

WEATHER.
North and South
Carolina—Fair, warm
or tonight; Friday,
fair.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

TODAY'S NEWS
TODAY

FULL LEASED WIRE SERV

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GERMANY AT LAST SHOWS HER DESIRES

Demands That Russia Give Up Courland and Baltic Provinces

A REFUSAL MEANS RENEWED HOSTILITIES

The German Delegates Make Known Peace Terms—The Conference Reluctantly Recessed Until January 29

Petrograd, Wednesday, Jan. 23.—Russia must give up Courland and all the Baltic provinces or the Germans will resume military operations and occupy Reval within a week, the German delegation at the Brest-Litovsk negotiations informed the Russian representatives at the last session of the conference. An adjournment was taken until January 29 to permit the Russians to consider the German terms.

Reports of the session indicate that the Germans took a definite stand and most frankly outlined demands upon which they are insistent. The secretary of Ukrainian delegation gave out an account of the meeting. It says the Russians put a question to the delegates of the Central Powers as to what were their final peace terms.

FUEL SITUATION IN NEW YORK IS BETTER

New York, Jan. 24.—While New York's need for coal is still acute, fuel administrators and transportation officials today were hopeful that the somewhat milder weather and the freight embargo on Eastern railways would materially relieve the situation. The movement of anthracite coal has shown considerable improvement in the last 24 hours, it was said, although the supply is far below the city's normal requirements. Coal sufficient for the immediate needs of all the hospitals and most of the school's has been distributed, but a number of factories are unable to obtain enough fuel to resume operations after the five days' industrial closing.

Officials believe that the worst of the ice menace in the harbor is ended. Progress has been made in repairing damage to tugs and as a consequence freer movement of fuel from the tidewater is expected.

Washington, Jan. 24.—The French government desires to place a bronze tablet on the monument erected at Carthage, N. C., to James R. McConnell, the American aviator, who as a sergeant in the Lafayette esquadron, died for France. Ambassador Jusserand so notified Senator Overman today and the request will be forwarded to McConnell's father at Carthage.

PACKERS HOARDED HIDES AND PRICES OF LEATHER ROSE

Startling Charges Made in Report of the Federal Trade Commission

BIG FIVE'S HOLDINGS INCREASED 45 PERCENT

More Cattle Killed and More Hides Imported, Yet Shoe Prices Soared—Shoe Exports Decreased

Washington, Jan. 24.—Hoarding of hides by meat packers, while shoe prices have been climbing upward and excessive profits to the packers who practically control the hide market are charged in a report by the Federal Trade Commission, submitted today to Congress.

The Commission points out that slaughtering of cattle and calves in the United States increased during the last five years by 5,100,000 head, or virtually 30 per cent.

Such a record of food animals ought not at the same time to mean that the country should be forced to pay abnormally high prices for leather products made from the correspondingly increased take-off of hides," the report declares.

The Commission reported that the quantity of hides stored by the "Big Five" Chicago packers, Armour, Swift, Morris, Cudahy and Wilson—increased 45 per cent during 1916 and the first half of 1917. These five concerns were declared to be the "chief factor" in the hide market. While they had on hand January 31, 1916, a total of 88,033,193 pounds of hides, the amount had increased to 127,694,169 pounds July 31, 1917.

CHAMBERLAIN HAS NO APOLOGIES FOR NEW YORK SPEECH

Oregon Senator Stands by His Charge of Inefficiency in War's Conduct

MAKES A LENGTHY REPLY TO PRESIDENT

Declares President Does Not Know Truth About Conditions—War Department Responsible

Washington, Jan. 24.—Standing firmly by his charge that America's military establishment is enmeshed in inefficiency, Senator Chamberlain of Oregon, chairman of the Military Committee, replied in the Senate today to President Wilson's denunciation of his recent New York speech, by repeating the statement which drew the President's fire and declaring that the President himself does not know the truth.

Senator Chamberlain declared he would show that the deaths of the hundreds and thousands of men at cantonments and camps were due to the War Department and "that all epidemics could have been prevented if the War Department had been effective."

Senator Chamberlain read a letter received from President Wilson opposing the creation of a minister of munitions. He said he did this to counteract the President's charge that he had not been consulted regarding proposed legislation.

After speaking nearly three hours, Senator Chamberlain concluded with a plea that he was only doing his duty in arousing the country to its danger and that he would support the President although "grossly maligned."

Senator Chamberlain, chairman of the Military Committee, rose to a question of personal privilege in the Senate today and replied to President Wilson's recent statement charging that the Senator, in a speech at New York, advocating government war-organization and declaring inefficiency existed in all branches of the government, had made "an astonishing and absolutely unjustifiable distortion of the truth."

In beginning his address Senator Chamberlain said the President had attacked both his veracity and integrity, heretofore unchallenged, but that in replying he did so without any personal feeling against the President.

PROSPECTS BRIGHT FOR UNION OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

Committee Representing the Northern and Southern Bodies Meets

SIGNIFICANT WORDS OF BISHOP CRANSTON

Washington Bishop Sees No Reason Why Union Should Not Be Accomplished

Savannah, Ga., Jan. 24.—The committee of 50 ministers and laymen representing the Methodist church, North and South, which has for its purpose the uniting of the Northern and Southern Methodist churches as one body, has begun its deliberations in Savannah. It will be in session 10 days or two weeks.

No reason appears now why the Northern and the Southern Methodist churches should not unite, Bishop Earl Cranston, of Washington, chairman of the Northern delegation to the Unification Commission, announced to a large congregation in the Wesley Memorial church last night.

