

THE WEATHER

Fair Tonight and Saturday; Much Colder Tonight

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SHOULD PASS ONLY TEMPORARY LAWS, SAYS SIMMONS

"This Congress Should Devote Itself To Questions Before Us," He Urges

TAR HEELS UNITED IN SUPPORT OF WAR

Sweeping Railway Legislation of Permanent Character Opposed By All

By GEO. H. MANNING.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 14.—The North Carolina delegation in congress, with scarcely an exception, is in favor of limiting legislation of this session, so far as possible, to measures that have a direct or important indirect bearing on winning the war.

Sweeping railroad legislation of a permanent character, government ownership of various public utilities, and other general legislation directly affecting "big business" or labor will be opposed by the North Carolina members who will urge that legislation affecting the problems like the railroads, pooling of buyers and sellers, suspension of some of the anti-trust laws and measures of that kind be adopted only as temporary expedients. They are also inclined to favor the limiting of appropriations for rivers and harbors and public buildings and similar developments to items of immediate necessity, and the majority of them will oppose the passage of a big omnibus bill appropriating a bill, rivers and harbors bill, and large appropriation bills of that character. They will not oppose small appropriations here and there for small local items.

Congress came to Washington to open this session with just one fixed idea—democrats and republicans alike were unanimously and emphatically intent on passing every possible form of legislation calculated in any way to bring the war to a successful and speedy conclusion. In regard to all other matters there was, and there still is, a complete lack of determined intention.

Congress has been here a week and with the exception of declaring war on Austria-Hungary, which was done with dispatch, congress has been quite unable to bring itself to its feet and with but one exception has been unable to form any definite idea of a legislative program.

The one thing about which almost everybody in congress seems pretty much agreed is that nothing revolutionary of a permanent legislative character will pass.

"It would be a grave mistake in my opinion to pass legislation at this time permanently affecting the railroads and permitting them or other large corporations to pool their interests," said Senator F. M. Simmons, of North Carolina, today.

"Whatever laws are passed affecting business or labor in any way should be of a temporary character. World conditions and local conditions have been brought to a chaotic state by this war, and no man can predict today what can be the condition a year from now or after the war. Therefore I believe it would be inadvisable to pass any permanent legislation intended to alleviate and govern conditions hereafter.

"Legislation which we might pass now, and which would seem wise in view of present conditions and circumstances, might be found altogether unfit to conditions of the future. Conditions of business and everyday life of all kinds are undergoing a great change all over the world and it would be idle and unwise to pass legislation to meet conditions as we may now believe they will be after the war."

"A forecast of things as they will be hereafter, made by the very wisest man today, may be far from the point a few months after peace. I believe this congress should devote itself to questions immediately before us, and that legislation affecting business, and living conditions should be operative only during the war period, so that when peace is concluded and the world has settled down to new conditions, we can then, in the light of what went before the war, what happened during the war and conditions as they will be then, legislate with permanency much more wisely."

Steamer Sunk in Collision. London, Dec. 14.—The steamer Kurland has been sunk in a collision, according to announcement made by Lloyd.

According to available shipping records there are steamers named Kurland, one Belgian and two Russian. The Belgian steamer Kurland of 1,964 tons, arrived in an American port on November 10. The Russian steamers named Kurland are of 886 and 512 tons respectively.

Engineers Killed. German bombs have killed a number of American railway engineers in a town behind the British front. In another town a German bomb fell in a street through which American troops were marching. Although the missile fell very close no injuries resulted.

STORM CRIPPLES NEW YORK TRAFFIC

Interrupts Wire Service, Makes Shortage of Coal More Serious and Intensifies Sufferings of Poor

New York, Dec. 14.—A snowstorm approaching blizzard proportions that raged throughout the night crippled all traffic in New York today, interrupted telegraph and telephone service, brought intense suffering to the poor and accentuated the serious shortage of coal. The gale whipped up a heavy sea, driving small craft to cover and causing considerable damage along the waterfront.

