

THE WEATHER

Cloudy Tuesday, probably local snows in the morning, not quite so cold; Wednesday fair and warmer.

THE MORNING STAR

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WILMINGTON, N. C., TUESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 1, 1918

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BRITISH FORCES DOMINATE THE FLANDERS PLAIN WHILE FRENCH HOLD KEY TO THE LAON AREA

Great Wedge Extends Into the Principal German Line of Defense at Cambrai

AMERICANS' AID VALUABLE Their Operations Are of a Minor Nature But They Have Heartened the Allies

ITALIANS HOLD THEIR OWN

Baker Summarizes War Situation as the Old Year Closes

Washington, Dec. 31.—What the beginning of the New Year finds at the battle fronts is outlined by Secretary Baker in his weekly review of military operations issued tonight by the War Department. In the west, he says, the British dominate the Flanders plain with a great wedge into the principal German line of defense at Cambrai, while the French, with their own lines unbroken, hold the key to the Laon area through the capture of Chemin des Dames.

Italian Line Holding.

Italy, supported by the allies, is holding firm while the enemy, after battering vainly for six weeks against the defenders, is busy preparing for a renewed offensive.

Of Russia the review merely says the Germans are endeavoring to persuade the country that they are eager to assist in restoring normal conditions and that the German embassy building at Petrograd is being made ready for occupancy.

While the operation of American troops at the front has been confined to narrow limits, the secretary says their presence has heartened the allies and increased faith in final victory.

The Weekly Summary. The review for the week ending Dec. 31 follows in part:

"The military situation at the beginning of the new year is as follows: In the west the British in the Ypres salient occupy the high ground of the Pessendable ridge and dominate the Flanders plain.

"The battle for Cambrai proved that the German defensive positions could be broken and taken, though full advantage was not taken of the early successes gained by the British, nevertheless the disaster to the German arms in this battle was the most serious since the Marne.

"The capture of the Chemin des Dames, has secured the key to the Laon area. Their own line of defense remains unshaken.

American Aid Valuable. "Detachments of our own forces have engaged the enemy. While their operations have been confined to narrow limits, their aid has been valuable and the presence of American troops in the front line has heartened the allies to continue the struggle with increased faith in final victory.

"During the period under review the combat situation remained unchanged. Reports of the concentration of hostile troops in the west continue to be received.

"As far as military operations in the east are concerned, no events of more than minor importance are reported. The Germans have been busy regrouping their forces.

"In the Italian theatre the enemy is continuing his persistent offensive operations in the mountain area.

"The Italians have hitherto held firm and gained last week when they recaptured the valuable strategic terrain in the vicinity of the Monte Asalone.

"The Austro-Germans operating in the region of the Monte Asalone have been busy readjusting their tactical dispositions and making further preparations for a renewed offensive.

Austrians Rely On Germans. "The Austro-Hungarian general staff seem to fear that without full German support it would not be a difficult problem for the Italians, strongly reinforced by French and British divisions, to turn the tables on their invaders. They have hitherto been against the staunch resistance of the Italians.

"Reviewing the situation it is recalled that the first German successes in Italy were far from brilliant. When they became deeply involved in the Italian campaign they had no real broad plan of invasion. The local advantages won by the German strategy were expanded day by day, as barriers, which themselves believed would hold, mysteriously gave way. It is evident from the repeated transfer of troops from the Trentino front to

German Peace Propaganda Needs To Be Neutralized

Pershing's Message to The Women of America

Washington, Dec. 31.—General Pershing today cabled to Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, chairman of the women's committee of the council of national defense, this reply to the Christmas message sent by the women of America to the expeditionary forces: "All ranks of the American expeditionary forces unite in heartfelt thanks to the women of America for their love and their prayers. The patriotism of our incomparable women, than whom there are no others more noble, shall be our constant inspiration until the great capital task which has been entrusted to us shall be accomplished. Accept our best wishes for the coming year and our firm confidence in our final success."

GET BUSY TODAY ON INCOME TAXES

Small Army of Federal Accountants Go to Work Throughout the Country

PAYMENT DUE BY JUNE 15

Every Unmarried Person Earning As Much as \$1,000 and Married Persons Earning \$2,000 Per Year Will Have to Pay.

Washington, Dec. 31.—The great task of gathering income tax and excess profits returns will begin with the new year tomorrow. Every unmarried person earning more than \$1,000 during the last year, and every married person or head of a family who made more than \$2,000, must file with the internal revenue collector of his district a report any time between tomorrow and March 1. He will be notified before June 1 of the tax due, and payment will be due by June 15.

