

WEATHER
Showers and cooler west portion Tuesday and at night in east portion. Wednesday fair.

The News and Observer

Best Advertising Medium in North Carolina
PRICE: FIVE CENTS

VOL. CVIII. NO. 79.

RALEIGH, N. C., TUESDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 17, 1918.

IN 2 SENTENCES WILSON REJECTS "PEACE" OFFER

NO CONFERENCE NEEDED TO DISCUSS SOMETHING THAT'S ALREADY SETTLED

Secretary of State Lansing Announces Wording of Uncle Sam's Reply to Austrian Offer

REPLY SPEAKS FOR ALL OF THE ALLIED NATIONS, WITHOUT HESITATION

Quickness of Response Adds Emphasis To The Decision That There Is No Disposition in America To Consider a "Negotiated Peace"; Secrecy of The Proposed "Discussion" Was Especially Objectionable To Washington, It Is Stated; Speculations

(By The Associated Press.)
Washington, Sept. 16.—The United States government will definitely and emphatically reject the proposal of the Austro-Hungarian government for a peace discussion. This was announced tonight by Secretary Lansing, with the authority of President Wilson after he had read the official text of the proposal.

Mr. Lansing made this statement: "I am authorized by the President to state that the following will be the reply of this government to the Austro-Hungarian note proposing an unofficial conference of belligerents:

Settled in Two Sentences.
"The Government of the United States feels that there is only one reply which it can make to the suggestion of the Imperial Austro-Hungarian government. It has repeatedly and with entire candor stated the terms upon which the United States would consider peace and can and will entertain no proposal for a conference upon a matter concerning which it has made its position and purpose so plain."

The United States, as was fully expected, has unconditionally rejected Germany's peace offer. In doing so the government has spoken for all the co-belligerents. Almost immediately after receiving the Austrian government's note from the minister from Sweden, Mr. Ekengren, Secretary Lansing tonight issued the above formal statement.

No Hesitation.
Mr. Lansing's statement was given out within half an hour after he had received the Austrian proposal. It would have been forthcoming almost immediately upon the delivery of the Austrian note had it not been found necessary in order to avoid the possibility of grave error to make a careful comparison between the official text and that which was received in news dispatches last night from Amsterdam.

Thus emphasis was added to the declaration, if any were needed, the quickness of the reply indicating the existence of no shadow of doubt in the mind of the administration as to what it should be. As soon as Mr. Lansing's reply can be put in form it will be handed to the Swedish minister for transmission to Austria.

The Swedish legation notified the State Department early in the afternoon that it had received the note and that it would be presented as soon as it could be decoded and translated from the French. This consumed several hours and it was not until 6:20 o'clock that Mr. Ekengren appeared. He remained with the Secretary only two minutes.

No Room for Discussion.
There is some reason to believe that the Secretary acted with this unprecedented promptness in a matter of such great import with the design not only to indicate clearly the position of the United States government but perhaps to anticipate and prevent as far as possible newspaper discussions of the Austrian proposition, which might convey to the enemy a misleading impression that there was any considerable element in the United States willing to consider a negotiated peace, such as the "non-binding" discussions proposed by Austria, might develop.

Also it is understood there was a purpose to sound the note which the entente powers might repeat in making their own answers. All these powers had gone on record formally as accepting the conditions of peace laid down by President Wilson as their own.

Digest of Day's War News

(By The Associated Press.)
The United States has turned its back on the Austro-Hungarian peace proposal. Secretary Lansing by authorization of President Wilson announced that the United States "can and will entertain no proposal for a conference upon a matter concerning which it has made its position and purpose so plain."

The British Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Balfour, has also stated, though unofficially, that he was utterly unable to see that such a conference as proposed by Austria could have the desired end, adding: "It is incredible that anything can come of this proposal."

While the German newspaper comment on the proposal is as if Germany had no part in it, the Vienna newspapers declare emphatically that all of Austria's allies had been informed of Austria's intention, though the action itself was Austria-Hungary's own.

Meanwhile in the various theaters of the war the fighting is going on steadily and with added impetus in Macedonia, where the reconstituted Serbian army, co-operating with French forces, have stormed three strongly fortified positions and occupied Vretnik, Dobropolje and Sokal, considered the most important part of the Macedonian front.

