

**WEATHER**  
Fair Saturday; increasing rains in west; Sunday cloudy.

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## GOLDSBORO HONORED BY NOTABLE GUESTS

### BODY COMMANDER OF GIANT AIRSHIP PICKED UP AT SEA

Fishermen Locate the Body of French Officer Six Miles Off Coast of Sicily; Nothing Known Friday as to Fate of Other Members of Crew of Big Air Liner.

Paris, Dec. 28.—(By the Associated Press).—An official announcement today said that the dirigible Dixmude had been lost at sea.

#### Found by Fishermen

Paris, Dec. 28.—The body of Lieutenant Grenadan, commander of the missing dirigible Dixmude, has been found in Sicilian waters, it was officially announced this morning. The body was found by fishermen six miles from land off Sicily, Sicily. Its discovery was reported by the maritime authorities to the French naval attaché at Rome.

A French cruiser and three torpedo boats were ordered to the scene.

#### Mystery Deep as Ever

Paris, Dec. 28.—(By the Associated Press).—The Dixmude has vanished again. Not one word had been added to the message received indirectly from In Salah, in the Sahara desert, which said that the dirigible had been seen at 8 o'clock on Wednesday morning and consequently the hopes raised last night were growing dimmer this morning.

Airplanes from the Biskra and Touggourt bases and also from Tunis have been sent over the desert to renew their searches for the missing ship in view of the In Salah report, but up to an early hour this morning they had reported nothing. Other planes from the Hussein Day center have been rushed to Biskra to join in the hunt.

The fact that no wireless messages have been received from the Dixmude, which may be explained, says L'Auto, by the defects in her apparatus which were noted before the start, her commander having complained that the dirigible's radio was working badly.

However, looking at things from the brightest angle, the airship is, in a desperate plight. Assuming that the In Salah report is accurate, she is headed toward the terrible desert country of Tanzerget, where if its crew escape death in the destruction of the craft, they may wander foodless for many days before even the best organized search can find them.

### HEAVY DAMAGE FROM MORNING FIRE AT LANSING

Six Story Office Building and Theatre Are Destroyed. Loss of \$300,000.

Lansing, Mich., Dec. 28.—The six-story Oakland building and Regent Theatre, one of Lansing's largest theatre and office buildings, was practically wiped out by fire early this morning. The origin of the fire at 6 o'clock was not known. One fireman was seriously injured and removed to a hospital. Flying embers set fire to other buildings two and three blocks away, but these were quickly extinguished. The loss is estimated at \$300,000.

### Chairman Farley of Shipping Board Resigns

Washington, Dec. 28.—Definite recommendations as to changes in the shipping board policies and the resignation of Chairman Edward P. Farley, necessitating reorganization of shipping board personnel were presented today to President Coolidge. The recommendations for alterations of board policies include proposals to have administration of the government fleet divorced from the board and placed under the emergency fleet corporation, to extend the coastwise shipping laws to the Philippines, to coordinate water and rail transportation to a much greater extent than now obtains and to formulate a plan for replacement of the present tonnage.

### N. C. SHIPPERS ASSOCIATION HEAR GOVERNOR MORRISON, SEN. SIMMONS AND ABERNETHY

One of the Greatest and Most Beneficial Meetings Ever Held by the Shippers Association Since its Organization Says President Woodward. Some Real Results Expected From Plans Formulated.

The meeting of the Eastern Carolina Shippers Association opened here yesterday morning, with the statement of President Calvin Woodward, that the business of fighting Virginia in the freight rate proposition was the business of everybody in the State, and affected every business interest situated therein. It was not the business of the wholesale dealer more than the individual. To bear out this statement he called Mr. Beaman, secretary of the Wilson Chamber of Commerce, who had at his command, "and the ability to tell it" data which everybody present was able to understand, just how necessary it is for us to make, and carry on this fight to prevent our rate in this State being raised to a point where the interests of Virginia could ship products from their state to our markets just as cheaply as we could place them there ourselves.

At the conclusion of Mr. Beaman's address, President Woodward introduced to the audience United States Senator F. M. Simmons.

Senator Simmons made clear his stand on the rate question without any preliminaries, by making the statement that such organizations as the one which met here today was absolutely essential if any results were to be hoped for. And results must be obtained, said he for the question is one of vital importance, and one that has State-wide application. In that it affected every man alike. He stated that the freight rate fight between North Carolina and Virginia was one of long standing, and one in his judgment that was entirely unwarranted.

