

**WEATHER FORECAST.**

North Carolina—Probably rain to night and Wednesday, except fair in west Wednesday. Cooler Wednesday in central and west.

# THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE



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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, TUESDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 22, 1917.

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# IS TEUTON U-BOAT OFF NEW ENGLAND?

## RUSSIAN PALL STILL HANGS OVER ALLIES

United Action Against Germany Blocked by Radical Socialists Among Russ.

GERMANS YIELDING TO ALLIED FORCES

Continuous and Steady Pressure Along Front Having Effect on German Soldiers. Anti German Factions in Sweden and Spain Growing Stronger.

The German armies in France are slowly yielding ground before the relentless pressure exerted by Generals Haig and Petain, and the vital question is as to whether their morale can be maintained under the terrific pounding to which they are subjected day and night. Apparently the allied commanders have abandoned the policy of sudden thrusts at chosen points and are relying on a constant hammering over a wide front in the belief that sooner or later the iron German string must either break or crack.

While there is no immediate prospect of sensational development in the battle area, the political situation remains fraught with many possibilities. The latest news from Russia indicates that the crisis in that country continues acute, and the menace that Russia may either withdraw from the Entente or be plunged into chaos still throws its shadow over the future. The Russian radicals are apparently as determined as ever to reject the war program of England and France, but they show almost as much reluctance as Berlin to define their precise aims. A conference is projected at which the coalition government will be asked for a frank statement of its position and there are rumors that the Russian radicals intend to attempt to force repudiation of Russia's treaties with the Entente.

On the credit side of the account is the rising tide of indignation against Germany in Scandinavia and Spain. The anti-German faction in Sweden has been powerfully reinforced by the sinking of three Swedish grain ships, in violation of their agreement to respect the safety of the vessels. Spain is still awaiting a reply to her protest over the sinking of the Spanish steamer Patricio, also destroyed while sailing under a German guarantee, and the tone of the Spanish press is increasingly peremptory in its demand that Germany be compelled to respect Spanish rights.

What effect the course of events is having on the German people remains a practically sealed book. The little news that trickles across the frontier offers scant basis for even speculation. Apparently the war of the pan-Germans and junkers on Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg is going merrily on, but there is nothing to indicate what it effect it is having on the Emperor. The issue will presumably remain in abeyance until the Reichstag reconvenes on July 5.

German Ammunition Exploded. London, May 22.—We made successful raids last night northeast of Ephepy, and during the night east of Bullecourt, south of the Arras-Cambrai road and west of Lens, says today's War Office report.

"Yesterday afternoon we destroyed a large German ammunition dump on the Arras-Cambrai road northeast of Quenast. The shock of the explosion was felt at great distances behind our lines."

German Counter Attack Repulsed. Paris, May 22.—Three separate counter attacks by the Germans on positions captured yesterday by the French were repulsed last night, according to an official statement issued by the French War Office this morning. The number of prisoners taken by the French yesterday was 1,000.

Govt. Barges in Commercial Service. St. Louis, May 22.—Orders that 12 government barges and two steamers on the Mississippi river be placed in immediate commercial service in order to relieve freight congestion were received today.

## TO REVOKE DECREE OF NEUTRALITY

President of Brazil Urges Such Action on Congress of That Country

MEXICO PROTESTS AGAINST SUBMARINES

(By Associated Press.) Rio Janeiro, May 22.—President Braz has sent a message to Congress recommending the revocation of the decree of neutrality in the war between the United States and Germany. Congress is expected to accept the recommendation by a large majority. The message declares that the order to the Brazilian authorities, enjoining the observance of neutrality, was only intended to have effect until Congress met. It continues:

"Today, in consideration of the fact that the United States is an integral part of the American Union, in consideration also of the traditional policy of Brazil, which has always been governed by a complete unity of view with the United States and, finally, in consideration of the sympathies of a great majority of the Brazilian nation, the administration invites Congress to revoke the decree of neutrality."

