

cloudy and warmer Saturday, Sunday probably rain.

THE MORNING STAR

WILMINGTON, N. C., SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 19, 1914

WHOLE NUMBER 13,854.

LAST CALL FOR XMAS!

War or no war, good money is being spent daily in the great American holiday rush! Are you getting yours? If not, there's a reason.

MYSTERY SURROUNDS BATTLE CELEBRATED AT BERLIN AS A DECISIVE GERMAN VICTORY

Little Doubt as to Retreat of the Russian Armies But Confirmation of Great German Victory is Lacking from All Sources—Report from Petrograd Eagerly Awaited by the Allied Nations.

GERMAN PAPERS REPORTED AS COMPLAINING BECAUSE NAMES AND NUMBERS ARE OMITTED

Amsterdam Dispatches Quote Berlin Papers as Disappointed That Name of Battle and Other Details Not Given by German Official Statement—Allies' Offensive in West Progresses Slowly.

London, Dec. 18.—Although there seems no doubt the Russians are retreating, and that for the present any expectations the Allies may have held of an early invasion of Germany must be dismissed, considerable mystery surrounds the reported decisive German victory which Berlin celebrated last night.

Vienna gives a few details of fighting in the East. The claim is made that the Russians have been driven from their positions north of the Carpathian mountains from Krosno to Zaklicsyn, which would indicate that part of the southern line of railway in Galicia again is in the hands of the Austrians and that Piotrkow and another central Poland town have been stormed, but silence is maintained as to North Poland, where the German victory is said to have been achieved.

The German official report dismisses this battle with the statement that "in Poland we are still pursuing the enemy, who continues to give way."

Amsterdam dispatches serve to heighten the confusion by quoting Berlin papers received there today as expressing disappointment at the fact that no names of battlefields are mentioned, that no tangible results of the fighting are disclosed and that no lists are given of the number of captured guns and prisoners.

Some disappointment is expressed at the silence of the Russians and advice from Petrograd are awaited eagerly.

The Allies' offensive in the West continues to progress slowly, according to the Paris communication, although the aggregate gains achieved during the week indicate a considerable advance in Flanders and in the vicinity of Arras, where the Allies seemingly are making their greatest efforts in the belief that penetration of the German lines would compel a general German retirement. It is still, however, a matter of siege warfare in Belgium and France. Berlin says many attacks of the Allies are being repulsed with heavy casualties which are increased when the German mine trenches which the Allies are compelled to evacuate.

The admiralty denies the German report that German ships which raided the east coast of England Wednesday sank two British destroyers, saying no British ships were lost.

In reply to a request from the corporations of Hartlepool and West Hartlepool to investigate the raid, the admiralty has replied that this will not be necessary as the government is in possession of all the facts.

The corners of the three bombarded towns still are holding inquiries over the bodies of victims, the numbers of whom continue to grow as injured persons succumb to their wounds.

As a result of the bombardment the kingdom has been flooded with posters reading: "Avenge Scarborough! Up and at 'em now!"

NEW SULTAN NAMED.

In taking Egypt under her wing Enslaved Makes Certain Promises

London, Dec. 18.—A British protectorate over Egypt was proclaimed today, Prince Hussein Kemal has been appointed Sultan and has accepted. He is the uncle of Abbas Hilmi, until now Sultan.

The French government has recognized the British protectorate over Egypt, in which France formerly had such important interests and in return Great Britain has given notice that it adheres to the Franco-Moorish treaty of 1912, which gave France a protectorate over Morocco.

Prince Hussein to accept the office as "the Prince of the Family of Mehemmed Ali, most worthy to occupy the Khedival position with the title of Sultan of Egypt." Mr. Clemens announces that Great Britain accepts all responsibilities for the defense of the territories under the new Sultan, that all Egyptian subjects will be afforded protection by Great Britain, that with the disappearance of Ottoman suzerainty the restrictions placed by Turkey upon the numbers and organization of the army will disappear, that the relations with foreign powers will be conducted by a British representative in Cairo, and that the religious convictions of the Egyptian subjects will be respected scrupulously.

