

THE WEATHER

Snow or rain Wednesday in west and Wednesday or Wednesday night in east portion, warmer; Thursday probably fair.

THE MORNING STAR

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FOUR FIRES AT NORFOLK CAUSE OVER \$2,000,000 DAMAGE

NEARLY TWO BLOCKS ARE WIPED OUT IN SERIES OF EXPLOSIONS AND FIRES; THREE MEN KILLED

Blaze in Norfolk Business District Believed to be Work of Enemy Agents

FIVE SUSPECTS ARRESTED

City Placed Under Martial Law, With 2,500 Marines and Bluejackets on Guard

FIREMEN ARE HANDICAPPED

Fire Started Before Dawn in the Old Granby Theatre

Norfolk, Va., Jan. 1.—Nearly two blocks in the heart of Norfolk's business district, including the Monticello hotel, were destroyed, three men were killed and a score injured in a series of explosions and fires today which both the police and naval authorities believe were incendiary. The fire had been checked tonight, but still was burning fiercely in the ruins. The loss is roughly estimated at more than \$2,000,000.

Three Explosions. Three distinct explosions in as many buildings, one after the fire virtually had been brought under control, led to the general belief that enemy agents had been at work. Mayor Mayo practically placed the city under martial law, turning the situation over to naval officers, and some 2,500 marines and bluejackets from nearby naval stations assisted the police and home guards in maintaining order and preventing vandalism.

Suspects Arrested. Naval patrols rounded up suspicious persons throughout the afternoon, while five men were arrested as suspects. Two of these, Hugo Schmidt and H. K. Lessing, said to be Germans, were turned over to department of justice agents. Tonight there were reports that two Germans had been shot by sailors during the day, but neither the police nor naval authorities would confirm them.

Flames Spread Rapidly. The fire started before dawn in the Old Granby theatre on Granby street and gained rapid headway, as the firemen were handicapped by frozen fire hydrants, low water pressure and near zero temperature. It quickly spread to the Monticello hotel and other nearby buildings. It was brought under control late in the day, but broke out anew early tonight, leaping across Granby street and leveled half of the block there before being checked.

Caught Under Debris. Falling floors and walls took toll of firemen and naval guards. One fireman, Charles McCoy, was killed and seven others hurt in the collapse of an upper floor of the Monticello hotel in the day, and tonight two firemen and a score sailors were caught in a falling wall of the Lenox building. Three were brought out badly hurt, but two others were left in the debris.

Explosion Stories Vary. Reports as to the number of explosions vary. It was first said that the fire in the Granby theatre had followed an explosion, but Fire Chief McLaughlin, in charge of investigations, announced tonight that this was not the case. They said, however, there had been three distinct explosions. The first was in a cloak and hat shop near the Monticello. The second was on the sixth floor of that hotel after the fire there was practically under control, and the third in the Lenox building, which later was destroyed.

Men Made Homeless. Guests from the Monticello, who were forced to flee in the confusion of the day after they had watched the theatre burn, were taken care of in nearby homes and hotels. As building after building went down, with them an apartment house, scores were made homeless and the national guard army on City Hall avenue was thrown open to them.

All Hydrants Frozen. When the firemen responded to the alarm for the theatre fire, they found all hydrants in the vicinity frozen. They had to be built to thaw them out. In the meantime the firemen looked on helplessly while the big theatre burned. When water finally came the pressure was so low that streams would not reach to the upper stories of the burning.

The Teutons Suffer Another Reverse In Northern Italy

Italians in the Zenson Loop Drive the Enemy From the Right Bank of the Piave—Italian Towns Raided by Airmen With Fatal Results—Heavy Fighting Reported in Russia.

(Associated Press War Summary) Another reverse for the Teutonic allied arms, following that effected by the French troops in their initial drive on the northern front in Italy, has been brought about by the Italians in a sharp attack in the famous Zenson loop on the lower reaches of the Piave river. Here the enemy has been driven to the eastern bank of the stream from positions he had held since the Italians in their retrograde movement from the Isonzo made their stand along the western shore of the Piave. Thus the entire right bank of the Piave has been cleared of the invaders except far to the north where the battle line runs westward from the stream through the hill region. The fighting for the Zenson bridgehead had been in progress since last Thursday, the Italians going energetically after the foe in order to regain the position which always has been considered a menace to Venice. Heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy by the artillery and rifle fire of the Italians before he was forced to recross the stream.

