WEATHER FORECAST.

Rain tonight. Tuesday fair. Moderate east to southeast winds.

THE

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FINAL EDITION

LARGEST CIRCULATION IN WILMINGTON

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RUMANIANS HAVE A NEW DEFENSE LINE

Making Stand on Boundary Line of Northern Province— — Trying Unite Forces

RUSSIANS KEEP HAMMERING AWAY

Czar's Troops Endeavoring to Cut Into Hungary and Get Behind Supply Lines — Little Doing on Other Battlefronts.

Indications today point more stronger than ever that probably a defense line of the Rumanians, following their retreat from Bucharest, will be thrown along the Buzue river, forming the southern boundary of the northern province of Moldavia.

Reports from Petrograd indicate a considerable measure of success by the Rumanians' northern army in holding up the Teutonic advance northeast along the railway north of Bucharest towards the town of Buzue.

It is necessary to the apparent purpose of the Rumanians that they prevent the Austro-German forces' advance here until the Rumanians, further south, in Eastern Wallachia, that retreated between Bucharest and Tchernavoda, have reached the Buzu river line. These Rumanian forces are threatened not only by von Mackensen's Danube army, but by a new contingent of Bulgarians thrown across the Danube between Silistria and Tchernavoda.

Meanwhile the Russians are hammering away at the Austro-German line on the western frontier of Moldavia and are reported as making headway in the valleys running toward the west. Their object appears not only to hold the Moldavian frontier safely, but possibly to achieve an eventual success in breaking well through into Hungary and cutting behind the Austro-German supply line leading into Rumania from the north.

There has been little fighting on the other fronts. In Macedonia the Serbians report having driven the Bulgarians back in one sector northeast of Monastir. On the Franco-Belgian front little has developed beyond intermittent artillery activity in the Somme area and aviation operations on a considerable scale.

Berlin reports pursuit of the Rumanians is continuing despite heavy rains and destruction of bridges behind the retreating troops. Resistance is encountered at some places, but is overcome. The capture of several thousand more Rumanians is announced.

Another heavy attack by the French and Serbians on the Macedonian front northeast of Monastir was repulsed, according to the statement of German army headquarters.

SHRINERS GATHER IN QUEEN CITY

Ceremonial of Oasis Temple to Be Held There—Reception Tonight

Charlotte, N. C., Dec. 11.—The winter ceremonial of Oasis Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of the Mystic Shrine, begins here tonight with a reception in the Masonic Temple to the nobles, ladies and candidates.

Hundreds of Shriners are arriving to take part in the festivities. The ceremonial session will be held tomorrow afternoon after a business meeting.

SUNDAY BLUE LAW IS CLAMPED DOWN

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 9.—No Sunday blue laws for the enterprising little town of Stone Mountain, near Atlanta, which boasts the largest solid rock in the world as its attraction for sightseers.

Some of the good citizens of Stone Mountain objected to soda founts, cigar stands, gasoline stands and other business concerns running full blast on the Sabbath, and put them out a ticket for mayor and council.

The other faction, believeing sightseers would be kept away by the lack of these facilities, ran a liberal ticket and won.

PREMIER TOO SICK TO ATTEND TODAY

Lloyd-George Unable Today to Go to Palace With His Cabinet

London, Dec. 11.—Premier Lloyd-George is ill today and was unable to go to Buckingham Palace with his cabinet and receive the seal of office from King George.

Official announcements state that the Premier was suffering from a severe chill and that he was ordered by his physician to remain indoors today.

GENERAL JOFFRE TO BE DEPOSED

Confirmation of Repor That Defende of Verdun to be Commander

Washington, Dec. 11.—Private advices from Paris received here today telling of secret proceedings of the French chamber of deputies during last week, confirm the previous report that General Petain, the defender of Verdun, is to succeed General Joffre in supreme command of all the forces on the western battlefront, as the first result of radical changes of organization following control of the management of the war by a small council.

General Petain was a colonel at the outbreak of the war.

BALTIMORE CONCERN WINS.

Fruit Distributors Given $214 Decision Against Local Concern.

