

Rain tonight. Thursday probably fair and colder. Moderate east winds becoming variable.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

LARGEST CIRCULATION IN WILMINGTON.

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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, C. 27, 1916.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

MANY LIKELY KILLED IN THE BIG TORNADO

Scores of Others Injured By Wild Wind That Swept Central Arkansas.

PROPERTY DAMAGE INTO THE MILLIONS.

Telegraph and Telephone Wires Are Prostrate as Result of The Storm—Rail Road Service Badly Crippled.

Little Rock, Ark., Dec. 27.—Reports received up to noon today from the storm areas, gathered round about communication, indicated that twelve persons were killed and more than thirty injured in the tornado which swept Central Arkansas late yesterday. Wires are down in all directions and it is only where couriers are able to reach telegraph stations that accurate information of the extent of the damage can be obtained.

A heavy downpour of rain and a high wind accompanied the storm and the railroads are facing washouts, high water and torn up telephone and telegraph lines, making operations perilous.

Estimates of the property damage today placed it near the three million dollar mark.

MASS MEETING SATURDAY EVENING

Representative-Elect L. Clayton Grant Wants All to Discuss Proposed Bills.

Representative-elect L. Clayton Grant has called a mass meeting for Saturday night which will be held at the Court House at 8 o'clock at which time he is very anxious that a goodly number of representative citizens assemble and discuss legislation they want enacted when the General Assembly meets next week. Mr. Grant stated to a Dispatch representative this afternoon that so many persons had approached him wanting one thing and others who wanted other things that he thought it a good idea to have all assemble at the Court House and discuss the situation. The consensus of opinion on various legislation that is proposed is the one thing the representative-elect is very anxious to have and he is of the opinion that it can be arrived at in no surer and better manner than for the representative men of the city to assemble and discuss the matters pro and con. Mr. Grant is very anxious to have legislation passed that will be worth while, but he has gone on record to the effect that the one presenting him bills for passage who has neglected to let the people in on the proposition will get small consideration at his hands.

WILL NOT TRY TO NULLIFY THE LAW

Railroads Declare They Rest Until Court Decides Adamson Law.

New York, Dec. 27.—Pending the decision of the United States supreme court on the question of the constitutionality of the Adamson law, the railroad managers declare that they will not be party to any activity to nullify or participate in any way the court proceedings.

The railroad workers of the country believe that the Adamson law will be ignored in making the payrolls after January 1, until such time that the issues are determined in the courts.

The notice is that the pending decision will be no compromise on hours or wages.

* Thinks Shows Germany's Weakness.

* London, Dec. 27.—The promptness of the German government's reply to President Wilson's note is characterized by the evening newspapers as evidence of Germany's eagerness to bring the war to an end.

CONFER AGAIN ON THE BOND SUIT

Bickett and Manning Ready to Fight Cuba's Claim to Finish.

Raleigh, Dec. 27.—Attorney General Bickett, who is retiring from office to become Governor, and Judge James S. Manning, who is becoming attorney general within a few days, have been in conference again in preparation for the Cuban bond suit which is to be argued in the United States Supreme Court, January 10. That date will be two days before Mr. Bickett's inauguration, according to the program now. The suit of Cuba against the state will be argued by Mr. Bickett and Judge Manning and while they would make no prophecy as to its outcome, they are entirely pleased with what they have unearthed in support of North Carolina's repudiation.

This will be Mr. Bickett's last argument in the United States Supreme Court for four years at least. Everybody expects to hear that he has done something "big" in this action. He has buried himself in it ever since he found out that the State must put up its hands. He has not had time to think of the inaugural utterance. The fight is based upon nearly fifty years of North Carolina history and it has taken some delving.

When the State began inquiring into the case it had few facts and less law to work upon. The decisions had been adverse. The facts were hard to find. But almost every day has rewarded the labor of Mr. Bickett, Judge Manning and Cameron Morrison. Mr. Morrison has done some of the best work yet done and with their discovery that some of these bonds were passed in the most slipshod and illegal way, the road of the collectors is made harder. Besides the finding of so many irregularities in the passage of some of the acts, they have been unable to find the "value received" necessary to make them stand.

Although the case will be settled before Judge Manning becomes attorney general, Judge Manning has been working on it since it began and is prepared against further suits of this character. So far as can now be seen no North Carolinian has been found putting the new little republic up to this suit, albeit every sort of a rumor of the suit's origin is afloat. Brigadier General Laurence W. Young, who is with the North Carolina troops on the border is due in Raleigh within a few days and will spend a month here.

