

WEATHER FORECAST

Probably snow tonight and Tuesday; not so cold; variable winds.

GERMANY STRIKES FIRST BIG BLOW ON WEST FRONT

First Great Effort Since Heralding of Great Offensive is Made But is Held in Check.

BIG PEACE CELEBRATION SUNDAY IN PETROGRAD

Bessarabia and Turkestan Reported to Have Declared Independence—Kaledines Re-elected.

(By Associated Press.)

Germany has struck her first strong blow on the western front since the heralding of the great offensive in that field, but was held in check by the British. The attack was marked by heavy fighting on the southern end of the salient before Cambrai. The Germans in some places gained a foot hold in the British front trenches, but were driven out by counter attacks. The German thrust was on a front of more than two miles between Marconing and La Vacquarie and against the positions which the British held since their retirement under the blows of General Byng. In the center of the attacked line the Germans were held without gains, but on the ends of the line they entered the British first lines. British counter attacks however, drove them from the most of these positions and resulted in the taking of many prisoners by the forces of General Haig. Berlin reports claim front line positions and a "few hundred prisoners" taken. The Germans have also been active at other points along the front but their local attacks in the Ypres sector and their raids northeast of Verdun brought no successes. Their efforts followed a heavy German fire in these three sectors, Cambrai, Ypres and Verdun, and may be the forerunners of determined attacks. In the Italian theatre there has been only artillery activity along the northern front. German airplanes again raided Padua, much damage being done to monuments and buildings by incendiary bombs. Three people were killed and three wounded. Another advance along the Nadlus road north of Jerusalem has been made by the British forces in Palestine. Against stubborn Turkish resistance the British progressed three miles and captured Birch-Bertho and three other towns. Progress was also made between Nadlus road and the Mediterranean coast. In Petrograd Sunday the day was given over to peace celebrations, marked by parades. The heads of the German and Austrian peace delegates were spectators of the parades. The heads of the German and Austrian delegates to 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 the preliminary settlement of the question concerning German retirement from occupied Russian territory in order to give the inhabitants opportunity and time to decide the future for themselves. One of the forts at Kronstadt, the naval base near Petrograd, has been blown up by an explosion, according to a dispatch received in London. Bessarabia and Turkestan are reported to have declared their independence, while fighting between the Bolsheviks and their opponents is reported to be going on in Harbin and Irkutsk, Siberia. General Kaledines has been re-elected Hetman of the Don Cossacks by an overwhelming majority. Counter Measures in Course of Preparation. Vienna, via London, Dec. 31.—Counter measures against the French are in course of preparation in the Monte Tomba area, the war office announces. British Regain Important Ground. London, Dec. 31.—The British in successful counter attacks on the Cambrai front regained more important territory on Welsh ridge taken by the Germans in yesterday's attack, the war office reports. Enemy Positions Captured. Rome, Dec. 31.—In the Monte Tomba region on the northern front the French have captured enemy positions between Osteria di Monserena and Maranzine, the war office announces. They also captured about 1,400 men and 60 machine guns and seven cannon. The love of power may be as romantic in the heart of a peasant as of a prince.—Headley.

ENGLAND TO MAKE A SERIOUS ANSWER

When the Peace Terms Are Presented the British Government Will Make Serious Reply.

LLOYD GEORGE GOES TO FRANCE TO CONFER ON IT

The Peace Negotiations Outlined by the Austro-Germans Referred to by Paper.

(By Associated Press.)

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

The Austro-German peace terms referred to are those presented by representatives of the Central powers at the peace negotiations with the Russians at Brest-Litovsk. These negotiations were interrupted by the ten days adjournment to give the entente allies an opportunity to state if they will join the negotiations with them. The principal points outlined in the terms submitted by the Russians have been accepted by the Central Powers—these being no indemnity and no annexation.

\$50,000 TO HELP BOYS.

At Death of Sister of Robt. J. Johnson, Large Sum Will Go to Educate Boys at Pulaski Boys School.

(By Associated Press.)

Pulaski, Va., Dec. 31.—Property valued at \$50,000 is left at the death of a sister to be managed by the Southern Methodist church to assist boys to acquire an education at the Pulaski Boys school under the terms of the will of Robert L. Johnson, probated here, it was learned today.

THE SECOND UNION SERVICE WITH REV. DR. KINARD SPEAKER

Practical Sermon Delivered at the Tabernacle Sunday Night From Ephesians Fifth Chapter, 15-16 Verses—Associated Charities Next Sunday Night.

