

THE WEATHER

Cloudy, with probably local rains on Wednesday; Thursday, partly cloudy.

THE MORNING STAR

VOL. XCV—NO. 55.

WILMINGTON, N. C., WEDNESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 2, 1914

WHOLE NUMBER 13,837.

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT.

More than war depression will be necessary to dampen its ardor. Have you issued your invitation to the public for a share of its holiday business?

RULERS OF RUSSIA AND GERMANY FACE TO FACE ON BATTLEFIELD GEORGE OF ENGLAND IN FRANCE

Crowned Heads of All Belligerents Are Virtually With Their Troops in Gigantic Struggle for Supremacy in Europe—Poincare, of France, Leaves for the Front on Visit.

BATTLE IN POLAND OF TERRIFIC NATURE, BUT RESULTS ARE ABSOLUTELY UNKNOWN

Russians Gain Some Decisive Results Against the Austro-German Forces in the South, and Have Captured Many Thousands of Prisoners—Activity in West on Eve of Renewal is Indicated.

London, Dec. 1.—The battle in northern Poland is being fought out under the eyes of the German Emperor on the one side and the Russian Emperor on the other. These two monarchs left for the front today, so that virtually the heads of all the nations at war are with their troops.

The King of England is in France; the King of Belgium, as usual, is spending all his time with his soldiers, while President Poincare of France started today for another visit to the northern battlefield.

Official news from Poland continues scanty, and with both headquarters claiming successes, it is impossible to say how the battle is going. Of its intensity there can be no doubt.

The Germans when they started for Warsaw, dashed full tilt into a mass of Russian troops and forced their way so far in that the Russians closed on them. This was taken in Petrograd to mean that some of the German divisions had been cut off and that their surrender or annihilation was inevitable.

Against the Austro-German forces in the south, the Russians continue to gain some decisive results. They now hold all Austrian positions protecting the Carpathian passes, and are said to have arrived abreast of Craoov, while their captures for three weeks number 50,000 men.

In the West, although the German official report says there is nothing to communicate, the French official statement notes a lively cannonade in Belgium and German activity north of Arras.

The Germans, according to Dutch reports, are strongly fortifying Zebrugg and other Belgian ports against a renewal of attacks by the allied fleet. Fighting around Ypres was due to the Allies pushing their lines forward.

Explains Statement. Made by David Lloyd George in House of Commons as to American Debt.

London, Dec. 1.—As a result of reports made by American correspondents of London newspapers that the statement of David Lloyd George, chancellor of the exchequer, who said the United States owed Great Britain about \$5,000,000,000 had caused surprise in the United States, Mr. Lloyd George today gave the Associated Press the following statement:

"Judging from the comments which have appeared in clean press on the chancellor of the exchequer's statement on Friday last in the House of Commons with regard to exchange between this country and the United States of America, this appears to have been incompletely reported in America. Mr. Lloyd George's actual words as reported in the official report were:

"America, I suppose, owes us nearly a thousand million pounds in fixed and floating capital, but we could not buy. It was impossible to do any business. When the exchange had been run down, this paper machine had crumpled and somehow got out of order and the result was that no business was possible."

"This statement seems to have reached the United States in the form that America owed the United Kingdom a thousand million pounds, with some explanatory words that this sum was owed in debts abroad. It is clear that Mr. Lloyd George's statement referred to the total British indebtedness in America, and in no respect of the current balance of trade between the two countries."

In a statement concerning the financial condition in Great Britain Mr. Lloyd George told the House of Commons last Friday that the financial outlook which followed the outbreak of war was due to inability to collect outstanding debts from every important port in the United States.

For convenience in handling and shipping foodstuffs, the commission has requested all local organizations to affiliate themselves with state committees. Where there is no state committee, the local relief parties are requested to arrange storage depots for small lots that can be assembled in carload lots.

The commission arranges shipping free of charge from the seaboard to inland centers in each state. The commission made public a list of state committees organized together with their executive heads. They included: North Carolina, Westray Battle, Asheville; Virginia, Col. H. M. Boykin, Richmond.

Declares That Heavy Cannonading in Northern France Only Development.

