

The Weather

show Friday; Saturday fair, not much change in temperature. High tonight at Fayetteville yesterday at 8 a. m., 16.6 feet, falling.

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WILMINGTON, N. C., FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 25, 1921.

OLDEST DAILY IN THE STATE.

CAN CHANGE THE LIST OF CABINET OFFICIALS ANY TIME HE PLEASES

HARDING DECLARES HE IS FREE TO MEET ANY DEVELOPMENTS

Proceeded Warily in Committing Himself Definitely to Men Selected

Exclusive of Hughes and Daugherty, He May Cancel Any of Eight Appointments

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla., Feb. 24.—(By Associated Press.)—President-elect Harding emphasized today that he was proceeding warily in committing himself to his cabinet appointments and would keep himself until the last minute to make changes that unexpected developments might require.

Hoover Has Accepted Commerce Portfolio

Announces Harding Desires That He Continue to Direct European Relief

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—Herbert Hoover telephoned President-elect Harding tonight that he had accepted the offer of the cabinet post of secretary of commerce, George Barr Baker, his assistant, announced tonight.

Mr. Hoover in a statement made public by Mr. Baker, announced that he would continue to direct the policies of European relief.

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Want a Union Labor Man in the Cabinet

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Organized labor called upon President-elect Harding today to appoint to his cabinet as secretary of labor "a recognized representative of organized labor" and "a real spokesman of the working people of our country and who understands the tollers."

The request, made in the form of a telegram to the President-elect at St. Augustine, Fla., was declared by the executive council of the American Federation of Labor, whom they regarded as a candidate who is a recognized representative of organized labor.

Reports that James J. Davis, of Pittsburgh, had been selected by Mr. Harding as his labor secretary, were not referred to in the telegram as the cabinet members, the members of the executive council and representatives of the national and international unions affiliated in the American Federation of Labor and the representatives of the four railroad brotherhoods.

The resolution authorizing the telegram was adopted by the labor leaders after a lengthy conference at which the cabinet situation and the American Federation of Labor administration was discussed. While approval of Mr. Duncan's appointment to the cabinet as secretary of labor was voiced by the speakers, it was felt that it was considered inadvisable to suggest any name to the President-elect.

Early in the day Mr. Hoover stated he had submitted to the President-elect a proposal for the general reorganization of the department and an enlargement of its field. He also made it clear that he had assumed heavy responsibilities in connection with relief work, he could not abandon them by resigning and felt that he should continue to take the responsibility for its general direction.

"If I take the post," he said, "it will be only because I believe that President-elect Harding will stand behind me in making a cabinet of the most able men. There is an enormous field for a proper government bureau. It can be made a department of the first importance with the support of the administration and congress. Unless this is done, I am not warranted in shifting my responsibilities from relief work."

"No special legislation is necessary for the moment," he said, "but a real location of government bureau, and we must bring into the department of commerce bureaus which belong there. The department must be materially assisted in the economic setting of our foreign relations and must do more than engage in the mere exploitation of our goods."

"I have no right," he continued, "to ask the public to give money and then shed all responsibility of administering it at once."

AMERICA WANTS VOICE IN DISPOSAL OF LANDS GERMAN ONCE OWNED

Takes Unequivocal Stand in Regard to Its Rights in Overseas Question

NO COUNCIL NEWS SETTLE IT TODAY

Discussion of American Note by League Body is Hermetically Sealed

PARIS, Feb. 24.—(By the Associated Press.)—The secrecy of the proceedings of the Council of the League of Nations today provoked lively speculation as to the effect of the American note upon the different members. It became known when the full text of the note was made public today that the United States, in addition to making reservations with respect to the Island of Yap, attributed to Japan, as mandatory, claimed an equal interest with the other principal allied and associated powers in the disposition of the overseas possessions of the German empire.

The theory has been advanced that the only possible friendly solution of the question again brought to the fore for Japan to say that she did not insist upon the mandate for the Island of Yap and would be agreeable to the internationalization of Yap under Japanese supervision.

Japan is silent. Thus far the Japanese government has not committed itself and the general impression is that the whole matter over to the supreme council, the members of the council of league being unable in any event to take a decided position on a question of international policy without approval of their government.

