

## RUSSIA WILL BE IN BAD WAY WHEN 12TH JANUARY COMES, TERMINATING PERIOD MILITARY INACTIVITY UNDER ARMISTICE

Thousands of Troops Withdrawn From Fronts, Frontier Will Be Shabbily Defended When Slavs Get Back Into War—Months Before Forces Can Be Very Useful to Allies—So Sure Was Government Teutons' Wings Were Genuine That Whole Equipment Was Allowed to Fall to Pieces and Rust During Past Few Weeks—Ill-concealed Cunning of Boches is Fully Realized by Lenine-Trotsky Outfit Now—Kerensky Preparing to Try to Come Back

(By the United Press)

Petrograd, Jan. 4.—Russia repudiates the German-contrived peace. The conferences at Brest-Litovsk apparently have ended. The Bolshevik government is awake to the duplicity and self-interest of the Germans.

Whether Russia can fight again within months cannot be foreseen.

No peace is possible in the German view without Germany's virtual annexation of Lithuania, Poland, Courland and Estonia. The part of the armistice relating to the movement of troops expires January 12 (December 30 Russian style). What will happen then no Russian is willing to prophesy. Thousands of Russian troops have been withdrawn from all the fronts. The transport system has been allowed to melt away. The whole military system is disorganized.

Soldiers and delegates at Petrograd insist that the army cannot be expected to fight under the present disorganization and demoralization.

Former Premier Kerensky is reported to be preparing to record his services in the revolution for presentation to the constituent assembly, presumably as the first move in his campaign for rehabilitation. Assembly Sits 18th.

Petrograd, Jan. 4.—The opening of the constituent assembly was fixed today for January 18 if a quorum of 400 members is then present at Petrograd, according to formal announcement.

## DEFENSE OPENS ITS CASE MURDER TRIAL

(By the United Press)  
Richmond, Va., Jan. 4.—The case of the commonwealth was practically concluded today in the trial of Ass P. Chamberlain, alleged murderer of his brother, when John Simms and Sam Bates, negroes, the first witnesses called, testified. Their statements substantiated those of other witnesses for the State regarding mutilation of the body.

Coroner L. K. Leak recited the details of the inquest over the body. He testified that the work of dismembering it was thoroughly done. Witnesses for the defense will go on this afternoon.

## Bread and Oil Out, City is in Bad Way; Goulashes All Gone

Washington, N. C., Jan. 4.—This city last night had less than 50 gallons of kerosene oil, as a canvass of stores and other supply places showed. Rubbers and goulashes were not to be had. Not a loaf of baker's bread has been obtainable for several days.

## THIRD LIBERTY LOAN WILL OPEN 15TH NEXT MONTH; AMOUNT NOT STATED YET

(By the United Press)

Washington, Jan. 4.—The third Liberty Loan campaign will open February 15. The amount desired in this is not ascertained.

Extensive preparations for advertising and distributing the bonds is nearing completion. A number of striking new posters, notably one by Howard Chandler Christy, are being prepared. Secretary McAdoo will give all his time to the railroads until February, when he will turn to direct charge of the next loan campaign.

## FLETCHER RECALLED AS RESULT SINKING OF BIG TROOPSHIP

Prominent Admiral of Navy Comes Home; Britton's Charges Cause

### INSUFFICIENTLY CONVOYED

Is Accusation Laid at Navy's Door—Daniels Refuses Discuss Developments At All—Sims Careless?—Incident Closed

(By the United Press)

Washington, Jan. 4.—Rear Admiral Fletcher, formerly in charge of the navy convoy system, has been relieved and ordered home as the direct outgrowth of the torpedoing of the American transport Antilles. The fact leaked out a considerable time after the occurrence, following charges by Representative Britton of Illinois that the Antilles was sunk through the navy's negligence.

Britton claimed the ship did not have a sufficient convoy. The question in navy quarters is whether Admiral Sims, chief of European operations, provided a sufficient guard. No court-martial will be held and the incident does not stand officially against Fletcher's record. Secretary of the Navy Daniels today refused to make public Fletcher's name or to discuss in any way the outcome of the Antilles case.

