

WEATHER FORECAST
North Carolina—Fair, continued
cold tonight, freezing near the
coast; Thursday, partly cloudy,
warmer in west.
South Carolina—Fair, tonight;
cooler; Thursday, fair.

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CONGRESS TO IMMEDIATELY DECLARE WAR

Formal Declaration of War Against Austria-Hungary Expected By Friday
PROPER MACHINERY IS PUT IN MOTION
New Declaration Will Present New Problems, But Will Do Away With Others—Comment on Message

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 5.—Postponement of the Austrian war declaration by Congress until next week appeared probable today after conference between chairman of the senate and House committees.

Chairman Flood, of the House committee, said he hoped to get the resolution before the House tomorrow, but postponement until Friday, appeared probable. In such an event it was not believed that the Senate could act before next week, unless simultaneous consideration in both houses could be arranged.

To avoid delay, if possible, administration leaders were hoping to expedite action by having an identical resolution reported to the Senate when it re-convened Friday and seek immediate consideration. Unanimous consent would be necessary for the plan to succeed, but it was possible that on Friday both bodies of Congress might be debating similar resolutions. Many absent members of Congress have telegraphed asking declaration of a vote until they can arrive.

Chairman Stone, of the Senate committee, and Chairman Flood, of the House committee, both believe the war resolution as finally passed, will apply to Austria only.

The resolution for war against Austria-Hungary was introduced today in the House of Representatives by Chairman Flood of the Foreign Affairs committee in the form and language approved by President Wilson.

It provides a declaration that because of Austria-Hungary's warlike acts against the United States in support of her ally, Germany, a state of war exists at and after noon today. It also pledges the full resources of the United States to bring the war to a successful conclusion.

The official text of the war resolution follows:
"Whereas the imperial and royal Austro-Hungarian government has shown hostility to the government and the people of the United States by entering diplomatic relations, and has formally adhered to the ruthless policy of submarine warfare adopted by itself, the imperial German government, with which the United States is at war and has given to its ally every support and aid on both land and sea in the prosecution of war against the government and people of the United States of America, therefore be it,
"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, that a state of war be and it shall be, between the United States of America and Austria-Hungary, from and after noon of this day."
(Continued on Page Three).

HARRY RICH HERE IN THRILLING ACT ON TRUST BUILDING

Will Give Performance on Roof of Building Three Nights
GIVEN FOR BENEFIT OF TOBACCO FUND
The Dispatch Invites Everybody to be Present at Eight O'clock Each Evening Beginning Tomorrow
Mr. Rich and this entire section of the city are taking a keen interest in the announcement that Harry Rich, world-famous trapeze performer, will give a performance from the top of the Trust Building, Front and Market streets, this city, Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights of this week, beginning at 8 o'clock. His appearance here is under the auspices of The Wilmington Dispatch and a collection will be taken for Our Boys in France Fund, which The Dispatch will undertake to raise. Donations, it is hoped, will be liberal.

GERMAN BIG GUNS BEGIN A TERRIFIC FIRE ON ITALIANS

Severe Bombardment Believed to be Forerunner of an Infantry Attack
SHELLS RAINED ON THE ENTIRE FRONT
Intensity of the Artillery Eruption Indicates Something More Than a Feint—Lasted All Night

(By Associated Press.)
Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy, Tuesday, Dec. 4.—An exceptionally heavy artillery bombardment from the enemy positions around Asiago last night and through the early hours today appears to foreshadow the long expected resumption of the heavy enemy offensive from the north.

Cannonade was of extreme violence, the enemy using heavy as well as middle caliber guns. The first violent eruption began early last night. There was a lull toward midnight, and then it was resumed with added intensity at 3 o'clock this morning, lasting until 9.

Heavy shells were rained on the whole range of Italian positions and were concentrated on the locations supposed to shield Italian batteries. The violence of the artillery action left little doubt that it was a prelude to infantry advances in force whereby Field Marshal Conrad von Hotzenfeld, who is directing the Austrian forces in this sector, hopes to realize his project of pressing down the Asiago valley leading to Vicenza and the open plain.

The latest reports show that the intense bombardment continues. The indications are that this is something more than a demonstration or feint, and signals a new and strong offensive.

