

WEATHER
North and South Caro-
lina—Fair tonight; Fri-
day, snow or rain and
somewhat warmer.

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AMERICA HAS A MILLION AND HALF MEN UNDER ARMS

Secretary Baker Tells Committee of Preparations Made by War Department

A "SUBSTANTIAL" SIZE ARMY NOW IN FRANCE

Six Times as Many Men in the Field as in Spanish-American War—Plenty of Equipment

Washington, Jan. 10.—Secretary Baker today replied to critics of his department's conduct of the war, in a long and exhaustive prepared statement presented to the Senate Military committee.

Conceding delays and errors of judgment in so vast an undertaking, Secretary Baker optimized his reply in these words:

"No army of similar size in the history of the world has ever been raised, equipped or trained so quickly. No such provision has ever been made for the conduct, health and general well-being of an army."

American now has in France an army of "substantial" size ready for active service, Secretary Baker today told the Senate War Investigating committee.

Officers and men, he explained, have been trained specially for modern warfare, independent lines of communication and supply are in process of construction, and great programs have been formulated for the production of new instruments of war.

Arms of the most modern and effective kind, the Secretary declared, have been provided for every soldier in France and are available for every fighting man who can be sent to France in 1918.

An army of nearly a million and a half men is now in the field or in training at home and abroad, he asserted. The subsistence of the army, he continued, has been above criticism, while its initial clothing supply, temporarily inadequate, is now substantially complete.

"I state the foregoing conditions of the War Department's problem, and some of the results attained for two purposes," he said, "in the first place the American people are entitled to know of the splendid effectiveness with which they have been able to organize the man-power and the material power of the nation; and second, our army in France and our allies are entitled to have the benefit resulting in the depression of the morale of their enemies which must come when the Germans realize that the American democracy has neither blundered nor hesitated."

"No army of similar size in the history of the world has ever been raised, equipped or trained so quickly. No such provision has ever been made for the comfort, health and general well-being of an army."

The Secretary gave the committee an outline of the work of the department and its various bureaus.

"On the first day of April, 1917, the Regular Army," he said, "comprised 121,797 enlisted men, the National Guard in Federal service, approximately 3,733 officers and 26,712 enlisted men; and the reserve 1,099 enlisted men. There were also at that time approximately 2,573 officers in the reserve, but as these were on inactive duty, they cannot properly be considered in estimating the strength of the army of the United States at that time. On the 1st day of December, 1917, the Regular Army consisted of 10,250 officers and 475,000 enlisted men; the National Guard of 16,031 officers and 400,900 men; the National Army of 430,000 men; and the reserve of 34,575 officers and 72,750 enlisted men. In other words, in nine months the increase has been from 9,524 officers to 109,826 officers; from 202,510 to 1,428,676 men."

"During the war with Spain, the army of the United States at its maximum strength aggregated 272,000 men and officers. The army now in the field and in training is, therefore, roughly six times as great as the maximum number under arms in the Spanish-American war."

"The total number already in the military service is one and a half times as large as any force mobilized by this nation."

"The death rates in forces in the United States, from mid-September to the end of December, averaged 7.5 per thousand, and is slightly less than would have been the death rate of men of the same age at home," the Secretary said. "In 1898 the death rate per thousand was 20.14 or nearly three times as great," he continued.

"Our death rate in the army during the year 1916, just before the war, was five per 1,000. Leaving out the deaths due to measles and its complications, our rate among all troops in the United States since September

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WOMAN SUFFRAGE ADVOCATES EXPECT VICTORY IN HOUSE

President Wilson's Unexpected Support Turns Tide Toward the Suffragists

OPPOSITION PUTTING UP A HARD FIGHT

Republican Caucus Indorses Suffrage, Adding Further Strength to the Cause

Washington, Jan. 10.—One of the long and hard fought goals of the woman suffrage cause seemed to be in sight today when the House took up debate on the constitutional amendment.

Backed by the approval of President Wilson, suffragists were sure the Susan B. Anthony amendment would poll more than the necessary two-thirds when the House began voting at 5 o'clock this afternoon.

