

WEATHER FORECAST

North Carolina—Probably snow in interior; rain on coast to night and Sunday; colder tonight. South Carolina—Rain, turning to snow tonight; cold wave in interior; Sunday, snow.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

FINAL EDITION

VOL. XXIII, NO. 353.

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 29, 1917

PRICE FIVE CENTS

FERDINAND IS SAID TO HAVE GIVEN UP RUMANIA'S THRONE

Unsettled Conditions Are Said to Have Forced King to Give Up

ALLIES GIVEN TEN DAYS TO ANSWER

Trotzky Says Russia Will Conclude Separate Peace If Entente Doesn't Join Negotiations—Submarine Sunk

By Associated Press. King Ferdinand has abdicated the Rumanian throne in favor of Crown Prince Charles, according to persistent rumors in Petrograd. Official confirmation, however, is lacking. Unsettled conditions and a political crisis in Rumania were reported early this week in dispatches from Petrograd and the Bolshevik government received information that there had been a revolutionary plot against King Ferdinand. The Rumanian army has been inactive since the Russian armistice and peace negotiations forced it to suspend hostilities. Bolshevik and German propagandists have been reported working among the Rumanian troops.

Russia, Leon Trotzky told the council of workmen's and soldiers' delegates, would be forced to conclude a separate peace with Germany unless the Entente Allies join in the peace negotiations within 10 days. The Bolshevik Foreign Minister announced that he officially will ask the Entente power whether they will join in the peace negotiations. An advance guard of German peace emissaries has arrived in Petrograd.

Great Britain and France, through Premier Lloyd-George and Foreign Minister Pichon, have replied informally to the peace proposals enunciated by Count Czernin for the central powers. The German terms are declared to be insufficient. The British National Labor Conference has voted to continue the war to make the world safe for democracy in the future. Foreign policies of the French government were approved by the French Chamber of Deputies.

Only in Palestine has there been marked fighting activity. North and Northwest of Jerusalem, British troops, after repulsing four Turkish attacks, pushed them back 2 1/2 miles on a front of nine miles. Turkish losses are reported to have been heavy and among the prisoners taken were German.

CHICAGO JURY TO INVESTIGATE MEANS

By Associated Press. Chicago, Dec. 29.—Grand jury investigation of certain transactions of Mrs. Maudie A. King, a wealthy Chicago widow, in connection with the sinking of the Lusitania, was recently resumed here. Means was recently arrested at Concord, N. C., was asked yesterday by State's Attorney Henry.

STILL NO REPORT FROM ARMY BALLOON

By Associated Press. San Antonio, Texas, Dec. 29.—After nearly 25 hours, no word has been received from the balloon sent up Thursday at midnight from the balloon school here, carrying Captain Paul O'Connell, instructor, and several students. The balloon drifted in a southwesterly direction and in the opinion of officers at the school, may be far below the border in Mexico or even have been lost in the Gulf of Mexico, though the latter probability is deemed a slight one, as the wind is bearing to far westward.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL M'ADOO GATHERING STAFF ASSISTANTS

Railroad War Board at Work on General Scheme of Operation

BETTER CONDITIONS WILL COME SLOWLY

Cold Weather Expected to Delay Efforts to Clear Up Congestion—Experts Called Into Service

Washington, Dec. 29.—Director General McAduo spent today assembling a staff of advisors and executive officers to assist in administering the railroads as a national unit. He conferred with John Barton Payne, counsel for the Shipping Board, and Interstate Commerce Commissioners Anderson. An announcement of plans is expected soon.

The Railroads' War Board went to work on a general scheme of operation. A few reports reaching here today told of first efforts by local railway officials to haul freight by shortest routes.

A cold wave accompanied by snow in many localities probably would prevent a noticeable improvement in freight congestion under government operation for a week or more, officials said. It was understood today that Mr. McAduo would use the various departments of the Interstate Commerce Commission to execute most of his orders, and would form an advisory cabinet including representatives of the War and Navy Departments, the Shipping Board, the Fuel and Food Administrations and the Federal Trade Commission. Legal phases of government operation have been studied carefully by the legal bureau, headed by Joseph W. Folk, and many questions remain to be threshed out between the railroads and the government administration, before a smooth working plan is developed.

The Interstate Commerce Commission has nearly 1,800 employees, including several hundred experts on specialized lines, to be placed at the disposal of the Director-General and carry out his orders.