Enemy Air Raids Continue. On the northern front the infantry again is idle for the moment, but the big guns of both sides are keeping up intensive duels on various sectors, particularly around Monte Tomba and on the Asiago plateau. The enemy is continuing his air raids over important towns on the plain, his latest attack having been directed against Vicenza, Bassano, Castelfranco and Treviso. Thirteen persons were killed and forty-four others wounded, the majority of them civilians. Only small material damage resulted from the new raids.

Berlin Claims Gain. Likewise the operations on the fronts in France and Belgium are being confined almost exclusively to bombardments, although the German war office claims a further gain of ground by the army of Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria over the British.

Hoover Says Return to Normal Supply is Not Likely to be Long Deferred

Restrictions Slackened. Confectioners and Others Will Be Allowed 50 Per Cent of Requirements When the Supply Returns to Normal.

Washington, Jan. 1.—A return to a normal sugar supply for the nation is not likely to be long deferred, the food administration announced tonight in outlining plans under which an increased allotment of sugar will be made to confectioners and manufacturers of non-essential food products containing sugar. The 50 per cent allotment to which confectioners were limited when the sugar shortage became acute in October will be increased to 80 per cent when the supply again becomes normal, it was announced, but continuance of this ratio will depend upon the efforts of manufacturers to reduce the sugar content of confectionery and soft drinks by substituting other sweetening materials. Large misunderstanding food administration officials in New York last week announced that refiners already had been instructed to increase the allotment to confectioners to 80 per cent and that the full pre-war allowance would be made when conditions returned to normal. It was explained tonight that the maximum allotment would be 80 per cent of normal and that manufacturers would be required to reduce the sugar content of their products as far as possible. "The 50 per cent limit has worked but little hardship on the manufacturers of confectionery and soft drinks," said the food administration's announcement, "as they had on hand supplies sufficient to keep their plants working at almost normal capacity for several months. It did, however, benefit the sugar supply in general by preventing the possible accumulation of larger quantities than were necessary for immediate use."

New England Gets Slow Relief From Cold Wave

Boston, Jan. 1.—The relief promised by the weather bureau from the unprecedented cold wave was slow in reaching New England. During last night the mercury here hovered close to the zero mark and the brisk wind this morning was still from the north. Measures taken to relieve the suffering of the many families who were without fuel had proved effective, however, and in cases where it had been found impossible to provide an adequate supply, warm shelter was given in churches, halls and school houses.

Official Washington Spends New Year's Day Quietly

Washington, Jan. 1.—Official Washington spent today quietly. Public receptions, which formerly had been an important part of the New Year's day program, were abandoned because of the war.

PRIORITY ORDERS SUSPENDED TO LET COAL TRAINS PASS

McAdoo Bases Action on Belief That Railway Congestion is Cause of Fuel Famine

WILSON SPEAKS FRIDAY

Will Lay Before Congress His Recommendations for Necessary Legislation

Washington, Jan. 1.—Coal trains went forward today under new government orders, based on the belief of Director-General McAdoo that railway congestion rather than actual shortage is responsible for the fuel famine in many districts. Upon receipt of reports that hundreds of loaded coal cars were stalled on sidings behind long strings of cars containing shipments of higher preferential rating than coal, all existing priority orders for the entire country were suspended by Robert S. Lovett, priority director of the war industrial board, on recommendation of the director-general. This is expected to result in quicker movement of the entire mass of congested freight, whose sluggishness has been caused largely by a multiplicity of priority orders. President Wilson, it was learned tonight, will go before congress Friday to present his recommendations for legislation to make government operation fully effective and to provide for compensation of carriers and legislation which has already been drawn will be introduced immediately after the session. Some officials think there will be a vigorous fight over the question over whether the legislation should be effective only for the period of the war and a limited time thereafter, or remain in force until specifically repealed or modified by congress.

