

TWO MILLION DOLLAR FIRE AT NORFOLK IN ZERO WEATHER; MONTICELLO HOTEL BURNED; FROZEN WATER MAINS; 1 DEAD

Fireman Killed—Six Others Injured—Guests, Numbering Hundreds, Saw Another Blaze and Had Just Gone to Bed When Their Temporary Home Became Furnace—Marines and Soldiers to Rescue—Portsmouth Firemen Gave Assistance, Handicapped by Lack of Water—Scantily-Clothed People Carried to Hotels and Residences—Granby Theatre Block Falls Prey to Fire Demon as Well as Splendid Hostelry in Downtown Norfolk

(By the United Press)

Norfolk, Jan. 1.—Fire early this morning completely demolished the Monticello Hotel, causing a damage estimated at \$2,000,000. The flames gutted the first two floors, skipped the third and continued their wild rampage on the fourth floor. The fire department was practically helpless owing to the frozen condition of the water pipes. Portsmouth's department came over to render assistance, but unable to find a water supply, could do nothing. The Monticello was surrounded on the ground floor by large dry goods and other establishments, all of which sustained a tremendous loss.

Earlier Fire.

Five hundred guests had returned from a fire which destroyed the Granby Theatre block, when the hotel suddenly burst into flames, shortly after they had retired.

People rushed into the streets scantily clad. They were hurried to hotels and private residences.

One Dead.

Charles McCoy, a fireman was killed by a falling wall and six others injured.

So far as known this was the only life lost.

Sammy's Aid.

The firemen, worn out by an all-night battle with the other fire, were reinforced by soldiers and marines, who helped guests out of the hotel and saved much baggage. Zero weather made the fire fighting job hard. A wide expanse of City Hall Avenue afforded some protection to the city's main business but a strong North wind was a menace.

DEATH OF JOHN T. HILL, WELL-KNOWN RESIDENT.

Mr. John T. Hill, 60, died at his residence on North Queen Street Tuesday morning at 5 o'clock, after a long illness. The funeral will be conducted at the home Wednesday at 11 o'clock by Pastor B. P. Smith of Gordon Street Christian Church. Burial will take place at a family burial ground near Wheat Swamp at 1 o'clock. Mr. Hill married Miss Martha Sutton 40 years ago. She survives together with these children: Mrs. Ophie Hill, J. Linkfield Hill, Simon Hill, all of LaGrange; Mrs. R. B. Holland, Miss Bertha, Miss Bertha, Noah B., Miss Tessie, Miss Mattie, Miss Gladys and Herman Hill of Kinston. Mr. Hill was a rural mail carrier and was well-known in the city and section.

DEATH MRS. FRED JONES.

Mrs. Fred Jones, a well-known woman of Grainger, died Tuesday morning. The funeral will be held Wednesday afternoon, Rev. C. W. Blanchard of New Bern officiating. Mrs. Jones was known to a large number of people here and was prominently related.

BULLETINS

WARS AND SLAYS FRENDS AGAIN.

Petrograd, Jan. 1.—Russia and Germany are putting into effect immediately the provisions of the Brest-Litovsk negotiations for the resumption of commercial relations. The German naval blockade and recognition of Russian maritime commerce. Commercial relations will be resumed when a German ship with German goods arrives at Revel shortly.

BRITISH HOLD OWN IN HARD FIGHTING IN CAMBRAI SECTOR

Positions Lost and Retaken Several Times; Boches Assaulting Desperately

ARTILLERY RENEWED

New Year Comes in With Troops on Western Front Bitterly Engaged—Combat Rages Back and Forth Over Short Part of Lines

(By the United Press)

London, Jan. 1.—Violent fighting on the Western front ushered in the New Year in the Cambrai sector. Unofficial dispatches from the lines today told of a continued unceasing effort through a highly localized attack by the Germans to secure a grip on Welsh Ridge.

