

**WEATHER**  
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## BELGIAN AFFAIRS ARE CONSIDERED AT PEACE PARLEY

### King Albert Appeared Before Conference To Discuss Reparation

### HAD ALREADY SEEN MR. WILSON EARLIER

### Time For Promises For Little Kingdom, Monarch Declares, Action Is Now Necessary; Lloyd George In Interview Denies That He Opposed Guarantees To France

**Ready By Wednesday.**  
Paris, April 4.—The opinion was expressed tonight by a responsible British authority that the peace treaty would be ready for signing by Wednesday next.

(By the Associated Press.)  
Paris, April 4.—Belgium's case has been laid before the peace conference by the most distinguished advocate Belgium could have chosen. King Albert has been in Paris for the past three days, and in numerous conferences with the representatives of the great powers he has outlined the needs of his country and told of the steps that must be taken immediately if Belgium is to be restored. King Albert has had long conversations with President Wilson, Col. House, Premiers Clemenceau and Lloyd George. These conversations led up to his appearance before the Council of Four today.

**What Belgians Want.**  
A member of the Belgian peace delegation told The Associated Press today that, short of all its diplomatic niceties, what King Albert told the council might be summarized thus:  
"The time of promises has passed. If Belgium is to live the council must act. The Associated Press is able to state that three questions of vital importance to the re-establishment of Belgium financially, economically and politically, were discussed. The first question was the immediate advance to Belgium of about ten billion francs, the second, the exportation to Belgium of raw materials; and the third the cessation of Belgium of the left bank of the U. S. river and the Lemberg peninsula.

The first item represents the value of German marks left in circulation in Belgium. After the departure of the Germans the Ministry of Finance sent out an urgent call to holders of the marks to deposit them in the banks. The amount was estimated to be about two billion; and it had been the government's intention to redeem them at the par value of one franc, 25 centimes. Belgium was not prepared for the avalanche of marks that resulted. Eight billion marks passed through the banks' windows into the vaults. The banks were unable to redeem this amount of paper, and depositors were merely given receipts, stating that a certain amount of marks were held to their credit until such time as financial arrangements could be made to reimburse them.

**Big Indemnity Needed.**  
The payment of an immediate indemnity by Germany was relied upon to enable repayment for these deposits. The indemnity thus far has failed to materialize. Depositors cannot draw against these credits, with the result that some ten billions of francs are idle, as the banks are paying no interest on such deposit.

The importation of raw materials is said to be indispensable to the retrieving of Belgium from the economic standpoint.  
The correspondent has just returned from an extended trip in Belgium. Everywhere he found manufacturers complaining of the situation arising from the fact that while the Americans and British permit exportation into Belgium of manufactured articles they thus far have failed to export into Belgium raw materials which would permit of industries resuming work.

## KING ALBERT BEFORE COMMITTEE OF FOUR

(By the Associated Press.)  
Paris, April 4.—King Albert, of Belgium, appeared before the Council of Four today when it convened at 11 o'clock to discuss Belgian affairs. He was accompanied by Paul Hymans, the head of the Belgian peace delegation. It is understood that reparations and the territorial aspirations of Belgium were the principal subjects presented.  
The absence of President Wilson from the meeting of the council did not affect the situation, as King Albert yesterday had long conferences with both President Wilson and Col. House concerning the case of Belgium.

## GEORGE DENIES REPORT THAT HE IS OPPOSED

Paris, April 4.—Premier Lloyd George, of Great Britain, in a statement today, denies the report, generally prevalent, that he is an obstinate opponent for the guarantees asked by France against a renewed attack by Germany.  
"Disensions?" the Premier asked. "Do you seriously think they can ever exist between our two countries?"  
"There has been some discussion, but it is not from sincere discussion; it is a final agreement must emerge between France and England? Our understanding has remained complete and absolute. Englishmen did not come to fight by the side of the French to give your country merely relative security during a limited period. No, they mean France to have complete security in the future."  
England Ready to Help.  
"You know what sacrifices England

## STANDS BY PRICES QUOTED ON STEEL



Chairman of the new industrial board of the Department of Commerce. Revised uniform prices on steel by this board have been turned down by Director of Railroads Hines, but Chairman Peek in a statement yesterday declared that the board would stand by its original prices "until it was shown."

