

WEATHER FORECAST.

North Carolina—Fair in east and probably rain in west portion late tonight or Thursday.

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COTTON TAX THROWN OUT BY CONGRESS

Declared Out of Order By Ruling of the Chair and Ruling Sustained

CAUSED HOT TALK IN HOUSE TODAY

Death of Proposed Cotton Tax Likely Also Eliminated Domestic Sugar Tax—Sectional Lines Were Sharply Drawn in Debate

(By Associated Press.) Washington, May 21.—A proposed amendment to the war revenue bill by Representative Moore, of Pennsylvania, to tax raw cotton \$2.50 a bale, was ruled out on a point of order in the House today after prolonged and heated debate.

Rejection of the Moore proposal probably means that no domestic sugar tax will be added to the measure, as that, too, would be new subject matter, and there is a rule against the injection of such matter in revenue measures.

Party lines were sharply drawn in the vote which decided the fate of the proposal after Republican Leader Mann had appealed from the decision of Representative Foster of Illinois, acting as chairman of the committee of the whole.

Democrats except Fitzgerald and Hurlbut, of New York, voted to sustain the chair. Representatives Fordney of Michigan, Martin of Louisiana, and LaFollette of Washington voted to overrule the chair.

Debate on the point of order by Representative Crisp of Georgia, brought sectional lines into sharp relief. Democratic Leader Kitchin of North Carolina, Heflin of Alabama, and Howard of Georgia opposed the proposal vigorously.

Representatives Mann, Lenroot, Longworth and Fitzgerald spoke for it.

While Representative Garrett of Tennessee voted to uphold the chair, he said the rule was a bad one. Mr. Mann said the effect of the rule would be to prevent even the ways and means committee from amending its bill as related to new subjects and with this Mr. Kitchin agreed.

Representative Moore, in offering his amendment, said the tax would mean an additional \$30,000,000. Arguments against the merits of the proposal were that it would be as fair to tax wheat, barley, oats, rye and steel.

A proposal by Representative Kelly, of Michigan, to strike out the 5 per cent. tax on automobiles at the factory was rejected by a vote of 85 to 48.

After debate, the Doremus amendment to levy the tax only on manufacturers earning more than 8 per cent. on their capital stock, was adopted, 96 to 92.

WAR TIME MENUS FOR NEW YORK HOTEL

(By Associated Press.) New York, May 21.—On a food conservation basis a "war menu" will be placed before patrons of New York hotels as soon as it can be arranged, it was announced today by the Hotel-Motels Association.

The number of courses at dinner and banquets will be reduced, it was said, and the more expensive foods will not be offered. Attempts also will be made to eliminate from table d'hote dinners what the hotel men consider unnecessary dishes.

GIANT LUMBER DEAL FAYETTEVILLE SECTION

(Special to The Dispatch.) Fayetteville, May 21.—A giant lumber deal was consummated in this section recently, being negotiated by J. F. Parker, of Fayetteville, and A. T. McLean, of Fayetteville, and 150,000,000 feet of standing timber was sold by these dealers to W. R. Taylor, of Philadelphia. The timber, which consists of cypress, pine, and hard-wood, is located along the Virginia and Carolina Southern Railroad, in Robeson county.

Mr. Taylor has organized a corporation composed of himself and Daniel Johnson, of Fayetteville; W. M. Johnson, of Garland; J. H. Johnson, of J. H. Johnson, in this city, and work of milling the timber will begin at once. A mill shortly will be in course of erection on the property, between McMillan's siding and St. Paul.

The purchaser, Mr. Taylor, is a prominent and successful man of Philadelphia.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CLOSE CONVENTION

New Financial System Adopted—Patriotic and Prohibition Meeting Tonight

(By Associated Press.) New Orleans, La., May 21.—Delegates to the Southern Baptist convention which has been in session here since May 16, planned to complete the business of the denomination and adjourn the 1917 meeting tonight.

The convention adopted a motion for appointment of three Atlanta business men, empowered to arrange for legally taking over a bequest of \$18,000 made to the convention by the late Jefferson Herrick, of Atlanta. The delegates also adopted the report of the committee on the appropriation of the Maryland Union Association for institution of a new financial system for the convention and its boards, so that funds for support of the various kinds of work could be flowing in continually throughout the year, instead of in lump sums at the end of the year, thus eliminating large interest accounts of the home and foreign mission boards. The executive committee was charged with devising a new system for action by next year's convention.

The secretary announced that a total of 1,682 delegates had been registered for the convention here. The delegates registered by the Woman's Missionary Union totaled 400. The business matters were cleared up this afternoon and the 1917 convention finally adjourned. Many delegates will remain in the city to attend the patriotic and prohibition mass meeting tonight under the auspices of the Baptist convention.