Paris, Dec. 1.—The following official communication was issued by the war office tonight:

"In Belgium the German infantry has essayed, without success a sortie against those trenches to the south of the schroofs between Bethune and Lens. After a rather brisk affair we captured the chateau and the park of Vermelles (south of the Lys river)."

"In the Argonne we have advanced appreciably in the wood of Lagurria. On the rest of the front there is nothing to report."

VIENNA CLAIMS VICTORY.

Says Defeat of Russians Was Even Greater Than at First Thought.

Berlin, Dec. 1.—(Via Wireless to London.)—It is officially reported from Vienna that the Russian defeat in the battle of Momonna, Hungary, 30 miles northwest of Ughwarz, was greater than at first supposed.

"The enemy's position," says the statement, "was surrounded. Both our wings directed flank attacks and compelled them to beat a hasty retreat with a loss of 1,000 killed or wounded and 1,500 men prisoners."

"The total number of prisoners taken for such reasons as 'cheerfulness and optimism,' 'helping the brigade to pull together,' 'consistent good work' and 'utmost gallantry.'"

Lord Alastair Robert Innes-Ker, was given the reward for "conspicuous courage with the advance squadron at (Continued on Page Two)

IMPEDED TO GET REVENUE STAMPS

Limited Supply Causes Alarm and Rush Results.

SUGGESTIONS IGNORED

Collectors Were Advised by Internal Revenue Bureau to Give Out Small Quantities to Each Applicant—Failed.

Washington, Dec. 1.—Thousands of persons in many cities who spent hours today rushing the offices of internal revenue collectors, alarmed because they could not obtain war revenue stamps, were needlessly frightened over what might happen if they were not on the minute with their stamping.

The internal revenue bureau and the Treasury Department itself, much worried over the task of getting the law into smooth working order, found time in the day to send telegrams to collectors making it plain that the government has no intention of prosecuting anybody subject to the tax who shows he is willing and ready to buy stamps.

Plan for Relief. "Date all special tax returns November 30th until you can handle applications promptly, unless you have information that no effort was made to file same prior to that date. If unable to supply demands for documentary stamps for bills of lading and permit shipments to go forward, have record kept and affix stamps when received. Notify railroads."

By this notice the Commissioner's office expected to relieve a situation which promised to become embarrassing to thousands of individuals, and might have brought much confusion to railroads and shippers.

Officials here explained today that everything possible had been done here to get ready to enforce the law. The bureau of engraving and printing has worked night and day since the law was passed, turning out the new stamps.

Cause of the Trouble. The problem of furnishing stamps has been complicated, however, by the fact that in some instances of collectors regard suggestions from Washington that all applicants be given a sufficient supply to last a few days and not be permitted to load up with large quantities. Information here is that the applicants have obtained supplies to last a month, while in the same communities others have been unable to get any stamps.

As an illustration of the great numbers of stamps required, it was pointed out that virtually every article in drug stores is subject to the tax. Many drug stores carry possibly 100,000 such taxable articles, and there are thousands of drug stores throughout the country.

Officials say Congress did not facilitate the work of the revenue bureau, but rather hampered it by failing to give additional appropriation to permit preparation for carrying out the new law.

The bureau tonight made public a ruling that certificates issued by officials in some instances of collectors are not subject to the tax. Certificates issued by an officer of the government at the request of private persons solely for private use, must be stamped.

RUSH AT NEW YORK.

Police Reserves Called Upon to Restrict Large Crowds. New York, Dec. 1.—Police reserves were called out today to restrain crowds that besieged the United States internal revenue office here to buy the new war tax stamps.

A solid mob of would-be purchasers extended for blocks, growing increasingly restive as the hours passed. When the office re-opened at 3 o'clock after an hour's recess for the collectors to count the money received and send it to banks, so fierce a rush was made that policemen on duty could not cope with the throngs.

At the custom house a similar crowd sought to obtain documentary stamps.

CRITICISM METHOD USED IN PUBLIC HEALTH WORK. American Public Health Association Hears Many Speakers.

Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 1.—Further criticism of what was termed "the disintegrated method which now prevails in public health work" was made here tonight by Dr. Frederick R. Green, of Chicago, in an address before the annual convention of the American Public Health Association. The speaker endorsed the suggestions made yesterday by Dr. William C. Woodward, of Washington, president of the association, that the various public health agencies now existing should be consolidated into one, national organization. Economy of effort and means would be obtained by the consolidation, Dr. Green said.

Other speakers today included Dr. Charles V. Chapin, of Providence, R. I.; and Dr. George H. Shaw, of the United States Department of Agriculture.

ZAPATA AND VILLA KEEP GOOD ORDER

And Are Restoring Mexico to Normal Conditions

WAIT FOR GUTIERREZ

Two Leaders Refuse to Go to National Palace But Await Arrival of Provisional President From the North.

Washington, Dec. 1.—Optimistic reports showing that the Villa-Zapata coalition, supporting the provisional government of Euladio Gutierrez, is keeping order in Mexico City and restoring normal conditions were made public today at the State Department.

Two dispatches from American Consul Silliman and the Brazilian minister at Mexico City, read to President Wilson and his cabinet by Secretary Bryan, were given out in paraphrase tonight. They show that General Zapata has declined to go to the national palace, keeping his headquarters in the suburbs. Unofficial reports from the Mexican capital say General Villa has arrived in the outskirts and that both chiefs await the arrival of Provisional President Gutierrez.

The official dispatches gave a much more hopeful and optimistic view of conditions than the American government has received in many weeks. Following is the summary of dispatches from the State Department of a telegram from the Brazilian minister dated 2 p. m. Sunday and just received.

A few cases of disorder and violence by irresponsible bands were reported in the suburbs during the first two days of occupation by Zapatistas. The Zapatistas are doing their best to redress the damages and the Spanish ambassador is being attended to even to the point of securing a safe conduct for the Spanish consular officers for their return to Spain. A good amount of money has been secured from the extraordinary sale of a small loan of 50,000 pesos voluntarily subscribed by the business men was repaid yesterday.

The property and funds taken from the Tramway Company have been returned. The foreign affairs office has been reopened and is giving attention to the diplomatic corps being attended to and requests being compiled with as effectively as possible. The finance department has issued a decree making valid and acceptable all bills until present bills are replaced by a new issue.

Zapata arrived two days ago. He has refused to come to the national palace to receive a popular demonstration, but stayed in the suburbs.

Situation Considered Good. General Angeles arrived with Villa's advance guard yesterday but is waiting for the arrival of the entire army to the city. Villa has published a general order to the effect that full guarantees will be accorded to all, any wrong to be punished by death. Censorship was abolished, but is strictly enforced to this time. The general situation in the capital can be considered as very good.

The State Department later issued the following supplementary statement:

A dispatch from Silliman sent at 5 p. m. on the 30th and relayed here at 8 o'clock this morning corroborates the optimistic report sent by the Brazilian minister. It stated that he is strictly in agreement with the general situation in the capital, and expressed the appreciation of foreigners for the order that has prevailed since occupation by Zapata's troops. He presented the case of Mr. Hill, an American whose dairy has been looted. Mr. Silliman's presence Zapata dictated an order requiring the restoration of Hill's property and punishment of those guilty. He left the city and is in charge of the city and quiet prevails.

The city is well policed, no political arrests have been made. The Zapatistas are being treated either as foreigners or foreigners except in a few aggregated cases. Upon entry into the suburbs they arrested the manager of the cable office—an American—upon information sent from the city. In connection with the Brazilian minister Mr. Silliman obtained the release of those detained and the opening of the office; the officer in charge being prompt and accommodating. The censorship that will be established will not apply to foreign representatives.

General Angeles arrived Saturday and remained outside the city. Mr. Silliman called upon him and he kindly offered the use of the military wire for foreign representatives—the cable having been interrupted. General Angeles was attentive, obliging and friendly. He spoke approvingly of the United States. The Zapatistas are compelling the return of personal effects removed from private dwellings by constitutionists. Banks and stores are resuming business.

CRISIS FOR JEWISH NATION.