## PRESIDENT STILL CONFINED TO ROOM

### News From Bedside Is Reassuring and He Hopes To Be Out Soon

Paris, April 4.—(By The Associated Press.)—Reassuring news from President Wilson's bedside was sent to the peace delegates this evening, although the news indicated that the President's condition was such as to make it advisable that he remain in his room at least for tomorrow.

Study of the case has caused Rear Admiral Grayson, the President's physician, to reach the conclusion that the President is not suffering from influenza, but that the severity of the cold is such that the patient will require careful watching.

**Under Great Strain.**  
Until late today no specific bulletin was issued concerning the condition of President Wilson. Were it not for the fact that the President had been under a terrific strain and deprived of his usual amount of exercise, his illness would be the cause of little worry.

Since his return the President's work has been enormous and he has been unable to secure more than an occasional walk at odd intervals either with Mrs. Wilson or Rear Admiral Grayson. Golf has been dropped from his schedule and an automobile ride now and then about the city has been the President's only form of recreation, in addition to the short walks.

**Grasping On the Alert.**  
Rear Admiral Grayson has been constantly on the alert watching the President for signs of a breakdown, especially since the two days on board ship when the President was slightly ill.

Other physicians have not been called in for consultation, and up to midday Friday the services of no trained nurses had been solicited, but Mrs. Wilson has been always within reach of her husband, doing practical work and assisting in the care of him.

Rear Admiral Grayson is always near by the President. His treatment for the patient for the most part consists of the requirement of absolute quiet and rest.

**Appetite Is Good.**  
The President's appetite today was good, but at luncheon he was limited to coffee and soup and a light entree.  
The American executive, however, is sick enough to make him not care to read. He appears to be quite content to rest, and sleeps lightly from time to time.

After the forenoon session of the council today the members, on departing, renewed their wishes for the rapid recovery of President Wilson.  
With Colonel House in the place of President Wilson the Premiers met this afternoon at the war office, but agreed to meet tomorrow at the President's house for the purpose of consulting him, if his condition had sufficiently improved, should a question arise to make it necessary.

**Many Rumors Started.**  
The illness of President Wilson has caused wild rumors to circulate in the city, and not even the delegates themselves are immune. Colonel House had heard that the President was really down with a case of influenza but Rear Admiral Grayson personally assured both him and the Premiers that Mr. Wilson merely had a bad cold. He warned them, however, that the utmost care must be exercised to prevent it from getting worse.

Informally the proceedings of the council were related to the President. King Albert of Belgium, who presented his country's case to the council today, made an excellent impression, but it is understood to have been given no promises. The Czech-Slovak questions were again discussed today as was reparations.

## MAY RECONSIDER PRICE FOR STEEL

### Industrial Board Must, However, Be Shown "Good and Sufficient" Reason

### NO STANDING PAT INTENDED, PEEK SAYS

### Acceptance of Uniform Prices Is Put Squarely Up To Navy Department

(By the Associated Press.)  
Washington, April 4.—Revised steel prices arranged by the industrial board of the Department of Commerce in conference with the producers will be reconsidered if the board is shown "good and sufficient reason for doing so."  
Chairman George N. Peek issued the following statement, the latest development in the controversy arising from the refusal of the Railroad Administration to accept the prices on the ground that they were high:  
"I have never said nor intimated that the industrial board would stand pat on the prices formulated with the steel industry, no matter what objections were brought by other departments." Shows good and sufficient reason for doing so, the board will reconsider. With wisdom it could pursue no other course.

Conferences which were to have started today between the board and representatives of Director General Hines were delayed because of absence from Washington of one of the Railroad Administration's representatives, but it is considered certain that discussions will begin next week. The entire policy of the board also is to undergo reconstruction, the principal question being whether prices shall continue to be announced as a basis for public purchases or only as the basis on which the government will do its buying.

Acceptance of the uniform prices was put squarely up to the Navy Department today when bids were opened for 20,000 tons of structural steel. In compliance with the law, competitive bids were asked, but when they were opened all were found to be based on the prices announced by the industrial board. Department officials declared the principal of uniform prices had neither been accepted nor rejected.

