

THE COMMONWEALTH

AFTERNOON DAILY

SLOGAN: "EVERY ONE FOR EACH OTHER AND ALL TOGETHER FOR SCOTLAND NECK."

VOLUME THREE.

AFTERNOON DAILY

SCOTLAND NECK, N. C. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1917

TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

NUMBER 23

SENATE VOTES FOR WAR WITH AUSTRIA

SENATOR STONE OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE MOVED THE RESOLUTION THIS AFTERNOON.

LAFOLLETTE ONLY SENATOR ABSENT

(By UNITED PRESS) Washington, Dec. 7.—By unanimous vote, LaFollette being absent, the senate this afternoon passed a resolution declaring war against Austria-Hungary. The measure now goes to the House where the vote will probably be recorded tonight.

Washington, Dec. 7.—Senator Stone reported the senate resolution declaring war with Austria-Hungary. This was approved yesterday in the foreign relations committee.

Senator Stone gave notice that upon the conclusion of the senate's routine business he would move the immediate consideration of the resolution.

NOMINATIONS WITH SENATE

(By UNITED PRESS) Washington, Dec. 7.—The President sent the following nominations to the Senate this afternoon.

Howard E. Coffy, of Michigan, chairman of the aircraft board; Richard Howe, of New York, a member of the aircraft board; Russell C. Leffingwell, of New York, assistant secretary of the treasury; William M. Ingram, of Portland, Maine, surveyor of customs of District No. 1.

INJURED AVIATOR RALEIGH MAN

(By United Press.) Washington, Dec. 7.—Vice Admiral Sims reported to the navy department today a seaplane accident in the war zone in which one sailor was killed and a gunner's mate injured.

Seaman Claude Albert Baker was killed and his body was not recovered. It is assumed the accident occurred at sea, though this was not definitely stated in the dispatch. Baker enlisted at Nashville, Tenn., last December. His father is William B. Baker, Sparrows Point, Md. Richard W. Thompson, first class gunner's mate, suffered a fracture of the right thigh. He re-enlisted in France August 28, 1917. His father is F. J. Thompson, Sr., Raleigh, N. C.

NATIONAL ARMY GETS MEDICALS

(By UNITED PRESS) Washington, Dec. 7.—Members of the engineer and medical reserve corps, now in service and not otherwise assigned be transferred to the national army, is the order of the war department today.

CANADIAN SHIP WORKS AFIRE

(By UNITED PRESS) Toronto Dec. 7.—Polsen's Iron Works, devoted almost exclusively to the construction of trawlers and cargo boats for the British government, is on fire and threatened with destruction.

VA. REGIMENT TO ANNISTON

(By United Press.) Chattanooga, Tenn., Dec. 7.—Batteries A, B and C of the eleventh field artillery of the first Virginia regiment are ordered to leave Chicamauga for Anniston in a few days.

GERMANY PLANS SUPREME OFFENSIVE

GENERAL BYNG RETIRES FROM BOURLON AS PRIME PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE TO WITHSTAND THE SHOCK.

TROTSKY PROVES REAL TRAITOR

(By United Press.) Petrograd, Dec. 7.—Germany was permitted, under the Russian-German armistice plan to transfer all the troops she desired from the Russian fronts for use against the allies. Nothing in the agreement carries stipulations such as were pledged by Trotsky.

PURGE COUNTRY ENEMY SPIES

(By UNITED PRESS) Washington, Dec. 7.—To purge the country of spies attorney general Gregory recommends laws to hobble the entrance and exit of aliens, and to make the violation of the enemy regulations imprisonment at hard labor for such offenses.

FLOCKS GERMAN AIRMEN VERY ACTIVE

NEWS FROM THE STATE CAPITOL

(By Maxwell Gorman.)

Raleigh, Dec. 7.—Senator Simmons stopped over a day in Raleigh, en route to Washington, and when asked for an expression of opinion at the meeting (or conference) of the N. C. Republican "leaders" at Hickory, stated that the mixture of politics with patriotism in the resolutions adopted reflected seriously upon the sincerity of the framers of the resolutions and was inopportune, and smacked of the trickery that so often characterizes the acts and utterances of the small politician when he essays to play the role of a patriotic statesman.

