

# The Anderson Intelligencer

TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

Weekly, Established 1860; Daily Jan. 13, 1914.

ANDERSON, S. C. FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 19, 1915.

PRICE \$1.50 THE YEAR

## GREAT BRITAIN REPLIES TO AMERICAN COMMUNICATION

### Denies Ships Are Unduly Detained or That Naval Operations Have Been the Cause of any Diminution in the Volume of American Exports. Says England Will Retaliate Against Germany's Submarine Campaign.

(By Associated Press.)  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—Great Britain's second and complete reply to the American note of protest, which, on December 28 last, asked for an early improvement in the treatment of American commerce by the British fleet, was made public tonight by mutual agreement between the State department and the British foreign office.

The note, addressed to Ambassador Page by Sir Edward Grey, under date of February 10, denies that the depression in American industries is due to the activity of the British fleet, and suggests among other causes the shortage of shipping facilities, the consequent diminution of cotton trade and the destruction of many neutral ships by submarine mines, "laid by the enemy indiscriminately."

The communication contains the announcement that Great Britain intends to take retaliatory measures against the German submarine campaign on enemy ships, but does not reveal their nature.

Conceding that foodstuffs intended for the civil population of a country are not contraband, the British government points out that "in any country in which there exists such a tremendous organization for war as now obtains in Germany, there is no clear division between those whom the government is responsible for feeding and those whom it is not."

Will try to prevent injury to neutrals. "It will still be our endeavor," says the note, "to avoid injury and losses to neutrals, but the announcement by the German government of their intention to sink merchant vessels and their cargoes without verification of their nationality or character and without making any provision for the safety of non-contraband crews or giving them a chance of saving their lives, has made it necessary for His Majesty's government to consider what measures they should adopt to protect their interests. It is impossible for one belligerent to depart from rules and precedents and for the other to remain bound by them."

Supplementing the preliminary reply of several weeks ago, the new note is not only longer and includes a further discussion of the legal principles involved.

Better Acquainted With Trade Statistics.  
Since the presentation of the preliminary note, Sir Edward states he has had "further opportunity of examining into the trade statistics of the United States as embodied in the customs returns, in order to see whether the belligerent action of Great Britain has been in any way the cause of the trade depression which your Excellency (Ambassador Page) describes as existing in the United States and also whether the seizures of vessels or cargoes which have been made by the British navy have inflicted any loss on American owners for which our existing machinery provides no means of redress."

Results of Investigation.  
"In setting out the results of my investigation, I think it well to take the opportunity of giving a general review of the methods employed by His Majesty's government to intercept contraband trade with the enemy, of their consistency with the admitted right of a belligerent to intercept such trade, and also of the extent to which they have endeavored to meet the representations and com-

plaints from time to time, addressed to them on behalf of the United States government.

"Towards the close of your note of the 28th December, your excellency described the situation produced by the action of Great Britain as a pitiful one to the commercial interests of the United States, and said that many of the great industries of the country were suffering because their products were denied long established markets in neutral European countries contiguous to the nations at war. Impossible for Trade to Escape Injury.

"It is unfortunately true that in these days, when trade and finance are cosmopolitan, any war, particularly a war of any magnitude, must result in a grievous dislocation of commerce, including that of the nations which take no part in the war. Your excellency will realize that in this tremendous struggle, it is impossible for the trade of any country to escape all injury and loss, but for such his majesty's government are not to blame.

"I do not understand the paragraph which I have quoted from your excellency's note, as referring to these indirect consequences of the state of war, but to the more proximate and direct effect of our belligerent action in dealing with neutral ships and cargoes on the high seas. Such action has been limited to vessels on their way to enemy ports in neutral waters adjacent to the theatre of war because it is only through such ports that the enemy introduces the supplies which he requires for carrying on the war."

Only Eight Ships in Prize Court.  
Sir Edward asserts that only eight of the 773 ships sailing from the United States for neutral European countries have been placed in prize courts, and that only 45 have been "temporarily detained to enable particular consignments of cargo to be discharged for the purpose of prize court proceedings."

