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Persia Torpedoed Without Warning

London, Jan. 2.—Unofficial dispatches from Cairo say the British steamer Persia sunk on Thursday was torpedoed without warning and sank in five minutes. Between 150 and 160 survivors have been landed at Alexandria, Egypt.

Reuter's Cairo correspondent says Robert N. McNeely lost his life. Charles H. Grant of Boston was saved.

Details of the sinking of the Persia came in slowly today 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 Peninsula & Oriental Company, which owned the Persia announced this morning that 158 survivors had arrived at Alexandria.

The survivors include the chief officer, second officer, seven engineers, 27 seamen, 63 lascars and 59 passengers. A Lloyd's dispatch gives the number as 153, made up of 59 passengers of whom 17 are women and 94 members of the crew including 59 lascars.

The survivors include 10 military officers and eight persons who are not British subjects.

"Survivors say it was little short of a miracle that anyone 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 Peninsula & Oriental Company and Reuter's Cairo correspondent say that Mr. Grant has been landed at Alexandria. The steamship company this afternoon had received no news of Mr. McNeely's fate.

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

A dispatch to The Times from Cairo says that two boat-loads of people were drawn with the steamer Persia when she sank, as there was no time to cut the ropes. Four boats got away, but it was 30 hours before a trawler picked them up. Several ships passed by without assisting refugees, being afraid, presumably, of decoys. Many passengers were thrown into the water when the vessel heeled over.

The Answer.

They were speaking of marriage proposals the other evening, says The Philadelphia Telegraph, when this story was recalled by Senator Benjamin R. Tillman of South Carolina:

Some time ago a young man became very much enamored of a beautiful girl, and meeting her at a reception one night, he determined to know his fate.

"Miss Smith," said he, leading the beautiful girl amid the glad palms and seating her on a soft sofa, "there is something that I must tell you, something that I—"

"All right, Mr. Jones," interposed the pretty one, "only you must hurry. I don't want to miss the next waltz."

"It is a question that lies near to my heart, Miss Smith," continued the young lover. "Could you—do you think you could marry a man like me?"

"Why yes," was the calm rejoinder of Miss Smith, "that is, if he wasn't too much like you."

The Menace of Mohammedanism.

One of the greatest enemies of Christianity is Mohammedanism, and the following facts taken from the World Outlook will be of interest:

Every eighth person in the world is a Mohammedan.

From one to five times a day two hundred million of the human race turn their faces toward Mecca and repeat the prayer: "There is but one God and Mahomet is his prophet."

The slogan of the Moslem today is "Africa for Islam."

Each Moslem trader is a missionary of his faith. Penetrating to every nook and corner of the dark continent, he is enlisting new adherents by the hundreds of thousands. Mohammedanism is spreading three times more rapidly in Africa than is Christianity. For every thirty-three natives who become Christian, one hundred become Mohammedans.

Slavery, polygamy and the demoralization of character during the twelve centuries of Moslem control have made north Africa a moral desert.

Lying is a fine art in Moslem lands. Mohammed declares: "A lie is allowable in three cases—to women, to reconcile friends, and in war."

Moslem "holy cities" are centers of immorality.

This is the challenge the Christian churches face not only in Africa but in southern Europe, Arabia, Persia, India, Malaysia and China.

The Rural Police

Chesterfield Advertiser.

That Chesterfield County has an efficient force of rural police goes without saying. These gentlemen are always on the job and in the performance of their duty, while fearless to a man, often exercise a fine sense of discrimination where slight offenses are concerned. These things are well known, but the year's record as shown on the county's books will probably prove interesting.

Since the organization of this force in place of the former constables, the entire salaries up to Dec. 15th, 1915 amounts to \$8,100.

The cash brought into the treasury through fines paid, due to arrests by the rural police, amounts to \$8,244.50.

Number of days worked on the chain gang, 7,380. The estimated value of a days work on the gang is 60 cents. This makes the total value to the county of said work, \$4,428.

Thus the income through the activity of the police has been \$12,672.50, at an expense of 8,100.

Ford Will Not Miss the Money.

Concord Times.

The total cost of the Ford peace expedition is estimated at \$444,950. This includes the entire expenses of the expedition up to the time of Mr. Ford's departure from Christiana, and the check for \$270,000 he left behind to finance the remainder of the expedition. It is stated by the New York World that the Ford plant can in less than three days pay the expenses of the entire peace junket. Mr. Ford, it is stated, makes a profit \$100 on each car. It will, therefore, take 4,450 cars to pay the bill. The daily output of cars is 1,800 a day. The plant, it may be found by a little figuring, can pay for the expedition in 2 days, 3 hours, 46 minutes and 40 seconds. It would come high to some of us, but not to Henry,

Austrian Note Apparently Meets Demand.

