

America Has Passed Most Stirring Year

Time For Little but War Abroad In 1916

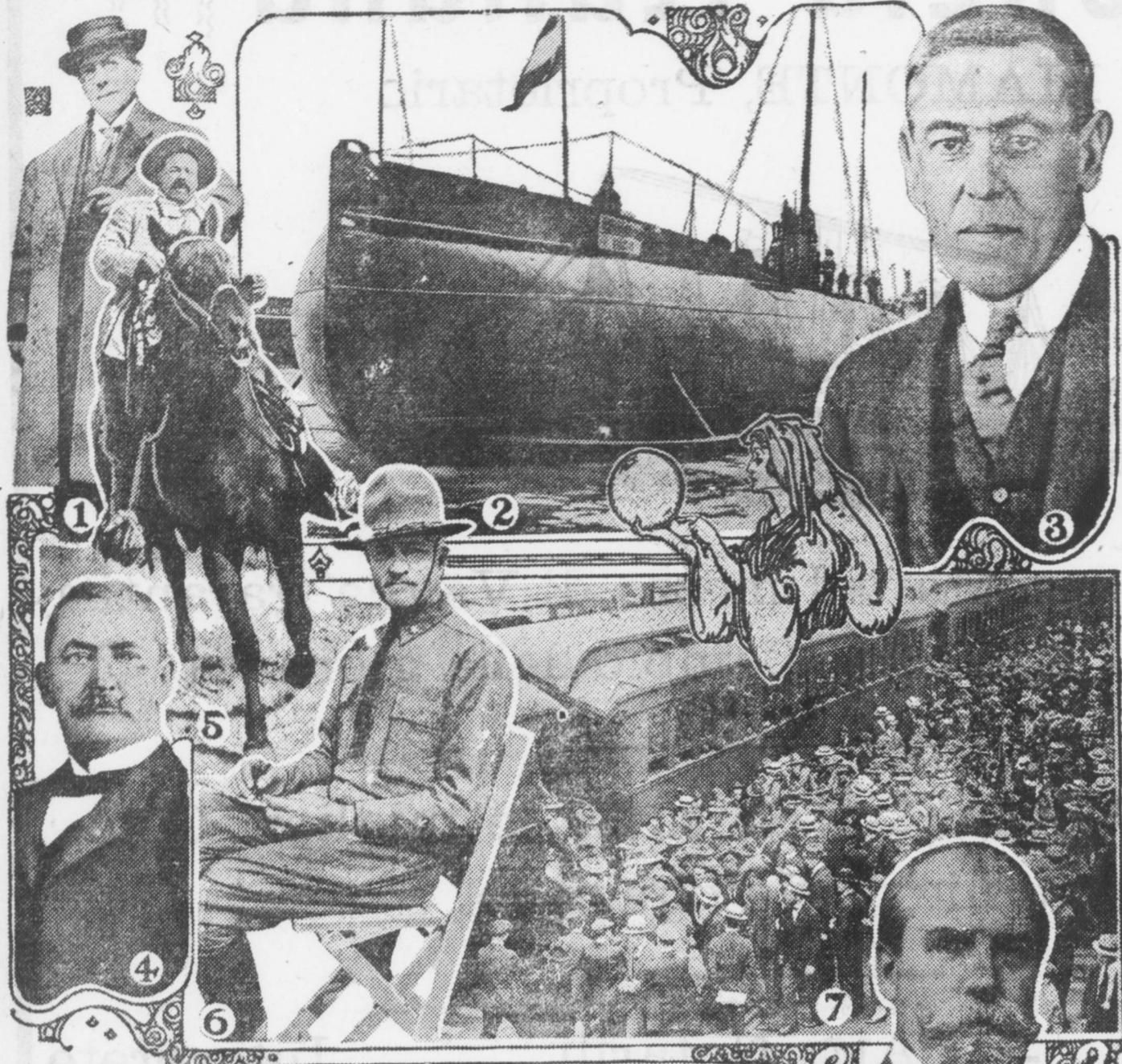


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Pictorial Phases of Year's Events at Home

1, James Whitcomb Riley, poet, died; 2, subsea liner Deutschland; 3-8, President Wilson and Charles Evans Hughes; 4, Congressman William C. Adamson, sponsor for eight hour bill; 5, Francisco Villa, bandit leader; 6, General Pershing, leader of punitive expedition; 7, soldiers leaving for border.

