

UNUSUAL RECORD FOR BUSINESS IS MADE BY CONGRESS

Much Pre-Holiday Work Has Been Accomplished Since Opening.

PROHIBITION VOTE TO BE TAKEN TODAY

Prohibition Advocates Confident of Approval. May Recess Tomorrow

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—With an unusual record for business accomplished at a pre-holiday session already made, congress turns tomorrow to a clean-up of domestic legislation before the Christmas holidays, after which it proposes to devote itself exclusively to war problems.

Since the session began a fortnight ago, congress has declared war against Austria-Hungary, extended the president's \$100,000,000 war emergency fund, made progress on natural resource legislation, recommended by the president, passed the \$333,000,000 postoffice appropriation bill through the house and launched several important investigations, including those in the army and navy war preparations and the sugar and fuel shortages.

To be squeezed into two days before the recess is much other important legislation and during the recess committees will proceed with investigations and drafting of appropriation bills to follow in the new year.

Chief interest now is in the nationwide prohibition question to be voted on by the house tomorrow afternoon at 5 o'clock. Prohibition advocates are confident of considerable more than the necessary two-thirds majority, of the resolution for submission to the states of the national prohibition amendment to the constitution.

Must Be Adjusted. If the house acts tomorrow, the difference must be adjusted in conference and the conference report accepted by both bodies before the resolution is submitted to the states. Every debate is expected to be held in the house with a demonstration by the prohibition forces which have fought for years to get action from congress.

Disposal before the recess of the proposed woman suffrage amendment is regarded as impossible. A vote may be taken in the house soon after the holidays. Polls conducted by the leaders indicate defeat of the resolution, in which event a vote would be taken before congress adjourns.

Investigation by the senate military affairs committee in the war department's operations will be resumed tomorrow, with Major General Crozier, chief of ordnance, again under examination. Several more days probably will be spent in the ordnance inquiry, with Colonel Lewis, inventor of the Lewis machine gun, army ordnance experts and department officials as witnesses. Secretary Baker will be called before the ordnance inquiry.

Plans to begin inquiry into the navy's war activities will be made tomorrow by the house naval subcommittee. Hearings of department heads, it is expected, will begin at once.

Investigation of the sugar and fuel (Continued on Page Two.)

HEAVY SACRIFICE OF MEN AND FIVE DAYS FIGHTING GIVE TEUTONS POSITION

Make Slight Advance Against Italians Although at Great Cost—Agreement for Armistice Between Bolsheviki and Germans Has Been Signed.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ITALIAN ARMY IN NORTHERN ITALY, Saturday, Dec. 15, (By the Associated Press)—After a heavy sacrifice of men and five days of continuous fighting the enemy has succeeded in making another slight advance, bringing his position up to Caprille Hill, just east of the Brenta river. This represents an advance of about three-quarters of a mile, its chief importance being that Caprille is one of the dominating heights at the head of San Lorenzo valley, leading southward to the plains toward which the enemy is persistently exerting all his pressure.

As his chief effort the previous week was to gain command of the passes west of the Brenta river so, all his attention in the last week has been given to the passes on the east bank. The fighting during the last five days has been heavy and at times desperate for the control of strategic positions.

Double Aspect. The struggle yesterday and today took on a double aspect, with the Italians attacking on the right of Mount Pertica, occupied by the enemy while the Austrians concentrated their attacks on the left, around Mount Beretta and its neighboring hill, Caprille. The Alpini again distinguished themselves in charges up the slopes of Pertica in an effort to redeem the hill but while all reports agree that heaps of enemy dead marked the course of the Alpini assaults, they were unable to maintain their positions at the summit exposed to the sweep of enemy batteries.

Austrian attacks on the left were twice repulsed, but late yesterday with a large addition of fresh troops, the Austrians reached the summit of Caprille while the Italian lines were correspondingly drawn back. Although Caprille is at the head of San Lorenzo valley, the passage along this valley is controlled by the heights on both sides held by the Italians.

CONTINUE EFFORTS. Notwithstanding the terrible losses they have sustained, the German and Austro-Hungarian armies in the mountainous region of northern Italy continue their efforts to break the Italian line and open a passageway to the lower plains below. In France and Belgium there is little military activity, except for small engagements at outposts and raiding contingents and artillery duels. The nearest approach to attacks in force were made by the Germans Saturday night in the Champagne region of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO.)

MOVEMENT TO REALIZE NATIONAL ENTITY OF THE JEWS IS LAUNCHED

Practical Re-Occupation of Holy Land Is Expected to Follow.

