

WEATHER.
Fair Saturday; Sunday fair, slightly warmer west portion.

VOL. XCIX--NO. 89.

WILMINGTON, N. C., SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 23, 1916

WHOLE NUMBER 39,803

THE MORNING STAR

THE ADVERTISEMENTS in these columns give practical, helpful suggestions for holiday buying during the rush this week.

EARLY REPLY TO NOTE IS UNLIKELY

Entente Powers Will Have to Consult Each Other in Regard to President's Action

BRITISH COMMENT HOSTILE

German View is Relations Between Germany and This Country Will be Improved—President Flooded With Congratulations.

Washington, Dec. 22.—While nothing official came from Europe today to show when the belligerents will reply to President Wilson's note urging discussion of peace, or what the nature of the responses might be, the London news dispatches indicating that an early reply was unlikely because of the necessity of consultation between the Allies agreed with the view prevailing here.

Apparently the administration, having dispatched the note and in the interest of caution having taken steps to see that no misconception abroad was placed on the President's purposes, now is carefully watching the expressions of opinion, particularly in the British press. As the attitude of the Teutonic Allies had been clearly foreshadowed in advance and the President in the note specifically disclaimed any association with that attitude, the interest of American officials centered on the reception of the note in the Entente countries and among the European neutrals.

London Dispatches Hostile

It was recalled, as the London dispatches, most of them hostile, arrived, that similar expressions greeted the original proposals of the Central Allies, but that the views were moderated in the British press and among the Entente diplomats here after reflection.

To preclude any possibility of misconception of the President's purposes from the flurry of yesterday, caused by Secretary Lansing's two statements, both statements were cabled today to American diplomats abroad in neutral as well as belligerent countries, so they might be prepared to correctly state the President's attitude to the governments to which they are accredited. They are intended to offer official evidence if it be needed, that the President's note is exactly what it purports to be on its face.

Wilson and Lansing in Accord

It was reiterated today in all official quarters that there was perfect understanding between Secretary Lansing and the President, and whatever might have appeared as discord in interpretation of the note to the belligerents had been disposed of by the issue of the Secretary's second statement and the steps to inform the foreign governments of the facts.

Discussed by Cabinet

The note to the belligerents, Secretary Lansing's explanatory statements and recent German submarine activities furnished the chief topic of discussion at today's cabinet meeting. Later it was said that the discussion was directed toward no particular end, but merely brought forth the views of cabinet members.

After the cabinet meeting Secretary Lansing said that full information of the sinking of the British liner Arabia was not at hand. The American government is anxiously waiting word from Berlin regarding the British horse ship Marina, which admitted was sunk without warning by a German submarine and which the State Department has been convinced was not a transatlantic liner.

Flood of Congratulations

Press comment, in England and Germany, was read with the deepest interest by members of the cabinet. Messages congratulating the President in increasing volume. Almost without exception the senders interpreted the action as a peace move.

Republican Leader Mann referred to the note on the floor of the House today as "the most important presidential action since the Civil War."

Mr. Mann said, "I believe the whole people of the country warmly congratulate and commend the President in every way he has made or may make to restore peace in the world."

Some Diplomats Worried

It became known during the day that some members of the diplomatic corps were worried over their personal status with their home governments, whom they have been informing for weeks past of the action in the European situation.

NUMBERS OF MEN TAKEN FROM JOBS

Had Regular Employment in Belgium But Were Deported to Germany to Work

REPLY TO GERMAN CLAIMS

Director of Documentary Bureau of the Belgian War Ministry Gives Statement to the Associated Press

Havre, Dec. 22.—Specific details of the deportation of Belgians, refuting the reports from Berlin that those only without work were deported, and if others were taken it was the fault of the Belgian municipal authorities, were communicated to the Associated Press today by Fernand Passelecq, director of the documentary bureau of the Belgian war ministry.

"The German pretension that errors in judging the social condition of those deported were involuntary and imputing them to the bad faith of the Belgians is entirely contrary to the facts," said M. Passelecq. "It is to be noted in Governor General Von Bissing's reply to the protest of the senators and deputies, recently made public, that he did not dare to contest the facts concerning the arbitrary seizures of employed persons."

