GENERAL ASSEMBLY GETS DOWN TO WORK

DULY ORGANIZED IT IS READY FOR THE SIXTY DAYS' WORK.

LATE STATE CAPITOL NEWS

Review of the Latest News Gathered Around the State Capitol That Will Be of Interest to Our Readers Over North Carolina.

Raleigh.

The 1915 General Assembly is duly organized for business and the wheels of legislation have begun to turn for the 60 days grist that lies just ahead. Indeed, the mill took a little start the first day when resolution No. 1 in both branches of the Legislature passed all readings and was ordered enrolled. It provides for the appointment of a joint committee to represent the state at the centennial celebration o fthe battle of New Orleans January 8, and two bills were introduced in the Senate. The first was by Senator Chatham for amending the charter of Winston-Salem and ratifying a $460,000 bond issue. The other was by Nash of Orange and provided for the maintenance of the Orange County public roads.

A Republican olive branch was held out to the Democratic majority through an incident in the Senate when Senator Charles A. Jones of Lincolnton, Republican, in seconding the nomination of Senator Haymore for President Pro Tem, declared that in organizing his party was not preparing to play small politics but getting in line for co-operation with the majority party for the best interests of the state.

Neither branch devoted much tibe to organization. Nominating speeches were brief and the election of Senator O. Max Gardner for President of the Senate and Emmett R. Wooten as Speaker of the House went through on strictly party votes and all the other Democratic caucus nominees named last year were elected with the combined vote of Democrats and Republicans alike.

The Senate.

The gavel, in the hands of Lieut. Gov. E. L. Daughtridge, sounded for order in the Senate chamber at noon and Principal Clerk R. O. Self was directed to call the roll of members for them to approach the desk and take the oath of office. This was administered in regular form by Associate Justice W. A. Hoke of the Supreme Court.

The election of officers was taken up and O. Max Gardner, as the choice of the Democratic caucus for President of the Senate, was placed in nomination by Senator R. D. Johnson of Duplin. Senator Lineback of Spruce Pine for the minority, placed in nomination the choice of the Republican caucus, Senator R. L. Haymore. The vote was 39 for Gardner and 6 for Haymore. Senator Gardner was sworn in by Justice Hoke.

Other Officers.

Senator Hobgood nominated R. O. Self for re-election as principal clerk, seconded by Senator Gardner. J. H. Burnett was elected reading clerk, W. G. Aycock engrossing clerk and W. D. Gaster sergeant-at-arms.

Lieutenant Governor Daughtridge announced a number of stenographers, pages and laborers. The stenographers are Misses Nell Hinsdale, Sophie Busbee and Irene Smith. The pages are Weston Taylor, chief, Percy Meekins, Edwin Pless, Francis Johnson, Heath Price, James Messenberg, messenger, and Edward Spruill.

The Senate adopted a motion by Senator Haymore serving notice on the House of Representatives that the Senate was organized ready for the transaction of business.

Bear Own Expenses.

Senator Ward sent forward a motion which was adopted providing for the appointment of a joint committee of two from the Senate and three from the House to represent the State at the celebration in commemoration of the Battle of New Orleans at New Orleans January 8, especially because General Jackson, commanding the African forces against the British in this decisive engagement, was a North Carolinian. An inquiry by Senator Johnson brought the explanation from Senator Ward that each member of the committee who went would bear his own expenses, there being no call on the state for any part of the expenses.

On motion of Senator Majette it was voted that the rules of the last Senate shall be the rules for the present session for the present. The new rules committee was announced as follows: Gardner, Ward, Giles, Johnson of Duplin, Muse, Paxton, Gilliam, Chatham and Hobgood.

Lieutenant Governor Daughtridge announced Senators Gardner and Hobgood as the committee to notify the Governor that the Senate was organized for business.

The House.

Pincipal Clerk T. G. Cobb called the House to order and Dr. R. T. Vann, president of Meredith College, offered the prayer. Then there was for an hour the routine of administering the oath of office to the members, which was done by Chief Justice Walter Clark.

