

THE WEATHER  
Rain Tuesday followed by  
clearing and colder; Wednes-  
day fair and colder.

# The News and Observer

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## UNANIMOUS ACTION TAKEN IN HOUSE TO REPEAL WAR LAWS

Volstead Resolution Passes  
Unanimously After Only Two  
Hours of Debate

### LEVER FOOD CONTROL ACT ALSO REPEALED

Measure Adopted, Which Now  
Goes To Senate For Action,  
Practically Identical With  
That Vetoed at Last Session  
By President Wilson; War  
Laws Exempted

Washington, Dec. 13.—Repeal of most of the wartime laws was voted today by the House, which adopted the Volstead resolution for that purpose after two hours of debate.

The vote on adoption of the resolution was unanimous, 323 votes being recorded as favoring it with none opposed. The House, before taking the final vote, accepted an amendment providing for inclusion of the Lever Food Control Act among the laws which the resolution would repeal.

**Food Act Included.**  
The amendment which covers all provisions of the Food Control Act, with the exception of the section relating to rents in the District of Columbia, was offered by Representative Bland, Republican, Indiana. It was carried by a vote of 179 to 137.

The resolution, which now goes to the Senate, exempts from repeal only the trading-with-the-enemy act, the War Finance Corporation act and its amendments and measures dealing with the issuance of Liberty and Victory bonds.

The resolution declares "an act of Congress that by its terms is in force only during the existence of a state of war and a limited time thereafter shall be construed and administered as if the present war terminated on the date which this resolution becomes effective."

The measure as adopted is practically identical with that passed by Congress just before the adjournment of the last session and vetoed by President Wilson.

### FIRST PEACE STEP

Republican leaders of the House asserted tonight that adoption of the resolution was one of the first steps taken by the Republican majority to fulfill the campaign pledge to put the country on a peace time basis.

Disposition of the Volstead resolution, clears the way for consideration of the resolution offered by Representative Reavis, Republican, Nebraska, which would provide for a Congressional survey of the government's administrative departments. A special rule limiting debate will be presented tomorrow by Chairman Campbell, of the rules committee, and action on the floor will follow a vote on the adoption of the rules.

## TWO CHILDREN BURNED TO DEATH IN ANDREWS' BLAZE

Another Child May Die and  
Man Painfully Hurt in Dis-  
astrous Fire

Asheville, Dec. 13.—Two children are dead, another may die and a man was painfully burned, as a result of a fire at Andrews, Cherokee county, according to information just received here. The fire was discovered in the two story frame building of the Southern Railway power station and rapidly consumed the entire structure.

Joe Constant, the 4-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Constant, and Orin Hyde, the 3-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Hyde, were so terribly burned that they died a few hours after the fire and one of the Constant children is not expected to live.

Mrs. Constant and Mr. Hyde were burned about the face and hands in attempting to get the children out of the burning building, although it is thought that they will recover from the burns.

Mr. Hyde was about to save one of the children by rushing into the building while the reports state that a traveling salesman entered the building and rescued another child.

The burned children were taken into a drug store, nearby, where first aid was given them.

## FOUR OAKS MERCHANT TAKES HIS OWN LIFE

Inability To Satisfy Demands  
of Creditors Held Responsi-  
ble For Deed

Four Oaks, Dec. 13.—R. C. Laster, prominent young merchant of this city, committed suicide this afternoon at 4 o'clock. Business worries are held responsible for the deed. He did an extensive time business and it is understood that his creditors had been crowding him. As he was unable to collect from the farmers because of the low prices he could not meet his obligations.

The body was found by Mrs. Laster, who had no intimation of her husband's purpose until she heard the report of the pistol which he ended his life. He had gone out on the back porch, spread a rug and lain down on it. He shot himself in the mouth, the ball ranging upward into the brain.

Mr. Laster was a son of W. L. Laster, a well-to-do and prominent citizen, the family being one of the most respected in Johnston county. Mrs. Laster is a daughter of J. C. Kees, also a well known and esteemed citizen. There are several small children.

