

WEATHER.
North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, fair tonight and Friday, not much change in temperature.

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MONDELL URGES RIGID ECONOMY IN GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS

FOUR NEW NATIONS ARE MADE MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

(By The Associated Press.)

GENEVA, Dec. 16.—Four new nations were made members of the league of nations by the assembly of the league here today. They were Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Finland and Luxembourg. France and Australia abstained from voting when the admission of Bulgaria was before the assembly for decision.

France abstained from voting on the question of admitting Bulgaria to the league. Rene Viviani, the head of the French delegation, declared it had no objection to Bulgaria as a member, but preferred not to vote in view of the incompleteness of the information given it regarding Bulgaria's fitness.

Thirty-five states voted affirmatively when the balloting took place and Australia joined France in not recording her vote.

The question of admitting Costa Rica was the next on the day's agenda. Dr. Nansen, of Norway, explained that the only doubt in his mind was whether Costa Rica was not too small a country, but in view of the membership of its neighbor, Panama, he decided Costa Rica could not be excluded on that score.

Antonio Huneus, of Chile, and Senor Restrepo, of Colombia, asked that the assembly vote unanimously in admitting Costa Rica.

It was stated before the voting took place that France had no objection to Bulgaria in particular, but would not vote because there was some analogy between the cases of Bulgaria and Germany. It was asserted the delegation desired to maintain a consistent attitude on questions relative to qualifications of applicants for admission.

Debate was expected when the report relative to the admission of Baltic and Caucasian states was to be considered. N. W. Rowell, of Canada, gave notice to the committee that Canada, as a Pacific ocean power, took a special interest in the Russian question. He declared that question had been raised in its entirety by the proposed relations between the league and the states carved out of the former Russian empire.

Although the Baltic states had the full sympathy of Canada, he asserted, the situation in Russia might change, and the league might find itself faced by a new government claiming access to the sea, in which eventually the league would incur grave responsibility.

It was planned if the assembly finished the election of new members soon enough, to take up the league budget and pass appropriations for the coming year, which have been somewhat criticized at committee meetings with regard to salaries of men connected with the secretariat.

The committee reported unfavorably on the applications of Armenia, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Georgia. It failed to recommend the admission of Armenia because authority over the entire territory of that nation was not being exercised by the government. The hope was expressed that Armenia might be admitted at an early date.

It was pointed out that Armenia was a signatory of the treaty of Sevres, the Turkish peace treaty, and the question was raised whether the ratification of that treaty when it was accomplished, would not make her automatically a member of the league.

COLORED BOY HELD FOR MURDER OF COMPANION

Paul Page, colored, aged about 15, was held yesterday afternoon without bail by the coroner's jury to answer at the next term of Gaston superior court for the trial of criminal cases for the murder of Roy Wilson, his companion, whom he shot with a .22 rifle. The shooting occurred yesterday evening in a patch of woods near the colored hospital in the northern outskirts of the town. The only eye witness to the shooting was another negro boy, about twelve or fourteen years old, who testified that the boys did not quarrel. Page claims the shooting was accidental.

TWO KILLED, OTHERS INJURED IN A C L WRECK YESTERDAY

(By The Associated Press.)
THOMASVILLE, GA., Dec. 15.—Two negroes were killed and four trainmen and several passengers injured early today when five coaches of Atlantic Coast Line passenger train No. 158, Montgomery to Thomasville, were derailed at Pine Park, near here. The cause of the accident was not determined.

TESTIFY THAT SHEPARD DIED FROM POISONING

Prosecution in Case of Georgia Peach King Introduce Testimony of Experts.

MACON, Ga., Dec. 16.—Having brought testimony of two experts that Fred D. Shepard, of Houston county, died of mercuric poisoning, the prosecution planned to introduce two more physicians today before taking up the general testimony in an effort to establish a conspiracy on the part of Shepard's widow and three other defendants to murder the wealthy peach grower for his fortune.

At the opening of the preliminary hearing here yesterday, the defendants, Shepard's widow, now Mrs. Pauline Elmer, her son, Ernest Hopson; sisters, Mrs. Ione Henry and Mrs. Annie Uctts, heard Dr. Edgar Everhart, Atlanta chemist, and Dr. John Funke, pathologist of that city, testify that they found the poison in Shepard's viscera.

