

Fair and much colder tonight with a cold wave. Saturday fair and continued cold. Northwest winds.

LONDON DOES NOT LIKE WILSON NOTE

Press Declares Only Answer to President of United States is "No."

THE MOVE LOOKED UPON WITH SURPRISE.

One Paper Declares That It Can Be Answered in Negative Without A Moment's Hesitation.

London, Dec. 22.—The general public had its first view of President Wilson's note this morning when the morning papers came out. The people were taken aback, as they had arrived at the conclusion that Premier Lloyd-George's speech had put an end to Germany's peace talk unless the Central Powers were prepared to define their terms.

AGAIN SCENE OF BATTLE'S FURY HAS SHIFTED

British Have Renewed Their Attack on The Turkish Forces Near Tigris.

THEY HAVE MADE A VITAL CAPTURE.

Drawing Nearer The Border of Palestine—Only Artillery Busy On Franco-Belgian Front.

While winter weather is causing military operations on most of the fighting fronts to lack features of interest there is considerable activity in the sectors far enough south to permit of energetic campaigning.

On the Tigris the British recently pushed forward towards Kut-el-Amara, on the south, and are continuing to attack the Turkish forces in that region, evidently in the hope of resuming the long delayed march to Basra.

Another field of activity that demands attention comes with today's announcement from London that the British forces are at El Arish, in Egypt, on the Mediterranean, 90 miles east of the Suez Canal. Little has been heard from the Egyptian operations for some time. The British are known to have taken somewhat elaborate preparations to protect the canal region.

The taking of El Arish establishes the British front at this point well towards the border of Palestine and marks the furthest eastern penetration of the British forces in this area since the war began.

On the Franco-Belgian front the artillery is the only arm of the service that is displaying activity at the moment and the bombardments are not of profound intensity.

- OTHER GIFTS TO THE FUND. The Dispatch begs to acknowledge a few more gifts to the "empty stocking fund," which is to be turned over to Adjutant Yates, of the Salvation Army, in aid of the big Christmas tree that he will give the children of Wilmington, in his noble effort to provide a merry Christmas for all. Previously acknowledged, \$30.45 Wilmington Typo. Union, 5.00 Cash 1.00 Hazel Batson .25 Thelma Batson .25 Dores Batson .25 Total \$37.20

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ANNOUNCED

President Appoints The Shipping Board to Take Full Charge.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 22.—President Wilson today nominated the following to be members of the government's shipping board: William Denman, of San Francisco; Bernard N. Baker, of Baltimore; John A. Donland, of New York; John B. White, of Kansas City, Mo.; and Theodore Brent, of New Orleans.

The board, under the law, will have general supervision over freight rates in American waters. It is empowered to organize a \$50,000,000 corporation to build or buy merchant ships, 49 per cent of the stock to be available for public subscription and that not subscribed to the government to take. The ships built or bought are to be available for lease or charter by private interests, but may be operated by the government should private concerns fail to take them.

The intent of the law besides being to restore American commerce revoked by the war is to open up trade routes which private capital does not yet consider profitable enough for it to enter.

REVENUE OFFICERS TAKING A REST

Let Down After Period of Strenuous Service—Chamber of Commerce

New Bern, N. C., Dec. 22.—The revenue officers and the United States Commissioners in this section are now taking a much needed rest after their strenuous work during the past few weeks during which time a number of the violators of the federal laws have been run to earth and their operations broken up, but after Christmas they will start in again and there is every indication that the coming term of Federal Court will have a larger number of cases on the docket than any in recent years.

The revenue men have information to the effect that there are several illicit distilling plants in operation in this and adjoining counties and they are making preparations to break up this traffic.

Since Virginia went dry there has been a heavier demand for liquor than has ever been the case and the moonshiners are said to have reaped a rich harvest. But their activities have already been interrupted and bid fair to be entirely broken up.

Secretary R. C. W. Ranspeck, of the New Bern Chamber of Commerce, is now making plans for the annual dinner of the Chamber of Commerce, which is to be held at the Gaston hotel some time during the coming month and this event bids fair to be one of the most auspicious ever held.

For some reason the annual dinner was not held this year, but Secretary Ranspeck intends to make up for that deficiency in the coming big feast at which there will be several hundred guests.

Among the principal speakers will probably be Secretary Daniels of the Navy; Senator F. M. Simmons, editors of a number of the leading newspapers in the State and a number of other prominent men.

The exact date of this dinner has not been made public at the present time but will be announced shortly.

NO REPLY YET TO AMERICAN NOTE.

