

WEATHER FORECAST.
North and South Carolina—Fair to bright and Saturday. Not much change in temperature. West winds.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FINAL EDITION

VOL. XXII. NO. 376. WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 26, 1918. PRICE FIVE CENTS.

WOULD HAVE THE PEOPLE MEET TO FRAME CHANGE

Introduced For Constitutional Convention In North Carolina.

GRANT LEADS FIGHT FOR VITAL MEASURE.

Under County Free Range Bill Defeated By Narrow Margin—Another Education Measure.

(Special to The Dispatch.) Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 26.—Harry Grant, famous for bills that he has introduced, offered one of capital importance in the House Friday morning when he provided for a Constitutional convention to be called by popular vote at the 1918 election. Mr. Grant wishes to do that Representatives Haymore and Clayton seek by their means. They want repeal of the Haymore amendment and the county free range bill recently adopted and Clayton appealing one with doctored to the House.

Representative Stubbs declares in a well written way that "in the opinion of the General Assembly a convention of the people is the only way and is besides the speediest and most economical mode of allowing the people to decide for themselves on the question of the Constitution, which regards as unsuited to the wants, and conditions of our people."

In the Senate, Oates, of Cumberland presented another education bill, which indicates, according to opponents, the defeat of the Turner bill pending for appointment of a central education commission, which in turn would appoint county boards, giving the county Superintendent to be elected by the county board.

Senator Oates would have county boards of education nominated in the same manner as the primary.

Senator Oates, asked if the author of the bill contemplated the removal of appointment of such boards from Oates replied negatively. The bill will be thrashed out Wednesday next.

Senator Grant introduced the State amendment to the Constitution, which would repeal the homestead exemption and make subject of garnishment all persons receiving a salary of a week.

The Pender county free range bill defeated by a close vote. Grant, of New Hanover, led the bill today again for its amendment. The bill making discretionary with Superior Court judges the measure to death or life imprisonment for those for whom juries recommend mercy. Grant would make mandatory. Hoyle, discretionary.

The measure went over while Judge Hoyle, Judge Kerr looked on and heard the debate.

The House Thursday. An order was made referring the bill concerning the State Board of Public Health, which has favorable report from the committee on appropriations, to the committee on No. 1. This is in order to see that it is in proper legal form to accomplish its purpose without infractions. Bills passed final reading to regulate the conduct of freed county officers; prohibition of persons under the influence of liquor or drugs from driving automobiles or motorcycles; regulating the duties of Brunswick county.

New bills were introduced out of order as follows: Amend the law as to the examination of applicants for law licenses. Provide a home for blind children. Resolution directing the State Treasurer to pay \$1,000 expense in carrying the State Guard.

A petition was received from fishermen of Currituck county asking the State Fish Commission to be continued until the fish laws be enforced.

The President of the Senate named Warren, Justice, Harding, and Parker on a committee on constitutional amendments related to the State and Senators Brantner, Aldridge, Linn, Seales and Jones on cities and towns amendment restrictions. The Senate adjourned at 2 o'clock Friday.

The House Thursday. The session of the House was opened with prayer by Rev. J. W. Morgan of the Lutheran church. There was special session from Burke county regarding the right to elect school boards. New bills were introduced as follows: (By request)—Repeat the law as to the county treasurer's salary. Amend the law relative to the grave in Chatham county. Amend the law relative to the county and Beasley—Allow Union County to pay expenses of veterans to the State. Provide for the work of the Economic and Geological Survey to be increased. The maintenance from the State to \$20,000. Amend the office of the county treasurer in Iredell. Amend the graded school law. Amend the law relative to the cause of education. (Continued on Page Two.)

"BULL" BUTLER IS ALLEGED TO HAVE HAD BEHIND WOMAN

Army Officer Earned His Name on Account of Love For Women, It is Said.

SPANELL'S DEFENSE IS RESTING TODAY.

Defendant Charges That Col. Butler Shot His Spouse While Trying to Hide Behind Her.

(By Associated Press.) San Angelo, Texas, Jan. 26.—After it had introduced testimony to bear out the story told by Harry J. Spanell yesterday and to show that Lieutenant-Colonel M. C. Butler was known among his soldiers as "Bull" Butler, the defense in the case in which Spanell is charged with killing his wife rested today.

It was a sensational and dramatic account Spanell told on the stand yesterday. He declared the shot that killed his wife was fired by Colonel Butler, while he and the army officer engaged in a pistol duel in the darkness. Colonel Butler, the witness declared, had followed and paid "undue attentions" to Mrs. Spanell, and the defendant had protested.

