

TWO U. S. WARSHIPS ARE ORDERED TO GO TO MEXICO AS CRISIS BECOMES ACUTE

Wilson Administration Begins Taking Steps To Carry Out What the Diplomatic Corps Interpreted as an Entire Change of Attitude Toward the Whole Mexican Situation

FEARS OUTRAGES AT THE CAPITAL

Serious Condition of Affairs in Mexico City Prompts Latest Move of Washington Officials to Carry Out Plans for the Protection of Foreigners

By Associated Press.
Washington, March 9.—American Consul Silliman telegraphed from Vera Cruz to-day that he had been reliably informed that the evacuation of Mexico City by the forces of General Obregon began at 9 o'clock last night.

Washington, March 9.—After a conference early to-day with President Wilson, Secretary Daniels ordered one cruiser and one battleship of the Atlantic fleet from Guantanamo to Vera Cruz.

Rear Admiral Fletcher, commanding the fleet, will choose the war vessels that are to go to Vera Cruz to reinforce the small craft already there. The only specification Secretary Daniels made in his order was that one of the ships should be a flagship, in order to put an officer of high rank in command of the forces.

General Carranza in an oral reply to Counsel Silliman when the latter presented the note from the United States on conditions in Mexico City, entered a general denial that General Obregon had prevented food from entering Mexico City or sent any supplies out of the city.

Admiral Fletcher selected the armored cruiser Washington, now in Haitian waters, with Rear Admiral Caperton, and the battleship Georgia, commanded by Captain Robert E. Goetz, now at Guantanamo, to proceed to Vera Cruz.

Both ships, starting to-day, should be at Vera Cruz by Thursday night.

Awaiting Carranza's Reply, U. S. Acts
Washington, March 9.—While awaiting a reply to the representations to General Carranza to take steps to improve conditions in Mexico City, the administration to-day began taking steps to carry out what most of the foreign diplomatic corps here interpreted as an entire change of attitude toward the whole Mexican situation.

Rear Admiral Fletcher, commanding the Atlantic fleet at Guantanamo, was

Continued on Ninth Page.

SHE DIES FOR LACK OF DRUG

New Germantown Woman Victim of New Federal Ban on Laudanum
(Special to the Star-Independent.)
Waynesboro, Pa., March 9.—A woman, 45 years old, is dead at her home in New Germantown, near Fayetteville, here, according to her brother, died because she could not obtain laudanum any longer as a result of the federal ban on such drugs.

According to her brother she had been accustomed to drink a good deal of laudanum, which she could buy without any trouble. On March 1 she found out she could no longer obtain the drug and at once she began to fail. She continued to decline until death took her.

STEELTON GETS BRIDGE JOB

Will Build Structure on the Trenton Cut-off of the Pennsylvania Railroad
The Pennsylvania Steel Company, it was announced to-day, obtained the contract yesterday for the erection of a steel bridge for the Pennsylvania railroad on the Trenton cut-off. The material will all be made and the bridge assembled at the Steelton plant of the steel company.

This order is a comparatively small one, but, in connection with the Memphis bridge contract, assures a continuance of work in the bridge and construction department in Steelton for several months.

LOCAL TRACTORS TO HAVE CHANCE

Taylor Changes Plan to Award Contracts Today and Gives Morton Co. Show

IT MADE THE LOWER BIDS

Postponement of Purchase of New Fire Apparatus Will Give Harrisburg Concern Opportunity to Prove Merits of Its Product

The Morton Truck & Tractor Company, of this city, which submitted a lower bid than the out-of-town concern to which, it was reported, Park Commissioner M. Harvey Taylor had planned to award the contract for three motor tractors, for the Harrisburg Fire Department, will be given an opportunity to display a sample of its tractors, one that now is being assembled and, consequently, is yet considered in the running for the contracts.

