

ROOSEVELT URGES STRONGER NATIONAL DEFENSE

Finns Cleanup Wandering Russians

Red Thrusts In Southern Area Halted

Ski Troops Pick Off Survivors Of Defeated Army In The Frozen North

BIG ATTACK EXPECTED

Red Airmen Conduct Raids On Towns In Southwestern Part Of Country

By THOMAS F. HAWKINS
WITH THE FINNISH FORCES NEAR LAKE KIANTA, Jan. 3.—(AP)—Swift and silent Finnish ski troops struck in the border snows today to pick off, one by one, the handful of survivors of Russia's defeated army in this frozen north country while their comrades in the south stood their guard against massed Soviet thrusts.

Victor in the greatest single battle of the war, the hardy Finnish lumberjacks had easy pickings finishing off the 2,000 wandering, half-starved remnants of the 17,000-man Red Russian division which tried to sever Finland's wasp-like waistline and failed.

Attack Repulsed
Matching these efficient operations, the Finnish high command announced that a heavy Soviet infantry attack on the Karelian isthmus had been repulsed "with heavy losses."

This Soviet thrust in the south appeared to bear out reports in Finland that the Red army, chafing under repeated setbacks, was massing seven divisions—about 165,000 men—for an attempted knock-out blow against the Finnish Mannerheim line.

(Reliable information in Moscow said that the Russians were speeding seasoned Siberian fighters to positions opposite the Finnish defenses.)

Coupled with the land attack were Russian air raids on Turku and Hanko in southwestern Finland. It was announced officially

COOPER ANSWERS LENNON'S BLAST

City Board Refers Judge To North Carolina Law On Beer Licenses

Replying to a blast made from the bench of recorder's court Tuesday morning in which Judge Alton A. Lennon commented that he wished the city commissioners had the courage to clean up some of the beer joints in Wilmington, the city commissioners yesterday referred the judge to the North Carolina law, which, they said, places the responsibility more on his shoulders than theirs.

"I am not trying to lock horns with Judge Lennon," Mayor Thomas E. Cooper said at the weekly meeting of record of the city commissioners. "I would rather lock arms with him in a fight against crime, and whereas I am in favor of letting the lawyers interpret the law.

WEATHER

FORECAST
North Carolina: Increasing cloudiness Thursday and Friday with mixed with snow Friday, probably beginning in the mountains late Thursday and Thursday night; slightly warmer Thursday.

(Meteorological data for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m. yesterday.)
Temperature
1:30 a. m. 28; 7:30 a. m. 23; 1:30 p. m. 26; 7:30 p. m. 33; maximum 36; minimum 22; mean 29; normal 47.

Humidity
1:30 a. m. 81; 7:30 a. m. 81; 1:30 p. m. 47; 7:30 p. m. 58.

Precipitation
None; total since first of the month, 0.29 inches.

Tides For Today
High 6:01a
Low 6:01a
5:38p 12:33p
3:26a 9:34a
2:35p 10:51p

Sunrise 7:18a; sunset 5:16p; moonrise 2:28a; moonset 1:35p.

Cape Fear river stage at Fayetteville, 10.7 feet.

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Mayor Ponders Long Seconds



Tired after being mayor of Memphis for five long seconds, Edward H. Crump, right, leaves on a well-earned vacation, firing snowballs at spectators. The political overlord took the oath of office at the railroad station and then resigned to make way for Walter Chandler to take the job.

Occupancy Of Remodeled City Hall Planned Soon

NEARING COMPLETION

Wade Says Building Is Expected To Be Put Back Into Use In February

Remodeling work on the old city hall is now nearing completion and will be ready for occupancy at some time during February, J. E. L. Wade, city commissioner of public works, said yesterday.

All the inside walls have been erected and all but one or two have been plastered and painted. Now under way is the laying of the terrazzo flooring in the main hall on the second floor.

Doors Arrive
The bronze doors for the front of the building have arrived and will be erected within a few days.

The commissioners decided several days ago to leave the walls inside white and unpainted. They said it would both improve the inside appearance and would leave additional funds, possibly enough to provide the public library with a new set of book shelves, which, they agreed, are sorely needed.

The self-operating elevator will probably be the last part of the building to be completed. It will be operated from the ground floor to the library through the push-button system. The city will not be required to hire an operator.