Shepard's death last spring was ascribed at the time to peritonitis, but Dr. S. M. Brown, physician in attendance on him, and the only other witness called yesterday, said he was convinced now that bichloride of mercury killed Shepard. Questions on cross examination as to whether calomel under certain conditions might not undergo a chemical change so as to cause such poisoning were taken to indicate that the defense might endeavor to show that calomel gives Shepard by physicians caused his death.

STRAUS TO SUCCEED GREAVES AS COM-IN-CHIEF OF FLEET

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Rear Admiral Joseph Strauss, former chief of navy ordnance, is to be appointed commander-in-chief of the Asiatic fleet with the rank of admiral in recognition of his work in the laying of the North sea mine during the war and its removal after the armistice. He will succeed Admiral Albert Gleaves, now in command in Oriental waters.

In announcing that Admiral Strauss would be appointed, Secretary Daniels said today that the selection was in line with the department's policy of recognizing work of unusual merit done during the war.

KU KLUX KLAN TO BACK UP LAW AND ORDER

(By The Associated Press.)

ANNISTON, ALA., Dec. 16.—Type-written notices signed "Ku Klux Klan" and purporting to have been issued by the local branch of that organization, were found posted today in various sections of the community, warning "reds, undesirables and anonymous letter writers" that the Klan stands ready to back up constituted authority in a vice crusade that was launched a week ago.

The action of the organization is believed by city and state officers to have been taken because of anonymous letters received this week by Chief of Police George W. Rutledge, in which not only that officer but Governor Kilby as well, were threatened if there was not a let up in the activity of Anniston officers.

HEADQUARTERS MUM

(By The Associated Press.)

ATLANTA, GA., Dec. 16.—While officials at headquarters of the Ku Klux Klan in Atlanta would neither affirm nor deny that a local Klan existed at Anniston, Ala., it was indicated that such organizations had been formed at Anniston, Birmingham, and other points in that state. The efforts of these locals, it was learned, have been directed toward preserving law and order. At Birmingham one official stated, members of the Klan had assisted the authorities in combating a wave of highway robbery with such success as to receive the praise of the chief of police.

COSTS MORE THAN EVER TO INAUGURATE PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—The cost of inaugurating a president has increased from 50 to 100 per cent, it was estimated today at the first session of the joint congressional committee in charge of the inauguration of President-elect Harding. Construction of the usual mammoth reviewing stand on the capitol plaza and engraving of official invitations was authorized by the committee, headed by Senator Knox, republican, Pennsylvania and Representative Cannon, republican, Illinois.

FARMERS MEET TO DISCUSS LOW PRICES

Meet to Decide on Some Action to Relieve Conditions Resulting From Low Prices of Farm Products—Grain and Cotton Producing Sections Represented.

(By The Associated Press.)

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 16.—Farmers from more than a dozen states met here today to decide on some action to relieve conditions resulting from the decline in price of their products. Delegates declared present prices mean bankruptcy and emphasized they were not due to the law of supply and demand.

The conference, called by the National Board of Farm Organizations, is said to represent 16 farmers organizations throughout the United States with a combined membership approximating 1,500,000. It will continue through Saturday.

The representation here is principally from the grain and cotton producing sections of the country, officers said.

Plans which were suggested to the delegates as affording an avenue of relief, included the setting up of national marketing machinery to sell produce and purchase agricultural supplies, and the establishing of banking institutions in the various states through co-operation of the several farm organizations to strengthen their credit.

C. A. Lyman, Washington, D. C., secretary of the National Board of Farm Organizations, in advocating these measures before the conference, asserted that a national market would "save millions" to producers as well as consumers. It would result in "orderly marketing," he asserted, by keeping entire crops from being put on the market at one time.