This developed to-day when Commissioner Taylor agreed not to ask the City Commissioners, at their meeting this afternoon, to award the contracts for the apparatus at this time. Pressure had been brought to give the Morton people a fair chance to demonstrate the merits of their tractor, and Mr. Taylor said this afternoon: "We want to inspect the tractor which the Morton Company now is building. I expect to make my recommendations for awarding the contracts for the apparatus at the meeting next Tuesday."

It has practically been agreed among the City Commissioners, or at least a majority of that body, that the Morton firm shall get the contracts for two combination chemical wagons, of the type now being used by the Friendship Company. In addition the three tractors are to be bought, two for steam fire engines and one for a ladder truck. Although the Morton bid was

Continued on Ninth Page.

TAYLOR THINKS PRICE HIGH

Asks Lynch If It Is True McCormick Estate Raised Figure on Plot When City Started Negotiations

When the City Commissioners this afternoon decided to postpone for twenty-four hours action on the ordinance providing for the purchase of a South Ninth street plot from the Henry McCormick estate, as a site for the municipal asphalt repair plant, Commissioner Lynch told his colleagues that the \$6,330 purchase price is more than \$100 higher than that for which it originally was offered.

Park Commissioner Taylor, who queried Lynch on the subject, saying that rumors are afloat that the price was boosted after it became known that the City wanted the ground, declared that the price is too high.

"I am not prepared to-day to vote on the ordinance," said Taylor. "I have nothing official to show that the ground originally offered for sale for a lesser sum than \$6,330," said Lynch, "but I can say that Rabbi Samuel Friedman, acting as agent for the owners, first advised me that the ground could be bought for \$6,500. Later he came to me saying that the owners would not pay him his commission and he said it would be up to the City to pay it. Later I received that letter which fixes the price at \$6,330."

Fully a hundred voters in the First precinct of the First ward, in a petition to the City Commissioners, protested against placing the repair plant on the ordinance until to-morrow afternoon at 1 o'clock. After their meeting to-day they inspected the site.

LIKES CHAIRMAN'S DRESS SUIT

Salus Asks Senate to Require Kline to Wear It Every Time He Presides

Senator Kline, President Pro Tem. of the Senate, was one of the guests who last night attended the dinner given by Governor Brumbaugh at the Executive Mansion to the members of the Superior Court, and because of this he appeared in the Senate to preside attired in evening dress of the latest cut. Such a vision of sartorial effluence has seldom been seen in the Senate, and it so impressed Senator Salus that he offered the following resolution:

"Be It Resolved, That in the interest of dignity due the Senate of Pennsylvania, that the President Pro Tem. of the Senate be requested hereafter to appear at all evening sessions in full evening dress."

The handsome presiding officer heard the resolution read and explained that his reason for appearing in evening dress was because of the Governor's dinner. He said he could not find it convenient in the future to comply with the resolution. In the meantime, he said, he would refer it to the committee on Law and Order.

The laugh was on Senator Salus.

Military Bill Is Reported

The new bill for the reorganization of the National Guard along the lines of the regular army as proposed by the United States War Department, was reported favorably from the Military Committee in the Senate this morning. Senate then took a recess until 8 o'clock this evening.

LEADING CHARACTERS IN THE TROUBLE IN GREECE



That Greece is at the parting of the ways, with her King exerting his influence to maintain the neutrality of his country in opposition to Mr. Eleutherios Venizelos, the retiring Premier, and the man to whom Greece owes her revival, is the opinion of Europe. Mr. Venizelos announced the resignation of himself and his Cabinet, as King Constantine did not approve the policy of the government. Mr. Venizelos clearly indicated that the difference between him and the monarch was over the question of peace and war. He said he had advised the King to select as a new Premier, Mr. Zaimis, governor of the National Bank, who, he said, would follow a policy of neutrality which he hoped would not endanger Greece's newly acquired territory. Mr. Alexander Zaimis was Governor of Crete from the autumn of 1906 until 1911, succeeding Prince George of Greece at the mandate of the European Powers. His career has been brilliant. He bears, moreover, a name which is honored in Greece and which he has enhanced by the possession of a large fortune and the exercise of administrative talents of a high order.

