

WEATHER
Sunday, fair and cold;
Monday, fair, and slightly warmer.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

Read Dispatch
Business Specials

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

VOL. XXIV, NO. 4.

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 13, 1918

PRICE FIVE CENTS

BIG BRITISH TANK WILL MAKE A TOUR OF UNITED STATES

Part of Campaign to Secure
Enlistments of British Sub-
jects

BRITISH VICE CONSUL GETTING RESULTS

Seven Men in Process of En-
listment Through Office in
Addition to One Recently
jects

Capt. Donald MacRae, British Vice Consul, yesterday received the following letter from the officer in charge of the British and Canadian recruiting mission, stationed at New York with regard to the enlistment of Colin J. McCall, who recently signed up for service through the office of Capt. MacRae, here. The letter reads:

"I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 2nd inst., with reference to the marginally named recruit.

"Mr. McCall reported at our New York depot on the 4th inst. and passed a satisfactory medical examination, and was dispatched to Toronto, Canada, for enlistment in the Canadian Expeditionary Force."

The British Vice Consul has now in process of enlistment, besides the above mentioned, five men from out of town and two men from Wilmington. The enlistment of British subjects are being reported from all sections of the country, and the numbers are expected to show material increase as the spring advances. Recruits will be accepted here by Capt. MacRae at his office in the Murchison Building.

A nationwide campaign is to be made during the coming few months to secure such enlistments, and the campaign will have a unique feature, one of the big tanks which has been used in the service "over there" is to be used, and it is expected to be a center of interest wherever it makes its appearance in the United States. Not only will it make a popular appeal in the securing of recruits, but it will also demonstrate to the folks here at home how the machine works, and the tanks are playing a very important part in winning the war.

The British tank Britannia, which starts on a recruiting tour of the United States about January 25 for the British and Canadian Recruiting Mission, was sent to the United States by the British war office and the tank and its crew of wounded veterans, under command of Captain Richard Haigh, twice wounded himself, reached New York on October 22, 1917. It played a conspicuous part in the Second Liberty loan campaign, in New York, and was cheered by vast crowds as it lumbered up Fifth Avenue flashing the barrels of its machine guns from one side of the street to the other. The tank was next taken to Canada to help the Victory Loan and created a sensation in Toronto and Montreal which was duplicated later when it returned to New York and was the principal attraction at the Hero Land Bazaar. On December 19, at Camp Upton, Yaphank, N. Y., 10,000 United States soldiers, in Brig.-Gen. Evan M. Johnson's division, watched the Britannia climb over trenches, push over big trees and ascend steep banks at what seemed a well-nigh impossible angle. While moving at a speed of about four miles an hour—she can speed up to six—the tank peppered the machine gun targets with its six Lewis machine guns and was itself fired upon from a distance by machine gunners, whose hail of bullets merely flattened against her steel armor.

A WAKE COUNTY NEGRO JAILED ON A SERIOUS CHARGE

Accused of Shooting W. L.
Prince, Then Assaulting Mrs.
Prince in Their Home

CRIME COMMITTED EARLY SATURDAY

Charged That Negro Entered
Home of Prince's Between
1 and 2 O'clock Saturday
Morning

Raleigh, Jan. 12.—LeRoy Smith, negro, is held in prison tonight following his identification as the assailant of Mrs. W. L. Prince, after he had shot Mr. Prince in the head with a .32 calibre pistol.

The negro was captured by Sheriff Sears' deputies and Chief Barbour of the police force. They made Smith dress and in his Sunday togs, Mrs. Prince said only his features looked familiar. He was made to change his clothes again and Mr. and Mrs. Prince identified the prisoner.

The negro is alleged to have entered the Prince home between 1 and 2 o'clock this morning, where he shot Prince, criminally assaulted Mrs. Prince, then leisuredly stole six pounds of beef, five pounds of sugar, a watch and some small change. He was captured by county and city officers in the afternoon.

The Prince says the negro ordered them to cover their heads when they detected him, then he shot the husband, ordering him to give up his money. After getting about a dollar the negro made Prince cover his head and then assaulted Mrs. Prince. Three grown sons in the house were not aroused.

