

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

TODAY'S NEWS TODAY

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1918.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

WEATHER: North and South Carolina: Fair and slightly colder tonight; Friday, fair, continued.

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HUN DRIVE ON RUSSIA UNOPPOSED

Advance Expected to Continue Until Receipt of Message of Surrender

French Carry Out Brilliant Attack Biggest Western Front Operation in 1918 - American Gunfire Break Up German Raiding Party

From the Gulf of Finland to the Southern border of Volhynia, the German advance into Russia is progressing. The main objectives are said to be Riga, on the coast of Estonia; Pskov, between Dvinsk and Petrograd, and the important centers of Minsk and Vitebsk.

The German advance will probably continue until an authenticated copy of the message of surrender is received from the Bolshevik government in Petrograd. This is now on its way.

French troops have gone through the German first line on a lengthy front and captured more than 400 prisoners. This attack, the first of large proportions on the Western front in 1918, was carried out north of Bures, east of Moncel, virtually on the Franco-German border south of Chateau Salins.

Complete details of the successful raid are lacking. There have been many raiding enterprises by both sides in this section of the front since the beginning of the war on Russia.

American troops in their sector northwest of Toul have checked another German attempt at raid, the enemy being driven back by artillery fire. German airmen are reported to control the air over the American sector and Wednesday enemy aviators flew over the entire position repeatedly.

INVESTIGATING CASE AGAINST CAILLAUX Paris, Feb. 21.—The investigation into the case of former Premier Caillaux, who is charged with treason, was continued today with the examination of several witnesses by Captain Bouchardon of the Paris military court. Among the witnesses were Charles Bertelli, a newspaper correspondent.

WORKING HOURS INCREASED FOR RAILROAD SHOPS

This Agreement Reached in Order to Rush Repair Work on Locomotives

OPEN SHOP WILL ALSO BE ALLOWED

An Understanding Has Been Reached Which Will Materially Speed Up Work in Railroad Shops

Washington, Feb. 21.—To hasten repair work on locomotives and railway rolling stock, an agreement involving lengthening of working hours, promotion of apprentices and helpers and maintenance of open shop conditions has been reached between Director General Modaro and A. O. Wharton, president of the Railway Employees Department of the American Federation of Labor.

At shops and round houses now working one shift which totals less than 70 hours per week, an increase in working hours will be made probably on a seven day basis in certain shops where congestion is most serious men may be required to work 10 or even 11 hours with overtime pay on the present basis pending consideration by the railroad wage commission.

Apprentices who have served three years may be promoted to mechanics positions and paid the existing rate of wages for that work, the agreement provides. These promoted apprentices are to be given the right of practical experience on work of their trades to which they had not been advanced during the three year period.

Helpers with five or more years experience may be promoted to the class of mechanics when necessary. They are to receive mechanics wages and have an opportunity to learn all branches of the trade.

A British mining engineer, named Piper, who has arrived here from Krasgoyarsk, says that the Bolsheviks have seized the gold mines there and that Austro-German prisoners are working them. The Austro-Germans have plenty of money and are purchasing permits allowing them to circulate freely in Siberia.

Piper declares that unless the Allies take immediate steps to send supplies and raw materials into Siberia the intellectual and peasant classes will throw themselves into the hands of the Germans. Goods are being sold at pre-war prices by the Germans who are also securing contracts and concessions as well as carrying on propaganda work.

ACCEPT GERMAN TERMS BY MARGIN OF ONLY ONE VOTE

Decision Came After an All Night Session of Bolshevik Leaders

WAS INFLUENCED BY CAPTURE OF DVINSK

Ease With Which Fortress Fell Into German Hands Caused Adoption of Germany's Terms

Petrograd, Feb. 20.—The decision of the Soldiers' and Workmen's Delegates to accept the German peace terms was received by a majority of only one vote, after a heated debate lasting throughout Monday night. Great secrecy was observed in regard to the meeting, which was adjourned several times to permit the Bolsheviks and the Social Revolutionists to hold party caucuses.

Premier Lenine, Foreign Minister Trozky, Ensign Kolyenko commander-in-chief and many other leaders addressed the council. Military men explained the impossibility of offering effective resistance, but no decision was reached until messages had been received showing that the Germans had captured Dvinsk with ease and were advancing all along the front.

The announcement of Russia's decision to accept the German terms was sent by wireless at 5 o'clock Tuesday morning. At first the German wireless station showed a disposition to refuse to take the message, but finally, four hours later, acknowledged it.

Bolshevik leaders held repeated conferences throughout Tuesday, and later in the afternoon received the German reply, refusing to accept the wireless message as official and requesting that a delegation be sent to Dvinsk to confer with regard to peace. The Russian press is divided as to the wisdom of the council's action.

The Prada says the Soldier's and Workmen's delegates have again shown willingness to make peace and carry out their pledges and that whether Germany accepts the offer or not, the Bolsheviks will win a moral victory. The Nova Jizn says the Bolsheviks have brought the affair to an ignominious end and have proved themselves adventurers and are willing to keep themselves in power at any price.

