

Weather Forecast.
North and South Carolina: Rain and warmer.
Sunday: Monday, fair, somewhat colder.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

May the New Year Bring Us Victory

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 6, 1918

PASSENGER TRAIN SERVICE REDUCED BEGINNING TODAY

Curtailment Order Will Reduce Service About Twenty Per Cent

PUBLIC REQUESTED TO TRAVEL LITTLE

People Asked to Eliminate Pleasure Trips—Extensive Use of Inland Waterways Aid to Transportation

Washington, Jan. 5.—First orders in a general curtailment of railroad passenger service throughout the United States were approved tonight by Director-General McAdoo.

New schedules, to become effective tomorrow, call for a virtual 20 per cent reduction in passenger service east of Pittsburgh on the Pennsylvania, Baltimore and Ohio, and New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroads.

Coincidentally, it was announced plans have been laid for extensive use of inland waterways as an auxiliary means of transportation. Director McAdoo issued a statement urging adoption by Congress of this feature of the new railroad bill.

Heading the list of fast passenger expresses affected by the curtailment order, was the famous "Congressional Limited" between New York and Washington. Hereafter, this train will make the trip in six instead of five hours and will carry but four Pullmans, in place of the solid vestibule make-up of the past.

While details of the re-adjustment were not available at the railroad administration, new time-tables, it was said, are on hand at ticket offices.

Reduction of Eastern roads' service will be followed in the near future by material curtailments throughout the Middle West, notably between St. Louis and Chicago, where four competing lines operate—Pullman service, Texas service also is due for curtailment shortly, it was announced.

Hundreds of high power locomotives and miles of trackage will be freed for freight movement by the new policy.

In connection with the orders, Director-General McAdoo appealed to the traveling public to limit travel "as much as possible," and eliminate pleasure trips for the period of the war.

His statement follows: "An important change in the passenger train service on the Eastern railroads goes into effect Sunday, January 6. I have consented to this change because it is imperatively necessary that passenger travel shall be reduced as much as possible during the present serious emergency which confronts the people in the Eastern section of the country. By elimination of unnecessary passenger train service, much motive power, skilled labor, track and terminal facilities are released for the handling of coal and food and other supplies essential to the life of the people as well as to the successful prosecution of the war.

Every patriotic citizen can directly help the government in clearing up the present unsatisfactory situation on the railroads by refraining from all unnecessary travel at this time.

The break-down in passenger service of the various roads in the East has not made a pleasant impression on the public, but it must be borne in mind that the railroad companies are still seriously congested with an unusual amount of freight traffic, the movement of which is more vital to the country than the movement of the passengers and that the weather conditions for the past two weeks have seriously impeded railroad operation."

Meanwhile, freight congestion throughout the East was being rapidly melted away. Reports to the railroad administration showed numbers of hitherto congested points, now "normal."

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Columbus, Ohio, St. Louis and Indianapolis were virtually cleared.

At the same time, delay at government ship building and other war plants in unloading freight cars was disclosed.

The American Ship Building Company, at Hog Island, held more than 500 unloaded cars on January 3, while 108 cars on that day had waited 48 hours for unloading at Newport News.

Appointment of the four men of McAdoo's wage investigation board was still under consideration. Appointments of a priority director and sectional railroad directors were expected shortly.

GUATEMALA CITY IS LAID IN RUINS BY EARTH SHOCK

Destruction of City Started Several Days Ago Completed Friday

SURVIVORS WITHOUT FOOD OR SHELTER

Noxious Gases Pour From Crevices in Earth Asphyxiating Many Who Were Seeking Safety

Washington, Jan. 5.—Confirmation of the War Department radio of the destruction of Guatemala City by earthquake Friday, received by the Guatemala legation here tonight from San Jose, but 75 miles from the city. Inhabitants were reported panic-stricken. Many have fled into the surrounding country.

The report received through the South American Cable Company from its agent at San Jose, said great crevices opened in the earth following the last shock, and that noxious gases were issuing. Scores, it was stated, were asphyxiated.

Collapse of the last 20 per cent of buildings left standing after the earlier quakes of the week trapped hundreds. Those who escaped the first shock fled the city amid blinding debris from crumbling buildings and falling walls. Survivors are encamped without the city, many without shelter. Great suffering, it was feared, will result before food supplies and aid can reach them. Surrounding cities were expected, however, to rush immediate aid.