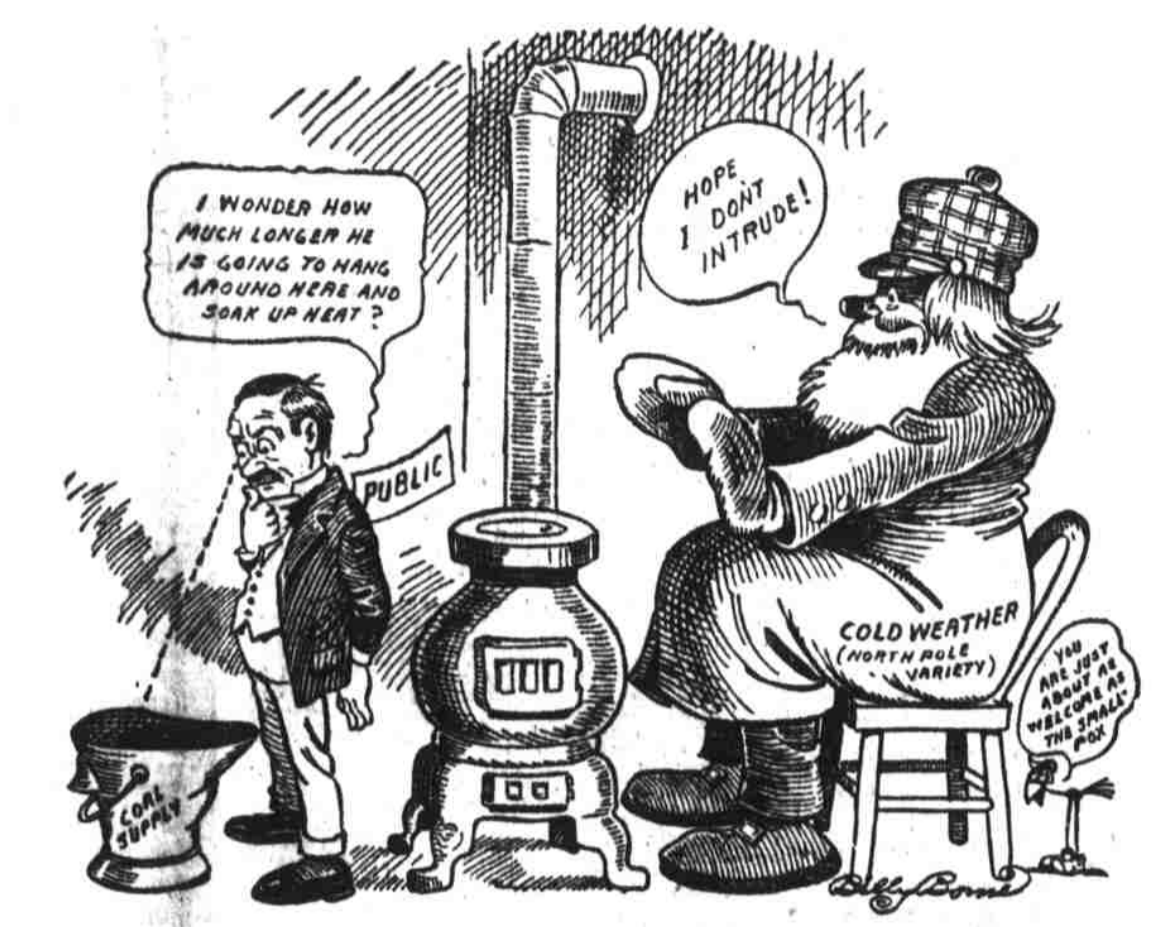
BIG FUND OUTLINED.

BAITMORE, Dec. 16.—Two hundred leaders of the Zionist organization of the country launched at a convention here today the movement to realize Jewish national entity as a result of the capture of Palestine from Turkey. Intimation was given during the meeting that a practical re-occupation of the Holy Land would be under way in a month or two.

A cable received from London said physicians and nurses and medical units could go to Palestine within another month and it was informally announced that the American Jewish unit organized by the Hadassah, the women's Zionist organization of the country, is ready to begin work in Palestine at once.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Food added to the nation's war-time stores by the 1917 catch of Alaska salmon was the largest amount in the history of the territory and far exceeded in value that of any other season. The pack of canned salmon will aggregate 3,500,000 cases, the bureau of fisheries announced today, valued

The Unwelcome Visitor



GASTON B. MEANS IS FOUND "NOT GUILTY" OF MURDER OF MRS. KING AFTER SOME DELIBERATION BY JURY

Verdict Returned Shortly After 10 O'clock Yesterday and Means Is Immediately Released From Custody—No Demonstration Following Verdict, But Defendant Receives Congratulations of His Friends on Streets.

