

WEATHER FORECAST

North Carolina and South Carolina: Fair and somewhat colder tonight; Sunday partly cloudy; moderate west winds.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FINAL EDITION

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

VOL. XXIII, NO. 326.

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, SATURDAY AFTERNOON DECEMBER 1, 1917

PRICE FIVE CENTS

GERMANS MAKING A STRONG EFFORT TO WIPE OUT SALIENT

Prince Rupprich is Vainly Trying to Push Back the British ARTILLERY ACTIVITY ON OTHER FRONTS Italian Zone Comparatively Quiet - Bolsheviks Win Election - Siberian Flag is Raised - Allied Conference Opens

German troops are making a strong effort to wipe out the salient which the British drove through the Hindenburg line toward Cambrai. Without attack have been hurled against the British lines all around the salient from Meuzes to Gonnelleu, a front of about 18 miles, but except near Gonnelleu, the Germans have been repulsed with heavy losses.

Green Prince Rupprich evidently proposed to make amends for his defeat by crushing the new salient with attacks all along the front and with especially strong efforts at the Northern and Southern ends with the apparent plan of driving north and south and cutting off the British east of a line from Meuzes to Gonnelleu. On the Northern flank and west of Cambrai the German attack was crushed by artillery and machine gun fire and heavy losses were inflicted.

The stroke on the Southern flank brought initial gains, the British being driven back to Vaquerie and to Gonnelleu, about one and three-quarter miles northwest and west-southwest of Gonnelleu, respectively. In counter attacks, the British regained La Vaquerie and Gonnelleu and drove the enemy from the ridge between the two villages. At other points between Meuzes and Villers-Guislain the strong German attempt made to penetrate on the British defenses, during November, the British forces on all fronts lost more than 120,000 men, including 94,000 wounded and missing. These totals are the highest reached in five months and include the casualties in bitter fighting in the Ypres salient and in Palestine as well as before Cambrai.

There has been little except artillery activity on the other fronts. The violent fighting on the Northern Italian front has stopped for the moment. The Austro-Germans are reported to be holding defenses on the Eastern bank of the Tagliamento river, 28 miles east of the Piave.

The allied supreme war council held its meetings today at Versailles. Attendance will be Premier Lloyd George, Clemenceau, Orlando and Woodrow Wilson and Generals Wilson, Foch, Cadorna and Bliss. The other recalled conference delegates continue their conferences in Paris, their work through committee reports in secret sessions. M. Maklakov, the Russian ambassador, to Paris, who sits in the conference as an impartial observer, has been dismissed by the Bolshevik government for taking part in the meetings.

Speakers for the British government at the meeting of Lansdowne expressed the views of members of the British cabinet. Lansdowne says that the subject is entirely his own. He declines to discuss its opportuneness, and has nothing to add or retract. The subject is too controversial. The Unionist party has expressed its opinion.

Delegates in Petrograd of delegates to the constituent assembly resulted in the Bolsheviks who gain a majority. The Constitutional Assembly in Siberia is reported to be about to declare its independence. A meeting at Omsk and a Siberian congress has been raised.

FURTHER DETAILS OF ALLEGED TREATIES

London, Dec. 1.—(By Associated Press.)—Details of a series of agreements published by the British government relating to secret negotiations offered to Germany for the purpose of inducing the German government to accept the armistice. The negotiations were conducted by the British representative in Asia Minor, and the offers at the expense of Turkey. These all came to nothing because of German reasons.

REVENUE BUREAU ISSUES RULES FOR WAR STAMP TAXES

Revenue Measure Effective Today Expected to Raise \$100,000,000 a Year

MANY TRANSACTIONS COME UNDER ACT

Drafts, Checks, Deeds, Parcels, Post, Stock Transactions, Customs House Entries, and Others Affected

Washington, Dec. 1.—The war stamp taxes, counted upon by Treasury officials to produce \$100,000,000 annually as part of the great revenue measure enacted by Congress last October, became effective today.

From the beginning of today's business hours every broken, exchange, clearing house and person engaged in stock, produce or merchandise transactions must keep strict account of the taxable dealings.