The second Sunday night union service was held in the Tabernacle last night and despite the severe cold weather a fairly good sized congregation was out. The meeting proved to be a splendid and helpful one. The sermon was delivered by Rev. Dr. M. M. Kinard, pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church. Dr. Kinard preached a most interesting and practical sermon from the subject, "Conduct Consistent With Profession," taking his text from Ephesians 5th chapter and the 15th and 16th verses.

These union services will be held each Sunday night and are proving exceedingly convenient as well as helpful. Not only is it a means of conserving fuel but a spirit of church unity and deeper brotherly feeling is being created and manifested through these meetings. Next Sunday night the evening will be given over to the Associated Charities, at which time several speakers will make brief talks.

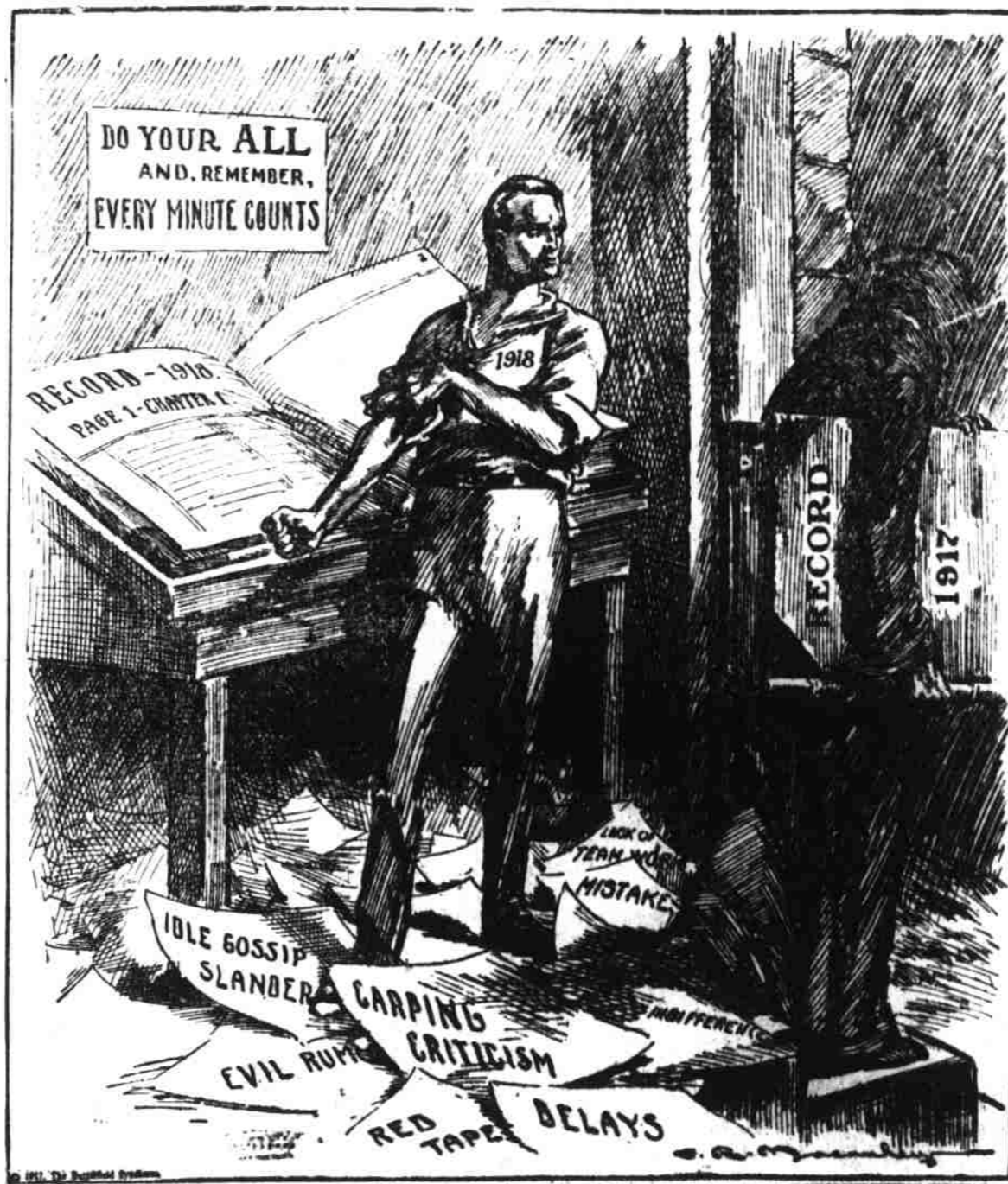
The women are clamoring for the Food Administration to order smokeless days. The men in rebuttal doubtless demand talkless spells.—Ex.

AMERICAN EXPORTS SHOW BIG INCREASE

The Year 1917 Was a Big Year for American Trade the Balance in Our Favor Being More Than Three Billion Dollars.

