

**WEATHER FORECAST.**  
Rain tonight—Tuesday fair and cool—  
er—Strong east to south winds shift  
ing to northeast by Tuesday.

# THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

**FINAL EDITION**

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## PEACE NOTE GIVEN TO GREAT BRITAIN

**AMERICAN AMBASSADOR DELIVERS IT BUT TOO LATE TO BE CONSIDERED TODAY**  
**WILL BE TAKEN UP TOMORROW**  
Lack of Terms May Prevent Conference on the Proposal—Great Britain Will Consult Her Allies On Vital Question Before Making Answer  
London, Dec. 18.—The peace note of the central powers was handed to the British government today by Walter Hines Page, the American ambassador.  
The note will be considered by the cabinet tomorrow, being received too late today to enable a council to be called. The next step, after the meeting of the cabinet, will be to get in communication with the allies of Great Britain so joint action can be taken. This is expected to take at least a week.  
It has been ascertained that the note contains no terms and the impression prevails in official quarters that until there are terms a conference is impossible.

## STILL TRYING TO SOLVE PROBLEM

**FURTHER EFFORT TO SUPPLY SMALL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS WITH MATERIAL**  
Washington, Dec. 18.—Effort to find relief for the shortage and present high prices was continued here today by the Federal Trades Commission, in a conference with the committee of newspaper publishers, news paper manufacturers and paper jobbers.  
The plan to be discussed was the proposal that the publishers of large newspapers reduce their purchases next year by 5 per cent., so the small papers may receive more. Questionnaires were sent today to the large publishers to ascertain if they will subscribe to this plan, relinquishing 5 per cent. of their 1917 needs. At the same time the manufacturers' committee is trying to find out the exact amount of paper stock on hand in the United States and the amount to be manufactured for next year's needs.  
The large publishers are not well satisfied with the plans proposed, contending that it forces them to make sacrifices to supply the small publishers, when the manufacturers can solve the whole problem readily by diverting paper-making machines to the manufacture of news print that are now working on wrapping paper manufacture.

## POSTOFFICE DELIVERY WANTED FOR DUNN

Washington, D. C., Dec. 18.—Congressman Godwin today obtained consent or postoffice department to establish city delivery at Dunn, his home town, as soon as arrangements can be completed. Dunn is a most progressive town, having complete system sewerage and waterworks and paved streets not excelled by any town in the South.  
E. P. McCulloch, Jr., was recommended for appointment as postmaster at Elizabethtown today by Congressman Godwin. Elizabethtown was advanced to presidential class October 1, McCulloch was the only applicant.

## MEN THOUGHT LOST HAVE BEEN RESCUED

New York, Dec. 18.—The twelve men thought to have been on the bark, Methus, separated from a tug during a storm off the New Jersey coast, on her voyage north from Brazil, were rescued yesterday by an Italian ship and brought to this port today.

## FRENCH MAKE CAPTURES.

Paris, Dec. 18.—The French forces have taken 11,387 German prisoners on the Verdun front since the 15th of December, according to the French war office's announcement this afternoon.



This is the latest photograph of Theobald von Bethmann-Hollweg, Chancellor of the German Empire, showing him speaking at a meeting in Berlin. Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg wears the uniform of his rank as lieutenant-general in which he now always appears in public, and which he wears when he addresses the Reichstag. There has been some criticism in Berlin of the fact that the Chancellor wears his uniform, many feeling that his great office was not one to which dignity is added by the use of a military uniform, even though it be the uniform of an officer of high rank.

## COMPETITION FOR RING WILL END IN FOUR DAYS

**Candidates Realize the Time is Short and Are Doing Their Best to Get Every Possible Subscription by Friday**  
**\*\*\*\*\* TENNESSEE UNDER SNOW. \*\*\*\*\***  
Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 18.—Middle Tennessee awoke today to face a driving snow, which seemed to reach its greatest intensity at Nashville. The depth at 8 o'clock was 6 inches and the snow was still falling. The temperature was 24 degrees above zero. The official prediction was for colder weather and a cessation of the snow during the day. Railway traffic has been greatly impeded.  
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**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.  
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## MANY TO OPPOSE ENFORCE SERVICE

**Hearings Open on the Chamberlain Compulsory Military Bill**  
Washington, Dec. 18.—Hearings on the Chamberlain compulsory military training bill were begun today by a sub-committee of the Senate military committee.  
Walter L. Fisher, of Chicago, former secretary of the interior, who stood first on the committee's list of witnesses, opposed the measure on the ground that the system would impose an unnecessary burden and not furnish relief. He recommended instead that the army be reorganized and given greater individual benefit to the soldiers.  
It is expected that members of the Women's Peace Party, American Union Against Militarism, Farmers' Union, National Grange and American Federation of Labor also will be heard in opposition to the measure.

