

WEATHER:
North and South Carolina — Fair, warmer
Sunday; Monday, fair.

VOL. XXIV. No. 68

RUSSIA NOW IS OFFICIALLY OUT OF WAR

Pan-Soviet Congress Overwhelmingly Ratifies Brest-Litovsk Treaty

ACTION PROMISES TO DISRUPT CABINET

Breach Between Bolsheviks and Revolutionaries Widens—Still Trying to Raise Army

Petrograd, March 16.—(Noon)—Russia officially retired from the war today.

The Pan-Soviet Congress at Moscow consisting of 1,000 representatives of workmen, soldiers, peasants and Cossacks, overwhelmingly voted reaffirmation of the German dictated peace terms, adopted at Brest-Litovsk.

The action was a foregone conclusion. The Bolshevik faction which dominated the Congress under the leadership of Premier Lenin, previously had cast 453 ballots in favor of ratification, at a factional caucus.

The vote, if the announced determination of the Social Revolutionary commissaries is carried out, automatically disrupted the present Russian cabinet. These ministers, following the example of Justice Commissary Steinberg, temporarily retired from the cabinet, pending settlement of the peace question at Moscow. They declared their intention of making their arrangement permanent in case the pact were ratified.

Steinberg openly stated that "the Pan-Soviet must tear up the Brest-Litovsk treaty and create the necessary government for defense."

The breach between the Bolsheviks and the Social revolutionaries was widening today. M. Manesprodnova, leader of the latter, issued an appeal to the peasants to rally to the defense of the land, declaring his party represented the masses—a position which the Bolshevik leaders already regarded as peculiarly their own.

Stunned by the lesser factions, the Social Revolutionaries of the left were agitating a revival of the Constituent Assembly (dissolved by the Bolsheviks after the overthrow of Kerensky government) to form a coalition cabinet. The prospects for success of this movement apparently were growing.

Meanwhile, in Petrograd, Leon Trozky, in his new role as War Commissary, was pushing the work of creating a new Russian army.

"Germany knows a robber peace 'most last,'" he explained in a statement. "Previously to voting on the peace treaty, the Moscow Congress listened to President Wilson's message of sympathy to Russia. The message was received in a silence broken only by murmurs regarding the Japanese situation."

Then Congress adopted a resolution to reply, directed to the world at large, and urging the "international proletariat" to overthrow capitalism and establish a Socialist government.

The resolution read: "The Congress of Soviets expresses its appreciation to the American people, particularly to the toilers and those who are being exploited for their sympathy toward the Russian people at a time when the Russian Socialist republic is experiencing its greatest hardships."

"The republic takes advantage of President Wilson's message to express to all peoples perishing and suffering as a result of the imperialistic war, its warm sympathy and confidence that the time is not far distant when the masses will overthrow capitalism and establish a Socialist society which alone is capable of giving a lasting and just peace and assuring the welfare of toilers."

"Ping Bodie was a pretty sore passer when he read that Connie Mack had disposed of all of his stars. But that was before Ping had been transferred from the Athletics to the Yankees."

NEW YORK SOON TO HAVE AERIAL POLICE

New York, March 16.—Aerial police will soon be added to New York's police reserve.

Commissioner Enright has worked out a plan to add a corps of flyers to the force. One hundred men will form the nucleus for new army defense duty of the aerial police will be to protect New York in case of air raids or to act as messengers should communications be interrupted by a great catastrophe.

ARMED STEAMER FIRED ON ONE OF PROTECTING SHIPS

American Liner's Gun Crew Mistook American Destroyer for U-Boat

ONE MAN KILLED AND FOUR WOUNDED

The Destroyer Was Guarding Steamer When Gun Crew Saw Her and Opened Fire

Washington, March 16.—Mistaking one of the American destroyers conveying her for a submarine, an American liner steamer blazed at her, killed one seaman and wounded four others slightly.

This occurred January 16 and was announced by the Navy Department late this afternoon officially, after the United Press had revealed the main fact.

A court of inquiry, ordered by Admiral Sims, has been conducting a thorough investigation of the incident. Visibility conditions were poor, due to a fog, and the armed guard, getting a glimpse of the protecting destroyer ahead, mistook her for a submarine.

The man killed was Wm. Lusso, seaman second class, whose mother, Mrs. Barbara Lusso, lives at 1870 North 27th St., Kansas City, Mo. Four others were slightly wounded.