The government expects to receive \$1,201,000,000 from income taxes before July 1, including \$666,000,000 from individuals, and \$535,000,000 from corporations. This is more than one-third of the \$3,400,000,000 estimated receipts under the war revenue act passed by congress at the last session.

From excess profits taxes, the government expects to realize about \$1,220,000,000 before July 1.

The rate of tax for a married man or the head of a family is 2 per cent on the amount of his net income exceeding \$2,000, but less than \$4,000, and 4 per cent on the amount of his net income above \$4,000 but less than \$5,000. An unmarried person not the head of a family will pay 2 per cent on the amount of net income above \$1,000 but less than \$3,000, and 4 per cent on the net income above \$3,000 but less than \$5,000.

An extra levy, or surtax, in addition to the normal tax, is imposed on incomes above \$5,000, so that the amount of income between \$5,000 and \$7,500 is subject to a total income tax, including both normal and extra, of 5 per cent; and between \$7,500 and \$10,000, 6 per cent. The surtax further increases with higher incomes, so that amounts of \$10,000,000 are taxable at 65 per cent with one per cent additional for each half million up to two million dollars. All incomes over the latter amount are taxable at 67 per cent.

Typical income tax levies on heads of families are as follows: Income of \$2,500, tax is \$10; income of \$3,000, tax is \$20; income of \$3,500, tax is \$30; income of \$4,000, tax is \$40; income of \$4,500, tax is \$60; income of \$5,000, tax is \$80.

Unmarried persons would pay in this way: Income of \$1,500, tax is \$10; income of \$2,000, tax is \$20; income of \$2,500, tax is \$30; income of \$3,000, tax is \$40; income of \$3,500, tax is \$50; income of \$4,000, tax is \$80; income of \$4,500, tax is \$100; income of \$5,000, tax is \$120.

Taxes may be paid in four installments between now and June 15, if this arrangement is preferred, but the taxpayer will open a determined campaign soon to encourage persons to pay their tax in full immediately, and receive interest on the advance payment.

A small army of accountants, especially trained for the work in schools conducted by district collectors for the past two weeks, will go into the field beginning Wednesday to assist persons in filing their returns, and will travel on pre-arranged itineraries for a month or more. In addition, federal agricultural agents, and representatives of state and county councils of national defense, have enlisted in the campaign of education. By this extensive campaign of education, Internal Revenue Commissioner Roper hopes to eliminate the chance

(Continued on Page Four)

Efforts to Involve Allies in Negotiations With Bolsheviks Gaining Headway

JOINT STATEMENT LIKELY

Entente May Decide Upon Strong Declaration Regarding Peace Terms

GERMANY AT ROPE'S END Probably Realizes She Can Occupy No More Territory

Washington, Dec. 31.—Insidious efforts of the Germans to involve the United States and the entente allies in the peace negotiations proceeding with the Russian Bolsheviks have developed to such a stage that in the opinion of some officials here notice of the propaganda must be taken and a program made to neutralize it.

If the British and French premiers are to meet in Paris soon with the purpose of discussing advisability of receiving and answering the proposals of the Bolsheviks to participate in the negotiations, as has been reported by a leading conservative British newspaper, they will act in accord with the agreement rigidly adhered to by all the entente allies, until the defection of Russia, not to entertain any peace proposals from the enemy without consulting each other.

Germany is believed to be prepared to offer almost any bait to an individual ally to drive a wedge into the alliance and cause its disruption and having succeeded measurably with Russia, is trying to get that nation to influence her late allies.

Firm Statement Needed. Rumors for the past fortnight to the effect that another peace proposal was about to be launched by the central powers through the Vatican or some neutral state, are believed to have their foundation in the adroit attempt of the German negotiators to use the Russian delegates for that purpose. But in either case, if there is to be another peace proposal through those channels or if the Russian negotiators decide that a reply shall be made, it will be difficult for the Bolsheviks to convey the invitation for a peace discussion, but it is regarded as entirely possible that the German government might request the Swiss foreign office to transmit an invitation to America and her co-belligerents.

