ALL MERCHANDISE ADVERTISED IN THE TRIBUNE IS GUARANTEED

New York Tribune

First to Last — the Truth: News · Editorials · Advertisements

WEATHER
Fair and continued cold to-day and to-morrow; light north winds.
Full Report on Page 16

Vol. LXXVII No. 25,963 [Copyright 1917—The Tribune Ass'n] SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1917—SEVEN PARTS—SIXTY-TWO PAGES FIVE CENTS In New York City

City at Mercy Of Cold in Coal Crisis

Famine Will Be Averted if Storm Does Not Halt Cars Bound From Mines

Thousands Now Without Fuel

12,000 Tons Arrived Saturday; Economy Ordered; 2 Nights To Be Dark

With New York's fuel supply still dwindling, with coal consumption in the city far exceeding the amount of fuel being received, and with thousands of families without any means of heating their apartments other than by gas, New York is to-day at the mercy of the weather. Should the temperature remain low, or storms in the West halt the coal being rushed here, city wide suffering would result, fuel directors admit.

Reports made during the day to Fuel Administrator Garfield indicated, according to Washington dispatches, that the fuel situation in New York City and at several other points in the state "was rapidly becoming acute." The Health Department reported to Dr. Garfield that the East Side was threatened with pneumonia in epidemic proportions and that the fuel administration's diversion of coal here and there to meet emergencies was as ineffectual as "a cat chasing its tail."

Declaring that they had done everything possible to replenish the city's coal supply and that big consignments were moving Eastward from the mine fields, the fuel administrators here busied themselves yesterday with plans for conserving the small stock on hand, and distributing a few tons here and there to relieve the worst cases of suffering.

County Fuel Administrator Schley said coal in large quantities was moving toward the city, and that New York would be out of immediate danger in a few days unless another storm tied up transportation.

12,000 Tons Arrives Saturday

Mr. Schley said that 12,000 tons of coal arrived in New York during the day, of which Manhattan received 7,000. The remainder was divided between Brooklyn and The Bronx. The city normally consumes 20,000 tons a day.

Mr. Schley also announced that the labor situation was relieved; that the railroads, responsible for unloading coal from their cars, had obtained many men to break up the frozen coal, and in addition had called in their wrecking crews to help dump the coal at tidewater.

The United States Fuel Administration issued a change in its order affecting electric light signs, proclaiming Sunday and Thursday nights "lightless nights." The order goes into effect immediately.

37 Pneumonia Deaths in Day

There were thirty-seven deaths from pneumonia reported in New York during the day, one less than Friday. The total toll of deaths from this disease amounted to 263 for the week, an increase of 43 over the preceding week.

The Health Department received 300 complaints during the day from apartment house tenants, who said their flats were insufficiently heated or not at all. The complainants asked for instructions how to protect themselves from pneumonia, the grippe and colds.

Many of these complaints to the Health Department stated that owners of apartment buildings, with coal in their cellars, refused to furnish heat, saying they were out of fuel, or saving it for the future, when it would be more needed. One man said his landlord, owner of a big apartment building whose furnaces were cold, had 250 tons stored in his basement.

Schools' Fuel Supply Low

Patrick Jones, superintendent of supplies for the Board of Education, said that 150 public school buildings were down to one to five days' supply. He thought that a few schools might have to shut down for a day or two but that the outlook was such that he would be able to secure coal for practically all the buildings with the lowest fuel stock.

It was announced that the Board of Education, at its meeting this week, will act on a resolution to extend the holiday vacation several days and make up the difference in June. The Yonkers Board of Education has already adopted this measure for coal saving.

Mr. Jones said that by this plan the schools might save a few thousand tons. The daily consumption of coal in the city schools is about 600 tons in December and close to 1,000 in January. Mr. Jones said that public lectures and other activities of similar nature, necessitating the use of school buildings evenings, had been confined to those buildings where evening schools are held to prevent waste. An order has been issued shutting down the ventilation plants in all the public school buildings, and teachers have been instructed to make use of direct ventilation and to tell their pupils to dress warmly as an insurance against

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A Submarined Kaiser Interview

THE Kaiser was merry on his yacht one day in 1908 and gave an interview to an American magazine writer virtually predicting the world war. When it was almost too late he repented and implored the magazine not to publish the article. The pages were already printed, so he sent a German cruiser to take them away and sink them at sea. This extraordinary story will be told in The Tribune Monday.

