

Clear and warmer Wednesday; Thursday increasing cloudiness. Heavy rain at Fayetteville yesterday at 8 a. m. 32 feet, falling.

NEVER PROMISED THE ALLIES TO WIPE OUT BILLIONS OF DEBT

Thomas W. Lamont, Morgan Banker, Tells Harding the Report is Untrue

CABINET IN REVIEW President-Elect and Will H. Hays Give Consideration to Its Members

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla., Feb. 15.—President-elect Harding today finally reviewed his cabinet decisions with his personal manager and prospective postmaster-general, Will H. Hays, and received from a member of President Wilson's peace delegation unqualified assurances that no agreement for cancellation of the allied war debt was made at Versailles.

The conference with Mr. Hays, generally interpreted as conclusive evidence that the Republican national chairman is to become a member of the Harding's official family, is understood to have covered every feature of the cabinet situation, as well as various questions of policy. The two were together for several hours, and following no formal announcement followed the President-elect said their talk omitted none of the problems facing the next administration.

No Promise to Allies Details of what happened at Versailles in regard to cancellation of the war debt were denied by President-elect Harding by Thomas W. Lamont, a member of the Morgan banking firm, and a fiscal attaché of the peace commission. In a statement after his conference with the President-elect, he made flat denial of reports of a mysterious agreement to wipe the war debt off the books, and said he had assured the President-elect his administration would not do so until and untrammelled as air in dealing with the war debt.

Mr. Lamont's statement attracted particular attention because of his inclusion of the word "untrammelled," which he said he had used in the presence of the President-elect and his advisers.

Mr. Harding will continue his conversation with Mr. Hays and also see Harry M. Daugherty, his proposed attorney-general. Several other prominent party leaders are to be seen during the week.

Statement of Lamont The statement of Mr. Lamont, who was here at Mr. Harding's invitation, follows:

"I found that President-elect Harding had been misled by the misleading phases of the international financial situation which had come under my attention during my attendance at the peace conference at Paris in 1919. I found, too, that the President-elect himself was giving very serious thought to the same situation, and I say at once that his view is both sound and reassuring. He began by determining my ability as a financial manager, which was very practical and the result of careful, cool and intelligent analysis.

"My turn it was able to assure the President-elect that there is absolutely no truth in the statement being so often repeated to the effect that at the peace conference in Paris there was some secret understanding between President Wilson and his advisers to the effect that the allied representatives on the other side of the Atlantic were to be paid in gold or in part be cancelled."

"It is only fair to say that from the time of the peace conference President Wilson and his advisers, with the exception of one suggestion, have followed a policy of absolute honesty and integrity. There was no attempt to conceal or mislead, nor any attempt to mislead or otherwise, as to the handling of the allied indebtedness."

Harding "Give an Air" "I was able to assure Senator Harding from my knowledge of what took place at the peace conference, that as far as the policy in this whole matter was concerned, it was sound and untrammelled."

"I said this, I want to add that the President-elect showed, as I said, a keen interest in the whole situation and that he was fully conversant with the idea that if, and when it comes for dealing with the questions of international indebtedness he intends to handle them in a fair and equitable manner, and in a large sense of the word, generally."

ROBERT ELECTION BOOTH IS BEATEN BEFORE COMMITTEE

RALEIGH, Feb. 15.—The bill introduced by Miss L. E. Eum, member of the county, providing for secret balloting at elections, was defeated before the house committee today, which was reported unfavorably. Neal Howell, and Cox of Forsyth, were defeated in this action, while J. W. Poole and a number of other women declared their intention to come two years hence.

HAVE NOT OBEYED LAW IN REGARD TO STATE PRISON

Legislature Two Years Ago Ordered That Penitentiary Should Be Made Ready for Housing Insane, Now Kept in Jails Because There is No Room in the Asylum, and the Order Has Been Ignored So Far.

Morning Star Bureau, Yarbrough Hotel, By R. E. POWELL

RALEIGH, Feb. 15.—It is little less than a crime that the penitentiary building, which is capable of housing 1,200 insane persons of the state, is now being used to house about 100 prisoners, respectively of the fact that the legislature two years ago passed a law requiring that the prison authorities make ready to turn this building over to the state hospital for the insane.

The Vance county man had previously explained why it was necessary to introduce such a bill and looked like it was on the way to passage when Senator Hartel interposed an objection.

The bill doesn't sound right to me, this bill to postpone admission of two for two years when there are 1,000 insane people in the jails of the state," Hartel declared. "If there is one thing I promised during the campaign it was that some provision would be made for taking care of these people, I don't want to postpone admission to the state hospital until tomorrow some action which will look towards preparing the way for their admission to the hospital."

