

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS BEGUN ON 1917 SESSION

Walter Murphy of Salisbury Elected Speaker by Democrats—Few Important Matters to Confront Members at This Session—List of Clerks Appointed.

(By Associated Press.)

Raleigh, Jan. 3.—The North Carolina General Assembly convened here today for its biennial session with prospects that the legislature would have less work to do than in many years.

Constitutional amendments relating to local, private and special legislation, prohibiting the granting of special charters to cities, towns and incorporated villages, and prohibiting the general assembly from issuing special charters to corporations will eliminate a mass of bills which heretofore has congested the calendar. The amendments were ratified at the general election on November 7.

The amendment relating to the incorporation of private enterprises, however, will make necessary the enactment of a general law to cover the chartering of railroads, banks, insurance companies, building and loan associations and other concerns.

The North Carolina Municipal Association, it is said, will ask the assembly to consider a bill, or bills, providing for the drawing up of charters by municipalities either upon petition of the voters or by the governing body of such municipalities. Upon the approval of a state board of municipal control, consisting of the attorney general, secretary of state and chairman of the corporation commission, such charters would be submitted to the people for ratification.

A bill also will be recommended providing for at least three forms of municipal government, including the commission, managerial and aldermanic plans.

Both houses are overwhelmingly Democratic, the senate membership consisting of 41 Democrats and 9 Republicans and the house of 98 Democrats, 21 Republicans and one Independent. The assembly is limited to a session of sixty days.

Both houses were organized at noon, the swearing in of the members consuming much of the afternoon session. Committees were appointed to inform Governor Craig that the assembly was ready to receive any communications and he is expected to deliver his message in person tomorrow.

Following a caucus, the house organized with Walter Murphy of Salisbury as speaker. Lieutenant Governor and Attorney Daughtridge opened the session and will preside until the inauguration of Governor Bickett.

Senator MacNider of Hertford will serve as chairman of the senate caucus throughout the session and Representative Grier of Iredell as chairman of the house caucus.

The Clerkship. Sergeants, clerks and assistants were all that took the attention of the first Democratic caucus. Murphy was chosen speaker by acclamation Rufus Doughton made the nominating speech. Harry Grier of Iredell, presiding and Ned Pegram of Durham secretarizing it. Governor Doughton put the accent upon Murphy's long service, his parliamentary power, his untainted Democracy, the Democracy of Jefferson, Cleveland, Brown and Woodrow Wilson.

The caucus was adjourned at 10:30. Gallatin Roerts and Henry Page, Murphy's late opponents, and Henry Stubbs escorted the new speaker in. The acceptance was brief. He thought he was progressive enough to be named among the forward-looking, reactionary enough to avoid a runaway. He predicts the 1917 assembly to be epochal.

Then the fur flew in the clerkship election. For principal clerk, John Pearson nominated, Alex Lassiter, 18 years assistant to T. G. Cobb and E. L. Gartner asked the caucus for "wood's sake to give Frank 60 days of political freedom." Henry Page urged to give Lassiter the slavery he sought and the first ballot was a tie, 47 each. The next gave Lassiter 62 to 41.

Otis Shell of Dunn was made enrolling clerk.

J. H. Morning of Wake was re-elected sergeant-at-arms over Mewburn of Green, 52 to 39.

In the senate Harding of Pitt was made president pro tem. Senator McNider presided and Senator Long of Ansonce was secretary.

David Castor of Cumberland again was made sergeant at arms and Jno. W. Alexander of Clay assistant. Cecil Doughton of Troy went breezily through as the reading clerk, R. O. Self having no fight as principal clerk. I. W. Hughes of Beaufort was elected enrolling clerk.

(By Associated Press.)

San Francisco, Jan. 3.—Thomas J. Mooney, alleged leader of five persons indicted in connection with a bomb explosion here July 22 during a parade when 10 persons were killed and 40 injured, was placed on trial today. Warren K. Billings, charged with being the planter, already is under sentence for life.

(By Associated Press.)

New York, Jan. 3.—Juan J. Burns, Carranza consul general here, was arrested today charged with being in a conspiracy to ship arms and ammunition to Vera Cruz in violation of President Wilson's embargo proclamation of October, 1915.

## GERMAN CLAIMS OF VESSELS LOST

(By Associated Press.)

Berlin, via Sayville, Jan. 3.—"Including the French battleship Gaulois, sunk by a German submarine," says an Overseas News Agency statement today, "196 hostile warships, including torpedo boats and submarines, including a total tonnage of 459,379 have been sunk since the beginning of the war. Of these 123 vessels were of British registry."