VIVID ACCOUNT OF LA TOURNAINE FIRE

Life Belts Distributed and Boats Prepared For Instant Use As Flames Rage

SENT S. O. S. CALLS AS A PRECAUTION

No Disorder and No Panic Among the Passengers, Who Accepted the Situation Calmly in Belief That Blaze Would Be Conquered

By Associated Press.
Havre, March 9.—A rigid inquiry already has been begun into all phases of the fire at sea on board the French Line steamer La Touraine, which docked here at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon and landed safely all her passengers.

Admiral Charlier, of the Ministry of Marine, and Director Duorol, of the Compagnie Generale Transatlantique, boarded the vessel upon her arrival and started the investigation at once. The report of Admiral Charlier will be submitted to the government.

The passengers apparently were none the worse for their thrilling experience. The fire, which was confined to one of the holds, was extinguished at midnight Sunday and the last stage of the voyage was completed without incident.

Life Belts Were Distributed

Life belts were distributed among the passengers and the boats were prepared for instant use as soon as the flames were discovered, but at no time was there any real danger, according to a statement made by Captain Cassin, who declared the S. O. S. calls for assistance were sent out merely as a measure of precaution. There was no disorder and no panic, he said, the passengers accepting the situation calmly in the belief that the fire would be conquered and that other steamers would reply promptly to the wireless summons.

The steamer Rotterdam, one of the vessels which answered La Touraine's

Continued on Sixth Page.

FILL PROPOSITION POSTPONED

Taylor Withholds Plan to Buy Dirt From Company Giving It Away

Park Commissioner Taylor this afternoon decided to postpone for one week his proposed request on the City Commissioners for an appropriation to purchase additional dirt for the river bank fill along Front street, between Calder and Maclay.

Taylor's reported plan was to get the dirt from the Brown-King Construction Company, contractors who are grading the railroad freight station site. These contractors are about to be paid \$4,000 for 15,000 cubic yards of dirt thrown over the river bank, dirt which originally, as shown by the Star-Independent, was to have been dumped and graded, without cost to the owner, on a piece of South Harrisburg ground owned by the Henry McCormick estate.

The City Commissioners this afternoon decided to print departmental reports covering the last year's work. These are to substitute the voluminous "annual reports" which had been gotten up yearly by the City Clerk.

\$10,000 STATE COLLEGE FIRE

Residence and Valuable Library of Registrar Destroyed

State College, Pa., March 9.—The residence and valuable library of A. H. Espenshade, registrar of the Pennsylvania State College, was destroyed by fire to-day.

Sparks from a chimney ignited the shingle roof. The loss is said to be \$10,000.

Need Beds for Poor Family

Social workers for the Dauphin county board of poor directors are in need of two full sized beds for a poor family. The directors will be glad to send for the beds if they learn of any that will be given for this work.

HOUSE APPROVES TREASURER BILL

Passes Measure Permitting Third Class City Voters to Elect Financial Officer

LIVELY DEBATE FOR HALF HOUR

Amendment to Clark Commission Government Act Goes Through Lower Branch by Vote of 121 to 61—Harrisburg Members for It

The Ringer bill amending the Clark Commission Form of Government act for third class cities by requiring that the City Treasurer be elected by the people instead of by the City Commissioners was responsible for a debate of half an hour in the House of Representatives this morning before it was passed on third reading. It now goes to the Senate where, politicians say, its chances are not considered good. The vote in the House was 121 for and 61 against.

The Harrisburg members voted for the measure and worked for its passage. City Solicitor Seitz, of Harrisburg, was in the hall when the measure was being discussed.

Mr. Ramsey, of Delaware, opened fire on the bill, pleading that the Clark act has not had a sufficient tryout. He said the City Treasurer is merely a tax receiver.