In the lining up of the members in groups to take the oath of office there was especially noticeable youth among the members. There is not wanting, however, men of advanced age; for there is Capt. T. W. Mason of Northampton, who is here with his grandson, W. L. Long, Representative from Halifax, the two occupying adjacent seats. Captain Mason is not the oldest nor is Mr. Long the youngest man in the House. Bryan Conley of McDonald is the most youthful and J. C. Meekins of Tyrrell County is 81. There are numbers of the members 25 and under and also a goodly per cent of members of rather advanced age, veterans of the Confederacy or in service to their state.

At 1:30 o'clock the House took up the work of electing officers. E. R. Wooten of Lenoir was nominated by Representative Dunning. The second speech was by Representative Thomas of Anson.

Working in Harmony.

Paying high tribute to Mr. Wooten, the Democratic nominee, Representative Deaver, Republican, speaking for the minority, placed in nomination for Speaker H. S. Williams of Cabarrus as the choice of the Republicans. The roll-call showed Wooten 96 and Williams 21.

Representatives Williams, Bowie, Seawell and Allred were designated to escort Mr. Wooten into the hall and to the Speaker's desk. The oath of office was administered by Chief Justice Clark. He was roundly applauded when he entered the chamber with the four men who had been his opposing candidates as special escort.

Speaker Wooten declared the House ready to complete organization. T. G. Cobb's name for re-election as principal clerk, was presented by Representative Doughton. The unanimous vote was cast for Mr. Cobb, there being 112 members present and voting. This is Mr. Cobb's fourth term of office.

Other Officers.

For reading clerk David P. Dellinger, Democratic caucus nominee, was nominated by Representative Bowie and his election was unanimous. Indeed the votes on all the other officers were unanimous, the Republicans having no candidates for any of the subordinate officers. J. H. Morling was elected sergeant-at-arms and Elias J. Jenkins of Granville assistant. M. D. Kinsland of Haywood was re-elected engrossing clerk.

Representative Benehan Cameron introduced a resolution providing for a joint committee of three from the House and two from the Senate to represent the state at the celebration of the battle of New Orleans January 8. A duplicate of the resolution from the Senate was passed unanimously and ordered enrolled for ratification.

Want Inroads on Timber Stopped.

One of the questions which will come before the next Legislature will be that of conservation of the timber on the mountains of Western North Carolina. Appeal has been made to the Representatives and the Senators from the western counties and districts to bear to the Legislature the appeal of the people there that the rapid inroads into the timber on the mountain side the spruce and the Balsam be stopped. The danger from heavy floods and forest fires has materially increased.

Tar Heels Should Have Credit.

Commissioner of Agriculture W. A. Graham says that Washington dispatches were inclined to give too much credit to the United States Department of Agriculture in the recent advancement of North Carolina in the matter of the farmers growing their supplies at home. He says that for a decade the State Department of Agriculture has been preaching this thing to the farmers and that it has only been during the past two years the Federal Government has been co-operating with the state in this work.

New Charters Issued Recently.

Tomylinson-Tatum Coal and Transfer Company of Greensboro, with authorized capital stock of $50,000. The incorporators are J. E. Tomlinson, B. B. Tatum and J. A. Dalton.

The Home Building Company, of Wilmington, with authorized capital stock of $20,000. The incorporators are E. T. Taylor, J. Little and J. F. Roach.

The T. W. Hunter Drug Company, of Norwood, with authorized capital stock of $5,000. The incorporators are T. W. Hunter and I. H. Forbis.

The Hoover Chair Company, of Thomasville, with authorized capital stock of $25,000. The incorporators are C. A. Burnham, E. F. Westmore and and E. F. Perryman.

The Dover Supply Company, of Dover, with authorized capital stock of $10,000. The incorporators are D. W. Richardson, W. B. H. Blandford and W. L. Bell.

The Carolina Feed and Lumber Company, of Andrews, with authorized capital stock of $10,000. The incorporators are W. C. King, J. J. King and R. E. Smathers.

National Gaurd Meeting Postponed.

The annual meeting of the North Carolina National Guard Association, which was called to meet in Goldsboro January 12 and 13 has been postopend to January 26-27. This change is on account of there having been a call issued for the National Association of Adjutants General to meet in Washington January 15 and the officers of the North Carolina National Guard prefer to await the action of the adjutants general as to just what legislation is to be passed upon the present Congress.

