

WEATHER
Fair, except probably rain in northwest portion; strong southerly winds.

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PRICE FIVE CENTS

NORFOLK HIT BY FIRE AND EXPLOSIONS

Loss of \$2,000,000 Sustained Before Flames Are Checked
Incendiarism Laid to Germany Agents

FIVE MEN ARRESTED BY NAVAL PATROLS

Second Virginia Fire Threatens Camp Stuart and Aid Is Rushed

NORFOLK, Va., Jan. 1.—Nearly two blocks in the heart of Norfolk's business district, including the Monticello hotel, were destroyed, one man was killed and a score more injured in a series of explosions and fires today which both the police and naval authorities believe was incendiary. The fire had been checked tonight but still was burning fiercely in the ruins. The loss is roughly estimated at more than \$2,000,000.

Three distinct explosions in as many buildings, one after the other, had virtually been brought under control, led to the general belief that enemy agents were at work. Mayor Mayo placed practically the city under martial law by turning the situation over to the naval officers, and some 2500 marines and bluejackets from nearby naval stations assisted the police and home guards in maintaining order and preventing vandalism.

Suspicious Persons Held.
Naval patrols rounded up suspicious persons throughout the afternoon. Five men were arrested as suspects. Two of these, Hugo Schmidt and H. K. Lessing, said to be Germans, were turned over to department of justice agents. Tonight there were reports that two Germans had been shot by sailors during the day but neither the police nor the naval authorities would confirm them.

The fire started before dawn in the Granby theater and gained rapidly as the firemen were handicapped by frozen hydrants, low water pressure and near zero temperature. It quickly spread to the Monticello hotel and other nearby buildings in the block. It was brought under control late in the day, but broke out anew early tonight and leveled half of the block there before being checked.

Falling floors and walls took toll of firemen and naval guards. One fireman, Charles McCoy, was killed and seven others hurt in the collapse of an upper floor of the Monticello hotel today and tonight two firemen and several sailors were caught in a falling wall of the Lenox building. Three were brought out badly hurt, but two others were left in the debris.

Firemen Fight Heroically.
Firemen of Norfolk, Portsmouth and Suffolk with organized sailor fire brigades fought heroically amid fire and blinding smoke and bluejackets led the rescue work. Several of the firemen caught in the hotel were brought out alive through the dating of a score of the jack tars.

Reports as to the number of explosions vary. It was first said that the fire in the Granby theater had caused an explosion, but Fire Chief McLaughlin and naval investigators announced tonight that this was not the case. There said, however, there had been three separate and distinct explosions. The first was in a cloak and hat shop near the Monticello, the second was on the sixth floor of that hotel after the first fire was practically under control and the third in the Lenox building, which later was destroyed.

Scores Made Homeless.
Guests from the Monticello who were forced to flee the biting cold of the dawn after they had watched the theater burn, were taken care of in homes and hotels. As building after building went down, with them an apartment house, scores were made homeless and the national guard armory on City Hall avenue was thrown open to them.

There during the late day Red Cross workers and other volunteers looked after them and also supplied coffee and sandwiches for the naval sailors and firemen who were forced to seek rest from their grueling fight against the flames. When the flames responded to the alarm of the Chesapeake fire, they found all hydrants in the vicinity frozen. Fires had to be built to thaw them out. In the meantime, the firemen looked on helplessly while the big theater building burned. When water finally came the pressure was so low that streams would not reach to the upper stories of the burning building and the fire soon was beyond control.

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Jan. 1.—Three dwellings near Camp Stuart on the outskirts of the city, where the soldiers are quartered, were destroyed by fire tonight. Soldiers and firemen prevented the flames

COAL TRAINS GO FORWARD EASING FUEL SHORTAGE

McAdoo Rushes Supplies Over Restricted Lines to New York City

SHIPS TO BE USED, TOO

Government Power to be Fully Effective in Relieving Situation

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—Coal trains went forward today under new government orders based on the belief of Director General McAdoo that railway congestion rather than actual shortage is responsible for the fuel famine in many districts. Upon receipt of reports that hundreds of loaded coal cars were stalled on sidings, all existing priority orders for the entire country were suspended by Robert S. Lovett, priority director of the war industries board, on recommendation of the director general. This is expected to result in quicker movement of the entire mass of congested freight.

Operation to be Effective.
President Wilson, it was learned tonight, will go before congress Friday to present his recommendations for legislation to make government operation fully effective and to provide for compensation of the carriers and legislation which has already been drawn will be introduced immediately after his address. Some officials think there will be a vigorous fight over the question of whether the legislation should be effective only for the period of the war and is limited to thereafter, or should remain in force until specifically repealed or modified by congress.

