

Prohibition Forces Express Gratification At Result Of Vote In Congress

Although the Hobson National Prohibition Resolution Was Lost on the Two-Thirds Majority Rule it Succeeded in Receiving a Majority of Eight Votes—The Antis Think the Issue is Settled for Many Years But Prohibition Leaders Say the Issue Will be Made in the 1916 Campaign—Vote Followed a Long Debate.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Opponents of prohibition in congress confidently predicted today that the defeat in the case of the Hobson resolution for a constitutional amendment meant that the issue was dead so far as action in this session was concerned. On the other hand, prohibition leaders were triumphantly pointing to their majority of eight votes for the resolution and although it failed to receive the two thirds vote necessary to adoption, they declared that despite



Richmond Pearson Hobson, whose resolution for national prohibition was defeated in Congress last night, after his temporary defeat, they would continue the fight.

the Hobson resolution, predicted that as a result of the vote in the house, the question of prohibition would not again be brought up on the floor of congress as a national issue for twenty years. Prohibition leaders, however, including Representative Hobson, predict it will be made a national issue in the 1916 campaign.

Representatives of the national legislative committee of the Anti-Saloon League of America, in a statement today, declared that the temperance forces of the country had reason to be gratified by the result.

It is the first time in the history of the republic that the question of national prohibition has gotten upon the floor of either branch of congress," they declared. "The fact that the first effort should show a clear majority of eight, exclusive of pairs, with both floor leaders, the chairman of the rules committee and the prestige of the president and the secretary of state invoked against us, and in view of the further fact that no member of the present congress was elected on this issue, is exceedingly gratifying."

Party lines were shattered. Democratic Leader Underwood, and Republican Leader Mann, who led the anti-prohibition forces, were seen fighting shoulder to shoulder in opposition to the resolution.

When the final ballot was recorded it showed 386 members had voted—197 for and 189 against. The resolution failed of adoption by 61 votes, an affirmative vote of 253 being necessary.

Of those voting for the resolution 114 were democrats, 67 republicans, 12 progressives and four independent republicans. Voting against were 111 democrats; 46 republicans; 1 independent republican and 1 progressive.

W. C. Maxwell Dies Suddenly Of Apoplexy

One of City's Foremost Citizens and Ablest Lawyers in the State Stricken While in His Office and Died in 30 Minutes Thereafter.

Mr. William Columbus Maxwell one of the foremost men of the city and one of the ablest lawyers in the state died in his office at 12:30 p. m., his death being due to apoplexy. Mr. Maxwell had just finished dictating his letters and had risen, having two or three letters in his hand. He fell to the floor. He stooped to pick it up, when suddenly without warning, the fatal stroke came. Mr. Maxwell fell prostrate on the floor. The later, and Dr. Wiley responded instantly. Mr. Maxwell spoke once, saying "My head is gone." Everything possible was done for him, but death came 30 minutes later. Mrs. Maxwell and Mrs. F. I. Osborne were with him when he died. Dr. Wright, who called, said that Mr. Maxwell died of apoplexy. The cause of the death of Mr. Maxwell was the rush of Christmas shoppers; casting a pull over the Christmas season, for few men were more revered, and more beloved than Mr. Maxwell, and he had been more a vital part of the city's life.

Col. Goethals Explains Request For Battleships

New York, Dec. 23.—The request made by Governor Goethals of the canal zone for the dispatch of American warships to the canal to preserve American neutrality was made at the request of naval officers in charge of wireless plants and naval affairs in the zone; it was forwarded to Washington as a matter of form by Colonel Goethals, acting in his capacity as governor; and the incident is ended so far as he is concerned, so announced the Colonel himself upon his arrival here today from Cristobal.

INCREASE IN CITY ASSETS \$249,629.29

During Six Months from April 30 to October 31 the Assets of Charlotte Went Up Nearly a Quarter of a Million Dollars.

Chairman E. L. Mason of Finance Committee Says Alderman Who Criticized Acts of Administration Was Party to All Acts.

It is not generally known that the audit of the books of the city of Charlotte just completed shows a capital surplus of \$1,062,334.76, but this is the fact in the case.

But another interesting feature of this part of the audit is that the present administration added \$249,629.29 to the capital assets of the city of Charlotte within the past six months, or from April 30, 1914, to October 31, 1914. The capital assets of the city at the beginning of the six-months' period for which the audit was ordered were \$2,967,705.47, and the capital assets of the city on October 1, 1914, the end of this audit period, totaled \$3,217,334.76, the difference being nearly a quarter of a million dollars, shown in the audit.

Mr. E. L. Mason, chairman of the finance committee of the board of aldermen, at the city hall this morning declared that he is a member of the present city administration and that he is not attacking any member or act of the administration.