"At Quaregnon in the coal region south of Mons, 3,000 workmen were summoned and 204 deported, of which 227 had been out of work. At Dour 137 were taken, of whom 117 were working. At Wasmes 184 were deported, of whom 130 were working; at Frameries 200 were deported, of whom 187 were working; at Hornu 140 were deported, of whom 87 were working; at Ghille 156 were taken, of whom 46 were working."

"Forty-six men employed at the Baume-Marpent rolling mills at Haine St. Pierre, were taken. From the Gillson works at LaCroyere, 50 employees were taken. From the works at De Louve 50 workmen were taken. Fifty-one iron workers were arrested in the rolling mills at LaCroyere and 25 were taken from the 130 employed at the Holt works at LaLouvriere; from the Compagnie Centrale De Construction, at Haine St. Pierre, 25 workmen were taken. From the blast furnaces and foundries at LaLouvriere, 70 per cent. of the total number employed were seized, making it impossible for the works to continue operations."

Germany Released

"Germany released a few hundred out of the 100,000 taken to make a show of magnanimity. The releases were not spontaneous, but were the result of the pressing representations made by the American and Spanish ministers at Brussels."

MEMBERS OF SHIPPING BOARD ARE NOMINATED

President Names Three Democrats and Two Republicans

Will Have Supervision Over Freight Rates in American Waters and are Empowered to Organize \$50,000,000 Marine Corporation.

Washington, Dec. 22.—President Wilson today nominated the following to be members of the government shipping board:

William Denman, of San Francisco

Bernard N. Baker, of Baltimore; John A. Donald, of New York; John Barber White, of New Orleans.

The board will have general supervision over freight rates in American waters and is empowered to organize a \$50,000,000 corporation to build or buy merchant ships.

The ships built or bought will be available to lease or charter by private interests, but may be operated by the government should private concerns fail to take them. The intent of the board is to open up trade routes which private capital does not consider yet profitable enough for it to enter.

Mr. Denman, who gets the longest term of six years, is a Democrat and a lawyer with experience in admiralty cases.

Mr. Baker, nominated for a five year term, has had wide experience as a ship owner and for 30 years was president of the Atlantic Transport Line. He is a Democrat and Mr. McDonald, the third Democratic member, was nominated for four years. He has had a life long experience in the steamship business.

Mr. White, a Republican, was nominated. (Continue on Page Eight.)

TEUTONS CONTINUE DRIVING RUMANIANS

Berlin Reports Further Advance in Dobrudja With the Capture of 900 Russians

BRITISH OCCUPY TURK TOWN

Petrograd Reports Driving Bulgarian Force Into Lake in Dobrudja, Many Bulgars Drowned and 115 Taken Prisoner.

Except in northern Dobrudja, where the troops of the Central Powers continue to drive the Russians and Rumanians toward Bessarabia, there has been little important activity on the battle fronts of Europe.

The Russian troops in Dobrudja, Petrograd announces, were forced to retire northward under heavy attacks from numerically superior hostile forces. Berlin states that the Teutonic army in Dobrudja continues to advance successfully and announces the capture of 900 Russian soldiers. East of Lake Babagash, a Russian regiment, Petrograd reports, drove a force of Bulgarians into Lake Ibolata. A great many Bulgarians were drowned and 115 were made prisoner.

The artillery bombardment continues at various points on the eastern front. Berlin reports increased activity, especially in the Somme sector and on the east bank of the Meuse in the Verdun region, the scene of the latest French advance.

In Galicia, near the Zloczof-Tarnopol railroad, there has been a spirited engagement. Berlin reports the breaking of the advanced Russian line northwest of Zolotse; while Petrograd says the Teutonic-Germans were compelled to retire after occupying some trenches. Some fighting has taken place in the Trots valley on the Moldavian frontier and along the Bystriza river in the Carpathians.

El Arish, 90 miles east of the Suez canal in Egypt, has been captured by British troops. The town has been occupied for two years by the Turks, who had built strong entrenchments about it. The defenders fled from El Arish on the approach of the British army.

TEPPER FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER IN SECOND DEGREE

Iron Nerve of Defendant Gives Way When Verdict is Announced.

Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 22.—John Edward Tepper, charged with having killed his mother last January, was found guilty of second degree murder late today by a jury which had deliberated 29 hours. The sentence prescribed for second degree murder is a minimum of 20 years imprisonment. Sentence on Tepper was deferred.

The verdict broke the iron nerve of the young defendant, who throughout the long trial had given no sign of emotion. As the jury foreman announced the verdict Tepper's knees sagged and he would have fallen had not been caught by a deputy.

"Oh, my God," he shrieked as he struggled to rise, "this is not fair; this isn't human."

In all the balloting up to the last vote, it was said, eleven jurors had stood for first degree murder. One man, according to report, held out against that verdict because the evidence was circumstantial. He could not be won over and the compromise verdict was given.

GIRL BRINGS PEACE LETTER FROM ENGLAND

Appeals to President to Stop the European Conflict

Letter Was Written by Bertrand Russell, English Pacifist, and Sent By Messenger to Evade the Censor

New York, Dec. 22.—A girl who came to America as a messenger from Bertrand Russell, an English pacifist, famous as a philosopher, delivered to the American Neutral Conference here today an open letter from Mr. Russell addressed to President Wilson appealing to him to "bring peace to Europe."

The letter was sent by messenger to evade the British censor. The name of its bearer was not disclosed through fear of making trouble for her should she return to England. Three members of the conference committee, George Foster Peabody, Paul Kellogg, and Miss Emily Greene Balch, were selected to carry the letter to President Wilson and left here tonight for Washington.

Mr. Russell, who is the heir of Earl Russell and was a lecturer and Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, recently was fined \$500 for having written a pamphlet opposing conscription in England. He also was prohibited from coming to the United States to lecture at Harvard and was forbidden to enter any prohibited area in London.

In his letter Mr. Russell asserted that it was within the power of the President to "bring the war to an end by a just peace," and that "the United States has the power, not only to compel the European governments to make peace but also to reassure the population." (Continued on Page Two.)

RECESS IS TAKEN FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Congress Has Crowded Record Amount of Work Into Brief Period of Session

TO RE-CONVENE JANUARY 2

In Neither House Nor Senate Has Much Consideration Been Given Railroad Legislation Suggested by President.

Washington, Dec. 22.—Congress adjourned today for the Christmas holidays to reconvene January 2. In the three weeks of the session, the House passed five government supply measures, the urgent deficiency, legislative, Indian, District of Columbia and diplomatic and consular appropriation bills, more than ever were passed before in the brief period preceding a holiday recess.

One of these bills, the urgent deficiency, has passed the Senate. Railroad legislation suggested by President Wilson failed to get much attention in either branch. The House Commerce committee decided to await initiative action in the Senate, where, beginning January 2, the Senate Commerce committee will hold hearings on the proposed railroad arbitration measure and the bill authorizing the President to take over the railroad, telephone and telegraph lines in case of military necessity.

At the conclusion of the hearings, the railroad measures in some form will be pressed as amendments to the pending bill to reorganize the Interstate Commerce Commission. Senator Newlands, chairman of the committee, hopes to get action before the March adjournment.

The Senate passed the immigration bill with its literacy test provision, and it now is in the conference. The Senate also began consideration of the District of Columbia prohibition bill, and fixed January 9 for a vote.

The national Prohibition Constitution amendment was reported favorably from the judiciary committee in each house and will be pressed by its champions at every opportunity, although they have little hope of securing the necessary two-thirds majority at this session.

House committees also reported the Bourland food investigation resolution with a favorable recommendation, and the Susan B. Anthony constitutional amendment for woman suffrage without recommendation. Neither resolution advanced to consideration in the House.

MUST SHOW WHY THEY SHOULD NOT RETURN CARS

Commerce Commission to Hear Railroad Reasons December 28.

Washington, Dec. 22.—An order was issued by the Interstate Commerce Commission today requiring the railroads to show cause at a hearing here December 28 why they should not return to their owners, since since the diversion of misuse, all foreign coal and refrigerator cars immediately after unloading at their destination.