Several points of this salient position were taken and retaken two or three times. The combat is raging fiercely back and forth. Gen. Haig's latest report said the British lines were intact after counter attacks. He had restored a position taken by the Germans with liquid fire attacks. He also reported mutual artillery in the neighborhood of Arleuxen-Gohelle.

COTTON

The market Tuesday was again practically frozen up, with little or no bartering. There was no futures market—holiday.

Oysters Scarce.

New Bern reports an oyster famine, due to the severe cold over the sounds.

Up Against Weather Like This Many's the Time in Europe.

The weather that now has the South Atlantic coast as well as other regions of the country shivering and stamping feet is not altogether as much an ally of Germany as it would seem, according to Mr. Sol Oettinger, prominent among the older residents here. For while the Southern part of the U. S. A. catches it so only occasionally, the Kaiser's outfit gets worse very often during midwinter. Mr. Oettinger recalls the days of his boyhood spent in Germany.

Day after day "on just such a day as Sunday or Monday," he had to stretch his little legs over three miles of frozen road from his parents' village home in the kingdom of Wurtemberg to a city just across the line in Bavaria, where he attended high school. The average German residence in the cold months was comfortable and well-stocked with fuel and provisions. A giant stove would occupy an aperture between the living room and kitchen and heat a small house comfortably. The famous porcelain stoves of Germany were fuel savers and ideal heaters. Once when a brother was skating on the road from the city to the Oettinger home he fell and broke a kerosene jug. The strict discipline of the Oettinger household required the boy to return for the oil next morning. He had little difficulty in recovering it from the ice-covered highway. No one in Kinston ever doubted Mr. Oettinger when he said a thing. "I went into Switzerland once," he said, "and after climbing away up struck a mountain plateau. There, on the little bit of a tableland, was a toy farm with its attractive house and orchard and all, including a cow. How they got the cow up there wasn't as interesting as the use to which a pile of black brick was put. The Swiss farmer had saved the parings and cores from the cider press and moulded them into bricks. These the sun had dried out. They were burned in the stove for fuel in winter! The strictest conservationists in the world are in middle Europe."

NEUSE RIVER SHEET OF ICE; POPULATION TURNS OUT TO SEE

Rare Thing Happens Here on Heels of Zero Weather of Severe Month

MONTH JUST TRIED ITSELF

Left Long Criminal Record Behind It—7 1-2 Inches of Snow Fell to Make City and Section Sick of the Season—Cold!

Neuse River was frozen over Tuesday morning. It was a sensation for Kinston. Hundreds of people flocked to the Caswell Street bridge to see the sight. Most declared it a beautiful spectacle. A number there were, old timers, who had seen the like once or twice before. The sickly little stream looked like an ice cream supper or Baffin's Bay when the pack begins to break up. Here and there the river eddied in chinks but the little water visible apparently was ready to quit whenever the Weather Bureau said the word. It was, to tell the truth, pretty and innocent-like. It wasn't fit for skating. When Neuse River freezes over it's worth a 4-deck head, and for that reason this story will be hung onto one.

Memories.

Seldom has it been so cold here as during the 72 hours preceding Tuesday.

Elderly residents got out and brushed off their mental notebooks. In the excitement Abe Willis, dean of the colored tenorial community, recalled and stuck to it that the Maine was blown up during Cleveland's last administration. That had nothing to do with the weather, but shows how

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KAISER HARPS ON GERMAN ALLIANCE WITH GOD; 'BY FORCE WE MUST BRING PEACE BACK,' DECLARES TO SOLDIERS

Russian Representative Declares Petrograd Will Not Make Peace Separately if Allies Will Agree to International Conference at Stockholm, While Allies Prepare to State Just What They Think of Brest-Litovsk Proposals—Will Decline to Be Drawn Into Peace With Strings to It—America, Britain, France and Italy Conferring—May Restate War Aims or Uncover Grinning Skeleton Hidden Under Kaiser's Camouflage

(By the United Press)

Amsterdam, Jan. 1.—"We are all instruments in the hands of God Almighty to restore peace."

