

WEATHER FORECAST. North and South Carolina--Probably local thunder showers tonight and Saturday.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH



VOL. XXIII. NO. 140. WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 8, 1917. PRICE FIVE CENTS.

CENTRAL AMERICAN CITIES WIPED OUT

U. S. Commander In London Ready For Work

SAN SALVADOR AND OTHER TOWNS MEET RUIN FROM VOLCANO

Capital of Republic Destroyed and Tens of Thousands Lives Lost. EARTHQUAKE ALSO ADDED TO THE RUIN

Eye Witness Reports Great Area of Death and Destruction--American Minister Cabled News Last Night--Big City Only Partly Destroyed at That Time. RUIN EVERYWHERE. (By Associated Press.) San Juan del Sur, June 8.--An operator who reached the edge of the destroyed zone reported at 9:20 o'clock this morning that San Salvador was in ruins and that everything within a radius of the city for 30 miles had been destroyed by the earthquake. San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua, June 8.--San Salvador, the capital of the republic of Salvador, with a population of more than 60,000, has been totally destroyed, according to a dispatch from San Miguel Salvador. No details as to the manner in which the city was destroyed have been received, but it undoubtedly was the result of an earthquake or volcanic eruption. A dispatch from Tegucigalpa, Honduras, says that in addition to the wiping out of San Salvador, the towns of Quetzaltenango, Nejapa, Suchichoro, Pajamal, Armentinos and Mejicanos also were destroyed. Mejicanos was a suburb of San Salvador. At 9:20 o'clock this morning there was still no communication between San Salvador and Tegucigalpa. The town of Santa Tecla also has been destroyed, according to this report. Residents of San Salvador are camping in the streets and parks. At the time the report was sent it had been raining heavily for five hours. The disaster is supposed to have been caused by an eruption of the volcano of San Salvador, at the foot of which the city is situated. American Minister Heard From. Washington, June 8.--Dispatches from American Minister Long, at San Salvador, sent at 9 o'clock last night while the volcano of San Salvador was erupting, said part of the city had been destroyed by fire but that it was under control. Great damage was done. The dispatch said that about 6:35 p.m., yesterday, severe earth shocks began and continued until about 8:45 when varying degrees of intensity. At about 8:45 the volcano of San Salvador began to belch forth fire and smoke apparently on the side toward Quetzaltenango. There was later one very severe shock, but the tremors of the earth continued with decreasing violence. At the same time there was a steady shower of dry ashes falling over the city. The report says damage to the American legation building will render it uninhabitable, but that all records are safe. It adds that all other city property appeared practically unscathed. One important central business section had been destroyed by fire, which, at the time of telegraphing, seemed to be under control. No dispatch was reported in the minister's dispatch as being known at that hour. It is possible that further volcanic eruption, fire or earthquake might have wrought greater damage after the sending of his dispatch. MINISTER ELKINS REACHES PARIS

ENORMOUS TASK PUT ON AMERICA

To Supply Allies With Food--Mr. Hoover's Report on The Subject. (By Associated Press.) Washington, June 8.--Herbert C. Hoover's report to the government on what the United States must do to sustain its allies with food, made public yesterday, shows that the allies, and a few neutrals which must be considered, require during the next year near a billion tons of cereals alone, and that their needs of meats, fats and sugar will also be enormous. Production in the allied countries and imports from other countries can meet only a portion of these needs; America must supply the remainder. America's surplus on the present scale of consumption will not meet the task requires reduction of home production and that the enormity of the task required reduction of home consumption in many ways. SECRETARY DANIELS IS DISAPPOINTED (By Associated Press.) Washington, June 8.--Secretary Daniels expressed great disappointment today at the action of the House yesterday in killing provision for the acquisition of the Jamestown Exposition grounds, and Sewell's Point adjoining Hampton Roads, as the site for a great base for the Atlantic fleet. "It is a serious situation," Mr. Daniels said. "We have a fleet population now of nearly 30,000 men and there is not one foot of government land where they can put their feet. A great base on Hampton Roads is an absolute necessity and it is vital that the quickest preparation be made for adequate quarters for the men we are taking into the navy. The exposition buildings are not the kind we would construct ourselves, but they could be used quickly. They are the only buildings I know of in the United States situated near the water that are suited for the purpose."

