

THIS YEAR WILL COME THE SUPREME TEST FOR DEMOCRACY

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WEATHER FORECAST
Fair and colder tonight. Tuesday fair.

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GERMANS AFRAID OF ENTENTE INTRIGUE.

That is Given as the Reason for Refusing to Remove the Peace Conference to Stockholm.

GERMANS ARE DISTURBED BY THE LIBERAL ATTITUDE

More Lively Infantry Activity on Western Front and Artillery Activity Above Normal.

(By Associated Press.)
Efforts of Russia to have Germany consent to the transfer of the peace negotiations from Brest-Litovsk to the German council to the neutral city at Stockholm have apparently failed.

An official statement issued at Berlin says the German Council sitting since the Russian demand after which it was announced the sitting was temporarily suspended. The report from German sources that the fear of intrigue in Stockholm on the part of the entente interests would endanger the work of the plenipotentiaries is not confirmed from Petrograd. Leon Trotsky went to Brest-Litovsk in a vain attempt to persuade the Germans to go to Stockholm.

In Germany the political situation is much disturbed over the attitude of the liberal parties concerning the government's stand on the proposed transfer. The Socialists appear to be the stumbling block and there is danger they may prevent the recharging of the batteries by organizing the government to reform party alignments.

Berlin has issued an official denial that General Ludendorff, first quartermaster general, has resigned. General Ludendorff with his chief, Field Marshal von Hindenburg, was present at the Crown Council which decided to suspend Russian negotiations.

There has been more lively infantry activity on the western front but no operations in strength. In Flanders, near Arras and south-west of Verdun, infantry fighting has been lively but little change in positions is reported.

In France and on the Italian northern front the artillery firing has been above normal at several points.

MAY CONTINUE PETERSON TRIAL.

Former Paymaster General in State National Guard to be Given Hearing on Embezzlement Charge.

(By Associated Press.)
Raleigh, Jan. 7.—Counsel for Major George L. Peterson, former paymaster general of the North Carolina national guard, whose trial on a charge of embezzling over \$7,000 of the state funds is scheduled for this week's term of Wake superior court in this city, are understood to intend to ask for a continuance when court reopens this afternoon following the noon recess.

NEW WAR PRODUCTION PLANTS PUT N WEST

Congression in East Makes Necessary Tapping of Resources West of the Alleghenys.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Jan. 7.—New plants for war production will be located entirely in the Middle West under the policy of the War Department, made known today. Because of the congestion in the east, untapped resources west of the Alleghenys have had to be used.

READING APPOINTED AS REPRESENTATIVE

Lord Chief Justice is Named as a Special War Mission Ambassador to the United States From Great Britain.

(By Associated Press.)
London, Jan. 7.—Earl Reading, Lord chief justice, will go to the United States as a direct representative of the war cabinet, according to the Daily Express. While Earl Reading will bear the title of an ambassador diplomatic matters will be handled by the charge d'affaires at Washington, and the Earl will only handle matters on war activities.

The appointment of Reading as ambassador primarily for war purposes probably means that Viscount Northcliffe will not return to the United States as the head of the permanent British mission, but he will continue the active head of and direct the American mission in Europe.

"FREIGHT MOVING WEEK" DESIGNATED BY MR. MCADOO

Special Efforts to be Made Next Week to Move Freight in Large Volume.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Jan. 7.—Next week has been designated by Director General McAdoo as "freight moving week." A special campaign will be conducted over the entire country to induce shippers and consignees to unload freight cars quickly to relieve the railroad congestion.

Mr. McAdoo will issue an appeal to governors of states, railroad officials, city officers and others to assist in this matter.

1917 OUTPUT OF COAL

Was 544,000,000, an Increase Over 1916 of 42,000,000 Tons—Had Been Expected to Reach 550,000,000.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Jan. 7.—The 1917 bituminous coal output was placed at 544,000,000 tons, an increase of 42,000,000 tons over that of 1916 in a preliminary estimate by the geological survey. The fuel administration had expected the total would exceed more than 550,000,000 but a falling off in December reduced these figures. The December production was the smallest of any month since the shortage due to car shortage.

SMITH SUCCEEDS NEWLANDS.