The storm came suddenly from the Atlantic coast early last night and gradually increased in intensity. The snowfall was accompanied by rain and covered the streets with slush. But as the temperature dropped steadily during the night the rain turned into sleet, the fall of snow became heavier, and by midnight the city was covered with five inches of snow. The wind in the meantime increased in force and at Long Beach it was blowing at the rate of 75 miles an hour.

The weather cleared just before day break and the wind, which caused the snow to drift to a degree unusual for New York, died down. The small army of snow shovelers experienced considerable difficulty in clearing sidewalks and the important thoroughfares. Owing to the scarcity of labor the regular force of shovelers was reduced to about 3,000 and in order to meet the situation 7,000 reserves were called upon. With trolley service virtually paralyzed in many sections and the elevated trains running sparsely, only a few morning rush of workers to the downtown district over-crowded the subway lines.

The coal situation which has been acute for weeks caused much apprehension today. Reeve Schley, local fuel administrator, said there were 30,000 tons of New Jersey coal awaiting transportation here in scows. The high seas made it dangerous for the craft to attempt the trip during the morning.

In the Bronx yesterday the entire supply of coal was exhausted and some of the poorer tenement yards in vain. In Brooklyn and on the New York east side there were small riots in which the chief participants were women who pleaded that their children were dying of cold at home.

Health officials, alarmed at the increased number of deaths from pneumonia due to the recent cold weather, have appealed to the fuel administrator to help the situation.

Traffic Crippled in Philadelphia. Philadelphia, Dec. 14.—Railroad and street car traffic throughout the state was badly crippled by the sleet, rain and snow of last night's storm followed by freezing temperatures. Telegraph and telephone wires are reported down all along the path of the storm, while in the coal regions the snow was so heavy that rough trains were stalled for hours. It was feared here today that the coal shortage would be aggravated because hundreds of coal cars are held up by frozen switches.

Snow Holds Up Work. Shamokin, Pa., Dec. 14.—Fifteen thousand miners in the Shamokin anthracite district were idle today as a result of last night's blizzard. Railroad sidings are under snow drifts ranging from three to seven feet in depth, closing in whole trainroads of coal mined Thursday. No freight or coal trains were being moved today.

PEOPLE EXPECT GREAT GERMAN DRIVE IN WEST

"Peace In East and Battle In West" Is Path for Germans

London, Dec. 14.—A generally increased confidence in Germany based on the Russian armistice and other obvious factors is shown in extracts from the latest German newspapers telegraphed from Holland. Travelers arriving in Holland from Germany are quoted as saying that the German people are building great hopes on a great offensive in the west, which is regarded as certainly impending. Major Morant writes in The Telegraph:

"Whenever Germany's supreme war lord or Field Marshal von Hindenburg promised our Austro-Hungarian allies assistance against Russia's mighty forces, it has been promptly assembled, powerful blows delivered and the Russians driven back. We really do not need to doubt that this time also deeds will follow words."

The Koelnische Volks Zeitung says that the only battlefield remaining is the western front, "toward which the hands of the clock of destiny rapidly are advancing."

"Our enemies also recognize this," it adds, "and are crying out for American help. No matter, justice is about to end the war."

The Weser Zeitung says: "Events show us distinctly, as in pictures, the path we must tread. Peace in the east and battle in west until we have achieved there the foundation of the complete equality of British and German positions the world over."

BITTER FIGHTING ON ITALIAN FRONT

Reinforced By Fresh Reserves Austro-Germans Attack Italian Positions Without Success

East of the Brenta river on the northern Italian front, there has been further bitter fighting. Austro-German troops reinforced by fresh reserves, attacked the Italian positions in valleys descending toward the river from Col Della Beretta region. Italian resistance held the attackers and forced them to give up the effort after having suffered heavy losses. Other violent attacks in the same region brought no gains for the enemy.

WANT ANOTHER JUDGE IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

By GEO. H. MANNING.