By GEORGE L. KILMER.
THE chief events in this country during the twelve months just closed have been the national election and the situation on the border of Mexico. The prospects of complications with Germany over submarine warfare assumed serious aspects early in the year. The whole country has had an unusually prosperous year. The prices of all kinds of produce and of many household necessities have advanced, in some cases, beyond all precedent, with the result that the cost of living has increased on an average of 33 1-3 per cent or more.

Villa's Columbus Raid.
 The situation on the Mexican border became acute early in the spring, when a body of Mexicans led by General Francisco Villa crossed into United States territory on the 9th of March and raided Columbus, N. M. Eighteen United States soldiers were killed in repulsing the attack. This foray halted temporarily proceedings looking to a favorable understanding between the United States and the de facto government of Mexico headed by Carranza. It was about this time that rival factions in Mexico were aiming to defeat Carranza's efforts to restore order. Following Villa's raid, troops of the United States army were rushed from their stations inland to re-enforce the slender garrisons which the United States had maintained at important points on the Mexican border since the outbreak against the government of Porfirio Diaz five years ago.

The Affair at Carrizal.
 A "punitive expedition" was ordered to cross the Rio Grande and eliminate Villa and his band. On March 15 Colonel Dodd and General Pershing were on Mexican soil, proceeding south in two columns, Dodd's in the lead. On March 29 Dodd's column defeated 500 Villistas, killing thirty. Other actions between United States troops of Pershing's column and the Mexicans followed. Carranza immediately began to object to the presence of United States troops on Mexican soil and asked for their withdrawal. At the end of April General Obregon met General H. L. Scott and General Funston at Juarez to discuss the situation on the border. Nothing came of it. A month later Carranza asked for immediate withdrawal, alleging bad faith on the part of the United States.

The first clash between Carranzistas and United States troops occurred in June. On the 16th General Trevino informed General Pershing that a movement of United States troops east, west or south from the positions then occupied by them would be considered a hostile act. About that time President Wilson called out the militia of the whole country for service on the Mexican border and notified Mexico that American troops would remain solely to protect the United States border. The next day two troops of the United States cavalry were attacked outside of Carrizal, ninety miles south of Juarez. Mexican General Felix Gomez was killed, also Captain C. T. Boyd and Lieutenant Adair of the Tenth cavalry. The affair resulted from an attempt by the cavalry to march westward in defiance of General Trevino's notice of the 16th. Twenty-three troopers were made prisoners by the Mexicans, thirteen killed and sixteen missing. President Wilson demanded the im-

mediate release of the prisoners and ordered the militia rushed to the border. The prisoners were delivered at El Paso three days after the president's demand. Early in September an American-Mexican joint commission met to confer upon the matters in dispute between the government of the United States and Mexico. This joint commission signed a protocol Nov. 24. Meanwhile, one day before the protocol was signed, Villistas attacked Chihuahua City and were defeated by Carranzistas. Two days later they again attacked and occupied part of the city, but were expelled on Dec. 1 by Carranza forces.

Election and Politics.
 Following his nomination for the presidency by the Republican convention in June, Justice Charles E. Hughes resigned from the supreme court bench and immediately entered the canvass against President Woodrow Wilson, who was renominated by the Democratic convention. Theodore Roosevelt declined the Progressive nomination and supported Hughes. The campaign was noted for exceptional vigor, and the outcome was uncertain even for some days after the election. Victory for Wilson was not conceded until the count in California gave him a safe majority in the electoral college.

Second only in interest to the presidential canvass were the participation of women in campaign work and the result of the anti-saloon voting. With gains made, it is estimated that nearly seven-eighths of the territory is now under "no license" rules. Among the political events of the year was the passage of the Adamson eight hour law for railroad employees, to take effect Jan. 1, 1917. The act was passed when the nation confronted a general strike of railroad men which would have paralyzed traffic. A commission was appointed to investigate the working of the law.