"The total losses of entente warships exceeded the total tonnage of the warships of France at the beginning of the war."

"Auxiliary cruisers and warships of special types were not included in the list."

There will be a reception at the First Baptist church between 7:30 and 10 o'clock tonight for Rev. and Mrs. J. D. Harle and all members are invited to attend.

## I. W. W. AGITATORS ARE UNDER ARREST

(By Associated Press.)

Virginia, Minn., Jan. 3.—Two hundred and fifty woodmen, lumbermen and industrial workers of the world agitators were arrested at Tusson early today and rushed here on a special train. The authorities accuse industrial workers of the world leaders with inciting trouble to force employers to recognize the order.

## SEVEN COLORED GIRLS SENTENCED FOR VAGRANCY

Nine young negro girls faced Recorder Campbell Tuesday afternoon on the charge of vagrancy and seven of them were sent to jail for three months with the option of being hired out. The offenders had no sooner been placed behind the bars than they were taken out by Hickory people, for whom most of the girls had been nursing or cooking, and when the relief committee came on the scene there was a general jollification in the cage. Chief Lentz and Sergeant Sigmon had been working on the cases for months, and finally landed the girls.

The cases against Willie Warlick and Goldie Gaither were not pressed, but the following were sentenced: Lula Harris, Beta Hoke, Essie Shuford, Gertrude Patterson, Sibley Ford, Mattie Walker and Louise Barber.

READY FOR BANK

Newton, Jan. 3.—Catawba county farmers are now ready, practically, to sample the beneficent features of the farm loan act of congress, having completed their organization. January 13 the directors will meet here again, elect a secretary-treasurer, the one official not yet selected, and hear the report of the loan committee which is now assessing the value of the farms of 57 men who have applied for loans.

## ANOTHER BOMB MAN PLACED ON TRIAL

(By Associated Press.)

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## CARRANZA'S CONSUL IS UNDER ARREST

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## SENATOR LODGE SCORES MR. WILSON

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, Jan. 3.—Debate was resumed in the senate today on a resolution to endorse President Wilson's peace note, Senator Lodge of Massachusetts attacked the German ambassador, Count von Bernstorff, for giving out a newspaper interview endorsing the president's action.

"It is largely to be wondered at with such a statement as that from the German ambassador," said Senator Lodge, "that there should be general misinterpretation of the note, a general belief that it was designed and timed so as to help Germany in attaining a peace upon the terms she hopes to impose."

Senator Lodge referring to the statement of the president that his address to the belligerents was in no way prompted or associated with the original note from the central powers declared that he accepted the president's statement but that unfortunately a different impression had been created at home and abroad. Discussing Secretary Lansing's explanation, Senator Lodge said:

"If the purpose of this note was to say to the world, that we have an interest, a direct national interest in this question, that is bringing us to the verge of war, then that note is justified from beginning to end except that part referring to the American position after the war."

Miss Aileen Yorke, after spending a few days visiting friends in Lincoln, returned home today.

## DEFENSE TALKED IN CAPITOL TODAY

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, Jan. 3.—National defense measures were under consideration today before committees in house and senate with special emphasis centering in the universal service proposals being discussed before the military committees.

The house began consideration of the military totalling nearly \$800,000,000 which congress is expected to pass through. The senate naval committee also began hearings. Chairman Padgett hopes to complete the army measure by January 15.

Several army officers appeared before Senator Chamberlain's committee in the interest of universal military service.

Mr. Lewis B. Gwin, cashier for the Southern and C. and N. W. freight depot, is ill at his home with pneumonia, the case developing Tuesday night.

Miss Mildred Farris of Charryville arrived in the city today to spend a few days, the guest of Miss Aileen Yorke.

## PROPOSE AN ISSUE OF BONDS FOR ROADS

Progressive citizens, in view of the legislative session, have begun discussion of a large bond issue for good roads and modern bridges throughout the country. As much as \$400,000 and \$500,000 is urged, says the Newton correspondent of the Greensboro News.

It is argued that the county, as a result of flood damage to roads and bridges, will have to borrow this year \$100,000. The 20-cent road tax now paid by each township, is said, is virtually wasted, because it is put into dirt work, which must be renewed and rebuilt ever so often, resulting in no permanent benefit.

Under the law providing for the tax each township could issue its own bonds the county unit having been displaced for the township unit; but outside of Hickory and Newton, no township could issue sufficient bonds for its road needs and under the proposed measure, all these townships could secure expenditure of more money than the bonds for each would come to. Should an act be passed, it is thought that it would provide for the retirement of the \$50,000 of bonds issued by Newton and by Hickory townships for roads some years ago.

