

Fair and Continued Cold tonight. Sunday generally fair and not so cold. Moderate west winds.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

LARGEST CIRCULATION IN WILMINGTON

VOL. XXII. NO. 336.

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, DEC. 16, 1916.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

CHARLOTTE OBSERVER A FIRE VICTIM TODAY

Big Plant Was Badly Damaged by Flames at Early Hour This Morning.

LARGE PRINT SHOP DESTROYED.

Observer Was Getting Ready to Move Into New Home—Damage in The Thousands of Dollars But Covered by Insurance.

Charlotte, N. C., Dec. 16.—Fire at 3:50 o'clock this morning partly destroyed the four-story building in the rear of the Charlotte Observer building, occupied by The Observer print jobbery and bindery and the mechanical department of The Observer, completely wiping out the machinery and stock of the print house and doing thousands of dollars in damage to the linotypes, composing room, equipment and press of The Observer.

The fire was discovered by a newsboy. It was breaking out the window of the fourth floor of the bindery and burned for two hours before being controlled by the firemen.

The plant of The Charlotte News was immediately offered The Observer for publication of the paper pending readjustment and will be used. The damage to the equipment cannot be determined until the wreckage is cleared away and the water pumped out.

The Observer is owned by Curtis Johnson, of The Sentinel, Knoxville, and Walter B. Sullivan, who were remodeling a building and contemplated moving the plant within the next two weeks. It is stated that the damage to the plant is covered by insurance. The Observer Print House is a business wholly separate from that of The Observer, being operated independently of the newspaper and owned by a wholly separate concern. A portion of the mechanical building, however, was jointly occupied by both the print company and the newspaper.

GERMAN MINISTER SEES LANSING

Wants to Learn America's View As To The Peace Offer.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, conferred with Secretary Lansing today, seeking information of the attitude of the United States towards the peace proposal of the central powers; to discuss the general subject of peace from this government's viewpoint and give any information that Mr. Lansing might desire on the attitude of the German government.

WILL EXPERIMENT WITH DYESTUFF

Government to Take Hold of This Important Matter Very Soon.

(By George H. Manning.) Washington, D. C., Dec. 16.—Preparations are being made to have the Federal government experiment with the manufacture of dyestuffs to determine what effects can be produced in coloring by the utilization of raw materials grown or produced in the United States.

Under direction of the Secretary of Agriculture a plant now used by the Bureau of Chemistry at the experimental farm at Arlington, Va., just across the river from Washington, is to be equipped with machinery and apparatus to carry on the experiments and investigations. Fifty thousand dollars was appropriated by the last session of Congress to defray all the expenses of the experiments. Congress had in mind the finding of American materials that could be used in the manufacture of dyestuffs to remove the necessity for the importation from abroad and the present utter dependence of the American manufacturers on German producers for their dyestuffs.

PRESIDENT HAS HIS RESIGNATION

Reported That Ambassador Page Ready to Leave His London Job.

(By George H. Manning.) Washington, D. C., Dec. 16.—President Wilson has in hand the resignation of Walter Hines Page, Ambassador to the Court of St. James, with a personal letter urging that it be accepted, it is learned here today on unimpeachable authority.

Mr. Page, who is an old personal and close friend to the President has laid the situation squarely before the President and asked that a successor be appointed about the first of the year if the right man can be obtained and the matter arranged without serious embarrassment to the administration.

The statement made by Secretary of State Lansing a few days ago that he had no knowledge of Mr. Page's resignation has no material significance as the Ambassador to London is taking the matter up at first hand with President Wilson and not through the State Department.

Mr. Lansing in all likelihood has knowledge of the matter being in the President's hands and his reply to inquiries simply meant that the State Department had no official information regarding the matter.

Mr. Page's administration in London has been the most arduous of any in the last sixty years and it is quite reasonable to believe he feels he has done all that could be asked of him. Mr. Page though well-to-do is not a rich man when compared with others who have held that position, and no doubt feels he owes it to his family and himself to return home and attend to his own business affairs.

No Ambassador to London in recent years has found it possible to keep his expenses anywhere within range of his salary, and it is quite natural that Mr. Page having enjoyed four years as Ambassador to England and enjoyed all the social and other distinctions that go with the position would be willing to step down now.

Mr. Page's administration has been most satisfactory to President Wilson and the State Department, it is known, and he has succeeded at all times in maintaining a feeling of greatest harmony between the governments and the people of the two great Anglo-Saxon countries.

The Ambassador is a man of great patriotism, and in his letter is said to have advised President Wilson that if the President thinks it best for the good of the United States that he should hold on till the close of the war, he will consider it a patriotic duty to do so. But if the right man can be found here who can make the exchange without embarrassing either the American or British administrations, Mr. Page is understood to have told the President, he will be glad to return to New York and again take up his private business affairs.

The decision now rests with President Wilson who is giving the matter much consideration and is scanning the field with a view to selecting a successor to Mr. Page if one can be found.