The commission's order follows an announcement yesterday by the American Railway Association's car service commission that eight of the large railroads, seven of them in the East, had failed to comply with its instructions to deliver a designated excess of box cars to Southern and Western connections to relieve the almost nationwide car shortage.

The car commission has established headquarters here and for weeks has been working in co-operation with officials of the Interstate Commerce Commission to relieve the almost nationwide car shortage.

SUPREME COURT FILES OPINIONS IN 10 CASES

Appeal of J. J. Britt From Judge Adams is Included.

Opinion, Written by Justice Allen, is Lengthy and Discusses Case from Every Angle—Court Recesses to December 29.

(Special Star Telegram)
Raleigh, N. C., Dec. 22.—The Supreme Court delivered opinions this afternoon in ten appeals and took recess to December 29, not having been able to complete the work of the term in time for final adjournment before the Christmas holidays. The opinion in the appeal of J. J. Britt from Judge Adams, in dismissing the writ of mandamus against the Buncombe county board of elections in his contest to prevent the election to Congress being awarded to Z. V. Weaver, was included, this being written by Justice Allen.

It is a document of some ten pages, discussing the case from every angle. While affirming Judge Adams in the dismissal of the writ, the court takes occasion to say:

"We would also hold that the so-called 'supplementary' returns ought not to have been considered if, as the plaintiff contends, they were made up after the registrar and poll holders had fully performed their duties and without calling these officers together again for the purpose."

Judge Shaw Without Authority

The opinion sets out that in the first place Judge Shaw was without authority to issue the writ of mandamus but that, it having passed to hearing, before Judge Adams without this issue being raised, the findings of Judge Adams as to the facts are final. (Continue on Page Eight.)

BERLIN RECEIVES NEWS OF PRESIDENT'S NOTE WITH A TREMENDOUS WELCOME

Impression of Official and Newspaper Circles Displayed in Large Head-Lines Hailing It as All-Important News of the Christmas Season; Chief Interest in London Centers in Reception of Note by the Central Powers

TO RE-CONVENE JANUARY 2

Berlin, Dec. 22. (via London).—The announcement of President Wilson's peace endeavor, received through the Associated Press, was accorded a tremendous welcome in Berlin. The impression of official and newspaper circles appeared in the noon editions under large display headlines as the all important news of the Christmas season, reviving the interest in the German peace overtures which had sunk to a low point under the influence of preliminary declarations of statesmen of the Entente powers.

The American embassy, to which the ambassador, James W. Gerard, returned late last night from New York, the Associated Press correspondent and the American chargé, Joseph C. Grew, were besieged by newspaper men who sought additional information concerning the President's peace note, but nothing beyond the press dispatches could be given.

CONTINUES OF INTEREST IN LONDON

London, Dec. 22.—Chief interest here concerning President Wilson's note to the belligerent and neutral powers on the possibilities of the belligerents making known their requirements concerning peace, now centers upon the reception of the document by the Central Powers. The first advice received here from Germany regarding the note evince enthusiasm and welcome it, as was the reverse in England.

The discussion here overnight was so absorbed in British emotions and as to the type of what should be Great Britain's reply that the attitude of the Central Powers commanded little attention.

The note continues to be the only subject of interest here. Its only parallel in Anglo-American relations as regards the sensation it created was President Cleveland's Venezuelan message, and the two documents are coupled as having created a similar impression.

All discussion in official quarters emphasizes the point that the policy of the Entente Allies and their procedure toward the peace overtures of the Central Powers will not be altered by President Wilson's appearance upon the stage as a participant in events.

PEACE NOTES NOT MENTIONED IN KING GEORGE'S MESSAGE

London, Dec. 22.—Parliament was prorogued until February 7, and out the members being given any further information regarding President Wilson's note or what action the government contemplated with respect to it. Neither the note nor the German peace proposals were mentioned in the king's speech, read in both houses, the speech expressing confidence in the ultimate victory of the Allies and determination to prosecute war "until we have vindicated the rights so ruthlessly violated by our enemies and established the security of Europe on a sure foundation."

