

Fair tonight and Thursday. Slightly warmer tonight. Moderate south to southwest winds.

ALLIES DO NOT HAIL THE MOVE WITH JOY

General Opinion in England That Time Not Opportune for Such Discussion.

HOUSE OF COMMONS MAY HEAR TOMORROW.

Undercurrent For Making Entente's Position Clear So That Even German People May Know—Rumor That Kaiser May Change Form of Government.

London, Dec. 13.—Although comment is slow in London about results that might come from the peace proposal, as the general opinion is that the time is not opportune for the discussion of terms, there is an undercurrent of feeling that something might be gained by making the world acquainted definitely with the attitude of the British government.

The administration's interpretation is that little time will be taken up by consideration of the move of Germany and her allies, although some opinion of the country does not favor too hasty rejection of the overtures, believing that the German people when once acquainted with the object of the entente might be more inclined towards peace.

The possibility that President Wilson may make some suggestions when forwarding the offer also was much discussed. There was an intimation that he might at least convey the terms of the entente to the central powers.

A report is current here that Emperor William is about to announce the granting of a parliamentary form of government to Germany.

Indications are that the various governments of the entente do not intend to act hastily in making joint response to the peace proposals of the central powers.

It is pointed out in well informed quarters today that while each ally will indicate its attitude that the contract binding them to unanimous action probably will require to or three weeks in making the reply. It is likely that the joint reply of all the allies will not be available before the first of the year.

Dispatches this morning were without comment in as much as the actual proposal had not been made public, or so far as known transmitted to the British government or other members of the entente.

One factor, according to opinion expressed here, which might militate against acceptance is that the opening of negotiations necessarily would be followed by an armistice.

No specific suggestion of an armistice has been so far indicated by the unofficial reports as received, but it is said the precedent of 1866 in the Austro-German peace negotiations and in 1870 in the Franco-German negotiations established an armistice, with a suspension of all military activity, followed the opening of negotiations.

CREW TO LEAVE THE TRANSPORT

New York, Dec. 13.—The crew of the United States transport, Sumner, which went aground on the New Jersey coast at Barnegat yesterday, are preparing to abandon the vessel, according to wireless dispatches received today.

The Sumner labored heavily last night, reports state, with the list to the starboard more pronounced. The passengers were rescued yesterday.

GREEKS AND FRENCH FIGHTING.

London, Dec. 13.—Fighting is in progress between the Greek and regular troops and the French, according to an Overseas News Agency announcement.

ELKS CHRISTMAS TO BE BIG ONE

Antlered Fraternity of New Bern Laying Fine Plans.

New Bern, N. C., Dec. 13.—Elks are planning to make the coming Christmas a merry one for the poor little tots in New Bern whose parents have been left stranded on the shoals of poverty by the vicissitudes of life and they are now collecting funds for this work.

Several hundred dollars will be expended on toys, candies and other things that will gladden the hearts of the little ones and when they awaken on Christmas morning they will find Santa Claus has paid them a visit during the night.

The New Bern Elks each year act as Santa Claus to scores of poor children in New Bern and their visits are looked forward to with great anticipation by these.

A report from St. Luke's Hospital, where the victim is receiving treatment, was received this afternoon to the effect that Miss Hulda Bowden, who was seriously burned when her clothing became ignited Sunday afternoon as she was preparing to take a bath, was resting very well and her condition was thought to be greatly improved.

Miss Bowden had a very narrow escape from fatal injury. Attending physicians state that had she breathed any of the flame that there would hardly have been any chance for recovery. As it is, they hope to have her out within a few days.

The numerous friends of Colonel James A. Bryan, president of the National Bank of New Bern and one of New Bern's most highly esteemed residents, will learn with pleasure that his condition today, after suffering a stroke of apoplexy on Sunday night, is much improved.

He rested well last night, said reports from the home this morning, and the attending physicians hold out hope for an early and complete recovery for him.

SAYS SINKING WAS JUSTIFIED.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 13.—Germany's reply to the American inquiry on sinking of the American steamer, Lanoa, by a German submarine off Cape Vincent, October 28, received at the state department today, contends that the sinking was justified, because the vessel carried contraband and was not in fact an American ship, having been transferred to Norwegian ownership.

The exact registry of the Lanoa is in dispute. She was owned by a concern of Manila and was under Philippine register, but her sale to a Norwegian firm had been reported before she left Manila. The captain of the vessel reported to the department that though the sale had taken place the actual transfer was not to be made until arrival in England. The American consulate at London has reported that the vessel was still listed as American there.