General Young has not made application for the adjutant generalship under the Bickett administration, but nobody contemplates any opposition to him if he wishes it. All the soldiers from this State on the frontier have endorsed him and the only available for the position left here have joined in.

General Young volunteered about 2:30 of the morning after President Wilson issued his order of mobilization and left the office in other hands. He has been home for a brief stay only and his 30-day furlough luckily comes when the administrations change.

The Consumers' Coal Company, of Winston-Salem, is the brave sounding name of a new company that bids for popular favor in the premises. Its \$50,000 capital is not all put in now, but the beginning is with \$3,000. W. A. Shore, E. P. Pratt and Lee Allman are the incorporators.

The State Board of Health advertises today to the great number of deaths from cancer and in its bulletin shows last year's to have been above 50,000.

To Drain Weetst City.

East St. Louis, Ill., Dec. 28.—Backed by the clergy and many business men, Mayor Mollman is determined that East St. Louis shall start the new year bereft of the distinction of having more saloons than any other city of its size in the United States. For some time the city council has had under consideration the question of higher license and a limitation on the number of saloons. If these measures fail to accomplish the desired results the mayor declares he will exercise his right to revoke licenses. He says at least 150 of the saloons now doing business must close their doors permanently by January 1.

THE CAMPAIGN IN RUMANIA STILL BEING PRESSED

Von Mackensen Losing No Time But Pushing Forward With Vigor.

LITTLE DOING ON THE OTHER FRONTS.

Developments Are Indicated, However, By Paris Report on Verdun Operations. Aviators Busy.

While the peace discussion proceeds active military operations, except in such remote fields as those of Egypt and on the Tigris, are being vigorously prosecuted only on the Rumanian front.

In this war area the latest reports show that Field Marshal von Mackensen is making new headway toward Braila, the great Rumanian grain and oil storehouse on the Lower Danube, with his forces little more than 30 miles from this objective. Meanwhile the Teutons' Dobrudja army is hammering away at the bridgehead at Matchin, almost directly opposite Braila.

The clearing of the remaining Russians from Dobrudja not only comes possible from a direct attack but through the advance in Wallachia, which, if it succeeds in reaching Braila would be able to take Matchin under artillery fire in the flank and rear from across the Danube.

On the Franco-Belgian front the artillery has been active in some sectors and aviators have been busy, but the infantry arm of the service on both sides is being held well to its position, except for an occasional trench raid and patrol enterprises.

Some possible developments of interest are indicated from the Verdun front, where heavy bombardment east of the Meuse is reported by Paris.

COMMISSIONS GO TO LUCKY TEN

Governor Craig Signs Credentials to Congressmen Elected Last Month.

Raleigh, N. C., Dec. 27.—Commissions to the ten Democratic congressmen and all state officers were issued yesterday and signed by Governor Craig.

In the Tenth, where the congressional battles raged between Brit, Republican incumbent, and Weaver, Democrat, the dispute over about 13 votes, which constitute the majority, shows how easily the Democrats could have carried the district had the congressional race not figured. Governor Bickett received a majority of 797 in the 13 counties and President Wilson made about the same figures in his lead over Hughes. Two years ago the Democrats carried it on their State ticket by a still bigger margin.

Corporation Commissioner W. T. Lee has gone to his home in Waynesville to spend a few days.

Mr. Lee had been warned that the temperature in the mountains is lying around 5 degrees below zero, but it worries him none whatsoever. He likes it and goes prepared for it.

MEETING OF COLLEGE SOCIALISTS.

New York, Dec. 28.—A distinguished array of high-browed men and women who share that belief that practical Socialism would afford a sure relief for the most of the ills with which this mundane sphere is supposed to be suffering gathered in the metropolis today to take part in the eighth annual convention of the Intercollegiate Socialist Society. The attendance is unusually large and representative, including delegates from many of the principal colleges and universities of the country. J. G. Phelps Stokes, as president of the society, will preside over the several days' sessions. Among those scheduled as speakers are Prof. Scott Nearing, of Toledo University; Morris Hillquit, a member of the International Socialist Bureau; Willard D. Straight, diplomatist and economist, and Prof. Vida D. Scudder, of Wellesley College.

JURY COMPLETED TO TRY FRED SMALL.

Ossipee, N. H., Dec. 27.—The jury which will try Frederick L. Small, charged with murdering his wife at their home in the village of Mountain View, on September 28, was completed today. Most of the jurors are farmers.

