

FR Proposal Rejected By Rail Unions

Non-Op Unions Refuse President's Basis for Arbitrating Dispute

Washington, Dec. 31—(AP)—The 15 railroad non-operating union today rejected President Roosevelt's proposed basis for arbitrating their wage dispute, and insisted they were entitled to a ruling on overtime independent of every other consideration.

A letter in reply to one from the President yesterday said "we do not agree to arbitration on the basis you propose."

The President had outlined to them the scope of the dispute as he saw it. He lumped together the sliding scale increases and the overtime, but the unions contend the sliding scale increases have been removed from the arena of arbitration by their acceptance of them.

It was understood the President's terms for arbitration were acceptable to the carriers.

With continued darkened prospects for an early settlement of the wage dispute, army control of the government-seized railroads for an indefinite time appeared likely.

President Roosevelt advised is ready to make a final decision in their case, but he stipulated the 15-non-operating unions be united a basis of arbitration which the union chiefs say is unacceptable.

The War Department said it wanted to return the rail system to private management but could not because at least two unions—the firemen and conductors—instead of cancelling strike orders, had merely postponed them for the period of government operation.

The union chiefs, after lashing the administration in one statement, asserted in reply to the War Department that they had done all they had agreed to do and were empowered to do. They said a strike voted by the membership cannot be cancelled by the officers while the issue which precipitated it is still alive.

The latent bitterness of the controversy emerged in the statement issued by D. B. Robertson of the firemen, H. M. Fraser of the conductors, and T. C. Cashen of the switchmen, who accused the administration of branding, delay, and of striving for the processes of the railway labor act, which they, the unions, said they "scrupulously followed during the controversy."

Lower Values For Cotton

New York, Dec. 31—(AP)—Cotton futures opened five cents a bale lower to 15 cents higher. Noon values were 20 to 30 cents a bale lower, March 19.71, May 19.40 and July 19.14.

	Previous Close	Open
March	19.75	19.75
May	19.45	19.44
July	19.19	19.19
October (new)	18.97	18.92
December (new)	18.78	18.81

DISCUSS SERIOUS CATTLE DISEASES

College Station, Raleigh, Dec. 31.—A serious cattle disease, called anaplasmosis, will receive major attention at the sixth annual veterinary conference which will be held at State College, January 25 through 28. Dr. C. D. Grinnell, chairman of the conference committee and veterinarian of the State College Experiment Station, announced here yesterday.

He said that the disease is very difficult to diagnose at certain periods in its cycle and that it is still more difficult to control because animal carriers of the disease are not easily located. It is produced by a blood parasite.

DISCHARGE BUTTONS READY

Camp Butler, Dec. 31.—Lapel buttons for wear on civilian clothes to signify an honorable discharge from military service are now available at the Camp Butler military personnel office, announced Col. H. M. Pool, post commander.

The buttons, which are in the custody of Capt. Clayton H. Banzhaf, director of military personnel, will be free to all personnel who have served honorably in the Army of the United States since Sept. 8, 1939, which began the period of the national emergency.

MAY RECEIVE SPECIAL RANKS

Washington, Dec. 31—(AP)—The Army and Navy General expressed belief today that President Roosevelt intends some new and special rank for Gen. George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff, and Adm. Ernest J. King, Commander-in-Chief of the Navy.

CLOSE-UP OF NAZI 'SECRET WEAPON'



THIS BEING A WAR of "secret weapons," here is the German contribution, which is no longer a secret. It is a rear view of the much written about rocket guns used on the Russian front. Weapons of this type, on a much larger scale, are believed to line the French Channel coast for use against the Allies when they start their invasion. (International)

Airdrome Captured On Cape Gloucester By Marines Of U.S.

Occupation Thursday Just Four Days After Landing by Invaders

Advanced Allied Headquarters, New Guinea, Dec. 31—(AP)—Strewing the jungle with hundreds of dead Japanese, United States Marines captured savagely defended Cape Gloucester and its airdrome four days and a few hours after a seaborne force from New Guinea invaded that northwest New Britain strongpoint. Today the surviving Nipponese faced entrapment.

On the last day of 1943, Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger, of the U. S. Sixth Army, proudly announced, "I have the honor to present the Gloucester airdrome to the commander-in-chief as a New Year's present."

The irresistible manner in which the Marines burned their way through pillbox defenses with flame throwers, brilliantly supported by artillery and bombing planes, to complete the occupation Thursday of the base's two airstrips won praise from General Douglas MacArthur.

Governor Sees Victory And Progress For 1944

Year Now Ending Is Good One for State, He Thinks

In the Sir Walter Hotel, Daily Dispatch Bureau, BY LYNN NISBET
Raleigh, Dec. 31—In a resume of State activities during 1943, Governor Broughton declares it to be one of the most notable years in the history of the State, with the impact of war having been felt by every citizen, and every State agency influenced by wartime demands. He finds upon the whole the people of the State have recognized the responsibilities and made good use of the opportunities involved in this situation.

While commending State departments and officials, the governor's chief praise is reserved for the private citizens who have kept industry, agriculture and commerce at high productive levels.

