

Increasing cloudiness and not quite so cold tonight. Friday rain or snow and warmer. Northeast winds.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

LARGEST CIRCULATION IN WILMINGTON

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, DEC. 14, 1916.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

NATIONS FIGHT ON IN EVERY ARENA

Peace Offer Does Not Stop Operations On The Various Fronts.

TEUTONIC FORCES CONTINUE ADVANCE.

Von Mackensen's Forces Go Forward Despite Bad Roads. Great Britain Votes More Money and Provides For Even More Men For The War.

While the warring nations await developments from the presentation of the peace proposal by Germany and her allies operations on the various fighting fronts continue.

Interest in military developments still centers on Rumania, where the army of Field Marshal von Mackensen is fighting its way forward despite the difficulty of transportation caused by bad roads.

Beyond the German report of a repulse of a French attack in the Arzonne, on the western front and of a series of assaults on the Bulgarian positions in Macedonia, there was little news of interest.

Great Britain is on the eve of taking further war measures. In the House of Commons a vote of credit of \$400,000,000 pounds was moved, bringing the total for the war up to 3,532,000,000 pounds.

CASE IS BEING ARGUED TODAY

Highest Tribunal Hearing The Britt-Weaver Election Controversy.

Raleigh, N. C., Dec. 14.—The appeal of Representative James J. Britt from the decision of Judge Adams, in Buncombe county superior court, denying a mandamus against the Buncombe county board of canvassers, is being argued in the state supreme court here today.

It is hoped that a decision will be handed down before December 19, in this case, as it is said it will have direct bearing on the temporary restraining order prohibiting the state canvassing board from taking action as regards the Buncombe county vote until that date.

If the state board is permitted to count the vote of Buncombe county, Zebulon Weaver, Democrat, goes to congress from the Tenth District, instead of Britt.

THIS COUNTRY NOT TRULY INFORMED

Declares Germany-in Reply to American Note, on The Belgians.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 14.—Germany's reply to the American protest against the deportation of Belgians arrived at the state department this morning. It is understood to contend that the United States has not been accurately informed of the purpose of the deportations, which it is said are being made on the ground of social necessity.

LARGE REALTY DEAL CLOSED

J. H. Rehder Purchased Property For Howard & Wells Amusement Company.

Deed was filed this morning transferring from the McIlhenny heirs to Mr. J. H. Rehder, a large stockholder in the Howard & Wells Amusement Company, which controls the excellent motion picture and vaudeville theatres in this city, the valuable property at the Northwest corner of Second and Market streets.

The deal, which was consummated this morning, shortly after 10 o'clock, was handled by the enterprising realty firm of James Owen Kelly. Owing to the large number of heirs to the property, it has taken considerable time to get the deed in shape.

Being located in the downtown section and in a fast growing district the property is considered most valuable. The lot is 20x165 feet in size. It is next east from the Victoria theatre and runs from Market to the alley, half-way between this street and Princess. At present there are several one-story buildings on the property.

Mr. P. W. Wells, president of the Howard & Wells Amusement Company, stated this morning that the property was secured with a view of eventually enlarging the Victoria theatre into a modern and up-to-date play house. However, at present, only a large dressing room addition will be constructed on the Second street side of the property, but later the entire site will be built upon thus affording a building 70x165 feet in size.

Mr. Wells further stated that his company holds a lease on the Academy of Music that will run for two years longer, but as that as a play house that place is fast becoming inadequate and they wished to give to the city a modern theatre for staging productions of all kinds. The property was purchased with that idea in mind.

Construction on the new two-story dressing room addition on Second street will be started directly after the first of the new year. This will afford a larger stage for the present vaudeville house and also eliminate the necessity of having the dressing rooms on the second floor, over the stage. The addition will be of an ornamental front not unlike the present front of the Victoria theatre. The addition will cost approximately \$8,000.

Eventually the theatre will be enlarged to the entire size of the lot, and the architecture of the present building will be carried out. When completed the play-house will be modern in every respect and one that the city might be well proud of. At present the Victoria theatre will seat 1,100 persons, about the same number as the Academy of Music will seat, but when the entire addition is completed the theatre will accommodate about 2,000 persons. A large balcony will be added when the building is finally enlarged. The entire cost will be approximately \$15,000.