Thousands of Jews in Europe Go Hungry—Fund Raised in New York. New York, Dec. 1.—The greatest crisis the Jewish people have faced in modern times now confronts that race, in the opinion of the American Jewish relief committee, for sufferers of the war. This committee today issued an appeal for funds to aid impoverished Jews in the European nations at war.

It was stated that more than 9,000,000 Jews live within the area of conflict and that 6,000,000 of them are in the actual zone in Poland, Galicia and along the whole Russian frontier.

"Fungus disease, destitution in its extreme form," the appeal declares, "confront a Jewish population as numerous as that of Belgium."

Arbitration Board Listens to More Testimony and Proof Offered by Both Factions in the Attempt to Settle Trouble.

Chicago, Dec. 1.—The "surprise test" for the vigilance of locomotive engineers and firemen to see if they are on the watch for danger signals not only is dangerous to the men, sapping their health, but it also has the effect of the proverbial cry of "wolf," teaching the engineers to look respect for such signals, it was testified here today in the hearing of the Western railroad arbitration case.

One request of the engineers of the 38 Western roads for improved working conditions was for the elimination of the surprise test.

Statistics purporting to show that certain different railroads had rules already in operation virtually granting the conditions asked for in the more important demands of the men were offered by Walter Moore, official stationer for the engineers. James M. Sheehan, counsel for the railroad managers, undertook to show by cross-examination of Moore that such grants were offset by increased responsibilities or duties in other directions. Testimony on this point was not completed, but it was said, would be taken up later.

HOLLAND NEUTRAL IN EUROPEAN WAR

Henry VanDyke Describes Conditions to Bryan

VISITS WILSON TODAY

American Minister to The Netherlands at Home on Month's Leave Denied He Brings Personal Letter From Queen.

Washington, Dec. 1.—Dr. Henry VanDyke, American minister to The Netherlands, back from his post on a month's leave, described to Secretary Bryan today the earnest desire of Queen Wilhelmina and the people of Holland for the early ending of the European war.

Dr. VanDyke denied an oft-published report that he was the bearer of a personal letter from the queen relating to peace, but said he had reported to Mr. Bryan merely on "the state of mind of the people of Holland and conditions generally in Europe as he had studied them."

After talking with Secretary Bryan for an hour, Dr. VanDyke indicated clearly that the present did not seem a propitious moment to put forward definite proposals for terms of peace. "The desire of the United States for peace," he said, "is a well known fact. The decision as to the proper moment for us to act is in the hands of my chiefs. The President and the Secretary of State can be trusted to determine when that moment arrives."

The minister expressed the hope that when the time for the settlement of the war arrived the United States "would play a noble part" in bringing peace. He was also sure that the heart of Holland would be with the United States in such efforts.

Dr. VanDyke will talk over conditions in Europe with President Wilson tomorrow, having been invited to take luncheon at the White House. He came to the United States primarily, he said, to have his eyes treated, and expected to leave Washington tomorrow afternoon and sail for Holland on December 12.

Aid to Refugees.

While at the State Department Dr. VanDyke told the newspaper men of the efforts made by Holland to care for Belgian refugees.

"The people of Holland," he said, "are doing all they can for the relief of those in distress. The Belgian people came into Holland in great numbers and we are endeavoring to give them all the assistance we could. We have organized in Holland the only scheme by which the civilian population of Belgium can be helped. Great Britain and Germany have approved what has been done, and the work will continue."

Asked as to reports concerning the neutrality of Holland or its sympathies with France, Dr. VanDyke said there was no doubt that the queen and the majority of the people of Holland were "sincerely neutral and desirous for the return of peace."

Incidentally the minister expressed satisfaction over reports that American diplomacy was of a secret character.

"I have heard it said since I returned to this country," he remarked, "that American diplomacy was conducted with the shutters down, the blinds drawn. That has not been my experience and is not the experience of other American diplomats. I find that everything is open and frank and that the impression of the diplomat of other countries is strongly to this effect, so that we enjoy the confidence of all our colleagues."

Dr. VanDyke was the guest tonight at a private dinner at the home of John W. Foster, former Secretary of State, and the latter's son-in-law, Robert Lansing, counselor of the State Department.

WANT "SURPRISE TESTS" ELIMINATED BY ROADS

EX-PRESIDENT TAFT IS COMING TO CHAPEL HILL

One of the Demands of Engineers and Firemen.

To Deliver Three Lectures at University in March.

Series Initiates Serial Numbers of Lectures by Distinguished Americans on American Citizenship for Benefit of Students.

Raleigh, N. C. Dec. 1.—Former President Taft, now professor of law at Yale, has been secured to deliver a series of three lectures at the University of North Carolina, the dates fixed being March 17, 18 and 19 of next year.

The announcement of the coming of the distinguished jurist was made at Chapel Hill this morning by President Graham, of the State University.

The series of lectures by Ex-President Taft initiates the first serial numbers of lectures by distinguished American citizens on American citizenship, the plan being to afford the students of the university access to national and international viewpoints on current questions.

Washington, Dec. 1.—A foreign office despatch today to the Austrian embassy here announced ratification by the Hungarian House of Deputies for five years of the arbitration treaty with the United States.

HAMILTON WINNER OF PATTERSON CUP

Minister Naon, of Argentina, Speaks in Raleigh.

HENDERSON IS HEARD

In Annual Address Before Literary and Historical Society, President Henderson Urges Historical Pageants in North Carolina.

Raleigh, N. C., Dec. 1.—Compulsory arbitration of international difficulties rather than a resort to force of arms was advocated here tonight by Dr. Romulo S. Naon, minister from Argentina to Washington, in an address before the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association. He declared that for 58 years it had been the policy of his country to bind the nations of the world to it by means of arbitration treaties. Dr. Naon's subject was "Some Argentinean Views on the political development of his country, comparing its constitution and laws with those of the United States."

Dealing with arbitration, Dr. Naon declared that while military and naval service was compulsory in Argentina, the people did not relish the idea of going to war except as a last resort. Therefore, the arbitration of international difficulties had been made a policy for over half a century. Concluding, he said: "Since 1856, when the Argentine republic concluded with Chile her first arbitration treaty for the settlement of boundary questions pending at that time, and such others as might arise hereafter, our efforts to bring ourselves with all other countries of the world through compulsory arbitration, have not ceased for a single day."

Dr. Naon arrived here shortly after noon today. He will leave for Washington early tomorrow. It was announced here tonight that Dr. Naon would lecture at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, on May 5th, on the existing relationship between the United States and the South American countries.

Cup Goes to Hamilton. Dr. G. de R. Hamilton, of the University of North Carolina, was tonight awarded the Patterson memorial cup by the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association for the best literary work in the State during the past year, in the publication of his book "North Carolina During Reconstruction." The award was made by Prof. W. K. Boyd, of Trinity college, for the committee on awards.

The cup occupied a conspicuous place on the rostrum but Dr. Hamilton was not present to personally receive the trophy. The Patterson cup is provided by Mrs. Lindsay Patterson, of Winston-Salem, as a memorial to her father, whose name she has won this cup in the past are: John Charles McNeill, deceased; Dr. Edwin Miles, Dr. Kemp P. Battle, Capt. S. A. Ashe, R. D. W. Connor, Dr. Clarence Poe and Dr. Archibald Henderson.

Henderson's Inspiring Address. In his annual address as president of the North Carolina State Literary and Historical Association, Dr. Archibald Henderson urged for his theme "The New North State." He declared that out of North Carolina into the fountain of liberty has welled up streams of creative contribution that have helped to make the Nation great.

The present contribution of the State to the life of the Nation was indicated by mention of the power and influence of Secretary of the Navy Daniels; Senator Simmons, leader in the Senate; Congressman Kitchin, destined to be leader on the floor of the House the coming session; Glaxton, Holmes, Osborne and others having to do with the (Continued on Page Two.)

WANT "SURPRISE TESTS" ELIMINATED BY ROADS

EX-PRESIDENT TAFT IS COMING TO CHAPEL HILL

One of the Demands of Engineers and Firemen.

To Deliver Three Lectures at University in March.

Series Initiates Serial Numbers of Lectures by Distinguished Americans on American Citizenship for Benefit of Students.

