

THE COMMONWEALTH

A Family Newspaper: For the Promotion of the Political, Social, Agricultural and Commercial Interests of the People.

VOL. XXXII.

SCOTLAND NECK, N. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1916.

NO. 8.

HOUSE COMMITTEE AGREES ON OUTLINE

PROPOSED ARMY BILL CALLS FOR FEDERALIZATION OF NATIONAL GUARD.

ALSO PLENTY OF SUPPLIES

Total Peace Strength of 575,000 Men Guardsmen and Regulars is Provided For By Bill.

Washington.—National preparedness legislation took a long step forward in congress when the house military committee reached a practical agreement on the outline of the army bill it will unanimously present for passage. Chairman Hay was authorized to frame the measure, which is a compromise for the continental army plan advocated by former secretary of war and President Wilson.

Complete federalization of the National Guard will be substituted for the proposed continentals, and the White House was informed during the day that the committee was a unit in supporting the plan. The measure will grant virtually the entire program mapped out by Secretary Garrison for the regular army and go even farther than he recommended in providing for reserve military supplies.

A total peace strength of 575,000 men in the standing army and the guard combined will be provided for, with reserve systems to more than double the force in war. The expense for the whole establishment this year is roughly estimated at \$174,000,000. This is exclusive of Panama Canal defenses, proposals for additional military schools in all states carried in the McKell bill favorably reported with an appropriation of \$3,840,000 and whatever camp may later be decided upon to foster one fixation of atmospheric nitrogen in the United States and give this country its own supply of ingredients for explosives. The first year of the Garrison plan would have called for a total expenditure of \$152,000,000.

President Wilson has not been indicated by the committee believes its plan will override every objection to the substitution of the National Guard for the continentals and that congress has full legal authority for its accomplishment.

FRENCH BAG BIG ZEPPELIN.

Incendiary Shell of Anti-Aircraft Gun Reaches Its Mark.

London.—Another of Germany's big Zeppelin airships has come to grief, and it is probable that some, if not all, of its crew perished, as it was engulfed in flames as it fell to earth, a victim of an incendiary shell fired from a French anti-aircraft gun.

The Paris official communication reports that the airship was southward bound from the region of St. Menouhould when the French guns at Rexigny began shelling it. At least one of the missiles found its mark and the huge aircraft took fire and fell in the vicinity of Brabant-le-Roi.

The Germans near Ithons, to the south of the Somme River, have met with repulses at the hands of the French in an intended attack extending over about four and one-third miles. The offensive movement was preceded by a heavy bombardment and clouds of asphyxiating gases. When the German infantry endeavored to come out of their trenches for the attack, however, the barriers fire and the fire of the French rifles stopped them everywhere, according to Paris.

Earthquake in Six States.

Atlanta, Ga.—An earth tremor of slight but distinct nature that made itself felt throughout Georgia, North and South Carolina, Virginia, and portions of Eastern Tennessee and Alabama was reported as having been felt at about 5:45 p. m., Central time. In no case was any damage reported and while in some instances persons hurriedly left buildings there was nothing in the nature of a panic.

Army Aviation Dangerous.

Washington.—A congressional investigation into the army aviation service was recommended to the senate by the military committee, which reported favorably Senator Robinson's joint resolution for appointment of a special investigating committee of two senators and three representatives, with an appropriation of \$10,000 for expenses. The resolution was voted out of committee after Senator Robinson had added a further statement to the sensational charges against the service made by him.

Charges Against Tom Watson.

Washington.—Attorney General Gregory made public a letter to Chas. R. McCrory of Ellaville, Ga., stating the position of the department of justice in regard to prosecution of Thos. E. Watson of that state for alleged sending through the mails of obscene and indecent matter. The letter answers protests of Georgia members of Congress against reported plans of the department to prosecute Watson outside the State of Georgia on the ground that a fact tria could not be had in that state.

C. C. DILL



C. C. Dill, a new congressman from the state of Washington, is the youngest member of the house.

SEND FACTS ON MEXICO

PRESIDENT RESPONDS TO FALL RESOLUTION AND SENDS HIS REPORT.

Facts Leading Up to Recognition of Carranza Government Sent to Senate in Form of Letter.

