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# High Point Enterprise

**WEATHER**  
Partly cloudy tonight and Saturday, colder; cold wave in west portion Saturday. Moderate west to northwest winds.

VOL. 25. No. 30.

HIGH POINT, NORTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 28, 1917.

Member Associated Press.

## ALL CARRIERS MERGED INTO ONE AT NOON

Approximately 250,000 Miles Now Comprise One Great Continental Chain for the Winning of the War.

No Ceremony Marked the Event Considered by Many to Be Opening of a New Epoch in Government Operations.

Washington, Dec. 28.—As the first practical step in the government operation of railroads, which began at noon today, Director-General McAdoo drafted the railroad war board into the national service to work out plans of uniform operations and to submit them to him for approval.

Five railroad executives, each a leader in the business of transportation, who will work out the plans for welding 250,000 miles of railroad into one great continental system for winning the war, include Fairfax Harrison, president of the Southern.

Director-General McAdoo will issue no orders or directions for the immediate present, but will await recommendation of the war board before taking any measures to clear the congestion choking railroad terminals and tracks in the east.

"Whatever can be done to make the roads more efficient," said Mr. McAdoo, "will be done as soon as we find out what is necessary."

Washington, Dec. 28.—At noon today approximately 250,000 miles of American railway system silently merged into one great continental chain for the winning of the war.

Under President Wilson's direction the great event, regarded by many as the opening of a new epoch in government operations and control of public utilities, passed by without any formal ceremony.

Director-General McAdoo was conferring at the time with the members of the Railroad War board and Robert S. Lovett, chairman of the priority shipment committee.

The members of the war board—all railroad executives who have been working within the limitations of the law to do what the government itself now proposes to accomplish, pledged their support to the government administration, as has practically every railroad in the country.

Orders for actual unification of the lines, common use of facilities and equipment which are expected to raise the freight jam immediately will be the first result.

## FRANCE DON'T WANT BEFORE WAR PEACE

Pinchon Says the War Will Go on Whether or Not Russia Concludes Separate Peace.

Paris, Thursday, Dec. 27.—France will not accept a peace based on conditions before the war, Foreign Minister Pinchon declared in replying to the chamber of deputies today to the peace terms of the central powers outlined to Russia. He asserted that Germany was endeavoring to involve France in its negotiations with the Bolsheviks, but that the war would go on whether or not Russia made a separate peace.

The foreign minister said Germany was seeking to protect the negotiations with the Russians re-establishing commercial relations, in the meantime believing that in this way the Bolsheviks might be checked later.

## RUMORS OF CHANGES IN RAILWAY CONTROL

Durham, Dec. 28.—The purchase of the Durham and South Carolina railroad by certain of the big stockholders of the American Tobacco company, of Durham, the removal of the freight offices of that road from East Durham into Durham, and the subsequent development of this road, which in the past has been used mainly as an adjunct of the Chatham Lumber company interests between Durham and Bonaal, are rumors that, while not confirmed by any of the people or interests involved, bear all the earmarks of authenticity.

Some believe that the rearrangement of the stock of the Durham and South Carolina is but the beginning of more important changes in the railroad circles in this section of the country.

## NO RESPONSE TO TEUTONIC PEACE TERMS

America's Attitude Towards the Conditions Advanced by Germany Has Not Changed—Believe Promises Insincere.

Bulgarian King Holds Different Views As Regards Annexation, and Says Bulgaria Will Hold What She Has Won.

German terms for a general peace and the suggestion that the entente allies join the Russo-German peace conference has brought no response.

American, British and French leaders are silent, probably awaiting a direct message from the peace makers at Brest-Litovsk.

The attitude of the American government has not changed and it is felt in Washington that the present German promises of no annexation and no indemnities are insincere. An alleged view of the German peace terms in high circles says that Germany desires a general peace and does not want a separate peace with Russia. British newspaper opinion is divided. A recess in the peace negotiations has been taken and the conference will be resumed January 4 at a place not yet determined.

Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik foreign minister, is said to be preparing a new appeal for the entente allies to join the conference. It is indicated in Petrograd dispatches reaching London that the Bolsheviks place most of their hopes in retaining power in the consummation of a peace which will meet the wishes of the Russian population, thus weakening the Cossack and Ukrainian opposition.

King Ferdinand, of Bulgaria, an American dispatch says, holds different views on annexation from those expressed by Count Czernin, who apparently is the German mouthpiece. A Vienna dispatch quotes the king as saying that Bulgaria would hold what she has won, which seemingly is at variance with the generalization of no forcible annexation uttered by Count Czernin. German and Austrian papers generally warmly welcome these terms.

