

THE WEATHER  
Rain and Warmer Today;  
Fair-Colder Tomorrow

# THE MORNING NEW BERNIAN

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# Germany Flatly Refuses To Name Peace Terms

## Washington Is Plainly Shocked

Hope for Peace in Europe Badly Dashed by Reply of Central Powers to President's Demand That Belligerents State Their Terms—Rejection Was Unexpected—Administration Officials Clearly Pessimistic—Places Question of Peace or War Squarely Before the Entente Powers.

## NEUTRAL DIPLOMATS SEE HOPE IN ANSWER OF ENTENTE WHICH IS ANXIOUSLY AWAITED

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 26.—Hope for peace in Europe was tonight badly dashed, but not utterly destroyed, by Germany's flat refusal to satisfy President Wilson's demand for peace terms.

On the surface of the troubled diplomatic seas the outlook for peace was black, but administration officials strained their eyes to discern some ray of light in the situation. There were two differing views of the effect of the German note on the neutrals' effort toward peace. Administration officials, while refusing to discuss the possibilities, were clearly pessimistic. They took the view that Germany, by insisting on her demand for an "immediate meeting of the belligerent states," had rejected the President's proposal, that both groups of belligerents set forth their peace terms. "This, the State Department believes, takes the entire matter out of the President's hands, at least so far as further initiative efforts are concerned. It places squarely before the Entente powers, Germany's insistence on an untrammelled consideration of terms in conference.

Neutral diplomatic circles did not entirely share the pessimism of the administration. They believed that Germany's note would not halt the concerted action among the neutral nations in endorsement of the President's peace program and they insisted that all hope for peace should not be abandoned until all of the pressure of concerted neutral action had been brought to bear. Several neutral representatives here declared that Germany in her note "went as far as she could," and asserted that the peace move would be continued.

The representatives of the belligerent nations here refused to comment on the German note, although the German embassy insisted upon its recently assumed attitude that the way toward peace is open and will be kept open despite continued hostilities. The Entente powers' diplomatic representatives took the position that their peace doctrine was included in the speech of Lloyd George. Both groups of belligerents in the diplomatic corps joined with the State Department in a refusal to discuss the note until it had been formally received here, which will probably be some time tomorrow.

Meantime neutral diplomats continued their peace activities. It became known tonight that two groups of neutrals have begun diplomatic negotiations looking toward combined action in support of the President's peace program.

## U. S. DEMANDS THAT CARRANZA SIGN PROTOCOL

Patience of The Administration Admittedly Exhausted—No Settlement in Sight.

## LONG CONFERENCES MAY BE FRUITLESS

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 26.—There is little hope expressed in Washington that any working agreement can now be reached between the American and Mexican commissioners who for the past three months have been dickering and debating at New London, Atlantic City, Philadelphia and other places, with a view to settling finally upon a basis of diplomatic and international relationship, whereby peace can be assured in both republics and integrity of the American-Mexican border permanently preserved.

First Chief Carranza's failure to accept the protocol arranged by the commission is responsible for the present situation. In diplomatic language the signature of Mr. Carranza to the protocol as originally drafted has now been demanded by the United States. The patience of the administration is admittedly exhausted. It is possible that one more meeting of the joint commission will occur. That is provided that before midnight tonight word is received from the seat of the Mexican government accepting in toto the terms of the original protocol. Secretary Lane, chairman of the American commission, said today that if the protocol is rejected the course of the administration will be problematical. "We have no plans contingent upon Carranza's refusal to sign," said Mr. Lane. "If he does refuse we will take up that matter when it happens."

## GRAVE FEARS FOR SAFETY OF U. S. TANK STEAMER

No Word from the "Maryland" Since S O S Call at Midnight Sunday.

## REVENUE CUTTERS RUSHING TO SCENE

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—Grave fears for the safety of the American tank steamer Maryland and her crew of 34 were expressed by the revenue cutter officials tonight. No word has been received from her since midnight Sunday when she sent out an "S O S" signal and added that she was sinking.

According to latest reports, two revenue cutters and the steamer City of Savannah were rushing to the assistance of the distressed vessel. None of them will reach the position given by the Maryland until dawn tomorrow. Whether the Maryland can last until that time is not known, owing to the apparent failure of her wireless.

The identity of the Maryland was clearly established today. She was formerly engaged in the Great Lakes traffic and went to Philadelphia, where last September she was overhauled for trans-Atlantic trade.

The scene of the disaster is about 150 miles due east of Sandy Hook and almost in the position where the German submarine U-53 conducted its recent operations.

Messrs. Wade, who always have an annual get-together of the seven brothers, will have their annual dinner at Southport today. Last evening Messrs. R. T., Stacy, Dave, and three other brothers, passed through the city en route to Southport, where they will join their seventh brother, who is ill. It has been the custom of the Messrs. Wade to meet together during the Christmas holidays and all seven enjoy a dinner together, for many years.