Washington.—President Wilson has sent to the Senate his response to the Fall resolution requesting him to report on facts leading up to recognition by the United States of the Carranza Government of Mexico. It was in the form of a letter from Secretary Lansing, summarizing the events which preceded recognition and transmitting a great volume of data.

The President through Mr. Lansing declined to comply with that part of the Fall resolution asking for diplomatic and consular reports on political conditions and events in Mexico. The senate was informed that it was not compatible with public interests to furnish this correspondence inasmuch as it was of a highly confidential nature and "submitted by consular officers of the United States, by whom it was not intended to be made public."

As to the ability of Carranza to fulfill his promises to protect foreign lives and property, Mr. Lansing said that under all the circumstances, the de facto government, which at the time of recognition controlled more than 75 per cent of Mexico's territory, was affording "reasonable adequate protection to the lives and property of American citizens."

The data disclosed that 76 Americans were killed in Mexico in the years 1913, 1914, 1915 and compared with 47 in the three years preceding, and that 20 civilian Americans and 16 soldiers were killed on American soil in the last three years as a result of Mexican troubles.

SEABOARD LIMITED WRECKED.

Third Accident in Two Weeks Occurs Near Richmond.

Richmond, Va.—Eleven persons were injured, several of them seriously, when the northbound Florida Limited No. 10 on the Seaboard Air Line Railway, crashed through a trestle spanning Kingsland Creek, eight miles south of Richmond. The engine passed over the trestle in safety but the baggage car leaped from the track tearing up the ties and rails and through this gap four coaches plunged and turned over on their sides at the bottom of the 20-foot embankment. Fifty-seven passengers were aboard the train and that there was not heavy loss of life is attributed to the fact that all of the derailed Pullman coaches were of heavy steel construction.

The derailment of the limited was caused directly by the dropping of an arch bar on the rear truck of the engine as the train approached the trestle. The bar opened a switch where the track branches off toward a gravel pit. As the front truck of the baggage car struck the open switch it left the tracks and ran on the ties a distance of 1,000 feet until it struck the guard rail on the trestle.

This was the third accident which has befallen the Florida Limited within the past two weeks. One Tuesday of last week it was wrecked near Southern Pines, N. C., when Engineer David K. Wright was killed, and again on Tuesday of this week it met with disaster at Franklinton, N. C., when the engineer and a negro freeman were killed and other trainmen were seriously injured.

Pan-American in Peril.

Washington.—"Pan-American" is in peril! Information in possession of the senate's foreign relations committee indicates a great German influence in Latin America—influence amounting to the establishment of footholds in several American republics that would imperil the Monroe doctrine. Brazil, Paraguay, Chile, Colombia, Nicaragua and the Danish island of St. Thomas, now under German lease, are the localities in which Heutonic power is unmasked.

RUSSIAN PRESS PURSUIT OF TURKS

CAPTURE REMAINDER OF DIVISION AND LARGE QUANTITIES OF SUPPLIES.

LITTLE FIGHTING IN WEST

Some Important Troop Movements.—Austrians Bring Down One Italian Machine During Air Raid.

London.—The latest official statement by the Russian War Office reports the capture of the towns of Mush, in Asiatic Turkey, lying 83 miles southeast of Erzerum, and Ahlat. The pursuit of the Turkish forces who retreated from Erzerum is being continued and the Russians have taken prisoner what remained of the thirty-fourth Turkish division, with a large quantity of war supplies.

An air raid by a squadron of Italian machines against Laibach, Capital of Carniola, Austria-Hungary, is officially reported from Rome. Bombs were dropped on the town, and they are thought to have done considerable damage. Austrian aeroplanes ascended for the purpose of driving off the raiders, and six of them surrounded one of the Italians and brought him to earth.

Asia and Africa figure more prominently than Europe in the current war news. The Russians are following up with vigor their recent success in Turkish Armenia; Constantinople reports a reverse for the British in Mesopotamia, while London announces the completion of the conquest of the Kamerun, the important German colony in western equatorial Africa. The immense forces massed in the European war areas are just now comparatively inactive.

The Russians meanwhile are active along the Black Sea coast and have recently reported a landing on the Armenian littoral, 15 miles east of Trebizond, which city is considered one of the next objectives of Russian land forces by a march of about one hundred miles.

