

WEATHER.
North and South
Carolina: Fair tonight
except rain near coast,
colder; Wednesday,
fair.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

10 PAGES
TODAY
1 SECTION

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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1918.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

ITALIANS HIT THE TEUTONS HEAVY BLOW

Attack of Considerable Proportions Launched on the Asiago Plateau
OFFENSIVE CAME AS A MILITARY SURPRISE
Probably an Effort to Shorten Line in Order to Better Resist Further Hun Efforts

Italy has furnished a military surprise by launching an attack of apparently considerable force on her mountain front in midwinter. The blow comes on the Asiago plateau where the Austro-German invaders were halted early in the winter in their effort to push down to the Italian plains west of the Brenta river.

Berlin heralded the attack yesterday in reporting the breaking out of a violent artillery duel in the Sottolungo region—the Asiago sector. The fighting was reported to have reached a climax at dawn on Monday in the vicinity of Col Del Rosso, which height stands about midway between Asiago and the Brenta.

The supplementary German official report of last night which was not received until today, announces the opening of the assault in this region, describing it as a violent attack. There were no accompanying details. In the lack of more definite news the probability suggests itself, that the Italian effort is one somewhat similar to that of the French a few weeks ago east of the Brenta which resulted in a penetration of the Austro-German lines for a considerable distance and the subsequent withdrawal of the enemy from a rather extended area, improving the Entente position notably.

TURKISH WARSHIP GETS SAFELY HOME

Amsterdam, Jan. 29.—The Turkish little cruiser Sultani Yavuz Seilm formerly the German warship Goeben, according to a telegram from Constantinople received here by way of Berlin, entered the harbor of Constantinople Sunday quite fit for service. Numerous air attacks by Entente aircraft, it is added, inflicted only unimportant damage to the funnel and the armored plating of two small funnels having struck the ship.

RAILROADS PREPARE TO FIGHT FLOODS

Washington, Jan. 29.—Instructions were sent out today by the railroad administration to local railroad authorities to prepare to fight floods expected later this week if thawing weather develops.

SWEEPED AWAY BY ICE.

Paducah, Ky., Jan. 29.—Descending ice gorges in the Tennessee and Ohio rivers, converging here today swept the winter fleet of packets and other craft from their moorings at up-river points and in the Paducah harbor and carried it on down the Ohio. Appeals for help from persons marooned on the ice-bound craft plainly were heard as they were carried past this city.

A report from Metropolis, Ill., said several packets were seen standing on end in the ice as the floe passed that place. The number of boats caught in the torrent has not been determined. It was said they probably would reach more than a dozen. A preliminary estimate of the damage, if all were lost, placed it at more than \$200,000.

ALCOHOL REFINING PLANT WRECKED BY AN EXPLOSION

Marquette, Mich., Shocked by Explosion of Chemicals Early Today

THE LOSS ESTIMATED HUNDRED THOUSAND
Cause Unknown—Fire Started by Explosion Completes Destruction—No Lives Reported Lost

Marquette, Mich., Jan. 29.—An explosion followed by a fire early today which destroyed the alcohol refining plant, the primary building and a series of condensers of the Pioneer Iron Furnace Company, owned by the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company, of Cleveland, O., caused damage estimated at \$100,000.

First reports of the explosion said a number of lives had been lost, but at daylight it was believed there was no loss of life and that only two men had been injured, although the casualty cannot be definitely determined until the company rolls have been checked.

For a time the fire threatened to destroy the entire plant, a portion of which is employed in manufacturing alcohol and the ground chemicals on explosives for the United States and the Allied governments, but after a two hours fight the flames were brought until control. The plant which covers several acres of ground is situated one and a half miles from this city.

EMPEROR WILLIAM SHOWING CONCERN OVER THE UNREST

Disturbed Political and Labor Conditions Reflected in the Kaiser's Message

GOVERNMENT FAILS CONFIDENCE VOTE

Reichstag Refuses to Endorse Way Things Are Run, and Hertling May Have to Explain

Unrest among the working people of Germany has not yet quieted down nor has the political conflict between the Pan-Germans and the non-militarists lessened appreciably. Concern over the internal security of the empire appears in the message sent by Emperor William in answer to birthday congratulations from the Reichstag.

