

ONLY 3 MORE SHOPPING DAYS 'TIL CHRISTMAS. SHOP EARLY AND AVOID THE RUSH.

WEATHER REPORT: Rain tonight and Saturday. Warmer tonight. Warmer Saturday in east portion. N. E. to East winds.

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TELEGRAPH SERVICE

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PRES. WILSON VISITS ENGLAND DEC. 26

MANCHESTER GUARDIAN SAYS HIS SUDDEN TRIP IS TO CONSULT BRITISH GOVERNMENT REGARDING RUSSIAN SITUATION.

WILL VISIT PARTS OF EUROPE SOON

(By Associated Press) Paris, Dec. 20.—The details of President Wilson's trip to London is being worked out by the president in consultation with Colonel House, Captain Andree Tardieu, French high commissioner to the United States and the members of the American embassy staff in London.

The president will start for London immediately after he has had Christmas dinner with the American troops in the field and will not return directly to Paris but, it is expected, he will visit the devastated regions of northern France and Belgium.

It is expected he will be back in Paris about January 4, on the eve of the first meeting of the inter-allied conference which will be held January 6.

The opening of the meeting of the interallied conference will be confined to representatives of the allies and United States.

They will arrange a common basis of action for the formal sessions of the peace congress which will be opened toward the middle or latter part of January. It is expected the German delegates will then be present for the first time.

Paris, Dec. 20.—President Wilson's plans for visiting London while not yet positive, contemplate that he will leave for England on next Thursday, December 26, and probably remain in England four days.

London, Dec. 20.—A correspondent of the Manchester Guardian suggests that President Wilson's sudden determination to come to England is due to his desire to consult the British government regarding the Russian situation before the preliminary meeting to the peace conference.

JAPAN PROMOTE SUFFRAGE SYSTEM

Tokio, Dec. 20.—Addressing the prefectural governors of the Empire, Takejiro Tokonami the Home Minister in the New Hara party cabinet, indicated the other day that the government would bring about a revision of the suffrage system so as to promote constitutional government in Japan. The present suffrage in Japan is extremely limited. Local self-government he said, also would be extended.

The minister paid a tribute to the patriotism and devotion of the Allies in the present war. He said: "It is a remarkable fact that every nation has, on account of the war, solidarity so well achieved by the Allied nations have been accomplished by the virtue of individual initiative on the part of the people. The urgent need for us is that the admirable qualities inherent to our national character be fully developed through the awakening of each individual; thus will the noblest traits of our national life be perfectly realized."

CHRISTMAS RED X. ROLL

A telegram has been received from Mr. Black, in charge of the Universal Membership to the Red Cross, urging a speeding up of effort on the part of Scotland Neck and Halifax county in order that this section may show up well in the final accounting.

Quite a number have responded to the announcement in The Commonwealth to voluntarily call at the Scotland Neck Bank and sign the Roll Call and it is hoped that a great many more will avail themselves of this opportunity in the next day or two.

FOOD ADMIN'TN SETS PROFITS

Mr. Lunsford, of the State food administration, representing Mr. Henry Page, was here on Wednesday and instructed the publication of the following basis of fair food profits, stating that specific margins had been fixed on food commodities and that these margins will be enforced without any exceptions.

Maximum Margins For Merchants	Cash & Carry	Credit & Delivery
Flour (Wheat, barley rye, corn)	1.00	1.20
Corn Meal	.003	.01
Hominy and grits	.02 1/2	.03
Sugar	.01	.01 1/2
Oatmeal (bulk)	.01 1/2	.02
Lard and lard substitutes (bulk)	.05	.06
Lard and lard substitutes (packages)	.04	.05
Breakfast bacon (4c per lb may be added for slicing)	.06	.07
Heavy bacon	.05	.06
Ham (4c per lb may be added for slicing)	.06	.07
Cheese	.07	.08
Butter	.06	.07
Butter substitutes	.05	.06
Eggs	.07	.08
Potatoes	.01	.01 1/2
Onions	.03	.03 1/2
Evaporated milk	.25%	.30%
Oatmeal (packages)	.25%	.30%
Rice	.25%	.30%
Beans	.25%	.30%
Edible starch	.25%	.30%
Corn syrup	.25%	.30%
Canned corn, peas tomatos	.33 1/3%	.40%
Canned salmon, chums	.33 1/3%	.40%
Canned sardines	.33 1/3%	.40%
Domestic	.33 1/3%	.40%
Dried fruits raisins	.33 1/3%	.40%
Prunes peaches	.33 1/3%	.40%
Wheat feed and cotton seed meal	\$5.00	\$6.00
All feeds other than pure wheat	15%	