British-Greek Offensive.
Further east on the Dolra-Vardar front the first and second line Bulgarian positions have been captured by the Allies over a ten-mile section. This successful operation, according to Mr. Balfour, who announced it at a reception of the Greek delegation in London is "the prelude to an important offensive bringing greater triumphs, in which the British and Greek troops would take an equal and glorious part."

French Troops Advance.
French troops, in their advance toward the Chamain des Dames have gained two-thirds of a mile on a two and a half mile front southeast and east of Saucy, where they captured an additional six hundred prisoners.

American and German Patrols are Doing the Major Part of the Work on the Lorraine front, but there are reports of a possible great attack by one side or the other in the Vosges. In that mountainous territory the artillery fire has developed great intensity and hostile airplanes have been unusually active.

Good Airplane Work.
All reports indicate a marked increase in the work of the airplanes along all the fronts. The Germans, who recently appeared to lack adequate air forces have now sent augmented forces into the air and there have been numerous engagements. As an illustration of the severity of the fighting the British airmen on Sunday accounted for 37 German planes, while they themselves reported sixteen missing.

New Allies Coming In.
While the Czech-Slovaks have been courageously and successfully carrying on the war against the Bolsheviks, steps have been taken looking to the organization of a Polish division, under Polish officers, to wage the fight in Siberia westward to their fatherland as integral units in the American army. It is estimated that 100,000 trained men can be made available at once in the regions of Harbin, Nizhny and Vladivostok.

ANNOUNCEMENT MADE OF P. O. APPOINTMENTS
Washington, Sept. 16.—Following appointments of fourth class postmasters has been announced:
Pensacola, William I. Parnell.
Following rural carriers have been appointed:
Davidson, Charles B. Armstrong and Charles M. Henkle.

OBJECTS TO BREAKING DOWN OF DENOMINATIONAL LINES.
(By S. R. WINTERS.)
Washington, Sept. 16.—Dr. Livingston Johnston, editor of the Biblical Recorder, takes a degree of exception to the recent pronouncement of the War Department indicating that denominational lines would be obliterated in the military camps. He writes Senator Simmons:

"You see there is an expressed purpose on the part of an official of the government to use the powerful machinery of the government to blot out denominational distinction. The utterance of the War Department was to the effect that, 'the whole trend and whole desire of the department is in the interest of breaking down rather than emphasizing denominational distinction.'"

WASHINGTON LOOKS FOR ANOTHER BLOW

Against Enemy Lines Momentarily As An Answer To "Peace" Offer

WILL HIT HIM IN MANY PLACES ABOUT SAME TIME

Both 'A-Comin' and A-Gwine, The Attacks Are Expected to Be Delivered in Flanders

(By The Associated Press.)
Washington, Sept. 16.—Another blow against the German lines as an answer to the peace proposal of the Central Powers is expected momentarily by military officials here.

The point of the expected attack is a matter of wide speculation by officers. Several simultaneous attacks will be delivered, it is thought, with the Flanders front, the French operations along La Fere directed at Laon and the new American front across the mouth of the old St. Mihiel salient as the logical positions from which Marshal Foch would strike.

It has been significant to some officers that the British have not pressed very heavily on the front between Ypres and Donai. North of Ypres there has been only one minor operation by the Belgians since the Allied counter-offensive began.

Where Next Blow May Fall.
British attention has been concentrated to a large extent on clearing up the Douai-Cambrai-St. Quentin front and many observers here believe the lines have been straightened sufficiently along this sector now for a new movement to the north. It has been noted, however, that British artillery has been pounding the German lines west of Cambrai with special vigor recently which may be the prelude to a direct drive for the capture of that city.

New Movement Along the Aisne.
Since the French are slowly making their way to a flanking position which would force the Germans to withdraw from the Chemin des Dames line protecting Laon, some officers believe a new movement along the Aisne and probably extending to the east of Rheims is to be anticipated.

It is pointed out that should the Germans be forced to withdraw from the Chemin des Dames, a swift advance from the Rheims front would tend to outflank the whole enemy line from that point to Verdun.