Washington, Dec. 30.—Danger of a break in diplomatic relations between the United States and Austria-Hungary over the sinking of the liner Ancona probably has been cleared away if the official text of Austria's reply to the second American note conforms to press dispatches from London saying the communication announces that the submarine commander who torpedoed the steamer has been punished.

The cabled press translation of the note reached Washington tonight too late to be seen by high officials of the government and a dispatch received earlier in the day from Ambassador Penfield merely said the reply had been handed him and gave no intimation as to its nature. Punishment of the submarine commander for failure to take into account the panic aboard the Ancona before torpedoing the vessel apparently meets the principal American demand. In effect it might be regarded as a disavowal of the act and assurances that an incident for which an officer of the navy was punished would not happen again might be taken for granted.

The remaining demanded, that reparation by payment of indemnity be made for the injury or loss of life by Americans, would be an object for diplomatic adjustment once the other points at issue are disposed of. Although officials here indicated today that there were in negotiations favorable to an amicable settlement of the controversy there had been nothing in press dispatches from abroad or published official advices to suggest that Austria would admit immediately wrong doing on the part of her officer.

Gold Stored Like Cord Wood.

Holland's Letter.

There is stored in one place in New York gold valued at a little over \$100,000,000 and yet so compact that if measured by cord measurement it would be found to occupy a space substantially similar to the space occupied by three cords of wood. In other places in New York—the clearinghouses vaults, for instance, and other vaults—gold whose aggregate value is millions of dollars is stored. Substantial additions to these stores will be made every week, very likely, throughout the year 1916. No one seems to be willing to predict what the accumulation of gold in bank vaults, clearinghouse vaults and the Assay Office will be in the year 1916, but some of the guesses put the figures as high as a billion dollars. Until Europe, and especially England, began about 12 months ago to export gold to the United States the authorities were accustomed to figure chiefly upon the output from our mines as the means of adding yearly to our stock of gold. This output has ranged for some years between \$90,000,000 and \$95,000,000.

Woman Shot in White Store Township.

Emaline Covington, a respected colored woman of White Store Township, was shot dead at her home last night between 11 and 12 o'clock. She was walking across the room when some one fired a load of shot from a small gauged gun into her temple, killing her instantly. Coroner R. B. Jones is holding an inquest over the body.—Wadesboro Ansonian.

Vane Richardson Pardoned

Monroe Enquirer.

Vane Richardson, colored, who was sentenced in superior court in this county in January, 1911, to serve ten years in the State prison, for murder in the second degree, has been granted a conditional pardon by Governor Craig. It will be remembered that Charles Plyler, white, and Will Funderburk, George Mahew and Vane Richardson, colored, were tried for the murder of Carter Parks, in Buford township, in June, 1910. Plyler was sentenced to the electric chair but his sentence was commuted by Governor Kitchin to life imprisonment. Funderburk was sentenced to thirty years, Mahew to fifteen years and Richardson to ten years in the State prison. All except the man just pardoned are serving their terms. Governor Craig gives as his reason for pardoning Vane Richardson that the testimony given by Richardson, under promise by the private prosecution that he would not have to suffer for his part in the crime, enabled the State to convict other guilty ones and that it would have been impossible to convict them had it not been for the testimony given by Richardson. Mr. J. C. M. Vann saw Governor Craig last Thursday and laid the matter of pardon for Vane Richardson before him.

January Suggestions for The Home

Dress the children warmly. Keep the house warm, but not too hot. Keep the feet warm and the head cool.

Provide the table with heat-producing and muscle and brain-building feeds, but not too much pork.

Now is the time to buy white wear and make it up—children's summer clothes, underwear and work dresses.

Watch shoes and rubbers; let there be no damp feet.

Be interested in the children's New Year resolutions.

Birthday parties bind the children to the home.

Study a plumbing system in every catalog you can find, even if you cannot put it in until next year this time.

Do something to make the teacher happy. Do something to give her a respect for her pupils' parents.

This is the month for father and the boys to read aloud while mother and the girls sew.

Read the advertisements. It is a good way to keep in touch with the progress of the world. Turn a blind eye on the patent medicine advertisements, lest your pocket be lighter and your health undermined.

Are your sweet pea seed planted deep?

Is your lettuce transplanted for April eating?

Spray the hen roosts for mites or the hens may stop laying.

Are your hens roosting in the trees and do you give them table scraps, or is it that you don't care for winter eggs?

The evenings are long; make good use of them.—Progressive Farmer.

Enthusiastic Lady—"Oh, sir, may we tarry here awhile and drink deep of these rural delights?" Practical Native—"Can't drink nothin' deep here, lady. This here's a dry town."—Baltimore American.

MONEY—does not grow on tree, but it does grow in banks. A 50.0 pound bale of cotton at present price will earn you \$23.43 in eight years. Bank of Pageland.

New Liquor Law to Be Enforced

The State Saturday.

"With the help of God and the support of the people this and all other laws of our great State shall be rigidly enforced so long as I am governor," said Gov. Manning in a New Year's greeting to the people of South Carolina yesterday.

