WEATHER FORECAST

North and South Carolina—Fair, continued cold tonight and Sunday.

THE

# WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

FINAL EDITION

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# CLASSIFYING MAN-POWER OF AMERICA

Mailing Out Today First Five Per Cent of the Qestionnaires

## RECRUITING OFFICES LITERALLY SWAMPED

Great Rush of Registrants to Avail Themselves of Last Chance to Enlist Overtaxes Stations.

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, Dec. 15.—The War Department's huge task of classifying the nation's man-power for army service actually began today with the mailing out of the first five per cent. of the questionnaires. At the selective service recruiting facilities, already overtaxed with recent enlistments, threatened to give way before the rush of draft registrants eager to avail themselves of the last chance to volunteer.

Secretary Baker today came to the relief of the thousands of men who have volunteered fo rthe regular army but have been rejected because of the breakdown of the recruiting machinery, by ordering that all qualified applicants who presented themselves before noon today should be accepted even though their examination and other details could not be accomplished until later.

Thousands of men, seeking to volunteer, before the new draft regulations went into effect at noon had been turned away because the recruiting stations were swamped.

Recruiting officers in many sections found themselves without means of accommodating thousands enlisted yesterday and the stream which continued to apply. The discharge of many forced upon recruiting officers, means that some men of draft age will fail in their efforts to enlist before noon today, after which they may join the regulars only in their status as members of the National Army.

It was announced, however, that men who do not get into the Regular Army through recruiting stations before noon may do so later through their local board's. Their applications will be acted upon immediately but they will appear on the rolls as members of the National Army.

The mailing of questionnaires will be conducted speedily by the War Department and within 60 days more than 10,000,000 registrants will be divided into five classes as regards their liability for military service. In a statement issued today, Provost Marshal Crowder said:

"All plans have been made, the machinery has been built and with the loyal cooperation of the local boards, so amply demonstrated by their past achievements, the millions of registrants will, within the space of 60 days, be marshalled for their place in the class each in the class to which his economic worth entitles him.

"There is not the slightest hesitation in predicting the absolute success of the selection system. From every part of the country has come praise of the system. It will provide armies in a way never before built from the manpower of the body politic.

"Never before in the history of the world have armies been chosen with the precision of the new system. The man will shoulder the gun first who should by all the laws of reason and justice serve first to their country and only when necessity will compel should the more deferred classes be called if such necessity does arise. We had the country ready. We will find the country ready."

Through the Governors of the states, a Legal Advisory Board, to assist registrants to make intelligent answers to their questionnaires, has been assigned to every local board through the same agencies, the leading men in medicine in every community have pledged themselves to aid and assist in medical examinations. The great majority of the men who are serving the new system have offered their services without price to their government.

The completion of the classification will practically complete the great work of the local and district boards. Thereafter they will act each in their respective areas as the government's agents for any new registration which may occur, and will consider changes of status or transfers of jurisdiction when such may arise."

### TINGHAM INJURED.

(By Associated Press).

Italian Healquarters in Northern Italy, Friday, Dec. 14.—An army automobile in which Congressman George H. Tingham, of Boston, was riding today on a visit to Monte Grappa on the Northern mountain front, skidded over the mountain side and dropped 20 feet. It made a double turn and was crushed to pieces but the Congressman and the other occupants escaped with bruises, the chauffeur being seriously injured.

Congressman Tingham, who fired the first American shot against Austria, received slight injuries and was cared for by a military surgeon.

## AN ALLIED NAVAL COUNCIL CREATED

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, Dec. 15.—Creation of an allied naval council to co-ordinate the naval operations of all the nations at war with the Central powers was announced last night in a cablegram to the Navy Department from Admiral Benson at Paris.

Members of the council, established in accordance with the plans of the inter-allied conference, will report to their respective governments with recommendations for action.

The council will be composed of the Minister of Marine and chief of naval staff of each country; in the case of the United States, Secretary Daniels and Admiral Benson. As the meetings must be held in Europe, flag officers designated by their governments will represent the members from both the United States and Japan.

## BETTER HEALTH AT CAMP SEVIER

(By Associated Press.)