Representatives of the railroads were to have appeared tomorrow before the senate interstate commerce committee, but when word came that the president desired to address congress Friday, it was announced that they would ask permission to withhold their statements for the present.

Director-General McAdoo spent a busy New Year's day. He broke railway precedents by ordering that the Pennsylvania company's tunnel under the Hudson river, heretofore restricted to passenger trains, be used to hasten coal and supplies into the heart of New York city. The orders are to be followed, even if they interfere with passenger schedules.

At a conference of Mr. McAdoo with his advisers and executives it was decided to put additional cars under control by the shipping board into service carrying coal from Hampton Roads to New England. The number of vessels which can be spared will be determined tomorrow, and will be ordered immediately to the service.

Hundreds of telegrams pouring into the railroad administration told coal trains or individual cars apparently lost in yard confusion. These reports, many of which were submitted by interstate commerce commission inspectors were referred to railway executives with instructions to clear out the stalled freight as fast as physically possible and to notify the administration of the extent of their inability to move certain quantities of freight.

Early action to divide the country into operating districts with government supervisors over each and possibly a federal railroad agent for each state, has been strongly urged upon Director-General McAdoo and he is said to be considering this policy. Many of the telegrams which have reached him in the last few days are from persons or organizations urging appointment of certain men to positions which may be available when the director general decides on the form and personnel of his permanent organization.

SIXTEEN MILLION MEMBERS ADDED TO THE RED CROSS

Washington, Jan. 1.—Sixteen million new names were added to the membership rolls of the American Red Cross, as the result of the Christmas membership drive, Henry P. Davison, chairman of the National War Council, announced today. The organization now has a membership of 22,000,000.

Rumanian Minister Arrives

An Atlantic Port, Jan. 1.—Dr. Constantin Angelesco, who was recently appointed minister from Rumania to the United States, the first official representative of his country to America, arrived here today on a French steamship. Dr. Angelesco is also at the head of a special Rumanian war mission to this country.

Jack Britton Won

Buffalo, N. Y., Jan. 1.—Jack Britton outpointed Jimmy Duffy of Lockport in a ten-round boxing bout here today. Both men weighed 145 pounds.

GOMPERS APPEALS TO LABORING MEN OF THE COUNTRY

Tells Them That the War is in the Last Analysis a War in Behalf of Labor

TO OPPOSE IT IS TREASON

Labor Federation Head Addresses New Year Greetings to All the Workers

Washington, Jan. 1.—In a New Year's greeting to all organized labor Samuel Gompers, president of the American federation of labor, calls upon representatives and organizers to make plain to their fellows the issues involved in the war and the obligation that devolves upon all citizens. He also emphasizes the importance of seeing to it that the spirit and methods of democracy are maintained at home while the country is fighting to establish them in international relations.

"War means victory for our cause or danger to the very existence of our nation," says the address. "With our nation at stake, individuals cannot in opposition to the war—a war declared by the will of the nation's representatives! Under the exigencies of war, opposition to the war declared by constituted authority becomes treason. "While this is true there is even more than ordinary need for the maintenance of the rights of men and women and for careful scrutiny and the fullest discussion of policies and methods before their adoption. The time for labor to interpose its needs and contentions in the policies are in the making. "The fighting and the concrete issues of the war are so far removed from the people of our country that not all of our citizens have a full understanding of the issues involved. An understanding of the principles of autocratic force, which the central powers desire to substitute for the real principles of freedom, makes clear to all citizens of this republic the danger of our possible defeat upon their own lives and activities. "In addition to the fundamental principles at issue, labor has an additional interest in the war. This war is in the last analysis a people's war—the labor's war. The final outcome will be determined in the factories, the mills, the shops, the mines, the farms, the industries and the transportation agencies of the various countries. That group of countries which can most successfully organize its agencies of production and transportation and which can furnish the most adequate and effective agencies with which to conduct the war, will win. "The workers have a part in this war co-equal with the soldiers and sailors in the trenches and on the ships. "Continuous production is an indispensable prerequisite to production of necessary war supplies. The government as well as the workers themselves is vitally interested in maintaining such conditions that there shall be no occasion for interruption in production. "The chief responsible agents of the government in showing a desire to be fair and an understanding of the human elements involved in this problem, has also shown an equally broad understanding and grasp of the situation. "Mr. Gompers quotes at length from the declaration adopted by labor's representatives meeting here on March 12 and from the resolutions of the Buffalo convention of the American Federation of Labor outlining the attitude of organized labor toward war work.