"That statement brought McCoin back to his feet. This time he eased his mind of something that has been burdening it. He told of the passage of the law two years ago, requiring that the state hospital authorities take over the penitentiary building March 15, 1921. The building commission had recommended that the change could be made and that the penitentiary building could be converted into an asylum for insane people capable to care for 1,200 patients at a cost comparatively small when the cost of a new building was considered."

"Dunlap of Anson, interrupted to inquire: "Why has not that law been complied with?"

"Blames 'Peasant Politicians'" "That's what he wants to know," McCoin exclaimed. "It is some mistake about it; things have reached a point in the state when the wishes of the legislature can not be defeated by peasant politicians who have taken the state and set up their own offices. Ever since the legislature convened, members of this house and the other have been in a constant state of bickering and showing why the penitentiary could not be moved. This had been done by men who did not even occupy an executive position, but were merely political hacks. His idea of justice reposed by the 1919 legislature has not been carried out."

Senator Nash asked would it be possible to have the bill passed by the legislature this year?

GREENSBORO, Feb. 15.—Mrs. Florence C. Varner was the star witness today in United States district court in her suit against her husband, H. B. Varner, chairman of the state prison board, and prominent newspaper publisher of Lexington, N. C., for a "reasonable subsistence" from the estate of the defendant. Mrs. Varner is laying claim to some property of the defendant in Lexington estimated to be worth \$50,000.

The suit for "reasonable subsistence" is Mrs. Varner's reply to the proceedings in Lexington last August when her husband instituted a divorce proceeding against her for \$100,000 against R. Baxter McCrary, a negro, for alleged alienation of his wife's affections. The trial in United States courts is before a jury and Mrs. Varner was on the stand most of the day on direct examination. She positively denied having at Lexington last August, when she testified that she was a friend of Mr. Varner, which was very much against her wishes; that McCrary had "contributed \$25,000 to her husband's campaign fund" when he was a candidate for congress and that "her husband was exceedingly proud of it." The witness told of McCrary writing articles for the Lexington Dispatch. Mr. Varner's paper, which the witness tried to have stopped.

Mrs. Varner testified that Fred Slink, business manager of Mr. Varner's paper, informed her about five years ago that there was talk about the negro visiting her house. Slink asked her if Varner knew it, to which the witness replied that he did. Mrs. Varner testified that she thought Slink was of the opinion that she was treating McCrary as an equal, and had no idea that he thought that she was intimate with McCrary. Varner declared that she did not know that McCrary had been at her house on the night of August 1, 1920, until the next morning when Mr. Slink telephoned her. It was the night of August 9 that McCrary is alleged to have been taken from under the Varner home by Lexington citizens. Mrs. Varner testified following the March 8 incident, she wired her husband to come home at once.

BELGIAN HEAVY IS WINNER CHARLESTON, S. C., Feb. 14.—Tom Draak, who claims the heavyweight wrestling championship of Belgium, was given a decision over Baba Hassan, the heavy weight, when Hassan was injured after 44 minutes and 25 seconds of wrestling. Hassan was not seriously hurt when he was thrown to the mat.

REPUBLICAN PARTY IS BEATEN

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—The bill introduced by Miss L. E. Eum, member of the county, providing for secret balloting at elections, was defeated before the house committee today, which was reported unfavorably. Neal Howell, and Cox of Forsyth, were defeated in this action, while J. W. Poole and a number of other women declared their intention to come two years hence.



Wilmington's Only Leased Wire Associated Press Newspaper

OLDEST DAILY IN THE STATE.

PRESIDENT CALLED ON INCREASED EFFORT TO BY THE HOUSE FOR AN ITEMIZED STATEMENT PREVENT A SPREAD OF TYPHUS IN MANHATTAN

Republicans Want to Know How 150 Million of War Fund Was Expended

DEBATE IS HEATED Democrats Bitterly Oppose Resolution and Cite Spanish War History

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—After heated debate the house today adopted a resolution calling upon President Wilson for an itemized statement showing disbursements and allotments of the \$150,000,000 war fund voted by congress.

The resolution, which was adopted, 211 yeas and 190 nays, was introduced by Representative Copeland, who charged that it was put forward at this time to defame and malign President Wilson in the closing days of his administration. Reference to the expenditure by the American commission at Paris fanned the flames on the Democratic side, and turned the debate into strictly partisan channels.

Democrats Are Accused Chairman Good, of the appropriations committee, who reported the resolution introduced by Representative Gould, Republican, New York, declared that if any injustice had been done the President the Democrats were responsible, by attempting to create the impression that "there was something crooked in the money spending," when the resolution itself did not intimate anything of the kind.