Pershing Keeps His Own Counsel.
There is no information of an official character as to General Pershing's present operations. The greatest reticence apparently is being enforced on press correspondents in discussing the tactical disposition of the American army at this time and to observers here this suggests that preparations for a new advance are well under way. The logical objective it is held, would be occupation of the Briey iron fields and an effort to encircle Metz from the west.

If General Pershing is moving toward that goal now, it is said, a joint attack by his army and the French army holding the Verdun front would be a probable development. Such an action would be over a very extended front, however and some further reconnaissance of the enemy's front may be necessary before it can be undertaken.

But Black Jack's Speed Is "Speed."
Tactics employed by General Pershing in clearing up the St. Mihiel salient, in the view of officers here, show that the American commander has determined that maximum speed is essential to military success. He hurled forward his troops last week at an unprecedented pace and it was this rush which swept the German defenders off their feet and gave them no opportunity for even an organized rear guard action. It is, therefore, argued that General Pershing may be expected to press his victory without delay and to rush the enemy in his new lines as soon as communication systems can be organized across the captured territory.

COTTON PRICE-FIXING CONFERENCE TODAY

Cotton States Law Makers Arrange To Take Up Matter With President

(By The Associated Press.)
Washington, Sept. 16.—Protest against any steps being taken by the government looking to the fixing of cotton prices are to be made tomorrow to President Wilson by committees appointed for that purpose by conferences of southern Senators and Representatives last Saturday. Other engagements prevented the President from seeing them today.

This action resulted from the statement made public last week by President Wilson upholding a plan announced earlier by Chairman Baruch of the War Industries Board providing for appointment of a committee composed of three persons to investigate the cotton situation and to fix prices if necessary. Senators and Representatives declare no authority under the law gives government officials such power.

BRIDGEWATER DAM NEEDS LABORERS

Protest Against Enticing Them Away Registered at Washington

ABERNETHY SUCCEEDS TO JOB HELD BY SCHULTZ

Against Whom Charges of Disloyalty Were Lodged With District Attorney

(Special Leased Wire.)
By S. R. WINTERS
Washington, Sept. 16.—W. W. Neal, of Marion, McDowell county, who is special representative of the United States Fuel Administration, came to Washington today to register protest against the enticement of labor from Western North Carolina by the Du Pont Engineering Company to Virginia. He stated that \$4.80 a day was being offered common labor.

"The completion of the dam of the Southern Power Company near Bridgewater will mean a saving of thousands of tons of coal by the substitution of water for electric power," said Mr. Neal. Labor agents are interfering with the execution of this work, which enterprise would otherwise be completed this year."

Abernethy Succeeds Schultz.
P. P. Abernethy, of Hickory, has been named as successor to George R. Schultz in the capacity of chief of railway mail clerks on the Greensboro division of the Southern Railway. "I put Schultz out because I wanted a Democrat in his place and you may quote me as saying so," said Senator Lee S. Overman today. "I told him so," said the junior Senator, after a conference with Schultz this morning. The Greensboro man has been offered a place in Vermont, but indicated to the Senator that he would probably decline the offer.

Notwithstanding the persistent denial of a Washington correspondent to a Greensboro paper that no disloyalty charges have been preferred against Schultz, the records in the office of United States District Attorney William C. Hammer will prove the untruthfulness of his statement. The Department of Justice in Washington has been requested to investigate the case of the railway mail clerk. Likewise a letter has been received in Washington from a prominent Republican and well known Greensboro citizen stating that the charges had been preferred and urged him to get behind the allegations and push them.

Judge Biggs "Strikes Oil" Again.
Ex-Judge J. Crawford Biggs, of Raleigh, has been in Washington in conference with the Attorney General of the United States relative to preparing the brief and presenting a case to the supreme court from California in oil lands. This case is apart from the litigation which was recently conducted by the Raleigh lawyer, and he will prepare the case in his office in Raleigh.