He recalls that there are two hundred and fifty thousand or more North Carolinians in uniform, in every branch of the armed services, and represented an almost evenly fighting front. At the same time there have been stationed at the fifty-odd training camps in this State sometimes as many as half a million men from other States.

Presence of so many military installations has imposed heavy responsibilities on the State and its people, but these responsibilities have been met by every agency giving full cooperation with the military authorities. Looking ahead to after the war, the governor sees some of the hospitals at the camps made available for civilian use and suggests that counties or combinations of counties might develop them into fine tubercular sanitariums.

High tribute is paid to Tar Heel farmers, who under severe handicaps produced record yields of essential crops. While commending the cooperative attitude of the State and Federal farm agencies, the gov-

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5th Army Takes San Vittore Reds At Bug River Defenses

Drive Wedge In Routed Nazi Forces

Great Red Offensive Carried to Within 30 Miles of River

Moscow, Dec. 31—(AP)—Russian forces streaming through the greatest hole yet torn in Nazi defenses have broken into the outer Bug river defenses in a driving offensive that has split the routed remnants of Nazi General Von Manstein's legions and carried to within 30 miles of the river itself, front line dispatches said today.

The Russian columns sweeping toward the Bug, Germany's next line of defense along the southeastern front west of the Dnieper river, through down the Kiev-Zhmerinka railway to open a deep wedge in the reeling Nazi army.

General Nikoli Vatutin's vanguards were reported to within 33 miles of the old Polish border and within 90 miles of the Dniester river which forms Rumania's old eastern border.

With the Warsaw-Smela railway severed at captured Kazatin, only one supply line remained open to the retreating Nazis before the main Odessa-Lwow line itself is endangered. That one supply line from Poland winds southeastward through the Ukraine and the Red army advance has carried to within 20 miles of the supply link. Cutting of this line would mean that all supplies for Nazi forces in the Dnieper bend and west of Kiev would have to move over the Odessa-Lwow railway.

The advance columns sweeping southwestward toward the old borders of Poland and Rumania was just 20 miles from the provincial center at Vinnitsa on the upper Bug river. Vinnitsa lies only 60 miles from the Dniester.

Another arm of General Vatutin's First Ukrainian army was striking westward in a hard hitting mobile advance outflanking Zhitomir.

This arm was reaching for Chepevka, 70 miles west of Zhitomir, the biggest railway junction of the Ukraine, and Novograd Volynski, a junction of two main highways about 45 miles northwest of Zhitomir.

MICA AND FELDSPAR REPORTS COMPLETE

Daily Dispatch Bureau, In the Sir Walter Hotel, BY LYNN NISBET

Raleigh, Dec. 31.—Dr. Jasper L. Stuckey, State geologist, said Friday that reports of surveys of mica, feldspar and kaolin, in which the State and Federal governments co-operated are about ready for publication. The reports are expected to be interesting and valuable in view of the strategic place mica is playing in mechanized warfare.

For many years this state produced about 60 percent of the mica mined in the United States. Since Pearl Harbor the ratio has stepped up to 70 per cent. Mica has many strategic war uses, but its most vital function is for insulation of electrical communication equipment, including radio and radar. So important is it for the war, the government has allocated \$25,000 for the next fiscal year to complete surveys and reports.

Heart of the mica producing areas lies around Spruce Pine, but it has been found in large quantity in Jackson, Cleveland and other counties. Recently attention has been given to deposits in Caswell county. Every deposit is being sought out and appraised, but presently producing efforts are being put forth in the mountain districts where the quantity and quality of mica has been proven.

The studies soon to be published, Dr. Stuckey said, will be of inestimable value for war production, and of equal worth in the development era expected to follow cessation of fighting.



GEN. DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER emphasizes a point at his last news conference before going to Britain to assume his command as leader of the Allied invasion forces from the west. He predicted that the Allies would win the European war in 1944. OWI Radio photo. (International)

Suburbs Of Paris Bombed By Allies In Daylight Raid

Paris Blow Follows Great 3,000 Plane Attacks Yesterday

London, Dec. 31—(AP)—Allied planes bombed the suburbs of Paris in daylight today, the Paris radio announced, after great formations of fighters and bombers of all types had streamed out after dawn in a continuation of the 1943 grand finale that sent more than 3,000 planes over enemy targets yesterday.

The brief radio announcement gave no details, and it was not immediately known whether the Paris blow was dealt by American heavy bombers or by fleets of Allied medium bombers.

Paris, administration center for German occupation authorities, also is a Nazi war production center. The Renault works on the Seine island at Billancourt is reported to be producing transport vehicles, tanks, and airplane engines. Nearby is the Gnome-Rhone works, which turns out airplane engines for the Germans.

Today's attacks were in the wake of an assault on an objective—which was not announced, which may have been the chemical and poison gas works of the Germans at Ludwigschafen deep in southwestern Germany—yesterday by the greatest fleet of United States bombers and fighters ever sent against the Reich.

The evening raids of 1943 today also followed fresh blows—last night by RAF Mosquitoes which hit targets in western Germany and northern France, and new mine-laying operations, in which not a single Allied plane was lost.