C. S. Barrett, of Union City, Ga., chairman of the National Board, is presiding at the conference.

ARE FOLKS OBSERVING "MAIL EARLY" SLOGAN

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Whether the people of the country are ignoring the "mail early" slogan of the postoffice department or have experienced a strong subsidence of the Christmas spirit of giving is a question over which the department today expressed considerable concern. There has been practically no increase in the volume of mails due to Christmas mailing up to the present time, said an announcement by the department whereas by December 15 last year the mails had increased 50 per cent above normal.

"The people of the United States either have curtailed their Christmas mailing this year or are putting it off until the last minute," the announcement said. "Until last Tuesday reports throughout the country showed no sign whatever of an increase in the volume of mail and the increase shown by reports on that day's movement of mail was so little as to be negligible."

Whereas by December 15 last year more than one-fifth of the entire Christmas mail had been handled, the department said, this year "practically none can be accounted for."

The public was warned that "congestion could not be avoided" if the negligible increase in the volume of mail meant that Christmas mailing was being put off until the last few days, "even assuming that it is to be very much lighter this year than last."

A great volume of parcel post dumped into the mails just before Christmas day, with the effect on train movements or bad weather conditions to be expected at this season, would "threaten to swamp the service," the announcement said.

Motor Express Service Doubled.

Announcement was recently made by the Piedmont Motor Express Lines that the service between Charlotte and Gastonia would be doubled the 10th of December and this was done. Trucks now leave Charlotte at 10 a. m. and 2:30 p. m. and leave Gastonia at 10 a. m. and 5:30 p. m. This company also put into effect on the same date lower rates, everything being put on a strict classification basis. Since this company began business in the summer it has experienced a steady growth in the volume of business handled and these improvements are in line with the general spirit of progressiveness manifested by the management from the beginning.

EX-SERVICE MEN URGE PASSAGE BONUS BILL.

(By The Associated Press.)

GREENVILLE, S. C., Dec. 16.—Urging support of the bonus bill, now before the house, hundreds of ex-service men in the United States public health service hospital No. 26, Camp Sevier, today sent memorials to congress.

CONSTANTINE ON GREEK SOIL FOR FIRST TIME SINCE JUNE, 1917

Regal Honors Are Paid the King—American Admiral Calls on Him.

(By The Associated Press.)

VENICE, Dec. 16.—Former King Constantine, Queen Sophie and their children last night slept under the royal banner of Greece for the first time since June 14, 1917. During the night the cruiser Averoff, on which they embarked yesterday and which will take them to Phaleron, made preparations to depart from Venice at dawn.

From the moment Constantine set foot on the deck of the Averoff yesterday morning, and thus figuratively stood on Greek soil, regal honors were paid him. The big cruiser roared out a royal salute, Italian dignitaries paid calls of ceremony and the crews of many vessels in the harbor dressed ships. Among those who called on Constantine was Rear Admiral Philip Andrews, commander of American naval units in the Adriatic.

The Averoff was accompanied to this port by a squadron of destroyers which will convey her back to Greece.

TENN., ALA. & GA. R. R. IN HANDS OF RECEIVER

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Dec. 16.—The Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia Railroad has been thrown into the hands of a receiver. The application was filed by Bosworth Smith, general counsel of the company, and the petition granted by Federal Judge E. T. Sanford, late Wednesday afternoon at Knoxville. Charles Hicks, present general manager, was appointed receiver.

The grounds for the receivership are based on the fact that the road has been a losing proposition ever since its organization. The late Newman Erb, of New York, purchased the property from the original owners and then Russel Sage purchased the property from the Erb estate and it is now owned by his heirs, including Colonel H. J. Slocum, recently retired from the United States army.

The road runs from Chattanooga to Gadsden and penetrates a rich iron ore section.

MEET TO DECIDE WHAT GERMANY MUST PAY.

(By The Associated Press.)

BRUSSELS, Dec. 16.—Economic experts of five of the principal allied powers and Germany met at the conference table today here to determine what Germany must pay for war reparations. Delegates from the allied nations appeared hopeful that the session, which will last probably a week or ten days, would be fruitful of results.

The German representatives, who arrived here last night, gave an impression of being on the defensive.

Both sides professed a desire to talk things over, but they were more than willing the other should put its cards on the table first.