Germany at End of Rope. General staff officers here are understood to attach great significance to the present attempt of the central powers to force the entente powers into peace negotiations. To their mind it is a clear indication that the German military leaders have now accomplished all that they feel capable of doing in the field. They can "hold on" for a long time yet, it is suggested, but cannot extend fields of occupation without an enormous loss of men and time at the risk of a terrible defeat. Therefore the Teuton diplomatists seem to realize every-thing possible from what the German armies have done and the Brest-Litovsk negotiations are the first steps toward that end.

ONE NURSE AND FIVE U. S. SOLDIERS DIE IN FRANCE

Washington, Dec. 31.—Six deaths one that of a nurse, among members of the American expeditionary force were reported today by General Pershing. The nurse was May Berry of Frankton, Ind. Among the soldiers reported dead was Private Garland E. McCoy, of Portsmouth, Va., a member of the aerodrom squadron. He was a victim of pneumonia.

ROOF BLOWN OFF WHEN GAS TANK EXPLODES

Newton, Dec. 31.—At the home of Dr. F. Y. Long at Catawba the large tank for the acetylene lights used in the residence of Dr. Long exploded while the doctor and Murphy Jones were charging it. The top of the building was completely blown off and one window was blown out. Dr. Long and Mr. Jones were badly cut about the face and hands but not seriously injured.

FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD LEADS FOR WARTIME ECONOMY

Urges the Banks of the Nation to Assist by Promotion of Thrift Campaigns

EAT LESS AND SAVE MORE

Suspension of Public Improvements Urged in Order to Not Hamper Government

Washington, Dec. 31.—A New Year's plea for wartime economy to assist the United States in financing itself and the allies was issued tonight by the Federal Reserve board in the form of a suggestion to banks to promote thrift campaigns in their communities.

"Let the public realize," says the statement, "that it is more respectable in such war times as confront us to be seen in old clothes than in new ones."

"The banks are urged to teach in their districts the meaning and the necessity of saving and its relation to the successful financing of the war—to tell the city merchant and the country storekeeper that this is not the time to buy and stock up, especially with luxuries.

"Let the people everywhere be encouraged to consume fewer things and let those be the simple and substantial things that are necessary to health and strength.

"Let the banks tell the people of their communities and their activities, the mayors and governors, that this is not the time for cities to be spending money on public works; rather should they be considering the suspension of existing work with the view of releasing men and material for the use of the government and so as not to compete with the government in the savings of the people, thereby reducing the ability of the government to place its loans."

Full as important goods is economy of credit and its limitation as far as possible to essentials of the war, the board declares.

"The government, in the last analysis," says the statement, "means putting the government in possession of goods and services. Financing by loans means the sale to the government of goods not only are goods saved but the government and the governments with which we are associated must have goods and services. It is of as much importance, therefore, that the government should realize the necessity of the goods it requires as it is that it should be helped to procure the credit it requires with which to pay for goods."

In neither respect are the American people as yet co-operating to a sufficient degree; primarily because they have not yet been adequately impressed with the paramount importance of their co-operation; they have not yet been thoroughly convinced that the success or failure of the war—lies in their hands."

Banks are urged to tell the people that by financing their country in these four ways:

"1. They enable our own government and our allied governments to obtain the goods required with which to win the war; everybody knows time is a most important factor at this juncture. Coal, copper, steel and foodstuffs are cases in point. Required quantities for export to other countries in exchange for which needed supplies may be secured.

"2. By consuming goods in smaller amounts, not only are goods saved but money is saved, and the people thus put in a position to absorb and pay for the war loans of the government out of savings.

"3. By diminishing the consumption of goods and by paying for government bonds out of savings instead of from funds borrowed from the banks, both the rapid rise of prices of goods is retarded as well as banking inflation, which is the cause of rising prices.

"It cannot be escaped the attention of the banks that since the beginning of the war deposits have increased at a rapid rate and that loans, discounts and investments have grown more rapidly. It is true that the federal reserve's holdings of gold have also increased to a point where they are larger than those of any other country, but the percentage of the gold reserves against deposits and notes has decreased. This is a familiar phenomenon in time of war and to a certain extent, the percentage of gold reserves against deposits and notes is constant concern to keep every dangerous tendency in the banking system under control and particularly to retard the too rapid expansion of banking credit as far as possible without jeopardizing the main business of the country at this time—the winning of the war."

RICHMOND RESERVE BANK MADE NEARLY 1,000 PER CENT GAIN

Richmond, Va., Dec. 31.—Announcement tonight by Governor George J. Eason of the fifth federal reserve district that 1917 re-discounts totaled \$460,984,040 as compared with \$45,639,957 for 1916 leads Richmond bankers to believe that the increase of between 900 and 1,000 per cent will set a new record for all institutions in the federal reserve system.