Today in the Superior Court, the Atlantic Fruit Distributors, of Baltimore, were awarded $214.80 against the Northern Fruit Company, of this city. The jury decided the case in a few minutes after it had been given them by Judge G. W. Connor.

Hollen Buie was granted a divorce from Jos. L. Bue, as was Major Williams from his wife, Irene Williams. Counsel for the defendant in the case of J. M. Murphy against J. N. Bryant were denied motion to strike out judgment.

In the case of Humphrey Brothers et al vs. Buell-Crocker Lumber Co., an order was made allowing D. L. Farrior ten days to file exception to the report of the referee.

REVOLT HAS BROKEN OUT.

London, Dec. 11.—Telegrams today from Athens say that a revolution has broken out in Cyclades, a group of the Greek Isles in the Aegean Sea.

The latest news from Athens says that the note of the entente to the Greek government undoubtedly will be presented tomorrow. The note will be short and in the nature of preparation for a second note, which will contain more detailed demands. It is indicated that demand will be made on the Greek government for complete demobilization of the army; restoration of control by the entente over posts, telegraph and railway lines and the release of imprisoned followers of Venizelos.

Advices to the British minister indicate that a more calm condition prevails. A large number of Nationalists continue to leave Athens.

The Greek battleship, Hydra, which is under control of the allies, has intercepted Greek wireless messages from King Constantine addressed to Berlin.

All Greeks in Egypt, it is said, have renounced allegiance to King Constantine.

GOVT. AFTER THE ONES CAUSING HIGH PRICES

New York Grand Jury Will Be Asked to Return Indictments

NO WARRANT FOR HIGH PRICE COAL

Declares Special Government Prosecutor — President Studying Reports in Cases

New York, Dec. 11.—The Federal government's investigations into the high cost of living began here today with the presentment to the grand jury of the names of several persons in the cold storage business.

Similar investigations will be made in Chicago, Detroit, Toledo and Cincinnati. The cases will be interlocking and information will be exchanged.

According to Frank J. Swacker, the special prosecutor representing the Department of Justice, it has already been discovered that there has been no real shortage in the supply of anthracite coal and there is no warrant for the high prices charged by some dealers. Mr. Swacker said the grand jury would consider evidence relating to a conclusion in fixing the price of food commodities.

Getting Ready to Push Probe.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 11.—Preparation for the transfer of the Federal inquiry into the high cost of living to grand juries at Chicago, Detroit, New York and probably other cities was made today by the Department of Justice United States District Attorney Anderson, of Boston, in charge of the investigation, devoted today to studying the information collected from various sources and the reports filed by field investigators. Mr. Anderson will take with him to Chicago a mass of data relating to the activity of alleged food and coal speculators.

Such data as is regarded as important will be placed before the various grand juries.

At the White House it was said that President Wilson was continuing his study of the reports bearing on the subject and probably will see Mr. Anderson before the latter's departure.

THE LARGEST OF ALL MEETINGS IS NOW BEING HELD

Record Breaking Attendance Upon the Southern Commercial Congress.

SENATOR OVERMAN ON THE PROGRAM

Opening Session at Norfolk a Big One — International Reconstruction Discussed

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 11.—The Southern Commercial Congress convened here today with the largest attendance in the history of the organization. This unusual outpouring of representative men, from not only the sixteen Southern commonwealths, which compose the Congress, but from other States, as well, was attributed to the importance of the general subject of discussion—International reconstruction.

In calling the convention to order Senator Fletcher, of Florida, president of the Congress, outlined the steps to be taken in this country to meet the changed world's conditions after the European war ended and otherwise stressed not only what has been done, but what must be done if the United States is to play her full part in the rebuilding of Europe and the commerce of the world.

The opening session was given over to welcoming exercises. The delegates were greeted by Governor Stuart, of Virginia, and Hon. William Wyndham R. Mayo, Mayor of Norfolk, vice president of the Congress, Dr. Owen, director-general sponded. Other speakers today were John Barett, director of the Pan-American Union; Comptroller of Currency John Skelton Williams, Governor O'Neil of Alabama, Senator Ransdell of Louisiana, and Senator Overman of North Carolina; W. P. Harding, of the Federal Reserve Board, and Congressman Small, of North Carolina.

