

WEATHER.

Rain east, rain or snow and colder western portion Thursday. Friday fair, much colder.

WILMINGTON THE MORNING STAR

10 PAGES TODAY ONE SECTION

VOL. XCIX—NO. 87.

WILMINGTON, N. C., THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 21, 1916

WHOLE NUMBER 39,801

PRESIDENT WILSON APPEALS TO THE BELLIGERENT NATIONS OF EUROPE TO DISCUSS TERMS OF PEACE

SUGGESTS AN EXPRESSION OF VIEWS AT EARLY DATE

Would Have Warring Nations State What Arrangements Would be Deemed Satisfactory as a Guaranty Against Renewal of the War or Kindling of Any Similar Conflict in the Future— Notes Made Public After Last Midnight.

ACTION NOT PROMPTED BY CENTRAL POWERS' PROPOSAL; NO PEACE PROPOSED, NOR EVEN OFFER OF MEDIATION

Washington Officials, Who Were Taken by Distinct Surprise, Believe Prospects for Negotiations Have Been Improved—Mr. Wilson's Move May be History-Making Event—Copies of Notes Sent to Neutrals for Information.

Washington, Dec. 21.—President Wilson has appealed to all the belligerents to discuss terms of peace. Without actually proposing peace or offering mediation, the President has sent formal notes to the governments of all the warring nations, suggesting that "an early occasion be sought to call out from the nations now at war such an avowal of their respective views, as to the terms upon which the war might be concluded and the arrangements which would be deemed satisfactory as a guaranty against its renewal or the kindling of any similar conflict in the future, as would make it possible frankly to compare them."

President Summarizes Attitude. Wholly without notice and entirely contrary to what administration officials have described as his course, the President last night dispatched notes to all the belligerents, and to all the neutrals for their information. Summarized in the President's own words as contained in his notes, his attitude is as follows: "The President is not proposing peace; he is not even offering mediation. He is merely proposing that soundings be taken in order that we may learn the neutral nations with the belligerent, how near the haven of peace may be, for which all mankind longs with an intense and increasing longing. He believes that the spirit in which he speaks and the objects which he seeks will be understood by all concerned and he confidently hopes for a response which will bring a new light into the affairs of the world."

Full Text of President's Notes Sent Last Night to European Belligerents

Washington, Dec. 21.—President Wilson's notes to the European belligerents are prefaced with this instruction by Secretary Lansing to the American ambassadors presenting them: "The President directs me to send you the following communication, to be presented immediately to the minister of foreign affairs of the government to which you are accredited." The text of the notes themselves then begin identically as follows: "Begin Identically. "The President of the United States has instructed me to suggest to you (here is inserted a designation of the Government addressed) a course of action with regard to the present war which he hopes that the government will take under consideration as suggested in the most friendly spirit and as coming not only from a friend but also as coming from the representative of a neutral nation whose interests have been most seriously affected by the war and whose concern for its early conclusion arises out of a manifest necessity to determine how best to safeguard those interests if the war is to continue."

SHARP DISCUSSION OVER FEDERALIZED MILITIA FORECAST

Future of National Guard in Federal Military System May be Debated in Congress.

GEN. SCOTT AGAIN HEARD

Washington, Dec. 20.—Sharp controversy in Congress over the future of the National Guard in the Federal military system was foreshadowed today at hearings before committees of both the House and Senate. Major General Scott, chief of staff, entered vigorous cross examination by several members of the House Military committee when he touched upon results of the mobilization of the state troops for border duty as shown in the general staff report. Conclusion drawn from the figures to support the contention that the guard system is inefficient and unreliable were promptly questioned and it was indicated that the head of the army would face searching questioning tomorrow when he continues his statement.

SCOTT WANTS ARMY OF THREE MILLION TROOPS



Calling attention to the possibility that the United States may some day have to face in war a combination between Great Britain and "a powerful Oriental nation"—Japan—Major Gen. H. H. Scott, chief of staff of the United States Army, told the Senate Military Affairs committee that in such event the United States under the present system of military training would be helpless. He urged that provisions be made to put an army of 3,000,000 trained men into the field in 90 days if an emergency should arise.

STOCKS TUMBLE TO LOWER QUOTATIONS

Bethlehem Steel Loses 72 Points, or 200 Points From Maximum Level Last Month. New York, Dec. 20.—Losses of 5, 10 and 15 points accompanied today's further sweeping liquidation of stocks with 72 points for Bethlehem Steel, which fell to 500, that quotation representing a decline of exactly 200 points from its maximum of the previous month.

PEACE RUMORS THE CAUSE

Rails Proved Only Notable Exception to the General Reversal—Shipping Shares Were Seriously Affected. New York, Dec. 20.—Losses of 5, 10 and 15 points accompanied today's further sweeping liquidation of stocks with 72 points for Bethlehem Steel, which fell to 500, that quotation representing a decline of exactly 200 points from its maximum of the previous month.