Repealed in their attempt to break through the French line northeast of Verdun, the Germans have ceased their efforts, while the artillery on both sides keeps up a lively fire. In the Argonne yesterday the French checked a German surprise attack and French artillery broke up enemy troop concentrations northeast of Verdun. On the British front artillery engagements continue at various points.

On the Italian northern front, the Austro-Germans have not followed up their successes of early in the week west of the Brenta, which they had fought to maintain. Enemy artillery fire in the Asiago plateau is intense, perhaps in preparation for other attempts.

Bolshevik soldiers in Petrograd have seized all the private banks in the city, including the branch of the National City bank of New York. B. R. Stevens, the manager of the branch, was arrested but released later.

## THURSDAY'S REACTION PARTLY RECOVERED ON COTTON MARKET

New York, Dec. 28.—The cotton market recovered, a good part of yesterday's reaction at the opening today. Liverpool was better than due and houses with English connections were buyers here while there was also a little trade buying of March and May. The opening was 9 to 26 points higher in consequence, but demand was supplied around the initial figures by southern and local selling with the tone rather unsettled.

Cotton futures opened fairly steady: January, 30.60; March, 29.95; May, 29.57; July, 29.12; October, 27.90.

## DEATHS IN NATIONAL ARMY AND GUARD SHOW DECREASE FOR WEEK

Washington, Dec. 28.—Deaths from disease in the national army during the week ending December 21, numbered 108 against 97 the week before, and in the national guard 129 against 165, as shown in a summary of army health conditions made public today by the war department. Of the national army deaths, 77 were due to pneumonia and 51 of those in the national guard, 87.

## AMERICAN PRIVATES KILLED IN A GERMAN RAID

With the American Army in France, Thursday, Dec. 27.—(By the Associated Press.)—During a recent moonlight night German aviators dropped bombs near a certain town and two American privates who were in a camp in a wood were killed. The German airmen flew low and dropped their bombs accurately.

## VETERANS WILL BE DINED AND FETED

Cigars Needed if Smokes Are to Be Included in the Affair of Saturday Afternoon.

Tomorrow afternoon at 12:30 o'clock the members of the local camp United Confederate Veterans, their wives and the widows of veterans who have answered the final roll call, will be guests of honor at a luncheon tendered at headquarters by the people of the city. Every veteran is cordially invited to attend and to bring their wives; the widows of veterans are none the less cordially urged to attend as are the ministers of the city.

Following the dinner an informal reception will take place to which all the people of the city and section are invited. The Veterans will be at home, so to speak, and will relate stories of the conflict of the sixties.

Everything was about in readiness for the affair this afternoon with the exception of some cigars which are greatly needed and which will be appreciated by the vets. Any person desiring to donate cigars will confer a favor upon the Daughters of the Confederacy and every other person interested in the rapidly diminishing hosts of the Confederacy by sending them to headquarters.

## LIGHTLESS NIGHT WAS BRIGHT HERE

Lights Gleamed Last Evening, Even Though It Should Have Been "Lightless."

"Lightless night" was not observed in High Point last evening, even though it was one of the two weekly occasions designated as "lightless" by the state and national fuel administrations. The failure of High Point to "get in on" the movement was probably due to a failure of the authorities to spread the information where it was needed; however, it should be remembered that in the future Thursday and Sunday night are to be "lightless," meaning that no other lights other than those needed to light the streets sufficiently to insure safe traveling will be burned.

The people of the city should acquaint themselves with the rules governing the observance of lightless nights. The order of the national fuel administration provides that all signs of every kind, including merchants' signs, directional signs, theater, hotel and advertising signs, display lighting on buildings and elsewhere, shall be discontinued completely on Thursday and Sunday nights of each week. On these same nights stores not open for business must not show even side lights more than are necessary for safety, and municipalities with cluster lights or extra bright lighting for white way effect, must reduce on Thursday and Sunday nights to only so much lighting as is necessary for safety. These nights, be it known, will be called "lightless nights."

"The spirit of the order is that on Thursday and Sunday nights, there should be no more outdoor lighting than is absolutely necessary for safety of street passages and dangerous spots," reads a communication from the state fuel administrator, A. W. McAllister, to the chairman of the local committee.