CONCORD, N. C., Dec. 16.—"Not guilty" was the verdict of the jury in the case of Gaston B. Means, charged with the murder of Mrs. Maude A. King, widow of a Chicago millionaire, who was shot to death at Blackwelder Spring, near Concord, on the evening of August 29 last.

The jury made known its verdict at 10:22 o'clock this morning, after having deliberated since 7 o'clock Saturday night. The finding was made known to Judge E. M. Cline in the Cabarrus county courtroom in the presence of the defendant, his wife, his father and mother, other relatives, representatives of counsel and several others who had learned that the jury was about to make its report and hurried to the courthouse.

No Demonstration. There was no demonstration, probably prevented by a warning Judge Cline had given before hearing the jury's report, accompanying it with instructions to Sheriff Caldwell to arrest anyone who made any demonstration. However, a little later, when the prisoner had been formally discharged and the court adjourned, Means was surrounded by relatives, attorneys and friends, who hastened to shake his hand and congratulate him upon his acquittal.

After his release, accompanied by his wife, Means left the courtroom and went to the home of his father. A little later, he reappeared on the streets of the town where scores of friends extended congratulations. As he and Mrs. Means were leaving the courtroom they met one of his sisters who had just arrived and the two women rushed into one another's arms, weeping for joy.

Sent Word to Judge. At 9:30 o'clock this morning, the jury sent Sheriff Caldwell to Judge Cline's hotel to request that he appear in courtroom. The judge was at breakfast and it was 10 o'clock before he reached the courtroom. To the crowd that had assembled, he made known the fact that the jury was about to appear but that he had not been apprised whether it was ready

to announce a decision. In the event such was the case, there must not be any demonstration, regardless of what the jury's finding might be. Then he directed the sheriff to arrest any one violating his instructions. He also cautioned against any attempt to talk with any of the jurors before they were discharged or they interpreted that to mean an expression of opinion as to the fact of the time of the tragedy. In unison the jurors replied they had not. The clerk of the court then asked the formal question as to whether a verdict had been arrived at. J. Frank Goodman, who had been chosen foreman, answered in the affirmative. Directing the defendant to stand and raise his right hand, the clerk then asked the jury if they found the defendant guilty or not guilty of the crime charged.

"Not Guilty." "Not guilty," replied Foreman Goodman. Judge Frank Osborne, of counsel for the defense, then asked Solicitor Hayden Clement if he had any further charge against the defendant, to which the solicitor replied "I have not." Judge Osborne then formally asked the court to release the defendant from custody, and Judge Cline said: "The defendant is released."

Gaston B. Means then entered upon the first full day of freedom since he went to jail in September, waiving preliminary hearing before a magistrate.

Probably no trial ever conducted in North Carolina has held the wide interest of that of Means, nor has any brought more attendants from other states, a number of witnesses from New York and Chicago testifying. Assistant District Attorney John T. Dooling, of New York city, assisted in the prosecution, coming to Concord at the request of Solicitor Clement. He had cause both Means and Mrs. Means were regarded as citizens of that state, Mr. Dooling brought with him a mass

of papers and documents of various kinds seized at Means' apartment in New York. These, Mr. Dooling took with him when he left for New York last night, some of them being subject to the order of the New York courts. It has been rumored that in the event of acquittal on the charge of murder, Means might be prosecuted in New York on other charges. When asked about this, Solicitor Hayden Clement said this afternoon that he did not anticipate any such action, but that he could not speak with authority.

In Lonely Spot. A coroner's inquest accepted the statement of Gaston Means that she shot herself accidentally. After the woman's body was taken to Chicago for burial, charges of foul play were made. The coroner's physician declared that the wound in the back of the woman's head could not have been self-inflicted.

The investigation shifted to New York where Mrs. King had resided for several years and where Means had handled her business affairs. Search of the apartments there of Mrs. King and her sister and Mr. and Mrs. Gaston Means disclosed, according to New York officials, that Means had misappropriated the woman's money, and also that he was connected with German agents. Documents seized in the apartments were cited by New York as proof of these assertions. Mrs. King had inherited approximately \$1,000,000 from her second husband, the late James C. King of Chicago and New York, and Chicago officials declared nearly all of this sum had "vanished" during the time Means was connected with the woman's affairs. (Continued on Page Two.)

BOLSHEVIKI-TEUTONIC ARMISTICE IS SIGNED

Becomes Effective at Noon Today and Is in Force Until January 14.