The internal revenue bureau has issued comprehensive regulations to govern the collections. The taxes do not apply to bonds, notes or other instruments issued by the United States, by any foreign government or any State or similar governmental sub-division or to stocks and bonds of co-operative building and loan associations operated exclusively for their members and loaning principally to their shareholders or to mutual ditch or irrigation companies. The taxes include:

Indemnity and surety bonds; 50 cents except where premium is charged for execution of the bond tax will be one per cent, on each dollar of the premium and re-insurance policies are exempt.

Capital stock issue, five cents on each \$100 of face value; sales or transfers, 2 cents per \$100; produce sales or exchange, or agreement, "for future delivery," two cents per \$100 or fraction over \$100.

Drafts or checks "payable otherwise than at sight or on demand, promissory notes except bank notes issued for circulation and for each renewal," 2 cents per \$100; deeds and conveyances, 50 cents per \$100-500 and 50 cents each addition \$500, with all debt papers exempt.

Custom house entries, 25 cents per \$100 to \$1, per \$500; withdrawals 50 cents; steamship tickets \$1 to \$5; election proxies 10 cents; power of attorney 25 cents.

Playing cards, 5 cents per pack in addition to present 2 cents tax; parcels post packages, one cent for each 25 cents charged.

DECLARES SOMEBODY MUST PAY GERMANY

London, Dec. 1.—The Saxons Finance Minister during the budget debate in the Saxony diet, according to a dispatch to The Times from Amsterdam, said that Germany must demand a large indemnity without bothering which of her adversaries should pay it, adding:

"Let them only think of America."

SERMONS DEALING WITH TUBERCULOSIS

New York, Dec. 1.—War sermons on the tuberculosis problem are to be preached in churches throughout the country tomorrow and on December 8. It was announced here today by the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis.

SCHOOL CHILDREN URGED TO BUY AT LEAST ONE STAMP

Great Drive to Have Every School Child Secure a Stamp

SAVINGS CAMPAIGN TO OPEN MONDAY

Thrifty Stamps to be Put On Sale at Convenient Places - Expect to Raise \$2,000,000,000

Washington, Dec. 1.—A great drive to make every school child in America buy at least one 25 cent thrifty stamp during the first week of the War Savings Campaign, which opens next Monday, was announced today by the National War Savings committee, which made public a special appeal by Secretary McAdoo addressed to "Young America."

Saving stamps and certificates by which it is planned to raise \$2,000,000,000 within the next year, will go on sale at every postoffice Monday morning and at banks, schools, stores and other institutions later in the week.

A special pamphlet has been prepared suggesting boys and girls make money by heating carpets, waxing floors, stifting ashes, helping parents, cleaning cellars, washing windows, cleaning silver, cutting wood, varnishing chairs, tearing down old chicken coops and cutting up for firewood, caring for neighbor's baby, acting as messenger for drug stores, selling magazines, working in stores Saturdays and waiting on tables.

TATIANA'S VISIT SERIOUSLY DOUBTED

London, Dec. 1.—Inquiries of members of the Russian colony in London show that nothing is known of the report published in The Morning Post that the Grand Duchess Tatiana, second daughter of the deposed Emperor of Russia, has come to England. The story is generally discredited. The story had escaped from Siberia and gone to the United States is doubted by Madame Olga Novikoff, Russian political writer, who says in The Post that the public should beware of canards now coming from Russia. In reference to the alleged sham marriage of the grand duchess, Madame Novikoff says the only son of Count Fredericks was killed in the war a few months ago, and consequently the marriage could not have taken place.

SEASONABLE WEATHER FOR THE NEXT WEEK

Washington, Dec. 1.—Fair weather with seasonable temperature during the first half of the week beginning tomorrow is forecast by the Weather Bureau for the South Atlantic and East Gulf States. Local rains are probable Wednesday and Thursday.

CHADBOURN MAN DIES IN FRANCE

Washington, Dec. 1.—General Pershing reported yesterday the deaths of five members of the American expeditionary force in France. They include Private Clinton J. Hardwick, engineer, November 26, cerebro-spinal meningitis, emergency address, D. W. Monroe, Chadbourn, N. C.; and Corporal Frank J. Mecon, infantry, November 26, pneumonia; emergency address, unidentified.

AMBASSADOR KT PARIS DISMISSED

Petrograd, Dec. 1.—M. Maklakov, Russian ambassador to France, has been declared dismissed by Leon Tolzky, Bolshevik commissioner of foreign affairs, because Maklakov participated in inter-allied conference which is considered state offense, entailing heavy penalty.