Colombia, S. C., Feb. 21.—Dr. E. C. Cronk, secretary of the Laymen's Missionary Movement of the United Lutheran Synod of the South, which was to have been held in Salisbury, N. C., in April, has been called off. The decision is due to congested condition of railroad travel.

SKILLED WORKMEN MUST BE SECURED TO GET SHIPYARD

Hurley Gives Wilmington Men Assurance of Due Consideration

FORT CASWELL MAY BECOME IMPORTANT

Its Designation as Port of Embarkment Not Unlikely. Delegation Pleased With Trip

Washington, Feb. 21.—The delegation of Wilmington business men left Washington for home last night well satisfied with their trip, after spending three days here in an effort to boost the port and city of Wilmington.

While here they succeeded in obtaining the consent of the War Department to extend the Wilmington, Brunswick and Southport railroad from Southport to Fort Caswell in order to bring about the development of an important army post there.

They held conferences with General Littell, Chief of Cantonment Construction for the War Department, who promised to undertake the railroad's extension at once and complete it within 90 days. They also talked with General Goethals, the acting Quartermaster General, and Adjutant General McCain and urged the establishment of a big concentration camp at Fort Caswell for the army.

The Wilmington men were accompanied and assisted in all their conferences by Congressman Godwin and Senators Simmons and Overman. With the railroad to Fort Caswell completed, there is more than a reasonable expectation that the War Department will enlarge the army port, thereby establishing a concentration camp from which soldiers can be embarked for France.

Of almost equal importance were the conferences held by the delegation with Chairman Hurley and other officials of the United States Shipping Board, to urge that Wilmington be recognized as an important port for building ships for the government.

Congressman Godwin and the Wilmington business men considered these talks with Chairman Hurley very satisfactory. Assurance was obtained from Chairman Hurley that if the Wilmington business men could assemble skilled shipyard workers at Wilmington and comply with other conditions desired by the board, the government will award contracts for the establishment of shipyards there and the construction of vessels for the government.

HUN RULES AIR ABOVE AMERICANS

CHARGES OF FRAUD IN ARMY CLOTH DEALS

Alleged That the Government Has Suffered to Extent of \$5,000,000

New York, Feb. 21.—An alleged country-wide plot involving illegal profiteering in army cloths at the expense of the government, were disclosed here today with the indictment by the Federal grand jury of eleven men one a clerk in the quartermaster's department of the army on charges of fraud.

Investigations which will extend to other cities Federal authorities believed to the extent of \$5,000,000 but at the same time it was stated the indictments today would serve to terminate further conspiring and save the government from millions more in losses.

The accused are Louis Davidson, Hyman Horwitz, and his son Benjamin in business as Horwitz and Moskowitz; Barnett Tietz of E. Tietz and Company; Jacob Weinstein and his son; Abraham Pirsch and Lon Levine, of Pursch and Levine; Barney Robinson and Morris Alewitz, shipping clerks in the employ of the New York Manufacturers Company, all of this city and Ira D. Janowsky a civilian clerk in the quartermaster's office here.

The manufacturers are all accused of having received and retained army cloth. Robinson and Alewitz are charged with passing before the grand jury and Janowsky is alleged to have destroyed government receipts so as to conceal thefts of the cloth.

Eight of the defendants are manufacturers of uniforms. The profiteering is made possible, the Federal investigators explained, by the methods in which the cloth is cut. From material which the government estimated would provide a dozen uniforms the manufacturers would get 10 or less, according to the authorities, and the excess cloth would be re-sold either to the government itself or to other manufacturers.

Some of the defendants Lieutenant Barnitz said, represented to the government to three per cent, where actually due to their methods of cloth cutting they amounted to 80 per cent, the difference representing the excess cloth alleged to have been retained.

Aviators Come and Go Will Over General Pershing's Lines

AVIATORS NEEDED TO FIGHT OFF ENEMY

Airmen Come and Go to Give Germans Opportunity to Make All Observations They Want

With the American Army in France, Feb. 20.—Control of the air in the American sector belongs to the enemy. Any officer at the front will make this declaration—all have made it. The control is obvious.

German airplanes come and go over the American lines almost at will. Every time the Germans come over their path the sky is specked by fleecy straggle puffs, but the chances of hitting an airplane with anti-aircraft shells is so remote that the enemy aviators calmly fly along as if on a pleasure tour. Every now and then airplanes on this side attack the enemy, always when they get a chance.

For there is only one way to wrest control of the air from the enemy, that is to fight him for it in the sky and relieve him of it by force of overwhelming numbers.

Right now, if the Germans know American airplanes were waiting for them, every time they came over the line their trips would be less frequent. Neither would they dare attempt such a bold piece of work as when they recently flew over the line in an airplane disguised with the allied red, white and blue bull's eye marking and cut loose with a machine gun on American soldiers in the trenches.

Moreover, officers say, more and more German planes are appearing in the sky and in various quarters their growing belief that these are the first of the machines which the Germans have been building feverishly to offset the large number of expected American airplanes in accordance with plans in the United States.

