

WEATHER FORECAST
North Carolina: Fair tonight, not quite so cold; Saturday partly cloudy, somewhat warmer.
South Carolina: Fair tonight and Saturday; not quite so cold.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 4, 1918

PRICE FIVE CENTS

ASKS LEGISLATION FOR RAILROADS

PRESIDENT WILSON OUTLINES RAILROAD CONTROL PROGRAM

Provides for Compensating Railroads on Basis of Last Three Years
GOVERNMENT'S BILL ALREADY INTRODUCED
The Control Shall Continue Through War and Until Congress Shall Thereafter Order Otherwise

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Jan. 4.—President Wilson laid before Congress today his recommendations for legislation to carry on government operation of railroads, and administration bills to that purpose were introduced immediately in both Houses.
While the President, in his address, laid stress on the importance of properly preserving the properties for their return, the administration bill specifically provides that government control shall obtain throughout the war and "until Congress shall thereafter order otherwise."
Many government and railroad officials made no concealment of their belief that the railways never would return to private hands.
The President's program besides calling for a \$500,000,000 appropriation to be used as "revolving fund" with railroad income for operation and maintenance, calls for compensation to the roads at the rate of their net operating income for the last three fiscal years. Any deficiencies would be paid out of the \$500,000,000 fund.
Meanwhile no railroad may increase its dividends; roads that have shipped dividends may resume with rates fixed by the President.
One section of the proposed law, considered very significant, lays a heavy penalty on any one who impedes possession, use, operation or control of the roads. It is regarded as precluding a strike.
All new railroad financing would be under the approval of the President and the government would be authorized to support railroad credit by buying railway securities and hold them for better markets.
All advances of money to the roads or expenditures for betterments would be reimbursed to the government.
In the House the bill was introduced by Chairman Sims of the later state Commerce committee, which will meet Monday to consider it.
In the Senate, it was introduced by Senator Smith, of South Carolina, and will be considered by the Senate committee also on Monday.
To guarantee proper returns to the roads during the period of government operation, the President recommended that Congress provide compensation at the rate of the same net operating income as the roads have received for the three preceding fiscal years.
To provide for proper maintenance of the roads and their return to owners in the same order as the government takes them over, the President recommended legislation to authorize their upkeep and betterment during the period of Federal operation. Legislation to this effect is all contained in the administration bills, which would appropriate \$500,000,000 for government operation.
Only by government operation, the President told Congress, could the unity necessary to the country be obtained, and he added that existing organizations of the railroads should be disbanded as little as possible.
The President spoke as follows:
"I have asked the privilege of addressing the Congress:
(Continued on Page Four.)

DIVERGENT VIEWS ON PEACE TERMS

One German Faction Was for Annexation, Others More Moderate
(By Associated Press.)
London, Jan. 4.—There were distinct tendencies noticeable in the enemy delegation at the Brest-Litovsk meetings, the Petrograd correspondent of the Daily News says. One was annexationist and was represented by General von Hoffmann. A moderate view was upheld by Foreign Secretaries von Kuehlmann and Czernin.
There were frequent disputes between the two tendencies. These were settled, it is added, by appeals to Berlin which always supported von Kuehlmann and Czernin. General von Hoffmann took the purely military point of view and complained with great bitterness that the Russians were using the armistice to agitate among German soldiers.
According to the correspondent, there is a belief among the Russian delegation that Germany will yield to the Russian demands concerning Poland and Lithuania, so as not to lose the advantage she gains by seeming to agree with Russia while the Entente Allies disagree.
The reasons for wishing the negotiations to be continued at Stockholm are a desire for a greater publicity and this idea is expressed in a Bolshevik statement:
"While we recognize that Stockholm is not very neutral, it is anyhow more neutral than German headquarters."

BEAUTIFUL BRITISH PEERESSES WHO ARE ENGAGED IN RELIEF WORK



Lady Margaret Scott, Lady Windsor Clove, Countess Percy and Lady Alexander, four of England's most attractive women, who are prominently identified with war activities. Copyright, Underwood & Underwood.

