

Fair and slightly colder tonight. Thursday fair. Fresh northerly winds.

SHELLED AND SUNK WITHOUT WARNING

Submarine Sent Former American Vessel to The Bottom. American Crew Escaped.

TOOK PLACE OFF ISLE OF WIGHT.

Firing Kept Up While Crew Was Taking to The Boats—Crew Returned to United States Today and Told The Story.

New York, Dec. 6.—The steamship John Lambert, listed in the Maritime register as an American vessel, was shelled and sunk without warning by a German submarine off the Isle of Wight on November 22, according to members of the crew of Americans who arrived here today on a French line steamer from Bordeaux.

The John Lambert was one of the 12 vessels which was built on the Great Lakes and a French line agreed to purchase her. According to the arrivals today the vessel was on her way to Havre to be delivered there. The attack took place at 4:30 p. m., when the ship was 25 miles south of the Isle of Wight, members of the crew said.

Engineer Edward Harrison said that the submarine first made its presence known by sending a shell crashing through the Lambert's bridge and that the firing continued during the time the crew was taking to the boats, 12 shots being fired. The crew of 16, all of whom arrived here today without their captain, said they rode 40 miles from the coast, being on the water for 12 hours and shortly after the Lambert went down they saw the submarine attack and sink two unidentified vessels—a steamer and a bark.

The second officer of the John Lambert said the vessel flew the French flag when she went down and had been using that flag although not yet formally turned over.

PRESIDENT CLEARS DECK FOR ACTION

Making Ready For The First Days' Business of Present Congress.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 6.—President Wilson disposed of a great number of miscellaneous engagements today, to clear his calendar for the work of the first days of Congress.

He received the new council of National Defense, conferred with numerous senators and representatives, reviewed Sen. Chapman boy corn growers and touched a button giving a signal for the opening of the Tulare Citrus Fruit Fair, at Visalia, Cal.

COMPOSER OF WELL KNOWN SONG IS ILL.

Santa Rosa, Cal., Dec. 6.—J. P. Mills, known on the stage as "Joe Hayden," who wrote "There'll Be a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight," is seriously ill in a hospital here. Little hope is entertained today for his recovery.

TO INVESTIGATE OHIO POLITICS.

Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 6.—The secretary of state today ordered a statewide investigation of the charges of fraud and error in the recent Ohio election filed by the Republican state committee.

LAW DECLINES TO FORM NEW CABINET.

London, Dec. 6.—The Westminster Gazette says that A. Bonar Law has declined the invitation of the King to form a cabinet and that presumably David Lloyd-George will be called on.

The Exchange Telegraph Company says it has authority for the statement that Mr. Bonar Law has declined the offer to form a government.

PLIGHT OF THE RUMANIAN ARMY IS STILL ACUTE

Russians Seem Unable to Stem The Rush Toward Bucharest.

TRYING TO GET RAILWAY LINE Teutons Reaching Out to Cut Off Ferdinand's Forces—Entente Making Progress in Macedonia.

The plight of Rumania continues acute, with no sign of a stand by her armies or those of her Russian allies affording hope of saving her capital.

Although reports from Turkish sources last night claimed that the troops of the Central Powers had been driven to within less than eight miles of Bucharest, the chief thrust of the Teutons seems northwest of the capital, with the apparent hope of reaching Ploesch before the Rumanian armies and effect a retreat over the railway running through there from Bucharest. This encircling movement spells great peril to King Ferdinand's forces, as the road through Ploesch affords the only railway avenue of escape for them towards the northeast, whether the Rumanians and Russians so far have held Moldavia fairly safe.

The Macedonian operations of the entente allies are progressing favorably, according to all current reports. The thrust developed by the Serbians in the Grunishite region, east of Monastir, is being pressed and the latest statement from the Serbian war office announces the Bulgarians in retreat, after losing seven strong positions.

Today Paris announces fresh progress for the Serbians and French in the Monastir fight and reports also developments of violent artillery engagements north of Monastir.