COTTON MARKET

	Open	High	Low	Close
January	27.95	28.31	27.95	28.31
March	26.50	26.92	26.50	26.92
May	25.52	25.85	25.52	25.85
July	24.64	25.08	24.64	25.08

Local Market 26 cents

NAT. ASSEMBLY MEETS JAN. 19

(By Associated Press) Berlin, Dec. 20.—The congress of Soldiers and Workmen's councils here have decided that the national assembly shall be held on January 19.

PEOPLES LEAGUE BEEN ORGANIZED

(By Associated Press) London, Dec. 20.—The "People's League" has been organized in Berlin, says a Central News Copenhagen dispatch. The league committee includes Prince Maximilian, former German imperial chancellor; Hugo Haase, independent socialist; Von Bernstorff, former ambassador to the United States and Mathias Erzberger, centrist leader.

VON HINDENBURG INTENDS FORMING NEW DEFENSES

Paris, Dec. 20.—Field Marshal Von Hindenburg has telegraphed the Berlin government advising it of his intention to form a new front six miles behind the neutral zone fixed by the armistice, according to a Zurich dispatch today to Le Petit Journal.

CARD MERCIER WILL NOT VISIT

(By Associated Press) Ottawa, Dec. 20.—The Belgian consul general for Canada today denied the report that Cardinal Mercier would visit Canada and the United States. He has officially advised that the Cardinal has no intention of leaving Belgium.

FRENCH PREMIER GREETING LAON JUST FREED



Premier Clemenceau, despite his years and the weight of his labors as head of the French government, always kept in close touch with the fighting front. He is shown here affectionately greeting the children of Laon just after the French and American forces had driven the Germans out in their last big drive. The Huns had oppressed Laon for more than four years.

AIRCRAFT MET'G. MAY BE HELD

(By Associated Press) London, Dec. 20.—The British air board has drafted articles for an international air convention which will be submitted to the allies, it is announced today. The draft is accompanied with the suggestion that an international air conference be convened.

LETTS APPEAL FOR PROTECTION

(By Associated Press) Washington, Dec. 20.—An appeal for protection from the Bolsheviks was received by the state department from the Lettish government through the American delegation at Stockholm. The Lett representatives said that the German troops were not remaining to maintain order, as the armistice terms permitted, but were leaving the country at the mercy of the Bolsheviks.

AMERICAN G.H.Q. AT CHAUMONT

Chaumont, France, Dec. 20.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press)—This little city of the Haute Marne is the home of the General Headquarters of the American Expeditionary Forces. Until now its mention has been taboo and the whereabouts of "G. H. Q." one of the secrets of the war.

Here lives the Commander-in-Chief and in the buildings of the French garrison is housed the offices of the Central staff and all the auxiliary organizations that go with it—the nerve center of the Army. A city of normally about fifteen thousand inhabitants, Chaumont lies on the Eastern Railway lines, 163 miles east of Paris. It was formerly the capital of Bassigny and is now the capital of the Department of the Haute-Marne.

