



BRITISH LINER SUNK WITH AMERICAN CONSUL ABOARD

Torpedoing of Big Ship by Submarine With Loss of Nearly All Passengers and Crew Will Probably Complicate Already Delicate Situation; Vessel Was Approaching Alexandria When Torpedo Struck

AUSTRIAN OR GERMAN SUBMARINE GUILTY Only Four Boats Are Known to Have Got Clear Before Persia Went Down; Ambassador McNeely and Another Citizen of the United States Are Believed to Have Been Drowned; Vessel Sunk Near Isle of Crete

London, Jan. 1, 10:42 A. M.—The British liner Persia was sunk Thursday and most of the passengers and crew were lost. Robert McNeely, American Consul at Aden, was a passenger on the Persia.

Four boats got clear before the Persia sank. The message to Lloyd says the Persia was on her way from London to Bombay. She was sunk at 1 o'clock on Thursday afternoon.

In addition to Mr. McNeely, two other Americans are known to have been passengers when she left London. Charles H. Grant was on his way to Bombay. Edward Rose, a school boy, was on his way from Gibraltar, Marcellus or Malta. No official figures are available.

The Peninsular and Oriental line estimates that 140 or 161 passengers sailed from London on the Persia. A number of these landed at Gibraltar, Marcellus or Malta. No official figures are available.

In addition to the passengers who sailed from London a large number embarked at Marcellus. The total booked at these points was 231. Of these 87 were women and 25 children. Lord Montagu was on the passenger list.

Torpedoed Near Crete The Persia was sunk in the Eastern Mediterranean off the island of Crete. A message from the Admiralty to the Peninsular and Oriental Company makes the definite announcement that the Persia was torpedoed.

Charles Grant, who was a passenger, came from Boston, Mass. No details are available as yet. Passenger lists have not been published since the beginning of the war.

Mr. McNeely sailed from New York for England on November 27 on the British American liner Ryndam. A fellow passenger was Robert P. Skinner, American consul general at London. Mr. McNeely 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 was last reported at Malta on December 20. The Persia was a steamer of 7,974 tons gross. She was owned by the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company of London. She sailed from Bombay November 14 for London and was last reported as leaving Gibraltar on December 2.

"HIS INHERITANCE"



HARD FIGHTING ON ALL FRONTS USHERS IN YEAR

Eastern Galician Situation Is Obscure, but Heavy Engagements Are Reported

In the East, heavy fighting continues in Eastern Galicia, but the situation there remains as obscure as ever. An official Russian communication dismisses this situation with the remark that desperate engagements have been fought at some places.

In Persia the Russian expedition is meeting with increasing opposition. It is announced officially at Petrograd that there has been fighting south of Mamand with Persian gendarmes who have taken up arms against the Russians.

The Franco-British force which was left at the tip of the Gallipoli peninsula by the evacuation of the Anzac and Suvla bay positions have engaged in hard fighting. It is also said a Turkish airplane dropped a bomb on the British battleship Swiftsure.

Premier Radoslavoff of Bulgaria, is quoted in a Berlin dispatch as saying military operations against the British and French at Saloniki will be inaugurated shortly. Another dispatch from Berlin, however, says that according to the Bulgarian commander-in-chief, General Joffe.

Wilmington, Del., Jan. 1.—The three-story furniture warehouses of the Ford-Massey Company here were burned at an early hour to-day. Spontaneous combustion is assigned as the cause of the fire. The loss is placed at upwards of \$100,000.

Owing to low water pressure the firemen had great difficulty fighting the flames. Standing on a thirty-foot ladder a member of the firm shot out window panes in the third story with a revolver, the streams of water not being sufficiently strong to break the glass.

ITALIAN TRAGEDY DIES London, Jan. 1.—Tommaso Salvini, the Italian tragedienne, has just died at Florence, Italy.

SLAYS SELF WITH DETECTIVE'S GUN

Puts Bullet Into Brain While in Police Station; Thought Demented

Despondent over failure to get financial aid from home, Thomas Newman O'Brien, aged 25 years, believed to be from East Pittsburgh, yesterday afternoon shot himself through the head at the police station. He used a revolver belonging to Joseph Ibach, city detective. O'Brien was rushed to the Harrisburg hospital.

