

WEATHER.
Rain Friday; Saturday fair and colder.

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LEWIS IN STRONG ADDRESS DEFENDS PRESIDENT'S STEP

Illinois Senator Answers in Detail Criticisms of Note Sent to Belligerents.

ACTION DEFERRED AGAIN

Senator Works Halts Debate by Gaining Floor for Four-Hour Valedictory Speech.

Washington, Jan. 4.—The American note to belligerent powers suggesting a discussion of peace terms was debated again today in the Senate, but two hours of attack and defense failed to bring to a vote the Hitchcock resolution endorsing President Wilson's action in sending it. The resolution will again come up tomorrow, with the prospect of further antagonistic speeches by Republicans.

An effort by Senator Hitchcock to secure unanimous consent for a vote later tomorrow failed on objection of Senator Brandegee. During parliamentary maneuvering that followed the resolution, Senator Works gained the floor to make a four-hour prepared valedictory speech.

Vote Still Indefinite.
Before Senator Works began, however, Senator Stone, chairman of the foreign relations committee, with whom President Wilson consulted two days ago, spoke briefly, saying the note had gone forth to the world that the President's note was under discussion and that the Senate should consider and act upon it at once. Senator Gallinger, the Republican leader, replied with a warning that any attempt to force action would not meet with approval.

After listening to Senator Works for about two hours, the Senate recessed until tomorrow, when he will resume. The vote on the Hitchcock resolution cannot come at least until he concludes.

The principal speeches today were made by Senator Lodge, who, concluding his attack begun yesterday, declared adoption of the resolution would be a leap in the dark into international negotiations with the Franco-Germans had no legal concern, and no knowledge.

Answers Criticisms in Detail.
Senator Lewis answered in detail the criticisms of the Massachusetts Senator.

Replying to the assertion that the note had been taken as a favorable move for Germany, he said it was but natural that one side or the other to such a controversy should so interpret a move for peace. He stated that after all, this was no reason to defeat so great an end. He strongly dissented from the view expressed by Mr. Lodge that the adoption of the resolution would mean the dragging of the United States into European politics, with danger to the Monroe Doctrine and important democratic policies, and accused the Massachusetts senator of incorrectly reciting history to put a Democratic President in a bad light.

"This note," said Senator Lewis, "on its very face nearly tenders the good offices. When good offices are tendered it is not customary, though permissible, to first sound out the parties. The contrary course oftentimes is adopted, lest those involved averse to peace would be busy to intercept its result."

Points Out Precedents.
Senator Lewis then reviewed the tenor of the good offices of Russia in the war of 1812, and similar action by the United States during the Franco-Mexican war of 1838. The rejection by the United States of tenders by Great Britain and France to end the Civil War, he said, was in no wise a precedent, on account of the previous attitude of those two countries toward this nation.

"So far as I am concerned," he added, "I am not much interested whether the President of the United States conformed to precedent or whether he did not. Of all offenses that have been committed against liberty in America it has been that idolizing of precedent which has no application to modern events and which slays the spirit of things by too much adherence to the letter."

Senator Lewis said the President had not asked the belligerents to submit their terms or suggested those terms, but that he asked them to get together among themselves on "anything which to either would be satisfactory as the terms of peace."

"If the position of the senator be taken," he added, "then there can never be an hour when any man in any place could appropriately approach the question of peace. There would be none to speak for those who have the word. There would be no agency in the world. Parties would be left to the conflict, to the interminable end, and until death was the inheritance of all, and the silent voice of civilization in destruction would be all that was left to mankind."

German Construction Expected.
Turning to the criticism that the note had been construed as favorable to Germany, Senator Lewis said: "I can hardly imagine any document in this line that would not receive its construction from one side or another. There are always those interested from one point of view. Surely there can be no expression from the President of the United States in a matter so grave as this, but that those interested would readily draw

POPE IS FOSTERING CHURCH UNION NOW

Will Endeavor Particularly to Re-Unit Russian Orthodox Church and the Papacy.

WILL APPOINT COMMISSION

Private Letters Explaining the New Movement Received From the Vatican by Dr. Apalmeri, at Washington.

Washington, Jan. 4.—Private letters from the Vatican received by Dr. Apalmeri, of the Library of Congress, a recognized writer on ecclesiastical subjects, announced that Pope Benedict XV is about to appoint a commission of four cardinals to renew a movement begun by Pope Leo XIII and abandoned by Pope Pius X, looking to a reunion of Christianity and the cultivation of friendly relations with the Anglican church. A public announcement on the subject from Rome is expected shortly.