McCALL'S WARD IS IN FEDERAL COURT
(By Associated Press.)
Boston, Mass., Dec. 5.—John Johnson, a negro, whose extradition to West Virginia on a charge of assault upon a white woman was refused recently by Governor McCall, was brought before the Federal Court today to answer to an indictment for violation of the Mann Act.
The government charges that Johnson took a woman from one State to another for improper purposes. Johnson's wife came here from Charleston to testify in his behalf.

M'ADDO PRESENTS COUNTRY'S NEEDS FOR WAR'S COSTS

More than \$5,000,000,000 to Be Provided for By New Methods

DISBURSEMENTS IN EXCESS OF RECEIPTS
Deficiency for Year Ending in 1919 Will Exceed \$7,000,000,000—Discusses Nation's Finances

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—Congress was informed by Secretary McAdoo in his annual report submitted today that \$5,128,203,793 must be provided in addition to funds from taxes and bond issues already authorized in order to make estimated receipts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1918, equal disbursements. If this deficit is met by a new issue of bonds, the total amount of securities to be issued in the next seven months is estimated at \$9,969,433,850.

For the next fiscal year, ending June 30, 1919, the estimated excess of disbursements over receipts is \$7,627,973,980.

Huge war expenses and loans to America's allies at the rate of a half billion dollars a month have made these estimates many times larger than any ever presented in a Secretary of the Treasury's annual report. Of the \$12,316,000,000 estimated ordinary expenditures for the year ending next June 30, \$11,527,000,000 is for war purposes, and the proportion is about the same for the fiscal year ending in 1919.

So far the nation has borne the financial burdens of the war well, says Secretary McAdoo, owing to healthy conditions, and the valuable aid of the established Federal Reserve System. In the future, however, increasingly greater habits of economy must be developed by individuals and business institutions, the Secretary declares, and "business as usual" cannot be adopted as the guiding principle of war. People must save and invest in government securities to avoid postponing victory.

With this admonition, Mr. McAdoo proceeds to cite the enormous figures of government receipts and expenditures which are the fruit of war times. Total estimated receipts for the current fiscal year are \$12,580,732,800 which, with a balance in the treasury last June 30 of \$1,066,983,531, makes a total of \$13,647,716,331. Most of the receipts, or \$8,686,000,000, are from sale of bonds and war savings certificates; ordinary receipts are \$3,883,000,000 largely from war taxes; and the Panama Canal income is \$7,000,000.

Ordinary disbursements are estimated at \$12,316,295,223; loans to allies in the year at \$6,115,000,000; public debt disbursements at \$21,900,000; and Panama Canal expenses, \$29,593,000; making total estimated disbursements \$18,775,919,955.

In order to allow for a balance in the general fund of about \$500,000,000 next June 30, Congress must authorize raising of about \$5,640,000,000 additional funds. This figure, together with the \$3,666,000,000 of authorized but unused Liberty Bonds, and \$663,000,000 estimated receipts from war savings, make the \$9,969,000,000 which Mr. McAdoo believes Americans must loan the government between now and June 30, 1918.

For the next fiscal year, ending June 30, 1919, the Secretary estimated receipts at \$5,175,000,000, and disbursements at \$12,804,034,440, exclusive of allied loans. This makes a \$7,627,000,000 excess of disbursements. If the present rate of loans to allies is continued in the 1918-19 fiscal year, \$6,000,000,000 additional would be required. Estimated interest on bonds and estimated expense of floating the bond issued \$28,000,000.

DETECTIVE BURNS A WITNESS FOR GASTON B. MEANS

Evidence to Kill Impression of Means' Alleged German Activities

DEFENDANT WILL GO ON THE STAND
Fluttering Around "Like an Old Hen After Scratchign Up Her Nest"—Occupied Expensive Rooms

(By Associated Press.)
Concord, N. C., Dec. 5.—Testimony intended to show that Gaston Means was a loyal American citizen and not a German spy or sympathizer, was presented today by the defense before the jury at the trial of Means on the charge of murdering Mrs. Maude A. King.

William J. Burns, head of the detective agency bearing his name, testified that Means, who was formerly in his employ, had told him he had accepted employment with commercial interests of the German government with the understanding that he would turn over to the American government all information obtained that he thought would be of value to the United States. He said Means told him he had pursued this policy.

A letter written by Means to Burns, communicating German information, which he regarded of value to this country and asking that it be turned over to the Washington government, was identified by Burns.