NEW YORK MAN GIVES THE STATE RAILROAD BONDS

Richard Billings Presents \$46,000 Elkin and Alleghany First Mortgage Bonds
Governor Bickett's Letter Caused It
Millionaire Says He is Rendering Unto Caesar's—Bickett is Happy
(Special to The Dispatch)
Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 4.—"If by rendering unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's I shall have ever so slightly aided the State of North Carolina, I will be happy indeed," wrote Richard Billings, New York millionaire, to Governor Bickett, as Mr. Billings made the State a present of \$46,000 worth of first mortgage bonds in the Elkin and Alleghany railroad.
The New Yorker was moved to this munificence by Governor Bickett who wrote him a few days ago, upon learning that Mr. Billings contemplated withdrawing further support from the mountain railroad. Governor Bickett's letter was not fearful, but it was full of feeling. Replying, the millionaire said it had so touched him that he was turning over his \$46,000. Mrs. Billings's mother was a North Carolinian, but that's all the kinship he could claim. Governor Bickett is very happy at the prospects of good the present is to the State.

CABINET OFFICER AT THE HEAD OF MUNITIONS WORK

Bill in Congress to Create Office of Secretary of Munitions
Senator Chamberlain Introduces Bill to Place All Munitions of War Under Control of New Cabinet Officer
(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Jan. 4.—Establishment of a department of munitions under a new cabinet head, known as the Secretary of Munitions is proposed in a bill introduced today by Chairman Chamberlain of the Senate Military committee as a result of its investigation of war operations.
The new department would operate during the war and one year thereafter. The new secretary of munitions would have power under the President's direction to control arms, ammunition, food, clothing, equipment, tentage, transportation and any other materials the President shall designate as munitions of war.
Government bureaus, agencies and funds necessary to a munitions administration would be transferred to the new department which contemplates control of naval as well as army supplies.
"The bill is intended to increase and expedite the supply of munitions of war," said Senator Chamberlain. "One great trouble with the war establishment as disclosed by the investigation has been a lack of co-ordination and the seeming impossibility of getting rid of circuitous methods of doing business. Until there can be co-ordination and methods more direct, the United States will be groping in the dark for many months before we can place ourselves in proper fighting trim."
"This measure places all jurisdiction over munitions of war, which is defined at length in the bill—and covering everything—in one person known as the Secretary of Munitions; subject to the direction, of course, of the President.
"It co-ordinates all of the bureaus, cuts red tape, does away with useless decisions which had tended only to hamper direct action, and gets to the heart of the whole situation.
"I believe if Congress can see its way to the enactment of this measure, and the proper man is placed at the head of the department of munitions, America will soon be occupying its proper place at the battlefield. It will be noted that the measure is only in force during the continuance of

AN ICE BLOCKADE ADDS TO TROUBLES OF NEW YORK CITY

Hudson and Harlem Rivers Frozen Over to Far Downtown Piers
FUEL SITUATION BECOMES SERIOUS
Coal Barges Locked Up in Ice, Kerosene Shortage Threatened—Charitable Institutions Swamped
(By Associated Press.)
New York, Jan. 4.—The ice blockade in New York harbor and adjacent waters combined with another day with zero weather today caused much concern to the fuel administrators and transportation officials who have been endeavoring to relieve the alarming shortage of coal.
Not in years has the ice menace been so great. Barges with thousands of tons of coal on board virtually were ice-bound in the bay last night. Powerful tugs worked for hours before they succeeded in plowing a lane through the ice for the scows.
The Hudson river is frozen down to 200th street and the Harlem river down to 140th street. For the first time in years, Long Island sound has been partly frozen over. Staten Island waters are choked with floating ice, threatening to cut off the large coal terminals there.
Several hundred employees of the street department were today ordered to assist in the work of breaking the ice around coal laden barges. Despite the handicaps, Reeve Schley, the fuel administrator, was hopeful of getting considerable coal here during the day.
As hundreds of families, unable to get coal, have been burning kerosene the supply has dwindled to such an extent that an oil famine is now feared.
Meanwhile suffering has increased among the poor and charitable organizations have been swamped with calls for help. Many school buildings were again closed today with little prospects of their re-opening until next week.
The severe weather has worked much havoc to motormen on trolley lines and the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company reported that 650 of its motormen and conductors were on the sick list yesterday.