Representatives of the railroads were to have appeared tomorrow before the senate interstate commerce committee, but when word came that the president desired to address congress Friday they asked permission to withhold their statements. The committee instead will hear Commissioner Aitchison of the interstate commerce commission and then probably postpone further hearing until the president's message has been received.

New York Gets Coal.
Director General McAdoo ordered that the Pennsylvania company's tunnel under the Hudson river, heretofore restricted exclusively to passenger trains, be used to hasten coal supplies into the heart of New York city. That action was considered significant by railroad men because it indicated how determined the government is to use all facilities to their utmost regardless of previous practices, to promote efficiency.

At the first conference of Mr. McAdoo in the new year with his advisers and executives, it was decided to put additional ships now controlled by the shipping board into service carrying coal from Hampton Roads to New England. The number of vessels which can be spared will be determined tomorrow.

Hundreds of telegrams pouring into the railroad administration told of coal trains or individual cars apparently lost in yard confusion. These reports were referred to railway executives with instruction to clear out the stalled freight as fast as possible.

Early action to divide the country into operating districts, with a government supervisor over each, and possibly a federal railroad agent for each state, has been urged strongly upon Director General McAdoo and he is said to be considering this policy.

MARINES BEAT SOLDIER BOYS

Mare Island Weight Overcomes Opponent's Speed—Score 19 to 7

PASADENA, Cal., Jan. 1.—The weight and strength of the Mare Island marines who defeated the Red Cross workers and other volunteers in a football game here today as a part of the annual Tournament of Roses. The final score was 19 to 7 in favor of the marines. The game was refereed by officials in white, and witnessed by a crowd which taxed the capacity of the stands, said to be 42,000. In the throng that surged from the route taken by the floral parade, to the athletic field four persons were overcome by heat.

The profits from the game will go to the American Red Cross. Despite the summer temperature, play was fast and furious from the first kick off to the final gun. Though several players on each side were carried from the field because of injuries there was an abundance of material to fill the gaps. The marines were especially strong

PLAVE RIGHT BANK CLEAR OF GERMANS

Italians Make Sharp Attack in Famous Zenson Loop—Enemy Suffers Heavy Casualties Crossing River

DEFENSIVE LINES AT MONTE GRAPPA FIRM

Thousand Turks Killed and 750 Prisoner in Palestine Fighting

(WAR SUMMARY)
Another reverse for the Teutonic allied arms, following that effected by the French troops in their initial drive on the northern front in Italy, has been brought about by the Italians in a sharp attack in the famous Zenson loop on the lower reaches of the Plave river.

Here the enemy has been driven from the eastern bank of the stream from positions he had held since the Italians in their retrograde movement from the Isonzo made their stand along the western shore of the Plave. Thus the entire right bank of the Plave has been cleared of the invaders, except far to the north, where the battle line runs westward from the stream through the hill region.

Menace to Venice Cleared.
The fighting for the Zenson bridgehead had been in progress since last Thursday, the Italians keeping energetically after the foe in order to regain the position, which always has been considered a menace to Venice. Heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy by the artillery and rifle fire of the Italians before he was forced to re-cross the stream. On the northern front the bombardment is idle for the moment but the big guns of both sides are keeping up intensive duels on various sectors, particularly around Monte Tomba and on the Asiago plateau. The enemy is continuing his air raids over important towns on the plain, his latest attack having been directed against Vicenza, Bassano, Castel Franco and Treviso.

Thirteen persons were killed and forty-four others wounded, the majority of them civilians. Only small material damage resulted from the new raids.

Likewise, the operations on the fronts in France and Belgium are being confined almost entirely to the bombardment of the British forces on the Italian front, although the German war office claims a further gain of ground by the army of Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria over the British south of Marconing in the Cambrai sector.

1000 Turks Killed.
There are persistent reports that heavy fighting is in progress between Kaledines' Cossacks and Bolshevik troops in Southwestern Russia and that the casualties have been heavy. No details of an authentic nature have yet come through but the reports say the Bolsheviks have been defeated on the southwestern front with numerous losses of men and guns, but that they have occupied the important town of Poltava.

Still further progress has been made by the British troops operating against the Turks in Palestine, north of Jerusalem. The Turks in the fighting of the last several days have lost more than 1000 men killed and 750 made prisoner.

