

WEATHER  
Fair tonight, severe  
cold wave; Sunday  
fair, cold.

# THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

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Business Specials

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 12, 1918

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## STORM OF LAST NIGHT PARALYZED TELEGRAPH WIRES

The Dispatch Was Without Telegraphic News Service During Forenoon

## GREAT DAMAGE IS REPORTED IN SOUTH

Catastrophic Rain and Wind Swept Over Entire Country Between Mississippi at the Atlantic

The storm which struck the whole country yesterday afternoon and last night, appears to have completely paralyzed wire communication, and the Dispatch today is without its usual amount of Associated Press material. Every effort was made to get the wires going, and every available man was out trying to repair the damage sufficiently to afford the newspapers on the Southern circuit the usual daily news, but the task was not accomplished until nearly noon. Yesterday afternoon, the newspapers on the Southern circuit began to fall out one by one as the storm raged up the seaboard. First were the Louisiana and Alabama papers, then were followed by Georgia, and about the middle of the afternoon South Carolina points began to "go out."

This morning when Mr. J. T. Runse, a veteran and most capable operator who does the "trick" for the Associated Press in the Dispatch office, opened at the wire for the day's work was "nary a crack" from the telegraph instrument.

All morning the fire was just as silent as a midnight tomb, hence the Dispatch is forced to appear this afternoon short the usual live telegraph news, but fortunately it had enough spare copy, correspondence, local and other odds and ends of news to put out the abbreviated edition you are in your hand.

The following is the storm story that came to Wilmington before the wires were prostrated by last night's storm.

Twelve persons are believed to have lost their lives, a score or more injured and extensive damage to property is reported as a result of blizzards in Alabama and Georgia and blizzards sweeping Eastward across the Southern States. Seven persons are reported to have been killed and injured at Cowarts, Ala., in a mudstorm which, according to mesage prices, virtually wrecked that town yesterday. One man is reported to have been killed and much damage to property done by a tornado which struck Camp Wheeler and the State grounds near Macon, Ga. All the telegraph wires are down and the only information available at a distance was brought by a messenger to Macon. Wire communication with the storm-swept section of Alabama also was cut off and verifications of loss of life could not be secured. Four persons lost their lives in Texas and many thousands of dollars' damage was done to truck gardens and orchards.

Record low temperatures and the earliest snowfall in years marked the storm-swept section of the Mississippi where the blizzard was at its height yesterday. At Mission, Texas, the Rio Grande valley, snow fell for the first time in forty years and in North Texas the snowfall measured eight inches with temperatures ranging from eight degrees below zero to ten degrees above in the Eastern part of the State. Oklahoma City reported the heaviest fall of snow in 15 years and the lowest temperatures in eight years. Eight inches of snow fell at Little Rock, Ark., and at Memphis, Tenn., the blizzard reached such proportions as to cause street car service to be suspended on a number of lines, dismissal of schools and brought street traffic virtually to a standstill.

The storm, leaving near-zero temperatures in its wake in the Central Southern States, was expected to sweep across the South Atlantic States to the coast today.

## JOHNSON IS HELD FOR GRAND JURY BY CRUTCHFIELD

Richmond Judge Remands Middlesex Dentist Charged With Wife Murder

## DAMAGING TESTIMONY GIVEN BY PHYSICIAN

Dr. Johnson Said to Have Denied That Richmond Girl Was His Wife—Attempted to Buy Poison

(Special to The Dispatch.)  
Richmond, Va., Jan. 12.—Dr. Thomas M. Jordan, a physician of Raleigh, N. C., will be summoned to corroborate certain testimony given by Dr. Albert F. Williams, head of a Wilson sanitarium, at the preliminary hearing of Dr. Lemuel J. Johnson, young dentist of Middlesex, N. C., charged with murdering his bride of three months, Alice Knight Johnson, a Richmond girl, by giving her cyanide of potassium. The hearing lasted until nearly midnight. Dr. Johnson was then held for the grand jury.

Because Dr. Johnson denied having made any statement at all to Dr. Williams, it is said today that Dr. Jordan will be summoned to testify at the trial. He, it was said, accompanied Dr. Williams when the latter was summoned to the Briggs Hotel, in Wilson, after Dr. Johnson had attempted suicide by taking poison while returning from his wife's funeral. Dr. Williams testified that Dr. Johnson denied to him that he had ever been married to the Richmond girl, but said that she had undergone a criminal operation here at his direction. The impression that he and the girl were married got abroad, he supposed, after he told the surgeon that the girl was his wife.

Dr. Williams was attacked by the defense counsel for opening the letter found in Dr. Johnson's room at the hotel. They contended that this should bar them from admission as testimony, but the court held that they could be admitted. One of these letters was to a teacher at Zebulon, N. C., to whom Dr. Johnson was engaged even at the time of his wife's death.

