

Rain tonight, probably clearing Thursday morning; warmer in east and central portions tonight; colder Thursday.

GASTONIA DAILY GAZETTE

LOCAL COTTON.
15 1-2 Cents

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VOL. XLI. NO. 306.

GASTONIA, N. C., WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 22, 1920

SINGLE COPY 5 CENTS

QUESTION OF GERMANY'S ABILITY TO PAY REPARATION BEFORE FINANCIAL BODY

Allied Experts Agree That Germany Is an Insolvent Creditor Who Must Be Maintained As a Going Concern - None of the Delegates Believe Versailles Treaty Can Be Literally Executed.

(By The Associated Press.)
BRUSSELS, Dec. 22.—Payment by Germany of 100,000,000,000 marks in gold remains the basis upon which experts and delegates to the second financial conference, in session here, are working. This amount, although far below what was authorized by the treaty of Versailles, is considered by them collectible only on condition that Germany is helped along the lines suggested by the German delegates.

Allied experts, in secret individual reports, the substance of which has come to light, recognize Germany's real necessities, and delegates generally are impressed by arguments that Germany is an insolvent creditor who must be maintained as a going concern. The extent to which strict fulfillment of the Versailles treaty may be waived, however, depends upon the allied governments, before which recommendations have been made by the various delegations.

Virtually none of the delegates believes the treaty can be executed literally, and allied experts agree with the Germans that reparations must be paid chiefly in kind. Some cash, however, will be demanded after a year or two, if not immediately.

Today's meeting was really in preparation for the recess which will be taken until January 10. Allied delegates planned to meet apart this afternoon for the purpose of exchanging views and reaching a common accord which will be reflected in reports to their governments.

German delegates are still working on the list of questions submitted by the allies, which covers a wide range. It is inferred from some of the questions that the allied experts believe indirect taxation in Germany is not high enough, the Germans being asked whether their taxes on alcohol, beer, tobacco and sugar are as high as those on the same products in France and Great Britain. Other questions concern the German financial policy relative to taxation of wealthy citizens and possible tax increases within a year or two.

The German representatives have been asked to estimate the amount of German wealth at present in neutral countries, and to state how Germany plans to compensate her citizens for property expropriated and liquidated abroad.

It is suggested that German wealth in neutral countries has been accumulated by the practice of German firms shipping goods at cost or an actual loss to associates in neutral countries. In considering depreciated exchange, allied experts have asked the Germans if they do not profit from the low values of the market to the extent that their labor is not paid proportionately to the compensation of labor in countries where exchange values are higher.

Delegates have been pledged to secrecy, but there is a general impression they will recommend that their governments permit Germany to keep some of the 350,000 tons of shipping she was ordered to surrender under the Versailles treaty. The United States is still regarded as the only banker who can furnish Germany with the necessary credit. Germany desires that property owned by their nationals be returned to its owners. Some of the allies, however, are in favor of having it used as a basis of credit, although the amount of German property in America would probably be insufficient to meet the needs of Germany at the present time.

The American dollar is mentioned frequently as a desirable standard in expressing reparation figures. It is impossible for Germany to export gold marks, and the dollar is considered the most stable unit at present.

British shipping and liquidation experts arrived here last night for final conferences with the Germans before today's adjournment. Belief was expressed here today that when the conference assembles next month it will be well on the way toward a settlement of the reparations question.

—Readers of the Tarzan books by Edgar Rice Burroughs will no doubt be interested in the picture being shown at the Gastonia Theatre, "The Romance of Tarzan." The character of Tarzan, the ape-man, is vividly portrayed.

DAVID Y. COOPER, OF HENDERSON, IS DEAD

Widely Known Manufacturer and Exporter of Cotton Goods Dies After Brief Illness.

(By The Associated Press.)
HENDERSON, Dec. 21.—David Young Cooper, national known manufacturer and exporter of cotton goods, died here last night following an illness of three days. He was 73 years old. Death was due to angina pectoris, or congestion of the heart. Mr. Cooper was for many years a leading tobaccoist of North Carolina, and had banking interests here, in Richmond, New York and other cities. He was a former president of the American Cotton Manufacturers' Association and in 1917 was appointed by President Wilson as chairman of the price-fixing committee on textile products to serve during the war. He was also a leading member of the national foreign trade council. He was Henderson's wealthiest citizen. Funeral services will be held at 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon in this city.

