

WEATHER FORECAST.

Rain and warmer tonight. Thursday rain. Southeast to south winds increasing.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FINAL EDITION

LARGEST CIRCULATION IN WILMINGTON

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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, DEC. 20, 1916.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

CRASH OF FIRE SLOWS DOWN IN VIEW PEACE

General Van Mackensen's Rush in Rumania Appears To Have Ended

LULL ALSO IN WESTERN THEATRE.

Only Artillery Duels and Skirmishes on Other Fronts. Big New Stroke May Be In Contemplation, However.

Further developments in the peace move in Europe now awaits the presentation of the formal reply of the allies to the proposal of the central powers. Military operations in the European field of war are at a low ebb. The driving campaign of Field Marshal von Mackensen in Rumania seems nearly at an end. Whether or not some further important move is in contemplation in this war theatre reports show comparative quiet to be prevailing at present.

On the Franco-Belgian front also there is a lull, with a quieting down of the recent activity at Verdun, while late reports from both the Russian and Austro-Italian fronts show only artillery duels and skirmishes. In Macedonia the reports show rains and fog, with no military moves with the exception of patrol engagements.

ONE MAN KILLED; SEVERAL ARE HURT

Seminole, Limited, Jumped Track on Central of Georgia This Morning.

Montgomery, Ala., Dec. 20.—One man was instantly killed and several injured when the northbound Seminole, Limited, turned over, nine miles from Opelika, Ala., this morning. The engine remained on the track, but six cars turned over, rolling down a slight embankment.

Several persons were cut by broken glass. A wrecking train was sent from Columbus, Ga., and a relief train, with physicians, from Opelika. The accident, which occurred on the Central of Georgia's tracks, was due, it is said, to a broken rail. A relief train carried 25 of the injured to Columbus, Ga.

WEAVER IS GIVEN THE CERTIFICATE.

Raleigh, Dec. 20.—Judge William M. Bond last night taxed Congressman Britt with the costs of the action brought before the Judge two weeks ago when Mr. Britt presented the temporary restraining order from Judge Frank Carter and asked that the State canvassing board be enjoined from certifying the election of Zebulon Weaver to Congress over James J. Britt.

The action of the Supreme Court in dismissing the mandamus and upholding Judge W. J. Adams is the basis of Judge Bond's ruling. Judge Bond never pretended to pass upon the issues in Judge Adams' court, the right to compel a recount in Buncombe county and to force the canvassing board to go over the returns. Judge Bond, in his order today, declares that his purpose was to preserve the status quo and in going so the issues automatically pass from his hands when the Supreme Court holds that it cannot review the facts found by Judge Adams.

Judge Bond got some Democratic "boosing" for making an equitable rather than a political decision that laid nobody until the courts should lay down the law, but he gets credit with considerable credit as a part of the machinery willing to save Britt his day in court.

FEDERAL JUDGE DIES SUDDENLY.

Savannah, Ga., Dec. 20.—Judge W. W. Lambdin, of the United States District court, died here today in his office, after an illness of about an hour. He was stricken at 11 o'clock with an attack apparently of acute indigestion or heart failure.

ATLANTA HAD BIG FIRE EARLY TODAY

Damage Estimated \$200,000 Done—Topping Walls a Menace.

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 20.—Fire that started on the fifth floor of the department store of J. P. Allen & Co., in Whitehall street, shortly after 7 o'clock, destroyed the Allen building and the stock of J. P. Allen, at an estimated loss of \$200,000. The origin of the blaze is not known. The authorities excluded all persons from the Kress establishment, adjoining the department store, as the five-story walls left standing threatened to collapse on the three-story Kress store. No one was allowed in the dry goods store, also adjoining the Allen building, as it was feared that the fire wall between the buildings had been damaged. The fire started an hour before the Allen clerks were due to report for duty, and no one was injured. It is reported.

SOLDIERS DID NOT KNOW ABOUT IT

Germany's Peace Proposal Not Made Known to The Army In The West.

With the British Army On the Western Front.—Out of a number of German prisoners taken on the western front on Sunday, only one non-commissioned officer had heard anything of the Emperor's peace proposition.