The German delegation is composed of 27 delegates, headed by Sigmund Bergmann. Rudolf Havenstein, president of the reichstag, replaced Karl F. von Siemens, one of the German representatives. Herr Silberschmidt, labor representative, will arrive later in the meeting.

MISS GUGGENHEIM WEDS HEIR TO BRITISH EARLDOM.

(By The Associated Press.)

LONDON, Dec. 16.—Viscount Stuart and heir of the sixth Earl of Castle Stewart, and Miss Eleanor, daughter of Solomon R. Guggenheim, of New York city, were married here today. The ceremony was performed by Canon David, of Coventry, assisted by Rev. L. S. Stewart, rector of Stewartstown, county Tyrone, Ireland.

The wedding was one of the most brilliant of the London season. During her several years of study in England, the bride cultivated a wide circle of friends, and she is declared to be one of the most popular Americans recently to enter the British peerage.

TEXAS BANKER COMMITS SUICIDE.

(By The Associated Press.)

NOCENA, TEX., Dec. 15.—J. Addison, president of the Nocena National Bank, which was closed this week, was found in a seedhouse of a grocery store shot through the head early today. He died without regaining consciousness. A pistol was found nearby.

SPARTANBURG MERCHANT MEETS TRAGIC DEATH.

(By The Associated Press.)

SPARTANBURG, S. C., Dec. 15.—J. W. Jennings, well known merchant, while riding a motorcycle this morning, crashed into a wagon and received injuries from which he died an hour later.

For cooling homes or offices a device has been invented which passes a current of air from an electric fan through an ice filled receptacle.

ARMY AND NAVY ESTIMATES MUST BE REDUCED BY SUM OF \$1,400,000,000

HARDING CALLS IN COOLIDGE FOR ADVICE

(By The Associated Press.)

MARION, O., Dec. 16.—Making good another of his campaign pledges, President-elect Harding today sought the advice of Vice-President-elect Coolidge on the problems and policies of the coming administration.

Although the plan for an association of nations is understood to have been one of the principal points to be discussed at the conference, it is known that Governor Coolidge's invitation to Marion was prompted in a large part by the desire of the president-elect to secure his advice on various domestic questions.

One of Mr. Harding's first announcements after his nomination was his promise of a more active part for the vice-president in the next administration and now that actual experience has brought home to him the wide range of subjects with which a president must deal, he is understood to be even more anxious to let Mr. Coolidge share some of the administration responsibility.

If any plan has been worked out to delegate definite subjects to the vice-president for investigation or decision, however, Mr. Harding has not revealed it even to his close advisers. It is thought more likely that Mr. Coolidge will be asked to act in a general advisory capacity and will be entrusted from time to time with important special missions.

Arriving early in the forenoon, the governor was to spend several hours with Mr. Harding before returning east.

SEVERE EARTHQUAKE IS RECORDED ON SEISMOGRAPH

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—An unusually severe earth shock, estimated to be 2800 miles in a east westerly direction from Washington, was recorded early today on the seismograph at Georgetown University.

The recording of the shock began at 7:25 a. m., the maximum intensity was reached at 8:07 a. m. and it was still in progress at 9:50 a. m. The disturbance was described by Rev. Father Francis A. Torndorf, director of the Georgetown seismological observatory, as the worst recorded here in two years.

The distance of 2800 miles from Washington estimated by Father Torndorf would indicate the location of the disturbance to be in the United States, near the Pacific coast, if to the west, or in the vicinity of the Azores if to the east.

Father Torndorf said the estimate of distance was difficult to calculate from the early portion of the record of the shock.

CHICAGO, Dec. 16.—An earthquake, the severest recorded here in two years, is being registered on the seismograph at Chicago University. The center of the disturbance was estimated at 3,080 miles from Chicago.

The first shock was recorded at 6:21 a. m. (central time) and maximum intensity was reached at 6:54. At 9 o'clock the seismograph was still recording waves of decreasing intensity.

As the observatory at Washington reported the same quake was 2,800 miles from there, in an east or west direction, the quake apparently is centered in the Atlantic ocean, being farther from Chicago than from the capital.