## BRITISH ADVANCED LITTLE NEAR LENS

(By the United Press)

London, Jan. 4.—British forces advanced South of Lens last night, Gen. Haig reported. North of Cambrai, in the neighborhood of the Canal Du Nord, local fighting occurred yesterday afternoon, resulting in no material change in the military situation. Hostile artillery was reported in the Bullecourt and Ypres sectors.

## ZERO WEATHER HERE AT LAST; CLIMAX OF COLD SNAP AT HAND

Slightly Warmer Temperatures Predicted But Nothing Worth Dancing Over Yet—Whole Section Paralyzed by Cold

Zero! Officially the mercury dropped to that level Thursday night. The pale pink streak after struggling upward a point or two at a time finally managed to get to just where it had been striving to get. Suffered a relapse, so to speak.

The Weather Bureau will not say when it is going to be seasonable again. It half-heartedly ventures a prediction that slightly warmer temperature may be expected the coming 24 hours, however.

There has been one consolation about the week's cold wave. The weather has not been of the native kind at all. It has been dry and the air has been wholesome, and suffering not more intense than with it eight or 10 degrees warmer under usual barometric conditions.

The Eastern half of the Nation continues to suffer far more than in an ordinary winter. The Kaiser's to blame—directly so. Had he not dragged the United States into the war labor to cut wood would have been more plentiful the past Fall, the railroads would not have been so congested, and the mines' output would have been far greater with the means at hand to get rid of the coal.

The coastal part of North Carolina could get fuel by boat were it possible for the commodity to be gotten to water terminals. Rough weather has been hindering water transportation, too.

The snap has killed livestock, suspended saw mill operations, stopped fishing, particularly oystering, and in dozens of other ways made trouble in Eastern Carolina. It is reported that some of the smaller bays in which oysters are caught are completely frozen over.

### DUBLIN COURT.

Kensanville, N. C., Jan. 4.—Duplin County Superior Court for a two-weeks civil term will be convened here January 7, Judge Calvert presiding.

## MANY INJURED WHEN KINSTON - CAROLINA CAR LEAVES TRACK

40 Passengers Get Shaking Up and Half of Number Are Hurt

### BLAZE STARTED, PUT OUT

One Man Burned, Another Cut, Worst Damaged—Train Happens to the Accident 2 1/2 Miles From Here

One person was badly injured and many slightly when the rear coach of a Kinston-Carolina Railroad train, Southbound, left the track and turned over two and a half miles from here Friday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. Defective rails are believed to have caused the wreck.

The car, turning over on its side, caught fire. Bryant Smith, an elderly passenger, was burned. Smith was brought here for medical attention. His condition is supposed to be not serious. Smith was probably the worst injured of the victims. A man named Desmond was apparently badly cut on the face. There were about 40 passengers on the car and probably half of these were hurt by glass, fire or being shaken up in the capsized car.

The fire was extinguished by trainmen and passengers.

Information had at the offices was that six or eight persons were injured, one car destroyed and the mail saved.

## PRESIDENT BEFORE CONGRESS AT NOON

(By the United Press)

Washington, Jan. 4.—With an appeal for immediate action in the face of the demands for nationwide relief and the elimination of financial uncertainty, President Wilson outlined his railroad legislative program before Congress at 12:30.

(Subscribe to The Free Press)

## FUEL ADMINISTRATION STOPS SALE OF COAL HERE AT \$15 TON; TRYING MAKE SOME ARRANGEMENT TO SUPPLY CITY

Local Dealers Who Purchased Supply for Which Government Accepted Too High a Price Won't Be Permitted to Make Further Deliveries Until Washington is Heard From in Matter—McAlister Instructs Lenoir County Administrator to Hold Up Trading Until He Can Get High-up Opinion—No Other Fuel Here Capable of Being Burned, Administration Expected to Rush Supply to City—In Real Tight Place Now

The sale of soft coal at \$15 a ton was stopped Friday morning by local Fuel Administrator N. J. Rouse upon instructions from State Fuel Administrator McAlister pending further instructions from the United States Fuel Administration at Washington.