Dr. Palmieri said tonight that the new movement, as outlined in his address, will be directed particularly toward the establishment of a reunion of the Russian church and the Papacy and to a thorough re-examination into the validity of Anglican or Episcopal ordinations which was settled in the negative in a Papal bull "Apostolical Sedes" by Pope Leo X.

The honor of presiding over the commission of cardinals, Dr. Palmieri has been informed, will be bestowed upon Cardinal Nicola Marini, one of the new cardinals created in the last consistory, who has devoted many years to scientific research and to the cause of a reunion of Christianity. The interest of the Pope in the problem of Christian unity is said to have been intensified by the recent progress of the world congress, initiated by the American Episcopal church.

"The new pope," said Dr. Palmieri, "summarizing the information received from Rome, has taken a considerable part in the efforts of neutral nations to establish peace among nations and the Vatican's efforts have been suggested not only by a humanitarian spirit, but by a longing for Christian unity and ending the conflict which long since has divided Christian churches. Efforts of Leo XIII for carrying out the reunion of Christianity were abruptly stopped by Pius X, who aimed at an inner reform of the Catholic clergy and turned all his energies to the crushing of modernism."

"Benedict XV thinks it is time to renew the policy of Leo XIII and also that a re-establishment of political peace would be the first step toward renewed attempts to stop the splitting of Christianity into a great number of sects."

For this purpose the Pope intends to set up a commission of four cardinals who will devote their intellect and moral energies to the solution of the difficult problem of religious dissensions within Christendom. The Vatican's efforts have been suggested by the Orthodox Slavs will be very soon called

DANIEL SEEMS IN LEAD FOR SOUTHPORT OFFICE

Several Candidates Have Applied for Postmastership.

Bill for Revenue Cutler for Beaufort Favorably Reported by Commerce Committee of Senate—Daniel's Trip to Charlotte.

(Special Star Telegram.)
Washington, D. C., Jan. 4.—D. O. Daniel seems to be the best bet for appointment as postmaster at Southport to succeed R. S. Newton, who resigned by wire a few days ago. Representative Godwin has received applications from several candidates, including Mr. Daniel, and will make the appointment probably Saturday or certainly early next week.

Business Mr. Daniel, J. W. Ruark, R. W. Davis, Jr., and William Weaks have applied for the place. While Mr. Godwin has not announced whom he will name, it is thought that Daniel has the inside track and will most likely be named Newton's successor.

The Senate Committee on Commerce today made a favorable report on the bills introduced by Senator Simmons providing for three revenue cutters, one for Beaufort, one for the Pacific coast and one for Detroit, Mich. The bill provides that the vessels shall cost \$425,000 each. The committee also reported favorably Senator Simmons' bill providing for an increase in the allowance for subsistence for soldiers from 80 to 45 cents a day. Senator Simmons reported the bills to the Senate.

It cost the tax payers of the country \$31.23 to send Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels to Charlotte on May 14th to help celebrate the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. The fact that the government paid the Secretary's expenses to Charlotte on May 19th came to light today when Mr. Daniels submitted his report

PAPER TRUST MAY EXIST, IS BELIEF

Department of Justice to Determine Whether There is Ground to Institute Suits.

TAKES OVER THE INQUIRY

Early Institution of Grand Jury Proceedings, at Which Indictments Would be Asked, is Under Consideration.

Washington, Jan. 4.—Attorney General Gregory today took over the yield of the Federal Trade Commission's inquiry into the print paper market with a view to determining whether there is a paper trust, and to institution of civil and criminal proceedings against manufacturers or others who may have violated the anti-trust laws.

President Wilson is actively interested in recent disclosures of practices pursued in the production and distribution of print paper and is understood to be following the inquiry closely. A mass of complaints and testimony and a large number of secret reports from the commission's investigators have been placed in the Attorney General's hands.

For several weeks, Department of Justice officials have been in frequent consultation with the Trade Commission and are understood to have under serious consideration the early institution of grand jury proceedings at which indictments charging violation of the criminal section of the law will be asked.

The formal taking over of the inquiry by the department today was in response to the following letter sent the Attorney General by Secretary Bracken, of the commission:

"As you know, the Federal Trade Commission, pursuant to resolutions of the Senate, has been conducting an inquiry into conditions in the print paper market.

"The commission is of the opinion that the inquiry has now reached a stage where the initiation of proceedings of the Department of Justice would be advantageous."

Serious Condition Exists.
The Attorney General replied: "The department will at once take up the matter, and to that end I will have attorneys of the department meet with the commission or with attorneys of the commission as may be desired and go over the data already collected as a basis for determining what further steps to take."

