

WEATHER FORECAST.

Unsettled tonight and Friday with probably rain. Warmer tonight. Gentle to moderate south winds.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 4, 1917.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

'LEAK' CHARGE PROBE WILL START FRIDAY

Tom Lawson and Representatives Woods and Gardner to be First Witnesses.

BOSTONIAN SUMMONED. TODAY BY TELEGRAPH.

Administration's Policy of Absolute Secrecy in Regard to International Situation Will Continue.

READY TO SINK PROBE.

Washington, Jan. 4.—Public hearings on Representative Wood's "leak" charges in connection with President Wilson's peace note will begin tomorrow before the House Rules Committee. Thomas Lawson, of Boston, Representative Wood and Representative Gardner will be the first witnesses called. Lawson has been subpoenaed by telegraph.

After the Entente reply to President Wilson's peace note negotiations will not be dropped, but President Wilson will make at least one more move, it became definitely known today.

Washington, Jan. 4.—The administration's policy of absolute secrecy, which curtails the peace move as far as the United States is concerned, remains unrelaxed. This does not alter well defined thoughts that important developments have transpired.

Although officials are silent over reports that Ambassador Gerard has reported on the German peace terms, there is talk about the capital that he has done so.

Officials also refuse to comment on the statement that the Entente reply will be in the hands of the President two days before it is made public.

Col. Edward House, who has advised closely with President Wilson on peace terms, conferred with the President at length today.

Definite arrangements for publication have not been announced. President Wilson's attitude is described as being certain that some benefit will result from the negotiations.

Senator Lodge in completing his argument against Senator Hitchcock's resolution to endorse the President's note declared its adoption would be a "leap in the dark" and might precipitate Congress into the midst of the negotiations of which they knew nothing.

Senator Lewis, Democrat, began a defense of the resolution contending that it did not involve the nation in the situation.

Senator Lewis argued that endorsement of the note would merely approve the action of the President and not the contents of the note.

President Wilson's hope of ultimate success in his peace negotiations lies in his suggestion for maintaining negotiations in the future.

Friends of the President declare generally that he is not affected by charges of a "leak". It is also stated that the President has no intention of asking Col. House to go to Europe in the interest of peace negotiations.

The negotiations were described today as being of a highly confidential character.

312 HOMICIDES, REPORTS CHICAGO

Cook County Has 6,323 Unnatural Deaths During Past Year—591 Suicides.

Chicago, Jan. 4.—A homicide almost every day was committed in Cook County in 1916, according to the annual report of Dr. Peter Hoffman, coroner, made public here today.

The report showed that in the year there were 312 homicides, 591 suicides, 276 persons killed by automobiles, 328 by railroad trains, 133 by street cars and 192 burned or scalded to death. There were 6,323 deaths reported.

SOLDIERS BALK AS NOT PAID WHEN IN WILMINGTON

For This Reason Some Tar Heel Militiamen Decline Attend Inauguration.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY GETS DOWN TO WORK.

Vital Senate Committees Named—Flood of Local Bills—Grant Presents Several.

Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 4.—Senator Holderness at the head of the powerful Appropriations Committee of the Senate, Gray directing the Finance Committee, Scales heading the Judiciary Committee in the Senate, and Harry Grier engineering the House's Constitutional Amendment Committee have the two bodies in fine working shape today.

Speaker Murphy has not selected his Appropriation or Finance Committee. This will be done Friday. Perhaps for the present the body will work fiercely on local legislation. Nearly 250 bills have been introduced and more than 100 reported favorably. Three dozen were passed on third reading and two dozen on second reading today. Representative Grant, of New Hanover, offered several local measures.

All expense incident to inauguration of Governor Bickett have been ordered paid, but this afternoon Governor Craig found it necessary to call a special meeting of Council to act upon the declination of the soldiers to attend. They object because they declare they were not paid anything when they went to Wilmington for the street car strike the past summer. If the State orders them to the inauguration it must defray their expenses.

SENATE DEBATES ON PEACE NOTE

Endorsement of President Wilson's Epistle is Once More a Subject of Debate.

Washington, Jan. 4.—Endorsement of President Wilson's peace note was again a subject of debate in the Senate today.

Senator Lodge was ready to continue his objections to the endorsement of the note on the grounds that it had come to be considered as timed to aid the German proposal, caused partially by the statement of the German Ambassador Count von Bernstorff praising it.

Senator Gallagher's resolution substituting the endorsement was amended by Senator Hitchcock's resolution asking the Senate to endorse for peace.

MYSTERIOUS YOUNG MAN SEARCHED FOR

Activity of 'Frisco Police Narrows Down to Trial of Man Seen in Taxi.

Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 4.—The activity of the police department in trying to solve the mysterious murder of Maizie Colbert, artist model, has suddenly narrowed down to the search for one man. Surveillance has not been lifted from other persons suspected, however.

Through the revelations of two women, who declare they saw a young man drive up to the girl's home in a taxi just before she was found dead, the police are searching for a young man of his description. Excellent descriptions are said to have been given by the two women, which has been furnished the authorities in other cities.