Greenville, S. C., Dec. 15.—Decided Camp Sevier is shown in the weekly improvement in health conditions at Camp Sevier is shown in the weekly health report issued today. The 117th infantry regiment, from Tennessee, is the only outfit under quarantine for meales. During the past week only seventh deaths have occurred which rate is below normal. Seven cases of meningitis have been in isolation, but no deaths have been reported. The decrease in the rate of sickness for the past week, in spite of a six inch snow fall and generally unfavorable weather, was reported at 50 per cent.

### Successful Applicants.

The following are the 11 men who successfully passed the examinations of the Wilmington Nautical School, and are now subject to orders for duty with the Shipping Board: Capt. R. B. Lewis, Lewis L. Merritt, Herbert Chadwick, Robert Stone, Herbert Stone, Capt. Hary Mahler, John B. Ives, J. J. Weeks, Percy Canaday, John Sellers and Andrew Olsen.

### Captain Martin Killed.

(By Associated Press)

Washington, Dec. 15.—Captain John R. Martin, attached to the first brigade, United States marines, on duty in Haiti, was killed today in an automobile accident near Port Beudet, Haiti, according to a message received by the Navy Department. The officer was a native of Detroit, and was appointed to the marine corps as a second lieutenant in 1916. He had been on duty in Haiti since December, last year, and served as aide on the staff of Brigadier General Cole, commanding. His mother, Mrs. Mary Ravenel, lives at 147 Nodd street, Charleston, S. C.

### "Nothing Doing."

(By Associated Press).

Paris, Dec. 15.—"Nothing worth reporting occurred during the course of last night with the exception of rather lively artillery fire on the Beaumont-Bezonvaux front (North of Verdun)," says today's war office statement.

### Heavy Fighting In Italy.

(By Associated Press).

Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy, Dec. 15.—Heavy fighting is in progress today on the mountain front in the Northern, east of the Brenta river. The enemy is attempting to advance his positions as he was those west of the river, which would give him two lines of approach to the Brenta valley and the open plain.

# *SHORTAGE OF COAL CRIPPLING NATION'S INDUSTRIAL PLANTS*

Manufacturing Concerns Are Forced to Close for Lack of Fuel

## MUCH SUFFERING AMONG THE POOR

Many Tenement Houses Absolutely Without Heat—New York City is Having its Worst Experience

(By Associated Press)

Washington, Dec. 15.—After a conference with Fuel Administrator Garfield today Chairman A. W. Thompson, of the Operating Committee of the Eastern railroads declared the coal famine was more due to a shortage of transportation facilities than shortage of coal. The operating committee, he said, is trying to overcome this by re-routing coal shipments.

To relieve the situation in Michigan solid train loads of coal are being sent from Kentucky and Ohio lake ports.

Chairman Thompson and Administrator Garfield went over the whole transportation question as it affects coal very exhaustively, with the result that with the re-arrangement of shipments on shipments, eliminating long hauls where shorter ones will reach the territory and also eliminating the so-called "cross" haul, some immediate improvement in the situation is hoped for.

The result of the plan would be to supply coal to localities from the nearest producing or shipping center instead of over the lines of ordinary trade.

At the Department of Labor it was declared that the labor situation now is particularly favorable and can in no way be charged with responsibility for the coal famines. Only three or four disputes are pending between operators and miners and none of them, it was said, has more than a local significance. One prominent coal operator was quoted as having reported to the department that the labor situation was "A-No. 1."

### Suffering in New York.

New York, Dec. 15.—With half of New York's coal yards empty and suffering increasing in the unprotected homes of the poor, the Fuel Administration today exerted all their efforts to release thousands of tons of coal tied up at tidewater, or in snow bound cars at sidings.

The general fuel situation is regarded as the most serious in the history of the city. Hundreds of tenements and homes are without heat; some factories have been compelled to shut down, and churches, schools, theatres and public halls are affected.

While Reeve Schley, local fuel administrator, was hopeful that the situation would be relieved before night, Charles S. Allen, spokesman for the association of wholesale dealers in the city, believes that even when conditions become normal New York cannot expect a surplus supply this winter.

The shortage of labor here has increased the problem of removing snow. While about 14,000 persons are needed to clear the streets, only 7,000 shovellers have been obtained and the street cleaning department has issued a call for women helpers in an effort to make up for the shortage.

