

WEATHER

Rain tonight and Friday probably mixed with snow. Colder Friday.

The Times - News

Largest Daily Circulation of Any Newspaper in North Carolina in Proportion to Population

GOOD AFTERNOON

Burmese students on strike squat around government buildings at Rangoon. "Squat-down" strike, eh?

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NEW DEALERS SEE NEW YEAR PROSPERITY

Rebels Smashing Into Catalonia Front

300 WARPLANES BOMB LOYAL ARMY'S BASE

Rebel Artillery Concentration Declared Heaviest Of The War

SAY LOYALIST 5TH ARMY IS WIPED OUT

HENDAYE, Franco - Spanish nationalists, using the heaviest concentration of artillery since the beginning of the civil war, smashed into loyalists in the Balaguer sector of the Catalanian front to open the second phase of the mass offensive.

According to nationalists, hundreds of loyalists surrendered, while loyalists asserted that their lines are holding.

Generalissimo Francisco Franco's bombing planes and siege guns last night poured tons of explosives into two fortified towns where loyalist resistance blocked the converging paths of a double-pronged insurgent drive on Barcelona.

A fleet of 30 warplanes bombed and machine-gunned the loyalist base of Artesa de Segre, 65 miles northwest of Barcelona, while Navarrese-Galician columns locked in hand-to-hand struggle with loyalist defenders to the north and west.

Twenty-nine miles to the south, Franco's guns and planes blasted Borjas Blancas along the main highway and railroad from Lerida eastward to the Mediterranean coast.

Loss of the two gateway towns, which Franco was attempting to seize in preparation for a juncture of his northern and southern wings at Tarragona or Corvera with their spearhead pointed directly at Barcelona 48 miles away, might be a knockout blow to the whole Catalanian defense system of the loyalists.

Both Artesa and Borjas Blancas are control points of rear-line communications for General Vicente Rojo, loyalist commander-in-chief.

Franco's headquarters reported hard-won but steady progress upon the two highway towns, but it was evident that the loyalists with 20 divisions in action were putting up a grim defense on the sixth day of Franco's offensive.

Loyalist field headquarters reported that Italian Blackshirt Legionnaires, part of four fascist divisions said to be serving Franco, had been thrown back near Castellidans, six miles southwest of Borjas Blancas, by a violent government counter-attack.

Borjas Blancas, the loyalists said, was under almost constant bombardment by artillery and planes.

The insurgents reported that 19 loyalist fighting planes were shot down in a spectacular air battle above the village of Alfes, 13 miles west of Borjas Blancas, when 24 insurgent planes met 40 loyalist Curtiss fighters, 15 Boeing and six Martin bombers.

The 19 loyalist planes brought to a total of 55 the number of loyalist planes reported to have been shot down since the offensive began at dawn last Friday.

Franco's Burgos headquarters, listing his gains thus far, said more than 8,000 prisoners had been taken and about 270 square miles of Catalanian territory captured.

The insurgents, cutting a 20-mile-wide hole in the government's lines south of Lerida and west of Borjas Blancas, claimed to have occupied 54 villages.

In the sector south of Lerida alone 4,000 prisoners were reported and Burgos reported that the loyalist fifth army corps had been wiped out by casualties and prisoners.

Rojo threw another full army corps into the breach in his lines south of Lerida during the day to protect Borjas Blancas and the highway. The insurgents said that among prisoners taken there were members of the Campesino and Lister brigades and Trancar workers hurriedly mobilized in Barcelona.

Vanished Judge's "Widow" Sails



Mrs. Stella Crater Kunz, whose former husband Justice Jos. F. Crater disappeared in 1930, pictured sailing from New York for Germany with Carl Kunz, whom she married last April.

Kiwanis Club To Install Officers At Ladies' Party

Kiwanis club officers for 1939, with George M. Flanagan succeeding Dr. J. G. Bennett as president, will take place tonight at the Skyland hotel.

Dinner will be served at 7 o'clock, with wives of club members as guests, and at the conclusion of the installation a program of magic will be presented by the Selwyns, widely known entertainers. About 75 are expected to attend.

JAMES MORRIS NOW ON DURHAM SUN STAFF

James Morris of Durham was up to spend the holidays with his mother, Mrs. Charm Keeter.

Mr. Morris, who was for several months, telegraph editor of the High Point Enterprise, changed positions during the holidays and now holds a similar position with the Durham Sun.

ANNOUNCE WORKERS CONFERENCE MONDAY

Rev. W. H. Davis, secretary of the Carolina Association Workers conference today announced the next session of that body to be held at the First Baptist church Monday, January 2, at 10 a. m.

"Objectives for 1939," he said, will be the theme of the conference and added that a full attendance is desired.

