

WEATHER
Fair Friday and Saturday.

VOL. XCVIII—NO. 148

WILSON ASKS RAILROAD PRESIDENTS TO WHITE HOUSE FOR CONFERENCE

If They Sustain Their Managers, the President May Appeal to Roads' Financiers.

HE PRESENTS HIS PLAN

Finds Managers' Committee Adherent to His Proposal That They Accept 8-Hour Day.

EMPLOYEES MAY ACCEPT IT

They "Would Be Fools Not To," Says One of Their Leaders.

Washington, August 18.—President Wilson today laid his plans for averting the threatened railway strike before the employees' committee of 640, and having found the managers' committee adamant to his proposal that they accept the 8-hour day, he appealed to the railroad presidents and asked them to come to the White House for a conference.

There is every indication that if the railroad presidents sustain their managers, President Wilson will appeal finally to the financial powers which control the roads, for it is his purpose to deal with the ultimate authority before he gives up his effort.

President's Plan Outlined.

The President's plan, which is expected to be formally accepted by the employees' committee at a meeting at 3 o'clock tomorrow morning, proposes:

An eight-hour day as the basis for wages wages at the eight-hour day rate for over-time.

To refer all other collateral issues to a small commission to be created by the President of the United States, which is unalterably opposed to conceding the eight-hour day or anything else out of hand, but are quite ready to arbitrate anything and everything in almost any form of arbitration upon which the employees and the committee may agree.

The railroad presidents, it is understood, justify their stand upon the broad ground of maintaining the principle of arbitration which, if sacrificed in this instance, they intend to tell the President, will be destroyed as a factor in the settlement of industrial disputes.

Attitude of Railroad Presidents.

The attitude of the railroad presidents is not so clear. They began arriving tonight; all are expected to be here tomorrow. No one can say what will be the effect of an appeal such as a President of the United States, speaking in the name of the welfare of a nation, can make. But from such information as can be gathered, it appears that the railroad presidents, if the managers' committee understands them, are unalterably opposed to conceding the eight-hour day or anything else out of hand, but are quite ready to arbitrate anything and everything in almost any form of arbitration upon which the employees and the committee may agree.

Will Equip Seven Navy Yards to Build Battleships.

Special Appropriation for Charleston Yard, Including Dry Dock, Stricken Out—Measure is Finally Perfected.

Washington, Aug. 17.—As the naval appropriation bill finally was perfected by Senate and House conferees today, the navy yards at Norfolk, Charleston, Portsmouth and Philadelphia will be equipped to build warships. The \$1,250,000 for additional improvements for the Charleston yard, including a dry dock, was stricken out, leaving the total perfected bill \$315,391,843.

Appeal Necessary.

Two plans are being considered for the make-up of the proposed commission in case the President's plan is accepted. The first provides for the appointment of all three members, if that should be the size of the commission, by the President and the other for selection of one of the members by him and the other two by the railroad employees and employees, respectively. The plan as presented by the President to the employees was couched in general terms and did not go into details.

\$130,000,000 BOND ISSUE IS PROPOSED

To Meet Extraordinary Government Expenditures Due to the Mexican Situation.

UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 1916

Unexpectedly Recommended to Congress by Majority Members of Senate Finance Committee—Simmons Submits Report.

Washington, Aug. 18.—A bond issue of \$130,000,000 to meet extraordinary government expenditures due to the Mexican situation was unexpectedly recommended to Congress tonight by majority members of the Senate Finance committee with the concurrence of the Treasury Department. The bond issue is urged in the report of the Finance committee Democrats filed in the Senate late today on the \$205,000,000 Revenue bill.

Where the Money Goes.

Total appropriations for the fiscal year 1917, exclusive of loans carried in the so-called Shipping bill, which is to be covered by the issuance of Panama Bonds, will exceed the appropriations for the fiscal year 1916 by about \$485,000,000. This increase is represented principally by \$177,000,000 additional amount appropriated for the navy, \$168,000,000 additional amount appropriated for the army, \$20,000,000 additional amount appropriated for fortifications, \$10,000,000 for deficiency appropriations about \$25,000,000 of which is due to the Mexican situation and increased requirements of the army and navy, and \$100,000,000 for a deficit plan which is a preparedness appropriation. The increase in the appropriations for the present fiscal year, other than for these extraordinary purposes, is not beyond the normal increase.

LUTHERANS' CLOSE MEETING.

C. T. A. Anderson, of Chicago, Elected President of League.

Toledo, O., August 17.—C. T. A. Anderson, of Chicago, was elected today as president of the Luther League of America in-convention here. The sessions closed this afternoon and a Lutheran rally was held in a public hall in the evening.

STATE TEST FARMS TO BE CLOSED AND SOLD

Board of Agriculture Decides Upon Retrenchment Policy.

Farmers' Institutes and Soil Survey Work to Be Dropped—To Depend More on Neighborhood Demonstration Work.

(Special Star Telegram.)

Raleigh, N. C., Aug. 17.—The State Board of Agriculture this evening concluded a two day conference for retrenchment, economy and efficiency in the affairs of the department, especially to overcome an impending shortage of over \$200,000 in the receipts for the six months' budget period ending December 1, due to falling off in fertilizer tax receipts on account of the European war.

NAVAL BILL READY FOR PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE

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DESPERATE EFFORT TO BEND BACK THE BRITISH LINE FAILS

No Change of Importance Was Reported in Any Theatre of the War Yesterday.

LITTLE NEWS FROM EAST

For Two Days Russian, German and Austrian War Offices Have Been Rather Quiet.