### Shipbuilding Work Curtailed.

Quincy, Mass., Dec. 15.—Because of a shortage of coal the Fore River plant of the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Company, which has been running night and day for some time, was not in operation last night. Officials said that the plant would be operated during the day only until further notice but that they were hopeful of obtaining a larger supply of fuel soon.

### Arsenal Needs Coal.

Watertown, Mass., Dec. 15.—Major Tracy Dickson, commandant of the government arsenal, said last night that unless he could obtain definite assurance by next Monday night of a renewed supply of coal the arsenal would be forced to suspend work on December 18.

### New Cold Record in Richmond.

Richmond, Va., Dec. 18.—All local cold wave records for the first part of December were broken this morning, when the temperature was 7, the previous coldest December weather being recorded December 31, 1899, when the mercury reached four degrees. Virginia has been in the throes of the cold wave since last Sunday. Traffic has ben impeded in all sections of the State as a result of the heavy snow.

### Cleveland Hit Hard.

Cleveland, Ohio, Dec. 15.—One hundred thousand men were out of work and hundreds of Cleveland's largest manufacturing plants were shut down today because of the shortage of coal.

The companies affected, many of them turning out rush orders of war materials, depend upon the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company for electric power. Late yesterday the coal shortage reached such an acute stage that the Illuminating company shut off electric current to all big industrial manufacturing plants.

The idle manufacturing plants will resume operations Monday morning provided coal now being rushed to the Illuminating company's plant is not delayed. Only five cars of coal were received by the company last night, and that will last but a few hours. Normally the two power plants of the company consume 50 cars of coal daily.

## DEAD AMERICANS IN FRANCE TO BE PROPERLY BURIED

Organization of Branch of Army Known as "Graves Registration Service"

## ARRANGE FOR BURIAL, CARE FOR GRAVES

Every Sammy's Grave Will be Propertly Marked and Looked After by a Specially Designated Squad

(By Associated Press)

With the American Army in France, Dec. 14.—The organization has been announced of a branch of the army whose sole duty is to arrange for the burial of soldiers who die in France and for the care of their graves. Every detail has been worked out and the American organization is expected to surpass similar organizations in the British and French armies as the best features have been taken from both.

The new organization is known as the "graves" registration service. It is under the direction of a regular army major and through that office is directly responsible to General Pershing. The service chief also is superintendent of all American cemeteries in Europe and as such is responsible for their proper care and maintenance.

A unit of two officers and 50 men is provided for each army division. They are to arrange for proper burials in their respective divisions and also to take care of the divisional cemetery. The size of the units is to be increased if the needs demand.

There also is a headquarters detachment in command of a colonel, and reserve battalions to be available for detachment with immediate assignment where needed.

The American Expeditionary Force has been assigned land by the French authorities for use as semi-permanent or temporary cemeteries and officers have just returned from a trip through the country directing cemeteries which may be used wholly or partly for American dead. Already two large burial plots have been fenced in and posted, and a number of small ones arranged near the front as temporary resting places for the bodies of Americans who may be killed in action.

Each grave in the main cemeteries will have a cross at the head and an iron marker. Temporary graves will be marked by pegs and a cross or other headstone. On each also there will be an identification tag and a card giving the soldier's rank, the organization to which he belonged and the circumstances of his death which information also will be forwarded immediatel yto the record office where the records will contain the location and a picture of the grave for the benefit of relatives.

There will be a continual inspection of all cemeteries, to make sure that they are properly kept. The personnel of the service has been selected with a view to its experience and qualifications, and many men who were undertakers in civil life have been transferred to where they can give the most efficient service.

Many villages and parishes in this section of France also have set aside plots for any American dead, and those graves already occupied have been cared for tenderly by the French as well as the Americans. In one instance the grave of a sergeant was promptly cared for by the villagers a few hours after the burial service. An American officer who then paid a visit there found the mound accurately rounded and heaped with flowers and already marked with a cross in which had been carved the serge name and organization and the French authorities, with a touching apology, promised that the cross should be painted the next morn

NAT M. WILLS DEAD.

Nat M. Wills, "The Happy Tramp," is dead. Death came to him in kindly but tragic fashion when he was asphyxiated in his garage at Woodcliff-on-Hudson, N. J., by the exhaust from his car. The comedian, whose untimely fate will be mourned by thousands, was attempting to perform one of those acts of charity for which he was noted, as the car was to take him to a soldiers' benefit at the New York Hippodrome.

## FINAL ARGUMENT IN MEANS' CASE

Jury Will Let Case Late This Afternoon—Cansler's Great Speech

(By Associated Press.)

Concord, N. C., Dec. 15.—As E. T. Cansler, of Charlotte, today concluded his five hours argument for the defense in the trial of Gaston B. Means, with a dramatic and graphic portrayal of what the conviction and execution of the defendant for the murder of Mrs. Maude A. King would mean to Mrs. Means and their little child for all the future years of their life, the defendant's sister, Miss Belle Means, at the direction of Judge Cline, was taken from the court room weeping audibly while Mrs. Means sat beside her husband and sobbed in silence. Mr. Cansler made the final argument for the defense. He was followed by L. C. Caldwell of Statesville, in the final argument for the State.

Indications at the opening of court today were that the case of Gaston B. Means, accused of the murder of Mrs. Maude A. King, would go to the jury late today or tonight.

The final argument for the defense, by E. T. Cansler, of Charlotte, interrupted yesterday by the adjournment of court, was concluded today. After Mr. Cansler's address final argument for the State was to be made.

Mr. Cansler this morning took up the contention of the State that Mrs King's resources were practically exhausted at the time of her death and that the defendant spent the last few weeks before her death laying his plot. Mr. Cansler showed from the evidence that she had, in addition to other assets, an annual income of about $19,000 from her $400,000 life trust, which ended at her death.

He sought to show from the evidence that the defendant was very busy last July and August preparing to probate the alleged last will of the late James C. King, which could not be probated after her death. Of all men in the world, declared Mr. Cansler, the defendant had the strongest possible motive to preserve and prolong the life of Mrs. King.

## MAJ. LEO D. HEARTT'S FUNERAL TODAY

(Special to The Dispatch.)

Raleigh, N. C., Dec. 15.—Maj. Leo D. Heartt, Clerk of the United States Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina, and Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Masons, who died here Thursday night, after a short illness, will be buried with Masonic honors this afternoon at 3 o'clock. The funeral service will be held in the First Presbyterian church, of which Major Heartt had been an active officer and worker for years. Deceased was 67 years of age, and for 10 years had been treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Masons of North Carolina, and had been Clerk of the United States District Court for several years.

### Two More Red Sox Enlist.

(By Associated Press.)

Boston, Mass., Dec. 15.—Two more members of the Boston American League baseball team enlisted in the navy, it was learned today. Pitchers Pennock and Bader signed as yeomen, it was said at club headquarters, making 11 members of the team who have joined the nation's first line of defense.

# NEWEST REVOLUTION IN RUSSIA APPEARS TO HAVE COLLAPSED

### AMERICAN ARRESTED.

(By Associated Press).

Petrograd, Friday, Dec. 14.—Charles S. Smith, of St. Louis, a member of the staff of John S. Stevens, head of the American Railway Commission to Russia, is reported to have been arrested.

## LOOK CAREFULLY AT YOUR THEATRE TICKET

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, Dec. 15.—Beginning today, theatre-goers should scan their admission tickets to make sure they bear evidence that the war tax of 10 per cent. has been paid. This can be accomplished at the theatre box office by stamping or writing on the ticket the words, "War Tax Paid," or some similar phrase.

Internal Revenue Commissioner Roper announced today that persons buying admission tickets to amusements would be expected to assist the government in enforcing the law by inspecting their tickets. The tax is one cent on each ten cents admission or fraction of that amount.

## CUBA TO RENDER FINANCIAL AID

(By Associated Press.)

Havana, Dec. 15.—The Senate, which yesterday afternoon unanimously adopted a resolution declaring that a state of war between Cuba and Austria-Hungary exists also approved a resolution appropriating $600,000 annually to be used by the President of the Republic in aiding any hospitals, ambulance corps, and similar institutions that may be established by the national Red Cross; $2,400,000 annually for use directly or through the American, French, English, Italian and other Allied nations, in relieving the sufferings of the civil populations of the war-stricken zones and soldier victims and their families.

The measure now goes to the House.

## WAITED FOR LAUNDRY BEFORE SURRENDERING

(By Associated Press.)