Mr. Ringer, of Blair, the sponsor of the bill, laid stress on the fact that the City Treasurer administers the school funds over which the City Commission has no control. When his motive was assailed by Mr. Spangler, of York, as being selfish, and when the statement was made that a local condition brought out this bill, Mr. Ringer said he had the unanimous backing of the electorate of Altoona before he consented to introduce the measure.

Half a Dozen Join Debate

Mr. Spangler said that the Third Class League, composed of mayors and city solicitors from all parts of the State, met in Harrisburg and decided on amendments to the Clark Act which were thought necessary and those amendments did not include this one.

Half a dozen other members got into a debate on whether the electors are able to choose their public officials to better advantage than the City Commission.

Continued on Seventh Page.

FLEMING MANSION HEARING SET

Court Will Pass on the Civic Club's Claim, Without Jury, on April 5

Hearing in the suit brought by the Harrisburg Civic Club against Frank Payne and the Central Trust Company of New York City, in an effort to establish the Club's title to the Fleming mansion on North Front street, will be conducted by Judges Kunkel and McCarrell, without a jury, on April 5, next.

This was decided this morning when attorneys in the case announced the questions of fact virtually have been agreed upon so that a jury trial will not be necessary and the court will have only the legal issue to deal with.

The sole question is whether the property grant contained in the will of the late Virginia Fleming, which provides that the Fleming home shall go to the Civic Club, shall continue in force since the club was not a corporation at the time the will became effective. Mr. Payne is now living in the house and his only connection with the case is that he doesn't know who is entitled to receive the rent from him.

Wants Vaccination Made a Crime

Representative Horace W. Cromer, of Allegheny, introduced a bill in the House this morning prohibiting vaccination and fixing a fine of \$500 or imprisonment for six months as the penalty.

CALLS HIS WIFE "LIAR" IN COURT

Youth Is Reprimanded By Judge Who Threatens to Jail Him For Contempt

LIVELY FAMILY ROW IS AIRD

Mrs. Howard Croft Testifies That Her Mother-in-Law Ordered Her and the Baby Out of the House "Never to Return"

"You're a liar," snapped Howard Croft this morning when his pretty bride of a year, who was before Judges Kunkel and McCarrell pleading that she has been neglected by her husband, related her side of a "too much mother-in-law story" and charged Croft with being overbearing and bossy.

The youthful husband's face became flushed and he seemed about to say something more, but he was silenced by Judge Kunkel, who said:

"We don't allow people to talk that way here. We will commit you for contempt if you don't be careful. Don't you know better than that?"

"Yes, sir," the youth replied, meekly.

"Is that the kind of language you used at home?" was another question of the court.

"No, sir," the youth replied.

"Yes, he does," rejoined Mrs. Croft, "and his mother uses that kind of language, too."

"So that is the kind of a man you are," commented Judge McCarrell.

Wife Blames Mother-in-Law

The young couple in their testimony agreed that there has been much interference from the young man's mother. The wife declared that she was ordered from the house "never to return again" by the mother-in-law. March

Continued on Ninth Page.

MORE THAN 18,000 TURKS CAPTURED BY RUSSIANS

London, March 9, 5.15 A. M.—Since the beginning of the war with Turkey, says a Petrograd dispatch to Reuter's Telegram Company, the Russians have captured four Turkish pashas, 337 officers and 17,675 soldiers.

A Russian official report from headquarters in the Caucasus issued on January 5, in describing what purported to be a complete victory over the Turks at Sari-Kamysh, said:

"We have beaten two Turkish army corps and made the entire Ninth Turkish army corps, including its commander and three division commanders, prisoners."

An army corps is composed of approximately 40,000 men.

LATE WAR NEWS SUMMARY

Both the right and left flanks of the German forces in Northern Poland have been dislodged, Petrograd dispatches state, from the positions they took up on the advance from East Prussia. The German right wing is said to have beaten a hasty retreat to within eight miles of the border. To-day's official report from Berlin, however, states that the Russian offensive is being met successfully. Several Russian assaults in this region are said to have been repulsed.