FAST PASSENGER TRAIN COMPETITION CUT OUT

Through Fast Trains Between Larger Cities and the South Affected

Washington, Feb. 21.—Fast passenger train competition between New York and Chicago, Chicago and St. Louis, Washington and Southern points and other important passenger terminals, will be eliminated soon, the railroad administration announced today. Certain roads will be selected for fast passenger trains and other lines devoted more extensively to freight traffic.

Investigation has been made by A. H. Smith, regional director for the East, to determine whether the New York Central, Pennsylvania or Baltimore and Ohio, should be used for fast passenger trains between New York and Chicago. It is understood the New York Central is being considered most favorably because of heavy freight on the other two lines.

C. H. Markham, regional director for the South, is investigating passenger conditions in that territory with a view of removing certain fast trains to Jacksonville and other Southern winter resorts.

LUTHERAN MEETING HAS BEEN CALLED OFF

Colombia, S. C., Feb. 21.—Dr. E. C. Cronk, secretary of the Laymen's Missionary Movement of the United Lutheran Synod of the South, which was to have been held in Salisbury, N. C., in April, has been called off. The decision is due to congested condition of railroad travel.

Washington, Feb. 21.—New Zealand troops carried out a successful raid early this morning, east of Polygon wood, Flanders front, and captured a few prisoners, says today's war office statement. "The enemy's artillery was active yesterday evening and against our positions at Elezouvaux."

Berlin, Feb. 21.—Via London.—The Russian town of Rovno has been cleared of the Russians, the war office reports. Trains with about 1,000 cars, many laden with food, have been captured, as well as airplanes and an incalculable amount of war material.

Between Dvinsk and Pinsk the Germans are pressing eastward. General von Linsingen's movement continues. Important railway and highway junctions have been occupied.

GERMANS MAKE RICH CAPTURES.

Berlin, Feb. 21.—Via London.—The Russian town of Rovno has been cleared of the Russians, the war office reports. Trains with about 1,000 cars, many laden with food, have been captured, as well as airplanes and an incalculable amount of war material.

The Germans have passed through Wenden, 55 miles northwest of Riga, and are now before Wolmar, 70 miles northeast of Riga.

War office announces that 1,353 guns and between 4,000 and 5,000 motor cars have been captured from the Russians.

ITALIAN SHIPPING LOSSES

Rome, Feb. 21.—Italian shipping losses during the week ending February 20 were two steamships of more than 1,500 tons and one sailing vessel of more than 1,500 tons. Arrivals at Italian ports during the same period were 366 merchant men, of all nationalities and departures were 330.

DRAFT CATCHES MANY AMERICANS ABROAD

London, Feb. 21.—Approximately 600 Americans, resident in the United Kingdom, are subject to the draft under the Anglo-American treaty, it was announced today by the American consul general, Robert P. Skinner.

There are approximately 12,000 citizens of both sexes and all ages now resident in the United Kingdom.

In the party of boosters who made the trip to Washington were Colonel Walker Taylor, H. C. McQueen, J. A. Taylor, W. H. Sprunt, Thomas H. Wright, Herbert Smith, Thomas C. Orrell, C. C. Chadbourne, M. W. Devine and M. J. Corbell.

BRITISH WITHIN FOUR MILES OF JERICO

Advance of Three and One-half Miles on Seven Mile Front Reported

London, Feb. 21.—A further advance of 3 1/2 miles on a front of seven and three quarters miles has been made by the British forces in the British sector near Jericho. The operations are being continued today by the American consul general, Robert P. Skinner.

The British losses on Tuesday, when an advance was made on a fifteen mile front, east of Jerusalem were very slight. Yesterday's losses have not been reported.

MAY USE SUBSTITUTES ANY WAY THEY WISH

Washington, Feb. 21.—Housewives may use wheat flour substitutes in any manner they wish, the Food Administration pointed out today in a statement declaring that some grocers have misunderstood the wheat flour substitute rule and are requiring purchasers of wheat flour to agree actually to use 50 per cent of the cereals in the bread they bake at home.

The grocer is required to sell one pound of substitute cereals with every pound of wheat flour, but the housewife is free to use the substitutes in any way she chooses. The Food Administration, however, has requested women to bake a Victory bread in their homes containing 20 per cent or more of wheat flour substitutes.

COUNTERFEIT CERTIFICATES

Washington, Feb. 21.—Warning of a poorly executed counterfeit of the \$5 silver certificate was issued today by W. H. Morgan, chief of the secret service. It is of the 1899 series with check letter omitted and the signature of the register and treasurer indecipherable. It is easily detected as counterfeit.

ROOT SAYS THERE'S NO BASIS FOR A PEACE

Chicago, Feb. 21.—In a letter read at the Congress of National Service today, Elihu Root, honorary president of the National Security League, said that the public should be careful not to have its attention distracted from the intense concentration necessary to win the war by the discussion about peace terms that was appearing in some of the papers and at some gatherings.

He pointed out that there were not only no negotiations but no basis for peace negotiations.

The congress, to be held under the auspices of the National Security League, opened a three-day session today with delegates present from many States.