## VIRGINIA'S CAPITOL FLIES ALLIED FLAGS.

(By Associated Press.) Richmond, Va., May 22.—The merchant flag of the British empire was hoisted over the Virginia Senate chamber today, and the tri-color ensign of France over the House of Delegates, while in the center there was hoisted a large new United States flag. The flags were raised by order of Governor Stuart, signifying Virginia's loyalty to the cause. The State House over which the flags are flying was the capitol of the Confederacy.

**Named to Fill Vacancy.** Washington, May 22.—Seawell R. Turner has been appointed to fill the vacancy in the rural letter carrier force at Teachey, N. C.

## NOT TO SUPPORT THE UNIVERSITY

Presbyterian Assembly Votes Against Taking Over Oglethorpe.

(By Associated Press.) Birmingham, Ala., May 22.—The General assembly of the Presbyterian church, in session here, decided today by a vote of 117 to 106 against the support of Oglethorpe University by the church.

"It is the sense of this assembly that the Presbyterian church in the United States, at this time, neither needs, desires, nor is in position to establish, equip and support an educational institution of university grade," read the substitute resolution which was offered by Dr. C. W. Richards, and adopted over all other resolutions before the assembly dealing with this subject. "We, speaking as the highest judicatory of that church, do on its behalf disavow and disclaim ownership and control of as well as responsibility for any such institution established or about to be established, and that all of our congregations and all persons are hereby put on notice that no solicitation of funds for such university can be made in the name of the Presbyterian church in the United States, nor with the approval or consent of this assembly."

## THOUSANDS ARE MADE DESTITUTE BY ATLANTA FIRE

Number of Persons Homeless Estimated at Fifteen Thousand.

SEVENTY-FIVE CITY BLOCKS BURNED

Loss Placed at Three and a Half Million Dollars—Relief Work Begun

(By Associated Press.) Atlanta, May 22.—Estimates today were that from 10,000 to 15,000 persons were homeless as a result of the fire yesterday and last night that swept through approximately 75 blocks of residence property ranging from negro shacks to homes of influential citizens in the northeastern section of the city. R. S. Rust, assistant secretary of the Southeastern Underwriters' Association, roughly estimated the property loss at \$3,500,000 and loss to insurance companies \$2,500,000.

Relief work which was started hours before the flames were subdued were pushed rapidly today. The public safety committee of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, at a meeting at 9:30 o'clock, laid plans for handling the situation, and at 11 o'clock a mass meeting called by Mayor Asa G. Candler, was held.

Preparations were made last night to feed 5,000 of the homeless, it being believed that no more than that would be needed for immediate relief. The relief forces were quickly organized and hundreds of the homeless were fed last night, and this morning breakfast awaited them at the auditorium.

Real estate and insurance men working in conjunction today estimate that 1,563 buildings had been destroyed. This was considerably under the earlier estimates.

The citizens' relief committee of the Red Cross today requested that churches be kept open tonight to be used as dormitories if necessary.

A special meeting of city council was called for later this afternoon to take whatever steps necessary for relief and rehabilitation.

Last night the city was virtually under martial law administered by hundreds of soldiers who have been training at Fort McPherson or National Guardsmen in camp here, acting under the direction of Col. Chas. R. Nowes, U. S. A., who officially is under the guidance of the chief of police.

Thousands of homeless children were being fed and housed in the auditorium, the negro Odd Fellows' Hall and in hundreds of private homes.

Most of them saved only what they could carry, as household goods piled in the streets in advance of the flames were devoured in the rush of the conflagration.

For six hours dynamite was resorted to and it finally won the fight. Fire fighting apparatus sent from other cities was of some aid and will be of more as acre after acre of smoldering ruins await water to make them safe.

Only one death was reported last night. Mrs. Bessie Hodges died of shock after her home burned. Sixty injured persons were taken to hospitals, but it was reported none was seriously hurt.