Railroads into the city and bridges are wrecked. Fears for the safety of President Cabrera were expressed by Minister Mendez. No news of his escape was contained in dispatches. All communication between Guatemala City and San Jose on the Atlantic and San Jose on the Pacific has gone by the boards. Connection with the outside world is limited to courier to nearest telegraph points.

TO PROTECT HARBORS FROM SHIP EXPLOSIONS

Regulations for Controlling Movements of Ships Loaded With Munitions

Washington, Jan. 5.—Harbor regulations to protect New York and other harbors from a re-enactment of the Halifax munitions ship explosion disaster, will be issued next week by the United States Customs Service, it was learned tonight.

Munition ships will be required to anchor a safe distance from city waterfronts. Delay in taking on cargoes of dangerous high explosives won't be permitted.

Where no point within a harbor is deemed safe as an anchorage point, ships will be ordered to "keep moving" at sea.

At the same time, further rules to prevent smuggling in of secret code messages by merchant ship crews may come, it was intimated.

The regulations are to be made under authority in the recent presidential proclamation directing the customs service to take necessary steps to "protect all ships, domestic or foreign, and all harbors insure observance of laws."

W. T. BOST TO EDIT THE STATE JOURNAL

(Special to The Dispatch.) Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 5.—Col. Alex. J. Field, who goes to Washington tomorrow to accept a position with the government in the legal department of the Shipping Board, today announced the lease of his weekly publication, The State Journal, to W. T. Bost, the Raleigh correspondent of the Greensboro Daily News and The Wilmington Dispatch.

Mr. Bost stated that his new connection will in no way interfere with his former arrangements, but means merely that he will take on the additional task of preparing the copy for The State Journal.

Railroad Shops Burned. Boston, Mass., Jan. 5 (Sunday).—The Boston and Maine Railroad round-house and repair shops in East Cambridge were practically destroyed by fire which broke out shortly before midnight tonight.

PREMIER'S SPEECH BRINGS WAR'S END A STRIDE NEARER

Yesterday's Statement to the Labor Congress Stirs World's Statesmen

SOME PREDICT A PEACE THIS SPRING

Official Washington Remains Silent, But Others Are Free In Expressing Hope That War's End is Near

London, Jan. 5.—In phrases whose tersely emphatic words snapped against German autocracy, Premier Lloyd-George made Britain's reply today to Count Czernin's Teutonic peace terms.

"Before permanent peace can come," the Welsh statesman dramatically concluded, "three conditions must be fulfilled.

"First, the sanctity of the treaty must be established. "Second, there must be territorial settlements based on the consent of those governed. "Third, and lastly, there must be created some international organization to limit the burden of armaments and diminish the probability of war."

On this keynote arch, the Prime Minister erected the full structure of Britain's—and the Allies'—war aims.

Britain, he insisted, was fighting—Not for destruction or disruption of Germany.

Not for destruction of Austria-Hungary or Turkey.

Not merely to alter or destroy the Imperial constitution of Germany.

Not to take Turkey's capital city—Constantinople or her possessions that are predominantly Turkish.

On the other hand, the Empire and the Empire's Allies were battling for these principles:

One: Complete restoration of Belgium.

Two: Reparation as far as possible for devastated towns and cities.

Three: Neutralization and internationalization of the Dardanelles.

Four: "Reconsideration" of the "great wrong done to France in 1871." Referring to Alsace-Lorraine.

Five: Establishment of an independent Poland, comprising all genuinely Polish elements, because this is necessary to the stability of Western Europe.

Six: Arabia, Armenia, Mesopotamia and Syria and Palestine all to separate national conditions.

Seven: Russia's future to be left to decision of the Russian people themselves.

Eight: Inhabitants of the African colonies, "to be placed under an administration acceptable to themselves for the purpose of preventing exploitation for the benefit of European capitalists and European governments."

"The destruction and disruption of Germany has never been our aim," the Premier solemnly declared. "A democratic constitution in Germany would be the most convincing evidence that the spirit of military domination had died and would make easier democratic peace negotiations—but that is a question for the German people.

"We are not fighting to destroy Austria-Hungary or to deprive Turkey of her capital or her rich lands in Asia Minor and Thrace which are predominantly Turkish, not merely to alter or destroy the Imperial constitution of Germany.

