

The Asheville Gazette News.

WEATHER FORECAST.
FAIR TONIGHT.

VOLUME XX. NO. 187.

ASHEVILLE N. C., SATURDAY AFTERNOON, SEPTEMBER 18, 1915.

PRICE 2 CENTS—On Trains 5c.

VILNA IS NOW ALMOST ENCIRCLED BY GERMANS

City Is Virtually Invested on Three Sides—Fall Means Loss of More Railway Communications.

RUSSIAN SUCCESSES IN SOUTH CONTINUED

Reports Multiply That Teutons Intend to Initiate New Offensive Campaign in the South.

London, Sept. 18.—The Russian city of Vilna is now virtually invested on three sides, the troops of Field Marshal von Mackensen having reached a point near Vileika, 37 miles southwest of the city. The fall of Vilna would place in German hands a considerable section of the railway to Petrograd, a portion of which, between Dvinsk and Vilna, the invaders already hold.

On the southern end of the front the Russians continue to have success, their latest achievement being the capture of 1300 prisoners on the Stripa river.

Little activity is reported from the center of the front, where a readjustment is expected to follow Field Marshal von Mackensen's capture of Pinsk.

Reports that the Austrians and Germans have decided to initiate a new offensive campaign multiply, but there is little concrete evidence concerning its direction. Cabling from Rotterdam, several correspondents assert they have reason to believe that the central powers have decided to strike a heavy blow and that there is already under way preliminary military movements for such a campaign.

The objective of the expected attack is generally believed to be either Italy or Serbia. Apparently there has not been any great concentration of troops along the Danube or the Save Rivers. Considerable activity has been displayed along that front recently.

The Austrian attempt to cross the river was checked, and according to official reports from Nish, the Serbian artillery destroyed the fortified works on the banks of the river.

It is felt here that the Balkan problem has reached a critical stage. The Turko-Bulgarian agreement, coupled with the announcement of the Bulgarian premier that public opinion opposed to any attack on Turkey, seems to settle the attitude of Bulgaria, at least as long as the Dardanelles are closed to the belligerents.

There will probably be no further developments on the subject of conscription in England until parliament meets next week.

Little Change.
London, Sept. 18.—Reuter's Dardanelles correspondent, under date of August 31, reports that the positions of the combatants had been virtually unchanged since the fighting of July 12.

"Our position," says the correspondent, "is in essence what it has been for months, the fighting in the early part of August being only intended to prevent the Turks from sending back reinforcements to oppose the allies landing at Suvla Bay. There are signs that the Turks, though still well supplied with ammunition, have none to waste, now that they are threatened on two fronts and that they are making up for the expenditure of ammunition on the Suvla front by firing virtually none on the Achi-Baba front."

Ty Cobb Has Recovered Grand Old Batting Eye

Chicago, Sept. 18.—Tyrus Cobb has recovered his batting eye, according to averages published today. Although he is far from the .400 mark, the Detroit slugger added seven points to his average of last week. He still leads the league by 57 points with an average of .377.

Speaker of Boston is runner-up in the American league with an average of .320, and Jackson of Chicago is next with .319.

Cobb is only three points shy of a tie with the American league record for stolen bases which was made by Milton of Washington in 1912. The record is 88 bases and Cobb is leading the league with 85, including Wednesday's game. Cobb also leads in runs scored with 133 and in number of hits made, 189.

Detroit also claims another headliner in Sam Crawford, who leads the league in total bases with .253. He has made 19 triples and four home runs. Burns, another Tiger, has tied Oldring of Philadelphia for the home run record, each having five.

Detroit leads in club batting with an average of .268. Boston is second with .264 and Chicago with .259 is third.

Poster of Boston, with 18 games won and six lost, leads American league pitchers.

American League Records.
Larry Doyle, captain of the Giants, continues at the head of the National league batters with 162 for an average of .319. Other leaders of the National league are Luden of Philadelphia .316; Snyder of St. Louis, .314 and Dauter of Brooklyn .311. Cavah leads in total runs scored with 79 and in total bases with 234. He also leads in the number of circuit drives with twenty-two.

Carey of Pittsburgh leads in stolen bases with 36.
St. Louis is first in club batting with an average of .299 and Cincinnati is next with .257.