South Carolina Senator to be Placed on Senate Interstate Commerce Committee as Chairman.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Jan. 7.—Senator Ellison D. Smith, of South Carolina, was today chosen by the Senate Democratic steering committee as chairman of the Interstate Commerce Committee to succeed the late Senator Newlands, and will have charge of the administration's railroad legislation in the Senate.

Although formal announcement of Senator Smith's selection has been deferred it is understood he virtually had the unanimous support of the steering committee which adhered to the long standing rule of priority committee rank.

GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST IS GRANTED

Washington, Jan. 7.—The government's motion to postpone because of the war further consideration of several important anti-trust suits was today granted by the Supreme court, with the exception of the case against the United Shoe company which will go forward.

OVER HALF MILLION BOOKS SENT TO SOLDIERS

Campaign For Funds to Buy Books in September and October Netted Over Million and a Half Dollars.

Washington, Jan. 6.—As the result of its campaign last autumn for "a million dollars for a million books for a million soldiers," the war service committee of the American Library association already has sent more than half a million books to the training camps and to France, has erected a complete library building in every army cantonment but one, where local conditions have delayed the work, and has placed trained men in charge of these libraries. Buildings are in course of construction at the 16 national guard camps and at two special camps.

In a memorandum to the commission on training camp activities of the war department, Dr. Herbert Putnam, librarian of congress and director of the American Library association's war service, announces that there are now in service in the various training camps 344,000 books, and that an additional 220,000 have been shipped and are on the way to them.

The campaign for funds during September and October last netted something over a million and a half dollars for this service. Of this sum, \$320,000—a grant from the Carnegie corporation—is being applied to the erection of the library buildings at 34 camps.

The Woman's Missionary Society of the Faith Reformed Church will meet with Mrs. C. C. Waggoner, at the parsonage, Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock. This is the first meeting of the year and all members are urged to be present.

MOMENTOUS MEET HELD BY SOCIALISTS

However, the Tagblatt Asserts There Was Calm Feeling Prevailing in Germany Sunday.

(By Associated Press.)
Amsterdam, Jan. 7.—There was a calm feeling in German parliamentary circles Sunday, according to the Tagblatt, and the leading majority parties finally agreed to support the government. On the other hand the Socialists held meetings Sunday which the Vorwaerts called "perhaps the most momentous" since August, 1911.

The Socialist organ says the Socialist party makes its attitude dependent on whether the government returns to the declaration made December 25th. In the meantime the Tagblatt says the annexationists are making every effort to overthrow Foreign Secretary von Kuehlmann, certain serious consequences being threatened openly if he stays in office.

The Vorwaerts publishes speeches by Philipp Scheidemann, leader of the majority Socialist party in the reichstag, and Hugo Haase, the minority leader, condemning what they term the annexationist project of the German government as disclosed at Brest-Litovsk. The speeches were delivered before the reichstag, main committee.

EFFORT TO PUT VIRGINIA BONE DRY WILL BE MADE

Richmond, Va., Jan. 6.—The general assembly of Virginia will convene here Wednesday for a 60-day session at which prohibition leaders are planning to put the state on record as favoring national prohibition. Perfection of the present liquor laws and a proposition to change the state tax system which it is claimed now works a hardship on cities and towns, also will be taken up.

Governor Henry C. Stuart, of Elk Garden, Russell county, will retire from office during the present session, being succeeded by Westmoreland Davis, of Leesburg. The inauguration, which will take place at the state house February 1, will be characterized by a somewhat elaborate ceremony. The retiring governor is a nephew of Gen. J. E. B. Stuart, the noted Confederate cavalry leader, and like Governor-elect Davis is one of the wealthiest men in the state. Governor Stuart also is one of the largest land owners in America, owning more than 60,000 acres of blue grass land in Russell county, alone.

When it takes up the prohibition question, the legislature will be asked to abolish the present law allowing each householder to import a quart a month, and to make Virginia "bone dry."

ALIEN ENEMY IS MAYOR.

(By Associated Press.)
Michigan City, Ind., Jan. 7.—Frederich Miller, alleged enemy alien, assumed office as mayor of this city without opposition at noon today. At a late hour no word had been received as to the progress of injunctive proceedings begun at Valparaiso by persons who objected to the installation of a "German mayor." There was no disorder.