REGISTERED AT HARVARD.

(By The Associated Press.)

CAMBRIDGE, MASS., Dec. 16.—An earthquake that was termed a "smasher" was registered on instruments at the Harvard University seismographic station today. The gong in the station that is rung by a shock in far off China or in nearer places, was started before 8 o'clock and the seismograph was still recording shocks of unusual intensity two hours later. Detailed readings of the chart would not be possible until the vibrations cease, it was said. Meantime there was no indication of the scene of the shocks.

A periscope to be mounted in a locomotive cab to enable an engineer to see the track ahead or all of his train is an Englishman's invention.

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Urging "rigid economy" in appropriations for government expenses during the next fiscal year in order to lighten the tax burden, Representative Mondell, of Wyoming, republican leader, declared in the house today that the total estimate of \$4,653,800,000 submitted by the secretary of the treasury, should be reduced by approximately \$1,400,000,000. This reduction, he said, must be effected chiefly by a drastic scaling down in estimates for the army and navy and also for sundry civil expenses, the total of which, he pointed out, exceeded current appropriations by more than \$914,000,000.

"Criticism of the administration for the 'unfathomable inconsistency' in the estimates submitted to congress and the 'pleas for economy made by the president and the secretary of the treasury,'" Mr. Mondell declared he would "leave it to others to properly characterize these estimates."

"Two years after the war," the republican leader added, "when the world outside our borders is largely bankrupt and everybody is praying for reduction of armaments, the administration asks for an appropriation of more than \$1,414,000,000 for the army, navy and fortifications, or five and a half times the highest peace time appropriation of 1916."

Pointing out that current deficiencies were not included in this total, Mr. Mondell declared these "may be swollen indefinitely" if the war department continued its policy of recruiting the army up to full strength, contrary to the understanding, he said, that it should not be increased above the "total of 178,000 men contemplated by the appropriations." Declaring this action was "in entire harmony" with the attitude which the "war and some other departments had assumed toward congress in this administration," Mr. Mondell said it had become the duty of congress to take action that would prevent "such squandering of the people's money by creating deficiencies in violation of law."

Asserting that if the economy in appropriations advocated by him was carried out the tax burden for the calendar year 1921 might be "substantially lightened," Mr. Mondell said he believed continuation of a tax program designed to raise a minimum revenue of \$4,000,000,000 for two years, as recommended by the secretary of the treasury, was "unjustified." It is not justified, he added, "even for one year."

The republican leader said he was opposed to Secretary Houston's plan for retiring with current revenues more than \$3,600,000,000 of the country's floating and bonded war debt, including a half billion of victory notes, by January 30, 1923, as placing an "unnecessary burden upon the people and business." With 44 per cent of the net cost of the war, excluding foreign loans, already paid, he said, it was unnecessary to "keep up war rates of taxation for the purpose of reducing the public debt at a rate greatly in excess of the sinking fund rate applied to the entire debt."

"By the end of the fiscal year," Mr. Mondell added, "we shall have reached a point in the reduction of our war debt where further reductions, except through the sinking fund operations, should not continue to impose wartime burdens."

While he favored repeal of the excess profits tax and reduction of the higher income surtaxes, Mr. Mondell said he thought it unnecessary at this time to consider alternative revenue provisions because "none can tell what increased revenues may result from the passage of a tariff bill along protective lines."

TY COBB GOES TO TALK OVER MANAGEMENT JOB.

(By The Associated Press.)

AUGUSTA, GA., Dec. 16.—After spending several days here with his family, following his return from a post-season series in California, Ty Cobb left today for New York to keep an appointment with the owner of the Tigers.

While going ostensibly to discuss matters pertaining to the signing of players for the Detroit team, it is an open secret here that Cobb's conference is to be mainly in reference to his becoming manager of the Tigers next year, a matter which he has under advisement.

PET BULL GOES NEBRASKA FARMER TO DEATH.

HOLDREGE, NEB., Feb. 15.—J. M. Larson, 78, farmer living near here, was gored and trampled to death yesterday by a pet bull. Friends of the aged man shot the animal after unsuccessful attempts to rescue him.