Toney of Cincinnati with 13 wins and four defeats leads the National league pitchers. Marmox of Pittsburgh, who had led the league for several weeks, has dropped to third place.

Federal League Records.
Kauk of Brooklyn, with an average of .350 leads Federal league batters. Brooklyn leads in club batting with .271, and Pittsburgh is second with .263.

Kauff leads in stolen bases with 47. Magee with 85 leads in the number of runs scored, and Chase of Buffalo leads in total bases with 252 and in home runs with 17.

McConnell of Chicago, with 22 victories and nine defeats, leads Federal league pitchers.

BOARD OF TRADE RAISES \$30,000

In Successful Campaign Asheville Civic Organization Is Provided With Funds For Next Three Years.

FORMER RECORD MADE BY WORKERS

At Enthusiastic Meeting Last Night Advertising Club Is Formed—Final Reports—Speeches Heard.

Accomplishing in short working during four days what it required six days to do three years ago the soldiers of Asheville's municipal army yesterday afternoon counted the spoils of war and found that the board of trade is now assured of over \$30,000 to carry on its activities between now and 1918. At luncheon yesterday at the Langren hotel the captains reported the sum of \$9,946.41 secured during the previous three days and to this amount \$406.25 was added during the afternoon.

An interesting feature of the mass meeting last night was the presence of David F. Weaver, formerly of Washington, D. C., whom President Jones introduced as "Asheville's newest citizen." Before coming here Mr. Weaver was made familiar with the city through Asheville literature sent out by the board of trade and after visiting the chief city of the western Carolina mountains he decided to buy a home here for Mrs. Jones, a son and daughter and himself. He is now an enthusiastic member of the civic organization.

Mass Meeting.
At an enthusiastic all-members' meeting held last night at the Merchants' association of the board of trade presided over by President Robert S. Jones reports were made showing a total of \$10,352.66 raised among the patriotic citizens of Asheville during the campaign which closed yesterday afternoon.

On the lists are more than 800 members at \$12.50 each, representing 425 firms and individuals, and there are still 200 members who have not renewed their membership.

Following a short talk by A. W. McKeand explanatory of the policy and ideals of the advertising club this new department of the board was organized with Walter Steele as president and N. Buckner secretary. Seventeen men asked to be enlisted as members. The motto of the club is "Truth," and it is believed that the club will be of great value to the business men of the city.

Paul Henry of Pittsburgh, a former Asheville resident, told of some interesting experiences in different sections of the country where he has found literature from Asheville in the hands of many people.

W. R. Patterson confessed that at the outset of the campaign he had been discouraged but that after the first day he saw that the movement would be a great success.

President L. B. Rogers of the merchants' association and a leader of the association in the fight against General Rector for the way in which he conducted the work of the left wing, Mr. Rogers advocated frequent get-together meetings.

In humorous vein L. L. Jenkins stated that he was glad to be a contributor of the board of trade and hoped support for the Asheville baseball association. Walter Steele suggested a better schedule into Asheville on the Murphy division. George Barber proposed that President Jones decorate Mr. Steele with the iron cross. When Mr. Steele replied "Test me and you'll find me all steel," Mr. Barber suggested a steel cross.

Captain Dan W. Hill of the "Mexican Brigade" made a number of suggestions and declared that he was ready to serve the board of trade in any possible way. Generals Goodman and Rector made short talks thanking their officers and men for their excellent work in the campaign.

E. H. Miller, C. H. Babcock and Ruffner Campbell called attention to the value of the campaign in bringing the people together in co-operative endeavor for the general good. George E. Lee on behalf of the Rotarians pledged the co-operation of the club for municipal development.

President Jones then called on N. Buckner who has been the efficient secretary of the board of trade for five years. He responded briefly, stating that the organization had become great not because of him but on account of the public spirited citizens and the officers who have given their time to the work.

On motion of Mr. Rector resolutions of thanks were adopted for the efforts made by the Rotarians and the Merchants' association and strong resolutions were passed thanking Mr. McKeand for his labors.

Refreshments Served.
Delicious refreshments were served before the meeting adjourned.

At the meeting of the insurance men yesterday afternoon the following reports dated July 17, 1915, (Continued on page 3)

OTHER COUNTIES ASKING RELIEF

Burke, Catawba and Guilford Importune Corporation Commission to Lower Increased Tax Assessment.

