

WEATHER FORECAST.
North Carolina—Showers tonight; Saturday, partly cloudy; cooler near the coast.
South Carolina—Cloudy and cool tonight; Saturday, partly cloudy, cooler in east portion.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE



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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 4, 1917.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

BRITISH PUSH THROUGH THE GERMAN LINE

In one of The Bloodiest Battles of The Present Offensive Movement.

THE HINDENBURG LINE OUTFLANKED

In Several Places—Reach Last Barrier to Germany's Riches—Fighting With Desperation to Hold British Back—Disquieting Reports From Russia.

FURIOUS RESISTANCE OFFERED BY GERMANS.

(By Associated Press.)
Fierce fighting is being made by the Germans to stop the progress of the British in smashing through the Hindenburg line. In Northern France, General Haig, however, has made good the most telling gains effected in the renewal of the drive yesterday.

Fresnoy and the captured lines north and south of it are firmly held after the repulse of several counter attacks.

Near Bullecourt, the sector of the Hindenburg line taken yesterday was also subjected to a heavy counter drive, but this valuable position remains safely in British hands. The Germans in Bullecourt are nearly surrounded and threatened with capture, correspondents report.

The British have burst through the Oppy line and are fighting the bloodiest and sternest battle of the present offensive in a great effort to smash the famous Wotan line before its organization is completed. The Hindenburg line, out-flanked and pierced in several places, has failed to stop the forward surge of the British armies, and the Wotan positions are the last great barrier barring the road to Douai, Cambrai and Germany's richest prize in France, the great coal and iron fields north of Lens.

The Wotan line runs from Drocourt to Queant, a stretch of 15 miles, running north and south, about five miles west of Douai and Cambrai. Around Queant, the southern extremity of the line, General Haig has formed a great human nipper and is striving with all the power at his command to close the jaws of the nipper. Realizing the menace of the situation, the Germans are fighting with a grim determination which reckons no cost in blood too high if it halts their advancing foe.

The renewed fury into which the great battle of Arras has flamed has diverted attention from the possibly more significant events which are shaping behind the battle front.

The German censorship has lifted so far as to allow newspapers and mails from Germany once more to reach the outer world, but there is little information as yet as to what has transpired within the borders of the German empire during the last week.

The German Chancellor is once more reported to be about to make a pronouncement on peace before the Reichstag and his hand has apparently been forced by the junkers.

Those reactionaries, enraged and alarmed by the apparent dominance of the Socialist party with its programme of peace without annexations or indemnities, have presented an interpellation to the Chancellor in the Reichstag demanding that he clarify his position.

Disquieting reports come from Russia of the attitude of elements among the soldiers and women towards the provisional government. Demonstrations are occurring in the streets of Petrograd against Paul N. Milukoff, the minister of foreign affairs, his resignation being demanded. Professor Stronitz is considered one of the strongest men in the new Russian regime, as a true friend of the Entente cause, as a whole, and thoroughly in favor of an energetic prosecution of the war by Russia.

The radical elements opposed to action by the provisional government's communication to the allied nations, made public yesterday, which committed the government to continuation of the war without slackening of effort. They declare they should have been consulted in this matter.

RED FLAG OF REVOLT WAVES ON STREETS OF PETROGRAD

Crowds of Soldiers and Workmen Assemble Before Building Government

RESIGNATION OF FOREIGN MINISTER

Demanded For Not Consulting People Before Assuring Allies of Determination to Continue War.

(Special to The Dispatch.)
Petrograd, May 4 (Via London).—Detachments of soldiers have gathered in front of the palace which is used as the headquarters of the provisional government, carrying red flags with inscriptions demanding the resignation of Foreign Minister Milukoff.

The resignation of M. Milukoff was demanded by thousands of soldiers and workmen who marched the streets yesterday afternoon and last evening, bearing banners inscribed, "Down with Milukoff."

Discontent has been smoldering for some time on account of the belief that the minister was not fully in sympathy with the viewpoint of the workmen and soldiers.

The present outbreak which began yesterday was a direct result of the announcement made by the Foreign Office to the allied nations to the effect that Russia would not slacken her effort in the common struggle against the Central Powers and would observe strictly her engagements with her allies. The workmen and soldiers declare that they should have been consulted before this communication was sent.

