

WEATHER.

Fair and colder Saturday. Sunday fair with rising temperature.

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YOU can talk to more people in a day through Star Business Locals than you could see in a month in person.

WHOLE NUMBER 39,775

TEUTONS APPARENTLY AIM TO MAKE TRIPLE DRIVE TO BUCHAREST

Armies of the Central Powers Pressing Inward Toward Capital from Three Sides

WALLACHIA IS CONQUERED

Berlin Says Von Mackensen Has Crossed the Danube at Several Points in Dobruja

ALLIES ADVANCE IN SERBIA

Artillery Bombardments on Both Sides in France Increase

Seemingly the forces of the Central Powers are endeavoring to drive on Bucharest, the Rumanian capital, from three directions. To the west the troops of General von Falkenhayn have reached the Alt river; to the north the Germans and Austro-Hungarians are pressing southward from the Predeal and Torzburger passes, and somewhere along the Danube, either to the south or southeast, the forces of Field Marshal von Mackensen are crossing the river.

Wallachia Conquered. Western Wallachia apparently is entirely in the hands of the Teutonic Allies, as both Berlin and Vienna report that the line of the Alt has been reached. Some Rumanians remain in the rear, around Orsova, but that town, as well as Turnu-Severin, has been occupied by the Teutonic troops and the Rumanians doubtless have fled into the mountains northward. The pressure of the German and Austro-Hungarian troops continues north and northwest of Bucharest.

Violent Fighting in Dobruja

Violent fighting has broken out in Dobruja. While attempting to hold the Russians and Rumanians in check north of the Tcherhavod-Cotlar railway line, Field Marshal von Mackensen, Berlin records, has thrown his men across the Danube at several places, but just where, is not stated. Bucharest says that an attempt by the Germans to cross the Danube at Zimniza, 70 miles southwest of Bucharest, failed. Fight has been reported in the region of Silistria, on the Danube, southeast of the Rumanian capital, during the last few days and it may be that the German crossings of the river were made between Tchernavoda and Giurgiu.

Rumanians Claim Success

The Russians and Rumanians have taken the offensive successfully in Dobruja, north of the Tchernavoda-Cotlar railway, Bucharest and Petrograd agents report. The Rumanians advanced to the front, especially in the central and on the left wing, and occupied five towns about 15 miles north of the railway line. The Russians progressed to 12 miles north of the railway. Berlin declares the Russian offensive in Dobruja was thrown back.

In Macedonia the Entente offensive continues to progress. Serbian troops have occupied Rapeshe, east of Monastir. News of Schudol the Serbians put a German force to flight. Berlin says there has been renewed artillery firing along the front in Macedonia, and Sofia claims the repulse of attacks east of Pansko and between Lakes Prespa and Ohrid.

Increased Activity in France

There has been no infantry firing on the front in France on a large scale but the artillery bombardments on both sides north and south of the Somme, have increased in intensity. Berlin reports the repulse of several small British attacks and London declares a German attempt south of Puisseux was frustrated.

TEUTONS CROSS DANUBE

RIVER AT SEVERAL POINTS. Berlin, Nov. 24.—(By wireless to the Associated Press via Sayville)—The army announced tonight that the von Mackensen had crossed the Danube at several points in Dobruja. It was also reported that the German forces in Wallachia had reached the Alt river. No further details were recorded in the morning.

TEUTONS ARE KEEPING CLOSE

BEHIND REPEATED RUMANIANS. Berlin, Nov. 24.—(By wireless to the Associated Press via Sayville)—General von Falkenhayn's troops are following the line of the Danube. The Rumanians have been driven back to positions along the Danube. This stream constitutes a really formidable military obstacle. The swift mountain train which the Allies possess broadens out with the Danube. The bridge at Zimniza is more than four hundred yards long. The Rumanians in this region are concentrating for their new line of defense. They were hampered yesterday by the attacks along the railroad. (Continued on Page Eight).

GREGORY APPROVES ATTORNEYS' PLANS

Suit of Missouri, Oklahoma & Gulf Railroad Agreed Upon as Test for Adamson Law

TO PRESS EARLY DECISION

Transcript of Record in the Case Will Be Laid Before Supreme Court When It Re-Convenes On December 4th.