"We will stand by the French democracy to the death. We mean re-consideration for the great wrong of 1871. "An independent Poland comprising all the genuinely Polish elements is absolutely necessary to the stability of Western Europe.

"The Dardanelles should be neutralized and internationalized. Armenia, Mesopotamia, Syria and Palestine are entitled to recognition and to separate national conditions.

Premier Lloyd George



Britain's Prime Minister, Who Yesterday Outlined the War Aims of the Allies.

FEDERAL CONTROL EPIDEMIC SWEEPS OVER THE NATION

Bills Introduced or Being Drafted for Taking Over Other Enterprises

COAL FIELDS ARE NEXT IN ORDER

Fuel Administration Gets Little Sympathy in Congress—Government Ownership Advocates Jubilant

Washington, Jan. 5.—A government control fever is sweeping the war capital.

Initial popularity throughout the country of President Wilson's action in taking over operation of the railway lines is reflected in demands upon legislators to place other industries under the government when they fail to function properly as private enterprises.

As a result bills authorizing government operation of everything from oil wells to telephones have been introduced in Congress or are being drafted.

In the new spirit government ownership advocates see the dawn of their "heyday."

Probably the next great move along the control line will be taken by the government of the coal fields. Pooling of mines, coal and equipment is deemed "inevitable" even by Fuel Administrator Garfield, "if a repetition of this winter's coal famine in many sections is to be avoided.

This action is expected in the spring. Dr. Garfield and coal experts believing mid-winter a poor time to make such a move.

There is little sympathy with the Fuel Administration in Congress. Too many constituents have been numbed by a coalless winter, too much red tape and conflicting orders of priority have resulted in long and continuous complaints against the Garfield regime.

Should Director General McAdoo run his railroad system successfully, the doom of privately directed coal mines is deemed certain.

With their first real chance established by the taking over of railroads, advocates of government ownership see the goal of their policy in sight. Their confidence was heightened today by the rush of additional bills placed before the House and Senate authorizing further government control.

Among these, introduced or being drafted, are:

Senator Fletcher's bill authorizing shipping board control of steam car and interurban steam near shipyards.

Representative Aswell's measure to empower the President to take over

REPLY TO TEUTON PROPOSAL IS MADE BY LLOYD-GEORGE

Britain's Prime Minister Outlines the War Aims of Entente

RIGHTS OF PEOPLES MUST BE RECOGNIZED

Premier Declares There is No Desire to Rob Central Powers of Territory—Counter Proposals

Washington, Jan. 5.—Lloyd-George's speech today on war aims spells a very long stride toward peace. It brings the war's end nearer by months than any other public utterance from the Allied nations to date.

That optimizes Washington sentiment tonight, insofar as opinion has had a chance to crystallize over this momentous declaration. While its tone is a war ring, and while the few brief comments for publication still take the tack of recent weeks—that peace cannot be considered now—the private talk of high officials was that the Premier had moved extremely far toward stopping hostilities.

Taking the speech as a whole, and casting aside many of its details, authorities stressed the one big thought, namely:

This is the most specific war aim—or peace terms—statement voiced thus far, not even excepting President Wilson's frank declarations. It shows a disposition to talk peace. And, whether or not Germany is yet ready to hearken to Lloyd-George's terms as a whole, they furnish a working basis upon which, more and more, will be built a foundation for a peace conference, authorities say.

One official—high in rank in the army—went so far tonight as to emphatically predict that the speech means peace by May day. This man is generally regarded as an earnest analyst and while his prediction was regarded as far too liberal, the thought of peace this year was voiced in many expert quarters.

The State Department was silent.

Others warned that whether or not this is a step toward peace, the main business of the United States now is war and preparation for the war.

There must be no letting down just because statesmen appear to be getting together to settle troubles without force of arms, it was emphasized: Lloyd-George himself carried the very solemn warning that the Allies are prepared for even further sacrifices than ever in a righteous cause.

Getting down to an analysis of the Premier's specific terms, the authorities pointed out that he had taken a leaf from President Wilson's book in trying to reassure Austria and Germany that this war is not one of dismemberment nor disruption.

"This was manifestly an appeal to the liberals of Germany and Austria and the war weary element of Austria to shift the present autocratic control to a democracy.

And while he pointed out clearly the world's doubt of the sincerity of the present German government by demanding re-establishment of the sanctity of treaties, he made a distinct bid for the revolution within the Central Empires.