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, Dec. 31.—American exports were estimated today at the department of commerce to have passed the six billion dollar mark. Imports were less than three billions and the trade balance in favor of the United States is more than three billion dollars.



RESOLUTION.

"Perhaps You Did Your Best, Sir, but I Shall Do Better."

AMERICAN AVIATOR KILLED IN ITALY

The Flyer Was Making Tests Before British and Italian Pilots and in Bad Weather Fell, Died After Giving Observation to American Officers.

(By Associated Press.)

Paris, Dec. 31.—An American aviator was killed yesterday while making a test flight at an aviation center before some British and French aviators. Though the wind was blowing violently he made the loop successfully and was in the act of repeating it when he fell. Though in a dying condition when picked up he insisted that he make report of his observations to the proper officials.

FIRE SUNDAY DAMAGED CAMP GREENE HOSPITAL

Charlotte, Dec. 30.—The laboratory and operating room buildings at the base hospital, Camp Greene, near here, were totally destroyed by fire early today, the loss totaling at least \$75,000, represented principally by destroyed laboratory apparatus. Maj. W. L. Sheep, medical corps, in charge of the hospital, declared a defective fire in the laboratory caused the fire, which "for some reason" escaped detection by the soldier "detailed as watchman." The loss was said to be covered fully by insurance. Much of the operating room apparatus was saved.

Firemen and fire fighting apparatus from Charlotte went to aid the camp volunteer firemen, but frozen water mains had to be thawed before pressure could be obtained. During this interim, the frame structures were consumed and efforts of the city firemen were directed to averting the possibility of the fire igniting other buildings, about 60 of which were closely grouped nearby.

Major Sheep said the loss of the laboratory, which was "wonderfully equipped," and the various valuable cultures being grown there was not likely to "greatly decrease the efficiency of the hospital in treating the soldiers who are patients here." He began today efforts to replace the destroyed cultures by purchase. Laboratory equipment to replace that destroyed is expected to be forwarded immediately. About 900 soldiers are patients in the wards of this hospital.

Munition makers in this country say they can operate their plants successfully with 70 per cent of women as employees.

PRES. FAVORS CHILD LAW ENFORCEMENT

Believes That the Enforcement of the Child Labor Laws Will Add to the Health and to War Productions Also.

(By Associated Press.)

Efforts of the National child labor commission to prevent the relaxation of the laws on the excuse that war time necessities justifies has been endorsed by President Wilson. In a letter to the commissioner made public today the President said the enforcement of the laws will contribute to the preservation of life and have a tendency to more efficiency and economy in the production of war necessities.

French Forces Take Offensive.

Berlin, Dec. 31.—French forces on the northern Italian front yesterday took the offensive. In the afternoon the French infantry penetrated a portion of the Austro-German position on Monte Tomba, the German general staff announced today.

HELP FOR GUATEMALA

America Ready With Warships to Send Aid to the Earthquake Stricken City.

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, Dec. 31.—Still without detailed information of the earthquake which destroyed Guatemala city, costing many lives and leaving 100,000 inhabitants homeless, American officials today were prepared to send aid to the stricken sister republic.

Further reports are awaited from American Minister Leavell and Consul Fee.

Red Cross officers have conferred with naval officers as to supplies to be sent forward on American warships.

FIVE GERMAN MACHINES WERE DESTROYED

(By Associated Press.)

London, Dec. 31.—Five German air planes were destroyed or put out of action yesterday. The British lost none of their machines.

CAMP WADSWORTH SOLDIER GETS TEN YEAR SENTENCE

Private Philip Van Engers Tried by Court Martial on Charge of Desertion and Forgery and Gets Long Term.

(By Associated Press.)

Spokane, S. C., Dec. 31.—Private Philip Van Engers alias Lieutenant William Vincent Howard Grant, 21 years of age, of LaGrange, Ill., has been tried by court martial at Camp Wadsworth and sentenced to ten years in a military prison. Van Engers faced a charge of desertion and forgery and entered plea of guilty.

The defendant says his father was born in Netherlands and is now engaged in service in France for the United States. Van Engers says he was weary of a desire to secure information about army camps.

AUTO TRUCK TRAIN FINISHES JOURNEY

Baltimore, Dec. 29.—Twenty-nine three-ton motor trucks which will one day carry supplies to American columns abroad, rolled into Court House Plaza just before noon today. They had completed a 600-mile trip from Detroit.

The three officers and eighty members of Uncle Sam's fighting forces had brought the train through temperatures as low as 8 degrees below zero and through snowdrifts which in one case forced them to shovel a path. They made about fifty miles a day.

They are the first of thousands of motor trucks which will be brought to Baltimore in like manner from Detroit and from other towns further west to relieve the railroads of the burden of carrying them.