STATE RESTS IN CHAMBERLAIN CASE

Coroner Testifies that Disembowelment of Body Was Work of Expert
(By Associated Press.)
Goochland, Va., Jan. 4.—Dr. L. K. Leake, coroner of Goochland county, was one of the chief witnesses heard at the trial of Dr. Asa W. Chamberlain, charged with murdering his brother, Albert P. Chamberlain, a farmer and lawyer, asserting that the victim's body must have been disemboweled by a person thoroughly familiar with anatomy.
Dr. Leake told how the fish had been scraped from the back of the head, how the limbs were severed at the joints, how the body was severed from its other parts and how smoothly incisions had been made in accomplishing this work.
John Sims, a negro, told of finding the torso while digging in Dr. Chamberlain's garden. The torso was buried on a spot where an ice house formerly stood. Samuel Bates, another negro who was with Sims at the time of the findings of the torso, corroborated the testimony.
The State's evidence was concluded this afternoon. The physician's wife took the stand.
The prosecutor regards the testimony of Louisa Boxwright, who was a negro servant in Dr. Chamberlain's home, as a great blow to the defense. It was the testimony of her, and "Funder" Britt, a negro, Lawyer Chamberlain's nearest neighbor, however, that produced the greatest impression on the jury. Britt discovered the disappearance of Lawyer Chamberlain and notified neighbors. To him, Dr. Chamberlain stated on Tuesday, October 23, that the missing brother had gone West, "to a place where skeletons were often found in cellars." The doctor showed a receipt to the negro, who thought it strange that the lawyer should leave without telling him. Britt's wife testified she saw a light burning in the Judge's home last on the night of Oc-

PRISONER QUESTION STILL UNSETTLED

Petrograd, Jan. 4.—The work of the commission which is dealing with prisoners is proceeding slowly. The Russian delegates claimed the right to send any publications they desired to Russian prisoners in Germany and to Socialists in the Central Empires. They also demanded unrestricted direct telegraphic communication with representatives of the Socialist parties in the enemy countries. The German delegates replied they were unauthorized to make an agreement on this point.
The Russians demanded the creation of a special commission to inquire into the deportation of Polish workmen for employment in privately owned factories in Germany. To this demand the Germans responded they had not been authorized to take up the question. The Russians thereupon asked for further instructions from the Council of Peoples Commissioners.

NOT QUITE SO COLD TONIGHT IS FORECAST

Washington, Jan. 4.—"Not quite so cold tonight and warmer Saturday," was today's forecast of the Weather Bureau for much of the cold stricken Eastern half of the United States. Temperatures will rise slowly in interior districts and the Atlantic Coast States.
The storm off the coast has moved northward to the vicinity of Nova Scotia with greatly increased intensi-

RECOGNITION OF THE BOLSHEVIKI NOW PROBABLE

Recent Developments Place Lenine and Trotsky in More Favorable Light
RUSSIANS CAPABLE OF AIDING ALLIES
The Resumption of Even a Defensive Program Would Wreck German Plans in the East
(By Associated Press.)
London, Jan. 4.—Recognition of the Lenin government in Russia by the Entente Allies is probable, owing to the developments in the Russo-German negotiations, according to The Daily Chronicle. The statement apparently is based on a contribution "by a diplomatic correspondent" which is printed beneath it. The writer says that owing to the Bolshevik discovery of German duplicity anything may happen.
"There are," he says, "three alternatives: the Bolsheviks may give way, the Germans may give way or there will be a rupture of relations. The first is hardly likely in view of Foreign Minister Trotsky's declaration. The second is possible, for the Germans are past-masters in the art of specious compromises. But the third is most probable since the Bolsheviks have exhibited a perspicacity which was hardly expected in this country."
"Russia may quite possibly witness a revival of war. If not in the most active form, it might at least be a suddenly defensive war necessitating the keeping on the frontier of a considerable German force. It would at least prevent those pleasant and profitable commercial exchanges which Germany hopes for.
"Assuming such a situation and the consolidation of Bolshevik power, provided failure to extract a peace does not wreck the Lenin regime, then recognition of that power as the de facto government follows. Since that is so, a Socialist would be the logical representative of that government and Maxim Litvinoff who has been appointed is a likely enough occupant of the embassy."
Referring to the retirement of Sir George W. Buchanan, the British ambassador to Russia, whose services are praised highly, the writer says:
"In his place probably would be sent a diplomat in marked sympathy with the ideas of revolutionary Russia."
"Be that as it may, we may expect shortly some new statement of policy with regard to Russia which, should it lean toward the latest developments and democracy would undoubtedly strengthen the Allied cause in Russia."