Japs Call Off South China Drive; Secret Truce Talk Still Reported; Would Not Include Forces Of 'Reds'

SHANGHAI, Dec. 29. (UP)—Reports of secret peace conversations between Chinese and Japanese representatives were given additional color today when Chinese dispatches said the Japanese had called off their southward offensive from Hankow and were digging in for the winter.

Chinese expected that the Japanese offensive against Gen. Chu Teh's Communist armies in northwest China might be continued but thought that Japanese attack on Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek's armies, in the southwest, would be halted as long as the reported secret truce parleys are under way.

They believed the Japanese would not include the Chinese Communist party in any truce arrangement but would be willing to offer favorable terms to Generalissimo Chiang on condition that he cease collaboration with the "Reds."

SECOND COLD WAVE MOVES TOWARD COAST

Freezing Weather Strikes In Texas, Alabama And Georgia

FLORIDA ESCAPES FREEZING WEATHER

(UNITED PRESS)

The second cold wave within the week today rolled eastward across the nation, tightening winter's grip on the Central states with snow and zero temperatures as it extended toward the Atlantic coast.

The temperature dropped to 32 below zero at Minott, N. D. U. S. Forecaster J. R. Lloyd said a second cold wave had rolled down from the Arctic and already was thrusting down the eastern slope of the Rocky mountains on its march to the Atlantic seaboard. He predicted temperatures of 15 to 20 degrees below zero for the Dakotas and Minnesota.

The new cold wave will extend to Kansas and Missouri by Thursday night, Lloyd predicted, with temperatures ranging to 10 above. Snow flurries were expected to accompany the falling temperatures.

Snow fell Wednesday in northern New York, mountain sections of New England, Michigan, Wisconsin, North Dakota and Minnesota.

Temperatures fell to a minimum of 20 above along the Maine coast and 22 at Boston as the current cold wave spent itself on the eastern seaboard. Thermometer readings generally in the middlewest were rising.

Lloyd said the new cold wave would be less extensive, affecting Missouri valley and plains states but spending itself before reaching the east.

A reading of two degrees above freezing was reported at Jacksonville, Fla., yesterday. Tampa reported 40 above and Miami 66 above.

A low of 2 degrees above zero was reported at Chicago where temperatures had been expected to fall below zero for the first time since February, 1936. A maximum of 28 was expected today before winter's next onslaught.

Lowest temperatures of the day were reported at Wausau, Wis., and Bemidji, Minn., where the reading was 20 below. Freezing temperatures extended as far south as San Antonio, Texas, and throughout Alabama. Florence, Ala., reported 14 above and Atlanta, Ga., 20.

Valley Hill Will Have Watch Night

The Valley Hill Baptist church will hold its annual New Year's watch service on Saturday night, the meeting beginning at 9:30.

Rev. E. A. Kilstrom, pastor, will be in charge of the service, which will consist of short talks, singing and testimonials.

Members of churches not having such services are invited to attend.

She Can Make Glass 'Invisible'



Dr. Katharine B. Blodgett, of the Schenectady, N. Y., General Electric laboratories, has made an oily film, four-millionths of an inch thick, which makes glass "invisible." With it glass admits more than 99 per cent light against the 92 per cent now possible, and abolishes reflection.

YOUTHS BREAK INTO 'FRISCO MINT, SEIZED

"Just Wanted To See If It Could Be Done," Are Soon Discovered

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29. (UP)—Two 15-year-old boys who just wanted to see if it could be done last night, broke into the United States mint here, a structure considered to be the most impenetrable government building in the country.

Avoiding tear gas equipment, impenetrable attack proof steel heavy bars, intricate burglar alarms and a small army of guards the boys easily got into the building.

They told government men who found them after they tossed a large sheet of copper from the window of the room where pennies are made it had been simple.

They said they climbed up a pipe to the second story, found a window open and walked in. A guard on his rounds found Paul Francis and William Gallagher, sounded an alarm and in a moment the boys were surrounded by machine guns, guards and mint officials.

"We just wanted to see if it could be done. It was easy, we didn't mean any harm. It was all in fun," they told police.

They were turned over to police and sent to a juvenile detention home. "Leave it to a kid to do what a mob of gangsters could not," exploded P. J. Haggerty, mint superintendent.

The copper plate they tossed out the window was valued at \$2 and they wanted it as a memento.

The millions of dollars in gold and silver are stored in vaults and the penny room was the only one they could have entered.

Christmas Seal Returns Asked

Mrs. Geo. Wing, Jr., as chairman of the Christmas seal sales campaign here today issued a call for all returns on the seal sales.

FRANCE HEARS DUCE TO MAKE FOUR DEMANDS

African Program Would Not Affect Mediterranean Status

MUNICH CONFEREES MAY CONFER AGAIN

ROME, Dec. 29. (UP)—French diplomats last night reported that Premier Benito Mussolini intends to ask Prime Minister Chamberlain of Great Britain to use his "good offices" to obtain four principal concessions from France as a means of averting an Italo-French conflict.