That a measure of this kind, provided the people voted for the bonds, would set Catawba county 20 years ahead, is the opinion of a leading business man. While great progress has been made in dairying and general farming and education, Catawba has made little progress in good roads construction, and some of the business men of the town feel that this session of the general assembly ought not to be allowed to expire without the enactment of an act calling for several hundred thousand dollars for bonds for modern road work and the construction of the most improved and lasting bridges.

## WILSON'S PEACE OVERTURE IS UNDER FIRE

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, Jan. 3.—Debate was resumed in the senate today on the question of whether endorsement should be given President Wilson's action in dispatching notes to belligerent nations suggesting that they consider peace offers.

Action has been postponed until today by unanimous consent, owing to opposition from Republican senators who contended that it should be referred to the foreign relations committee and who are expected to insist that it be given thorough consideration.

## STONE EXPLAINS THAT HE DIDN'T MEAN IT

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, Jan. 3.—Senator Stone, after conferring with Secretary Lansing today, made a statement explaining that he had intended in on way to reflect on the secretary when yesterday he started in the senate he charged that matters of importance had been divulged by government officials.

"When I said that copies of official documents of the department had been shown to outsiders," explained Senator Stone, "I ought to have said that these official misdeeds did not occur in the period since Secretary Lansing has been at the head of the department. I am sure also that no secretary of state or any other high official in the American government has ever knowingly permitted such matters to become public."

## FUNERAL OF MRS. BEARD

The funeral of Mrs. James B. Beard, who died Tuesday afternoon, will be held from the Church of the Ascension Thursday morning at 10:30. Interment will follow in Oakwood cemetery. Rev. S. B. Stroup, rector, will conduct the service.

Mrs. Beard's death came as a shock to her many friends in Hickory, where she was so greatly beloved. She will be missed not only from her church, of which she was a devoted member, but from the club and social activities of the city.

## LOOKOUT FOR THIS NEW GOLD CERTIFICATE

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, Jan. 3.—Discovery of a new counterfeit gold certificate of the 1917 series was announced by secret service agents today.

It bears check letter "A" and plate number 9 is printed on two pieces of paper, between which silk threads have been distributed. The printing was poorly done.

Mrs. D. M. Boyd is visiting relatives in Lincoln.

Mr. Ben Caddy of Hickory who was operated on in Statesville for appendicitis is improving nicely.

## MARKETS

(By Associated Press.)

New York, Jan. 3.—The cotton market opened steady at an advance of five to nine points, but met considerable realizing around 18.87 for July and that delivery sold off under buying orders.

The market closed steady.

	Open	Close
January	17.55	17.28
March	17.65	17.52
May	17.90	17.78
July	17.92	17.83
October	17.92	17.83
	16.59	16.50

## HICKORY MARKETS

Cotton ----- 17c  
Wheat ----- \$2.00

## CHICAGO WHEAT

(By Associated Press.)

Chicago, Jan. 3.—Keen demand from the seaboard gave strength today to wheat. Opening prices, which ranged from the same as yesterday's finish to 1.3-8 higher with May at 1.80 1-2 to 1.81 1-4 and July at 1.46 7-8 to 1.47 1-4, were followed by a further advance all around.

## THE WEATHER

For North Carolina: Local rains this afternoon, probably fair tonight and Thursday, moderate temperature, fresh south to west winds.

## ACTION BROUGHT TO RECOVER \$14,000

Alleging that the Citizens Bank of Burnsville was endeavoring to aid in covering up a fraud committed by the executors of the estate of Bacchus Hensley, attorneys representing her appeared before Judge E. B. Cline chambers here today and asked for an order restraining the executors from making final settlement of the estate in Mitchell county before the merits of the case could be heard in Yancey county. There is no difficulty in seeing that the matter is considerably involved.

It was brought out in the hearing today that J. B. Hensley, son of Bacchus Hensley, was cashier of the Citizens Bank of Burnsville in 1912 and it was alleged that he defaulted in a sum near \$20,000. About that time his father died and J. B. Hensley and a brother were the executors. Bacchus Hensley had considerable property and the contention is that the son in the bank diverted about \$14,000 of the money belonging to the estate to his own uses—that is, in making good part of the money he is alleged to have taken from the bank. The action against the bank by heirs was brought to recover this amount.

A suit also has been started to recover this money and another action is pending against a final settlement of the estate. It is claimed by one side that the movers in the case before Judge Cline wanted to get an order before the merits could be heard elsewhere. Judge Cline this afternoon took the case under advisement.