Washington, Nov. 24.—Attorney General Gregory telegraphed the government attorneys in Kansas City tonight that he approved the plans for expediting to the Supreme Court a case to determine the constitutionality of the Adamson Act agreed upon there by the government counsel and railroad lawyers.

The case to be used as a test is that brought by the Missouri, Oklahoma and Gulf railroad in which Judge Hook of the Federal court at Kansas City, decided against the government. The transcript of the record in that case is expected at the Department of Justice tomorrow and will be promptly filed with the Supreme Court. The Attorney Gen. said the agreement would be signed by the government and railroad counsel in Kansas City, and that the case would be argued in the Supreme Court on December 4 when counsel for both sides will ask that an early date be set for argument.

If an early date is fixed, the government is hopeful that the case may be determined before January 1 when the law becomes effective. Under the agreement, it was pointed out here, the department agrees not to institute any prosecutions under the law before the determination of the Missouri, Oklahoma and Gulf case.

SUITS SUSPENDED PENDING DECISION OF SUPREME COURT

Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 24.—Attorney General Gregory's decision with reference to court procedure in the Adamson case was received this afternoon immediately interested proceeded to the Missouri, Oklahoma & Gulf case, to go before Judge Pollock in Federal district court. Later announcement was made in Judge Pollock's court that all Adamson litigation, with the exception of the Missouri, Oklahoma & Gulf case, would be postponed until after decision by the Supreme court in the case of the Missouri, Oklahoma & Gulf railroad, which was decided upon as a test case.

SAYS STATES' RIGHTS WOULD BE PROTECTED

A. P. Thom Continues Argument Before Joint Committee

Declares Exclusive Power to Commerce Commission to Regulate Interstate Traffic Would Be Both Wise and Fair

Washington, Nov. 24.—A new turn to the argument that states' rights would be invaded if the federal government had sole power to regulate interstate carriers, was given today before the joint congressional committee investigating transportation problems, by A. P. Thom, counsel for the railway executive advisory committee.

Mr. Thom declared that the vesting of such exclusive power in the hands of a Federal regulating body instead of invading the rights of the states would protect them. He based his conclusion on many instances in which the effect of action by state railway commission has been to interfere with commerce in neighboring states. Emphasis was laid upon the situation which has followed the recent Interstate Commerce Commission decision for a realignment of rates throughout the Southeast under the long and short haul clause of the railroad rate law. The effectiveness of these orders has been suspended, Mr. Thom said, and the Interstate Commerce Commission has for six months examined them and the benefits the committee expected to extend to that entire section of the country has been held in abeyance. He spoke also of the Shreveport, La., rate case, one of the most celebrated of those to be decided by the Interstate Commerce Commission involving a clash between the Federal commission. (Continued on Page Two.)

OVERTON TESTIFIES HE KILLED LAWLER

Declares He Acted in Self-Defense, As the Latter Attacked Him With a Knife

HAD DISCUSSED POLITICS

Defendant Says He Had Nothing to Do With Disposition of the Body. Killing Occurred on Whiteburg Bridge.

Huntsville, Ala., Nov. 24.—Probate Judge William T. Lawler, whose death was followed by the suicide of a Huntsville attorney and a sheriff of Madison county, who believed they were suspected in connection with his death, was killed the night of June 14, by David D. Overton, his political rival, Overton testified here today in his trial on a charge of having murdered the jurist. The killing, which occurred on the Whiteburg bridge, was in self-defense, Overton declared. He said he was attacked by Lawler with a knife when he refused to join Lawler in a plan to delay a report of the Madison county grand jury which then was in session.

Overton declared he drove Lawler to the Whiteburg bridge in his buggy at the latter's suggestion to discuss political difficulties which they hoped to settle. He denied he had anything to do with the disposition of Lawler's body or with the alleged painting out of blood spots on the bridge. He informed Sheriff Robert Phillips of the tragedy the night it occurred, he said, and when he saw Phillips the next day, the sheriff told him the body "had not been brought to town and that no one would find it." Sheriff Phillips killed himself the week after the discovery of Lawler's body, leaving Overton the only man in the county who could not bear the suspicion he believed was directed against him. Three days before Shelby Pleasant, a Huntsville attorney, committed suicide.