In July a rural credits act was passed to facilitate loans for the especial benefit of farmers. **Neutral Rights.**
 The president at the end of February asked congress to take action on the question of the arming of merchantmen traversing the war zone and other points at issue regarding submarine warfare. Germany had "recognized responsibility" for the loss of neutral lives on the Lusitania in February, but the general aspect of the submarine issue was one to cause uncertainty as to safety of neutral lives on the high seas. Both houses acted upon separate resolutions, practically leaving the matter in the hands of the executive. Senate vote was 68 to 14; house, 276 to 142.

Merchant Submarines.
 A new phase of the submarine question involving the United States came up when the German merchant submarine Deutschland arrived at Baltimore with a cargo of German goods. Although the Deutschland was not armed, the entente powers asked the United States to treat her class as warships, which the state department declined to do. The vessel sailed for Germany in August and arrived at New London on a return trip Nov. 1. Meanwhile on Oct. 7 the armed German submarine U-53 entered Newport harbor, coming direct from Wilhelmshaven. She received the usual privileges of a warship in a neutral port. Next day, off Nantucket shoals, United States coast, she torpedoed and sank three British and two neutral

ships, giving the warning as previously pledged by Germany for unarmed ships. All on board escaped. The United States treated the matter as simply an extension of the naval war zone and notified the allied powers on Oct. 10 that this country would continue to apply existing rules of warfare to submarines.

British Trade Blacklist.
 Involved with the great problems of neutral rights and illegal measures affecting them was the announcement by Great Britain in July of the blacklist of American firms which carried on trade with Germany. Trade with firms so listed, by merchants of the allied powers, was prohibited. This called forth a protest by the United States, which elicited the reply that the prohibition is a local regulation and not within the purview of international law.

Vagaries of weather began in the winter and continued up to autumn. On Jan. 27 the temperature was 66-69, a record, in New York. The same day there was a blizzard on the Pacific coast and in the Rocky mountains. Aug. 14 was the coldest for that day known in the east in forty-six years, the thermometer touching 56. The latest real snowstorm known in New England in fifty years came on April 28. In August the United States concluded a treaty with Denmark to purchase the Danish West India islands for \$25,000,000. The Panama canal was reopened to traffic in April after being closed for several months by obstructions in the Galliard cut. In June the epidemic among children known as infantile paralysis broke out in New York city and spread to neighboring districts. During August the death toll exceeded 2,000, and the epidemic began to subside.

Bigger Army and Navy.
 During the year congress appropriated nearly \$700,000,000 for national defense. On July 1 the army reorganization act of June 3 went into effect. It increased the strength of the regular army and federalized the national guard, placing it under the pay and control of the national government. The new law authorizes a war strength approximating 300,000 regulars and a national guard maximum of 460,000. The defense legislation authorizes early construction of four huge battle-ships and four big battle cruisers. July floods in Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina caused a loss of life estimated at fifty and property loss of \$15,000,000. In August a cloudburst and flood in West Virginia destroyed sixty-six lives and property valued at \$5,000,000. An explosion of European war munitions in New York harbor caused damage amounting to \$15,000,000.

Among the deaths of notable people during the year were General Victoriano Huerta, J. T. Trowbridge, Robert Burns Wilson, Clara Louisa Kellogg, Rev. Dr. Timothy Dwight, James J. Hill, Hetty Green, James Whitcomb Riley, John P. St. John, Horace White, Seth Low, Frank Dempster Sherman, Charles Taze Russell, John D. Archbold and Percival Lowell.

The nomination of Louis D. Brandeis to the supreme court bench caused criticism, but he was confirmed June 3. Bartholdi's statue of Liberty Enlightening the World was first illumined by an electrical flood of light, which is to be permanent, on the 2d of Decem-



Photos by American Press Association.

