

WEATHER FORECAST.
Fair tonight and Wednesday with slowly rising temperature. Moderate northwest winds becoming variable.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FINAL EDITION

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"PRUSSIAN MILITARISM MUST YIELD"

HE EXPECTED WAR TO BREAK WITH MEXICO

Major General Scott Tells Senate Committee He Had Look For The Conflict.

SAT UP AT NIGHT AWAITING IT.
National Guardsmen Could Not Have Been Sent Across The Border—Only Mexico's Unpreparedness Saved The Day, He Declares.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 19.—The National Guard force mobilized on the Mexican border would have required nearly a year's intensive training to have prepared them to meet trained troops, Major General Scott, chief of the army staff, declared before the Senate sub-military committee today. "Fortunately, the Mexicans were untrained troops," he added, "and our purpose to protect the border was accomplished merely by the presence of the men on the border, without firing a shot. We never contemplated sending the National Guardsmen over the border without being trained, although I sat up until 2 or 3 o'clock every morning fully expecting a message that the fighting was on with Pershing's force or the border guard had been attacked. "We felt that the National Guard troops would have destroyed themselves marching had they been sent through that hard country. "Pershing's troops made phenomenal marches. Not a National Guard organization could have done it. It would have killed both men and horses." General Scott said there were 20,000 Carranza troops around the Pershing expedition and 14,000 more opposite Douglas, where great American interests were located. That these were looked to for an attack.

WHEAT PRICES AGAIN GOING UP

British Premier's Statement Sends The Market Up Once More.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 19.—An excited advance of more than 7 cents per bushel today in the price of wheat resulted from Premier David Lloyd George's speech. The market reached within a few cents of the point made before the peace proposal was made by Germany. May delivery, the chief trading option, ascended \$1.71 1/2 as against \$1.64 1/2 to \$1.64 3/4 at yesterday's close, a jump of 7 cents to 7 1/4 cents. At this stage the selling increased and the market began to react.

PRESSING FOR A VOTE IN SENATE

Advocates of a "Dry" District Putting Up Stiff Fight.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 19.—Advocates of the Sheppard bill, providing for prohibition in the District of Columbia are trying to get a vote on the measure in the Senate. Before a final vote, however, the Underwood amendment for a referendum of the residents of the District on the prohibition question must be acted upon.

DEPENDENCY-BILL GETS FAVORABLE REPORT.

Washington, Dec. 19.—An appropriation of \$4,250,000 for the dependent families of militiamen on the Mexican border is included in the urgent efficiency bill reported to the House today.

FRENCH ADVANCE IS NOT DEEMED OF MUCH WORTH

Berlin Does Not Think It Will Affect Military Situation in Slightest.

WATCHING FOR THE NEXT STROKE.

Speculation as to Where Von Hindenburg Will Send His Troops to Strike—May Be In Macedonia.

Berlin, Dec. 18, (via London, Dec. 19.)—Although the German military authorities are making no effort to belittle the recent French gains near Verdun and look for more attacks they maintain that the result attained was small and will have no effect on the military situation. They do not believe that anticipated future attacks will necessitate any transfer of troops from the east to the west, as ample reserves are on hand.

The continued German advance in Rumania, aside from straightening the line and reducing the length of the front has freed a large number of troops.

The Germans are watching with interest foreign speculation as to where Field Marshal von Hindenburg will employ these forces. Whether it will be against the Italians, Russians or entente forces on the Macedonian front.

GEN. SCOTT RENEWS STRONG PROTEST.

Simms Appears In Behalf of Naval Estimates While Weaver Discusses Coast Guard Service.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 19.—Congressional committees were again engaged with National defense problems today, the House military and naval committees dealing with necessary appropriations to carry forward the war and navy departments' building programs and development of the National Guard, while Major General Scott, chief of staff, renewed his plea before the Senate sub-committee for abandonment of the National Guard and all other volunteer systems in favor of universal training and service. General Scott made it plain that the general staff had no quarrel with the officers and men of the guard, but only with the system and argued that the defects were inherent in any plan based on inclination of the individual towards military training. Before the naval committee, which resumed consideration of the 1918 estimates, after a week's delay, Captain William S. Simms, commander of the new super-dreadnaught, Arizona, was the first man of the active fleet to present his views. He told of the conduct of modern naval practice at sea and of the progress being made by the fleet towards battle efficiency. Brigadier General Weaver, chief of coast artillery, continued before the House military committee his explanation of the items for the coast defense in the 1918 bill.