SPEECH OF PREMIER WON APPROVAL OF ALL

Nothing That the Premier Has Uttered Has So Far Won Such Universal Support and Endorsement.

(By Associated Press.)
London, Jan. 7.—If the country's opinion, as is probably, is expressed through the London press it may be said that never has Premier Lloyd George won such universal approval as is given in his statement of the war aims of the entente allies. It is regarded as certain that there may be some divergence of opinion on details, like the economic problems at stake and the German African colonies, but on all essentials the speech of the Premier is hailed as satisfactory and he is declared to have performed a most important service. All interest is now focussed on how the statement will be received in Germany and Austria and not the least in Russia, but nothing as yet is received to satisfy this curious anxiety.

SELECTIVE DRAFT IS CONSTITUTIONAL

Supreme Court of United States So Decided in an Opinion Handed Down Today.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Jan. 7.—The selective draft act was upheld as constitutional by the United States supreme court today in an opinion handed down in the court house. The government's contention was that the power given congress to declare war includes the power to compel citizens to render military service both at home and abroad and were sustained by the court.

Chief Justice White, who delivered the unanimous opinion in a brief statement, declared that after considering various contentions the conclusion had been reached that most of them were imaginary rather than real.

BINDER TWINE WILL BE CONTROLLED 1918

Food Administration Announces That It Has Made Arrangements for the Price and Distribution of Twine for the Year, Assuring the Farmer Supplies.

Washington, Jan. 7.—The food administration has arranged to control during the year 1918 the supply of binder twine so important to farmers, particularly those of the Granter states. Reasonable prices, but not so low as those of former years, will be fixed. This control will be effected through quantity agreements the binder makers with the food administration which will center the buying and eliminate competition.

FORMER SALISBURIAN ARRESTED IN NORFOLK CONNECTION WITH FIRE

Otto Rupp and Wife Held Without Bail by the Authorities Along With a Number of Other Persons—Rupp Well Known Here.

The following Gastonia Special under date of January 5th was read with great interest by Salisbury people Sunday morning:
"Gastonia was greatly interested in Norfolk papers received here today containing accounts of the recent \$200,000 fire there and the arrest of 12 persons suspected of incendiarism, especially because of the fact that two of the persons arrested and held without bail in connection therewith were Otto Rupp and his wife, former residents of this place."
"Rupp was a butcher and conducted a meat market here for more than a year, leaving here just about a year ago, for Richmond. Both Rupp and his wife were 'frank' Germans, it is said, and were both, it is declared, of a belligerent disposition, frequently getting into trouble. There were even those who believed that they were German spies."

Rupp and his wife lived here for a year or probably two years. He came here from Cincinnati and was employed as head butcher in a local shop and later entered business for himself, operating a combination market and restaurant on the corner of Council and Lee streets. He then went to Granite Quarry and pretended to run a restaurant but did not remain here long, leaving Salisbury for Gastonia. Rupp was in trouble a number of times while living here and at one time came near having his head severed with a knife in the hands of a young man from Kannapolis. Rupp was known to be a full-blooded German but left Salisbury before the war broke out.

MOTOR TRUCK MAIL ROUTE FROM HERE

Government Seeks Bids for Operation of Trucks From Salisbury to Greensboro Via Winston.

(By Associated Press.)
The United States postoffice department, is to establish a number of motor truck mail routes throughout the country, and it is proposed to operate several of these routes out of Salisbury. For some time it has been known that such a mail delivery plan was contemplated by the postoffice department and efforts have been made through the Chamber of Commerce and otherwise to have one or more of these routes operated out of Salisbury. It now seems assured that this plan will be tried out by the government and that Salisbury will get at least one of these routes at the beginning of the year.

