

Rain and colder today. Fair tomorrow and colder in east portion. Details on page 3.

CONGRESS EXTENDS EMERGENCY TAXES FOR ANOTHER YEAR

Adjourns For Christmas Holidays After Passing Resolution

SENATORS ADOPT MEASURE BY 45 TO 29

Revenue Law, To Continue Until Dec. 31, 1916, Signed By President Wilson Last Night. Both Houses To Reconvene at Noon On Jan. 4; Much Business Ahead

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 17.—Congress adjourned tonight for the Christmas holidays after a lively partisan debate in the Senate which passed the House yesterday extending the emergency revenue law one year, or until December 31, 1916. The Senate adopted the resolution after a lively partisan debate by a vote of 45 to 29. Democrats supporting it solidly and Republicans unanimously opposing it. President Wilson signed the measure tonight. Both houses will reconvene at noon Tuesday, January 4, when the administration legislative program, including plans for national defense, will be undertaken in earnest. It is the understanding that the revenue law will be taken up for amendment in order to increase the revenues as soon after the holidays as possible. Upon the adjournment tonight there was a general exodus of members for their homes. The day in the House was devoted to speeches on national defense. Discussion of the war revenue resolution in the Senate resolved itself into a tariff argument, Republicans assailing the Underwood law as inadequate and condemning the fiscal policy of the administration.

Senator Underwood, of Alabama, in (Continued on Page Two.)

MILLIONS ARE ASKED TO STOP CITRUS CANCKER

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 17.—A plan for appropriation of several million dollars for the prevention and eradication of the citrus cancker in the South and the West was made before the House agriculture committee by a delegation of Congressmen and by representatives of producers. They said the citrus cancker disease was likely to spread from State to State unless stopped. Bills have been introduced by Representatives Harrison, of Mississippi, to appropriate \$2,000,000; Sparkman, of Florida, \$4,000,000, and Baker, of California, \$300,000. The cancker, it was explained, attacks lemons, limes, grapefruit and oranges. Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas already have suffered.

SENATORS FAVOR PHILIPPINE RULE

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 17.—A favorable report on the administration bill to extend the measure of self-government in the Philippines was voted late today by the Senate Philippines committee after two days of hearings. Senator Lippitt cast the only vote against the report, two other Republicans, Senators Clapp and Kenyon, joining the Democrats, but reserving the right to offer amendments in the Senate. The preamble, declaring the purpose of the United States to grant independence when "the people of the Philippine Islands shall have shown themselves to be fitted therefor," was changed to read "when it will be to the permanent interest of the people of the Philippine Islands."

The provision against polygamy was changed so as to prohibit the contracting hereafter of polygamous or plural marriages. An effort to pass the bill through both houses will be made soon after the holidays.

THE DAY IN CONGRESS

Washington, Dec. 17. SENATE: Met at noon. Took up the House resolution extending the emergency revenue act one year. Philippines committee continued hearings on the self-government bill. Senator Shafroth introduced a bill for universal disarmament through an international tribunal. The Works bill for development of waterholes in the California desert and the Sterling bill for 640 acre stock raising homesteads were reported favorably. Senator Weeks introduced bill for regulation of insurance companies. Finance bill resolution extending emergency war tax law by vote of 45 to 29. HOUSE: Met at noon. Representative Buchanan failed to appear before Judiciary Committee to substantiate his impeachment charges against United States Attorney Marshall. Public Lands Committee began consideration of conservation bills, which failed to enactment at last Congress. War Department recommended cancellation of \$29,900,000 improvement project on Missouri river. Adjourned at 6:45 p. m. to noon Tuesday, January 4, 1916.