Along the Black Sea coast, Russian warships are pounding at the Aurkiah batteries and harassing the retreating troops. The northern wing of the Russian army has captured the town of Widje and is driving the Turks back in the direction of Gumsh Khaneh, which is on the road to Trebizond, while large Russian forces are moving westward from Erzerum with the object of cutting off these Turkish troops before the year reach a new line of defense.

DANIELS ASKS FOR MONEY.

Emergency Appropriation of \$2,757,000 For Needed Repairs.

Washington.—\$2,757,000 emergency appropriation for repairs of machinery in battleships, torpedo destroyers and submarines, to increase the supply of mines and, for the first time, to equip battleships with anti-aircraft guns was asked of Congress by Secretary Daniels.

"Many of our destroyers have reached an age where renewals of extensive portions of their machinery equipment is necessary," Secretary Daniels said. "The same is true of submarines, both classes of vessels making a big drain on this year's appropriation."

The boilers of the battleships Georgia and Virginia, both of which have been in almost constant service for ten years, have shown such weakness, Mr. Daniels said, as to require that these vessels be withdrawn from active service to have their boilers replaced. In addition, the Virginia has recently broken an important part of her machinery, which must be renewed, and the long stay of the fleet in Mexican waters last year also caused an unusually repair bill.

Capt. William Lauder Dead.

Norfolk, Va.—Capt. William Lauder, one of the best known marine men along the Atlantic Coast, died at his home here. He was the marine underwriters agent here.

Belgian Relief Plan Fails.

London.—The plan of aiding Belgium to feed herself by rehabilitating the industries of the country under control of the American Commission for Relief in Belgium has failed, according to a letter written by Sir Edward Grey, the British foreign secretary to M. Hymans, the Belgium minister here, because the Germans thus far have failed to reply to the request for guarantees that raw materials and manufactured goods will not be seized by the occupying armies.

Lieut. Berg Not Hospitable.

Newport News, Va.—Two deputy United States marshals were in distress aboard the prize ship Appam when Marshal John G. Saunders arrived from Norfolk to see how things had been going since his men theoretically dispossessed the German prize crew yesterday. The deputies had spent last night on deck, with nowhere to sleep and nothing to eat and had utterly failed to impress Lieutenant Berg, the German commander, with the fact that this ship was subject to their orders.

WILLIAM H. COLEMAN



William H. Coleman of McKeesport is the new member of the house of representatives from the Thirteenth district of Pennsylvania. Mr. Coleman, a Republican, was born December 28, 1871, in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, and is a lawyer. He was mayor of McKeesport from 1906 to 1909 and clerk of the Allegheny county courts from 1909 to 1915.

NEW ORDERS ARE ISSUED

ANOTHER HITCH IN SUBMARINE CONTROVERSY WITH GERMANIC POWERS.

Must Not Alter Previous Assurances of Safety to Neutrals and Non-Contraband.

Washington.—The submarine controversy with Germany cannot be closed until the United States has fully considered the possible effect of the declared intention of the Germanic Powers to sink all armed merchant ships of their enemies without warning after February 1, 1916. An announcement was made by Secretary Lansing instead of the long expected announcement of a satisfactory settlement of the Lusitania negotiations.

Perfected by months of patient and at times perilous negotiation, the Lusitania agreement was presented by Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador in a form which would have been acceptable to the United States had not the Germanic Powers announced their determination to regard armed merchant ships of their enemies as warships. The Lusitania agreement will not be accepted as finally satisfactory to the United States until President Wilson and Secretary Lansing have decided whether any of its terms would be nullified by the principles of the new submarine campaign.

It is practically certain that the United States will ask to be specifically informed that the assurances previously given for the safety of neutrals and non-combatants at sea have not been and will not be altered by the latest declarations of the Berlin and Vienna admiralties.

American officials fear that the United States and Germany may find themselves at the same point they stood in the first days of the submarine crisis with the United States contending unreservedly for the principles of law and humanity in naval warfare and confronted with a long series of diplomatic exchanges, the result of which they cannot foresee.

Count von Bernstorff, told Secretary Lansing it was his personal opinion, that, in the new submarine campaign, his Government intended to abide by its promise not to sink unresisting "liners" without warning, given in the Arabic case and referred to in the Lusitania agreement. Mr. Lansing informed the Ambassador that such a declaration from his government would be highly desirable.