Monte Grappa Holds Firm.
LONDON, Jan. 1.—The following official communication dealing with operations of the British forces on the Italian front was issued tonight: "The British commander in chief in Italy reports that the Italians at the end of the year remain in possession of their defensive lines on the Monte Grappa and Asiago sectors, which they have worked untiringly to strengthen. Little snow has fallen. The success of the French yesterday in the Monte Tomba region has given much satisfaction.

"Some small raids has been successfully made across the Plave river by the British. The crossing of the river is difficult at this season of the year. British artillery and aircraft continue their effort daily to destroy the enemy's batteries. "In retaliation for December 26, when they lost eleven machines, the enemy aircraft has been very active lately in bombing raids. The damage thus inflicted has been slight.

"All the allied troops are confident of future success of their united efforts and look forward to the new year."

LONDON, Jan. 1.—The following official communication dealing with aviation was issued this evening: "Very little flying was possible Monday owing to the mist. During the night, although the improvement was only slight, our machines dropped over a hundred bombs on hostile billets in the neighborhood of Roulers and Menin.

"Several direct hits were obtained. A moving train also was bombed and hit.

ALLIES MEETING HARDEST PERIOD OF WHOLE WAR

German Attack to Be Second Verdup, Forecasts French Commissioner

ECONOMIES ARE URGED

Mission Is to Tell America What Entente Expects of New Ally

AN ATLANTIC PORT, Jan. 1.—The entente allies are entering the hardest period of the war, but a period which will prove richest in decisive results, "if we know how to play a good game, and its issues will be decided in the next six months," according to Captain Andre Tardieu, French high commissioner to the United States, who returned to this country today. He will go to Washington tomorrow.

The commissioner first arrived in this country last May. He returned to France in November and his government decided to continue his official title for a period of six months. While Captain Tardieu pointed to the possibility of a strong German attack on the western front during this winter, he is "absolutely confident that it will be another Verdun," he declared in a statement.

The urgency of an enormous economic effort was emphasized by the French representative in this statement: "The battle is not only on the battlefield. I have told the French, with complete frankness, what America expects from them in the way of restrictions and new sacrifices. I am coming back to explain here the necessary sacrifices that France and her allies are expecting from America for victory."

Men, wheat, oil, ships and locomotives are the things most needed and which America is able to give. Captain Tardieu said.

By way of tribute to Colonel E. M. House, who headed the American mission to the inter-allied war conference in Paris, Captain Tardieu said: "Thanks to the presence of Colonel House and his associates the inter-allied conference has done excellent work. It was necessary that the government of the United States should assert its will and its capacity to take in Europe the part which belongs to America in the direction of the war."

"The French army has never been more magnificent, the British army is equally superb and the American army is increasing day by day," Captain Tardieu said in speaking of the work of the allies.

That he might retain his commission to the United States Captain Tardieu declined to accept a portfolio in Premier Clemenceau's cabinet. He did this, he said, because he believed "nothing is more urgent and more necessary" than the work to be done through this commission.

NEW YORK HAS REAL COAL RIOT

Hundreds of Men and Women Seize Fuel on Trucks—Temperature Low

NEW YORK, Jan. 1.—With another day of bitter cold and intensive suffering from the general fuel shortage, New York had today its first real coal riot. The disorder began when several hundred men, women and children, who had lined up outside a large coal yard at One Hundred and Nineteenth street and the East river, discovered several loaded trucks leaving the yard after announcement had been made that there was no coal for sale.

Some of those who had been waiting patiently with pails, bags, small wagons and baby carriages, at once began to stone the office windows. Others followed the trucks, unhooked the rear chutes and seized the coal that streamed into the street. Police reserves were called and succeeded in restoring order when a representative of the coal company announced that coal would be sold in small lots after certain hospitals had been served.

Navigation from New Jersey terminals across the Hudson to Manhattan island is greatly impeded by ice floes and the Harlem river and Brooklyn's water approaches are in the same condition. The temperature today ranged from zero to six above at 10 o'clock tonight and a slowly rising temperature was predicted by the weather bureau.

HUNS BEATEN BACK AFTER FIERCE FIGHT

Heavy Bombardment Precedes Enemy Assault Near La Vacquerie Concentrated Under Fire of Liquid

BRITISH REGAIN ALL OF TRENCHES LOST

Grass Shells Give Germans "Happy New Year"—Cavalryman Successful

OTTAWA, Ont., Jan. 1.—The following dispatch from London has been received here by the Reuter's Limited agency: "A dispatch from British headquarters states that the enemy attacks yesterday northwest of La Vacquerie were carried out after a fierce bombardment. The attack was concentrated on a half mile front and the enemy waves advanced under cover of liquid fire. Parties swarmed into a short length of trenches on the right, but elsewhere they were unable to rush the parapet in face of heavy machine gun and rifle fire.