THE RETREAT IN RUMANIA.

With Ploesci, the important railroad centre of Rumania's great oil district, captured by Falkenhayn, and with Mackensen at the southern and western gates of Bucharest, the Russo-Rumanian defenders of the capital found their only avenue of escape in the railroad running east across Wallachia. While Mackensen's forces in the Dobrudja stand ready to cross the Cernavoda bridge and cut off the retreat at Fetesci, Falkenhayn is aiming in the event of Mackensen's failure, to block the fleeing army at Faurei. The whole object of the Rumanian retirement is to abandon all of Wallachia, and once safely past Faurei, to rally, gather reinforcements and start a counter offensive from Moldavia, the district occupying the extreme northern neck of Rumania.

THOUSANDS OF VOTES WERE CAST SATURDAY

Many Interesting Changes in Standing of Candidates in Dispatch Contest — More Extra Votes This Week and Next Than Any Time Later.

Saturday was a busy day at contest headquarters and there was an avalanche of votes cast for the different contestants. There were more votes cast than at any time since the big contest began.

As a result of the heavy voting it will be noted that there are many interesting changes in the standing of the candidates who are striving so valiantly for the big list of prizes offered by The Dispatch. Some of the young ladies who were thought not to be in the race have demonstrated by the large number of votes which they cast, that they are certainly in the race, and in to win. On the other hand, it is also shown that some of those who were figured as sure winners will have to do their utmost to maintain any advantage which they might have had.

Attention is again called to the Diamond Ring which is offered as a special prize for work done this week and next. The ring will be awarded to the candidate who turns in the largest amount of money for new subscriptions between Saturday, December 9, and Friday, December 22, who does not win one of the more valuable prizes.

The first period of the contest will soon be a thing of the past, and all of the candidates will do well to make every spare minute count, between now and December 22. There will be a reduction of 10,000 votes on each $15 worth of subscriptions after that date. If a $15 club is not completed during the first period, the amount turned in will be carried over to the next period, but if completed during the second period the candidate will receive 140,000 extra votes, instead of 150,000 extra votes offered during this period.

There are a few of the candidates who think that they can win one of the prizes by just clipping the coupons from the paper each day. It is all right to clip the coupons—that is what they are put in the paper for—but if you wish or expect to win, you should secure some subscriptions. Subscriptions count for so many more votes, and a candidate by securing one subscription for three months can get more votes than she could get in a day by just gathering the coupons.

The special ballots which are given on subscription payments and the certificates for the extra votes need not be voted at the time the subscriptions are turned in, or before the close of the Diamond Ring offer or the first period. This answers a question that has been asked over the telephone and in person, by dozens of the candidates during the past few days. The ballots issued or subscriptions and the extra votes do not have to be voted until the last day of the contest. They will count for just as many votes on the last day of the contest as they do today. Only the subscriptions and money have to be turned in before December 22, in order to apply on the Diamond Ring offer and the big club vote offer in effect during the first period.

Those candidates who now hold the positions of honor will be put to the necessity of making diligent and energetic efforts during these two weeks, in order to retain the position which they have. Those who are low in the list should strive to attain the leading positions, so that when the tide of votes flows in they will not be hopelessly in the rear. If a word to the wise is better than a Century dictionary to the unwise, the suggestion that a few subscriptions during the first period would make a wonderful change in a candidate's standing, will no doubt be acted upon.

(Continued on Page Seven.)

WONT ABANDON ALL OF ITS HOLIDAY

But Congress Apt to Cut Short Its Usual Christmas Outing

(By George H. Manning.)

Washington, D. C., Dec. 1.—Senators Simmons and Overman are of the opinion that the usual Christmas holiday taken by Congress will not be entirely abandoned, although it may be reduced from the usual twelve or fourteen days to one week.

Speaker Champ Clark has urged no holiday be taken at Christmas time except for perhaps Christmas day itself, in order to speed up legislation and allow the Congress to complete the task before it before it reaches its end on March 4th.