After the chairman had made a preliminary statement, what had been shown by partial reports of expenditures, Representative Byrnes, Democrat, Tennessee, declared that while he had no objection to adoption of the resolution, he thought the information should be sought from departments to which the money had been allotted. The President, he said, had not attempted to hide the actual spending, but more than four-fifths of the fund had been accounted for, and that it was merely an attempt to make it appear he was unwilling to present it.

Will Never Forget Wilson "The American people will never forget the great achievements of President Wilson," Representative Byrnes declared, "and his name will fill the brightest pages of history after his dictators are dead and forgotten." Representatives Byrnes, South Carolina, and Doughton, Democrat, bitterly assailed the resolution. Mr. Byrnes insisted that congress, after the Spanish-American war "did not attempt to inquire into the expenditure of the fund had been accounted for, and that it was merely an attempt to make it appear he was unwilling to present it."

ROAD BILL MAKES NO PROGRESS IN HOUSE

Opponents Get Advantage in Parliamentary Tactics

Morning Star Bureau, Yarbrough Hotel, By R. E. POWELL

RALEIGH, Feb. 15.—North Carolina's part in the road bill debate was tonight with Rufus A. Doughton in charge of the bill, and for three hours the solons talked its minor provisions without getting anywhere.

Doughton, adjourning by a vote of 53 to 54, when the pilot of the bill was trying to get Matthews of Bertie, to start his attack on the bill. Speaker Grier had already ruled against Mr. Doughton, when the latter called for the previous question on the amendments, and the opponents of the measure were in the better strategic position all the way through.

No debate was made on any amendment. There were offered the provision submitting the bill to the people, the election to be held between now and July 15, and another by Barnes of Hertford, striking out the section providing for the issuance of short-term bonds. The bill was unable to vote on either one.

A vote was sought for testing the strength of the opposition to the bill, but Matthews defeated it. Temporarily, he was supported by the opposition program.

There is no way to forecast intelligently just what will happen to the bill, which is expected to be held between now and July 15, and another by Barnes of Hertford, striking out the section providing for the issuance of short-term bonds. The bill was unable to vote on either one.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION IS AGAINST MAJORS' DRAFTING

CHICAGO, Feb. 15.—Club owners of the American association today voted 8 to 2 against giving the major league the privilege of drafting players from the organization. The association also increased its waiver price from \$1,750 to \$2,500 against any recalls. The 1920 pennant was formally awarded to St. Paul.

Third Death in New York From Plague Spurs Officials to Activity

USE LARGER STAFF Hasten Plans for Delousing and Cleansing All Arrivals From Europe

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—A third death from typhus, reported to city health department officials today, caused increased efforts on the part of both city and state authorities to prevent spread of the disease, brought here by immigrants from infested regions of Europe.

While Health Commissioner Copeland enlarged his force to insure inspection of all immigrants arriving here, either on boats directly from Europe or by steamships or trains from other American ports, Dr. Leland E. Coffey, health officer of the port of New York, hastened his plans for delousing and cleansing all arriving immigrants. At the same time Commissioner of Immigration Wallis went to Washington for a conference with labor department officials.

Deny Detention Reports At the port quarantine station preparations were made to turn it over to federal control by the state. The change, it was said, would make available a larger staff of physicians and inspectors. In this connection state health officer denied reports that a 12-day detention period on incoming ships had been ordered.

Dr. Copeland today notified railroad officials at Boston and other ports to inform him when immigrants who disembark at those ports prepare to start for New York in order that inspectors may meet them here and examine them. Ellis island, maintained under jurisdiction of the United States immigration service, is not responsible for the detention and quarantine of ships carrying contagious diseases or the cleansing of vermin-infested vessels.

Not Always "Guilty" "We are charged with many things," Mr. Baker said, "some of which we are not responsible for."

Immigration officers, Mr. Baker said, are not permitted to visit incoming ships. They have on board with passengers until they are cleared by health officers. First and second class passengers are examined on board and steamer passengers, due to their great numbers, are sent to Ellis island, where they are maintained at the ship's expense until released.

Precautions are also taken to prevent disease or vermin-infested immigrants from coming in contact with other arrivals housed at Ellis island.

NEW RULING DETAINING A SHIP 12 DAYS IS DELAYED

ROSTON, Feb. 15.—Word was received from the assistant surgeon-general at Washington late today that the new ruling forbidding a vessel from a European port to dock until 12 days from the date of delousing as a precaution against typhus, would not be put into effect until February 20, except with regard to steamers on which cases of the disease were found.