In commenting with his letter the commissioner in a statement tonight says that in securing Egypt free from the influence of Constantinople, Great Britain has been animated by no hostile interest toward the Sultan and that in view of the Albanian institution, the new Sultan will have the government's support. The promise is made that a new constitution will be revised and that such measure as the development of enlightenment of public opinion may be deemed. The government will be associated with the task of government.

Many here express the opinion that a clearer definition of Great Britain's position in Egypt will accelerate progress toward self government in that country. "Abbas Hilmi arrived in Vienna today, according to advices received in London.

BERLIN STILL REJOICING

Coincidence of Naval and Military Accomplishments Are Lauded.

Berlin, Dec. 18 (by Wireless).—The official press bureau today gave out the following items: "The coincidence of the expedition to the English coast and the victory in the East continues to cause general rejoicing. Although the headquarters report lacks details there is general expectation that the Russian defeat will prove to have been complete. From details already available it seems safe to say that the victory has freed Germany for a long period from possible menace of invasion from the East. The Austrians appear to have done their work quite as thoroughly. The political effect of the victory is likely to be advantageous.

Vienna's report indicates that the Russians still are maintaining the aggressive in the Carpathians but declares that they are retreating elsewhere. "A dispatch from Geneva reports that representatives of different groups of the Egyptian national party have pointed out to representatives of the Italian government that the Egyptian would be loyal to Italian Tripolitania and would be better neighbors for Italy and the British. "In the German raid on the England East coast two British destroyers were destroyed and one was damaged. "General Wladimirko, the Russian of (Continued on Page Two)

FRENCH TREASURY IS IN GOOD SHAPE

Financial Situation in France is of the Best.

IS OFFICIAL REPORT

Minister of Finance Makes Detailed Report to Chamber of Deputies—Can Continue War for Long Time if Necessary.

Paris, Dec. 18.—An optimistic report of the condition of the treasury and of the general financial situation in France was made to the appropriations committee of the chamber of deputies today by M. Ribot, minister of finance. The minister declared the nation's financial reserves were such that "we can regard without anxiety the prospect of prolongation of hostilities."

M. Ribot appeared to explain the 1915 budget. He told the committee that the government had advanced to other countries these sums: To Belgium 250,000,000 francs (\$50,000,000); Serbia 90,000,000 francs; Greece 20,000,000 francs; the Bank of Montenegro 500,000 francs.

The treasury on September 1, had in circulation 427,000,000 francs of treasury bonds. This was increased before the end of November to 940,000,000 francs, the total authorized under the government's decree of October 1. However, the government on December 3 authorized an increase to a total of 1,400,000,000 francs. The total of national defense 5s subscribed for now exceeds 1,000,000,000 francs.

Money Borrowed. The finance minister explained that the Bank of France advanced to the government for mobilization expenses 2,900,000,000 francs. The Bank of Algeria advanced 100,000,000 francs. This proved insufficient and in September the government called upon the Bank of France to increase its advances to an ultimate total of 6,000,000,000 francs. M. Ribot pointed out that the gold holdings of the bank on December 16 were slightly in excess of the amount held just before the beginning of the war, which was 4,141,341,663 francs. Efforts are being made to increase this stock.

M. Ribot also called attention to the comparatively small increase in note circulation, which in the last month and a half had expanded only \$37,900,000 francs.

UNITED STATES KEEPS SKIRTS CLEAR OF WAR

Ignores Suggestions of British Press as to Violations.

British Papers Make Broad Hint That Uncle Sam Should Protest to Germany Against Bombardment of Unprotected Towns

Washington, Dec. 18.—Determined that the United States shall continue uninvolved in controversies that have arisen between European belligerents over alleged violations of The Hague conventions, President Wilson and Secretary Bryan will make no representation to Germany concerning the German naval raid on the English coast.

Suggestions from the British press that the United States should protest to Germany against the alleged violation of an article of The Hague conventions which prohibits "naval bombardment of undefended towns" has met with no response from Washington. No formal communication has come from Great Britain but suggestions in the press developed an informal discussion among high officials here for the American government after the fact that the President and Secretary Bryan renewed their determination not to interfere.