Spanell said while he regarded his wife as being "as pure as a flower, just like an innocent little girl," he regarded Butler as a bold, persistent and dangerous to women. All his efforts previous to July 20 he testified, had been to shield his wife from Butler's advances. The climax came, he said, on the evening of that day, when his wife and Mrs. Butler went upstairs in the Holland hotel, and were quickly followed by Butler.

Spanell testified he followed in a few minutes and found his wife alone and greatly agitated. He said she had been offered an insult while Mrs. Butler was out of the room for a moment.

He invited Butler into his car, in which Mrs. Spanell already was seated, and after going a few blocks demanded of Butler what had happened in the room. He could see flashes from Butler's pistol as he stood behind Mrs. Spanell, and told of Mrs. Spanell trying to free herself from Butler's grasp. Finally, he said, he saw Butler fall and he found his wife dead.

"Butler had killed her," he said. Spanell was pale and nervous, but appeared relaxed over having concluded his story on the stand.

Private William Granger, of the Sixth cavalry, which was Lieutenant-Colonel Butler's regiment, was the first witness. He said that he saw Spanell about 33 minutes before the shooting and that he was sober and in a good humor. R. H. Neff, of El Paso, a Texas guardsman, stationed at Marfa, testified Butler was marked in his attention to women.

Both Granger and Neff, in their testimony, stated the soldiers had given Colonel Butler the title of "Bull" Butler and that he was generally known by the soldiers under that name, because of his attentions to women.

A. H. Newell, of Alpine, a mine superintendent, said he saw the Spanells talking excitedly in their automobile. He said he heard Spanell "command" Butler to get in the machine.

"Spanell opened the door for him," said Newell. Questioning brought out the fact that the witness had seen Mrs. Spanell come out of the hotel and that time she was pale.

James Dodd, of Alpine, said he saw the Spanells and Lieutenant-Colonel Butler in the car just a few minutes before the shooting, and the car passed him slowly enough for him to see Colonel Butler say:

"Mr. Spanell, will you let me explain?" He testified that the next words he caught were, "Mrs. Spanell and Mrs. Butler went there." The automobile then passed out of his hearing.

In a very short time he said he heard shots. Dodd was the man whose appearance as a witness the defense deemed so important that they intimated they would have to ask for a continuance, if illness from which he was suffering at the start of the trial, kept him away.

When the State began its rebuttal A. M. Turkey, of Alpine, testified that Butler's reputation as regarding attentions to women was good. The State, in beginning its rebuttal, estimated that it could not conclude before late tomorrow.

The first witness for the State on the rebuttal, contradicting evidence given by defense witnesses, declared that Colonel Butler's reputation regarding his attentions to women "was good."

SENATE VOTES TO SPEND \$25,000 ON THE INAUGURATION

This Sum Will Be Used to Defray Expenses at Capitol; Is Appropriated.

WORKS WANTS TO SEE "CORONATION'S" END.

Lively Debate on High Prices Washington Hotel Men Charge—One Inaugural Week Room Cost \$200

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Jan. 26.—The Senate vote favorably today on the \$25,000 appropriation to pay for the inauguration expenses at the capitol, but not until there had been some lively talk about how Washington hotel keepers "rob" visitors and some observations that the inaugural ceremonies have come to resemble a coronation pageant.

When Senator Overman brought the resolution from the appropriations committee, Senator McCumber, Republican, suggested that it should include provisions to prevent hotel keepers from raising their rates. He said he had been informed by one hotel that a room for inauguration week would cost \$200.

"I'm not going to object to this resolution," said Senator Works, Republican, "but I would like to see one President inaugurated with appropriate ceremonies, suitable in a democracy. We are having a coronation every four years, and it is undemocratic and un-American, and I would like to see it abolished. There is no reason that such a ceremony as this should be conducted and there is every reason that it should not, I should like to see the President himself declare against that sort of thing and protest against his inaugural being made a show of this kind. There is no occasion for the government of the United States to spend \$25,000 to provide a place for the inaugural. I should like to see the Senate raise its voice against it; it violates every principle of our government."

Senator Thomas, Democrat, expressed himself in accord with Senator McCumber and Works and declared:

"Old Spanish buccaners who sailed the Spanish main, flying the black flag of piracy and taking their lives in their hands to rob merchant ships, must turn over in their graves when they see the lavish successes of modern hotel proprietors on occasions of this kind and the immunity from punishment they enjoy in prosecuting their business of plunder."

Senator Borah, Republican, observed that people who come to inaugurations do so with eyes open and pockets full for a good time.

Senator Sherman, Republican, observed he hoped that "this matter will be given wide publicity so that certain of my constituents who may come here won't have to borrow money from me to get home."