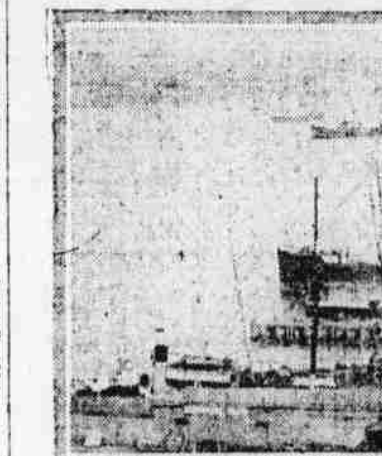
Washington, D. C., Dec. 14.—A bill providing for the appointment of an additional judge for the western judicial district of North Carolina was introduced in the senate by Senator Overman yesterday. It was referred to the judicial committee of which Senator Overman is chairman and will be reported back favorably with promptness. The docket on this circuit is said to be badly crowded and an additional judge is said to be needed to assist Judge Boyd, who is over 70 years old.

NITRATE POWDER CAN ON ENGINE

Jackson, Miss., Dec. 14.—A ten pound can of nitrate powder was discovered in the tender of the engine on passenger train No. 1, southbound limit of the Illinois Central railroad just as the negro fireman was about to toss the can into the firebox of the locomotive while the train was standing on the tracks at the station here early today.

Congress Not Opened. Lima, Peru, Dec. 14.—For lack of a quorum the extraordinary session of congress called to begin yesterday was not opened. The political situation at present is complicated.

North Halifax and Harbor and Relief Officials from New York



An army of relief workers are searching the ruins for the dead, and wounded and relief trains are being sent from many points.

The staff of the Red Cross relief train from New York is shown. From left to right: Ellis Russell, Captain A. L. Boyce, military commander of the train; Miss Jassil Forbes, relief worker; Miss A. G. Olney, director of the Atlantic division of the Red Cross, and Captain Albert R. Goldman, Medical corps.

JOHN T. DOOLING REVIEWS MEANS' BUSINESS CAREER

Explained Evidence Which He Contends Is Sufficient To Convict Defendant

CASE MAY GO TO JURY BY NIGHT

Armfield Spoke for Defense This Morning—Several More Lawyers

Concord, N. C., Dec. 14.—John T. Dooling, assistant district attorney of New York, today took the jury in the trial for Gaston B. Means, along the pathway of the defendant's career as business manager for Mrs. Maude A. King, with whose murder he is charged, and explained, link by link, the chain of evidence which the state contends is sufficient to establish the motive for the alleged crime.

Mr. Dooling was the second speaker of the day and the last but one for the state.

He pointed out from the evidence that when the defendant became connected in 1915 with Mrs. King's affairs, he was living in New York in a cheap flat in Harlem. He had no considerable funds and his wife had about \$100 in the bank.

Within three or four months, said Mr. Dooling, tens of thousands of dollars were deposited in cash to the credit of Mrs. Means besides large bank accounts in the defendant's own name.

These deposits were made subsequent to the time he had gone to Chicago with Mrs. King and secured from the Woodruff Trust company securities and cash to the amount of \$192,000. The securities, he said, were taken back to New York and converted into cash.

Frank Armfield, for the defense, the first speaker of the day emphasized the assertion that in the mass of evidence produced by the state no connection between the alleged motive and the alleged crime had been shown, in accordance with the law.

Ex-Czar's Daughter Ill. Petrograd, Dec. 13.—It is reported from Tobolsk, Siberia, that Olga, eldest daughter of former Emperor Nicholas, is seriously ill.

LITTLE FIGHTING ON WESTERN FRONT

Artillery Continues Active—Some Engagements In Cambrai Area—No Further Massed Attacks

Artillery and local infantry fighting has been in progress on the western front to which the Germans are still rushing troops and supplies. The enemy has attempted no further massed attacks since Wednesday and there is still no outward sign of where his expected blow is to come.