The text of the king's speech was as follows:

"My lords and gentlemen: Throughout the months that have elapsed since I last addressed you, my navy and my

MUSIC FESTIVAL IS SUED FOR \$30,000

Former Assistant Manager Says It Was a Scheme to Boom Real Estate of Promoters

DIRECTORS WERE 'DUMMIES'

R. O. Alexander and Associates Charged With Diverting Original Philanthropic Aims to Seishah Purposes—No Auditorium.

(Special Star Telegram.)

Durham, N. C., Dec. 22.—F. S. Westbrook, former assistant manager of the National Music Festival of America, the half million dollar musical enterprise of Black Mountain, started civil action here today against the corporation for recovery of \$30,000.

He alleges that G. W. Hinespaw and H. D. Shutt, of Winston-Salem, and R. O. Alexander, the defendants, have diverted the original aims of the company and used the philanthropic movement to "boom" their real estate holdings in Black Mountain.

R. O. Everett, of the law firm of Manning, Everett & Kitchin, has been employed to fight the Music Festival corporation to a finish.

The complaint charges that R. O. Alexander, a cotton speculator of Charlotte, and one of the principal directors, sold 13 acres of his land for \$13,000 and another lot of 27 acres for \$50,000. He is alleged to have negotiated this contract when other sites just as suitable were offered free to the philanthropic movement.

Westbrook charges R. O. Alexander with having placed on the board of directors "dummies," business associates whom he could control. He furthermore alleges that Alexander selected a large list of statesmen and prominent Americans as an advisory board to offset the selfish motives which he had concocted.

Governors of South Carolina and North Carolina, Editor Richard H. Edmunds, of the Manufacturers' Record, Dr. E. Y. Mullins, of Louisville, and Editor Henry Watterson, of the Louisville Courier-Journal, are among the distinguished men on the advisory board.

The \$500,000 auditorium has not been built.

JOHN L. CASPER PARDONED AFTER ONE YEAR IN PRISON

Wires Friend in Winston-Salem That He Will Arrive There Sunday

Winston-Salem, N. C., Dec. 22.—John L. Casper, of Winston-Salem, convicted about a year ago in the Federal court at Fort Smith, Ark., in numerous counts of defrauding the government and sentenced to the Leavenworth prison for a term of nine years, received his pardon tonight at 9 o'clock, according to a telegram received from him by a friend in this city.

The case in which Casper was convicted was one which attracted wide attention, the evidence showing that he had defrauded the government out of thousands of dollars in revenue on whiskey manufactured at his distillery at Fort Smith, Ark., and St. Louis, Mo. Property valued at about \$100,000 was confiscated by the government and, in addition to the sentence he was fined \$23,000.

Casper has been in Jacksonville, Fla., for two weeks as a witness in the case against Thomas C. McCoy, of Asheville, who was convicted in the Federal court there a week ago. The conviction of McCoy is thought to have had some influence in Casper's getting the pardon, coupled with the report that he has been an ideal prisoner.

Casper's total sentence amounted to over 40 years, but the sentences were made to overlap, totaling about nine years.

PRAISES ARMY ENGINEERS FOR FLOOD RELIEF WORK

Secretary Baker Endorses Review of the Work in Southern States.

Washington, Dec. 22.—Gratification over results accomplished by the engineering corps in relieving distress caused by storms in Southern states last July was expressed by Secretary Baker in his endorsement of a review of the work made public today. He directed the chief of engineers to express his appreciation to the officers concerned.

A letter from Senator Underwood praising the efficiency of the corps accompanied the papers.

The report deals with the use made of the \$570,000 Congress authorized for relief work.

"Most of the relief was given by employing the destitute on road work," it says, "there being not enough river improvement or other public work of the United States to furnish employment for all."

DEATHS IN MASONIC HOME FIRE MAY NUMBER OVER FIVE

Ruins of Big Building Not Yet Thoroughly Searched.

Wichita, Kas., Dec. 22.—The critical condition of three persons injured in the Kansas Masonic fire today caused fears tonight that the death list of five would be increased.

Two of the injured are children. All were overcome by smoke before they could be rescued from the burning building and were revival with difficulty.

It has been impossible yet to search thoroughly the ruins of the huge building from which four charred bodies were recovered today, but hope virtually was abandoned for a fifth person, a young woman.

Probably twenty-five of the rescued are under the care of physicians.