The fact that German officials have already taken issue with the British contention that the English coast towns bombarded were undefended has emphasized to officials here the controversial nature of the case. "While the attitude of the Washington government is chiefly due to a desire to keep from entanglement in the war's controversies, its course also has been influenced largely by the feeling that during the conflict protests from even neutral powers are of little avail, though they will be taken into full account when a final reckoning is made at the conference of powers to discuss peace terms.

CREW OF FOUNDERED STEAMER IS RESCUED

British Trader Reports Having Rescued Crew Landed in Bahamas.

Key West, Fla., Dec. 18.—Rescue of the crew of the British steamship Rivulet, which foundered at sea, was reported at Sand Key, Fla., late last night by the British steamer Alton, Captain Harrison. Captain Harrison said that the crew of the Rivulet is now at Abaco lighthouse, Bahamas. He added that no lives were lost when the Rivulet foundered. The Rivulet was enroute from Naples to Gulfport and left the Italian Port about November 15. No further details are known here.

LEAD STILL DROPS ON AMERICAN SIDE

Five Bullets Fall Near Shelter Built for Soldiers

CAROTHERS ON SCENE

State Department Representative With General Villa Arrives at Camp of Besiegers and Goes Into Conference.

Naco, Ariz., Dec. 18.—Five bullets from the Mexican flitting around Naco, Sonora, struck today near shelters built by United States troops on the border. Many other shots fell on United States territory.

Flank camps east and west of Naco, Ariz., were established today by the American troops. The sixth brigade of infantry and three batteries of artillery en route are expected here tomorrow. Ammunition arrived today.

Intermittent firing on the Mexican side continued all day. Hill's Carranza troops, defending Naco, seemed to be doing most of the shooting. George C. Carothers, special agent of the American State Department, arrived today at the camp of the besiegers. He went into conference with Governor Maytorena.

Carothers broached the subject of the coming visit of Brig. Gen. Hugh L. Scott. It is understood Maytorena favored sending General Scott to the international boundary.

After returning to the American side Carothers talked with Brig. Gen. Tasker H. Bliss and then left for El Paso, Texas. He probably will rejoin General Villa.

AMERICANS AND NATIONALS OPEN SCHEDULE MEETING

French Lick Springs the Scene of Gathering.

French Lick, Ind., Dec. 18.—The 1915 schedule meeting of the American and National leagues opened here today. San Johnson, Barney Dreyfus, and other leaders of the leagues were present. Johnson, however, volunteered the information that negotiations for the sale of the New York Yankees would be resumed tomorrow.

Col. Jacob Ruppert, who with T. L. Huston is negotiating the purchase of the New York Yankees, said tonight: "I shall not start a tail end team and try to make a pennant winner out of it. I have made up my mind what to do if it is agreed to give me new players and a manager. As regards that, at least, however, I am not considering it at all. If I go into baseball, it will be with the Yankees."

Colonel Ruppert said negotiations for the sale of the club might not be concluded until December 23.

War News at a Glance

A cloud of uncertainty still hangs over operations of the belligerent armies in Poland. No official German report has been issued to stamp as accurate unofficial claims to a German victory over the Russians which Thursday aroused enthusiasm to a high pitch throughout the German Empire.

The latest German statement on the situation is laconic. In Poland, it says, "we continue to pursue the retreating enemy."

Austria is more communicative than Berlin, for Vienna declares the Russian main forces are being pursued on the entire battle front of some 250 miles from Galicia to that point in Poland northeast of Lovicz, where the Bzura river empties into the Vistula.

M. Ribot, the French minister of finance, has informed the appropriations committee of the chamber of deputies that France will not lack resources to continue the war to a finish without fatiguing.

A news agency dispatch says Turkey has yielded to the representations of the United States, Italy and Greece and will permit the departure from Syria of consular representatives of neutral countries.

The British fleet in the Pacific has been reinforced by the arrival at Callao of the Australian battle cruiser Australia.