The shipping board reiterated its acceptance of the new steel prices as a basis for future contracts.  
Statements attributed to members of the Southern Pine Association that they had declined a proposal of the industrial board to enter into a price agreement were answered by Chairman Peek, who said representatives of industry "have never been invited to enter into a price agreement, but have been invited to co-operate with the industrial board in an effort to stabilize prices by getting industry to voluntarily to make prices as low as present cost and labor conditions will justify."

**Steamer Puts In For Repairs.**  
Newport News, Va., April 4.—The American freighter Goodland, one day out from Baltimore, put in here today for minor repair, as the result of slight engine trouble. She is expected to get away tonight or early tomorrow morning.

**Conditions Not Normal.**  
"It should be clearly understood," he stated, "that the bituminous coal mining industry would not advocate such price determination under normal conditions. The industry has recognized, however, that under the abnormal conditions of readjustment, with widespread unemployment and unrest, a special condition prevails which should be met broadly and unselfishly and the operators have expressed their readiness to meet the condition in that manner. The director general to date has not appeared willing to deal with this condition in that manner."

Replying to the assertion of Director Hines that the present arrangements for obtaining railroad fuel adequately safeguarded the public interests involved, Mr. Morrow declared that as much harm had been done to the industry by permitting coal speculators to bid on the railroad business without naming the mines from which the coal was to come as by permitting purchasing agents of the various roads to name prices which operators would have to meet to obtain a share of the business which policy Mr. Hines prohibited.

**Orders Are Banned.**  
Mr. Morrow declared that a fair distribution of railroad coal orders for the various districts would not be obtained by permitting the purchasing agent of each railroad to buy its own coal.

"So far as I know," Mr. Morrow said, "there is no practical provision to prevent the purchasing agents of different railroads from bunching their orders in the same district or in the same mines. Since it is the policy of the railroad administration to buy cheaply it is the inevitable tendency to bunch orders in the low cost districts and in the low cost mines."

Mr. Morrow also said the railroad administration had failed to make public all bids on railroad coal even though the director general had repeatedly promised that this would be done.

**Unfriendly To Troops.**  
Regarding Bolshevism and the opinions of civilians in the occupied area, the summary says: "The general idea is that Bolshevism will die of its own accord, and satisfaction is expressed that it can not make headway in the American zone. While recognizing that the inhabitants owe the quiet in the region to the American troops it is evident the population has no really friendly spirit for our soldiers."

The third army has granted special permission to a number of congressmen to address such of their constituents as they find among the divisions in the occupied zone. The congressmen have arrived at Coblenz, for a several days' visit with the Bridgehead troops.

Representative Julius Kahn, of California, arrived in Coblenz this morning, after having visited the battlefields. Other congressmen who arrived during the day were Hutton W. Summers, of Texas; Addison T. Smith, Idaho; C. W. Ramsayer, Iowa; Wm. W. Hastings, Oklahoma; John E. Baker, California; James P. Glynn, Conn.; Ladina Lazare, Louisiana; Wm. A. Ashbrook, Ohio, and Wm. R. Green, Iowa.

## HE GOVERNS IN ALSACE-LORRAINE



Millerand is the new governor of re-deemed Alsace and Lorraine. His capital is Strassburg. Millerand was the first Socialist ever appointed to a French government post when he was made minister of commerce in the Waldeck-Rousseau cabinet. He has been minister of public works and for a brief time minister of war.

## DENIES TRYING TO FORCE UP PRICES

### Representative of Coal Operators Says They Wanted "Impartial Agency"

(By the Associated Press.)  
Washington, April 4.—Charges made yesterday by Director General Hines that bituminous coal operators were attempting to eliminate competition from the industry in order to force the public to pay unnecessarily high prices were denied tonight by J. D. A. Morrow, general secretary of the National Coal Association. The coal operators, represented through the coal association, recently refused to resume conferences with the industrial board of the department of commerce with a view to price fixing unless the board could guarantee the "co-operation of the railroad administration."