LOW TEMPERATURES BUT FAIR NEXT WEEK.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Low temperature, with generally fair weather, was forecast for the Southeastern States, for the first part of the week beginning tomorrow. Warmer weather, accompanied by rain, is probable about Wednesday or Thursday.

TRANSPORT IS ABANDONED

New York, Dec. 16.—The United States army transport, Sumner, which grounded off Barnegat, N. J., Sunday night, on the way from Colon to this port, was abandoned by her crew today. A heavy sea, driven by a northwest wind, caused the transport to pound heavily on the shoal. Shortly after midnight the vessel leaked so badly that the pumps and wireless were put out of commission. The crew was rescued and the vessel was abandoned.



Here is David Lloyd George, the new British Premier, practically Dictator, and his all-important war Cabinet. These five men will absolutely control everything in the British Empire in any way concerned with the war. This novel organization concentrates more power in the hands of the Premier than the British system has ever known before.

FIVE DAYS LEFT OF THE DIAMOND RING CONTEST

Each \$15 Worth of Subscriptions Turned In Before Next Friday Will Give Any Candidate 150,000 Extra Votes.

- THE PRIZES. \$855 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.

Next Friday night at 9 o'clock the competition for the \$65 Diamond Ring will come to a close. This special prize will be awarded the candidate who turns in the largest amount of money for new subscriptions during the two weeks ending next Friday, who does not win one of the more valuable prizes.

The first, or preliminary, period of the contest will come to a close next Friday night, at the same time as the competition for the diamond ring. During this period each \$15 worth of subscriptions give any candidate 150,000 extra votes. During the second period the number of extra votes will be reduced 10,000 and during the third and last period there will be another reduction of 10,000 votes.

The candidates have only five more days to work for the special prize and the high first period extra votes, and the ones who expect to win should do their very best during the short time that remains. The cold and disagreeable weather the last two or three days has kept the candidates from doing what they expected to do in a subscription way, but they will redouble their efforts during the next week.

As the contest does not close until six weeks from next Monday night there is ample time for any hustling and ambitious young woman to enter the race and come under the wire a winner. This is especially true if the young woman happens to live in one of the towns in the territory where there has been practically nothing done, and where thousands of votes can be secured by the first one who asks for them.

Some of those who were a little late in being nominated, and others who have been unable to start their campaigns, seem to be of the opinion that they are too late to begin now, but in this they are very much in error. Now is the very best time to commence. The work done thus far has been mostly of a preliminary character, and as the campaign was a new and unknown proposition, it was necessary to spend a great deal of time explaining the rules and conditions. Now, nearly everyone in this section of the State has read all about the contest and is watch-

SNOW STORM WILL COST BIG AMOUNT

New York Will Have to Pay Half Million to Clear Snow Away.

New York, Dec. 16.—The first real snow storm of the winter will cost New York \$300,000. A foot of snow fell yesterday between 5 a. m. and 7 p. m. and the street cleaning department is busy carting it away. Traffic is still blocked today.

TRYING TO RELIEVE SOME HIGH COST

Trying Shark Skins For The Manufacture of Shoes.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 16.—With shark skins from the Florida and Gulf coasts Uncle Sam is making an effort to relieve the high cost of shoes. In view of the high cost of leather the Bureau of Fisheries has taken up the possible value of shark skins in making various kinds of leather.

Arrangements have been made for securing from Florida fishermen a supply of very large shark skins, and further specimens are expected from other sources, especially from a number of lighthouses and lightships off the South Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

The Bureau of Fisheries is supplying fishing tackle to the lighthouse men who have been authorized to catch sharks and preserve their skins. The skins will be sent to tanners for treatment in various ways, and it is hoped that such raw material will prove so useful that fishermen on all parts of our coast may hereafter find a market for the skins of all kinds of sharks now incidentally caught in line and net fishing.

The shark skins have for many years had a limited demand as coverings for minor articles of ornament and utility, but their use as leather has been very restricted. An acceptable leather has been prepared from shark skins in various foreign countries, and there seems no reason why skins of certain sharks caught on our own coasts may not be converted into serviceable leather by American tanners. Shark skins are very tough and durable, and some of them show a beautiful surface pattern which remains through the tanning process.

PROPOSED WATERWAY FROM LAKE TO GULF.

Washington, Dec. 16.—A Lake-to-the-Gulf waterway and the resources of the West were the topics discussed at the final session of the governors' convention here today. Governor Major, of Missouri, presided. A closing feature of today's program will be a trip of the governors to Mount Vernon as the guests of Secretary Daniels.

FRENCH DRIVE NOW HOLDS THE STAGE

WEDS SISTER OF MAN HE KILLED

Hyman Epstein and Miss Edwards Married Yesterday in Charlotte.