GERMAN LOSSES WERE HEAVY

Casualties Since War Broke Out Over Three Million Officers and Men.

London, Dec. 13.—The total German casualties, excluding those in the naval and colonial services, reported in the German official list for November, says the British official statement issued today, is 1,661,776 officers and men, making the total German losses in killed, wounded and missing since the war began 3,921,869.

PEACE TALK EVEN OVERSHADOWS THE GRIM FIGHTING

Only Important Happenings On Rumanian Front In War Theatre.

TEUTONS STILL PRESSING FORWARD.

Rumanians Give Ground As Invaders Rush Forward—Seven Thousand More Prisoners.

Fighting is continuing on the battlefields of Europe, but interest in the operations is overshadowed by the peace proposals of Germany and her allies.

The proposals are voluminously commented on by the press, but with the handicap of lack of definite knowledge of the terms upon which the Teutonic powers will discuss peace. In general the tone of the entente press comment is not optimistic over the probable success of the overtures. German newspapers lay emphasis on the offer as a sign of strength rather than weakness.

Great Britain's attitude, according to London dispatches, may be made known in the House of Commons tomorrow, providing time has proven sufficient to consult with her allies.

Military operations in the past 24 hours have developed important happenings only in the Rumanian war area. Here the Teutonic armies are continuing their advance in Eastern Wallachia. Berlin announces that the Rumanian resistance has been overcome along the Jalomitza river, where a stand has been made by the Rumanians, reinforced by Russian cavalry. The Rumanian armies are reported as again in full retreat to the northeast, presumably falling back on the line of the Buzze, close to the southern boundary of the Moldavian quarter.

More than 7,000 additional prisoners were taken by Field Marshal von Mackensen's army yesterday.

NEVADA'S PLURALITY HUNG UP A RECORD.

Reno, Nev., Dec. 13.—President Wilson's record plurality of 5,643 votes, according to the official count, was made public by the Secretary of State today.

PEACE TALK HIT JAP. STOCK EXCHANGE.

Tokio, Japan, Dec. 13.—The peace proposal by Germany to the Allies caused a violent slump on the stock exchange and the market has been temporarily closed by the directors.

MANY CANDIDATES DESIRE TO WIN SPECIAL PRIZE

Work Done In Effort to Win \$60 Diamond Ring Will Go a Long Way Toward Winning One of More Valuable Prizes.

The valuable prizes being offered by The Dispatch in its Great Prize Contest have been talked about and commented upon by hundreds of people, and the \$60 Diamond Ring which will be given as a special prize, is now receiving its share of comment.

This \$60 Diamond Ring will be given the candidate who turns into the Contest office the largest amount of money on NEW subscriptions only, between December 9 and Friday night, December 22, and who does not win one of the five more valuable prizes. Many of the contestants have expressed a desire to win this beautiful ring. Some have even pictured to themselves how attractive it would look if they were wearing it upon their finger.

Candidates should realize that the competition for the Diamond Ring will come to a close at the same time as the first period of the contest—Friday night, Dec. 22—and that in order to succeed they must make every minute count. If they fail to do this they will have the disappointment of seeing the prize go to a rival.

Furthermore, work accomplished in the effort to win the handsome diamond ring will go a long way toward winning one of the Grand Prizes. At the end of the first period, one week from Friday, the votes on each \$15 club will be considerably reduced,

CANADIAN TORPEDO BOAT LOST.

Ottawa, Canada, Dec. 13.—The Canadian torpedo boat, Grills, has been lost at sea, with all aboard, it is feared. This announcement was made today by the minister of naval service.

OFFICERS' CORPS TO BE ESTABLISHED

A. and M. To Add Important Training Department at Raleigh.

West Raleigh, N. C., Dec. 13.—A reserve officers' Training Corps, under provision of the National Defense Act, will be established at the North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts beginning with the next college year.

All students who are citizens of the United States, 14 years old or over, and whose bodily condition indicates that they are physically fit to perform military duty are eligible for the Corps. Members of the National Guard are not eligible, but authority to obtain their discharge has been secured from the War Department.

Three hours weekly of theoretical and practical military training, prescribed by the War Department, are required during the first two years, and five hours weekly for the last two years. Members are also required to attend two camps of four weeks each during the four academic years. In return the student complying with these requirements will be furnished commutation of rations (about eighty dollars per year), uniform, etc.