Senator Simmons explained in detail to the assembly why, in his judgment it was absolutely necessary for the State to make use of our immense facilities for competing with the railroad rates through the use of our water frontage. Rail rates shall be as they have always been, based on water rates. And that it was a pitiful state of affairs that the entire State seemed to be asleep to the fact that we have about two hundred miles of the Atlantic Ocean beating against our eastern border, when it was a fact that there had been more wars in Europe over some government trying to get just a little strip large enough to build a port on.

He cited that the State of North Carolina has absolutely no water development whatever, while Virginia is thoroughly developed at Norfolk, up to Richmond and Washington. He stated that the government stood ready to extend the State of North Carolina any financial assistance it needs, if the State would only show the government that it was ready and willing to make use of that assistance to the best of its ability. He called attention to the fact that at one time the Clyde Line, and the Old Dominion were doing business regularly from the water front of Eastern Carolina, but that because of these companies had been "persuaded by the railroads" to give them a free hand with the State. And though several attempts had been made to enter the renewal of his service, that there was, always an unseen power that prevented the resumption thereof.

With 200 miles of ocean beating against our eastern shore, and the greatest natural system of inland waters there is on earth, with the exception of the Great Lakes in the north and the knowledge that railroad rates must be based on water rates, we have the power within our grasp to make for ourselves the cheapest rate that exists anywhere in the United States. And when we take advantage of our natural advantages, we need not fear Virginia, or any other power on earth as far as their being able to strangle us is concerned.

#### Governor Morrison Spoke:

On being introduced to the assembly, the Governor launched into one of the most brilliant and forceful speeches that it has been the pleasure of the Goldsboro people to hear in many months. He stated that it was his purpose to employ the best legal talent that could be obtained to fight Virginia on this rate case business, and that there should be no compromise. And before we get through with them, they will know that they

had been given the best bear fight they have ever had. He cited to the association that this fight with Virginia was in reality a very small matter, because right now the railroads were endeavoring to raise the rates coming into the state from the west, from 12 to 24 per cent, and that if they are successful it will mean an additional expenditure for the business interests of the State of \$10,000,000 per year.

He like Senator Simmons pointed out that the only hope of ever solving the North Carolina freight rate problem permanently, is through the use of our natural waterway resources. Adequate facilities are already established throughout the state for transporting the States' products to and from the ports of Wilmington, and those of New Bern and other points along the coast.

With the railroad facilities that now exist, and the good roads that are being built, and nearing completion, it is now only a question of establishing necessary terminals, and port facilities to properly care for the needs of the State, and with the assurances of Senator Simmons, Congressman Abernethy, and my own efforts it will be only a short time, I think until we may well say to the State of Virginia, that as far as we are concerned, they can go hang. For we will be splitting our own stove wood and drawing our own water, and will be in a beggitude to no one as we have been for the past forty years.

I am in this fight, personally, said the Governor to the finish, and the fight is on now, and will continue as long as I am Governor of the State, or until a satisfactory finish. Just before the adjournment a motion was made and adopted to request the Governor of the State to employ J. H. Fishback, Attorney of Washington, in the freight rate case.

President Woodward next introduced Congressman Charles L. Abernethy, who stated that it was his great ambition to push the movement for better transportation facilities and rates. Mr. Abernethy called attention to the time when boats ran up the Neuse as far as Goldsboro, and even Smithfield. He stated that at the last session of Congress he introduced a bill calling for the improvement of the Neuse river, but that it met opposition from a number of cities on the lower end of the river. He asked for the backing of the Shippers Association for not only one terminal in North Carolina, but for terminals at Wilmington, Southport and Cape Lookout, and stated that a resolution had been unanimously adopted by the North Carolina delegation. In Congress pledging its united support for this plan and also for improvements of the Neuse, Cape Fear, Tar and Pamlico rivers.

The Congressman said that it took him a long time to get to Congress, but that he finally reached Washington. According to Mr. Abernethy, any man holding a public office takes his political life in his hands when he attempts to fight the "interests" but he had no fear, as he could make more money practicing law than he could as a Congressman. He vigorously asserted that he was in the transportation fight to the finish.

Mr. Abernethy stated that he was an ardent admirer of Governor Morrison and Senator Simmons because he firmly believed they had the courage of their convictions and would fight to the end for a worthy cause.

J. W. House, of Wilson, treasurer of the Shippers Association, next presented the Association's budget, calling for an expenditure of \$10,000. Mr. House stated to the meeting that any organization must have funds in order to operate, and requested various members to submit plans for raising funds. At this juncture, Mr. Beaman, of Wilson, one of the leaders in the freight rate fight, explained the difficulties of preparing and presenting voluminous evidence and complaints, and added his plea for funds to that of Mr. House.