## FILIPESCI FALLS TO TEUTONS IN VIOLENT BATTLE

Von Mackensen's Troops Take Fortified Village at Point of Bayonet.

## BATTLE RAGING ON A FRONT OF 500 MILES

At the point of the bayonet Teuton troops belonging to Field Marshal Von Mackensen's centre in the new offensive against the Sereth line, yesterday stormed the strongly fortified village of Filipesci, on the railway from Buzeu to Braju. In this sector and in violent battles north of Buzeu 5,500 Russian prisoners were taken.

The great battle which was ushered in Xmas morning continues to rage without abatement. During the last 24 hours the Teutons attacking front has been extended to the region southwest of Lemberg, thus on a battle line of nearly 500 miles the Teutonic big guns are now covering the Russian lines with a steady hail of shells. The goal coveted by the attackers before they can think of starting the long heralded drive for Odessa, is the full control of the Lemberg-Galatz railway. With that line in their hands the whole Sereth line would fall automatically. The fighting which preceded the occupation of Filipesci was of the fiercest character.

In the valley of the Casin river, west of the middle Sereth, the Roumanians struck back during the last 36 hours and recaptured one of the heights lost in Sunday's battles.

Consider pleasures as they depart, not as they come.—Aristotle.

"Your husband is quite a trial." "Yes, but his short comings are useful in a way. After viewing him at close range, our cook says she would never risk getting married. And we'd hate to lose her, that's a fact."—Kansas City Star.

## Willing to Join In Conference

Imperial Government Considers President Wilson's Note Friendly, but Is of Opinion "That Great Work—The Prevention of Future Wars—Can be Begun Only After the End of the Present Struggle"—Renews Offer to Meet the Entente Powers to Discuss Terms of Settlement.

## AUSTRIA, BULGARIA AND TURKEY MAKE REPLIES IDENTICAL WITH THAT OF GERMANY

## DANCE AT THE ELKS CLUB THIS EVENING

The Meyer Davis Orchestra, of Washington, D. C., to Furnish Music.

Meyer Davis Orchestra, of Washington, D. C., will furnish the music for a dance to be given in the Elks Club room this evening, beginning at nine o'clock. This will be one of the largest social functions held here during the entire season and will be attended by many out-of-town young people.

Several weeks ago, this orchestra furnished music for a dance in the Elks Club room and those who were fortunate enough to be present, pronounced the music as being of the highest class ever heard in New Bern. So well were the young people pleased with the music that they made the engagement for tonight regardless of the large consideration.

The admission will be by card only, and those who have not secured their cards are requested to see either Messrs. George Hollan, W. W. Griffin or A. T. Willis today.

Visiting Elks and other young men will not be charged admission.

BERLIN, Dec. 26.—The reply of the German allies to the peace note of President Wilson was given today. It failed to name any peace terms.

The reply was in the form of a joint note handed to the diplomatic representatives of the United States in Vienna, Sofia and Constantinople, as well as Berlin.

Announcement that the German allies had answered the American note was made through the Overseas News Agency.

The reply states that the Imperial government considered President Wilson's note in a friendly manner, but "in the opinion of the German government that great work—the prevention of future wars—can be begun only after the end of the present struggle."

When the time comes, as is the answer, the German government will be ready with pleasure to collaborate with the United States.

The reply renews the offer made by Chancellor Von Bethmann Hollweg on December 12, to enter immediately into a peace conference.

## RECORD TRIP FOR CURTISS FLYING BOAT

M. E. J. Jackwiath Arrives at Old Point Comfort From Atlantic City.

NEWPORT NEWS, VA., Dec. 26.—M. E. J. Jackwiath arrived at Old Point Comfort at noon today from Atlantic City, in a Curtiss flying boat. The trip was made in record time, according to those interested. Mr. Jackwiath suffered severely on account of the cold weather.

## AUSTRIAN BOATS ROUT ENEMY SHIPS

Two Patrols Sunk During Raid on The Straits of Otranto, Vienna Reports.

BERLIN, Dec. 26.—Four Austrian destroyers successfully raided the straits of Otranto, sank two patrols, routed six enemy destroyers of superior type and speed. The Vienna official report says:

"In a heavy dual one of the hostile destroyers was set afire and three others were hit at short range. Our losses are one dead."

Register of Deaths S. R. Fowler is named marriage license yesterday to the following couple, all of which are named: J. S. Gault and Mary O'Connell of New Bern.

## U. S. TROOPS AND MEXICANS CLASH?

Reports Said Merely that Fighting Occurred and Gave No Details.

LAREDO, TEXAS, Dec. 26.—Reports of a clash early today between United States troops and Mexican bandits near the town of Zapata, southwest of here, reached Laredo shortly before noon.