Mr. Morrow in a statement asserted that from the outset of conferences with the railroad administration regarding the railroad fuel policy, the coal operators had declined to discuss prices, just as the director general had avoided trying to name a price which he considered fair for any district. The operators insisted, he said, that any determination of fair prices should be made by an impartial agency.

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## BOLSHEVIKI WERE BADLY DEFEATED

### Losses of Enemy Were Considerable While Allied Casualties Light

### FOUR ATTACKS MADE, THE STATEMENT SAYS

### Situation in Archangel Region Brought To Attention of Peace Commissioners

(Special to the News and Observer.)  
London, April 4.—The Bolsheviks in attacks east of Bolshoi Ozera were defeated by the allied forces four times on March 31 and once on April 1, according to an official statement issued today on operations in North Russia. The losses of the enemy were considerable while the allied casualties were slight the statement adds.

Paris, April 4.—The situation in the Archangel region in Northern Russia has been forcibly brought to the attention of the peace conference by the publication in Paris of the British statement that the troops in the Murmansk and Archangel districts were in danger of extermination unless they were speedily reinforced. Brigadier General W. P. Richardson, U. S. A., is on his way to take command of the American forces in North Russia and is expected to reach Murmansk with 200 soldiers in a few days.

**Situation Is Unchanged.**  
There is apparently no change, however, in the avowed intention to take the American troops out of the region at the earliest possible date.

General Bliss and other American representatives here, while admitting the gravity of the situation, are inclined to believe the troops at distant outposts can retreat if necessary before an advance by the Bolsheviks as armored trains are available for all the Americans in the region south of Archangel and Murmansk.

**No Relief Soon.**  
Relief of Archangel from the sea probably will not be possible before the end of May because of the ice, but the forces in the city are well equipped with artillery and ammunition. There is no direct communication at present by either land or sea between Murmansk and Archangel. Murmansk, however, can be relieved immediately from the sea. The feeling in American circles here is that the British statement possibly over emphasized the gravity of the situation because of the desire to send large reinforcements and, perhaps, because there may be an announcement soon of the allied policy toward the Bolsheviks.

**BOLSHEVIK AGENT SAYS HAS PLENTY MONEY.**  
Washington, April 4.—All the gold that can be at the disposal of the Russian Bolsheviks is \$27,000,000 plus the amount that may have been seized in Moscow belonging to the banks of Russia.

(Continued on Page Two.)

## REPORTED AS DEAD FOUND MUCH ALIVE

### Thirty-One Missing Soldiers From 119th Infantry Are Aboard Huron

(Special to the News and Observer.)  
Charleston, S. C., April 4.—Major Allen C. Cunningham of the American Red Cross, who arrived on the transport Huron yesterday, with the aid of Manus K. Henega of Corryton, Tenn., was instrumental in locating aboard the vessel while at sea 31 men who had previously been reported as missing in action by the War Department.

According to the missing list of the Red Cross, printed in Paris February 11, the men, all of whom were in the 119th infantry, 30th division, had been reported missing after the Hindenburg drive of last September and subsequent battles. Major Cunningham, through diligent questioning, and with the aid of Private Henega, who circulated among the men aboard the vessel looking for those reported in hospitals, sent on special details, prisoners, returned to United States or for other reasons had become detached from their companies, and, not having turned up with the same command again, had been reported to the War Department as missing.

Some of them were very much surprised to learn that they were on the missing list and to relieve the worries of parents and friends. Major Cunningham on March 31, while at sea, "wirelessly" Red Cross headquarters at Washington, giving names of men found on the Huron in order that relatives might be notified.

Major Cunningham also got details of fifteen privates and officers who had been reported killed in action, the details of death not having been received. The missing men on the transport gave statements of their movements in France at the time of being reported missing. The men are:

Cornelius Burghover, James S. Lane, Joe R. Davis, Jesse Hooper, Miley Burnett, Tony Fajrolo, John L. Holbrook, Frank W. Reece, Wm. Taylor, Whitford Tomlin, Ed. Young, Ernest Gaddy, Cliff Butler, Elmer W. Cline, Albert W. Hartzell, Carey E. Snellgrove, Pete Bussion, Charles Lassiter, John L. Wald, John P. Madden, James

(Continued on Page Two.)