Capt. E. B. Butchers went to Washington to report on the trip. He said it was an unqualified success.

CROZIER SAYS COUNTRY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ARTILLERY SHORTAGE

Chief Ordnance Officer Says Every Effort of His For Better Equipment Was Turned Down by Secretary of War and Congress.

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, Dec. 31.—Major General Crozier, army ordnance chief, today gave to the senate committee investigating the conduct of the war his side of the reasons for artillery shortage and of the celebrated controversy over the Lewis machine gun.

The responsibility for the artillery shortage, General Crozier said, lay with the whole country, and he showed how his every effort to get larger appropriations for artillery in time of peace was overruled by the secretary of war and congress.

General Crozier submitted records of tests of the Lewis gun, showing that other guns performed better, and disclaimed any personal prejudice, as claimed by Colonel Lewis, the inventor, and showing that since the gun was perfected to the use of American ammunition the war department had bought a quantity of them.

MANY MINERS REPORTED KILLED

(By Associated Press.)

Scranton, Pa., Dec. 31.—Many miners are reported killed by a gas explosion in the Underwood Mine of the Pennsylvania Coal Company near Throop, about six miles from the city. Company officials are silent and information is vague. At noon 17 bodies, some of them dead and some alive, were reported to have been taken from the mine.

LOWER CALIFORNIA MAY SECEDE SOON

California Man Says He Has Been Named to go to Washington as Diplomatic Representative of the Governor.

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, Dec. 31.—Plans for raising the pay of the rank and file of railway workers and the reduction of some of the very high salaries paid to executives and officials was discussed at a conference between Director McAdoo and the Federal board of conciliation, and mediation here today.

GOLD MAVE IS NOW PASSING TO SEA

Weather Bureau Promises Moderation in Temperature for the Country, Beginning To-night.

40 DEGREES BELOW ZERO AT NORTHFIELD, VT.

Intense Cold Spell Has Not Been Equalled Since Dec. 30, 1880, Says the Weather Bureau.

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, Dec. 31.—Some moderation to begin tonight of the cold wave was the 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 already has been a moderation in the temperature of the Appalachian mountains and in the East 3rd States, although over the greater part of this region it is still colder than the seasonable average.

Canton, N. Y., reported the lowest temperature at 8 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.

New York in Winter's Grip.

New York, Dec. 31.—A lengthening death roll, rapidly dwindling coal supply and weather bureau prediction of the record breaking cold spell to keep the mercury hovering about zero mark through the next 24 hours made winter's grip on New York and vicinity a grim actuality today. The cotton exchange voted to close at noon. At 1 o'clock the mercury stood at one degree below zero.

North Carolina Farmers' and Farm Women's Convention, 1918.

West Raleigh, Dec. 31.—Plans are under way to make the 1918 Farmers' and Farm Women's Convention at the State College of Agriculture the largest and most successful ever held. Several successful farmers and farm women of the state, headed by Mr. F. P. Latham, president of the convention, have determined to make this convention one of practical benefit to every person in the State. It is to be planned and conducted by farmers and farm women, who will be assisted by the staff of the college and Department of Agriculture.

Among the many special features already planned are exhibits and discussions of home-made farm labor-saving devices, practical demonstrations and interesting exhibits by the College, Department of Agriculture, and other State departments. These will all be of practical value to growers from every section of the State. In addition to these, the program committee has promised a good speaker of national reputation for the occasion.

At a time when every industry of the country is cooperating for the successful conduct of our purpose in this great war, it is particularly important that the food producers of the State meet once a year to learn how they can best serve their country and themselves.

WOMAN GOES TO CHURCH AND IS SUED FOR TRESPASS

Atlantic City, Dec. 28.—Mrs. Milford Watson, a prominent Chelsea woman, was today made defendant in a suit for \$4,000 in the District Court for having attended a service in Christ Methodist Protestant church on the morning and evening of Dec. 18 and similar services Dec. 25. The charge is trespass.

Suit was instituted by Lee F. Washington, attorney for the church, at the instance of the Elders, who had Mrs. Watson "read out" of the church some time ago, following a sensational hearing of charges of slander against one of the deacons.

The complaint states that the plaintiff was "in possession of the church" on the dates named and that she unlawfully, willfully and intentionally entered upon said land after being forbidden and in spite of the plaintiff's protest.

The church is demanding \$1,000 on each of the four counts in addition to the costs of the suit.

There may nothing in a name, still we would not care to be around when Filer Gush, of Lima, Ohio, is doing the talking.—Ex.

If God is leading the Germans forward in Italy, who is leading them backward in Belgium?—Wichita Beacon.