The Senate Interstate Commerce committee today decided to continue its plan to investigate the railroad situation under the Cummins' amendment. Members of the committee agreed that the investigation would be purely academic, but decided that any information obtained would be of benefit in considering legislation carry out recommendations by the President in his forthcoming address.

What scope the investigation will take was not decided upon but members of the Interstate Commerce Commission as well as representatives of the railroads will be called. The railway executives here today made no concealment of their feeling that government operation is a step toward government ownership, and made clear they felt that the stockholders would demand it.

BRITISH LOSS IN PRISONERS

By Associated Press. London, Dec. 15.—(By Mail).—British prisoners held by the enemy, including those in Switzerland, total 46,712, according to an official announcement. The prisoners include members of the regular army, territorial forces, royal navy and naval division, divided as follows:

Officers	2,257	44,455
Other		
In Germany	1,863	41,836
In Turkey	340	1,959
In Bulgaria	42	586
In Austria	12	74
Total	2,257	44,455

Esther Cleveland to Wed British Army Officer



The engagement is announced of Esther, daughter of former President Grover Cleveland, to Capt. Bosanquet of the Coldstream Guards. Miss Cleveland came to London in June of last year, after having qualified as a nurse and instructor of the blind, and took up work as a volunteer at St. Dunstan's Home for Blinded Soldiers. She made her debut in 1912.

DISASTROUS FIRE AT BURLINGTON

The Fire Destroyed \$200,000 Worth of Business Property Early Today

By Associated Press. Burlington, N. C., Dec. 29.—Fire early today destroyed the buildings occupied by the Williamson Company, Inc., wholesale grocers, and the Covington Hardware Company, entailing a loss estimated at \$200,000. This included the contents of both stores, the stock being almost entirely destroyed.

The telephone exchange, adjoining the burned block, was damaged to some extent and the telephone service was interrupted.

The Williamson Company owned the building it occupied and the other structure was the property of N. S. Cardway. The fire, which threatened to do further damage to the uptown district, was under control at 10:30 after the Burlington firemen had been augmented by other nearby fire fighters.

SERIOUS SHOOTING IN DUPLIN COUNTY

Walter Cottle Shot G. B. D. Parker Then Committed Suicide

By Associated Press. Wallace, N. C., Dec. 29.—Walter Cottle, an enlisted man of the United States Navy, at home on a furlough, yesterday, after he had perhaps fatally wounded G. B. Parker, reputed to be the wealthiest man in Duplin county, killed himself by sending a bullet through his own brain. The shooting took place at the home of Mr. Parker, three miles east of here.

Mr. Parker was shot three times. One bullet entered the breast, another the hip and the third in the lower part of the back. The shooting, it was said, was the outcome of a grudge that Cottle had against Parker who had indicted him two years ago for hunting on his land and killing tame squirrels.

EXPLANATION BY RED CROSS HEAD

Colonel Anderson Tells About Automobile Incident—Trotzky Skeptical

By Associated Press. Petrograd, Friday, Dec. 28.—Colonel Anderson, head of the Red Cross Mission to Rumania, has telegraphed to Jassy to American Ambassador Francis an explanation of the Col. Kolpashnikoff-Rostov automobile incident. He declared it was intended originally to send the automobiles to Jassy but "suddenly conditions developed here which indicated it might be possible for the entire mission to leave at once."

"On December 5 conditions became acute," the telegram adds. "It then appeared that it might be necessary for the safety of the Red Cross units to leave Rumania by the Southern route with the motor transport. I instructed Col. Kolpashnikoff to take the automobiles to Rostov, intending to have a unit go southward by motor from there. A few days later conditions changed for the better and I cancelled the order and sent Kolpashnikoff back to Petrograd."

"The only reason for ordering the cars to Rostov was to provide for the safety of the units in case of emergency."

The statement concludes by saying that Colonel Anderson had nothing to do with any political or military conditions in Russia, either directly or indirectly. Raymond Robins took this explanation to Leon Trotzky, the Bolshevik Foreign Minister, who is responsible for the imprisonment of Kolpashnikoff, and who has made allegations against the American embassy. Mr. Robins, who is head of the Red Cross mission to Russia, took with him a letter from Ambassador Francis to Mr. Robins, explaining the situation. It is understood that Trotzky's attitude toward the new explanation is one of skepticism.