The four demands, which Duce is expected to lay before Chamberlain when the latter arrives in Rome on Jan. 11, were described by persons close to the French embassy as follows:

1—France's surrender of the Port of Djibouti in French Somaliland and sale of the Djibouti-Addis Ababa railroad to Italy.

2—Large-scale autonomy for thousands of Italians living in Tunisia.

3—Permission for Italians to freely settle in Tunisia and buy and exploit land which now is uncultivated.

4—Italian participation in control of the French-dominated Suez Canal.

If these concessions are made by France, Mussolini was said to contend, Italy's "natural aspirations" in the Mediterranean and North Africa will be satisfied and the possibility of an Italo-French conflict will be averted.

'BIG FOUR' MAY MEET AGAIN IN JANUARY

BERLIN, Dec. 29. (UP)—Nazi political quarters last night discussed a possibility that the "big four" of Munich might meet again in January to seek a peaceful settlement of their outstanding problems including the acute tension between Italy and France.

There was no confirmation of these rumors, but it was reported simultaneously that German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop soon might confer with Italy's (Continued on page three)

Tenants' Union Will Seek Share Of WPA's Relief

COTTON PLANT, Ark., Dec. 29. (UP)—Plans to organize 350,000 southern tenants and sharecroppers to get a square deal from the New Deal were announced today by Secretary H. D. Mitchell at the annual convention of the Southern Tenant Farmers union.

Plans for organizing the drive were revealed simultaneously with criticism of the WPA for alleged failure to give off-season employment to needy farm workers.

John R. Mathis Passes At Union

Jno. R. Mathis, 78, Union, S. C., business man and one time editor of The Union Times, died in a hospital at his home last night.

Mr. Mathis was favorably known here, and had owned a summer home in the county over a considerable period.

He was found unconscious yesterday morning in his garage after he had lain there all night. Physicians attributed his death to apoplexy.

DIXIE'S DEMOS RENEW FIGHT ON NEW DEAL

Would Give Important Committee Posts To Opposition Leaders

WOULD OFFSET F.R.'S POLITICAL PURGE

By GERRY ROBICHAUD United Press Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29. (UP)—A bloc of conservative southern Democrats, led by Representatives Martin Dies of Texas and E. Eugene Cox of Georgia, are seeking supporters in a drive to deliver important house committee posts to anti-New Deal congressmen, it was learned last night.

Determined to play an increasingly important role in the 76th congress, Dies and Cox, who actively opposed the wage-hour bill last session, consider sweeping Republican gains in the fall election as a protest against President Roosevelt's policies, and feel that the Democratic party must steer a more conservative course if it is to retain majority support throughout the nation.

The two have been active in contacting fellow southerners, who hold 115 of the 262 house Democratic seats, in an effort to gain their united support in the drive for committee control. At the same time they have been playing up to the conservative element in northern Democratic ranks in order to obtain the additional 24 Democratic votes necessary to give their bloc a majority vote in party strategy.

The struggle will come into the open next Monday in a pre-session Democratic caucus in which majority members of the powerful 25-man ways and means committee will be selected, as well as the speaker and majority leader. Membership in this key committee will indicate the future set-up of other groups, since ways and means members draft the slates of the remaining committee. These subsequently are ratified at another caucus.

Re-election of Speaker William B. Bankhead, D. Ala., and Majority Leader Sam Rayburn, D. Tex., is a foregone conclusion. The struggle for control will center around the make-up of the ways and means group, which this year will consist of 15 Democrats and 10 Republicans. Last session there were 18 Democrats and seven Republicans, but the latter party's off-year gains will increase its membership in the group.

Under the circumstances, Dies and Cox are said to feel that conservative Democrats need but a small membership to obtain their objective, since they can work in concert with Republicans to assure anti-administration action.

Outcome of the drive, however, will depend almost entirely on support from their northern colleagues and unity of the southern delegation. Many veteran politicians consider it improbable that Dies and Cox can achieve their objective, since there is some New Deal strength within (Continued on page three)

Star to Visit Convent Home



Off on a New Year visit to the Maison de Charite, Paris orphanage convent where she lived as a child, film star Madeleine Carroll is shown leaving New York.

F. R. UNWILLING TO SURRENDER RELIEF REINS

"Policing" Groups Would Be Advisory Bodies Without Pay

REPUBLICANS TO PUSH OWN PLAN

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29. (UP)—The government's chief economists today forecast a prosperous New Year for the nation.

In a year-end survey of business, the Bureau of Agriculture Economics, which charts the trend in industrial as well as agricultural production and consumption, said that prospects are good for continued recovery.