So certain were the suffragists of success in the House that they already have turned their attention to the Senate where the amendment waits on the calendar, but without such favorable prospects. But they are hopeful, however, that with the President's endorsement and they would be ready for submission to the States and years of effort would be a reality. Today's debate furnished a spectacular scene. The House was in a happy mood and heard the arguments with applause and laughter. Women pecked the galleries. It was a field day for the suffragists and buoyant of the expectation of a votashred shudl stru pteation of victory, they made the most of the occasion.

On the western front the opposing guns have been active near Scarpe in the Arras area, northeast of Ypres and northeast of Verdun. The Germans have failed thus far to take counter measures against the successful French sortie in the Woivre.

NATIONAL BANK RESOURCES CLIMB

Washington, Jan. 10.—Resources of national banks have risen to a new high level of \$18,553,000,000.

Completions of 7,576 banks as of November 20, 1917, show an increase in resources since September 11 of \$2,009,000,000, and an increase since November 17, 1916, of \$3,033,000,000. The comptroller called attention to the fact that the total resources were a half billion dollars greater than the aggregate resources of all State bank and trust companies and private banks, as reported last June.

Cavalry Clash With Yaquis

Douglas, Ariz., Jan. 10.—A detachment of American cavalry sent into Bear Valley, 25 miles west of Nogales, yesterday, to observe trails, clashed with a band of Yaqui Indians, capturing ten, one of whom died at Nogales of wounds, according to a telegram today from the commandant at Nogales.

MEASLES SUBSIDING PNEUMONIA PERSISTS

Weekly Health Report for the National Army and National Guard

Washington, Jan. 10.—Measles epidemic are subsiding in both National Guard and National Army divisions, but pneumonia persists, according to the detailed health report for the week ending January 4, made public today by the army medical corps. The tables show 109 deaths during the week in the National Guard, 80 due to pneumonia and 167 in the National Army, 110 due to pneumonia. The death totals for the previous week were 108 for the National Guard and 98 for the National Army.

Admissions for pneumonia were highest at Camp Wheeler, (Macon) 31st division and there was an increased number of cases at Camp Beauregard (Alexandria) 93rd division. A sharp outbreak of meningitis occurred at Camp Beauregard with 27 new cases as against seven the preceding week, and several deaths. Elsewhere in the National Guard meningitis is rapidly declining.

Camp Pike (Little Rock), 87th division and Camp Lee, continue to show high rates for pneumonia. The greatest number of deaths during the week at any divisional camp was at Camp Pike, with 49 of which 44 were pneumonia.

TEUTON OFFENSIVE AGAINST ITALIANS STOPPED BY SNOW

Whole Mountain Front Buried Under Three to Five Feet of Snow

TURK'S PEACE OFFER REFUSED BY RUSSIA

Trotsky Says All Must Come in General Conference—Active Artillerying on Western Front

Snow has come to the aid of the Italians and the Austro-German offensive apparently has reached a halt if not an end. The whole mountain front where the enemy had been making slight but steady gains, is buried under from 3 to 5 feet of impossible and hampering Austro-German supply lines seriously snow, making infantry operations. Heavy snow falls in the Alps are reported to have blocked the heavy communication system in the Thentio and Carnic, leaving them only two lines across the Venetian plains to the Piave which would be of no help to the snowbound troops between Lake Garda and the Piave. The enemy troops on the Eastern bank of the Piave are not troubled so greatly by the snow, but previous efforts to cross the river in force have failed.

The bombardment on the Northern front has slackened with the coming of the long expected snow and only patrol engagements have occurred. It is indicated that the enemy will be unable to begin operations in an effort to complete his conquest of Venetia while his supply lines are snow bound.

On the western front the opposing guns have been active near Scarpe in the Arras area, northeast of Ypres and northeast of Verdun. The Germans have failed thus far to take counter measures against the successful French sortie in the Woivre.

British merchantmen lost during the last week equal the losses of the previous week, when 38 of more than 1,600 tons and three of less than tonnage were sunk by submarines or mines. The French report the loss of one merchantman as compared with nine the previous week.