Richmond financial institutions broke every record in their history during the year with total clearing aggregating \$1,371,859,260 as compared with \$920,270,945 in 1916.

LIQUID FIRE USED BY THE GERMANS AT WELSH RIDGE

Enemy Fails in Effort to Wrest This Important Position From the British

PRISONERS TAKEN IN ITALY

English Forces Aiding Italians Gain Ground—Drive in Palestine Continues

(Associated Press War Summary) Notwithstanding the fact that deep snow covers the ground along the western front in northern France, bitter fighting has been in progress between the British and Germans on the Cambrai sector. After having captured British front line positions Sunday and later lost the greater portion of them in a counter-attack, the Germans Monday again set forth after a heavy bombardment in quest of a much desired position—the Welsh ridge—which lies to the south of Maroing in the old Hindenburg line and offers a splendid vantage point for observation.

Success Only Momentary. Attacking over a front of about 1,200 yards and using liquid fire against the defenders of the ridge, the enemy succeeded momentarily in entering one of the British trenches. His tenure, however, was of short duration, as Field Marshal Haig's men in a brilliant counter-attack completely regained their lost ground. On the other part of the line the Germans were met with a withering fire and compelled to retreat with heavy casualties.

Violent Artillery Duels. Aside from this battle little fighting of moment is in progress on any of the fronts, although violent artillery duels continue at various points in France and Italy. Especially heavy is the duel around Monte Tomba on the Italian front. In this sector the English are lending their aid and in their first attack against the enemy they captured important positions and in addition took about 1,400 prisoners and 60 machine guns and seven big guns as booty.

Allenby Drives Forward. From Jaffa eastward General Allenby's forces in Palestine are continuing their successful advance against the Turks. The latest reports from Palestine show the Britons now are well to the north and northwest of Jerusalem and in possession of some of the most important roads in central Palestine.

U. S. and Allies Confident. The advent of the New Year finds the United States and Entente allies confident of ultimate success, notwithstanding the cessation of fighting in Russia. The peace proposal made at the Brest-Litovsk conference by Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, has not yet been officially received by some of the most important roads in central Palestine.

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FREIGHT CONGESTION MUST BE CLEARED UP IN EAST REGARDLESS

Temperatures Will be Normal in the South and East by Tomorrow

Washington, Dec. 31.—The cold wave which has gripped the south and east for the past two days rapidly is passing to sea, the weather bureau announced tonight, and there will be a return to normal temperatures by Wednesday.

At far northern points, such as Northfield, Vt., where 24 degrees below zero was recorded, there was no abatement in the severity of the cold today, but generally throughout the south and east some slight rises in temperature was reported. This will continue tomorrow and warmer weather is forecast for Wednesday.

Snow fell in the Mississippi and Ohio valleys, Tennessee and some other states today, and snow is forecast Wednesday in the lake region. In other sections east of the Mississippi, however, fair weather is expected for several days.

Goldsboro Suffers. Goldsboro, N. C., Dec. 31.—Practically all of Goldsboro is without water today, the result of a cold wave here which has burst pipes and ranges entailing a loss of several thousand dollars. There is no coal and wood is scarce, with suffering throughout the city. Rufus Smith, night watchman of Utility Manufacturing Company was found frozen stiff yesterday morning, dying a short time later. Tonight the temperature registered 3 above zero.

Will be Rifles Enough by Feb. 1

Crozier Says Complete Supplies Will be on Hand for All Forces Under Arms

REPLIES TO COL. LEWIS

Ordnance Chief Tells the Senate Committee That All New Drafted Men Will Find Guns When They Reach Camp.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Complete supplies of rifles within a month for all American forces under arms were promised today by Major General Crozier, chief of ordnance, testifying before the senate military committee. Springfield for every regular and national guardsman will be ready before February 1, he said, and the manufacture of remodeled Enfields for the first national army will be finished in a week.

As to machine guns the general said a full supply of American machine guns should be ready by July 1, next. Rifles for the next draft, he declared, could be on hand before the men were in camps.

General Crozier appeared particularly to answer charges made by Colonel Isaac N. Lewis, inventor of the Lewis machine gun. He submitted a prepared statement detailing the official record of the war department's dealings with the Lewis gun, and then submitted to a cross-examination of several hours during which many interesting points were developed.