THREE GERMAN RAIDS REPULSED BY BRITISH

London, Jan. 12.—Three raids in the neighborhood of Lens were repulsed early today, the afternoon statement from Field Marshal Haig stated. There was hostile artillery action in the neighborhood of Lens, Cambrai and Messines.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NAMES FUEL COMMITTEE

Conference Will Be Held Monday
Morning to Study
Local Situation

President M. W. Jacob, of the Chamber of Commerce on yesterday appointed the following committee to cooperate with the fuel administration and other organizations, looking to a solution of the fuel problem for this community: Mr. W. H. Sprunt, chairman; Messrs. William Gilchrist, Hugh MacRae, J. A. Taylor, L. Blumenthal, L. E. Hall and Roger Moore. The committee will meet tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock at the room of the Associated Charities in the court house. They will at that time confer with Mr. Martin S. Willard, fuel administrator for New Hanover county and the other members of the fuel administration. Members of City Council, who have been active recently in the endeavor to solve the fuel problem, will also attend. Archdeacon Thomas P. Noe, whose efforts in the past several weeks toward the alleviation of distress caused by the fuel shortage, have been the subject of much favorable comment and praise, will also be present. Chairman W. A. McGirt, of the county commissioners, will cooperate in every way possible to relieve what is considered a most trying situation.

It is not known what plans, if any, the committee of the Chamber of Commerce will present to the meeting. It is known, however, that fuel situation in this community has been anything but satisfactory during the past several weeks, much suffering having been occasioned by the low temperatures, through lack of fuel.

The city authorities in co-operation with Archdeacon Thomas P. Noe, have been untiring in their efforts to relieve those really in need. The city has furnished transportation for the delivery of fuel in those cases where need was most urgent, and distress was in some measure alleviated.

The supply of fuel is still very meager and any steps that may be taken as a result of the Chamber's action will be watched with intense interest by the public generally.

CAPTAIN WHISTLER UNDER SUSPICION COMMITS SUICIDE

An Officer at Camp Funston
Became His Own Execu-
tioner Yesterday

ACCUSED OF MURDER AND BANK ROBBERY

Whistler Alleged to Have Rob-
bed Camp Bank, Killing
Three of Four Men in
the Institution

Camp Funston, Kans., Jan. 12.—Capt. Lewis Whistler, of the 354th Infantry, became his own executioner today after suspicion had been directed at him as the possible murderer of four men in the bank at the National Army Camp, here, who were hacked to death with a hatchet Friday night. Whistler shot and killed himself with an army revolver after he had written a note in which he said: "I have been thinking of committing suicide for a long time, but I have never had a good reason. Yesterday I went out and made myself a reason." The note was addressed to a woman whose name army officials refuse to make public.

Tonight, Major Lee, chief of staff of the 9th Division, in an interview, said: "Every indication points to Captain Whistler as the murderer. The circumstances and evidence are so conclusive as to practically eliminate any possibility of a doubt."

The murders in the bank were committed some time after 8:30 o'clock. Whistler, who had been terribly battered and cut by the murderer, stumbled from the bank covered with blood and fell at the feet of a passing sentry. He declared that a man in a captain's uniform had killed four men in the bank and fled. Within 10 minutes the military police and provost officer, Capt. J. C. Smallwood, had taken charge of the situation. Guards were thrown about the camp and all cities within a radius of 100 miles were notified. Dogs were placed on the trail of the murderer. Finger prints of the murderer were found in the bank.

Because of Whistler's declaration that a man in captain's uniform had done the killing, all captains in the post were ordered to report. It was soon after this that Whistler's body was found in his room in the officers' barracks. Bloody towels were found in the room, and there were splashes of blood on the washstand. Whistler was lying on the opposite side of the room from the bloody exhibits. It was then learned he had sought two hatchets from the supply division the previous day.

The men who were killed were C. Fuller Winters, of Kansas City, Mo.; Carl Ohleson, Kansas City, Mo.; John W. Jewell, Springfield, Mo., and O. M. Hill, a clerk.

Wornall, who is seriously injured, probably will recover.

Capt. Whistler was a veteran of the Spanish-American war. At the time of the last Mexican trouble he offered to recruit a regiment for border service. He was commissioned captain recently at the Officers' Training Camp, at Fort Riley, Kansas.

For five years previous to that he had been employed as a railway mail clerk. His home was at Salena, Kansas.

Wornall, in periods of consciousness in the hospital today, told a disconnected story of the murder. The employees were kept after regularly by the large volume of business yesterday. There was an insistent knock at the door about 8:30. They admitted a man who covered them with a revolver. He forced Wornall to tie the hands of the other four men. Then he tied Wornall, stuffed all the currency in the vault in his pockets and turned toward the door. "You recognize him, don't you?" Winters asked Wornall. Wornall replied in the affirmative. "You know me do you?" cried the robber. "I sure do, you scoundrel," replied Winters. The robber stopped short, hesitated, and that moment became a murderer. Springing at the helpless men, he swung his hatchet; Wornall, the last one struck, was forced to see his companions battered and hacked to death without any chance of resistance.