Messrs Sam Erwin of Morganton, W. C. Newland of Lenoir and W. L. Wilson of Beersville represent the plaintiffs or heirs and Messrs J. B. Ray of Burnsville and D. E. Hurgins of Marion appear for the defendants.

## SENATE PUTS OFF ACTION ON NOTE

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, Jan. 3.—Action on Senator Hitchcock's resolution to have the senate endorse President Wilson's peace note was again deferred today after a long debate.

## JACK LONDON MORE POPULAR THAN KINGS

(By Associated Press.)

Stockholm, Jan. 3.—More space was given to Jack London by the Swedish papers than to Emperor Francis Joseph, news of whose death was received at almost the same time. Long biographies, profusely illustrated, were published by most of the papers, and genuine sorrow was displayed generally at London's death.

No other contemporaneous American author was as popular and widely read in Sweden as Jack London. Twenty-four of his stories have appeared in translation since 1907, and sales have reached nearly 230,000. London once told his Swedish publisher, according to the latter's statement, that, considering population, his books were more widely read in Sweden than anywhere else.

## PRESIDENT OMWAKE TO VISIT HICKORY

(By Associated Press.)

Hickory will entertain a distinguished visitor next Sunday in the person of Dr. George Leslie Omwake, president of Ursinus College, Collegeville, Pa. Dr. Omwake is a young man, but stands among the first of the educators of his church and a coming man in the educational circle of the country. He will deliver an address in the Reformed church Sunday night and everybody is invited to hear him.

While in the city President Omwake will be the guest of Dr. and Mrs. J. H. Shuford.

## JAMES H. FREEMAN OF HIGH POINT IS KILLED

(By Associated Press.)

Raleigh, Jan. 3.—James H. Freeman, automobile demonstrator, was killed yesterday afternoon in Oberlin, the negro settlement of Raleigh, by the machine which he was driving.

Mr. Freeman who had been in Charlotte as stenographer to the Southern Railway, today signed a contract with Alonzo Parrish of Boston, to demonstrate a car. He was driving through Oberlin and in giving road to another car ran into a ditch which turned the automobile over. He was pinned beneath and so badly hurt that he died 10 minutes later.

He was 24 years old and originally came from High Point. Ernest Young, attorney of Dunn formerly employed him and said last night that young Freeman gave great promise. He was married two years ago.

The Needlecraft club will meet tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock with Mrs. Guy Cline.

## RUSSIANS HAVE REACHED THEIR DEFENSIVE LINE

Expected to Make Vigorous Stand at River Sereth Against Teutonic Forces—Strong Effort Will be Made to Break Position by German Armies.

## WILSON TO TALK ON MEXICAN BUSINESS

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, Jan. 3.—President Wilson will confer at 5 o'clock this afternoon with Secretary Lane and other American members of the joint American-Mexican commission.

It was announced that the American commission would make a statement of their position to the president and in some quarters that was taken to forecast an end to the commission's negotiations.

An answer is being prepared to Carranza's plea for modification in the protocol, but it was said that was not to be discussed with the president.

The end of the official commission was taken by the Mexican legation to begin with the sending of Henry P. Fletcher as American ambassador at Mexico City and with the withdrawal of the expeditionary forces.

## TO CONSIDER PLACE FOR ARMOR PLANT

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, Jan. 3.—Rear Admiral Fletcher and the other naval officers who will make final recommendations to Secretary Daniels for the location of the \$11,000,000 government armor plant met today to consider the 100 places which are in the race for the plant.

## UNNECESSARY TRAVELING MAY BE BARRED IN EUROPE

(By Associated Press.)

London, Jan. 3.—The prohibition of all unnecessary railroad traveling in Germany is likely to be followed shortly by similar measures in the entente countries. Such a prohibition has for some time been under consideration in England, and the board of trade a few weeks ago issued an appeal which was regarded in many circles as a preliminary to restrictive legislation. The appeal urged in emphatic terms that every person proposing to travel by train should consider whether the journey is really necessary.

The military authorities have decreed that still more men must be released from the railways for army service. This will inevitably mean some reduction of work and the only economies which appear possible, according to the railway managers, are connected with the passenger train service and in securing greater expedition on the part of shippers in handling freight traffic.

No cheap holiday fares have been announced this year for the Christmas holidays, and there will be no extension of the train services. Nevertheless the seaside resorts have been advertising extensively and are making preparations for their usual holiday crowds.

## MR. BARB REMEMBERED BY HIS CONGREGATION

(By Associated Press.)