The evening newspapers declare that the government is united in its responsibility for the note to the Allies promising energetic co-operation in the war against Germany. They say that the government is supported by the executive committee of the Duma.

The executive committee of the workmen and soldiers' delegates discussed M. Milukoff's note to the Allies all of Wednesday night. It adjourned at daybreak yesterday without reaching a decision.

Later in the day the committee sat in special session with the council of the provisional government for a discussion of the government's motives in issuing the note.

FOUR ARE DROWNED NEAR ASHEVILLE

French Broad Claimed Victims When Boat Filled With Water and Sank.

(By Associated Press.)
Asheville, N. C., May 4.—J. W. Sellers, of Cowpen, S. C., in charge of the Boys' Home and Farm connected with Dorland Institute at Hot Springs, N. C., Miss Lauren Davis, matron of Sturgis, Ky., Miss Feren Wilcox, of Lansing, Mich., teacher, and Edgar Nichols, of Schoolfield, Va., a student, were drowned in the French Broad river two miles west of Hot Springs last night about midnight when their boat filled with water and sank. Miss Carroll and Carroll Willard, a student who were in the boat were able to swim to safety.

At noon today all the bodies except that of Miss Davis had been recovered. A large party is searching for her body today.

Coast Towns Wont Be Darkened

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, May 4.—The War Department reiterated today that no plan was under contemplation for the darkening at night of exposed towns along the Atlantic coast.

THE MISSING MEN OF ROCKINGHAM

Their Boat, With All Men Safe, Picked Up By British Steamer.

(By Associated Press.)
Liverpool, May 4.—Captain Edwards, of the American steamer Rockingham, in an interview with a correspondent of the Associated Press, said he had no doubt that the 14 occupants of the missing Rockingham lifeboat would be safely landed, as the weather had been excellent. This boat contained Third Officer McKenny and 13 American gunners.

Captain Edwards said that the submariners dived almost as soon as they were observed and that the ship was torpedoed a few minutes later while the guns were trained on the spot where the periscopes were expected to reappear.

The Men Rescued.

London, May 4.—The admiralty reports that the missing boat from the Rockingham, with all the 14 men, has been picked up by a British steamer.

CLOSING EXERCISES SOUTHPORT SCHOOL.

(Special to The Dispatch.)
Southport, May 4.—The closing exercises of the Southport schools will take place this afternoon on the lot facing on the water front, known locally as The Garrison. The exercises will consist of marches, drills, songs and pageants. One feature will be a parade led by Uncle Sam and Columbia and the thirteen original States. The school closes at this time an eight months' session.

During the year a number of the girls organized themselves into a Women's Betterment Association and raised money with which to paint the school house. This will be done this summer. Nearly all the women of the town were members of this organization and they will rejoice to see the school building given a new coat of paint.

SECRET CIRCULAR IN CIRCULATION

Throughout Germany Advocating Revolution—Hindenburg's Address.

(By Associated Press.)
Berne, via Paris, May 4.—As indicated on the one hand that a revolutionary party exists in Germany that would like to emulate the Russian tactics, and, on the other hand, that at present it is not making great headway, the Berne Tagwacht reproduces a circular which was secretly distributed among millions of German laborers prior to May 1, denouncing Field Marshal von Hindenburg's appeal to them not to strike as "the lying message of the idol of the imperialists." The circular, says the newspaper, which naturally was suppressed by the authorities, is couched throughout in violent language. It declares the promises to increase the meat and potato rations to offset the reduction in the quantity of bread issued are only empty mouthings, since there are not sufficient cattle in Germany, and extra potatoes can be given only by drawing upon the seed crop, which in turn spells famine next winter.

The only solution of the labor problems, the circular continues, is "immediate peace—not the peace desired by the government, which is spoiling for acquisition of territory and which is guided only by the interests of militarism, junkers and capitalists."

WHITAKER GETS THIRTY YEARS IN PENITENTIARY

(Special to The Dispatch.)
Clinton, N. C., May 4.—Raymond Whitaker, aged eighteen, who slew John D. Taliaferro at a rosin camp near Ivanhoe last fall, must serve thirty years in the penitentiary for his crime. The case terminated yesterday when, in Sampson County Superior Court, the State accepted proffer of a plea of guilty for second degree murder. Solicitor Shaw explaining to the court that if the case went to the jury he could not seek, on the evidence, conviction in a greater degree. Judge Lyon then imposed the heavy sentence noted, after he had heard the testimony in the case, so as to enlighten him.