Summing up Health Work.

In summing up North Carolina health conditions and statistics the State Board of Health declares that the gist of the whole matter is that North Carolina's total death rate is about 17 per cent higher than the average in the United States; the death rate in this state from preventable diseases is a great deal higher, than the average, but are slowly decreasing and that North Carolina's old age or non-preventable death rates are lower than the average.

Farmers' Institutes in the East.

Director T. B. Parker of the division of farmers' institutes, State Department of Agriculture, announces a series of farmers' and women's institutes to be held in the eastern and centra sections of the state during January and February. The special workers for these instietutes include A. L. French, Rockingham County; J. D Bullock, Beaufort County; G. M. Garren, Raleigh; J. Rives, Lee County; J P. Kerr, Alamance; W. N. Hutt, Raleigh; Mrs. J. W. Robinson, Catawba; Mrs. J. Henry Slagle, Macon.

PRESIDENT SPEAKS AT INDIANAPOLIS

BLOOD OF THE MEXICANS IS THEIR OWN TO SPILL, SAYS WILSON.

WORK OUT OWN SALVATION

President Intimates That He Is Head of Democratic Party and Almost Announces For 1916.

Indianapolis, Ind.—President Wilson in a Jackson Day speech here voiced what his hearers interpreted as a hint that he might be a candidate for the presidency again in 1916. The audience of more than 4,000 people rose to their feet and cheered until the President called for quiet.

The President had been discussing the Mexican question. Referring to his belief that he knew the temperament and principles of the American people, he added that he would not be fit to stay where he was if he did not understand them.

"There may come a time," he said, "when American people will have to judge whether I know what I am talking about or not."

There was a slight pause and then the crowd began cheering. Realizing the construction which had been put on his words, the President held up his hand for silence and said:

"I did not mean to stir up anything That was merely preparatory to saying that for at least two more years I am free to think I know the American people."

Previously the President had attacked the Republican party, defended the record of his Administration on the Mexican policy, the tariff and currency and declared that a careful examination of the recurns from the elections last November showed that if it had been a Presidential year a Democrat would have had a majority of about 80 in the electoral college.

Mr. Wilson gravely spoke warning to Democrats not to break up the solidarity of the party. He declared those who did would gain an unenviable position for themselves.

"If a man won't play on a team he must get off the team," he said and later spoke of himself as the "captain of the Democratic team for the present."

The President spoke briefly of Mexico. He said the people there are entitled to liberty, "no matter how long they take in determining it." Speaking slowly and carefully, he declared that "so far as my influence goes, while I am President, no body shall interfere with them."

"Have not European Nations taken as long as they wanted, and spilled as much blood as they pleased to settle their own affairs," he continued, "and shall we deny the same right to Mexico? No, I say."

BRITAINS SATISFIED WITH RATE.

House of Lords Adjourns After Hearing Government Statements.

London.—After a two days' session in which Parliament heard speeches from Lord Kitchener, Viscount Haldane, Lord High Chancellor; the Marquis of Crewe, Government leader in the House, and Baron Lucas, on behalf of the Government ,on the progress of the war and Great Britain's preparations to carry it on the House of Lords adjourned until February 2, when Parliament will reassemble.

The opposition failed to learn from the Government the growth of the Army or the operations of the Navy, regarding which its members persistently questioned the Ministers, but, generally speaking, the Government expressed satisfaction at the rate at which recruiting was proceeding and Viscount Haldane declared the necessity for compulsory service had not arisen.

Made Farewell Speech.

Washington.—Governor-elect Frank B. Willis of Ohio made his farewell speech in the House, resigned from Congress and left for Columbus, where he was inaugurated. He gave a parting against what he called a tendency to believe that legislation must be guided by a political dictator.

Assemble Off Virginia.

Washington. — Virginia Senators notified Secretary Daniels that they would insist upon execution of the law requiring the assembling of the international fleet in Hampton Roads next month preparatory to the cruise through the Panama Canal to the Pacific Coast. Naval officers have been considering the feasibility of supplying the threatened deficiency in European representation in the international fleet by making special efforts for the participation of Latin-American navies.