SECOND DEGREE MURDER VERDICT IN LIPPARD CASE

The Two Hefners and Lone Young Found Guilty and Will Be Sentenced Today—Claim They're Innocent.

GREENSBORO NEWS.
MORGANTON, Dec. 21.—"Guilty of murder in the second degree" was the verdict rendered by the Lippard murder jury at 8:30 tonight. Their deliberation had taken less than an hour. When it was announced that the verdict was ready a small crowd gathered quickly in the courtroom to hear the decision. J. Ed Scott was spokesman, telling the court that the verdict applied to each of the three defendants.

John Hefner, father of Cecil and Dock Hefner, was with his boys, and seemed to take the result quite as stoically as they. Lone Young, the other defendant, was the only one who was noticeably agitated.

Attorney Whitener entered formal motion for new trial, but was overruled. Judge Shaw announced that sentence would not be passed until tomorrow morning.

Mr. Whitener consulted with the defendants immediately following the verdict and told your correspondent that they are still most emphatic in their protests of innocence of the crime or any guilty knowledge of it.

The verdict was the one that was generally expected by those who had followed the case closely.

COLBY IS SIMPLY RETURNING ANOTHER'S CALL

(By The Associated Press.)
RIO JANEIRO, Dec. 22.—Bainbridge Colby, American secretary of state, declared here today he had not come to Brazil to expound any theories, but to return the visit to the United States of President Pessoa. He asserted he had come to convey some expression of American admiration and satisfaction over the remarkable progress Brazil has made.

"The unbroken cordiality that has marked the relations of the two countries for more than a century," he said, "makes for mutual helpfulness."

While there was little demonstration of public enthusiasm upon the arrival of the secretary, newspapers say that this was due to the personal character of the mission. Journals extend a welcome to Mr. Colby and comment upon the importance of his visit in relation to the bonds between Brazil and the United States.

THIS CHRISTMAS BURGLAR HAD A HEART

(By The Associated Press.)
CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—A "Christmas burglar with a heart" heeded the pleas of Ruth Mailey, aged 10, not to take her Christmas presents when she found him in her home yesterday noon, on her return from school for lunch.

The burglar was eating her lunch, which had been left by her mother before going down town shopping. He took her to the parlor and played little jingles and Christmas songs on the piano for her.

When she told him she would have to return to school he said: "Tell your mother I'll return some day and steal everything in the house," but he left without taking anything.

DEFENDANTS IN SHEPARD CASE ARE FREED

Nothing in Sate's Evidence to Connect Defendants With the Poisoning of Shepard.

(By The Associated Press.)
MACON, Ga., Dec. 22.—Free after a week's preliminary hearing into the death last June 1 of Fred D. Shepard, his widow and three other defendants who had been arrested and charged with having poisoned him, were back in their homes today, or en route there. Judge H. A. Mathews, of superior court, presiding at the hearing here, declared shortly before 11 o'clock last night that there was nothing in the state's evidence to connect the defendants with the poisoning even if it were granted that death resulted from poison instead of from peritonitis as the defense claimed. He also said testimony of experts was conflicting as to the poisoning.

Mrs. Pauline Elmer, Shepard's widow, collapsed when the decision was rendered, after leaping to her feet and crying that "God has been with me."

Mrs. Elmer was expected to return to her home in Jacksonville. The other defendants were Mrs. Elmer's son, Ernest Popson, of Abbeville, Ga.; her younger sister, Mrs. Loma Henry, of Perry, Ga.; and Mrs. Annie Cutts, of Fitzgerald, Ga.

Clearing of the defendants was preceded late yesterday by the Houston county board of commissioners in voting to refuse to pay fees of the 42 state's witnesses and taking under consideration protests of citizens against paying for the investigation. This, it had been announced, would fall upon Houston county.

After the hearing Solicitor General Garrett said:

"I am satisfied that I have done my duty. What the future handling of the matter will be I have no opinion to express. It will be shaped largely by circumstances."

EYE-WITNESSES TO BURNING BEFORE COMMITTEE OF 100

(By The Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—Two eye-witnesses of the recent burning of the business section of the city of Cork—Misses Annie and Susan Walsh, sisters-in-law of the late Lord Mayor MacCurran of that city—were here to appear today before the committee of the Commission of One Hundred Investigating Conditions in Ireland. The two women also were present at the killing of Mayor MacCurran.