### BULLETINS

(By the United Press)

**TO FREE UKRAINIANS.**  
Petrograd, Jan. 3.—The Commissaries' Council today reached a decision to acknowledge the independence of Ukraine.

### CRACKED.

Washington, Jan. 4.—The Department of Justice regards two aliens, Johannes Emmer and son, Otto Emmer, arrested in connection with the Norfolk fire, as feeble-minded and soon expects to release them.

### Three Badly Hurt

By Explosion Old Shell in Fireplace

Washington, N. C., Jan. 4.—A large shell, a relic of the War Between the States, used as an andiron by a colored tenant on the farm of Ot. Rumbley near here, exploded and severely injured a woman and two children. The house was badly damaged. The tenant took the shell to be a solid piece of metal.

### Fire and Bedding

in Church to Keep Many From Suffering

Washington, N. C., Jan. 4.—An emergency "heat station" has been set up at a big colored church on Fourth Street here. Sleeping accommodations have been provided, and E. R. Mison, chairman of the Associated Charities, has instructed that the building be thrown open to all colored sufferers.

### CUT DELIVERIES.

New Bern, Jan. 4.—Local merchants have cut the number of deliveries to two a day and some are refusing to make deliveries at all, as the result of the bad condition of the snow and ice covered streets.

### FUEL ADMINISTRATION FIXES PRICE OF WOOD AT NEW BERN.

New Bern, Jan. 4.—The local Fuel Administration has fixed the price of wood at \$5 a cord for pine and \$5.25 for oak wood f. o. b. cars. A warning has been issued against overcharging.

Messrs. Collins & Taylor, local dealers, a few weeks ago purchased a salvaged cargo of 500 tons at Morehead City, paying a price under the hammer in excess of that authorized by the Government and they have been selling this coal at \$15. They purchased the supply in order to relieve as much as possible the fuel famine, but its sale at \$15 was referred to State Fuel Administrator McAlister and instructions were received Friday morning in substance saying that in his opinion the sale of the cargo by the United States Marshal at Morehead City, the purchase by the local men and the resale at prices in excess of that authorized by the Government were in violation of the law and he advised that no further deliveries be made until instructions could be gotten from Washington.

It is probable that the Government will take steps to correct the matter and that the local dealers will be protected when the final disposition of the matter comes. This, however, is a mere conjecture and is not authorized by either the State or local Fuel Administration.

The Free Press was informed by a representative of Messrs. Collins & Taylor that deliveries on the soft coal had been stopped pending instructions. This further complicates the local fuel situation for the Morehead City supply is the only soft coal to be had in the City now and a number of deliveries had to be held up. Local Fuel Administrator Rouse is looking for some coal sent by the State Fuel Administrator and he is also endeavoring to get further instructions from the State Fuel Administration as to taking care of the emergency caused by the suspension of deliveries.

**The Price of Wood to Be Regulated.**

The Free Press is authorized by the Fuel Administrator to state that the price of wood has been fixed and the scale of prices will be announced in a few days, as soon as final approval is had from the State Fuel Administration. It may be stated authoritatively that the prices named will show a material reduction in those now prevailing and will not only govern the regular dealers but wagon deliveries made by country people.

### BURNED TO DEATH.

Mount Olive, N. C., Jan. 4.—Sarah Thomas, a colored woman residing on R. Kornegay's farm near here, was fatally burned when her clothing caught fire from a fireplace. She is survived by three small children.

