

## Snow Covers All North Carolina

### France Looking For Excuse To Reverse Position Taken In Refusing To Pay On Debt

#### WANT WASHINGTON TO MAKE MOVE TO JUSTIFY RECASTING

Would Have American Ambassador In Paris Open Negotiations With Government There

#### DIFFERENCES COULD EASILY BE CLEARED

Have Been Permitted To Develop Out of All Proportion; Meanwhile, Paul-Boncour Is Trying to Form New Government; Herriot Refuses Cabinet Post

Paris, Dec. 17 (AP)—With Joseph Paul-Boncour struggling to form a ministry, indications were today that France still was expecting something more definite from Washington on debt revision if the Chamber of Deputies were to be induced to reverse its decision and repudiate the December interest.

Such was the official view expressed this forenoon. Acting Premier Herriot declined Joseph Paul-Boncour's offer to enter a new cabinet, but assured the premier-designate he could count on Herriot's cooperation in the Chamber.

#### No Revision Offered For Debts Owed

Willing To Discuss Matter, But Opposed to Any General Conference

Washington, Dec. 17. (AP) The United States has informed France it has given similar indication to other nations that the administration is willing to continue debt discussions, but is opposed to any general conference, and can make no offer of revision.

This was the brief outline of the administration's stand given today in an authoritative source, while President Hoover and his aides continued to watch the efforts of France to form a government and to await other developments abroad.

Secretary Mills conferred for more than an hour with the chief executive, but was silent as to the meeting. Secretary Stimson maintained a stiff silence at the State Department.

It was made clear that the indication given to debtor nations has not been transmitted in the form of any formal note, but had been passed through previously exchanged notes and informal conversations with diplomatic representatives.

### Chain Gang Fugitive Caught



Robert Elliot Burns (seated), fugitive from a chain gang, who put his experiences into a book and later into a movie, is shown in custody of a detective after his arrest in Newark, N. J. Convicted of a \$4 holdup in Atlanta in 1922, Burns was sent to the chain gang, from which he escaped several months later. He was captured in Chicago in 1929 after his estranged wife had "tipped" the authorities, but escaped from the chain gang again at La Grange, Ga., in September, 1930.

### STATE SALARY CUT OF SMALL ACCOUNT

Would Amount to Only About \$150,000, Exclusive of the Schools

#### MISTAKEN IDEAS HAD

Some Legislators Think Only Necessary To Cutting State Salaries Would Be To Whack Employers' Incomes

Washington, Dec. 17. (AP) The belief of a great many people, including many members of the General Assembly, especially before they come or when they first come to a meeting of the General Assembly, is that the only thing necessary to reduce State expenses and thus balance the budget is to cut the salaries of all State employees. Yet the facts and figures show that the cost of personal service is a relatively small cost in most State departments and activities, with the exception of the six months school term. It is also a fact that almost all State employees, including professors and instructors in the State's educational institutions of higher learning and all State charitable and correctional institutions have already received salary cuts of from 20 to 35 per cent, while the public school teachers, principals and superintendents have received salary cuts of only 10 per cent.

Total expenditures by the State for all purposes from funds raised by taxation, including State Highway Commission expenditures, amounted to approximately \$47,400,000 in the fiscal year.

### Appeal Is Taken For S. C. Case of Condemned Lady

York, S. C., Dec. 17. (AP)—Attorneys for Mrs. Beatrice Ferguson Snipes, expectant mother, convicted of murder and sentenced to die April 7, today filed notice of appeal, automatically staying her execution until the case is disposed of by the State Supreme Court.

Mrs. Snipes was convicted early this month of the murder of Elliott Harris, a York county rural policeman, who was shot to death in a roadside argument last July 17. Her conviction automatically carried the death sentence under South Carolina law, and she is now being held in the State penitentiary at Columbia.

