

North Carolina—Probably snow and not quite so cold tonight and Tuesday.  
South Carolina—Partly cloudy and not quite so cold tonight and Tuesday, except probably snow in northwest portion.

# THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, MONDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 31, 1917

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## GERMANY STRIKES A STRONG BLOW ALONG THE WESTERN FRONT

### A Vicious Attack Delivered Against British and Fighting Continues

### PEACE CELEBRATION BY THE BOLSHEVIKI

### Sunday's Parades Witnessed By Austrian and German Delegates — Brest-Litovsk Conference Not Agreed

Germany struck her first strong blow on the Western front since the beginning of a great offensive and the British have held it in check. The attack which resulted in heavy fighting was made on a short front on the Southern end of the salient before Cambrai. The fighting continues. The attackers gained a foothold in British trenches but were repulsed in part by counter attacks. The German thrust was on a front of more than two miles between Marcoing and La Vacquerie and against positions which the British have held since the retirement after General Byng's successful blow.

In the center the Germans were held for no gain, but on either end of the assaulting front they entered the front line. The British counter attacks drove the Germans from part of these positions and resulted also in the capture of some prisoners. Berlin claims that the British positions and a "few hundred" prisoners were captured.

The Germans have also been active at other points along the front, but their local attack in the Ypres sector and their raids northeast of Ypres brought no successes. These efforts follow upon heavy German fire in these three sectors, Cambrai, Ypres and Valenciennes. The heads of German attacks may be forerunners of a general offensive.

In the East there has been only a few attacks along the Northern front. German airplanes again have raided Poland much damage being done to monuments and buildings by incendiary bombs. Three persons were killed and three wounded.

Another advance along the Nabulus road, north of Jerusalem has been made by the British forces in Palestine. Against stubborn Turkish resistance the British progressed three miles.

In Petrograd Sunday, the day was given over to peace celebrations marked by parades of Bolshevik followers.

Members of the German and Austrian delegations were spectators of the parades. The heads of German and Austrian delegations to the Brest-Litovsk conference, Dr. Von Kuehlmann and Count Czernin, are returning to their respective capitals. Delayed messages from Brest-Litovsk indicate that the representatives of Russia and the Central Powers agree on most of the peace terms, there is only a difficulty in the preliminary settlement of the question concerning German prisoners from occupied Russia.

One of the forts at Kronstadt, the naval base at Petrograd, has been blown up in an explosion, according to a dispatch received in London. Besides the destruction of Kronstadt, are reported in the news their independence, and the independence of the Bolshevik government in Berlin and Irkutsk. Siberian Kaledines has been released from the Don Cossacks by a slim majority.

### STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF CHILD LABOR LAW

(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, Dec. 31.—Efforts of the National Labor Committee to enforce the law against the employment of children labor in the cotton industry of the South today, the President's order that strict enforcement of the law should only contribute to the life and health, but will result in the preservation of life and health.

## STILL NO DETAILS FROM GUATEMALA OF EARTH SHOCKS

### Many Lives Were Lost and 100,000 People Rendered Homeless

### UNITED STATES IS HURRYING RELIEF

### Ship to Be Sent With Supplies — American Consulate Destroyed — Series Shocks

(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, Dec. 31.—Still without detailed information of the earthquakes which destroyed Guatemala City, costing many lives and leaving a 100,000 homeless, American officials today prepared to send aid to the stricken sister republic. Further reports were awaited from American Minister Leavell and Consul Fee.

Red Cross officials conferred with navy officials as to the supplies to be sent forward on American warships ordered to a Guatemalan seaport.

While the American diplomats are safe, attaches of the legation and consulate are believed to have been lost, as the buildings are reported to have been shaken to the ground. Unofficial advices indicate that the foreign colony escaped without loss of life.

The Guatemalan minister, Joaquin Mendez, was informed of the disaster by the State Department and although he had sent cablegrams of inquiry, he has received no advices.

Four earthquakes apparently have shaken Guatemala City. Records on the Georgetown University seismological instruments indicate the first shocks were felt on Christmas night shortly after midnight. A second series of shocks came about 9 a. m., on December 26. Further shocks were recorded on Friday, December 28, at 4:23 p. m., but the heaviest shocks came at 5:57 p. m., Saturday, December 29. It appears that this last disturbance was the one which caused the most damage.

## CLOSE POLITICAL BALANCE IN HOUSE

### Democrats, 211; Republicans, 209; Independents, 6; Vacancies, 9

(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, Dec. 31.—How close the political balance in the House will be when Congress re-convenes on January 3 is shown by this summary made by South Trimble, clerk of the House. Total membership, 435. Democrats, 211; Republicans, 209; independent group, 6; vacancies, 9.

The vacancies are by resignations of Representatives Fitzgerald, Griffin and Bruckner, of New York, and Adams, Georgia; deaths of Representatives Bathrick, Ohio, and Martin, Illinois, and absences on army service of Representatives Johnson, South Dakota, LaGuardia, New York, and Heintz, of Ohio.

## NEW RECORD IN EXPORTS

(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, Dec. 31.—America's exports were estimated today at \$4,000,000,000, a new high record, a mark in 1917, a new high record. Imports were less than \$3,000,000,000 and the trade balance in favor of the United States probably will be more than \$1,500,000,000.

## TROTZKY REGIME EFFICIENT SAYS CORRESPONDENT

### Daily News Representative in Petrograd Commends Bolshevik Government

### WORLD DEMOCRACY WILL BE THE WINNER

### Russian Foreign Minister Says His Revolution is Beginning of a Movement Which Will Force Peace

(By Associated Press.)  
London, Dec. 31.—The Bolshevik government is extremely efficient, energetic and decisive though faced by noisy opposition from the privileged classes who are doing all they can to check it by sabotage and libel, according to the Petrograd correspondent of the Daily News. The correspondent says Petrograd is more orderly than for some months before the Bolshevik took control. The people may not like the Bolshevik, he declares, but they obey them with startling alacrity and the government is based on real force.

The Constituent Assembly, the correspondent hears, will meet as soon as delegates from the Ukraine arrive, perhaps in 10 days. He asserts that whatever is the decision of the Assembly as constituted at present, it will not alter the essential directions of Russian policy although it might by weakening the government at home, weaken it in its dealings with the Germans.

Any attempt to turn out the Bolshevik government by force would result only in anarchy favorable to the Germans, says the correspondent. He writes enthusiastically about Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik Foreign Minister, who told him that the war would be decided by social rather than military pressure. Trotsky is quoted as saying:

"The German democracy looks to the Russian revolution, it is the recognition of this fact that compels the German government to accept Russian principles as the basis for negotiations."

Trotsky said the German offer was a victory for the democratic movement generally. Austria-Hungary, he said, is on the point of revolt and every country in Europe is feeling the pressure of democracy from behind. The German attitude, Trotsky added, means that the German government is wiser than most governments, because it recognizes real factors.

Democratic pressure, Trotsky is quoted as adding, forced the Germans to reject their grandiose plans of conquest and to accept the peace in which there are neither conqueror nor conquered. He admitted, however, that such a peace could hardly be achieved unless the Entente Allies join the negotiations.

Pro-Ally Russians say, according to the correspondent of The Daily News, that Germany's terms at Brest-Litovsk were for the purpose of confounding the Allies and winning sympathy. These Russians oppose a separate peace, but say the next word belongs to the Allies.

## QUIETER WELCOME FOR NEW YEAR

### New York Will Celebrate as Usual Except for War's Restrictions

(By Associated Press.)  
New York, Dec. 31.—The new year will be welcomed in New York after the fashion of former years, except that tonight the war promises to place its stamp of moderation on the conviviality of the celebrants. Hotels and restaurants will entertain just as many guests as in times of peace, offer nothing that does not bear the stamp of the Food Administration's approval and the high prices prevailing for wines and the 1 o'clock closing orders indicates that the New Year's toasts will be drunk in less generous proportions.

Watch parties and entertainments for soldiers and sailors have been arranged in greater numbers than before America entered the war.

## AMERICAN AVIATOR FALLS TO HIS DEATH

(By United Press.)  
Paris, Dec. 31.—An American aviator was killed yesterday while making a test flight at an aviation center before French and American pilots and observation aviators. Although the wind was blowing violently, he made a loop successfully but on attempting to repeat the feat he fell. He was dying when he fell, but insisted upon reporting to his American comrades with his last breath the observations he had made.

## RAILROAD TRAFFIC NEW YORK CITY OVER FOUR BILLION MARK LAST YEAR

### American Railroads Have the Greatest Gross Income in Their History

### HOWEVER, THERE WAS LESS NET INCOME

### Receipts for 1917 Year Approximately \$4,188,227,185, Gain of \$451,905,438 Over 1916

(By Associated Press.)  
Chicago, Dec. 31.—Traffic on American railroads passed the \$4,000,000,000 mark during the last year for the first time in history, according to figures compiled by the Bureau of Railway News and Statistics, made public today. The figures are based on official returns to the Interstate Commerce Commission for the first 10 months of the year and on estimates for the last two.

The gross receipts for the year were placed at \$4,188,227,185, a gain of \$451,905,438 over 1916, but despite this increase in business there was a decrease of \$91,876,153 in net income. The net income for 1917 was \$4,022,741,992. Advancing cost of fuel, materials and supplies, together with increased wages are blamed for the loss in net income.

Taxes for the year were \$22,005,753, an increase of \$56,770,707, according to the Bureau's statistics. A steady increase in taxes each month is shown. Starting with \$1,500,000 in January they reached \$25,000,000 in September when accruals under the new war taxation became operative.

Operating expenses were \$2,349,458,440, an increase of \$487,010,807 over 1916. Net operating income per mile is placed at \$3,943, a net return of 5.87 per cent. on the capital invested. In 1916 the net income was \$2,299, a return of 8.96 per cent., according to the Bureau's report.

The Bureau points out that a great increase in business was handled with very little increase in equipment. An increase of 700 miles is shown in the mileage.

## SOME MODERATION OF THE WEATHER EXPECTED TONIGHT

### The Weather Bureau Says Cold Wave is Passing to Sea

### COLDEST DECEMBER ON COAST SINCE 1880

### Range Was 40 Below Zero in Vermont to 34 Above at Miami—Four Above Zero at Raleigh

(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, Dec. 31.—Some moderation beginning tonight, of the cold wave was forecast today by the Weather Bureau, for the country from the Ohio Valley eastward. The cold wave is now passing to sea.

The intense cold has not been equalled in the territory south of New York, along the coast and inland since December 30, 1880.

There has already been a moderation of temperature, west of the Appalachian mountains and in the East Gulf States, although over a greater part of that region, it is still colder than the seasonable average.

Canton, New York, reported the lowest temperature at 8 o'clock this morning of any point in the country. It was 20 degrees below zero there. During the previous 24 hours the coldest was 40 degrees below zero at Northfield, Vt., according to Weather Bureau reports. Official temperatures at 8 o'clock this morning showed the below zero line to extend northward of Philadelphia and eastward of Buffalo. Philadelphia was at zero, New York and Boston 8 below, Albany and Portland 16 below. Another very cold area was around Des Moines, Iowa, where it was zero. At Chicago and Indianapolis 8 above; St. Louis 12 above and Kansas City 14 above.

Through the South, the range was from 4 above at Raleigh to 34 at Miami, Fla., and New Orleans, Jacksonville and Atlanta, reported 18 and Mobile 28.

## RAILROAD TRAFFIC NEW YORK CITY THREATENED BY A COAL FAMINE

### Coal Merchants Dole Out Their Limited Supply to Long Lines

### APARTMENT HOUSES ARE WITHOUT HEAT

### Families Shiver Over Gas and Oil Heaters—Coal at Tide-water But Unable to Get It Across River

(By United Press.)  
New York, Dec. 31.—Below zero weather for two days resulting in private houses and apartments consuming thousands of tons of coal above their normal requirements has made such deep inroads in the surplus supply that today a coal famine is impending in this city. Across the Hudson river are thousands of tons of coal, but the severe weather made its transfer to distributors a matter of extreme difficulty. Railway officials at New Jersey terminals claimed today that there were about 70,000 tons of coal at tide-water waiting transportation to the city.

Coal merchants kept their places open as relief stations all day yesterday and many of them all night, to accommodate applicants who were allotted amounts from 50 pounds to a quarter of a ton. Hundreds of men and women waited hours in the long lines to obtain even this scanty supply. Crowds became so large in front of two North river relief stations that police reserves had to be called to maintain order. There is practically no coal in the yards of wholesale and retail coal merchants, except the small supplies furnished to them daily by the Fuel Administration.

Just how much coal reached these yards yesterday could not be estimated although it is known to be small.

To further increase the seriousness of the coal situation the coal tenners have threatened to strike for higher wages. Regre Schley, County Fuel Administrator, will meet with the men today, when he will seek to settle the difficulty by arbitration.