CHILDREN OF LAON JUST FREED FROM GERMAN BONDAGE

ITALY PRESENTS CLAIMS TO PRESIDENT WILSON

THIS MORNING SPENT BY THE PRESIDENT IN DISCUSSING ITALY'S POSITION WITH PREMIER ORLANDO AND MINISTER SONNINO

WILSON HAS NOT COMMITTED HIMSELF

THREE N. C. MEN ON HONOR LIST

The commander in chief, in the name of the President, has awarded the distinguished service cross to the following North Carolinians for acts of extraordinary heroism as described after their names:

Pvt. (first class) Herbert Champion, Sanitary Detachment, 105th Engineers. (No. 1328377.) For extraordinary heroism in action July 16, 1918. When an enemy airplane dropped a bomb in the camp of his organization killing one soldier and wounding seven, including himself, Pvt. Champion administered first aid to the other wounded, helped carry them to the dressing station, and there he gave further assistance in dressing and evacuating the wounded men, never mentioning his own serious wound until he knew that all the others had been cared for. Home address, Dr. C. O. Champion (father), Mooresboro, N. C.

Sergt. (First Class) Guy R. Hanson, Company F, 105th Engineers No. 1329688. For extraordinary heroism in action August 27, 1918. Sergt. Hanson was in charge of a platoon, delivering a highly concentrated gas-cloud attack against the enemy, when the cloud unexpectedly flared back. After leading his men to a place of safety, this soldier went back into the cloud four times at imminent peril to his own life, collecting and rescuing others who had been overcome conducting his platoon thru heavy machine-gun fire, he put them in charge of another sergt. with instructions to resume their mission, while he again returned to search for gassed men and found all but two. His excellent leadership & unusual courage prevented many casualties and at the same time effected the completion of an important mission. Home address, Mrs. Dela Hanson, 610 East Seventh Street, Charlotte, N. C.

Master Engineer Albert L. Rust, Company D, 105th Engineers (No. 1328259) For extraordinary heroism in action at Bellecourt, France, September 29 1918. Master Engineer Rust commanded a platoon of Engineers, following the first wave of the infantry for the purpose of clearing a road for the artillery. Under heavy shell and machine gun fire, he directed the work with exceptional ability, at one time leading his platoon in advance of the infantry. By organizing covering parties and utilizing two automatic riflemen, who had become separated from their own unit, he kept his platoon intact capturing 35 prisoners and cleaning out three machine-gun nests in the course of the operations. While making a reconnaissance ahead of his platoon he personally took nine Germans, after wounding their officer. As a re-

(By Associated Press) Paris, Dec. 20.—President Wilson will spend most of today conferring with Italian statesmen and considering the claims of Italy which will be laid before the peace conference.

Early in the day the president conferred with Premier Orlando and Foreign Minister Sonnino who explained in detail their country's ambitions.

The president has expressed his warmest sympathy with Italy's aspirations but has not committed himself fully as to his views.

After the conference President Wilson went over the material presented and compared it with data collected by Colonel House who has spent some time in attempting to determine what, in his opinion, should be the status of Italy's legitimate claims.

Paris, Dec. 20.—President Wilson, in addition to conferences today with Italian statesmen, also conferred with Captain Andree Tardieu, French high commissioner to the United States, with whom he discussed relief work for France and economic questions.

CHURCHES HOLD SERVICE SUNDAY

The influenza epidemic has so greatly improved in the last few days that the ministers of the local churches have determined to hold services Sunday morning and evening.

It has been thought best however not to open the Sunday school this coming Sunday but to delay for another week owing to the numerous convalescents among the young people.

JAPAN AVOIDS RACIAL TROUBLE

(By Associated Press) Tokio, Dec. 20.—Belief that the next war will be the outcome of race prejudices is expressed by Yuki Ozaki, formerly Minister of Justice, and a leading member of the Constitutional Party. Mr. Ozaki said that in his opinion, the colored races which steadily were developing their civilization would demand finally the same treatment as the white races, and that the result would be an armed collision.

Mr. Ozaki recommended that at the Peace Conference, Japan acting on behalf of all the Asiatic races should introduce the racial and population questions for consideration, and if possible, secure a solution.

suit of his skilled leadership and gallant conduct, his mission was successfully carried out. Home address, David L. Rust, father, Morganton, N. C.