Woman Wins Textile Prize



MISS DURANT DE SUME AND PUFFLY.

Young Miss America is going to carry the history of her country in her dress. Just as the wise men of geology can take a handful of rocks and calculate the age of a part of the earth so the learned may, in the future, see the stages of American development in millard's frock design.

For the American idea in textile decorative art has been born. It was created by a woman. Under the spur of a prize offered by the representatives of the makers of women's clothes the new order has been ushered in by Miss Durant de Sume, of New York City. She is the winner of the prize offered by the clothing folks for the best American design for textile ornamentation.

CANDIDATES ARE HUSTLING TO WIN SECOND DIAMOND

Interest Increased By Publishing of Honor Roll—Voting Was Heavy Yesterday and As a Result There Are Eight New Names on The Honor Roll.

THE PRIZES.

- \$685 Overland Automobile. Ford Automobile. Carolina Beach Lot. \$100 in Gold. \$75 Victrola. \$50 O. K. Mystic Range. \$70 Sellers Kitchen Cabinet. \$25 Wrist Watch. Two \$60 Diamond Rings.

Interest in the contest was greatly increased by the publishing of the Honor Roll for the first time yesterday. Voting was heavy and as a result there are eight new names on the Honor Roll today.

Yesterday one of the out-of-town candidates won first place on the Honor Roll, but this position was captured today by one of the City candidates. Mrs. Bessie M. Robbins' friends will, no doubt be agreeably surprised to see her name at the top of the list today. Mrs. Robbins is very closely followed by Miss Ethel Grimsey, of Freeman.

Other towns represented on the Honor Roll today are, Proctorville, Fairluff, Evergreen, and Wallace, Mrs. J. E. Holton another city candidate will also be found among the leaders.

Now is the time to subscribe. The Second week of the second period will soon have ended, and the \$60 Diamond Ring will be won by some of the ladies in the race during the next eight days. It is not going to require such a great amount of money on new subscriptions to win it, either, when compared to its value. No one has any advantage over any one else so far in the struggle for this magnificent special prize, and it is certain that the finish will be close.

Every reader of The Dispatch has or should have a particular friend among these contestants whom he would like to see win one of the prizes or the \$60 Diamond Ring which will be awarded on Jan. 30, the night

RUSSIANS' FINAL HOLD IN DOBRUDJA IS BADLY SHAKEN

West of The Danube, Braila, a Rumanian Depot, Is Imperiled.

PETROGRAD GIVES NO FURTHER RETREATS.

Long Defense of Braila is Thought to Have Given Time For Complete Removal of Stores.

Russia's remaining hold on the Rumanian province of Dobrudja has been badly shaken by the loss of Machin and it is doubtful if she will manage to hold this territory for much longer, according to Entente dispatches, which add that it is expected that Russia will be forced to abandon even this hold.

West of the Danube, Braila, the Rumanian depot, is still held by the Russians. It is doubtful if it can hold up much longer.

The line of the Sereth to which the Russians returned, now runs further North of Braila. It is expected that the long defense of this city has given time for the removal of stores and provisions.

The Moldavia front is under pressure. Latest Petrograd reports do not give any other information of withdrawals, although a few withdrawals are announced by Berlin.

PROSPERITY STILL EVIDENT IN U. S.

Car Shortage and Peace Talk Seem to Be Influential in Commercial Life.

Washington, Jan. 4.—Peace talk and car shortage apparently are recorded as influential factors in the commercial life of the United States in reports of Federal Reserve Agents made public today. There is little diminution in business.

According to the reports the high level reached in business remains unchanged. Reports from two of the districts are as follows: "Richmond—Trade, agriculture and other businesses indicate a continuation of the full tide of prosperity. Atlanta—Conditions are not materially changed. There is an abundance of money in this section and a feeling of confidence."

PEACE IS PLEDGED FOR GOOD OF N. C. BY STATE PARTIES

1917 General Assembly's Opening Session is Full of Concord.

WILL HELP TO MAKE HISTORY FOR STATE.

Democrats Are Given Loose Rein—No Offices Sought. Emergency Committees Are Named.

Raleigh, Jan. 4.—The opening session of the 1917 General Assembly was free of fight and full of concord yesterday.

The minority pledged its devoted endeavor to aid majority in making history for the state, to obstruct only such measures as deserve to die and to construct every good measure offered by the dominant organization which barely misses outnumbering it 5 to 1. No minor offices were sought and the Democrats were given the open road.

The first delegations did not promise quite so much of peace. The lobbyists never concealed themselves less nor published their intent more. There was nothing insidious about them. They were here maybe to give Durham a chance to change a charter or to restore to Davidson county the glorious privilege of kicking somebody out. A city full of lobbyists swooped down on the legislature before it organized and for the next seven-days the fur will fly.