WOODEN SHIP FIGHT BROUGHT TO HEAD

General Goethals Charged by Members of Board With Blocking Progress. (By Associated Press.) Washington, June 8.--Differences over the government's wooden shipbuilding program came to a head last night when F. A. Eustis, assistant general manager of the emergency fleet corporation, and his assistant, F. Huntington Clark, issued statements, virtually charging Major-General George W. Goethals, general manager of the corporation, with halting building of the vessels by prescribing an impossible form of contract. The statements reveal that the fleet corporation has just received offers from 19 firms to build 496 wooden ships, within 12 months, or 786 within 18 months. General Goethals has turned the proposals down because the builders wished to construct the ships on a cost plus ten per cent. profit basis, instead of contracting for a flat price for the ships. Mr. Eustis and Mr. Clark are the mining engineers who originated the wooden shipbuilding plan adopted by the shipping board and regarded by General Goethals as impracticable. When the board formed the fleet corporation and put General Goethals at its head with full powers to build ships to the corporation as the general's aides. After taking charge of the building program, General Goethals turned to steel construction and limited the wooden program to not more than 250 ships, in 18 months. Mr. Eustis and Mr. Clark contend the corporation can build 2,000 wooden ships within that time without interfering with steel building. The disagreement between Major General Goethals, general manager of the Emergency Fleet Corporation, and his aids, over the wooden ship building programme was considered today at a special meeting of the shipping board, with the prospect that F. A. Eustis, assistant general manager of the corporation, and F. Huntington Clark, his assistant, originators of the wooden ship plan, would offer their resignations. Major General Goethals today dismissed F. A. Eustis, of Boston, assistant general manager, and F. H. Clark, of New York, the two engineers who originated the wooden fleet idea. EARTHQUAKE SHOCK REPORTED LAST NIGHT (By Associated Press.) Washington, June 8.--Seismographs of Georgetown University last night recorded a severe earth disturbance about 2,000 miles from Washington. First tremors were recorded at 7:57:30 o'clock. The maximum shocks were recorded at 8:07 p. m. and the disturbance ended at 9:25 p. m. It was thought the quake was in the same region as that recorded several days ago. WISCONSIN SENATE TABLES LIQUOR BILL (By Associated Press.) Madison, Wis., June 8.--There will be no prohibition measure enacted by the present Wisconsin Legislature. This question, which since the first of the session has been an overshadowing issue, was disposed of finally in the Senate yesterday when consideration of a bill drawn in the form the Governor desired, was definitely postponed.

RUSHING UP TROOPS IN FRANTIC EFFORT TO STOP THE BRITISH

WILMINGTON MEN IN WASHINGTON AT BIG HEARING. Owners of Railroad Securities Appear Before Government Commission. WILMINGTON BANKER PLAYS VITAL PART. Mr. Thomas E. Cooper Explains the Situation Clearly to Public--Mr. T. F. Darden at Hearing. (By George H. Manning.) Washington, D. C., June 8.--Mr. Thomas E. Cooper, of Wilmington, is in Washington and attended this afternoon a hearing granted by the Interstate Commerce Commission to the National Association of Owners of Railroad Securities, of which Mr. Cooper is one of the leading members, in regard to the 15 per cent. rate increase asked by the railroads. Mr. T. F. Darden, of Wilmington, assistant to the president of the Atlantic Coast Line, also attended the hearing. This is the first hearing ever accorded by the commission to organized holders of railroad stocks and bonds and marks a new era in railroad history. The National Association of Owners of Railroad Securities was organized in Baltimore about two weeks ago, to stabilize the securities of the carriers of the country. After the hearing before the Interstate Commerce Commission the association will hold a meeting late this afternoon for the election of a full set of officers and to effect a permanent organization. "We believe that as the owners of many millions of dollars of stocks and bonds and other debts of the railroad carriers, we are as vitally interested as the shippers or the railroads themselves in this proposed 15 per cent. rate advance," said Mr. Cooper. "The Interstate Commerce Commission has accepted this view and has agreed to hear us. Our association believes, of course, that the railroads shall be granted a fair return on their investment and sufficient profit to enable to expand their facilities to handle the business of the country, which has been growing by leaps and bounds, while the roads have been unable to expand to handle because of insufficient earnings."