To President Kaempf of the Reichstag, the Emperor expressed his "ardent daily wish" that the German people may "preserve their union until the final victory of our arms." The Emperor declared that he enters upon "a serious and decisive year."

The Reichstag, however, is reported to have refused to vote confidence in the government, mainly through Socialist opposition, and Chancellor von Hertling may appear before it again in a few days to discuss the question of Belgium.

Efforts to agitate a general strike in Berlin on Monday are declared to have failed, according to a message reaching Amsterdam. Leaflets calling for such a strike were distributed widely in the German capital, but it is said that workmen in only a few factories were idle. Lack of central direction of the strike agitation is reported to have brought about the failure.

THE BOLSHEVIKI SPLIT.

London, Jan. 29.—The Bolsheviki have split on the question of peace, a majority being against the conclusion of peace on the German terms and in favor of a Holy war, an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Petrograd says. As the present government is unable to carry on the war, the formation of a coalition of all socialist factions was proposed.

GOAL SHORTAGE IS STILL SERIOUS IN NEW YORK

Snow and Sleet Cause Officials to Take a Gloomy View
New York, Jan. 29.—New York today found its coal shortage as menacing as ever, the snow and sleet storm of yesterday tying up movement of fuel and virtually nullifying the savings effected by the partial shut-down of industry ordered by the National Fuel Administration.

AMONG THE FIRST AMERICANS AT THE FRONT



Group of a few of the Americans who were the first at the front in France. Several of them are of the Hospital staff and others are members of a band. These men are seeing service behind the British lines in France, but very little news of their activities has reached this country. British official photograph. Copyright, Underwood & Underwood.

RAILROAD BILL AMENDED.

Washington, Jan. 29.—The Senate Interstate Commerce Committee, by a vote of 7 to 6, today decided to amend the Administration Railway bill to provide that the government shall relinquish control over the railroads within one year after the end of the war.

SECRETARY BAKER WILL BE RECALLED FOR EXAMINATION

Senate Committee Wants Him to Amplify Statements Made Monday
MILLION AND A HALF MEN READY THIS YEAR
Statement That 500,000 Men Would Soon Be in France and More to go Center of Interest

Washington, Jan. 29.—Secretary Baker soon will have an opportunity to amplify his statement of America's war preparations given yesterday to the Senate Military Committee, in which he announced that more than half a million men will be in France early this year and a million more would be ready before the end of the year.

Recall of Secretary Baker for cross-examination before the end of the week was decided upon today by the committee. Howard E. Coffin, head of the aircraft board, and his assistants, were called before the committee today to tell in executive session of the liberty motor and other aviation affairs.

FLOOD CLEARS RIVERS OF ICE BLOCKADE

Pittsburgh, Jan. 29.—Reports reached the Weather Bureau here today that the Monongahela river was rapidly rising from Fairmont, W. Va., north, and the heavy ice was moving out. It was expected the ice would reach the neighborhood of Pittsburgh tonight and precaution against damage to river craft was being taken.

Tennessee River Rising.

Knoxville, Tenn., Jan. 29.—The Tennessee river here today had risen 10.5 feet higher than the floor mark and was rising. Crops on low lands had been badly damaged and many small craft are submerged, as are buildings in close proximity to the river. Tributary streams above the city are out of banks, due to recent heavy snows and rains.

Folk Resigns.

St. Louis, Jan. 29.—According to an announcement here today, Joseph W. Folk, former governor of Missouri, and for some time chief counsel to the Interstate Commerce Commission, has resigned the position to become counsel for the St. Louis chamber of commerce.

COLONIAL AIMS OF BELLIGERENTS SHOWN BY SMUTS

Germany and Britain Contrasted by the Famous South African General

GERMANY PLAYING GAME OF POLITICS

Needs Colonies for Purpose of Carrying Out Desire of World Conquest, Says the General

London, Jan. 29.—Lieut. General J. C. Smuts, lecturing before the Royal Geographical Society on East Africa, last night, contrasted the British and German colonial viewpoints. Germany was not looking for homes for settlers and had no population, particularly farmers, for emigration.