Favors Chamberlain Bill.

Washington.—Unqualified endorsement of the Chamberlain bill to increase the strength of the coast artillery corps was given by Secretary Garrison in a report asked for by the Senate Military Committee.

The measure would add to the corps 12 colonels, 12 lieutenant colonels, 40 majors, 175 captains, 187 first lieutenants, 187 second lieutenants, a corresponding quota of non-commissioned officers and 7,672 privates, making the total authorized limit of 30,309.

Price of Wheat Soars.

Chicago. — Two-dollar wheat will mean that Americans will eat corn, grain dealers said here. National agitation to induce Congress to place an embargo on wheat and flour exports will be started by the Chicago Retail Grovers' and Butchers' Association, it was announced.

One well-known expert put the breadstuffs situation this week:

"It is no so much a question of price for wheat as a question of supply. Will there be enough to feed two continents?"

MISS GENEVIEVE CLARK

Speaker and Mrs. Clark have just announced the engagement of their daughter, Genevieve, to James M. Thomson, owner and publisher of the New Orleans Item.

WILL SEARCH VESSELS

BUT IS MUCH PLEASED WITH AMERICA'S PLAN FOR CERTIFICATION OF CARGOES.

Washington Government Notifies Shippers That Officer to Supervise Loading Will Be Furnished.

London.—Although the foreign office regards with high favor the American government's plan of certifying cargoes destined for Europe, it was said that England cannot accept such certification as an absolute guaranty of the nature of the cargo in case cause for suspicion arises after a vessel leaves America. In other words, the right of search cannot be waived because of the possibility of shifting cargoes at sea.

The waiving of the right of search in the opinion of prominent British officials, would be an invitation for smugglers to carry contraband to sea in small boats and transfer it to a ship of certified cargo. The position is precisely the same as that taken by the foreign office concerning certification of manifests by British Consuls at American ports. The Government constantly is in communication with representatives of Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Holland, and it is reported these nations are now taking steps to revise their lists of prohibited exports to correspond with the British contraband list. That would make possible a resumption of shipping to neutral European countries from America with delays or danger of seizure.

Owing to failure of the London newspapers to discuss the preliminary negotiations between Ambassador Page and Foreign Secretary Grey extending over several weeks before the American note was presented, the English public was not well advised concerning the difference which grew up. Even now the opinion is quite general, notwithstanding publication Wilson denied England's right of search. Consequently much of the shook occasioned by the presentation of the American note was due to misapprehension and now is disappearing on account of the calm and friendly attitude of the government.

Canal Slides Prove Difficult.

Washington.—Governor Goethals of the Panama Canal Zone told a house appropriation sub-commitee that the slides in the big waterway had proved much more extensive than was at first thought. At the point where they occurred, he said, there is a channel 100 feet wide and 35 feet deep, but shoaling has complicated the situation. He did not discuss the probable effect on plans for sending the American fleet through the canal in March, but said the Zone government was working the dredges 20 hours a day.

Turkish Advance Ends in Disaster.

London.Two of the three Turkish columns which last week invaded the Russian Caucasus have met with disaster and the troops not killed or captured are in diserderly retreat.

The Russians also report another victory over the Austrians in the Uzsok Pass of the Carpathians, Emperor Francis Joseph's army in this region is declared to be in full retreat in a mountain pass deep in snow with Russian cavalry attacking its flank and rear.

By forcing this pass, the Russians gain control of some of the most valuable oil fields in Austria, and thus shut off another source of fuel supplies, which the Austro-German armies are said to so much need.

While forcing back the Turks and Austrians the Russian troops are holding the line of the Mazurian Lakes in East Prussia; are fighting strenuously to withstand the German offensive in North Poland; are advancing towards Cracow and have crossed Bukowina, which is now virtually in their possession.

In North Poland where Russia is confronted with the most serious task, the weather is proving a useful ally. The Germans, according to their accounts, are making only slow progress with their offensive operations.

HUNDRED YEARS OF PEACE CELEBRATED

COMMEMORATE AT NEW ORLEANS THE CENTURY FOLLOWING BIG BATTLE.