Jewell worked in the advertising department of the New York Times at one time, and his father is editor and publisher of the Springfield, Missouri, Leader. Winters resided in Kansas City prior to the opening of the Post bank when he removed to Manhattan, a short distance from the Post. He was vice president of the National Reserve Bank at Kansas City, and was cashier of the Army Bank. Ohleson was 19 years old and (Continued on page five.)

SIXTEEN PERSONS KILLED AND MANY INJURED IN STORM

Great Damage Throughout the
South Friday and Friday
Night

TERRIFIC STORM IS FOLLOWED BY COLD

Severe Cold Wave Followed
on Heels of Terrific Rain
and Wind Storm Causing
Additional Damage

Washington, Jan. 12.—At least 16 are dead, many injured and thousands of dollars worth of property destroyed following the terrific wind and rain that swept the South last night. Freezing temperatures predicted for tonight threatened additional damage, and may develop into the coldest weather on record. Communication was almost totally paralyzed many hours. Incomplete reports over wires interrupted throughout the day indicate the following dead:

Cowars, Ala., six killed; many injured.
Dothan, Ala., seven dead.
Troy, Ala., one dead.
Macon, Ga., two dead.
Camp Sheridan, Ala., and Camp Wheeler, Ga., suffered heavy damage from wind and rain.

Loss of cattle was heavy around Durham, N. C., one school building was wrecked, and roofs and signs were razed by the wind.

Velocities of 46 miles an hour were reported in some sections, which uprooted trees, snapped telephone poles and crashed down barns and farm houses.

Five hundred tons at Camp Hancock, near Augusta, Ga., were blown to the ground. Marvin Harris, of the 122nd Infantry, was crushed when the corrals at Camp Wheeler was wrecked. An old negro was reported frozen to death.

Vicksburg, Miss., reported four degrees above zero, while New Orleans shivered at 20 degrees. Sleet weighed down wires throughout the South. Newport News reported four ships driven aground near there.

Fruit farms in Florida, it was feared, would suffer from the freeze.

Coal shortages in many places will cause intense suffering and heavy loss of livestock may result from the almost unprecedented cold.

Columbia Suffering.—Columbia, S. C., Jan. 12.—Columbia is tonight experiencing the coldest weather since 1899 when the Canal froze over. Local Weather Forecaster Sullivan predicted that the thermometer would drop to zero or below before morning. The cold wave followed a severe wind storm last night when wire communication was greatly demoralized and considerable property damage done. This city was cut off from the outside world, but communication was restored about noon today. The bitterly cold weather finds the city ill-prepared for it, the coal shortage still being very acute.

No Casualties at Augusta
Augusta, Ga., Jan. 12.—Reports from this section indicate that no casualties resulted from the 46-mile an hour gale which swept this locality Friday night, although thousands of large trees were uprooted or blown down and hundreds of small houses deprived of their roofs. Telegraph and telephone wires were put out of commission at many points, and tonight Augusta was partly isolated from this standpoint. The damage to the buildings will amount into the thousands. At Camp Hancock, about 500 tents were blown down, two theatre tents completely demolished, and an army Y. M. C. A. building which was under construction, and which would have been occupied within a few days, was completely wrecked.

Little Damage in Portsmouth.
Portsmouth, Va., Jan. 12.—Rain and a temperature reaching 62 degrees have cleared Hampton Roads, Lower Chesapeake Bay and Portsmouth Harbor of ice. The Upper Bay, however, is still packed with floes. The gale which struck here last night passed out to sea early this morning without doing material damage, beyond shattering numerous windows and show cases in the business districts. The thermometer has been dropping steadily since noon, and registered 32 at 8 p. m., with the fringe of the cold wave in sight.

TWELVE INDIAN STUDENTS BURNED

Marble City, Okla., Jan. 12.—The death toll of fire which destroyed the Boys' Dormitory at the Dwight Indian Mission school, near here, early today, was fixed at 12 tonight. All were Indian boys from nine to 17 years of age. Three others were injured in jumping from windows.

FIRST SHIPMENT OF NITRATES EN ROUTE TO UNITED STATES

Appointment of Mr. Walter
Smallbones as Distributor is
Confirmed

GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE DISTRIBUTION

Wilmington Will Receive the
Third Shipment of Needed
Fertilizer Being Imported
From Chile

The announcement of the appointment of Mr. Walter Smallbones, of this city, as government representative for the distribution of the nitrates to be imported by the government from Chile for the benefit of the farmers of this section was confirmed yesterday by the receipt of the official appointment from Secretary Houston, of the Department of Agriculture.