Representatives of the British branch of the Women's International League, who conducted an investigation in Ireland for their organization, told the committee yesterday that the greatest obstacle to a final solution of the Irish question lay in what they described as "the lack of sincerity" on the part of the condition government in dealing with the problem. "The mass of British opinion," they said, is not supporting the government in its Irish policy.

MORE THAN 200 ARRESTED IN NEW YORK'S ROUND-UP

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—More than 200 men and women, arrested in two raids on all night entertainment resorts, were lined up at various police stations today to be questioned. Detectives sought persons who might throw light upon recent holdups and murders.

One of the raids was at an East Side restaurant and the other at an uptown "clubhouse."

Fifteen arrests were reported by the "rifle squad" of twenty sharpshooters who toured the city all night with orders from Police Commissioner Enright to "shoot to kill."

NO CALLERS EXPECTED BY HARDING TODAY

MARION, O., Dec. 22.—The engagement book of President-elect Harding was blank today and it was said at his headquarters here that no callers were expected. It is possible, however, that some may appear, as most of Mr. Harding's invitations left the matter of time to the convenience of his visitors. Ex-President William Howard Taft is expected to confer with Mr. Harding before Christmas, but the day of his arrival has not been officially announced.

FOUR KILLED AND TWO INJURED IN POWDER MILL PLANT

SCRANTON, Pa., Dec. 22.—Four men were killed and two injured in an explosion today in the pressing and packing mill of the Dupont powder company at Belin Village, near Moosic, seven miles from here. The property damage amounted to about \$10,000.

The force of the explosion was felt all over the Lackawanna valley. The plant is engaged in handling commercial powder, largely for the anthracite mining industry.

Food Supply Endangered.

(By The Associated Press.)
DAWSON, Y. T., Dec. 22.—The entire food supply of this section of the Klondike region was endangered by a fire in the general store of the Northern Commercial Company here yesterday. The fire department assisted by volunteers extinguished the blaze after some damage had been done, working under great handicaps and with the temperature at 30 degrees below zero.

WILSON WILL ACCOMPANY HARDING FROM WHITE HOUSE TO CAPITOL

According to Custom When New President Is Inaugurated - Harding Will First Call at White House.

(By The Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—President Wilson plans to accompany President-elect Harding from the white house to the capitol on March 4 and back again to the white house for luncheon as is the usual custom when a new chief executive is inaugurated.

Joseph P. Tumulty, secretary to the president, said today that Mr. Wilson had outlined to him yesterday his plans with regard to inauguration day. As is the custom Mr. Harding will call at the white house just before noon and will be received by the retiring executive. They then, under present plans, will ride down Pennsylvania avenue to the capitol, where the President-elect will take the oath of office and deliver his inaugural address.

The new and retiring president will lead the usual parade up the avenue to the white house, where Mr. Wilson will entertain Mr. Harding at luncheon. Immediately afterward, President Wilson will retire to his new home on S street to take up his life as a private citizen after eight years in the white house. The continued steady improvement in the president's health, according to Secretary Tumulty, will make the contemplated visit of the president with President-elect Harding to the capitol possible even in the event of the most temperate weather.

SMITH VS. SMITH.

Cotton Mill Manager Takes Issue With Senator.

The following communication from Mr. M. L. Smith, a prominent cotton mill man of this section, to the editor of the Yorkville Enquirer will be of interest to Gazette readers:

I have read the article in your issue of December 17, "Smith Gets Them Told," and also saw the same thing in the daily papers, and fearing that some few people might believe that there is some truth in the story I'm going to make some comments on his statement.

He is reported as saying "that cotton has declined 200 per cent from 40 cents." If so, what is it worth today? I didn't know before that any commodity could decline more than 100 per cent—thought that represented all—but, according to the senator's figures, I suppose that if a man wished to dispose of a pound of cotton today he would have to give it away plus 40 cents, and that's the only way I can figure 200 per cent decline.

Cotton has declined from 40 cents to 15 cents which, in percentage, according to the way I have been taught, is about 60 per cent.

He says that cotton goods have declined 33 1-3 per cent. There are hundreds of thousands of different kinds of cotton goods manufactured. Possibly some have declined only 33 per cent, others as high as 85 per cent; but taking the goods as generally manufactured in this section, I believe I am safe and conservative in saying that the "asking" prices of the mills are 70 per cent to 75 per cent less than they were at the time of which the senator speaks. So far as I know, the mills have made no sales for the past few months at any price.