RUSSIANS CAPTURE EZERUM.

Chief Turkish City in Armenia Taken By Czar's Troops.

London.—Ezerum, Turkey's chief city in Armenia, is in the hands of the Russians. Heavy assaults by the Russians against the long line of detached forts protecting the city, lasting over a period of five days and described by Grand Duke Nicholas, the Russian commander-in-chief as "unprecedented," having resulted in the capture of the fortress.

Unofficial reports early in the present month said the German Field Marshal von Der Goltz with 80,000 men, was besieged in the city with provisions for only a fortnight.

Two Steamers Burned.

New York.—The steamships Bolton Castle and Pacific, and a 900-foot pier belonging to the New York Dock Company, at the foot of Pioneer street, Brooklyn, were destroyed by the most disastrous fire on the Brooklyn front in years. Another steamer, the Palazola, was damaged, about 25 scows and lighters were partly or wholly burned and several coolies from the Bolton Castle and Pacific were missing after the fire. The loss is estimated at considerably more than \$1,000,000. The origin of the fire is unknown.

NICARAGUAN TREATY RATIFIED BY SENATE

FIVE DEMOCRATS OPPOSE AND 15 REPUBLICANS VOTE FOR RATIFICATION.

OPTION ON CANAL ROUTE

Also Naval Base in Gulf of Fonseca and Pays Nicaragua Government \$3,000,000.

Washington.—The senate by a vote of 55 to 18 ratified the long-pending and persistently opposed Nicaraguan treaty, whereby the United States would acquire a 99-year option on the Nicaraguan Canal route and a naval base in the Gulf of Fonseca for \$3,000,000.

Included in the ratification resolution was a provision declaring that the United States in obtaining the naval base does not intend to violate any existing rights in the Fonseca Gulf of Costa Rica, Honduras and Salvador, which had protested against the proposed acquisition.

Five Democratic senators voted against the treaty. They were Chamberlain, Martine, Clarke of Arkansas, Thomas and Vardaman. Fifteen Republican senators joined the administration forces in support of the treaty. Immediately after the senate had acted, Senator Chamorro, the Nicaraguan Minister, said he would at once communicate with his government and that he expected ratification of the convention by his government would soon follow and exchanges would be put to the treaty in force.

Senator Clarke of Arkansas led the Democratic opposition to the treaty, while the Republican opposition was headed by Senator Borah and Smith of Michigan.

During the long debate declarations were made in the senate that Germany had offered Nicaragua more than had the United States for the canal route option, and this is said to have been used as an argument for ratification.

Senator Stone, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, will call up the Haitian financial portecorate treaty next, this to be followed by the amended Colombian treaty. Regarding the Colombian treaty there is grave doubt whether it can receive the necessary two-thirds vote for ratification.

LEGISLATORS IN FIGHT.

Oklahoma Solons Throw Ink Bottles and Paper Weights.

Oklahoma City, Okla.—Tumultuous scenes occurred in the Oklahoma House of Representatives while the members were voting on a section of an election law designed to take the place of the famous "grandfather law" which recently was declared unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court because in effect it disenfranchised the negro population of the state.

Partisan feeling over the new measure culminated in a near riot precipitated by charges of corruption and the passing of the ink between members, during which ink bottles and paper-weights were used as weapons. Arthur H. Geissler, chairman of the Republican State Central Committee, was knocked down and rendered unconscious by Representative Loris E. Bryant of Big Heart, Osage county.

The proposed law, the product of a Democratic caucus, has passed the senate and was up for final passage in the house, with Republican and Socialist members offering vigorous opposition. Geissler was on the floor through the courtesy of a visitor's permit issued him as Republican State chairman.

Thousand of Armenians Dead.

London.—While full details of the capture of Ezerum, Turkish Armenia, are still lacking, semi-official advices from Petrograd are to the effect that most of the Turkish garrison made their escape. Thousands of Armenians are declared to have been massacred by Kurds before the evacuation.

Francis Named Ambassador.

