

THE WEATHER.

Fair Friday and Probably Saturday; rising temperature Saturday.

THE MORNING STAR

THE HOLIDAYS. In the columns of this paper you'll find all lines of merchandise represented...

VOL. XXVII—NO. 78

WILMINGTON, N. C., FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 10, 1915

WHOLE NUMBER 39,408

GERMANY IS READY TO DISCUSS PEACE PROPOSALS "COMPATIBLE WITH HER DIGNITY AND SAFETY"

Declines Responsibility for a Further Continuation of War, Says Chancellor.

AMPLY ADEQUATE, HOWEVER

Food Supplies Sufficient and Stores of Copper Adequate for Many Years Yet.

Must be Assured That War Will Not Return Again.

Berlin, Dec. 9 (by wireless to Sayville).—Germany is always ready to discuss peace proposals compatible with her dignity and safety...

Declines Further Responsibility. Conscious of her military successes, the chancellor said, Germany declines responsibility for a further continuation of the war.

After Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg had made his statement, all parties except the socialists joined in a declaration approving the chancellor's utterances and endorsing the view that in the conditions of peace made after the war there must be guarantees for Germany's safety...

shall always be ready to discuss them," said the Imperial Chancellor, Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, in addressing the Reichstag today.

CHANCELLOR VON BETHMANN-HOLLWEG.



Berlin, Dec. 9. (by Wireless to Sayville, N. Y.)—"If our enemies make peace proposals compatible with Germany's dignity and safety, then we

RIVALRY KEEN FOR THE TRAINING CAMP

Wilmington Delegation Making Determined Effort.

SEVEN TOWNS WANT IT

Generally Understood That Southern Camp Will Come to North Carolina, but What Place is Open Question Yet.

(Special Star Telegram.)

Washington, D. C., Dec. 9.—Wilmington is going to make a determined effort to have the proposed citizen training camp, which the War Department has announced will be established in the South, located either at Wilmington or Southport.

Both Senators Simmons and Overman will do their best to have the camp established in North Carolina. They will refuse, however, to intercede for any city or town.

HOLLWEG'S SPEECH FEATURE OF NEWS

Completely Dashes Any Hope for an Early Peace.

LONDON NOT SURPRISED

Ho-French in Southeastern Serbia Retiring Before the Onslaughts of the Bulgars—Battles in Mesopotamia.

(Special Star Telegram.)

London, Dec. 9.—The speech in the Reichstag of the Imperial Chancellor Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, reviewing the military, political and economic progress of events, and his reply to a socialist interpellation, declining to initiate peace negotiations, were the features of the day's news throughout Europe.

Following closely Premier Asquith's somewhat similar reply to a question in the house of commons by Philip Snowden, socialist, the chancellor's speech was completely dashed any hopes the peace advocates may have held in an early termination of the war.

GREATER ARMY IS NEED OF AMERICA

Garrison Submits Remarkable Report to President.

SAYS WAR INEVITABLE

Declares if Continental Army Plan Falls United States Will Face Some Form of Compulsory Military Service.

Washington, Dec. 9.—Secretary Garrison declares in his annual report to the President, made public tonight, that if the administration plan for a Continental army fails, the United States will face some form of compulsory military service.

In what many men in official life characterize as the most remarkable report ever made by a Secretary of War, Mr. Garrison passes quickly "over the widespread routine activities of the War Department and devotes practically all his words to the subject of military preparedness, the need for which he sums up by saying: "So long as right and wrong exist in the world there will be an inevitable conflict between them."

Unsparring in his arguments in answer to those who would have no increase in the country's military preparedness, Secretary Garrison declares that the American people must view their responsibilities and measure up to them, and then goes on to take up the various arguments of the opposition separately.

"There are some who do not feel free to base their conduct upon a consideration of facts or conclusions of reason, because of their interpretation of Divine injunction," he says. "They do not believe in resistance to physical force; and those whose consciences are so convinced surrender life and all that they cherish and love at the behest of the aggressor. This attitude concerns the individual, and him alone. It cannot be made the general rule of conduct under our form of government without depriving the basis upon which our government is founded. One is impelled to query upon that proper consideration there is based any distinction between the right or necessity or desirability of using mental force to repel evil, and physical force to repel wrong. It would seem, if reason were applied, that in each instance the situation is identical, and that if we should properly prepare our minds to be strong so that we can reject error, and our moral characters to be strong so that we can reject evil, we should likewise make our physical force strong." (Continued on Page Two.)

NAVY YARD TO BUILD TWO NEW BATTLESHIPS

Contracts Let to New York and Mare Island Plants.

Private Bids Exceeded Cost Limit Set by Congress—Keels to be Laid in August or September of Next Year.

Washington, Dec. 9.—Secretary Daniels announced today that contracts for the construction of battleships Nos. 43 and 44, authorized by the last Congress, had been awarded to the New York and Mare Island navy yards, respectively, their bids being, New York \$7,699,925; Mare Island, \$7,314,156.