## "Dora" is Abused.

London, Dec. 28.—The defense of the realm act, which has been nicknamed "Dora," has come in for more abuse, from hair dressers owing to an embargo put on the use of spirits for general use. This measure has become necessary in consequence of the enormously increased demand for munition and Red Cross needs. Dry shampoos and hair lotions are all threatened by the latest order of "Dora," and as the use of methylated spirit for burning purposes is also forbidden, thousands of forced-draught oil stoves which cannot be lighted except by the aid of spirit, are made useless.

## GOVERNMENT CONTROL TO SOLVE THE TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS

Several Local Manufacturers and Shippers Feel That the Operation of All Railroads As One Great Line, Rates Disregarded, Will Serve to Prevent Paralysis.

That the action of the United States government in taking over the railroads of the country today at noon should materially assist in solving transportation problems, is the opinion of more than one manufacturer and shipper of High Point. The central and western sections of the nation will be the first to feel the improvement, local men state, while the east, where the congestion is most severe, will be the last. It is understood by the local men that the government, under the direction of Secretary McAdoo, will operate all railroads as a single line and this one feature of government plans will have much to do with the ultimate solving of the shipping problem.

"There are important shipping routes—railway systems—that are now open and have been open, either steadily or at frequent intervals, but over which no freight has been shipped owing to the matter of rates," a traffic man informed the reporter this morning. "As I understand it," he continued, "the government will disregard existing rates and will immediately forward all consignments, as rapidly as possible, over routes that are open. All the railroads, great trunk lines and 'streaks of rust and right-of-way' lines, will be operated as one great system and by so doing the government can get rid of the congestion existing in the great centers of the country but this cannot be done at once. It will take time but it is my belief that the government will accomplish what seemed to be impossible just a few days ago."

Manufacturers and shippers of High Point, or at least the several approached on this question this morning, showed absolutely no hesitation in stating that they believed the act of the government would serve to prevent a condition of paralysis attacking the manufacturing industry. The outlook has been gloomy for some little time, manufacturers have not been jubilant over the prospects, but the taking over of the railroads today at noon by the government has been nothing less than a ray of hope out of a dark cloud of gloom to the local men most concerned.

The bullish movement of railroad stocks on the markets yesterday immediately after the announcement was made that the government would assume charge today at noon was mentioned by one citizen this morning as being a remarkable testimonial of confidence in President Wilson and Secretary McAdoo by the American people. The fact that the stocks soared and regained the points lost during the past few weeks as a result of the announcement proves, according to the citizen, that the people of the United States place implicit faith in the ability of Woodrow Wilson and his chief aid.

## WHERE DID UNCLE SAM'S 50,000 IRON MEN GO?

Richmond, Va., Dec. 28.—No new clues were found today as to the whereabouts of the missing 50,000 which disappeared while being sent from Richmond to Columbia, S. C., last Saturday, the only trace of it being the pouch containing the money was received for at Hamlet, S. C. The money was on the way from the Richmond federal reserve bank to a bank at Columbia. Whether it was lost in the Christmas rush is not known.

## PEACEMAKERS AGREE TO LAY OFF 10 DAYS

In the Meantime Trotzky Prepares New Note Asking Entente to Join Russia.

Petrograd, Thursday, Dec. 27.—The delegates of the central powers to the peace conference at Brest-Litovsk have agreed to a ten day recess in the peace negotiations which will be resumed January 4 at a place not yet determined.

Leon Trotzky the Bolshevik foreign minister is reported to be drafting a new note to the entente allied embassies again asking them to participate in the conference.

Trotzky is also said to be preparing a new message for the peoples of the world. The Russian delegates to the peace conference will return to Petrograd tomorrow or Saturday. An armistice is reported to have been reached between the Bolshevik forces and the troops of General Kaledines at Rostov with a neutral zone between the opposing lines.

## IS IMPORTANT DUTY OF EVERY REGISTRANT TO READ QUESTIONS

It is Dut of Every Registered Man Receiving Questionnaire to Read It, Member of Local Board Says—Will Give Registrants Needed Information and Lessen Work of Attorneys.

The problem of being able to answer a questionnaire without the assistance of an attorney has been solved by at least one registrant in High Point township, it is stated. This particular registrant simply started at the beginning of the seemingly complicated document, read it from start to finish, and then answered the questions that concerned him. While the accomplishment may not seem remarkable, inasmuch as his procedure was identical to the same as that recommended by the government officials, still it is sufficiently rare to warrant notice, for this one man is the great minority of the hundreds of registrants of the townships—the others haven't the time or trouble to attend to a solemn and important duty, that of acquainting themselves with the ramifications of the questionnaire system of classifying men for service in the national army.