GERMANY TO RELY ON HER POSITION IN MAKING PEACE

Chancellor Von Hertling Addressed Reichstag main committee yesterday, Chancellor von Hertling said in regard to the Russian rejection of the peace proposals dealing with disposition of the occupied Russian territory:
"We can cheerfully await the further course of this incident. We rely upon our strong position, our loyal intentions and our rights."
The Chancellor announced that Dr. von Kuehlmann has been instructed to reject the Russian proposal to transfer the peace negotiations to Stockholm.
Chancellor von Hertling said he greeted with satisfaction the opportunity of the government and the peoples representatives of conferring on the weighty and fateful decisions which were being discussed.
The government would take advantage of this opportunity, the Chancellor said, to make communications on the course the peace negotiations and he said he desired to receive suggestions from the representatives of the people.
Count von Hertling said the Foreign Secretary, von Kuehlmann, yesterday, after a stay of only two days in Berlin, had returned to Brest-Litovsk. He therefore was unable himself to report on the course of the negotiations. The under-secretary for foreign affairs, Baron von Dem Busse-Hadenhausen, would undertake the task instead. The latter said the armistice negotiations had taken a rapid and smooth course and had reached a general satisfactory conclusion on December 15.
Parallel to these negotiations ran the negotiations at Fokshani for an armistice on the Southeastern front at which Rumania was represented. The peace negotiations which followed the Baron said, naturally were very difficult as they had to be conducted by the coalition on one hand and a single power on the other. As to the negotiations the public had been better informed than was usually the case. This had made the negotiations more difficult as the Entente Powers were "enabled to impede the negotiations by circulating false news."
The Baron then reviewed the Russian proposals, the German counter proposals and the tasks of the German commission sent to Petrograd to deal with the questions of subjects of the Central Powers interned, wounded soldiers and prisoners.
During the debate a member of the Centrist party expressed approval of the attitude of the German representatives at Brest-Litovsk, and said:
"Our aim must be not only to arrive at an understanding with the Bolshevik government, but to reach a lasting peace with the Russian people and prevent war in future."
The speaker asserted the constitutional bodies now now existing in Poland, Lithuania and Courland established on valid law express the will of the peoples of those territories.
"Socialist member declared it would be in the interest of the empire to recognize the principle of the right of peoples to self-determination.
"Political life in the occupied territories is obstructed by military pressure which must be removed." He said:
"The negotiations in the East must be conducted to a satisfactory end. This is the will of the German people and of the German nation itself."

GENERAL PERSHING EXPRESSES THANKS

Replies to Many Messages From Home Conveying New Year's Greetings
(By Associated Press.)
Tuesday, Jan. 3.—On behalf of the American expeditionary force General Pershing has answered new year's messages from the United States. A message to the army from the Children's American Loyalty League read:
"Dear American Soldiers: We know the sacrifice you have made for us and will make that we may be safe and happy. We thank you and wish you all a Happy New Year."
General Pershing responded as follows:
"The American soldiers in France are very glad to have your message. No sacrifice we can make will be too great if we can insure the safety and happiness of the children of America."
From Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, suffrage leader and member of the Women's Council of National Defense, came this greeting:
"The women of the United States are with you in the spirit of service. You are our standard bearers, our hope. We love you, believe in you, pray for you."
General Pershing replied:
"All ranks of the American expeditionary force unite in heartfelt thanks to the women of America for their love and prayers. The patriotism of our incomparable women, than whom there are none others more noble, shall be our constant inspiration until the great task which is entrusted to us shall be accomplished. Accept our best wishes for the coming year and our firm confidence in final success."
To Christmas message from women of the American Red Cross the American commander sent the thanks of all ranks, adding:
"The love and confidence of our women will make us all better men and better soldiers and hold us firm in the courage and determination to

REVENUE RECEIPTS SHOW BIG INCREASE

(Special to The Dispatch)
Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 4.—Revenue figures in Collector Bailey's office were large for December with \$330,234.82 as against \$506,065.85, a gain of \$324,169.17 over December of 1916.
For the first half of the year the revenue collections ran to \$5,638,816.58 against \$3,887,454.63 for 1916. This was a gain of \$1,751,361.95.

TWO THOUSAND KILLED

(By Associated Press.)
Stockholm, Jan. 4.—A Haparanda dispatch to The Tidningen says that the munitions depot on the Russian Southwestern front was blown up recently and that all buildings within a radius of two kilometers were destroyed. Two trains loaded with Cossacks on the way to the Don district, were wrecked, causing the death of 2,000 men.

THE RAILROAD BILL.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Jan. 4.—The administration bill for government operation of railroads proposes that the government shall pay compensation at an annual rate as near as possible to the net operating income for the three years ended June 30, 1917.
The bill also would appropriate \$500,000,000 to be used as a "revolving fund" with the existing lines of the roads for the operation of the law.

THE FATE FIXED FOR OPENING ASSEMBLY

Petrograd, Thursday, Jan. 3.—The opening of the Constituent Assembly for January 18, provided there is present at that

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