REGISTRATION BY STATES REPORTED

Only 16 States Announced Officially and N. C. Is Not Among Them

(By The Associated Press.)
Washington, Sept. 16.—Complete returns from the registration last Thursday in 16 States and the District of Columbia of men between the ages of 18 and 45 years were received today by Provost Marshal General Crowder. They showed a total of 3,232,267 men as against the estimate of 2,322,267 and it was announced officially that they do not justify the assumption that the returns from the entire country will show an enrollment very greatly in excess of the estimate of 13,000,000.

In six of the states, the total registration fell below the estimate, but in ten of them exceeded it. District of Columbia registered 22 per cent more than the number estimated for it, due, officials believe to the influx of war workers. Of the states, Vermont's percentage of excess enrollment was the highest, being 12-1-2.

Registration totals by states, together with the estimate, as announced tonight by the Provost Marshal General, are as follows:

State	Registration	Estimate
Arkansas	187,122	198,746
Connecticut	197,426	213,329
Delaware	30,033	29,489
Dist. of Col.	52,751	44,150
Florida	112,058	110,940
Illinois	359,853	340,920
Iowa	280,507	287,847
Massachusetts	475,019	483,646
Maryland	177,098	182,090
Mississippi	185,105	185,715
New Hampshire	52,618	50,913
New Jersey	425,136	405,500
Oklahoma	238,148	227,884
Rhode Island	28,203	27,431
Utah	52,709	58,863
Vermont	40,887	36,316
Wisconsin	308,861	326,377

Complete returns from the more populous sections of the country have not yet been received but projections made on the basis of partial totals from those sections indicate that these will not reach the estimate. Officials do not believe any appreciable number of men evaded registration. They ascribe the fluctuations of the actual totals as compared with the estimates to industrial conditions brought about by the war, which have affected the distribution of the male population.

DRAFT CALLS FOR 181,838 MORE MEN

Who Will Be Sent To Camps in Various States Before October 16

1,374 WHITE TAR HEELS GO TO CAMP SEVIER

North Carolina Negro Registrants Will Be Entrained for Camp Greene Oct. 16

(By The Associated Press.)
Washington, Sept. 16.—Draft calls announced today by Provost Marshal General Crowder will send 181,838 men qualified for general military service to army camps before October 16. All States have quotas to fill. Of the total 142,000 will be white registrants who will entrain between October 7 and 11. The remainder will be negroes, who will move in two groups, 29,016 entraining between September 25 and 27, and 10,752 on October 16.

Men who registered last Thursday may be needed in a few districts to fill quotas, it was said at the Provost Marshal General's office, but in most localities sufficient men remain in class 1 from the registrations on last June 5 and August 24 to meet the requirements. Southern States from which the white registrants were called with their number and the camps to which they will go are as follows:

- Alabama 1,938, Camp McClellan, Ala.
- Florida 448, Camp Greenleaf.
- Georgia 2,559, Camp McClellan and 218 Camp Greenleaf.
- Louisiana 1,466, Camp Travis, Texas.
- Mississippi 598, Camp Travis, Texas.
- Mississippi 1,250, Camp Grant, Ill.
- 1,500 Camp Shelby, Miss.
- North Carolina 1,374, Camp Sevier, 650 Camp Greenleaf.
- Tennessee 3,882, Camp Greenleaf.
- Virginia 1,243, Camp Humphreys.

Negro registrants will be mobilized on October 16 as follows:
Georgia 1,500, Camp Wheeler, Ga.
Louisiana 259, Camp Travis, Texas.
Louisiana 259, Camp Travis, Texas.
Mississippi 1,250, Camp Grant, Ill.
1,500 Camp Shelby, Miss.
North Carolina 2,500, Camp Greene, N. C.
Tennessee 1,000, Camp Sherman.
Soldiers from other States will be

CITY EDITOR OF NEW YORK WORLD MISSING

His Wife Found Dead and Dismalizing Note Reaches His Newspaper Friends

(By The Associated Press.)
New York, Sept. 16.—Mrs. Charles E. Chapin, wife of the city editor of the New York Evening World, was found dead with a bullet wound in her head in the bedroom of the Chapin apartment in the Hotel Cumberland here late today.

Discovery of Mrs. Chapin's body followed receipt by Don Seitz, business manager of the Evening World, of a letter signed "Charles E. Chapin," in which the writer hinted at suicide and added:

"My wife has been such a good pal I cannot leave her alone in the world."
The police immediately began a search for Mr. Chapin, but up to a late hour tonight he had not been found.