Pictorial Phases of Year's Events Abroad

1, King Constantine of Greece; 2, French soldiers protected by masks against a gas attack on the Somme front; 3, Sir Roger Casement, hanged for participation in Irish rebellion; 4, Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria, who died; 5, Roumanian infantry, which entered war this year; 6, Earl Kitchener, Britain's war minister, drowned; 7, the Sussex, cross channel steamer, torpedoed by a submarine; 8, British battleship battered off Jutland during greatest sea battle in history.

By Captain GEORGE L. KILMER, Late U. S. V.

SURPRISES have not ceased in the surprising world war, now well into its third year. The more important of these surprises in 1916 have been in France, at sea, on the Italian front and in the Balkans. In January the Germans, who were supposed to be on the defensive in France, sprang a vicious attack along a five mile front in the Champagne. Farther north, on Vimy ridge, and at Ypres, Belgium, they stormed British trenches, 800 yards and 600 yards in length. While attention was thus drawn to the northern front the Germans suddenly launched heavy attacks on Feb. 22 north of Verdun, starting a tremendous drive against that famous salient which the crown prince originally struck at in August, 1914. Three days later Fort Douaumont, four miles from the city, was captured following a bombardment which nearly razed its walls. Next day the Germans captured six fortified French villages and on the 29th shifted the attack from the north to the southeast. Fighting continued for weeks. The middle of May it was evident that the French line would hold in front of the city itself.

The element of surprise in the Verdun drive lay in that the Germans would risk heavy losses in storming fortifications for the mere purpose apparently of shortening their front.

Counterdrive by the Allies.
 It has been hinted that the German offensive at Verdun was launched to forestall an expected Anglo-French offensive against the German communication farther north. Such a movement was launched the 1st of July along the river Somme and the river Ancre, Peronne and Bapaume being the objectives. Every day for two weeks either the French or British pushed forward, now capturing a village, now a woods. Again the Germans would retake ground by desperate counterattack. Supposed keys like Contalmaison and Combles were captured, but Peronne and Bapaume still cover the railroad along which the Germans on the battle line in France receive their supplies through Belgium. At the end of two weeks of forward movements on the Somme, Lloyd-George, British minister of war, exclaimed in a council of leaders, "Victory is beginning to flow in our direction."

Russia Comes Back.
 Lloyd-George evidently included in the flow of victory Russia's great enterprises in her southwest war zone, Bukovina and eastern Galicia. The Russians had been expelled from the Warsaw and Vistula line in the autumn of 1915, but a considerable body remained in eastern Bukovina and just outside its borders. The Austro-Germans had also left garrisons for their original fortifications there. Early in January the Russians began a drive in the vicinity of Czernowitz. Nothing of consequence resulted, but the movement, taken in connection with attacks in the district of Vilna and Dvinsk, in the north, gave proof that Russia still had aggressive power. In June General Brusiloff assumed command in the southwest and, aiming for Lemberg, turned the flank of the Austrian defenses in Volhynia and Bukovina. In one week the Russians claimed 80,000 prisoners, captured the for-

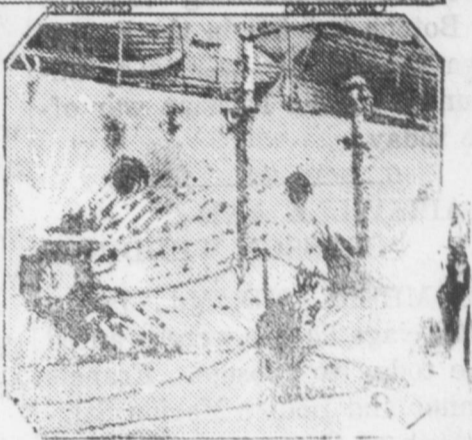
gress through Greece, brought up again the supposed German dream of a Berlin to Bagdad route. This dream was dissipated when it became evident that Russia was forcing the Turks out of Mesopotamia and effectively co-operating with the allies at Saloniki. The situation of Germany had a serious look as autumn came on, with Verdun untaken, the allies storming a third line on the Somme and the Russians displaying enough vigor in their southwest to hold the Austrian forces at full strength in Volhynia, Bukovina and Greece. Then suddenly Roumania cast her lot with the allies and, as it was supposed, added 400,000 men to the enemies of the Teuton on the Vienna to Constantinople line.