## PRESIDENT OBSERVES FIRST ANNIVERSARY

Washington, Dec. 18.—President and Mrs. Wilson today celebrated the first anniversary of their marriage. A family party will be entertained at dinner at the White House tonight.  
In order to count toward the diamond ring and the first period of extra votes.  
Saturday witnessed the expiration of the ten-vote coupons that have been appearing in each issue of The Dispatch for the past four weeks. Hundreds of thousands of votes were cast Saturday, as a result, and there were few, if any, candidates who did not send in votes, or had votes cast for them. The coupon in The Dispatch is still good for ten votes, but the expiration date has been advanced to December 30.  
(Continued on Page Seven.)

## CHIEF OF STAFF STANDS FOR THE MILITARY BILL

**Major General Scott Advocates Compulsory Military Training**  
**DENOUNCES THE VOLUNTEER SYSTEM**  
Declares It Is Inefficient and Dangerous—Should Have Three Million Available Men, He Contends

Washington, Dec. 18.—Major General Scott, chief of the staff of the army, told the Senate military committee today that the army general staff recommended, without apology, that the volunteer system be discontinued, because time has come when this country "unless it intends to avoid war at any cost" must resort to universal liability as to military training and service.  
He terms the volunteer system as extravagant, inefficient and dangerous. The chief of staff told the committee that military training was Democratic, reliable, efficient, and economical and within a few years would render the United States immune from attack.  
"It would be Democratic," he said, because the burden of National defense would fall equally on all citizens. It would make impossible for any man or group of men to trade upon the nation's necessities in time of war. The system would be reliable because it would reduce each year the number of men necessary to be trained. It would be economical because it would be based on recognition by the people of the duty of the individual to render personal service and to be carried into effect the government would not have to compete in the labor market. It would be efficient because it would enable us to prepare adequately for war before war comes."  
General Scott pointed out that the Mexican crisis has failed to recruit many of the National Guard organizations, even to their minimum peace strength. The lessons of the European war, General Scott said, taught that a higher standard of training and discipline is required than was popularly considered necessary before and that most of the European nations, for that reason, had found they could not develop them in less than two years with the colors.  
For war, for a first-class power, the general staff had previously estimated 500,000 fully equipped troops should be ready at the outset, with 500,000 more in ninety days. The general is now of the opinion that 1,500,000 fully equipped and ready troops should be available, with another 1,500,000 to follow in ninety days.

## COMMISSION IS BACK ON JOB

**Fate of Relations With Mexico May Be Made Known Today**

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 18.—Continuation of the effort of the Mexican-American joint commission to effect a satisfactory agreement on questions affecting international relations, depended largely on the result of its session today, called for the purpose of hearing General Carranza's decision regarding the protocol signed at Atlantic City and sent to him for ratification.  
It was indicated that a flat refusal of Carranza to ratify the agreement, reached after three months' discussion, would offer no alternative than dissolution of the commission, but if the report presented by the Mexicans indicate his desire to discuss only minor alterations, the conferences would be resumed for a brief period.  
The Americans intimate, however, that a long discussion of the subjects already covered in the agreement signed would not be tolerated and radical changes, especially any demand for the withdrawal of the American troops from Chihuahua, would not be granted.  
(Continued on page six.)

## SEES LITTLE HOPE FOR PEACE NOW

London, Dec. 18.—The Westminster Gazette, which has held strong opinion that Germany's peace proposal should be seriously replied to, comments today on the note containing no terms, saying:  
"If the German note contains no details, being merely a repetition of Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg's speech in the Reichstag, the prospect of any immediate result is exceedingly slight."

## PRESSURE LIGHTER IN RUMANIAN ARENA

## WILSON TO PRESS THE INQUIRY

**No Let Up In Investigation of the High Cost of Living**  
Washington, Dec. 18.—At President Wilson's direction the nationwide investigation into the increased cost of living is to be continued with all possible vigor. It was stated at the White House that the President considers that the investigation has already accomplished much good. He has not given his approval to any of the many bills introduced in Congress to meet the situation. The President believes the difficulties cannot be solved through Federal legislation, for the reason that it is practically impossible for the Federal government to meet local conditions.