The daylight operations today were launched in cold line weather by flocks of medium bombers when returned in an hour.

Another great force went out between Folkestone and Dungeness, heading toward the French coast with numerous squadrons of fighters flying top cover.

The Fortresses and Liberators with their fighting escort shot down 23 Nazi planes in their daylight foray yesterday which followed the RAF's 2,200 blockbusting of Berlin on Wednesday night.

In return the Germans slashed only lightly by southeast England last night, causing slight damage at one place but no casualties.

Soldiers Announced Missing in Action

Washington, Dec. 31.—The War Department made public today the names of 560 United States soldiers missing in action. Of the group, the following are from North Carolina: Missing in the European area: Sgt. Douglas T. Johnson, grandmother, Mrs. Della T. Johnson, Four Oaks. Missing in the Pacific area: Tech. Fifth Grade George McDowell, mother, Mrs. Lizzie McDowell, Elizabethtown.

Town Near Cassino Won By Allies

Last Fortified Town Near Cassino on Road To Rome Is Captured

New York, Dec. 31—(AP)—The Italian Bari radio said today that the Allied Fifth Army had captured the fortified village of San Vittore near Cassino on the road to Rome.

A broadcast in Italy recorded by the OWI said that the village, the last fortified town in the valley leading to strategic Cassino, was captured after a stubborn German defense.

Allied Headquarters, Algiers, Dec. 31—(AP)—Fifth Army troops carried out a large scale raid along the west coast of Italy north of the Garigliano river yesterday, and seized the initiative from the Germans along the stalemated and water-logged front in that sector, Allied headquarters announced today.

The announcement continued at least in part that the Allies had made unannounced leapfrog attack in that area and had established a bridgehead.

Berlin broadcasts yesterday said that the Allies had been prevented from reaching the Apennine Way and that the fighters have been localized on the beaches with heavy casualties in the battle area at Bismarck, slightly inland from the coast.

The attacks by the Allies numbered a heavy two-day offensive by the German Tenth Army in the Garigliano sector aimed at the town of Ponte Fiume at the mouth of the river.

Headquarters gave no additional information about the drive of American troops to take San Vittore, last fortified village in the valley leading to Cassino. Bitter fighting has been raging there and the town has been reduced to rubble by Allied artillery, advised from the front last, but the Germans were dug into wine cellars under the town where it was difficult to reach them with artillery fire.

The communique said that action on the Fifth Army front was confined to patrol activity except for German shelling at Mignano.

On the Eighth Army front the hard fighting troops of the Canadian First Division plucked another mile northward from Ortona, putting their lines at about two miles from the city, and front line dispatches said they had established advance positions within about nine miles of the vital port of Pescara. Their drive was concentrated at a German-held engagement on a hill overlooking the Adriatic Sea near the mouth of the Tevere river and controlling much of the ground over which the advance is being made.

Steel Work Goes On; Talk New Contracts

Pittsburgh, Dec. 31—(AP)—With many collective bargaining contracts expiring next week in the steel industry, President Philip Murray of the United Steel Workers Union, today reiterated instructions to the men of the mills to continue at their jobs while the leaders of the unions negotiate new contracts.

Expiration of contracts with 211 companies on December 24 started a strike which spread to 17,000 workers before it was ended December 28 by a guarantee of pay retroactively by the War Labor Board in newly negotiated contracts.

Next Monday contracts expire with 10 more companies, including subsidiaries of the United States Steel Corporation. About a half million steel workers then will be without contracts until new ones are negotiated.

Murray told the unionists: "It has been the firm resolve of the officers and members of this organization to do nothing that would impede the nation's war effort, or that would in any way tend to impair the efficiency of our armed forces."

Cotton Charge May Be Raised Ten Percent

Washington, Dec. 31—(AP)—The Office of Price Administration announced today that cotton warehouses in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia may increase their maximum charges ten percent for the period through July 31, 1944 for services in the storage and handling of cotton.

Services included are those of storing, receiving, handling and compressing cotton.

The increase is allowed, OPA said, to offset higher operating expenses and to assure continuance of adequate warehousing facilities.

Profit Taking On Market

New York, Dec. 31—(AP)—The stock market today ran into profit taking on Thursday's big advance but managed to extend the advance by 1/8 to 100.00.

Occasional improvement was registered for U. S. Steel, Chrysler and American telephone, Loew's included Westinghouse, Southern Railway and General Electric.

Wheat futures climbed. Bonds did selectively better.

EXCESS PROFITS LAW APPRAISED AT DUKE

Durham, Dec. 31.—Continuing detailed exposition of the provision of the excess profits tax laws with appraisal of its economic effects, Law and Contemporary Problems, the Duke Law School quarterly, has just published a symposium of eleven articles on "Excess Profits Taxation."

This symposium is the first of a series of three issues which the Duke quarterly will devote to the problems arising from the vast volume of war contracts and the government's efforts to keep profits to reasonable levels. The next issue in the series, which will appear shortly, will deal with "War Contract Re-egotiation," and the third, with "War Contract Termination."

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Fair with little chance in temperature tonight and Saturday except slightly cooler in mountains tonight. Fair and mild Sunday.