The fall pickup in industrial production and consumer demand recovered more than half of the ground lost in the 1937-38 recession, the survey said.

The bureau reported a marked pick-up in building activity and substantial increases in steel, automobile and textile production.

Factory payrolls increased and unemployment decreased, according to the WPA and American Federation of Labor records.

CIVIL SERVICE FOR RELIEF PROJECTED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29. (UP)—The Roosevelt administration may propose that the vast relief system be placed under civil service to placate congressional opponents of the WPA.

An authoritative source revealed that the civil service proposal was couched with the president's suggestion for the creation of non-partisan county boards to keep politics and relief separate would be designed to take the edge off the demands for a congressional investigation of the WPA.

MESSAGE TO DEAL MUCH WITH RELIEF

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28. (UP)—President Roosevelt last night was represented by legislative callers as being willing to compromise with coalition demands for decentralization of relief to the extent of permitting "policing" of Works Progress Administration activities by army or non-partisan county boards.

Legislators who say that the chief executive has outlined such a plan to them within the past fortnight, insist that he is unwilling, however, to surrender completely to the agitation for outright return of relief administrations to the states.

He is determined, they say, that the federal government shall keep a tight rein over relief spending and administration as long as it provides most of the money.

The plan under white house consideration would place the "policing" groups in the same status as the draft boards which operated during the World War. Members would operate without pay and serve in an advisory capacity to the federal relief administration.

Whether such a compromise would placate relief critics among conservative Democrats in congress is a matter of conjecture. They were appalled to some extent when President Roosevelt promoted WPA Administrator Harry L. Hopkins to be secretary of commerce and eased out Hopkins' deputy, Aubrey Williams, whose blunt appeals to relief workers to "keep your friends in office" made him a political liability.

Appointment of Col. F. C. Harrington, brilliant West Point graduate and WPA chief engineer to succeed Hopkins, also was well received and Harrington's first words that he would strive to keep the agency out of politics were cheered.

The situation probably will be clarified in a few days when the senate campaign expenditure committee makes its report on inquiries conducted into this year's primary and elections campaigns. Members say that no punches will be pulled and from other sources it is understood that WPA political activities in Kentucky, Tennessee and Pennsylvania will be sharply criticized.

It was reported that the report would fall just short of rebuking Hopkins, who insisted throughout that the WPA was not engaging in political activities and submitted general orders warning agency officials against coercing relief workers into supporting either Republican or Democratic candidates. Likewise, there was the general feeling that Hopkins (Continued on page three)

DEATH CLAIMS JOE H. YOUNG

Chimney Rock Road Resident Succumbs To Pneumonia

J. H. Young, 63, died at his home on the Chimney Rock road yesterday after an illness of a week with pneumonia.

Mr. Young is survived by his wife; one married daughter, Mrs. Ed Kuykendall, and Miss Inez Young, another daughter.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow, Friday, December 30, at 11 a. m., at Moore's Grove Methodist church. Officiating will be the Reverends Varner, Huntley, and Dr. Camak.

GAMBLER SLAIN

HOLLYWOOD, Dec. 29. (UP)—A man who was shot to death and left in his car on a Hollywood street was identified by police last night as Weldon L. (Big Bill) Irvin, a gambler and bookmaker.

Highway Carnage Is Reduced For 13th Continuous Month; See Deaths For Year Lowered At Least 7,000

CHICAGO, Dec. 29. (UP)—The nation has applied the brakes to the annual carnage on streets and highways and will round out 1938 with a saving of at least 7,400 lives, the national safety council said last night.

The council said November was the 13th straight month to show a comparative decline in traffic deaths and said that unless "America is on a holiday spree of carelessness" in the closing days of 1938, the year cannot fail to show a substantial saving.

The report estimated the 1938 highway death toll at approximately 32,000, lowest since 1938 and the greatest reduction for any single year in the nation's history.

The first 11 months of 1938 showed a decline of 21 per cent in the number of lives lost as compared to the same 11 months of 1937.

December, a month fraught with additional danger from blinding snow storms and slippery high-

ways, was expected to trim the average slightly.

"If the rate of reduction for the first 11 months of the year could be maintained up to Jan. 1, the 1938 saving in lives would be in the neighborhood of 8,000 and the year's toll would approximate 31,500," the council said.

Definite figures for the year will not be known until late January when all figures are compiled.

The November highway death toll was 3,110, the council reported, 640 less than November a year ago, or a saving of 17 per cent. Total deaths for the 11 months was 28,370 as compared to 35,770 in the same period a year ago.

A total of 8,190 lives have been saved in the last 13 months. The council said it attributed the saving to no one factor. "We have had better enforcement of traffic laws, better traffic engineering, safer automobiles (Continued on page three)