He added that in that part of the resolutions which criticized the President and the Congress, the "leaders" present including ex-senator Marion Butler whom Simmons unhorned politically some 18 years ago, did not reflect or represent the best Republican sentiment in North Carolina.

Senator Simmons stated the session of Congress which began this week will be a lengthy one and will be called upon to handle subjects of vast concern and importance, especially those relating to finance (of which committee he is the chairman,) to industry and manufacturers and in the prosecution of the war against Germany. He is in fine fettle after a month's rest at his home in New Bern and that section, where he says the people are heartily endorsing the administration and the patriotic spirit abounds.

Tuberculosis Day.

Next Sunday, Dec. 9th, is to be observed as "Tuberculosis Day", especially in the churches and all people are urged to become more interested in the subject and do something to help fight the disease that always spreads beyond the normal in time of war.

Wanted: Wood and More Wood.

Raleigh people are still crying for wood at something like a fair price. A 2-horse load from the country (two-thirds of a cord) is fetching \$6 today. The wood dealers sell it in small lots at about \$8 per cord. Another effort is to be made this week to help relieve the situation—by the Rotary Club, since the city's utter impotence to do so continues.

GREAT WORK OF RED CROSS

(By UNITED PRESS) Washington, Dec. 7.—The Red Cross has arranged to buy material for surgical dressings, hospital garments, and knitted articles, to be sold at substantially cost prices to the chapters throughout the country to be made up by the women of America. The cost will be \$3,457,200.

(By UNITED PRESS) With the British Armies Afield, Dec. 7.—The British expect Germany's biggest offensive effort of the war shortly.

General Byng's retirement from Bournon is regarded as the first prime precautionary measure for the British to withstand the shock.

It is believed that Germany is preparing to throw every ounce of strength into one supreme military attempt before the arrival of the American troops.

German airmen are trying, in flocks, with all their might, to find out what is occurring behind General Byng's lines in retirement.

LAFOLLETTE PROBE SOON

(By UNITED PRESS) Washington, Dec. 7.—Further postponement, until late next week, of the senate committee investigation of Senator LaFollette's St. Paul speech was ordered yesterday, after Senator LaFollette had advised the committee that his attorney could not be present next Tuesday when it was planned to begin testimony with former Secretary Bryan as the first witness.

WAR SAVING STAMPS POPULAR

(By United Press.) Washington, Dec. 7.—The man with limited means—even the school boy or girl with a few pennies to spare now and then—who wants a safe and profitable investment which at the same time will help the country, finds his opportunity in the new war savings certificate plan.

During December, 1917, and January, 1918, war-savings stamps will be sold at \$1.12 each, at post offices, banks, trust companies, and many business houses and factories throughout the country. At the beginning of each succeeding month the cost of a stamp will increase 1 cent. All war-savings stamps issued during 1918 will mature January 1, 1923, when they will be redeemed at \$5 each. The difference between purchase price and the price at maturity represents the interest the government will pay the holder, 4 per cent compounded quarterly.

COTTON MARKET

	Open	High	Low	Close
Dec.	29.27	29.27	29.10	29.10
Jan.	28.55	28.56	28.30	28.30
Mar.	28.26	28.26	28.02	28.03
May	27.96	27.96	27.73	27.73
July	27.64	27.64	27.41	27.41

Local Market 27½ cents.

COTTONSEED MARKET. 1.11 per bushel in wagon lots.

GREAT FIRE IN PHILADELPHIA

(By United Press) Philadelphia, Dec. 7.—Several firemen were injured in the falling walls and eighty thousand dollar loss was incurred when the Thomas Potter Sons Company's oil clothes works was destroyed here. Six hundred employees, mostly girls, were brought safely to the street in sensational rescues.