LARGE PROPERTY LOSS IN A FIRE AT KINSTON

Estimated at \$100,000, Partially Protected

(Special to The Star) KINSTON, Feb. 15.—Fire of undetermined origin, which swept away the stores and stock of H. Stadium and Adler Brothers, dry goods merchants, here tonight with an estimated loss of \$100,000 partially covered by insurance.

The fire was discovered at 9:45 p. m., and it was not until nearly midnight that it was under control. Several times the firemen, fighting desperately, seemed to be about to get control of the flames, only to see them burst out anew. The fire quickly spread to the second floor of the structure occupied by the firms mentioned, whose stocks were estimated at \$100,000, and after 10 o'clock the firemen turned their attention to adjoining property in the hope of saving it.

CASE OF SLEEPING SICKNESS IN FAYETTEVILLE HOSPITAL

(Special to The Star) FAYETTEVILLE, Feb. 15.—The first case of sleeping sickness known in this part of North Carolina, is engaging the attention of physicians of the Cumberland general hospital, in this city. The patient has been suffering from the unusual malady since January 17, when he entered the hospital complaining of severe headache and nervousness.

After a ten days' study of the case Dr. W. C. Verdery and T. M. West, of the hospital staff, diagnosed it as sleeping sickness. An eminent physician from Jacksonville, Fla., and army surgeons from Camp Bagg, who have seen the patient, agree with the diagnosis.

The patient is in a continual stupor, but suffers no pain except aches in his chest and legs. He eats when aroused from his stupor, and sometimes smokes, though his pipe has to be lighted for him.

Wronged Wife Given \$50,000 As Damages

(Special to The Star)

FAYETTEVILLE, Feb. 15.—Fifty thousand dollars in damages was awarded by a superior court jury here this afternoon to Mrs. Daisy Watson Smith, for the alienation of her husband's affections by Mrs. Theresa Warner, of Atlanta. Mrs. Warner's husband, J. L. Warner, residing in a northern state, was made a defendant in the suit.

The jury gave Mrs. Smith \$20,000 as compensation for her suffering and for the alienation of the affection of her husband, and \$20,000 punitive damages.

Mrs. Warner formerly lived in Fayetteville, coming here from Pittsburgh, and her relations with J. Hampton Smith, husband of the plaintiff, formed the basis of the suit.

The hearing began Monday, and the case went to the jury shortly after noon today. The sum awarded Mrs. Smith is probably the largest amount ever given as damages by a jury in this county.

CASE OF THE ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, ATLANTIC ROAD HEARD BY BOARD

Railroad Men Regard it as a Key Dispute of Very Great Importance

QUESTION OF WAGE Road Claims it Has \$100,000 Monthly Deficit and Must Cut the Costs

CHICAGO, Feb. 15.—The United States railway labor board today heard arguments on the Atlanta, Birmingham and Atlantic railroad's plea for permission to reduce wages. The case produced a wide variety of evidence and is said by railroad men to be of greater importance than any other single line dispute yet brought before the board.

The argument hinged on whether the board had jurisdiction over the railroad's financial status, which furnished the railroad's principal reason for wanting to reduce wages. It declared that a reduction of wages was made necessary because the road faced a monthly deficit of \$100,000.

Summed up by Col. B. L. Bugg, president of the road, the road's position was:

"The board going to disregard conditions of traffic to the board to fix rates regardless of the railroad's earning power? If the board can fix rates and follow every condition of the railroad's earnings, then it is just as well that we have no representation here."

For the employees, W. S. Carter, president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, stated his case thus:

"It has never before been suggested that wages be made to depend on the financial condition of a road. We are willing to make a test case before the courts on the constitutionality of the transportation act. If the contention of the A. B. & A. stands, we are willing to make a test case before the courts on the constitutionality of the transportation act. If the contention of the A. B. & A. stands, we are willing to make a test case before the courts on the constitutionality of the transportation act."

Representatives of the A. B. & A. were on the stand most of the day. Colonel Bugg answered many points of the employees' argument in previous testimony and followed every thread which promised payoff before asking for a wage reduction."

Morris Brander, counsel for the road, declared if the board disregarded its duty to pay for one road it could do so for all roads, and the result would be chaos. He said the wages granted by decision No. 2 of the labor board last July were the highest ever paid the men and were granted under "extraordinary conditions when the cost of living was the highest we've known."

The railroad testimony precipitated another protest from the employees' side. They contended that the original dispute arose on the road's proposition that it was financially unable to pay the wages now in effect. Later testimony as to lower cost of living, unemployment and comparative rates of labor in other industries were the point, according to E. F. Curtis, of the employees' committee.