ENTENTE GETTING READY TO MAKE THEIR ANSWER

Will Insist Upon Germany First Stating The Peace Terms.

THINKS THIS IS THE FIRST STEP

Entente Could Not State Such Until Following Big Military Victory, Which They Expect to Come.

London, Dec. 27.—Communications continue to pass between the capitals of the entente nations regarding the reply to be made to the peace proposal of the central powers and their allies. The answer has been prepared in Paris and is the subject of discussion between the various ministers.

It is unlikely that any step will be taken by the entente regarding President Wilson's note until the allies have dealt with Germany's proposal. It is understood the reply does not give specific terms, only referring generally to the object of the allies. The reason for not stating specific terms is because the terms of the allied nations depend largely upon the extent of military victory, which is confidently expected. Any statement of terms now would be upon the existing military and territorial situation, which the German Imperial chancellor claims is based on Germany's military victory. Therefore it is held that Germany is in a position to state her terms, whereas the entente's terms can only become definite when military success is achieved.

C. & O. ROAD GIVES EMPLOYEES A RAISE.

Richmond, Va., Dec. 27.—President Stephens, of the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad today issued a circular stating that in view of the success and prosperity of the road the company had decided that "effective January 1, 1917, a 5 per cent increase in salary will be given each employee in the service of the company in offices, at stations and in dining and parlor cars whose compensation is not covered by agreement, who have been in the service at least a year and whose salary has not been advanced since January 1, 1916."

CANDIDATES WHO WIN MUST KEEP WORKING

Do not Allow Yourself to Become Discouraged—Remember That Other Candidates Are Having Just The Same Difficulties to Overcome—Coupons Now Appearing Not Good After Saturday.

- *****
* 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 race for the Overland Automobile and other valuable prizes offered in the Dispatch Contest is getting more and more interesting every day. Today it is one favorite in the lead and tomorrow it may be another.

The candidates that win will be the ones that try and keep on trying until they get the subscriptions. It is the new and long subscriptions that count the most votes, and candidates should try to get as many of these as possible. Those that made an early start may have a little advantage over the others, but they will have to hurry to beat some of the candidates who started late.

Candidates, now that the First Period is over, some of you will think that you have done about all that you can do in the way of securing subscriptions and votes. There is where you are mistaken. Go off into a room by yourself and think over the people and business houses that you neglected to see during the first period of the contest. Write their

NORTH CAROLINA FAILS TO GET ONE OF THE BANKS

Columbia, South Carolina, Selected For This Farm Loan District.

BOARD ANNOUNCES DECISION TODAY.

Names Cities That Get The Loan Banks and Also Specifies The Twelve Districts.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Springfield, Mass.; Baltimore, Md.; Louisville, Ky.; New Orleans, La.; St. Louis, Mo.; St. Paul, Minn.; Omaha, Neb.; Wichita, Kansas; Houston, Texas; Berkeley, Cal.; and Spokane, Washington, have been chosen as locations of the Federal farm loan banks.

The twelve districts into which the country is divided were announced by the farm loan board today and include the following:

District No. 2.—Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

District No. 3.—North and South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

The banks are to be established as soon as practicable. Each will have a capital of \$750,000. Applications for loans have been pouring in to the board in great volume recently and it is estimated that a sum more than twenty times in excess of the combined capital stock could be used in making loans. Almost the first work of the bank after approving and issuing loans will be the issuance of farm loan bonds, a new form of security in this country. The bonds will be issued in denominations as small as \$25 it is expected and will bear interest at a rate of 1 per cent less than the interest rate charged farmers on their land.

What this rate will be has not been determined. It is limited by law to a maximum of 6 per cent. It is expected that it will not exceed 5 1/2 per cent at first and subsequently may be lowered.

Loans on farm land are limited by law to 50 per cent of the value of the land and may be payable in from 5 to 40 years.

As fast as the loans are made bonds will be issued to cover them so that at no time under the present plan will a bank's entire capital be tied-up in loans.

GERMANY IS VERY APT TO SUBMIT TERMS

CAN NOW HIT THE MARK BETTER

Big Improvement Made In Marksmanship By The Punitive Expedition.

Field Headquarters American Expedition in Mexico, Dec. 27.—Extraordinary improvement in marksmanship is being noted in reports received at field headquarters. The regular life of the soldiers has steadied their nerves, and the clear air of the Mexican plateau region make sighting easy. Another factor in the good showing is the steady drill the men have received in fire control, new methods of which are being tried by the cavalry with remarkable success.

