loss of its principal business blocks, it was believed at 3:50 o'clock this morning that the flames, which had swept Gordonsville since shortly before midnight and at one time threatened to destroy the town, had been brought under control. The fire was still burning freely at that hour, but the Charlottesville and Orange companies had succeeded in checking its spread, and no further outbreak was feared.

### [Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

GORDONSVILLE, VA., January 3.—Fire, originating in the restaurant and cleaning and pressing shop of G. Mas & Co., located in Faber's old jewelry store on Main Street, close to the bridge, ignited several other buildings in the immediate vicinity shortly after 12 o'clock, and by 1:30 o'clock this morning had completely destroyed one of the principal business blocks of the town.

Up to 2 o'clock this morning the following firms had been burned out: Mrs. M. L. Faber, general notions; Warren's 5 and 10-Cent Store; the Jordan Printing Co., E. D. Michie, grocer; Mayhugh's Meat Market, a residence occupied by George Wilkins and an unoccupied store room beneath; A. K. Clowes, jeweler; W. E. Clowes, photographer; L. M. Acree, general merchandise; J. W. Sullivan, men's furnishings.

Calls to Orange and Charlottesville for assistance resulted in engines being rushed here on special trains, and it is hoped that at least one, and perhaps two, of the other blocks directly in the path of the fire, which is spreading east rapidly, may be saved. Members of the Gordonsville Fire Department and several hardware merchants resorted to the use of dynamite in an effort to stop the spread of the conflagration.

### DYNAMITE CAUSES FLAMES TO SPREAD

The explosion was placed in Mayhugh's meat market, on Main Street, and the building was demolished. However, it immediately caught fire and flames spread to surrounding buildings. A high wind is taking the fire directly through the heart of the business section, and should the Charlottesville and Orange departments be delayed, it is feared that the entire town, with the exception of the residence to the west, may be lost.

### APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT OF OPPOSITE FAITH

Associate Justice Lamar had the distinction of being one of the few members of the court appointed by a President of opposite political faith. President Taft appointed him in 1910, with two precedents for such action, those of Justice Jackson and Lorton.

Justice Lamar was born in Rockville, Elbert County, Ga., October 14, 1857. He attended the University of Georgia and later Bethany College, where he was graduated in 1877. He attended the law school at Washington and Lee University, and was admitted to the bar at Augusta, Ga., in 1878. He lived at Augusta until appointed to the Supreme Court bench, October 14, 1906.

Coming from distinguished Southern stock, he was one of the few members whose family had previously had a representative on the bench. The Justice was a cousin to Associate Justice L. Q. C. Lamar, of Mississippi, who served on the bench from 1888 to 1893.

He was honored by his State with many positions for which his learning and ability as a lawyer fitted him. First he was a member of the Georgia House of Representatives, and in 1892 was appointed by the Supreme Court of Georgia as one of the commissioners to prepare a code of laws for the State, which code was adopted by the General Assembly in 1895. He was again honored on January 1, 1901, by appointment to fill an unexpired term as associate justice of the Georgia Supreme Court, and was elected to the same position at the ensuing election. In 1905 he resigned to resume the practice of the law.

### SENATE WITHOUT DELAY CONFIRMED NOMINATION

In the practice of the law, he largely represented railroads and other big corporations, and yet, in the day of antipathy to corporation lawyers, his integrity was so highly regarded that the Senate without delay confirmed his nomination.

Early in his service on the Supreme Court bench he became recognized as one of the most powerful members. His opinions were finished works of logic. Applications for rehearings were rare in cases decided.

Coming to Washington as a man little known beyond his State, his rise in public estimation as a member of the

### LAMAR, APPOINTEE OF TAFT, IS DEAD

Associate Justice of Supreme Court of United States Dies at Home in Washington.

WASHINGTON, January 2.—Joseph Rucker Lamar, associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, died at his home here to-night after an illness of several months. He was fifty-eight years old, and had been on the Supreme Bench four years.

The immediate cause of death was gradual heart failure, hastened by inflammation of one of his lungs which had threatened to develop into pneumonia. The attending physician said, however, that the primary cause was due from overwork.

Exhausted by last year's term of court, Justice Lamar went to White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., in June. He improved until September, when a clot in an artery caused him to lose the use for a time of his left arm and leg. It was some time before he recovered from this attack, but when he returned to Washington in October he planned to return to his work on the bench in February.

About a week ago the Justice contracted a cold. His weakened heart was unable to bear the added burden of this inflammation. About 9 o'clock this morning his condition was noted to be critical. In the afternoon, after recognizing his wife and two sons, Philip and William, he dropped off to sleep. Gradually his respiration grew less frequent until at 8 o'clock to-night he gave a long sigh as of relief and was dead.

Arrangements for the funeral were not completed to-night, but the burial will take place at Augusta, Ga., for many years the home of the Justice. The funeral party will leave Washington for Augusta on Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Justice Lamar lived until to-morrow noon, he would have completed four years' service on the Supreme Court bench. During the entire period he was regarded as one of the hardest workers ever on the bench, and his opinions were excellent specimens of diction.

About the time Justice Lamar received the Washington list fall a movement was started to have Congress legislate so as to enable him to retire on full pay. At that time, Secretary Lane, of the Interior Department, and Solicitor-General John W. Davis were mentioned in discussions of his possible successor. It is believed that President Wilson will act at once in filling the vacancy because of the important cases now awaiting consideration before a full court.

The court will meet at noon to-morrow and will adjourn immediately until after the funeral.