Dr. Alvis Patterson, druggist of Wilson, testified that Dr. Johnson tried to buy cyanide of potassium at his store a week before his wife's death, but there was none in stock.

**Burglars (By Mail).—**London suburbanites are beginning to ask: "Which is worse, a bomb or a burglar?"

When they get the air raid warning in the suburbs, the inhabitants there usually gather in the house of the family with the strongest cellar or in some communal dug-out. This is just what the wily burglar is waiting for, and, scoring possible bombs, he leisurely ransacks the deserted houses.

## BRITISH DESTROYER FOUNDERS OFF IRELAND

London, Jan. 12.—British destroyer Racoon struck rocks off Irish coast Wednesday and foundered, it is announced officially.

The Racoon was built in 1910. She was 266 feet long and displaced 915 tons. She was armed with one 4-inch and three 3-inch guns and two torpedo tubes. Her normal complement was 105 men.

## TWO DEAD AT MACON

Macon, Ga., Jan. 12.—Two dead, three injured and property damage amounting to thousands of dollars resulted from a severe storm that swept over this region late Friday.

The blow was followed by a sharp drop in temperature bringing the coldest weather of the winter.

## MILLION BIBLES NEEDED FOR OUR SOLDIERS



Bibles fresh from the presses ready to be cut and folded, then bound for use of the soldiers. The American Bible Society has responded to an S. O. S. call for a million testaments for soldiers and sailors from the army and navy chaplains and the Y. M. C. A. working at the front. Just now it is conducting a campaign to raise \$400,000 to supply the demand for Bibles among soldiers. The Federal Council of Churches, representing all denominations is co-operating with it in this work.

## RUSSIAN NEWSPAPER SCORES BOLSHEVIKI

Prevailing Conditions Subject of Sarcastic Raillery By Petrograd Publication

Petrograd, Jan. 12.—The Brishvaya Vyedomosti indulges in sarcastic raillery at prevailing conditions by propounding a number of problems in the form of arithmetical exercises. Here is one of the problems:

"In the city of A the public prosecutor, B, arrested the suspicious individual C. On the following day the Bolshevik D arrested the prosecutor, for which reason D was in turn arrested by the temporary government commissioner E. Thereupon F, the chairman of the revolutionary committee, arrested E. How far down the alphabet will the arrests reach in 24 hours, and how long will it be before persons whose names begin with X and Z are arrested?"

Another is: "A Bolshevik delegate departs from the city of A to attend a democratic conference. A Menshevik delegate leaves the city B at the same time to attend the same conference. When will these delegates start pulling each other's hair and how many resolutions will they propose?"

Following are others of the satirical propositions propounded:

"An internationalist writes for a newspaper and receives 1,000 roubles for each article. How many deliberately false reasons for an immediate peace must be present, if every such reason is paid for at the rate of five marks apiece, assuming that five marks equal eight roubles and forty copecks?"

"A democratic conference progresses at the rate of 129 resolutions per hour, while the Germans advance at the rate of only ten versts a day. Which of the warlike masses will first reach its goal?"

"There are 8,000 casks of brandy in the depot at A, and the city's garrison has 40,000 troops, all teetotalers. How long will it take the teetotalers to drink up all the liquor, and how long will it be after that before the municipality decides to destroy all alcoholic drinks?"

The newspaper concludes: "Persons sending in a correct solution will receive one minister-president's portfolio."

## MINNESOTA ORE HURLED AT HUNS

Virginia, Minn., Jan. 12.—Six out of every 10 shells hurled at the Germans during the coming year will be made from ore mined on the Mesabi ore range in northern Minnesota.

## NORFOLK SOUTHERN IS USING CUMNOCK COAL

Railroad Tries Out Fuel Taken From its North Carolina Mine

(Special to The Dispatch.)  
New Bern, Jan. 12.—When the Norfolk Southern New Bern to Norfolk passenger train pulled out from the union passenger station yesterday morning the tender of the locomotive was filled with coal which was taken from the company's mine at Cumnock, N. C., the first carload of this fuel mined and which was to be tested out.

The result of this test is being awaited with great interest by the officials of the road for if it proves to be a success and it is found that it can be used with good results, the fuel situation with that road will have been relieved and it may be possible that they will be able to take enough of the product from their mines to supply some of the residents of this State as well as fill their own needs.

This mine at Cumnock has not been worked in years but it is said to contain a deep vein of coal and the only question now is as to whether this will be suitable for use on the railroad.