AMAZING FIGURES IN BUILDING AIRPLANES

By Associated Press. Washington, Dec. 29.—Amazing figures as to the number of parts and amount of material entering into construction of an airplane have been assembled by army aviation officials in an effort to simplify construction as a means of hastening production. While the present program cannot be delayed for the result of this investigation, it appears likely that a way will be found later to reduce greatly the number of parts and kinds of material now needed.

These are the things necessary to build a machine without its engine: Nails, 4,326; screws, 3,377; steel strappings, 921; forgings, 798; turn buckles, 276; veneer, 37 square feet; wire, 3,262; varnish, 11 gallons; dope (for dressing wings), 99 gallons; aluminum, 65 pounds; rubber, 34 feet; linen, 201 square feet; spruce, 244 feet; pine, 58 feet; ash, 81 feet; hickory, 1 1/2 feet.

COLD SNAP HITS EASTERN SECTION OF THE COUNTRY

A Great Blanket of Cold Air Hangs Low Over the Seaboard

COAL SHORTAGE CAUSING SUFFERING

Many Cities With Little Fuel—Snow Storm Raging in Northeast—No Immediate Relief Promised

By Associated Press. Washington, Dec. 29.—A great, thick blanket of intensely cold air, lying sluggishly over the country from the upper Mississippi valley to the seaboard has plunged the whole Eastern section of the United States into a cold snaf from which the weather bureau foresees no immediate relief. While record low temperatures may be shown in some places the cold generally does not equal that of the mid-December snap, but it is none the less effective as an agent of distress and suffering in many localities where there are coal shortages, intensified by the increased difficulties of transportation and communication.

In the language of the weather "burps," an "anti-cyclone" is responsible for the change. This is nothing less than an extraordinarily high barometer touching this morning as high as 31 inches, something seldom seen in winter weather. This condition, prevailing over a great territory, means that an area of high atmospheric pressure, impregnated with cold, has suddenly settled down over the Eastern section, and by its superior weight and force had crowded out to sea, the low pressure area which contained all the warmer air. Around the edges of the high pressure area there is rain and snow, but the whole great mass has settled so sluggishly and gives so little disposition to move on and give place to warmer air, that the weather bureau warns the country it may not expect relief for three or four days at least.

In the South there has been snow in the Middle Atlantic coast districts and Eastern Tennessee. Cloudy, unsettled weather will prevail tonight and Sunday in the South Atlantic and in the coastal districts of the Middle Atlantic States. Cold wave warnings have been issued for interior South Carolina and Central Georgia.

Suffering in New York. New York, Dec. 28.—With the mercury close to the zero mark and continued cold weather promised for the next two days, New York's coal shortage again became acute today and caused considerable anxiety. It was said that only two thirds of the city's normal daily supply of 40,000 tons was delivered yesterday and the prospects of obtaining the average quota within the next few days are considered dubious.

Weather Bureau officials announced the temperature at 8 o'clock as one degree below zero "and falling." At that hour the snowstorm which began early this morning had not abated. A wind of high velocity accompanied the downfall and was a factor in traffic delays during the early rush hours in the metropolitan district.

Cold Sweeps New England. Boston, Mass., Dec. 29.—The most severe cold wave experienced in New England since 1914 swept in from the Northwest early today and caused widespread suffering because of the general lack of fuel. From a maximum of 37 degrees yesterday, the temperature dropped to 4 degrees below in Boston at 7:30 o'clock this morning. (Continued on Page Five).

DECLARES RUMANIA TRUE TO ALLIES

Ambassador to London Says the Little Nation is No Quitter

By Associated Press. London, Dec. 15. (By mail).—Despite the armistice negotiations forced on the Rumanian army by the collapse of the Russian forces on their flank, Rumania intends to remain one of the Allies. The Rumanian minister in London, in a statement to the Associated Press, says: "The negotiations that have begun between the Russian general on the Rumanian front and the enemy have resulted only in a suspension of hostilities. Negotiations for a regular armistice have probably not yet commenced, and when begun must necessarily occupy some time."

"It is certain that the Russians on that front will insist as the first condition of a stoppage of hostilities that there shall be no movement of troops from one front to another. Whatever happens, even in the prevailing situation in Russia, Rumania will always remain one of the Allies, and will be guided absolutely by their wishes. She will never follow any independent course of action."