Machine gun troops also are being drilled to use their arms to the best advantage. Recently several companies of the 16th Infantry were brought north from El Valle and demonstrations of fire control were given for the benefit of the officers stationed here. The machine gun work was under the direction of Captain F. S. Bowen, assisted by Captain W. C. Short.

Among the most interesting experiments now being conducted is that in pistol firing by a detachment of cavalry, chosen at random. A pistol board, which is conducting the work, has evolved a unique line of targets worked by ropes and pulleys, which fall flat when the cavalry charge over them. The attempt is being made to evolve a system of pistol firing while charging. At present the men are firing directly ahead, while leaning forward in their saddles and holding their arms just ahead to the right of their mounts' ears. Excellent results, it is said, have already been obtained.

When ammunition arrives, another interesting test will be made, that of determining how effectively the present three-inch field gun will demolish barbed wire entanglements, trenches and bomb proofs. A line of fortifications has been constructed as nearly like those in Europe as possible. The artillery will be allowed to work on these under conditions that would obtain in actual war and the results of their fire will be noted.

METHODISTS IN IMPORTANT MEET

Delegates Gather in Baltimore to Arrange For Union of Branches.

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 27.—Southern Methodist members of the commission in union with the Methodist Episcopal church, met here today for organization. W. W. Chandler, of Atlanta, Ga., was appointed chairman to succeed the late Bishop W. M. Wilson, of Baltimore. The joint conference is for the purpose of deliberating to agree on a definite basis for a co-operate union of the two churches which represent 6,300,000 people in this country.

On the committee are ten bishops, twenty ministers and 29 leading laymen from all parts of the United States. The meeting of the commission is regarded as almost ranking in importance with the Baltimore Christmas Conference of 1884. If the commission agrees on a union the decision will be submitted to both general and all state conferences and to the thousands of individual congregations.

Government Would Have Paper Mills.

* Washington, Dec. 28.—The erection of a government pulp and paper mill to assure the government a paper supply at reasonable prices was recommended to the joint congressional committee on printing by the committee that annually draws up specifications for the government's paper.
* The government uses approximately thirty million pounds of print paper a year, which is sufficient to absorb the output of a 50-ton mill.
* The House committee on printing also has reported for a government mill.

Rumor Persists That She Will Give Them In Confidence to United States.

MAY HAVE ALREADY ARRANGED FOR THIS.

Sealed Packets Said to Be In Hands of Those She Asked To Act For Her In The Vital Matter.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The view persisted in Teutonic circles today that Germany's reply will be followed by a highly confidential oral or written communication concerning the terms upon which the central powers are willing to make peace. The German embassy, which has repeatedly made clear that the central powers were not likely to make public their terms, reported that no official advices had been received today from Berlin, but a definite communication regarding the Teutonic allies is expected.

Press dispatches from Rome that sealed packets had been presented to the representatives of the neutral countries asked to serve and containing terms was the subject of much comment in diplomatic quarters. The Rome report had it that the packets were not to be opened and were not for Germany's enemies unless they in their reply to the note of the central powers of December 12, specifically requested terms.

STILL AWAITING GERMAN REPLY IN WASHINGTON

Opinion Prevails That The Step is One Toward End of War.

NEXT MOVE NOT YET DETERMINED.

Cannot Be Until Official Text Of The Answer Is In Hand—Comment Withheld.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Germany's reply to President Wilson's peace note has not been received in official form here early today and officials are reserving comment until they have had opportunity of studying it.

Despite the fact that Germany has not accordingly laid down terms, views prevail that the reply to the note will be another step towards peace.

The United States, undoubtedly, is expected by Germany to transmit the reply to the entente belligerents and ultimately depends on all of the entente powers to moderate their determination not to enter into a conference before terms are laid down. The way is not closed to Germany to state terms as in diplomatic negotiations of such magnitude officials do not look for results immediately, but think the way is being paved carefully.

The next move will not be determined until after the text is received and considered. President Wilson will discuss the reply thoroughly with the cabinet Friday.

NOW IN JAIL IN QUEEN CITY

Man Wanted For Stealing Was Getting Ready For Army When Nabbed.

Charlotte, N. C., Dec. 27.—C. P. Leith, charged with misappropriating funds of a local stone company, who disappeared several weeks ago, was located in Toronto, arrested and delivered to United States officers, was brought here last night and lodged in jail.

When arrested Leith had enlisted in a company of militia and was training for service in Europe.