REPLY TO PEACE NOTE IS EXPECTED BEFORE CHRISTMAS

British Communication Will Likely be in Accord With Premier Lloyd-George's Speech. London, Dec. 20.—There is a strong probability that Great Britain's note in reply to the German peace proposal will be made before Christmas. This was the opinion in well informed government circles today, where it is also believed the reply will be brief and will likely follow the lines of Mr. Lloyd-George's maiden speech as prime minister in so far as it will leave the door open for Germany to make concrete peace proposals.

TEUTONIC ARMIES IN DOBRUDJA NOW BEING OFFERED RESISTANCE

Berlin Admits This, But Nothing is Known of Strength of Russian Rumanian Attacks.

RUSSIAN BELIEVED VICTIM OF U-BOAT

Ship Was Struck Asteron as Night Was Approaching—Is Reported to Have Not Been Under Charter of British Admiralty. Washington, Dec. 20.—A detailed account of the sinking of the British horse ship Russian, in which 17 American muleteers lost their lives, reached the State Department today by cable from Consul Keplinger, at Malta. It says the steamer, fighting through a strong gale and drenching rain in the Mediterranean, was struck astern by what was believed to have been a torpedo, though no submarine was seen and that 28 men, including the Americans, were drowned through the capsizing of a life boat when the crew left the ship. Later a trawler came to the rescue and took the Russian in tow, but the steamer went to the bottom the next day. The ship was sunk while on a return trip in ballast to Newport News.

PRELIMINARY DRAFTS MADE

Official Replies of All the Entente Nations Will be Dispatched Simultaneously. London, Dec. 20.—The language of the British prime minister's reply to the German peace proposal will be dispatched simultaneously with that of her allies. Ever since the German note was handed to the foreign office by the American ambassador it has been subject of discussions between Premier Lloyd-George and his cabinet council, which meets daily. The note and the nature of the reply also have been discussed with Great Britain's allies and it is stated that these conversations have progressed so rapidly that preliminary drafts have already been made.

SHEPPARD PROHIBITION BILL IS NOT VOTED ON

Parliamentary Misplay Delays Action Until After Holidays. Washington, Dec. 20.—A parliamentary misplay by one of its friends late today upset plans for an immediate vote on Senator Sheppard's District of Columbia prohibition bill and advocates of the measure were obliged to agree that it go over until after the Christmas holidays for final action. The Senate agreed to a final vote on the measure on January 9 after its opponents had been sustained by chair in contending that it lost its place on the Senate calendar by the action of Senator Ashurst in securing unanimous consent to consider a land bill. Friends of the prohibition bill have admitted a fear that postponement of the vote until after Christmas recess would imperil its chances of passage.

ACTED ON ORDERS OF GERMAN GOVERNMENT

Was to Secure Information as to Shipments to Allies. This is Admitted by German Vice-Consul von Schack, on Trial With Others For Violating U. S. Neutrality Laws. San Francisco, Dec. 20.—That he had received written orders from the German government to secure information on the Pacific coast concerning war munition shipments to Great Britain and her allies was the admission today of German Vice-Consul E. H. von Schack, one of the defendants in the trial in the Federal court of German Consul General Franz Bopp and associates on conspiracy charges of violating American neutrality. The defendants are alleged to have plotted to destroy ships and railroads carrying munitions to the Entente Allies. For the purpose of getting this information von Schack said he hired C. C. Crowley, another of the seven defendants, and Louis J. Smith, star witness for the government. Smith is a co-defendant. United States District Attorney Preston's request to see the orders brought an objection from Theodore Roehm, of counsel for the defense, that such a demand was in violation of German and American treaty rights covering inviolability of government documents. Von Schack said Crowley had reported to him discovery of Japanese rearming up and down the California coast with field glasses gassing out at sea glimpses of German warships. The

STOCKS TUMBLE TO LOWER QUOTATIONS

Bethlehem Steel Loses 72 Points, or 200 Points From Maximum Level Last Month.

PEACE RUMORS THE CAUSE

Rails Proved Only Notable Exception to the General Reversal—Shipping Shares Were Seriously Affected.

REPLY TO PEACE NOTE IS EXPECTED BEFORE CHRISTMAS

British Communication Will Likely be in Accord With Premier Lloyd-George's Speech.

TEUTONIC ARMIES IN DOBRUDJA NOW BEING OFFERED RESISTANCE

Berlin Admits This, But Nothing is Known of Strength of Russian Rumanian Attacks.

RUSSIAN BELIEVED VICTIM OF U-BOAT

Ship Was Struck Asteron as Night Was Approaching—Is Reported to Have Not Been Under Charter of British Admiralty.

PRELIMINARY DRAFTS MADE

Official Replies of All the Entente Nations Will be Dispatched Simultaneously.

SHEPPARD PROHIBITION BILL IS NOT VOTED ON

Parliamentary Misplay Delays Action Until After Holidays.

ACTED ON ORDERS OF GERMAN GOVERNMENT

Was to Secure Information as to Shipments to Allies.