The official Navy Department statement follows: "The Navy Department has received by mail, through Vice Admiral Sims, the report of the commander of the armed guard of an American liner which fired on a United States destroyer on January 16, killing one man, Wm. Lusso, seaman second class, and slightly wounding four others."

"The report states that the gun crew in the darkness mistook one of the convoy destroyers for a submarine and fired on her. A court of inquiry was ordered and has been conducting a thorough investigation. Lusso's next kin is his mother, Mrs. Barbara Lusso, 1870 North 27th St., Kansas City, Mo. His body was sent home."

The court of inquiry will determine whether the armed guard exercised proper diligence and whether it could safely have investigated further to ascertain whether the misty shape ahead was actually a submarine.

SIXTY-THREE KILLED ON FLYING FIELDS

Two Deaths Added Saturday to Casualties on Six Texas Fields

Dallas, Texas, March 16.—Sixty-three American, Canadian and British flyers have died in accidents at the six flying fields in Texas, figures compiled by the United Press tonight showed.

Two lost their lives today when their planes crashed to earth at Tallafiero field, near Fort Worth.

They were Lieutenant Harold A. Andre, 21, 45 West 39th St., New York, and Cadet Joseph Lanagan, 103 Oakland St., Syracuse, N. Y.

Tallafiero field with its three big camps, Benbrook, Hicks and Everman, has had more fatal accidents than any other Texas field. The two deaths today brought that field's total to 38, of which 24 were Royal Flying Corps men and 14 were Americans. The total number of fatal accidents at Texas fields are:

Tallafiero field, Fort Worth, 38; Kelly field, San Antonio, nine; Love field, Dallas, three, Calt field, Wichita Falls, one; Rich field, Waco, one; Elington field, Houston, 11.

JURY RETURNS A VERDICT AGAINST MRS. M. H. HIRSCH

Found Guilty of Trying to Extort Money From Atlanta's Mayor

VERDICT REACHED IN TWENTY-FIVE MINUTES

One of Atlanta's Most Sensational Cases Came to and End Late Yesterday Afternoon

Atlanta, Ga., March 16.—When the jury returned a verdict of "guilty" in the case of Mrs. M. H. Hirsch, charged with attempting to extort \$500,000 from Mayor Asa G. Candler by blackmail, one of the most sensational court room battles ever staged in Georgia was brought to a close.

Although meeting a crushing defeat in the Fulton county courts, the defense has not given up the fight to save Mrs. Hirsch from serving 12 months sentence at the State prison at Milledgeville and paying a fine of \$1,000, the penalty levied by the court. Pending a motion for a new trial, which will be heard by Judge Ben. H. Hill on Saturday, March 30, Mrs. Hirsch's bond was fixed at \$3,000.

The verdict which was returned by the jury after 25 minutes deliberation, was received by Mrs. Hirsch without legal talent of the Southeast. Lively rise when the court pronounced sentence, but looked up at Judge Hill and said:

"I haven't a word to say."

Trial was marked throughout by sensationalism and surprises. It was one of the most vigorously contested ever held in Georgia. The State and defense was represented by the best legal talent of the Southeast. Lively tilts between opposing counsel were only suppressed by the levy of fines by the court.

Dramatic speeches by attorneys for both sides marked the closing hours of the trial.

Mrs. Hirsch bowed her head in her hands and wept bitterly while she was in turn denounced as a scheming adventuress of the most wicked type and again held up as a poor woman who was being made the victim of wealth and influence.

Attorney Rubeen Arnold, for the State, charged Mrs. Hirsch with "pursuing" Mr. Candler's son as well as the Mayor. She was an actress, he said, taking part in a "hamfat melodrama." He held up Mayor Candler as a brave and fearless man trying to bring two schemers to justice despite the "slimy barrage" which he knew they would hurl at him.

The episode in the Mayor's office February 6, Arnold ridiculed as a palpable frame-up of the most crude and vicious kind, of which Mrs. Hirsch was the "brains." He pleaded with the jury not to be misled by the woman's "sham tears."

Attorney John R. Cooper, for the defense, declared that Mrs. Hirsch was a victim of the "Candler millions" and said that they were being used to bring "this poor woman into infamy."

Waving the Bible on high, Cooper urged the jury not to "try her by the law of Georgia but by this book."

Justice, not mercy is what this poor woman wants, said Cooper in closing.

Workmen Protest.