The note does not go into detail as to American ships detained on the high seas or taken to British ports for search. The statistics of exports from the United States are analyzed and the observation made that "if cotton had been excluded, the effect of the war has been not to decrease, but practically to arrest the decline of American exports which was in progress earlier in the year, in fact, any decrease in American exports which

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## DEFER REPORT ON WILLIAMS BILL

### AUTHOR GIVES HIS REASONS FOR INTRODUCING MEASURE

### WOULD PROTECT STOCKHOLDERS

### Says Certain Cotton Mills Had Gone to the Bad Speculating in Futures

COLUMBIA, Feb. 17.—The house committee on manufactures this afternoon decided to postpone until tomorrow its report on the Williams bill to require cotton mills and other "industrial corporations" to furnish statements to the State insurance commissioner.

At the hearing this afternoon Senator John F. Williams of Aiken, the author of the bill told of his reasons for introducing the bill. Certain big cotton mills in Aiken County because of mismanagement, speculating in futures and such behavior had gone to the bad, and many stockholders had suffered great loss. He intended to safeguard the interests of stockholders, he said, and had no other motive. He read from a report made up by experts on the condition of the Aiken mills, which had recently gone into the hands of a receiver. Mayor Mosley of Aiken also spoke and told of his efforts to get information from New York persons who owned a controlling interest in another mill.

F. Barron Oliver, of Greenwood, spoke in reply and said that he appreciated the good intent of Senator Williams, but this bill would not accomplish the purpose of the author. It would take away from the stockholder the right to manage their property and put the power in the hands of one man, the insurance commissioner, a man who might be good, as at present he was, and again might be bad. The personnel of the office, however, had nothing to do with the matter. It was a bill which gave plenary power to one man. It might be entitled "a bill to take away from stockholders the management of cotton mills and put same in the hands of the State insurance commissioner." He then explained in detail why certain trade secrets could be used to work a mill, its labor cost, the cost of its cotton and all those sorts of things could be secured by a competitor or one buying goods from the mill, all to its hurt. There was no more reason to it than that a merchant should be required to mark in plain figures the cost of the articles he exposed for sale. He showed that under present laws directors were liable when they paid out dividends that had not been earned, cited the case of Her vs. Jennings, decided against a director, a case which he carried to the supreme court, there was already sufficient law to curb directors, they could be made to answer for criminal negligence and ever for careless mismanagement. Mr. P. A. Wilcox said that he was interested in other corporations that might be affected, that if the words "other industrial corporations" were stricken out he would not further oppose the bill, though he saw no particular reasons for its passage. Mr. J. K. Hood, also cited instances wherein the bill could be used to the great detriment of a cotton mill.

President Victor Montgomery of the Paoclet mills, was asked certain practical questions as to possible ill effects of the bill on the industry and showed by long experience wherein it could be used to seriously handicap a mill's selling facilities, and would play right into the hands of stock brokers who could hammer down a stock for their own personal gains. The committee after about half an hour's session decided to postpone a report on the bill until tomorrow. The bill has already passed the senate.

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## BANK PRESIDENT SHOT AND KILLED

### MYSTERY SURROUNDS KILLING OF LEESBURG, GA., BANKER

### NO ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE

### Old Checks for More Than \$600,000 Found in Pockets of Dead Man

LEESBURG, Ga., Feb. 17.—A. L. Oliver, president of the Farmers' Bank and Loan Company, this city, was shot and killed here early tonight in front of his bank. Three men were said to have been seen running from the scene immediately after the reports of three shots had been heard, but no arrests had been made up to a late hour tonight. Mystery surrounds the shooting, friends of the dead man being unable to assign a cause.

Oliver was released from the Mississippi State penitentiary several months after having served four years on a charge of bigamy. He sat out the court that he was not the man against whom the warrant had been issued.