THREE DEATHS FROM SPINAL MENINGITIS.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Three deaths of Georgia militiamen on the border from spinal meningitis and three other cases where men suffered from the affliction have been discovered in Georgia and Pennsylvania organizations, it was reported to the War Department today. No new cases developed in the last eight days, it was reported. Medical officers here said the outbreak could not be called an epidemic and there is little danger that additional fatalities would occur.

FARM LOAN BANKS SOON TO BE LOCATED.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 20.—The Federal farm loan board expects to announce in a few days the location of the twelve farm loan banks. It was said today that some districts and locations are still undetermined.

YESTERDAY WAS BUSY DAY AT CONTEST HEADQUARTERS

Many of The Active Candidates Called at Office With Their Subscriptions, and Many Others Mailed Them. Diamond Ring Period Ends In Two Days.

Noticing that they only have a few days left in which to secure the high first period votes, and work for the Diamond Ring, and they are making every minute of this time count for votes. There are some of the candidates, though, who have not been doing what they could or should, and the Contest Manager wishes to state to these candidates that they still have two days in which to work for first period votes, and much can be accomplished in that time with the proper effort.

Each club of \$15 completed by Friday night will give 150,000 extra votes, and after Friday night, during the second period, there will be a reduction of 10,000 votes. Some of you may think that this is not a great amount of votes, but it can be enough to mean defeat for you and victory for an opponent. If you have already completed a club and have another one started be sure that you complete that one by Friday night, or if you have not completed a club then make a special effort to complete one before the close of this period. If you complete a club and have some over this amount will count toward a second period club, but will receive credit for second period votes.

There were quite a number of votes cast yesterday by and for candidates which caused a shake-up in position. If you are looking for excitement just keep your eye on the "Standing of Candidates" each day. You will find plenty of it by following the score each evening in The Dispatch's Great Prize Campaign. Mr. Reader, if you have promised your subscription to one of the candidates but have put off giving it to her, see that she gets it between now and 9 o'clock Friday night. If you have already subscribed, then take out another subscription and send it to some relative or friend as a Christmas present. They would certainly appreciate the gift and the candidate would be delighted to get the votes.

There was scarcely a minute yesterday when one or more of the active subscription-getters were not in the office turning in their orders and money and receiving the votes to which they were entitled. This is not surprising when you consider the fact that the first period of the contest and the Diamond Ring period will both close Friday night. Many of the candidates realize

PREMIER'S POSITION APPROVED BY ALL ENGLISH PRESS

Declared to Have Been The Right Answer to The Teutonic Proposal.

DOES NOT SHUT DCOR, SAYS ONE.

Germany Must State Its Terms If Desires Consideration—Country Said to Be Backing Premier.

London, Dec. 20.—Premier David Lloyd-George's reply to Germany's peace proposal meets with a chorus of approval in the British press. The general comment is that if Germany really wants peace that when the joint reply of the allies is received she can state terms which can form a basis for discussion. The Manchester Guardian says:

"Premier Lloyd-George has not shut the door on peace with that resounding clang for which some of his best-balanced supporters in the press have been listening. It is true that he insisted on the impossibility of accepting Germany's invitation as it stands. In this he is ably seconded by Asquith and will be approved by the country. The German chancellor must be more modest and more explicit before expecting any favorable answer to his visitation, but the real danger in the situation which his offer created was that the allies, this country particularly, might be led into an abrupt sweeping refusal, not merely of the actual invitation, but any proposal to discuss peace terms. This snare Lloyd-George avoided."

The Guardian says the speech was an invitation to Germany to be more explicit and that the neutral world cannot take issue on this attitude. The Guardian notes that the speech contained no hint of crushing Germany.

FARM LOAN BANKS SOON TO BE LOCATED.

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INCREASE ASKED FOR MEMBERS OF THE POLICE FORCE

Would Mean The Expenditure of \$15,000 More Yearly Salaries.

IF ALL EMPLOYEES ARE INCREASED IN LIST.

Department Was Represented By L. Clayton Grant, Esq., Who Spoke for Members of Fire Dept. Also.

