

GENERAL OPERATION PREDICTED FOR FRIDAY SEVERAL THOUSAND PERSONS ARE HOMELESS MOVEMENT OF COAL EARLY NEXT WEEK, SAY THE OPERATORS MANY UNEMPLOYED AND PROPERTY LOSS IS ESTIMATED HIGH

Houses Swept Away and Water Supply Cut Off at West Point—Industrial Center Around Columbus is Paralyzed—Factories Are Idle in Parts of Augusta.

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 11.—Several thousand persons were homeless today and many more out of employment as a result of flooded rivers in Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. Railroad schedules, particularly in lower Alabama and Mississippi, were demoralized and property loss was estimated in millions.

Hattiesburg, Miss., was the only city isolated by the waters, although a score of others were partly cut off. Hattiesburg, Meridian, Enterprise and Basic City, Miss., Gulf, Phoenix City, Selma, Prattville and Wetumpka, Ala., and West Point and Columbus, Ga., had suffered severe damage from partial inundation.

Hundreds of other residents of the flooded sections were forced to flee. Houses were swept away in West Point, Ga., by high waters that overpowered part of the town, but the river appeared to be receding today.

The industrial center around Columbus, Ga., was paralyzed today and it was said it would be nearly a week before the big cotton mills there and on the Alabama side would resume operations.

Factories also were idle in the lower portions of Augusta, where the Savannah river had begun to feel the effects of the rain. High water also was beginning to threaten at Macon, Ga.

High waters continued around Atlanta and convicts and volunteers worked dikes to protect the city water works. The Chattahoochee, normally a shallow river, had become a raging flood and was nearly two miles wide when it passed the city pumping station.

Only two lives have been lost so far, as the meager and belated reports show. These were in two wrecks on the Mississippi Central Railroad in which Engineers W. L. Trues and Fireman Henry Courney were killed.

Meridian and Hattiesburg were probably the heaviest sufferers, as 2,500 negroes in the two cities were homeless and railroad lines resulted from the flooding of the tracks by swollen streams.

In addition to the inundation in East Enterprise, recent depth of seven feet and driving merchants to the second stories with goods, U. S. P. Andrews large warehouse on the water's edge, other buildings, many of them, became rain-soaked. Many homeless are reported there, but no loss of life, although several persons were rescued from floating rafts.

Basic City, near Enterprise, was also under water. The railroads on which train service was completely stopped were the South and the Gulf & Ship Island. The Southern expects to get trains through Meridian before night. The Gulf and Ship Island marooned trains may remain out of service a few days.

GRAVE FEARS ENTERTAINED. Montgomery, Ala., Dec. 11.—Grave fears were entertained here early today for the safety of hundreds of persons living along the rivers in central and southern Alabama, as a result of the unprecedented rise in all streams due to heavy rains of last Saturday.

Two lives are known to have been lost, two white farmers and three negroes, and unless relief reaches marooned persons, the number may be greatly increased. Owing to the rapidly rising waters, swiftness of currents and lack of boats, rescue work is slow and hazardous.

One hundred and fifteen negro convicts and 15 white guards are marooned on convict camp No. 4, 10 miles northeast of Montgomery, near the Tallapoosa river. Fears are entertained for their safety.

W. D. Nesbit and C. B. Rogers, officials of the state convict department, who set out late yesterday afternoon in a small motor launch in an effort to reach Camp No. 4, spent the night in an abandoned hut and returned to the city this morning, without having reached the prisoners.

The floods are the worst since 1886, and coming suddenly, have caught far-

RATIFICATION OF COVENANT URGED Southern Commercial Congress Adopted Resolutions and Elected Officers.

Savannah, Ga., Dec. 11.—Declaring delay had seriously caused "great damage to industry and commerce and augmented the 'dangerous social unrest of the world'" the Southern Commercial Congress late Wednesday adopted resolutions urging the United States senate to immediately ratify the peace treaty including the covenant of the league of nations.

Other resolutions adopted by the congress include: Urging the United States to ratify the German peace treaty including the covenant for a league of nations.

For the completion of the intra-coastal canal from Beaufort, N. C., to Cape Fear river, and ultimately to Galveston, Texas.

For permanent committee of bankers, merchants and producers on foreign trade.

Against the sale of ships of the United States that will militate against trade routes established.

Hearty endorsement of the aims and purposes of the American Cotton Association.

Approval of movement to produce American sugar for American consumption.

Washington, D. C., was selected as the next meeting place of the congress and the following officers were elected.