"I know, of course, from what has already been brought out that a serious condition exists in this trade and that any remedy which the law may afford should be applied at once."

Beyond asserting that the investigation might take would be hastened as much as possible, Mr. Gregory declined to comment on the situation.

Prepared to Institute Suit.
It is understood, however, that department officials are prepared to institute speedily a dissolution suit against any manufacturer or distributor of the print paper who are believed to have conspired in restraint of trade or

BRITISH FIRM OUTBIDS AMERICAN COMPANIES

Offers to Supply Projectiles at a Much Lower Figure.

Daniels Says English Concern's Offer Will be Considered in Placing Contracts by the Navy Department.

Washington, Jan. 4.—Despite demands upon British munition plants because of the war hadfields, limited, an English concern, outbid American companies in proposals opened today for 16-inch and 14-inch armor piercing projectiles for the United States Navy.

Not only are the English company's figures more than \$200 per projectile below the nearest American competitor, but the time is cut in half, the shells to be delivered in the United States, duty paid.

Five companies submitted proposals for the 16-inch type, the first of that size to be ordered for the Navy. The lowest American bid was for 2,500 projectiles in 32 months at \$750. The Hadfields bid was 3,000 in 16 months at \$518.

On 14-inch projectiles the lowest American estimate was for 1,000 in 22 months at \$500; and the Hadfields for 4,500 in 11 months at \$356. Orders for 14-inch projectiles placed last October, 1916, were at \$422.

Secretary Daniels said the ability of the English concern to seek foreign orders during the war probably was due to the fact that with heavy ships taking little active part in the naval fighting, there is no need to conserve the ammunition supply for big navy guns. He said the Hadfield company's offer would be considered in awarding contracts.

VILLA ADHERENTS TO DISCUSS NEW GOVERNMENT PLAN

Meeting of Bandit Chief's Partisans and Advisers to be Held at San Antonio.

HIS BROTHER TO ATTEND

Arrangements for Protection of Foreigners Will be Formulated if it is Stated.

El Paso, Texas, Jan. 4.—A meeting of Villa partisans and advisers will be held in San Antonio, Texas, Friday and Saturday to formulate a plan of organization for the Villa government and to arrange for the protection of foreign lives and property, according to a report received by government agents here today and forwarded to Washington.

The details of the proposed Villa government will be discussed at this meeting. It was added, and the location of the proposed seat of government selected. Hipolito Villa, a brother of Francisco Villa, would represent his brother at the conference, it was said by the Federal agents.

Emiliano Zapata will be represented at the meeting by a delegate named Paz, it is understood.

It was also reported that Dr. Francisco Vasquez Gomez was being considered by one faction as a possible provisional president of the new government. An effort will be made, it was said, to have Villa issue a proclamation giving guarantees to all foreigners and foreign property and to conduct his warfare upon lines similar to the rules of modern warfare.

HIPOLITO VILLA DENIES CONFERENCE IS TO BE HELD

San Antonio, Texas, Jan. 4.—Hipolito Villa, brother of Francisco Villa, denied emphatically here tonight that there is to be a conference of Villa adherents in this city to plan a Villa government in Mexico. When shown the dispatches from El Paso, Villa said:

"There evidently is a grave mistake, or an intentionally false report, for no such conference is contemplated by me or by any of our friends, either in the United States or Mexico. I have no intention of violating any laws of the United States."

PRESIDENT WILL NOT ABANDON PEACE MOVE

Will Take Another Step if Entente Reply is Unfavorable.

Should Second Communication be Sent It is Expected President Will Make His Position More Clear Than in First.

Washington, Jan. 4.—If the Entente reply to President Wilson's peace note fails to meet his proposal for an early occasion for an avowal of terms, the President will not let the negotiations drop but will make at least one more move.

This became known definitely today, although it was indicated that no final decision as to the future of the next step had been reached.

If another communication is sent it is expected to make more clear the position of the President as it is felt that as a result of comment abroad and in the United States and the debate in the Senate more or less confusion has arisen as to just what he intended.

President Wilson's chief hope in the ultimate success of the negotiations is said to be in a suggestion that a means be found for maintaining peace in the future.

GERMAN IMPRESSION IS THAT EFFORT FOR PEACE IS ENDED

Berlin, via London, Jan. 4.—The official text of the Entente reply to the peace proposals has been finally received by the American embassy by the roundabout route of Washington and Copenhagen. It will be presented by Ambassador Grew to the foreign office this afternoon. There is no urgency with respect to the presentation as the Swiss minister presented the official text received from Italy on Tuesday.