SHELLS ARE ORDERED FOR NAVAL RESERVES

Governor Craig Sends Requisition to Texas for Lee Woodall, Wanted in Cleveland For Embezzlement.

(By W. T. Bost.)

Raleigh, Sept. 18.—Three more protesting counties have cornered the corporation commission on that assessment of two weeks ago an dasked merciful deliverance from paying taxes upon a valuation which the Seaboard Air Line purposes to show is about two-fifths of what it should be.

Burke, Catawba and Guilford were the smitten and hunted creatures and they want help in a hurry. Burke and Guilford each must pay 10 per cent on their past assessments and Catawba is hefted to 15. These with Randolph and Robeson Thursday are doing officially that which traveling men have been telling your correspondent the people at home have been prophesying would be done.

The papers have been strongly with the commission, no protests having come through them, it seems. Yesterday the editorial comment of Charlotte papers on the Mecklenburg increase was impatiently waited. But when those papers came little objection was registered. Charlotte began to grow history at once and immediately sprouted an epoch. The county of Mecklenburg had been honestly taxed, taxed out of all proportion to other counties.

Thus far the two democratic counties which have received the highest increase, Scotland and Alleghany, have not chirped. Speaker Bowle who was down here a few days ago did not speak for his neighbor but said his own county, Ashe, had no remarks to make. The fact that Ashe will make a tender of Howie as the next speaker has nothing to do with its complacency in the presence of a tax boom.

But the commission not being worse, kicked than it expected to be. And those democrats who are reproaching its handling of the situation attribute no wrong to the commission's work. They do get back at Chairman Travis for helping to beat the taxation amendment and would love to see him "up against it for far" because they do not like the existing system and lost their pet last year.

Four of the ten whole-time health officers of the state met with the state board of health yesterday discussing chiefly medical inspection in the schools.

The last bulletin of the state board of health had a contributed editorial article sharply joining issues with Plummer Stewart of Mecklenburg's school board. The inspection is yet new but the health officers and the board are working upon a scheme. Dr. D. C. Asher of Vance; Dr. M. T. Edgerton of Pitt; Dr. J. C. Braswell of Nash, and Dr. E. R. Hardy of Sampson were here.

These counties trying the whole-time health officer have done so well in the work that the objections overcome in the beginning have been automatically removed by the success of such ministries.

Lieutenant E. Hollis Connor, who has been inspecting the naval reserves, amplifying his correspondence course and placing orders for shells to be used as targets, has returned to Raleigh after supplying numerous places.

The Raleigh Iron Works has just sent 800 five-inch target projectiles to the naval grounds at Indian Head, Maryland; 800 of the same calibre to the Iona Magazine, New York, and the fifth lot of selected test shells of 5 inch target projectiles, which when delivered will make 2,500 of these 5-inch shells made here.

In addition Lieut. Connor has given an order to the Mobil Oil and Puley company, of Mobile, Alabama, 2000 five-inch shells; 50,000 of the one-pounders are to be made by the Hardee-Tynes company of Birmingham; and 1200 shells of the 14-inch size are given to the Tredex company of Richmond. All of these orders have been made by Lieut. Connor who has been here but a short while. He finds the naval militia doing good work.

Governor Craig has requisitioned Texas for Lee Woodall, wanted in Cleveland county for embezzlement. Woodall is being held in Texas for the coming of North Carolina officers.

Burke Pace, sometimes detective, most often detected, occasional baseball player and always hard luck player, has confessed the robbery of the Meelin store at Wake Forest, the stealing of James H. Poi's automobile for one of the trips and sundry troubles that must now land him in the penitentiary. He implicates John Teachey.

Pace, who has been in many troubles but allowed to get off, comes of good family. Judge Cooke will pass upon his case at this sitting of court.

BANKERS AGAIN MEET SECRETLY

Proposal to Loan Entente Powers Half of Amount Desired Not Altogether Acceptable to Commission.

AMERICANS MAY AGREE TO FURNISH \$750,000,000

Question of What Products Credit Should Cover Is Much Discussed—Opinions Differ.

(By W. T. Bost.)

New York, Sept. 18.—The two parties to the negotiations looking to the creation of the mammoth credit loan to Great Britain and France met secretly again today in an effort to adjust their differences on this question.