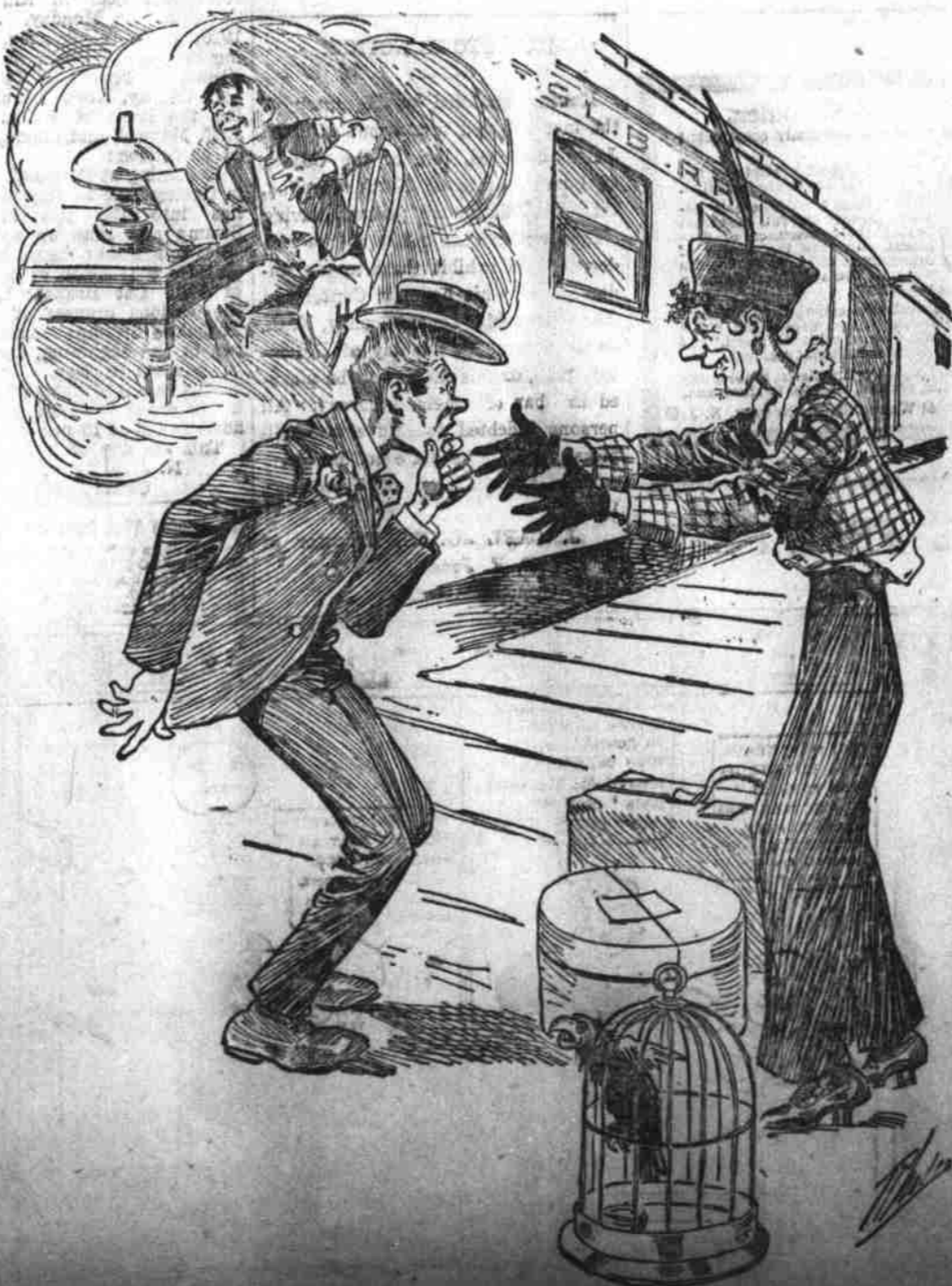
## DRAFT AGE MAY BE RAISED TO TAKE IN MEN UP TO 45; NONE WITH DEPENDENTS

(By the United Press)

Washington, Jan. 4.—Increasing the draft age from 31 to 40 or 45 is one of the probabilities of the future, according to Provost-Marshal General Crowder in his comprehensive report to the Secretary of War. The drafting of older men would be mainly for the purpose of getting skilled war labor and also to distribute the burden of the war.

Gen. Crowder has shown that there are enough single young men for fighting, but points out the danger of injuring the coming generation by taking too many aggressively patriotic young men.

In his report he states that there will be no further call for men of the fourth class having dependents.



GETTING A WIFE BY MAIL—KEEP KINSTON DOLLARS AT HOME.