### COUNTIES PLAN TO DEMAND REBATE ON THE GASOLINE TAX

Stanly Commissioners Take Lead and Write Other 99 Counties Over the State

#### MOVE WELL DEFINED AND IS SECOND ONE

Buncombe After General Sales Tax and Rebate from That; Want Road Money to Pay County Debts; Dire State Need Almost Assures Defeat of Plan

Raleigh, Dec. 17. Still another movement is being organized to conduct a new raid upon the highway fund it was learned here today. This newest raid is being promoted by the board of county commissioners of Stanly county, according to reports received here, in an effort to get a law through the General Assembly to divert the proceeds of 1 cent of the State gasoline tax of 6 cents a gallon, to the counties to be used in retiring county road indebtedness. It is understood that the Stanly county commissioners have written to all the other county commissioners in the State, seeking their cooperation in this movement and especially in lining up the representatives from each

(Continued on Page Five.)

### Philippine Jam Broken By Senate

Senate Moves Toward Action; Southerners Seek Cotton Relief Program

Washington, Dec. 17. (AP)—An apparent break in the Senate jam on Philippine independence today smoothed out the pre-Christmas program of Congress.

A proposal comprising differences over whether a plebiscite should be had in the islands before outright freedom is given was satisfactory to members who had threatened to tie up proceedings indefinitely, so debate proceeded with some chance of passing the bill soon.

Committees, meanwhile, pushed on with other pressing problems, the House agriculture group hearing fresh testimony for adoption of the domestic allotment plan on farm relief.

Southern members of both houses got together in the first of a series of meetings to work out legislation to help the cotton farmer, largely based on government surplus purchases in exchange for action to reduce production.

House leaders announced they would give the members time for a liberal debate on the beer bill when it comes up next Tuesday, and advocates of wine legalization laid plans to push toward their objective, despite the disapproval of the House Ways and Means Committee yesterday.

**WILL ROGERS says:**  
Santa Monica, Calif., Dec. 17.—I bet you France pays. In fact they already started paying. Merchants in Beverly Hills, (the best dressed and most cosmopolitan town in the United States), said they couldn't sell the "screen stars" a single French importation. Instead of Christmas night perfume it's "Jockey Club" made in Des Moines, and it don't smell bad at that. The "fending men" have all switched from a French to a New Jersey hair tonic. Every shoe store is knocking the "French heels" off their shoes. These French "barrels" that some "near" men were wearing, they have switched to a crocketed boudoir cap. Oh, France is paying. Yours, WILL.

### One Death And Many Minor Accidents Occur In State As Result Of Sleet Storm

#### TREAT CANCER WITH 2,500,000 VOLTS



This is exactly the way that 2,500,000 volts of electricity shot forth from the giant cathode tube in a Berlin, Germany, laboratory when Heinrich Wanke, a 55-year-old farmhand and a hopeless cancer victim, was given the greatest charge of electricity a human being ever received and still lived to tell of it. Dr. Fritz Lange, top, and Dr. Arno Brusch, below, who conducted the experiment, now are hopeful that Wanke's life has been saved.

### Mississippi Flood Endangers Life of Over 400 Families

Jackson, Miss., Dec. 17. (AP)—Between 400 and 500 families were marooned in the Pearl river flood zone today, their lives threatened by rapidly rising waters of the raging stream. Sub-freezing weather prevailed.

Governor Mike S. Cooper called out the Mississippi National Guard, which joined Jackson police in rescue work.

No casualties had been reported this morning, but the situation was described "as extremely grave" by Adjutant General Thomas Grayson, in charge of the rescue forces.

### Over Million Saved Users Electricity

Dr. Waddell, Special Engineer for Corporation Commission Ends Duty

Raleigh, Dec. 17. (AP)—Reporting that his investigation of North Carolina electricity customers of North Carolina will save \$1,070,000 annually through rate reductions effected by the Corporation Commission in recent weeks and recommending drastic legislation to give the commission more authority over utilities, Dr. Charles E. Waddell today made his final report as special consultant for the body.

The engineer's report is a voluminous document, now in the hands of the printers, and discusses in detail the electric industry in North Carolina.