GETTING READY TO FIGHT THE SUIT

Attorney General Bickett In Washington About Cuba's Claim Against State.

(By George H. Manning.) Washington, D. C., Dec. 6.—Attorney General Bickett spent the day here discussing with Solicitor General Davis, of the Department of Justice, and officials of the Supreme Court plans for opposing the suit filed by Cuba to collect several million dollars on the old carpetbag bonds issued by North Carolina.

Mr. Bickett will obtain abundant information today and tomorrow upon which to prepare a reply brief to Cuba's suit.

M. L. Shipman is here attending to a few matters in the departments, in connection with the activities of his department in the state.

OSBORNE PICKED WAX OUT TODAY

Identified By Lawyer As The Original "Oliver Osborne."

New York, Dec. 6.—Charles H. Wax was identified at the United States attorney's office here today by James W. Osborne and his wife, together with Edwin Wilcox, an assistant in his office, as "Oliver Osborne," the man who won the affections of Rae Tanzer.

Mr. Osborne picked him out among a room full of newspaper men, shaking hands cordially with him.

"I was told I could speak to you now," said Mr. Osborne, placing his hand in a friendly manner on Wax's shoulder. "I am glad to see you. I want you to know that I am the best friend you have in the world."

Mr. Tanzer had claimed that Mr. Osborne was "Oliver Osborne" and brought suit against him for breach of promise.

Madrid, Spain, Dec. 6.—(Via Paris) One hundred members of the crew of the Spanish steamer, Plo IX, from New Orleans for Barcelona, were drowned by sinking of the vessel in a storm when off the Canary Islands.

GREAT METHODIST HOSTS IN ANNUAL MEET IN DURHAM

Eightieth Conference Called to Order Today By Bishop Kilgo.

YEARLY MEETING OF HISTORICAL SOCIETY. Held Previous to Convening of Conference—Rev. Geo. Stuart Addresses Laymen.

(By Susan Iden.) Durham, N. C., Dec. 6.—Bishop John C. Kilgo called the eightieth session of the North Carolina Methodist Conference to order Wednesday morning at 9:30 o'clock in Memorial church, of this city. According to the usual custom the conference opened with the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Bishop Kilgo was assisted in this service by the presiding elders. Following the communion service Rev. R. H. Willis, pastor of the church at Oxford, was re-elected secretary of the conference. Mr. Willis has served as secretary for five years. Rev. G. T. Simmons and J. M. Ormond were elected assistant secretaries and Rev. C. J. Harrell, statistical secretary.

Wednesday afternoon Rev. George Stuart and Dr. John R. Pepper, of (Continued on Page Three.)

STATE BAPTISTS WORKING HARD IN CONVENTION

Meeting at Elizabeth City Buckles Down to Business Ahead Of It.

ACTIVE CAMPAIGN FOR THE RECORDER.

Every Preacher Should Take It, Declares Mr. D. L. Gore, of Wilmington—Judge Oates President.

Elizabeth City, N. C., Dec. 6.—The outstanding feature of this morning's session of the Baptist State Convention was the setting apart of February for an active campaign among pastors and laymen for the support of the Biblical Recorder, described as the most tremendous influence at work for the strengthening and upbuilding of the Baptist cause in the State.

"Some preachers don't take it," said D. L. Gore, of Wilmington. "The laymen ought to see that they do."

The convention effected organization last night and got down to work this morning.

Hight C. Moore presented the report on the Biblical Recorder, which was discussed by C. J. Thompson and J. S. Farmer. Before the report was taken up by R. T. Vann, secretary of the general education board, expressed his gratitude for the support given him by North Carolina Baptists during the past year.

Dr. Mullin's address on "The Baptist Heritage" closed the morning session. The address was a resume of Dr. Mullin's book, "The Axioms of Religion."

The convention met in its eighty-sixth annual session in the auditorium of the Blackwell Memorial church of this city last night.

The committee on enrollment announced that 284 ministers had registered, and the body proceeded to organize by electing Judge John A. Oates, of Fayetteville, president.