However, it is stated that Mr. Smallbones, so far as is known at present, will have nothing whatever to do with the sale or the collection end of this matter, but will only act as distributor from stocks in storage, or from vessels, as directed by the Department of Agriculture at Washington.

While no information has been given out on the matter of sales, yet it is said to be probable that this will be handled through some other channel by the Department of Agriculture.

Information was also received in the city yesterday to the effect that the first cargo of nitrates sailed from a Chilean port on Thursday of the past week. The first cargo, it is understood, will be unloaded at Savannah, the second at Charleston and the third at Wilmington.

It is probable that the nitrates will be handled through the farm demonstration agents of the different counties, who will receive the amount needed, on a pro rata basis, from the port where it is delivered, and will dispose of it direct to the farmers. There has been no announcement with regard to what price will be charged, as this will depend upon the cost of handling, freight, storage and other necessary charges. It is estimated that the price should be in the neighborhood of \$75 to \$80 to the farmers.

Local fertilizer manufacturers say that the demand for fertilizers is much ahead of last year, and last year was one of the best among recent years in the history of the business in this section. The year 1914 was a banner year, with a bad falling off in the following year, which was to some extent increased in 1916. Last year showed an increase in all the South Atlantic territory, with the Wilmington section showing the best record of all. This year is starting out with a rush, the indications being that the history of the present year will run around 33 to 50 per cent greater than last. But there is little chance that the production will reach much more than it did for 1917. Scarcity of materials is the chief reason why the factories will not be able to turn out sufficient product to meet the demand, and lack of labor also enters as a material factor in the situation.

RUSSIAN DELEGATES TO FORCE A DECISION

Declare Their Intention of
Showing the World Teuton-
ic Peace Aims

Petrograd, Jan. 12.—Russian delegates to the Brest-Litovsk peace conference reported formally today their intention of continuing the negotiations "So as not to leave a single possibility in the battle of peace."

The break in the negotiations over a technical point, the dispatch said, after referring to the German determination because of their disinclination to transfer the deliberations to Stockholm, would have made worse the position of the democracies of Germany and of other Central Powers to understand the cause of the conflict. It would have aided the annexationists to mislead the people. "Therefore, we remain at Brest Litovsk in order not to leave untouched a single possibility in the battle of peace for the people, declaring before all our readiness to try again to discover whatever peace between Russia and the four Central Powers is possible without outraging the Poles, the Letts, the Lithuanians, the Armenians and others to whom the revolution guarantees full and unlimited development without ulterior motives."

MIDDLE WEST IS DIGGING TO KEEP DOWN SUFFERING

It is "Dig or Freeze, Shovel or
Starve" Among the
People

RICH AND POOR JOIN HANDS IN THE FIGHT

Many Deaths and Hundreds of
Hospital Cases Already Re-
ported — Ministers Call
Off Services to Shovel

Chicago, Jan. 12.—The stormbound Middle West was fighting for its life tonight—the most devastating blizzard of a generation had welded all classes in Chicago—young and old—in one gigantic community that was battling snow and cold to prevent death by starvation or freezing, and according to reports to the weather bureau this condition prevailed throughout the West. Officials frankly admitted it was the most critical situation this region had ever faced and issued the edict: "Dig or freeze, shovel or starve."

Railroad transportation is paralyzed in an area extending from Buffalo nearly to the Rockies and from Canada south into Kentucky and Tennessee, but the more serious and immediate danger was the blockade of local deliveries. The majority of the marooned cities had adequate supplies of fuel and food. Snow filled streets, however, prevented them reaching the consumer. It was to combat this crisis that citizens yielded shovels tonight and will turn Sunday into a day of labor. The distribution of food in Chicago will be left to the discretion of local dealers. Babies and hospitals will have the preference in the matter of milk. Coal will be handled only on authority of the Fuel Administration, the utmost economy was urged by State Fuel Administrator Williams, who declared that pooling of neighborhood supplies may be necessary.

In Chicago big department stores and other places of business were closed early in the afternoon to conserve fuel. Several ministers announced they would not open their churches tomorrow, but would join their parishioners wielding shovels. Many deaths from cold and hundreds of cases of frost bites were reported. Ten deaths occurred here were directly attributable to the storm, and more than 100 persons were treated for frozen hands and feet.

Possible fires presented another danger. Fire apparatus could not penetrate the snow drifts, and many fire plugs were frozen.

Fears were expressed for the safety of passengers and crews of passenger trains stalled in the open country. Many crack trains, including the Twentieth Century Limited, were so situated. Tonight railroads entering Chicago had annihilated all trains. Suburban and interurban traffic throughout the West was blocked. Street cars in many cities could not operate. Only the elevated lines in Chicago were attempting to maintain service. This was inadequate, and hundreds of persons, unable to reach their homes, spent the night in downtown hotels.