WILMINGTON MEN IN WASHINGTON AT BIG HEARING

But So Far Germans' Counter Attacks Have Little Force Against Attack. GREAT THRUST STILL GOES ON. German Losses Reported to be Large--Situation In Russia Clearing Up For Allies--Spain Approaches a Crisis. Vast numbers of German troops are being rushed forward by Field Marshal von Hindenburg in an effort to stem the British thrust which has swept over the heights dominating the Lille plain and threatens to sweep the Teutons from the great industrial section of Northern France. As every succeeding clash between the mighty armies on the western front has dwarfed the one which preceded it, so the initial phase of the battle of Messines promises to be merely a prelude to the struggle which is to come. The British thrust follows almost on the heels of the triumphant announcement by the German Emperor that the allied offensive in the west had been indefinitely checked, bearing out reports that the Germans had underestimated the power and resources of their foe and were not ready to withstand the terrific blow which fell upon them. From the captured heights the British guns today are sending their message of death across a low and level plain of scarcely five miles in breadth, which separates them from the industrial capital of northern France. Lille is the chief of a little group of three cities in which prior to the war centered France's great textile industries. It formerly had a population of 210,000 and its two sister cities, Roubaix and Tourcoing, were the homes of about an equal number. Turcoing and Roubaix stand on rising ground from 4 to 6 miles northward of Lille, the only high land now in front of the British. Their right flank, however, is protected by a ridge which the right wing of the attacking British army rests. An advance into the plain will outflank this ridge. So far the Germans have reacted hesitatingly before the tremendous thrust which the British have delivered into the long held German line in Belgium. Only weak counter attacks were reported during last night, according to the unofficial accounts from the battlefield, and General Haig's troops have held all the ground they won, which reaches at points a depth of nearly 3 miles. The force of the British drive is only in part indicated by the reports of more than 6,000 prisoners taken. More Germans raked in by the British are being sent rearward and there yet remain to be enumerated the many arms taken. Several batteries are known to have fallen into British hands, the correspondents say, and prisoners tell of the destruction of scores of German guns by British shells. While the counter attacks so far delivered have been readily repulsed, much furious fighting is to be expected before the attack can be pressed further into German-held territory. An event of prime importance in connection with American participation in the war is announced today in the arrival of Major General Pershing and his staff in London. The American officer preceded the expeditionary force he is to command. There has been renewed activity within the past day or two on the French front near St. Quentin. The artillery has been strongly engaged on both sides, and the Germans apparently were preparing an attack last night. The French guns, however, broke up the effort along the road between St. Quentin and La Fere. The renewal of the British offensive has overshadowed all other war events, but the news is timed with the arrival of reassuring reports from Russia. The surrender of the Kronstadt sessionists has been followed by reports of the enthusiastic reception accorded Minister of War Kerensky on his tour of the Russian fronts. The energy with which the minister has acted to restore the morale and discipline of Russia's army has apparently had its reward and has revived hope that the great Slavic country may soon make her military power felt again on the eastern battle line. Outside of the belligerent ranks interest centers in Spain, where the internal crisis is apparently coming to a head. (Continued on page eight.)

AMERICAN GENERAL WITH HIS BIG STAFF NOW SAFE IN EUROPE

Commander of American Expedition Reports Ready For Business. GIVEN OVATION UPON HIS ARRIVAL. Has Party of Almost Two Hundred With Him--Crossed On Liner--Escorted Through Submarine Zone By American Destroyers. (By Associated Press.) London, June 8.--Major-General Pershing, who arrived in London this morning, after an uneventful trip. All the members of his party were in good health and spirits. Their ship was escorted into port by American destroyers. A hearty welcome was extended to the Americans by official representatives of the admiralty, the War Office and the municipal authorities. The War Office has assigned a brigadier-general of the British army as aide to General Pershing. He took up his duties with the commander-in-chief as soon as the latter reached here. The formal welcome to the Americans on the landing stage was a stirring one. A guard of honor, composed of Royal Welsh Fusiliers, was drawn up at the landing, with a regimental band. After General Pershing had been introduced to the military officer in command of the port he inspected the guard of honor, while the band played "The Star-Spangled Banner."