An examination of Oliver's body showed that the wounds had been made with buckshot. The authorities believe his slayers escaped in an automobile.

Old checks for more than \$600,000 were found in the banker's clothing. One on the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, which was dated 11 years ago, called for \$25,000, while another on the Columbia County Bank, of Benton, Pennsylvania, was for \$350,000. Both were made payable to Oliver.

## COMMITTEE AGREES ON EDUCATIONAL BILL

### Free Conference Committee on Compulsory Education Measure Makes Report

COLUMBIA, Feb. 17.—The free conference committee on the compulsory education bills will be reported tonight. First and most important the committee has agreed and some beginning will be made. The advocates of State wide compulsory education could not get what they wanted. The school district was made the unit in the agreement. The compulsory age was fixed at from 8 to 14. Provision was made that in districts having towns or cities with 1,500 or more population the school trustees may order an election as to compulsory attendance without petition. In any other school districts the compulsory attendance may be provided for by majority petition. The regulations as to enforcement remain practically unchanged. The material point being that the school district is made the unit and the compulsory system becomes operative only after majority petition or vote. The adoption of the report means the acceptance of the law. The report was adopted by the house.

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## "FACING THE SITUATION"

### FEATURE OF SECOND DAY'S SESSION OF LAYMEN'S CONVENTION

### ROBERT E. SPEER MAKES TWO TALKS

### Says All Christians Have to Offer Pagan World is Christ and His Life

CHARLOTTE, N. C., Feb. 17.—"Facing the situation" was the general theme of the second day's sessions of the biennial laymen's convention of the Southern Presbyterian Church East of the Mississippi, at the address of Robert E. Speer, secretary of the board of foreign missions of the Presbyterian church of the United States at both morning and evening sessions featuring. Tonight he spoke on "Christian Mission and World Issues," stressing the urgent demand for money in spite of the low price of cotton and saying that Christians must get back to a realization that all they have to offer the pagan world is Christ and His Life. This morning his subject was "The Conditions For World Evangelization."

"The world is wide afield," he said, "making the possible exception of Afghanistan; world evangelization depends upon those who are to do the work, which can be done only through the realization of personal stewardship and a recognition of the unity of all nations."

Presenting the situation at the front were Rev. Dr. J. O. Reavis of the chair of English Bible, Columbia, S. C., seminary who spoke on African missions; Rev. R. T. Colt, missionary to Korea, on Chinese missions; Rev. Dr. S. H. Chester, secretary of foreign correspondents, executive committee foreign missions, Nashville, Tenn., on Brazilian missions. "As a Layman Sees It," was the theme of Dr. J. P. McCallie, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Missions to Cuba were treated this afternoon by Rev. Dr. W. H. Williams, field secretary, Nashville, Tenn.; in Japan, Rev. T. Kagawa, in charge of plum work, Kobe, Japan; in China, Rev. Dr. J. L. Stuart, professor New Testament, Nanking Theological Seminary, Charles A. Rowland of Athens, Ga., made a report of five months investigation of "missionary investments and dividends."

At night, in addition to the address of Robert E. Speer, Dr. W. J. Martin, president of Davidson College and moderator of the Southern Presbyterian general assembly, lectured on "Our Increased Responsibility," while "The New Times and the New Man" was the theme of William T. Ellis, editor field of the continent, Swarthmore, Pa.

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## HEAVY FIGHTING BOTH IN BELGIUM AND IN FRANCE

### French Claim to Have Captured German Trenches and to Have Repelled Many Counter Attacks. Time Limit Set by Germany For Neutral Shipping to Take Measures of Safety Expires and Her Threat Expected to be Put Into Operation.

The time limit set by Germany for neutral shipping to take measures of safety has expired and Germany is now expected to put into operation her declared intention of employing her submarines and mines in the waters around the British Isles, which she has proclaimed a war zone, with the object of cutting off food supplies to the British people.

