

WEATHER:
North and South Carolina:
Fair, warmer to-night and Sunday.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

TODAY'S NEWS
TODAY

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

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RUSSIA HAS NOT ACTED ON PEACE

All-Russian Congress Has Not Taken a Vote on German Treaty
APPROVAL WAS ONLY BY THE BOLSHEVIKI

Will Doubtless Be Ratified—More Activity Shown Along the Entire Western Battle Front

Final action on the German peace treaty apparently has not yet been taken by the All-Russian Congress of Soviets at Moscow. While dispatches received Thursday from Petrograd reported that the Congress had decided overwhelmingly to ratify the treaty, addresses from Moscow Friday say that there has been a division in the Council of Peoples' Commissaries and indications that Russia has not yet been committed to the German terms.

Bolshevik approval of the treaty seemingly has aroused the members of the government belonging to the party of the Social Revolutionists of the left who refuse to ratify it. The Social Revolutionists are said to have resolved to resign from the Council should the Congress approve the treaty. This probably means that decisive action has not yet been taken by the Congress as a whole.

An Associated Press dispatch from Moscow dated Thursday, says the Bolsheviks at a party caucus voted to approve the course of the Lenin government in agreeing to the German terms, which, nevertheless they condemned. The Bolsheviks said it was necessary to organize for the defense of the nation against the invaders.

General minister in the Lenin government are members of the Social Revolutionist party of the left. They when the Bolsheviks were threatened with loss of power, unless the revolutionists were recognized. The Social Revolutionists of the right have been opposed continuously to the Bolsheviks who broke up the Constituent Assembly when the party of the right elected the chairman.

French troops in the Champagne area answered the strong German artillery fire there by an attack in which much elements west of Mont Carnet, taken by the Germans on March 14, were re-captured. In the successful operation the French took 42 prisoners, including four officers. Further east the French penetrated the German lines at Mont Blond and took prisoners.

On the British front, the fighting activity continues lively, especially between Ypres and Arras. Near Lens, 1500 of Arras. Canadian troops were taken in a raid on German trenches in which prisoners were taken northeast and south of Ypres. Messines and Lens, the German artillery has been intense.

There has been no change on the American sectors near Toul and east of Lunville.

The American and British ministers at Stockholm have sent a demand to General Mannerheim, commander of the Finnish government forces, for the release of one American and 16 Swedes taken from the Aland Islands by the Germans to Dantzig, Germany.

The Aland Islands are being used as a base by the Germans in attacking down the Finnish rebels.

A Tokio newspaper reports that 150 Japanese have been murdered by Bolsheviki at Blagovieshtchensk, capital of Amur province, and 500 miles north of Harbin, Manchuria. Another report is that only three Japanese were killed and seven wounded.

NEGRO LYNCED IN COURT HOUSE YARD

Monroe, La., March 16.—The body of George McNeil, one of two negroes arrested yesterday suspected of involvement in the assault on a young white woman here Thursday, was being hanging to tree in the court house yard early today.

It was stated at the sheriff's office last night that the sheriff and deputy had started in automobiles for the airport with McNeil and John Edwards, the other subject.

LARGE SWEDISH TRAWLER CAPTURED

London, March 16.—A number of Swedish trawlers and one of the Gothenburg steamers have been captured by German submarines in the Skaw, the northern extremity of Greenland, Denmark, and forced to go to Germany, according to a report received by the Gothenburg Shipping Office, and forwarded from Copenhagen by the Exchange Telegraph.

ARTILLERY FIRING VIGOROUS ALONG AMERICAN FRONT

Small Raiding Parties and Reciprocal Sniping Almost Continuous

GERMANS ABANDON CERTAIN TRENCHES

Still Close Enough at Some Points to Be Heard Talking. Learn Not to Stick Up Their Heads

With the American Army in France, Wednesday, March 13.—Active artillery firing continues on the American sectors northwest of Toul and east of Lunville. A considerable number of gas shells have been falling intermittently on the Toul front.

An enemy patrol was discovered this morning in the American wire entanglements northwest of Toul. The Germans were driven off with rifle fire and a number of them were hit. One body was left hanging in the wire.

American snipers have been very busy on both sectors. East of Lunville six enemy snipers were silenced by the Americans. On the Toul front during last night and today considerable talking, and even singing, was heard within the enemy lines. Several times the Germans stuck their heads over the parapets to see what the Americans were doing. Each time a bullet from an American rifle went in the direction of their head. After several of their number were hit the Germans stopped looking.