Defense Retrs Case. Dr. G. V. Williams, of Chattanooga, who treated Overton's wounds in that city last June was the last witness for the defense, which rested its case late today. He described what he said was a serious cut on the former clerk's neck, near the jugular vein.

It is expected the state will conduct an examination rebuttal early tomorrow and that Overton's fate will be in the hands of the jury before night. Overton's testimony touched upon what he said were the friendly relations between Lawler and himself when they were officials together in the Madison county court house, and of factional feelings which he said Lawler developed when Overton opposed him in the spring for the probate judgeship. Overton testified that while the campaign was in progress he made efforts to meet Judge Lawler to compose certain political differences between them, but that Judge Lawler refused to consent.

Was to Settle Difficulties. "After the election on the afternoon of June 14 I saw Lawler at the court house," Overton testified. "He said he wanted to see me. We went to the basement and talked. Lawler told me the grand jury, which was in session, was trying hard to destroy both of us, and wanted him to give information to the grand jury." (Continued on Page Two.)

NATIONAL GRANGE DEFENDS FARMERS

Says if Any Embargoes Are to be Placed They Should be on Manufactured Goods

A STATEMENT IS ISSUED

Analyzes High Cost of Living—Blames Rising Prices to Poor Crops and Increasing Cost of What Farmer Has to Buy.

Washington, Nov. 24.—In defense of the farmer, the National Grange, in an annual session here, issued a statement tonight analyzing the high cost of living and attributing the rising prices of farm products to poor crops and an increased cost on what the farmer has to buy.

If any embargoes are to be placed to help the situation, the statement says, they should be on manufactured products, particularly munitions of war. Prohibition of gambling in foodstuffs and provision of more storage houses under control of the farmers themselves also are suggested. The statement, drafted by a special committee, says in part: "The high price of farm products is due to several causes. Some of the more important are the climatic conditions of this country during the past year which have perhaps one of the leading causes of crop shortage. For example, the wheat in the Northwest was a crop failure; the corn crop was in many sections a partial failure as well as the potato and vegetable crops. It must be borne in mind that the high prices have struck the farmer in whatever he buys as much as the city consumer. In former days the farmer's need was produced on his farm or in his immediate neighborhood. This is all changed and the farmer of today is the larger consumer of manufactured products even in many cases buying his meats and flour.

"Our city cousins have changed their method of living quite as much as we have. Instead of buying in quantities as formerly, they live in small quantities or live out of cartons and cans and in many cases with little regard to home economics. With them can be compared expensive methods of distribution, which is not the fault of the farmers.

"The fact that nearly one-half of the civilized world has left the field of production and entered upon the work of destruction has increased the demand for all kinds of products and goods. We believe that prices will be high for several years, especially for manufactured goods. As to the products of the farm, the fixing of prices is mainly by the law of supply and demand in the market of the world.

"The farmer competes with the cheapest labor on earth. When he sells some of his products at less than cost he gets no redress and it will be very unfair that when he is getting a fair price for some of his products to place an embargo on what he produces to lower the price and ultimately reduce the supply.

"We believe that in some instances production has been restricted by trusts and monopolies. We further believe that when the crops have been short, yet there is plenty for all in this country and some to sell. But at the same time economy should be practiced along all lines. The high price of potatoes and vegetables this year does not mean that the same price will prevail next year. By taking a 10-year average the producer is not getting a living price and under present conditions we are getting only a fair price. Other causes might be enumerated thus:

"The alarming increase of insect and fungus pests. "Gambling in food products, which should be prohibited. "The depulicant delivery service in the village and city, also the lack of marketing facilities in some towns and cities. "The American farmer is farming as (Continued on Page Six.)

Newton Arraigned On Forgery Charge

EMBEZZLEMENT CASE OF FAYETTEVILLE LAWYER IN HANDS OF JURY—SPECIAL VENIRE TO TRY SECOND CASE.

(Special Star Telegram). Fayetteville, N. C., Nov. 24.—ARGUMENT in the case of J. Sprunt Newton, charged with embezzlement, was finished today and the case was given to the jury shortly after 4 o'clock this afternoon. There is no prospect of a verdict tonight.