The decision to build the ships in the government yards was reached at a conference between President Wilson and Secretary Daniels. All bids submitted by private firms exceeded the cost limit.

The Secretary announced that he would ask Congress to authorize the equipment of the navy yard at Philadelphia without further construction at a cost of approximately \$1,000,000 in order to be better prepared for the increased building programme contemplated in the administration defense plans.

Keels of battleships Nos. 43 and 44, Mr. Daniels said, could be laid in August or September of next year. The battleship California, now building at the New York yard, will be off the ways by that time.

The Mare Island estimate included several hundred thousand dollars for enlarging stocks to take a 32,000-ton ship. Material for this work will be purchased immediately and contracts for the structural steel of both ships probably will be awarded tomorrow.

In submitting its estimates, the New York yard proposed to build either a turbine drive ship or one equipped with the combined steam and electrical machinery first authorized for a heavy warship when this system was decided upon for the California. The Mare Island yard estimated on only one, a turbine drive vessel.

FIRE COMPLETELY DESTROYS THE TOWN OF HOPEWELL, VA.

Flames Starting in Restaurant Quickly Spread Over Business and Residential Section—Loss Estimated at From \$1,000,000 to \$3,000,000—Dupont Works Escape—Martial Law is Declared

Hopewell, Va., Dec. 9.—This mushroom town of 25,000 people, grown up since last summer with the great new gun cotton plant of the Du Pont Powder Company, was completely destroyed today by a fire which started in a restaurant and did property damage estimated at from one to three million dollars.

Scenes of wild disorder accompanied the fire, and citizens lynched a negro for looting. There was no loss of life otherwise, and only a few minor injuries were reported. Martial law was proclaimed tonight, with the arrival of six militia companies, rushed from Richmond, by order of Governor Stuart. The thousands of homeless men, women and children had been sent to Petersburg and Richmond, but many men remained to guard what little property they had been able to save.

Blaze Started From Oil Stove. The fire was said to have been caused by the overturning of an oil stove, though there were rumors that it had been incendiary. These rumors first were given credence in many quarters because of the arrest last night at the gun cotton factory of a man who, factory officials said, had attempted to put a charge of nitro-glycerine in one of the heater houses and had been under surveillance for several days.

The fire raged from 1:45 P. M. until nearly 9 P. M. Available fire fighting apparatus was utterly inadequate to cope with the situation, the flames eating their way through the flimsy frames, quickly thrown up during the early days of the town last summer, like so much tinder.

Several times sparks set fire to mule sheds of the explosive factory, but the flames which followed were quickly extinguished.

When it was seen that the town was doomed and the great gun cotton plant endangered, orders were issued suspending all operations and the factory closed. The employees were set to work protecting the buildings from flying sparks. The gravest danger was from woods nearby which caught fire and were still burning late tonight.

About 4 o'clock in the afternoon, one-half of the town's water supply was cut off, when poles which swept a portion of the high tension for the Du Ponts fell, snapping the wires which fed the current to the Appomattox river electric pumping station. It was feared that the remainder of the wires might be promptly cut by workmen.

Hopewell policemen, assisted by a special force of the powder company, held the situation well in hand until the troops arrived. There was the greatest confusion and disorder, but few attempts at looting.

Many of those who had personal belongings and household goods removed them to places of safety. Surrounding the community, which lay in ashes, early tonight could be seen men, women and children seated upon such belongings as they had been able to save. It was not unusual to see men standing nearby with freely displayed revolvers to protect themselves against robbery.

While the fire raged the police were busy on all sides, keeping back a great throng of people eager to get into the burning structures.

As soon as it was realized that the place was doomed the police assisted by experts from the powder plant, began dynamiting buildings.

When the excitement was subsiding tonight the population, literally evacuated the place. Families, individuals and small parties of friends and strangers set out, carrying with them possessions they had saved. The more fortunate secured automobiles and some got away in horse-drawn conveyances, but many trudged along on foot. Some found refuge at Dupont City, which was at no time threatened; others went to City Point, but most made their way to Petersburg.

Petersburg Saloons Closed. On account of the great influx of people into Petersburg, Mayor Cabness ordered all saloons in that city closed early tonight. A company of militia was called out on duty, to aid the police in controlling the crowds while the city council, chamber of commerce, the Y. M. C. A., churches, and other organizations and individuals took quick action to provide temporary shelter for those who had lost their homes.

Fanned by a 20-mile-an-hour north-east wind the flames swept over Hopewell at a rapid rate, and burned themselves out when they reached a lumber yard situated at the intersection of the Norfolk and Western railway.

When all chance of danger had passed, the Dupont plant resumed its operations and the night shift men took their accustomed places at 11 o'clock. (Continued on Page Eight.)