At one place last night an American sentry saw a figure slinking through the darkness. The man halted when challenged and was found to be a German prisoner who had escaped and was trying to get back to his own lines. The German was turned over to the French authorities.

The place where the German was captured was not far from where an American lance corporal was busy firing on a large post of enemy snipers, who had been annoying our lines. After several shots the Germans withdrew.

The American artillery in the Toul sector again battered the German lines and observation posts, and caused an explosion, probably of an ammunition dump. Hundreds of big shells were sent into three new German trenches where weapons resembling gas projectors had been erected. Visibility was poor today but many airplanes were up.

It is believed certain that the Germans have permanently abandoned trenches to the northeast of Badonvillers, near Lunville. The enemy is now hurling quantities of large shells, some of 12 inches, at our positions there.

Report Says That 150 Japanese Have Been Killed in Siberia

London, March 16.—Maximalists in Siberia have murdered 150 Japanese at Blagovieshtchensk capital of the Amur province, according to a report printed in the newspaper Hochi Shimbun Friday and forwarded by Reuters limited.

A dispatch from Tien Tsin, China, to the Daily Mail, says that the Japanese embassy at Peking has been informed that during recent disturbances at Blagovieshtchensk, three Japanese were killed and seven injured while defending their property against Bolsheviki.

A FREE FIGHT IN AUSTRIAN HOUSE

Copenhagen, March 16.—Czech and German members of the Lower House of the Austrian parliament engaged in a wild scuffle in which several were injured Thursday during a speech by the Czech Deputy Soukup, according to a Vienna dispatch to the Hamburger Fremdenblatt. The disturbance became so serious that the chairman had to dissolve the sitting.

Deputy Soukup complained that Prague, the capital of Bohemia, had been for several days without food, including potatoes. Deputy Wolf, a German member, jumped to his feet and shouted:

"The Czechs have not given out proper quantities of food. The Czechs will starve us. They are the allies of the British."

The German deputy's harangue was interrupted by Deputy Rydzlazi, a Czech, who threw him to the floor. The tumult thus begun soon spread throughout the House.

MARKED APPLAUSE GREETED MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT

All-Russian Congress Receives Sympathetic Words Sent by Wilson

ADOPTS RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

The Message Was Read at Opening Session of Congress of Soviets and Was Acted Upon

Moscow, Thursday, March 14.—President Wilson's message of sympathy to the Russian people was received with marked applause when it was read tonight at the opening session of the All-Russian Congress of Soviets. The Congress immediately adopted a resolution of appreciation.

Resolution of appreciation reads: "The All-Russian Congress of Soviets expresses its appreciation to the American people and first of all the laboring and exploited classes in the United States, for the message sent by President Wilson to the Congress of Soviets in this time, when the Russian Socialist Soviet Republic is living through most difficult trials."

"The Russian Republic uses the occasion of the message from President Wilson to express to all peoples who are dying and suffering from the horrors of this imperialistic war, its warm sympathy and firm conviction that the happy time is near when the laboring masses in all bourgeois countries will throw off the capitalist yoke and establish a Socialist state of society which is the only one capable of assuring a permanent and just peace, as well as the culture and well being of all who toil."

The Congress is being held in the splendid banquet hall of the Nobilita Club, where former emperors often were entertained. Soldiers, sailors and peasants formed a majority of the 1,164 delegates present. M. Sverdloff, chairman of the Central executive committee of the Congress, presided. The Bolshevik members numbered 732 and there are 38 Social Revolutionists of the left. Premier Lenin made the principal speech and received a great ovation. He reviewed the history of the revolution and emphasized the necessity of signing a peace treaty. M. Tchitcherin, the acting foreign minister, read the peace terms. It was decided first and after that the permanent removal of the capital from Petrograd, and the election of a new central executive committee.

Strong forces of guards were about the hall, but there were no attempts at disorder. Moscow is quiet. Bolshevik control apparently being absolute.

MAKE PROTEST AGAINST ARREST OF AMERICAN

Formal Protest is Sent to Finnish Government by Minister Morris

Stockholm, March 15.—An attaché of the American legation left today for Finland carrying a formal protest from Minister Morris to General Mannerheim, commander of the government forces, against the arrest by Germans on the Aland Islands, of Henry Crosby Emery. Demand is made that the Finnish government obtain the release of Mr. Emery.

The American attaché was accompanied by a member of the British legation conveying a similar protest and demand regarding the arrest of 16 Britishers in the same party with Mr. Emery, all of whom were taken aboard a German steamer and taken to Dantzig, Germany.