President, Thomas R. Preston, Chattanooga; honorary presidents, John M. Parker, New Orleans; Senator D. U. Fletcher, Florida; first vice-president, Richard J. Manning, South Carolina; second vice-president, Carl Epsy, Savannah; director general, Dr. Clarence J. Owens, Washington, D. C.; treasurer, William H. Saunders, Washington, D. C.; commissioner of commerce, Butler C. Gletsinger.

At the final session the question of trade expansion was presented in a general discussion in which diplomatic representatives of Paraguay, Panama, Uruguay, Chile, Peru, Ecuador and Mexico, were in the audience.

By the stoppage of drilling of new oil wells under decree of the Mexican government, the shipping board has become concerned over the operation of the large merchant marine as the bulk of the fuel for the 500 oil-burning steamers has been obtained from the Mexican fields. Should this supply be cut off, it was pointed out that the operation of the vessels necessarily would be curtailed as only a small supply of oil is on hand.

AMERICANS ARE MENACE. Washington, Dec. 11.—Further testimony taken by the Fall committee investigating Mexican affairs, made public Wednesday, pictures the Carranza government as regarding the Carranza protests of the American government as perfidy, and accredits to officials of the Mexican government a policy of driving Americans out of the country.

THE WEATHER. For Charlotte and Vicinity: Cloudy tonight; Friday unsettled; moderate northeast to east winds.

NAVY CHIEF HAS 'MESS O' SASSAGE' Cabinet Member Will Carry Fresh Meat on Home After Night Address.

Burdened with a big package which he admitted contained "country sausage and spare-ribs," Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels arrived in Charlotte Thursday afternoon.

"Here, be careful of that package," the navy secretary warned one of his traveling companions, as he stepped from the Statesville train at the Southern Railway passenger station.



JOSEPHUS DANIELS.

Secretary Daniels arrived in Charlotte at 1 o'clock. He was greeted as he left the Statesville train by a committee comprised of Cameron Morrison, Hamilton C. Jones and J. L. DeLaney.

He entered an automobile and was driven to the Manufacturers club to be the guest of the Kiwanis Club at luncheon.

Later, he went to the Selwyn, where rooms had been reserved for him, and where many of his Charlotte friends called during the afternoon to greet him. He will leave at 9:45 o'clock for Washington.

The secretary expressed regret that he could not remain longer in North Carolina at this time, or he said it was always a pleasure to get back for a visit with home folks.

Mr. Daniels said the report seemed to have gotten abroad that the democrats were afraid they were going to lose the ninth district election because of the vigorous campaign they are making and the number of speeches that are being delivered.

"I hope the democrats are scared," said the secretary, "because when a democrat gets sure-enough scared, he can cut-run anything on legs."

As for himself, Mr. Daniels said he had no doubt what the verdict would be at the polls next Tuesday, for he was confident the people of the ninth district would send Clyde R. Hoyt to congress by a big majority and thereby show their confidence in the democratic administration and their approval of its record, written under the guidance of President Wilson.

He explained to me, the witness continued, that Mr. Wilson was what he was pleased to term, "an advanced liberal, a great democrat," whose concern was for the welfare of the people of the world and was not limited to the narrow bounds of the United States.

"He said," continued Buckley, "Mr. Wilson was opposed to capital in Mexico and everywhere else, no matter to

TEUTON SLOW IN REMOVING MINES Maps Show 8,700 Square Miles of North Sea Are Not Yet Cleared.

Berlin, Wednesday, Dec. 10.—German naval authorities have been backward in removing mines from German waters, according to a Hamburg despatch to the Vossische Zeitung. At a meeting of the nautical association in that city, the despatch says, maps were shown indicating that 8,700 square miles of the North sea had not been cleared, while America and England had almost finished removing fields laid by their navies during the war. It is claimed here that the delay has been due to lack of coal.

ALMOST DAILY CASUALTIES. The Hague, Wednesday, Dec. 10.—The question of responsibility for what shipping circles consider to be laxity in sweeping the mine fields in the North sea has been the subject of questions in the Dutch parliament. Scarcely a day has passed in several weeks without some casualties along the Dutch or Danish coasts.

Men from the crew of the Liberty Glo, who were missing after their steamer was damaged by a mine, have not been found and the captain of the boat said today he was investigating a report that they had been landed at a German port by fishermen.

A Copenhagen despatch to Telegraaf says a Dutch sailing vessel beached on the Danish coast during a storm was later destroyed by a floating mine. The crew had been landed before the mine exploded. Reports from Flushing state that six men from the crew of a German trawler landed there after their ship was mined and that six other members of the crew were drowned.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL IS DELAYED. London, Dec. 11.—The introduction of the Irish bill in the house of commons was again postponed today. Arthur Henderson, spokesman for the government, announced that in consequence of the visit of Premier Clemenceau, of France, Premier Lloyd George would be unable to bring the measure forward on Monday or Tuesday and he could not say whether it would be introduced next week.