Members of St. Paul's congregation, never tiring of well doing, gave their pastor, Rev. J. E. Barb and family further cause for loving them. They presented him with a purse containing \$31 and enough groceries, chickens and other good things to last the family until midsummer. Mr. Barb naturally appreciates the spirit shown by his members and is grateful for their interest.

## WILL INVESTIGATE THAT LEAK CHARGE

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, Jan. 3.—Representative Wood's resolution for a special investigation of charges of a "leak" on President Wilson's note was held privileged by the house today and it was referred to the rules committee with instructions to report in ten days.

(By Associated Press.)

Reports from both sides in the struggle in Rumania indicate that the Russians have now virtually reached the line of the Sereth to which they have been falling back while fighting strong rearward actions.

Berlin today announces that troops of the ninth army under Field Marshal von Mackensen are now on the fortified line which the Russians have been preparing and which follows the course of the Sereth. It is here that the Russians count upon bringing Field Marshal von Mackensen's forces to a halt. Failing in this course, it is pointed out, they would expose their front to a crumpling up process and imperil their Bessarabian territory to invasion across the Danube.

Apparently the Teutonic efforts to break this line is to be a strong one, as today's Teutonic announcement reports smashing attacks on the Russian line, in which prisoners were taken. Meanwhile the drive on the right flank of the Russians continues in this region along the frontier.

On the Danube end of the line the security of Braila has been further imperiled, according to Berlin, by a further Teutonic advance on the Dobrudja side of the river, where the Russians have been driven back farther.

Elsewhere in the fields of war no important developments are reported, patrol action alone being announced in France.

## PEACE IS IMPOSSIBLE AT THE PRESENT TIME

(By Associated Press.)

London, Jan. 3.—Comments of the German papers on the tentative reply to the German peace proposal sent by Reuters' correspondent at Amsterdam, as indicating the universal conviction that epacen ow is impossible and that the central powers must continue to prosecute the war with the utmost vigor, are of interest. The Berlin Lokal Anzeiger considers that nobody will be shocked, because the entente's refusal was anticipated and adds: "Our answer can only be given on the battlefield."

The Vossische Zeitung says: "All probability of further negotiations has disappeared under the vicissitudes of the war. There is only one rejoinder, namely, warfare, until the cold steel of our arms has brought the fever temperature of our enemies down to something near normal."

The Berlin Tagblatt says: "We would gladly have written 'peace' into these' over the gate of the new year but it would be childish to seek in the entente's reply any expressions but those of an absolute 'no.'"

The Kreuz Zeitung says: "The form of the entente's rejection makes it an insult. Our reply can only be given with the sword."

The Vorwarts says: "Since our enemies desire to continue the war, no choice remains to the German people. There will be no illusion that behind the refusal lines the hope of finally being able to lay German prostrate. It is in the interest of the whole German people to frustrate this design."

## CLERKS ASK RAISE (By Associated Press.)

Washington, Jan. 3.—A committee from a local union of office clerks sought a conference with Secretary Morrison of the American Federation of Labor today in an effort to have the federation pay its clerks at national headquarters here the same salaries as paid government clerks—\$3 a day as a minimum.

An officer of the union explained in a statement that about 50 of the clerks employed at headquarters are members of local unions and that they could not strike without consent from headquarters.

## NEARLY EIGHTY THOUSAND GERMANS CAPTURED IN YEAR

On the French Front in France, Jan. 3.—During the course of last year, according to authoritative figures, 78,500 Germans were captured on the French front by the French and 40,000 by the British, while in Serbia and Macedonia the entente allied armies took 11,717 Bulgarians and Turks prisoner. During the same period the Italians made prisoners of 2,250 Austrians, while the Russians captured more than 40,000 Germans and Austrians.

## COMMISSIONERS ORDER BRIDGE FOUNDATIONS

Newton, Jan. 3.—The board of commissioners has instructed the state highway commission to proceed with the construction of the foundation work in charge of the state engineer for bridges at Horseford between Catawba and Caldwell counties; at Moores, between this county and Alexander; and at Lookout dam and Iredell county. Competitive bids are to be invited on the concrete and on the steel work separately.

Mrs. A. M. Powell, who has been spending several weeks with her daughter, returned to Raleigh today.

## PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUES ARE COMING

(By Associated Press.)

Chicago, Jan. 3.—That certain baseball managers are considering a plan to utilize their ball parks for professional football and to back a league of national proportions was information brought here today from Detroit.

The plan involves the organization of a league along the lines of professional baseball. It is proposed to enlist the services of those ball players who are football stars and the remainder of the teams will be recruited from college graduates. The baseball season and continue playing until the weather becomes too severe.