Any graduate of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps may be appointed a member of the Reserve Officers' Corps by the President of the United States, provided the graduate has completed the camp training and agreed in writing, upon reaching the age of 21, to serve the United States in the capacity of a reserve officer for the period of ten years. The President may appoint any member of the Officers' Reserve Corps a temporary second lieutenant in the Regular Army (in time of peace) for a period not to exceed six months at a salary of \$100 a month and allowances. Upon application the six months' training may be had following graduation, in which case the training camp at the end of the senior year will not be required. In time of war the President may order reserve officers, appointed as above, to active duty with any of the forces of the United States in any grade not below that of second lieutenant.

BUXTON WHITE, Alumni Secretary.

PRESIDENT WILSON IS STUDYING SITUATION

ARE TO MEET IN NEW YORK CITY

Paper Folks Will Try to Reach an Agreement On Friday.

Washington, Dec. 13.—American and Canadian paper manufacturers, whose representatives proposed distribution of news print paper by the Federal Trade Commission as a remedy for one phase of the news print situation, will meet in New York Friday, instead of in Washington, it was announced today. The commission will confer here Saturday with a committee of publishers, jobbers and members of the Trade Commission. The Canadian manufacturers could not possibly reach Washington by Friday.

The publishers meet here to name their committee. The Trade Commission members are studying the situation today in an effort to have a definite plan ready for Saturday's conference.

UNITED STATES SIMPLY AWAIT

Must See Proposed Peace Terms Before Making Commitment On The Move.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Germany's note proposing peace negotiations to the entente powers was expected today in official textural form from Charge Grew, in Berlin, to be forwarded to each belligerent nation to whom addressed. After studying the note, President Wilson will decide whether it will be forwarded without comment or be accompanied with an expression from the United States government. External development of the situation, it is pointed out, would prevent the slightest publicity of any possible action other than the perfunctory transmission of the note through American Ambassadors to each of the countries. It is regarded as practically certain that the President will take steps to ascertain the attitude of entente-allies towards a peace movement.

ATLANTIC FLEET IN REVIEW TODAY

Southern Commercial Congress Beholds Big Warships In Hampton Roads.

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 13.—An address by Secretary of the Navy Daniels, a review of the Atlantic fleet in Hampton Roads, with a reception on board the Pennsylvania and a dinner for the cabinet of governors, were the principal events of the third day session of the eighth annual convention of the Southern Commercial Congress. Secretary of Commerce Redfield will speak tonight.

The cabinet of fifteen members of the House Naval Affairs arrived today and immediately afterwards, with naval officers and delegates to the congress, boarded the vessels for the naval review. In the Atlantic fleet were the super-dreadnoughts Pennsylvania, Wyoming, Utah, Florida, Texas, New York and Michigan, several cruisers, destroyers, together with submarine and fleet auxiliaries. As the vessels steamed by the crews of the warships were lined-up on the decks and salutes were fired for the Secretary of the Navy.

WHEAT TRADERS ARE AWAITING.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 13.—Wheat traders seemed largely to have adopted a waiting attitude today, pending any definite decision as to fresh developments in the peace move. Wheat, in which most of the trading was done, started at \$1.65 1/2 to \$1.67, the same as yesterday's finish, to 1 1/4 up.

GAVE INDUSTRIES MORE RECEIVED

Southern Railway Makes a Big Record In Development.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 13.—Individuals and industries in the South received \$1.13 for every dollar paid to the Southern Railway by the people of the South during October, 1916, according to figures announced today by Comptroller A. H. Plant.

The Southern Railway disbursed during the month, for labor, material, supplies and other purposes \$6,739,483, of which \$5,716,183, or 84.82 per cent, was paid to individuals and industries located in the South, this sum being \$642,534 in excess of the total moneys contributed by the South for transportation purposes.

For improvements to its roadway and structures, the Southern spent \$1,377,424.43 in October, 1916, as against \$661,357.44 during October, 1915; during the four months ended October 31st, \$4,737,227.38, as against \$2,162,837.35 in 1915.

CLOTHING STRIKE HAS NOW DAWNED

Fight For Eight-Hour Day Affecting Thousands of Laborers.