"When completed, 'Wilmingtonians will be surprised at the beauty of their public offices," Commissioner Wade said. "The entire structure, with the exception of the Thalian hall, is being refurbished.

FINN WAR THREAT NOTED IN GERMANY

Nazis Told Of Possibility Of General Conflict Over Little Nation

BERLIN, Jan. 3.—(AP)—Nazi Germany's public was told for the first time tonight of the possibility of a general conflict over Finland.

An editorial commentary from the Soviet Russian military organ, (Continued on Page Five; Col. 3)

School Board To Ask Funds For Repairs

Decides To Appear Before County Commissioners And Urge Action

HOGGARD CITES NEEDS

Says Failure To Provide Money Results In Costly Deterioration

The board of education, meeting in the office of Superintendent H. M. Roland last night, decided to appear before the county commissioners Monday to urge action on the long-standing request for funds to make "urgently needed" improvements and repairs at Hemenway, Cornelius Harnett, Wrightsboro and other schools.

Dr. John T. Hoggard, chairman, said all members of the school board expressed the opinion that the county board's failure to make available the funds requested last July "has resulted in costly, accumulative deterioration."

Item Reduced

Dr. Hoggard said that at the same time the school board budget was adopted last summer, the capital outlay item (for general maintenance and repairs) was reduced in the sum of \$3,000 after the county board had agreed that the sum could be replaced when the bonds were issued.

The school board chairman said that needed repairs have been delayed from week to week in an anticipation of action by the county board, and added, "the months have dragged by and we simply can't

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CITY WILL ASSIST IN DRAINAGE WORK

Join County In Sponsoring Project To Drain Greenfield Creek Area

The city commissioners yesterday agreed to join the county board in sponsoring the project of draining the creek leading from Greenfield lake to the river in order that the land surrounding the property occupied by the Taylor-Colquitt Crossting company may be dried out, the expenditure not to exceed \$1,800.

The board's decision came after much discussion in which all agreed the city should cooperate, but in which there was disagreement regarding from where the money should come.

The motion was passed only after stipulations of Commissioner Wade that the drainage project is in no way to curtail or prevent the completion of WPA projects under way.

Fights Wage Tax

A \$10-a-week shirt factory worker, Mrs. Jennie Dole, a widow, seeks to have invalidated the new one and a half per cent income tax on the pay envelopes of all Philadelphia workers. Her court action is backed by the C.I.O.

DEATH SENTENCES UPHELD BY COURT

Five White Men And Three Negroes Scheduled To Die In Gas Chamber

RALEIGH, Jan. 3.—(AP)—Death sentences imposed on five white men and three negroes were upheld today by the state supreme court.

One other negro, Julius Buchanan, convicted of murdering his wife in Forsyth county, was granted his second new trial.

The court's opinions in five of 31 cases decided, automatically set January 19 as the death date for the eight men. The state never has put more than three men to death on a single day.

Some Republicans Cheer Part Of F. R.'s Message

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—(AP)—Some republicans applauded President Roosevelt's message to congress today with the exception of his appeal for continuance of the trade agreement program—and some democrats criticized it on the same score.

CONGRESSIONAL COMMENT FOLLOWS:

Senators
White (R-Me)—I think the address was admirable with the exception of Mr. Roosevelt's adherence to the reciprocal trade program because he is going to be very, very disappointed on that.

Glass (D-Va)—it was pretty good.

Wagner (D-NY)—Magnificent and realistic.

Vandenberg (R-Mich)—I welcome what ought to be an end

of deficit-spending in his rejection of "ways that have failed." It is marvelous technique to charge your critics with many of your own shortcomings.

Lundeen (FL-Minn)—it is straight down the road to war and it certainly is interesting to see the administration quoting George Washington and then ridicule everything he stood for in foreign affairs.

Harrison (D-Miss)—It was a very fine message. The part that appeals to me most was his suggestion with reference to retrenchment in government expenditures and the necessary continuance of our trade agreement program.

Townsend (R-DeI)—The only definite thing in the speech

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Eighteen Persons Perish In Large Apartment Fire

TWENTY-FOUR INJURED

Cigarette Is Blamed For Worst Disaster In History Of Minneapolis

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 3.—(AP)—A cigarette tossed down a garbage chute was blamed today for fire that claimed at least 18 lives at the Marlborough apartment hotel in the worst disaster in this city's history.

