

WEATHER FORECAST.

North Carolina—Fair tonight; slightly warmer west and central portions. Friday, fair and warmer. South Carolina—Fair tonight; Friday fair; slightly warmer interior.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE



VOL. XXIII. NO. 125.

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 24, 1917.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

WATER AND AIR ATTACKS BY GERMANS

Unsuccessful Raid by Zeppelins on Rural Sections of England.

ITALIAN FORCES BREAK ENEMY'S LINE

Austrians Surprised — Air-planes Shower Bombs Upon Them — Counter Attacks Repulsed — Italians Gain Important Ground — German Naval Activity in The Battle.

The Zeppelin and the submarine figure most prominently in the war news of the day, with a raid by airships on the English east counties announced, and the sinking of the 14,000-ton British transport Transylvania, officially reported.

The Zeppelin raid began shortly before midnight and seems, like other raids since the British defensive measures were perfected, to have been a rather abortive affair. Four airships penetrated inland above thick rain-clouds, which handicapped the raiders and the British defensive forces alike. The Zeppelins had little success in locating their positions and the bombs they dropped fell in places where the reports indicating that the damage caused was negligible, while the only casualty was one man killed in a Norfolk village. The Zeppelins got away from the pursuing airplanes during the thick weather.

The last previous visit of the Zeppelins to England was on March 17, when 27 bombs were reported dropped in rural districts. A Zeppelin was approaching the English coast on May 14, when it was attacked by British air forces and destroyed.

Military operations in France are in one of the periodic states of comparative quietude. The French front is the liveliest, the Germans reacting there after the recent French successes. A counter attack on the Vauclerc plateau last night, was repulsed immediately with heavy losses to the Germans.

The Paris war office announces that so far in May 8,600 unrounded German have been captured in the field of the French offensive between Soissons and Aubervie.

German Naval Activity. London, May 24.—Pronounced German naval activity in the Baltic on Tuesday is reported in a Central News dispatch from Copenhagen. Yesterday a violent cannonade lasting throughout the night was heard by persons living along the shore. Houses on Southern Danish islands shook from the concussion.

Italians Break Austrian Line. Rome, May 24.—(Via London)—Italian forces yesterday broke through the Austro-Hungarian lines from Castagnavizza to the sea, taking more than 8,000 prisoners, says an official statement issued today by the Italian War Department.

The War Office announced that Italian forces had occupied part of the area south of the Castagnavizza-Boscomalo road, had passed Boscomalo and had captured the town of Jamiano and strong heights east of Pietrasanta and Bagni.

The official statement said that the Austro-Hungarians were at first surprised and nonplussed. Towards evening they launched counter attacks, but were repulsed.

Italian airplanes numbering 130 dropped tons of bombs on the Austro-Hungarians. The British batteries cooperated with the Italians.

TO REDUCE NUMBER OF PASSENGER TRAINS

(By Associated Press.) Knoxville, Tenn., May 24.—Discontinuance of some of the passenger trains on the Southern Railway system in order to conserve the coal supply, to release men and equipment and to clear the tracks for the efficient handling of troops and supplies for the railroad commissions in the States traversed by Southern lines, in a letter forwarded Wednesday to the individual commissioners by E. H. Coapman, vice president, in charge of operation

JAP. WARSHIPS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. (By Associated Press.) London, May 24.—The arrival of a "considerable number of light Japanese navalcraft in the Mediterranean to co-operate with the naval forces of the Allies" was announced in the House of Commons today by Lord Robert Cecil, minister of blockade. A Paris dispatch last Friday said a number of Japanese gunboats had arrived at Marseilles to assist in the operations against German submarines.

U-BOAT ACTIVITY BEING CHECKED

American Destroyers Take Active Part in This Important Work.

(By Associated Press.) London, May 24.—The sinking of 18 merchantmen of more than 1,600 tons is reported in the weekly shipping statement. Nine vessels of less than 1,000 tons and three fishing vessels also were sunk.

For the third week in succession the losses of British shipping from the submarine war have been held substantially below the large figures which caused so much alarm last month. The losses reported last week were considerably less than half those of the preceding week as regards number of vessels sunk and the report given out today shows only a small increase over last week.

This week's figures of vessels sunk by submarines show that the allied navies are keeping up the good work of the previous fortnight, and the American unit, although still a small one, shares the credit for excellent work.

