

WEATHER:
North and South Car-
olina—Fair and warm-
er tonight; Friday,
partly cloudy, proba-
bly light rain.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

10 Pages
Today

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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 14, 1918.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

HUN POWERS ARE ANXIOUS OVER RUSSIA

Trotzky's Refusal to Sign
Peace Treaty Causes
Fear of A Trick

2,340,000 GERMANS
ON WESTERN FRONT

Fighting Confined to Larger
Raider Parties—Three
Times More Ships Sunk
Last Year Than Were
Built

Uneasiness over the Russian situa-
tion in German and Austrian official
circles is indicated in reports in the
German press. The Central Powers
are said to be uncertain concerning
the future attitude of Foreign Min-
ister Trotzky and the Bolshevik govern-
ment and one Berlin newspaper says
the announcement that the Russian
army had been ordered demobilized
was a "sham maneuver."

German leaders are said to have
held conferences as to the best course
to pursue. One report is to the effect
that military operations against the
Bolshevik might be resumed but both
Berlin and Vienna appear to be
satisfied over the probable fate of the
many thousands of Austro-German
prisoners in Russian hands.
Circulation of the message ordering
the demobilization of the Russian ar-
my, the German papers say, was
halted three hours after the order was
sent out. Concerning the situation in
Petrograd there have been no press
reports since early last Tuesday. Dis-
patches last Thursday reported riot-
ing in Petrograd in which 120 persons
were killed.

In France, there has been a slight
increase in the fighting activity. On
the British front Canadian troops
have carried out two successful raids
in the Tynes sector, the Germans
killed in an attempt to hold two Brit-
ish posts they had taken. In Cam-
paine, French troops penetrated to
the third German line south of Butte
Meunil on a front of about 1,200 yards.
Shelters and defenses were destroyed
and 100 prisoners captured. On the
American front in France there
has been no activity of consequence.
The Germans are reported to be work-
ing assiduously building new defenses
and adding fresh troops on the West-
ern front. The Associated Press cor-
respondent at French army head-
quarters says the Germans now have 195
divisions, probably 2,340,000 men, on
the front between the North Sea and
the Alps.

Nineteen British, four Italian and
two French merchantmen are reported
lost by submarines or mines in the
current statement of shipping losses.
Disclosures of British production in
1917 shows that the tonnage sunk last
year by submarines was three times
as great as that built in the United
States and Great Britain. The com-
bined total of production is slightly
more than 2,000,000 tons, while sink-
ings by submarines have been estimated
at 5,000,000 tons. Greatly increased
production is expected in 1918.
The British House of Commons,
last night by a large majority,
passed an amendment offered by a
Member which regretted that the
Government monopolized the energies of
the Government. The government min-
ister had declared that passage of the
amendment would cause the resigna-
tion of the Lloyd-George cabinet. In
the debate in the House, Lord Robert
Gardiner, minister of blockade, announced
that the British government was
drawing attention to a league of nations
and that he had prepared a scheme for

TRIED TO BLACKMAIL
ATLANTA'S MAYOR

TROTZKY'S MOVES CAUSE SUSPICION AMONG GERMANS

Leaders Called to Berlin to
Consider Best Solution of
the Russian Puzzle

CANCELS THE ORDER FOR DEMOBILIZATION

Circulation of Request for De-
mobilizing Army Stop-
ped Three Hours After
its Issuance

Amsterdam, Feb. 14.—Judging from
the latest indications in the German
press, much dissatisfaction and sus-
picion has been aroused by the latest
move of Foreign Minister Trotzky.
Important political leaders are said
to be conferring busily to find the
best solution to the puzzle.
The Kreuz Zeitung, of Berlin, on
Tuesday declared that on "reliable
information" that Trotzky is in no
circumstances to be regarded as a
peace offer, while it is pointed out
by other papers that the Russia war
theatre was mentioned especially in
the official army report of Tuesday.
A Berlin telegram to the Koelnische
Volks Zeitung of Wednesday, says:

"The government is not willing to
continue relations with Russia on
any basis whatsoever unless the present
Russian government signs a regu-
lar peace treaty. As, however, it
must be reckoned for the present at
any rate, that Trotzky does not think
of signing any formulated peace de-
claration, a situation is created which
makes necessary a thorough discus-
sion between the government and the
supreme army command."
The correspondent in an apparent-
ly inspired passage adds:
"The Chancellor is resolved under
no circumstances to conduct further
negotiations in any neutral centre,
and it will be the affair of the Cen-
tral Powers to determine where such
negotiations may best be held. The
recall of the economic commission
from Petrograd is under considera-
tion."