The defendant was represented by Henry Grady, Esq., and A. B. Crumpler, Esq., of Clinton, while Solicitor Shaw was assisted in the prosecution by G. R. Hutchins, Esq., of Tallapoosa, Ga.

WILL PASS UPON RAISE IN PAY

Gathering of Railroad Men to Discuss Shopmen's Claims in Washington Monday.

(By Associated Press.)
Savannah, Ga., May 4.—Motive power superintendents under the jurisdiction of the General Managers' Association and representatives of mechanics employed on practically all railroads of the Southeast will meet May 7 in Washington, D. C., to confer on questions of increased rates of pay and shorter hours that are now pending between them.

Approximately 25,000 shopmen, 25,000 miles of railroads in the Southeast and upwards of \$12,000,000 a year increased pay are involved in the outcome of the conference, according to the statement of a Seaboard Air Line official here today. The men are asking increase of 10 cents an hour, basis of eight hours a day, time and a half for overtime, for employes on hour pay rates. Men on monthly basis are asking an increase of \$20 a month.

In pressing their claims the men have stated that the price of living has risen so that they feel compelled to ask an increase.

Railroads involved at present in the controversy are: Cincinnati, New Orleans & Texas Pacific; Alabama Great Southern, New Orleans & Northeastern, Alabama & Vicksburg, Vicksburg, Shreveport & Pacific, Mobile & Ohio, Georgia Southern & Florida, Seaboard Air Line, Atlantic Coast Line, Chesapeake & Ohio, Norfolk & Western, Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac, Virginia, Southern Railway System, Central of Georgia.

There are other railroads in the Southeast not now involved that will be affected by whatever settlement is made. These include the Florida East Coast, the Atlanta, Birmingham & Atlantic, the Western & Atlantic, the Georgia and all the feeders throughout the Southeast.

RALEIGH GETS THE NEXT MEET

Women's Federation to Meet in Capital City Next Year. Miss Gibson Gen. Sec'y.

(Special to The Dispatch.)
Durham, N. C., May 4.—Mrs. Clarence Johnson, of Raleigh, was selected as the 1918 President of the North Carolina Federated Women's Club, and Raleigh was named as the convention city today. Other officials of the organization, as newly elected, are Mrs. C. C. Hook, of Charlotte, first vice president; W. C. Robinson, of Asheville, second vice president; Mrs. Joseph Hyde Pratt, of Chapel Hill, recording secretary; Mrs. T. D. Jones, of Durham, auditor; Miss Margaret Gibson, of Wilmington, general secretary of the State Federation, and Mrs. W. T. Best, of Raleigh, corresponding secretary.

Resolutions were adopted endorsing the work of the State Board of Health and Audubon Society. The 169 members of the Federation present voted in favor of a State-wide dog law and stock law. The resolution thought that cattle-growing should be encouraged and that the sheep industry should be stimulated. Juvenile courts were recommended, or rather the North Carolina Statute of 1915, providing for the handling of juvenile offenders was urged to become a practical law.

The women went on record in favor of the mobilizing of the resources of the women for its parts in the present international crisis.

Greensboro women's clubs presented a resolution through the State organization favoring the equalization of the laws pertaining to personal property of man and wife.

HOUSE KILLS NEWSPAPER CENSORSHIP.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, May 4.—The influence of President Wilson's approval of the newspaper censor-ship section of the espionage act bill failed to save it in the House today, and it was stricken from the bill by a vote of 220 to 167.

IN NIGHT ATTACKS THE ALLIES MAKE FURTHER GAINS

Fierce Fighting During The Entire Night Along The British Front.

SLIGHT PROGRESS MADE BY ALLIES

British Forced to Yield One Captured Position—Their Losses Less Severe.

(By Associated Press.)
London, May 4.—The British last night made progress northwest of St. Quentin and northeast of Hargicourt, capturing Malakoff farm, the war office announces. On the Arras front, the British have maintained their hold on Fresnoy and all the positions captured in that neighborhood in yesterday's drive.