It was with the idea of making these improvements after the property had been transferred, that the Howard & Wells Amusement company decided a short while ago to install the vaudeville that is now being shown at the Victoria theatre to the Royal theatre on Front street.

NEW BANK WAS CHARTERED TODAY.

Raleigh, N. C., Dec. 14.—The People's Bank, of Creswell, Washington county, was chartered today by the Secretary of State. The bank is capitalized at \$25,000, of which \$10,000 has been paid in.

SNOWING DOWN SOUTH.

Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 14.—Snow began falling here early today and covers the ground to a depth of more than four inches. The storm is general in Eastern Arkansas, Northern Mississippi and Western Tennessee. The snow is still falling heavily.

BIG BREAK IN STOCK MARKET

Munitions Shares Take Slump Over Continued Peace Talk.

New York, Dec. 14.—Apprehension over the effect of the Teutonic peace proposal on earnings of munitions and steel companies caused another severe break on the stock market today. After an early decline during the noon hour stocks literally poured in, leaving no doubt of the general character of the liquidation.

Steel declined more than four points, but other shares of the same class suffered more severely. Commission houses were active sellers for out-of-town holders, who had apparently grown apprehensive over the peace developments. Sales between 12 and 1 o'clock aggregated 450,000 shares or a total of 1,350,000 shares for the first three hours.

MORE SPINDLES WERE ACTIVE

Census Bureau Makes Fine Report on The Consumption of Cotton.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Cotton manufactured during November amounted to 584,082 running bales, compared with 514,743 a year ago, and for four months 2,227,375 bales, compared with 1,978,635 a year ago the census bureau announced today.

Cotton on hand November 30 in consuming establishments was 2,191,799 bales, compared with 1,613,641 a year ago, and in public storage and at compresses, 4,098,928, compared with 4,981,939 a year ago.

Cotton spindles active during November numbered 32,753,937 compared with 31,488,723 a year ago.

CANDIDATES CAN AMASS BIG RESERVE VOTE NOW

Each \$15.00 Club Completed By The Close of The First Period—Dec. 22—Will Give 150,000 Extra Votes. Heavy Voting Continues.

CONTEST STORY

- THE PRIZES. \$685 Overland Automobile. Ford Automobile. Carolina Beach Lot. \$100 in Gold. \$75 Victrola. \$50 O. K. Mystic Range. \$40 Sellers Kitchen Cabinet. \$25 Wrist Watch. Two \$60 Diamond Rings.

The Dispatch feels highly complimented over the great interest manifested throughout the country over the mammoth voting enterprise. Few if any mails, but what being bunches of coupons to the contest department. These coupons are not all being received from one locality, but are pretty well scattered throughout the territory.

In a voting contest, the first and sure sign of interests and enthusiasm is from the number of coupons that are sent in daily. This is also an indication of a candidate's popularity. Any candidate who receives many of these coupons in a single day is likely to be a strong candidate before the close. It depends, of course, to what degree the candidate applies herself.

With anything like ordinary effort, the candidate who receives coupons will find subscription getting comparatively easy. The rules of the contest were drawn with the idea in view of giving every candidate and every locality a square deal, and this is just what will be done. The Contest Manager is a stranger to every contestant. He has no friends to reward or foes to punish and will cheerfully give any assistance in his power, impartially to any candidate who desires to win one of the splendid prizes and will request his aid.

FINAL DAY BRINGS FORWARD JUMP IN FINE SPEECHES

American Manufacturers Will Be Able to Compete After War, Say Government.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY PETERS IS HEARD.

State Department Representative Tells of The Foreign Service — Diplomats Speak Tonight.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The Southern Commercial Congress today entered upon its closing session of its eighth annual convention here, with government officials, bankers, editors and foreign diplomats as speakers. Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Andrew J. Peters and Assistant Secretary of State William Phillips delivered the principal addresses this morning, the former discussing the country's foreign trade and the latter the foreign service.

Peace, good roads, development of water power and the South's opportunity after the war were subjects for this afternoon and at the closing session tonight the congress will hear messages of foreign diplomatic representatives to the United States from foreign countries.

Secretary Peters declared before the congress this morning that the American manufacturers would be able to compete on equal terms after the war with manufacturers in foreign fields.

Secretary Phillips gave his views as to the necessary qualifications for those who enter the foreign service and asserted that they should be given a special course of training in schools and colleges.

GIVES RAILROAD A MARBLE PLATE.