E. G. Davis, for the prosecution; W. H. Pace, of Raleigh, and D. M. Stringfield, for the defense, spoke this morning and Solicitor S. B. McLean, of Maxton, closed for the State in the afternoon. Judge Winston's charge, which consumed twenty minutes, was considered very fair to prosecution and defense. He charged the jurors that, to reach a verdict of guilty, there must be evidence of corrupt intent. Immediately after the case had gone to the jury, Mr. Newton was arraigned on an indictment for forgery of endorsements on a note held by W. S. Cook. A special venire was ordered to try this case tomorrow.

PROTOCOL IS SIGNED FOR CONDITIONAL WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS FROM MEXICO

Upon Its Ratification by Both Governments Pershing's Forces Will Return Across the Border Within Forty Days—Agreement for Military Control of Boundary Also Entered Into by American-Mexican Commissioners

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Nov. 24.—A protocol providing for the conditional withdrawal of the American troops now in Chihuahua, Mex., and for the military control of the border, but with the supplemental stipulation that United States troops shall be sent into Mexico in pursuit of bandits at any time the American government deems it necessary, was signed here today by the members of the Mexican-American joint commission.

One copy was taken by Alberto J. Pani, of the Mexican commission, who left here tonight for New York, whence he will start Monday for Queretaro, to submit it to General Carranza for approval. The other copy will be delivered to the American government by Secretary of the Interior Lane, chairman of the American commission, who left tonight for Washington.

If the protocol is ratified by the two governments the commission will convene again on December 8th, to resume the discussion of other questions affecting the two countries, especially those related to the protection of life and property of Americans and other foreigners in Mexico. If ratification by either government is withheld, the work of the conference will be declared at an end. Following is a paraphrase of the agreement to which the last signature was affixed at 3:49 o'clock this afternoon.

The Agreement in Brief. First—The American troops now in Chihuahua, commanded by General John J. Pershing, shall be withdrawn from Mexico upon the signing of the protocol by the respective governments, provided that within that time the conditions in that part of Mexico have not become such as to endanger the American border. In such event the time shall be extended.

Second—The Mexican army shall patrol the Mexican side of the border and the American side of the American side, but this shall not preclude co-operation between the two forces to preserve peace upon the border. Third—It shall be left to the commanding officers of the armies on the border of both nations to enter into such arrangements for co-operation in operations against bandits whenever it is possible.

Supplemental Memorandum. The right of the American government to send troops across the border in pursuit of bandits was not incorporated in the protocol, but was made the subject of a supplemental memorandum. The Mexicans had contended earnestly against signing any agreement in which they appeared to sanction what they termed the violation of their national territory. It was the agreement of the Americans finally to content themselves with stating the attitude of the United States in a separate memorandum that induced the Mexican sign the agreement.

After the protocol was signed, Secretary Lane issued a statement defining to a certain extent the policy of the United States government toward Mexico. He stated that he believed General Carranza a strong man and that he should be given a "full chance" of making good.

RAPID PROGRESS MADE ON THE 1918 NAVY BILL

May Be One of First Big Supply Measures to Come Up

Will Carry a Total of Nearly \$400,000,000—Size of the Three Battleships to be Built is Not Yet Settled.

Washington, Nov. 24.—The 1918 Naval Appropriation bill probably will be one of the first great supply bills ready for consideration in the House when Congress convenes next month, despite the fact that it will carry a total of nearly \$400,000,000.

Rapid progress was made today by the House Naval sub-committee doing preliminary work on the measure. Rear Admiral Griffin, chief engineer; Surgeon General Braisted and Captain Magruder, in charge of the Naval Militia division, completed explanations of estimates in the bill relating to their bureau. The chief constructor, Rear Admiral Taylor, will be heard tomorrow and Rear Admiral Palmer, chief of the Bureau of Navigation, Monday. That will leave only Admiral Benson, chief of operations, and Secretary Danion, to be examined on the regular features of the bill.

Final features for new ships await a decision as to the size of the three battleships to be included in the program. Estimates of cost cannot be completed until it is determined whether they are to be of 32,000, 33,000 or 40,000 tons displacement. Admiral Griffin told the committee that American aeroplanes and submarine constructors were rapidly developing satisfactory engines. He saw no reason why the performance of European craft of both types could not be equalled. His own bureau, the admiral said, had about completed plans for (Continued on Page Six.)