London, Dec. 22.—The British government will make no statement at present in regard to President Wilson's peace note, considering that the question can be dealt with only in conjunction with the other members of the entente. That was announced by Andrew Bonar Law, the minister of the exchequer, and the government leader in the House of Commons. Mr. Law was asked whether a statement would be made about the American report.

A Mass Meeting Is Called For Tonight

Having received an intimation that certain legislation affecting Wilmington along with other cities of the State was being planned by local men for enactment at the next session of the General Assembly without letting the people know just what the bills contain, a number of business men of the city have announced that a mass meeting will be held in the Court House tonight, beginning at 7:30 o'clock, to consider this and other proposed legislation for this city and county. In justice to Representative L. Clayton Grant it should be said that the proposed legislation is not supposed to have originated with him. The impression prevails that an attempt was to be made to get the legislation, some relating to bond issues, through the General Assembly without the people here knowing of it until after the bills had been enacted into law.

All interested citizens are invited to attend the meeting tonight and take part in the discussion. The proposed legislation is of vital importance to the tax-payers and they are urged to be present tonight and give their views. It is probable that a number of proposed amendments to the city charter and other legislation will be discussed at the meeting.

LOOKING INTO THE LUMBER STATUS

Government Trying to Ascertain How South Will Fill The Demand.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 22.—Investigation of the South's lumber manufacturing and exporting facilities is being made by the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce to ascertain to what extent the south can help fill the great demand for lumber expected after the European war.

Alex Oxholm, of the bureau's staff of lumber experts, left for the south today to conduct the inquiry. He will visit Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas.

The bureau plans to start an investigation of the foreign lumber market after the war.

GERMAN U-BOAT REPORTED SUNK.

Paris, Dec. 22.—The submarine U-45 has been sunk by destroyers, says a Nantes Dispatch. The U-45 recently sank a steamer off St. Nazaire.

CHARLOTTE GETS SERIOUS THOUGHT

Farm Loan Board Looks On It As Likely Location of a Bank.

Washington, Dec. 22.—The Federal Farm Loan Board in considering 150 cities for the location of 12 farm loan banks, soon to be announced, is understood to be paying special attention to the claims of Charlotte, New Orleans; Houston, Texas; Hutchinson, Kansas; Springfield, Mass., and Baltimore.

It is understood that the board has virtually decided on the location of six banks.

RUSSIANS AGAIN FALL BACK. Petrograd, Dec. 22 (Via London).—Russian troops on the northern part of the Rumanian province of Dobruja, having been attacked yesterday along the whole front by the Teutons, numerically superior, says the Russian official statement issued today, they have begun a further retirement to the north.

ONLY FEW HOURS LEFT TO WORK FOR DIAMOND RING

First and Diamond Ring Periods of Contest Both Come to a Close at 9 o'clock Tonight—Candidates are Urged to Get in All Possible Subscriptions Before Closing Hour.

NOTICE TO OUT-OF-TOWN CANDIDATES.

To all candidates living outside the city of Wilmington, the Contest Manager wishes to state that all subscriptions mailed any time Friday will be credited as First Period Business. This is done to give the out-of-town candidates an equal opportunity with the city candidates.

This is the last day of the first period of the Dispatch contest and the last day of the competition for the \$60 Diamond Ring which is a special prize for the two weeks ending tonight. Both will end promptly at 9 o'clock tonight.

No subscriptions will be accepted after that hour from contestants living in Wilmington to count toward the first period schedule of "Club Votes," or to apply on the Diamond Ring.

Candidates living outside of Wilmington will receive first period extra votes, and their subscription money will go toward the Diamond Ring, if they mail their subscriptions and money any time today.

The wise contestants will make the most of the few remaining hours of the first period and turn in every possible subscription before 9 o'clock tonight.

They realize that there will be a reduction of 10,000 votes for each \$15 worth of subscriptions after tonight. They also realize that the difference in the number of votes issued on a "club" this period and next period may determine the winner of the Overland Automobile or one of the other valuable prizes.

Are you satisfied with the number of votes you have received this period? Have you gotten at least one of the big ballots for 150,000 votes? No doubt many of you are satisfied, but if you are, the most of you are easily satisfied. Some of you only need one or two more subscriptions in order to complete a \$15 club, and you can finish out the required amount between now and nine o'clock tonight if you will only put forth a little effort.

Several of the contestants have expressed a determination to win the Diamond Ring. One of the young ladies even went so far as to tell the Contest Manager that he could be prepared to deliver the ring to her, that she was sure she was going to win it. The one who will be the proud owner of the ring after tonight will be the one who does not waste a minute of the few remaining hours. The young lady who expressed herself so forcibly may not be the winner, but her enthusiasm and confidence will be of great assistance.