REMARKABLE FEAT IN PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographs Taken of Bombardment of Ostend--Show Great Destruction. (By Associated Press.) London, June 8.--A series of photographic plates of the bombardment of Ostend, which have arrived in London, afford a remarkable example of the development of photography in aviation and record by airplanes. They show in undeniable fashion that the bombardment of Ostend last Tuesday was the most successful of its kind yet accomplished, ensuring that Ostend will be crippled as a useful German base for weeks, if not permanently. HOPE DWINDLES THAT CHILD WILL BE FOUND (By Associated Press.) Springfield, Mo., June 8.--The fear that Lloyd Keet, 14-month-old son of J. H. Keet, banker, of Springfield, may not be returned to his parents, appeared today to be increasing. Despite the belief of detectives that they yet will connect some one of the seven persons known to be in custody in connection with alleged plots to kidnap C. A. Clement, Springfield jeweler, a Springfield baby and a St. Louis munitions maker, with the abduction of the Keet infant close friends of Mr. and Mrs. Keet say they are gradually losing hope that their son will be found unharmed. Rumor after rumor has been sifted, only to leave the case clouded in the same mystery that has surrounded it since the night of May 30, when the child disappeared.

SEA GIVES NEWS OF LOST SHIPS

Bottle Containing Letters From Long-Missing Steamer Washed Ashore. (By Associated Press.) London, June 8.--A bottle containing a number of messages apparently written by members of the crew of the long-missing American steamship, Frederick, has been washed ashore at the Orkney Islands. The messages evidently were written by two Americans and five Spaniards. One of them was dated January 27, 1916. They contained no information as to the circumstances under which the ship was lost. One of them said: "We are sinking in mid-ocean." Others said the writers were dying. Sailed January 2, 1916. New York, June 8.--The American steamship Frederick, a vessel of 1,873 tons gross, owned by the United States Steamship Company, of New York, left here January 2, 1916, for Archangel, Russia. She called at a Nova Scotia port for coal and proceeded on January 18. Nothing more was heard from her. ESPIONAGE BILL PASSED BY HOUSE (By Associated Press.) Washington, June 7.--The conference report on the administration Espionage bill, with its export embargo provision and drastic additions to existing laws against spying, but short of the newspaper censorship feature, was passed by the House yesterday, 86 to 22. SEA GIVES NEWS OF LOST SHIPS (By Associated Press.) London, June 8.--General Pershing arrived in London this afternoon. He was welcomed by Walter Hines Page, the American ambassador; Lord Derby, secretary of state for war; Viscount French, commanding the British home forces, and other officers, including Lord Brooke, who will be attached to General Pershing's staff during his stay in England. Has Numerous Staff. Washington, June 8.--Major-General Pershing, whose safe arrival in England is recorded in the foregoing dispatch, has with him 198 officers, enlisted men and other attaches. The party sailed more than a week ago, without any publicity being given to their departure, despite the fact that it was known to some American newspapers. Here again, as was the case last year, (Continued from Page Six)

AMERICAN SHIP SUNK BY U-BOAT

The Steamer Torpedoed and Crew in the Life Boats Shelled. (By Associated Press.) Paris, June 8.--The torpedoing of a big American steamer and the shelling and sinking by the submarine of the small boats in which the steamer's crew reached Havre in open boats, survivors of the French three masted sailing ship Jeanne Cordonnier. The French ship was torpedoed in the English channel on May 31 and the crew reached Havre in open boats. They declare they witnessed the destruction of the American ship after their own vessel had been sunk. SUCCESSFUL WARFARE ON SUBMARINES (By Associated Press.) Paris, June 8.--Rear Admiral Lacaze, minister of marine, announced in the Chamber of Deputies yesterday that the proportion of submarines sunk has increased markedly, adding: "We are employing a very efficient method and we are able to see the possibility of developing this method so as to render it more efficacious."

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