Washington.—David R. Francis of St. Louis, secretary of the interior in Cleveland's Cabinet and former Governor of Missouri, has been offered the post of Ambassador to Russia to succeed George T. Marye. Mr. Francis has not replied, but President Wilson is understood to have urged him to accept. Mr. Marye has advised the state department that his resignation has been mailed from Petrograd. It is informally stated that his health would not permit him to remain in the Russian climate.

Merchant Ships Have Right to Arm.

Washington.—All American diplomatic and consular officials abroad have been notified by the state department that the position of the United States is that merchant ships have a right to carry defensive armament. This is the first formal announcement that the United States does not accept as legal the announced intention of Germany and Austria to sink armed merchant ships without warning after February 29 as coming within international law.

FIGURES ON STATE ITEMS

Main Items For North Carolina Included in Rivers and Harbors Bill.

Washington.—The Committee on Rivers and Harbors of the House has drafted the river and harbor bill, and there have been secured unofficially certain items of appropriation which are included in the bill. There is a possibility that these items may be changed, but it is not probably.

The items are:

Inland waterway from Norfolk, Va. to Beaufort Inlet, containing improvement, \$1,000,000.

Shallow Bag bay for maintenance, \$2,000.

Beaufort Inlet for maintenance, \$10,000.

Harbor at Morehead City for maintenance, \$2,600.

Meherrin river for maintenance, \$2,500.

Fishing creek for maintenance, \$1,000.

Pamlico and Tar rivers for maintenance, \$4,500.

Bay river for maintenance, \$1,000.

Trent river for maintenance, \$2,000.

Swift creek for maintenance, \$1,000.

Waterway from Pamlico sound to Beaufort Inlet for maintenance, \$6,500.

Waterway connecting Core sound and Beaufort harbor for maintenance, \$2,000.

New river and waterways to Beaufort for maintenance, \$6,000.

Northeast and Black rivers and Cape Fear river above Wilmington for maintenance, \$8,500.

Cape Fear river above Wilmington for continuing improvement on locks and dams, \$83,000.

Cape Fear river at and below Wilmington completing improvement and for maintenance, \$135,000.

Cape Lookout harbor of refuge \$600,000. This appropriation is to be made in the sundry civil appropriation bill under authorization heretofore made.

Mayors to Talk Preparedness.

Durham.—When the mayors of North Carolina assemble in annual convention in Elinston early this spring, the subject of national defense will unquestionably force itself to the front for debate. The National Security League will present the merits of preparedness and the powerful lever of the mayors of North Carolina and other states will be sought to wield a sure and effective stroke for the cause. The National Conference of Mayors, called to meet in St. Louis on March 3 and 4, is a forerunner of the movement that will identify itself ultimately with the local and state municipal leaders. Mayor B. S. Skinner of Durham, has been flooded with literature and special delivery messages from the National Security League to detail a representative for the St. Louis conference, and, moreover, for a local branch in Durham. Mayor John Purroy Mitchell, of New York City, heads the national conference committee and North Carolina mayors are being prevailed upon to forward the names of the committees appointed to New York's municipal leader. "Concerted action will hasten preparedness legislation," reads a paragraph in the letter to North Carolina mayors.

McNeely's Body May Be Found.

Washington.—It is believed that the body of Robert Ney McNeely who was washed ashore near Alexandria, Egypt. Information to this effect was telegraphed the state department by American Consul Gerris. The body was so decomposed that it was difficult to distinguish the features. The message follows:

"Body very decomposed, washed up on Egyptian coast. Marks on clothes and watch indicate American origin. Body possibly Consul McNeely."

"Description and marks on clothing which follow may serve to identify wearer: trousers and vest, black or blue, made by Wright; no coat; yellow striped Manhattan shirt; black tie, green and pink design; black high shoes, marked Boyden; leather money belt with 34 sovereigns; Knickerbocker watch, gold dial, works stamped Knickerbocker Watch Company, New York and F. Cornioley, who is probably seller; case marked Illinois Watch Company, Elgin, U. S. A.; No. 2797860; photograph on paper in lid of watch obliterated."

NORTH CAROLINA BRIEFS.

Austin Dunston, highly respected colored man, aged 55 years, died a few days ago from pneumonia after a short illness. Austin was janitor in the Governor's office and was a thoroughly reliable, trustworthy man. He was made janitor by Governor Vance.

The Durham Hosiery Mills have increased their capital stock from \$1,750,000 to \$2,500,000.