BERLIN, (via London, Dec. 16).—An armistice agreement between the Bolsheviki government in Russia and the Teutonic allies was signed at Brest Litovsk, Saturday, according to an official communication issued today. The armistice becomes effective at noon Monday and is to remain in force until January 14.

A provision in the armistice agreement is that peace negotiations are to begin immediately after the signing of the armistice.

WANTS MILITARY SERVICE CREWSON ALL TRANSPORTS

Quartermaster General Sharpe Points Out Necessity for Legislation.

CIVILIANS ARE NOT RELIABLE, HE SAYS

Cites Instances of Men Holding Up Transports by Demands.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Immediate legislation to bring the crews of transports, mine layers and other army vessels into the military service is urged by Quartermaster General Sharpe in his annual report, made public tonight. Continuing difficulties with civilian crews are described, with the conclusion that grave danger can be averted only by making officers and men subject to military discipline.

New Element. The report adds a new element to the controversy over the manning of ships carrying troops and supplies to Europe. A proposal to have all American overseas merchant craft manning by naval reserves has been rejected by the shipping board, which recently announced that the navy would operate troop ships and vessels carrying safety military supplies, but that all others would retain their merchant crews.

General Sharpe probably will appear this week as a witness in the senate military investigation of army war preparations and his testimony with its proposal of still another plan may result in a general hearing of the subject before the committee.

Since the war in Europe created an abnormal demand for seamen, General Sharpe's report says there has been trouble. The chief difficulty encountered for several years has been the constant changing of crews as men were drawn away by offers of higher pay in the merchant service, interfering with the speed and precision of such important duties as harbor mining and troops movements.

Transport Hold Up. He cites several instances where army transports ready to sail with war material and supplies had been held up by demands for higher pay by the crews. These demands have had to be met, he said, before the ships could sail.

With the rate of wages fixed by law, the report says the department has found itself seriously embarrassed in attempting to undertake to accede to the demands for increases and in several instances an adjustment to meet the requirement of the crew has only resulted in a

SELECTIVE DRAFT THE GREAT ISSUE TODAY IN CANADIAN ELECTIONS

Most Bitterly Contested Campaign in History of Dominion.

SOLDIERS VOTE.

OTTAWA, Dec. 16.—With selective conscription as the great issue, the voters of Canada will decide tomorrow whether the new union government of Sir Robert Borden shall remain in office or Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the veteran leader of the liberal opposition, shall be restored to power. The campaign just ended is considered the most important as well as the most bitterly contested in the history of the dominion.

There are approximately 2,000,000 electors, of whom about 250,000 are soldiers overseas. The military vote already has been cast in camps and trenches in almost every quarter of the world.

Prime Minister Borden and his supporters are standing squarely on the conscription issue and apparently have no fear of the result. They maintain that the soldier vote and that of women relatives of men in their service will be cast almost solidly for them. They have contended in the campaign that defeat for the union government would mean that Canada must drop out of the war for lack of men to keep her fighting forces up to the necessary strength.

Sir Wilfrid as an alternative to the conscription issue declares he has proposed a referendum. The liberal leaders have asserted that under their leadership the province of Quebec, which thus far has offered comparatively few soldiers to the service of the dominion, would provide more volunteers than could be enlisted by conscription. They professed tonight to believe they will have a majority of 25 seats in parliament.

ADMIRAL VON TIRPITZ SAYS BRITAIN HAS WON IN THE WAR UP TO DATE

Declares Peace Based on Status Quo Ante Out of Question.

GERMANY'S NEEDS.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 16.—The German newspapers contain lengthy accounts of the speech of Grand Admiral von Tirpitz, before the Hamburg branch of the Fatherland party, in which the admiral said: "Up to the present in this war Great Britain has won, rather than lost. Peace based on the status quo ante or on renunciation, therefore, is out of the question for Germany."

With reference to the rumor that Germany would give up Zebrugg and Ostend if the British evacuated Calais, Von Tirpitz said: "The evacuation of Calais would mean the loss of the last of our first-class security. Moreover, the channel tunnel will become a fact after the war. For real security, we should have, besides Flanders and Antwerp, Calais and Bologna. The question in question is a screen behind which the question of Flanders might be permitted to disappear. The price that we cannot coerce Great Britain and America falls on the ground when we consider the growing scarcity of the cargo space of our ruthless arch enemy. The time for final decision will come when real distress begins to take the place of mere threatening distress. That time

Table with 2 columns: Category and Value. Categories include City, Suburban, Country, Net paid, Service, Unpaid, Total. Values range from 4,741 to 8,563.