A lively discussion ensued as to the amount of the budget and methods of raising the sum requested. Mr. Taylor, of Wilmington, asserted that the State Corporation Commission should bear the major portion of the expense incurred in the rates. (Continued From Page One)

### TEXT OF TAX BILL MADE PUBLIC

Chairman Green of House Ways and Means Committee Makes Public Text of New Tax Bill.

Washington, Dec. 28.—The complete text of the new tax bill was made public today by Chairman Green of the House Ways and Means Committee. In all its features the bill follows the recommendations previously made "public" by Secretary Mellon. It proposes several hundred amendments of the existing revenue law, many of them of a highly technical nature and designed to put an end to tax evasion and many others dealing with the changes advocated by Mr. Mellon in income and other tax schedules.

One of the principal revisions provided in the bill is a reduction of surtax rates so that the surtax would begin at one per cent on net incomes from \$10,000 to \$12,000 and provide an additional one per cent for each additional \$2,000 up to \$36,000, one per cent additional for the next \$4,000 and would then add one percent for each \$6,000 up to a maximum of twenty-five per cent on net incomes of \$100,000 or more. Under the present law surtaxes begin at one per cent on net incomes between \$6,000 and \$10,000 and upwards to a maximum of fifty per cent on net incomes exceeding \$200,000.

The new bill also provides that the normal tax on incomes shall be 3 per cent where it now is four per cent, and six percent where it now is 8 per cent, a deduction which the Treasury estimates will result in a loss of \$91,000,000 a year.

Provision also is made in the bill that 25 per cent of "earned income" which is defined as wages, salaries and professional fees shall be counted as exempt in computing income tax returns. The greater part of this exemption is expected to fall to those having small incomes with the result that the Treasury expects a reduction of \$97,500,000 from this section alone.

### LEE WASHINGTON PUT TO DEATH AT STATE PRISON

Confessed to Making Attack on Woman in Nash County. Three Shocks Necessary.

Raleigh, Dec. 28.—After making a complete confession of his crime to Warden Busbee of State Prison, Lee Washington, twenty year old negro, convicted in Nash county of an attack upon a white woman at Momeyer, today was electrocuted at the prison. The confession was made yesterday afternoon. Three shocks of brief duration were necessary before the man was pronounced dead. The execution was witnessed by the husband of the attacked woman and about a score of persons from Nash county.

#### Attack on Woman

Washington was sentenced to die at the electric chair after his conviction at Nashville of an attack upon a white woman of Nash county. The crime was committed on November 9. Citizens and possees were organized and he was captured after a 12 hour hunt. Governor Morrison ordered troops to proceed from Wilson to Nashville to give the man protection, but they were stopped en route at Rocky Mount when it was learned that the negro had been removed to a neighboring county.

#### Troops at Trial

It was tried on December 1st at Nashville and being found guilty was sentenced to electrocution. Governor Morrison sent troops to Nashville during the trial to prevent a possible outbreak, and later was criticized in resolutions adopted by the officials of that place. To this criticism the Executive Council had intended to use the power vested in him to stamp out lynchings and that he always would send troops whenever he thought that their presence would prevent mob outrages.

Last year Ontario produced 90,500,000 pounds of factory cheese, out of a total of 124,530,000 pounds for the whole of Canada.

### MUSTERED OUT



Sergeant Samuel Woodfill, called by General Pershing "the greatest individual of the war" was discharged recently at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis with full military honors. Brig. Gen. Dwight S. Aubrey presented the discharge.

### Commercial Secretaries Have Interesting Meet

#### Clark Craves Publicity Thinks Coolidge Spokesman

Washington, Dec. 28.—Actions of E. Y. Clark, former high official of the Ku Klux Klan, in making public through Edgar Fuller, a letter to the president prior to its presentation at the White House was criticized by a spokesman for President Coolidge, who asserted that such a course indicated that the communication was written more for publicity purposes than for consideration by the President.

#### Policeman Dies in Poverty

Suffolk, Va., Dec. 27.—"Huckleberry" Brown, the former Suffolk policeman, who died a pauper and was buried at the expense of the city, had money enough in his room to give him some of the needed comforts during his last days, but he never knew it. Brown, hopelessly sick, friendless and penniless, breathed his last in a local hospital to which the supervisors of the poor had him sent at the request of kindly ladies who interested themselves in his case. Now the city will be reimbursed for part of the doctors, hospital and funeral bills as soon as claims are proven.

It all came through two small insurance policies that had been carried by Brown but who had permitted them to lapse when he grew sick. He had forgotten them or thought they were valueless. Chief of Police Baker, who has been appointed administrator of Brown's estate, holds a check of the Metropolitan Insurance Company for \$95.53, representing the cash value of the two policies.