The British admiralty denies that any British warships were sunk during the German raid on the east coast of England. It says however, that two men were killed and 15 wounded aboard the destroyer Hardy.

HOUSE GOES INTO HIGH GEAR ON BILL

Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation.

PASSED IN THREE DAYS

With Its Machinery at High Speed, Lower House of Congress Adopts Measure and Turns Attention to Postoffice Bill.

Washington, Dec. 18.—With its machinery at high speed the House today turned out the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill and began consideration of the postoffice appropriation bill.

The legislative, executive and judicial bill, carrying \$36,000,000, was passed after less than three days actual consideration. Provisions for an agricultural census to cost \$2,288,000 and a proposal to reduce members' mileage from 20 to 5 cents a mile was stricken out.

Postmaster General Burleson's plans for departmental changes were blocked when the House voted down a special rule to make in order new legislation reducing the pay of postmasters, revising the railway pay system, authorizing experimental substitution of contracts for the salaries of rural carrier system in one county of each state and providing for organization changes.

The rule was defeated 148 to 181, many Democrats opposing it. Chairman Moon of the postoffice committee, criticized Democrats who voted against the rule, asserting that "railway influence has been hard at work to defeat provisions of this bill revising the railway pay system."

He declared the defeat of the rule was a "betrayal of Democratic principles and a betrayal of the Democratic administration by the majority on the floor."

Representative Henry interrupted to assert that the only opposition to the rule in the rules committee was exercised by "railroad interests."

"Name them," shouted Republican Leader Mann.

The House was in turmoil for a few moments and when the tumult subsided Henry shouted: "I can name them. I say here and now that the railroad interests tried to defeat this bill in the rules committee."

HOOVER MAKES REPLY TO CRITICS OF RELIEF

Starving in Belgium Get Aid from America Regardless.

Death Would Have Resulted in Thousands of Cases Had Commission Waited for Moral Responsibility to Be Placed.

London, Dec. 18.—Critics of the American Commission for Relief in Belgium, who have asserted that an attitude of impartiality would have left the burden of caring for the starving Belgians to the belligerent power responsible for their condition, were answered today by Herbert C. Hoover, chairman of the commission, in an address here. He declared that before the question of moral responsibility was settled starvation and violence would have finished war's work of desolation in the ill-starred little country.

"It is enough for America that seven millions of humanity are in the hoppers, passing between two gigantic millstones," said the speaker.

Mr. Hoover spoke at a luncheon given members of the commission, by American business men. Introducing him, Ambassador Page gave high praise to the work of the commission. He said it was the only link between the great belligerent nations and the farmer of the Mississippi Valley.

Mr. Hoover said close harmony existed between the commission and the national committee in Belgium.

PRIVATE BOARD PROBES INTO COAST DEFENSES

And Will Make Suggestions to Congress as to Appropriations

Washington, Dec. 18.—Headed by Assistant Secretary Breckinridge, a special board of army officers has been in session at the War Department for several days considering the state of coast defenses of the country and particularly the military situation in the canal zone.

Proceedings of the board are secret but the fact that it was sitting became known tonight. It is expected that it will recommend to Congress that funds be provided to develop plans for the improvement of coast defenses probably based on some measure of developments of the siege operations of the European war.

Major General William W. Witherspoon, recently retired as chief of staff was present at today's meeting.

CARRIERS WIN PARTIAL VICTORY IN RATE CASE

Decision Handed Down by Interstate Commerce Commission in Petition for Five Per Cent Increase in Freight Rates

by Eastern Railroads Grants Request With Limitations—Certain Heavy Commodities Are Left Out of Advance—Two Dissent.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Further increase in freight rates were granted to the Eastern railroads today by the Interstate Commerce Commission in a decision from which Chairman Harlan and Commissioner Clements dissented vigorously.

Except on lake and rail traffic, coal, coke, iron ore and certain other traffic upon which the commission heretofore has fixed rates adjudicated "reasonable" all railroads operating in the territory between the Atlantic seaboard and the Mississippi north of the Potomac and Ohio rivers were allowed the flat five per cent. increase for which they have been asking for four years.