SUBMARINE SUNK BY DESTROYERS, CREW CAPTURED

PERSHING FAVORS PROHIBITION FOR AMERICAN TROOPS

Recent Order Was as Far as He Could Go Under Prevailing Conditions

MATTER IS NOW UNDER DISCUSSION

Pershing Says He is Negotiating With French Government on Means for Prohibition

By Associated Press. With the American Army in France, Friday, Dec. 28.—General Pershing, in an interview with correspondents today, said the question of prohibiting the sale of all intoxicating liquors to American troops, which he favors, is being discussed with the French government. He explained his recent order prohibiting the sale of all intoxicants except light wine and beer and the conditions prevailing in France which caused it to be drawn as it was.

"The question of prohibiting the sale of all intoxicants to American troops is under discussion with the French government," said General Pershing, "but, of course, there are difficulties here in France that do not exist in the United States. The general order issued December 18 was a long step toward the prevention of drinking among our men."

"It was not by any means intended to convey an injunction to the American troops to drink light wine and beer, but quite the reverse. It was drawn to conform to French regulations on the subject."

"It stated only that light wine and beer would be permitted, and prohibited the purchase of and acceptance of gifts of whiskey, brandy, champagne or similar beverages. It ordered that all drinking places where such articles are sold be forbidden American soldiers. It is the same regulation made in France by the British army and by the French."

"Although I am heartily in favor of prohibition for the American Expeditionary Forces, the situation in France and the United States is not the same. Comparatively few French people drink wine as we do; they drink wine instead. This is partly because the French wine supply is not as pure as ours. French wine is light and much less intoxicating than is generally supposed. An intoxicated Frenchman is a rare sight, indeed. French beer also is by no means strong. The French government issues to its soldiers a regular wine ration. Obviously there are obstacles to forbidding wine shops in the zone of the army to do business at all, which practically is what the French would have to do. Local sentiment will play a large part in the determination of the question."

"The same order which forbade soldiers taking strong drink contained the most rigid regulations to prevent the spread of the social diseases. The two questions are connected closely. Thus far the record of the army in both respects has been most excellent. It is highly gratifying to me and is a testimonial to the high character of the American soldier. Everything possible is being done to protect his morals and his health and to make him an honor to himself and his countrymen."

"After being taken on board the prisoners were given hot coffee and sandwiches. Though kept under strict guard, they seemed contented and after a short time commenced to sing. To make them comfortable, the crew of the destroyer gave them their warm coats and heavy clothing. "The German officers said the first depth charge had wrecked the machinery of the submarine and caused her to sink to a considerable depth. "The submarine bore no number nor distinguishing mark. She was, however, identified by life belts and by statements of an officer and men of the crew. One of the life belts, the report said had 'Kaiser' marked on one side and 'Gott' on the other. "The Fanning proceeded to port and transferred her prisoners under guard. As they were leaving in small boats, the Germans gave three cheers. The commanding officer of the Fanning read the burial service over the body of the dead German sailor and the destroyer proceeded to sea and buried him with full military honors. "In his report, the commander of the Fanning praises the conduct of his officers and crew and gives particular credit to Lieutenant Walter O. Henry, officer of the deck, and to Coxswain Loomis, who sighted the periscope. He also commends Pharmacist's Mate Harwell and Coxswain Connor, who jumped overboard to save the drowning German. "The British commander-in-chief, under whom the destroyers were operating, said this in his report to the British admiralty. "The whole affair reflects credit on the discipline and training of the United States flotilla," and added that the incident showed that the Fanning is a man of war in the best sense of the term, well disciplined and organized and ready for immediate action. He also praises her commander, Lieutenant A. S. Carpenter, and commends Lieutenant Henry, Coxswain Loomis, Pharmacist's Mate Harwell and Coxswain Connor. The British Admiral also commended the prompt action of the British admiralty. (Continued on Page Eight).

Destroyers Fanning and Nicholson Made Quick Work of the Enemy

ABOUT TO ATTACK MERCHANT FLOTILLA

Destroyers Got Busy as Soon as Periscope Was Sighted, Crippling the U-Boat, Causing Crew to Surrender.

By Associated Press. Washington, Dec. 29.—Full details of the destruction by American destroyers of a German submarine and the capture of its crew, made public today by the Navy Department, show that the destroyers Fanning and Nicholson were the warships engaged. The incident was reported November 24, but few facts were given. The submarine was sunk, the Navy Department's story of the affair indicates, as it was preparing to attack a merchant ship flotilla conveyed by the destroyers.