EMPTY STOCKING FUND.

As was announced last week, The Dispatch this year is devoting its energies to helping raise an "empty stocking fund" for the Salvation Army. Instead of conducting an independent movement, as for the past two years, the fund raised by The Dispatch will be placed in the hands of Adjutant Yates, well known and popular Christian soldier, who will use it in helping to defray the expense of a big Christmas tree, which the army will give the poor children of Wilmington. In this way it is hoped to reach every poor child with Christmas. But it is a big task, this matter of financing it. So money is needed, and The Dispatch will be glad to receive contributions, to be turned over to Adjutant Yates. The Dispatch acknowledges the following donations: Clerks in the office of the auditor of the A. C. L., \$26.10; Baraca Bible Class, First Baptist church, 3.35; Friend, 1.00. Total, \$30.45.

THE PRIZES.

- \$685 Overland Automobile.
- Ford Automobile.
- Carolina Beach Lot.
- \$100 in Gold.
- \$75 Victrola.
- \$50 O. K. Mystic Range.
- \$40 Sellers Kitchen Cabinet.
- \$25 Wrist Watch.
- Two \$60 Diamond Rings.

Candidates in The Dispatch contest are hustling for subscriptions and votes, and every day there are many changes in the standing. People are beginning to wonder who are going to win the valuable prizes offered by The Dispatch. Find the persons who start out and work a little each day, and you will more than likely pick the winners. Time is far from being the most valuable asset, and those who have the least time are often winners in an affair of this kind. On the other hand, optimism and enthusiasm win more battles and pave the way to success more than any other instruments known. While optimism and enthusiasm are paramount in a contest such as is now being waged by The Dispatch, the winner of any of the prizes must have one other qualification—persistence. Worlds have been conquered by this trait of character, in many instances, and the two automobiles and the other prizes will be won by those who are persistent in their efforts. There are a number of candidates entered in The Dispatch contest who are optimistic, enthusiastic, and per-

sistent. No one will be slighted by these ambitious women who are striving to be among the winners when the awards are made, and subscribers and non-subscribers are warned to have their money ready. You might as well pay your subscription now as later. In fact, by paying a subscription before Friday night at nine o'clock, anyone will be able to help a candidate more than at any time later. For the benefit of any candidate who reads this article, who happens to be a pessimist, we want to impress upon you the fact that you have the same opportunity to win in this contest as anyone. Don't let someone scare you out by her big talking. You know it is not always the automobile which has the loudest horn that can run the fastest or longest, and those who do the most talking are often ones who are doing the least work. Remember, the first period of the contest will close at nine o'clock Friday night, and that after that time each \$15 club of subscriptions will give 140,000 extra votes, or 10,000 less than this week. Remember that the competition for the \$60 diamond ring will end at nine o'clock next Friday night. The ring is to be awarded the candidate who turns in the largest amount of money for new subscriptions during the two weeks ending next Friday, who does not win one of the more valuable prizes. Contestants living outside of Wilmington will receive the first period extra votes, and their subscription money will apply on the diamond ring, if they mail subscriptions anytime Friday. This gives them the same opportunity as the city candidates, and they can work up until the last minute.

INTEREST CENTERS ON WHAT PREMIER WILL ASSERT

This Holds Chief Attention in The European War News Today.

RUSSIANS TO MAKE A STRONG STAND.

Prepare For a Big Defense Again Teutons—Only Bombardment on The Verdun Front.

Interest in the war's operations was largely swept aside, today, with attention centered in the speech of premier David Lloyd-George in the British House of Commons, which is expected to state the British attitude today on the peace proposal of the central powers, as well as outline the government's general policy. The military developments of the past twenty-four hours have been few in number and unimportant. In France on the Verdun front there has been only bombardments since the French attack yesterday, which Paris reports as winning back a position which the Germans had taken in a counter-attack.

