

North and South Carolina—Partly cloudy and cold tonight; Tuesday, fair and warmer.

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NEGOTIATING A PEACE ON EAST FRONT

Russia and the Central Powers Have Declared a 28-Day Armistice

BOLSHEVIKI LIKELY TO GET RECOGNITION

Allies Consider Recognizing Present Russian Regime a Protective Measure—No Big Battles on Any Fronts.

(By Associated Press) When the armistice agreement between the Russian government and the Central Powers goes into effect on the Eastern front today, the emissaries of the several countries...

London newspapers forecast that the Allies will give recognition of the Bolsheviks "in order to prevent Russia from passing under the political economic heel of Germany."

To the American delegates at the Paris conference is said to belong the credit of temporizing of the Allied attitude toward the Bolsheviks.

Labor strikes appear to be the great obstacle before the Bolsheviks at present, especially in the Petrograd district. The railway and fuel situations are serious.

Except on the short stretch between the Benta and Plave rivers, there has been no marked infantry activity on the front from North Sea to the Adriatic.

British troops on the Cambrai front have repulsed raids by infantry and bombing parties on the Southern end of the new salient.

GERMANS SINK SIX SHIPS. (By Associated Press) Dec. 17.—One British neutral merchantman, a steamer and four mine sweepers have been sunk in the North Sea.

Losses were the result of a mine-laying convoy bound from the coast of Norway.

Mr. Dooling brought with him a mass of papers and documents of various kinds seized at Means' apartment in New York.

GASTON B. MEANS "NOT GUILTY" OF MURDER CHARGE

So Said the Cabarrus County Jury's Verdict Sunday Morning

THE STATE HAS NO CHARGE AGAINST HIM.

Defendant Released From Custody—No Demonstrator When Verdict Was Rendered New York Undecided

(By Associated Press.) Concord, N. C., Dec. 17.—"Not guilty" was the verdict of the jury in the case of Gaston B. Means, charged with the murder of Mrs. Maude A. King, widow of a Chicago millionaire, who was shot to death at Blackwelder spring, near Concord, on the evening of August 29, last.

The jury made known its verdict at 10:22 Sunday morning, after having deliberated since 7 o'clock Saturday night. The finding was made known to Judge E. B. Cline in the Cabarrus county court house in the presence of the defendant, his wife, and mother, representatives of counsel and others who had learned the jury was about to make its report.

There was no demonstration, probably prevented by a warning Judge Cline had given before hearing the jury's report, accompanying it with instructions to Sheriff Caldwell to arrest anyone who made any demonstration. However, a little later, when the prisoner had been formally discharged and the court adjourned, Mr. Means was surrounded by relatives, attorneys and friends, who hastened to shake his hand and congratulate him upon his acquittal.

After his release, accompanied by his wife, Means left the court room and went to the home of his father. A little later, he reappeared on the streets of the town where scores of friends extended congratulations. As he and Mrs. Means were leaving the court room, they met one of his sisters who had just arrived and the two women rushed into one another's arms, weeping for joy.

When the jury had filed into the court room, Judge Cline told them that during his charge of the day before he had inadvertently referred to the time of the shooting as "in the evening" and asked if they interpreted that to mean an expression of his opinion as to the fact of the time of the tragedy.

The Clerk of the Court then asked the formal question as to whether a verdict had been arrived at. J. Frank Goodman, who had been chosen foreman, answered in the affirmative. Directing the defendant to stand and raise his right hand, the Clerk then asked the jury if they "found the defendant guilty or not guilty of the crime charged."

"Not guilty," replied Foreman Goodman. Judge Frank Osborne, of counsel for the defense, then asked Solicitor Hayden Clement if he had any further charge against the defendant, to which the Solicitor replied: "I have not."

The defendant is released." Gaston B. Means then entered upon the first day of full freedom since he went to jail in September, waiving preliminary hearing before a magistrate.

Probably no trial ever conducted in North Carolina has had the wide interest of Means, nor has any brought more attendants from other States, a number of witnesses from Chicago and New York testifying. Assistant District Attorney John T. Dooling, of New York, assisted in the prosecution, coming to Concord at the request of Solicitor Clement because both Means and Mrs. King were regarded as citizens of that State.

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In The Red Cross Service



Drawn by G. D. Hatchell of the N. Y. Evening Journal

Every Home in Wilmington Should Be Able to Display a Red Cross Service Flag Christmas Eve.

ARMISTICE TERMS AGREED UPON BY RUSS AND HUN

There Shall Be no Transference of Troops Until January 14.

SEVEN DAYS NOTICE BEFORE BREAKING

If No Notice is Given Armistice Will Continue—Military Situation to Remain as it Now Stands.

(By Associated Press.) Petrograd, Sunday, Dec. 16.—The terms of the Russo-German armistice, according to a statement issued here, obligated no transference of troops until January 14 (January 1, Russian), no increase of troops on the fronts or on the islands in the Moon Sound or a regrouping of forces.

The Germans are not to concentrate troops between the Black Sea and the Baltic, east of the 15th degree of longitude, east of Greenwich. Intercourse between the troops may be allowed from sunrise to sunset. Groups are limited to 25 persons at a time who may exchange newspapers and unsealed mails and who may carry on trade and exchange articles of prime necessity.

A special agreement will be made by the naval general staff regarding the extension of the armistice to the White Sea and the Russian coast in the Arctic zone. It is agreed also that attacks on war and commercial vessels must stop in these regions in order to avoid attacks in other seas.

"The armistice on the naval front embraces all of the Black Sea and the Baltic Sea east of the meridian 15 degrees east of Greenwich. The demarcation line fixed for the Black Sea is from the light house of Slinka to the estuary of the Danube to Cape Gagos in the Baltic, the line runs from Reoguel to the western coast of Worms Island to the Island of Bagshar to Khetarne. Russian war vessels must not cross south of this line and the other parties must not go north."

"The Russian government guarantees that entire war vessels will obey the rules of this provision and that Russian warships will not be allowed to sail among the islands. The text of the armistice agreement follows: 'Between the representatives of the higher command of Russia on the one hand and of Bulgaria, Germany, Austria-Hungary and Turkey on the other hand, for the purpose of achieving a lasting and honorable peace between both parties, the following armistice is concluded: 'The armistice shall begin on December 4 (December 17), at 2 o'clock (Continued on Page Eight).

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ANY PRIVATE WHO HAS ABILITY MAY WIN COMMISSION

General Pershing Issues Order Providing for Promotion From Ranks

TRAINING SCHOOLS BEHIND THE LINES

Privates First Show Their Efficiency by Earning Appointment as Non-Commissioned Officers

(By Associated Press.) With the American army in France, Sunday, Dec. 16.—The orders just issued by General Pershing providing for a system of promotion from the ranks under which any private who demonstrates his ability may win a commission, makes all non-commissioned officers eligible for a school which is being established at a large training school have been found to be of candidates for commissions. Privates who desire to become officers must first demonstrate their efficiency by earning appointment as non-commissioned officers.

The non-commissioned officers will be sent to the training school on recommendation of their superiors. Before submitting such recommendations the officers charged with this duty are instructed by General Pershing's orders to give the most careful consideration to the record of those recommended.

When candidates attending the training school have been found to be proficient they will be assigned to vacancies as second lieutenants or as replacements divisions. Thence they will go to fill vacancies occasioned by casualties and other causes in combat divisions. There will be no limit to the number of second lieutenants in the replacement divisions. On the contrary, it is recommended that there be at least three times as many in a given organization as in a corresponding combat. Within the combat units vacancies to the extent of one-third of the total will be filled in this manner, and two-thirds by promotion within the combat unit itself.

In the replacement divisions, vacancies from the grade of first lieutenant to colonel will be filled by officers who have received no assignments. Those fully recovering from wounds will be assigned to the combat units. Arriving depot battalions hereafter will be considered part of the replacement divisions.

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THE TURKS PUT UP A DESPERATE FIGHT BEFORE JERUSALEM

GENERAL GROZIER FILES REPORT ON ARMY ORDNANCE

Tells of the Many Difficulties Met in Arming American Forces

EVERY SOURCE AT COMMAND USED

Cooperation of British and French Has Been Great Help Says Ordnance Chief—Many New Guns

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 17.—Army ordnance conditions at the beginning of the present fiscal year are treated only briefly by Major General Crozier, Chief of Ordnance, in the summary report of his bureau made public today. Since the report was written, General Crozier has furnished the Senate Military Committee a much more complete record of what has been done to arm the forces in France or under training in the United States.

The report shows that up to June 30, orders have been placed for 1,900,000 American Enfield rifles, details for the re-chambering of the British standard gun for American ammunition having been completed June 1. On the machine gun situation, General Crozier says that several types of weapons have been found efficient, by the Machine Gun Board, but that procurement of an adequate supply was a question of securing deliveries.

"In other words," he adds, "the number of machines on hand when war was declared was so small that it was necessary to keep going at the greatest possible velocity machine gun factories which were already in operation and to utilize their output when the guns so manufactured had been received by the war, not have been reported as most efficient."

"Every effort has been bent to secure satisfactory output, and considerable progress in this direction is being made. Funds appeared to date are adequate for the purpose. It is shown in the report that an American field gun is to be similar in calibre to the French "75" which has been so much discussed since the war began.