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### PRIMARY CAUSE OVERWORK

One of Few Members Named for Highest Bench by President of Opposite Political Faith.

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### INTERMENT WILL BE AT FORMER HOME IN AUGUSTA, GA.

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### CUTS HIS WIFE'S THROAT AND BRAINS HER WITH AX

Former Postmaster at Ivor Then Blows Own Head Off With Shotgun.

### CAUSE OF TRAGEDY UNKNOWN

Murder and Suicide Attributed to Insanity—Note Is Left for Undertaker Giving Instructions as to Disposal of Bodies.

### [Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

NORFOLK, VA., January 2.—W. E. Johnson, for sixteen years postmaster at Ivor, and a Confederate veteran, cut his wife's throat, brained her with an ax, and then blew his own head off with a shotgun at their home this morning at 7 o'clock.

The tragedy occurred at the Johnson home in Ivor, while Mrs. Johnson was in the kitchen preparing breakfast. Her husband entered shortly before 7 o'clock, and seizing his wife, slashed her several times about the neck with a razor. He then struck her over the head with an ax, and retiring to the front yard, placed the barrel of his shotgun in his mouth and pulled the trigger.

The murder and suicide had only one witness—the colored cook of Mrs. R. M. Herrin, a neighbor. The woman arrived on the scene in time to see the ax wielded and the gun fired. She knew nothing of the incidents that led up to the killing, and neighbors are unable to account for the act, except on the theory of temporary insanity. Last summer Mr. Johnson suffered a stroke of paralysis, but apparently had recovered. The loss of a small investment in Hopewell is also recalled by friends of the dead man, but neither of these misfortunes is believed to have been sufficient to lead to the commission of murder and suicide.

### POSTMASTER AT IVOR FOR SIXTEEN YEARS

Mr. Johnson was postmaster of Ivor for about sixteen years, retiring with the advent of the Democratic administration. Since that time he and his wife, by a second marriage, lived comfortably in their home together. While in good circumstances, Mr. Johnson was about seventy years of age, and his wife, who was a Miss Gregory, of Dillwyn, was fifteen years younger. Surviving are several children of Mr. Johnson by his first wife, and Daniel Bowden, of Norfolk, a half-brother.

The suicide left two notes, one addressed to E. N. Johnson, an under-taker, giving instructions as to the disposal of the bodies, and the other to E. B. Pulley, a justice of the peace, who has not yet opened the document.

E. D. Gregory, of Dillwyn, only brother of Mrs. W. E. Johnson, who was murdered yesterday at Ivor by her husband, arrived in Richmond last night by automobile, on his way to the killing on Friday night of Sam Winstead, his employer, at the latter's home near here, and implicated Winstead's wife, who is being held as an accessory. Winstead was shot and killed while seated at his residence.



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### CONFESSES TO MURDER.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., January 2.—Alex Carter, a farm hand, confessed to-day, according to county authorities, to the killing on Friday night of Sam Winstead, his employer, at the latter's home near here, and implicated Winstead's wife, who is being held as an accessory. Winstead was shot and killed while seated at his residence.

### U. S. CONSUL LOST; ANOTHER AMERICAN AMONG RESCUED

Tension Increases in Washington as Meager Details Arrive.

### GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AWAIT FULL INFORMATION

Generally Felt, However, That U. S. Is at End of Rope in Diplomatic Negotiations.

### FINAL DECISION WITH WILSON

Austrian Charge Asks for Suspension of Judgment Until Facts Are Known.

### [Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

LONDON, January 2.—Unofficial dispatches from Cairo state that the British steamship Persia, sunk in the Mediterranean on Thursday, was torpedoed without warning, and sank in five minutes. Survivors to the number of 158 have been landed at Alexandria, Egypt.

Reuter's Cairo correspondent makes the unreserved statement that Robert N. McNeely, American consul at Aden, Arabia, lost his life. Charles H. Grant, of Boston, was saved.

Details of the sinking of the Persia came in slowly to-day, but such information as was received made it appear that the number of persons who escaped in the four boats which were put off was larger than was hoped when the first news was received yesterday. The Peninsular and Oriental Company, which owned the Persia, announced this morning that 158 survivors had arrived at Alexandria.

The survivors comprise the chief officer, second officer, seven engineers, twenty-seven seamen, sixty-three Laucars and fifty-nine passengers.

LLOYD'S DISPATCH GIVES ONLY 153 AS SAVED

A Lloyd's dispatch gives the number as 153, made up of fifty-nine passengers, of whom seven were women, and ninety-four members of the crew, including fifty-nine Laucars.

The survivors include ten military officers and eight persons who are not British subjects.

Nobody on board saw the submarine. The first intimation of the vessel's doom was the wake of the torpedo, sighted by a ship's officer an instant before she was struck.

"The ship was struck amidships on the port side at 1:10 P. M.," says Reuter's correspondent at Cairo. "She had disappeared completely by 1:15.

"Survivors say it was little short of a miracle that any one was saved. There was no panic. Four boats were launched with the utmost promptitude.

"The captain was drowned. When last seen he was swimming, after the liner had plunged beneath the surface."

Both the Peninsular and Oriental Company and Reuter's correspondent say that Mr. Grant has been landed at Alexandria. The steamship company this afternoon had received no news of McNeely's fate.

Edward Rose, of Denver, left the Persia at Gibraltar, as was reported yesterday.

### COMPANY GETS TELEGRAM FROM ONE OF SURVIVORS