The legal advisory board, the attorneys of High Point, continue to be swamped under the great rush of registrants who simply will not attempt to do any thinking on their own initiative. The utter unfamiliarity of many of these men with the questions contained in the all important instrument proves that they have neither read nor considered; that they are willing to leave the task of assembling the needed information for someone else to perform.

Several business men of the city have during the past two or three days, assisted in every way possible, but a majority of instances these volunteers have overlooked the necessity of having the registrants affix their signatures at the bottom of the first page, where deferred classification is claimed, or following any of the series of questions which everyone must answer. A volunteer, such as a business man or teacher, cannot take the affidavit, next to the final page, but the volunteer can attend to the rest of it. So can the registrants, for that matter, but their continued refusal to think makes the congestion all the greater.

Questionnaires were mailed today to those registrants whose order numbers range from 890 to 974, inclusive. The registrants concerned by today's mail follow:

William W. Hurley, William K. Nance, Ely F. McDowell, W. T. Sink, William B. Richardson, H. W. White, S. F. Prummer, Ernest Suits, Otis Clay Pitts, Charles E. Hill, Arthur Lee Brewer, David E. Frazier, John E. McMillan, Charlie B. Steil, E. M. Yenable, Lester A. York, Oscar Lewis Brody, David M. Lyons, Robert S. Harris, T. V. Rochelle, Rosco Royal, Henry W. Martin, Carl R. Wright, V. G. Kirkman, Troy Campbell, James A. Brown, A. R. Kimrey, Thomas W. Killard, Charlie Alford,

Walter Bizzard, Fred J. Medlin, L. L. Luggins, W. Hines, Ernest Harvill, German L. Johnson, John T. Brockett, Weaver Hussey, William R. Stacey, H. O. Johnson, John W. Lindsay, Webb B. Hedrick, Joseph McMillon, James B. Pegrum, M. Brown Shipplet, Jesse F. Lamb, George Allen Bryant, Roy J. Lewallen, Samuel R. Hutchins, A. E. Trotter, Oscar L. Smith, Joe A. Hughes, A. W. Willard, John W. Proctor, Glenn P. Rawley, Christ Bambalis, John Curney Briggs, Thomas W. Pitson, P. V. Andrews, Eugene G. Lovelace, Grady W. McGhee, Sam Upton, John E. Younts, Oscar Mounce.

Negroes: P. G. Gannaway, Willie S. McCauley, Haywood Tate, Avery Browner, Lucius Lightner, Robert Brewer, Willie J. Turner, Will Cowan, Henry Able, Alfonso Dockery, William Sawyer, John W. Eccles, H. C. Bruton, William Williamson, George Adams, Lloyd Bass, Earl Sanders, Lucius McComb, Fletcher W. Welborn, E. K. Brower, Norman T. Wrenn, Lee Rush, Douglas Coltrane, Jack Rice.

## ENGINEERS VICTIMS OF A GERMAN SHELL ON CHRISTMAS EVE

With the American Army in France, Thursday, Dec. 27.—(By the Associated Press.)—A corporal of American engineers was killed and one private was wounded Christmas eve when a German shell dropped near a party of American engineers working in the trenches on a section of the French front. The engineers for several weeks had been working along the front with veteran French engineers for purposes of instruction.

## ACHIEVEMENT OF PURPOSE ESSENTIAL SAYS LLOYD-GEORGE

London, Dec. 28.—"Achievement of the purpose for which the allies are fighting is essential to the future freedom and peace of mankind," said Premier Lloyd-George in a letter which he sent today to the labor conferees. The statement is regarded as the British reply to the German peace offer.

## AMERICAN BANK IS AMONG THOSE SEIZED BY RUSSIAN TROOPS

Petrograd, Dec. 28.—Soldiers acting under the orders of the finance commissioner today surrounded and seized all private banks in Petrograd, including the National City Bank of New York. The manager, F. B. Stevens, was arrested and detained for a short time.

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## SNOW FALLS ALMOST CONTINUOUSLY IN AMERICAN ZONE

With the American Army in France, Thursday, Dec. 27.—(By the Associated Press.)—For three days snow has been falling intermittently throughout the American zone interfering with the training of troops and with communication. No serious difficulty has been experienced thus far in supplying the troops in the outlying towns and districts, but it is feared the supply probably will give trouble if the storm continues.