The storm, which gathered over Arizona three days ago will center tomorrow along the Atlantic coast from the St. Lawrence to Florida. According to the weather bureau the temperature will reach zero. Miami, Fla., it was said, and would be several degrees lower along the Northern Atlantic coast. This region will also be visited by snow and high winds, though not so severe as prevailed in the Middle West today. No return to normal temperatures is now in sight.

BRITISH LOSSES LESS THAN TEUTON'S

Washington, Jan. 12.—British forces took 33,590 Turkish and Teuton prisoners in Palestine and Mesopotamia and captured 232 enemy guns in these theatres in 1917, according to official British War reports received today. Of this number, 17,656 were captured by General Allenby's Palestine army and 15,044 by General Marshall around Bagdad and in Mesopotamia. Haig's losses on the West front were 27,200 men and 166 guns, less than one-third the Teuton loss. More than 530 German guns were taken by Haig's men.

LIQUID FIRE ATTACK FAILED TO ADVANCE

Paris, Jan. 12.—Two German attacks with liquid fire around Chaume Wood were thrown back by French forces with "Appreciable losses to the enemy" according to tonight's official statement.

CHAIRMAN HURLEY HAS RECOMMENDED CITY FOR SHIPYARD

Calls Attention of Contractors
to Advantages Offered
Here

CONCRETE SHIPS MAY BE BUILT IN VICINITY

Chamber of Commerce Bend-
ing Every Effort to Bring
Shipbuilding Plants to
This Port

Secretary H. B. Branch, of the Chamber of Commerce, yesterday received a communication stating that Mr. Edward M. Hurley, chairman of the United States Shipping Board, had advised Senator Simmons that the shipping board was calling the attention of builders to the advantages and facilities of Wilmington as a location for plants for the building of concrete ships.

From this official recognition, coming from the head of the Shipping Board, great things may be expected. The concrete ship is something new, comparatively, but enough has been done in the way of building to demonstrate the fact that they are thoroughly practical, and the government through the shipping board is preparing to build a great number, along with the wood and steel ships provided for in the plans of the Emergency Fleet Commission.

Aside from its location as a port and the availability of sites and labor, this city offers the very great advantage which arises from its climatic conditions. Concrete can be poured here throughout the year, and the work would not be handicapped by the long continued freezes of Northern yards.

By reason of his knowledge of cement work Mr. J. F. Harris has recently been appointed on the Committee on Shipping of the Chamber, Mr. C. C. Chabourn being the chairman.

In view of the statement with regard to housing facilities at Newport News recently made before the Shipping Board by Mr. Homer L. Ferguson, president of the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Co., in which he pointed out the difficulty of rushing work on government contracts because of the inability to take care of the number of men necessary for the work, a special committee of the Chamber of Commerce, cooperating with the War Shipping Board of the United States Chamber of Commerce, yesterday advised Hon. D. L. Ewing, chief of the Division of Operations of the United States Shipping Board, of ample accommodations in this city for the housing of workmen in shipbuilding operations, together with other facilities offered by Wilmington for the location of shipbuilding plants. Similar advice were transmitted to Mr. N. Sumner Myrick, vice-chairman of the United States Chamber of Commerce. The local organization is missing no opportunity to impress upon the responsible authorities the fact that Wilmington is prepared to handle a number of shipbuilding plants.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.
Petrograd, Jan. 12.—Nicola Lenin, of the Russian Bolshevik government, formally praised President Wilson's speech today on receiving a full copy of that address. He found fault, however with the president's failure to criticize England as well as Germany. Lenin ordered that the president's speech be sent at once to Trotsky by telegraph to Brest-Litovsk.

TO BE PAID SO MUCH PER QUESTIONNAIRE

Washington, Jan. 12.—Profit—the Great American War pastime—has broken out in local draft boards or tried to at least. Because of this Provost Marshal General Crowder today ruled that the compensation for the boards should be 30 cents for each questionnaire handled, this is to be divided among the members as they desire, provided no one member shall receive more than 15 cents and no two members more than 25 cents. Bills from local board members asking \$150 a month for their services kept pouring into the Provost Marshal General's office with such rapidity that the fund to pay the expenses of the draft was soon exhausted.

Spring-Rice Starts Home.
Washington, Jan. 12.—Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, recalled British Ambassador, leaves Washington for London tomorrow, it was announced today. Before sailing he probably will spend a few days in New York and the Dominion, Earl Reading, his successor, is due to arrive in Washington January 18.