Germany's colonial aims, the General said, were dominated by a far-reaching conception of world politics. Her real aims were military and in getting strategic positions for exercising world power. Germany's ambition, he added, was for a great East and Central African empire, embracing the colonies now owned by the British, Belgian, French and Portuguese, lying south of Lake Chad and north of the Zambezi river.

This territory, General Smuts declared, was first to supply raw materials for the German empire, but was mainly for raising a great African army to carry out her schemes of world conquest.

Germany's colonizing methods really mean a policy diametrically opposed to that of the British empire which has found its symbol in the union of South Africa," he said. "I do not want to see the disposal of German East Africa after the war, but the law of self-preservation must apply to that country where Prussian militarism must never be allowed to take hold.

BOLSHEVIK GOVERNMENT BREAKS WITH RUMANIA

Diplomatic Relations Severed and Rumanian Gold Reserve Seized

Petrograd, Monday, Jan. 29.—The Bolsheviki government, says an announcement from the semi-official news agency, decided to break diplomatic relations with Rumania when the temporary detention of the minister here had failed to stop "the Rumanian offensive." The Council of Peoples Commissaries has issued the following orders:

GERMAN AIRCRAFT LOSE PLANE IN A RAID ON ENGLAND

Some 15 Craft in Raid, But Four or Five Reaching London

BRITISH MACHINES ENGAGED ENEMY

One Raider Brought Down in Plaines, Crew of Crew Dead—No Report of Casualties

London, Jan. 29.—Forty-seven persons were killed and 100 injured in last night's air raid, it is announced officially.

London, Jan. 29.—About 15 German airplanes of which four or five reached London, took part in the first of two raids last night, it is announced officially. Only one of the raiders engaged in the second attack, penetrating as far as the city.

One of the raiding aircraft was brought down, falling in flames from a height of 10,000 feet. All three of the crew were burned to death. An indecisive engagement was fought by a British pilot with another raider over the sea. All the British pilots returned safely.

The announcement follows: "The latest information shows that two groups of raiders crossed the Essex coast, and one group the Kent coast, practically simultaneously, at about 8 p. m. The two former detachments proceeded toward London on parallel courses across Essex. The capital was approached from the east and northeast shortly after 9 o'clock. Of the machines which crossed the Kent coast, two dropped bombs in the islands of Thanet and Sheppey. The remainder, crossing the Thames Estuary, also approached East London through Essex.

"Apparently about 15 machines took part in these attacks, of which four or five reached the capital and dropped bombs in various districts, between 9 and 10 p. m. "Some time after the first attack had terminated other enemy airplanes crossed the Essex coast. Only one of these reached London which entered from the north, bombs being dropped between 12:15 and 12:30 a. m. "A number of machines of the Royal Flying Corps went up. Two of our scouts encountered an enemy airplane over Essex. After a brief fight at close range, the raider took fire and fell in flames to the ground 10,000 feet below. All three members of the crew were burned to death.

ATTEMPTED TO WRECK A SOUTHERN TRAIN

Birmingham, Ala., Jan. 29.—Southern officials today were investigating an attempt to wreck a train last night near Anston, in connection with which 11 soldiers from Camp McClellan have been arrested.

RED GUARD CONTROLS FINLAND'S CAPITAL

Copenhagen, Jan. 29.—The Red Guard has won complete control of Helsinki, capital of Finland, a Stockholm dispatch to the National Tidnings reports. It is not known whether the Finnish government officials escaped from the revolutionaries.

To Aid War Enterprises.
Washington, Jan. 29.—Creation of a half billion dollar government corporation to make loans and advances to enterprises essential to the war and otherwise assist in private financing was recommended to Congress by Secretary McAdoo. The Secretary also asked that all private issues of securities of more than \$100,000 be made subject to the approval of the government body, to be known as "the war finance corporations."