Approximately 75 blocks were devastated, but the area can not be correctly estimated by blocks as after the fight at Ponce de Leon avenue the flames skirted that thoroughfare on the south side of the street for some distance. Officials last night would not hazard a guess at the monetary loss. The destroyed buildings ranged all the way from shacks occupied by negroes to homes up to \$6,000 or \$8,000. Some estimates were between \$2,000,000 or \$3,000,000 but they were neither from sources or based on calculations to give them weight.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS TO DALLAS ASSEMBLY

(By Associated Press.) Dallas, Texas, May 22.—Most work being conducted by the Presbyterian church in Europe has been discontinued owing to the war, Dr. Sylvester W. Beach, of Princeton, N. J., said in presenting the report of the special committee on work there before the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church in the United States of America here today. It is planned to resume the work when peace is restored, Dr. Beach said. The report was adopted.

## GOVERNOR BICKETT MAKES AN APPEAL TO CAROLINIANS

To Show Their Patriotism by Enlisting in The Volunteer Service.

THE NEGROES OF THREE COUNTIES

Offer to Raise a Regiment—Application For Pardon For John W. Guldge.

(Special to The Dispatch.) Raleigh, May 22.—Governor Bickett calls upon the patriotism of the State to supply the Nation its men of arms and issued his proclamation yesterday. The State needs more than 5,000 to recruit to the strength demanded by the government. Governor Bickett sets this out and appeals to those who dislike conscription to come forward and relieve the Nation of the necessity of draft. He cites the specific needs and his call indicates the seriousness of the situation. It is generally seen here that the people do not feel the pressure yet. It has been very difficult to get them interested. Governor Bickett makes a fervid call.

The negroes of Franklin, Granville and Vance counties today offered to the War Office their services in the fight with Germany and pledged a regiment from the three counties. They would come in under the regular enlistments. There is no black Tommy among them who desires to take them across the pond to show them off. By the provisions of the National Guard they are not eligible for service with the State troops, but they would be glad to march under the National flag and the department appreciates the offer.

General Royster is a Granville man and Governor Bickett from Franklin. The soldier-blacks of these counties think highly of the commander-in-chief and his adjutant-general. The offer of their services is as much a compliment to them as it is an expression of their patriotism. To form a regiment would require 2,000 men. These, in addition to the demands on the National Guard, would make a State thick with soldiers.

The Wake County Juvenile Protective Association was organized Sunday evening, Governor Bickett presiding and numerous ministers and laymen assisting.

Governor Bickett today heard proposals of pardon for John W. Guldge, under sentence of 18 months for his part in the wrecking of the Southern Savings Bank of Wadesboro. Congressman Lee D. Robinson, H. H. McLondon, John C. M. Vann, John Bennett, and B. C. Ashcraft, Wadesboro and Monroe men, presented the pardon application. They offer \$1,000 in money as a commutation of the sentence. Friends and relatives of the former banker agree to pay that amount as a fine.

The amount alleged to have been lost in the bill of indictment was \$6,500. Items amounting to \$14,000 were laid to him. The friends of Mr. Guldge did not think any worse of the offense could be attributed to him than his faith in his friends and his belief that his property and that of his friends was of such undying value as to make certain no such word as fail.

Governor Bickett today made requisition upon Virginia for Ernest Byrum, Northampton man, wanted in that county for the murder of Lela Lassiter. Sheriff Rosemond, of Orange county, makes the first report to Governor Bickett, indicating compliance with Governor Bickett's letter last week, providing for the registration officers in the select draft order.

## PROVISION PRICES SOARING IN PARIS

Beef Goes to One Dollar a Pound—Tiding Over a Meatless Day.

(By Associated Press.) Paris, May 22.—With the inauguration of the regime of two meatless days a week, beef went to one dollar a pound today and vegetables and fish followed the upward tendency. The rush for meat supplies to carry over until Wednesday swamped the butchers, although they had laid in extra amounts. There was a good deal of crowding, and some sharp talk was heard against rich buyers who paid any price the dealers asked, sending quotations too high for modest purses.

