

Probably snow; not quite so cold tonight and Tuesday

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ASHEVILLE, N. C., MONDAY AFTERNOON, DEC. 31, 1917

PRICE FIVE CENTS

BRITISH WIN IN COUNTER ATTACKS ON CAMBRA FRONT

Regained Important Territory From the Germans On Welsh Ridge

TOOK PRISONERS. AND MACHINE GUNS Artillery Activity On Italian Front—Peace Parades In Petrograd

BOLSHEVIKI RULE BASED ON FORCE

People Obey Them With Alacrity—Government Efficient, Energetic and Active—Can't Be Turned Out

London, Dec. 31.—The British in successful counter attacks on the Cambra front have regained the more important territory on Welsh ridge taken by the Germans in yesterday's attack, the war office reports.

The announcement follows: "On the Cambra front as a result of successful counter attacks in which we captured prisoners and machine guns we regained the more important part of the positions on Welsh ridge into which the enemy penetrated yesterday. The enemy still retains a portion of our front trench in the vicinity of La Vaquerie and south of Marcoling.

On the Ypres front by a minor operation last night our line was advanced a short distance on both sides of the Ypres-Staden railways. Germany has struck her first strong blow on the western front since the heralding of a great offensive and the British have held it in check. The attack which resulted in heavy fighting was made on a short front on the southern end of the salient before Cambra. The fighting continues.

The German thrust was on a front of more than two miles between Marcoling and La Vaquerie, and against positions which the British have held since the retirement after General Byng's successful blow.

In the center the Germans were held for no gain, but on either end of the assaulting front they entered the front line. The British counter attacks drove the Germans from part of these positions and resulted also in the capture of some prisoners, machine guns and front line positions and a few hundred prisoners were captured.

The Germans also have been active at other points along the front, but their local attacks in the Ypres sector and their raids northeast of Verdun brought no success. These efforts follow upon heavy German fire in these three sectors—Cambra, Ypres and Verdun—and may be forerunners of a determined offensive.

On the Italian front there has been only artillery activity along the northern front. German airplanes again have raided Padua, maintaining a line of incendiary bombs. Three persons were killed and three wounded.

Another advance along the Nabluve road, north of the British forces in Palestine. Against stubborn Turkish resistance the British progressed three miles and captured Birch, ancient Beeroth and three other towns. Progress also was made between the Nabluve road and the Mediterranean coast.

Peace Celebrations In Petrograd. In Petrograd Sunday they were given over to peace celebrations. Members of the German and Austrian peace delegations were spectators of the parades. The heads of German and Austrian delegations to the Brest-Litovsk conference, Dr. von Kuehlmann and Count Czernin, are returning to their respective capitals. Delayed dispatches from Brest-Litovsk indicate that while the representatives of Russia and the central powers agree on most of the peace terms there is difficulty in preliminary settlement of the question of German retreat from occupied Russian territory in order to give the inhabitants opportunity to decide their future for themselves.

Five Airplanes Downed. London, Dec. 31.—Five German airplanes were destroyed or put out of action Saturday by the British, who lost none of theirs. "Two hostile machines were brought down on our lines on Saturday," says an official statement given out here tonight. "A third was brought down in the enemy's line. Two other hostile machines were driven down out of control. None of our airplanes is missing."

French Statement. Paris, Dec. 31.—"Artillery actions occurred last night northwest of Rheims," the war office reported. "There were patrol encounters north of the Chemin-Des-Dames (Aisne front) and near Besonvaux (Verdun front). "Everywhere else the night was calm."

Dozen Arrests. Petrograd, Dec. 31.—The commission appointed to prevent a counter-revolution on Sunday raided the premises of the Union for Defense of the Constituent assembly. About a dozen arrests were made.

London, Dec. 31.—The Bolshevik government is extremely efficient, energetic and decisive, though faced by noisy opposition from the privileged classes who are doing all they can to check it by sabotage and libel, according to the Petrograd correspondent of the Daily News. The correspondent says Petrograd is more orderly than for some months before the Bolshevik took control. The people may not like the Bolshevik, he declares, but they obey them with starting alacrity and the government is based on real force.