IMPORTANT REPORT TO PRESBYTERIANS

That On Oglethorpe University—Assembly Offers A Prayer for the President

(By Associated Press.) Birmingham, May 21.—The report of the committee on Oglethorpe University was before the 57th General Assembly of the Presbyterian church in the United States here today. This is said to be one of the most important questions to come before the assembly and its presentation has been awaited with unusual interest.

The greater part of the morning session was devoted to the reading of minutes of the previous meeting and transaction of other routine matters. A special prayer was offered at the morning session for President Wilson, commending him to "Divine guidance in this time of crisis to the Nation."

The Rev. Sidney Gulick, of the committee on international good will of the Federal Council of Churches of Christian America, spoke in the interest of relations between the United States and Japan. He said there was no reason, so far as one could see, why the closest relations between the two countries should not continue.

The Woman's Auxiliary reported an increase of \$60,000 in contributions over last year. A message was sent to the Russian Evangelical Christians congratulating them on their new religious liberty.

GEN. WOOD SPENDS DAY AT OGLETHORPE

(By Associated Press.) Chattanooga, May 21.—General Leonard Wood is spending the day at Fort Oglethorpe, inspecting the training camp.

In an interview General Wood said there will be concentration camps near Atlanta and Augusta, Ga. What will come to Chickamauga will depend on space and water. One division is sure, possibly two divisions.

AMERICAN RED CROSS NURSES KILLED AT SEA

Naval Crew Fire Accidentally Enacted Tragedy On Liner

SHELL RICOCHETTED FROM THE WATER Scattered Among Nurses and Members of Crew and Death Followed—Ship Put Back to Port

(By Associated Press.) New York, May 21.—In an accident during practice firing at sea yesterday of a guard aboard an armed American merchantman bound for Europe, two American Red Cross nurses were killed and a third wounded.

The two killed were Mrs. Edith Ayres and Miss Helen Burnett Wood, of Chicago, and the wounded is Miss Emma Matzen, of Chicago, members of base hospital number one, bound for duty in France.

The ship which sailed returned today, her flag at half mast, with the two bodies and the wounded nurse, who was taken in a tug to the New York Navy Yard hospital.

Official announcement of the accident has been withheld by navy officials. One version was that the shell from the gun had exploded about 175 feet distant, just as it was striking the water, and that pieces of the shell ricocheted back and struck the nurses. Another was that the accident was caused by a breach explosion of a defective shell as the gun was fired. Another was that the shell exploded while being loaded. The ship came up the bay and anchored. It was announced that no one would be allowed aboard her, and her owners said that they knew nothing of the causes of the accident. It was expected that a navy board of inquiry would investigate. Meantime, it was said, the ship probably would remain in port.

Miss Matzen was expected to recover. There were said to be about 160 members of number one base hospital aboard the ship, of whom 60 were women nurses.

SWISS RIOTERS RELEASE A PRISONER

(By Associated Press.) Chaux de Fonds, Switzerland, May 21.—(Via Paris.) Paul Grab, Socialist National Councillor, was freed from jail yesterday by a mob of sympathizers after he had been sentenced to eight days imprisonment by a court-martial. Grab was convicted of libel in connection with an article which appeared in his newspaper, La Sentinelle.

At the request of the Council of the Canton of Neuchatel the general commanding the district has occupied Chaux de Fonds with a regiment of infantry and a squadron of cavalry. A mass meeting was called by the Socialists Sunday evening and some rioting followed but calm was eventually restored.

TRAINING CAMPS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

(By Associated Press.) Washington, May 21.—A second training camp site was designated today by the War Department in Atlanta, making two for that city. It was officially announced that Columbus, S. C., had been selected as a cantonment, or divisional training camp site.

In addition to the cantonment sites previously announced the War Department today announced locations of sites at Greenville, S. C., and Antyville, L. I.

A NAVAL BATTLE OFF FLANDERS

French And German Torpedo Boats Engaged—Conflicting Accounts of Results

(By Associated Press.) Berlin (Via London), May 21.—An engagement between German and French torpedo boats off the coast of Flanders is reported in an official announcement from the admiralty. The announcement says:

"On the morning of the 20th, off the coast of Flanders, a short outpost engagement took place between German and French torpedo boats. The enemy boats were repeatedly hit by our artillery and our vessels returned without losses or damage."

The French statements issued yesterday reported that a flotilla of German destroyers had been driven back to its base by a patrol of four French torpedo boats. The statement said that one of the French vessels had suffered some damage.

BIG FIRE THIS AFTERNOON IN ATLANTA

(By Associated Press.) Atlanta, Ga., May 21.—Fire starting in a warehouse section and negro residence district here late today is sweeping north over the city, whipped by a brisk wind. More than sixty negro houses and several warehouses covering an area of five blocks already have been destroyed.