ENGLAND PLAYED A PART

Special Envoy of the British King Felicitated Representative of the Government of United States.

New Orleans.—A three-day celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of peace among English-speaking people was held on the site of the last armed conflict between the United States and Great Britain. The ceremonies opened with the firing of a salute of 2 guns so timed that the last gun boomed at 8:20 o'clock, exactly 100 years to the minute, according to historians, that General Jackson finally triumphed over the British on the field of Chalmette near New Orleans.

Peace advocates from many parts of the United States and Canada witnessed formal exchange of greetings between a representative of the President of the United States and an especially appointed envoy of the King of England, watch the unveiling of a monument to General Jackson and the maneuvers of the Seventh United States Infantry and other regular soldiers transported from Texas City, Texas, for the celebration. The Seventh Infantry composed a part of Jackson's command 100 years ago. The soldiers were in charge of Brig. Gen. J. Franklin Bell, commanding officer of the Second Division who is here with 72 other army officers and 2,000 men. Sailors also took part in the Chalmette ceremonies and a military parade was commanded by Rear Admiral McLean, who arrived here on the battleship Rhode Island from Cera Cruz.

Preliminary to opening the celebration reception for Mrs. William Gerry Slade, president general of the United Daughters of 1776-1812, took place at a hotel here. Other women prominent in this organization and some members of the Daughters of the Confederacy are here.

RUSSIANS MOVE IN HUNGARY.

Most Significant of Campaigns Has Now Begun.

London.—A complete change in the situation in the Near East may be brought about by the Russian victory over the Turks in the Caucasus. If the Turkish fleet is as sweeping as has been reported officially—the virtual destruction of two Turkish army corps and the repulse of a third—the Turkish menace against the Russians in Trans-Caucasia has been removed. The loss of so many of their best trained officers and men ,it is believed here, will compel the Turks to give up any ambition they had of invading their enemy's territories and force them to concentrate on the defense of their own country. Military men however are, taking even greater interest in the Russian invasion of Hungary through Uzsok Pass in the Carpathians, and their rapid advance on Transylvania through Bukowina simultaneously with their movement toward Cracow. These combined operations are the most gigantic undertaking in the war.

In the meantime the Russians are held by the Austro-Germans in Western Galicia. Field Marshal von Hindenburg, the German commander in Northern Poland, can move but slowly in his offensive operations against Warsaw because of the muddy roads.

Thirty-Day Rate Reduced.

Richmond.—The board of directors of the Richmond Federal reserve bank authorized a reduction of one-half of one per cent in the re-discount rate on thirty-day paper. The new rate, 4 -2 per cent is effective at once. The other rates, 5 per cent for 60 to 90 day paper and 6 per cent for more than 90 days, are unchanged. Governor George Seay said that the reduction was ordered because of the general reduction in discount rates throughout the country.

Tennessee Liquor Laws.

Nashville, Tenn.—Governor Hooper's recommendations regarding further legislation which went to the Legislature include the following proposed laws: For removal of derelict officials; prohibiting all clubs from serving liquor or operating lockers search and seizure law; strict regulation of liquor sales by druggists; interchange of judges; amendments to the anti-shipment law. The so-called "nuisance" law, he says, should be amended in several particulars. One is the destruction of her fixtures.

Villa Moving on Border Towns.

El Paso, Texas.—General Villa is moving to attack the Carranza garrisons of the Mexican border towns opposite Naco and Douglas, Ariz., with 8,000 Convention troops. To drive the Carranza forces out of the border towns is Villa's solution of the problem of stopping border fighting. It became known here that Villa had communicated his intention to General Scott, United States Chief of Staff here, to secure an agreemnt to neutralize the border cities.

Villa promised not to expose the American towns to fire for more than eight hours, at the end of which period he promised the Carranza garrisons would have surrendered or would be driven into the United States.

Half Villa's force passed through Juarez en route to Casas Grandes when the troops will move overland into Senora. It was at a "great sacrifice" to his campaign against Carranza forces on the Eastern seaboard that he came north, Villa stated, in order to settle the Arizona border difficulty.