In the Rumanian war the latest reports indicate preparations by the Russians to make a definite stand in Southern Moldavia, where they are reported to be making a strong defense line. Petrograd yesterday reported a hold-up of the Thibault steamer. Berlin announced no new advance, except in Dobrudja, where the Russo-Rumanian forces have fallen back some distance, conforming to the retreat across the Danube in Wallachia.

Quiet on Macedonian Front.

Paris, Dec. 19.—The official communication given out here today regarding the campaign on the Macedonian front says no important events occurred yesterday.

TO LOOK AGAIN INTO THE SITES

Secretary Daniels Appoints Special Board on Armor Plate Plant.

Washington, Dec. 19.—A special board of navy officers was appointed today by Secretary Daniels to make a final study of the sites recently approved by the general board for the project of the \$11,000,000 government armor plate plant. The general board recommended recently that no site within 200 miles of the Atlantic or Gulf Coast or the Canadian border should be chosen, for reasons of military security in time of war. The final selection will depend almost entirely upon the special board's report. Secretary Daniels said today he would refer the report to the Navy's general board before making final choice.

HOLDING LAST OF 1916 CITY ELECTIONS.

Boston, Dec. 19.—The last of this year's city elections were held today, when the voters went to the polls in Boston, Fitchburg, North Adams, Peabody and Quincy. In this city supporters and opponents of continuance of the present system of licensing the sale of liquor made strong effort to bring out a large part of the registered vote.

GATHERING EVIDENCE ON SHIP'S SINKING.

Rome, (via Paris), Dec. 19.—American Ambassador Thomas Fago is gathering the evidence of the 25 hostlers on board the Italian steamer, Palermo, torpedoed and sunk recently off the Spanish coast. The evidence tends to show the steamship was sunk without warning and when she was not attempting to escape.

BRITISH PREMIER DEFIANT TO OFFER OF CENTRAL POWERS

ITALY SEEKING MORE VESSELS

Making Strong Bid by Removing All Taxes From The Ships.

Rome, Dec. 19.—In order to increase its mercantile marine, Italy has by governmental decree dropped its subsidy policy and made a bid to shipbuilders to place their vessels under the Italian flag by ordering the removal of practically all ship taxes for five years and exempting such ships from military requisition for a similar period. Already twelve new ships are building in Italy under the new law and inasmuch as a vessel pays for itself within three or four trips under existing freight rates, it is anticipated that foreign firms will take advantage of these new conditions. The immediate reason for the new law is that Italy has been suffering severely during the war because of high ocean rates on grain, coal and every other product imported. However, Italy has been actively increasing her merchant marine for some time, and she is expected to continue that policy after the war. Before the war she was spending \$8,000,000 a year in subsidies, five million of which went to vessels carrying the mails, one to cargo boats, and two to shipyards. She has lost through submarines during the war more than 100,000 tons of vessels, which has cut down her increased tonnage obtained by subsidies. Her total net tonnage January 1, 1915, was 1,282,115, as compared to 1,632,614 tons in 1905. Her number of steamers at present is 949, representing a tonnage of 938,156.

MILLIONS FOUND IN THE MAIL

Undelivered Packages Contained Vast Fortune in Checks and Drafts.