Amsterdam, Netherlands, Dec. 14.—The Dutch brand of the League of Neutral Countries has presented to the Great Eastern Railway Company a marble memorial plate, with a bronze medallion portrait in relief, in memory of the shooting by the Germans of Captain Fryatt, of the Steamship Brussels.

TEUTONIC NOTE RECEIVED AND TO BE STUDIED

Reached State Department This Morning and Will Be Sent to President.

A CONFIDENTIAL REPORT WITH IT.

American Charge Reports Condition That Lead to It Will be Transmitted to Allies.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 14.—The note conveying proposal for peace by the central powers, which the United States is to transmit to the entente belligerents, arrived during the night and was being prepared for the White House early today.

The document was said to be substantially the same as published in the unofficial dispatches from Berlin in the report of the Overseas News Agency. Accompanying it was a confidential report from American Charge Grew, understood to be an outline of affairs which lead up to Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg's speech in the Reichstag and sending of the peace proposal.

As soon as President Wilson has seen the note it will be forwarded to Minister Whitlock, in Belgium, and to Ambassadors Sharpe, Page, Guthrie, and Francis in France, England, Japan and Russia, and to the legations at the Serbian and Rumanian governments.

The actual transmission of the peace proffer now brings up the important question of whether President Wilson will decide to act merely as an intermediary or whether he will accompany the transmittal with some expression of hope that the proposal for consideration of peace will not be rejected without examination and reflection.

There is a prevailing opinion here that President Wilson wants to do something of the sort and is looking forward to a move for a league of nations to preserve peace, as one of the elements in settlement of the war.

Possibly some means will be taken to establish a little more definitely the temper of the entente allies towards the peace proposal before the President acts, but it is understood there will be no delay in forwarding the German note to the belligerent capitals.

After reading the note carefully Secretary Lansing said that while there is some difference in the translation when compared with the unofficial copy and while the order of arrangement of some of the paragraphs is a little different, there is absolutely no change in meaning.

Mr. Lansing said the note would go forward presumably today and that no decision had been reached as to whether the United States would accompany it with any expression.

At least one European neutral here has already sent a request to his home government asking to be authorized to assure President Wilson of the support of his government in sending some expression to the allies designed to influence them to give consideration to the offer to discuss peace. It is indicated that some of the other neutrals may follow suit.

The German embassy today had no further new advices on the situation. The Spanish ambassador was an early caller at the state department and conferred with Secretary Lansing. He said he had advices from Madrid that his government also had received the German note for transmission to those entente countries where Spain represents the central powers diplomatically.

The Swiss minister also called on Secretary Lansing. His visit, coupled with the fact that one other neutral country is giving support to President Wilson in any effort to secure consideration of peace, lead to the belief that some light on the attitude of the United States towards such a general move by neutrals was at least being sounded out.

WILSON GETS ONE ELECTOR IN WEST. VA.

Charleston, W. Va., Dec. 14.—Although Charles E. Hughes carried West Virginia by a plurality of 2,721 votes, the official count, nearly completed, shows that President Wilson will receive one electoral vote.

Colonel S. A. Scott, Republican elector, who was placed on the ticket following the resignation of J. W. Dawson, was defeated, receiving a smaller vote than Orlando Depew, Democratic elector.

ENTENTE MUST HAVE FULL REPARATION

MYSTERY MADE CLEAR TODAY

British Steamer Was In Collision With Merchant and Miners' Liner.

Newport News, Va., Dec. 14.—The mystery surrounding the collision in Lower Chesapeake Bay last night, in which the Merchant and Miners' passenger steamer, Powhatan, was so badly damaged that she had to be beached, was cleared up early today, when the British steamer, Telena, an oil tanker, arrived here and proceeded to the shipyard to get repairs. She is badly damaged about the bow, but so far as could be learned, none of the crew was injured.

Four negro mess attendants on the Powhatan were hurt by falling beams, when the Telena crashed into the liner's starboard side. That the Powhatan was at fault in attempting to cross his bow at too close a range was the statement of Captain E. D. Goff, of the Telena, made here this afternoon after the vessel had gone into dry dock to have a large hole in her bow repaired.

PENSION MONEY HERE FOR VETS

Major Harris Receives Three Thousand For Pensioned Widows and Soldiers.