AMERICAN STEAMER OWASCO TOPEDED

Was Formerly the German Steamer Allemania—Two of Crew Lost

An Atlantic Port, Jan. 24.—The American steamship Owasco, formerly the German steamer Allemania and seized here when the United States entered the war, was sunk by a submarine the early part of December, while in Mediterranean waters near the Spanish coast, according to survivors of the ship who arrived here today on a Spanish liner. It was said that two members of the crew lost their lives.

TWO CAMDEN PLANTS DESTROYED BY FIRE

Camden, N. J., Jan. 24.—Two manufacturing establishments engaged in the manufacture of war materials were destroyed in a fire which swept a two-story building covering a half block today. The entire loss will reach \$500,000, it is believed.

THERE IS SCANT HOPE FOR ENTOMBED MINERS

Halifax, N. S., Jan. 24.—Rescue crews in alternating shifts today searched the lower levels of the Allan shafts of the Acadia Coal Company mine at St. Charlton for possible survivors of the violent explosion last night. There was scant hope that any would be found alive. At an early hour today revision of figures by mine officials showed there were 88 men in the mine at the time of the explosion, of whom nine escaped. Eleven bodies had been recovered and 78 were still to be accounted for.

ROPER DECLARES WARFARE AGAINST BLOCKADE WHISKEY

A Nation-wide Campaign to Be Inaugurated Against Moonshiners

SPECIAL EFFORTS TO CLEAN "DRY" STATES

Moonshine Whiskey is Being Sold to Army Camps in South—Governors to Co-operate

Washington, Jan. 24.—Discovery that manufacture of moonshine whiskey is increasing rapidly in bone dry States and that quantities have been sold illicitly to soldiers in Southern camps, caused Internal Revenue Commissioner Roper to announce today a nation-wide campaign against illegal distillation in co-operation with State Governors.

The military camps where moonshine liquor has been sold most in spite of prohibition by military and civil authorities, are Camps Wadsworth at Spartanburg, S. C.; Sevier, at Greenville, S. C.; Jackson, at Columbia, S. C.; and Oglethorpe, at Chattanooga.

TEUTONS MOVE BACK DEFENSES IN ITALY

Italian Army Headquarters in Northern Italy, Wednesday, Jan. 23.—The enemy has evacuated territory on the northern mountain front behind Monte Tomba, extending from the Piave river westward. Their defense lines have now been moved back to Monte Spioncica.

NORTH CAROLINA SOLIDLY AGAINST THE WAR CABINET

Senator Simmons One of the Leaders Against the Chamberlain Bill

IT WILL NEVER GET THROUGH THE HOUSE

Should the Senate Pass Measure, Believed the House Will Kill It—Democrats Behind Wilson

Washington, D. C., Jan. 24.—Senator Simmons will take a leading part today in the clash which will occur in the Senate over the plan of Senator Chamberlain, chairman of the Military Affairs committee, to obtain the passage of his bill for the creating of war cabinet.

Senator Simmons spent a busy day yesterday lining up the forces to oppose the plan, which has been embraced with such gratification by the Senate Republicans and a few Democrats dissatisfied with the administration's conduct of the war.

EMBARGOES HELPING THE FUEL MOVEMENT

Other Railroads Join in Bartering All Except Fuel, Food and Munitions

Washington, Jan. 24.—The movement of fuel, food and munitions went forward in the face of adverse weather conditions today, aided by an unofficial embargo on eastbound general freight virtually affecting all railroads, east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio and Potomac rivers. This situation, brought about by embargoes, formally ordered by Director General McAdoo for several Eastern railroads, probably will continue for several days or at least until the weather permits a resumption of a more general movement. Although the Director General's order was restricted to the three roads, other lines accepted practically as general freight today destined for Eastern points.

UNUSUAL ACTIVITY IS REPORTED FROM THE BATTLE LINES

Both on Western and Italian Fronts There is Increased Fighting

BIG DEVELOPMENTS ARE IN PROSPECT

Artillery Fire Becoming General, and Raiding Parties More Frequent. King Albert Replies

On the Western front in France and Belgium and on the Italian front where the contending armies of the chief belligerents in the world war have displayed little activity for some time, official reports announce a resumption of hostilities of unusual activity for winter months. While the operations mentioned in the statements from the various army headquarters are of little consequence from a military view, yet the general extent of the activity indicates that developments of considerable magnitude are in immediate prospect.

Intensity of the artillery fire has increased all along the Western front and raiding parties and air fighting have been resumed under more favorable conditions. The success of a German raid on British trenches west of LaBasse is announced by the British official communication, which claims, however, that another hostile party was dispersed west of Villers Guislain. In the Neuport sector, the French war office announces the capture of a group of prisoners by the British in a raid Wednesday morning. The French statement also says that the artillery is active in the Champs wood front and in the sector of Hill 344 and claims the failure of an enemy attempt at the former place.

IMPURITIES FOUND IN CANDY FOR NAVY

Canteens Ordered to Stop Selling Candy Pending Investigation

Washington, Jan. 24.—Discovery of "impurities" in candy supplied to canteens of navy ships today caused the issue of an order suspending the sale of candy to the men and also the purchase of additional supplies pending investigation.

Navy Department officials were careful not to say what the "impurities" were, but the announcement of the order immediately caused a recurrence of the report that powdered glass had been discovered. There was no confirmation for this, however, and no cases of sickness from eating the candy have been reported.

It was merely stated that "impurities" had been discovered in candy sold to the officers and men and that while chemical investigation was determining what the foreign substances were, no more of the stuff would be sold and no more would be bought of the supply. So far as is known this is the first official action of its kind on a great crop of reports of food poisoning by enemy plotters which have ranged from breakfast foods to canned goods and now finally to candy.