SIR STANLEY BURKMASTER

Sir Stanley Owen Burkmaster, K. C., M. P., is censor of war news for the British Government and is a prominent lawyer.

PUSH PROPOSED SHIP BILL

BY A VOTE OF 46 TO 29 SENATE PUTS SHIP SUBSIDY BILL FORWARD.

Says That United States Should Buy Ships For Commercial Independence—Some Objects.

Washington.—Government purchase of ships as proposed in the Administration bill to create a shipping board, finance a $10,000,000 shipping corporation and expend not to exceed $30,000,000 for the purchase chartering of ocean carriers, because the foremost issue before Congress.

By a vote of 46 to 29 the Senate made the ship purchase bill the unfinished business, to be supplanted only by appropriation bills. This action, on motion of Senator Fletcher, acting chairman of the Commerce Committee, precipitated a showing on the part of opposition Senators which gave certain indication that there were breakers ahead for the proposed legislation. Charging that an effort was being made to rush the bill with undue haste, Republican members, among them Senator Gallinger, Lodge and Root, served notice that the measure would be fought to the last ditch.

Minority members of the Commerce Committee, filed a report written by Senator Burton and endorsed by Senators Nelson, Perkins, Smith of Michiganand Oliver, asserting that the plan proposed would not relieve shipping conditions enough to do any good. It pointed also to dangers of of Michigan and Oliver, asserting that declaring that "every craft set afloat by the Government would add one more risk of our being drawn into the present war."

Senator Fletcher, who has charge of the bill and who recently conferred with President Wilson concerning it, urged the measure in a lengthy speech after Republican Senators had issued their pronounciamento of opposition. He declared the war has produced a "ship famine" and that the interests of all people in the United States demanded that the Government take immediate action to supply ships to carry American products demanded in the markets of Europe and South America. He instanced the fact that cotton sold at 19 cents a pound in Germany when it was bringing seven cents in the United States. Germany would consume 500,000,000 pounds of cotton if she could get it, he said, and the South had 15 times that amount to sell.

$75,000 FIRE AT CHARLOTTE.

Ben Vonde Company and Nearby Stores Completely Wrecked.

Charlotte.—Fire that started in the big dyeing and cleaning establishment of the Ben Vonde Company, No. 18 West Fifth Street, early in the night wrecked the E. Reid Russell Block of stores there, extending from No. 18 to No. 26 West Fifth street, and entailing what is said to be a total loss on every person, firm and corporation occupying quarters in the block, namely the Ben Vonde Company, Overcash & Propst contractors; Tomlinson Furnishing and Decorating Company; Frank P. Drane, assayer and chemist, and J. S. De Vonde, chemist. The loss was estimated to be in the neighborhood of $75,000, with insurance probably covering one-half of the damage. The building was owned by Dr. E. Reid Russell, of Asheville, who when informed of the disaster, stated that although his block was only partially covered that he expected to rebuild as soon as possible. The loss to each and every tenant was as nearly complete as a loss could be the fire burning itself out between the heavy brick walls that confined it on either side.

Turkish Troops Ravaging Persia.

Petrograd, via London.—Turkish troops whose defeat by Russian forces was announced December 12 when they attempted to invade Russia from Persian territory, are now reported to be ravaging the region south of Lake Urumiah in northwestern Persia. Hastily assembled levies of Persian troops sent against the Turks were defeated.

A protest was made some time ago to Turkey by the Persian government. It is said that no reply has been received.

Navy and Congress Work Together.

Washington.—Co-operation between the government's executive and legislative branches in appropriations for national defense is the object of a conference arranged between Secretaries Garrison and Daniels and the chairmen of the senate and house military and naval committees. The conference will be held and besides the four committee chairmen, other Democratic leaders have been invited. It is generally expected an effort will be made to balance the various appropriations.

BLUEJACKETS GET MEDALS OF HONOR

SECRETARY OF NAVY, DANIELS PRSENTS THE BADGES OF HEROISM TO MEN.

THE BATTLE OF VERA CRUZ

Boys Are Honored Who Bore Themselves With Distinction Under Fire in Mexican Port.