"The French semi-automatic breech mechanism also has been adopted in modified form, so that American and French batteries in France can be served from the same ammunition factories.

Anti-aircraft guns of the "75" type also have been adopted. Both these and the machine guns are under manufacture in quantity the report says. A considerable number of anti-aircraft guns for mounting on motor trucks also had been ordered."

The report shows that 3.8 inch and 6-inch Howitzers, the guns principally used for barrage work in trench fighting, were designed and ready for manufacture on June 20. General Crozier expresses appreciation of the cooperation of French and British ordnance experts in turning out these guns. The production of large calibre mobile artillery; that is, weapons of the type of the German 42 centimeter guns, appears to be the chief source of delay in the army's equipment.

General Crozier says the process of supplying our troops with these guns necessarily will be slow and disappointing, although every advantage has been taken of the assistance secured from abroad."

Do Without Holidays. (By Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 17.—To keep coal production at a maximum, Fuel Administrator Garfield is preparing to appeal to operators and miners to forego the usual Christmas and New Year's holidays. Every idle day in the mines costs the country nearly 2,000,000 tons of fuel.

City Fell Into British Hands Only After a Hard Contest

JEW AND ARABS FAVOR THE ALLIES

Population of the Holy City Welcomed Arrival of British Troops—Story of the City's Surrender.

(By Associated Press.) London, Dec. 17.—In attacks preceding the surrender of Jerusalem, the Turks employed storming troops in successive assaults on Nebi Samuel, northwest of the Holy City, then held by London troops, according to a Reuters dispatch from British headquarters in Palestine. The dispatch gives details of the capture and the entry into Jerusalem.

The final Turkish attack was preceded by such a heavy shelling that it appeared the enemy was confident the British would be blown off the summit, but all their attacks were repulsed singularly. The Turks had a strong line west, south and northeast of Jerusalem. They were well provided with machine guns and their artillery dominated the crests over which the British should have to advance. Some Turkish guns were placed just outside the city walls, making it impossible to reply to their fire without endangering the town.

"A torrential rain made the roads impassable," the correspondent continues, "while a chilly east wind pierced the sudden soldiers to the bone. The problems of supply almost drove us to despair. The camels were unable to keep a foothold on the slippery paths. Nevertheless the food and ammunition supply was maintained fully. On the night of December 7, when our attack began, the men moved up under cover of darkness, the attack pivoting on Nebi Samuel, from which the Londoners advanced eastward toward Jerusalem while other troops ascended the Hebron road, threatening the town from the south.

"They found Hebron evacuated but encountered resistance around Bethlehem, where the Turks also had posted guns so that counter battery work would endanger the sacred village. Hence our troops had the disagreeable experience of being shelled without the ability to reply. But they pressed forward and by noon of the eighth were two miles north of Bethlehem.

"The Londoners had a hard task on the steep slopes of the Judean hills, where it was impossible to bring field guns to their support, but some mountain batteries and howitzers rendered magnificent service and by 7 in the morning, the Londoners had stormed and captured all the enemy works west of the town. The Turks still held the last line on the ridge overlooking Jerusalem, having posted various machine guns on the houses of the Jewish and German colonies in the furthest outskirts of the town. The position was charged later in the afternoon of the eighth. The magnificent feat was crowned with complete success and the Turks were driven out at the point of the bayonet. The survivors bolted to either side of the town. Their losses were enormous.

"Throughout the whole of the fighting around Jerusalem, the Turks showed a more desperate spirit and a greater tenacity than in almost any previous fighting. They stood their ground to the last.

"During the night, the Turks withdrew to the north and east of the city, and at 8 o'clock on the morning of the ninth the mayor and chief of police came out with a flag of truce and surrendered the town.

"Acceptance of the surrender was made formally at noon without actually entering the city, only pickets being posted to prevent surprises. Meantime our troops swept through the suburbs northward, being subjected to machine gun fire from the Mount of Olives and Mount Scopus. The ridge of Mount Scopus, north of the city, was stormed with the bayonet and the Turks were cleared from the Mount of Olives.

"Big demonstrations of joy broke out when the General advanced to take the surrender of the city. Flowers were showered on the troops and the populace clapped their hands to testify to the joy of deliverance from the hands of the oppressors.

"Further north the troops were established in a long series of trenches around the village of Beitlikes. These trenches were carried with a rush and the British line advanced beyond the village. Welsh troops advancing from the south, pushed across the road east of Jerusalem leading to Jericho and thrust back Turkish reinforcements. (Continued on Page Three).

JUST 6 DAYS LEFT TO SHOP READ THE ADS