Germany has earnestly warned the neutral States that this zone will hereafter be a danger zone for all shipping and has expressed her determination to take the most stringent action against British merchantmen. It is announced from Berlin that Germany's reply to the American note of protest against this action has been handed to the American ambassador at the German capital, but the reply has not been received by the state department at Washington. In the meantime Germany, in developing her submarine warfare, has added one more merchant ship to the list of vessels destroyed by sinking the small French steamer Ville de Lille off Cherbourg.

Regarding operations on land it is apparent from the official announcements issued by the French war office that heavy fighting is taking place both in Belgium and in France.

The French claims not only to have maintained the ground recently gained but to have captured German trenches and to have repelled many counter attacks by the Germans. French aviators have dropped bombs on the railway station at Freiburg, Baden.

Field Marshal von Hindenburg's successful operations against the Russian army in East Prussia are still being celebrated in Berlin, where von Hindenburg's direction of the campaign is described as having been characterized by mastery skill. Officially it is announced that the German troops are still following the Russians north of the Nieman River.

In Poland, north of the Vitulva, from Plock, recently occupied by the Germans, to Raciez, another great battle is apparently developing. Fighting in that region already is of a desperate nature.

Austria, according to Swiss advices, for ten days has been concentrating troops, chiefly artillery, on her Italian frontier. Guns have been placed to dominate the Tyrolean passes.

All along the entire boundary of Serbia, Albanian forces are active.

Ochrida, 100 miles north of Janina, has been captured by the Albanians and violent fighting is in progress at several places.

A Constantinople dispatch to Berlin says that the Bulgarian seaport of Dedeagatch, on the Aegean Sea, is blockaded by British and French warships to prevent German goods being transported to Germany through this route.

Copenhagen hears a report that 5,000,000 Germans, ineligible for army service, who have independent means, are to be ordered by the German government to proceed to neutral countries and there remain until the end of the war "to decrease the consumption of food in the empire."

A report from Basle, Switzerland, says that Emperor William, who has invited Mr. Gerard, the American ambassador to Germany, to the East Prussian front, will apologize personally to the ambassador for the demonstration made against him recently in a Berlin theatre. Basle gives a Berlin dispatch as the basis for this statement.

Great Britain, in her answer to the American protest against the detention of American ships by British war vessels, denied that Great Britain was unduly detaining ships, that its naval operations of Great Britain have been the cause of any depression in the volume of American exports, adding that if the commerce of the United States is in the unfavorable condition charged in the American note "the cause ought, in fairness, to be sought elsewhere than in the activities of His Majesty's naval forces."

Among these causes, the note cites the shortage of shipping facilities, the consequent diminution of the cotton trade and the destruction of submarine mines "laid by the enemy" of many neutral vessels.

The answer concedes that foodstuffs for a civil population are not contraband, but says "in any country in which there exists such a tremendous organization for war as now obtains in Germany there is no clear division between those whom the government is responsible for feeding and whom it is not."

The note says Great Britain will retaliate against Germany's submarine campaign, but does not go into details concerning its proposed procedure.

## WARSHIPS BLOCKADING BULGARIAN PORT

BERLIN, Feb. 17.—(By Wireless to Stuyville).—British and French warships are blockading the Bulgarian port of Dedeagatch to prevent the importation of foodstuffs destined for Germany and Austria, according to a Constantinople dispatch to the Overseas News Agency.

## Banker Paroled

OSSING, N. Y., Feb. 17.—David A. Sullivan, the Brooklyn banker convicted in 1913 of having misappropriated \$20,000 while president of the Mechanics and Traders Bank, was paroled today at the expiration of his minimum sentence of two years.

## Prohibition in Oregon

SALEM, Ore., Feb. 17.—Statewide prohibition effective January 1, 1916, became the law of Oregon today when Governor Withycombe signed the bill passed by the legislature to make effective the people's mandate of last November, when a prohibition amendment was voted into the State constitution.