The postmaster general is now advertising for bids for the operation of motor truck mail routes in various sections of the country and one of these includes Salisbury. Bids are to be received at the office of the fourth assistant postmaster general until January 17, 1918, for carrying the United States mail for the term from February 1, 1918, to June 30, 1920, on the following schedule of routes:
From Salisbury by Spencer, Lexington, Winston-Salem, Walkertown, Kernersville, Colfax, Friendship and Guilford College to Greensboro, a distance of 70.7 miles, and back, six times a week. Contractors will be required in addition to the usual haul delivery and collection service to sell stamps, supplies, deliver registered matter, and to accept and give receipt for application for money orders and the money therefor, also for matter presented for registration or for insurance and C. O. D. parcels. The schedule proposed is as follows:
Leave Salisbury daily except Sunday 11 a. m., arrive at Winston-Salem 3 p. m., leave Winston-Salem 3:10 p. m., arrive at Greensboro 6:10 p. m., leave Winston-Salem 3:10 p. m., arrive at Salisbury at 7:10 p. m.

Trucks of one to two tons carrying capacity with an emergency truck on each route will be required. A bond of \$15,000 will be required of any party to whom such contract may be awarded.

BUTTER \$2.25 A POUND.

And Other Things in Proportion in Berlin, the American Food Administrator Learns.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Jan. 7.—Butter is selling at \$2.25 a pound in Berlin, sugar at 56 cents a pound, ham and bacon at \$2.11 a pound and American soap five bars for \$1.12. This information was received by the Federal food administrator from reasonably reliable sources. The prices are from four to five times as high as those now prevailing in the United States.

It is kinder to say that a man or woman is ignorant than that they are so selfish as to disregard the pitiful cries of starving humanity on the other side.

RAILROAD LEGISLATION IS STARTED ON ITS WAY

Inter-State Commerce Committee of Both Houses to Hold Hearings and Director General May be Present in Person—Railroads to be Represented by A. P. Thom.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Jan. 7.—Legislation asked by President Wilson to perfect government control of railroads started on its way to congress today by the consideration by the inter-state commerce committee in both houses. The house committee arranged to begin hearings tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock. Director McAdoo or some one designated by him will make the initial explanation of the measures to the committee.
A. P. Thom, general counsel for the Southern railway, will handle the case for the railroad executives. It was said on behalf of the railroads that they do not want to appear in position as being antagonistic to the principles of the measure but want to furnish statistics and other information for use in congress.

SEEKING TO PREVENT THE WITHDRAWAL OF MEANS' FUNDS

An Affidavit Alleges the Means Are Appropriating the King Estate to Themselves—Mrs. Gaston B. Means' Personal Check Not Honored.

(By Associated Press.)
New York, Jan. 5.—As an aftermath of the recent trial of Gaston B. Means, acquitted at Concord, N. C., of the murder of Mrs. Maude A. King, an affidavit was filed in the Supreme Court here today alleging, in effect, the appropriation of funds belonging to Mrs. Maude King and her estate by Means for the benefit of himself and wife.

The affidavit was made by the temporary administrator of Mrs. King's estate in an action in which it is sought to prevent Mrs. Means from drawing out money deposited in her name in the Corn Exchange bank here. The bank refused to honor a check of her's against the account on being notified that the United States court for the western district of North Carolina, had issued an order restraining Mr. and Mrs. Means from interfering with any of the property of Mrs. King's estate.

Mrs. Means began suit against the bank to compel it to honor her check, but by an order of the Supreme court here issued today on the strength of the affidavit, the temporary administrator of Mrs. King's estate is substituted for the bank as defendant in the suit.

The affidavit alleges that a sudden change from humble circumstances to apparent prosperity came to Means and his wife shortly after he became Mrs. King's confidential agent handling sums for her aggregating several hundred thousand dollars. It is alleged that he collected these sums, but that the records fail to show the deposit of thousands of dollars to Mrs. King's account.

On the other hand, it is alleged that, in addition to their increased expenditures, Means and his wife opened bank accounts in their own names. It is specifically charged that part of the money belonging to Mrs. King thus collected, amounting in one instance to \$10,000 was used to create the Corn Exchange bank account for Mrs. Means involved in the litigation.

RETURN FROM BIG DUCK HUNT.

Salisburians Enjoy Great Sport at and Near Morehead City—Freeze Drove Large Quantities of Game Close In.

A party of hunters from this place spent last week in the Morehead City neighborhood hunting ducks. They returned yesterday laden with game having killed more than a hundred ducks besides geese and brant.

In the party were A. E. Davis, N. W. Collett, P. B. Beard, and J. M. Stoddard. Mr. Stoddard liked the sport so well he returned to the hunting grounds today accompanied by John D. Kenerly.