"Should the big credit loan—billion dollars or otherwise—provide funds to pay for munitions of war as well as wheat, cotton and other commodities, or shall a separate and distinct method be adopted to settle the bills for rifles, shrapnel, war automobiles, aeroplanes and other items which come under the meaning of the word 'munitions'?"

The Anglo-French commission conducting negotiations in behalf of Great Britain and France is said to want the credit to take care of munitions of war. The American bankers apparently do not. In the American camp, however, there is a division of opinion, while the commission is reported to be unanimous in its views on this question.

New York, Sept. 18.—Another secret meeting was held yesterday between members of Anglo-French financial commission and the representatives of the big banking houses which are endeavoring to reach an agreement on the proposed mammoth credit loan for Great Britain and France. There was no further word from the commission than the brief statement of last night that so much had been accomplished that it was hoped that a definite statement soon could be issued telling of the progress made.

The proposal said to have been made by American bankers to the commission to furnish half the amount asked for was widely credited today. Five hundred millions is said to have been promised. This proposal does not appear to be altogether acceptable to the commission and it is believed the amount may be increased by 100 million, or possibly increased to \$750,000,000.

Whatever amount is loaned it is generally believed that the interest rate will be five percent to investors and about five and a half to underwriters.

Whether the big credit is to be used in paying for shipments of munitions of war as well as for wheat, cotton and other commodities, is the subject of much discussion.

It is believed that a much larger loan could be floated if it were understood that the credit loan would be paid for in some other manner. Great Britain and France are said to have proposed the plan, however, and are desirous of having the credit cover exports of every form.

Increased willingness of certain so-called pro-German firms to participate in the loan was manifested today. These (Continued on Page Two).

Dr. Charles Beers of the firm of Radford and Beers of this city, leaves this afternoon on a business trip to Cincinnati and Chicago. Dr. Beers will be gone for about ten days.

AGAIN DISCUSS MEXICO'S CASE

Pan-American Conference Consider Information Relating to Military Supremacy in Republic.

RECOGNITION OF SOME FACTION FUTURE PLAN

Leader Who Demonstrates Ability to Give Stable Government Eventually to Receive Support.

(By W. T. Bost.)

New York, Sept. 18.—Secretary Lansing and the Pan-American conference met again today to continue their efforts to solve the Mexican problem. The conference took place at the Biltmore hotel.

The diplomats had before them the latest official information relating to the military supremacy of the contending factions in Mexico. The accepted policy of the conference is that eventually the party demonstrates its superior strength and ability to enforce a stable government shall receive support and recognition.

There is no thought that this question can be settled at this meeting. The conflicting claims of the opposing movements must be exhaustively considered.

One point apparently already agreed upon was that Carranza would be asked to send representatives to meet the conferees and similar invitations will be extended to other factions.

The shifting military situation in Mexico and the claims of the warring chieftains offer a difficult barrier to any decision in regard to territory or population under their respective control.

Military Movements.

Mazatlan, Mex., (by Radio to San Diego, Cal.), Sept. 18.—Three thousand Villa troops under General Vuelna have advanced to Acomapan, a town about 70 miles south of Mazatlan, according to advices received here today. In the vicinity of Mazatlan 7000 Carranza troops are mobilized under General Siquez and there are indications of an active campaign between the opposing forces.

General Ramon Iturbide, since the beginning of the revolution in supreme command of the Carranza troops in the state of Sinaloa, has been relieved by General Obregon and has left for Mazatlan. Lack of activity is supposed to have caused his recall.

H. L. GRANT HELD ON EMBEZZLING CHARGES

Probable cause was found at the hearing in Police court this morning in the case of H. L. Grant, charged with embezzling \$23,131 from the Pepsi-Cola company, and he was held to Superior court under a bond of \$400.

It was brought out in the evidence that Grant had been a bookkeeper for the company and the books were introduced to show the shortage. The defendant, who was represented by Gallatin Roberts, did not take the stand.

Not Good After Oct. 4th.

VOTING COUPON

The Gazette-News' Great Free Gift Subscription Campaign.
Good For 50 Votes.

For.....

Address.....District.....

Good for 50 votes when filled out and sent or mailed to the Campaign Department of the Gazette News on or before expiration date. Trim carefully and do not roll or fold and fasten together and write name on first coupon.

NOMINATING COUPON

Good for 2,500 Votes in Gazette-News Great Free Gift Subscription Campaign.

I nominate.....