The battle in Champagne has become less violent. Snow has interrupted fighting in the Vosges and elsewhere along the western front there is no great activity. The day's official reports from Berlin and Paris mention only local engagements of comparatively small importance.

A further advance by the Russian

Continued on Ninth Page.

GREECE AND BULGARIA IN WAR CRISES

Both Countries Now In Tumult Over Differences Concerning the European Struggle

RADOSLAVOFF IS OVERTHROWN

Bulgarian Premier Reported to Have Been Ousted Because He Desired to Take Immediate Action Against Turkey by Reoccupying Adrianople

Paris, March 9, 5 A. M.—A ministerial crisis similar to that in Greece has occurred in Bulgaria, according to information reaching Paris. Premier Radoslavoff is reported to have been overthrown by the influence of King Ferdinand and the followers of Dr. Gheardi, former foreign minister, because he desired to take immediate action against Turkey by reoccupying Adrianople.

Radoslavoff's opponents are said to have declared this policy, which would have placed Bulgaria in opposition to Germany and Austria, was too adventurous.

Although this information has not been definitely confirmed it is generally believed in French official circles that Radoslavoff had resolved to march on Adrianople if Greece pronounced for the triple entente and that Venizelos made such an announcement at Athens when the question of intervention came up.

To Form New Cabinet in Greece

Athens, Via Paris, March 9, 4.45 A. M.—M. Gounaris, deputy for patras, has consented at the request of the King Constantine to undertake the task of forming a new Cabinet. It is reported that M. Baltadjis, who was foreign minister in the Theotokis Cabinet, has consented to take that post folio under the leadership of M. Gounaris.

M. Gounaris has submitted his list of ministers to the king and it is understood obtained an agreement that the chamber shall be dissolved if the supporters of the ministry are in the minority, which is considered highly probable. The new premier is expected to favor the continued neutrality of Greece.

Greece has been facing a Cabinet crisis since the end of last week, when M. Venizelos, the premier, who favors Greek participation in the war on the side of the allies, resigned because his policy did not meet with the approval of King Constantine, who desired that the country remain neutral.

To Vote on Urgent Measures

Paris, March 8, 9.30 A. M.—A Havas dispatch from Athens contains the following quotation from the "Patrias," which is published in the Grecian capital:

"King Constantine wrote M. Venizelos, advising the necessity of the convocation of the Chamber of Deputies to vote on urgent measures. M. Venizelos replied that he had consented, in view of the abnormal conditions resulting from his resolution, that the new Cabinet might appear before the new Chamber without conforming to the constitution and gave his assurance that he would not insist upon the dissolution of the Chamber if the new Cabinet obtained a vote of confidence."

"Further than that, M. Venizelos said he would make no concessions. He declared that he could not, as the chief of the majority, consent that his party should support by its votes a policy that the outgoing Cabinet had declared was disastrous for the country."

German Press on Greek Situation

Berlin, Via Amsterdam and London, March 9, 3.45 A. M.—The German newspapers discuss the Greek situation on the assumption that M. Venizelos, the retiring Premier, wanted Greece to participate in the war, while the King and General Dusanis favored continued neutrality. Theodor Wolf, editor-in-chief of the "Berliner Tageblatt," says in his paper:

"The King's bold step has not freed him permanently from the war enthusiasts, as M. Venizelos has a majority of the Parliament. The majority of the newspapers and the coffee house orators favor England and if another Dardanelles fort falls, a great popular demonstration will be seen in Athens. However, as soon as the budget passes, the King can send Parliament home. Since he has the army's support, the demagogues are not so formidable as they appear."

Third Judgeship Bill Advanced

The Nissley bill providing for a third judge for Dauphin county passed second reading in the Senate this morning. It already has passed the House.

WALL STREET CLOSING

By Associated Press.
New York, March 9.—Diversions of speculative interest to the special class caused renewed selling of leading stocks, particularly Reading, Steel and Amalgamated. The closing was heavy. Stocks moved irregularly to-day, with the Mexican situation acting as a restraining influence.

Continued on Ninth Page.