Coal Famine Is One of the Horrors of War

"Thousands of people have to wait before the offices of the coal dealers, often for six and seven hours. They have to wait in the cold of winter, in the rain, in the snow and dirt, and have then, in most cases, to return to their cold homes empty handed, drenched and chilled.

"And what are the authorities doing? The answer is: 'Nothing.' They let things take their course until a calamity sets in.

"Misery, despair and exasperation are increasing from day to day, and all the authorities seem to be able to do is to preach thriftiness. They obviously have no idea of the situation in the workingmen's districts, but we who have, and to whom those poor apply with their sorrows, we appeal to-day in the last hour to those who incur the responsibility. We appeal to them in the name of humanity and political prudence to do their duty by removing a situation calculated to bring about a catastrophe the consequences of which are beyond calculation."

No. This is not written about New York, but was printed in the Socialist "Vorwaerts," of Berlin, on the dearth of coal in that city.

New Rochelle Puts 2,500 More Rookies to Bed

Ten Thousand Overflow From Fort Slocum Barracks Now on City's Guest List

NEW ROCHELLE, Dec. 15.—Fort Slocum's overflow is an army close to 10,000 strong to-night, but this wonder city has somehow managed to find a bed and a hot meal for every stranger the War Department has dropped and temporarily abandoned within its gates.

With 8,000 men crowded in under shelted last night, it did not seem possible that accommodations could be found for even another handful. Yet places were made—and accentably comfortable places—for 2,500 of the 3,000 rookies who came in during the day. The other 500 were taken into the fort, from which that number had been shipped away to permanent stations.

More troop trains are expected in to-morrow, and then it is likely the influx will be over. Just what New Rochelle will do with these later arrivals can't be guessed, but it is safe to wager that somewhere, somehow, the gamest war time town in the country will conjure up food and "flops" for them. Whatever the method, there should be a lesson in it that Washington may study with profit.

New Rochelle is not worried a bit by the prospect that overcrowded Fort Slocum will not be able to take its uninvited but heartily welcomed guests off its hands at a rate faster than 500 a day. What the city has undertaken to do it will cheerfully go through with, Mayor Griffing promises.

"We feel we can't do enough for these boys," he said to-night after he had made the rounds of the clubs, churches, schools, fire houses and halls in which such of the men as have not been put up in private homes are quartered. "They are welcome to stay on indefinitely. If they can put up with the discomfort, New Rochelle can.

"That first night of the overflow I was astounded when we had found shelter for six or seven hundred men. It didn't seem possible. And look at us now!"

The stranded rookies shovelled snow yesterday to show their gratitude. To-day they presented the city with a loving cup—the particular gift of the 600 men who are quartered in the Masonic Temple. John Cooperstock, of Malden, Mass., made the presentation speech, and Mayor Griffing responded by telling the story of his successful pleading with Adjutant General McCain when he heard the government intended to rectify its little oversight by drumming the homeless men out of servile offhand and turning them bark into the draft.

Bolsheviki Take Kaledine And 3 Cities

Leninites Report Victory of Their Troops in Southern Russia

PETROGRAD, Dec. 14.—The cities of Rostov, Makhitchevan and Taganrog, in the Don, Cossack territory, are in the hands of the Bolsheviki troops, according to a report issued by the official news bureau.

General Kaledine, leader of the Don Cossacks, the announcement adds, has been arrested by Generals Kaldin and Bototsky and their staffs, who have invited the Mayor of Rostov to go to Novo Toherkask, the Cossack capital, to discuss the suspension of military operations.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—The official German statement issued from Berlin to-night says regarding the Eastern war theatre:

"Armistice negotiations continue."

This apparently contradicts dispatches received by way of Amsterdam, which quote an official German statement as saying:

"On the part of both sides the conditions and draft of a treaty were finally formulated in the plenary sitting Friday. As, however, the Russian delegates desired to obtain supplementary instructions on some points from their government, the general discussions were postponed until Saturday."