Address.....St.....No.....

Nominated by.....

Note.—Only the first nomination blank received when properly filled out will count 2,500 votes. The management reserves the right to reject any objectionable nominations. Those who make the nominations can, upon request, have their names withheld by the manager, who will under no circumstances divulge same. Any one can make nominations. Nominate yourself or a friend.

FORMAL TRANSFER OF THE WATERSHED

Expected Deed For Bee Tree Property Will Be Finished Next Week.

The city commissioners will formally take over the Bee Tree watershed early next week, it being announced today that the deed to the land will be finished by that time. During the past few weeks several lawyers have been engaged in drawing up the deed, which is a very voluminous affair and President A. M. Kistler of Morganton, of the Bee Tree Lumber company will arrive here next Monday to settle the matter.

The city of Asheville paid \$30,000 for the Bee Tree watershed, which comprises about 5,600 acres of land and in order to pay for it bonds in the sum of \$50,000 were issued and sold, it being the plan of the city commissioners to make several improvements in the watershed and place the entire watershed in good condition.

Just as soon as the formal transfer of the property is made next week, Commissioner D. Hiden Ramsey and James G. Stikeleather will visit the property and suggest what improvements ought to be made. It is planned in this way to make a thorough inspection of the land and report back to the city commissioners, so that the city board can keep in touch and know just what constitutes the watershed.

TWO MURDER CASES ON WAYNESVILLE DOCKET

Superior Court for Haywood to Convene Next Monday—Judge Ferguson.

Waynesville, Sept. 18.—The September term of Haywood superior court will convene on Monday morning with Judge Garland S. Ferguson presiding. The term is for two weeks for the trial of both criminal and civil cases.

The term will be featured by the trial of two murder cases, both of which will be strongly contested by both the state and the defense. The two Transhams are charged with the murder of Jesse and Arthur Flemmons of Madison county last spring. Two Browns and McGaha are charged with shooting to death Merritt Hicks this summer.

Aside from these two capital cases there are the usual number of defendants charged with a variety of minor crimes. Selling liquor is the one that figures most often on the criminal docket.

On account of the large number of cases on the criminal docket it is considered hardly probable that very many civil actions will be tried. The civil calendar is set to begin Monday of the second week of court, but it will hardly be reached by then.

DETECTIVES SEIZE WAGON AND LIQUOR

Booker Maxwell Arrested and Jake Murray Escaped—15 Gallons Taken.

What is believed by members of the plain clothes squad of the local police force to be the first of a large consignment of liquor, brought from Bristol to a point near Asheville, was seized this morning about 10 o'clock near Grace and Booker Maxwell, colored, who was on the wagon was arrested. Jake Murray, who was also riding on the wagon when it was first spotted by the plain clothes men succeeded in making his escape.

According to the officers three kegs, each containing five gallons of liquor, were seized and brought to the headquarters. Maxwell is locked up at the city jail, pending a further investigation in the matter.

The officers believe that there is a well planned movement to bring whiskey here from Bristol by hauling it through the country and then storing the liquor at some point near Asheville, it to be transferred later to this city. The kegs seized this morning show that they have been buried under earth and straw, perhaps for several days.

Maxwell told the officers that he was engaged by Murray to drive with him in a two horse wagon to a point in the country where they would load on some fodder, which he wanted to bring back to the city. He stated that he thought the team either belonged to Murray or Kelse Young. The horses were taken to the city stables and locked up there.

JAPAN AND CHINA AGREE ON TSINGTAU CUSTOMS

Japan to Keep 20 Per Cent of Receipts and Give China the Remainder.

Washington, Sept. 18.—The reopening of the Chinese maritime customs office at Tsingtau is reported to the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce at Washington by Post Wheeler, the American charge d'affaires at Tokio. The agreement was signed by the Japanese minister to China and the director of the Chinese customs service, and came into force September 1, 1915. The Japanese government, after deducting 20 per cent of the import duty, as provided in the revised agreement between Germany and China, out of the custom receipts levied up to the date of the reopening of customs by the Japanese authorities at Tsingtau, is to turn the remainder over to the Chinese customs authorities. Imports at Tsingtau normally exceed \$5,000,000 per annum in value. Full particulars concerning the trade at Tsingtau were recently issued by the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce in a supplement to commerce reports dated July 17, 1915.