Troops from the Southern states have been quite uncomfortable for the past few days but are rapidly becoming more accustomed to the cold and snow.

## PRESIDENT WILSON QUIETLY OBSERVES HIS 61ST BIRTHDAY

Washington, Dec. 28.—Coinciding with the taking over of railroads, President Wilson today is celebrating his 61st birthday. No special ceremony is planned at the White House, as the war time rush of work makes impossible any deviation in the President's daily routine.

## SENATE CALLED HOOVER; HE WAS SEEING BROADWAY

Washington, Dec. 28.—When the senate committee investigating the sugar shortage finally called for Food Administrator Hoover today to give his view of conditions, a letter from Chief Counsel Lindley of the food administration was presented, saying Mr. Hoover "was called to New York."

## MANY AMERICANS ON SPECIAL MENTION LIST

London, Dec. 28.—Field Marshal Haig has submitted a list of names of persons serving on the western front as deserving special mention. The list, which was published today in the London Gazette, contains the names of many Americans attaching to the American army nursing corps.

## MANY ARE KILLED WHEN FURNACE EXPLODES

Chicago, Dec. 28.—A number of persons are reported to have been killed in an explosion of a blast furnace of the plant of the Inland Steel Company at Indiana Harbor, Ind., today. The plant caught fire and is threatened with destruction. Ambulances from nearby cities and towns were crushed to Indiana Harbor.

## Landed at East (Passing Show)

Prospective groom—Are girls nervous at all during wedding ceremonies? Cynical friend—A little at first, perhaps, but not after the fellow's said "I will!"

## A. P. MAN SAYS DISPATCH WAS SENT TO UNITS

Cables He Copied Throat-Cutting Dope From Official Dispatch Issued by a General—Has Copy in Possession.

But It Seems That General Bliss Heard Nothing of the Incident When He Visited American Headquarters in France.

New York, Dec. 28.—In view of the published statements attributed to General Taskert H. Bliss, chief-of-staff, to the effect that while in France visiting American headquarters he had not heard of the incident of an American sentry being found with his throat cut after a German raid while an American battalion was in the front line trenches, and that no such report had reached the war department, the Associated Press cabled its correspondent with the American army in France for more definite information on his dispatch on this subject, December 25, notwithstanding the fact that the original dispatch stated the incident had been read from bulletins sent out to American units.

A reply just received from the correspondent reads:

"In regard to the throat-cutting incident, the matter in my dispatch was copied from an official communication to the troops issued by the general commanding the division concerned. A copy of the dispatch is in my possession."

## DRAFT MEN CAN STAY HOME TILL FEBRUARY

No More Formal Calls for Deferred Percentage of Quotas Until February 15.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Provost Marshal General Crowder has notified state governors that there will be no more of present quotas of national army men before February 15. All men who have been called but whose order numbers are so low that they are not actually in camp will get the benefit of the new classification.

Boards have been instructed, however, to continue sending men to make up deficiencies in the quotas caused by rejection of men already in the service until they have enough men to finally make the quota first class.

They were notified also to expect very shortly calls for men skilled in special lines of work.

## MANY PERSONS ARE JOINING THE HOME BANK'S SAVING CLUB

"Hundreds are joining daily," said M. J. Crowson, cashier of the Home Banking company, when asked about the progress the Christmas Savings club of that institution is making. When checks were mailed out to the members of the 1917 club of the bank it was found that more than 1,200 residents of the city had benefited and had money coming to them as a result of membership during the year, and today the prospects are that the total number of members for the 1918 club will greatly exceed those of the 1917 savings organization. There are a number of different classes to the club, making it possible for a person to join and pay a trivial amount each week toward the sum that will be returned prior to Christmas, 1918, plus four per cent interest.

## GERMAN DESCRIPTION OF ADVANCE ON CAMBRAI

Berne, Switzerland, Dec. 28.—Describing the battle of Cambrai to German readers, Lieutenant General Von Ardenne, in the Tageblatt, says: "Those who fought in the battle describe the imposing impression made by the British tanks, which preceded the attack on the widest front. As they advanced in masses, with very small intervals between them, they reminded one of Hannibal's battle elephants or the sickle chariots of Pharaoh. The booming, rumbling attack was accompanied or rather supported from the air by a veritable cloud of battle aircraft, while closely pressed masses of infantry and field artillery followed the iron wall, three cavalry divisions bringing up the rear."