Washington, Dec. 19.—More than two and a quarter million dollars worth of checks, drafts, money orders and other valuable papers were found in undeliverable letters by the Dead Letter Office during the last year. The checks and drafts were returned to their owners. First Assistant Postmaster General Daniel C. Roper, in his annual report, announces that the Dead Letter Division handled 10,839,890 letters and parcels during the year, a slight increase over the previous year. One-third of these letters and parcels, or 3,677,194, were delivered; 101,485 contained things of value without clue to their senders and were held for claimants; 7,019,436 had to be destroyed, and 41,775 were still being investigated. In addition to the valuable papers, with a face value of \$2,308,119, found in undeliverable letters, many contained stamps and some currency was found loose in the mails. The stamps and currency unclaimed, together with proceeds from the sale of articles of merchandise removed from undeliverable letters, aggregated \$53,665 and \$11,000 was realized from six months' operation of a new postal regulation requiring collection of one cent on advertised letters, making the total net revenue \$64,665. Mr. Roper says that the revenue estimated under present conditions for a year would be approximately \$75,000, which would make the Dead Letter Division self-sustaining. To prevent the unnecessary accumulation of letters containing valuable inclosures, a provision was contained in the last postal appropriation law reducing the limit of time that such letters shall be held awaiting reclamation from four years to two years. The Postoffice Department has decided to discontinue the final disposition of dead parcels by the postoffices at Pittsburgh and Cleveland. Such matter formerly going to Pittsburgh will be sent to New York City, while that in Ohio, formerly going to Cleveland, will be sent to Cincinnati, and matter from the Southern peninsula of Michigan will go to Chicago. On account of the large growth in the parcel post business, experience has demonstrated that the accumulation of this matter at the points designated for handling dead parcels has become so large as to make it difficult to find space for its accommodation. Regulations provide in the case of insured parcels that claims for indemnity must be filed within six months, and it has been found there is very little call for lost parcels after the lapse of that time. Accordingly an order will be issued amending the regulations so as to reduce the time for holding such parcels prior to sale from twelve months to six months. Last year 395,161 parcels were found undeliverable. Dead mail received by the Division of Dead Letters during the year contained 677,700 misdirected letters, 115,766 unaddressed letters, 228,700 letters held for postage, 440,200 letters written on hotel letter paper by persons unknown to the hotels and 104,700 letters bearing fictitious signatures.

FRANCE SAYS "NO" TO GERMAN MANY.

Paris, Dec. 19.—Premier Briand announced in the Senate today that the entente allies would send a concerted reply tomorrow, making known to the central powers that it is impossible to take their request for peace seriously.

DECLARES ALLIES A UNIT IN OPPOSITION TO ANY TERMS BUT REPARATION.

READY TO CONTINUE WAR TO THE VERY END.

Germany Attempting to Wipe Out Outrages With Few Phases About Humanity, He Asserts—Rumania's Blunder Only Prolongs The War.

London, Dec. 19.—The first appearance of David Lloyd-George before the House of Commons as premier was made today in circumstances seldom, if ever, faced by a new holder of the office. Even if the peace proposals of the central powers had not intervened his statement of the policy of his government, which was chosen in reply to public demand for a more vigorous prosecution of the war, marked an important step in the world conflict. The peace note, however, shifted interest, and every corner of the world awaited announcement of Great Britain's attitude toward the move of the central powers. The secret was so well kept that the best informed parliamentary correspondents differed as to the treatment the peace proposal would receive. London papers supporting the Lloyd-George government more strongly expressed the view that a conference on the German proposal would not be given. Even the modern provincial papers warned the pacifists that they had best make up their minds that a prompt refusal would be forthcoming, but hope was expressed in many quarters that notwithstanding the German note contained no terms the Premier would be a little more communicative and give the central powers some hint as to what they would have to give as the price of peace. Besides the peace proposals the Premier had to deal with many other questions, including the drastic war emergency measures, the Irish and food problems and the submarine menace. Every member of the House of Commons, with the exception of members on the sick list and those in active service, made an effort to secure a seat or standing room, while the public and private galleries tickets were long ago exhausted. The new Premier said that the entente felt that they should know before entering into negotiations if Germany was prepared to accede to the only terms whereon it was possible for peace to be obtained and maintained in Europe. The Premier declared that without reparation peace would be impossible. Mr. Lloyd-George said there was no proposal for peace. To enter into a proposal of which they had no knowledge was to put their head into a noose, with the rope end in the hands of Germany. As much as they longed for it, the Premier added, the central powers' proposal and the speech preceding it afforded small encouragement and hope for an honorable and lasting peace. "Our answer will be given in full accord with our allies. Each and all, separately and independently, have arrived at the same conclusion. I am glad the first answers were given by France and Russia." Mr. Lloyd-George said the allies would insist that the only end of the war must be a complete guarantee against Prussian militarism for the peace of Europe. The formal reply of the allies, the Premier announced, would be given in the course of a few days. The Premier said: "We will await to hear what terms and guarantees surer than those which Germany has broken. In the meantime we put our trust into our unbroken army." After declaring that peace without reparation would be impossible, the Premier asked whether all outrages on land and sea have been liquidated by a few pious phrases about humanity? During the war the Premier said (Continued on page three.)

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