Representative-elect L. Clayton Grant appeared before City Council this morning and asked that all members of the police department be granted a ten per cent. increase in salary, effective the first of the year. Or rather the proposition included all members save the chief. Mr. Grant did not appear as representative-elect but merely as an attorney. In addition he asked that the members of the fire department and the men employed in the street department be included in the request, although he stated that he had not been authorized to speak for the two last-mentioned departments. Mr. Grant explained that if this increase of salary were granted it would mean the additional expenditure of approximately \$15,000 yearly, but he thought the city could well afford this added expense, everything considered. Action was not taken on the matter. Upon motion of Councilman Merritt the matter was referred to the finance committee. His motion was seconded by Councilman Jones.

In presenting the matter Mr. Grant explained that he thought it only right that the men in the ranks should be given some recognition for their services. He pointed out that they had not been given any increase in pay during the past two years and he further explained that it was almost impossible for one to provide for a family on what the patrolman gets for his services. Much stress was laid on the present high cost of living and in view of the fact that these men often risk their lives in an effort to preserve law and order he thought their compensation should be increased. The policeman now draws a salary of \$75 per month and the asked for increase would only mean \$7.50 more per month. Going further, Mr. Grant explained that corporations are now giving their employees special bonuses for as he pointed out, they realize that it is next to impossible for an employee to support himself and family properly with the low wages that are paid and the high cost of the necessities of life.

Mr. T. A. Greene, proprietor of the Wilmington Hotel, appeared before Council and asked if it were not possible for him to get some relief from the high rate that he has been paying for water. He told Council that his water bill was \$59 for the first quarter of the year; \$104 for the second, and \$194 for the third. He did not understand why there should be such a difference in the bills, although the books showed that his bill for the quarter ending with September was less than for the same period last year. It was also shown that his water bill exceeded that of The Orton, although the last-mentioned place has considerably more rooms than The Wilmington. Councilman Jones informed Council that numerous inspections of the plumbing at The Wilmington had been made, but it was impossible to locate any leaks. Mr. Greene was confident that much water was being wasted or he was being overcharged.

Councilman Merritt suggested that another meter be installed in an effort to determine if the one now in use was properly registering the amount used. The matter was finally referred to the water committee with power to act.

In speaking of the matter Mr. Greene declared that he intended at some date to install his own water system and he wanted to know if he would still be liable to the city for water rent. He was told that if the water was cut off at the sidewalk he would not other than for fire protection, but his next statement was that he did not care anything about the fire protection. He next asked about the sewer and was told that he would only have to pay so much for sewer accommodations regardless of the water. Mr. Greene explained that the well had been bored and that he had purchased a pump with the idea of furnishing his own water but added that he was not yet ready to erect his tank on top of the building.

Another matter to come before Council that was of more than passing interest was the presentation of bills by Mr. Galloway, a retired merchant, against employees of the city. Many of the bills were four years old and according to the ex-merchant were not collectable. He asked that some assistance be lent him by Council and if those owing him could not pay more than \$1 a week that would be satisfactory. Councilman Bradshaw promised to speak personally to the men against whom the bills are drawn and use his influence to get them settled.

SERGEANT GONZALES DIES ON BORDER

Well Known Young Newspaper Man Passes Away at Base Hospital.

El Paso, Texas, Dec. 20.—Sergeant Robert E. Gonzales, of the machine gun company of the Second South Carolina Infantry, son of W. E. Gonzales, United States minister to Cuba, died at the base hospital at Fort Bliss last night of pneumonia, after an illness of four days. Minister Gonzales is en route from Havana to El Paso. A military funeral will be held. Sergeant Gonzales' death was the eighth from pneumonia to be reported here among the National Guard and regular army during the past eight days.

A Columbia Newspaper Man.

Columbia, S. C., Dec. 20.—Robert E. Gonzales, prior to his enlistment as a private in the Second South Carolina, when the National Guard was mobilized for Federal service last June, was for a number of years connected with the Columbia State, writing most of the editorial paragraphs. He was 28 years old and a native of Columbia. His parents and one sister survive him.