## Emperor William To Direct Blockade

The wheat shortage in Germany much greater than has been believed.

(By Associated Press.)

LONDON, Feb. 15.—(8:17 a. m.)—The Daily Mail's Copenhagen correspondent says he learns from Hamburg that the belief prevails that Emperor William is going to Heligoland personally to direct Germany's submarine blockade.

"The wheat shortage in Germany," the correspondent adds, "was concealed until the last moment for fear of discouraging the people. It is much greater than has been believed. Germany will escape famine before the next harvest by a narrow margin."

## Term of Superintendent of Education Extended

(By Associated Press.)

COLUMBIA, Feb. 17.—The bill of Representative Wolfe, of Anderson, to increase the term of the county superintendent of education to four years has passed both houses of the general assembly. Two counties where, generally, the county superintendents' duties are combined with those of another county office, are exempted under the act.

The bill does not extend the terms of those who are now holding office under a tenure of two years, but it does prolong their terms from the first of January until the first of following July. The bill had the endorsement of the State superintendent of education and of the teachers of the State generally. It is designed to bring about uniformity and increase efficiency in the public school system.

The term of the present county superintendent in Anderson county is for two years, and the effect of the bill will be to extend his term of office six months or to July 1, 1917, an election will be held in Anderson county as usual in 1916 and the official then chosen will hold for four years from July 1, 1917.

The bill establishing a State board of examiners for certified examiners was given third reading in the senate tonight and ordered enrolled for ratification. The State tax collection bill and the bill putting the Webb law into effect in the State having the shipment of liquor for special use were passed to third reading. The supply bill came over from the house and was given second reading.

## Anderson Paving Bill Passes Final Reading

(By Associated Press.)

COLUMBIA, Feb. 17.—The bill authorizing the city of Anderson to assess abutting property owners for permanent street improvements passed its final reading today and was ordered enrolled for ratification. It will probably be ratified tomorrow and the governor will be asked to sign it immediately so that the city can proceed to order an election on the question of issuing bonds.

The county bond bill in its amended form will be passed tomorrow and will be ratified by the end of the week. The State tax collection bill, which is the subject of a bill introduced by Senator Dixon, will be given second reading tonight.

The bill and really the discussion was largely forensic, because the house had very little else to do and many of the members had speeches which they wished to deliver. The arguments in favor of the bill today were made by Messrs. Clement of Charleston, McInnis, McCullough, Boyd, Bonaparte, Liles of Orangeburg, Bridham and Sanders of Sumter, and the opposition to the bill was made by Messrs. Dixon, Lee, Smith of Colleton and Harris of Greenville. Some of these did not object so much to the plan but to details. The forces in charge of the bill have their general Mr. Gaydon of Asheville, while the opposition followed the amendment of Mr. Berry of Greenville, for which it was provided that the governor appoints special auditors to audit the State accounts.

## Big Damage Suit Filed in Atlanta

ATLANTA, Ga., Feb. 17.—Suit for \$180,232.25 damages was filed in the United States court here late today against the Eastman Kodak company of New Jersey, by the Southern Photo Material company of this city. Retraiment of trade in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law is alleged. The claim is for an additional \$10,000 attorney's fees.

Germany's Reply Given Ambassador. BERLIN, via London, Feb. 17.—Germany's reply to the American protest against the proposed regulations for a naval war zone around the British Isles, has been handed to Ambassador Gerard and probably will be forwarded to Washington today.

## START ON 90-MILE TO ARREST INDIAN

COMTEE, Col., Feb. 17.—Twenty-six mounted and heavily armed men started westward today on a 90-mile ride to bluff, Utah, to arrest Tee-Ne-Gat (Everett Hatch) a Plate Indian outlaw, charged with the murder of Juan Chacot. From three to five days will be required for the journey.

## Introduce Rural Credits Bill

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—Representative Henry of Texas today introduced a general rural credits bill. The measure provides for direct loans to farmers under a system separate from the Federal reserve law.