The adversaries of publicity in connection with the proceedings of the council succeeded today in hermetically closing both morning and afternoon sessions. Very little was leaked out through indiscretions as to details of the discussions, and no official communique was issued. The mere announcement that the council had considered the Polish-Lithuanian question.

AMERICA IS MUCH CONCERNED OVER GERMAN HOLDINGS WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The American government has taken an unequivocal stand with regard to its right to a voice in the disposition of the former overseas possessions of Germany.

Secretary Colby in a statement made public tonight at the state department, submits that the disposition of those possessions "cannot be undertaken or effectuated" without the assent of the United States.

Furthermore, he states that the United States, as one of "the principal allied and associated powers," has an equal concern and an inseparable interest with the others of those powers in the territories taken from Germany and "conceded an equal voice in their disposition."

NEAR EAST TREATY IS TO BE REWRITTEN AND THE TURKS ARE HAPPY

Allies to Redraft Sevres Document in Favor of Their Late Enemies

SETTLE IT TODAY

Greek Premier Makes Strong Plea, Citing Greece's Aid Since Armistice

LONDON, Feb. 24. (By Associated Press.)—The near east is again in the melting pot. The Sevres treaty, signed at Versailles, but not yet ratified by the powers, is to be redrafted in favor of the Turks, former enemies against the wishes of the Greeks, former allies.

The Greek premier, M. Kallogeropoulos, made a strong plea for the enforcement of the treaty in its present form. He reminded the conference that the Greeks fought bravely and bravely during the war, and that the rest of the treaty being enforced, while the Greeks are expected to oppose the whole scheme.

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After tomorrow's conferences, which the French premier, M. Briand, said tonight would probably settle the near east question for the present, the supreme council will take up the report of M. Briand and Berthelot, which will spend the week-end with Mr. Lloyd George at Chequers court, the new country home of the prime minister of England, for this purpose.

BUBONIC PLAGUE RATS FOUND IN PENSACOLA

Florida Health Officers Discover Germ-Carriers

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—Dr. Royal S. Copeland, health commissioner here, declared tonight he would leave for Washington, Saturday, to attend a conference of state health officers, called by Surgeon-General S. M. McManus, to discuss the menace from typhus and other epidemic diseases.

PARTISAN BATTLE STAGED ON UNIVERSITY TRUSTEES

Grant, Republican of Davie, Denounces as Unconstitutional the Election of Legislators to the Board of Trustees, and Criticizes the Comparatively Small Representation Given to the Republicans

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

RALEIGH, Feb. 24.—Election of the trustees of the university, usually a matter of little interest to the general assembly, called together for the adoption of the committee report, developed unlooked-for interest when Grant of Davie, raised the point of the constitutionality of a member of the general assembly holding the office of trustee of the university, and it developed before the end of the hour into a partisan fight over the question of Republican members on the board of trustees.

The report of the joint committee meeting was presented by Representative Walter Murphy, who at the conclusion of reading the list, moved that it be adopted. The Davie county man asked Mr. Murphy how many members of the board were members of this general assembly, but without waiting for the reply, Mr. Grant read that section of the constitution which says in effect that a man who holds an office cannot hold another position of trust or profit. He thought that would exclude members of the legislature from sitting on the board of trustees.

He considered it particularly bad for members of this general assembly to be on the board when the university was asking for a large amount of money from this legislature. Mr. Murphy called Mr. Grant's attention to the fact that members of the general assembly had always been members of the board of trustees, and that the report of the committee in the past has always been adopted even in those years when Grant was a member of the general assembly.

Later in the discussion, which was interrupted by the nomination of J. A. Taylor of Wilmington, by Representative Bellamy and of Mr. Townsend of Robeson, by Warner, Grant again got the floor and asked Mr. Murphy how many members of the board of trustees were Republicans. The Rowan county man began calling out the names of the Republicans who were members of the board, but that was not what Grant wanted.

"I just wanted to know if you knew how many members were Republicans," Grant said. "I have the names here in my hand."

"I wanted to give you the number and something of the personnel of the Republicans on the board, I have them in my hand," Murphy retorted.

Calling out the names of Frank Linney, John J. Parker, Representative Bellamy and others, Grant said: "Now gentlemen, the Republicans have only ten members on this board and they cast two-fifths of the votes in North Carolina at the last election and presumably will pay two-fifths of the tax."