"I have not for the past ten months voted for a single extra expense on the city government except the \$1,000 for the funeral of the city firemen who were killed in the discharge of their duty, and for the purchase of the uniforms for the police officers."

"But Col. T. L. Kirkpatrick, who has seen fit to attack the administration of which he is a member, has voted to spend much larger sums for other purposes. Three items I now have in mind he made the motion to pay. One of these is the sum of \$4,646.34 for a sewer in the Suburban Realty Company property; \$4,324.03 for the sewer in the Four C's property and \$400 for the note to Mr. E. D. Latta, jr., totalling more than \$8,000."

"I have not criticized the audit as presented to the mayor but I respectfully submit that the auditors were not employed to make an audit for 12 months, but for six months. By this I mean that the \$23,000 which has been charged against the administration for the next six months should not be charged against the past six months any more than any other item of future expense. The auditors were not directed to make any estimates. Any one can do that. They were asked to make an audit of the books of the city for the period of six months."

"While I am talking I might also refer to the Barringer farm proposition. I want to ask since when did real estate in the city of Charlotte cease to be an asset. We bought the Barringer farm for the purpose of locating an incinerator thereon. We took from the general fund the money with which to pay for it. Later we found that another location would be better and purchased that. Now if we sell the Barringer farm why should not the return from it be covered into the general fund of the city?"

INCREASE IN TRADE IS SHOWN BY MERCHANTS

One Dealer Reports an Additional \$500 Trade Yesterday Over the Same Day Last Year and Others Show Better Business Than Formerly.

Percentage of Cash Trade Shows Big Increase Also, While the Credit Accounts Are Not Growing as Rapidly as is Usual.

The Christmas trade in Charlotte is better than it was last year. This statement is made upon the authority of a number of leading merchants of the various lines, and another interesting and important fact in this connection is that a much larger per centage of the trade this year is for cash, comparatively few purchases being made on credit.

One of the best known merchants of the city this morning stated to a representative of The Charlotte News that their sales for yesterday totaled \$500 more than for the same day last year, and much of the increase was cash.

Another, in the same line, stated that his increase is larger than the above, and that Saturday his sales amounted to nearly \$1,000 more than for the same day last year.

The mills are showing better business, one mill superintendent making the statement yesterday that within the past three weeks more orders have come in for their product than came in during the entire three months previous thereto. This is not true of all mills, probably, but in the majority of cases it is.

Many people who have been out of employment are now working, even though temporarily and all their earnings are of necessity going into circulation immediately, making general business better.

The railroads are reporting much heavier passenger traffic though freight traffic is showing little or no improvement, but this is not unexpected at this season.

As a whole the business people of the city of Charlotte are well satisfied with the Christmas trade, especially in view of the fact that the credit accounts are not growing as they usually do and that a corresponding cash increase in the cash trade is being shown.

Results On Two Great Battlefields In Doubt Because Of Conflicting Reports

INFERNAL MACHINE WAS PLACED IN CITY'S HOLD

New York, Dec. 23.—Existence of an alleged conspiracy in New Orleans to blow up a French or English passenger ship on the sea by placing an infernal machine in her cargo before she should sail from New York was known 12 days ago to Paul Faguet, general agent of the French line, according to an announcement here.

Detectives were employed to prevent fruition of the scheme, every bit of baggage and cargo going into the French line ships was closely examined and proper authorities, Mr. Faguet said, were notified. It was believed that notification was what resulted in the arrest of four men in New Orleans.

"We have taken and shall continue to take every precaution against outrages of this sort," Mr. Faguet said. "We have had detectives guarding our ships while they were here and our docks ever since the war started. We have increased this guard. It is virtually impossible now for an infernal machine to be put aboard any of our ships while here."

The Cunard line and the International Mercantile Marine lines, which control most of the British trans-Atlantic liners have strengthened the forces of guards. No visitors may go to any of their docks and when vessels leave no one is allowed aboard who is unknown to officials.

Passengers have to furnish proofs of their identity before they are permitted to go. All baggage is scrutinized carefully and the cargo is thoroughly inspected before it is taken on.

To prevent the possibility of an attempt by long shoremen to place aboard explosives or to damage the ships, a squad of detectives disguised as longshoremen have been working for weeks on the docks.

BIG BREWERY COMPANY IN RECEIVERS' HANDS

Columbus, O., Dec. 23.—The Hoster Columbus breweries company, a \$12,000,000 corporation, went into the hands of receivers today on order of the federal court. Decreased demand for beer, adverse legislation and the voting "dry" of many states and counties in the last eight years was given as the cause.