Peace emissaries of Russia and the Central Powers are meeting at Brest-Litovsk. It is reported that the first discussion revolved around the selection of a meeting place which has not yet been decided upon. It is added, however, that a settlement probably will be reached. The Russian government has refused Turkey's offer of a separate peace and has informed that country that she must participate in the general conference.

President Wilson's message has been endorsed without reservation by the British labor party and British public men, from the Labor, Socialist and Liberal parties. Attention is now directed to Germany and Russia to see what effect the message will have on the people of those countries. It is felt in London that the German government may be compelled to answer the President's address because of the continued differences between the militarists and non-militarists in Germany.

From Bolshevik sources comes the report of the defeat of General Kaledines and General Dutoff, the Cossack leaders who have been resisting the Bolsheviks in the Don region and elsewhere in South Central Russia.

The letter general is reported in flight, with revolutionary soldiers and the Red Guard in pursuit, while General Kaledines is said to be in retreat. Attention is called for the need of workers in the Red Cross rooms. The work rooms are open each day from 10 o'clock in the morning until 6 o'clock in the evening. Tuesday and Fridays continue to be the "big days" in attendance, but there is work for all who will come every day of the week.

ATTEMPTED TO BURN A STAUNTON HOTEL

Staunton, Va., Jan. 10.—An attempt early today fire the Augusta Hotel, in the heart of the business district, was frustrated by guests who extinguished flames in oil-soaked straw which had been placed in bureau drawers in a room. The police are searching for a man who registered at the hotel shortly after midnight as Albie Brown, of Beckley, W. Va. After Brown was assigned to a room, he left the hotel and later smoke was discovered issuing from it. The damage was slight.



The "free" Poland which the Germans are trying to create. Notice how all the seacoast is kept in German hands.

RUSS AND BULGAR SIGN A SEPARATE PEACE AGREEMENT

Diplomatic and Economic Relations Are Ordered Resumed at Once

BULGARIAN PREMIER MAKES ANNOUNCEMENT

Swiss Newspaper Publishes News of Cessation of War Between Russia and Bulgaria, as Reported

Bulgaria and Russia have concluded a separate peace, according to circumstantial advice by way of Switzerland. If a separate adjustment between these nations has been reached, it seems probable that it was because Bulgaria found no difficulty in subscribing to the Bolshevik formula of no annexations and no indemnities so far as Russia was concerned. Bulgaria has desired no Russian territory, seeking her acquisitions from Rumania and Serbia. It was for Serbia's assistance, however, that Russia prepared for war under the old regime, her mobilization after Austria had threatened Serbia being made the occasion for Germany's declaration of war.

Turkey likewise has been seeking a separate peace with Russia, but according to today's advices, the Bolsheviks have declined to entertain the Ottoman proposal, requesting the Turks to participate in the general peace conference between the Central Powers and Russia.

Berne, Switz., Jan. 10.—A separate peace agreement has been signed by Russia and Bulgaria, The Bund reports. A Bulgarian correspondent of the Bund says Premier Radoslavoff read the following dispatch from Brest-Litovsk in parliament:

"War between Russia and Bulgaria ceases. Diplomatic and economic relations between Russia and Bulgaria are resumed. Russia recognizes Bulgaria's right to nominate a delegate to an international Danube commission. The first peace is thus concluded with the consent of Bulgaria's allies."

The Bund says Bulgaria has appointed a minister to Petrograd and a consul general to be stationed at Odessa, and has ordered the resumption of navigation to Odessa.

Brazilians to the Front. Rio Janeiro, Jan. 10.—Brazilian naval aviators, who will form the first Brazilian contribution to the fighting forces of the Allies, have departed for England.

POWDER PLANT EXPLOSION. Fort Smith, Ark., Jan. 10.—A powder and dynamite plant at Patterson, Okla., 18 miles east of McAlester, Okla., was blown up at 12:30 o'clock today, according to a message received over a railroad wire. It was reported that there had been loss of life. The operator of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad at Patterson, wired that the town had been wiped out. He feared the loss of life would be great, he said.