The feature of the first session of the convention was the annual convention sermon by Dr. Calvin B. Walker, of Asheville, who was assisted in the preliminary exercises by Dr. John Jeter Hurt, of Wilmington.

PUBLIC AWAITING NEXT STEP IN THE ENGLISH CRISIS

King Has Sent For Lloyd-George to Confer With This Leader.

BONAR LAW WILL NOT HEAD CABINET.

Declines The Task to Reorganize Government—Opposition to David Lloyd-George.

London, Dec. 6.—The public awaits with great interest the next step in the political crisis in England. The Nationalists, who withdrew their support from Premier Asquith because of his failure to carry out an agreement made with Lloyd-George for bringing home rule into force immediately, would hardly be likely to follow a cabinet of which Mr. Bonar Law was the chief and in which Sir Edward Carson was included. It had been suggested that their support might be obtained by granting their demands regarding Ireland and it was even said that Sir Edward Carson was a party to this, but the Ulster leader telegraphed to his supporters in Belfast a flat denial of the report, saying:

"The position attributed to me is without foundation. Ulster men know my views and my unabated loyalty to them."

Another difficulty is presented by the labor party, whose leader announced yesterday the intention of the labor men in the House of Commons to support Premier Asquith.

HOW ONE WOMAN WON PRIZE IN BIG CONTEST

Mrs. Helen Putney, Who Did Not Live in City Where Paper Was Published, But in Small Town, Offers Suggestions as to How to Conduct Winning Campaign.

- THE PRIZES. \$685 Overland Automobile. Ford Automobile. Building Lot. \$100 in Gold. \$75 Victoria. \$50 O. K. Mystic Range. \$40 Sellers Kitchen Cabinet. \$25 Wrist Watch. Two \$50 Diamond Rings.

No doubt there are a number of young ladies entered in The Dispatch Contest, who are hesitating about starting their campaigns, because they do not know just how to begin. They may feel just a little timid about asking for their first subscription. For the benefit of these, as well as others, the Contest Manager is giving the following suggestions, which were sent to him unsolicited, by the winner of the first prize in a contest which he recently conducted. These are some of the suggestions that Mrs. Helen Putney offers to others — some of the things that she did to win an automobile:

"First of all I asked all my friends to take the paper, and if they were already subscribers I asked them to renew their subscriptions. Of course, I could not see all of my friends in one day, or several days for that matter, but I called them up over the phone and told them I was in the contest to win and for them to save their subscriptions for me, and I would come for them as soon as I could.

"I tried to secure all the subscriptions possible in the early part of the contest, while they counted the most votes, and others of my competitors were still 'wondering' if they could win the Grand Prize. Friends who had never taken the paper, took it 'to help along,' and those who were taking it by the week or month, were easily induced to take it by the year. I never asked a person a second time

CONGRESS BUCKLES DOWN TO WORK OF THE SESSION

Turns Its Attention to The Legislative Program Proposed.

MAKING READY FOR RAILWAY FEATURES.

President's Suggestion to Be Taken Up Forthwith—Attorney General Looking Into Constitutionality.

Washington, Dec. 6.—Congress having heard President Wilson outline his annual address yesterday the program of legislation he hopes to see enacted in the short session, today turned its attention to the legislative work. In both the House and Senate the President's recommendations, particularly the railroad legislation, were being closely scrutinized.

A bill embodying the President's suggestions for railroad legislation has been prepared by Chairman Adamson, of the House Commerce Committee, for submission as soon as Attorney General Gregory passes on its constitutionality, and Chairman Newlands, of the Senate Commerce Committee, has arranged to take up the proposed legislation at a committee meeting Friday.

Chairman Henry, of the House rules that will expedite the railroad rules committee, had an engagement with the President today regarding rules that will expedite the railroad and other legislation through the House.

Beat Husband for Mayoralty. Umatilla, Oregon, Dec. 6.—Mrs. E. E. Starcher defeated her husband for mayor in the election yesterday

SOARING PRICES CAUSE MEETING OF HOUSEWIVES

Ladies of City Unwilling to Pay Prices Charged For Foodstuffs.

EGGS, BUTTER AND CHEESE MENTIONED.

Boycott Agreed on Except When Articles Are Needed For Infants, Invalids and Old People.

Wilmington fell into line with the nation-wide movement for the reduction of the high cost of living, particularly in regard to the unprecedented soaring prices of the present, when the Local Housewives' League followed the example set by similar organizations in many other cities of the country and declared a boycott on eggs, butter and cheese at an enthusiastic meeting of the league, held this morning in the rest rooms of the old Murchison Bank building on Chestnut street.

Mrs. G. H. Croom, president of the Housewives' League, who presided at the meeting has telegraphed to the State Department of Agriculture, in Raleigh, for what that department thinks is a reasonable price for the boycotted foods in this section under the existing conditions of the market. A wire was also sent to New York to ascertain the prices charged there. When replies are received they will be published and the local housewives will not pay more for eggs, butter and cheese than what they consider a fair price.

It was announced at the meeting that Sorosis will meet in regular session tomorrow and will pass resolutions as being in accord and ready to co-operate in any measure taken by the housewives to reduce the present high prices. It was also stated at the meeting that the President of the North Carolina Colonial Dames would be approached and asked to have her organization co-operate in the city-wide movement.

Each of the thirty or more housewives in attendance at the meeting this morning will this afternoon telephone ten other housewives who are not members of the league and urge upon them the necessity in having their help in making this movement a success. It was arranged so that practically every housewife having a telephone would be reached.

In the general discussion which took place it was clearly shown that the boycott is not intended to injure the local merchants particularly as it is not believed by the housewives that they are responsible for the prevailing high prices, but is meant for the middlemen, cold storage men and speculators, who, it is claimed, are responsible for the conditions that now exist.

It was stated by Mrs. Croom that the housewives wanted if plainly understood that the league is not fighting the local merchant, but it is the speculators. She stated that the local merchants will welcome the boycott as it will save them considerable money. The president of the league stated that Christmas was coming and unless something is done immediately the prices on eggs, butter, etc., will be out of reach.

It was impressed on those present that the boycotted articles were not to be purchased at the present prices except for infants, sickones and old and infirm persons, who absolutely require them. Mrs. Croom stated that she had appealed to the local commercial organizations on numerous occasions for their aid in the reduction of the high cost of living, but the appeals were ignored, as she explained, it seemed as if the Housewives' League was taken as a woman's fad.

One enthusiastic lady stated that the trouble was that the housewives have been afraid of the merchants and farmers, but in reality the housewives have them by the neck and by refusing to buy their products can force them to charge reasonable prices, which the housewives are willing to pay, but as it was stated, they were not willing to be robbed.

Figures were read showing that the average price in Wilmington today for butter is 50 cents per pound, for eggs 40 cents per dozen and about 32 cents per pound for cheese. The consensus of opinion of the meeting was that a fair price for butter was not more than 40 cents per pound, for eggs not more than 30 cents per dozen and for cheese, considering the general high price of food at present.

One housewife explained that she had been told by a farmer that the reason for the high cost of eggs was (Continued on Page Eleven)



Former President William H. Taft will address the State Literary and Historical Association here tonight and tomorrow will be the guest of honor at a luncheon to be tendered by the chamber of commerce.

GREAT MONTH FOR THE RAILROADS

November Orders For Rolling Stocks Broke The Record For Any Single Month.

New York, Dec. 6.—American railroads placed orders in November for 56,530 freight cars, representing about \$83,000,000, according to statistics published here today by the Journal of Commerce.

Never before has freight car orders in any single month, exceeded 25,000. Another thousand cars were purchased in the United States by foreign interests at an approximate cost of \$1,500,000.

Domestic roads ordered 342 and foreign bought 633 locomotives and American roads bought 491 passenger cars and these, together with freight cars orders, and 737,000 tons of rails bought, brought the total cost of railroad equipment purchased during November up to \$155,551,000.