

WEATHER FORECAST
North Carolina—Generally fair, continued cold tonight and Thurs-
Carolina—Cloudy tonight and probably rain tonight along with continued cold.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FINAL EDITION

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 26, 1917

PRICE FIVE CENTS

BOLSHEVIK CONTROL OF RUSSIA RAPIDLY FALLING TO PIECES

Personal Dispatches Tell of Defection from Bolshevik Forces
THREAT OF GENERAL BOMBING CAMPAIGN
"General Hiredlings" Applied to Present Government
Officials—Soldiers Refuse to Obey

KNOWN ONLY AS 'H' IN GERMAN SECRET SERVICE CIRCLES

An Important Arrest Made by Federal Department of Justice Men
A GERMAN WOMAN OF PROMINENCE Implicated in Spy Work on the Pacific Coast—Agent of Von Eigel—Working With Schulenberg

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WAR'S DEMANDS MORE THAN COAL MINES CAN MEET

Fuel Administrator Garfield Appeared Before the Investigating Committee Today

TRY TO STIMULATE OUTPUT OF MINES

Dr. Garfield Said the Administration Had Leaned Toward Operators in Effort to Encourage Production

Washington, Dec. 26.—Fuel Administrator Garfield told the Senate investigating committee today that if the war continued very long, the government would be compelled to pool coal and sell it at a reasonable price.

Some coal operators, he said, were making the greatest profits in their history, but he considered high prices a stimulus to the great production the war demands.

The Fuel Administrator said he saw little relief in prospect for the railroads until their operation was centralized.

War demands for bituminous coal have been greater than mines could meet although the increase of production this year had been normal.

Fuel Administrator Garfield testified today at the Senate investigation. In an effort to alleviate conditions, he said, the Fuel Administration was laying emphasis on stimulating production rather than regulating price.

"When the operators complain that prices fixed by the President are too low, we are inclined to give them the benefit of the doubt," Dr. Garfield said.

Senator Konyon asked the Administrator if he had information of dividends of some of the large operators, and he answered that he had no accurate figures on them, and could not furnish them.

He stated, however, that his efforts were being made, but believed it necessary to stimulate production.

LOSS OF TOBACCO A GREAT MISFORTUNE

London, Dec. 26.—Tobacco is a necessity, not a luxury, declares Lord Rhondda, the food controller, in a statement published here.

"We must have tobacco," he says. "I believe that its loss would be a national misfortune. It means much both to the manual laborer and to him who works with his brain. Men would eat a great deal more if they did not have tobacco. I hold that the deprivation of it would work great discomfort."

Some system of "rationing" tobacco is forecast by the newspapers.

Attacks and Counters

Rome, Dec. 26.—Co Del Rosso and Monte Val Bella on the Asiago plateau were re-captured by Italian forces in a counter attack but it was found impossible to hold them, the war office announced today.

WILLIAMS FOR RAILROAD JOB

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 23.—John Skelton Williams, controller of the currency, was being discussed today in official circles as the most probable selection for Federal Railroad Administrator, should President Wilson decide to appoint one.

MEXICAN BANDITS CROSS BORDER ON CHRISTMAS RAID

Robbed Postoffice and Store and Killed Three Persons Yesterday Morning

AMERICAN TROOPS IN CLOSE PURSUIT

Number of Fleeing Mexicans Killed—Are Now Hemmed In a Canyon By United States Cavalrymen

(By Associated Press.)
Marfa, Texas, Dec. 26.—Fighting was believed to be in progress today 20 miles southwest of here, between United States troops and Mexican bandits who looted the L. C. Britte store and ranch at Candelaria yesterday, killing Michael Welch, stage driver, two of his passengers and shooting Sam Neill, foreman of the Britte ranch.

American troops today were guarding all outlets to Van Horne canyon, where 100 Mexican bandits on Christmas morning crossed the American border, raided the postoffice and general store on the Britte ranch, 27 miles southeast of here, killed Michael Welch, a veteran stage driver and his two Mexican passengers, wounded Sam Neill, foreman of the Britte ranch, and carried away booty estimated to be worth \$7,000.

After the bandits disappeared over the rim rock which rises abruptly more than 1,000 feet above the Rio Grande, the soldiers, who wear in close pursuit, fired many rounds at them and are reported to have killed and wounded many of the Mexicans. The shooting compelled the bandits to abandon the horses on which they carried away the loot.

Colonel Gen. T. Langhorne, in command of the American forces in the Big Bend, expected the pursuit to be resumed at daybreak.

When the bandits attacked the ranch, Neill, with his wife and a number of ranch hands, barricaded themselves in a house until United States soldiers had been sent to their assistance.

Cavalrymen were sent to the Britte ranch in automobiles. When the riders sighted the approaching cavalry they abandoned the work of pillage and rode off the rim rock toward the Southwest.

