

North and South Carolina: Fair tonight and Thursday, with slowly rising temperature; frost tonight in exposed places.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FINAL EDITION

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

VOL. XXIII NO. 372.

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 31, 1917

PRICE FIVE CENTS

AUSTRO-GERMANS DRIVING THROUGH VENETIAN PLAINS

Toutonic Forces Have Reconquered 800 Square Miles Territory in a Week.

PETAIN PREPARING FOR AN OFFENSIVE

French Guns Concentrate Powerful Fire on German Trenches—United States to Give Italy Substantial Aid.

General Cadorna's rear guards are doing notable work in their efforts to slow up the advance of the Austro-German invaders of Northeastern Italy...

German and Austro-Hungarian troops are driving through the plains of Venetia toward the Tagliamento river, while another army is endeavoring to break through the Italian defenses in the Carnic Alps...

Every life saving crew along the coast went in search of the men as soon as it was possible to launch surf boats and some of them have not yet returned. The wind blew hard all night and it was bitter cold so that little hope is held out for the missing men.

The Austro-German forces are to be met by the Italian army on the Piave river...

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COAST GUARDS DRIFTED TO SEA

Crews Along North Carolina Coast Looking for Two Men.

Beaufort, N. C., Oct. 31.—Coast Guard crews along the North Carolina coast searched all night for two of their comrades who drifted out to sea in an open boat yesterday afternoon...

Every life saving crew along the coast went in search of the men as soon as it was possible to launch surf boats and some of them have not yet returned.

OVER TWO MILLION SIGN FOOD PLEDGE

Washington, Oct. 31.—The third day of the food pledge week campaign opened with 2,719,218 families enlisted in the cause of food conservation...

BANKS LIBERALLY RESPOND TO CALL

A New Record for Absorption of Treasury Certificates.

This huge sum was raised by the banks in five days upon short time certificates of indebtedness bearing 4 per cent. interest payable December 15 and convertible into Liberty bonds...

AMERICAN PURSES NOW TO REALIZE THAT WAR IS ON

Today Is the Last Day of Grace from New War Taxes.

EVERY ONE WILL FEEL THE EFFECT

War Revenue Bill Comes Into Force November 1, Though Some Items Are Not Affected Until Later Dates.

Washington, Oct. 31.—This is the last day of grace from many new war taxes.

With the exception of increased letter rates and tobacco taxes which go into effect Friday, the special stamp taxes on documents, legal instruments and parcel post packages which go into operation December 1, all special taxes begin to apply at midnight tonight.

Increases in first class mail rates probably will be most generally felt by the people. The law provides that the postage on letters, except "drop" or local letters, shall be three cents.

CHAMBERLAIN CASE AFFORDS A PUZZLE FOR PROSECUTION

Principal Witness Is Deaf and Dumb and Cannot Read or Write.

ACCUSED MAN WAS SEEN BY NEGROES

The Ignorant Deaf Mute Saw Defendant Night of Murder—Negro Woman Saw Doctor Digging.

Richmond, Va., Oct. 31.—A baffling feature in the Chamberlain murder case developed today when it was learned that one of the chief witnesses for the prosecution is Alexander Knox, a negro mute who can neither read nor write.

The fact that Knox cannot hear, talk, read or write, is puzzling the prosecution to ascertain how to obtain his testimony in the case.

Knox, the negro mute, communicated by signs to Magistrate A. J. Houchins the position of Judge Chamberlain and himself in the home at the time Dr. Chamberlain drove up.

SEVERAL STATES HOLD ELECTION NEXT TUESDAY

Center of Interest Will Be in New York State and City.

LOCAL POLITICS FEATURE CONTESTS

Suffrage and Prohibition Amendments in New York and Ohio—New York City's Fight Is Hot.

New York, Oct. 31.—New York State elections on November 6 will name an Attorney General, the Court of Appeals Judges and a full membership of the Assembly, the State's law-making body.

Locally interest centers in the pro-temoral contest, admittedly one of the most unusual in the city's history.

Only One New England State. Boston, Mass., Oct. 31.—Massachusetts, the only New England State clinging to annual elections, thereby will monopolize political attention in this section of the country on election day, November 6.

Prohibition Question in Ohio. Cincinnati, Ohio, Oct. 31.—At the election on November 6 the voters of Ohio will decide whether or not they desire prohibition of the sale and manufacture of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes and also whether they will permit the women of the State to vote for presidential electors.

Hard Fight in Kentucky. Louisville, Ky., Oct. 31.—Kentucky will elect an entire new House of Representatives, 19 members of the State Senate, an Attorney General and county and municipal officers next Tuesday.

Far West Quiet. San Francisco, Oct. 31.—Elections are notably absent in the far West and Pacific coast States this fall.

Veiled Woman Identified. Chicago, Oct. 31.—The mysterious veiled woman witness in the case of Count James Minotto, defendant in deportation proceedings on suspicion of pro-German sympathies, was identified today as Mrs. Chauncey Eldridge, wife of a wireless expert, residing at No. 1 Lexington avenue, New York City.

BALTIMORE FIRE CAUSED LOSS OF OVER \$3,000,000

Last Night's Fire Believed to Have Been of Incendiary Origin.

SEVEN PERSONS ARE ALSO MISSING

Fine Piers Destroyed and a British Steamship Is Lost—Fire Broke Out Last Night at Five Places.

Baltimore, Oct. 31.—A disastrous fire which wrecked two of the finest of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad terminal piers at Locust Point and spread to a British steamship that had just docked at one of the piers for loading, broke out last night causing the probable loss of seven lives and a financial loss estimated at between \$3,000,000 and \$4,000,000 before it was subdued.

At 11 o'clock this morning Synodical communion was celebrated, and a memorial service was held for those ministers of the Synod who have died during the past year.

Believed That General Cadorna Will Be Able to Extricate Armies.

London, Oct. 31.—Confidence that General Cadorna will be able to hold his own is felt in Italian military quarters. The capture of Udine caused no surprise, as it is pointed out that the Austro-German drive, according to news dispatches received in London from Italy, is as much political as military.

MANY LIVES LOST IN NATAL FLOOD

Believed That 1,000 Native Indians Were Drowned at Durban.

London, Oct. 31.—Four months of abnormal rain in Natal, South Africa, culminated Saturday and Sunday in a storm in which more than eight inches of rain fell in 24 hours, as a result of which widespread destruction is reported, says a Reuter dispatch from Durban, Natal, today.

STANDING OF CANDIDATES SHOWS VERY CLOSE RACE

Winners of All Prizes Are More Than Ever in Doubt as Competition Nears End—Ten More Days of Contest—Miss Ella McCarley, Wilmington, in Lead Today.

ments of the past few days have placed the winners more than ever in doubt. So far, the contest is one of the most even races that the contest manager has ever seen.

These last few days will go a long way toward settling the question whether you will own the Briscoe automobile or let someone else own it.

Here is the greatest opportunity you have ever had. Put yourself in the winning class. It may be this period or never with you. If you don't do something this period, if you don't work your hardest, if you don't make yourself worth-while this period, then you are not what your friends thought, after all.

EVERYBODY COME TO WILMINGTON NOVEMBER 7TH TO 9TH