This is the first intimation that the Russian and German delegates have carried their deliberations further than the consideration of an armistice.

The formulation of a treaty would be preceded by definite conclusion of peace and settlement of the terms. It is possible, however, that the word "treaty" as used in the Amsterdam dispatch is a loose translation from the German and that the statement refers to an armistice agreement.

The Petrograd newspapers announce that Germany has withdrawn her demand for disarmament of the entire Russian army.

Ex-Czar Like Finnegan, Gone, Then Back Again

This dispatch was received at 4:08 p. m. yesterday:

PETROGRAD, Dec. 15. — Former Emperor Nicholas of Russia has escaped from his confinement at Tobolsk, according to advices received to-day at the Smolny Institute, the Bolsheviki headquarters. A special train manned by sailors has been dispatched from Petrograd in pursuit of the former Emperor.

This dispatch was received at 7:40 p. m. yesterday:

PETROGRAD, Dec. 15.—An official denial was made at the Smolny headquarters this afternoon that Nicholas Romanoff had escaped from Tobolsk.

Enemy Aliens As Teachers in N. Y. Schools

Supervisor of Foreign Languages Admits Their Employment

Insists They Are Loyal to America

Their Home Addresses, Printed in "City Record," Found To Be False

Enemy aliens are teaching in New York public schools, John L. Huelshof, supervisor of foreign languages, admits.

If more evidence were needed there is the statement of Miss Margaret Blankenstein, who teaches in Public School 74, in East Sixty-third Street, near Third Avenue.

"Yes, I am a German; I am unnaturalized and pro-German," she told a Tribune reporter. "But I am safe, because I am keeping my mouth shut."

"Oh, there are only two or three enemy aliens, teaching German, in the schools," said Mr. Huelshof. "They are loyal. I think they have now obtained their final citizenship papers. Anyway, this is not the time to discuss the teaching of German in the schools."

How many enemy aliens are thus engaged in addition to the "two or three" Mr. Huelshof admitted are so employed no record open to the public shows. Neither is there any public record that shows with accuracy where known enemy aliens are employed. Home addresses of known alien enemies are also inaccessible, though the law requires that the correct addresses of all employes of the Board of Education shall be published in "The City Record."

Not in "City Record"

This information "The City Record" does not contain. On the contrary, "The City Record" is shown by investigations of Tribune reporters to be a most excellent place for a German to hide in. His or her name may be there, but when it comes to correct addresses in many instances camouflage is resorted to.

Inquiry at the offices of the Board of Education does not destroy the effect of this camouflage. Where the request for an address is not declined the answer is, "Don't know." Neither are addresses be to be had at schools where teachers are listed as teaching. Inquirers there are sent back to "The City Record."

Mr. Huelshof is an employe of the Board of Education who will admit knowing that alien enemies are engaged as teachers in the public schools. Who the "two or three" are and how many more there are he declines to state.

The Tribune is informed that not only are there many such enemy aliens in the public schools, but that a private canvass made after the declaration of war for Mr. Huelshof shows the names of many, if not all of them.

The Tribune is informed that the names of these enemy aliens thus revealed, or some of them, are recorded in a book Mr. Huelshof keeps in his desk in the offices of the Board of Education. It was in his desk last week when, in response to a request that he give the names of enemy aliens known to him, he at first agreed to, reached for a volume, supposedly the one for which The Tribune reporter inquired, and then changed his mind.

This change of mind Mr. Huelshof explained on the ground that this is "not the time to discuss the teaching of German in the public schools."

Citizenship Not Required

The presence of Germans on the teaching staff of the city is due primarily to the fact that prior to the declaration of war persons applying for appointment as teachers were not asked to show that they were citizens or had declared their intention of becoming citizens. Since the war the Board of Education has passed a resolution requiring proof of citizenship or application for citizenship to be filed by every person seeking employment.

This resolution, however, was not retroactive. No effort has been made to ascertain the citizenship of the 22,000 persons employed previous to its adoption.