At the point where the bandits dropped from sight of the pursuing troops, there is an abrupt descent of more than 1,000 feet. When the soldiers had gone as far as possible they continued the pursuit on foot to the edge of the rim rock, where they did some expert shooting at the fleeing bandits at a distance of more than 1,000 yards.

Secretary Wilson Ill

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 26.—Secretary of Labor Wilson today is ill from overwork on his long trip through the West mediating labor disputes. It is not known when he will be able to resume official duties, though his illness is not regarded as dangerous.

THE TEUTON NEST ON PIAVE RIVER

The Enemy's Only Stronghold On the Western Bank

DRIFTING MACHINERY IS ASKED FOR THE FIRST TIME

Governors Called Upon to Mobilize 1,000 Bricklayers for Pershing's Army

OTHER CALLS SOON FOR SKILLED MEN

Draft Boards to Go Through Questionnaires and Report Number of Bricklayers Available for Service

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 26.—The new draft machinery was invoked for the first time when Provost Marshal General Crowder made public today instructions to all Governors, calling for the mobilization of 1,000 bricklayers needed for General Pershing at once.

The order in the first application of the special occupational classification provisions of the new draft regulations. The bricklayers in any board's jurisdiction will be assembled in order of their draft number relationship to each other, but without regard to the men in any other occupation.

General Crowder's letter to the Governors indicates that similar calls for skilled men in other trades are to be expected.

SHIP TUSCARORA IS BELIEVED LOST

Parts of Vessel Found at Sea Lead to Belief of Disaster

New York, Dec. 26.—The American steamer Tuscarora, formerly a lake vessel and reconditioned by the Shipping Board for Atlantic service, with her entire crew of 35 men, is believed to have been lost at sea somewhere north of Cape Breton island, according to advices received in shipping circles today from Nova Scotia.

The crew of the Tuscarora was recruited in New England ports. She was commanded by Captain Crowell, of Cape Cod. In September the vessel was cut in two on the lakes, towed through the Welland canal, and returned to Montreal, from where she sailed for New York, December 9.

The last word of her was received when she passed Parthen Point on the St. Lawrence the following day. Today advices were received in shipping circles here that parts of a bridge, pilothouse and deck timbers from a steamer had washed ashore on St. Paul island, about 30 miles northeast from Cape North on Cape Breton island. Shipping men believe the wreckage is from the missing lake steamer.

CONDITIONS OF PERSHING'S ARMY

Told Senate Committee Behind Closed Doors by Returned Officers

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 26.—Conditions in the American overseas forces and National Army training camps were described today to the Senate committee, when it took up its inquiry into war operations. General officers of the National Army, just back from inspection trips in France were called by the committee which temporarily postponed further examination of Quartermaster General Sharpe.

Officers testifying, including General John F. O'Ryan, of Camp Wadsworth, South Carolina, and Major-General Edwin S. John Greble, of Camp Bowie, Texas.

The committee closed its doors to hear General O'Ryan's statement regarding the American expedition abroad. His testimony regarding sufficiency of rifle and other ordnance equipment, clothing and other supplies of General Pershing's forces, the committee felt, should not be made public.

GERMAN SAVAGERY BROUGHT HOME TO AMERICAN TROOPS

Sentry Found With Throat Cut After He Had Been Captured

POISONED RED CROSS BANDAGES

A Plot to Spread Wholesale Death Among Soldiers Frustrated

Cleveland, O., Dec. 26.—A plot to poison Red Cross bandages and spread wholesale death among the soldiers of America and her allies has been frustrated here.

Revelation of the conspiracy was made today when it became known that Department of Justice Agents were hunting the perpetrators of the deed.

More than three thousand surgical dressings, rolled by patriotic women in Toledo, were infected with a mysterious greenish poison while in transit between Toledo and Cleveland.

Immediately every one of the bandages was burned. Every effort was made to keep the matter secret and it was successful until today. The box of bandages arrived from the Toledo chapter last week and was taken to the warehouse. While women were examining the contents, a dark greenish substance was noticed on one of them. Investigation showed that all of the bandages in the box had been treated with poison.

"KNITTING NERVES" IS NEWEST DISEASE

(By Associated Press.)
New York, Dec. 26.—"Now it's knitting nerves" caused by concentration of mind and hand on the needles. Thousands of women in New York are afflicted, according to Dr. Louis Weltzinger, physical director of the Westside Y. M. C. A., who adds that his only patients showing symptoms of the new war-time complaint have been women. Dr. Weltzinger says there is liable to be an epidemic of "knitting nerves" unless knitters learn to knit properly. He offers the following advice as a remedy:

Don't hunch over your knitting; sit upright and when your mind tells you you have knitted enough, quit. There are 205 days in a year and you can't finish a sweater in a day, no matter how much you love a soldier or a sailor.

THREATEN TO BLOW UP STATE OFFICIALS

(By Associated Press.)
Sacramento, Cal., Dec. 26.—In a letter declaring nine bombs had been placed in the executive mansion and government buildings, police station and post office, "two head officers of the State" has been received by Governor Stephens and turned over to the police, it became known today. The letter demanded that \$50,000 be placed in "a rock pile" presumably near Oakland, Cal., December 31, at 3 o'clock.

HOLIDAY GIFTS IN ITALIAN TRENCHES

(By Associated Press.)
Venice, Tuesday, Dec. 25.—Holiday gifts from the American Red Cross were distributed in the Italian trenches along the lower Piave today by R. Harvey Carroll, Jr., American consul at Venice. Each man received tobacco, sweets, a handkerchief and other presents. The local commanders and their men were enthusiastic in their expressions of thanks.

DRAFTED SOLDIERS TO RECEIVE AID

(By Associated Press.)
New York, Dec. 26.—Through a newly formed organization composed of members of local draft boards in greater New York, plants are being made for aiding drafted soldiers when they return from the war. John H. Hallock, president of the organization, in discussing the plans today, said:

"The local boards will have well-equipped machinery which can be used to help the men selected in their district to get civilian jobs on their return.

"We can be centers of information at any rate. And while the war lasts, besides helping to raise armies, the boards can do welfare work among the families of selected men. The local boards have already made a considerable start in looking after 'weedy cases.'"

WANTS GREEKS TO ENLIST

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 26.—Greece wants her citizens in the United States to enlist in the American army. Not only will she suspend punishments which ordinarily would follow enlistments of Greeks with a foreign power, but she will reward them for supporting the American arms. This is the substance of a note from the Greek government delivered today at the State Department.

AUSTRO-GERMANS CONTINUE ATTACKS

Strike Italian Line at Different Places—Italians Regain Ground—Germans Transfer Troops From East

German savagery has been called officially to the attention of the American troops in Europe. An American sentry has been found with his throat cut and an official bulletin says: "He must have been killed after capture" by a force of Germans which surprised him. Information of enemy terrorism in driving women and children from their homes in the occupied sections of France and Belgium to make room for German soldiers and war material also has been given the American troops.

South of Juvincourt, in the Rhems sector of Champagne, the French have carried out a raid into the German lines and brought back prisoners. On the British portion of the front there have been raids in addition to the artillery duel, but no large operations are indicated.

On the Northern Italian front the Austro-German tactics appear to be to strike alternately at vital points on either side of the Brenna. Checked at Monte Asolone last week, the enemy has struck toward the Frenvela valley, west of the river. After two days of bitter fighting the Italians have regained possession of lost positions on the Col Del Rosso, west of the river, and have attacked the Austro-German positions on Monte Pertica, east of the river. Berlin claims the capture of 9,000 prisoners and the gaining of the Col Del Rosso, which later was lost to the Italians.

Leon Treizick, the Bolshevik Foreign Minister, has protested to the Germans against the transference of troops from the Eastern front, but also has ordered Russian factories to stop the manufacture of munitions. He did not indicate whether his government would take any other step against German violation of the armistice.

Peace negotiations at Brest-Litovsk apparently are making little progress. The Germans have delayed their answer to the Bolshevik terms and it is reported that the conference will be transferred to Stockholm shortly. In the meantime the majority party in the Constituent Assembly, the Socialist-Revolutionists, has convoked the Assembly to meet January 2, despite Bolshevik disapproval.

TWENTY FATALITIES IN TROLLEY WRECK

(By Associated Press.)
Pittsburgh, Dec. 26.—Mrs. Adelaide Bongiovanni, who was injured in the street car accident at the South Hills tunnel late Monday, died in a hospital today, bringing the total dead to 20.

Mrs. Bongiovanni, the wife of a leading restaurant owner, stated soon after she was taken to the hospital that she had lost diamonds valued at \$10,000 in the wreck.

FRENCH WORKMEN ON AIMS OF THE WAR

(By Associated Press.)
Clermont-Ferrand, France, Dec. 26.—At its national conference here, the General Conference of Labor today adopted almost unanimously a resolution referring to the war aims set forth by President Wilson, saying that the purposes of the Russian revolutionaries were virtually the same, and declaring the position of the French workers could be expressed in similar terms. The Federation was instructed to employ all its efforts to induce the French government to make a clear public statement of its conditions of peace.

FISH SKINS USED IN MAKING LEATHER

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 26.—Quality and price of new fish foods put on the market through the assistance of the Department of Commerce, must conform to standards set up by the government or the producers will not reap the benefit of official recommendation of such foods.

Secretary Redfield said today that an official label—"recommended by the Bureau of Fisheries"—was being provided for all new fish products which meet the government requirements.

Leather shortages are being mitigated by the use of fish skins, samples of which have been put on exhibition in the secretary's office. A soft, pliable leather suitable for shoe-uppers or heavy gloves, was made from the intestines of a whale. The skin of a porpoise produced a fine grain, thick leather, shark skin was tanned into a coarse, tough leather for mechanical purposes and the gray fish produced acceptable leather for bookbinding.