THREE PREMIERS ARE CONFERRING Crowds Noisily Welcomed Premier Clemenceau Upon His Arrival.

London, Dec. 11.—Georges Clemenceau, premier of France, arrived here this morning at 10 o'clock. During his stay in London he will confer with Premier Lloyd George and Vittorio Scialoja, foreign minister of Italy.

Crowds at the Victoria station greeted Mr. Premier Lloyd George, Earl Curzon, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and Walter Hume Long, first lord of the admiralty. Mr. Clemenceau said to Lloyd George in English: "I am glad to see you," and then drove to the French embassy.

The two prime ministers began their private conference in Downing Street at 11 o'clock. It was generally expected that their discussions would last through today and tomorrow. The British premier abandoned his usual factory of beer containing 2.75 per cent alcohol by the two concerns which contended, however, that it was not intoxicating.

GERMAN REPLY HAS NOW REACHED PARIS

Paris, Dec. 11.—The German reply to the supreme council's note demanding the signing of the peace protocol has been received in Paris and this afternoon was undergoing transmission by the German delegation, according to an Intra-gram. The newspaper declares that the reply is substantially a capitulation on the Scape Flow question and a proposal to discuss other points.

Federal Grand Jury Investigation of Charges of Violation of Lever Act Expected to Proceed—May Drop Contempt Charges Against Miners.

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 11.—General operation of bituminous coal mines of the country, which have been idle for nearly six weeks as a result of the strike of miners on October 31, is predicted for tomorrow. Coal will be moving rapidly by the first of next week, in the opinion of operators here.

Officials of the mine workers who last night sent telegrams to the 4,000 locals of the organization, telling of the action of the miners' general committee here yesterday in accepting President Wilson's proposal to return to work, today were confident that there will be no delay on the part of the members of the union in resuming work. The telegrams of last night, which instructed the men to return to the mines immediately, were supplemented today by circulars prepared by international officials of the union explaining in detail the action of the general committee yesterday, the basis on which the strike was settled and reiterating the instructions to resume work immediately. These circulars were mailed to the locals.

ORGANIZATION IS CONFERRED UPON National Association of Republican State Chairmen Talk Campaign.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Organization and co-ordination methods for the coming campaign were discussed today at a meeting here of the National Association of Republican State Chairmen. Will H. Hays, the party's national chairman, and other officials of the national organization, were present.

Every state was represented, each of the chairmen who could not attend sending some one to act in his place. The meeting was executive, and it was said most of the time was taken up in exchanging views without any attempt to fix policies. There was an order to be a general agreement, however, that Chairman Hays' plan to decentralize campaign contributions by limiting the amounts accepted, should be extended as far as practicable into the state campaigns.

While the state leaders were in conference officials of the national committee began laying out the details for the national convention, which the committee decided yesterday to hold in Chicago on June 8. A. T. Hert, the Kentucky committeeman chosen chairman of the convention committee, was "flooded" with applications for tickets and predicted that there would be more than the usual difficulty in making satisfactory arrangements.

More than 500 party leaders from over the country were here for the national committee meeting yesterday, a circumstance which led some of the wheel horses to predict that the Chicago meeting would attract one of the greatest crowds in the history of conventions. The activity of women in politics next year is expected to be another factor in greatly increasing the crowd.

Friends of Chairman Hays started a movement today to insure the election as head of the national committee through the campaign, regardless of who is nominated for president.

IMPERATOR SAILED TODAY FOR EUROPE

New York, Dec. 11.—The former German passenger liner Imperator, now a British ship under Cunard line operation, sailed today for Plymouth, Charbourg and Southampton. She was to have departed at noon yesterday but her clearance papers were held up on Washington while charges pending on her were being adjusted.

The offer of the British ministry of shipping to replace the excess coal was accepted last night and the ship was away on high tide. The liner had 2,700 passengers on this, her first voyage as a passenger ship since she left here under the German flag in July, 1914.

COURT REFUSED TO INTERFERE IN CASE

Washington, Dec. 11.—The supreme court today declined to interfere in the deportation proceedings against Alexander Berkman, anarchist, but granted a stay of one week in the case of Emma Goldman.

ARE OF SAME MIND. Washington, Dec. 11.—There is a not now and never has been any difference of opinion between President Wilson and the state department on the handling of Mexican affairs, Secretary Lansing said today.

DO HONOR TO PERSHING. Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 11.—Atlanta turned out today to do honor to General Pershing, who spent the day here, inspecting Camps Gordon and Jesup and Fort McPherson and taking part in a parade.