With the American Army in France, Friday, Dec. 14.—A story of how German officers are surrendering is told by an American officer just returned rfom the British front where he had been undergoing instruction.

One night recently a German officer crawled across No Man's Land to the British wire, raised his hands and cried:

"Comrade!" British soldiers covered him with riues whereupon the German said: "Excuse me if I lower my hands. I've got a package here."

The surprised Britishers granted the request and the German dropped into the trench. In his hands he had a package of laundry. He said he had decided to surrender a week before, but had waited until his laundry came back.

## GERMANY RECEIVES FATS FROM RUSSIA

(By Associated Press)

Petrograd, Dec. 15.—The Germans already have begun to obtain fats and other sorely needed supplies from Russia, according to information reaching Petrograd today. It was announced that credit institution here had been informed that trade had been resumed with the Germans at Minsk and other points near the northwestern front. New shops have been opened and the Germans are exchanging metals and chemicals for vegetables and fats and especially soap.

## TWO AMERICANS INJURED BY SHELL

(By Associated Press.)

With the American Army in France, Friday, Dec. 14.—A bursting shell has wounded two American railway engineers working behind the British front, according to reports received today. The projectile struck in a pile of picks, shovels and other tools.

Three Important Cities Captured and General Kaledines Has Been Arrested

## ARTILLERY FIRE IN THE WEST LESSENS

Expected German Offensive Not Yet Launched—Critical Stage of War Has Been Reached Declares Lloyd-George.

Partial, if not complete collapse the counter revolution in Russia is indicated in an announcement from the Petrograd Official News Agency which says the Bolsheviki have captured three important cities in Don Cossack territory and that General Kaledines, leader of the Don Cossacks, has been arrested, apparently by his own generals.

With General Kornilof reported defeated and wounded near Bielgorod, and General Kaledines under arrest, the only one left of the counter revolutionary triuvirate of military leaders is General Dutoff, Hetman of the Ural Cossacks, who has been operating in the province of Orenburg. The latest report on the situation there is that there has been little military activity while Bolsheviki agents were attempting to undermine the morale of Dutoff's troops.

General Kaledines' fall probably followed the capture of Rostov, Nakhitcheval and Haganrog by the Bolsheviki. There had been heavy fighting in and around Rostov since last Sunday and previous reports had been that General Kaledines was winning. Nakhitchevan is across the Don river from Rostov, while Taganrog is on the gulf of the same name 10 miles west of Rostov.

The announcement of the official news bureau says that the captors of General Kaledines have invited the mayor of Rostov to go to Novo Tcherkask, the capital of the Don territory, to discuss the suspension of military operations. The mayor of Rostov probably is a member of the Bolsheviki, agents of which organization were reported several days ago as having been sent into the ranks of Kaledines' Cossacks to spread extremist propaganda.

The people of Germany are reported to be looking forward to a supreme German effort on the Western front, but so far it has not developed.

The artillery activity which has been very heavy along the Western front for the past week or more, has died down in intensity on most of the front.

East of Ypres yesterday, the Germans gained 300 yards of front line trench in the region of Polderhoek chateau. Elsewhere the Germans were repulsed. British positions in the Arras-Cambrai sector are being bombarded heavily, especially east of Bullecourt and north of the Scarpe river.

Persistent efforts by the Austro-Germans to break through the Italian defense immediately east of the Brenta river continue, but with little success and heavy casualties. An attack against the Col Beretta positions was repulsed by the Italians. Hand-to-hand fighting developed in an Austro-German attack at the head of the Calcino Valley. Italian soldiers and French and Italian cannon checked the enemy during most of the day and at nightfall the Italians gave up a short section of ground at the head of the valley.

The critical stage of the war has been reached, Premier Lloyd-George says, as Germany is straining to strike before American help can make up for Russian failure. Upon the tonnage America and Great Britain can construct in the next year depends the destiny of the world. There is no prospect for world safety, the British Premier declared, in a league of peace, as it would be a farce without victory toward which the Allies are making progress. Peace proposals when the Prussian military spirit "is drunk with boastfulness" would be a betrayal of trust. Premier Lloyd-George said he agreed with President Wilson's war aims and gave warning against men "who think there is a safe way house between victory and defeat."