The British were compelled to fall back from the advanced positions captured yesterday in the neighborhood of Cheris and astride the Arras-Cambrai road.

Throughout the night the guns continued to boom without intermission on the Arras battlefield, and frequent bursts of machine gun and rifle fire told of attacks and counter attacks along various parts of the front of the British offensive.

Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters telegraphs this morning that apparently there has been little change since the official communication of last evening was issued. The British made small, but important progress at several points.

On the south bank of the Scarpe, the British pushed forward, overcoming the resistance of machine gun posts, which abound all along this ground. They have established themselves in the sunken road near Pelves mill, which has a dip of nine feet and offers possibilities for offense and defense.

At Rouex, which is directly opposite this new position, the Germans still remain in the fiercely contested chemical works, but the British have a series of posts astride the Germans east of this place.

The Offensive Ahead of Time.

Washington, May 4.—The British forces on the western front are two weeks ahead of their attacking schedule, according to a cablegram received here today by Secretary Balfour from the Foreign Office. The advance, it said, has been much more favorable than expected and the losses smaller. The losses were said to be only one-half as large proportionately as those on the Somme offensive last year. This is attributed by members of the mission to an incomparably better artillery preparation and the fact that men are not allowed to out-run the guns.

French Progress.

Paris, May 4.—Further progress was made by the French last night on the Champagne front, says today's official announcement. The statement follows:

"The night was marked by great activity of the artillery on the front northwest of Rheims. In the Champagne we made new progress in the wood west of Montcornillet and repulsed a grenade attack on one of our small posts. Intermittent artillery fighting occurred south of Moronvillers."

"In Lorraine patrol encounters occurred near Embermenil and Domezere. The night was calm on the remainder of the front."

"Yesterday our pilots brought down five German airplanes. It is learned also that three of the enemy, which were reported to have been damaged in engagements on Wednesday, were actually brought down. A German aviator at about 10 o'clock last night threw down several bombs in the region of Dunkirk. There were no casualties and no damage was done."

RELIEF SHIP SIEZED BY THE GERMANS

Crew Driven to Their Boats Without Provisions—Suffering of The Men.

(By Associated Press.)
London, May 4.—Confiscation by the Germans of the Belgian relief steamer Carmetta is reported in Central News dispatch from Copenhagen. A Danish sailor who was a member of the crew is authority for the report. He says the Germans ordered the crew to leave the ship and placed a prize crew on board to take it to a German port. The men from the Carmetta, in two small boats, asked for provisions, but the Germans refused. After six days of terrible suffering the men in one of the boats reached the Norwegian coast.

GOVT. GIVES OUTLINE OF PLAN TO OBTAIN OFFICERS NEEDED

MRS. VAWTER NOT ON STAND TODAY: DEFENSE RESTS

State Begins to Present Evidence in Rebuttal of That For Accused

LIQUOR PLAYING AN IMPORTANT PART

Proves Vawter Sober Early During Night of Tragedy. Dying Statement Not Introduced.

(Special to The Dispatch.)
Christiansburg, Va., May 4.—The defense in the trial of Prof. Charles E. Vawter, charged with murdering Stockton Heth, Jr., rested this morning, after presenting two witnesses who testified that they saw Vawter between 9:30 and 10:30 o'clock on the night of the shooting and that he was not drinking.

Mrs. Vawter was not recalled to the stand today for continued cross-examination, as had been expected. For a brief period the State then began the introduction of testimony in rebuttal.

Rainy weather and a feeling that sensations are over reduced the crowd in the court room materially today. The prosecution has abandoned introduction of Heth's dying statement, a document that has formed basis for considerable speculation as to possibility of its containing material facts not made public when Heth's brother gave the statement to the press following Stockton Heth's death.

One of the features of the trial in the minds of spectators, was the manner in which Mrs. Vawter maintained herself in the face of Lee's cross-examination.

The conference of the attorneys was somewhat prolonged and it was 11:30 before they introduced a young woman bookkeeper for a liquor house, of Baltimore, but formerly of Roanoke, in an effort to show that it was not correct that Vawter had drunk more liquor in May last than at other times, as had been intimated in testimony of Vawter and his wife. There was objection, but the court admitted the testimony, and ledger leaves from 1910 to 1916 were introduced.