More than this, the investigations of The Tribune show absolute incoherence in the system of the Board of Education in keeping records of the teaching staff. Even when an alien enemy is located among the teachers it is only with the greatest difficulty that he or she can be located in person or their home address learned. Inquirers at the offices of the Board of Education are unable to learn in what school or school district a given teacher is employed.

Enemy Alien Finally Located

Miss Blankenstein finally was located in Public School 74, in East Sixty-third Street, near Third Avenue. She was giving a lesson in German.

"Yes," she said. "I am a German citizen. I am thoroughly pro-German (durch und durch deutsch), but I have been wise enough to shut up when the United States entered the war. My position is well known to my associates, but it has not changed our relations. The only feeling shown by any one has been by a few children of Czech and Italian families."

Miss Blankenstein gave her address as it is recorded in "The City Record"—601 West 156th Street. When told that address was incorrect, she asked why inquiry was not made of Mr. Huelshof.

"He knows my address," she said.

Miss Blankenstein volunteered the information that she did not expect to continue teaching German.

"It is probable," she said, "that the teaching of German will cease, in part at least, in the public schools. That will not make any difference with me, for I have studied Spanish and will be teaching that after January 1."

According to Miss Blankenstein, there are numerous other Germans teaching in the schools. She gave the names of several she so classified.

"It is no secret," said she. "Mr. Huelshof knows about them. Why don't you ask him about them?"

House Returns Full of Hope; Peace Was Not Mentioned At Allied Council, He Says

Kaiser Plans New Peace Move Before Christmas

LONDON, Dec. 15.—Emperor William, in his Christmas message, proposes to make a final peace offer to his enemies, "on whom, in case of rejection, will fall the responsibility for bloodshed in 1918," according to an unofficial Berlin telegram forwarded from Geneva by the Exchange Telegraph Company to-day.

With reference to the German government's statement that it had received through a neutral government last September an inquiry in regard to its war aims under circumstances indicating that the inquiry was made with the sanction of the British government, "The Daily Chronicle" prints a statement from Lord Robert Cecil, Minister of Blockade, branding the whole thing as untrue.

German Papers Unite In Condemning Wilson

[*Staff Correspondence*]

LONDON, Dec. 15.—The German press expresses general dissatisfaction with President Wilson's address to Congress, even such Socialist newspapers as "Vorwaerts" and "Volksstimme" considering it a valuable weapon for the reactionary elements and declaring it a discouragement to the advocates of democracy.

The text as circulated by Wolff's News Agency is so heavily censored that the "Frankfurter Zeitung" protests to Richard von Kuehlmann, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, saying he should make an immediate reform in this direction.

President Wilson is called an opportunist. He is charged with gross ignorance of German political conditions. He is accused of being actuated by imperialistic motives, namely, the economic dominance of Europe and the rest of the world. He is admitted to be the leader of Germany's enemies.

From the government-inspired "Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" to the Socialist "Vorwaerts," including the Catholic organ "Germania" and the progressive "Frankfurter Zeitung," there is not a single newspaper which finds any word of the President's speech to which to give indorsement.

People Back of President

But it is plainly evident in every editorial that there is a strong feeling in Germany that the American people are supporting the President; that the United States is an "uncompromising enemy," and that, as the "Koelnische Zeitung" remarks: "The trash that Wilson says about us is believed by the masses in America, and we must reckon with that fact."

This growing respect for America is all the more remarkable when it is remembered that the military outlook in Germany has suddenly become more and more favorable. In contrast with the contempt shown against America a few months back, this change is significant of the increased seriousness of Germany toward the question of making peace with the country which is fighting for ideals and not territorial aggrandizement. There are two points made in all German editorials and both covered in the following extract from the "Muenchener Neueste Nachricten":

"President Wilson's attempt to draw the line between the German autocratic government and the peaceful German people is hypocritical. His assertion that America is fighting for the emancipation of Germany is a grotesque untruth. His accusation that the rulers of Germany have destroyed the peace of the world is rash in the face of disclosures of the Russian secret documents."