British Capture Trenches.
"While our supports were organizing for the counter-attack our gunners put up a fierce barrage against the invaders, driving them to cover with the result that when we crossed the snow-clad ground, we took the whole of the trenches the Germans had carried. It was a very straggle remnant of the original storming enemy parties that got back across No Man's land."

"The new year was ushered in according to custom. At midnight groups of batteries put over salvoes of high explosives in bursts of a dozen at a time, thus indicating that it was 12 o'clock. Then other gunners joined in punctually with firing, indicating the numeral 1918, after which bouquets of grass shells were sent speeding to the Germans a happy new year. Naturally this form of greeting was resented at some places, notably near Arleux and Fresnoy, where a regular quarrel between the parties blasted up the party."

Airmen Kills Cavalrymen.
"A wonderful story is told of the adventure of a young airman, who, in thick weather, landed and asked a peasant his whereabouts. At that moment he beheld a troop of German cavalry galloping toward him. He immediately opened his engine full and skimming the ground, charged with the advancing Germans.

"The leading officer fired an automatic pistol and the airman began operating his machine gun. The enemy's casualties included the officer and numerous men and horses. The remainder bolted.

"The airman intended leaving nothing to chance, so he flew a great distance westward to insure landing on the British side. When he next landed it was needless to say his whereabouts, because he recognized Paris only a few kilometers away."

Snow Falls in Italy.
GENEVA, Monday, Dec. 31.—Snow continues to fall heavily along the Swiss-Italian and Swiss-Austrian frontiers and in the Tyrol. A telegram from Chlasser which is confirmed by Swiss soldiers on duty on the Italian frontier, states that Austro-German troops are held up on the Tyrol frontier. Many Red Cross and food convoys are stalled in the mountain passes and regiments of central emper troops have been isolated without food supplies for several days.

Military trains from Trent which are depended upon to provision the Austrian front are blocked. A large army under General Conrad is trying to clear the railway but unless it succeeds serious difficulties will hamper the operations against the Italians.

Wealthy Officers Forbidden Distinction in U. S. Army

WRIGHTSON, N. J., Jan. 1.—Wealthy officers at Camp Dix, the company announced that they were forbidden to wear tailor made uniforms which gave the appearance of a higher rank than that to which they are entitled, in orders issued today by Brigadier General Dean, camp commander. Many of the officers had been wearing clothing of a quality that gave lieutenants and captains the appearance of majors or generals.

Seven Persons Killed in Explosion of Mine

LONDON, Jan. 1.—Seven persons were killed and twenty-four injured by the explosion of a mine that was washed ashore today between Ramsgate and Deal. The explosion occurred while an attempt was being made to haul it out on land.

U. S. RAILROAD MEN ARRESTED BY BOLSHEVIKI

Washington Officials Think Report from Petrograd May Be True

AMERICA GETS NO WORD

State Department Says Commissioners Shall be Kept at Posts

LONDON, Jan. 1.—It is reported that the Bolsheviks have arrested the members of the American railway mission at Irkutsk, Siberia, says a dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph company from Petrograd.

The personnel of the United States railway commission, which was not officially announced, follows: John F. Stevens of New York, former chief engineer of the Panama canal, chairman; W. L. Darling of St. Paul, chief engineer of the Northern Pacific railway; Henry Miller of St. Louis, former operating vice president of the Wabash railroad; George Gibbs of Philadelphia, former chief mechanical engineer of the Pennsylvania railroad, and J. P. Griner of Baltimore, chief consulting engineer of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—No word from official sources had reached the state department tonight regarding the reported arrest of members of the American railway mission at Irkutsk. The department's communication with Russia has been very irregular, however, and officials would not be surprised if the report were true. An inquiry will be sent to Ambassador Francis at Petrograd once.

Although several railway units, each comprising several hundred men, are in Siberia to assist in improving the trans-Siberian railway, it is thought that only a few could have been at Irkutsk.

There have been frequent rumors that the railway mission was about to withdraw and return to this country but the state department has indicated that the men would be kept at their posts and that there is no disposition to curtail the work of railway rehabilitation.