MATTER OF IMPORT TO ALL CLASSES OF THE PEOPLE

The Proposed Conference of Holders of Railway Bonds and Stocks

NATION'S BUSINESS BASED ON RAILROADS

Their Successful Operation Means a Great Deal to All Classes, Whether Investors or Wage Earners

(Special to The Dispatch.) New York, May 21.—Mr. S. Davies Warfield, who called the conference of owners of railway securities to be held in Baltimore, Wednesday, May 23rd, at 11 o'clock, at the Hotel Emerson, was in New York Saturday.

"The greatest volume of securities of any one enterprise in the world owned by the public represents railroad property. Seventeen billion represents railroad capital.

"Railroad securities are scattered throughout this country, and among our allies. Stabilizing these securities, many of them by law made legal investments in which millions of money of estates and institutions are invested and on which hundreds of thousands of people, women and children among them, depend for their living, becomes now very important. Life and fire insurance companies, savings banks, mutual and other financial institutions, charitable institutions, individuals by thousands, have their money in them.

"The country is waiting to know whether part of the \$525,000,000—the extra cost to the railroads this year over last year through increased prices alone—will be secured to them through increased rates to enable them to live and maintain their credit. The amount asked for will not even make up this increase in cost of railroad operations, \$525,000,000.

"On the credit of the railroads is based the value of their huge volume of securities and on the value of railroads the district has occupied Chaux de Fonds with a regiment of infantry and a squadron of cavalry. A mass meeting was called by the Socialists Sunday evening and some rioting followed but calm was eventually restored.

"We are asking all the elements mentioned, from the smallest to the largest, to contribute to our liberty and ability to do so is increased or lessened by their ability to use their income from their investments or to make use of their investments, including railroad securities, one way or another—either as a credit or by sale. So we have an endless chain. Impair the credit of the country's largest enterprise, affecting billions of investments of millions of people, and we lessen the purchasing power of the people.

"We should not lose sight of the position of the Interstate Commerce Commission. On the one hand they have opposition to increase in rates because those opposing do not wish to pay more. On the other hand, they have the railroads asking for increased rates. The executives of the railroads have presented their case from the operating standpoint.

"The commission should now hear the credit position of the carriers of the country as reflected in their securities and in their inability to economically finance themselves by additional sales of their securities.

"The South, where I live, with its millions of acres of unused lands, is concerned in the present situation. Adverse decision on questions involved means a serious curtailment in railroad development with its injurious effect on Southern industrial and agricultural advancement, all of which becomes most important in this time of war. This is aside from the effect on railroad securities, of which the South now holds directly or indirectly, a considerable amount.

"This holds good in other sections of the country.

"This conference should find the means to properly bring before the public and those dealing with questions affecting the railroads a realization that an acute situation in the affairs of the railroad is here, which shortly is to be relieved or made more difficult by the decision to be rendered by the Interstate Commerce Commission on the question of whether the railroads shall be permitted to increase their rates.

"The owners of the securities of the railroads—those who will attend this conference—should now be heard."

COAL SHORTAGE LAID AT DOOR OF RAILROADS

But Producers To Blame For the High Prices, Says Federal Board

REPORT FILED AND MADE PUBLIC TODAY

Declares There Is Sufficient Bituminous Coal to Supply All Demand—Yet Situation Very Serious

(By Associated Press.) Washington, May 21.—The bituminous coal shortage is blamed on the railroads in a report today by the Federal Trade Commission. Producers by taking advantage of the lack of cars are charged with responsibility, however, for prevailing prices.

"There is sufficient coal in the bituminous coal mines now being operated not only to supply the present demand, but also to supply a greatly increased demand," says the report. "The unprecedented demand for this fuel in the past six months, together with the difficulties of transportation, has led to almost complete exhaustion of the coal stored at tidewater points.

"The country faces a serious state of affairs in obtaining a commodity which is basic to practically every form of its military and industrial activity."

"Under war time conditions," says the report, "it may become the duty of the government to take steps similar to those found necessary by belligerent European countries, and not only to regulate the distribution of coal from the mouth of the mine to the ultimate consumer by allotting the quantity of the product which the different classes of consumers shall be allowed to purchase, but also to establish the prices to be paid by different classes of consumers."

"Prices now charged for coal the report says:

"Figures submitted to the commission . . . show that most of the present prices now charged . . . are far in excess of the cost as shown by the operators' books. Many of the operators frankly take the position that they are trying to get for their coal the highest prices possible under the present demand and are refraining, even at prices greatly increased over last year, from contracting their output to the extent of their usual custom. They defend this action by the claim that under the operations of the law of supply and demand they have for many years past been getting little more for their coal than the bare cost of production; that the mining of bituminous coal during that period has been a most unprofitable industry; and that this is their chance to recoup themselves for the losses of several years. Accordingly, they are demanding prices at the mine today, which run from 50 per cent. to several hundred per cent. over the cost of their output.