Disabled Thessaloniki Is Being Towed in Newport, R. I., Jan. 1.—A message from an unidentified steamer picked up by the radio station here early to-day stated that she had taken the disabled steamer Thessaloniki in tow and was proceeding to New York. Because of weather conditions, the name of the vessel and her position could not be learned.

The message said that the Thessaloniki was short of "steaming fuel," which indicated serious engine trouble.

Furniture Warerooms Burn; Loss \$100,000 Wilmington, Del., Jan. 1.—The three-story furniture warehouses of the Ford-Massey Company here were burned at an early hour to-day. Spontaneous combustion is assigned as the cause of the fire. The loss is placed at upwards of \$100,000.

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TWO WILL STAND TRIAL FOR LIVES AT JAN. COURT

Thomas Smith and Ex-Chauffeur Shuman Must Face Juries Jan. 10 and 12

Two men must face Dauphin county juries on charges of murder, two men and a woman on charges of involuntary manslaughter, and fourteen men for alleged violations of the primary election laws, during January quarter sessions which will be held the week of January 10.

The trial list issued to-day by District Judge J. H. Smith is as follows: Thomas Smith, charged with the murder of a woman; Ex-Chauffeur Shuman, charged with the murder of a woman.

Nearly \$88,000,000 Is Handled by Harrisburg Banks During Past Year More than \$87,000,000—\$87,767,765.04 to be exact—was handled through the banks in the Harrisburg Clearinghouse Association during the twelve months just closed. This is \$5,410,714.12 more than in 1914 when the amazing sum of \$82,357,050.92 was cleared. In 1913 the clearings totaled \$84,609,512.78.

October, 1915, was the largest single month with a record of \$8,437,516.80, while in 1914, January was the record month with \$7,551,578.81. Following are the clearing-house figures by month as issued by A. K. Thomas, secretary of the association, the figures for 1914 and 1915 being stated in order for comparative purposes:

January, \$7,551,578.81, \$6,961,231.48; February, \$5,199,159.57, \$3,948,325.23; March, \$6,316,985.45; \$7,050,594.94; April, \$7,415,497.97; \$7,945,124.38; May, \$6,749,845.95, \$6,981,288.51; June, \$7,722,228.97, \$6,862,436.47; July, \$7,439,161.08, \$7,223,413.17; August, \$6,505,071.89, \$7,131,231.57; September, \$7,444,297.20, \$7,620,593.82; October, \$7,444,332.58, \$8,437,516.80; November, \$6,348,597.92, \$7,773,489.10; December, \$7,158,108.52, \$7,979,519.57; totals, \$82,357,050.92, \$87,767,765.04.

Sentenced to Jail For Not Reading Newspapers Osnabruck, Prussia, via London, Jan. 1.—The court here has decided that the perusal of newspapers is now a duty of citizens.

Residents in a neighboring village sold a small quantity of wool contrary to regulations and pleaded in defense that the particular regulation was not placed in the village as has been customary and appeared only in the newspapers which they did not read. The court ruled that "persons who now read no newspapers act culpably and cannot plead ignorance of war-time regulations as justification." The defendants were sentenced to a day in jail.

MUMMERS ARE HARRISBURG'S RULERS TODAY

Overcast Skies Fail to Dampen Spirits of Holiday Paraders

BIGGEST DISPLAY EVER 31 Organizations, 29 Floats and Hundreds of Individuals in Line

Light rains which fell to-day, were no barrier to King Momus and his followers. The Harrisburg Mummer's Association went right ahead with its plans. The parade this afternoon surpassed all previous efforts. It was even a greater surprise than the parade one year ago.

The costumes this year were more elaborate and the individuals showed a large increase in numbers. There exceeded those of one year ago in numbers and displays. Organizations and businessmen this year showed increased interest.

The total estimate of Clarence O. Backenstoss, chief of aids, was thirty-one organizations; 400 individuals; seven marching clubs, and twenty-nine floats. This year secrecy was manifested in preparations for the parade in order to make the surprise greater for the public. The Fraternal Order of Eagles prepared five floats. The Moose came to the front strong this year with 200 men in line, the Commonweal band and a costly float.