## HEAVY DOCKET FOR RECORDER

**Many Female Offenders Before Judge Harriss This Morning**  
Mostly feminine offenders faced Judge Harriss in the Recorder's Court this morning, which was one of the heaviest that has yet been docketed for his Honor. The morning session was in session until 1 o'clock and a recess was then taken until 2:30 o'clock. Juvenile court will be held at 3 o'clock, provided the remaining cases are disposed of.  
The first cases to be tried this afternoon will be those against Viola and Luberta Davis, colored, charged with shoplifting, it being alleged that they stole several pairs of shoes from the store of Mr. Wm. Otersen, corner Fourth and Campbell streets. Mattie Wilson, colored, charged with vagrancy, will also be tried this afternoon.  
Virginia Taylor, Carrie Franks, colored, charged with being inmates of a disorderly house, were granted nol prosses. Bessie Wilson, Maggie Thomas and Hattie Smith, charged with being inmates of a disorderly house, were declared not guilty.  
Ethel Kennedy, colored, charged with vagrancy, was granted a nol prosses, as was Minnie Council, colored, arraigned on the same same charge. Prayer for judgment was continued against George Thomas, colored, charged with vagrancy. Chas. Mosley, colored, charged with violating the driving ordinance, paid the costs. Upon payment of costs judgment was continued for twelve months in the case of L. V. Gey, white, charged with assaulting a female.

## TO INSIST ON THE RAILROAD PROGRAM

**If Important Part Is Omitted Extra Session May Be Called**  
Washington, Dec. 18.—Although President Wilson has received indirect information on the effort of the railroads and brotherhood heads to reach an agreement, he plans to push his recommendations to congress and expects action at this session. Whether an extra session will be called should the program not be completed, depends on the importance of any part of the program not acted on. The President considers satisfactory progress is being made and points out that the rumor that the National government might seek to regulate other industries was unfounded.

## PREMIER LLOYD-GEORGE SPEAKS TOMORROW

London, Dec. 18.—Premier David Lloyd-George was much better this morning and his secretary said he would certainly make the promised statement in the House of Commons on Tuesday.  
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**SNOW IN NORTH CAROLINA.**  
Raleigh, N. C., Dec. 18.—This city and vicinity are under snow today, as the result of quite a heavy fall.  
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## Russians Preparing to Make a Strong Stand Against the Invaders

**GERMANS COUNTER ATTACK AT VERDUN**  
But Paris Claims All But One Onslaught Was Repulsed—French Take More Prisoners—No New Developments  
Some lessening in the intensity of the fighting in Rumania is indicated by today's German statement which reports the situation on the Rumanian front unchanged. Von Mackensen's advance has been pushed on considerably beyond the Buze line and has been drawn approximately across the southern boundary of Moldavia, and unofficial advices indicate that the entente front will be established between Rimnik Sarat and the Danube marshes.  
Current advices declare the Rumanian army is no longer in action, having been withdrawn for the purpose of regrouping under the protection of the Russian forces. The Russians are expected to make their stand on the Rimnik Sarat line, where strong defenses have been prepared.  
The Berlin statement reporting that the hostile forces are falling back to Ibralla may indicate that the eastern line may be established at this important Danube river point.  
On the Franco-Belgian front, Paris announces strong counter-attacks by the Germans on the positions won by the French in their sweeping advance north and northeast of Verdun, but they only succeeded, according to Paris, at one point, a quarter of a mile north of Fort Douaumont, where they gained a footing.  
The French took 1,385 prisoners in the Verdun fighting the past three days, the Paris war office announces, together with 115 cannon, 700 machine guns and 44 bomb-throwers.  
On the Macedonian front, Berlin, (By Wireless to Sayville), Dec. 18.—Only artillery operations on the Macedonian front are reported in today's army headquarters' statement.

## SPAIN TO HAVE A 24-HOUR STRIKE

**Labor Organizations Protest On the High Cost of Food**  
Madrid, Dec. 18 (Via Paris).—A 24-hour general strike has been called by the labor organizations as a protest against the high price of food is to take place today throughout Spain.  
Factories, stores and many offices will be closed and no newspapers will be published. The authorities posted a notice appealing to the good sense of the public to maintain order and announces that any disorder will be immediately dealt with.

## MORE WHEAT FOR THIS WINTER

**Government's Report Shows Big Increase in the Acreage Over Last Year**  
Washington, D. C., Dec. 18.—Winter wheat was sown this fall on an estimated acreage of 40,090,000 acres, an increase of 867,000 acres over the revised estimate of the acreage sown in the fall of 1915 the department of agriculture announced today.  
The condition on December 1 was 86.7 per cent of normal, compared with 87.7 last year.