At the offices of the Evening World, it was said that Mr. Chapin has been in falling health for several years and that for the past year he has been constantly under the care of a physician.

Mr. Chapin has been city editor of the Evening World for twenty years and is one of the most widely known newspaper men in the country. For ten years before coming to New York he was connected with newspapers under the Pulitzer administration in various other cities, being at one time night city editor of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

CLUMSY ATTEMPT TO IMITATE PRESIDENT WILSON

London, September 16.—Referring to the lack of concerted effort by the Central Powers as emphasized by the von Payer speech and the Austrian note the foreign secretary Balfour today pointed to the clumsiness of German diplomacy.

Another Attack In the Vosges Suggested By Activities of Monday

HEADWAY MADE ON REVENUE MEASURE

House Approves Surtax Rates and Defeats Every Change Proposed

INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX SECTION TODAY

Also Corporation Income Tax Provision and Possibly May Reach Excess Profits

(By The Associated Press.)
Washington, Sept. 16.—Beginning consideration of amendments to the war revenue bill, the House, in fifteen minutes today approved the greatly increased normal and surtax rates for individuals estimated to yield \$1,482,000,000 and defeated every change proposed in the draft of this bill as prepared by the Ways and Means committee. After a spirited controversy a motion to strike out the provisions extending income taxation to salaries of the President, Federal judges and State, county and municipal office holders was defeated.

Another controversy developed over the provision to tax interest from future issues of State, county and municipal bonds, but a final vote was postponed until tomorrow because of lack of a quorum.

Amendments Defeated.
An amendment proposed by Representative Harley, of Texas, designed to change the basis of calculating profits from sales of property held by the owner since 1913, also was rejected overwhelmingly after Majority Leader Kitchin had declared the principle adopted would cause a revenue loss of \$2,000,000,000.

Besides voting on the question of taxing income from State, county and municipal bonds, the House tomorrow will consider administrative provisions of the individual income tax sections, the corporation income tax provisions and possibly reach the war excess profits sections.

General Surprise.
Summary approval today of the normal and surtax income rates was a general surprise. There was no discussion of the provisions increasing normal taxes to 12 per cent and limiting the tax to six per cent on the first \$4,000 and no amendment of the greatly increased surtax rates was offered.

Representatives Montague of Virginia and Walsh, of Massachusetts, led sharp but futile opposition to the clause curtailing salaries of Federal and State office holders in income taxes. A motion by the former to exempt State, county and municipal officials, whom he declared Congress has no power to tax was defeated 72 to 32, while Representative Walsh's motion to exempt salaries of the President and Federal judiciary was voted down, 77 to 17.

The section providing that income from State, county and municipal bonds issued in the future, with a personal exemption of interest on total holdings of \$5,000, shall be considered gross income in calculating income taxes, was attacked on the grounds both of wisdom of policy and of congressional authority under the Constitution. After vigorous discussion a motion by Representative Montague to strike out the clause was defeated on a rising vote, 48 to 26. Representative Platt, of New York, however, made a point of no quorum and the House adjourned.

Opponents of the sections taxing salaries of federal and state officials and bonds of states and their political subdivisions said Congress has no power to levy such taxes, because they infringe upon state sovereignty and are in violation of the constitution. Those supporting the committee's draft upheld both the policy and legality of the provisions.

For the ways and means committee Representative Crisp, of Georgia, Democrat, contended that salaries of federal and state office holders should be taxed like those of other individuals and insisted that constitutional inhibition of reducing of federal officers' salaries does not prohibit their taxation.

The provision to tax income from State, county and municipal bonds, which Representative Montague and others declared would reduce the value of \$3,000,000,000 of such bonds now issued, was supported by Representatives Kitchin, Longworth and others of the committee as designed to prevent discrimination against Liberty Bonds. In the State issues are to be untaxed, Representative Longworth said, wealthy persons might buy them in preference to Liberty Bonds, escape taxation and also reduce subscription to government war bonds.