An admiralty official, speaking to the Associated Press, said: "The American destroyers are playing no small part in the anti-submarine war, and our officers have expressed the greatest enthusiasm at the spirit, enterprise, acumen and quick-wittedness with which the American unit has taken up its work. It is the old American doctrine of keeping everlastingly at it. The Germans, who at first said they would strip us of our tonnage by June 1, have now advanced the date to October 1, and we are confident that when October comes they will be under the same necessity of advancing the date again."

GERMAN AIRPLANES RAID ENGLAND

Little or No Damage Done—Heavy Clouds Enable Them to Evade Pursuit.

(By Associated Press.) London, May 24.—Four or five German airships raided the eastern coasts of England last night, according to an official statement issued this morning. The airships dropped bombs and escaped although pursued.

The official statement says: "Four or five hostile airships approached East Anglia shortly before midnight last. The weather was overcast and a thick bank of rain-clouds made observation difficult.

"Four airships appear to have penetrated inland into the eastern counties. They followed erratic courses and dropped a number of bombs in country districts, apparently being unable to locate their position. The raiders were pursued by our airplanes, but thick clouds enabled them to make good their escape. One man was killed in Norfolk village. The material damage is believed to be negligible."

Well Known Virginian Dead. Roanoke, Va., May 24.—Alonzo O. Burks, 67 years old, city treasurer of Buena Vista, Va., died in a hospital here early today. He was a candidate for State treasurer at the time of his death.

ITALIANS OPENING NEW ATTACK HURL THEIR ENEMY BACK

THE RESOLUTION FOR COMMITTEE ON CHURCH UNION

Adopted By The Assembly of The Southern Presbyterian Church.

SUBSTITUTES FOR BOTH REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE OFFERED AND DISCUSSED—REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MILEAGE MADE.

(By Associated Press.) Birmingham, Ala., May 24.—The General Assembly of the Presbyterian church in the United States decided today, by a vote of 142 to 40 in favor of appointing a committee to confer with a like committee from the Northern branch of the church on the question of organic union.

Discussion of committee reports on the proposition to unite with the Northern branch of the church, was resumed this morning when the assembly began what was believed to be its last day's work of this assembly. A majority committee report submitted yesterday, and still under consideration when the assembly adjourned for the day, recommended against appointment of a committee to negotiate with the Northern church. A minority report took the opposite view, expressing opinion that failure to appoint such a committee would be a burden of failure of property to meet a courteous and sincere approach."

ANTI-ENLISTMENTS CONSPIRACY IN TEXAS

(By Associated Press.) Abilene, Texas, May 24.—Eighty-four members of the Farmers and Laborers' Association of America, living in Jones county today turned over all papers and other data in their possession to authorities who are investigating the association's anti-conspiring activities. They said they had been misled in joining the association. Eighteen men are being held in jail at Sweet Water in connection with alleged activities of the association.

ITALIAN MISSION VISITS DIPLOMATS

(By Associated Press.) Washington, May 24.—Prince Udine and the members of the Italian mission paid a formal call at the State, War and Navy Building shortly before noon today. As they entered they were greeted by crowding and they passed through the corridors, men and women clerks applauded.

AMERICAN KHAKI IN EVIDENCE

On Streets of London—Officers and Red Cross Members Everywhere.

(By Associated Press.) London, May 24.—The engineers from the American army who have arrived in England made a call early today on Ambassador Page and later separated for a series of conferences with war office officials in regard to their various specialties. They were entertained at luncheon by the Earl of Derby, Secretary of War. American khaki was very much in evidence in London today. A number of additional officers and hospital units have arrived, and nurses, especially of the Cleveland and Harvard units, in their blue uniforms, with white arm bands labeled with the insignia of the American Red Cross, already have become a familiar sight to the London public. More than 1,000 persons belonging to the American army are now in Great Britain.

RAILWAY OFFICERS GIVING TESTIMONY ON FREIGHT RATES

Under Cross Examination By Representatives of Groups of Shippers.

INCREASED COSTS AND EARNINGS

Points Gone Into by Examining Attorney and Railway Men of Southern and Louisville and Nashville

(By Associated Press.) Washington, May 24.—C. H. Markham, president of the Illinois Central railroad, under cross examination before the Interstate Commerce Commission today on the 15 per cent. freight rate increase said that without the advance his road, and possibly others, could live, but he insisted that they would be unable to properly handle the needs of the shippers.

BISSING PROPOSAL TO ANNEX BELGIUM

Made by The Emperor Is Forbidden Publication in The German Newspapers.