Some Austrian comment is extremely bitter, especially that of the Vienna "Neue Freie Presse":

"President Wilson's speech pretends to be a ray of hope at this critical time in the Entente policy, but it is a bluff. His speech, under a cloak of virtue, is full of disgusting insults to Germany and of contradictions."

American Commissioner Tells of Full Unity Accomplished at Paris

Declares Influence Of U. S. Paramount

Morale of British and French "Wonderful"; No Dissension at Council

Colonel E. M. House, who headed the American mission to the inter-Allied war conference in Paris, arrived in New York yesterday on his way to Washington to make a personal report to President Wilson that will be replete with vehement utterances of leaders of the Allies that they intend to fight the war to an ultimate victory.

The outstanding features of Colonel House's impressions of the war at close range, as expressed at his home last evening, are:

1—That the word peace was not uttered, either officially or unofficially, during his twenty-eight days in Europe. All discussion was directed toward a speeding up of the war.

2—That there was complete agreement among the delegates to the conference as to plans, both military and economic, when the sessions of that body were concluded. A plan for financing, fighting and rationing the war and the fighters was agreed upon.

3—That the morale of the French and British people never has been better during the war. Even the French pacifists, of which there are a few, admit that the spirit of the nation is more militant than ever before.

4—That Russia still is a complete enigma to both European and American statesmen, who have ceased to endeavor to puzzle out the future moves of its leaders.

To See Wilson Monday

Colonel House, who received interviewers at his home, at 115 East Fifty-third Street, showed enthusiasm at the success of the mission, but failed to go into details of its activities because he has not yet made known his findings to the President. He will leave for Washington this evening, and expects to have the ear of President Wilson to-morrow afternoon. He added to this statement, however, the wish that the President and Secretary Lansing will decide to make public more about the work of the mission, since the facts are such that they would be welcomed by the American people.

The complete agreement among the Allies was pictured by Colonel House as the one object of the conference, and the result that had been obtained in every instance.

"Our work was very satisfactorily carried out," was the colonel's way of describing this unanimity of opinion. "Of course, the decisions of the delegates are not binding upon their governments, but their decisions were reached after consulting the best interests of the Allies as a body and of their own governments."

This announcement was accepted as meaning that the proposed drawing up of a military programme calling for unity of action among the Allies had been proposed and adopted; that the food embargoes, as outlined weeks ago, would continue, and that there would be no differences concerning the financing of the Alied powers.

Brought Things to Focus

"The conference actually brought things to a focus," said Colonel House. "Coördination among the Allies was not going on well up to the time of this meeting.

"When we arrived in Paris to take part in the first session of the conference, which was held on November 29, it was found that France, England, Italy and the United States had from twelve to fifteen delegates each. In addition to these, there were representatives of all the smaller powers. Siam, Montenegro, China all had delegates.

"It was obvious from the start that if speechmaking were permitted we would be there until Christmas. For that reason it was agreed that there would be no speeches. M. Clemenceau, who made a very brief address, explained that we were there to work and not to play, and that was the only speech made.

"Then we divided into committees, and all the questions that were to be taken up were discussed in their regular order. Of course, I cannot tell just what was done, but I can repeat that we reached agreements on all of these subjects.

"The food embargo will continue as before. Financial questions were worked out and agreed upon, and the economic situation was taken up in detail. We did not take up war aims, because it was specifically agreed in advance that this would not be done."

"How long did the military experts indicate that the war would last?" asked one audacious interviewer.

"I can only say that nobody spoke of peace at any time during my four weeks abroad, which were divided

Senators Refuse to Make Gen. Crozier a Scapegoat

Military Affairs Committee Favorably Reports Ordnance Chief's Nomination to Succeed Himself

By C. W. Gilbert

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—The Senate Military Affairs Committee to-day voted to report favorably the nomination of General Crozier to succeed himself as chief of the Bureau of Ordnance. This was done in spite of the bad showing the Bureau of Ordnance has made in regard to small arms, because, as members of the committee explained, there was no desire to hold any one man, least of all a subordinate in the War Department, responsible for the situation that exists. The committee did not wish to make a scapegoat.