The constituent assembly, the correspondent hears, will meet as soon as delegates from the Ukraine arrive, perhaps in 10 days. He asserts that whatever is the decision of the assembly as constituted at present it will not alter the essential direction of Russian policy, although it might by weakening the government at home, weaken it in its dealings with the Germans.

Any attempt to turn out the Bolshevik government by force would result only in anarchy favorable to the Germans, says the correspondent. He writes enthusiastically about Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik foreign minister who told him that the war would be decided by social rather than military pressure. Trotsky is quoted as saying:

"The German democracy looks to the Russian revolution. It is the recognition of this fact that compels the German government to accept Russian principles as the basis for negotiations."

Trotsky said the German offer was a victory for the democratic movement generally. Austria-Hungary, he said, is on the point of revolt and every country in Europe is feeling the pressure of democracy from below.

The German attitude, Trotsky added, means that the German government is wiser than most governments, because it recognizes real facts. Democratic pressure, Trotsky is quoted as adding, forced the Germans to reject their grandiose plans of conquest and to accept the peace in which there are neither conqueror nor conquered. He admitted, however, that such a peace could hardly be achieved unless the entente allies join the negotiations.

Pro-ally Russians, the correspondent of the Daily News says, feel that Germany's terms offered at Brest-Litovsk were for the purpose of confounding the allies and winning sympathy. These Russians oppose a separate peace, but say the next word belongs to the allies.

Revolt Managed by Germany. London, Dec. 31.—The Times prints a long letter from its Petrograd correspondent, dated Saturday, which purports to substantiate the view that the Bolshevik revolt was managed by Germany and that the movement is essentially anti-national and anti-Russian. The letter says:

"It is a notorious fact, and has been proved by documents in possession of the Kerensky government that Germany commissioned Lenin and gave him money to sow disaffection in the Russian army."

Washington, Dec. 31.—The senate war inquiry again was turned to the ordnance situation when Major-General Crozier was permitted to take the stand to reply to recent statements made by Col. Isaac Lewis, inventor of the Lewis machine gun, rejected by the war department in favor of the Browning type. Colonel Lewis denied that he first offered his invention to the British government and asserted he had repeatedly tendered his patents without profits to the American government. He said General Crozier prevented acceptance of the Lewis gun in 1911 and 1912 when it had been favored by General Wood, then chief of staff. He also told the committee that more recent attempts to present the government with checks for his royalties on orders for guns had been blocked for a time by General Crozier.

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First Photo of American Prisoners in German Hands



This picture of American prisoners taken by the Germans on the French front was published in a German newspaper, and came to the United States as an official British picture. In the larger photograph there are six American prisoners (each indicated by a cross) being questioned by German officers, some of whom seem amused at the discomfiture of the Americans. The names of the three men whose heads are shown are not known. Perhaps some American father or mother will here recognize her son, and know he is not dead though reported missing.

PROHIBITION RALLY HERE NEXT SUNDAY

Former Governor Patterson, of Tennessee, to Speak at Mass Meeting at Auditorium—Other Speakers

A big prohibition rally will be held in Asheville next Sunday, which will include addresses in many of the churches of the city during the morning and evening and a big mass meeting at the Auditorium at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. It will be addressed by former Governor Malcolm R. Patterson of Tennessee.

The meetings will be held under the auspices of the National Anti-Saloon league and in the interests of national prohibition. Several well known speakers will be here and it is expected that a capacity house will greet the former chief executive of Tennessee. Governor Patterson has been here before, addressing a large meeting at the Auditorium about two years ago. He is devoting his entire time to the cause of national prohibition and is heard by large audiences wherever he appears.

The Sunday afternoon meeting for men at the Young Men's Christian association has been cut out for next Sunday owing to the prohibition rally and in many of the local churches the morning and evening services will be entirely devoted to addresses on this cause. A representative of the National Anti-Saloon league was in the city a few weeks ago and arranged with the Asheville Ministers' association for these meetings, the association giving its hearty approval.

CROZIER TAKES STAND IN REPLY TO COL. LEWIS CELEBRATION WILL NOT BE AS LIVELY AS USUAL

New York, Dec. 31.—The new year will be welcomed in New York after the fashion of former years except that tonight the war promises to place its stamp of moderations on the conviviality of the celebrants. Hotels and restaurants will entertain just as many guests as in times of peace, but the menu cards in most instances offer nothing that does not bear the stamp of the food administrator's approval, and the high prices prevailing for wines and the 1 o'clock closing order indicates that the new year's toasts will be drunk in less generous proportions.