Mr. Collett and party relate a story of fearful weather in that section of the State and say a party who were hunting on the island on which is situated the club house of a hunting club of which Mr. D. L. Gaskill of this city is a member were caught on this island when the awful freeze came and they were compelled to walk twelve miles on the ice in order to reach "civilization." Ducks were found in plenty around and close to Morehead City, having come in there to get away from frozen waters, something they rarely do, come in close to thickly inhabited sections. At times it was possible to shoot many ducks from the boat, the freeze driving these in close to boats and populated sections.

OMNIBUS RIVERS-HARBORS BILL.

Chairman Small Announces the Committee Will Report a Measure Appropriating \$20,000,000.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Jan. 7.—An omnibus rivers and harbor bill at this session of congress was assured today when Chairman Small of the rivers and harbors committee announced that the committee would report a measure appropriating \$20,000,000. Estimates for maintenance, completion of projects and additional improvements for projects approved but not completed total \$18,000,000. Representative Small also said the committee intended to exclude most of the proposed new projects.

THE FEDERATION TO MEET BIRMINGHAM

Spencer Shop Delegates Go to Attend Annual Convention Southern Shopmen in That City.

(By A. W. Hicks.)
Spencer, Jan. 7.—The annual installation of officers of Division 363 Grand International Auxillary of the B. of L. E., will take place here Thursday night, the 10th inst., when an interesting program consisting of music and recitations will be rendered. Refreshments will also be a feature of the evening. All members of the G. I. A. and B. of L. E. are expected to attend. Officers and officers elect are requested to dress in white for the occasion.

The federation of shopmen met in annual convention in Birmingham today and will remain in session for about ten days. About 45,000 workmen from all crafts employed on the Southern railway and allied lines are represented in the convention by about 150 delegates. The business of the convention will be routine and will be of special interest to the workers. Those who went from Spencer include Lee Ketchie and J. M. Ellis, from the B. R. C. of A.; machinists by W. E. Shuping and E. M. Couble; Boiler-makers by Wm. Wands; painters by A. C. Iddings, and electricians by B. B. Everhardt.

An interesting visitor in East Spencer during the past few days was W. M. Simpson an officer of the U. S. torpedo boat destroyer, F. Walke, who was the guest of his kinsman, Mr. A. C. Robinson. While Mr. Simpson whose rank was not disclosed and who did not talk for publication, he was decidedly optimistic as to the war. He declared that the people of America should not be down hearted in the least about the submarines. Mr. Simpson has been in active service for several months and has returned to his ship now in an Atlantic port.

The Spencer Fire department was re-organized Saturday night by the election of H. J. Kester, chief; W. P. Neister, assistant chief; C. W. Crowell, secretary and treasurer with five new members added to the list. An amendment to the by laws was passed providing that any fireman failing to respond to an alarm is to be fined. Failing to pay fines four successive times results in dismissal from the service.

A representative of the United States government has been in conference with the merchants of Spencer giving special instructions as to the operation of the food administration laws. He found the merchants disposed to be reasonably fair and by his help a few minor irregularities were corrected. Frequent visits from these special agents are expected.

S. T. Dorsett, of Washington, is visiting relatives in Spencer where he formerly lived.

Mrs. Marvin Earnhardt has gone to Pinacle to visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Smith.

J. D. Dorsett has returned from Siler City, where he spent several days with his father, J. Dan Dorsett.

Mrs. Sallie Goode, of New Castle, Va., is visiting her son, Chief Clerk R. J. Goode, in Spencer.

ROADS ARE ASKED FOR FACTS ABOUT FINANCE

Commerce Commissioner Asks the Railroad Presidents for Statement of Their Needs for the Year and for First Six Months of the Year.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Jan. 7.—As the first step in the Government's assisting in financing railroads the presidents of the roads have been requested by Interstate Commerce Commissioner Daniels to telegraph immediately the amount of capital required for the year and also for the first six months of the year, this step being taken at the direction of the national director of roads, Mr. McAdoo.

Railroad presidents were asked to detail the precise purpose for which these funds are needed, if to meet maturing securities not already provided for and payment of construction work already started which cannot be stopped.