But even though this explanation is given full force, the favorable report upon General Crozier seems hurried. The examination into ordnance is not finished. Action upon his name could have been delayed until the committee had completed the examination of his work. There is understood to have been a long discussion of the question of a favorable report, but no substantial difference of opinion.

The consequence to be expected from this favorable report is that the public will interpret it as approval of General Crozier's explanation of the failure and delays in the making of machine guns and small arms. But Republican members of the committee do not wish to have any such interpretation put upon their votes. They think, in spite of their action, that grave blunders have been made and that dangerously long chances have been taken in adopting the untried Browning gun in place of the Lewis.

Fear to Criticise The Administration

The vote is hard to explain to any one at the distance New York is from Washington. It lies in the atmosphere which war creates. The censorship eats into the souls of men, especially of politicians. The desire to avoid the appearance of attacking the Administration or the conduct of the war makes men shrink from the logical consequences of their own acts. It was touch-and-go with this war investigation when it started. The vote for Crozier is of this sort.

The Administration recommended his reappointment. Let us do nothing that may be construed into resistance of the Administration. Let us give the Administration what it wants and give it quickly. The war involves surrender of indepepndence of judgment, and so the vote for Crozier.

General Crozier was before the Senate Military Affairs Committee again to-day in executive session. The subject discussed was field artillery, light and heavy. In this kind of equipment the Senators found the situation better than they had been led to expect. Guns will be slow in coming, but through no such transparent fault of the War Department as in the case of the machine guns and rifles. Of the ordinary field sizes there will be a fair supply by next summer. Meanwhile the French will be drawn upon to arm our men.

Uniformity in Ammunition

The guns we are making are the French 75 and 155 models. So in artillery there will be uniformity in ammunition between the French and our forces, whereas our machine guns and rifles will use cartridges that are interchangeable with those of either England or France. What is advantageous in one case is of no importance in the other.

The heavier guns will be slower in arriving. Some will come in the summer. There will not be quantity production till the spring of 1919. But the committee does not feel that the situation with respect to them is of special importance.

A supply will be available from various sources.

Lending Guns to U. S. Will Weaken France, Gen. Petain Declares

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—On the question of getting guns from the French, Representatives who have just returned from France will have something to tell the Military Affairs Committee of the Senate. More than one of them asked General Pétain, the victor of Verdun, now commander of the French forces, about the gun situation. General Pétain said to them:

"Of course, France will supply guns to your American troops. We need man-power so much that we will cut down our supply of guns to get men at the front. But remember that every gun we let you have weakens us just that much."

It was then explained that advancing guns to us would weaken France's power to concentrate big weapons for an offensive.

THRU PULLMAN SLEEPERS SOUTH
via Seaboard Air Line Ry., now leaving N. Y. 9:15 A. M., 1:04 P. M., 8:24 P. M., commencing Dec. 18th, will start from Washington. Parlor Cars N. Y. to Washington. Advance reservations already made from N. Y. will be protected in cars from Wash. Tickets, information, 1184 Broadway, N. Y. —Advt.

THROUGH SLEEPING CARS SOUTH
via Atlantic Coast Line, leaving New York 9:15 A. M. & 8:24 P. M., effective Dec. 18th. Will start from Washington. Parlor car service New York to Washington. Reservations already made in advance from New York will be protected in cars from Washington. Apply 1184 Broadway.—Advt.

STUCK!

War Council Formed To Direct Fighting Activities of Nation

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Organization of a war council of the War Department to coördinate all matters of supplies for the armies at home and abroad and the military relations between the armies in the field and the department was announced to-night by Secretary Baker.

The Secretary and Assistant Secretary of War, the chief of staff, Major General Henry G. Sharpe, quartermaster general; Major General Erasmus M. Weaver, chief of coast artillery; Major General William Crozier, chief of ordnance, and Major General Enoch H. Crowder, provost marshal general, compose the council.

Mr. Baker's announcement said that when General Tasker H. Bliss, chief of staff, who participated in the inter-Allied war conference, returns from Europe, he will bring to the new organization here knowledge of conditions which affect all branches of the service, and that from time to time members will be ordered to the front to make observations for the information of the council.

Read "A Siren From the Boches" by Sergeant Empey—Part IV, Page 1