In the Cambrai area yesterday the British formed a German post on the southern end of the sector while on the northern end there was bomb fighting in which German prisoners were captured. German artillery has been especially active south of the Scarpe in the Arras area and northeast of Ypres and Flanders. Interim artillery activity continues along the French front. The only infantry action has been near Juvin-court, north of Rheims, where a German attack was repulsed.

ABERDEEN-ANGUS SOLD FOR RECORD PRICES

Local members of the American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' association have copies of a letter from Charles Ray, secretary, which in part, reads as follows:

"Every member of the American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' association who was unable to attend the International Live Stock exposition and the annual meeting of the American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' association will be interested to learn of the great achievements of our breed and the record attendance at our annual meeting."

In the Fat Carload exhibit, Aberdeen-Angus again won the grand championship over all breeds and the grand champion load sold for the record price of \$42.50 per cwt. They weighed 1,990 pounds, thus the fifteen head which comprised the load brought a total of \$87,008.75 or an average of \$4463.25 per head.

"The thirty-four head of breeding cattle which were sold at the Aberdeen-Angus sale made a record price of \$1,095 per head. The two top bulls sold for \$3,050 each and the top cow for \$1,700 and there was not an animal sold for less than \$525."

BOLSHEVIKI FORCES WON FIRST CLASH, REPORTS INDICATE

Reported They Have Captured Towns of Tamanovka and Kaluga—Kaledines Besieging Rostov-on-the-Don, Russian Delegates Have Power to Enter Into Peace Negotiations

Bolshevik forces apparently have been successful in the first clashes with the counter revolutionists and it is reported they have captured the towns of Tamanovka and Kaluga.

General Kaledines is besieging Rostov on the Don, the largest city in the Don province, and heavy fighting has been in progress there since Monday. Tamanovka is near Bielgorod, 350 miles south of Moscow, and near where the forces of General Korniloff, also a counter revolutionist, are reported to have been engaged in a heavy battle with the Bolsheviks. One report said Korniloff had been defeated and wounded while another says he has been victorious. There is a railroad town named Kaluga, 100 miles southwest of Moscow, and if this is the town referred to in the unofficial report from Petrograd, it appears that the counter revolutionists had approached nearer to the old Russian capital than previous reports had indicated.

Fighting Around Rostov. Severe fighting has been going on in and around Rostov, which is only 25 miles southwest of Novo Tcherkassk, the Don Cossack capital. Kaledines troops besieged the city while Cossack forces within Rostov attacked the Bolsheviks. The losses are reported to have been heavy on both sides. Wire communications with Rostov has been broken and one railway line reaching the city was cut.

To Enter Into Negotiations. London, Dec. 14.—Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik foreign minister, according to a Reuter dispatch from Petrograd, announces that if an armistice for the eastern front is signed at Brest-Litovsk the Russian delegates are empowered to enter into peace negotiations.

The Russian authorities have ordered the release of all civilian German prisoners in exchange for 4,000 Russian officers in German prisons, according to a dispatch from Haparand, printed in the Dagens Nyheter, of Stockholm, and forwarded by the correspondent of the Morning Post. It is reported reliably, the dispatch adds, that Russian troops have been ordered to evacuate Finland.

The commander of the fortifications at Sveaborg is said to have acknowledged officially the independence of Finland. Negotiations Resumed. Amsterdam, Dec. 14.—Official German and Austrian statements say that the Russian delegates arrived at Brest-Litovsk Wednesday and the armistice negotiations were resumed yesterday.

Bolsheviks Occupy Two Towns. Brest-Litovsk, Dec. 14.—Bolshevik troops have occupied Tamanovka and Kaluga, according to a Reuter dispatch from Petrograd. Tamanovka was occupied by troops from Petrograd while Kaluga was captured without much fighting. The counter revolutionist troops there were disarmed and arrested and Bolshevik authorities restored.