New York, Dec. 13.—Labor movement for an eight-hour day was inaugurated by New York clothing workers today with a strike. Six thousand persons will be out of work. The walkout is expected to extend to Newark and, perhaps, to Philadelphia, which will affect 100,000 workers. Besides an eight-hour working day the workers demand a weekly increase of \$2.

WANT TEXTILE MILL AT ATLANTA PRISON.

Washington, Dec. 13.—A committee consisting of the chiefs of ordinance of the army and navy, the superintendent of prisons and the postal purchasing agent recommends, in a report submitted today to Attorney General Gregory, the installation of a textile mill at the Atlanta penitentiary to cost \$695,000.

ILLINOIS FRUIT GROWERS MEET.

Champaign, Ill., Dec. 13.—The annual convention of the Illinois Horticultural Society, which began its sessions at the State University today is marked by an unusually large attendance. The three-day program provides for discussions in which many well known horticultural experts will take part. In connection with the meeting there is a large display of native fruits and vegetables.

BIRTHDAY OF HARVARD "PROXY."

Cambridge, Mass., Dec. 13.—Harvard men in all parts of the world remembered Dr. A. Lawrence Lowell with messages of greeting today on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday anniversary. President Lowell was born Dec. 13, 1856, in Boston, and began his career as a practicing lawyer in that city. He was appointed a lecturer at Harvard in 1897, and in 1909 he was chosen to succeed Dr. Eliot as president of the university.

WAGE INCREASE FOR IRON WORKERS.

Duluth, Minn., Dec. 13.—Nearly 3,000 miners employed by independent companies in the iron fields of Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan went to work today under a new scale which provides 10 per cent advance in wages. The increase conforms to that already granted to the thousands of men employed in the mines controlled by the United States Steel Corporation.

Does Not Want to Injure Prestige of United States as a Peace Maker.

COLONEL HOUSE MAY GO TO EUROPE.

President's Personal Adviser at White House Today—Fear Expressed That Wilson May Make Offer of Mediation—President Cancels All Today's Engagements.

The German embassy has no further advice on the terms of the central governments, but freely admitted that the terms and purposes had been omitted from Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg's note and speech for the sole purpose to protect the conditions of the terms and carefully avoid advancing any which might be made the basis of a refusal.

The Teutonic diplomats, reflecting views of their governments, believe the answer of the entente allies would be made an inquiry as to the basis on which Germany proposed peace and that much would be a foundation, seeing the warring nations well on a way to a conference from which they are sanguine that peace would result.

The probability of the entente allies themselves making some announcement of the terms on which they would make peace was regarded here as having tremendous possibilities for effect on the German people themselves.

The President cancelled all his outside engagements today, including the one to preside over the annual meeting of the American Red Cross, and remained at the White House, where he consulted with Col. M. House, his friend and adviser, who made a trip to Europe to sound out peace sentiment several months ago. Colonel House may go again if the President makes a move to accompany the German proposal with any suggestion. It was reiterated that until the official document had been received for transfer to the entente that no decision would be reached as to what the United States would do further than transmit it.

Washington, Dec. 13.—President Wilson's course of action in connection with Germany's peace proposal remains undecided today, while awaiting the official proffer, which the central powers have asked the United States to transmit to their enemy. The impression grew that while the President first considered safeguarding his usefulness as a peacemaker, omitting any comment which might possibly be coupled with a rejection by the entente powers, there was disposition to find some way, however delicate and informal, to intimate the sincere wish of the United States that some basis for discussion might at least be reached.

Many officials felt that indications of the entente's temper should be available before the influence of the United States was thrown into the balance. The United States, by reason of its dual responsibility of representing the interests of both the central and entente governments in the capitals of the enemy, would, of course, be the medium of communication which any reply the entente governments might make to the central governments.

The London press comment on the peace offer is known to be according to confidential advices coming to this government before Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg's speech and the note was published.

In quarters close to the entente allies the opinion prevails that if the entente allies make reply the first course will be to inquire what guarantee will be given by Germany that the terms of a peace treaty will be fulfilled and the treaty not violated, as the allies contend was the case in Belgium. By making such reply the entente diplomats see responsibility for continuance of the war thrown back to the central powers.

The President has been urged by some of his advisers that in making his address tomorrow at the opening of the conference of governors here, to take occasion to express, in general terms, his attitude, without binding himself in definite way.

Colonel House left at noon for New York. He said he had not planned to go to Europe and could not discuss the proposal of the central powers on the grounds that the "words" had

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