BOLSHEVIKI INTENDS TO REPUDIATE DEBT

A Decree is Soon to Be Published Cancelling National Debt

London, Jan. 10.—The Bolshevik government intends to publish a decree within a few days cancelling the Russian National debt, telegraphs the correspondent at Petrograd of The Manchester Guardian.

The correspondents understands the decree will contain these provisions: First—All loans and treasury bonds held by foreign subjects abroad or in Russia are repudiated. Second—Loans and treasury bonds held by Russian subjects possessing more than 10,000 rubles in capital are repudiated. Third—Loans and treasury bonds held by Russian subjects possessing capital in loan scrip or deposits not exceeding 1,000 rubles are to receive five per cent. interest on the nominal value of the loan and those possessing 10,000 rubles are to receive 3 per cent.

Fourth—Workmen and peasants holding 100 rubles worth of loans or bonds may sell their holdings to the State at 75 per cent. of its nominal value. Those holding 600 rubles worth may sell it at 70 per cent. of its nominal value.

ANOTHER COLD WAVE IS HEADED THIS WAY

Washington, Jan. 10.—Another cold wave is expected to sweep the Southern part of the country this week.

In the Northern sections low temperatures will continue for some time. The Weather Bureau today gave warning of a disturbance now over the extreme Southwest moving eastward. It will be followed by a two-day period of severely cold weather over that district, extend through the West Gulf States Thursday night and Friday cover the East Gulf State Friday and Saturday, and reach the South Atlantic States Saturday and Sunday.

SCHOOL CHILDREN WILL BE ENLISTED IN ARMY OF THRIFT

Work of Organization Starts in High School Tomorrow Morning

COUNTY COMMITTEE MET THIS MORNING

Plans Formulated for Launching Big Drive for Thrift Throughout City and County

A long session of the New Hanover War Savings Committee was held this morning in the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce at which the campaign to be waged in this county for the disposal of \$704,814 worth of War Savings Certificates were thoroughly discussed, and the first tentative plans formulated for the launching of the huge undertaking.

Chairman Jos. W. Little presided, and stated very frankly to the members of the committee present that he was in no sense a volunteer for the work which the committee is called upon to do, for fully realizing the magnitude of the task he would not have had the nerve to volunteer. But having been drafted for the work here he urged the united and whole-hearted cooperation of the members of the committee also drafted for service, and this was enthusiastically pledged.

The first work of organization for the sale of the certificates will be done through the schools, the work of organization to begin tomorrow morning. Chairman Little will spend the day tomorrow in the High School building, going from room to room and organizing the pupils in each into societies of workers. On Monday and Tuesday the other white schools of the city will be similarly organized.

The National Special Air Society, which has a remarkably efficient organization of Block Messengers in the city, has very kindly offered the use of its already experienced corps of workers to the committee to aid in this new effort, and the offer has been gladly accepted.

On Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock there will be a joint meeting of the Block Messengers and the president and secretaries of each of the school societies held in the High School. At that meeting the entire city will be mapped out in detail, with a definite territory assigned for the work of each of the societies, and the children will be given instructions regarding right to work in the campaign for thrift.

It is the hope of the committee that every pupil in the city schools can be enlisted in the "Army of Thrift." For distinguished service a series of commissions will be given, the ranks of Lieutenants, Captains, Majors, Colonels, Generals of Thrift being conferred upon those who make certain records of sales. A system of weekly reports will be worked out, and all aid and assistance possible given to the children in this work which they will be called upon to do.

Pending the perfection of this proposed organization of the children of the white schools next week no effort at further organization will be attempted. But upon the completion of this, and the setting to work of the army of soldiers, plans will be made for the colored schools, the county schools, and then the crown people, dollars worth of the War Savings Certificates are allotted to New Hanover, an average of \$20 for every man, woman and child in the entire county. If the campaign is a success, as the lenders are now confident that it will be, this county on January 1, 1923 will have a capital available in ready cash of nearly a million dollars, besides the enormous good that would flow from the inculcation of the habit of saving among the people generally. Mr. Harrison, who spoke here during the week, stated that Americans are the greatest people on the face of the earth for spending small amounts largely for useless things. The habit of saving small amounts must be substituted for that of spending if we are to shorten the length of the war.