Several large uptown apartment houses and many smaller ones throughout the city are said to be without coal and the tenants have been notified that they must rely upon gas grates and gas oil heaters until a supply could be obtained. It was also reported today that unless a supply was forthcoming immediately, several downtown office buildings, including one of the largest in the city, would be forced to shut down their heating plants.

## FRENCH MAKE GAINS

(By Associated Press.)  
Berlin, Dec. 31.—French forces on the Northern Italian front yesterday took the offensive. In the afternoon the French infantry penetrated portions of the Austro-German positions on Monte Tomba, the German general staff announced today.

## BRITISH REGAIN BEST POSITIONS

(By Associated Press.)  
London, Dec. 31.—The British in successful counter attacks on the Cambrai front have regained the more important territory on Welsh ridge taken by the Germans in yesterday's attack, the war office reports.

## EDUCATIONAL FUND METHODIST CHURCH

(By Associated Press.)  
Pulaski, Tenn., Dec. 31.—Property valued at \$50,000 is left at the death of a sister, to be managed by the Southern Methodist church to assist boys to acquire an education at Pulaski Boys' School, under the terms of the will of Robert L. Johnson, probated here, it was learned today.

## LOWER CALIFORNIA MAY SECEDE

(By Associated Press.)  
San Francisco, Dec. 31.—Fielding J. Stilson, a Los Angeles capitalist, announced here today he had been advised that he was to be appointed "diplomatic representative at Washington" of Governor Estaban Cantu, of Lower California.

"I believe," he said, "this forebodes to cessation of Lower California from Mexico."

Mr. Stilson refused to discuss his appointment further than to say that he was to meet here today a personal representative of Cantu and expected to receive from him confirmation of his appointment.

## RECORD BREAKING COLD IN EASTERN PART OF COUNTRY

### Whole Atlantic Seaboard in Grip of Severe Weather in Years

### INTENSE SUFFERING IN NEW YORK CITY

### Death List is Lengthening and Coal Getting Scarcer—Reports of Severe Weather From All Eastern Points

### SERIOUS FIGHTING IS IN PROGRESS IN EASTERN SIBERIA

### French Consular Agent and Many Other Persons Murdered at Irkutsk

### COSSACKS PUT UP STRONG RESISTANCE

### Communication With Petrograd Has Been Cut Off—Harbin is Quiet With Chinese in Full Control

(By Associated Press.)  
Peking, Dec. 31.—Civil war is in progress at Irkutsk, in Eastern Siberia on the Trans-Siberian railroad and in the surrounding districts. The town was set on fire by Red Guards after they had murdered the French consular agent and three other Frenchmen. Many persons, including women and children, are being murdered and street fighting is under way.

The Bolsheviks continue to receive reinforcements and ammunition from Krasnoyarsk. The Cossacks are offering determined opposition to the Red Guards. The Siberian railway guards are outnumbered and are being killed or driven from their posts. Communication with Petrograd has been cut off.

Bolshevik uprisings have occurred at Tschita and Verkhne-Udinsk, both of which towns are on the Trans-Siberian railway. Harbin is quiet with the Chinese in full control. They are guarding the banks, stores and railways.

## BRITISH TO MAKE REASONED REPLY

### Newspaper Says Lloyd-George to Talk Peace Offer With Clemenceau

(By Associated Press.)  
London, Dec. 31.—The Manchester Guardian says it is the intention of the British government, when the Austro-German terms of peace are presented officially, to return a serious and reasoned reply. Premier Lloyd-George has arranged to visit France, according to the newspaper, to confer with Premier Clemenceau on this subject.

The Austro-German terms referred to are those presented by the representatives of the Central Powers at the negotiations with the Russians at Brest-Litovsk. These negotiations were interrupted for 10 days to give the Entente Allies opportunity to state whether they would join in them. A political point in the Austro-German outline of peace terms was the acceptance of the Russian formula of no annexation or indemnities.

## ONE KILLED, NINE INJURED IN MINE

(By Associated Press.)  
Scranton, Pa., Dec. 31.—One man was killed and nine badly burned in an explosion at the Underwood mine of the Pennsylvania Coal Company, near this city this afternoon. Early reports put the head at 17 but this was denied. The explosion was caused by a miner walking into a pocket of gas with a naked light.

## SOME RELAXATION IN CENSORSHIP

(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, Dec. 31.—Relaxation in several phases of the voluntary censorship, observed by American newspapers since the beginning of the war, is announced by the committee on Public Information in revised regulations effective tomorrow.

Requests that nothing be published tending to disclose the names of line-officers or individual units in expeditionary forces, tending to reveal the identity of American merchant ships and crews engaging submarines and giving information regarding dry-docks, repair and construction work have been withdrawn entirely. It is explained unofficially that these were withdrawn because of the difficulty in having them universally observed.

Other changes and additions of minor character are made.

Counter Measures Against French. Vienna, Dec. 31 (via London).—Counter measures against the French are in course of preparation in the Monte Tomba area, the war office announced.

(By Associated Press.)  
New York, Dec. 31.—A lengthening death roll, a rapidly dwindling coal supply and a weather Bureau official's prediction that the record-breaking cold spell would keep the mercury hovering about the zero mark throughout the next 24 hours, made winter's grip on New York and vicinity today a grim actuality. Ten persons had perished from the cold up to noon.

Police stations, theaters, libraries, churches, charitable institutions and other places available for use as shelters have been converted into refuges for the city's hundreds of homeless and the thousands of poor among whom the suffering is widespread. A continuation of zero weather beyond tomorrow, it was feared, would present a situation with which the city authorities admitted it would be difficult to cope.

Because of the cold, a desire to save fuel, and the proximity of the New Year's holiday, the board of managers of the Cotton Exchange voted to close the Exchange at noon. When trading began on the floor of the Exchange today the thermometer there registered 45 degrees.

At 1, 2 and 7 o'clock this morning the Weather Bureau announced the temperatures as 7 degrees below zero. At 11 o'clock the mercury stood at one degree below.

Snowing today in this State. Raleigh, N. C., Dec. 31.—With the ground covered with a layer of two and a half inches of snow and the temperature registering nine degrees above zero at 8 o'clock, Raleigh and vicinity continues to suffer today from the coldest December weather in the history of the local weather bureau.

The mercury stood at zero at 8 o'clock Sunday morning, rising 14 degrees during the day and again falling to four degrees above zero at 3 o'clock this morning. Snow was falling in the Piedmont section of North Carolina early today, according to reports to the local weather bureau.

The intensely cold wave, which is general throughout the State, is causing much suffering on account of the shortage of fuel.

2x tsrh emfvy -J. MFW bhQ—Snowstorm in South Carolina. Columbia, S. C., Dec. 31.—A snow storm is raging throughout South Carolina this morning, according to reports to the local Weather Bureau, accentuating the already acute conditions caused by the fuel shortage. A heavy snow began falling in Columbia just before 8 o'clock this morning and covered the ground rapidly. Lowest temperatures reported this morning was 12 degrees above zero, or four degrees higher than the reading yesterday morning, which was the coldest December day here in 31 years.

The present cold spell, thought by many to be a record-breaker, does not approach the record low mark of two degrees below zero recorded here in February, 1899.

Snowing in Athens, Ga. Athens, Ga., Dec. 31.—The second snow of the winter began falling at 5 o'clock this morning and at 10 o'clock had reached a depth of three inches. Hundreds of homes are without fuel. City and county convicts have been employed in cutting and hauling wood from the country to relieve the situation.

New England Still Suffering. Boston, Mass., Dec. 31.—New England was still suffering today from the most severe cold wave ever officially recorded in this section. In this city the temperature remained below zero all night and to make matters worse the dawn brought a stiff north-west wind. The minimum was eight below and at 3 a. m., it had risen only three degrees. Later when the temperature had climbed to one degree below zero, at 9:30 o'clock the Weather Bureau announced that the crest of the cold wave had passed and that conditions more nearly approaching the mid-winter normal would prevail during the next few days.

Great Suffering in New York. New York, Dec. 31.—Nothing to indicate a moderation of the intense cold that has held the city in its grip for the past two days greeted shivering New Yorkers this morning. Not in 30 years has this city suffered as it did Saturday and yesterday, and, hopeless of relief, was preparing to suffer again today. At 6 a. m. thermometers registered 7 degrees below zero, while reports from outlying districts showed lower temperatures by several degrees. Directly or indirectly, the cold yesterday resulted in seven known deaths, while hundreds were treated at hospitals which report that there will have to be many amputations of frosted fingers, toes and ears.

City officials and charity workers predicted that today there would be more widespread distress than yesterday, when thousands enabled by the Sabbath idleness to remain indoors would be forced into the open. Added to their suffering from cold, the city's millions are face to face with a coal

(Continued on Page Three)