This is going to be the biggest day, in a subscription way, of any day since the contest began. And it should be. The number of extra votes on each \$15 worth of subscriptions will surely be decreased—not increased—after today, and those who do not get at least one of the big ballots for 150,000 extra votes will certainly be sorry ever after. Don't take a chance. Yet in every possible subscription today.

(Continued on Page Seven.)

THE WILSON NOTE AIMED TO CLEAR THE ATMOSPHERE

Now Watching Its Receipt by The Entente and Central Powers.

WILL NEUTRALS FOLLOW THE LEAD?

That is Also An Important Question In Connection With President's Peace Move.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 22.—With the purpose of President Wilson's note to the belligerents clarified by official statements on the subject the attention of the United States has turned to receipt of the note in the foreign capitals.

Diplomats here are eagerly watching indications as to whether the European neutrals will follow the lead of the United States and make a similar appeal to the warring powers. There is a growing spirit that the United States hopes to become the clearing house for views and possibly terms of the belligerents. Several of the diplomats have apprised their governments to that effect in order that they may guide their replies.

Surprise at the fast growing significance of the President's move is expressed on all sides. It is pointed out that at first the opinion prevailed that the note was merely a "feeler" and that the most immediate contemplation in issuing it was to get some sort of definite reply from the warring nations.

The question that was very much to the fore today was whether the European neutrals will present an united appeal. The Spanish and Swiss representatives here have been at the state department repeatedly since the proposals came out and probably know fully the plans of this government. Gradual clarification among the entente diplomats here of the President's purpose and indications that they would advise their governments to reply in a friendly spirit proved a source of deep gratification today, as it was pointed out both in the note itself and by Secretary Lansing that the one danger was that the allies might consider the move as a pro-German one. Every effort was made to remove this impression and have the note considered entirely apart from any other event. The entente diplomats who at first were fearful now accept this view.

Charge Grew reported to the state department today that the President's peace note had been received in Berlin.

GERRY PLANS FEAST FOR THE POOR TOTS.

Providence, R. I., Dec. 22.—Peter Goelet Gerry, United States senator-elect from Rhode Island, has completed arrangements for his fourth annual Christmas dinner and entertainment for the poor children of Providence. The dinner will be served Christmas morning in the largest hall in Providence. There will be seats at the tables for more than one thousand children, and it is certain that the full number will be present. There will be everything there for which a youngster could wish, and plenty of it, and a real live Santa Claus has been booked for the occasion to distribute the presents. Mr. and Mrs. Gerry expect to be present and preside at the dinner.

MORE MONEY GIVEN TO THE WORKERS.

New York, Dec. 22.—The Gulf Refining Company today announces a bonus of 10 per cent of one year's salary to employes of more than six months' service receiving less than \$2,500 annually.

WIFE OF PRESIDENT GRAHAM PASSES AWAY

Chapel Hill, N. C., Dec. 22.—Mrs. Susan Moses Graham, wife of President Edward Kidder Graham, of the University of North Carolina, died here today after a prolonged illness. Mrs. Graham was a native of Raleigh and was 36 years of age.

Cheyenne, Wyo., Dec. 22.—A battle to make Wyoming dry is forecast for the legislature convening here early next month. The fight will be watched with close attention and interest by the people throughout the northern and central Rocky Mountain region. The significance of Wyoming's decision is that this State, as long as it remains wet, supplies the operating base for mail order sales of liquor into the seven dry States surrounding it.

MASONIC HOME PYRE IN KANSAS TOWN

ARRANGE PROGRAM MAYORS' MEETING

Executive Committee of Municipal Association Has Conference in Raleigh.

The ninth annual meeting of the North Carolina Municipal Association will be held in Raleigh at the Chamber of Commerce rooms Tuesday and Wednesday, January 9 and 10. The program for the meeting was formulated yesterday at a conference of the executive committee of the association in the office of Mayor James I. Johnson. Those present were: Mayor T. J. Murphy, Greensboro; Mayor James I. Johnson, Raleigh; and ex-Mayor O. P. Shell, of Dunn, N. C.

On the first day of the session following the welcoming formalities and the address of the president, Dr. A. R. Hatton, Cleveland, Ohio, will deliver an address on "Municipal Government in Ohio."

A banquet will be tendered the association at the Yarrowburgh Hotel by the Chamber of Commerce on the evening of Tuesday, January 9. The program for the session follows:

Tuesday, January 9th, A. M. Meeting called to order by President, Mayor T. J. Murphy, of Greensboro, N. C.

Invocation by Rev. C. P. Wilcox, Rector St. Saviour's Church, Raleigh, N. C.