New York.—Medals of honor were presented by Secretary Daniels to 13 enlisted men of the United States Navy, who won special mention for distinguished conduct at the occupation of Vera Cruz in April last. The formal ceremony took place on the deck of the battleship Florida at the Brooklyn Navy Yard and Rear Admiral Fletcher, now commander-in-chief of the Atlantic fleet, who commanded the American naval forces at Vera Cruz, and other high officers of the Navy participated. The medal winners were:

Tenry N. Nicherson, boatswain's mate, first class; Abraham de Somer, chief turret captain; Joseph G. Harner, boatswain's mate, first class; George Cregan, boatswain's mate, first class; Lawrence Cregan, boatswain's mate, first class; Lawrence C. Sinnett, gunner's mate, third class; Percy A. Decker, chief boatswain's mate; Sharles F. Bishop, quartermaster, first class; James A. Walsh, quartermaster, third class; Charles L. Nordsiek, seaman; Fred J. Schneipel, seaman; Berrie H. Jerritt, gunner's mate; third class; William Zuiderveld, hospital steward; Harry C. Beasley, coxswain; Edward A. Gisburne, electrician, second class, was not present to receive his medal, but it had been sent to him.

Secretary Daniels also read a long list carrying names of officers, headed by Rear Admiral Fletcher, and bluejackets and marines, who had received special mention for heroism and bravery at Vera Cruz.

Before presenting the medals, Secretary Daniels declared that the outstanding naval event of the past year was the courage, sacrifice and self-restraint displayed by the officers and men of the Navy and marine corps at the battle of Vera Cruz.

"On answering the call of their country," said the Secretary "nineteen men, sailors and marines, won the distinction and glory of death on the field of battle. America then, mourning her loss, was like Niobi 'all tears.'"

The Secretary spoke of the honors paid these heroes at the time their bodies were brought to the United States, when President Wilson himself in an address at Brooklyn, voiced the Nation's appreciation of their valor.

WILSON DECLINES AID.

Tells Women That States Are Proper Agents For Action.

Washington.—President Wilson declined for the sixth time since he entered the White House to support a Federal constitutional amendment for women suffrage. When a delegation of Democratic women, who declared they had helped elect him, presented a plea that he support the proposed amendment, he reiterated his previous declaration that he considered suffrage a state issue.

Mrs. George A. Armes, president of the District of Columbia Wilson and Marshall League; Miss Alberta Hill of New York and Dr. Frances McGaskin, spokesmen for the delegation, reminded the President that the House would vote on the suffrage amendment January 12.

"I am most unaffectedly complimented by this visit that you have paid me," the President told the women. "I have been called on several times to say what my position is on the very important matter that you are so deeply interested in. I want to say that nobody can look on the fight you are making without great admiration and I am interested.

"But I am tied to a conviction which I have had all my life that changes of this sort ought to be brought about State by State."

Panic in New York Subway.

New York.—The worst accident in 10 years' history of New York's subway occurred during the morning rush hours when 700 passengers in two stalled trains were stricken with panic in the darkened tubes, by dense smoke and acrid fumes from a short circuited cable. In the struggle to escape some 200 persons were injured, one a woman, fatally. Others, overcome, were rescued, unconscious, by police and firemen, while scores struggled to the street unnerved or hysterical, their clothing torn and faces blackened.

The city was in the thores of a transportation blockade without parallel in its history. It was not until late in the afternoon that a wheel again turned in the subway and then only a limited local service was maintained. The hundreds of thousands of passengers the subway ordinarily carriers were diverted to elevated and surface systems and when the homebound rush began neither system had adequate facilities. There were no subway trains running to Brooklyn and a dense mass of humanity, concentrating at the Brooklyn Bridge, prolonged the rush two hours.

Kitchener Addresses English House.

London.—The House of Lords met a month earlier than the House of Commons chiefly to hear from Lord Kitchener a review of the military operations for the six weeks since Parliament was prorogued. While the speech of the Secretary for War contained little not already known, it was listened to with rapt attention. The peers, as usual, were in their robes of office, but beyond this the scene was lacking in the usual color, for of the long rows of peeresses virtually every one was in mourning.