Albert Mason, an enlisted man in the United States Navy and who is on guard duty at the government wireless plant at Beaufort, is nursing a wounded forearm, the bone of which was shattered by a bullet fired by some unknown party, while Federal agents in this section are making an investigation of the affair and endeavoring to learn who fired the shot and their reason.

For the past few months the plant at Beaufort, one of the largest and most important in the country, has been heavily guarded, it being feared that an effort would be made to put it out of commission.

Wednesday night Mason, who was on duty at the time, heard an unusual noise at the boat landing and went to investigate. "Halt. Who goes there?" He called out. There was no other sound. "Come out of that or I'll shoot," Mason then called out and as the words left his mouth there was the flash of a pistol at the water's edge and a bullet buried itself in the navy man's right forearm.

Immediate search was made on his station grounds and in the surrounding waters for the man or woman who fired the shot, but no satisfactory clues were found.

With the heavy guard on duty at the wireless plant at Beaufort it would be almost an impossibility for anyone to reach any of the buildings unobserved and about the only way that the plant could be destroyed would be by an aerial attack and precautions have been taken to combat such even if it was to occur.

## STORM SWEEPS THE SOUTH

Washington, Jan. 12.—With entire South in grip worst snow and sleet storm of winter, reports showed that tornadoes which swept through Eastern \* Alabama and Central Georgia \* yesterday, caused death of 16, in \* jury to more than 160. Wire \* communication today over great \* area, paralyzed. Though today's \* sleet, high winds, chief causes \* isolation and little or no dam- \* age resulted in larger cities \* along South Atlantic coast. \*

## LOCAL BOARDS CALLED TO MEET IN RALEIGH

Major Langston Wants to Discuss Draft Questions With the Boards

(Special to The Dispatch.)  
Raleigh, Jan. 12.—All local boards executing the selective draft act have been summoned to Raleigh by Major John D. Langston, to meet in the Senate chamber at noon January 14.

The call is not an official command, Major Langston says, for the reason that he is uncertain whether the government would authorize the expense. But the great number of questions arising with every board make impossible instructions by mail without great trouble and the major is hoping that at least one member of each local exemption board will come here.

Pou Offered \$10,000  
Raleigh men who are back from Washington on the campaign for the ordnance camp have not lost hope of winning. There is no boasting, though, and it settles down to a long wait.

James H. Pou, who offered one of the sites for the city, was ready to put up \$10,000 in cash and 600 acres of land. The government liked the territory and the spirit but 600 acres would not give ground enough and neighbors of Mr. Pou failed to join in the gift of land and the Raleigh lawyer's offer went for naught. It aided mightily in the other offer, however, as Mr. Pou joined in the agitation for the Tucker farm site, a spot of 2,000 acres on the Southern and Seaboard lines, and if the camp comes to Raleigh it will be put there.

McDonald May Fly  
Charley Troy McDonald may fly over German lines if the Raleigh boy who has spent his life in stocks and bonds can get by the rigorous requirements of the government.

Mr. McDonald has volunteered for the aviation service and his application is pending. He is awaiting a reply and ready for the regiment through which the aviator must pass. He is above the draft age and his offer is voluntary.

With Connor Aycock aspiring to the same heights, two Raleigh boys now flying and two in training, Raleigh promises to send a full quota of aviators to dog the Germans on the ground.

A. and F. Water Supply  
Trustees of the State College of Agriculture and Engineering were in session here this week discussing the institution's water supply, which is dependent upon the city system, is declared to be insufficient.

The trustees with their executive committee sat on the trouble ad day longer than they had contemplated. The difficulty at the College is that it is an abrupt elevation above the level of the city and the local stand-pipe is neither high enough nor of capacity sufficient to send to the institution the water it needs, the members say. The school is more than 40 feet above Raleigh proper and the difficulty of bull-dozing gravity is apparent.

Whether this will result in a water-works system of its own is problematical, of course, but the College received some money last year and it would not be averse to having potentially a drink or a bath.

## COLDEST WEATHER IN YEARS SWEEPS SOUTH AND WEST

Whole Country East of the Rocky Mountains is Crippled Today

## SEVERE COLD FOR THE SOUTH TONIGHT

The Blizzardy Weather Moves Eastward and its Presence is Expected to Last Through Sunday

Washington, Jan. 12.—The severest cold wave of many years crippled the country today from the Rocky Mountains eastward to Alleghenies and will move on to the Atlantic Coast tonight and Sunday.

Twenty degrees below zero was the rule in Indiana and surrounding territory, while the cold extended southward as far as the Gulf of Mexico, with temperatures there ranging around 18 degrees above zero. Traffic throughout the Middle West is greatly impeded and coal shortage is enabling the cold to cause much suffering.