Other organizations that were new this year were the Washington A. C. which included several hundred participants; the Albion A. C., and five private clubs, represented by individual members and groups. There was a lively competition for the Charley Chaplin prizes. Yama-Yama costumes were also numerous. The parade started this afternoon a few minutes late. This was due to the late arrival of out-of-town or-

700 Attend Meeting of Allen-East Pennsboro Society at Mechanicsburg Mechanicsburg, Pa., Jan. 1.—The annual meeting of the Allen and East Pennsboro Society for the Recovery of Stolen Horses and Mules and the Detection of Thieves, was held in Franklin Hall here to-day and 700 members of the organization answered the roll call.

The session to-day was one of the largest ever held and the banks of the borough although to-day is a holiday, remained open, for the accommodation of the many men who came here to attend the meeting and at the same time transact business. The morning session was given over to the calling of the roll, and the election of officers and a board of managers. This afternoon riders and detectives will be selected and reports of various standing committees will be made.

George E. Lloyd, Cumberland county's newly-elected district attorney, presided at the election which resulted as follows: President, A. G. Eberly, Mechanicsburg; vice-president, T. J. Ferguson, Silver Springs; secretary, A. B. Harshbarger, assistant secretary, H. E. Harkley, treasurer, S. M. Hertzler. The members of the board of managers elected were E. H. Bitner, J. L. Rife, A. E. Seiver, for one year; C. Herman Denny, M. S. Mumma and W. H. Reigle, for two years.

FIRST COMPENSATION CASE Pennsylvania Railroad Laborer Falls Off Car Breaking Collar Bone Alfred R. Banks, 1943 North Seventh street, a laborer, employed in the yards of the Pennsylvania Railroad is in the hospital with a broken collar bone. He was admitted at 10 o'clock this morning and is the first accident registered under the new compensation law.

Mr. Banks' loss not known just how the accident occurred. He was crossing over a car at FI tower this morning and fell.

New Suffrage Officers in Charge Beginning Today New officers of the Central Pennsylvania Woman's Suffrage Association celebrated the New Year by going into office to-day, replacing the officers of last year. Mrs. Mabel Cronise Jones, at the election last summer was chosen again for the presidency, and the other officers as follows: Miss Myra Lloyd Dock, honorary president, with the privilege of one vote; Wilbur P. Harris, first vice-president; Mrs. Philip T. Meredith, second vice-president; Mrs. Charles F. Elter, treasurer; Mrs. Meyer G. Hilbert, secretary; and Mrs. Harry B. Montgomery, chairman of the advisory committee.

Carries Money in Her Stocking and Is Robbed Bridgeton, N. J., Jan. 1.—Gilbert Sawyer, 19, of Sprietown, is in the county jail on the charge of robbery of a "bank," which has been considered safe from time immemorial, the "Woman's Hosiery Bank."

Martha Berry, who makes the charge, alleged that she was walking towards her home at night with her little son, that Sawyer knocked them both down and from the "bank," where a woman usually carries her money when she has no pocket or handbag, took an envelope containing \$1.10. Justice Charles Fielding issued the warrant and Constable Joseph Williams pulled Sawyer out of a swamp, where it is alleged he was hiding.

ANCONA REPLY AVERTS BREAK WITH AUSTRIA

Concessions Made on Ancona Sinking by Vienna Means Crisis Is Past

Washington, Jan. 1.—With the tension between the United States and Austria growing out of the destruction of the Italian liner Ancona which had threatened a severance of diplomatic relations between the two countries, broken by Austria's favorable response to the American demands, administration officials to-day turned their attention to the preparation of another note to the Vienna government.

President Wilson at Hot Springs, Va., is studying the Austrian reply, the official text of which had been transmitted to him by special messenger immediately after its receipt yesterday from Ambassador Penfield at Vienna. The situation over the Ancona incident is now believed to have cleared up to such an extent as not to necessitate the President's return to Washington before the middle of next week. It is expected, however, that he will confer with Secretary Lansing over the long distance telephone regarding the forthcoming note after he has carefully considered the Austrian reply.

Official Text of Note to U. S. Answering Protest Over Sinking of Ancona The official text of Austria's reply to the American Government in the

Official Text of Note to U. S. Answering Protest Over Sinking of Ancona (Continued on Page 2)

YEAH, WE LIKE IT, TOO Special to the Telegraph Hagerstown, Jan. 1.—The Hagerstown Mall force to-day enjoyed a treat through the kindness of W. O. Bowser, baker and confectioner, Williamsport, who sent in a fruit cake as a New Year's remembrance. It was fine.