The funeral will be held Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Full Course Sleeps Chase. Flat Socks. Extra Furrows. Plinkerton tomorrow, 2:45, 3:45.

## NO AUTHORIZATION FOR CONTEST OVER 8TH DISTRICT SEAT

Fess Says Dr. Ike Campbell  
Must Get More Evidence To  
Support Claims

### MARION BUTLER MIXED UP IN CONTEST PLANS

Republican Chairman Declares  
He Would Not Approve of  
Contest Just To Get Another  
Seat In The House; "Farmer  
Bob" Refers To Charges of  
Jamming Ballot Lines

News and Observer Bureau  
603 District Natl. Bank Bldg.  
By R. E. POWELL  
(By Special Leased Wire)

Washington, Dec. 13.—There has been no authorization from the Republican Congressional campaign committee for a contest over the election of "Farmer Bob" Doughton in the Eighth North Carolina district, Dr. Simeon D. Fess, chairman of the committee, said today.

To make the matter entirely clear to North Carolinians, Dr. Fess stated that the committee must see something more than Dr. Ike Campbell has shown it if it leads as much as the "moral influence" to an ending of the alleged election irregularities in the eighth.

Dr. Fess discussed the case of Dr. Campbell at some length this afternoon, devoting much attention to his own ambition to purify the election laws of the Southland. He was frank concerning all the details of the case involved and became shy only when the race question was broached. Here he was positively coy.

Some of the light he threw upon the rumblings which have been coming up from the eighth, most of which were brought here last week by Doctor Ike and his lawyer, included the announcement that the committee only heard Dr. Campbell's claims upon the insistence of former Senator Marion Butler.

**Must Have Evidence.**  
"Butler seems to think that there is something in the charges that Campbell makes," Dr. Fess said, "and we are willing to advance money to the end that the charges may be proved or disproved if we have more substantial evidence of fraud and of the alleged disfranchisement of voters by strong arm methods."

He referred particularly to charges made by Campbell that in two instances of the district, out of the twenty, Republicans had been denied the privilege of voting because the lines to the ballot boxes were "jammed up."

As to this, Congressman Doughton said this afternoon.  
"The Republicans were mighty poor jammers if they were jammed away where they had three votes to our one. The boot is on the other foot, for the Democrats have been making a big boiler because they couldn't get to the ballot boxes."

**Marion Butler Busy.**  
It developed during an investigation of the Doughton-Campbell fight today that much time has been spent by Senator Butler in getting for Doctor Ike the attention of the Republican leaders. They very frankly declare they will not sanction any contest just to get another seat in the House. They have more than they need now and if a contest should develop, the benefit of the doubt would be given to the Democrat, Dr. Fess declared.

"If I had an intimation," he said this afternoon, "that these elections are what they ought to be, I would pick out a district in North Carolina or in Virginia and make the investigation purely for the moral effect. These two states are typical—we made an effort to win certain districts that I believe are Republican. There has been agitation for a contest in Georgia but we never made any effort there and we don't expect to take any hand in a contest in that state."

**Improve Conditions.**  
"I would not approve a contest just for the sake of getting another member on our side of the House," the doctor said, adding that the committee had left final action on the Campbell matter in his hands, "but I would like to see better voting conditions in the South."

"Suppose it was proved," Doctor Fess asked, "that Campbell advocated disfranchising the negroes and letting the whites, whether qualified or not, vote, would that affect his standing before a committee?"

"I should say that would mitigate against him," Dr. Fess said, "although the committee isn't concerned about that phase of the matter. He contends that Republicans qualified to vote were denied the privilege of casting their ballots by being held away from the boxes until after the polls were closed."

Dr. Fess had heard nothing of the "gentleman's agreement," said to have been entered into in Iredell county by Democratic and Republican managers, by which no voter was challenged because he hadn't paid his poll tax. This was a concession to the minority candidate anyway and would not be considered as important.