Thus declared Kaiser Wilhelm. He told his troops around Cambrai Christmas eve: "You must have wondered why God allowed a fourth year with us still at war. We maintained peace nearly half a century, while others disturbed it. So by force we must bring peace back."

Allies Confer.

London, Jan. 1.—Britain, France, Italy and the United States are exchanging views regarding the action which the Allies will take to counter the Teutonic peace terms. According to well-defined information the reply may take the form of a counter statement of war aims subscribed to by all the Allies or may be issued as an analysis of exactly what lies behind the camouflage of the German proposals. The Allies recognize the Brest-Litovsk proposals as a concrete back-handed proffer to them as much as to Russia.

Stockholm, Jan. 1.—Russia will immediately break off separate peace negotiations if the Allies grant passports to a Stockholm international conference and show a disposition of honesty to consider that conference's decision regarding a general peace, declared M. Vorkevsky, representative of the Russian Soviet and People's Commissaries, today. Russia, he asserted, welcomes the action of the British Labor Party. It prefers a democratic general peace rather than an unsatisfactory separate peace. By permitting a meeting of the Socialists' international gathering it would be possible to make a general agreement. Should the Central Powers decline to participate in such a Stockholm conference or abide by its decisions Russia would continue in the war. Should the Allies decline a separate peace would be inevitable.

Kyzer Wants Farmers to Bring Back Pigs and Cows From Show

The North Carolina Live Stock Association began a big drive Tuesday at Wilson. Farmers from all over the State are attending a statewide exhibit there. Pure bred farm stock will be sold at auction each day during the several of the meeting and show. Tuesday General Swine brought forth his army of pure bred Duroc Jerseys, Berkshires, Poland Chinas, etc. Wednesday the Beef Brigade will appear. Thursday dairy stock will be on display and sale. Friday poultry will hold first place. Fine specimens of all classes will be put on the block.

Free lectures will be given by experts. Exhibits of live stock products will be an interesting feature of the convention. Valuable prizes will be awarded. At night moving pictures will be shown illustrating best methods to follow in stock raising. Noted stock experts will speak. Farm Demonstration Agent W. T. Kyzer, who has been active in having this annual event brought to the Eastern part of the State, asks: "Are we with Uncle Sam in this war? Then, attend this show and sale and buy some of the good stock which will be offered." This is the year—this newborn 1918—when the Southern farmer will have a great responsibility on him. He had better prepare to face it, Agent Kyzer says. He urges every farmer attending the Wilson show to bring back at least one pure bred animal. And he urges every farmer who can to attend the convention. The gathering will break up January 4.

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Clemenceau Boys Have Good Luck; Nothing Happens to Battalion.

(By the United Press)
With the American Expeditionary Army, France, Dec. 3 (By Mail)—Premier Clemenceau, of France, is a mighty good billiken.

The Clemenceau Battalion, named for him, went through their turn in the front line trenches, under daily fire and carried out many night patrols right up to the Boche wires without a single casualty.

Not a man scratched, though one Sammy was knocked down by the concussion of a .77 shell that knocked off his rifle butt and exploded 20 feet away.

The Clemenceau Battalion sector adjoined that of the battalion which was raided by the boche.

FOOTBALL BROUGHT MEN AT WACO CLOSE TOGETHER.

(By the United Press)
New York, Jan. 1.—With a declaration that football had done more to unite Camp MacArthur at Waco, Texas, than anything except a baptism of fire, Brig. Gen. W. C. Haan, commanding the division gave sports an impetus at the Southern camp that it could not have attained in any other fashion.

Camp MacArthur's football team, according to H. H. Pearl, division athletic director, was one of the best in the country and stimulated sports activity to a tremendous degree.

ALASKA SWEARS OFF.

Washington, Jan. 1.—Alaska climbed aboard the water wagon last night, bag and baggage—for keeps. In other words Alaska on January 1 became bone dry. The bill assigning Alaska to the prohibition ranks was the first prohibition bill passed by the House.



KEEP KINSTON DOLLARS AT HOME.