# FISHERMEN OFF THE COAST OF NEW ENGLAND SEND NEWS OF SEEING HOSTILE SUBMARINE

## CONFESSED BRUTE BURNED TO DEATH

Slayer of Child Taken From Officers By Mob and Killed Near Crime's Scene.

(By Associated Press.) Memphis, Tenn., May 22.—Ell Persons, negro, confessed murderer of Antoinette Rappal several weeks ago, was burned to death near the scene of the crime at 9 o'clock today. A mob estimated at from 2,000 to 3,000 witnessed the death of the negro.

Persons is said to have repeated his confession that he killed the child and implicated two other negroes. Members of the mob immediately set out in pursuit of these.

When all was in readiness Mrs. Rappal, mother of the dead girl, was taken to the bridge where the prisoner was held and identified him. In a short talk to the mob she declared she wished Persons to suffer the tortures he dealt to his victim.

Reports from Raleigh Springs, ten miles east of the city, stated the mob estimated at 1,000 persons, which has been awaiting the arrival of Ell Persons, negro, confessed murderer of Antoinette Rappal, several weeks ago, still was in the vicinity.

The officers were bringing persons to Memphis for trial when intercepted by the mob.

## AUSTRIAN MINISTER REACHES ROTTERDAM

(By Associated Press.) Rotterdam (Via London), May 22.—Count Tarnowski von Tarnow has arrived here after an uneventful voyage from the United States. He will leave for Vienna on a special train tomorrow morning. At the same time his fellow passenger, Admiral Paul von Hinton, dismissed German minister to Peking, will entrain for Berlin.

No submarines were sighted and Count Tarnowski declared that his visit to the United States had been most enjoyable.

## ADDS TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

(By Associated Press.) Washington, May 22.—The Senate today passed the bill increasing the membership of the Interstate Commerce Commission from 7 to 9 members and allowing them to divide for the expediting of business. An amendment by Senator Hoke Smith providing that the commission must give a hearing and confirm freight rate increases before they can be put into effect was adopted.

## CAPTAIN RINTELEN GIVEN ONE YEAR

(By Associated Press.) New York, May 22.—One year in jail was the sentence imposed upon Captain Franz Rintelen, of the German navy, David Lamar and H. B. Martin, convicted in the Federal court of conspiracy to interfere with the shipment of munitions to the Entente Allies. Isaac R. Oeland, one of the prosecuting attorneys, said that Buchanan, Fowler, Taylor and Schulteis, in whose cases the jury disagreed, would be brought to trial again in the fall.

## CONTINUOUS STRIKE IN MUNITIONS PLANT

Stockholm, May 22 (Via London).—According to information received here from a Hungarian source a strike has been continuously in progress in all the Budapest munition factories since May 1.

## MANY TRAINMEN BELIEVED KILLED

(By Associated Press.) Clarksburg, W. Va., May 22.—A dozen trainmen are believed to have been killed and others seriously injured when a wreck train on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad crashed into a moving freight at Wallace, 15 miles north of here today. Five bodies have been removed.

## COMPROMISE MADE NEWSPAPER RATE

House Committee Agrees on Sliding Scale For Postal Zones.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, May 22.—A compromise on the proposed second-class mail tax, so as to make it range from one and one-half cents per pound in the first parcels post zone to eight cents in the eighth zone, was agreed upon today by the House Ways and Means committee.

Consideration of the War tax bill was nearing an end in the House today and while the leaders hoped to reach a final vote by tonight, this seemed by no means certain. The amusement tax section was taken up today. One amendment, written into the bill, would put a \$10 annual tax on theatre boxes. It is aimed particularly at grand opera box holders.

The House Ways and Means committee was expected to reach an agreement on the second-class mail plan.