If any one believes that the senator's statements are true, wouldn't you and I and every other business man get busy and buy mill stocks? There is no patent or corner on mill stocks and they are very much cheaper now than when the mills were making the so called "300 per cent." And now, as he says, with a 200 per cent decline in cotton and only 33 per cent in the manufactured goods the prospective profits are simply enormous and to those who believe the senator's story, I advise them to sell their lands, their homes and all and buy mill stocks.

I have been pretty closely associated with the cotton milling business for thirty years and have never seen the mills make any money when cotton cheap or depressed and the senator himself says that the mills made 300 per cent (I never heard such exaggerated figures before and don't believe it) with cotton at 40 cents, why would they have their mills closed today, with millions of dollars of finished products on hand which they can't sell at any price?

No, Mr. Editor, the cotton mills are no more responsible for the decline in cotton than they are for the decline in corn, wheat, hogs and other things. It's the public alone who is responsible. It's a buyer's strike and nothing else.

No, cotton has not declined 200 per cent; but I think the senator's politics have.

M. L. SMITH.
Clover, December 18, 1920.

Several Hundred Killed.

LONDON, Dec. 22.—A Central News dispatch from Helsingfors, Finland, under Tuesday's date, says that several hundred persons were killed or injured in a railway accident near Petrograd. The accident was due, it is stated, to overcrowding of the train, but details are lacking, the dispatch adds.

OPINION DIVIDED ON PROBLEM OF TAX REVISION

Members of House Ways and Means Committee Have Open Mind on Subject - Hope to Get Sentiment of Constituents During Holiday Recess.

THREE DIE AS RESULT OF TRAIN-AUTO CLASH

Ollie Halthcock and Two Sisters Victims of Grade Crossing Accident Near Greensboro.

GREENSBORO NEWS, 22nd.
Ollie Halthcock and his sister, Mrs. Floyd Whitt, were instantly killed and another sister, Miss Ada Halthcock, was fatally injured yesterday afternoon when train No. 16 collided and demolished an automobile in which they were riding. The accident happened at 2:25 o'clock on Buffalo crossing—the first crossing west of Buffalo creek, six miles east of Greensboro. George Whitt, brother-in-law of Mrs. Floyd Whitt, driving the motor car, was severely hurt. He was taken to a hospital in Burlington, where he was reported last night as getting along very nicely. Miss Halthcock was brought to St. Leo's hospital by a passing automobile. She died at 5:50 p. m., remaining conscious until death relieved her of her suffering. She was badly bruised, especially in the face and in the back. All of the unfortunate people were from Burlington and were between 20 and 25 years of age.

Details of the accident were meager at a late hour last night, the railroad officials here having received nothing other than the bare account of No. 16. No. 16 left here at 2:15 p. m. It was stated that the automobile party was en route from Greensboro to Burlington, running in the same direction as No. 16. People who have traveled along the Greensboro-Burlington highway state that the Buffalo crossing is one of the most dangerous in the state, it being almost impossible to see a train approaching from the west after arriving within a hundred yards of the crossing. High ground between the highway and the railroad cuts off the view of an approaching train, it is said.

George Whitt was taken to the Burlington hospital, his injuries not being considered dangerous.

Train No. 16, local passenger train running between Greensboro and Raleigh, was in charge of Engineer J. W. Harris and Conductor J. H. Gilliland, both of this city. The pilot of engine 1093 was completely torn off. The train proceeded to its destination after a short delay.

The automobile was badly damaged. It was the property of Floyd Whitt, husband of Mrs. Floyd Whitt.

MEXICANS CHARGED WITH TRYING TO START EXPEDITION FROM U. S. AGAINST MEXICO

(By The Associated Press.)
SAN ANTONIO, Tex., Dec. 22.—Two prominent Mexicans were under arrest today and the apprehension of others was expected as the result of federal indictments brought here yesterday, charging them with conspiring to set on foot upon United States soil a military expedition against Mexico. Francisco Vasquez Gomez, an associate of Francisco Madero when the latter was a candidate for the presidency, and Leon J. Tauriel were arrested last night. Gomez securing his release on \$1,000 bail.

Gomez began his political career in Mexico in 1910, when he became the running mate of Francisco Madero, who was the candidate for the Mexican presidency against Porfirio Diaz.