## 119TH WILL PARADE TODAY IN COLUMBIA

### South Carolina Capital City Going To Give Big Welcome To Veterans

### COLONEL METTS WILL LEAD HIS SOLDIERS

### Lots of Entertainment For The Tar Heels Planned For This Afternoon

(Special to the News and Observer.)  
Columbia, S. C., April 4.—South Carolina's third official welcome for soldiers of the Thirtieth Division will be given here tomorrow with North Carolina troops again playing the leading part. The first celebration was entirely for North Carolina, the second which was on a somewhat larger scale was participated in jointly by South Carolina and Tennessee while the entertainment tomorrow, will be for these soldiers of the "Old Hickory" Division who have reached Camp Jackson since the big celebration last Monday.

The official welcome tomorrow when the soldiers will be given the "freedom of the city" and refreshments in untold quantities without cost will be opened by a parade of the 119th Infantry in full field equipment, commanded by Colonel J. Van B. Metts, of Wilmington, N. C. After the parade the men will be dismissed to receive the hospitality of the city and State. From scores of booths refreshments will be distributed while in the afternoon and early evening a dozen dances will be given in various parts of the city.

Invitations have been sent to a number of North Carolina cities to participate in the celebration and it is expected that many visitors will be present from the Old North State.

**HOW PRESIDENT GOT MESSAGE TO GERMANS**  
Wireless Operator Makes Story Public For First Time In Interview

New York, April 4.—The story of how President Wilson broke diplomatic precedent on October 20, 1918, by direct parley with the Germans was told here today by C. M. Ripley, a wireless specialist of the General Electric Company.

It was exactly at noon on October 20, Mr. Ripley said, when an operator in the naval wireless station at New Brunswick started American and allied government wireless operators with the call:

"POZ—POZ—POZ—DE NFF"  
Translated, the call meant that "NFF" the New Brunswick station, was calling "POZ," the German Government wireless station at Nauzen.

Visions of daring treachery on the part of some naval wireless operator or cunningly daring German spy operators, Mr. Ripley imagines, flitted through the minds of operators who were not "on the inside" of President Wilson's plan. Almost immediately they flashed back from the Nauzen station the patrolling comment:

"Your signals are fine, old man."  
"Then the New Brunswick operator began sending President Wilson's first message to the German people, couched in plain, terse English, and informing them that no peace negotiations could be considered until William Hohenzollern had stepped down and out. From that time until the signing of the Armistice, Mr. Ripley said, the President maintained direct wireless communication with Germany, couched all his messages in plain English which the allied governments could pick up or wireless and giving the texts to the American publishers as soon as the messages had been sent.

**ALLEGED HE POSED AS PROHIBITION OFFICER**  
Tar Heel in Richmond Charged With Tampering With Baggage

Richmond, Va., April 4.—Suspected of posing as a prohibition officer, a young man, giving the name of C. R. Phillips, was arrested today after he had been detected, it is alleged, in the act of tampering with baggage on a southbound Atlantic Coast Line train which arrived at Broad Street Station at 7:10 a. m. J. C. Kennard, a passenger of Kingston, N. C., was cited as a witness when he told the police that he saw Phillips in the act of shaking his grip as if to see whether it contained liquor.

E. A. Withoughby of Petersburg, another passenger, also claims to have seen Phillips tampering with grips, according to the station officials. Phillips had been observed boarding trains there for the last several days. He will be given a hearing in police court Monday. The railroad people say that they have recently received a number of claims for baggage lost on trains at the station and they are determined to break up the thefts if possible.

It is suspected that some of the indignities to which passenger, on through southbound trains have been subjected which have been recently the source of much complaint were perpetrated by thieves in the guise of prohibition agents. The theory is that these thieves have been seizing liquor laden grips as well as regular baggage.

**"Strike" Is Called Off.**  
Knoxville, Tenn., April 4.—The Park City school "strike" in protest against the removal of Prof. J. H. Lowry has been officially declared off by the leaders and they will return to their studies Monday morning. According to the leaders the "strike" was called off in deference to the wishes of Professor Lowry.

(Continued on Page Two.)