Address of Welcome—Mayor James I. Johnson, of Raleigh.

Response—Mayor B. S. Skinner, of Durham.

President's Address. Address—"Municipal Government in Ohio"—Dr. A. R. Hatton, of Cleveland, Ohio.

General Discussion. Adjournment.

3 O'clock P. M. Report of the Special Legislative Committee appointed to draft general laws for submission to the Legislature chartering and financing cities and towns of the State.

Report of Officers and Committees of the Association and general discussion of the same.

6 p. m.—Adjournment. Banquet at Yarrowburgh House by Chamber of Commerce of the City of Raleigh at 7:30 p. m.

Second Day. Wednesday, January 10th, 11 a. m. Meeting called to order by the President.

Address—"Home Rule for Our Cities and Towns Under State Constitution as Amended"—Hon. W. S. Wilson, Legislative Reference Librarian, Raleigh, N. C.

Address—"Is Street Paving a Financial as Well as Civic Asset?"—Mayor Fred I. Sutton, Winston.

General Discussion. Adjournment.

3 O'clock P. M. Discussion on "Fire Prevention and Protection," led by Hon. James R. Young, Insurance Commissioner; Mayor J. D. McNeill, Fayetteville.

Address—"Parks and Playgrounds"—Mayor O. B. Eaton, Winston-Salem, N. C.

Business Session. Election of officers. Selection of next place of meeting. Final adjournment.

NO MORE OF THEM FOR MT. OLIVE WHEAT MARKET AGAIN NERVOUS

Town Bars Carnivals and Other Tent Shows of This Class.

Mount Olive, Dec. 22.—Carnivals, minstrels and such like shows will pitch their tents here no more, for they have been barred by a town ordinance, passed at a recent meeting of the board of aldermen.

The last one that visited the town, some three or four weeks ago, presented attractions of such an immoral character that a general feeling of resentment against that class of attractions swept the town, and in order to make sure that the community would be afflicted with that class of shows no more a town ordinance, barring all carnivals and minstrels has been passed.

Five People or More Lost Their Lives In a Fire Today—Many Injured.

SCORES OF AGED MADE TO SUFFER.

Had to Flee In Almost Zero Weather—Two Bodies So Badly Burned They Could Not Be Identified.

Wichita, Kansas, Dec. 22.—At least five persons are believed to have lost their lives and several are suffering from injury as result of a fire which destroyed the main building of the Kansas Masonic Home here early today. A score of old men, women and children suffered from smoke or exposure in a temperature of eight above zero.

Several were made unconscious by the smoke or were overcome by the cold as they were fleeing from the burning structure in their night clothes. They were taken to the hospitals.

Two bodies, so badly burned that identification was impossible, were taken from the ruins before noon.

The main building was three stories high. The north wing of the building was used for the women's department. Two crippled women, who sleep in this part of the building, have not been accounted for. They were unable to escape as the stairway was burned. All the men in the building were saved.

Rescued women and children were taken to the homes in the neighborhood. The children and women, many of the latter who are past 90 years, suffered most. The records of the home were destroyed and the superintendent is handicapped to know who may have been burned in the building. Ten of the rescued inmates were taken to the hospital.

Colonel Fitch, a member of the Kansas Masonic order and trustee of the home, stated this morning that "he did not believe that there were any bodies in the building." He also stated that "we believe there was no loss of lives of the inmates, although this is uncertain and cannot be known until all are checked up."

The entire property was destroyed except the chapel and the hospital. The main building was a total loss. It was valued at \$250,000.

MANY DIE IN A SEABOARD CRASH

Freight Train Ran Into Wash-out In Florida and Trainmen Were Killed.

Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 22.—Six men are believed to have been killed when a freight train ran into a wash-out at McKinley, Fla., today. Only one fireman of the crew of the two locomotives on the train is reported to have escaped death. The wreckage is reported on fire.

A wrecking crew has been sent from Jacksonville.

Only intermittent wire service to McKinley was possible this afternoon, due, it is believed, to poles at the scene being torn down by the wreck.

Seaboard officials here had no definite report of the accident for hours after the occurrence.

TRADERS PERPLEXED OVER THE SITUATION AND LOWER PRICES PREVAIL.

Chicago, Dec. 22.—Wheat opened here today nervous and irregular, with prices from 1-4 off to 1-14 over yesterday's closing. A sharp break ensued soon after the opening. May dropped to 162 1-2, a maximum overnight loss of 1-14 cents. July fell to 134 3-8, a similar loss. At the opening May sold for 165 and July 136 1-2.

Traders seemed perplexed in their endeavors to understand the so-called situation.