TWO MORE DAYS OF PRIZE CONTEST

Several Candidates Crowded Right Up In Front of It Looks Like Anybody's Race.

right up in front, as any one can see by referring to the published standing, and all of them have nearly equal chances of winning. They are bunched so very closely that the Contest Manager can hardly catch a glimpse of daylight between them, as they come down the home stretch. It's anybody's race, and the work done between now and 9 o'clock Monday night will have a great deal to do with determining even the weakest of her working opponents from turning defeat into victory, if the right kind of effort is made.

All over this section of the State, wherever The Dispatch, in its daily visits, makes its way, the readers are discussing the probable result of the contest and are predicting that this or that favorite is sure to come under the wire a winner. These knowing ones always believe that their own candidates are sure to win. If they could only realize that subscriptions count much more than good wishes in a contest of this kind, their candidates would stand a much better chance of winning.

The probabilities are that the balloting will be very heavy tomorrow and Monday, as these two days will be the last for the candidates to deposit their votes. The contest will close Monday night at 9 o'clock, when The Dispatch office will be locked. All persons who are in the office at that time will be given an opportunity to turn in their subscriptions and deposit their votes in the ballot box. The ballot box will then be turned over to the judges, who will seal it and place it in a vault of one of the local banks.

The official count will be made by the judges Tuesday night, beginning at 8 o'clock. As soon as the count has been completed the result will be announced to those present, and will be published in Wednesday's paper. The candidates, their friends, and the public in general, are invited to be present at The Dispatch office Tuesday night when the judges count the votes.

With the end of The Dispatch contest only a few hours away, it is an impossibility, even at this late hour, to pick the winners, as the race is decidedly close. There are some candidates, whose names are in the list who are not active, so far as indications reveal, but the active contestants outnumber them to such an extent that the finish is certain to be very close and full of excitement. The majority of the active candidates have been doing splendid work, and have been so well supported by their friends and relatives that the final result is problematical.

The best workers are crowded

ENGLISHMEN WILL WORK FOR PEACE LEAGUE OF WORLD

All British Representatives at Conference to Aid Plan of President.

LABOR CONFERENCE ADOPTS RESOLUTION.

Elihu Root's Address In Washington Backs Wilson's Peace Plan and Hits Germany.

(By Associated Press.) Manchester, Eng., Jan. 26.—The labor conference in session here unanimously adopted today a resolution urging that "all the British representatives at the peace conference should work for the formation of an International league to enforce the maintenance of peace on the plan advocated by the President of the United States and approved by the British foreign secretary."

The resolution also demanded that the British plenipotentiaries should include an adequate number of parliamentary representatives of organized labor. The mover of the resolution remarked that many words had been spoken about Russia, but it should not be forgotten that it was Russia that initiated The Hague conference.

Root Backs President. Washington, Jan. 26.—Elihu Root's avowed sympathy with President Wilson's plan to establish world peace and his denunciation of Germany's course in the war, expressed in an address before the National Security League's Congress of Constructive Patriotism last night, were still the subjects of considerable informal discussion among delegates today.

Mr. Root's speech drew from Standwood Menken, chairman of the Congress, the explanation that the gathering is intended to be neutral "regardless of expressions" of individual speakers, who are free to say what they please.

Universal military training, advocated by Mr. Root, also was urged by many speakers today, although the program topics were "Americanization" and "Governmental and individual efficiency."

Raymond B. Price, of New York, presided at the first session. Senator Fletcher, of Florida, presided at the later session for discussion of governmental efficiency.

Prof. Edward Steiner, of Grinnell College, Iowa, said the American people have too little foresight. "We are living so much in the present," he said, "that we care little or nothing for the future. We have developed a passion for heroic ancestors but not for illustrious descendants. Many women who are talking birth control should talk birth courage. Ancestors cost nothing, descendants much."

He urged nationalization of the public school system, which, he said, has the most inefficient teaching body in existence.

LEAK PROBERS DO NOT WANT SUM WON IN 'GAMBLE'

Investigators Only Desire to Know on Which Side They Were Trading.

SUFFICIENT DATA TO INDICATE A "LEAK"

This Request Eliminates Demand That Trial Balance of Customers Accounts be Furnished.

(By Associated Press.) New York, Jan. 26.—If any persons profited by the alleged "leak" on the President's peace note, the Rules committee will not learn how much they profited, but merely which side of the account they were trading on prior to the publication of the note.

This appeared to be the crux of the changes in the third demand made by the committee upon the Stock Exchange brokers for data, when the new communication was made public today.

The modified request was interpreted as meaning merely the extent of the operations during the period in question as considered sufficient by the committee to indicate whether they reflected possession of advance information.