(By Associated Press.) Copenhagen (Via London), May 24.—The von Bissing memorandum, in which the late Governor General of Belgium urged on the Emperor the necessity of the annexation of the Kingdom, is tabooed to the German press. The censor has apparently forbidden its publication or any reference or comment upon it.

The case is similar to that of the manifestos of the six leagues early in 1915. This manifesto by the big industrial and agricultural organizations of the Empire advanced similar wide reaching designs of annexation in the East and West and was published in the Essen organ of the Krupp. The government at once forbade further publication or comment under heaviest penalty, declaring that it was calculated not only to stir up disaffection at home, but also to check any inclination for peace abroad. Evidently the same reasoning has been applied to the Bissing memorandum, in comparison with which the phrasing of the six league manifesto was relatively mild.

WOMAN'S BODY FOUND IN CREEK

Mystery Surrounds Her Death. Seen to Fall From An Automobile.

(By Associated Press.) Mobile, Ala., May 24.—Discovery of a body early this morning in Chickasaw county creek, near Mobile, has created a big mystery here. The woman, who has not been identified, was well dressed. A large gash in her throat leads officers to suspect foul play. An investigation is being made. The woman wore a wedding ring and was apparently between 21 and 30 years of age.

NO STARVATION YET IN AUSTRIA

But True Condition of War Being Kept From People, Says Penfield.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, May 24.—Former Ambassador Penfield, who has just returned from Austria-Hungary, said today at the White House that conditions in that country are not so bad as might be expected. There is no starvation, he said, but a great deal of deprivation. He said he had but little to report to President Wilson that is not already known. The people in Austria-Hungary still believe that Germany and Austria are winning the war because their only information is given in newspapers censored by the government.

BRITISH TRANSPORT SENT TO BOTTOM AND MANY LIVES ARE LOST

SHRINERS CROWD ROCKY MOUNT

Hundreds Have Gathered For Big Ceremonial—Wilmington Well Represented

(Special to The Dispatch.) Rocky Mount, N. C., May 24.—Today is a big day in Rocky Mount. The spring ceremonial of Sudan Temple is being held here and nearly a thousand Nobles of the Mystic Shrine are in attendance, together with hundreds of visitors and wives and daughters of Shriners from all parts of the State.

TRANSYLVANIA WAS SUNK IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND OFFICERS AND MEN DROWNED

HAD BRITISH TROOPS ABOARD AT TIME

(By Associated Press.) London, May 24.—The British transport Transylvania was torpedoed on May 4 with the loss of 413 persons. The Transylvania was torpedoed in the Mediterranean. The following official statement was given out today: "The British transport Transylvania with troops aboard, was torpedoed in the Mediterranean on May 4, resulting in the following losses: Twenty-nine officers and 373 of other ranks; also the ship's captain, Lieut. S. Brenell, and one officer and nine men of the crew."

DR. ARTHUR WAITE TO BE EXECUTED

To Pay The Death Penalty Tonight For Murder of John E. Peck.

(By Associated Press.) Ossining, N. Y., May 24.—Within three days of the first anniversary of his conviction, Dr. Arthur Warren Waite, a young dentist, will die in the electric chair in Sing Sing prison at 11 o'clock tonight for the murder of his wealthy father-in-law, John E. Peck, of Grand Rapids, Mich.

MORE AMERICANS SAFELY OUT OF TURKEY

(By Associated Press.) Washington, May 24.—The safe arrival in Switzerland of more Americans from Turkey has been reported by American Minister Stovall at Bern.

CONNAUGHT RECEIVES AMERICAN STUDENTS

(By Associated Press.) London, May 24.—The Duke of Connaught shook hands today with sixty American college students who have come to England for the summer of the Young Men's Christian Association. The ceremony took place at the Y. M. C. A. headquarters here. The Duke stood in the center of a group of Americans and welcomed them. He said their presence was "an additional evidence of the whole-hearted way in which America has thrown in her lot with the Allies in the fight for freedom and civilization."

RUSSIAN SOCIALISTS DISAPPOINTED GERMANS

(By Associated Press.) Amsterdam, (Via London), May 24.—The Socialist newspaper Vorwaerts of Berlin says that the recent statements of Premier Lvoff and Foreign Minister Tseretzkoff, in the course of expressing determination to continue the war with the country's allies are a great disappointment to those in Germany who expected a separate peace quickly with revolutionary Russia. The Vorwaerts says Germany's policy is not dictated by the pan-Germans and that the statements of the Russian ministers would never have been made had Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg replied fully and satisfactorily to the interpellation of the Social Democrats regarding war aims, and said that the desires of Austria and Russia were also those of the German government.