Sober second thought in official circles confirms the impression expressed in the day press version of the note received here that the note puts an end for the present to all chances of peace in Germany, and her allies must buckle down to the task of continuing the struggle with all energy. This undercurrent of opinion is largely supported in the neutral press.

It is considered in some quarters that the reply of the Entente will not entirely close the door to the possibility of peace discussions. Those who hold that belief contend that this could be done either in response to a further invitation from President Wilson to the both sides to state their terms simultaneously and confidentially, or perhaps through an open declaration of their terms by the Central Powers.

DOBRUDJA IS PRACTICALLY CLEARED OF DEFENDERS BY CENTRAL POWERS' FORCES

Russo-Rumanians Now Hold Only a Narrow Strip Projecting Into the Danube Marshes—Teutons Continue Invasion of Moldavia From the South and West—Russians Claim Success in Carpathians, With Capture of 600 Men.

Except for a narrow strip of land projecting into the Danube marshes toward the Moldavian town of Galatz, all of Dobrudja has been cleared by the Teutonic allies of Russian and Rumanian troops. After the fall of Matchin and Jijila, the defenders began a retreat across the Danube toward Braila, and, according to Berlin, a force of Russian rear guards on the peninsula projecting toward Galatz comprises the only Entente troops now in Rumania between the Danube river and the Black sea.

In Moldavia the Teutonic Allies, notwithstanding the heavy snows, are continuing their invasion of the country from the south and west, although along the front of Field Marshal von Mackensen, in the former region, they are meeting with stronger resistance at various points from the Russian and Rumanian troops.

In the wooded Carpathians the Russians in an attack captured from the Germans an advanced position north of Meste-Canecsi. Petrograd reports that in this fighting the Russians took 600 men prisoner and captured three

cannon, 16 machine guns and other war material.

On the other fronts the operations are still confined to reciprocal bombardments and engagements between small reconnoitering parties. In Galicia the Austro-Germans delivered several attacks against the Russians but they proved unsuccessful. Raids of German trenches northeast of Arras and in the neighborhood of Wytchiate are reported by the London war office, which asserts also that a German attempt against British trenches east of Armentieres was put down with losses to the attackers.

A German submarine in the Mediterranean has sunk the former Cunard liner Ivernia which was acting as a British transport. Many of the ship's company, including officers, soldiers and crew, are missing.

SMALL STRIP IN DOBRUDJA

Berlin, Jan. 4 (via Sayville).—Dobrudja has been cleared of Russian and Rumanian defenders with the exception of a narrow strip of land leading toward Galatz, says the war office announcement today. About 1,000 prisoners and ten machine guns were captured in the taking of Matchin and Jijila.

FORMAL REPLY TO BRITISH TRANSPORT SUNK; 150 MISSING

The Ivernia Was Sent Down by Enemy Submarine in the Mediterranean, January 1st.

SITUATION IS UNCHANGED

No Decision Has Been Announced by President as to Suggestion for Withdrawal of Troops—Fletcher May Soon Go To Mexico.

Washington, Jan. 4.—Interest in the Mexican situation remained centered tonight on what action by President Wilson might follow his approval of the recommendation of the American members that conferences of the Mexican-American joint commission be brought to an end.

Dr. J. R. Mott, one of the American commissioners, carried to the Mexican members in New York today a formal reply to the last communication from General Carranza, in which he again had refused to ratify the protocol providing for the withdrawal of American troops from Mexico. If Luis Cabrera, chairman of the Mexican group, and his colleagues, Ignacio Bonillas and Alberto J. Pani, desire it, a last meeting will be held, probably in Washington, merely for the dissolution of the commission.

There has been no announcement of the President's decision as to the American commissioners' suggestion that he act on his own initiative in the matter of withdrawing the troops, and that diplomatic channels be provided for dealing with questions at issue between the two governments. It appears certain, however, that Henry F. Fletcher will be sent to his post in Mexico as ambassador.

Some administration officials oppose haste in ordering Pershing's men out of Mexico on the ground that it might give Carranza the impression that it was because of his insistence, when he really the chief motive would be to release National Guardsmen on the border and take the regulars out of a poor strategic position.

Mr. Fletcher was without orders tonight to proceed to Mexico, but it was believed that his dispatch would not be long delayed. It was explained by administration officials that the action of the delegates to the Mexican constitutional congress, now in session at Queretaro, made the presence of a fully accredited diplomatic officer of prime importance to the United States government which see in some of the reforms being considered by Carranza and his adherents the basis for early embarrasments.