CHARLOTTE HAS \$100,000 FIRE

Seed Warehouse of the Buckeye Company Burned Last Night

Charlotte, Jan. 1.—Loss estimated at \$100,000 was caused by the destruction by fire early tonight of a seed warehouse of the Buckeye Cotton Oil Company. The company's main plant was not damaged. The plant is located in the outskirts of the city and lack of water pressure is said to have handicapped the work of the firemen. The fire is believed to have originated from a motor used in connection with the seed drying machinery. The loss was fully covered by insurance according to the company's local manager.

SOUTHERN MILLS SHIPPED 73 CARS SHIP TIMBER A DAY

New Orleans, Jan. 1.—According to an announcement made tonight by the southern pine emergency bureau, southern pine mills during the week of December 23-29 shipped 7,056,000 feet of ship timbers for government use, an average of 73 cars a day, including December 24 and 25, when the mills were not operating. The shipments the previous week averaged 84 cars a day with the mills operating.

The record of the past week, according to the bureau's announcement, indicated the mills complied with the government's request to lose as little time as possible during the holidays.

THINKS ISSUE WILL BE DECIDED BY THE ALLIES IN 6 MONTHS

Three Major Generals Back From France to Help Train Soldiers

An Atlantic Port, Jan. 1.—Major Generals George A. Mann, William L. Sibert and Richard H. Blatchford, who have been with the American expeditionary forces in France, arrived here today on a French steamship. It is understood the officers have been ordered home to assist in training the American forces being made ready for overseas duty. General Mann, who left here in command of the "Rainbow" division, made up of troops from practically every state of the Union, said the men are now comfortably billeted and are making satisfactory progress in the intensive training they are undergoing preparatory to being called upon for action against the Germans. They are in excellent health, he said, adding that through him the entire command sent home a hearty New Year's greeting to their homeland and the American people.

Washington, Jan. 1.—There had been no advance information of the return of Major Generals Sibert and Blatchford, but it was announced recently by the War Department that General Mann had been relieved because of physical inability to stand field service. Secretary Baker tonight declined comment on the return of the generals and asked that there be no speculation on the subject.

CITY GOVERNMENT ON 'A WAR BASIS'

Hyman Tells New York Department Heads Useless Positions Must be Eliminated

TAKES OFFICE AS MAYOR

Employees Receiving Over \$1,800 Salary Will Get No Increases—Bird S. Coler Appointed a Commissioner

New York, Jan. 1.—The government of New York city must be placed on "a war basis," the new Mayor, John F. Hyman, told the newly appointed heads of departments in his inaugural address on assuming office here today. This must be brought about by them, he said, through the elimination of useless positions, the enforcement of a policy of strict economy and conservation of public funds in every possible way. There will be, he said, no salary increase for city employees now receiving more than \$1,800 a year, declaring that "public employees must share with the general public the sacrifices of the war."

Among the more important appointments announced by Mayor Hyman today were Frederick A. Bugher, a former deputy police commissioner, as police commissioner; Representative Murray Hurlbert, as commissioner of docks and ferries; and Bird S. Coler as commissioner of public charities. Mr. Coler was democratic candidate for governor of New York a number of years ago. It is stated that Representative Hurlbert will resign his seat in congress next week to assume his new duties here.

It is the duty of this city's administration "to make democracy a concrete thing" in its affairs, Mayor Hyman said, "because we are the greatest city in the world and the city of America the whole world best knows and the city of America which is typical of America." "A strange state of affairs in the world at large makes us the sample city of democracy," he said. "It must be our aim to make the world yearn for democracy. Democracy will emerge from the war triumphant and the democracy of America will lead the world. You gentlemen are expected to set standard in municipal administration."