The Navy Department's full story of the incident follows: "At about 4:10 p. m., while escorting a convoy, Coxswain David D. Loomis, lookout of the Fanning, sighted a small periscope some distance off the port bow, extending about a foot out of the water and visible for only a few seconds. The Fanning immediately headed for the spot and about three minutes after the periscope had been sighted, dropped a depth charge. The Nicholson also speeded to the position of the submarine which appeared to be heading toward a merchant vessel in the convoy, and dropped another depth charge. At that moment the submarine's conning tower appeared on the surface between the Nicholson and the convoy and the Nicholson fired three shots from her stern gun. The bow of the submarine came up rapidly. She was down by the stern, but righted herself and started to increase her speed. The Nicholson cleared, the Fanning, headed for the U-boat, firing from the bow gun. After the third shot the crew of the submarine all came on deck and held up their hands, the submarine surrendering at 4:28 p. m."

"The Fanning approached the submarine to pick up the prisoners, both destroyers keeping their batteries trained on the spot. A line was got to the submarine, but in a few minutes she sank, the line was let go and the crew of the U-boat jumped into the water and swam to the Fanning. Although the crew all wore life preservers, a number of them were exhausted when they reached the side of the destroyer. As the submarine sank, five or six men were caught by the radio aerial and carried below the surface before they disengaged themselves. Ten of the men were so weak that lines had to be passed under their arms to haul them aboard. One man was in such a condition that he could not even hold the line thrown him. Chief Pharmacist's Mate Elzer Earlwell and Coxswain Francis G. Connor (N. N. V.) jumped overboard after this man and secured a line under his arms. When he was hauled aboard every effort was made to resuscitate him, but he died in a few minutes. The four officers of the submarine and the 35 members of the crew were all taken prisoners."

"After being taken on board the prisoners were given hot coffee and sandwiches. Though kept under strict guard, they seemed contented and after a short time commenced to sing. To make them comfortable, the crew of the destroyer gave them their warm coats and heavy clothing. "The German officers said the first depth charge had wrecked the machinery of the submarine and caused her to sink to a considerable depth. "The submarine bore no number nor distinguishing mark. She was, however, identified by life belts and by statements of an officer and men of the crew. One of the life belts, the report said had 'Kaiser' marked on one side and 'Gott' on the other. "The Fanning proceeded to port and transferred her prisoners under guard. As they were leaving in small boats, the Germans gave three cheers. The commanding officer of the Fanning read the burial service over the body of the dead German sailor and the destroyer proceeded to sea and buried him with full military honors. "In his report, the commander of the Fanning praises the conduct of his officers and crew and gives particular credit to Lieutenant Walter O. Henry, officer of the deck, and to Coxswain Loomis, who sighted the periscope. He also commends Pharmacist's Mate Harwell and Coxswain Connor, who jumped overboard to save the drowning German. "The British commander-in-chief, under whom the destroyers were operating, said this in his report to the British admiralty. "The whole affair reflects credit on the discipline and training of the United States flotilla," and added that the incident showed that the Fanning is a man of war in the best sense of the term, well disciplined and organized and ready for immediate action. He also praises her commander, Lieutenant A. S. Carpenter, and commends Lieutenant Henry, Coxswain Loomis, Pharmacist's Mate Harwell and Coxswain Connor. The British Admiral also commended the prompt action of the British admiralty. (Continued on Page Eight).

BANKER STEVENS HAS BEEN RELEASED

By Associated Press. Washington, Dec. 29.—B. R. Stevens, manager of the National City branch bank in Petrograd, and his assistant, a Mr. Link, arrested when the Bolsheviks seized the bank, have been released, American Ambassador Francis reported today.

Ambassador Francis' dispatches add nothing to yesterday's news cables on the seizure of the banks, but said that Stevens and his assistant after being arrested were carried through the streets to the bank, where they were released. What action, if any, because of the seizure has been taken by the American embassy was not stated.

THREE BRITISHERS LOST

By Associated Press. London, Dec. 29.—Three British torpedo boat destroyers were sunk through being struck by torpedoes or hitting a mine off the Dutch coast on the night of December 22, with the loss of thirteen officers and 180 men, the admiralty announced today.