**Doctor Ike Best Home.**  
Doctor Ike, the Republican committee chairman, said, was sent home to get more particulars and fortify the ones he brought last week with affidavits. He went back well impressed with the fact that no money will be spent on a hearing just to get him a seat in Congress.

It is suspected rather strongly that there is another motive for a contest, should one develop, which Dr. Fess did not touch. That is to find out what went with the \$1,200 or \$2,000 which Dr. Ike received from the committee. It only cost him \$10 to run for Congress even if he received but \$1,200 and the intimation is that the commit-

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## LITHUANIANS VISIT UNITED STATES



Members of the mission from Lithuania, the world's youngest republic, photographed in New York. The mission from the republic to the United States is headed by a young American, Sergeant Vincas Vaskas, formerly of Newark, N. J.

## U. S. Ships Carried Nearly Half Of Overseas Commerce

American Overseas Commerce  
During Past Fiscal Year Was  
Record-Breaking

### SECRETARY ALEXANDER MAKES ANNUAL REPORT

Advices Reducing Value of Mer-  
chant Ships To Compete  
For World Trade

Washington, Dec. 13.—Nearly one-half of the nation's record-breaking overseas commerce in the past fiscal year was carried in American ships, Secretary Alexander shows in his annual report made public today. The overseas trade reached the unprecedented total of \$11,875,424,000 and \$1,000,000 of it was carried in American-owned vessels as against \$368,259,000 carried in American bottoms the year before the war.

The total volume of imports and exports by land and sea was \$13,340,961,000, nearly \$3,000,000,000 above the previous record established in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1919. Imports for the last year amounted to \$5,238,621,000 as compared with \$3,095,730,000 for the previous year and almost \$3,000,000,000 for the fiscal year of 1918. The value of exports for the last fiscal year aggregated \$7,950,429,000, an increase of approximately \$900,000,000 over the previous year and \$2,000,000,000 over 1918.

Mr. Alexander also shows that during the last fiscal year the American merchant fleet was increased by 670 vessels of 554,000 gross tons and that on last June 30 American shipping comprised 28,138 vessels of 16,324,024 gross tons. This compared with 7,228,688 in 1914.

**Foreign Trade Grows.**  
"Growth of American shipping has been wholly in the foreign trade," the Secretary said, "much more than half of that growth having taken place since the armistice of November 11, 1918, and the increase of the past fiscal year being double that of any year before the armistice. This increase in tonnage would mean little unless it stood also for an increase in trade."

Quoting from the bureau's statistics showing an increase of about 15,000,000 net tons cleared by American ships in 1920 as against 1914 the Secretary continued "In a word, while our gross tonnage registered for foreign trade is tenfold what it was in 1914, it has supplied in actual employment in overseas trade fourteen times the American cargo and passenger space available in 1914; though in the shorter voyages to foreign ports in North America, requirements are fewer and usually smaller ships, the increase—and the demand—has not been so great."

In connection with the growth of American shipping and foreign trade, Mr. Alexander discussed the advisability of changing off "to the winning of the war" sufficient of the war cost of the government-owned ships to enable them to compete with foreign shipping on the basis of actual value of the properties. He advocated this course on the belief that only through such action could the ships, built under wartime stress and at wartime costs, continue to meet the overhead expenses of maintenance and operation.

**Must Reduce Values.**  
"We must be candid with ourselves," he continued. "The value of the ships owned by the government must be reduced to their actual value for competitive purposes at the present time and the difference between that value and the first cost should be charged to the winning of the war. The interest on that difference, the corresponding contribution to the sinking fund and the corresponding allowance for depreciation, will be treated thus as war losses, and this surely is preferable to a continued failure to make annual payments on the account of the merchant marine to interest, sinking fund and depreciation."