"On the other hand, it is evidently
realized that the question of the big
army of Austro-German prisoners of
war in Russian territory still controlled
by Petrograd cannot be overlooked."
A telegram from Vienna to the
Taglich Rundschau says:
"It is pointed out in well informed
quarters that the confusion and un-
certainty of internal conditions in
Russia demand that the Central Powers
adopt a cautious and waiting atti-
tude, and that in spite of the ab-
sence of a formal conclusion of peace,
there be no hindrance to the ex-
change of prisoners."

All German newspapers note the
fact that three hours after a message
was sent out announcing the order
of a demobilization order to the
Russian army, another Russian mes-
sage was issued, ordering that cir-
culation of this communication be
stopped. It is suggested that this
indicates that the Bolshevik govern-
ment no longer thinks of adhering to
the declaration of Foreign Minister
Trotzky.
The Zeitung Am Mittag goes so far
as to say that there are proofs that
Trotzky's promise of a Russian de-
mobilization is a sham maneuver. It
declares that reliable reports repre-
sent the Bolsheviks as energetically
forming a Red Guard army out of
the remnants of the Russian army, in
the hope of raising a million men to
establish Bolshevik power in the border
States.

A dispatch from Brest-Litovsk re-
ceived in Amsterdam Monday said
that Russia had declared the state of
war to be at an end and that the
demobilization of the Russian armies
on all fronts had been ordered. Rus-
sia, it was added, did not sign a formal
treaty with the Central Powers.
It is indicated in the above dis-
patch that Foreign Minister Trotzky
may have made further proposals to
the Central Powers. If such is the
case, no report concerning it has
been received in this country.
There have been no direct dispatches
from Petrograd for several days.

U. S. Marines Wearing Gas Masks in Trenches in France



These Marines are in the trenches all ready to drive the invading Germans back from the soil of France. They are equipped with all the latest things in gas masks and steel helmets so that they will have every opportunity of beating the Teutons at their own game of war. (From Committee on Public Information). Copy-

NAME MANAGER FOR RAILROAD STEAMERS

W. H. Pleasant To Supervise
Marine Section of Rail-
road Administration

Washington, Feb. 14.—Coastwise
and Great Lakes steamship lines op-
erated by railroads today were placed
under the supervision of W. H. Pleasant
of New York, president of the
Ocean Steamship Company, who was
designated manager of the marine
section of the Railroad Administra-
tion.
Among the lines which will be un-
der Mr. Pleasant's supervision are
the Old Dominion, Ocean Steamship
and Southern Pacific steamships. In-
dependent steamship lines not op-
erated by railroads are not involved in
the new arrangement. Mr. McAdoo
specified that the direction of water
shipping hereafter, will be removed
from the three regional directors and
given exclusively to Mr. Pleasant.
From time to time, it is planned,
the railroad administration will take
over temporarily any steamers not
needed by the shipping board for
trans-Atlantic traffic, and use them
in coastwise trade.

SPRING-RICE'S DEATH SHOCKS WASHINGTON

Recently Retired British Am-
bassador Dies Suddenly
in Ottawa

Ottawa, Canada, Feb. 14.—Sir Cecil
Spring-Rice, recently resigned am-
bassador of the British government
to the United States, died here sud-
denly last night.
The diplomat passed away while
virtually in his sleep. Sir Cecil had
complained of not feeling well and
Dr. Thomas Gibson was summoned
shortly after midnight, but the patient
expired from heart failure not
long after he arrived. The diplomat
had been ailing for some time and his
last public appearance while Ambas-
sador was made when he delivered an
address before the Canadian Club on
the diplomatic side of the war.
Funeral services will be held Sat-
urday afternoon and burial will be in
Ottawa.

Washington Shocked.—Diplomatic
Washington was shocked by the news
of the sudden death in Ottawa of Sir
Cecil Arthur Spring-Rice who retired
after nearly five years service as British
ambassador to the United States
last month in favor of Lord Reading.
Although it had been known that
Sir Cecil had desired for a long time
before his retirement was announced
to be relieved of his duties, no intima-
tion was given when he left Wash-
ington that he was in ill health.
However officials here pointed out
that he had been under tremendous
strain from the responsibilities de-
volving upon him, especially during
the negotiations on the operation of
the Allied blockade before the United
States entered the war. It was known
that Sir Cecil tendered his resignation
during his visit here of Arthur
Balfour to take effect at the con-
venience of the Foreign Office. His
retirement was announced from Lon-
don, January 2.