Throughout the day members and those interested in the work ahead have been wondering who will comprise the committees and what the complexion will be, whether progressive or reactionary. It developed that a slight embarrassment has come to the outgoing lieutenant governor and the incoming official. Governor Daughtridge desired his banker-friend and townsman George A. Holderness to head the appropriations committee. Governor Gardner who comes in had told James A. Gray, Jr., of Winston-Salem, likewise banker, enough to make that city very thankful for twice going on the map recently. Everybody was expecting Alf. M. Scales, who seems to have something in his head good to produce revenue, to receive the chairmanship of the finance committee, the maker, not the spender; but out of this mix-up of lieutenants in the governing business it is probable that Mr. Scales will not land. Mr. Gray may become chairman of the appropriations committee and Mr. Holderness could take the next best thing. Then former Lieutenant Gov. W. D. Turner would be a good guess for anything that he might desire of that which has been left. Mr. Scales has not sought the place. But everybody wants him to have it because he appears to have something suggestive of an idea about taxation.

The Republicans do not wish the impression to go abroad that they had more differences for honors among themselves than they have had with their Democratic friends. Brownlow Jackson was not the minority seeker. He was boosted much but came here and put the name of Ray McRary before the first caucus. For that reason he slightly demurs to the suggestion that he "also ran." He did not. Mr. McRary was the choice immediately upon that Mr. Jackson did not wish the position and the minority caucus of 21 members was a lover of concord. Henry B. Varner, of Lexington, came to attend the prison board's meeting Thursday.

But Mr. Varner also came to watch somebody else. He was much interested in the Beacher Leonard road bill of 1915. Since that time Mr. Varner has scoured over 200 miles of the best roads in the South, they say. There is no way to dig them up and submit the question of mud or no to the voters. But Ray McRary had several words to say about that thing two years ago and he now has a bill ready to offer which would remove the board of 6 commissioners who now comprise the highway committee.

Varner thinks it would be ruinous with four new commissioners and possibly eighty-five townships supervisors. The McRary bill provides for township supervisors and gives them \$2 daily.

Varner also thinks there is a "nigger in the woodpile" and so do many others in that county who came down on a late train tonight to interpose their objection to any change in the present system which they regard ideal for construction and maintenance. There is some sort of a change proposed in the election machinery and McRary isn't averse to that in a county which belongs to any man's party. These and Durham's lobbyists who also want streets attracted (Continued on Page Eight)

GOVERNOR CRAIG THINKS HIGHER SALARIES NEEDED

Recommends Raise in Pay For State Officials to Legislature.

HIGH COST LIVING THE MAIN REASON.

Governor Also Wants Convicts' Pay to Go to Their Families — Biennial Message Today.

Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 4.—Recommendation that the salaries of State officers be increased on account of the high cost of living and that provision be made for the return of salaries for State convicts to their families, was made in the biennial address by Governor Craig today.

It is pointed out that this move should be made before the incoming administration takes charge in order not to tax them with too much business at the start. Governor Craig announced that \$350,000 for the State prison had been cleaned up during the past year.

149 BILLS GIVEN TO HOUSE COMMITTEE

Speaker of Lower House is Drowned With Measures Following His Call.

Raleigh, Jan. 4.—Ten gentlemen from divers counties stood up simultaneously and begged for recognition when the Speaker of the Lower House called for bills yesterday afternoon and in one hour 149 local and private measures had gone to the committees which returned last night and worked upon them.

John H. Pearson, Burke county's first Democratic representative in six years, received the Speaker's eye first and rushed to the stand for the initial recognition. His first two bills called for the appointment of a road commission for Burke county to improve roads in that little commonwealth, and the measure carries \$300,000.

When he presented his second, for the amendment of the charter of Morganton everybody expected the perennial fight from that storm-tossed town. It was not the usual contest over the admission of certain cotton mills into the corporation. Mr. Pearson's bill provides for the breaking up of his city into wards and a fine crop of statesmen may be expected from the immemorial incubator.

Ray McRary was also there early with his road bill. The limitation is so great that records must be broken in order to accomplish the program set out. No former general assembly ever received 150 bills in the same time.

Necessarily nearly all of the bills were local. The racket that some of them will inspire will hardly be confirmed to the metes and bounds of their own counties. The Senate took things smoothly. It sat a second or two and rested until 10 o'clock this morning.

Some of the bills offered are as follows: Pegram and McLendon—Amend the charter of Durham to provide water commissioners, sewerage, to issue waterworks bonds and to issue street bonds.

Sellers and Oliver—Amend Chapter 634 Public Local Laws of Session 1915.

Sellers—Relieve E. J. Dean veterinary surgeon.

Sellers—Ratify and confirm the charter of Flora McDonald College.

Dall—Authorize the city of New Bern to establish and control public parks, wharves and docks, and to purchase, accept donations and condemn property for such purposes.

Coggins—Authorize the town of Plymouth to issue \$10,000 bonds.

Shaw—Fix the pay for Scotland county commissioners.

Shaw—Regulate the hunting and trapping of game in Scotland county.

OFFICERS ELECTED. Medical Society Will Hold Next in June At Wrightsville.