Only 12 victims had been identified as firemen prodded about in the wreckage of the three-story, 45-year old building, seeking the bodies of possible additional victims.

A late check by the Red Cross placed the number of persons in the building at 113. Of these 18 were known dead, 24 registered at hospitals, 53 accounted for as either uninjured or only slightly hurt, and 13 unaccounted for.

Officials expressed the belief that the 18 unaccounted for escaped from the building and possibly went to the homes of neighbors or friends.

First Warning

First warning of the tragedy was a rumbling explosion shortly before 6 a. m., followed almost instantly by a burst of flame that choked the halls and stairways and blocked escape of many of the residents, who were sleeping when the fire broke out.

The blast, said Arthur Spottwood, head of the fire department's fire prevention division, apparently was caused by garbage smoldering in a storage chute in the center of the building, bursting into flame and blowing out of the chute in a "heat explosion." Spottwood said the garbage probably was ignited by a cigarette stub tossed down the chute some hours earlier.

The flames spread so rapidly

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CONTINUATION OF NEW DEAL PLANS, NATIONAL UNITY ALSO PROPOSED

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WARMER WEATHER ANTICIPATED HERE

Day Is Expected To Grow Warmer After Morning Minimum Of 21 Degrees

Wilmingtonians are promised some respite from the low temperatures of the past several days in the weather man's prediction for today.

Although the forecast for this morning is from 21 to 25 degrees, he said, it is probable that the mercury will rise considerably during the day with warmer weather resulting tonight and tomorrow.

The low mark yesterday was 22, reached in the early hours of the morning and the maximum was 39, registered at about noon.

No rain is in prospect for today.

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MURPHY EXPECTED TO GET COURT JOB

Definitely Slated To Be Appointed To Supreme Court By President

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—(AP)—Despite his recent statement that he thought others were better qualified, red-haired Frank Murphy is definitely slated to be appointed to the supreme court, it was learned authoritatively today.

Solicitor General Robert H. Jackson is to be elevated to attorney general

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CONGRESSIONAL PREVIEW: These Big Questions Face Current Session Of Congress

RELIEF

While few congressmen favor relief cuts in an election year, last year's one-and-a-half billion relief budget may be pared to one billion. The fight on whether or not to cut relief funds probably will be among the democrats, with the republicans playing possum. The subject is tied up with the 45 billion national debt limit. It is up to congress to decide whether to raise the limit, and the discussion will provide perfect republican ammunition.

FARMERS

Secretary Wallace will be back asking congress for a new processing tax. The supreme court killed one in 1936 when it ruled against Triple-A. Wallace needs from 250 to 400 million to pay farm subsidies on wheat, cotton and rice. His latest scheme is to issue certificates providing the difference between market and parity prices. Pressure to cut expenses is real, so a tax may be necessary. He may get his processing tax as all parties woo farmers in election years.

DEFENSE

Because of the foreign situation, defense may be biggest topic. Last year's defense budget was \$2,000,000,000. Now defense champions plan to ask another \$300,000,000. A special tax to raise these funds, however, is likely to meet strong opposition. Congress isn't expected to agonize over foreign policy, except in connection with the Japanese commercial treaty, which expires January 26. There will be pressure to slap an embargo on exports to Japan.

TRADE

Congress must decide whether to renew the reciprocal trade agreements. The act expires June 12, 1940. Opponents, more outspoken now than supporters, contend the agreements harm farmers by admitting competitive goods. Congressional critics argue the agreements are written by the state department without senate ratification although the Constitution says treaties between this country and others must be ratified by the senate.

THIRD TERM

Young Senator Rush Holt says he will present a resolution against a third term in Roosevelt. Quite possibly, it will pass. Republicans and undeclared Garner-ites will rush forward with blessings. Fence-sitters will hold back until they determine whether Mr. Roosevelt will run again, and whether he can win the nomination. The resolution would have no binding effect, but the debate will give restless anti-Roosevelt-ers a chance to talk.

LABOR

Some changes in the Wagner Act may be made by congress through "perfecting" and "clarifying" amendments. Both the AFL and the CIO demand changes in the law. As a session prelude, the house has been investigating the labor board. After some changes, the principle behind the act, labor's right to collective bargaining, will probably remain intact. One likely amendment would permit employers to invoke the board's services.

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