PRESIDENT AND HIS FIANCEE TO BE MARRIED AT WASHINGTON TONIGHT



PHOTO COPY RIGHT, 1915, BY AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION. MRS. NORMAN GALT. WOODROW WILSON

UNITED STATES TO DISPATCH NEW ANCONA NOTE TO AUSTRIA

Vienna's Reply, Identical With Unofficial Text, Fails To Accede To U. S. Demands; Second Missive To Be More Insistent Than First, Is View In Capital

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 17.—The United States prepared late today to dispatch a second note to Austria-Hungary on the sinking of the Italian steamship Ancona. The communication will vigorously renew the demands made in the first note, some of them according to an official announcement by Secretary Lansing, having been complied with by the Vienna foreign office. President Wilson probably will approve the form the second note shall take tomorrow in conference with Secretary Lansing. The secretary will then act without further suggestion from the President, who will leave Washington tomorrow night on his wedding trip. Should the Secretary determine, however, that the further counsel of the President is necessary, he will go to wherever the Executive may be. Should the situation become still more acute the President may be forced to shorten his honeymoon and return to Washington. From an authoritative Teutonic source came the information tonight that the Vienna government had no desire to be the cause of diplomatic relations between the United States and Austria-Hungary being severed. It was said that if the second note left an avenue for it, the foreign office probably would see fit to agree to all the demands made by the United States. The second note will be cabled to Ambassador Penfield for presentation to the Vienna foreign office at the earliest possible moment. It is considered probable that it will be started by Monday afternoon. It has been determined it was said tonight, that the note shall state the position and views of the United States emphatically, that it shall be even more vigorous than the first note, which was the most drastic of all the diplomatic communications the United States has sent during the present war. The official text of the Austrian reply was considered today by the President and his cabinet. Apparently the official (Continued on page three.)

UPHOLD WILSON ON ALL HIS POLICIES

Southern Commercial Congress So Votes at Closing Session at Charleston

(By the Associated Press.) Charleston, S. C., Dec. 17.—Endorsement of "all the policies and principles of a national and international character announced by President Wilson" plans for a "nation-wide advertising campaign in the interest of the South's resources and opportunities," and preliminary steps toward organizing a committee to present to the American people a "peace bill" as a "token of the love and affection of the South to all the people of the land," occupied the attention of delegates to the Southern Commercial Congress at its session here late today. The convention was prepared to adjourn late tonight. Endorsement of President Wilson's policies was in that section of the resolutions approving the administration plans for rural credits legislation and a "great merchant marine." The congress also requested the President and Congress to take steps to guarantee the shipment of tobacco to neutral countries without restrictions. Plans for a campaign by the congress in the interests of the South call for co-operation of various Southern trade bodies. The suggestion for a "peace bill" was made by Ben Altheimer, of St. Louis, United States Senator Fletcher, of Florida, president of the congress was empowered to appoint a committee to promote the project. It was planned to pay for the bill by getting each school boy and girl to give one cent. Resolutions calling for Federal appropriations and legislation to enable (Continued on page three.)

U. S. COAST DEFENSE SYSTEM MOST FORMIDABLE IN WORLD

War Department Bureau's Reports Show Remarkable Facts Regarding Country's Preparedness; \$41,000,000 For Batteries, 10,828 Men and 530 Officers Short

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 17.—War Department Bureau reports made public tonight disclose the following facts about the army of the United States and its coast defenses: The system of coast defenses is "the most formidable in the world, but is short 530 officers and 10,828 men of the regular establishment and 271 officers and 9,591 men of the national guard to man all forts and mine defenses. Congress has appropriation of \$175,000,000 to establish the present system but at present batteries which cost \$41,000,000 are without trained personnel to man them." Batteries of 16-inch, 50-caliber guns are recommended as the primary armament of all major forts in order that enemy ships may be kept at great distance. Mobile Howitzer batteries of 16 inch, 17 inch or even larger guns are urged to supplement the permanent and "great merchant marine." The army on June 30, last, comprised 105,993 officers and men, 68,258 of them in the continental United States, 14,840 of whom were on or near the Mexican border. Vacancies in the enlisted force were reduced from 9,573 in 1914 to 1,786, the year having seen 48,813 recruited, nearly 90 per cent born in the United States. On October 1, the full strength of the organized militia was 8,705 officers and 120,893 men. Officers estimate it would require from 2 to 12 months to put the militia in the field in the federal service. There were 32,313 students in 96 schools having military courses and graduates from these schools since 1905 number 39,430. The coast artillery established scores of 50 per cent hit with 10-inch guns and 52 per cent with 12-inch guns at five thousand yard ranges as against 25 per cent and 46 per cent, respectively, in 1913; at 10,000 yards the scores were 36 per cent with the ten and 10 per cent with twelve as against 13 and 14 per cent in 1913. The army death rate was 4.40 compared with 5.15 the year before.