Petrograd, March 16.—In conference today eighty workmen representing every factory in the city received a declaration from 40,000 workers protesting against the Bolshevik peace policy.

OVER 400,000 MEN NOW IN THE NAVY DECLARES DANIELS

New York, March 16.—The American navy, already 400,000 strong, is only in the beginning, and if necessary to win the war will be increased to twice its present size, Secretary of the Navy Daniels declared this afternoon in an address at Madison Square Garden.

"The American navy, with a personnel of about 50,000 at the beginning of the war, now numbers more than 400,000 men," the Secretary declared.

"And this is but an earnest of what it will be. If necessary to win the war we are ready to make it twice as big."

The Secretary's address, given at the military-naval meet for the benefit of the Women's Oversea Hospitals, U. S. A., was widely received by an audience that packed the big amphitheatre.

The American navy, though small at the beginning of the war, has been in the fight from the minute war was declared against Germany.

PRESIDENT WILSON HAS ABOUT GIVEN UP PEACE HOPE

Is Preparing to Cast Aside All Thought of Peace With Teutons

EXPECTED TO MAKE A STATEMENT SOON

Convinced That Talk of Peace Now is Futile and Weakening to Morale—Is Sore at Action of Hun

Washington, March 16.—President Wilson appears about to talk war. Official intimations today were that he is preparing to definitely cast aside for the present all thought that peace can be made with the Teuton militarists.

Convinced that peace talk and peace maneuvers are now futile and dangerous to morale, the administration is about to try to put a punch and a smash into war work, and to drive to cover any who thwart such work by insidious peace propaganda.

The proposed revelation by the President will doubtless make clear the American position toward Russia, particularly as regards Japanese intervention. And, according to present indications, it will point out that "actions speak louder than words," in the case of Hertling and Czernin—dictators of the looting peace with Russia and Rumania.

If he confines it strictly to Russia and Japan a statement from other official quarters, probably the State Department, may be forthcoming. Pressure has been brought to bear for such a statement with a "kick in it," and one official in a high position indicated tonight he would endeavor to have it made.

The State Department has let it be known repeatedly of late that he is—to use the vernacular—"sore clear through" over the Austrian ruthlessness toward Rumania. This was first pointed out by the United Press last Saturday night when the original war talk began to seep out of the usually uncommunicative diplomatic branch.

And Rumania is only one sore spot. The German smash against the helpless Slav nation has stirred military men, diplomats—officials in general. War work has had a new impetus, and the very atmosphere here has been surcharged with a new spirit, a spirit of earnest war work, minus peace talk.

Still another incentive to this new thought is the fact the Czernin while talking in conciliatory fashion was even then preparing to impose on Rumania a harsh peace. Further, Czernin ignored the President's last overture. This is indicative of the general Teuton disinclination to talk peace now—except perhaps a victor's peace based on the "conquest" of the near East.

The German militarists are "in the saddle" completely. Drunk with powers they are bent on sweeping on. Even the moderates are talking more belligerent. In these circumstances, the President has only one course, as his friends see it—to talk and act "war."

Peace talk has slowed down work to an extent, experts say. And, they declare this must be offset, and that America must get the punch into war work if—bluntly—we are to win, and what is more, if we are not to be defeated. Allied diplomats share this view. Soviet endorsement today of the Russian-German peace terms makes Germany's near Eastern holds firmer, say authorities.

At the same time, it may offer further.

(Continued on Page Twelve.)

MORALE OF ALLIES WILL DEPEND ON THE YEAR'S CROP

The Wheat Situation Today is Described as Gravely Serious

MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR BIG GRAIN CROPS

America Must Make Even Greater Sacrifices if Her Allies Are to Be Saved From Hunger

Washington, March 16.—The morale of the Allies nations in this, the crucial year of the war, will depend on their crops. The wheat situation today is gravely serious.

As a result preparations for an unprecedented grain yield have been made in the United States, Great Britain and France. The work is stimulated by assurances given the Teuton powers that Russia and Ukraine will hereafter divide their bountiful harvests with the Germans.

Secretary of Agriculture Houston has emphasized the need of record yields. In spite of the largest production in many directions during 1917, he believes the situation is not satisfactory. The supply of wheat in this nation and in the world is inadequate. Owing to short crops in preceding years, the reserves of a number of important commodities have been greatly reduced.