Watch parties and entertainments for soldiers and sailors have been arranged in greater number than before America entered the war.

AMERICAN AVIATOR WAS KILLED IN PARIS. Paris, Dec. 31.—An American aviator was killed yesterday while making a test flight at an aviation center before French and American pilots and observation aviators. Although the wind was blowing violently he made a loop successfully but on attempting to repeat the feat he fell. He was dying when picked up but insisted upon reporting to his American comrades with his last breath the observations which he had made.

BRITAIN TO MAKE SERIOUS ANSWER

London, Dec. 31.—The Manchester Guardian says it is the intention of the British government, when the Austro-German terms of peace are presented officially to return a serious and reasoned reply. Premier Lloyd-George as arranged to visit France, according to the newspaper, to confer with Premier Clemenceau on this subject.

The Austro-German peace terms referred to are those presented by the representatives of the central powers at the negotiations with the Russians at Brest-Litovsk. These negotiations were interrupted for ten days to give the entente allies opportunity to state whether they would join them. The principal point in the Austro-German outline of peace terms was the acceptance of the Russian formula of no annexations or indemnities.

Another Clause Included. London, Dec. 31.—In addition to the points set forth in yesterday's advice from Brest-Litovsk regarding the provision agreement between the representatives of Russia and the central powers, another clause is included, the precise meaning of which is not clear. A Reuter dispatch from Amsterdam gives the clause thus:

"It was agreed that both legally and economically one country should not be treated less favorably than any other country which cannot appeal to treaty rights."

"The German wireless version of this clause reads: "It was agreed that respecting all rights of intercourse and economic relations, none of the countries, which is a party to the peace arrangement, shall be treated less favorably than any outside country in respect to which treaty rights do or do not exist."

BURLESON DENOUNCED AS BEING 'CZAR-LIKE'

Cleveland, O., Dec. 31.—Denouncing Postmaster-General Burleson as "czar-like" and charging that he is using his office to make political capital, Edward J. Gainer, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers, flayed the postal head in a speech here before the city club. Gainer said that Burleson is obsessed with a desire to make the post office department show a surplus and that he instituted unwise economies which have lessened efficiency.

New Year's Greetings. Washington, Dec. 31.—New year's greetings to the American people from the heads of several nations allied with the United States will appear in the new year's edition of the official bulletin. Among those already received are included greetings from King Peter, of Serbia, President Guerra, of Bolivia, and President Viera, of Uruguay.

LITTLE NEWS FROM GUATEMALA CITY

Earthquake Destroyed City; Hundreds of Lives Lost and Thousands Are Made Homeless—Four Shocks

Washington, Dec. 31.—Still without detailed information of the earthquakes which destroyed Guatemala City, costing many lives and leaving a hundred thousand homeless, American officials today prepared to send aid to the stricken sister republic. Further reports were awaited from American Minister Leavelle and Consul Fee.

Red Cross officials conferred with navy officials as to the supplies to be sent forward on American warships ordered to a Guatemala seaport. While the American diplomats are safe archives of the legation and consulate are believed to have been lost as the buildings are reported to have been shaken to the ground. Unofficial advice indicates that the foreign colony escaped without loss of life.

The Guatemala minister, Joaquin Mendez, was informed of the disaster by the state department and although he sent cables of inquiry, he has received no advice.

Four earthquakes apparently have shaken Guatemala City. Records of the Georgetown university seismological observatory instruments here indicate the first shocks were felt on Christmas night shortly after midnight. A second series of shocks came about 9 a. m. on December 26. Further shocks were recorded on Friday, December 28, at 4:23 p. m., but the heaviest shocks came at 5:57 p. m., Saturday, December 29. It appears that this last disturbance was the one which caused the most damage.

A shipment of Red Cross relief supplies, consisting of 500 barrels of flour, quantities of clothing, disinfectants and general foodstuffs will leave New Orleans Thursday for Puerto Barrios. It will be followed by a shipment of tents on another vessel by the end of this week.