VILLISTAS MOWED DOWN BY MACHINE GUNS LIKE GRAIN

Bandits Made Another Attack Yesterday Only to be Repulsed by Carranza Forces

SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES

Dead and Wounded Left on the Battlefield at Santa Rosa Hill—Trevino Praised

Chihuahua City, Mexico, Nov. 24. (via El Paso Junction).—Another attack by the Villa bandits upon this city from the east was begun at 6 a. m. today and was repulsed, as well as the previous attacks by the bandits, with heavy losses to the attacking forces.

The machine guns again did deadly execution in the ranks of the bandits, who crept up from the east under cover of a deep arroyo, or dry wash. The rapid fire cut down the advancing lines like a mower in a field of standing grain. The dead and wounded were left on the battlefield. When the enemy broke and ran in disorder the heavy artillery took up the brunt of the fighting, the machine guns being outranged. General Azuba's cavalry pursued the bandits and completed their rout.

The Villa forces fled towards the northwest and are believed to be out of touch with the remaining Villa commands. Villa General Killed. Among the wounded today was Governor Francis Trevino, brother of General Trevino, who was shot in the hands. Two officers of General Trevino's general staff have been killed. The body of General Julio Acosta, one of Villa's commanders, was found to the west of the city as was the body of Andres Sada, Villa's secretary. General Acosta was killed in action by Colonel Cadena, of the Carranza cavalry column, during the cavalry engagement yesterday. General Trevino, though wounded yesterday, was again in personal command today.

An effort was made this morning to storm Santa Rosa hill which is fortified and commands the approaches to the city from the southeast and southwest. General Gonzalez Cuellar's infantry allowed the bandits to approach within easy rifle range before opening fire. When the advancing men were close, Cuellar's men poured a murderous fire into the first lines, following this with volleys at intervals of one minute. The result was another retreat which started at 2:30 A. M. and prevented the Villa bandits from capturing the heavy artillery on Cerro Santa Rosa.

Villa left his troop trains at Horcasitas station, south of here, and General Apolinario Trevino has been ordered by General Carranza to proceed in that direction with his cavalry and cut the bandits off from the trains. The wounded are being picked up and the dead buried by volunteer and military Red Cross squads. General Trevino has announced he considers the backbone of the Villa attack broken, but he is taking no chances on another assault. He is sending patrols of cavalry to the outlying districts and is keeping his infantry and artillery commands at their posts to prevent a surprise attack.

There have been no disorders within the city and no damage has been done to property here, due to the fact that the Villa forces have no artillery. Citizens Praise Trevino. The civilian population of the city is breathing freely again and is praising General Trevino and his command for the defense which they have made during the past two days. General Trevino took time today from the work of directing his forces to receive the Associated Press correspondent and dispatched official rumors which he had been informed were in circulation at the border. He denied the report that many of his men were deserting to Villa. He praised the spirit of his men and said he had visited them personally in the trenches and at the various strategic points and found them universally cheerful and eager for battle.

SAY VILLA'S ATTEMPT AT FAILURE CHIHUAHUA CITY

Juarez, Nov. 24.—Francisco Villa has failed in his repeated efforts to capture Chihuahua City, high Carranza officials here, who were in constant touch with the developments in the state capital, declared emphatically tonight.

After two days of almost continuous fighting, Villa has been driven from the vicinity and has left for the northwest with the remnants of his command, they said. The Carranza general reported killed in the fighting is said to be General Gandara, a former follower of Villa. Villa was reported late today to have fled to the mountainous district of Guerrero with the remainder of his men, abandoning his trains, but this was not verified by Juarez. The whereabouts of General Murguia's division, which has been advancing toward Chihuahua City from the south, remains as much of a mystery tonight as it was yesterday, when General Murguia was expected to reinforce General Trevino.

WOMAN WHO WAS SHOT ONCE IN THE EMPLOY OF VILLA

Field Headquarters, American Punitive Expedition, Mexico, November 23 (via radio to Columbus, N. M., Nov. 24).—That Margarita Acosta, one of the three women executed Wednesday morning at El Valle, for alleged plot (Continued on Page Eight)