Military phases of the situation were watched with greater interest today on account of the probable alteration of policy. Officially it was reported that yesterday had said that on January 1 the Carranza garrison evacuated Durango, capital of the state of the same name, which was promptly occupied by Villistas. It also was reported in private messages that in the latter part of December Campeche, in the southern end of Mexico, fell into the hands of the rebels.

SENATE AND HOUSE BREAKING RECORDS FOR SPEEDY WORK

Morning, Afternoon and Night Sessions Held Yesterday; 300 Bills Have Been Offered.

CRAIG'S MESSAGE HEARD

Bill Introduced to Appropriately \$1,000,000 to Double Confederate Veterans' Pensions.

(By W. J. MARTIN.)
Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 4.—Governor Craig's message with recommendations delivered by him in person today is the overshadowing feature of the Legislature thus far. At the same time the Senate and House are breaking records for early dispatch of business in rushing through bills for counties, cities and towns and private legislation, to get them enrolled before the constitutional amendments are effective January 10.

There were morning, afternoon and night sessions today for this purpose and upwards of 300 bills are already in process of enactment into law.

Governor Craig made a splendid presentation of his message, stressing necessity for increasing salaries of Governor and other State officers before Governor Bickett is inaugurated; recommending that determined effort be made to give North Carolina shippers the lower freight rates to points in the States to the South, to which they are, he says, entitled as compared with rates from Virginia cities, which now apply in spite of the hauls from Carolina points being much shorter, and the continuance of State convict labor on railroads in exchange for stock where undeveloped territory is to be opened.

(A synopsis of Governor Craig's address will be found on page three—News Editor.)

The biggest general bill introduced came in the House from Representative Jackson, of Henderson, paying elaborate and lengthy tribute in a preamble to the old Confederates and providing for a State appropriation of one million dollars instead of the present \$500,000 for Confederate pensions. It would just double the present pensions. He would have \$1,000 instead of \$500 properly owned disqualify for drawing a pension.

Audit Back Taxes in Wilmington.
A bill introduced today by Representative Grant, of New Hanover, provides for a thorough audit of back taxes due in Wilmington and that the registered findings of the audit, when officially adopted by the commission, shall be prima facie evidence that these taxes are due, and none other. He says the purpose is to relieve title investigators in real estate transfers and to settle and collect the taxes found to be due.

State Purchasing Agency.
In the Senate today, Oates, of Cumberland, presented the first resolution, being one to appoint a committee of five to report at this session on the advisability of the creation and establishment of a central purchasing agency for supplies for the several State institutions and departments of State.

The only committee announced today was the Calendar committee of the Senate, which has reported favorably. The resolution passed its several readings in the Senate and was sent to the House. The creation of this committee and its investigation and report will constitute one of the most important acts of the session.

A bill introduced by Breece, of Cumberland, in the House today, abolishing a section of the private acts of 1915, chapter 38, was reported favorably. The act abolishes that section which authorized the Cumberland board of county commissioners to employ one of its members for his full term. It will come to the Senate, where its fate cannot be forecasted at this hour.

11 Children Lose Lives In Oklahoma

FOUR OTHERS PROBABLY FATAALLY HURT AND SEVERAL INJURED WHEN TORNADO WRECKED SCHOOL HOUSE.

Muskogee, Okla., Jan. 4.—Eleven school children were killed, four probably fatally hurt, and several severely injured, when a tornado wrecked the Vireton rural school house, known as the Lee Baldwin school, near Blocker, Okla., today.

The school building, a Baptist Indian mission, a quarter of a mile away, and four farm houses are in ruins, and a half dozen other farm houses were lifted from their foundations by the storm, which swept a narrow path for a distance of seven miles.

The storm struck first at Richville, seven miles southwest of Vireton, but did no further damage until within a quarter of a mile of the school building. Tearing up the valley for nearly a mile, the storm then ripped the school building from its foundation and hurled the children down the hillside and across the ravine, some of them being picked up a hundred yards from the site of the building. Only two children of 23 in the building escaped uninjured.

SWIFT COMPANY EARNINGS.
Report Submitted to Stockholders at Annual Meeting Yesterday.
Chicago, Jan. 4.—Gross sales of \$875,000,000 and net profits of \$20,465,000 were shown in the report of Swift & Company, passed for the year ending September 30, 1916, submitted to the stockholders of the company at their annual meeting today. The gross sales for 1916 were \$800,000,000 and the net profits \$14,087,500.