The first reports said merely that fighting occurred, and gave no further details.

## COUNTY PRISONERS ARE GIVEN A FEAST

Barbecue and "Taters" Form Most Substantial Part of the Christmas Dinner.

It wasn't "Possum and taters" that Jailor E. J. Baylis served the inmates of the county jail for their Christmas dinner, but something almost as good, "Barbecue and taters," and the prisoners declared that it was some dinner. In addition to the barbecue and potatoes the menu consisted of other palatable food. Fruit candy and nuts were also given the prisoners.

Every Christmas Mr. Baylis has a good dinner prepared for his charges and his efforts to make them merry.

## SHOOT TO ESCAPE NEGRO HIGHWAYMEN

Bart Garris, Planter of Near Stantonburg Has Thrilling Escape from Blacks.

STANTONBURG, N. C., Dec. 26.—Mr. Bart Garris, a prominent planter who resides near here, was held up by three unknown negroes Saturday night while en route from here to his home, and only about one-half mile from town. The negroes stopped Mr. Garris on the pretext of purchasing whisky, or rather they asked if he had any whisky. In reply to the negroes' request for whisky, Mr. Garris drew his revolver and began firing, and it was evident from blood on the ground when he and others visited the scene the following morning, that at least one of his bullets took effect.

The horse which Mr. Garris was driving became frightened at the noise of the revolver and ran. The three negroes shot at the white man a number of times as he was leaving the scene, but he escaped without injury, however several bullets struck the back of his buggy.

All efforts are being made to ascertain the identity of the highwaymen, but all have failed thus far.

As is his usual custom, Mayor Bart Monday presented each member of the police force with some useful article as a Christmas gift. It is true that these gifts are appreciated by the officers but what is usually appreciated most by them is the complimentary remarks made of them by the Mayor in presenting the gifts.

## CHRISTMAS QUIETEST IN THE CITY'S HISTORY

Practically All of The Business Houses Closed—Services at The Churches.

It was necessary for a part of New Bern's population to work Monday in order that the remaining portion might fully enjoy the day, but the major portion observed Christmas and refrained from all work. The day was quietly observed and the services at the different churches were well attended. The manner in which the day was observed reminded one more of Sunday than any Christmas in many years. There were practically no fireworks discharged within the city limits, and very few disturbances of any other nature.

Practically all of the business houses of the city, the mills and factories and professional offices were closed for the day. The places of amusement, the drug stores and cigar stands were open and all were kept busy furnishing amusement and refreshments for those who were celebrating the occasion. The soda dispensers were on the job a part of the day and they took in the cash.

Despite the investigations about the high cost of living, and the double price of some of the necessities of life, New Bern's housewives assumed the attitude of "what-do-I-care-for-expense" and had big dinners for friends and the family Monday. Following the dinners a large portion of the people came downtown and spent the afternoon in various forms of amusement. The people turned out in large numbers in the evening and observed the services at the churches.

## THREE NEGROES HELD AS SLAYERS OF WHITE COUPLE

Robbery Motive For Slaying of Mr. and Mrs. Reeves in Louisiana.

MINDEN, LA., Dec. 26.—Authorities here today are seeking to extract from three negroes a confession of the murder of Mr. and Mrs. John Nelson Reeves, and the serious wounding of their children. Reeves was killed with an axe, Mrs. Reeves was shot and the axe was used to wound the children, one of them a month old.

Reeves, who was 63 years old, was believed to have hidden \$4,000 in an old tool chest which was looted by the slayers.

We cannot be just unless we are kindhearted.—Vauvenargues.

Visitor—"I suppose Scribbs, the poet, is the best posted man in the club." Member—"Well, I wouldn't say best—but most."—Judge.

## SMALL CHILDREN WOUNDED WITH AXE

Entire Garrison Taken Prisoner According to Reports Reaching El Paso.

The Bright Jewels who are participating in the Installation Service next Sunday evening are asked to meet with Mrs. Whit Gaskins on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons at 3:30 o'clock in the League Rooms of Centenary M. E. Church.

The agents of the Atlantic Coast Line Railway Company are distributing 1917 calendars to their friends and patrons. This calendar is a very valuable one containing a great deal of information in addition to that found in an ordinary calendar. The supply, however, is limited as the

## SAN LUIS POTOSI TAKEN BY VILLA IN BRIEF FIGHT

Entire Garrison Taken Prisoner According to Reports Reaching El Paso.

Luis Potosi, in the hands of Villa's troops. The entire garrison was taken prisoner by Villa after a brief battle yesterday, according to reports received by federal agents tonight.

Frightened by the reported approach of Villa troops, the Carranza garrison abandoned Villa Ahmuda today and fled to Chihuahua City.

## AHMUDA ABANDONED BY CARRANZA TROOPS

Entire Garrison Taken Prisoner According to Reports Reaching El Paso.

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