TO OUST HOFFMAN AS APPRAISER BY APPOINTING LONG

New County Commissioners Will Name Highway Man on Monday

Surplus Vegetables Grown at Poor Farm to Be Given to Charitable Institutions

With the inauguration Monday of the new boards of county commissioners and poor directors, efficiency and economy will be the master-wheels which will drive the innumerable cogs of the governmental machinery of Dauphin county.

Two important changes are scheduled for the first day of the new regime, it was authoritatively announced to-day. These are: Election of Herman Long, High-spirited, to succeed Harry Hoffman as mercantile appraiser for 1916.

Promulgation of plans for distributing surplus grain, vegetables and other products from the county poor farm among the various charitable institutions of the city and county.

99-Year-Old New Year Caller Breaks Wrist Mrs. Mary Mathews, aged 99 years, of New Cumberland, last night was admitted to the Harrisburg hospital with a fractured right wrist. The aged woman was on her way to make a New Year call on a neighbor when she slipped and fell against a fence near her home.

FRENCH PRESIDENT IS CONFIDENT Paris, Dec. 31, 6:10 P. M.—"Nineteen hundred and sixteen will be our year of victory," says President Poincare in a message to "The Officers and Soldiers of France" which is being distributed along the whole front to-night. The message, which is one of great simplicity, expresses the confidence of the entire nation in its defenders.

ANOTHER BRITISHER SUNK London, Jan. 1.—The British steamer Adelia has been sunk.

RECORD VIOLENT EARTHQUAKE Washington, Jan. 1.—A heavy earthquake was being recorded on the seismographs of Georgetown University this morning. They were first noticed at 9:10 a. m., and were continuing violently at 11 o'clock. Until the movement subsides the observers will be unable to give more definite data. Father Francis A. Tondori, seismological director, said the shocks were the heaviest recorded in some time.

SINKING OF PERSIA RAISES NEW DANGER Washington, Jan. 1.—Destruction of the British liner Persia with possible loss of American lives, throws relations between the United States and the Teutonic powers into a new danger. Coming almost at the hour when a satisfactory adjustment of the delicate situation was at hand by Austria's acceptance of the cardinal points of the American demands in the Ancona case, this new element threatens to complicate affairs with Austria as thoroughly as the destruction of the Arabic, following so closely the Lusitania exchanges, brought on a renewed crisis with Germany.

REVIVAL OF ACTIVITY IN MACEDONIA London, Jan. 1.—The opening of the new year was celebrated in the Near East by indications of a revival of military activity in Macedonia where German and Austrian troops are reported to be gathering at Monastir, while by way of Budapest comes a hint that Bulgaria is on the eve of launching an attack against the entente forces at Saloniki.

MARRIAGE LICENSES David Samuel Smith, Steelton, and Mabel Bright, Dauphin county, Harry Franklin Shaefer, city, and Katharine Marie Schiefer, Middletown. James Aloysius Frahm and Bessie Julia Henry, city.

THE WEATHER For Harrisburg and vicinity: Rain this afternoon and tonight; rain and slightly cooler to-morrow. For Eastern Pennsylvania: Rain tonight and to-morrow, with slight fall in temperature after the rain. Temperature: 4 a. m., 40; 8 a. m., 38; 12 m., 35; 4 p. m., 35; 8 p. m., 35. Wind: New from, January 4, 4-11 p. m. State: Partly clear, with low water mark. Yesterday's weather: Highest temperature, 31; lowest temperature, 23; normal temperature, 30.

THE TELEGRAPH'S BEST WISHES FOR A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR The Telegraph wishes its readers and its advertisers, old and young, a very Happy and a very Prosperous New Year. The Telegraph feels very kindly toward its patrons; first, because, of course, their support makes the publication of the newspaper possible; second, because in every movement for the improvement of the city and the betterment of the community in which it has engaged, it has felt that it has had their hearty support and helpful sympathy. It has striven to deserve this confidence. It has endeavored to the full measure of its capacity to be at once a bright, readable purveyor of the news of the day and a wholesome, constructive force in the field it serves. It has grown in circulation during the year, and in advertising. By these measures are judged the success a newspaper has had in pleasing its readers, and it is therefore, with gratitude beyond words and a firm resolve to do even better during the coming twelve months, that the Telegraph again wishes its patrons a Happy and a Prosperous New Year.