The new request eliminates the demand that brokers furnish a trial balance of their customers' accounts and says "it will be sufficient to furnish the stock balances both long and short."

The condition of the account aside from the amount of stock which the customer was long or short need not be stated.

N.C. MILITIAMEN TO RETURN FEB. 1

Dates For Departure of Other Organizations Are Being Fixed.

(By Associated Press.) San Antonio, Texas, Jan. 26.—Dates of departure for organizations in the first group of 25,000 guardsmen ordered home from the border are being fixed as rapidly as possible at General Funston's headquarters. Additional schedules announced today included: First North Carolina Infantry, from El Paso, February 1.

ALLEGED SMUGGLERS OF RUBBER ARE ARRESTED.

(By Associated Press.) New York, Jan. 26.—The neutrality squad of the customs department today is searching for five members of the crew of the Belgian steamship Samland, charged with conspiracy to evade the customs regulations by smuggling rubber aboard their ship for transportation to Europe. Five other members of the crew, arrested yesterday for the same offense, are in custody awaiting trial before a Federal court.

The Samland is in the service of the Belgian relief commission. Hidden in her hold customs officials found 300 pounds of manufactured rubber. It is charged that ten men in the engine room put up \$35 apiece to purchase the rubber, expecting to realize a large profit by selling it in Rotterdam. Most of the men under charges are Belgians.

WILSON'S PEACE PLAN IS ENDORSED BY S. C.

(By Associated Press.) Columbia, S. C., Jan. 26.—President Wilson's position regarding a peace league of nations was endorsed today by the South Carolina Legislature without opposition. The text of the joint resolution, which was passed in each House separately, is as follows:

"Resolved, that we heartily endorse the position of Woodrow Wilson, president of the United States, in advocating that, after the close of the present war, the United States take the initiative in forming a league of nations to guarantee the future peace of the world."

VIRGINIA LEAGUE BALL SCHEDULE IS FRAMED. (By Associated Press.) Norfolk, Va., Jan. 26.—Directors of the Virginia State Baseball League met here today and decided that the circuit for next season shall be composed of Norfolk, Lynchburg, Petersburg, Portsmouth, Newport News, Va., and Rocky Mount, N. C.

RUSS ADVANCE ON TEUTONIC TROOPS, THEN FALL BACK

German Torpedo Flotilla Leaves

GERMAN TORPEDO FLOTILLA LEAVES

Following Lively Battle With British Light Naval Forces Departs Unhindered.

(By Associated Press.) Berlin, Jan. 24. (via Sayville, Jan. 26.)—Details of the engagement between the German torpedo boat flotilla and British light naval forces on January 21 are given today in an Overseas News Agency statement.

"Immediately after the beginning of the engagement, which took place in darkness," says the agency statement, "the commander's boat, the V-69, received a full hit on the bridge. The commander of the flotilla, Captain of Corvette, Max Schultz, who always had commanded his flotilla with courage and success, was killed as were two other officers and some of the men.

The steering gear was damaged causing a collision with other boats. The V-69 in a badly damaged condition, entered the Dutch port of Ymuden without being molested by the enemy.

"The boat rammed by the V-69, notwithstanding the damage sustained, continued to participate in the combat and inflicted heavy damage on a British destroyer by ramming it. Later a German who recognized the destroyer stated that it was in a sinking condition. The German torpedo-boat, although its speed had been diminished by the collision with the V-69 and by ramming the British destroyer, succeeded in reaching a German base unhindered by the enemy.

"A third German boat in the darkness encountered numerous hostile torpedo boat destroyers. Entering into action, it sank a large hostile destroyer by discharging a torpedo at short range. Owing to the superior force of the enemy this boat withdrew from the fight and arrived in port undamaged and unmolested by the enemy."

VENTRILOQUIST, WHO IS IN PRISON, JOKES

(By Associated Press.) Leavenworth, Kas., Jan. 26.—A ventriloquist among the convicts of the Federal prison here, who apparently has at his command all the tricks of the professional, is causing the guards to spend much time trying to evolve a plan for his detection and silence. The large cell rooms are acoustically perfect for the exercise of the convict's art and nightly the guards and inmates are aroused by walls of distress, laughter, dog barks and dialogues between a man and woman which eventually end with a fight.

So far the practical joker is enjoying his art undisturbed, but unless the guards obtain results within a few days they declared today they will offer a reward among the convicts for the disturber of their peace.

FRENCH STEAMER IS SENT TO DOOM

Socia is Torpedoed by a German Submarine—Missing For Some Time.