It is Known That on the 80-Mile Battle Front in Russian Poland Desperate Fighting is in Progress, but Results Are Vaguely Interpreted—In the West the Effort of the Allies to Crush the Germans is Meeting With Sharp Resistance—Vast Movements of German Troops Reported—Germans Invade Angola, in Portuguese, West Africa—Christmas on the Great Battlefields May be Marked by a General Lull—English Papers to Observe the Day.

Although further progress apparently has been made by the allies in their general offensive movement, the German armies as a whole are standing fast, and so far as is known have lost no important sections of the long line on which they settled down after the retreat which followed the battle of the Marne, early in the war.

Today's official communications indicate that each side has had its victories and defeats. The French army chief state they captured the last section of a line of German trenches near Perthes-les-Hurlers, where fighting has been severe for several days and have made an average gain of 800 yards. The German statement, speaking of this engagement says that the French attack was "partly repelled."

French claims to progress in Belgium are denied in Berlin, where it is said that the British have suffered reverses at the hands of the Germans.

The German war office reports no developments in the east, saying merely that the fighting is continuing. The French statement, however, asserts that the Russians are pressing forward their invasion of Germany, across the East Prussian frontier, but admits that the Germans have made progress in the fighting in Poland, to the west of Warsaw.

In the entire course of the war few occasions have been marked by such a confusion of claims and conflict of movements as the present. In the west where the allies recently were everywhere on the offensive they now are confronted at points with severe German attacks, compelling them to defend their own positions. In the east the situation is changing swiftly. The Germans, who for a time were able to push forward swiftly, are now meeting with determined resistance from their antagonists in new positions.

The latest official communication from Petrograd in the same breath admits that the Russians have been compelled to retreat from some positions and states that the German attacks have been repulsed everywhere with heavy losses to the invaders. Germany and Austria continue to assert that important successes are being achieved. One of the great battles of the war is in progress 30 miles west of Warsaw and meanwhile the Russian forces to the north are pushing into Germany, presenting the possibility of a flanking movement which will menace the main army of Marshal von Hindenburg.

It is announced in Lisbon that German forces have invaded the province of Angola, Portuguese West Africa. A German invasion was said to have been defeated in October, although that report was denied in Berlin. On the present occasion the Portuguese government admits the troops at the military post of Nau-lita have been compelled to retreat.

Great Struggle in Poland. London, Dec. 23.—(12, Noon.)—The 80-mile front in Russian Poland, west of Warsaw, where Germans and Russians are at grips on the banks of the Bzura, Rawka and Pilica rivers continues to be the scene of the most desperate fighting in either the eastern or western war areas. When weather conditions are recalled, the suffering of the men in the trenches may be some extent be appreciated. The country is experiencing winter's full force. Each side has sustained tremendous losses in this battle of the rivers and although the Germans claim to have forced the Russian line at a number of points it is nevertheless a fact, according to reports reaching London, that the Russian front has been strengthened out, and it is difficult to visualize which contender has the strategic advantage.

BRITISH SHIP WAS DISMANTLED BY CANAL POLICE

Washington, Dec. 23.—Lieutenant Crenshaw, naval radio officer at the Panama canal zone, cabled the navy department today that the wireless apparatus of the British steamer Protesistans, in Balboa harbor, was dismantled by canal zone police December 10, after it was found she had been sending code messages.

EMPEROR WILLIAM GOING TO FRONT

London, Dec. 23.—(3:27 P. M.)—In a despatch from Cologne the correspondent of the Central News says that Emperor William with his entire staff, reached Cologne today from Berlin on his way to the western battle front.

FRANCE VOTES WAR FUND OF BILLION

Paris, Dec. 23, 3:14 p. m.—The chamber of deputies voted unanimously today an appropriation of 8,500,000,000 francs (\$1,700,000,000) to cover the expenses of the next six months, including the cost of the war.

ALFRED HENRY LEWIS, NOTED AUTHOR, DEAD

New York, Dec. 23.—Alfred Henry Lewis, newspaper man and writer of books, died today at the home of his brother here, of an intestinal disorder. He had been ill only a few days.

Mr. Lewis was born in Cleveland, 55 years ago. Though a lawyer, he entered newspaper work in Kansas City in 1890, and subsequently established a reputation as one of the foremost political writers of the country. He was described as a prodigious worker and in fifteen years produced eighteen books, many of which obtained a wide circulation. He was well known also as a writer of western stories and of articles on underworld life in New York.

URGENT ANSEL FOR APPOINTMENT

Washington, Dec. 23.—Former Governor F. M. Ansel of South Carolina was recommended by Representative Alken to President Wilson today for membership on the new federal trade commission.

THE WEATHER. Forecast for North Carolina. Partly cloudy tonight and Thursday, probably rain Thursday.