FOUR ARMY PLANS DIFFER RADICALLY

Chairmen Chamberlain and Hay Each Draft Bills FOR COMMITTEES ONLY

Washington, Dec. 9.—Congressional military circles will be confronted with four radically differing plans for building up national defense as urged by President Wilson when they settle down next week to the work of framing army measures to be presented to both houses. Aside from the administration plan outlined in the President's message, the Senate and House committees will have before them tentative schemes offered by Senator Chamberlain and Representative Hay, their respective chairmen, and also the plan prepared at Secretary Garrison's direction by the war college division of the army general staff.

Copies of the Chamberlain and Hay bills, which are designed for committee consideration only, and will not be introduced in either house, became available today. They show wide divergence both from each other and from the plan advocated by President Wilson, which itself was based upon a considerable modification, it is understood, of the war college plan.

BAPTISTS PLAN FOR SEASIDE ASSEMBLY FOR NEXT SUMMER

State Convention Adjourns, Following an Eleventh Hour Sensation.

ELIZABETH CITY NEXT

Wants Laws to Cut Out Liquor Advertising and Sale of Wine and Cider.

(By T. W. CHAMBLISS.)

Charlotte, N. C., Dec. 9.—The Baptist State Convention unexpectedly adjourned at midnight tonight, instead of holding over till Friday, as usual, to meet next year with Blackwell Memorial church in Elizabeth City. Rev. C. B. Waller, of Asheville, was named to preach the annual sermon and Rev. John Jeter Hurt, of Durham, as alternate. Adjournment was taken because when the regular hour for adjournment for the night came, the Convention had finished all its work except the memorial service, and it was decided to hold this tonight rather than continue the Convention in session another day.

When Dr. R. T. Vann stepped from the platform tonight after his great appeal for education, the unexpected happened and again did this season of the convention break a record. This time it was Rev. I. N. Loftin, of Elizabeth City, who started things. Dr. Loftin read a short resolution which proposed the elimination of all teachers other than Baptist teachers from Baptist schools.

Archibald Johnson, editor of Charity and Children, was on his feet in a flash, exclaiming: "I hope every member of this convention will vote against the resolution, for it is the biggest foolishness I ever heard of."

The convention stirred uneasily, and Rev. W. C. Barrett, of Gastonia, was quick to demand that Mr. Johnson withdraw his remarks. Dr. Loftin stood his ground and said that he demanded his right as a Baptist minister on the floor of the convention. Dr. Bayliss Cade, a new-comer, urged Dr. Loftin to withdraw his resolution. Arch. Johnson withdrew his remarks, and explained that he meant the remarks in a spirit of ability.

"I can beat the world taking things back," said Mr. Johnson. Then Dr. Loftin and Mr. Johnson shook hands, standing in front of the pulpit.

But still the resolution would not down—delegate after delegate made remarks and, finally, Dr. Loftin rose to a question of personal privilege and told how he had talked the resolution over with a number of men and he named Rev. C. E. Madry, Rev. T. W. O'Keefe, Rev. W. N. Johnson, V. I. President E. F. Aydtett and Dr. L. Johnson, and that none of them had considered it foolishness.

Dr. Bayliss Cade added a bit of explosiveness when he remarked "This entirely a matter of policy" and Dr. Loftin had a right to express his views without unfair criticism, and, more than that, "I do not believe that it is impossible to find Baptist teachers."

Finally, it was all over, the resolution was not acted on. President J. A. Oates announced at 10 o'clock that the business of the convention had been concluded except the memorial service, and the last hour was spent in tributes to those who passed on, and at midnight the 85th annual session adjourned.

For Summer Assembly. The summer assembly, so successfully held at Wrightsville Beach last season, will be a feature of the coming summer. The report of the committee was adopted and plans made for the coming season. The name was changed to the Baptist Seaside Assembly, and the State mission board asked to make an appropriation for expenses.

The committee in charge of the assembly is J. A. Oates, C. J. Hunter, J. Greaves, J. A. Sullivan, W. G. Hall, II, B. Harkel, Jr., and Livingston Johnson.

The night session was given over to an educational mass meeting. Rev. Dr. R. T. Vann delivered a telling address, pleading for Christian education.

More Stringent Prohibition. This morning the convention adopted resolutions demanding the passage of a law prohibiting the manufacture and sale of wines or hard cider as a beverage; also a law which would prohibit the circulation on sale of any newspaper carrying liquor advertising. The Anti-Saloon League was endorsed.

Elizabeth City Wants It. Blackwell Memorial Baptist church at Elizabeth City asks for the Convention an invitation to hold their annual meeting in December, 1916, at Elizabeth City with Blackwell Memorial church, which church, the board is advised, will at the Convention in Charlotte this week extend to the convention an invitation to meet with them. "I, therefore, as mayor of Elizabeth City, extend to the Baptist State Convention of most hearty invitation to meet here." (Continued on Page Eight.)