THREE HUNDRED SERBIANS ON THEIR WAY TO EUROPE

An Atlantic Port, Jan. 1.—Three hundred Serbians who left American farms and factories to form an American-Serbian detachment to fight against the Austro-Germans in the Balkans, arrived here today from Chicago on their way to Europe. The men, who were in uniform, were tendered a reception by the Red Cross. An American flag, concertos, kits, woolen socks and sweaters were presented to each of the Serbians.

THREE TOWNS LOOTED AND TRAIN HELD UP BY BANDITS

Nogales, Ariz., Jan. 1.—Three towns were raided and looted and a Southern Pacific de Mexico train held up yesterday by bandits operating between here and Cananea, Sonora, according to reports reaching here today. Three hundred federal soldiers have been ordered from Hermosillo to take up pursuit of the marauders.

Period We Are Now Facing Will Prove Richest in Results if We Play Good Game

CAPTAIN TARDIEU TALKS

French High Commissioner Confident the Germans Will Face Another Verdun

SACRIFICES ALL AROUND

America Will Have to Share Them With Other Allies

An Atlantic Port, Jan. 1.—The Entente allies are entering the hardest period of the war, but a period which will prove richest in decisive results, "if we know how to play a good game, and its issue will be decided within the next six months," according to Capt. Andre Tardieu, French high commissioner to the United States, who returned to this country today. He will go to Washington tomorrow.

Another Verdun. The commissioner first arrived in this country last May. He returned to France in November and his government decided to continue his official title for a period of six months.

While Captain Tardieu pointed to the possibility of a strong German attack on the western front this winter, he is absolutely confident that it will be another Verdun, he declared in a statement.

The urgency of an enormous economic effort was emphasized by the French representative in this statement. "The battle is not only on the battlefield. I have told the French, with complete frankness, what America expects from them in the way of restrictions and new sacrifices. I am coming back to explain here the necessary sacrifices that France and her allies are expecting from America for victory."

Men, wheat, oil, ships and locomotives in the most needed and which America is able to give, Captain Tardieu said.

Tribute to House

By way of tribute to Col. E. M. House, who headed the American mission to the inter-allied war conference in Paris, Captain Tardieu said: "Thanks to the presence of Colonel House and his associates, the inter-allied conference has done excellent work. It was necessary that the government of the United States should exert its will and its capacity to take, in Europe, the part which belongs to America in the direction of the war."

"The French army has never been more magnificent, the British army is 'equally superb' and the American army is increasing day by day," Captain Tardieu said in speaking of the morale of the allied forces. "That he might retain his commission to the United States, Captain Tardieu declined to accept a portfolio in Premier Clemenceau's cabinet. He did this, he said, because he believed "nothing is more urgent and more necessary than that the work be done through this commissionership."

PROMINENT PHYSICIAN FACES CHARGE OF MURDERING WIFE

Louisville, Ky., Jan. 1.—Dr. Harry Lewis, a well known local physician, was arrested here late today charged with the murder of his wife who was found strangled to death in her home according to the finding of the acting coroner. The woman's body, kneeling on the floor with her arms across a couch was found by Dr. Edwin T. Bruce, a physician. He told the police he had been called to the home by a neighbor who told him she had been informed by Dr. Lewis that his wife was dead. The room was in a disordered state and Dr. Lewis was unable to give a coherent account of what had happened, Dr. Bruce declared. He immediately called William Kammerer, acting coroner, who ordered Dr. Lewis under arrest.

ALLIES WILL HAVE TO TAKE NOTICE OF PEACE EFFORTS

London, Jan. 1.—The British government recognizes that the Brest-Litovsk peace proposals constitute a grave and new effect of which official cognizance must be taken. The Daily Chronicle in reporting, as did the Manchester Guardian yesterday, that the British government intends to return a serious and reasonable reply to the Austro-German peace terms when presented officially. The Chronicle adds that the United States, Great Britain, France and Italy already are exchanging views concerning the peace proposals. The reported visit of Premier Lloyd George to Premier Clemenceau, it declared, is an intelligent anticipation which may or may not be realized.