RECORDS BROKEN BY WHEAT CROP

540,000,000 Is Estimated As Next Winter's Yield; 100,000,000 Over 1909-13

(Special to The News and Observer.) Washington, Dec. 17.—Next year's winter wheat crop was estimated today by the Department of Agriculture at about 540,000,000 bushels. That would be 118,000,000 bushels less than the winter wheat harvest this season but approximately 100,000,000 bushels more than the average of the five years, 1909-13. In the cotton growing States there was an increased area planted to winter wheat. Virginia planted 1,371,000 acres, an increase of 7 per cent over the area sown in the fall of 1914; North Carolina, 1,000,000, an increase of 1 per cent; South Carolina, 238,000 acres, the same as last year; Georgia, 348,000 acres, an increase of 1 per cent; Alabama, 118,000 acres, an increase of 12 per cent; Mississippi, 7,000 acres, an increase of 20 per cent; Texas, 1,497,000 acres 1 per cent decrease; Oklahoma, 1,231,000 (Continued on Page Two.)

MOVE TO CLOSE UP POSTOFFICE STOPS

Washington Promises To Investigate Reason For Discontinuance at Salem

By H. E. C. BRYANT. Washington, Dec. 17.—The Salem post-office controversy brought to Washington today President Howard E. Rondthaler, of the Salem Academy, and Henry E. Fries, of Winston-Salem, who went with Representative Stedman to protest against the abolishment of the office that is nearly 150 years old. The postoffice authorities promised that no further steps to close up the sub-station at Salem will be made until another investigation is made, and that if there is much feeling in the matter it will be dropped. Messrs. Rondthaler and Fries told of deep-seated feeling. They (Continued on Page Two.)

600 HORSES DROWN WHEN BARGE SINKS

(By the Associated Press.) New York, Dec. 17.—Nearly six hundred horses valued at an average of \$200 each, consigned to Great Britain for the use of allied armies, were drowned in the North River this afternoon when a barge sprang a leak and sank. The animals were to be transferred to the steamer Anglo-Californian for transportation to France. The barge went to the bottom soon after the loading of the animals on the steamer had been begun. Postmasters Confirmed. (Special to The News and Observer.) Washington, Dec. 17.—The Senate today confirmed the following North Carolina postmasters: Nannie McCallister Moore, Warren; H. P. Crooks, Murphy; J. J. Gray, Sylva.

WHITE STAR TO PAY \$664,000 TITANIC CLAIMS

(By the Associated Press.) New York, Dec. 17.—The White Star line has agreed to pay \$664,000 in settlement of all claims arising from the sinking of the Titanic on April 15, 1912, when more than 1,500 persons were drowned, attorneys for the line announced here today. Of this amount approximately \$300,000 would go to American claimants and \$364,000 to British claimants, while \$114,000 would be for interest and expenses in connection with the numerous suits. Forty-four attorneys, representing that number of persons out of more than sixty who filed claims, have signified their willingness to accept the terms. If all of the claimants, both in this country and Great Britain, agree to the proposition the White Star line will be released from all further liability growing out of the Titanic disaster. The agreement is now being circulated among those having claims and must be acted upon by December 30 to become operative.