Seattle Company Wants to Have Women Operate Cars

SEATTLE, Jan. 1.—Stating that it is impossible to obtain the men necessary to move its cars because of high wages paid in the shipyards and other war industries, the Puget Sound Traction, Light and Power company has applied to the state public service commission for permission to employ women operatives. Lack of men, the company sets forth, is crippling its service. A public hearing on the application will be held here Monday.

HYLAN NOW IN MAYOR'S OFFICE

Inaugural Address Contains Pledge to Place City on War Basis

NEW YORK, Jan. 1.—John F. Hylan was inaugurated as mayor of New York today, succeeding John Furroy Mitchell. In his inaugural address he announced the determination of placing New York city on a "war basis." This would be brought about, he declared, by a policy of strict economy, conservation of public funds and elimination of useless officers.

In a statement issued after he was appointed commissioner, Bugher declared emphatically there would be no relaxation in the police vigilance which has kept New York a "closed" city for the last four years.

With the organization of the new administration today the affairs of the city passed into the hands of the Democratic Charles Murphy, leader of Tammany Hall, did not attend the inauguration.

RUSSIA MAY JOIN ATTACK ON ENTENTE

Attempt to Enforce German Peace on Allies Held Likely and England Is Warned to be Ready

POWERFUL HAND IN CONFERENCE URGED

Terms Similar to Russia's May Be Published to Aid Difficulty

LONDON, Jan. 1.—The Petrograd correspondent of the Daily News wonders whether the danger of a separate peace is realized in England. He says it would be a defeat for German democracy in addition to insuring the virtual enslavement of Russia, as it would be a victory for the military caste in Germany.

"It may mean," he adds, "much more than Russia's neutrality. If we make a move, it seems that the Germans will ask the Russians to help them in enforcing Russia's peace terms on the entente allies. Trotsky is well aware of the danger, though faced with the necessity of concluding peace, and is doing his utmost to stimulate a revolution in Germany. Fraternization at the front, already has passed beyond the control of entente officers and enormous quantities of revolutionary newspapers printed in German are being distributed.

Hand in Conference Urged.
"In an confident our only chance in defeating German designs is to publish terms as near the Russian terms as possible and by taking a powerful hand in the proposed conference, help the democratic movement in Germany while helping the Russian to force the German government in the direction it has had to take.

"Whatever party might be in power in Russia it would be compelled to conclude peace and Trotsky's method is more likely to damage Germany than the method of any more polite persons in his place. The nationalistic bankers put a weapon more powerful than the guillotine in the hands of the government and probably will end much of the present sabotage."

Reichstag Gives Approval.
ROTTERDAM, Jan. 1.—Matthias Erzberger, of the Social party; Friedrich Ebert, of the Social party; and Herr Fischeck, of the Progressives, have informed the Berlin correspondent of the Neue Berliner Courant that the German declaration at Brest-Litovsk is approved unreservedly by the members of the Reichstag main committee. The members of this committee represent the majority of the parties responsible for the Reichstag peace resolution of July 15.

Trade Relations Discussed.
PETROGRAD, Monday, Dec. 31.—The German political delegates who are visiting Petrograd, headed by Count von Mirbach, are devoting much of their time to preliminary discussions of the question of trade relations. Baron Admiral Keyserling declared today that no time was more suitable than the present for making peace, as he considered that it probably would be difficult to reach terms with the constituent assembly.

The Germans and also the Austrians who are in Petrograd are making themselves thoroughly at home, visiting theaters, among other the French theater, and also the cafes and taking possession of the reading and lounge rooms in two adjoining hotels in which some entente allied officers are quartered. The delegates expect to return to Brest-Litovsk within two weeks.

Bulgarian and Turkish delegates are due to arrive here tomorrow.

Assembly May Open Today.
PETROGRAD, Monday, Dec. 31.—The evening newspapers today declare that it is likely that the constituent assembly will open tomorrow, and quote Nikolai Lenin, the Bolshevik premier, as their authority for the statement. It is expected that the assembly will hold a brief session and then take a recess until after the Russian Christmas (January 7).

Reports concerning the number of members elected to the assembly vary from 410 to 510. The official list of the Smolny institute, the headquarters of the Bolsheviks, are expected to demand that the assembly shall not take upon itself the question of deciding the authority of workmen's and soldiers' deputies.

Germany Reported Meeting.
LONDON, Jan. 1.—According to Petrograd dispatches, among other of the Austro-German delegates, the Russian representative at Brest-Litovsk, the members of the committee of the Russian government, the discussions turned to the