Russia's Representative Dismissed for Attending Allied Conference

A Russian ambassador to France, who was appointed by the Kerensky government, arrived in Paris on November 7 but up to this time has not presented his letter to the French government as he has been waiting to see what happens in Russia. He sits in the inter-allied conference by special invitation and as an unofficial observer.

M. Maklakov in interviews during the past year expressed his opposition to the Bolsheviks. On November 26, he predicted the fall of the Maximalists within a short time.

INTERNAL REVENUE RECEIPTS MADE A NEW HIGH RECORD

Collections for the Last Fiscal Year Amounted to \$809,393,000

WOULD REDUCE TAX ON OLEOMARGARINE

Suggestion Made By Col. Osborne Both As a War Measure and As Actually Yielding More Revenue

Washington, Dec. 1.—Reduction of the 10 cents a pound tax on colored oleomargarine, both as a war measure to increase the production of food fats and as a means of actually yielding more aggregate revenue, was recommended in the annual report of the internal revenue bureau, issued today over the name of W. H. Osborne, who has recently been succeeded as commissioner by Daniel C. Roper. Another recommendation prompted by war conditions was that the government should assume control, manufacture and use of narcotic drugs needed so badly for Red Cross work.

The report cited the \$809,393,000 internal revenue receipts for the fiscal year ending last June 30 as "the largest in the history of the bureau." The greatest source of taxation was distilled liquors.

During the year covered by the report, 225,153,000 pounds of uncolored oleomargarine was produced, taxable at one-fourth of a cent a pound, and \$600,000 pounds of colored material, taxed at 10 cents.

To conserve the drug supply, it was suggested that Congress amend the Harrison narcotic law so as to impose a stamp tax on all narcotic drugs and place the manufacture or sale under a Federal license system.

The principal collections last year were as follows: Distilled spirits \$187,288,000; fermented liquors \$31,094,000; individual income tax \$280,108,000; corporation income tax \$129,533,000; manufacture of tobacco \$102,233,000; munition manufacturers' tax not discontinued, \$27,663,000; and advance special taxes \$23,371,000.

CONGRESS SHOULD DEAL ONLY WITH WAR LEGISLATION

President Will Urge That War Measures Be Handled Entirely

PREPARING ADDRESS FOR NEXT TUESDAY

All Arrangements Made for Hearing the President Before Congress at 12:30 Next Tuesday

Washington, Dec. 1.—President Wilson believes Congress should confine itself almost entirely to the coming session to legislation for the vigorous prosecution of the war. He is expected to tell Congress so in his opening address which will be delivered in the hall of the House at 12:30 o'clock Tuesday. All arrangements were made today by the White House with Speaker Clark and Vice President Marshall for the joint session at that hour.

The President continued at work on his address today transcribing his notes into finished form, but the address still will be kept open until the last minute. He has asked all the cabinet members to present memoranda on possible legislation which they consider vitally necessary for the successful prosecution of the war and it is expected the President will outline their recommendations with his own in his address, rather fully.

GERMANS MADE AN ATTACK AT VERDUN

Paris, Dec. 1.—The Germans made a violent attack last night on the Verdun front, the war office reports. Two officers were defeated by the French, who after a severe engagement, held their line intact.

REMEMBER!! ONLY 19 MORE DAYS LEFT TO SHOP

Read the ads

NO DEMAND FOR LARGE CLAIMS IN PEACE NEGOTIATING

Von Kuehlmann Says Any Such Talk About Reparations Is Absurd

SPEECH DEVOTED TO RUSSIAN AFFAIRS

Foreign Secretary Says Germany's Interest is Now Centered in Political Developments in East

London, Dec. 1.—The German foreign secretary, Dr. Von Kuehlmann, is quoted in a Central News dispatch from Amsterdam as saying it was absurd to imagine Germany would entertain a peace conference with large claims.

Von Kuehlmann's Speech. Amsterdam, Dec. 1.—During yesterday's sitting of the Reichstag main committee, Dr. Von Kuehlmann made a speech in which he said: "Our eyes at the present moment are turned toward the East. Russia has set the world ablaze. The gang of bureaucrats and sycophants, rotten to the core, overruling the weak and misguided, though probably well meaning autocrat, surreptitiously brought about the mobilization of that country which was the actual and immediate cause of the gigantic catastrophe which befell the world.