15 REPORTED DEAD IN B. & O. TRAIN WRECK

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 17.—Fifteen persons are reported to have been killed and several injured in a passenger train wreck on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad between Chester and Wilmington tonight. Information received at the Baltimore and Ohio offices here was to the effect that five persons had been killed and a score or more injured, some fatally. Dense fog prevailed in this section tonight and railroad officials say this probably was the cause of the accident. The wreck occurred about 6 o'clock at Pelton, two miles south of Chester. According to the few details received by the company a train of empty cars ran into an accommodation train bound from Baltimore for Philadelphia. The dead and injured were taken to Chester hospitals.

LONDON NOW FACES SHORTAGE OF SILVER

(By the Associated Press.) London, Dec. 17.—The substitution of silver for gold coin following the withdrawal of gold and the issue of paper money in its place has caused a serious shortage of silver here. Banks are still unable to obtain silver in moderate amounts from the Bank of England, but it is growing scarcer. Since the war silver has played an increasingly important part in the coinage of European countries, as it has made up the shortage in circulation caused by withdrawal of gold. The reduction in silver imports from the United States and China during the war has further complicated matters. China has been hoarding a vast amount

POSTAL BANKS NOT USED EXTENSIVELY

North Carolina People Behind Other States In Utilizing Them, Report Shows

By H. E. C. BRYANT. Washington, Dec. 17.—The annual report of the board of trustees of the postal savings system shows that North Carolina people do not use the post-office banks as much as those of Eastern and Western States do. A number of thriving towns with postal saving (Continued on Page Two.)

FOUR DEAD, TWO HURT IN MISSISSIPPI STORM

(By the Associated Press.) Meridian, Miss., Dec. 17.—At least four persons were killed and two score more or less seriously injured today as the result of a tornado which swept through several East Mississippi counties and passed into Alabama north-west of here. Two negro women and two negro children were killed in Giles, a score of persons were injured and nearly one hundred buildings, for the most part occupied by negroes, were destroyed in the town. Reports tonight indicate that the cyclone first appeared near Shubuta, 42 miles south of here. Several persons were injured and numerous structures destroyed or unroofed there. Near the town the tornado crossed the Mississippi Eastern Railroad three times in a space of one mile and, continuing, struck Monaca and Brewer, injuring several persons and causing considerable property damage. North of here the cyclone struck Obadiah and Cullum and swept into Alabama near Scooba. At Obadiah and Cullum and in Geiger, Ala., injuries to persons and property are reported to have resulted. For nearly fifty miles north of Obadiah damaged buildings were said to mark the path of the tornado. Only meagre reports were available tonight from the stricken district.

NATIONAL GUARD MEN MEET JAN. 5-6

Annual Session of State Officers Will Be Held at Greensboro

Greensboro, Dec. 17.—The annual meeting of the officers of the National Guard Association of North Carolina will be held in Greensboro January 5 and 6, according to information received here by Major S. Glenn Brown, who ranks high in the State Guard. Several local men hold responsible offices in the guard and they are delighted that Greensboro is to be the meeting place. There will be several officers of the United States army in attendance upon the meeting. Workers have secured a total of 351 memberships for the chamber of commerce to date, and these will give to the chamber an annual income of \$8,775. Men who have been working on the committees decided to call upon men of the city again next Tuesday and endeavor to increase the membership to 400 and the income to \$10,000. It seems certain that this number and amount will be reached by the first of the year. Next year the chamber will be reorganized on a more systematic basis and will have a bureau and heads for each department of work. This is in accordance with the latest and best approved methods of work. The work of the criminal term of Superior Court was finished today. Only small cases have been disposed of during the term, there being no cases of public interest. The Klingman case has attracted considerable attention, but this was again continued. In this case the defendant, O. C. Klingman, is charged with the embezzlement of several thousand dollars from the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company, of which he was local manager. Mr. Klingman denies that he is guilty of any crime, though he claims that he owes the company considerable money. Earl de la Warr Dies. London, Dec. 17.—Earl de la Warr died yesterday at Menton from rheumatism fever followed by pneumonia. He had been serving in the Dardanelles.