A COSTLY BLAZE IN BIRMINGHAM

Big Building Destroyed Today. One Fireman Hurt In Crash.

Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 20.—Fire, believed to have been caused by defective wiring in the elevator shaft of the Parisian, a women's ready-to-wear store, on Third avenue, here early today, destroyed the entire contents of the establishment, valued at more than \$200,000.

One fireman sustained a broken leg when a large water tower on top of the fourth floor of the Parisian collapsed. Three other firemen narrowly escaped in the crash. The Parisian, a four-story brick building, was stocked with Christmas goods. The building and contents were partly insured.

PRESIDENT MAKES PERSONAL CALL

Went to Home of Senator John Sharp Williams This Morning.

Washington, Dec. 20.—President Wilson went to visit Senator Williams, of Mississippi, at the latter's home today, because he knew the Senator had important affairs to talk about and understood he was ill. It turned out that Senator Williams was well enough to go to his office and so the President drove him there. Occasions on which the President has gone to visit members of Congress are rare.

"It was just the act of a very good fellow," said Senator Williams, "who heard I was sick and did not know I was able to be about again. So he came to see me in his big-hearted way, notwithstanding the weather. It was very fine of the President. I am sure."

PLAN TO PROMOTE FRIENDLY RELATIONS.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 20.—The Southern Society of Washington, which in late years has attained a foremost place among the social organizations of the National capital, has arranged an ambitious program for the present social season with the announced purpose of promoting friendly relations between the people of all sections of this country and with other countries of the western hemisphere. The first in the series of entertainments will be a reception and ball to be given tomorrow night at the Pan-American building in honor of the diplomatic representatives of the South and Central American republics. The President and Mrs. Wilson are among those who have accepted invitations to attend the ball.

TURKEY AGREES TO RELEASE ALL SHE AMERICANS

Gives In to The United States at Last and Will Free Them.

TO BE INTERNED FOR SHORT TIME.

United States Will Register Kick Against This—Cruiser to Bring Them Home.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Two hundred Americans, detained in Syria and Palestine by Turkish military authorities, have been granted permission to leave by Beirut, on condition that they intern at Beirut for a month, to make valueless any military information they may have. The United States had repeatedly made diplomatic efforts to free the Americans, some of whom are missionaries and others naturalized citizens, and until now its efforts were thwarted by the Turkish military commander. The American ambassador at Constantinople reported the Turkish government's action to the State Department today.

Effort will be made to have the time of internment shortened. The cruiser, Des Moines, now at Alexandria, will go to Beirut to take on board the refugees.

BANDITS GOT AWAY WITH MUCH LOOT

Robbed Oklahoma Bank This Morning—Posses In Hot Pursuit

Tulsa, Okla., Dec. 20.—The Skiatook National Bank of Skiatook, Oklahoma, 10 miles from Tulsa, was looted by bandits of \$20,000 last night. The robbers escaped. Posses were formed in Tulsa early today and are now in pursuit of the bandits.

HOT FIGHT FOR POSTMASTER JOB

Southport is On Eve of Another Political Contest.

Southport, N. C., Dec. 20.—Southport is apparently on the eve of another hot contest or scramble for the postmastership of this town. The present official, R. S. Newton, has either resigned or will shortly do so, according to rumor, and hence activity among those who aspire to fill his shoes. Apparently the fight has reached a focus in the efforts of D. O. Daniels, cashier of the Bank of Southport, and J. W. Ruerk, Esq., each of whom desires the position. A number of others have been mentioned for the place, including Miss Florence Price and Messrs. Will Davis and Richard Doshier.

TRAGEDY IN MINE THIS MORNING

One Man Killed, Several Injured and Hundred Endangered in Alabama.

Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 20.—Eighty men are entombed in the Edgewater mine of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Coke Company, twelve miles northwest of Birmingham, as a result of an explosion, thought to be caused by gas, early today. The blast, it is said, occurred at the bottom of the mine and it is believed to have been slight. Some hope of rescuing the men is entertained.

An entire force of rescuers was rushed to the mine, together with a corps of physicians from Birmingham. Every effort is being made to reach the men. The mine employes 300 men both day and night.