Big Italian Steamer Lost

New York, Jan. 10.—The big Italian steamship Milazzo, 11,477 tons gross register, was sunk during the early part of December by a German submarine while the ship was in Mediterranean waters, according to word received in shipping circles here today. It is understood no lives were lost.

NINE MEN OF SHIP ARE STILL MISSING

Washington, Jan. 10.—Nine men of the American steamer Harry Lackenbach, torpedoed and sunk on January 8, are still missing, the Navy Department announced yesterday, based on report from Vice Admiral Sims. The report states that 22 members of the crew have been rescued.

ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO ORGANIZE SPY SYSTEM SMASHED

Concerted Movement for German Sabotage and Anti-War Propaganda

ABOUT 30 LEADERS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED

Plot Has Been Broken Up, Declare Government Officials Who Decline to Give Details of Discoveries

Washington, Jan. 10.—Through intercepted communications and evidence found on a score or more of arrested agents, government agents have discovered a concerted movement to re-organize German sabotage and anti-war propaganda in this country.

The movement was broken up and enemy activities now are believed confined to sporadic cases carried on largely by pro-German sympathizers without guidance from a central headquarters.

This was disclosed today by government officials, who declined, however, to give all the details surrounding a series of measures recently taken to prevent the rebuilding of a useful enemy spy system.

It is known that about 30 Germans and a few Scandinavians have been arrested on suspicion of complicity in the new plot. The Germans have been interned and the Scandinavians sent out of the country. Some Americans are under suspicion and are being closely watched.

The evidence gathered in the round up indicated that a few leaders, whose identity has not been disclosed but who are believed to be neutral subjects, tried to communicate with a number of agitators located mainly in Eastern seaports, in industrial centers and in the extreme West, to develop co-operation among them.

Sabotage was to be conducted systematically, and propaganda for peace or dissemination of pessimistic war reports was to be stimulated under direction of a recognized head. There were indications also that the headquarters was to gather bits of information from all parts of the country and forward it to Germany through north European neutrals by code communications carried by members of ship crews or other means.

Hundreds of self-appointed spies are now believed to be at work in the United States, but officials disclaim that they worry much about them. Fires and explosions which have occurred recently are said to be the work of individual cranks, probably pro-German in their sympathies, but without direction of a master organization.

Officials explained today that it was inexpedient to make public all facts connected with recent discoveries, inasmuch as there still is danger of a reorganization of the spy system which was in operation when the United States entered the war.

Mothers' Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Mothers' Club of Winter Park will be held at the school house Friday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Mr. Odie B. Hinant of the Y. M. C. A. will talk to the mothers. Not only the members but all mothers in the community are urged to attend.

FOUR YEAR TERMS FOR STATE OFFICERS

Columbia, S. C., Jan. 10.—Representative Duesworth, of Anderson, today introduced into the lower branch of the South Carolina General Assembly, a bill providing for a four year term for all State officers and making the Governor ineligible for re-election.

Gifts to Schools

Whitinsville, Mass., Jan. 10.—A bequest of \$25,000 to Wellesley college is made in the will of Mrs. Sarah E. Whitin, filed for probate here. The Keegan Institute, Hampton Institute, Va., and other institutions receive lesser bequests.

Unfilled Orders Increase

New York, Jan. 10.—The unfilled orders on the books of the United States Steel Corporation on December 31 amounted to 3,381,718 tons, an increase of 484,612 tons compared with the orders on November 30, according to the monthly report issued today.

SWEDEN A GO-BETWEEN

Petrograd, Wednesday, Jan. 9.—German delegations in Petrograd are reported by The Evening Post to have got into touch with the Swedish legation here and to have expressed the desire that Sweden act as a go-between with Great Britain, France and Italy.