For the first time in weeks no change of importance was reported in any theatre of the war Thursday. The most violent fighting took place on the western end of the British salient on the Somme. Six times the Germans advanced in force in a desperate effort to bend back the British lines north-west of Pozières. London reports that all of these assaults were repulsed with heavy losses and that the British in turn captured about 100 yards of trenches north-west of Bazentin.

GERMAN SEAPLANES ACTIVE IN FIGHTING THE RUSSIANS

Berlin, via London, Aug. 17.—An official communication issued today tells of a raid by German seaplanes on Russian positions on Oesel Island and of a fight against Russian air craft on Runoe Island, in the Riga region Tuesday night. The communication says: "Tuesday night our seaplanes again attacked with explosive and incendiary bombs the aerodrome at Panholm on Oesel Island (at the entrance to the Gulf of Riga), and enemy aeroplanes on the shore of Runoe Island (in the Gulf of Riga). Dashed heavy anti-aircraft fire and a subsequent air fight, our seaplanes returned safely.

ALLIES' HEAVY ATTACKS ON SOMME FRONT BEATEN BACK.

Berlin, via London, Aug. 17.—French and British troops made heavy attacks on the Somme front yesterday but were beaten back by the Germans, says the official announcement of today, which follows: "The enemy's fire increased at times to great violence west of Wytschaete and on the LaBassee canal and to the south thereof.

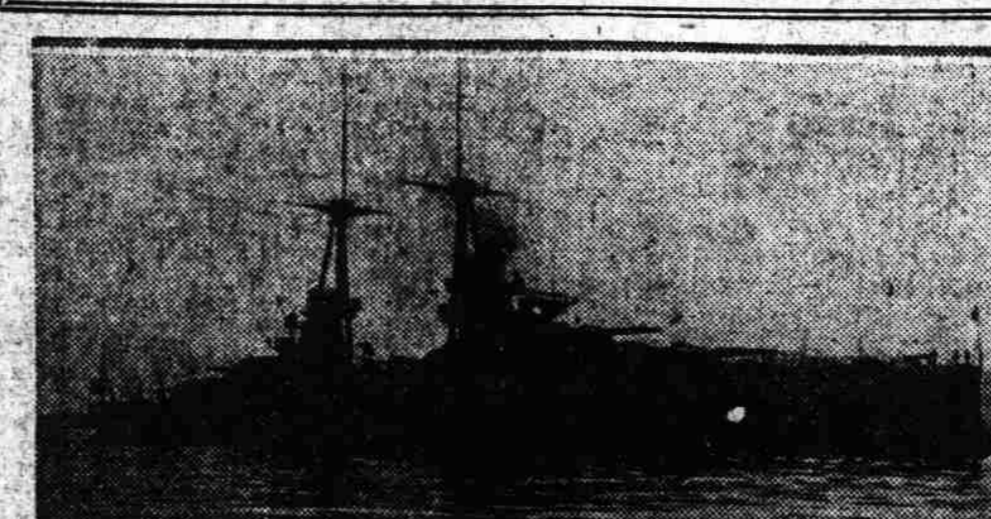
FRANCE INTERESTED IN SALE OF THE ISLANDS

HE SAYS GERMANS DID NOT COUNTER ATTACK

THE DAY IN CONGRESS

SENATE
Met at noon.
Debate on Shipping Bill resumed.
Navy conferees reach final agreement on disputed sections of appropriation bill.
Announcement made that Immigration bill will be pressed at this session.
Adjourned at 5:53 P. M. till noon Friday.
HOUSE
Not in session; meets Friday.

ITALIAN BATTLESHIP DESTROYED BY FIRE



Paris, Aug. 17.—The Italian battleship Leonardo da Vinci caught fire and after several explosions turned overboard and sank in the harbor at Taranto, according to a Turin dispatch to the Petit Journal. About 300 of her crew were drowned. One of the ship's magazines exploded while efforts were being made to beach her. The blame is thought to have started in the kitchen. The Leonardo da Vinci was one of the newer Italian dreadnaughts, having been constructed late in 1913. She displaced 23,340 tons and was 554 feet long. Her principal armament consisted of thirteen 12-inch guns. She carried a crew of about 1,000 men.

WILL WAGE MORE VIGOROUS CAMPAIGN AGAINST SPREAD OF INFANTILE PARALYSIS

Plans Made at Conference of Health Authorities of Most of the States With Officials of U. S. Health Service—Few Express Alarm That Epidemic May Become Nation-Wide—Uniform Regulations for Travel Advocated.

Washington, August 17.—Plans for a more vigorous campaign to prevent further spread of infantile paralysis were made here today at a conference of health authorities of most of the states with officials of the Federal Public Health Service. Resolutions will be adopted tomorrow by the conference, in which eminent public health experts, scientists and bacteriologists are participating, outlining definite proposals for checking dissemination of the disease.

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Paris Paper Says Question is Becoming International.

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10 Pages Today
ONE SECTION

WILMINGTON, N. C., FRIDAY MORNING, AUGUST 18, 1916
WHOLE NUMBER 39,676

OLD MAN GLOOM IS DRIVEN FROM THE REGIONS OF BEACH

More Than Five Thousand People Participate in the Annual Feast of Lanterns.

AT WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH

Festivities Will Continue Through Today, Culminating in Boat Parade Tonight.

Between 5,000 and 6,000 people assisted last night in driving "Old Man Gloom" from Wrightsville Beach at the second annual Feast of Lanterns, including hundreds of visitors from all parts of North Carolina. The festive occasion was opened with a grand illuminated parade along the beach followed by a spectacular display of fireworks and other carnival features. The celebration will continue through today, the special features being a children's parade this afternoon and a boat and canoe procession tonight.

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