## 105TH ENGINEERS SAILED FOR HOME ON LAST TUESDAY

### Troops From Charlotte and Wilmington Embarked at St. Nazaire

### COMPANY K OF THE 120TH INFANTRY ALSO

### Announcement of Leaving of N. C. Soldiers Made; First Barge From Elizabeth City Received in Washington; Commissioner Roper Talked On League

(News and Observer Bureau, 406 District National Bank Bldg., By S. H. WINTER, (By Special-Loaded Wire).  
Washington, April 4.—A cablegram received this afternoon by the War Department announced the sailing of Company K, 120th Infantry and 100th Engineers from St. Nazaire, April 1. The transport Martha Washington is bringing the troops to America and they are scheduled to arrive at Charleston, S. C., on April 14.

Company K and 100th Engineers are composed chiefly of North Carolina soldiers, the Piedmont and western North Carolina sections contributing heavily to these units. Many inquiries have come to Senator Lee S. Greer from relative to the date of the sailing of these troops, and immediately upon the receipt of the cablegram today the war department advised Hubert Martin, private secretary to the North Carolina Senator.

**First Barge Received.**  
The first coal-laden barge constructed at Elizabeth City, N. C., and designed to assist Washington in avoiding coal shortage was towed to the pumping station here yesterday. The boat was immediately put into use in hauling fuel from the West Virginia coal mines to the Sewage pumping station of the District of Columbia.

The barges being constructed at Elizabeth City, Morehead City, New Bern and other eastern Carolina towns are being drafted from transporting coal over the Chesapeake and Ohio canal. The Federal Government obtained ten North Carolina-constructed barges for the coming season, and these will be put into use to avoid a duplication of the coal scarcity experienced last winter owing to congested railway traffic.

Coal hauling is being started a month earlier this year. Barring accidents and unforeseen delays the District of Columbia expects to convey 150,000 tons of coal over this waterway by barge before the season closes—in November or December.

**Must Perpetuate League.**  
That the league of nations must be perpetuated in some form was the opinion expressed by Commissioner of Internal Revenue Daniel C. Roper, who is graduate of Trinity College, Durham, N. C., in an address last night at the Washington Arts Club.

"People have been drawn together in family groups by national ties until they have begun to understand that international relationship is the outgrowth of the former smaller units," declared Mr. Roper.

"Every American should heed the call of his country to apply himself to that which he is best fitted in order that we may stand equal with the progressive countries of the world.

"The obligation of the artist and writer is to transfer thoughts and spirit of this age to the next succeeding generation, helping to make those that follow our superiors.

"America, as the mecca of the world for the inspiration and hope of this period could well create a second renaissance for the world."

**Government Needs Clerks.**  
Martin A. Morrison, president of the Civil Service Commission, today issued the following statement: "The Government offices in Washington are in need of hundreds of clerks for temporary employment and of stenographers and typists for both temporary and permanent employment." The temporary clerical positions are also open to any person, men or women, in Washington or vicinity who has passed a clerical or other first grade examination of any kind within the past three years and who is not now in Government employment.

**Politicians Won't Talk.**  
"Tom" Taggart, former United States Senator and once chairman of the Democratic National committee, the recognized head of the Democratic organization in Indiana, who has been in Washington recently, had little to say politically but his presence here caused some talk among Hoosier politicians," says a Washington newspaper today.

"Mr. Taggart did not discuss politics for publication, but he told friends who asked him about candidates for the United States Senate that under no circumstances would he be an aspirant. He has frequently been mentioned as the probable Democratic nominee for the Senate. It is understood that former Senator Taggart favors his friend, former Governor Ralston."

**To Have Examination.**  
The Civil Service Commission has authorized the holding of an examination for selection for postmaster at Littleton on May 21. The competitive test will be conducted at Oxford, the county seat of Granville. The Littleton office has a presidential ranking and the postmaster draws a salary of \$1,800 a year.

Effective April 18, Alderton, Duplin county, will be supplied with a locked mail pouch by the rural free delivery carrier on route No. 3 from Seven Springs. The postoffice department today authorized the establishment of a new postoffice in Hoke county, to be designated as "Ashley Heights." (Continued on Page Two.)