A storm with heavy gales and torrential rains swept up from the South yesterday and last night causing some loss of life, damage to property and destroying wire communication. This storm centered today over Ontario and was accompanied by higher temperatures. Following in its wake, however, is the cold wave.

To the extreme Southern limits of the Florida main land temperatures tonight will fall below freezing and the cold will be more intense all the way northward to the Canadian border. The cold will continue through Sunday.

## INFANT MORTALITY IN THE RURAL DISTRICTS

Nursing Service Must Be Established to Conserve Human Life

Washington, Jan. 12.—Rural districts must have nursing services, the Children's Bureau finds, if infant mortality in remote regions is to be reduced and human life conserved at this time when the nation's human resources are being wasted by war.

Results of the Bureau's first detailed study of the care available for babies and mothers in rural communities show that one infant in every 25 of the section observed failed to survive, or that four per cent. of all children die before they reach the age of 12 months.

The bureau's first survey was completed in a prosperous county of Southern Kansas, bordering on Oklahoma. Similar studies are in progress in Wisconsin and North Carolina. The population in the Kansas county is widely scattered, but no home is more than 20 miles from a doctor, and telephones and good roads minimize the disadvantages of great distances.

## ALL MEDICINE LABELS NOW MUST TELL TRUTH

Food and Drugs Act Has Put a Stop to Misbranding Medicines

Washington, D. C., Jan. 12.—Ten years ago there was no ailment to which human flesh is heir that some maker of patent medicines did not claim to be able to cure with such ease that it seemed almost the height of foolishness not to part with the price for his nostrums.

Today, because of the operation of the Federal Food and Drugs Act, the extravagant promises of cure that characterized the labeling of the patent of ten years ago have practically disappeared from the preparations that enter interstate commerce. They may, however, still be found in newspaper and other advertisements that are not subject to the act. The "pure food law," as it is known, is concerned only with the package as it is shipped in interstate commerce.

If one questions the truth of a newspaper advertisement of a patent medicine let him read the label on the carton or bottle at the corner drug store. The latter will come nearer telling the truth about the medicine. Misbranding, in regard to healing value of hundreds of alleged cancer cures, so-called "cures" for coughs, colds, consumption, kidney diseases, epilepsy, St. Vitus dance, and the like, have been corrected. This is told in the annual report of the Bureau of Chemistry, United States Department of Agriculture, which reviews the operation of the Food and Drugs Act in the safeguarding of the health of the American people.

The law requires the labels of patent medicines to declare the presence of any habit-forming drug, such as opium, cocaine, or alcohol, thus preventing the innocent development of the drug habit. This provision of the law is particularly valuable in warning mothers against the use of so-called soothing syrups containing opium.

When the act went into effect, drug addiction was so prevalent that frauds in the treatment of the victims were frequent and in most instances the remedy advertised so forcefully by the labels contained the very drug from which escape was desired.

In 1907, the Bureau of Chemistry found that 30 soft drinks contained small amounts of cocaine. Practically all of these were suppressed. The Food and Drugs Act is regarded as having been an important factor in bringing about passage of the Harrison Anti-Narcotic law, which more effectively controls habit-forming narcotics.

Much has been done, the report says, to control the indiscriminate use of so-called headache remedies containing dangerous, depressing drugs, and of dangerous cosmetics making claim to healing value; and in raising the quality of the supply of crude drugs through the stimulation of imports. As a result of co-operative work with the Post Office Department, a number of fraud orders were issued by that department preventing the use of the mails in promoting the sale of fraudulent medicines.

## RENEW DEMANDS FOR BREAK WITH GERMANY

Buenos Aires, Jan. 12.—A number of Argentine newspapers consider that the extension of the German barred zone to include trade routes between South America and Europe is an unfriendly act toward this country. Newspapers renew their demands that the government sever relations with Germany.

Russia will continue negotiations at Brest-Litovsk for separate peace. This answer to Germany demands that conference remain there and declaration Central Powers that peace proposals of Christmas day insert as they affected Russia's allies with drawn. Decision Bolsheviks to continue negotiations is announced by Trotsky.

Rylenko, the Bolshevik commander-in-chief, has begun campaign to raise volunteer army. A new force, he says, to be used not only against Bourgeoisie of Russia and against Germans if negotiations fail, but also to liberate proletariat of other continental European countries.

France will not join in the peace conference at Brest-Litovsk Foreign Minister Pinchot announces. She also will not have peace negotiations with enemy until they make direct proposals.

There is no break in the monotony on the fighting fronts in the west. Raids and artillery activity still continue. On the Italian Northern front, the artillery fire most intense between Brent and Piave rivers.

the report, "may well be establishment of a nursing service for the rural parts of the county."