On the stand yesterday afternoon Mrs. Vawter, in effort to save her husband, bared her shame and from her original story the State's attorneys were unable to shake her. She claimed that she had repelled Heth's advances, save when she had been drinking; that he gave whiskey to both her husband and herself and that she did his will when she was drunk. She told of the tragedy, of how Heth tried to induce her to enter her room; that she declined; that her husband went downstairs after a pistol and, returning with it, grappled with Heth. In the melee Heth was shot. She claimed her married life had been happy up to Heth's entrance. She only knew him slightly before her marriage. She admitted her husband had caught her in compromising positions and that she promised to desist in future if he would stop drinking; that Heth, when caught, assaulted her husband on several occasions.

When court adjourned for lunch at 12:50 this afternoon to re-convene at 1:50 the prosecution had not yet finished with rebuttal testimony, and the defense was summoning new witnesses in rebuttal. Prospects for completion of the case by Saturday night seemed to vanish. Probably the entire afternoon session will be taken up with testimony and with prosecution of a prolonged contest over instructions, it is expected to be afternoon before argument begins. J. L. Lee will close for the State and may not be heard before Monday.

SERIOUS REVOLTS HAVE OCCURRED IN BERLIN.

(By Associated Press.)
Amsterdam, (Via London), May 4.—The Maasbode of Maestricht says that serious revolts occurred in Berlin last week. According to the paper, the mob became so menacing that machine guns were used against it. The story is not confirmed from any source.

Ten Thousand Officers Will be Selected From Those at Camps.

FIRST PICKED WILL BE MORE MATURE MEN

Youngsters Will Figure Largely in The Next Selection—Sites For The Mobilization Camps Not Announced as Yet—Other Particulars Are Made Known.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, May 4.—A full outline of plans for training the first 10,000 officers for the first 500,000 troops raised by selective conscription was made public today by the War Department.

After three months' instructions at the training camps the 10,000 officers for 16 infantry and two cavalry divisions will be selected on merit from the total of 40,000, and assigned to regiments, which will be called to the colors a month or two later. The other 30,000 men, who are found qualified, will be commissioned in the officers' reserve corps and called out for duty as needed.

Sites for the mobilization camps have not been announced, but they will be in each case within the limits of the district prescribed for the officers' training camps.

For the first of their training the officer candidates will be organized into 14 infantry companies, and drilled as such by regular and National Guard officers and such of their own number as may be qualified for command. Then they will be organized by individual fitness into nine infantry companies, three batteries of artillery and two troops of cavalry.

Those designated for coast artillery will go either to Fort Monroe or Fort Winfield Scott, California, for two months of special instruction, while those for signal corps, aviation or other special services will be assigned to special training units.

The department's statement lays great stress on the fact that mature men, schooled for responsible positions, will be sought particularly in selecting the first 10,000. In later training camps younger men are expected to predominate.

U. S. ARMY HOSPITALS TO BE SENT TO FRONT

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, May 4.—Definite plans have been completed for sending United States army base hospitals to the fighting front in France. Details will not be disclosed.

The sending of the American hospital units is in accord with the plan to increase hospital facilities behind the front and reduce the number of hospital ships which have become special targets for German submarines.

OTHER MEMBERS OF FOREIGN COMMISSION

(By Associated Press.)
New York, May 4.—Two French army officers, Major Tulsane and Lieutenant De LaGrange, and Mrs. De LaGrange, arrived today on a British steamship to join the French war commission. The officers were French aviators.

Arriving on the same vessel was Joseph Davies, one of the secretaries of David Lloyd George, England's premier. Mr. Davies declined to disclose the reason for his coming.

VILLA DRAWS NEAR AMERICAN BORDER

Said to Be Approaching International Line With His Main Command.

(By Associated Press.)
El Paso, Texas, May 4.—Francisco Villa, with his main command, is believed by American secret agents to be within 50 miles of the American border southeast of Juarez. Reports received here from the border said a large Villa command had been seen on the Calderon ranch, 50 miles southwest of Fabens, Texas, and an equal distance from Juarez. Villa himself is believed to command this body of troops.