"As a result of this policy, much of the bituminous coal output has been auctioned off to the highest bidder. This has resulted in great profits to certain operators and special hardship to municipal public utilities, hospitals and other public and private charitable institutions and to domestic consumers, especially in the west and south, where relatively little anthracite is used."

CONTRACTS LET FOR THIRTY-EIGHT VESSELS

(By Associated Press.) Washington, May 21.—Contracts for 38 vessels, 26 wood and 12 steel, have been let by the emergency fleet corporation in the shipping board's shipbuilding program.

Twelve of the wooden ships and four of the steel vessels will be built by the Merrill-Stevens Company at Jacksonville.

UPHOLDS VERDICT GIVEN TAR HEEL

Supreme Court Declares Free Passes Do Not Exempt in This Case

(By Associated Press.) Washington, May 21.—Federal laws prohibiting railroads from giving free passes, the Supreme Court decided today, do not exempt them from liability from live stock attendants injured while traveling on a "drover's prices" under the uniform live stock contract. The court affirmed a verdict for \$1,555 secured by W. C. Chatham, of Hertford, N. C., against the Norfolk Southern Railroad.

The railroad contended that the Hepburn act and its tariff, filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission, exempted it from liability. Chatham's pass recited that in case of injury he could not recover damages. Chatham contended that the pass was not gratuitous, but was a part of the live stock transportation rate, and that the liability exemption clause was void.

Memorial Service in London. London, May 21.—Several hundred persons attended a service in memory of Jos. H. Choate, of New York, at St. Margaret's Church West Minister, today. The Arch Bishop of Canterbury spoke of Mr. Choate's services for the American and British nations.

ALLIES CONTINUE TO BUCK GERMAN LINE, MAKING BIG GAINS

Steadily Pushing Ahead and Always Able to Hold What's Captured

FRENCH RESUME THEIR ADVANCE IN WEST

Berlin Admits Advance by the French, While Italians Claim to Have Taken More Ground—Bulgars Reported Having Repulsed Entente Attack

Generals Haig and Petain are again pushing ahead with their offensive in Northern France and today both report new gains.

After driving into the Hindenburg line along a mile front yesterday morning in the sector northwest of Bullecourt the British resumed their attack last evening and captured a support trench behind the position just taken.

The firmness of the British hold on this section of the Hindenburg line, seriously threatening the Queant-Drocourt switch protecting Douai, is attested by the failure of the German reactions. General Haig is well maintaining his initiative and bit by bit forcing the Germans to give ground.

Not only did the British prove themselves able to hold their gains of the morning against heavy counter attacks, but were able to resume their offensive the same day and push far ahead, maintaining their position advance also against renewed counter attacks.

The French have resumed their advance in the Champagne. Having foiled the Crown Prince's desperate and costly effort to regain control of the Chemin-des-Dames plateau on the Aisne front, General Petain turned to the Champagne sector and struck northward on the Moronvilliers heights.

Several lines of German trenches were captured in these operations and some 800 prisoners taken. All the important observation posts in this section of the front are now in French hands, facilitating their further advance in the drive calculated to flank the Germans out of the salient to the northwest, projecting towards Rheims.

Berlin's official statement today admits that gains were effected by both the British and the French. The British aimed at much more than they accomplished, the German war office asserts, having attacked on a front of several miles along which the Germans maintained their positions with the exception that a demolished trench was abandoned. The French are conceded footholds on Mont Carnillet and Mont Keil on the Champagne front.

There has been no let up in the promising offensive launched by General Cadorna against the Austrians. He reports a new success by the Italians in the capture of a hill between Paillova and Britova and also the extension of the Italian positions in the Vodice area.

Admit French Advance. Berlin, May 21 (Via London).—The German announcement says the French yesterday obtained a foothold on Mont Carnillet and on Mont Keil. Yesterday the Germans brought down 14 entente airplanes on the western front.

Italians Take Another Hill. Rome, May 21 (Via London).—Italian troops yesterday took a hill between Paillova and Britova in their offensive on the Julian front and also extended their position on the Vodice, says the official statement issued today by the War Department.

Bulgars in Action. Sofia, Bulgaria, Sunday, May 20 (Via London, May 21).—The repulse of further Entente attacks on the Macedonian front is announced by the War Office. The official communication follows:

"After long artillery preparation the enemy launched several violent attacks east of Dobropolje. They broke down under our machine gun and rifle fire. Enemy parties which succeeded in approaching our lines were annihilated with hand grenades. Heavy losses were sustained by the enemy.

"On other parts of the front heavy artillery actions occurred."

BRITISH LEAVE FINALLY THIS WEEK

(By Associated Press.) Washington, May 21.—Announcement was made today that the British official mission will finally leave Washington this week for a brief visit to Chicago, and then visit Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa.