

WEATHER FORECAST  
North Carolina—Fair tonight, not quite so cold in west portion; Wednesday fair and warmer.  
South Carolina—Fair and not quite so cold tonight; Wednesday, fair, warmer.

# THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, TUESDAY AFTER NOON, JANUARY 1, 1918

PRICE FIVE CENTS

## FIRE THREATENING BUSINESS DISTRICT OF NORFOLK TODAY

Flames Were Raging Along Both Sides of Granby Street This Afternoon

CITY HAS BEEN PUT UNDER MARTIAL LAW

Fires Believed Incendiary Wipes Out Stores, Monticello Hotel and Other Buildings—Guards Placed

(Special to The Dispatch.)  
Norfolk, Va., Jan. 1.—Granby Street jewelry store of Buchanan and Son, diagonally across the street from the Monticello Hotel, burst into flames at 12:30 o'clock and was a ruin in a few minutes' time. Men were making gallant efforts to quench the fire, but without noticeable result, due to poor water pressure. The police are firmly convinced that fire bugs are at work and are working along lines of this nature.

Preparations are being made to order out home guard to guard lanes of city. The Lennox Building, on Granby street, the top floor of which is occupied as a Chinese chop suey establishment, furnished in palatial style, was burning briskly at 1 o'clock, and the Carpenter Building, at the corner of Granby and Tazewell streets, was threatened. There was acute danger of the fire spreading to adjoining buildings, including The Virginia Pilot Building.

The Union Station, on East Main street, a half mile from the scene of the other fires, was in a light blaze at 1:30 o'clock. The building is six stories and handsomely furnished and supposedly fire-proof. The entire area about the fire has been restricted and sailors and marines are doing volunteer police duty. The walls of the building occupied by Buchanan had collapsed. At 1:45 o'clock numerous other buildings are threatened. All telephone service is cut off.

Martial Law Declared.  
(By Associated Press.)  
Norfolk, Va., Jan. 1.—Fire which this morning destroyed three store buildings on Granby street and partially destroyed the Monticello Hotel, had a block away, with loss of one life and severe injury to several firemen has crossed the street from the Monticello, destroyed two additional store buildings and at 2 o'clock was raging in the seven story Dickson building on Granby street.

The entire block opposite the hotel appeared to be doomed. All the city's available fire apparatus was ordered out and aid was sent from the navy yard and Portsmouth.

Mayor Mayo called out the home guard and these with two companies of marines from the navy yard, are guarding water front property, and patrolling the streets.

Firemen were handicapped in fighting the flames by the intense cold. The fire plugs were frozen and had to be thawed out before water was available. Two explosions preceded the first fire this morning and authorities believe the flames were of incendiary origin.

Arrangement of naval reserves has been called out to guard property in Norfolk and arrived in the city this morning. All hotels, banks and public buildings are guarded, and nobody is allowed to leave or enter any of them unless vouchered for by a responsible person.

One arrest of a suspect was made this afternoon. He was found examining some prominent buildings in Norfolk and when questioned said he was Department of Justice man.

This was denied by the local agents of the Department of Justice.

## THE MAGNITUDE OF FRENCH SUCCESSES IN ITALY GROWS

More Than a Thousand Prisoners and Many Guns Were Captured

OFFENSIVE TACTICS NOW IN OPERATION

The Blow Marks Change From Defensive to Offensive By the Allies on the Italian Front

(By Associated Press.)  
Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy, Monday, Dec. 31.—The magnitude of the achievement of the French troops on the Monte Tomba region grows as full details are received. In addition to 1,384 men including 44 Austrian officers, several of high rank, made prisoner and seven large machine guns, several trench mortars and a great amount of miscellaneous war material.

But the chief significance of the stroke is the change from defensive to offensive tactics, and the surprise enthusiasm and aggressiveness with which the French delivered their initial blow against the enemy lines. Thus far the enemy has been on the offensive with the Italians delivering telling defensive blows.

Now, however, the French have turned the scale and the enemy is being attacked in this sector for the first time since he reached the Piave. The scene was southeast of Monte Tomba, a low snowless mountain, just west of the Piave, where the Allied lines turn into the mountain region. Here the artillery preparations began Saturday, but the main bombardment began at noon Sunday and increased hourly until the enemy was deluged by the French fire.

It was then that the crack French infantry swung forward in steady lines from Osteria Di Monrerera and Maranzine, a front of about two miles. The heaviest forces were on the right wing. Italian and British airmen, at the same time, attacked the enemy from the air.

The struggle was comparatively short and sharp with most of the fighting on the right wing. The artillery had so damaged the enemy positions that he was unable to make any effective resistance. The French losses were comparatively insignificant. It has been established that no forces are being moved away from this front and that no new forces are being brought here.

## ALLIED AIR RAIDS STIR UP GERMANS

(By Associated Press.)  
London, Jan. 1.—Allied air raids over Germany are awakening the people to a recognition of their rulers' mistaken air ruthlessness, according to the Amsterdam correspondent of The Times. There is great nervousness throughout Germany, especially in the more exposed parts, he says, owing to the reported intention of the Americans to invade Germany by air. The object is discussed universally though efforts are made to calm anxiety by declarations about "American bluff."

The explosions in munitions factories, the correspondent adds, are causing the German military authorities anxiety, not only because of the interference with the supply of munitions, but also because of unrest in the districts where the explosions occur. The unrest has been acute since the advent of frost.

## GREAT RAILROAD BRIDGE OPENED

(By Associated Press.)  
Chicago, Jan. 1.—A railroad bridge across the Ohio river which is expected to expedite traffic between the North and South was formally opened today. It spans the Ohio between Mt. Pleasant, Ill., and Paducah, Ky., is one mile and a quarter in length, and was built jointly by the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy and the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis railways.

## NORFOLK'S MOST FAMOUS HOTEL IS WRECKED BY FIRE

Entire Upper Part of the Monticello Destroyed This Morning

SPARKS FROM NEARBY FIRE STARTED IT

Flames Discovered on Kitchen Roof About 7 O'Clock—Firemen Hampered by Frozen Hydrants

(By Associated Press.)  
Norfolk, Va., Jan. 1.—Fire caused by sparks falling on the roof from another fire that had destroyed three stores half a block away, almost completely wrecked the Monticello Hotel this morning. All of the upper part of the hotel was swept away, including the magnificent dining room on the fifth floor, and the lower floors were badly damaged by water. More than 350 guests who were in the hotel at the time were forced to flee, but all escaped unhurt.

The rooms of the Board of Trade, the Y. M. C. A. and many private homes have been thrown open to the guests who are without shelter, and it is believed that all will be provided for.

The fire was discovered this morning about 7 o'clock in the roof of the kitchen on the sixth floor. The alarm was sent in and all of the apparatus in the city responded. In the intense cold the firemen found all of the hydrants frozen and it was necessary to build fires about these plugs to thaw them out. After the hydrants were opened the water pressure was weak and the flames gained headway before a stream could reach the top floor.

Enlisted men, both sailors and soldiers, assisted the firemen in fighting the flames, which quickly spread from one end of the building to the other. When the roof of the kitchen fell in, it caught two firemen, both of whom being badly burned and otherwise injured. They were hurried to the St. Vincent's hospital.

The fire was the result, it is believed, of another fire that started at 4 o'clock and destroyed three stores on Granby street, about a half block from the Monticello. It is thought that a spark blew from the first fire to the roof of the hotel over the kitchen, where the blaze was first seen. The flames soon reached the elevator shaft and with the draft from that opening quickly swept to other parts of the hotel.

Many of the guests of the hotel had just fallen to sleep after watching the fire a few hundred yards away, when they were aroused by the alarm that the building was afire.

The Monticello Hotel was one of the best known hotels in the entire South. It has entertained some of the most prominent people in the country. It was built in 1898 for the Monticello Realty Corporation, and was valued at more than \$1,000,000. For eight or nine years it has been operated by a company headed by Colonel C. H. Consoive, who is also manager of the New Belvedere, in Baltimore. The Monticello Hotel has 215 rooms.

## TWENTY-TWO MILLION RED CROSS MEMBERS

(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, Jan. 1.—Sixteen million new names were added to the membership rolls of the American Red Cross, as the result of the Christmas membership drive, Henry P. Davidson, chairman of the National War Council, announced today. The organization now has a membership of 28,000,000.

## RUMANIAN MINISTER REACHES AMERICA

(By Associated Press.)  
An Atlantic Port, Jan. 1.—Dr. Constantin Angelesco who was recently appointed minister from Rumania to the United States, the first official representative of his country to America, arrived today on a French steamship. Dr. Angelesco is also at the head of a special Rumanian war

## SEPARATE PEACE WOULD BE DEFEAT FOR DEMOCRACY

Correspondent Doubts Whether Seriousness of Such a Step is Realized

## HE SAYS TROTSKY IS DOING BEST HE CAN

Advices Allies to Aid in Encouraging Democratic Movement in Germany, Started By Bolsheviki

(By Associated Press.)  
London, Jan. 1.—The Petrograd correspondent of the Daily News wonders whether the danger of a separate peace is realized in England. He says it would be a defeat for German democracy in addition to securing the virtual enslavement of Russia, as it would be a victory for the military caste in Germany.

"It may mean," he adds, "much more than Russia's neutrality, if we make no move, it seems possible that the Germans will ask Russians to help them in enforcing Russian peace terms on the Entente Allies. Trotsky is well aware of the danger, though faced with the necessity of concluding peace and is doing his utmost to stimulate a revolution in Germany. Fractionalization at the front already has passed beyond control of enemy officers and enormous quantities of revolutionary newspapers printed in German are being distributed.

"I am convinced our only chance in defeating German designs is to publish terms as near the Russian terms as possible and by taking a powerful hand in the proposed conference, help the democratic movement in Germany while helping the Russians to force the German government in the direction it has had to take."

"Whatever party might be in power in Russia, it would be compelled to conclude peace and Trotsky's method is more likely to damage Germany than the method of any more political person in his place. The nationalization of the banks puts a weapon more powerful than the machine in the hands of the workers and probably will cause the collapse of the present regime."

The writer foreshadows a further loosening of the ministry by men from other parties joining the government. The Petrograd correspondent of the Times, who is visiting in London, continues his anti-Bolshevik statements today. He says it is unlikely that the Germans, who are now reckoning upon the great advantages they expect from the Russian revolution, will suffer a grievous disappointment provided the friends of the Russian nation offer it a helping hand. He immediately implies that the Russian people will not continue to submit to German exploitation through Bolsheviki adventures, if a closer union is established between Russia and the Entente Allies.

## HENRY WALTERS IN RAILROAD CABINET

Old War Board is Dissolved and a Cabinet Formed By McAdoo

(By United Press.)  
Washington, Jan. 1.—Orders went to Eastern railroads last night from Director-General McAdoo to clear up freight congestion regardless of previous government priority regulations, passenger schedules and any hampering practices under the old competitive system and to pay special attention to movement of coal and food.

Lines of the West and South were notified that soon they might be called on for locomotives and other equipment to help lighten the traffic burden in the East and a committee of Government officials was created to work out a plan for diverting export freight to ports South of New York. Quantities of coal were started to New England to relieve the serious shortage there and priority orders were suspended for roads East of the Mississippi and North of the Ohio river to the extent necessary to clear up congestion.

At the same time the director general dissolved the railroad war board at its own request and named a temporary advisory cabinet of five members. One of these, Hale Holden, president of the Burlington and a member of the war board, will be retained to supervise the machinery which the war board has created within the last nine months to coordinate the roads of the country. Other members of the new advisory cabinet are John Skelton Williams, comptroller of the currency, who will have charge of financial questions arising out of government operation; Henry Walters, chairman of the board of the Atlantic Coast Line who will assist on operation problems; Edward Chambers, traffic director of the Food Administration, who will have general charge of traffic; and Walter D. Hines, assistant to the director

## WILL INVESTIGATE EXCEEDINGLY HIGH PRICES ON SHOES

Federal Trade Commission Orders An Exhaustive Investigation At Once

FROM RAW HIDES TO FINISHED PRODUCTS

Cost of All Leather Goods Will Be Examined Into—Believed Somebody is Making Too Much Profit

(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, Jan. 1.—Hides and leather today were added to the list of necessities under investigation by the Federal Trade Commission, to determine why the price of shoes is "exceedingly high" while unusually large stocks of raw materials are alleged to be held in storage.

Inquiry is to be made promptly to ascertain the reasonableness of the profits being made by all persons handling leather articles. It is expected that investigation will commence at the source, and after threshing out the prices received by the packers for the raw hides, will go into the expenses of tanning, manufacture and distribution.

Information obtained by the Commission's investigation in obtaining data on which government contracts are based, is said to have been responsible for the decision to make a full record of all the details of the hide and leather industry. Indications that the Commission also may have obtained information personally in the cost of shoes was seen in the resolution authorizing the investigation, which recites that it has been "common experience that exceedingly high prices are now charged."

Commissioner Davies, who is in charge of the meat packing investigation, will direct the hide and leather industry. The Commission's resolution says: "Whereas it is common experience that exceedingly high prices are now charged for shoes, which are a prime necessity of life and for leather products generally; and

"Whereas it is explained that unusually large stocks of hides and of leather are now in hand and that tanneries, leather factories, and shoe factories, are operating far short of their capacity; and

"Whereas it is in the public interest to promptly ascertain the fact as to the reasonableness of the present prices of hides, leather, shoes and other important leather products and as to the reasonableness of the profit being made in their production and distribution;

"Resolved, That the Federal Trade Commission make an investigation of the above matter not duplicating the data already being gathered in connection with the meat investigation and not duplicating any data being gathered by the War Trade Board or other departments of the government;

"That the necessary additional force be employed to promptly carry on this work.

"That necessary arrangements be made with the President for funds to meet the expenses of this investigation; and

"That the Advisory Economic Board be directed to promptly submit a plan, and estimate of expense and recommendations as to men for this investigation."

## AN APPROPRIATION NEEDED AT ONCE

Congress Will Be Asked to Appropriate \$1,338,000,000 for War Work

(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, Jan. 1.—An urgent deficiency appropriation of approximately \$1,338,000,000 for the army, navy, food administration and other government war work will be asked of Congress soon after the holiday recess.

The largest item will be one of \$1,278,500,000 for the quartermaster corps, for supplies; \$450,000,000 for ordnance and \$140,000,000 for engineering.

## NATIONAL DEBT OF THE UNITED STATES OVER FIVE BILLION DOLLARS

## NEW YORK STILL SUFFERING FROM SEVERE WEATHER

Twelve Deaths, Many Hospital Cases and Great Suffering Reported

WEATHER BUREAU PROMISES RELIEF

Slightly Warmer Tonight, Much Warmer Tomorrow—White House Conserves Fuel

(By Associated Press.)  
New York, Jan. 1.—Despite a slight break in the zero weather that has benumbed New York for three days, the city faced another day of suffering and inconvenience to its business life today.

Although fuel administrators assert nearly 150,000 tons of coal are piled at tidewater points, the problem of transporting it here has been rendered difficult owing to the congestion of all water and rail routes. Meanwhile the city is scraping its coal bins, and the reserve supply is nearly exhausted.

School officials say that at least 150 schools are short of fuel, but an attempt will be made to re-open them tomorrow after the usual holiday vacations.

On the East Side and in other poorer sections of the city, charity workers reported hundreds of cases of intense suffering. Already, 12 deaths because of the cold or accidents caused by the cold have been reported in the Metropolitan district, while the hospitals have treated many cases of exhaustion or frost bites.

Relief Promised.  
Washington, Jan. 1.—Relief from the cold wave in the East was promised today by the Weather Bureau. It will begin to grow slightly warmer tonight.

While the East is suffering from the cold, the western half of the country except in the Pacific States, is enjoying decidedly warmer weather.

In the South, temperatures below freezing are predicted for tonight, extending into Central Florida.