Sir Cecil, who became British am-
bassador here May 6, 1913, succeeding
Ambassador James Bryce, was born
in 1859.
Roosevelt Continues to Improve.
New York, Feb. 14.—Except for some
Theodore Roosevelt, convalescing from
operations performed last week, showed
a continued improvement today, ac-
cording to physicians at the Roose-
velt hospital. It was stated he passed
another comfortable night.

COMMONS STANDS BY WAR POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The First Obstacle to Lloyd-
George's Cabinet Remov-
ed by Big Majority

PREMIER WAS UNDER HARD FIRE ALL DAY

Bonar-Law and Balfour Ren-
dered Premier Valiant As-
sistance—A Day of In-
tense Excitement

London, Wednesday, Feb. 14.—The
government tonight successfully
overcame the last obstacle threaten-
ing its existence when an amendment
proposed by Richard Holt, which the
ministers had made a question of
confidence, was rejected in the House
of Commons by the very substantial
majority of 131. The Holt amend-
ment expressed regret that continued
military effort is to be the only im-
mediate task of the government. It
was supported mainly by pacifists.
The event shows that however dis-
satisfied parliamentarians may be
with the government's conduct of the
war, the House of Commons is in no
mood yet to force a change in the
government.

It was in a highly charged atmos-
phere that the House met today. First
came the sensational announcement
that Colonel Repington, military cor-
respondent of The Morning Post, was
to be prosecuted in connection with
disclosures concerning the Versailles
conference. Colonel Repington has
been a stout champion of Field Mar-
shal Haig, and General Robertson
against alleged ministerial endeavors
to discredit or shelve these officers.
An article by Colonel Repington ear-
lier in the year revealed a shortage of
high explosives and indirectly aided
in remedying that shortage. Should
his trial be held in public it should
prove of intense interest, but it is
believed it will be held in secret.
Verbal shafts were directed at
Premier Lloyd-George again today from
various quarters of the House. Her-
bert Samuel, former secretary of
home affairs voiced the opinion of
the government's short comings pre-
vailing in a discontented section of
the House of Commons. He suggest-
ed the war cabinet was war-weary
and should be aided by special coun-
cils dealing both with war and home
affairs.

Andrew Bonar-Law, Chancellor of
the Exchequer, and Arthur J. Balfour,
Foreign Secretary, came to the assist-
ance of the hardy Premier. Mr.
Bonar-Law produced statistics
with the view of disposing of charges
against the government of failing
to carry out promises with regard to
shipbuilding, food and other matters.
Like the Premier yesterday, he chal-
lenged the House to change the gov-
ernment if it no longer had confi-
dence in its policy.
Secretary Balfour supported strong-
ly the Premier's view concerning the
speeches of Emperor William, Chan-
cellor von Hertling and Count Czernin,
saying they gave not the slight-
est indication of an approach to the
Allies' war aims, but rather gave the
impression that three years of war
had produced no change in Germany's
military policy. His speech undoubt-
edly had a great influence on the
House and, although the debate con-
tinued, a great many members left
the chamber when he concluded. The
vote was taken in a comparatively
thin house.

Nothing to Report.
London, Feb. 14.—Except for some
hostile artillery activity southeast of
Epehy and in the neighborhood of
Bullecourt, there is nothing of special
interest "says today's official com-
munication.

SAYS CHAMBERLAIN COMFORTED ENEMY

Senator James Vigorously De-
fended the American Mil-
itary Machine

Washington, Feb. 14.—With a broad
suggestion that Senator Chamberlain's
much discussed New York speech in
which he charged that the American
military machine had completely
broken down, might have been the
cause of the failure of Austria and
Germany because the enemy took new
heart and hopes of victory, Senator
James, of Kentucky, spoke today at
length in defense of the administra-
tion's war accomplishments.
Senator James' speech re-opened
the war discussion, which promises to
continue again for several days with
Republicans leading the attack and
Democrats making defense.

Senator Chamberlain's speech, Mr.
James declared, unjustified by the
facts, and of great comfort to the
enemy.
"Who can measure the mighty force
of this utterance in the hands of the
Kaiser?" he asked, stating that it
probably was emphasized in German
newspapers as responsible, coming
from the chairman of the military
committee.

"Of course I know he did not in-
tend to have that effect, but I'm just
pointing out the danger of such ut-
terances. Let's see if they are war-
ranted. I will undertake to prove
they are not."
"Of course, America has made mis-
takes," he declared, "but we want to
go back and live in the atmosphere
before the war."
At length Senator James reviewed
the sudden expansion of the army, the
quick passage of the draft law and
the registration of 10,000,000 men,
their mobilization and equipment and
that whereas the French only had asked
for 30,000 troops at the beginning
to enhearten the French people
many more than 100,000 had been
sent.