Admitting that there is doubt regarding constitutionality of the proposed tax on salaries of the President, Federal Judges, State, county and municipal officers as well as on the latter's securities Representative Kitchin and others said the bill resolves the doubt, in the present emergency in favor of the government and that it is highly desirable that the disputed questions be settled by the Supreme Court in test litigation.

Senate Committee Hearings.
Washington, Sept. 16.—Continuing its hearing on the war revenue bill today, (Continued on Page Five.)

Germans Seemingly Hold The Hindenburg Line and Are Sending Out Many Patrols

ENEMY CONSTRUCTING MACHINE-GUN NESTS AT POINTS ON THE LINE

British Troops Advanced Their Line Slightly in Ypres Section of Flanders; British Aerial Activities Meet With Much Success; German Statement Announces Another Air Raid On Paris "In Reprisal"

(By The Associated Press.)
Washington, Sept. 16.—Artillery activity of an intensity to suggest a possible attack, or an expected attack, occurred in the Vosges today. It was accompanied by an extraordinary amount of signalling. Enemy airplanes were unusually active. Ten flew over St. Die, and twenty over Gerardmer.

American Forces on the Lorraine Front, Sept. 16.—1 p. m.—Aside from slightly increased artillery activity this morning the day thus far has been largely devoted to patrolling by both sides.

The Germans seemingly are holding the Hindenburg line from which they are sending out patrols while the Americans and French encamped a few miles on this side continue to feel out the line by the same method.

German infantry has been observed consolidating positions at La Chaussee as if in preparation for a counter-attack, but none so far has developed. Near this point the enemy is occupying shell holes.

The German artillery fire is limited chiefly to the guns of the 77 and 105 millimeter calibre, but many of the shells are "duds."

The Germans also are active in constructing machine gun nests at various points of the line.

British Advance in Flanders.
London, Sept. 16.—British troops today advanced their line slightly in the neighborhood of Ploegsteert and Ypres in Flanders according to the official statement issued this evening by the British War Office. The statement says:

"On the southern portion of our front our patrols have brought in a few prisoners."
"In the neighborhood of Ploegsteert and east of Ypres our line has been advanced slightly."

"On the remainder of the front there is nothing to report beyond artillery activity on both sides in the different sectors."

Aerial Activities.
Tonight the aviation statement reads: "On the battle front on the night of September 15-16, four hostile aeroplanes were heavily and repeatedly attacked by our machines with excellent results. Four fires were started, three hostile machines on the ground were wrecked; two hangars were completely demolished and several more hangars received direct hits. A transport convoy was hit four times."

"The railways at Metz-Sablons were again bombed and a fire started. The railway junctions at Mainz and the docks and sidings at Karlsruhe were successfully attacked."

"Very good results were observed on both targets, and at Karlsruhe, where 2-1-2 tons of bombs were dropped, sixteen direct hits were obtained. During the night, 350 bombs, totalling 16-1-2 tons in weight, were dropped."

"All our machines returned."

LATEST ESTIMATE OF AMERICAN SUCCESSES
American Headquarters in Lorraine, Sept. 16.—(Reuters)—It probably is not an under-estimate to assume that the Americans in obliterating the St. Mihiel salient, reduced the enemy's strength by the equivalent of four divisions. The victory of the Americans was not due to German inferiority in numbers and a greater inferiority in morale. The enemy was so busily occupied in getting out of the salient that he did not have time to remove his dead. The statement coming from the German high command that it is glad to be rid of the salient may be believed, but it may be doubted if the command also is glad to have lost 15,000 men, more than 100 guns, an innumerable quantity of machine guns, trench mortars, tons of ammunition and telegraph material, as well as railroad equipment, rolling stock, clothing and supplies, which either were burned or captured by the Americans. False conclusions must not be drawn from the results of the operations. To put it briefly, the Germans did not fight and the trifling damage they did to the French and Americans proves it.

The Germans may have done the wisest thing, since, if they had tried to stand, their losses would have been increased enormously. The Allies had the means to insure such a result and the fact that the operations required only 37 per cent of the time allotted to it is proof that a much more strenuous resistance was expected from the enemy. He was in such a hurry to remove his guns that scores of them were captured.