Although the nation's gross foreign business was the greatest in its history last year, the Secretary expressed the belief that American exporters would find it "increasingly difficult" to

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## LEAGUE ASSEMBLY ADOPTS PLAN FOR COURT OF JUSTICE

First Important Constructive  
Act In Work of The League  
Accomplished

### PROVIDES NO PENALTY FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

Organization As Planned Lacks  
Obligatory Appearance of  
Both Parties To A Dispute;  
Adoption Came After Ora-  
torical Duel Between Europe  
and Latin-America

Geneva, Dec. 13.—(By The Associated Press.)—The assembly accomplished today the first important constructive act in the work of the League of Nations in adopting a statute for a permanent international court of justice. The organization as planned still lacks the obligatory appearance of both parties to a dispute and provides no penalty for non-compliance with the decisions of the court.

The advocates of the project, however, believe that it is the most complete plan that could be accepted by the different governments and are confident that the good will of the nations will remedy its defects. The plan will go now to the different states for ratification.

If twenty-two, or a majority of the members of the League approve it before the next meeting of the assembly, the judges will be elected and the court will come into existence in the month of September.

### Oratorical Duels.

Adoption of the plan came after an oratorical duel, with Latin-America on one side and Europe on the other, over the question as to whether the jurisdiction of the international court ought to be obligatory or voluntary. Rafael Fernandez, Brazil; Dr. Carlos Urueta, Colombia; Harmond Arias, Panama; Aristides Azevedo, Cuba; Senor Bianco, Uruguay; and Senor Aramayo, Bolivia, insisted, with great force upon the necessity of obligatory jurisdiction to make the court really effective.

Some of the speakers made reference to the small majority in the committee which had forced a large minority to bend to its will. It was also declared that the big powers had used their greater influence to defeat the most important features of the measure. The greater number of the fifteen speakers were in favor of the value of optional jurisdiction as provided for in the project.

### European Champions.

Leon Bourgeois, France; A. J. Balfour, England; Dr. George F. Hagerup, Norway; and Giuseppe Motta, Switzerland, defended the plan as the best that could be set up for a beginning. Mr. Balfour also made a defense of Europe against what he termed "a united attack."

No country, he said, had been more strongly in favor of arbitration than Great Britain. He argued that it was necessary to make a beginning. The whole project might be rendered inoperative if that beginning were not made with due regard for certain realities.

Throughout the debate could not change the viewpoint of the majority it served to relieve the feelings of the delegates, which had reached a high pitch in the long discussion in committee.

The plan proposed to the assembly by the committee differed in some respects from the plan formulated by Elihu Root and his associates, who met last summer for the purpose of putting the ideas regarding the formation of the court into shape. The chief difference was in the matter of jurisdiction.

The committee agreed with the decision of the league's council at Brussels that it would be impossible to get the necessary number of ratifications by members for a plan permitting an aggrieved nation to cite another nation to court, and it was decided to substitute a more flexible plan, under which a member may agree, or not agree to compulsory arbitration.

### Senator McCormick Present.

United States Senator Medill McCormick watched proceedings during this morning's session from the press gallery. He has refused an invitation from the British delegation to occupy a seat with the delegation. His presence in the press section appeared to attract little attention. The Senator followed closely the debate on the international court project.

After leaving the assembly Senator McCormick had luncheon in private and left for Budapest at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon. The dinner given in his honor last night by A. J. Balfour of the British delegation failed to develop any extensive political discussion, the Senator adhering to his decision not to speak in Europe on political subjects.

### MEETING OF AMERICAN LEAGUE AT N. Y. FRIDAY

Chicago, Dec. 13.—The annual meeting of the American League will be held in New York, Friday, December 17, instead of Chicago, as previously planned. This announcement was made today by B. B. Johnson, president, who declared the change to New York was made because a majority of the club owners were in the east.

TELEPHONE CONNECTION TO IRELAND FROM ENGLAND CUT  
London, Dec. 13.—The Daily Mail says prominently in its second edition this morning that telephone communication between England and Dublin ceased early this morning. The London officials said they were unable to communicate beyond Belfast. The Belfast postoffice reported it was unable to get in connection with Dublin.