As for strictly territorial problems, Lloyd-George undoubtedly made the strongest concession yet suggested on the Allied side with respect to Alsace-Lorraine when he demanded "reconsideration"—not reparation—of its wrongs, and did not insist that France regain it. Alsace-Lorraine, regarded as the real nub of trouble, might decide her own fate by vote, under an interpretation of "reconsideration" quite generally given here.

Restoration and reparation for Belgium have been balking points for Germany, but reparation, Lloyd-George shows, is absolutely necessary as a basis for any peace negotiations.

Establishment of an independent Poland is regarded as a fair proposal together with separate entities for Arabia, Mesopotamia, Syria and Palestine, though it is doubtful whether the Central Empires will be particularly amenable to this suggestion.

Lloyd-George, it was felt, made an indirect appeal to the Russians to come back into the Allied fold, or forever lose an opportunity to protection of her rights and interests. (In policy the United States radically differs with England). However, he apparently sought, too, to show that the Allies are not desirous of enforcing any policy of interference in Russian affairs.

The disposal of German colonies is left somewhat in doubt, but Lloyd-George's proposal was regarded here as not preventing Germany from having control over them still.

Realignments of territory according to nationality, particularly as it affects Austria, Rumanian and Italian (Continued on Page Eight).

GERMANY INSISTS ON HER PROPOSAL REGARDING PEACE

Chancellor Hertling Says Germany Must Have Her Own Terms Met

A DEADLOCK NOW SEEMS PROBABLE

Russo-German Peace Conference is Looking Less Like Accomplishment of Its Object

Amsterdam, Jan. 5.—Germany must insist on her own terms as to retention of her armies in Poland, Lithuania, Courland and part of Estonia, and as to the plebiscite in these sections, Chancellor Hertling declared at a meeting of the Reichstag Friday.

The news, received here today, was taken as forecasting a complete deadlock, if not breaking off the conference at Brest-Litovsk.

The Hertling declaration reached here coincident with Vienna dispatches reporting the arrival at Brest-Litovsk of Central Powers, delegation only for them to find no Russian representative there—and to receive telegrams to continue the deliberations at Stockholm.

Brest-Litovsk dispatches, received delegates of the feasibility and admittance Trotsky on route there in an attempt to persuade the German Vorwaerts, is inclined to favor the vantage of this shift. Herlin papers as received here express great suspicion as to such a transfer of the negotiations. "They hold the conference would be directly subject to British influence at the Swedish city."

Socialists influence in Germany, judging from the Socialist organ Vorwaerts, is inclined to favor the Russian insistence that Germany withdraw all her troops from Poland and other German occupied sections of Russia while the people of these sections work out the "self determination" promised in the German terms. Vorwaerts openly declared "It is of the most necessity that we conclude a peace with Russia free from misunderstanding."

A MUTINY REPORTED IN THE GERMAN ARMY

Twenty-Five Thousand Troops on Russian Front Said to Have Revolted

Petrograd, Jan. 5.—Wireless dispatches received here today declared that 25,000 German troops to east of Kovno, had revolted and entrenched themselves. The authorities, it was reported, were trying to cut off their food.

The dispatch purported to come from the deserters themselves.

There has been no confirmation of any such mutiny of German troops on the Russian front and the circumstantial details of the above apparently are such that it should be taken with reserve.

The Germans on the Russian front are so anxious to "put over" their peace terms with the Russians that they would be quite capable of sending out just such a wireless dispatch, with the idea of deluding the Russians into belief.

The wireless dispatch also asserted that all German troops up to the age of 35 had been withdrawn from the East front and were being sent to the West front—in contravention to the armistice signed with Russia. Many were said to be deserting and leaping from trains to escape.

To Revive River Traffic. St. Louis, Jan. 5.—The Joint River Commission, composed of citizens of New Orleans, Memphis and St. Louis, has been assured that Congress will act favorably on a plan for an appropriation of \$13,000,000 to construct sixteen tow boats and 200 wooden barges for a revival of Mississippi river traffic.

Costly Toothache. New York, Jan. 5.—His girl wife's toothache and lack of money landed Albert Boyd, 19, in jail here today. Boyd and the girl, Dorothy, 16, admitted they stole a diamond brooch, a gold pin and \$10 in cash from their landlady and benefactor in order to have dental work done. Dorothy's teeth was hurting from an ulcer.