Major W. N. Harris, clerk of the Superior Court, today received the annual pension money for the old Confederate soldiers and their wives here who are eligible to receive pensions from the State of North Carolina. The check is for \$3,676 and will come in mighty handy for the veterans and their widows on account of the high cost of living and, too, the Christmas holidays are about here.

In Wilmington there are fifty-four old soldiers and fifty-nine widows who will receive pensions. Major Harris announces that he is ready to disburse the money at any time.

PROHIBITION BILL REPORTED TO HOUSE

Washington, Dec. 14.—The proposal for a prohibition amendment today was ordered favorably reported to the House by the Judiciary Committee.

The proposed universal suffrage amendment was ordered reported without recommendation.

RICHMOND GETS NEW ANNUAL GAME.

Richmond, Va., Dec. 14.—It was announced here today that the football authorities of the University of Washington and Lee and Washington and Jefferson had agreed to play the 1917 Thanksgiving game at Richmond. This takes the place of the annual Virginia-North Carolina game.

WONT REJECT OFFER IN HASTY MANNER.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The embassies of the entente allies here today reflected the view that Germany's peace proposal would not be rejected without examination. They will probably call for a statement of the proposed terms, so they can't be placed in the position of rejecting indefinite peace proposal.

WANTS COMMISSION TO PROBE COST LIVING.

Washington, Dec. 14.—A resolution ordering the Federal Trade Commission to investigate all angles of the high cost of living, including the producing capacity of the United States and possible violations of the anti-trust laws, favorably reported today by the House Judiciary Committee.

This Is Declared In House of Commons About Peace Move.

DEMANDS TO BE MADE ON GREECE.

Canada Sends Message to Lloyd-George Urging Prosecution of the War—Great Britain's Expenditure Jumping Away Beyond Bounds.

London, Dec. 14.—Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of exchequer, said in the House of Commons this afternoon that no proposal for peace has yet been received by the British government from the central powers. He added that the entente allies would require adequate reparation for the past and adequate security for the future. Mr. Law also announced in the House of Commons that the daily average of expenditures of Great Britain in the war had risen to 5,710,000 pounds. He said that actual expense had exceeded the estimate, owing to the increase of munitions and additional loans to Great Britain's allies and her dominions.

The Chancellor said: "Financially, we cannot hope to go on indefinitely on the present scale, but we can go long enough to make sure that it will not be from financial causes if we fail to secure victory." Fully alive to the danger of delay with what he terms an unsatisfactory situation in Greece, Lord Robert Cecil told the House of Commons this afternoon that the Allies were about to present certain demands to the Greek government, the purpose of which was to clear it up.

In the House of Commons today Thomas McNamara, financial under-secretary for the Admiralty, announced that the Admiralty had under earnest consideration the matter of arming merchant ships.

Canada Wants to Continue Fight. Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 14.—Canada's attitude towards Germany's peace proposal was indicated in a message sent by Sir George Foster, acting premier of the Dominion, today to Premier Lloyd-George, as follows: "Canada stands with you and with the empire for a vigorous prosecution of the war until complete victory is attained."

NORTH CAROLINA PRODUCTS DAY

New Bern Chamber of Commerce Inaugurates a Big Movement.

New Bern, N. C., Dec. 14.—The Chamber of Commerce of New Bern has inaugurated a movement for a "North Carolina Products Day."

It is planned to have this day celebrated simultaneously throughout the State by dinners at which only products raised in the State will be served. These dinners are to be served by Chambers of Commerce, Boards of Trade, Hotels, Cafes and individual homes.

At the public dinners prominent men will call attention to the importance of producing foodstuffs at home.

The plan will be presented to the annual meeting of the North Carolina Secretaries' Association, to be held at Gastonia, January 23 and 24. Every Commercial, Civic and Agricultural organization in the State will be enlisted in the movement to make North Carolina economically independent.

In advocating the plan Secretary-Manager Ramspeck of the New Bern Chamber of Commerce calls attention to some uncomfortable facts, which were recently published by the North Carolina Club of the State University. In 1910 the per capita rural wealth in farm properties in the United States was \$904, in Iowa \$3,386, in North Carolina—only \$322, this state ranking 44th. Yet in crop-producing power North Carolina in 1910 stood at \$24.84 per acre, compared with \$17.01 per acre for Iowa. In 1910 North Carolina's bill for imported feedstuffs was nearly \$120,000,000.