Arrangements have been made by the Red Cross for the furnishing of all available necessary supplies by the Guatemala chapter made up of American volunteers throughout the republic and directed by Alfred Clark, general manager of the International railway at Guatemala City.

LOWER CALIFORNIA MAY SECEDE FROM MEXICO

San Francisco, Dec. 31.—Folding J. Stilson, a Los Angeles capitalist, announced here today he had been advised that he was to be appointed "diplomatic representative at Washington" of Governor Estaban Cantu, of Lower California. "I believe," he said, "this foreshadows the secession of Lower California from Mexico."

Mr. Stilson refused to discuss his announcement further than to say that he was to meet here today a personal representative of Cantu and expected to receive from him confirmation of his appointment.

SOME MODERATION IN COLD WEATHER TO BEGIN TONIGHT

The Intense Cold of Past Several Days Has Not Been Equalled In 37 Years—Already Some Moderation In East Gulf States—Seven Deaths In New York—Much Suffering Because of Coal Shortage—Canton, N. Y., 20 Below, Coldest Place In Country

Washington, Dec. 31.—Some moderation, beginning tonight, of the cold wave was forecast today by the weather bureau for the country from the Ohio valley eastward. The cold wave is now passing to sea. The intense cold has not been equalled in the territory south of New York along the coast and inland since December 30, 1880.

There has already been a moderation of temperatures west of the Appalachian mountains and in the east gulf states although over a greater part of that region it is still colder than the seasonal average.

Canton, N. Y., reported the lowest temperature at 9 o'clock this morning of any point in the country. It was 20 degrees below zero there. During the previous 24 hours, the coldest was 40 degrees below zero at Northfield, Vermont, according to weather bureau reports. Official temperatures at 8 o'clock this morning, showed the below zero line to extend northward of Philadelphia and eastward of Buffalo. Philadelphia was at zero, New York and Boston eight below; Albany and Portland 16 below. Another very cold area was around Des Moines, Iowa, where it was zero. At Chicago, Detroit, Louisville and Omaha it was 10 above zero; Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Indianapolis, eight above; St. Louis 12 above, and Kansas City 14 above.

Through the south the range was from four above at Raleigh to 34 at Miami, Fla., and New Orleans, Jacksonville and Atlanta reported 18 and Mobile 28.

Suffering In New York. New York, Dec. 31.—Not in 50 years has this city suffered as it did Saturday and yesterday. At 6 o'clock this morning thermometers registered seven degrees below zero, while reports from outlying districts showed lower temperatures of several degrees. Directly or indirectly the cold yesterday resulted in seven deaths, while hundreds were treated at hospitals which report that there will have to be many amputations of frost-bitten fingers, toes and ears.

Firemen in the metropolitan district experienced one of the hardest periods recorded by the fire department. Every company in the city answered at least one alarm and early today the total number of fires had reached the 500 mark. While the majority of the fires were caused by defective gas and oil heaters and resulted in little damage, two were said to be of incendiary origin in an effort to hamper government work.

Below zero weather has resulted in private houses and apartment houses consuming thousands of tons of coal above their normal requirements and has made such deep inroads in the surplus supply that today a coal famine is impending in the city. Across the Hudson river are thousands of tons of coal, but the severe weather made its transfer to distributors a matter of extreme difficulty. Railway officials at New Jersey terminals reported today there were about 70,000 tons of coal at tidewater awaiting transportation to the city.

Coal merchants kept their places open as relief stations all day yesterday for many of them all night, to accommodate applicants who were allotted amounts from 50 pounds to a quarter of a ton. Hundreds of men and women waited hours in the long lines to obtain even this scant supply. "Crowds became so large in front of North River relief stations that police reserves had to be called to maintain order. There is practically no coal in the yards of wholesale and retail coal merchants, except the small supplies furnished to them daily by the fuel administrators. Fuel was much coal reached these yards yesterday could not be estimated although it is known to be small.

To further increase the seriousness of the coal situation the coal teamsters have threatened to strike for higher wages. Reeve Schley, county fuel administrator, will meet with the men today when he will seek to settle the difficulty by arbitration.

Several large uptown apartment houses and many smaller ones throughout the city are said to be without coal and the tenants have been notified that they must rely upon gas stoves and gas and oil heaters until a supply could be obtained. It was also reported today that unless a supply was forthcoming immediately several downtown office buildings, including one of the largest in the city would be forced to shut down their heating plants.