Much difficulty is being experienced by the government in heating buildings taken over for temporary war work of executive departments. In one bureau at certain periods of the day, work is suspended and the employees promenaded or dance to the music of phonograph records to restore circulation. Since the cold wave began heat has been cut off from the famous East room and other parlors and the State dining room of the White House to conserve coal.

New England Shivering.  
Boston, Mass., Jan. 1.—The relief promised by the Weather Bureau from the unprecedented cold wave, was slow in reaching New England. During last night, the mercury here hovered close to the zero mark, and the brisk wind this morning was still from the North.

Measures taken to relieve the suffering of the many families who were without fuel had proved effective, however, and in cases where it had been found impossible to provide an adequate supply, warm shelter was given in churches, halls and school houses.

## WAR TIME ECONOMY URGED BY BANKS

(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, Jan. 1.—A campaign to impress the necessity of war time economy upon the people is urged of the banks of the United States in a New Year's message sent out today by the Federal Reserve Board.

The banks, charged with the duty of promoting thrift in their communities, are asked to tell the people that by economy they serve their country not only in enabling the government and the Allies to obtain supplies but also increase savings which can be

## A Financial Statement Issued Today by the Treasury Department

DEBT OF OTHER BELLIGERENTS MORE

Percentage of Debt is 2 1/2 Per Cent; Other Allies 14 Per Cent; Teutons 28 Per Cent—Below the Estimate

Washington, Jan. 1.—The United States enters the new year with a national net debt of \$5,615,000,000, more than five times greater than when it entered the war nine months ago, but only one-third of the debt, which promises to develop by the first of next year. The debt per capita is about \$51, and the percentage of debt to estimated national wealth is 2 1/2 per cent.

The Treasury financial summary statement, issued today for the first time since last June 30, shows that actual disbursements during the first half of the fiscal year have fallen far below the estimates, particularly for the military establishment. An enormous prospective in War Department expenses, for big munitions and materials contracts to be filled in the spring, will raise the government outlays at that time, but officials feel some doubt that ordinary disbursements will reach the \$12,316,000,000 estimated for the fiscal year ending next June 30.

The actual outlay for the military establishment up to December 1 was \$1,311,000,000, the estimated outlay for the whole fiscal year is \$3,790,000,000. The Navy spent \$426,000,000 and the estimate for the year is \$1,309,000,000. Shipping Board expenditures were \$118,000,000 while the year's estimate is \$901,000,000.

Great as the national debt seems to the country, whose debt before the war was only a little past the billion dollar mark, it is only about one-fourth that of either Great Britain, France, Russia or Germany. The debt of all of America's co-belligerents is about \$4,000,000,000, or 14 per cent of the estimated wealth of those nations, and the Teutonic allies' debt is about \$40,000,000,000 or 28 per cent of their estimated wealth.

## JAPAN TO ADVANCE CHINA A BIG SUM

(By Associated Press.)  
Peking, Dec. 31.—(Monday).—The Associated Press is informed officially Japan is negotiating an advance to China of 10,000,000 pounds sterling for the purpose of improving the status of the Bank of China.

The negotiations are being carried on with the knowledge of the American, British, French and Russian banking groups in the syndicate which with Japanese and German representatives was formed before the war to finance China. The terms will be similar to the previous Japanese advance under the conditions of the reorganization loan, but the other banking groups will take no part in it on account of the refusal of their governments to permit the sending of bullion to China.

Again Quiet on British Front.  
London, Jan. 1.—Except for considerable artillery activity on both sides in the neighborhood of Arras, the British war office statement issued today regarding operations on the battle front in France, "there is nothing of special interest to report."

## COAL COMING

(By George H. Manning.)  
Washington, D. C., Jan. 1.—The an ill wind that blows nobody any good. Because the b-r-r-r-z-z-z weather made an impenetrable ice pack in the waters about Hampton Roads, heavy shipments of coal from the West Virginia mines passing through the Virginia harbor to the New England ports were tied up tight. In order to keep the fuel moving to the people at all hazards, the Fuel Administration today ordered 300 cars of the coal diverted from Hampton Roads immediately for local distribution in North Carolina, where winter's blasts have caused considerable discomfort.