C. J. Brown came here ten or twelve years ago from Sampson county, N. C. He married a widow who lived on Poplar street, but she passed away a number of years ago. If Brown has living relatives nothing is known of them. During the war for about two years, when men were scarce, Charles L. Brown was on the regular force. The boys nicknamed him "Huckleberry." After he left the force he was employed as night watchman at some of the plants and ran a little store near the Norfolk & Western station.

After his death at the hospital three or four months ago the man's room was searched. Ten dollars in money, some tools and two insurance policies were found. C. A. Lancaster, who represents the Metropolitan Insurance Company in Suffolk, interested himself in securing the amount due Brown's estate on the policies, and within fifteen days after proof of death the administrator had the check for \$95.53 in his possession.

If Brown had known that the policies had value he could have secured the cash and the little sum would have provided him a few comforts in his last hours which were miserably spent. His condition when his case was discovered is said to have been pitiful. Now the estate valued at probably a hundred dollars, will be distributed among those who have proven claims against it.

#### DURHAM GIRL IS GIVEN CHANCE IN GREENSBORO COURT

Greensboro, Dec. 28.—Gertrude Cates, nice looking young Durham woman of 21, was given another chance, after what she said was a terrible mistake, and not of her wilful making, when in municipal court here she was tried on a charge of immorality. She was allowed 24 hours to get out of Greensboro, before a three months jail term begins.

### CAPTURED MAN ADMITS MURDER NEW YORK GIRL

Frank Benner is Suspected by Police of Long List of Crimes. A Confession.

New York, Dec. 28.—The murder of Miss Estelle Phillips who was assaulted and strangled to death in an uptown rooming house last October, was described at the scene of the crime last night by Frank Benner, alias Collins, erstwhile chef in hospitals and on passenger liners and plain cook in lumber camps of Maine and Michigan woods.

Benner, who was arrested after a quick witted employment agency clerk had recognized him from a photograph furnished by the police, was taken to the rooming house, after an alleged confession, and was recognized by a Mr. Barry, former proprietor of the building, as the man who had occupied a room on the same floor with Miss Phillips, and who was seen hurrying away a short time before the body was found.

Philadelphia Crime  
Benner said he went to Philadelphia and in his alleged confession, admitted attacking Mrs. May Mitchell a nurse in a hospital in the Chestnut Hill section. Mrs. Mitchell, it was learned, still is suffering from the tortures that were inflicted.

Benner declared he served in the army during the world war and said "maybe it was the war that put some ideas into my head. I got wild like a maniac."  
Efforts of detectives to connect Benner with the murder of Susan Hoxie in New York in February, 1922, failed, for he proved to their satisfaction he was serving a term in a Washington, D. C. prison for larceny at the time.

#### Luncheon Celebrating Wilson's Birthday

New York, Dec. 28.—On the 50th anniversary of the birth of Woodrow Wilson, one year from today the \$25,000 prize of the Woodrow Wilson foundation for outstanding public services will be awarded trustees of the foundation announced today at a luncheon celebrating the former president's 67th birthday anniversary. The trustees also announced that nominations for the first annual award could be submitted from today until June 1, 1924. A jury of nine persons, headed by President emeritus Elliot of Harvard, will select the winner.

### FRENCH DO NOT WANT GERMANS TO RECEIVE FOOD HERE

Thinks There is No Shortage of Food in Germany Now. To Make Report to Reparations Committee

Paris, Dec. 28.—The French government is opposed to Germany's proposal to obtain food credits in the United States, it is learned, because it is satisfied that Germany does not lack food. The government, however, will probably delay taking final decision until a report on food conditions in Germany is made to the reparations commission.

### Nation's Head as Well As. Sec. Weeks Knew of Wood's Speculations

Washington, Dec. 28.—President Coolidge, as well as Secretary Weeks of the War Department knew of the financial transactions in Wall Street of Lieutenant Osborne C. Wood, son of Governor General Wood of the Philippines, and Mr. Coolidge also was informed as to the secretary's instructions to the young officer to cease such transactions, a spokesman for the President stated today. In giving out this information it was said that Mr. Coolidge was not in possession of information indicating any wrongdoing on the part of Lieutenant Wood, other than his participation in the generally inadvisable practices of an officer speculating in the stock market.

#### NEW YORK COTTON

New York, Dec. 28.—Spot cotton quiet. Middling 34.95. Cotton futures closed easy January 35.10. March 35.65. May 35.75. July 35.85.