The railroads hoped to get increases which would add the annual revenue some \$50,000,000. The commission's decision is expected to give them additional revenue approximating \$30,000,000.

The roads east of the North and South line drawn through Buffalo, Pittsburg and Charleston, W. Va., won by today's decision the increases other than upon the traffic excepted, which were denied them in the commission's decision last August. The roads west of this line, which got partial advances in the August decision, received further advances, so that now all the roads in what is described as official classification territory will enjoy uniform advances in both class and commodity rates.

While the majority of the commission held that the roads had established in the latest hearings a greater need of additional net income than ever before. This was due the decision held that the roads had established in the latest hearings a greater need of additional net income than ever before. This was due the decision held that the roads had established in the latest hearings a greater need of additional net income than ever before.

Chairman Harlan, in his dissenting opinion, held that sufficient aid had been given the roads by the August decision and that the findings of the majority were "morally wrong."

Commissioner Clements based his dissent upon what he regarded as the inability, in law of the commission to take cognizance of anything in the making of rates other than their justice and reasonableness.

In administration circles the outcome of the case was welcomed as of vast importance. President Wilson issued no formal statement but the White House officials said he was greatly pleased over the decision and expected it to have an immediate effect upon the country's economic situation. The President had made no secret of his belief that improvement of conditions generally was dependent, to an extent, at least, upon additional revenue being provided in some way for the railroads.

Traffic on which no increase was allowed represents about 55 per cent. of the entire volume of freight handled by the railroads. Coal, coke and iron ore, however, are bulky commodities, taking lower rates, consequently the revenue derived from them is relatively small.

In the Eastern district 10 per cent.

UPROAR ENDS HEARINGS AS TO NAVAL AFFAIRS

Anger Caused by Demands of Representative Gardner Upon Members of House Naval Affairs Committee Brings Session to an Abrupt Close—Witherspoon of Mississippi Leaves Committee Room in a Passion—Gardner Soon Gets Angry.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Public hearings before the House naval committee ended today in an uproar when Representative Gardner, of Massachusetts, a witness, demanded that committee members say whether they questioned data he had submitted to prove the nation's military unpreparedness.

Mr. Gardner's insistence so angered Representative Witherspoon, of Mississippi, that he quit the committee room. A series of questions put immediately afterwards by Representative Gray, of Indiana, aroused Mr. Gardner's resentment and the meeting broke up abruptly.

Representative Gardner vigorously resented what he said was an imputation that his campaign for investigation of the military situation was in the interest of manufacturers of war materials. He called upon Mr. Gray, who was questioning him, to "get up and prove his facts" but the latter had nothing further to say, and the chairman declared the hearing ended.

The committee will meet Monday to complete the naval appropriation bill, the plan being to report it, if possible, before the holidays.

Mr. Gardner's statements today were based largely on the testimony of the admirals and others before the committee, and reports of the navy general board. The war of words came after the witness had finished the statement and submitted to a long cross examination. Mr. Gardner said he did not want his statements challenged later in Congress and sought an immediate expression from the committee members.

Request "Outrageous." Representative Witherspoon declared sharply that the request was "outrageous."

"I move that the hearings be closed," said the Mississippi representative. "I am tired of this outrage." Chairman Padgett asked him to withdraw the motion, but he persisted, and Mr. Gardner renewed his request for an expression of opinion, left the room. "Did you write any letter to any mercantile organizations over the country?" asked Mr. Gray when quiet had been restored. "I hired a man to send out a printed letter to every chamber of commerce in the land, telling them to bring it before the meeting, and enclosing a copy of my speech. In the South, particularly North Carolina, several of them did not approve of it. "How many of these letters did you write?" "I do not know. I gave it to one of these publicity fellows." "What organizations did you employ for that purpose?" persisted Mr. Gray. "Do you mean to say 'Am I in alliance with the manufacturers of materials?' I am paying every cent myself." (Continued on Page Two)