Allied diplomats warn that weeks of privation are ahead. To prevent great want in England and actual starvation in France and Italy, it is up to America to sacrifice even more than she already has done—at least 30 per cent. more. Some indication of what must be done is indicated in the following terse statement of a food official to the United Press tonight:

"We must make more than 50,000,000 bushels of wheat out of our normal consumption in the next four and a half months, to feed Europe. During the last seven and a half months we have saved only 32,000,000 bushels."

Meantime this country is straining every effort to yield an unprecedented crop. Secretary Houston wants Congress to appropriate \$20,000,000 for seeds and to help farmers fight plagues. Five million picked volunteers are asked to help farmers plant and harvest crops. Chambers of Commerce throughout the nation are asked to appeal to employes to devote one or two days to farm work. Vacations, Houston hopes, will be turned to work on America's six million farms.

Beginning April 1, every one is urged to start a war garden at home. Department of Agriculture experts are ready with copious advice free to garden fans. Many gardens in the South are already under way.

In the tremendous response from the American people to the conservation campaign, the Allies are hopeful that the end of food shortage will come this year. The governments of Brazil and Guatemala are going into the farm business, receiving seed wheat and machinery from the United States and will help.

England planted 2,000,000 acres more this year than last, but some delay was caused when tractors got tied up in the winter's railroad jam in this country. France is expected to grow 100,000,000 more bushels of wheat this year than last. In America the acreage which jumped 23,000,000 acres last year is expected to increase even more this year. The labor question is the outstanding difficulty in realizing the greatest aims although there is considerable complaint from farming communities that the President's wheat prices are not sufficiently high to inspire increased planting.

Winter wheat acreage increased four per cent. last fall over the preceding year. Spring wheat acreage will be increased from five to 15 per cent. Agriculture Department officials hope—and they are counting strong, on the patriotism of the farmers.

The consuming public, however, must face further curtailment of wheat supplies, it is clear. Allied diplomats declared that they are forced "to look almost entirely to the North American continent now for cereals— not for the most part to the United States."

View of the grave wheat situation, bakers were warned tonight that they must use 20 per cent. wheat substitutes beginning March 24 or stop baking. Use of potatoes, as wheat substitutes in baking is urged because of the accessibility of the supply of this substitute. Food Administration officials threaten to revoke instantly licenses of bakers failing to save wheat as ordered.

Prisoners at Kiel.

San Francisco, Cal., Mar. 16.—Captain Isaac Trudgett and two members of the crew of the schooner Winslow, are prisoners at Kiel, Germany, according to a telegram received today by the Winslow's owners from Washington. The Winslow was destroyed by the German raider Wolf.

BAKER GETS FIRST HAND INFORMATION

OPPOSING ARMIES ON WEST FRONT WAIT FOR LEAD

Like Veteran Boxers They Try to Draw a Lead by Feinting

EACH SIDE WATCHES THE OTHER CLOSELY

All That is Needed to Begin the Mighty Battle is for One of the Armies to Start Something

New York, March 16.—Like veteran boxers, the opposing armies on the West front are trying to feint the other into a "lead."

It is the maximum of the prize-ring that a boxer who leads lays himself open to a counter that may carry a knockout.

There have been a few boxers in the long history of pugilism who have won their fights by a tearing, rushing style that brushed aside all defensive tactics.

Germany, in the initial stages of the war, adopted this method of attack—and was stopped at the Marne.

Present day glove champions prefer to catch their opponents off balance by feinting them into a lead; then putting over a punishing blow.

This latter method has become more and more applicable to military combat. Every move on the West front indicates that it has been adopted as the foundation for the opening of the 1918 campaign.

Heavy troop concentrations have been made at strategic points; then have been shifted to other sectors. Artillery has blazed away with unusual fury on certain fronts; only to die down with only a minor infantry demonstration—or none at all. Aerial activity has centered first on one region, then in another.

The time for a real offensive is over ripe. Ideal weather has prevailed on the entire front for nearly two weeks, drying out the terrain, improving transportation conditions and putting "pep" in the men. And yet, nobody has "started anything."

The initiative—with their widely advertised "Western offensive"—ostensibly should rest with the Germans. But there is a disposition now to believe this advertising may have been largely in the nature of a verbal feint.

The past week has been less productive of infantry engagements even approximately on a larger scale than were the two previous weeks. The Ypres sector is still the center of the hottest artillery. Aerial combats and bombing raids have increased.

The Americans have occupied their first sector of German trenches—a little more than a mile in the Lunenburg sector.