The commissioners, with the Black Sea fleet, asking for the immediate dispatch by land and water of all Black sea detachments now ashore. They also ask for a large number of machine guns. The commissioners report that the military cadets are attacking Rostov with armed cars.

Tamanovka is near Bielgorod, in Kursk province, about 350 miles south of Moscow. There is a railroad town named Kaluga, in the province of the same name, which lies about 100 miles southwest of Moscow.

Cossacks Were Defeated. Petrograd, Dec. 13, 6 p. m. (Delayed).—In the battle near Bielgorod, according to a Bolshevik staff report, General Korniloff's Cossacks were defeated. They retreated to Vasilieika.

In connection with the battle at Rostov the evening newspapers report the Cossacks as victorious, the Bolsheviks having retreated across the Don river to Nakhitchevan. The staff report on the Bielgorod fighting says that the Korniloff forces lost 50 killed and 80 prisoners. The report adds that General Korniloff has disappeared. A description of the Rostov fighting says that shells fired by Bolshevik gunboats in the river missed their objective but landed in the barracks of a Cossack detachment which had decided to remain neutral, but which fought for Kaledines when disturbed by the shells.

It is reported that General Kaledines is prepared to negotiate with the Bolsheviks in order to avoid further bloodshed around Rostov.

Kaledines Besieging City. Petrograd, Dec. 13, 6:30 p. m. (Delayed).—General Kaledines has begun hostilities and is besieging the city of Rostov-on-the-Don according to a wireless telegram received in Sebastopol from Rostov. Within Rostov the Bolshevik troops have clashed with the Cossacks who have destroyed the Bolshevik headquarters. The transport Kolobitza, manned by Bolsheviks, is bombarding the Kaledines forces. A telegram received at Smolny institute, the Bolshevik headquarters, says there have been riots in Rostov in which the Cossacks were put down by the Bolsheviks.

Reports of the battle vary widely. Hostilities began Sunday and are said to continue with heavy losses on both sides. Artillery reinforcements have been sent the Bolsheviks, who are now

STATEMENT FILED ON SCHOOL FUNDS

Receipts for Six Months for Schools, \$75,542.32—Disbursements, \$119,598.87—\$55,000 Spent on Buildings

Asheville's annual ordinary expenditures for its school system are approximately \$150,000, according to the semi-annual statement of receipts and disbursements filed today with the commissioners by Secretary-Treasurer Frank Conder. If account is taken of the sums spent on new buildings, including the new high school building, the yearly total spent for schools would reach approximately a quarter of a million dollars.

The statement just filed by the secretary gives receipts and disbursements for the six months from June 1 to December 1, 1917. Receipts for this half year were \$73,542.32; expenditures, including approximately \$41,000 spent in that time on the \$300,000 high school building, were \$119,598.87. Other new buildings, equipment and improvements cost \$14,609.83.

Principal items in the receipts for the past six months were: City taxes, \$40,676.15; county taxes, \$3,812.09. The city receives 39.195 per cent of all the school money collected in the county, this proportion being based upon the school census which shows 7,308 school children in the city and 11,237 in the county schools.

The disbursements include salaries for teachers, principals, superintendent and janitors, stationery, supplies, books for indigent children, in addition to repairs and new buildings. The items of fuel amount to \$2,378.18.

Teachers' salaries in the elementary schools amount to \$23,076.25; salaries for high school teachers were \$7,478.95. The West Asheville school is now, of course, a part of the city school system.

The summary of disbursements by funds is as follows: School fund, \$68,342.13; general fund, \$502.68; school bond fund, \$42,727.21; West Asheville school fund, \$8,016.82. Total, \$119,598.87.

The cash balance, December 1, 1917, was as follows: School bond fund, \$101,218.19; West Asheville school fund, \$3,090.34; school fund deficit, \$4,206.76. Total, \$229,691.64.

The cash balance June 1 was: School bond fund, \$141,417.59; school fund, \$5,731.73.

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