

WEATHER FORECAST
North Carolina—Rain tonight,
colder extreme west portion; Friday
cloudy, probably rain east portion.
South Carolina—Rain tonight;
Friday, probably fair; colder.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FINAL EDITION

VOL. XXIII. WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 29, 1917.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

EFFORT OF BOLSHEVIKI APPROVED

Germany's Reply to Armistice Proposal Written On Government Paper

STILL STRUGGLING BEFORE CAMBRAI

British and French Are Contesting for Possession of Fontaine Notre Dame—Italian Situation Brightens

AN EPIDEMIC OF SEPTIC PNEUMONIA IS MUCH FEARED

General Gorgas Reports On Conditions Found at Camp Wheeler

NUMBER OF MEASLES CASES DECREASING

Warm Clothing Being Distributed and Number of Men Per Tent Reduced From Nine to Five

(By Associated Press). Washington, Nov. 29.—Surgeon General William Gorgas reporting today on his investigation of the epidemic of pneumonia at Camp Wheeler, at Macon, Ga., declared that the number of cases of measles was decreasing, but expressed the fear "that we may be beginning here an epidemic of septic pneumonia."

The report in full follows:

"In my recent inspection of Camp Wheeler at Macon, Ga., I found conditions as had been indicated by reports. There has been a sharp epidemic of measles, some 3,000 cases, and, as always occurs with measles, a certain number of cases of pneumonia. At the time of my visit, there were some 300 cases of pneumonia in a hospital. While the hospital was crowded, the right of way was given to pneumonia cases and they were being well cared for.

"In the past month there have been about 60 deaths from pneumonia. The height of the measles epidemic was past some 10 days ago and at the time of my visit the epidemic was markedly on the decline, but the pneumonia does not develop until a week or 10 days after the incidence of the measles."

"We can therefore expect a considerable number of deaths from pneumonia, a few cases of scarlet fever, and some cases of mumps."

"The camp is well situated and was in generally good condition. I think the reason for the measles affecting so severely this particular camp is the fact that the men came from the surrounding Southern States, which are sparsely settled and therefore the inhabitants do not, as a rule, have measles in childhood."

"A large proportion of the cases of pneumonia were evidently contact cases and I am anxious on this score, fearing that we may be beginning here an epidemic of septic pneumonia. We have had a few cases of meningitis, a few cases of scarlet fever, and some cases of mumps."

"Whatever the original cause of the epidemic and the present conditions, all these evils are accentuated by the crowded condition of the camp. The tendency to pneumonia has no doubt increased by the fact that the men have generally been exposed to the cold weather of the past month with no other protection than their summer clothing. Clothing is now rapidly coming into camp and about one-third of the men are being supplied with woolen garments."

"I recommend that it be insisted upon that all men in the camp have 50 feet of floor space each, and to accomplish this, that such additional shelter be supplied as may be necessary; that an observation camp be established and that all men be kept under observation until the main camp is free from infection."

Appended is a statement by the War Department to the effect that additional tents have already been shipped to the camp and the number of men per tent reduced from nine to five.

New arrivals are being segregated to minimize the danger of contagion and winter clothing, delayed by the necessity of first equipping divisions in northern latitudes and those sent abroad, now has been supplied.

Woolen underwear reached the camp some time ago and heavy outside clothing is being delivered as rapidly as railroad congestion will permit.

General Gorgas was accompanied on his inspection tour by Colonel Dean C. Howard of the Medical Corps, recently health officer in charge of sanitation in the canal zone; Major Victor C. Vaughan of the Medical Reserve Corps, formerly professor of hygiene at the University of Michigan, and president of the Michigan State Health Board; Major William H.

CLERKS' STRIKE ON COAST LINE IS OFFICIALLY ENDED

All Clerks Who Have Been On Strike Will Be Given Their Former Positions

CONCESSIONS ARE MADE BY BOTH SIDES

In Deference to Request of President Wilson Railroad Officials and Clerks Reach Agreement

As forecast in the Dispatch yesterday afternoon, Thanksgiving Day was marked by the ending of the strike of clerks on the Atlantic Coast Line railroad which has been in progress since the middle of October. The officials of the railroad system have made concessions from the stand originally taken by them. The clerks have given up some of the demands which they originally made. Thus by a compromise the strike is settled.

President J. R. Kenly, of the Coast Line, late yesterday afternoon wired President Wilson that, in deference to the request made by the President that the clerks ought to be re-instated, the railroad would follow such a policy, prompted thereto by motives of patriotism.

Briefly stated the strike is ended on the following basis: all clerks who have been on strike will be re-instated in their former positions just as quickly as the railroad can arrange to care for the men who have been employed to fill the positions of the workers; the right of the clerks to form a union is recognized; the re-instatement is made without pay for the time lost while on strike, but is without prejudice as to all rights of the men with regard to seniority, participation in relief association and benefits under the pension system; an arbitration board for the discussion of future differences will be granted.

President S. G. Nelms, of the local union, this morning received a message from Grand President Forrester of the union, stating that the clerks would stand by the suggestion of President Wilson, and return to work in case the railroad made the suggested concessions. It is expected that all the men will be back at their desks within the next five days.

The following official statement of President Kenly was made public this morning, stating the correspondence that has passed between him and President Wilson, together with a review of the negotiations that have been in progress between representatives of the Department of Labor and the railroad for the past week or more in the effort to settle the differences:

Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company
Office of the President.
Wilmington, N. C., Nov. 28, 1917.

Owing to the attempt to form a clerks union on the Atlantic Coast Line, following the dismissal of a clerk in the Richmond, Va., Freight Agency, on account of unsatisfactory service, on October 16th, 1917, 38 clerks walked out of that agency and yard, and, from time to time, following that date, up to November 16th, approximately 445 out of a total of 1,950 clerks left the service, generally without notice, at 30 points out of about 700 stations on the system.

The positions made vacant by the clerks were rapidly and satisfactorily filled, and the traffic of the company was handled currently and satisfactorily.

On October 22nd we received advice from the Department of Labor that Conciliator McDowell had been designated to confer with officials of the Atlantic Coast Line regarding the strike.

After the failure of the clerks union to perfect an organization on the Atlantic Coast Line, an attempt was made to carry out a threat made by one of their organizers at a public meeting at Wilmington, N. C., on the night of October 29th, that he would tie up all the railroads in the Southeast, if necessary, to perfect a clerks union on the Atlantic Coast Line, and on November 16, 1917, many clerks and negro laborers employed by either railroads and steamship lines at the port of Norfolk, Va., walked out on a sympathetic strike.

"I recommend that it be insisted upon that all men in the camp have 50 feet of floor space each, and to accomplish this, that such additional shelter be supplied as may be necessary; that an observation camp be established and that all men be kept under observation until the main camp is free from infection."

Appended is a statement by the War Department to the effect that additional tents have already been shipped to the camp and the number of men per tent reduced from nine to five.

New arrivals are being segregated

to minimize the danger of contagion and winter clothing, delayed by the necessity of first equipping divisions in northern latitudes and those sent abroad, now has been supplied.

Woolen underwear reached the

camp some time ago and heavy outside clothing is being delivered as rapidly as railroad congestion will permit.

General Gorgas was accompanied on his inspection tour by Colonel

Dean C. Howard of the Medical Corps, recently health officer in charge of

sanitation in the canal zone; Major

Victor C. Vaughan of the Medical

Reserve Corps, formerly professor of

hygiene at the University of Michi-

gan, and president of the Michigan

State Health Board; Major William H.

sor of medicine at Johns Hopkins.

(Continued on Page Four).

"Fast" Freight Suspended.

(By Associated Press). Pittsburgh, Pa., Nov. 29.—An embargo, effective at once upon the shipment of all export steel billets, bars, plates, angles and pig iron except that intended for use abroad by the United States government and the suspension of all "fast" freight lines on the railroads of the Eastern district of the United States, was ordered last night by the general operating committee of the Eastern railroads at the close of its first day's session here.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

THRILLING ESCAPE FROM GERMANY BY AMERICAN AIRMAN

Shot Down Behind German Lines He Was Made Prisoner

LEAPED FROM WINDOW OF A MOVING TRAIN

For 72 Days Was a Fugitive Before Barely Escaping Electrocution and Reached Neutral Holland

(By Associated Press).

London, Nov. 29.—Lieut. Patrick O'Brien, of Morton, Ill., the first American member of the British flying corps to escape from Germany, has arrived in London. O'Brien eluded his captors by jumping from the window of a speeding train. He then became a fugitive for 72 days and, as his goal was within sight, narrowly escaped electrocution from the charged wires along the Holland frontier. Last night O'Brien was dined by a group of admiring fliers, who had believed he had been killed when he was reported missing on August 17, last.

O'Brien, who is 27, was flying in the American aviation squadron at San

Diego, when he went to Victoria, B. C., and obtained a commission in the Canadian army. Going to France the next year, he distinguished himself by his great daring over the German lines.

In an encounter on August 17, there were 20 German machines to six British. O'Brien's machine alone engaged four enemy craft and accounted for one before O'Brien was shot through the upper lip. He fell with his damaged airplane 8,000 feet. O'Brien says he cannot explain why he was not killed. When he regained consciousness he was in a German hospital.

Diplomats, including those from North and South America, and high officials and jurists attended the annual Pan-American mass at St. Patrick's church, at which Cardinal Gibbons gave his blessings. Practically all government departments were closed.

At the N. M. C. A. headquarters, it was estimated that there would be 20,000 soldiers in the city before the day was over. Mrs. Samuel L. Hill purchased the entire floor at a down-town vaudeville theatre for one performance and had it reserved for men in uniform.

The train was now 60 miles inside Germany and traveling at 30 miles an hour, but O'Brien decided to take a desperate chance. He jumped from the train, skinned the whole side of his face, re-opening the wound in his lip and losing consciousness. It was about 4 o'clock in the morning and darkness shielded him. When he recovered, he was lying in a field. Then for 72 days he was a fugitive, traveling only at night. He trudged through fields and swam rivers and canals in Germany, Luxembourg and Belgium before he reached the Dutch frontier. At the time of his flight he had a piece of sausages on which he subsisted for several days, after which his sole substance was turnips and other vegetables.

O'Brien did not know German, but he used a little French on a kindly Belgian who sheltered him for several days. The Belgian gave him old clothes to cover his uniform and directed him to the nearest route to the frontier. O'Brien swam the river Meuse near Namur and the next day was challenged by German sentries who decided he was a peasant.

But his narrowest escape was experienced for his last day as a fugitive when he could see Dutch territory. To circumvent the charged wires O'Brien built a bridge in a nearby wood and threw it across the wires. But it broke under his weight and O'Brien received a shock he says he can still feel. When he recovered he dug with bare hands a tunnel under the wire and although it was slow progress, after several hours, he had a hole big enough to crawl through.

He concealed himself in a hay barn until the next morning when he hurried to the nearest British consul, who arranged for his transportation to London.

At another time I had just passed a line of soldiers walking along a road in the rain when I came across one who was helpless, mud-covered, and limping. I stopped my automobile and asked him what was the matter.

The soldier stood on one foot, the other being injured. I saluted and said his horse had started to run into a stone wall, so he threw him down but fell under him. That's the spirit we are getting. The man was badly hurt but even that did not make him forget his training of few minutes.

"I was returning at that time from the hospital where I saw a few wounded men. Some of the men's profoundest and most valuable possessions on earth are bullets and pieces of shrapnel which thoughtful surgeons saved for them on extracting. Every man wanted to exhibit the cause of his wound. Their thoughts were all about recovering, rejoicing their regiments and getting a chance to pay back the enemy in his own coin."

(By Associated Press).

Paris, Nov. 29.—American soldiers in France will sit down at noon today to an old fashioned Thanksgiving dinner.

Specially detailed officers have been buying all available turkeys in the nearby countryside, which average 12 pounds in weight. The dining menu for the dinner stationed in Paris contains soup, turkey, potatoes, turnips, peas, white bread, butter, apples and peach pies, apples, raisins, nuts, figs, dates and coffee. Individual turkey portions range from a pound and a quarter to a pound and a half.

Subsequently it appears to this American

as though the enemy had failed in his

main project of breaking through into

the heart of Italy. The foregoing in

addition to giving the American mil-

itary viewpoint, probably accords with other high opinion.

STRONG TESTIMONY AGAINST MEANS BY HOTEL MANAGER

THERE ISN'T A YELLOW STREAK AMONG TROOPS

First American Contingent in France Game to the Core

DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN REMARKABLE

Their Progress In Science of War Has Been a Surprise to Officers—Morale is Fine

(By Associated Press).

Concord, N. C., Nov. 29.—Americus B. Melville, Chicago lawyer, former attorney for Mrs. Maude A. King for whose murder Gaston B. Means is on trial here, went on the stand today as a witness for the State and was examined by John T. Douling, assistant district attorney of New York. He told of his experience as attorney for Mrs. King in the settlement of the estate of the late James C. King, which yielded a million dollars in securities, money and other valuables.

He told of the alleged discovery of the so-called second will of the late J. C. King, a long while after the probation of the first will.

Melville's testimony along this line was admitted only tentatively the court reserving the right to have it expunged from the record later.

Solicitor Clement explained to the court upon inquiry by the defense, that it was not the present intention of the State to offer Mr. Douling as a witness, but if it so decided later, he would sever the relationship with counsel for the State.

Melville's examination followed completion of the cross examination of Willard D. Rockefeller, manager director of a Chicago society hotel, whose declaration that "it was tipped off by government against Means" was ordered stricken from the record. This statement was made while the witness appeared irritated by the fierce prodding of E. T. Cansler, of counsel for the defense, in effort to break down the testimony of Mr. Rockefeller that Mrs. King was virtually a prisoner under control of Means for several months this year while at the hotel at Chicago.

The defense in the case of Gaston B. Means, on trial charged with the murder of Mrs. Maude A. King, near here last August, was prepared today to resume cross examination of Willard J. Rockefeller, whose testimony the State has announced it "partly relies upon" to point a motive for the killing.

Rockefeller, who is manager of a fashionable Chicago hotel where Means, Mrs. King and party of friends stayed from May to July, last, took the stand yesterday but only after the defense had been successful in keeping from the jury the bulk of the testimony the State proposed to bring out.

In an announcement made to the court, while the jury was out, Solicitor Hayden Clement asserted that if permitted to introduce in evidence statements made to Rockefeller by Mrs. King at the hotel, it could be shown that the woman and her money were "absolutely under the control" of Means at the time and she was "virtually a prisoner in the hotel."

The court ruled that Rockefeller could tell the jury only what Mrs. King said while in the presence of the defendant. As the witness said he had never talked with Mrs. King in the presence of Means, he was allowed to narrate only his conversations with Means and incidents which came under his observation at the hotel during the stay of the party.

Rockefeller testified that after a conversation with Mrs. King, Means threatened to cancel every room the party had in the hotel if Rockefeller ever talked with her or her sister, Mrs. Mary A. Melvin, again. He said Means asserted:

"I am preparing to spring a will that will surprise the whole United States and I don't want anybody to talk to her."

New York and Chicago witnesses for the State who are here have asserted Means was preparing to offer for probate an alleged second will of the late James C. King, of Chicago, which would give \$2,000,000 to Mrs. King in addition to approximately \$1,000,000 she, as King's widow, inherited under the first will.

Rockefeller also testified that Henry Deitch, one of the party at the hotel, who he described as Means' "watchman," kept a constant watch of Mrs. King in the hotel. Rockefellier admitted on cross examination that he allowed Means and the others to remain in the hotel, after he had learned the alleged state of affairs, saying the party occupied 10 rooms. He said Mrs. King left July 8 and Means and Henry

(Continued on Page Eight).