(By Associated Press.) New York, Jan. 26.—Rumors that the French steamship Socia, last reported as leaving Cardiff on August 16 for an unstated port, had been lost, were confirmed here today by Captain Y. Beridam, master of the French Line steamer Ohio, from Cardiff, who said the Socia was torpedoed by a German submarine in the Mediterranean on August 25, 1916. Captain Beridam was master of the Socia when she was sunk.

The torpedoing of the Socia, he added, was his second experience of losing a ship in this manner. The first time, he said, was when the French collier Antoine was torpedoed in the same waters on October 3, 1915.

The Socia was a vessel of 2,770 tons register, built in 1913.

ENGLISH COAST IS SHELLED BY KAISER.

(By Associated Press.) London, Jan. 26.—An unidentified German vessel shelled the Suffolk coast of England last night. There were no casualties.

RUSS ADVANCE ON TEUTONIC TROOPS, THEN FALL BACK

French Trenches On Hill 304, Northwest of Verdun Stormed by Kaiser's Men, Along a Front of 1,600 Metres.

TEUTONS CHECKED BY FRENCH; TWO ATTACKS

(By Associated Press.) Petrograd, Jan. 26 (Via London).—(British Admiralty Per Wireless Press).—Russian troops in two sectors of the Riga region carried out successful offensive movements yesterday, advancing at one point, east of the river Aar, for about a mile, the war office announced today. Counter offensives by the Germans later resulted in withdrawals of the Russian forces which had advanced.

Germans Repulsed. Paris, Jan. 26.—On the Verdun front last night the Germans made attacks at four points between Avocourt wood and Dead Man's hill. Today's war office announcement says the Germans were driven back with severe losses, although they penetrated advanced trenches near Hill 304.

In upper Alsace the Germans left their trenches at two points to attack, but were checked by the French artillery. The announcement follows: "On the right bank of the river Meuse, after a violent bombardment, German forces yesterday evening delivered attacks on four points of our front between Avocourt wood and a point to the east of Dead Man hill, but they were repulsed by our curtain of fire and by the fire of our infantry and machine guns. Our assaults were compelled to make their way back to their trenches with the exception, however, of certain detachments who were successful in penetrating some of our advanced trenches in the sector of Hill 304. The enemy during this attack suffered very heavy losses and left numerous dead in front of our lines, particularly in Avocourt."

During the course of the night German troops undertook several surprise attacks upon some of our minor positions, but these failed under the fire of our men located to the north of Chilly, south of the Somme and to the northeast of Vingre, between the Oise and the Aisne.

"In upper Alsace near Largitzen, after a spirited bombardment, forces of the enemy came out of their trenches at two points. Our artillery fire put a definite check to this endeavor."

"On the remainder of the front there has been intermittent cannonading."

Hill 304 Stormed. Berlin, Jan. 26 (Via Sayville).—French trenches on Hill 304, northwest of Verdun, were stormed yesterday by German troops along a front of 1,600 metres, the war office announced today.

The announcement follows: "Army group of the German Crown Prince, on the west bank of the Meuse in the sector of infantry General von Francois, under command of Lieutenant-General von Demborne, assisted by artillery pioneers and mine-throwers, stormed the French trenches on Hill 304, on a front of 1,600 metres. The enemy suffered sanguinary losses in hand-to-hand fighting and left in our hands in round numbers 500 prisoners, among whom were fifteen officers. We captured ten machine guns."

At night the French launched a counter-attack which failed. Enterprises on Dead Man hill and northeast of Avocourt brought the desired result.

Minor attacks have been made by Rumanian forces on the western frontier of Moldavia, in the Kasino valley region, the war office announced today. The attacks were repulsed. The statement reads:

"Front of Archduke Joseph: In the Bereck mountains attacks by several Rumanian companies, in the Kasino valley, were repulsed.

"Army group Field Marshal von Mackensen: There is nothing new to report.

"Macedonian front: Near Buesyuektas, on the slopes of the Moglenica mountains, Bulgarian troops repulsed an advance by Serbian forces."

In the river Aar sector of the Riga region, along the northern end of the Russo-Galician front, east Prussian troops captured additional Russian positions on both sides of the stream yesterday and withstood a counter-attack on the east bank. Russians to the number of 500 were taken prisoner.

Western front: Approximately 500 prisoners were taken by the Germans who also captured machine guns. The French failed in a counter-attack at night.

"Eastern front: Front of Prince Leopold—Engagements on the river Aar yesterday again resulted in complete success for the attacking east Prussian divisions in the capture of further Russian positions on both sides of the river. On the east bank strong hostile counter-attacks failed. "Five hundred prisoners were brought in."