"Now, however, she has swept aside the culprits and she is laboring to find through an armistice and peace an opportunity for her internal reconstruction. I need not supplement the clear words in which the Chancellor yesterday stated the attitude of the German government toward these aims. Here again our policy will adhere to the principle of firm but moderate statesmanship based upon facts. The principles hitherto announced to the world by the present rulers in Petrograd appear to be entirely acceptable as a basis for reorganization of affairs in the East—a reorganization which, while fully taking into account the right of nations to determine their own destinies, is calculated permanently to safeguard the essential interests of the great neighboring nations, Germany and Russia.

"I am profoundly satisfied that we shall be able to pursue this course in full agreement with our allies and I take it, also, with the almost unanimous moral support of the representatives of the German people here assembled—a fact which will give our action necessary weight."

GERMANY "DEPLORES" ART DESTRUCTION

Amsterdam, Dec. 1.—A dispatch from Berlin to The Rheinische Westfalische Zeitung, of Essen, deprecates the "destruction by the Italians" of Italian art works during the recent retreat and adds:

"As many art treasures as was humanly possible have been stored in places of safety by art experts, accompanying the German army."

BRAZILIAN AIRMEN GO TO THE FRONT

Rio Janeiro, Dec. 1.—Brazil is soon to make her first contribution to the fighting forces of the Allies. In response to an invitation from the British government, that Brazilian aviators complete their course of instruction in England, 12 naval aviators will leave here shortly for Europe.

REGISTRANTS TO BE PROTECTED

No Embarrassing Information to Be Given to the Public

Washington, Dec. 1.—Provost Marshal General Crowder announced today that all records kept by local and district boards, adjutants general, and other persons in connection with the registration, examination, selection and mobilization of registrants under the selective service law, will be open to public inspection during usual business hours, except answers to questions concerning physical or mental condition and dependency.

General Crowder stated draft officials have no inclination to cause injustice or embarrassment to registrants, and the rules and regulations make it a misdemeanor to divulge information regarding physical fitness or dependency of a registrant to persons other than those directly connected with the administration of the law, and a one year imprisonment penalty will be imposed for violation.

STATE DELVES INTO FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF GASTON MEANS

FUEL AND FOOD ADMINISTRATIONS DESIRE PRIORITY

War Board Trying to Settle Contest Between Two Departments

TWO LARGE LOANS HAS RIGHT OF WAY

Each Demands That Its Freight Have Priority, and each Says It Must Have It

Washington, Nov. 27.—The contest of the Food and Fuel Administrations over priority rights for food and coal transportation was taken up today at a conference between representatives of the Railroad War Board, the Committee on Priority and the two administrations concerned, to decide whether foodstuffs or coal and coke shall move first on the railroads.

The Fuel Administration's request that coal be given right of way has drawn objections from the Food Administration. If coal goes ahead of food, the Food Administration declares, the country will be brought to the point of actual hunger. Meanwhile the general operating committee of the eastern railroads, acting on the suggestion of Fuel Administrator Garretson, issued instructions giving preference to coal movement in order to clear congested terminals.

The Committee on Priority has, in specific cases, been giving preference to shipments in the following order: First, livestock and perishables; second, ordinary food stuffs and seeds; third, railway supplies and materials; fourth, coal and coke; fifth, government supplies, and sixth, general freight.

NO GERMAN ATTACKS ON CAMBAI FRONT

London, Dec. 1.—The Germans last night made no further large attacks on the Cambrai front where they conducted a violent offensive yesterday in an effort to regain the ground captured by the British last week. The following announcement was given out here today:

"On the Cambrai front, the Germans during the night made no effort to renew their principal attacks. The statement follows: 'Attempts of the enemy to raid our positions in the region of Loivre, northwest of Rheims, and in the Argonne, near Courtes Chaussees, were repulsed by our fire. We made a successful incursion in the German line near St. Marie-A-Py in the region of the heights of the Meuse and brought back prisoners. (Verdun front) the artillery fighting became intense in the sector between Beaumont and Chaume food, and was followed by a violent attack of the enemy against our positions north of Fosses wood. The assailants made two efforts and in both instances were driven back to their trenches. After a spirited combat, our line was maintained completely.'