Attorney Brandon replied for the road that it was a case of paying lower wages or scrapping the road.

Farmers' Getting Bored A statement from the Cordele, Ga., board of trade, presented by Colonel Bugg said: "A few years ago a white barber was an oddity in south Georgia; now the negro barber is an exception. But few barbers are making a living."

The Cordele board reported that in peanut and cottonseed oil mill wages of trained labor dropped from \$2.50 and \$2.75 to \$1.50 and \$2 per day.

BUSINESS WON'T KNOW BY JULY 1 THE TAXES IT WILL HAVE TO PAY

During Campaign It Was Promised Every Business Man Would Know July 1

CONGRESS IS SLOW

The Time-Killing of This Session Will Keep Business World in the Dark

By DAVID LAWRENCE

(Copyright, 1921, by The Morning Star) WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—Legislative plans for a definite understanding by July 1 of the taxes that business must pay for this year at least is being kept as a board on account of the inability of congress to get much done at the present session which ends in a fortnight.

Sooner legislation of a general character will be left over for the special session to be called by Mr. Harding that the plan of getting revenue legislation out of the way by the end of June is obviously impossible. During the campaign it was whispered by the knowing ones that every business man in the United States would be advised by July 1 just how much of the income of the year 1921 must go to the government.

The date was tentatively fixed as a goal because many business houses keep their books from July 1 to July 1 and it was considered valuable to know for example just how much buying they had done and what their business could be conducted for the ensuing year. Moreover, concerns which had failed to do very much business in the first six months of the year 1921 were to be benefitted by the knowledge that they wouldn't be troubled with the excess profits tax either for the first or last six months of 1921. In fact, the whole business world is anxious of repealing the excess profits tax, business cannot proceed on that assumption until action to that effect has been given by the legislature as to the character of the substitute tax.

Slow Business Ahead Until the present congress got into a legislative jam it has seemed that March 4 would see the passage of all the important appropriation bills as well as the passage of some general legislation for which the agricultural interests of the country had been pressing.

The danger that some appropriation bills may go over until the next session and the farmers' organization has been a source of concern in the next session if, for example, the bill to control the packers falls to get through, makes it likely that the first months of the new session will be slow moving.

Mr. Harding is being urged to call the extra session as early as March 15, though April 15 was the date that previously had been mentioned. The date of the extra session is of double importance to Mr. Harding. First, it bears a direct relation to the amount of the tax which can be accomplished before the heat of mid-summer affects the legislative energies and enthusiasm of an overworked congress. Second, it means an avalanche of engagements for the president with members of congress who will be seeking offices for their constituents or else the advice and influence of the president will be needed to pending legislation. President Wilson always used to shape his plans so as to keep congress away from Washington as much as possible so that he could be relieved of legislative pressure but he did not succeed. Congress was always a millstone around the neck of the chief executive, both in the demands for favor and protection.

Harding Will Be Busy The new president will be so busy getting his feet on the ground in the first few weeks of his administration that his work in organizing the executive department will be seriously interfered with if he must give his immediate attention to conferences with congressional leaders. If the present congress had headed the warning sounded by Mr. Harding when he was last in Washington, namely to get as much done during this session as possible, it would have been feasible to postpone the beginning of the extra session to the latter part of April and thus permit of at least six weeks of uninterrupted effort in getting the machinery of the executive branch of the government working smoothly.

Of the many organizations whose legislation may be lost in the shuffle of this session, the farmers' bureau are preparing most actively to push their measures through before March 4. It begins to be apparent that the emergency tariff bill will fall to become a law, even though the conference committees of both houses get it ready to go to the white house in the next week or two. A presidential veto will further delay the bill.

However, the bill to control the packers, which has already passed the senate and has been favorably reported by the house committee on agriculture, simply awaits an opportunity for a vote. Petitions for a special rule are being circulated in the house and a demand will be made for a rule that will make it possible for the packer bill to get immediate consideration.

Farmers Getting Bored The farmers' organizations are already emitting bitter criticism of the Republican house leaders and demanding a new leadership for the next session. This is their way of making the house leaders realize that any move to suppress packer legislation will not be tolerated. However, the plight of the farmers is no different from that of other organizations which have been clamoring for action at the present session of congress and it will be a lucky thing if the two houses pass all the appropriation bills in the short time left before March 4.

The cause of the jam is indeed lack of leadership, but not necessarily congressional management. It is largely due to the fact that only the chief executive can steer congress and make it work. Mr. Harding was unavoidably absent and Mr. Wilson's word doesn't go very far with congress.