Counsel for the defense announced that it desired to offer this testimony to disabuse the public mind of the idea prevalent that Means was a German spy or sympathizer.

Immediately following the dinner recess, Judge Cline ruled that the testimony of Burns concerning Means' German connections was not admissible at present but might be allowed to go to the jury later.

The State concluded within hour and a half today its cross examination of W. R. Patterson, father-in-law of Gaston B. Means on trial here charged with the murder of Mrs. Maude A. King, without bringing anything to materially break down his testimony yesterday to the effect that the defendant's business transactions with German connections were legitimate and with her knowledge and approval. Most of the time while the witness was on the stand this morning was occupied with reading of letters written by the witness to G. B. Means, in July, 1917, just after Patterson, Mrs. King, Mrs. Melvin and other members of their party had arrived at Asheville from Chicago and been installed in a resort hotel. "Old seventy-six" Patterson wrote to Means, has settled down after fluttering around a while "like an old hen after scratching up her nest."

"Maude has trimmed her sails," wrote the witness but he did not see much prospect of any successful flirtations. Later he wrote that "Maude" had ceased her flirtations, as about all the men at the hotel were married.

LARGE SQUADRON OF ANGLO-FRENCH AIRMEN IN ITALY

In the British Contingent Many Young Americans Are Found

AWAITING ORDERS TO GET IN ACTION
Fliers Are in Fine Trim and Ready to Tackle the Enemy—Aviators Fascinate the Natives

(By Associated Press.)
With the French Army in Italy, Tuesday, Dec. 4.—Among the troops and units "that have arrived in Italy with the British and French armies is a large group of aviators, who are impatiently waiting to get into action. The British have sent a large contingent of fliers, half of whom are young Canadians and Americans, who have been doing scout work in Flanders and Northern France.

The squadron which expects to be given work at the front very soon is proving quite an attraction for the Italians. While awaiting orders, the fliers are keeping themselves in trim and the natives in fascinated delight by practicing over the town where they are billeted. There is scarcely an hour but that the hum of at least two and generally four or more motors is heard above the town, and every public square is filled with crowds gazing upward as the young aviators bank and slide and spiral and twist. The British aviators apparently are much younger than their French comrades whose numerous decorations attest their long experience. Both groups, however, are composed of picked men who have had careful training in fighting the Germans in the air.

The fliers are curious to know what the future holds in store for them since few of them have ever flown over mountainous country as they will have to do here. They admit it will be a test to put them on their mettle, since emergency landings, generally feasible in France, are almost out of the question here. They anticipate, however, that they will not have to face superior numbers of enemy aviators, as it is not believed the Austro-Germans will be able to maintain a numerical advantage here.

The Canadians and Americans nightly entertain their comrades and crowds of curious Italians by holding song festivals at their hotel. American songs are sung mostly with an Italian officer, who has spent several years in England and America, as the pianist. The piano flaunts its German origin with the name plate "Zimmermann Leipzig," while its strings echo American one-steps and rag time.

COLONEL HOUSE VISITED TROOPS

Was Pleasantly Surprised at the Fit Condition of the Men

(By Associated Press.)
With the American Army in France, Dec. 4.—Colonel House and the other members of the American mission with General Pershing and Viscount Northcliffe inspected the American army today. Colonel House said he would tell President Wilson that the energy, fitness and enthusiasm of the men far surpassed anything he had expected.

"I watched the maneuvers and saw the men work," he added. "They are fine. I hope those boys realize that the security of the United States for at least a hundred years depends upon them. If earnestness is any indication they understand what is before them and what they are expected to do."

CONGRESS ASKED TO PROVIDE RELIEF FOR THE RAILROADS

GERMAN ATTACKS AROUND CAMBRAI ARE SUSPENDED

Four Days of Counter Attacking Brought Only Heavy Casualties

LONDON NEWSPAPERS PRAISE PRESIDENT

Message to Congress is Given Prominent and Favorable Attention—No Developments in Italy

President Wilson's message calling for war against Austria-Hungary and enunciating strongly America's purpose to defeat German power as now constituted, is printed most prominently by London newspapers. In their comment the papers received the address kindly. The Times says that it has taken away the last hope of the pacifists and reiterates its contention that the German people are willing accomplices of their government. The Daily Chronicle and The Daily Graphic received the speech sympathetically, but The Graphic doubts whether it will have any influence on German opinion. The Daily News welcomes the declaration that peace should be based on generosity and justice to the exclusion of selfish claims.