Coldest December In Raleigh. Raleigh, N. C., Dec. 31.—With the ground covered with snow and the temperature registering nine degrees above zero at 4 a. m., Raleigh and vicinity continued to shiver today from the coldest December weather in the history of the local weather bureau. Snow was falling in the piedmont section of North Carolina early today, according to reports to the local weather bureau.

The cold is causing much suffering throughout the state on account of the fuel shortage.

Snow Falling Over Tennessee. Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 31.—The snow which began falling last night over Tennessee was resumed this morning with indications, however, of only flurries during the day. There has been a decided rise in temperature in the 24 hours, from three degrees above zero yesterday morning to 20 degrees above this morning.

There are now two inches of snow on the ground, making a total precipitation for the month of ten and a half inches, a record for the month. The average for this section of Tennessee in December is one inch. Half the present month snow has covered the ground. December, 1917, will rank second as regards cold weather in the records of the local weather station.

Snow Storm In South Carolina. Columbia, S. C., Dec. 31.—A snow storm was raging throughout South Carolina today, according to reports to the local weather bureau, accentuating the already acute conditions caused by the fuel shortage. A heavy snow began falling in Columbia this morning and covered the ground rapidly. The lowest temperature reported this morning was ten degrees above zero, or four degrees higher than the reading yesterday, which was the coldest December day here in 13 years.

Below Zero In Boston. Boston, Dec. 31.—New England still suffering today from the most severe cold wave ever officially recorded in this section. In this city the temperature remained below zero all night and to make matters worse the dawn brought a stiff northwest wind. The minimum was 8 below and at 8 a. m. it had risen only three degrees. Later in the day the temperature had climbed to 1 degree below zero at 8:30 o'clock the weather bureau announced that the crest of the cold wave had passed and that conditions more nearly approaching the mid-winter normal would prevail during the next few days.

Three Inches of Snow In Athens. Athens, Ga., Dec. 31.—The second snow fall of the winter here began at 5 a. m. today and at 10 o'clock it had reached a depth of three inches. Because of the fuel shortage city and county convicts have been employed cutting and hauling wood from the country to relieve the situation. Hundreds of homes are without fuel.

Much Damage In Florida. Tampa, Fla., Dec. 31.—The temperature reached 27 degrees here last night with heavy frost and much damage to truck farms in this section of the state. The cold, however, did little damage to citrus fruit and probably none to truck farms. Gainesville and Jacksonville, with 18 above zero, were the coldest places in the state today. Eustis reported 22 above, Bartow 26, Fort Myers 30 and Miami 34. Frost was predicted for tonight and truck farmers were warned to take precautions.

Snow at Daytona, Fla. Daytona, Fla., Dec. 31.—For the second time this winter, thermometers today registered 25 degrees above zero. Vegetation and winter crops suffered much damage. There was a slight snow fall here yesterday and a strong gale from the ocean caused much inconvenience.

Snow In Mobile. Mobile, Ala., Dec. 31.—The second December snow in the history of Mobile fell this morning when slight flurries of snow were seen during the morning hours. The streets were crowded with people witnessing the unusual scene.

In the Gulf States. New Orleans, La., Dec. 31.—Below freezing temperatures were reported in all the gulf states last night and early today, but none equalled the unusually low temperatures reported all over the district on Saturday night and Sunday morning. The thermometer here registered 31 above zero last night, and 28 at Vicksburg and in the truck sections of Louisiana, east Texas and western Florida. The weather began moderating early today and the forecast was for fair weather and continued cold tonight, but warmer tomorrow over the gulf states.

Coldest Day In Chattanooga. Chattanooga, Tenn., Dec. 31.—The cold wave here Sunday when the thermometer dropped to 6.3 above zero, recording the coldest day of the winter, was followed Monday by a four inch snow. It continued to snow throughout most of the afternoon.

Property to Pulaski Boys. Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 31.—A Pulaski, Tenn., special agent, reported here, leaves property estimated at \$50,000, on the death of a sister, to be managed by the Southern Methodist church to the end of assisting ways to acquire education at a Pulaski boys' school.