SHIP PACKAGES TO SOLDIERS AT ONCE

Public Again Warned As to Sending Christmas Packages to Camps

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 1.—Christmas packages for soldiers in training camps in the Southeastern States should be sent at once to make certain they reach their destinations in time. W. J. Harahan, chairman of the Southeastern Department of the Railway War Board, announced today.

After pointing out the tremendous task confronting the railroads in meeting transportation problems resulting from the war, Mr. Harahan warned the public of the approach of the holiday season and added:

"Let me again urge upon those who have friends and relatives in the camps to whom they expect to send Christmas packages, the importance of preparing and shipping them at once if they have not already done so. It is better that these good things be in the hands of the recipients before December 25 marked 'Do not open until Christmas' than to wait any longer in starting the shipments and suffer the disappointment of finding they have not reached their destinations until after the holidays are over."

Chicago Bankers Tell of Transactions Between Their Banks and Means

TWO LARGE LOANS FULLY DESCRIBED

State Claims that Defendant Used Securities and Funds of Mrs. King for His Own Purposes

(By Associated Press.) Concord, N. C., Dec. 1.—Through the testimony of Chicago bankers, the State today continued tracing before the jury in the trial of Gaston Bullock Means the numerous and sometimes spectacular financial transactions of the defendant within the last one and two years, its purpose being to show that the defendant, who is charged with the murder of Mrs. Maude A. King near here, on August 29, 1917, was using the securities and funds of Mrs. King and her mother for his own purposes and benefit, thus establishing, in part, the State claims, a motive for the killing.

Edward F. Mack, vice president of the Central Trust Company, of Illinois, and N. M. Garretson, of the Illinois Trust Company, both of Chicago, today testified to transactions the defendant had with their banks, with both of which he had accounts. It was shown by these witnesses that Means secured loans from the two banks aggregating \$45,000 in December, 1916, using as collateral a part of the securities which had formed the \$125,000 trust held by the Merchants Loan and Trust Company for the benefit of Mrs. Anna L. Robinson, mother of Mrs. King, who created the trust, which was revoked last December, when Means presented application for its revocation signed with the names of Mrs. Robinson and Mrs. King. Mrs. Robinson yesterday denied the genuineness of the signature purporting to be hers.

John R. Todd, of a Chicago brokerage house, went on the stand and told of transactions in cotton between Means and his house in January, 1917, when the defendant opened an account, which later was changed to the name of W. R. Patterson, father-in-law of the defendant, at the latter's request "for business reasons." The house understood that it was Means' account though it was in Patterson's name.

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The witness said Means claimed some sort of inside information from Germany that would be valuable in connection with the cotton trading and had a book in which he had what purported to be the private telephone numbers of Captain Boy-Ed, the German agent, and others not named.

Mr. Todd was followed by Edward L. Roche, margin man of another Chicago brokerage house, who told of transactions Means and Patterson had with his concern.

Prospects at the opening of the sixth day of the trial of Gaston B. Means were that the introduction of evidence might last for another week, particularly should the defense decide to put the defendant on the stand to explain his version of the death of Mrs. Maude A. King. The woman met death near here last August, while on a visit to relatives of Means, her former business agent.

The State, in seeking to prove that Means shot and killed the wealthy widow, presumably for her money, has relied on circumstantial evidence, seeking to show that it would have been physically impossible for the woman to have shot herself as Means asserted at the coroner's inquest. Through New York and Chicago witnesses, Means' alleged machinations of his employer's financial affairs have been divulged.

At the convening of court the State introduced Edward F. Mack, vice president of the Central Trust Company, of Illinois, who testified that on December 13, 1916, Gaston B. Means applied to him for a loan of \$30,000, offering \$38,000 of securities as collateral. The loan was negotiated and a check for \$30,000, less interest, was given to Means, the check being identified by the witness.

The securities put up as collateral for the loan were part of those which Means had taken a few days earlier from the Merchants Loan and Trust Company, when, according to previous evidence, the trust of \$125,000 created by Mrs. King in favor of Mrs. Robinson, had been revoked.

At maturity of the note in June, 1917, Means asked for renewal which was declined. Means asked the bank to sell the collateral securities and pay the note, which the bank did, paying Means the surplus, according to Mr. Mack's testimony.

Mr. Mack testified that at the time the loan was secured by Means, the latter offered him his choice out of a

(Continued on Page Eight)