"I rather believe the Senate will not wish to abandon the usual Christmas holiday," said Senator Overman. "On account of the large amount of work before us and the short time in which to dispose of it, it would perhaps be advisable to take just one week off—say from Thursday to Thursday. Almost everybody who wants to be at home with his folks on Christmas day and Senators and Congressmen who live many miles from home most of the year have the same love of the old home fireside as most other folks.

"I believe we can take a week's holiday at Christmas and stil complete all the program."

Senator Simmons is much gratified at the business-like way Congress especially the Senate, is getting down to its task and believes it will be unnecsesary to forego the Christmas holiday in order to finish up by March 4th. "I think Congress will take some Christmas holiday, perhaps a week this year," said Senator Simmons. "Most folks want to have a few days at Christmas free from their labors and I hardly think Mr. Clark's plan will be adopted."

FINAL CENSUS REPORT ON THE COTTON CROP

Shows Production Amounts to 11,511,000 Bales—Below Average Crop

PRODUCTION IS NOTED BY STATE.

North Carolina Produced Between Six and Seven Hundred Thousand Bales — Sensational Break on the New Orleans Market

Washington, Dec. 11.—Cotton production in the United States for the season of 1916-17 will amount to 11,511,000 bales, the equivalent of 500-pound bales, the Department of Agriculture announced today in its final report of the season.

Last year the production was 11,191,820 bales, the equivalent of 500-pound bales. The record crop was grown in 1914, when 16,134,930 bales were produced.

Productions by States, with last year's figures for comparison, include:

North Carolina—646,000 bales for 1916, and 699,494 bales for 1915.

South Carolina—920,000 bales for and 1,133,919 bales for 1915.

Big Break On Exchange.

New Orleans, La., Dec. 11.—One of the most sensational breaks ever recorded on the local cotton exchange occurred immediately after the announcement of the government's estimate of 11,511,000 bales for this season's cotton crop. March declined 97 points, practically $5 a bale in the first three minutes, after receiving the announcement, and other months were almost as weak, July losing $4 a bale, a drop of 80 points.

THE CONFERENCE CLOSED IN DURHAM THIS AFTERNOON

Favors Home for Wayward and Delinquent Girls of The State

MINISTERS GIVEN THEIR CHARGES

Two New Divines Come to Wilmington — Rev Thompson Goes to Warrenton. District

WILMINGTON APPOINTMENTS.

Durham, N. C., Dec. 11.—Rev. J. H. Shore becomes Presiding Elder of the Wilmington District; Rev. E. C. Sell goes to Bladen Street church; Rev. J. M. McCracken to Fifth Avenue. No other changes.

Rev. L. E. Thompson becomes Presiding Elder of the Warrenton district.

Durham, N. C., Dec. 11.—Conference opened today with Rev. L. E. Thompson in the chair, the Bishop arriving a little later. C. E. Weatherly presented the report of lay activity, which was adopted. Report of the Board of Church Extension was adopted. The report of books and periodicals was adopted. The committee recommended that the pastors secure 2,000 new subscribers for the Raleigh Christian Advocate this year. The Christian Advocate, Raleigh Advocate and other Methodist publications were endorsed.

The Conference adopted a resolution offered by S. M. Bradshaw and M. T. Plyler advocating the establishment of a home for wayward and delinquent girls and women in the State.

A. McCullen was elected chaplain in the United States Army.

The report from the superannuated members of the Conference was a touching feature of the morning. At the conclusion the Bishop raised the hymn, "There Is Rest For the Weary.."

The Conference voted 119 against constitutional amendment and 40 in favor of increasing lay representation in the Conference and making the lay leader a member of the Conference.

The report of the Board of Education was adopted. The Emory University College, Greensboro Woman's College, Louisburg, Carolina and Littleton Colleges were endorsed. Assessments remain the same as the past year.