After four days of effort which brought them but small gains of terrain at a great cost in casualties, the Germans have not renewed their efforts in the Cambrai sector. The British salient there, however, is still a menace to the security of the German lines north and south of Cambrai and the German artillery bombardment is probably but the prelude to further desperate efforts to wipe out the gains made by General Byng's troops.

British artillery yesterday broke up enemy troop concentrations, east of Gouzeaucourt and near Moeuvres, on the southern and northern legs of the salient, respectively, and the Germans violently shelled region of La Vacquerie, the center of much of the fighting activity of the past few days.

Unless Unification is Permitted Government Operation Must Come

SUGGESTS SUSPENSION OF ANTI-TRUST LAWS

Interstate Commerce Commission Reform Makes Recommendations to Save Country's Traffic System From Demoralization.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 5.—Government operation of railroads for the duration of the war, if unification of the transportation systems is not permitted by Congress was recommended today by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

An increase in rates, a government loan of money and the suspension of the anti-trust and anti-pooling laws so far as railroads are concerned for the duration of the war were recommended by the commission as alternatives. After reviewing the extraordinary demands on the railroads during the past year, and the extraordinary increase in labor and material costs, the commission's special report says: "The Act to Regulate Commerce was not enacted to meet such a situation. The carriers have the right to demand on our hands, and it is our duty to approve, just and reasonable rates sufficient to yield fair returns upon the value of the property devoted to public use after necessary expenditures. . . ."

"Measured in dollars, the gross revenues of the carriers during the past and current fiscal years exceeded any in their history. But what the dollar will buy in labor, material and supplies, is substantially decreased. "We are sensible of the vital and imperative need of the hour that our railroads shall not be permitted to become less efficient or less sufficient. We realize the gravity of a serious breakdown of our transportation facilities. It is unthinkable that this breakdown would be permitted if it could be prevented. Increased charges for carriage, if found necessary to take care of unavoidable increases in operating expenses, would not at this time bring new capital on reasonable terms in important sums. "In our opinion the situation does not permit of temporizing. All energies must be devoted to bringing the war to a successful conclusion, and to that end it is necessary that our transportation systems be placed and kept on the plane of highest efficiency. This can only be secured through unification of their operation during the period of the war."

"If the unification is to be effected by the carriers, they should be encouraged to do so."
(Continued on Page Three).

AUSTRIANS MAKE ANOTHER EFFORT TO BREAK LINES

Ten Divisions Massed in an Attack on the Italian Front

THE NEW THREAT A SERIOUS ONE

Should They Break Through the Italians in the Trentino Another Retirement Would Be Forced.

swarm over a wide extent of the northern Italian plains. Failing to pierce the Piave river line in many attempts and flung back from the mountain passes between the Piave and the Brenta by the Italian resistance, the Teutons have turned further westward to the Trentino region, and northwest of Asiago today are reported beginning an attack in force on the Sette Comuni plateau. A heavy concentration of Austro-Hungarian has been observed in this sector, as many as 10 divisions of troops being employed, according to the indications. On Monday night, the massed artillery began an extremely violent bombardment and this appears to have been followed by the throwing of strong columns of infantry against the Italian defenses.

First reports of the infantry movement came from Berlin, the German staff announcing that some of the hill positions on the Sette Comuni had been taken. Confidence has been expressed, however, that with the French and the British at hand, in considerable force in Northern Italy, to reinforce the Italian armies, a successful stand could be made against any further progress for the invaders. A break in the Italian line at the point of the present attack would flank not only the Piave line, but render the line of the Brenta, approximately 30 miles to the rear, impossible to hold, and would compel an Italian retreat to the Adige, some 30 miles further westward.

Attack Begins.
(By Associated Press.)
Rome, Dec. 5.—Enemy forces have begun an attack on the Italian lines on the Asiago plateau, the war office announced today. The only gains achieved in the attack were some positions, the loss of which has not impaired the Italian defensive line.

Mesopotamian Operations
(By Associated Press.)
London, Dec. 5.—British troops, acting in conjunction with an efficient force of Russians, have carried out a successful operation in Mesopotamia, Major General F. B. Maurice, chief director of military operations at the war office announced today.