Raleigh, N. C. Dec. 1.—Former President Taft, now professor of law at Yale, has been secured to deliver a series of three lectures at the University of North Carolina, the dates fixed being March 17, 18 and 19 of next year.

The announcement of the coming of the distinguished jurist was made at Chapel Hill this morning by President Graham, of the State University.

The series of lectures by Ex-President Taft initiates the first serial numbers of lectures by distinguished American citizens on American citizenship, the plan being to afford the students of the university access to national and international viewpoints on current questions.

Washington, Dec. 1.—A foreign office despatch today to the Austrian embassy here announced ratification by the Hungarian House of Deputies for five years of the arbitration treaty with the United States.

FOUR PERSONS ARE BURNED TO DEATH

Fatal Fire at Delgado Early This Morning.

FLAMES DESTROY HOME

Dead Are Children of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. McNeill, Formerly of Columbus County—One Son Saved by Jumping.

Four children of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. McNeill, of Delgado, were burned to death early this morning when a fire of unknown origin destroyed their home at the junction of the turnpike and the Castle Street road, in the center of the village, which is a suburb of Wilmington. The other members of the family escaped from the burning house barely in time to avoid a similar fate, one son having to jump from a second story window.

The dead are: Miss Bannah McNeill, 21 years old. Wade McNeill, 13 years old. Adella McNeill, 11 years old. Walter McNeill, 8 years old.

The fire evidently started in the kitchen in the rear of the home and when discovered at 1 o'clock by the fireman at the Delgado mill, situated about 200 yards away, had already made considerable progress. The residence was a two-story frame structure and five of the children, including the four burned and Willie McNeill, who escaped from the building by jumping, were sleeping downstairs. Mr. and Mrs. McNeill and three children were sleeping downstairs and when they awoke the flames had made such headway that they had barely time to escape.

Willie McNeill, 20 years old, when he awoke found that the flames were sweeping through the structure but he made an effort to get his brother and sisters out, but the way of escape downstairs was cut off and there was no way to escape except by jumping. He was unable to get them to do so, but saved himself with only a few injuries.

The Wilmington fire department was notified immediately and at once set out for the scene of the fire with one of the chemical engines. They were able to obtain a stream of water from the Delgado mill and at 2 o'clock the flames had been practically extinguished although the remains of none of the missing children had been found.

Mr. McNeill came from Columbus county, near Whiteville four five years ago and since that time has been an operator in the Delgado mill. Five of the children worked in the mill also.

Mr. W. A. Woods, superintendent of the Delgado mill, arrived shortly after the fire had been discovered and at once took charge of the remaining members of the family, who were completely overcome by the shock and grief. He notified Dr. Houston Moore, who rendered such assistance as he could in enabling the distressed family to recover from the shock.

Mr. W. E. Yopp, the undertaker, and Mr. J. H. Mitchell, were also notified and went at once to take charge of the remains of the burned persons.

The news of the fire spread rapidly through the village and several hundred gathered around the burning residence, some coming from Lingo City. The tragedy has cast a pale of profound grief over the community, coming so quickly and suddenly, making it the more appalling.

Mr. and Mrs. McNeill have a host of friends who will sympathize with them in their bereavement.

The loss will be between \$1,500 and \$2,000 which is covered by insurance. The houses on either side were saved by the efforts of the people of the village who formed a bucket brigade and worked heroically in putting out the flames. They had the fire under control when the fire department arrived with the chemical. The remains of two of the children had been recovered at 2:30 this morning. They were burned almost beyond recognition.

KHAKI AND FOREST-GREEN UNIFORMS

Urged by Surgeon-General in His Report—White Too Easily Seen.

Washington, Dec. 1.—Another plea for khaki and forest-green uniforms to replace the bullet-drawing white worn by American seamen was made by Surgeon-General Braisted, of the navy in his annual report submitted today to Secretary Daniels. It was pointed out that disadvantages of white were strikingly illustrated at Vera Cruz where the sailors offered perfect targets for sharpshooters and snipers.

The surgeon general reported that the navy's medical department apparently was prepared to meet all peace time demands, and that the health of the naval personnel was good, showing improvement over last year. An increase in malaria was accounted for by the detention of warships in Mexican waters.