DRAFT MOVEMENT TO LAST LONGER

Washington, Feb. 14.—Movement
of men to complete the first draft,
beginning on February 23, will not be
completed within the following five
days as originally planned but will ex-
tend over into March.

A movement not included in pre-
vious announcements will begin
March 4, moving 10,077 men to Fort
Oglethorpe, Ga., and Camp Funston,
Kas.
Provost Marshal General Crowder
today notified Governors that classi-
fication of selected men virtually has
been completed and that in the fu-
ture local boards' duties will consist
only of supervision of the drawing of
units from their respective communi-
ties and re-classification of men un-
dergoing change of status.

Peace Debate Next Week

London, Feb. 14.—An important
peace debate will begin in the Ger-
man Reichstag on February 21, ac-
cording to a wireless dispatch from
Amsterdam. Chancellor von Hertling
will discuss the treaty with the Uk-
raine and will reply to President Wil-
son, Premier Lloyd-George and Prem-
ier Orlando.

AMERICANS IN CHAMPAGNE

Paris, Feb. 14.—American batter-
ies took part in the artillery bom-
bardment in connection with the
large French raid in the Cham-
pagne yesterday, it is announced
officially. Effective assistance was
given by the American gunners.
(This is the first mention of
American batteries on the Cham-
pagne front.)

PRESIDENT ORDERS INVESTIGATION OF HOG ISLAND YARD

The Great Shipbuilding Plant
Near Philadelphia Ad-
versely Criticized

SERIOUS CHARGES HAVE BEEN MADE

Declared That Government
Has Been "Gouged" for
Millions—Attorney
General Sift Matter

Washington, Feb. 14.—President
Wilson today directed Attorney Gen-
eral Gregory to investigate the much-
discussed Hog Island Shipyard con-
tracts which have been adversely
criticized before the Senate Com-
merce Committee and determine if
there has been any criminal misuse
of government funds.
The President also directed the At-
torney General to work in conjunc-
tion with Chairman Hurley of the
Shipping Board in his investigation.
About \$42,000,000 for government mon-
ey has been invested in the Hog Is-
land project in which the American
International Corporation, headed by
Frank A. Vanderlip, president of the
National City Bank of New York, has
figured.

Investigation by the Department of
Justice was recommended by Chair-
man Hurley, of the Shipping Board,
who asked that an assistant to the
Attorney General be sent to Hog Is-
land to work with Assistant General
Manager Bowles, of the Emergency
Fleet Corporation. Mr. Bowles was
put in active charge of the yard re-
sulting.
Mr. Bowles has been directed by
Chairman Hurley to put the Hog Is-
land yard on an economic basis. Ship-
ping board officials are of the opin-
ion that there has been nothing done
at Hog Island than inefficient waste
of money and a reckless spending of
funds, but they want to ascertain all
the facts.

The Hog Island Ship yard, on the
Delaware river, near Philadelphia, is
planned to be the greatest in the
country, with more than 50 ways on
which to lay down ships.
The American International Cor-
poration, through its subsidiary cor-
poration, the American International
Shipbuilding Company, has contracts for
its construction and for ship-
building there, from the Emergency
Fleet Corporation, acting for the
United States Shipping Board.

Testimony before the Senate Com-
merce Committee, investigating the
whole subject of shipping contracts,
has developed statements that the
government will be obliged to spend
between \$40,000,000 and 50,000,000
where government and civilian ex-
ports estimated \$21,000,000 would suf-
fice.
This testimony developed charges
by Representative Lenroot, Republi-
can of Wisconsin, on the floor of the
House, that through laxness in the let-
ting of the contracts the American
International and its subsidiary were
placed in position to loot the treasury
of millions of dollars.
These charges, however, that the
International was "gouging" the gov-
ernment, have been characterized as
"maliciously false" by George J. Bal-
win, of New York, head of the Amer-
ican International Shipbuilding Cor-
poration, in his testimony before the
Senate Commerce Committee.

It was developed among other
things at the Senate committee's
hearing, that Colonel Black, of Phila-
delphia, one of the former owners
of Hog Island, got \$2,000 an acre for
which he held an option on Hog Island at \$1-
000 an acre.
Provost Marshal General Crowder
today notified Governors that classi-
fication of selected men virtually has
been completed and that in the fu-
ture local boards' duties will consist
only of supervision of the drawing of
units from their respective communi-
ties and re-classification of men un-
dergoing change of status.