In reply to assertions made recently by other witnesses that the allies had furnished heavy guns to the American expeditionary forces, he said because the Americans were worse off than they, the general submitted official documents to prove that England and France voluntarily offered to provide cannon, their output having developed to where a surplus was being produced.

General Crozier refused to shoulder responsibility for the failure to equip the army adequately with ordnance before the war. He said it belonged to the secretary of war and congress in the past to approve "modest" ordnance programs.

The general vigorously defended his course in regard to the Lewis machine gun. He gave the committee the record of various tests to which the gun was put and reports of the army experts to show that it had not been demonstrated to be a satisfactory weapon until April, 1916, after which orders for them were given by the department.

When General Crozier finished Senator Hitchcock, who has been one of his chief questioners, announced that he was entirely satisfied with the record before the war, but still did not understand why more of the Lewis guns were not ordered afterward.

Among other things, General Crozier told the committee the government already was building a powder factory that would have a daily capacity of a million pounds. He denied stories of wooden guns furnished men in the cantonments, explaining that what had been taken for guns were sticks for bayonet practice.

Record Cotton Price. Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 31.—Middling cotton was quoted on the local cotton exchange today at thirty cents, the highest price posted since the establishment of the exchange.

Food Administration Banker. Washington, Dec. 31.—Harry F. Vore, a Chicago wheat products manufacturer, was put in charge today of the food administration's department of commercial banking.

Priority Regulations and Passenger Schedules to be Set Aside if Necessary

WAR BOARD IS DISSOLVED

Action Taken at Board's Request. McAdoo Names Temporary Advisory Cabinet

HENRY WALTERS A MEMBER

Soon Take Up Question of Increased Pay to Employees

Washington, Dec. 31.—Orders went to eastern railroads today from Director General McAdoo to clear up freight congestion regardless of previous government priority regulations, passenger schedules and any hampering practices under the old competitive system and to pay special attention to movement of coal and food.

Coal to New England. Lines of the west and south were notified that soon they might be called on for locomotives and other equipment to help lighten the traffic burden in the east and a committee of government officials was created to work out a plan for diverting export freight to ports south of New York. Quantities of coal were started to New England to relieve the serious shortage there and priority orders were suspended for roads east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio river to the extent necessary to clear up congestion.

War Board Dissolved. At the same time the director general dissolved the railroad war board at its own request and named a temporary advisory cabinet of five members. One of these, Hale Holden, president of the Burlington, and a member of the war board, will be retained to supervise the machinery which the war board has created within the last nine months to co-ordinate the roads of the country.

Other members of the new advisory cabinet are John Skelton Williams, comptroller of the currency, who will have charge of financial questions arising out of government operation; Henry Walters, chairman of the board of the Atlantic Coast Line, who will assist on operation problems; Edward Chambers, traffic director of the food administration, who will have general charge of increasing wages and salaries; and Mr. Holden.

Soon Take Up Wage Problem. The question of increased pay for railroad employees will be taken up soon by Mr. McAdoo, but he said today he had given little thought to wages and did not know what his attitude would be. Heads of the four brotherhoods will confer with the director general Thursday at his invitation and probably will urge that with the scarcity of railroad labor it will be necessary to pay higher wages to retain men. Many advisers of the director general advocate increasing wages particularly for many unorganized classes.

The federal board of mediation and conciliation will continue to pass on wage disputes now pending, but eventually the director probably will handle wage questions directly. The government's attitude toward wage changes will not be determined for several weeks at least or until the pressing problem of speeding up transportation are threshed out.

Men to Get Just Deserts. Mr. McAdoo limited his comments on the labor situation today to saying he would "treat the men with justice and equity" and would give a "just and square hearing" to the brotherhood heads.

The director general conferred during the day with Secretaries Baker and Daniels, Chairman Hurley of the shipping board; Food Administrator Hoover; Fuel Administrator Garfield and other government officials.

Acting under the director-general's specific authority, A. H. Smith, president of the New York Central and assistant director, who has charge of the task of clearing congestion in the East, tonight ordered eastern lines to start a systematic campaign to move freight and to report daily to him the congested conditions so that roads less burdened might be used for the overflow.

"So far as practicable, annual passenger trains which interfere with freight movement.

"Call upon all employees to give their aid in the matter of service to the government and the people."

The order directed that attention be given to clearing up congestion, even disregarding priority orders to the extent necessary to accomplish that end.

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