Minister Morris did not wait for instructions from Washington, but detailed a conference of Entente ministers which decided to take the matter straight to General Mannerheim, who will have a chance to show whether Finland is an independent State or a vassal of Germany.

HOLDING DUTCH SHIP.

Washington, March 16.—With the exception of two steamers the United States is now holding all Dutch ships in the United States ports to prevent their escape on the probable requisition Monday. No more bunker licenses will be issued for their sailing. It was learned today, until they are taken over either by commandeering or by negotiation.

MRS. HIRSCH TOLD DAMPING STORY AGAINST CANDLER

Defendant in Sensational Atlanta Case Tells Her Version of the Affair

SAYS MONEY OFFER CAME FROM OTHERS

Story as Related by Defendant Was Published Today, and Furnishes More Highly Sensational Features

Atlanta, Ga., March 16.—The trial of Mrs. Margaret A. Hirsch accused in an indictment of attempted verbal blackmail of Asa G. Candler, mayor of Atlanta, out of \$500,000, was resumed in Superior Court here today. Indications were that the case would be given to the jury before night.

The defense, after it had rested its case yesterday afternoon announced that it would probably summon several more witnesses in rebuttal.

Attorney Reuben Arnold, for the prosecution, likewise, said the State would call additional witnesses. The State, which rested its case on Thursday, had re-called Mayor Candler and another witness in rebuttal yesterday when court was adjourned.

The hearing before Judge Ben Hill, before whom Mrs. Hirsch is being tried, of a motion of J. W. Cook, alleged accomplice of the defendant, for a new trial, was set for today. Cook, who was jointly indicted with Mrs. Hirsch was convicted recently and sentenced to serve a year and a day at hard labor, and to pay fine of \$1,000. It had not been announced early today what procedure the court would take in regard to Cook's motion, but it was assumed that on another date would be set for the hearing.

Appearance of Mrs. Hirsch and Cook on the stand were the outstanding features of the trial yesterday. At her own request Mrs. Hirsch testified behind closed doors.

Cook on the stand yesterday swore he did not have any communication with Mrs. Hirsch after her visit to the mayor's office, until he and the defendant were arrested on the grand jury indictments.

A verbatim transcript of what was purported to be the testimony given on the witness stand behind closed doors by Mrs. Margaret A. Hirsch yesterday, was published today by an Atlanta morning newspaper. At the request of Mrs. Hirsch, the courtroom was cleared yesterday of all spectators and newspaper men while she testified in her own behalf.

The alleged transcript, which contains more than 10,000 words, describes in detail the circumstances leading up to Mrs. Hirsch's acquaintance with Mayor Candler, of her visits to his office, and of their alleged improper relations in Mr. Candler's private business office on February 6. It was on that date that J. W. Cook, alleged accomplice of Mrs. Hirsch and jointly indicted with her swore in testimony at his trial he had seen Mrs. Hirsch and the mayor in a "compromising position" in the mayor's office.

Mrs. Hirsch began her statement, according to the published article, with details of her meetings with Mr. Candler in connection with the raffle of an automobile for the benefit of the Red Cross.

After reciting details of the visit to Mr. Candler's office and the securing of his approval of the scheme, Mrs. Hirsch's statement went into the details of her acquaintance with J. W. Cook.

A STRONG BELIEF THAT GERMANY HAS MADE NEW OFFER

TO CURTAIL USE OF WHEAT FLOUR TO SIX POUNDS

New Rule Tried in Texas and May Apply to Whole South

WHEAT CONSUMPTION GROWS IN THE SOUTH

More Wheat Flour is Now Consumed Than Before Substitute Rule Went Into Effect

Washington, March 16.—Further limitation of the consumption of wheat products in the South will be asked by the Food Administration if the experiment of confining the flour ration to six pounds a month, begun today in Texas, proves a success. The South is such a large user of other cereals than wheat that additional curtailment of the sale of wheat will not work hardship, it is declared.

The present Food Administration rule that an equal amount of substitutes shall be sold with each sale of wheat flour has resulted in an actual increase of wheat consumption in some Southern States.

The use there of large quantities of hominy, corn meal, rice and other native grains ordinarily has been more than 50 per cent. of the cereal consumption.

Request by the Texas Food Administrator to limit consumption of wheat there was granted recently by the Food Administration which admittedly is facing a serious situation in supplying the Allies and this country with sufficient grain.