Mr. Vanderlip's name was brought
into the investigation as being presi-
dent of the mother corporation and
as having countersigned the con-
tracts.
Mr. Baldwin, before the Senate
Committee, attributed the rise in
costs to the fleet corporation's delay
in signing contracts. The fleet cor-
poration, he declared, while pressing
for speed, wasted two months in sign-
ing a contract and threw the work in-
to mid-winter which brought also
great increases in material, labor and
everything else.

Charles A. Plez, vice president of
the Fleet Corporation, said in his
testimony before the committee that
there had been extravagance in build-
ing the yard. Mr. Baldwin, however,
reminded the committee that the en-
gineer who supplied the data on
which that assertion was made later
had withdrawn most of it.

A BILLION DOLLAR DEFICIENCY BILL REPORTED TODAY

Largest Bill of Its Kind in the
History of Congress
is Presented

HUGE AMOUNTS FOR MILITARY ACTIVITIES

Ordnance, Airplanes, Food
and Fuel Administrations
Call for Large Sums.
Testimony Public

Washington, Feb. 14.—A billion dol-
lar urgent deficiency appropriation
bill, the largest of its kind in the his-
tory of Congress, was favorably re-
ported to the House today by Chairman
Sherley, of the Appropriations Com-
mittee. Consideration of the bill,
which provides for the immediate
needs of the War, Navy and other de-
partments, is expected to begin in the
House tomorrow.

In presenting the measure Chair-
man Sherley made public testimony
given to the committee by department
chiefs during the past month of com-
mittee investigation. Huge amounts
were asked for various military
activities. Among these was a total
of almost \$31,000,000 for mountain,
field and siege artillery in addition
to more than \$1,000,000 already spent,
and contract authorizations of \$775,
000,000 additional. The testimony of
Colonel Ames, of the Ordnance Depart-
ment, said that the total amount
available for this purpose since the
beginning of the war under direct ap-
propriations and contract authoriza-
tions was \$1,816,000,000 of which
amount orders have been placed requir-
ing ultimate expenditure of \$1,252,000,
000, leaving still available, for con-
tract \$564,000,000. He said the
\$1,816,000,000 was intended to supply
ammunition, upon revised estimates of
the quantities needed, for 2,000,000
men, including the ammunition needed
for the light trench mortars. The
\$31,000,000 additional he declared, is
asked as a result of a change in the
military supply program, including new
requirements for a larger number of
shells, for ammunition for guns mount-
ed on tanks, and \$7,000,000 for a plant
designed for the filling of projectiles
with gases and \$2,000,000 for a plant
for the same purpose to be erected in
France.

At his examination before the com-
mittee, Chairman Sherley's report said,
General Wheeler, of the Ordnance
Bureau brought out that the govern-
ment had an arrangement with the
French to supply artillery and ammu-
nition to a certain number of Ameri-
can troops arriving in France, but after
these units are supplied the United
States would fully equip additional
troops.

America's resources, General Wheel-
er testified were sufficient to meet all
war needs. He asserted the War De-
partment had a billion dollars' worth
of ammunition contracts.
Major General Squier, chief signal
officer, testified the signal corps has
spent or obligated at the \$640,000,000
appropriated to carry out its airplane
program and has incurred obligations
that will equal \$30,000,000 in addition
and may go beyond that, for the pres-
ent fiscal year. He asked \$277,732,
000 to procure bombs for the air-
planes.

Discussing and shipping facilities,
General Goethals said approximately
\$100,000,000 with authorization of
\$50,000,000 more, is needed for stor-
age of quartermaster supplies along
the seacoast, including huge amounts
for various specific terminals.
Federal Food Administrator Hoover
said the combined food and fuel ad-
ministrators so far have had total ap-
propriations of \$5,515,000, out of which
there has been an actual expenditure
of \$1,985,429 and there are now out-
standing obligations of \$2,572,332,
leaving \$1,257,950 balance. He asked
\$2,000,000 for now.

BRITISH LINE IN ITALY LENGTHENED

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 14.—The British
line in Italy has been considerably
lengthened to the east of Montello
ridge, along the Piave river, according
to a London dispatch to the Ottawa
Agency of Reuters, Limited. The
line now extends to some miles of
Nervesa.

Baker Before Committee.
Washington, Feb. 14.—Secretary
Baker before the House Military com-
mittee today, discussed the pending
army appropriation bill in executive
session. The secretary's testimony
was described as being of a highly
confidential character.