## FAVORABLE ACTION ON RESOLUTION TO GIVE FARMERS AID

KITCHIN TO RESIGN  
FROM COMMITTEE SOON

Washington, Dec. 13.—Representative Kitchin, Democrat, of North Carolina, has informed the ways and means committee of his intention to resign at an early date because of ill health, Chairman Fordney said today.

Mr. Kitchin was chairman of the committee during the period of Democratic control of the House, and had been expected by his colleagues to take a leading part in the framing of new tax and tariff legislation, hearings on which have just been started.

## DOUBT ABILITY TO PAY DEBTS OF WAR

Fordney Expresses Doubt  
Whether Four Billion Levy  
Will Pay Off Debts

Washington, Dec. 13.—Concern of Congressional leaders as to ability of the treasury to meet the \$7,500,000,000 of war debts maturing within the next two and a half years was indicated by Chairman Fordney, of the ways and means committee, today both in the House and at the opening of hearings by his committee on revision of revenue legislation.

The ways and means committee chairman frankly expressed doubt as to whether the estimates of a four billion annual tax levy would be sufficient to meet the requirements of the government over the period of maturing treasury certificates and Victory notes. As a solution he advocated refunding into long term bonds of the certificates now aggregating \$2,350,000,000, as well as of the first issue of War Savings Stamps and the Victory note issue.

Action of such a solution, Mr. Fordney declared, probably would enable a reduction of taxes below Secretary Houston's estimate of four billion dollars. It also, he said, would permit a tax levy for several years sufficient only to cover current fiscal needs of the government and interest on the public debt and sinking fund operations.

The first witness before the committee at the tax revision hearing, however, disagreed with Mr. Fordney on the proposal. In reply to questions by Representative Longworth, Republican, of Ohio, Dr. Thomas S. Adams, treasury tax expert and economist, said the program of the treasury appeared to provide sufficient revenues to take care of the maturing obligations except the Savings Stamps which would be paid through the sale of other issues of such stamps as each yearly issue falls due. He added, however, that the treasury estimates for taxation could stand no reduction if the program were to be carried through and the maturing obligations met.

Politics entered into the discussions of the methods of paying off the war debt when the committee reached the subject late in the day.

Representative Garner, Democrat, Texas, vigorously opposed the Fordney suggestion, saying it meant that the government was "broaking faith with the people whom it had assured that it would take up the floating debt to make the Liberty bonds retain their proper level of market value." To float an open loan, Mr. Garner asserted, would materially weaken the quotation of the Liberty bond prices.

"When we passed those loan bills and tax measures, we told the people certain things," Mr. Garner continued. "We surely cannot go back on those assurances. It would be breaking faith with the people."

"Well," Mr. Fordney countered, "those things were the work of the Democratic administration. But in as much as we have it, it may become an obligation of the Republican party and I mean to do all I can to get rid of it without burdening our people with taxation."

Discussion of actual tax revision questions by the committee developed an almost unanimity of opinion among its members with respect to repeal of the excess profits tax. Dr. Adams, speaking on this point, but warned the committee that Congress should keep in mind difficulties attendant upon collection of a sales tax.

### SMITHS AGAIN LEAD IN NEW YORK DIRECTORY

New York, Dec. 13.—The "well known Smiths" have regained their numerical supremacy in New York nomenclature, it is revealed by the city's new directory issued today. Last year they were several columns behind the combined list of Cohens, Cohens and Cohns, but the Smiths—exclusive of Schmidts and Schmids—have leaped into the lead again by more than four columns, or about 500 names. Fifty two columns of Smiths, with about 120 names to a column, are listed.

### TO HEAR COMPLAINTS OF FLORIDA FRUIT GROWERS

Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 13.—Representatives of the Interstate Commerce Commission will hold a formal hearing in Jacksonville January 21 of complaints of Florida citrus fruit and vegetable growers against the diversion of the Belfair postoffice route and recognition order of the commission which was to have become effective December 1st, according to telegraphic messages received here today.