LABOR PANS GENERAL FIGHT TO OFFSET THE OPEN SHOP MOVEMENT

Hopes to Bring Public Into Closer Relationship With Union Labor Aims

A WEEK'S SESSIONS

Federation Conference Continues At Washington to Perfect Its Program

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Plans for the launching by organized labor of a nation-wide campaign to offset the "open shop" movement and alleged propaganda of opponents of the trade unions were today completed at the American Federation of Labor conference which has been in session here since yesterday. By this measure the federation hopes to bring the public into a closer relationship with the organized labor movement.

President Wilson was asked by the conference to veto the Window-Torrens bill as an "unjustified and unjustifiable concession to the railroad owners who have shown a wanton disregard for the law and lawful processes."

A Militant Document The declaration of principles adopted by the conference yesterday was declared by labor leaders to be one of the most important and most militant documents ever approved by representatives of organized labor. Copies of it were forwarded today to all labor organizations throughout the country with a request that they make preparations to enforce the principles set forth.

Whether the principle advocating "a flat refusal of the part of labor to recognize or abide by the terms of injunctions" will be carried out generally by labor unions, it was explained, will depend upon the attitude of each individual national and international union. The principle is not a new one with the federation, however, as it was first adopted at the 1918 convention of the federation.

The proposal made at the conference yesterday that congress be asked to repeal the Volstead act was not carried upon today by the executive council and did not come before the full conference. The council, it was stated, will take whatever steps it may regard that it deems advisable.

The executive council will resume its meetings here tomorrow and will continue in session for another week, considering a number of jurisdictional disputes and cleaning up the details of enforcing the declaration of principles adopted by the 800 labor leaders attending the conference.

FIVE-CENT STATE TAX FOR SCHOOLS OMITTED Collect Privilege Tax From Corporations Instead

NATINAL HOUSE WILL BUILD FUEL OIL TANK HOLD NIGHT SESSIONS

In Final Drive to Clear Up Its Calendar Before the Close of Congress

Shipping Board to Erect 20 Tanks With Capacity of 55,000 Barrels

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—In a final drive to clear its calendar before adjournment March 4, the house initiated tonight sessions tonight. Its first act was to send back to conference the diplomatic appropriation bill as it reported to a senate total of \$500,000 for post allowances to diplomatic and consular officers.

A number of conference reports as well as other matters of importance were to be acted upon by the house. The conference reports include those on the emergency tariff bill, the immigration restriction bill and on a number of other matters.

Before sending the diplomatic bill back to conference the house agreed to a senate amendment extending indefinitely the provisions of the wartime passport act requiring aliens, including immigrants, coming to the United States, to have their passports issued by American consular agents abroad.

Without objection either from the house or senate, the house accepted another senate amendment, appropriating funds for American participation in an international congress against alcoholism to be held in Switzerland next summer.

REPORT TOPSAIL BILL TO HOUSE TODAY; (Special to The Star) RALEIGH, Feb. 24.—The house committee on counties, cities and towns this afternoon voted eight to two for the bill of Representative Bellamy to take Topsail township from Bland and add it to New Hanover. The report will probably be made to the house tonight, but it is not likely it will be heard on the floor before Tuesday, members said tonight.

LEONARD DEFEATS WELLING (Special to The Star) ST. LOUIS, Feb. 24.—Benny Leonard, lightweight champion, easily outboxed Joe Welling of Chicago, in an eight-round no-decision here tonight, according to newspaper men who witnessed the contest.

ATTACKED YOUNG GIRL AND GETS A PRISON SENTENCE COLUMBUS, Ga., Feb. 24.—Walter McClellan, 30, son of a well-to-do Muskogee county farmer, was convicted in superior court here late today of an attempted attack on a young white girl and sentenced to serve from five to ten years in the penitentiary.

HALF-MILLION-DOLLAR FIRE IN BRECKENRIDGE, TEXAS BRECKENRIDGE, Tex., Feb. 24.—Starting in a bed room over a gasoline filling station, fire here today destroyed two hotels, business houses and apartments in the business section and caused an estimated loss of \$500,000. The plant of the Daily American morning newspaper was destroyed.