Dr. Waddell plans to return to his Asheville office as soon as possible, his work for the commission "being temporarily terminated," Chairman W. T. Lee said.

It is pointed out in the report that the saving of \$1,070,000 in electric rate reductions at this time was accomplished at a cost to the tax-payers "not likely to exceed \$5,000."

### HOPE MILLS HOME BURNS WHEN FIRE BLAZES TOO LARGE

Fred Smith of Bladen County, Killed When His Truck Skids and Overturns

#### BURLINGTON MAN IS INJURED IN CRASH

Snow Ranges From One Inch Depth on Coast to Six Inches or More in Interior and Mountain Section; Traffic Is Tied Up Almost Everywhere

Charlotte, Dec. 17 (AP)—Winter laid a blanket of snow over North Carolina today, tied up traffic in virtually every section and counted one death among those who tried to fight the elements.

The snow ranged from one inch on the coast to as much as six inches or more in the interior and mountain districts.

Fred Smith, 30, of Bladen county, was killed when his truck skidded on a frozen, snow-covered highway near Fayetteville and overturned.

A number of minor accidents were reported. I. W. Lineberry, of Burlington, was injured when his automobile collided with a tractor near Sedgewood field.

A blaze attributed to an unusually large fire in the home because of the severe cold caused injuries to two persons at Hope Mills. The home there of Dave Bolton, superintendent of the Rock Fish Mills, was destroyed by fire during the night.

### Gales Lash Coast, With Ships Held

Heaviest Snow In Virginia and Highest Wind off Norfolk Are Reported

Washington, Dec. 17. (AP)—Snow and rain-laden gales lashed the Atlantic coast today, threatening shipping from the Carolinas to Boston, while inshore a white blanket was spread from Atlanta to Baltimore.

Weather Bureau reports showed the heaviest snow this morning was in Virginia and the highest wind off Norfolk.

The storm was creeping northward and was expected to extend to New England and the eastern Canadian coast. It blew out of the Gulf of Mexico.

(Continued on Page Seven.)

### FEDERAL DEFICIT IS \$1,142,473,000

Collections \$876,693,402 and Expenditures \$2,019,166,417 Then LESS THAN HALF YEAR

Mills Has Predicted Deficit This Fiscal Year of 1,644,344,757 If Payments Made To The Sinking Fund

Washington, Dec. 17 (AP)—The government increased its debt to \$1,142,473,015 on December 15, placing \$418,674,000 in the sinking fund for public debt retirement.

On that date the Government had collected from all sources \$876,693,402, and had spent \$2,019,166,417. Secretary Mills, in his annual report to Congress estimated that the present fiscal year would end in June with a deficit off \$1,644,344,757 if the payment to the sinking fund was made.

By December 15, last year, the deficit was \$1,252,631,150. By the end of the fiscal year the government was nearly three billion dollars in the red.

### Father and Son Held for Murder of Quint Hewitt

Elizabeth City, Dec. 17. (AP)—Chester Barnes, 35, charged with murder, along with his father, Homer Barnes, were held to superior court today following a hearing at Camden into the slaying December 10 of Quint Hewitt, of South Mills.

The boy was arrested December 10 after he told officers he shot Hewitt, who had "kicked men from his house and threatened to kick my mother."

The two families had quarreled a short while before the killing.

### Norfolk Southern Wants to Abandon Two Branch Lines

Washington, Dec. 17. (AP)—Abandonment of approximately 57 miles of branch line was asked of the Interstate Commerce Commission today by receivers for the Norfolk and Southern railroad. The two sections sought to be abandoned are the Columbia branch from Mackey's, N. C., to Columbia, N. C., with 23 miles of track and three miles of sidings and spurs, and the Oriental branch from Bridgeton, N. C., to Oriental, N. C., with 28 miles of track and approximately five miles of sidings and spurs.

**OUR WEATHER MAN**  
6 SHOPPING DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS