

WEATHER FORECAST
North Carolina—Fair tonight and Saturday; much colder tonight.
South Carolina—Fair and continued cold tonight; Saturday partly cloudy and cold.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

FINAL EDITION

VOL. XXIII, NO. 339.

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 14, 1917

PRICE FIVE CENTS

CIVIL WAR RAGES OVER RUSSIA WITH VARYING RESULTS

Bolshevik Forces Apparently Have Been Successful in First Clashes

GERMANS MASSING ON WESTERN FRONT

Troops and Supplies Being Rushed to Lines in Flanders and France—Bitter Fighting on Italian Front.

Official announcement is made by the Bolshevik government at Petrograd that the Russian delegates to the peace conference now in progress at the neutrality are empowered to begin negotiations with the German government on a basis of equality of power.

Russia is growing more bitter in her attitude toward the peace conference. The Bolsheviks are successful in the lighting of the Central Ruzhikoff's Cossacks in the vicinity of Belgorod, some 350 miles south of Moscow, while the Cossacks were victorious at Rostov-on-the-Don, capturing the city and forcing the Bolshevik troops to retreat across the Don.

Attention is attracted by the fact that the German press is being permitted to predict a German offensive on the Western front, a rather unusual prelude to any new aggressive move by the Germans.

This front, however, is admittedly more active while on the German side than for a long time, with brisk artillery battles and reconnoitering thrusts in force frequent occurrences at point after point along the extended line.

An artillery action, it is to be noted, has broken out in the Champagne, which has been pointed to as one field where the Germans might attempt an offensive in an effort to break through toward Paris.

Actual infantry fighting there has been little in the last 24 hours. London announces that the British were successful yesterday in improving their position as the result of their local operation in the Cambrai area, east of Bullecourt. Berlin declares the British were beaten back in an attack at this point.

Bolshevik forces apparently have been successful in the first clashes with the counter-revolutionists and it is reported they have captured the towns of Tamanovka and Kaluga. General Kaledines is besieging Rostov-on-the-Don, the largest city in the Don province, and heavy fighting has been in progress there since Sunday. Hemanovka is near Belgorod, 350 miles south of Moscow, and near where the forces of General Korniloff, also a counter-revolutionist, are reported to have been engaged in a heavy battle with the Bolsheviks. One report said Korniloff had been defeated and wounded while another says he has been victorious.

There is a railroad town named Kaluga 150 miles southwest of Moscow and it is the town referred to in the unofficial report from Petrograd, it appears that the counter-revolutionists had approached nearer the old Russian capital than previous reports had indicated.

In the Cambrai area yesterday the British stormed a German post on the southern end of the sector, while on the northern end there was bomb fighting in which German prisoners were captured. German artillery has been especially active south of the Scarpe, in the Arras area, and north-east of Ypres in Flanders. Intermitting artillery activity continues along the French front. The only infantry action has been near Juvincourt, north of Reims, where a German attack was repulsed.

East of the Brenta river, on the Northern Italian front, there has been further bitter fighting. Austro-German forces reinforced by fresh reserves attacked the Italian positions in valleys descending toward the river from the Col Della Veretta region. Italian resistance held the attackers back and they were given the opportunity after having suffered heavy losses. Other violent attacks in the same region brought no gains.

German bombs have killed a number of American railway engineers in a town behind the British front. In another town, a German bomb fell in the street through which American troops were marching. Although the shells fell very close, no injuries resulted.

Austrians' Third Attempt Failed

Italian Line on Mountain Front is Still Practically Intact

Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy, Thursday, Dec. 13.—After three days of fighting on the mountain front between the Brenta and Piave rivers, the enemy is holding some trenches on Colonel Bretta and the summit of Monte Spinaucia, but all the rest of the Italian line is in its original position. This is the enemy's third successive attack with the object of passing through to the plains.

The backward season continues to be an important factor. A downpour in the last two days has filled the Piave which had nearly run dry, obliterating the water barrier with the enemy trenches only a few hundred yards away. The water in the inundated section along the lower Piave also has fallen from five feet to a foot. The rains again made the river a fairly deep barrier and the inundated section is again effectively flooded.

Taking advantage of the low water, the Austrians occupied a villa near the Lagoon of Venice, in the vicinity of Boro Cavallino. The Italian destroyer Sauro managed to work into the lagoon and landed a party of sailors who destroyed the villa, together with the telephone and machine guns which had been installed.

COASTWISE STEAMERS CARRY PARCELS POST

(By Associated Press.)
Savannah, Ga., Dec. 14.—Because of the congestion in railway transportation circles, the Postoffice Department has adopted the expedient of handling parcels post mail matter on coastwise steamships. Two chief clerks in the railway mail service—Watson Fuller, of Atlanta, and John I. Metts, of Charleston—arrived in Savannah yesterday and are supervising the transfer of the initial consignments of matter of the initial consignments of matter this morning, from New York and Baltimore. All parcels post matter exclusive of special deliveries, perishable matter and eggs for Charleston, Jacksonville, and Newport News will be brought from New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Boston on steamships.

Had No Quorum.
(By Associated Press.)
Lima, Peru, Dec. 14.—For lack of a quorum, the extraordinary session of Congress called to begin yesterday, was not opened.

The political situation at present is complicated.

FRENCH REALIZE AMERICAN POWER

Correspondents Visit Sammies and Were Impressed With What they Saw

(By Associated Press.)
With the American Army in France, Thursday, Dec. 13.—A number of well known war correspondents of important French newspapers have visited the American troops and followed the lines of communication from the sea to the advanced camps. After inter-victory. We have been struck particularly by the brotherhood in arms of Americans and Frenchmen and nothing rejoices us more than the vigor, high spirits and enthusiasm of our allies from overseas.

The party made a long visit to a camp of former national guardsmen where they partook of the soldiers' mess. They also had long talks with the troops returned from the trenches, especially those who were wounded.

ARMISTICE NEGOTIATIONS

Amsterdam, Dec. 14.—Official German and Austrian statements say that the Russian delegates arrived at Brest-Litovsk, Wednesday, and the armistice negotiations were resumed yesterday.

BIG CROWD HEARD DOOLING ADDRESS CABARRUS JURY

Attorney Explained Link by Link Chain of Evidence Against Means

CASE EXPECTED TO REACH JURY TONIGHT

New York's Assistant District Attorney Showed Why the State Thought there Was Motive for Murder

(By Associated Press.)
Concord, N. C., Dec. 14.—John T. Dooling, assistant District Attorney, of New York, today took the jury in the trial of Gaston B. Means along the pathway of the defendant's career as business manager of Mrs. Maude A. King, with whose murder he is charged and pointed out and explained link by link the chain of evidence which the State contends is sufficient to establish the motive for the alleged crime. Mr. Dooling drew a crowd that filled the court room. He was the second speaker of the day and last one for the State.

He pointed out from the evidence that when the defendant became connected with Mrs. King's affairs, he was living in a cheap flat in Harlem, had no considerable funds, his wife had about \$100 in bank. Within three or four months tens of thousands of dollars were deposited in cash to the credit of Mrs. Means' residence large bank accounts in the defendant's own name. These deposits were made subsequent to the time he had gone to Chicago with Mrs. King and secured from the Woodruff Trust Company securities and cash to the amount of \$192,000. The securities, he said, were taken to New York and converted into cash.

Prospects today were that the case would go to the jury tonight. Five addresses by counsel and the judge's charge remain to be heard. The jury requested late yesterday, when a member of counsel for Means offered to take a recess, that he continue and that there be no unnecessary delay.

Frank Armfield, for the defense, the first speaker of the day emphasized the assertion that in the mass of evidence produced by the State, no connection between the alleged motive and the alleged crime had been shown, in accordance with the law.

SMALL BLIZZARD RAGED OVER NEW YORK LAST NIGHT

TRAFFIC BADLY CRIPPLED AND TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH SERVICE INTERRUPTED

INTENSE SUFFERING AMONG THE POOR

COAL SHORTAGE ADDS TO SUFFERING—WOMEN BEG FOR FUEL TO SAVE LIVES OF FREEZING CHILDREN

(By Associated Press.)
New York, Dec. 14.—A snow storm, approaching blizzard proportions, that raged throughout the night, crippled all traffic in New York today, interrupted telegraph and telephone service, brought intense suffering to the poor and accentuated the serious shortage of coal. The gale whipped up a heavy sea, driving small craft to cover and causing considerable damage along the water front.

The storm came suddenly from the Atlantic coast early last night and gradually increased in intensity. The snowfall was accompanied by rain and covered the streets with slush. But as the temperature dropped steadily during the night the rain turned into sleet, the fall of snow became heavier, and by midnight the city was covered with five inches of snow. The wind, in the meantime increased in force and at Long Beach it was blowing at 75 miles an hour.

The weather cleared just before day-break and the wind, which caused the snow to drift to a degree unusual for New York, died down. The army of snow shovelers experienced considerable difficulty in clearing sidewalks and the important thoroughfares. Owing to the scarcity of labor the regular force of shovelers was reduced to about 3,000 and in order to meet the situation, 7,000 reserves were called upon.

With trolley service virtually stopped in many sections and the elevated trains running spasmodically, the early morning rush of workers to the downtown district overcrowded the subway lines.

The coal situation which has been acute for weeks caused much apprehension today. Reeva Schley, local fuel administrator, said there were 50,000 tons of New Jersey ports awaiting transportation here in scows. The high seas made it dangerous for the craft to attempt the trip.

In the Bronx yesterday, the entire supply of coal was exhausted and crowds of people besieged empty yards in vain. In Brooklyn and on the New York Eastside there were small riots in which the chief participants were women who pleaded that their children were dying of cold at home.

Health officials, alarmed at the increasing number of deaths from pneumonia due to the recent cold weather, have appealed to the fuel administrator to help the situation.

PNEUMONIA CLAIMS MANY IN TRAINING

Over 200 Deaths from Pneumonia in the Country's Training Camps

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 14.—The measles epidemic in the camps of the 30th, 31st, 38th and 39th divisions of national guard troops no longer constitutes a menace, according to a report for the week ending December 7, made public today by Surgeon General Gorgas.

The epidemic has spread somewhat, however, in the 34th and 35th divisions and to a greater extent in the 38th.

Pneumonia, following measles, is particularly increased in the 36th division and slightly increased in the 38th, 34th and 39th.

All other national guard camps show a decrease in measles, although there have been a number of cases of pneumonia independent of measles in all national army and national guard camps.

The report shows 120 deaths during the week in the national guard of which 117 were from pneumonia. Deaths in the national army, of which 47 were from pneumonia.

THE NEW ENGLAND MILLS WANT COTTON

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 14.—Urgent need for increased transportation facilities for cotton consigned to New England mills was placed today before the Shipping Board, the Railroad's War Board, and the Cotton Transportation Committee of Southern roads by the Transportation committee of the National Council of Cotton Manufacturers. The spinners fear a cotton emergency which would delay important government contracts. None of the mills has a supply for more than 60 days ahead, while others have only enough to tide them over the holidays.

Ten Mile Hike in Snow

Greenville, S. C., Dec. 14.—The entire 13th division at Camp Sevier went on a 10-mile hike yesterday afternoon headquarters announced today. In rhythmic swinging columns the thousands of American youth moved over snow-covered fields and not a single man was reported to have dropped out. On account of the inch snow, rifle practice and drilling was suspended at the camp and the hike was substituted.

ALIEN SOLDIERS DETACHE FROM AMERICAN ARMY

Nearly One Hundred Sent to Barracks Guard at Fort Leavenworth

NOT PERMITTED WITH THE FIGHTING FORCE

Most of the Suspects Were from National Army Camp, Though Some Were from the Expeditionary Force

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 14.—First steps to place soldiers of German or Austro-Hungarian birth or extraction at duty apart from the actual fighting forces appears in today's army orders.

Orders show the transfer of nearly a hundred enlisted men of the regular or national army to duty to the disciplinary barracks guard at Fort Leavenworth, Kas. The list contains hardly a name that does not appear to be of German, Austrian or Hungarian origin. There are several non-commissioned officers, including Sergeant Martin A. Stoltz, of the quartermaster corps at Fort Nebraska. All will be privates in the barracks guard.

Most of the transfers are from national army units at Camp Dix, Wrightstown, N. J. Some come from Fort Sam Houston, from El Paso, from Fort Benjamin Harrison, from Camp Meade and from Camp Taylor.

Those men come from the American Expeditionary Forces in France and in other cases, it is evident that men were withdrawn from recruits about to sail to join General Pershing's command.

EXCHANGE SPEAKERS FOR ARMY Y. M. C. A.

(By Associated Press.)
With the American Army in France, Thursday, Dec. 13.—To strengthen mutual sympathies arrangements have been perfected by which the British Y. M. C. A. in France is to send influential and well known British public men, such as Viscount Bryce to speak in the American Y. M. C. A. huts. The American Y. M. C. A. in turn will provide well known American lecturers to speak in the British huts. The interchange of speakers will begin probably about the first of the year.

SOUTHERN WRECK NEAR CALHOUN

Two Passenger Trains Collided This Morning Fatally Injuring Two Persons

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 14.—In a collision on the Southern Railway this morning near Calhoun, S. C., between northbound local train No. 46 and southbound local express and mail train No. 43, the express were fatally injured and several passengers were slightly injured.

Reports to Southern headquarters here say the accident was caused by the failure of the telegraph operator at Seneca, S. C., to deliver orders to the engineer of the local. The collision occurred on a section of single track one and a half miles north of Calhoun, where the double track had not been used.

NITRO POWDER FOUND IN TENDER OF ENGINE

(By Associated Press.)
Jackson, Miss., Dec. 14.—A 10-pound can of nitro-powder was discovered in the tender of an engine of the passenger train No. 1, Southbound limited of the Illinois Central railroad, just as the negro fireman was about to toss the can into the fire box while the train was standing at the station here early today.

The negro fireman was shoveling coal into the engine when he discovered the can of powder which was blackened and battered so that in the dim light in the tender it resembled a lump of coal. The fireman noticed its peculiar shape and paused to examine it.

The can was turned over to the authorities here and an investigation was begun.

The train, it was stated, had changed engines at Canton, Miss.

"MADE-IN-GERMANY" FALSEHOOD NAILED

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 14.—Persistent repetition of a story that a woman spy had been executed in the United States has caused the State Department to send an official denial to American legations and consuls in the European neutral countries. The story originated in Germany and its widespread use is regarded as another case of propaganda. The name of the woman was given at Anna Hut-ems.

MOST OF COUNTY WAS IN THE GRIP OF STORM TODAY

INQUIRY HELD A SECRET MEETING

General Crozier Gives Information Not for Public Ears at This Time

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 14.—Statements regarding the prospective delivery of rifles, considered confidential by the War Department and other matters the witness declined to discuss publicly, were given today by Major General Crozier, chief of ordnance, at an executive session of the Senate Military committee's inquiry into alleged delays in supplying the war army.

The committee's investigation, which leaders say is the beginning of a general inquiry into the executive conduct of the war, has been underway since Wednesday with the investigation thus far confined to General Crozier's testimony regarding guns and ammunition. His admissions yesterday of the existence of a machine gun shortage and that the American troops in France had been supplied with French weapons brought a running fire of questions from committee members.

General Crozier's examination today went into further details of the rifle and machine gun situation. Several Senators sharply questioned him in what were described as "somewhat heated" exchanges. Some of the members were said to be inclined to attribute to General Crozier himself responsibility for the reduction of 50 per cent. in rifle production at private plants due to the change in type.

Failure to use appropriations for the purposes intended also was developed from General Crozier. In particular, an appropriation of \$5,000,000, made in August, 1916, for small arms and intended by Congress for rifles, General Crozier said, was used for pistols, some at high royalties from private contractors.

General Crozier reiterated that rifle production will increase so that no American troops sent abroad will be without surplus arms and that soon there will be ample for training purposes.

EDDIE COLLINS IS GOING TO ENLIST

Chicago, Dec. 14.—Eddie Collins, star second baseman for whom President Comiskey, of the White Sox, paid the Philadelphia Athletics \$75,000 three years ago, expects to enlist in some branch of war service soon, according to B. B. Johnson, president of the American League.

Johnson has had several communications from Collins concerning enlistment but said that one he received yesterday left little room for doubt that the Chicago second baseman will not wear a baseball uniform next season.

CLYDE LINE ASKS INCREASED FARES

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 14.—The Clyde Steamship Company asked the Interstate Commerce Commission today for authority to cancel second class and steerage passenger rates from New York to Southern and Southwestern ports, and party fares between New York and the South. The result of the proposed cancellation would be an increase in passenger fares.

HALIFAX NOW ABLE TO HANDLE RELIEF

Each Day Sees Great Progress in Cleaning Up the Ruined City

(By Associated Press.)
Halifax, N. S., Dec. 14.—With the relief situation so well in hand that its services were no longer required, the Massachusetts unit, first on the ground here, after the great fire and explosion, went home today. The departure of the delegation, members of the general committee declared, means that Halifax was prepared now to handle its own problem.

This is evident throughout the city. Each day has seen great progress made. The continued cold, however, has retarded work in the district laid bare by the blast of a munitions ship and it will be days perhaps before the snow has thawed sufficiently to enable soldiers and workmen to drak the ruins for the bodies known to be there.

The task of re-building the homes in a two and a half square mile area hardly can be accomplished in a year, it is believed by the committee directing that activity. The big public funeral service planned for today was postponed until Monday because of the difficulty of opening graves.

AUSTRIANS CLAIM MANY PRISONERS

(By Associated Press.)
London, Dec. 14.—An official Austrian statement reviewing the recent attack on the Northern Italian front says that in the four days of fighting in the Meletta region 639 Italian officers and more than 18,000 men were made prisoner. The capture also is reported of 293 guns, 233 machine guns, four quick-firers, 81 mine throwers and a quantity of other materials.

AN EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS BEGINS

(By Associated Press.)
London, Dec. 14.—The Russian authorities have ordered the release of all civilian German prisoners in exchange for 4,000 Russian officers in German prisons, according to a dispatch from Haparanda, printed in the Dagens Nyheter of Stockholm, and forwarded by the correspondent of The Morning Post.

It is reported reliably, the dispatch adds, that Russian troops have been ordered to evacuate Finland. The commander of the fortifications at Sveaborg is said to have acknowledged officially the independence of Finland.