WANT HIGHER FREIGHT RATES

(By United Press) Washington, Dec. 7.—General revision of freight rates by the Southern carriers is proposed in an application filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission. Foodstuffs, iron, steel, petroleum, cotton products and other commodities are included. A general increase is planned, also a number of decreases proposed.

5000 DEAD IS HALIFAX EXPLOSION TOLL

NIJEU AMSTERDAM OF THE HOLLAND AMERICAN LINE FEARED LOST WITH HUNDREDS OF AMERICAN PASSENGERS

EXPLOSION SEEN FIFTY TWO MILES AT SEA

(By UNITED PRESS) Halifax, Dec. 7.—Freezing cold and a heavy snow storm added to the sufferings of the wounded and shelterless in this blasted city today.

Fires that were believed to be extinguished broke out again. No reliable count of the deaths. Two thousand is considered a too low estimate by those working amongst the corpses, now frozen stiff in grotesque and horrible attitudes in the death agony. More bodies were found in the debris. Snow is rapidly cloaking the gasty mounds of shattered wood and stone, where corpses can be seen under the rubbish.

Formal inquiry as to the cause of the accident will be made. Witnesses believe that the steering gear of the Belgian relief ship broke.

The drydock is wrecked, St. Joseph's church is ruined and many large buildings unroofed.

The city was practically dark all night. School sessions are not to be resumed for months.

New York, Dec. 7.—(Late dispatch.)—Passengers and crew of the Holland American liner Nieu Amsterdam are safe the officials of the company state.

(By UNITED PRESS) Washington, Dec. 7.—Five thousand dead as the result of the Halifax disaster is the unconfirmed estimate the naval commander forwarded to the navy department.

He states he saw and heard the explosion fifty two miles at sea.

New York, Dec. 7.—The Nieu Amsterdam, of the Holland American line, with three to four hundred Americans aboard may have been in Halifax harbor when the explosion occurred.

This was the first ship to leave here after the embargo on Dutch ships was raised. The officials of the company express fear for the safety of vessel crew and passengers.

The Nieu Amsterdam put into Halifax for examination and nothing has been heard from her since.

She carried ten thousand tons of corn for the Belgian relief besides a large passenger list.

Washington, Dec. 7.—The State Department fears the safety of American Consul General Ethelbert Watts at Halifax.

Consul Freen of Sidney, N. S., left this morning to investigate (Continued on Page Six.)

ALL EXEMPTIONS NOW CANCELLED

(By United Press.) Washington, Dec. 7.—Under the new regulations every person registered for selective draft is restored to his original status, section 4 stating that all exemptions and discharges made prior to December 15 are revoked.

The office of the Provost Marshal General declares it is imperative that every registrant know his "order number." Every person who registered or should have registered June 5 is charged with a knowledge of the selective service law and additional regulations, and failure to perform any duty so prescribed is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for one year and may result in the loss of valuable rights and privileges and in immediate induction into military service.

TWELVE MEN & OFFICER HURT

Washington, Dec. 7.—Second Lieut. Allie L. Cone and 12 enlisted men of the American army engineers have been wounded in action, General Pershing today reported to the war department.

General Pershing gave no details except that the men were wounded November 30, the day on which American engineers working with the British army assisted General Byng's forces in stemming a German assault near Cambrai. Cable dispatches said some of the engineers were killed, but General Pershing's report contained no names of dead.

U. S. MISSION AT HEADQUARTERS

Paris Dec. 7.—Colonel House, accompanied by General Bliss and Admiral Benson and other members of the American Mission and Lord Northcliffe, left Paris for general headquarters.

They spent the afternoon visiting the training quarters and witnessing exercises. General Pershing conducted the party personally and showed the visitors every department of the war preparations. Bayonet exercise, rifle practice, target practice, grenade throwing, trench and mortar practice, artillery exercises, co-operation aeroplanes, automatic rifle practice, machine gun curtain fire. The mission returned here with a favorable impression with the spirit of the officers and men and the state of their preparation. Lord Northcliffe seemed well pleased with General Pershing's staff organization and splendid vigor of the young officers.