The ministerial appointments were read among the concluding business, conference adjourning at 1:30 o'clock. The following are among the appointments:

Wilmington district—Presiding Elder, J. H. Shore; Burgaw circuit, J. C. Whedbee; Carvers Creek circuit, E. J. Watson; Chadbourn circuit, G. M. Daniel; Clinton circuit, D. L. Earnhardt; Hallsboro circuit, W. C. Benson; Jacksonville and Richlands, C. E. Vale; Kenansville circuit, J. P. Pate; Magnolia circuit, R. F. Munns; Onslow circuit, T. W. Lee; Scott's Hill circuit, T. M. Phillips; Shallotte circuit, R. M. Fitts; Southport, T. G. Vickers; Swansboro circuit, J. M. Lowder; Tabor circuit, R. A. Burton; Town Creek circuit, E. W. Glass; Wallace and Rose Hill, M. D. Hix; Whiteville, C. M. Lance. Wilmington: Bladen Street, E. C. Sell; Fifth Avenue, J. H. McCracken; Grace, M. T. Plyler; Trinity; W. V. McRae.

Wilmington circuit, J. H. Miller; transfer from Oklahoma conference, C. K. Proctor; to St. St. Lewis conference, J. M. Culbreth; to Western North Carolina conference, J. E. B. Houser.

Elizabeth City District—Presiding Elder, G. T. Adams; Edenton, W. A. Cade; Elizabeth City Road, C. B. Culbreth; First Church, J. L. Cunningham; Hertford, J. M. Ormond; Plymouth, B. T. Hurly.

Fayetteville District—Presiding Elder, J. T. Gibbs; Dunn, J. A. Hornady; Duke, W. L. Manness; Fayetteville, Hay Street, J. D. Bundy; Person Street and Calvary, L. H. Joyner.

New Bern District—Presiding Elder, J. B. Hurley; Beaufort, Frank Culbreth; Goldsboro, St. John, R. E. L. Edwards; St. Paul, A. D. Wilcox; Kinston, Queen Street, H. A. Humble; Caswell Street, E. N. Harrison; Morehead City, D. N. Caviness; Mount Olive and Faison, J. M. Wright; New Bern, Centenary, E. McWhorter; Riverside, H. B. Hill.

Rockingham District — Presiding Elder, J. H. Hall; Hamlet, M. H. Tuttle; Laurinburg, R. F. Bumpass; Lumberton, W. B. North; Maxton, A. L. Ormond; Mount Gilead, N. C. Yearby; Red Springs, A. J. Parker; Rockingham, G. F. Smith; St. John and Gibson, W. H. Brown; St. Paul and Regan, A. S. Parker; President Carolina College, R. B. John.

Warrenton District—Presiding Elder, L. E. Thompson; Enfield and Halifax, E. D. Dodd; Henderson, First Church, R. C. Beaman; Littleton, A. P. Tyer; Murfreesboro and Winton, N. M. Wright; Scotland Neck, F. B. McCall; Warrenton, R. H. Broome; Weldon, F. M. Shamburger.

Washington District—Presiding Elder, C. L. Reade; Elm City, L. T. Singleton; Greenville, Jarvis Memorial, J. M. Daniel; Rocky Mount, First Church, R. C. Craven; Tarboro, H. I. Glass; Washington, E. M. Snipes; Wilson, W. A. Struby.

Raleigh District—Presiding Elder, J. E. Underwood; Benson district, J. T. Stafford; Louisburg, N. H. D. Wilson; Oxford, R. H. Willis; Raleigh Central, S. E. Mercer; Edenton Street, M. Bradshaw; Epworth, R. F. Taylor; Jenkins Memorial, J. W. Petter.

Durham District—Presiding elder, J. C. Wooten; Durham Branson, O. I. Hinson, Carr Church, G. B. Starling; Cavalry, J. H. Frizelle; Memorial, H. M. North; Trinity, C. J. Harrell; West Durham, W. C. Martin; Hillsboro circuit, T. M. Grant.

Confined to His Room.—Friends of Mr. J. H. McLoughlin will regret to learn that he has been confined to his room since Saturday because of illness. His condition is not serious, however, and he expects to be out again in a few days.

FIXES DATE FOR HEARING.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Argument on the constitutionality of the Adamson eight-hour law will be heard by the supreme court January 8.