Rocky Mount, N. C., Dec. 16.—Hyman Epstein of Goldsboro, recently acquitted of the murder of Leonard Edwards, and Miss Judith Edwards, sister of the slain man, were married yesterday in Charlotte, according to relatives here. The couple will come to Rocky Mount where Epstein will enter business with his uncle. Miss Edwards, it is said, was visiting a sister in Salisbury and joined Epstein in Charlotte, from which city he went from here Thursday.

PREMIER MAY NOT BE ABLE APPEAR

His Condition May Not Allow Him to Make Speech Tuesday.

London, Dec. 16.—It appeared doubtful today whether Premier David Lloyd George would be able to go before the House of Commons on Tuesday next. While he is making steady progress towards recovery it is considered unlikely that his physicians will allow him to speak next week, as his voice is affected. At any rate it is not expected that the government will be ready by that time to make a statement regarding Germany's peace proposal.

WINTER FEEDING! OF THE BIRDS

Government Urged That It Be Done in The Parks of Country.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 16.—In order that birds may be helped safely through the approaching winter when snow will cover many of their usual sources of food, the Bureau of Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture is urging city park officials to make bird feeding an activity in the city pleasure grounds.

Letters have been sent to the officials of parks in the northern parts of the United States pointing out the value of birds to the community because of their destruction of insects injurious to trees and crops; and calling attention to Farmers' Bulletins 621, relating to the Northeastern, and 760, relating to the Northwestern States, issued by the Department, which offers practical suggestions for attracting and feeding birds. The furnishing of facilities for feeding the birds in the city parks, it is pointed out, will give enjoyment to many people, especially bird lovers.

The letter continues: "Winter feeding may be done in the simplest ways, as by putting up suet in small cans, in cocoanuts, or under wire netting, and by scattering mixed seeds on bare places; or more elaborate apparatus and more varied foods may be used. We enclose a publication giving details of the methods of feeding and attracting wild birds and trust that you will be interested in adding bird feeding stations to the attractions in your parks. By means of them you can bring to convenient observation points several species of the most attractive, interesting and valuable birds. Such feeding stations are of great interest to children and give the boys and girls a chance to learn birds while they are having the enjoyment of feeding them. "The bulletin we enclose specializes on the use of fruit-producing trees and shrubs in attracting birds and we hope that this feature also will be of interest to you.

Big Victory of Yesterday Holds Chief Attention in The War Tragedy Today.

RUSSIA AND ALLIES ARE OF SAME OPINION.

It is Declared About Prosecution of The Conflict—Tentative Continues to Win in Rumania—Little New in The Macedonian Theatre.

Momentarily the western front is again the center of attention, with the French victory of Verdun occupying the chief place in the war news. The new stroke brought the French back, according to reports, nearly to the line occupied when the Germans began their great drive for Verdun last February. Today's dispatches report that the Germans lost nearly 9,000 men in prisoners and 80 guns, the drive going to a depth of apparently 2 miles along a 6-mile front.

Petrograd advices carrying the report of the Russian Duma favoring a categorical refusal by the entente to enter peace negotiations quote the foreign minister in addressing the Duma as declaring that Russia and her allies are as one in the conviction that the war must be carried on to a victorious conclusion.

In the operations in Rumania the Teutonic forces have won further successes, scoring new advance in the Buzeu region. The German statement is somewhat ambiguous, but apparently it means a crossing of the Buzeu river, near the southern Moldavian border, which the Russo-Rumanian army was fighting desperately to hold, has been forced by von Cackensen. The capture of 2,000 additional prisoners is announced.

Nothing New in Macedonia. Paris, Dec. 16.—No important events have occurred on the Macedonian front, according to the French official statement.

THREE PEOPLE DIED WHEN HUT WAS BURNED

Tragedy Enacted in a Cabin Near Asheville, Late Last Night.

FATHER AND TWO DAUGHTERS DEAD.

Mother and Son Are Seriously Injured And Carried to Hospital For Treatment.

Asheville, N. C., Dec. 16.—Three persons are dead, two seriously burned and two others slightly burned as a result of a fire which entrapped the Penland family, living in a two-room cabin near Canton, 30 miles west of Asheville, late last night. The three persons burned to death were Jack Penland, 67 years old, and his two daughters, Mildred, aged 21 years, and Laura, 14 years.

Of the four other occupants of the house who narrowly escaped with their lives, the two most seriously injured are Mrs. Penland, 58 years old, and William Penland, 16 years old, who were brought to Asheville this morning and placed in a local hospital.

ATLANTA MAN FOUND DYING ON THE STREET.

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 16.—T. B. Ashford, a well-known business man, was found unconscious in the street at the intersection of Peach and Fourteenth, in a fashionable district, late last night and died early today from his injuries. The only mark on his body was a small abrasion on the head and the police authorities have been unable to determine how he met his death.

C. H. Ashford, president of the Ashford Trunk and Bag Company, his father, said today he believed his son had been murdered and offered \$500 reward for the arrest and conviction of the slayer. Ashford was 37 years old.