Greatest of Naval Battles.
 Lloyd-George also had in mind the naval battle of Jutland, which took place on the last day of May. This has been called the greatest naval action in history. It was the greatest to date in this war. The British claimed a great victory, which amounts to a confession that the German navy is by no means a negligible factor. The Germans ventured to sea seeking battle. They overcame the advance British column and were not checked until the heavy British battleships arrived on the scene.

Von Hindenburg Scores Again.
 How Von Hindenburg turned to grapple with this new foe is the most surprising chapter in the history of the war, a new example of efficiency at headquarters and in the fighting ranks. No check worthy of the name was suffered after crossing two frontiers until converging armies met before doomed Bukharest, taken on Dec. 6. Roumania seems to have repeated the French blunder of August, 1914, when, instead of going to the aid of Belgium, Joffre sent a big army to recover Alsace. Instead of stabbing Bulgaria, Roumania marched north into Hungary, a move which invited Germans and Bulgars to strike at her vitals from the south. So, while Von Mackensen marched and conquered in the general direction of the Danube, central Roumania and Bukharest, the Roumanians, who had poured over her northern border, were easily turned back, their conquests wrested from them and the entire venture of the last of the Balkan states was turned into a fizzle, so far as support of the allies was concerned. There remains Greece—at least the rebellious part of it—to stimulate the hope that the Teutonic powers may yet receive a vital thrust in the back. The conquest of Roumania required time, energy and lives. Whether the compensation will equal the investment time alone can tell. The end of 1916 finds the German powers resourceful in men and undaunted in spirit. On the other hand, the allies' cabinets are reorganizing to restore the flow of victories to the channels of midsummer. Lloyd-George became British premier Dec. 7.

Serious Outlook For Germany.
 In some respects it seemed as though the allies had unloaded a dead weight by abandoning the direct attack upon Constantinople. The Russians almost from the beginning of the war had been coming down into Asia Minor in a direction which would bring them into junction with the British column moving up the Tigris river toward Bagdad. In February Russia captured Erzerum, Mesopotamia, from the Turks. This was followed two months later by the capture of Trebizond, on the Black sea. Russia's southward march from bases in her own home territory, backed up by her fleet on the Black sea, really a strategic prolongation of her line in Bukovina and Galicia, constituted a menace to German ambition in the near east.

The elimination of Serbia as a factor, which was made certain in the winter of 1916, and the certainty that Turkey could be relied upon for troops and supplies, coupled with the apparent difficulty of the allies in launching a stroke in the back of the Teutonic



powers through Greece, brought up again the supposed German dream of a Berlin to Bagdad route. This dream was dissipated when it became evident that Russia was forcing the Turks out of Mesopotamia and effectively co-operating with the allies at Saloniki. The situation of Germany had a serious look as autumn came on, with Verdun untaken, the allies storming a third line on the Somme and the Russians displaying enough vigor in their southwest to hold the Austrian forces at full strength in Volhynia, Bukovina and Greece. Then suddenly Roumania cast her lot with the allies and, as it was supposed, added 400,000 men to the enemies of the Teuton on the Vienna to Constantinople line.

Miscellaneous Events.
 Minor events of the war were the torpedoing of the British channel steamer Sussex, the transfer of the submarine war zone across the Atlantic in October and General Kitchener's death at sea. Air craft battles have been many, fierce and deadly; casualties of all kinds have been heavy. Outside of war the old world has been normal, with the exception of a brief rebellion in Ireland, which had been expected and was ruthlessly suppressed. Japan and Russia formed an agreement, and Japan made new demands upon China, whose ruler, Yuan Shih Kai, died in June. Deaths abroad during the year included Franz Joseph, emperor and king; Carmen Sylva, Roumanian queen dowager and a personality of note; Dr. Metchnikoff, the bacteriologist; Mounet-Sully, French actor, and Sienkiewicz, Polish author. Sir Roger Casement was executed for treason as instigator of the rebellion in Ireland; also Pearse, the rebel "president," and Connolly, the military chief.