Olin Ramsey, aged 20, of Hickory, was crushed to death recently under the wheels of a freight train.

A committee of the Cotton Manufacturers' Association of North Carolina, met in Charlotte recently and awarded the contract for 250,000 tons of coal.

Fire destroyed the Sandy Plains Presbyterian church in Polk county, 15 miles west of Rutherfordton a few days ago.

The population of Charlotte at the census of 1910 was 34,014, and it is estimated by the census bureau that it was 38,000 on July 1, 1914.

More than 500 physicians are expected to attend the state annual convention in April at Durham.

BICKETT JOINS IN FILING BRIEF

FIFTEEN ATTORNEYS GENERAL REPRESENTS STATES IN LIQUOR CASE.

FIGHT FOR THE QUART LAW

Brief Covers Sixty-Three Pinned Pages and is Dedicated to Two Principle Propositions.

Raleigh.—Attorney General T. W. Bickett has joined with the Attorneys General of the state of Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Mississippi, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington and Alabama, in filing a brief before the Supreme Court of the United States in the celebrated case of Clark Distilling Company, which case brings before the Supreme Court the constitutionality of the Webb-Kenyon act, and involves also the validity of the North Carolina quart law.

The brief covers 63 printed pages and is dedicated to two propositions: 1—That the Webb-Kenyon act is a valid exercise of the power of Congress to regulate commerce between the states.

2—That a state in the exercise of its reserve police power may prohibit or regulate the receipt and possession of intoxicating liquors within its borders and that since the enactment of the Webb-Kenyon act such legislation is not in violation of the commerce clause of the Federal Constitution.

One of the authorities emphasized in the brief is Glenn vs Southern Express Company decided at the Fall term, 1915, in which Associate Justice Allen, speaking for a unanimous court, ably reviews the law of the subject and sustains both the Webb-Kenyon act and the North Carolina quart law.

The granting of a writ of error by the State Supreme Court in the Glenn case going up from Wake is interesting as showing the desire of the North Carolina Supreme Court to have the case settled as soon as possible.

George M. Glenn was a Raleigh policeman until the Summer of 1914. That does not account for his thirst, if he had one, but he tested the Grier act last year and the Southern Express Company refused to forget that he had received his legislative allotment earlier in the month. The company wanted the collection, but feared to take the chances and declined to deliver the goods.

Change Plans at Badin.

Charlotte.—Rivalling in interest the recent announcement that a portion of the Badin or Yaddin Narrows development would be put in operation this summer is that which now comes from Albemarle to the effect that the entire hydro-electric outlay and plan has been radically changed, that the power house is to be placed on the Montgomery side of the river, that the two big "wells" in the dam for the handling of the surplus water have been filled in, that a spillway is being built to take their place and that the complete equipment of electrical machinery has been altered and that instead of using direct current as originally contemplated that alternating current would be generated in stead.

Paper Mill Proposed.

Southport.—There is a prospect that northern capital will build a paper mill at Southport. A representative of the capital has been here the past several days making inquiries as to site, etc. It is said that the mill, if built, would be to eastern Carolina what the Champion Fiber Company at Canton is to the western part of the state. The representative is quoted as saying that 1,000 men would be employed.

Begin Operation Soon.

Concord.—Concord's new cotton mill, the Norcott, will begin operations either the last of April or the first of May.

Asheville Woman Lawyer Qualifies.

Asheville.—Miss Lillian Exum Clement, Asheville's first and only woman attorney, appeared in Superior Court recently and, in the presence of almost the entire membership of the Asheville bar, and a large number of friends, took the oath necessary to finally qualify her as an attorney. After administering the oath, Judge W. F. Harding delivered a short address, welcoming Miss Clement into the ranks of the legal lights, and of fering her a little friendly advice.

"Pay-Up-Week" at Statesville.

Statesville.—Statesville's business men have entered heartily into the "National Pay-Up Week" movement and the public generally is showing considerable interest in the campaign which is being waged by the business men. Mayor Caldwell has issued a formal proclamation designating a week as pay-up week for Statesville. "Let Everybody Pass Prosperity Around." "I Will Pay My Bills so You Can Pay Yours," and similar phrases in bold type may be seen everywhere.