Gomez broke with Madero, however, who favored Pino Suarez for the vice presidency in the elections which followed. From that time Gomez has taken sides with Carranza against Victoriano Huerta and with Francisco Villa against Carranza.

DECLARES HUNDREDS OF BABIES ARE SOLD IN SALT LAKE CITY YEARLY

Declaring that hundreds of babies are being literally sold in Salt Lake every year, Judge Hugo B. Anderson, of the local juvenile court, in his biennial report to the governor, recommends that legislation be introduced to prevent the continuance of the traffic.

He condemns the adoption proceedings at present carried out in the courts, stating that they are handled informally and decrees entered as a matter of course, the courts having no means whereby to make investigations.

PRESIDENT WILSON GOES WINDOW SHOPPING.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—President Wilson went window shopping on "7th" street yesterday, viewing the Christmas crowds and the brightly decorated shops from an open automobile. Accompanied by Mrs. Wilson, the president was driven slowly down one side of the street which is the main artery of the capitol's shopping district and back up the other, few in the hurrying crowds of shoppers recognizing the chief executive.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—Development of a tax revision program in congress although proceeding slowly has disclosed in the house a growing trend in favor of including some sort of sales tax in the next revenue legislation. The statement yesterday of Chairman Fordney, of the ways and means committee, in support of a sales tax, it was said today, had given impetus to the proposal.

While most members of the ways and means committee say that they retain an open mind on the subject, their private expressions show sentiment in the committee even now to be slightly in favor of a consumption tax. During the hearings of the last two days Meyer D. Rothschild, of New York, and Otto H. Kahn, New York banker, presented arguments in favor of a sales tax.

Mr. Kahn said that while a sales tax would be an experiment to an extent, it was one which should be made. Several members of the committee declared his argument in favor of the proposal had been "very convincing."

Committee members who are out and out against the sale tax and who described it as an economic crime assert that the arguments in its favor will be disappointed once the consumer is aroused to the effect it will have. They declared it to be worse than the excess profits tax, charging it will allow all lines of trade to renew profiteering.

Against these views, however, are many of the majority members of the committee who are following the leadership of their chairman in seeking some sort of a sales tax which will not add to the burden of taxation. The committee lately has received copies of the sales tax laws of France, Canada, and the Philippines, which Mr. Fordney said has been obtained as a basis upon which to work.

It was predicted today that developments over the holidays probably would determine something approximating a definite attitude in the house. Members will have had time to hear from home on the proposed tax when hearings are resumed two weeks hence and the real sentiment disclosed, it was declared.

NAMES OF COAL PROFITEERS WITHHELD FROM PUBLICATION

(By The Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—Names of those charged before a senate investigating committee yesterday with conducting coal profiteering operations while officials of the government and presented to the committee in executive session were still withheld from publication today when the committee resumed its investigation of the coal situation generally. George H. Cushing, managing director of the American Wholesale Coal Association, made the charge that government officials had joined in profiteering during last summer's coal shortage.

According to Senator Calder, of New York, chairman of the committee, Mr. Cushing gave the name of one official and described an operation in which this official was declared to have been a principal when the committee went into executive session. Through this operation, Mr. Cushing was said to have told the committee, a group of men in government service obtained 450,000 tons of coal which they later sold at a profit of \$600,000.

LIEUT. KIRKPATRICK WILL MAKE ANOTHER TRY.

(By The Associated Press.)
MINEOLA, N. Y., Dec. 22.—Lieut. Ross C. Kirkpatrick, army flyer, who was forced down early today, while attempting to break the world's record for continuous flight, will have another try at the record soon, he declared upon alighting from his 400 horsepower army plane.

Lieutenant Kirkpatrick landed at Mitchell field at 1:36 o'clock this morning owing to a gasoline leak, after being in the air a little more than 18 hours—about six hours short of the record.

The army flyer and Max Goodenough, his civilian mechanic, made several efforts to mend the pipe but the leak was located under the cockpit and was inaccessible in midair. Their intention was to remain aloft at least 36 hours, and sufficient gasoline and food were taken to have enabled them to do so.

The record for continuous flight is held by Lieut. Boussoout, a French pilot, who remained in the air over Villersauze-la-Marnogne, France, 24 hours, 19 minutes and seven seconds last June 3 and 4.

Born.

On Tuesday, December 21, 1920, at the Gaston Sanatorium, to Rev. and Mrs. S. J. Hood, a son.