PRESIDENT WILSON TO MAKE A STATEMENT

Believed That an Early Declaration on Russian Situation is Coming

Washington, March 16.—There were intimations in official circles today that President Wilson might make an early declaration on the Russian situation. It was not indicated what might be its form or its manner of delivery.

America's attitude toward intervention towards Siberia by Japan has not undergone any change, it was said today at the State Department.

Officials remained reticent regarding Japan's expressions of her intentions, but it is thought that an expression of views was continued, and it was deduced that Japan has not determined definitely on a course. It was suggested that final decision might be delayed until the new Japanese Minister, Count Ishii, reaches America, but the probability of that was discounted at the department.

It is known that the United States has opposed intervention by Japan, many officials of this government fearing that such action might bring together the various factions in Russia to combat the Japanese even if they were supported by the armies of the Entente and America.

GENERAL HAIG NOW HAS A SON

London, March 16.—A son was born to Lady Haig, wife of Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, commander in chief of the expeditionary force in France and Flanders, Friday night.

Field Marshal Haig, the then General Haig, was married in 1905 to the Honorable Dorothy Vivian, the daughter of the Third Lord Vivian. They had one daughter, who was born several years ago.

Four New Recruits. Sergeant Bradford, who is in charge of the army recruiting station in the basement of the Federal building, has enlisted four recruits this week, two young white men, and two colored men, the latter for the stevedore regiment. The two white men were Clarence B. Sternberger, who enlisted in the medical department, and George W. Mizell, who joined the signal corps. Both have gone to Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Neutral Diplomats See Ample Signs of This in Recent Utterances

ALLIED DIPLOMATS DECLINE TO TALK

Believed That Germany is Willing to Make Concessions to France if Permitted to Keep Russian Ore Field

Washington, March 16.—Inferred that Germany may have made a new peace offer to the Allies, proposing terms at the expense of Russia, coincides with an undercurrent of discussion which has been running in diplomatic circles here for some time but which never has shown any evidence of tangible development.

The statement of Lord Cecil in London yesterday, coupled with Marshal Hindenburg's announcement that the German offensive would go on in view of the Entente's attitude towards Germany's peace intentions, served to strengthen the view of neutral diplomats who for some time have believed that underground feelers have been going out for some time.

American officials and Allied diplomats, while agreeing entirely with Lord Cecil's statement that no such terms can be considered, give no evidence of how much may be known here of what Hindenburg refers to as Germany's peace intentions.

Some of the neutral diplomats, however, have for some time firmly believed that Germany would be willing even to give up Alsace-Lorraine if she were permitted to retain her hold on the Baltic provinces and the mineral belts in the other nearby sections of Russia. The general current of opinion in diplomatic circles for some time has turned toward the possibility of Germany attempting to give up the West and make up her losses in the East.

The extent to which the question of future supplies of iron ore enter into Germany's peace plans is indicated in latest advices received here showing discussion of the subject in Germany. These show that Germany knows production of ore within her own borders is limited by experts to 50 years; that Sweden contemplating an iron industry of her own, will require her own ores and that the supply in Spain upon which Germany also has drawn is approaching exhaustion.

Consequently German officials contend that her supply of ore must logically come from the fields of Longwy and Briey, assuring ore for a century, unless it is to come from somewhere else. Inasmuch as the Allies are pledged by repeated declaration to the restoration of France, diplomats see in proposed permanent acquisition of her mineral belts in the Russian provinces Germany's last hope of remaining a military power.

26,000 PRISONERS IN SWITZERLAND

Berne, Switz., March 14.—Switzerland now shelters 26,000 interned war prisoners, according to a recent census. Sixteen thousand are French, English and Belgian; while 10,000 are Germans. In addition 7,000 relatives of interned men are visiting here.

FAIR AND WARMER FOR COMING WEEK

Washington, March 16.—Present pressure distribution indicates that fair weather will prevail generally throughout the country during the week beginning Monday, with temperatures above the seasonal average as a rule. The Weather Bureau announced today in its weekly forecast.

NO LIVES LOST IN STEAMER COLLISION

Dublin, March 16.—No lives were lost in the collision late Thursday night between a trawler and the steamship Rathmore in St. George's channel, according to the owners of the vessel. The Rathmore, which was on its way to Dublin from Wales, carried 732 passengers and a crew of 50.

WHEAT HOLDINGS SHOW A DECREASE

Washington, March 16.—Wheat holdings at country mills and elevators on March 1 were estimated today by the Department of Agriculture at 63,972,000 bushels. That is about 20,000,000 bushels less than was held March 1 last year, and 36,000,000 bushels less than in 1916.