## Senate Passes Agriculture Committee Resolution Re- viving The War Finance Corporation

### SECTION REFERRING TO RESERVE BOARD POLICY AMENDED BY SENATORS

Resolution Gives Opinion of  
Congress As Favoring Such  
Action By Reserve Board As  
May Be Necessary To Per-  
mit Member Banks To Grant  
Extensions of Credit Upon  
Security of Agricultural Pro-  
ducts Held By Farmers; Sim-  
mons Fights Hard For Pass-  
age of Resolution, and En-  
gages In Spirited Tilt; Reso-  
lution Now Goes To The  
House For Action

Washington, Dec. 13.—The Senate late today passed the agriculture committee resolution directing the revival of the War Finance Corporation as a measure of affording relief to farmers. The second section of the resolution, which as introduced would have directed the extension of liberal credits to farmers by the Federal Reserve system, was amended to make the desirability of such a course only an expression of opinion of the Congress.

The amendment making the change in the section of the resolution relating to the Federal Reserve system was proposed by Senator Norris, Republican, of Nebraska, and was accepted by a vote of 47 to 15.

**Broadens Powers.**  
Another change made in the resolution on a suggestion of Senator Smith, Democrat, of Georgia, broadened the duties of the Finance Corporation to include the financing of exportation of products other than those produced on the farm. Amendments submitted by Senator Harris, Democrat, of Georgia, to make the rate of discount on loans to farmers five per cent, and by Senator McKellar, Democrat, of Tennessee, to make cotton factors' paper eligible for discount, were rejected by overwhelming votes. A substitute for the resolution presented by Senator Spencer, Republican, of Missouri, met a similar fate.

Final action on the resolution was without a record vote. The measure now goes to the House, where a number of similar farmer relief measures are pending.

The section of the resolution directing revival of the War Finance Corporation, as adopted, reads:  
"The Secretary of the Treasury and the members of the War Finance Corporation are hereby directed to revive the activities of the War Finance Corporation, and that said corporation be at once rehabilitated with the view of assisting in the financing of the exportation of agriculture and other products to foreign markets."

The resolution as adopted refers to the extension of credits as follows:  
"It is the opinion of Congress that such action as may be necessary to permit the member banks of the Federal Reserve system to grant liberal extensions of credit to the farmers of the country upon the security of the agricultural products now held by them, by permitting the rediscounting of such notes of extension at a fair and reasonable rate of interest."

The Senate agricultural committee during the day continued its hearings with a view to framing other measures looking to the relief of the farmers from the conditions brought about by falling prices.

The House received an addition to its collection of relief measures in a bill offered by Representative Young, Republican, of North Dakota, proposing an embargo on imports of grain and grain products, livestock, and their products for one year.

**SIMMONS CHAMPIONS MOVE  
TO HOLD BACK PRODUCTS**  
Washington, Dec. 13.—With Senator Carter Glass, former Secretary of the Treasury, championing the policies of Secretary Houston, storms raged about the Norris resolution to revive the War Finance Corporation and direct the Federal Reserve Board to relax credits in the Senate today.

Senator Simmons, fought hard for the resolution and at times during the debate engaged in spirited tilts with Senators Glass, McLean, of Connecticut, Pomeroy, of Ohio, and King, of Utah.

The senior Senator challenged the position taken by Senator McLean that Congress has no right to indicate its will in matters of policy to the Federal Reserve Board and declared that the board should relax the stringent rules which it has prescribed with regard to loans to be made by member banks to farmers for the purpose of holding their crops until a reasonable price can be obtained for their products.

**Heavy Loans Not Needed.**  
Heavy loans are not necessary to adequately cope with the serious situation faced by the Southern and Western farmers, Senator Simmons declared, but rather they need a declaration of sympathy strong enough to create a market for their products. He called attention to the fact that in 1914, when McAdoo declared he would put five hundred millions in Southern banks, less than fifty millions was needed before a market was created upon which cotton could be sold.

Senator Glass insisted that the "ory of spending" had to be stopped somewhere and that in putting the lid on tight the Federal Reserve Board was not discriminating against the farmers

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