The statement follows:

"For the blessings of peace and prosperity to the people of South Carolina throughout the year just ended, we are profoundly thankful. We have had our trials and grave problems, but in meeting and solving these problems we have been made stronger and better fitted to meet the problems of the future. South Carolinians today, with all the true patriotism of their forefathers, stand shoulder to shoulder a united people fighting for the things that are right and just for all the people of our grand old South Carolina.

"With this spirit of union and co-operation among our people we may look to the future with optimism and confidence, meeting any difficulties that may be presented and conquering them as only true patriotic South Carolinians can do.

"Many problems must be met during the year 1916. The death of the dispensary system after a storm life of 23 years, and the enactment of a law prohibiting the sale of alcoholic liquors, places a responsibility upon our people that can not be shirked or thrown off without grave danger. Law is the result of the demand of the people, and the people in order that their law be properly enforced, must stand even closer together and continue the fight for its enforcement, upholding and assisting those officers who are striving to do their duty without fear or favor. With the help of God and the support of the people this and all other laws of our great State shall be rigidly enforced so long as I am governor.

"Another of our problems is that of education. A continuance of the fight for rural and common school education in 1916 will bring to us a great reward before the year is ended.

Not Told of Son's Death
Monroe, Jan. 2.—The torpedoing of the steamship Persia, with the probable death of Robert Ney McNeely, was the dominant topic of conversation here today. Mr. McNeely's relatives, who live in the country near here, have been clinging to such shreds of hope as vague cable dispatches left them, but absence of any news whatever of an optimistic character caused hope to diminish to almost the vanishing point.

Mr. McNeely's father, W. R. McNeely, a Confederate veteran of about 70 years, has kept as closely as possible in touch with the authorities at Washington.

The McNeely household is deeply distressed, for the mother of the missing consul sustained a stroke of paralysis last Wednesday night and is almost at the point of death. She has not been told of the disaster that befell the Persia.

C. D. McNeely Was Not With Brother on Persia

Monroe, Jan. 2.—Robert N. McNeely, American Consul at Aden, who is reported lost on the steamer Persia, sunk off Crete Thursday, was not accompanied by his brother, C. D. McNeely of Waxhaw, according to a statement made at the McNeely home today.

C. D. McNeely was said yesterday to have been with the consul on the Persia as his secretary.

Ney McNeely on Torpedoed Ship in Mediterranean Sea

London, Jan. 1.—The British liner Persia with 160 passengers and a crew of 250 to 300 was sunk by an unidentified submarine at 1 o'clock Thursday afternoon off the Island of Crete in the eastern Mediterranean. Messages received from various sources say that nearly all on board were lost. Robert Ney McNeely of Monroe, N. C., American Consul at Aden, and Robert Grant of Boston, were on the liner.

The crew of the Persia virtually all were lascars. Four boats are known to have got away from the sinking vessel, each capable of carrying 60 persons but it is not known if the boats were full.

The rescued were picked up by a steamer bound for Alexandria, where they were expected today.

Sixty-one first class passengers and 83 second cabin passengers including eight children, boarded the Persia when she left London December 18 for Bombay. At Marseilles the vessel picked up 231 including 87 women and 25 children. A number of the passengers embarking at London were landed at Gibraltar, Marseilles and Malta. However unofficial figures given out by the Peninsula & Oriental Line, owners of the Persia, stated that after deducting the passengers leaving the ship at various other ports of call, about 160 were aboard when the vessel was sunk.

Mr. McNeely sailed from New York for England on November 27, on the Holland-American liner Ryndam.

He was on his way to take his first consular post. Mr. Skinner advised him to sail for the East by the Dutch Line, but the young man already had engaged passage on the Persia.

The Persia is the latest of several vessels to be sunk by submarines in the Eastern Mediterranean, through which her course to the Suez Canal would take her from Malta. On December 24 the French liner Ville de La Ciotat was sent to the bottom off the Island of Crete by a submarine, which according to British unofficial advices flew the Austrian flag.

No advices have been received in New York as to the date on which the Persia sailed from London. She departed in advance of her advertised date of sailing, which was January 15. The voyage from London to Malta ordinarily requires nine days.

The Persia was built in 1900 at Greenock. She has been in the Bombay service since that time.

On account of the danger from submarines the Mediterranean route had been abandoned by the Japan Mail Steamships around the Cape of Good Hope. Insurance rates for vessel passing through the Suez have been increased by English underwriters to three or four times the normal figure.

Flying Bits of Chaff.

Mrs. Blinks—"There's hardly any living with my husband; he doesn't know anything." Mrs. Winks—"There's no living at all with my husband; he knows it all."—Indianapolis Star.

Willie—"Ma, may I have Tommy Wilson over to our house to play Saturday?" Mother—"No; you make altogether too much noise. You'd better go over to his house and play."—Boston Transcript.