## APPROPRIATION FOR MARINE INSURANCE

(By Associated Press.) Washington, May 22.—The administration bill appropriating \$50,000,000 for the government war risk insurance bureau, and authorizing it to insure lives of crews on American merchant vessels was passed today by the Senate. A similar measure is pending in the House.

## COTTON MILL MEN HOLD CONVENTION

To Formulate Plans For Meeting Needs of The Government in Their Line.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, May 22.—Cotton manufacturers of the North and South met here today in conference to appoint a committee to deal with the government. The Northern manufacturers are members of the National Association of Cotton Manufacturers, and the Southern representatives are members of the American Association of Cotton Manufacturers.

The committee, the personnel of which will be announced later, will endeavor to see to it that the needs of the government are promptly met and will assist both manufacturers and the government in obtaining the highest degree of co-operation.

## DENMARK'S LOSSES THROUGH SUBMARINES

(By Associated Press.) London, May 22.—A Copenhagen dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company says that since the beginning of the war Denmark has lost 150 ships through submarines or mines. The destruction of the ships has been accompanied by the deaths of 210 Danish seamen.

Fishermen Bring Story of Having Sighted Periscope of a Submersible.

COAST GUARD ALSO GOT GLIMPSE OF IT

No Official Confirmation of The Presence of a Hostile Boat, However—Naval Department is Making an Investigation to Find Out Precise Status.

(By Associated Press.) Portland, Me., May 22.—Persistent reports current since war was declared, that a German submarine was in New England waters, were given official recognition today. It was stated by a naval officer that new reports have been received and that an investigation was under way. It was reported to the naval stations that a submarine was seen running awash off Machias at 6 o'clock last night. This report was forwarded to Boston and New York, but not made public. Today three fishermen told of having sighted what they believed to have been a submarine and when their reports were carried by newspaper men to the naval officer referred to above, he admitted having received earlier and similar reports and said that they were being acted upon.

The supposed submarine, which appeared to be about 200 feet in length, was picked up by two fishermen south of Seguin light, at 9:15 o'clock. As they were watching her the engine of their motor boat back fire and instantly the submarine submerged. The fishermen went ashore and a third fisherman soon arrived with the report that he had seen the craft a little later to the west of Seguin light.

The position of the craft seen by the fishermen would fit in with her probable position if she continued in her westerly course, after being sighted off Cross Island last night. Later she was seen by two members of the coast guard, who had ample time to study the craft closely under favorable conditions and were convinced that she was a submarine.

Naval Vessels Investigate. Portland, Maine, May 22.—It was officially made known today that the reported presence of a submarine off the Maine coast was being investigated by the naval stations.

A patrol scrutiny of these waters was ordered following a report to the naval stations that a periscope was sighted late yesterday afternoon and that at 6 o'clock last night a submarine was seen running awash off Machias.

Three lobster fishermen reported they had sighted from two different points what they believed to be a German submarine. They sighted the craft, they said, off the mouth of the Kennebec river at 9:15 o'clock this morning.

It was later learned unofficially that a coast guard at Cross Island had sighted the supposed submarine and watched it for five minutes, when it submerged.

No Confirmation of Reports. Washington, May 22.—The naval commander of the Maine district has forwarded reports of a German submarine in that vicinity, which he said were so far "without confirmation." Investigation is continuing.

## RICH MEN DENIED NEW TRIAL TODAY

(By Associated Press.) New Orleans, May 22.—Albert L. More and Edward E. Carriere, formerly wealthy operators of a large state exporting concern, with headquarters here and branches in other American and European cities today were denied a new trial and were sentenced by Federal Judge Foster to serve two years each in the Atlanta Federal penitentiary. Lemoire and Carriere were convicted in Federal Court several weeks ago of using the mails to defraud. They were charged with swindling numerous banks and firms in this country and Europe out of sums estimated to aggregate \$3,000,000 through negotiation of alleged fraudulent bills of lading on fictitious shipments of staves.