SETTING READY FOR STRIKE AT ALLIES' FORCES

Great Armies Reported As Concentrated On Both Battle Fronts

DIPLOMATS ENGAGED IN MORE NEW DEALS

Dispatches From Petrograd and Western Lines Report Much Activity Among Teutons. Military Operations at Standstill In Balkans; Austrians Fight Montenegrins

(By the Associated Press.) London, Dec. 17.—While the diplomats in Greece and Rumania are engaged in new deals which will decide the next step in the Balkan operations, there is increasing evidence that the Germans, ever restive, are preparing new strokes on both the eastern and western fronts, or at least a concentration of their forces to strike when conditions are propitious. Dispatches from Petrograd note German activity particularly in the Dvina district, which would accord with the German plans to reach the line on the Dvina river, while all accounts from neutral countries mention a continued movement of men and guns to the west. In the latter theatre of operation it seems only a question of what points the offensive is to be taken. Many persons believe that the Germans having found the lines in Flanders and Artois nubs too hard to crack, contemplate moving in the Saint Mihiel region, where their line penetrates to the river Meuse and where there has been considerable activity during the past few days. The only thing argued against this is that the river has been at flood stage and the French have been systematically destroying the bridges as they were rebuilt. Thus far, however, there has been little more doing than the usual mining and bombing operations and aerial fighting in the West. In the Balkans, military operations are temporarily at a standstill except in Montenegro and Albania, where the Austrians and Bulgarians are carrying on mountain warfare against King Nicholas' troops and the Serbians. A big battle is in progress in the Valley of the Albanian or Black Drin river, between the Serbs and Bulgarians. At last reports no decision had been reached in the fighting. It is said, however, that the Bulgarians, who crossed the river, found the Serbians had been reformed and were driven back with heavy losses. It is possible that the Serb counter attacks were made possible by supplies having reached them from the Italians who landed on the Albanian coast and who are trying to open communication with the Serbs through that country. The Italians, it is understood, already have landed eighty thousand men.

FORD QUITS KIRK WALL FOR CHRISTIANIA

(By the Associated Press.) London, Dec. 17.—Announcement was made by the foreign office tonight that the steamship Oscar II, having on board the Ford peace party, has proceeded on her voyage to Christiania. The steamship was taken into the British authorities' guarantee required that certain parts of the cargo be returned to England. The captain gave a bond to return to England the part of the cargo in question, which has been declared contraband. Henry Ford made an urgent request that the steamship be allowed to proceed. He told the British authorities he believed he could arrange peace if permitted to visit neutral countries.

FLETCHER NOMINATED MEXICO AMBASSADOR

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 17.—Henry P. Fletcher, now ambassador to Chile, was nominated by President Wilson today, for ambassador to Mexico. Eliseo Arredondo already has been appointed Mexican ambassador to the United States, and Mr. Fletcher's nomination today restores diplomatic relations between the two countries, broken off nearly three years.

EXPORT TRADE NOW LARGEST IN HISTORY

(By the Associated Press.) New York, Dec. 17.—Exports valued at \$188,036,458, by far the largest volume ever shipped from an American port during a single month, left New York harbor during November according to statistics announced at the custom house today. The November figures exceed those for October which were themselves a record, by more than \$12,000,000. Custom officials were surprised to learn that during November the imports at this port were \$77,696,815, about \$22,000,000 greater than the other imports. However, a considerable portion of the imports were in the "free goods" class, and notwithstanding the volume, duties for November were less than for October with imports of \$75,000,000. An overwhelming proportion of the total exports went to Great Britain. France and Russia, although the statistics show that South American trade made a material increase during the month. The goods were carried on more than four hundred ships. Munitions, iron and steel products and foodstuffs were the chief items exported.