Amsterdam dispatches have reported an "unprecedented" concentration of German troops in Belgium, with Hindenburg and Ludendorff establishing headquarters at Spa.

Bombardment of Monastir by the Bulgars, reported from Corfu, indicated a reawakening of activities in the Macedonia theater.

Teutonic forces continue to "straighten" their line in the Ukraine.

Turkish armies have re-occupied the principal cities in Armenia, driving out the Russian garrisons.

But in this country interest naturally centers in the West front where American troops are participating in this initial feinting out process.

William Phillip Simms, the United Press staff correspondent on the British front, detailing these preliminaries, summed up the situation, so far as the American people are concerned, when he said:

"What these things mean, remains to be seen. Like the Tommies out here, the public must wait to see."

TWENTY PERSONS BURNED TO DEATH

Truro, N. S., March 16.—Twenty persons were burned to death today when the lumber camp of A. A. Sutherland, at Alvin Siding, near Riverdale, N. S., was destroyed by fire.

It is believed a woman and five or six children are among the dead. The others were all lumbermen.

Secretary of War Carefully Studies Our War Preparations in France

AMAZED AT WHAT HE SAW GOING ON

Great Docks, Double Track Railroads, Hundreds of Miles of Telegraph Wires, Camps, Etc., Inspected

Aboard Secretary Baker's Special Train, France, March 13.—"I am still absorbing," remarked Secretary Baker tonight, following his 14-hour day inspection of one of America's greatest ports on the French coast.

Secretary Baker reached the port at 8 a. m. on an express special train of nine cars, including the most luxurious sleepers in Europe, a dining, baggage car and a special car carrying three automobiles. He was accompanied by Generals Pershing, Atterbury and Black, besides other officers, newspaper men and movie men.

The Secretary immediately began an inspection of the huge docks along the river where thousands of enlisted men were working. They have already completed two miles, including railroads and a warehouse. The structure is of concrete and plank construction which can endure for hundreds of years.

Officers told Secretary Baker completion of the task means four miles of permanent unloading facilities, where forty 500-foot ships can load or unload at one time.

Many huge warehouses already are piled high with American goods and machinery.

Personally questioning officers, the Secretary showed an intimate knowledge of technical details. Later he was shown the rail head of America's line of communication. Double tracks now stretch off across the country, resembling the main line of the Baltimore & Ohio.

Surrounded by some of America's most brilliant railway engineers, Baker, occasionally seconded by General Pershing, studied maps showing the entire system of American communication lines. He demanded to know the percentage of grades from this port, in comparison with others; the maximum carrying capacity of trains; what was the quickest time for supplies to reach the actual front, etc.

In their automobiles the party journeyed a few miles along pine-flanked country roads where three and a half square miles of warehouses are under construction. Then they went to the rest camp which will accommodate 22,000 men; to the remount camp, where 3,000 horses are kept for replacing others at the front, and to a hospital which eventually will be the largest in the world. At present it will accommodate 20,000 men and will be enlarged to accommodate 40,000.

Flanking the roads everywhere are telegraph and telephone wires. Twelve hundred miles of American telegraph lines are almost completed, forming a network from the sea base to headquarters.

Everywhere Americans are training, working, fighting. Secretary Baker and his party late this afternoon visited an artillery camp and saw big American guns set up from traveling shape into firing condition.

American artillerymen worked feverishly under the eyes of their commander-in-chief, the Secretary of War, who minutely inspected every detail and asked countless questions.

A sausage balloon, lazily hanging in a cloudless sky in the rear, added a touch of the real thing.

It is probably true that Secretary Baker is working the hardest of his life absorbing details which he declares will shorten the war.

Asked his impression tonight the Secretary said:

"I frankly admit this is my first inspection of a great port of debarkation. I had not realized the immensity of the project, but I must say I am completely satisfied."

NORFOLK WOMAN CHOKED TO DEATH

Portsmouth, Va., March 16.—Strangled and choked with her own shirtwaist, Christiana Brown, a white woman, was killed by an unknown man at 1101 East Main street, Norfolk, late tonight. No motive can be assigned for the murder.

The woman was killed in a crowded house, with a man and woman in the next room, but so silently was the murder committed that it was not discovered until the murderer had escaped. Robbery was not the motive, for jewelry and money were left untouched in the room. Not only was the woman strangled, but the loose ends of the shirtwaist were stuffed down her throat.