

WEATHER.
North and South Carolina: Cloudy tonight; Thursday, probably rain on the coast; cold with moderate cold.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

TODAY'S NEWS
TODAY

Vol. XXIV. No. 43.

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1918.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

BOTH SIDES NOW READY FOR BATTLE

All Preparations Made for Long Expected Offensive on Western Front

SECRETARY BAKER'S WEEKLY WAR REVIEW

Germans Are Expected to Make a Gigantic Effort to Break Through—Operations of the Past Week

Washington, Feb. 20.—After extensive preparations, silently and systematically carried on it is apparent that both the Germans and the Allies are ready for the long expected offensive in the West, says Secretary Baker today in his review of military operations for the week ending February 16.

"While there have been outwardly no new developments in the military situation in the West during the period under review," says the Secretary's communique, "yet it is apparent that both the enemy and the Allies, after the extensive preparations which have been going on for some time, are ready for battle."

"The Germans have recently withdrawn a number of their veteran West front units from the first line trenches and are busily training them in mobile warfare."

"According to advices received, the German general staff hopes that by massing a large number of picked shock battalions which have been intensively trained, they may deliver a crushing blow."

"The bulk of the German forces are now assembled in the West. But a large number of these units are wholly untrained in the method of Western front warfare, which differs radically from that conducted along other fronts. Furthermore the German higher command realizes fully that their forces will meet with far more difficult tactical obstacles than any hitherto encountered by an attacking army. A break through was possible in Russia only after the morale of the Russians was undermined; the same was true in Italy and we witnessed how speedily the Italian line was wended."

"During the week there has been much activity of a minor character along the entire Western front."

"As has already been announced, in Lorraine a segment of the line is entirely under the control of our forces along our front, patrol encounters were numerous. The Germans undertook a raid against our positions and succeeded in inflicting a few casualties. A small American patrol, while scouting in No. Man's Land, was ambushed by the enemy."

"The weather was very rainy during the first part of the week and our troops were busy manning the pumps in an effort to keep their trenches dry. Later, clear weather prevailed and hostile aircraft made frequent flights to reconnoiter our positions. A marked improvement in our anti-aircraft barrage is reported. Artillery duels took place and the Germans showered our lines with gas shells which, however, caused no casualties, owing to efficient gas mask protection."

"In Champagne, units of American troops participated in an engagement undertaken by French forces. The operation was the most important of the week in the west. After very careful artillery preparation, during which our batteries co-operated successfully, French infantry advanced to the assault southwest of the Butte du Mans, along a front of about 1,400 yards. The French succeeded in penetrating the German positions, broke through the second and reached the third German line. During this brisk attack, the French destroyed many pillboxes, inflicted much damage to enemy positions, besides bringing back 150 prisoners."

"Other successful raids were undertaken by French detachments in the vicinity of the Chemin Des Dames, east of Rheims, in Upper Alsace and elsewhere. In all, the French drove forward 12 very fortunate reconnaissance undertakings along different parts of the line."

"German units were also active. Their attempts to reach the French lines were temporarily successful in the vicinity of Bezonvaux and in Alsace. However, seven German raids at various points broke down. French artillery kept the enemy constantly engaged along a widely scattered line."

"The British front was also the scene of numerous minor engagements. No important actions took place, and the enemy, who was evidently busy with the grouping of units and disposing fresh forces recently arrived from other theatres in the front line undertook only such reconnoitering engagements as to familiarize the new units with the nature of the terrain in front of them."

"In the Italian area the enemy has

CONTINUE TO ADVANCE.

Berlin, Feb. 20 (via London).—German forces on the Russian front yesterday advanced to the northeast and east of Dvinsk, the German war office announced today.

ALLIED SHIPPING HAS PASSED LOWEST POINT

Stated That Amount of Shipping Available Will Now Increase

Washington, Feb. 20.—The low point of available Allied shipping has been passed two or three weeks earlier than officials expected and confidence was expressed today that the amount of shipping available for the future would increase steadily.

Several factors were said to have contributed to advancing the amount of available tonnage. Included among them were the increased efficiency of the offensive against the submarines and the beginning of deliveries from American shipyards. The transfer of neutral shipping to trade outside of the war zone, thereby releasing allied tonnage for trans-Atlantic service, also contributed to the increase of available bottoms. Improvement in harbor defenses and facilities in France, so as to facilitate the unloading of transports, likewise tended to speed up the release of ships which are enabled to make trips more frequently than usual.

If production continues unimpeded by labor troubles and if anti-submarine operations continue to give the results expected, the amount of tonnage is expected to show steady gains as the year progresses.

In estimating shipping resources the low point of the curve based on production and destruction was put in the latter part of this month. Unexpectedly the low point was reached about February 1, the tonnage having shown a steady increase since that time, with little expectation by officials that it will show anything else but an increase from now on.

The labor factor is said to be the principal item in maintaining production at home. If the ship workers continue to do their part, officials do not doubt that the ships that will bring victory will be turned out in time.

BASEBALL CATCHER KILLED BY MATE

Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 20.—Edward L. Hurlburt, former catcher for the Southern Baseball Association teams, was shot and instantly killed here early today by Charles Shields, a one time first battery mate. Shields claimed the shooting was accidental. The killing occurred in the clothes cleaning establishment of which Hurlburt was the proprietor. At the time Hurlburt was shot, it is claimed, he was asleep in a chair, and Shields says the pistol was discharged when he accidentally touched it. Shields recently has been employed as a deputy sheriff and Hurlburt was a constable.

Twenty Years for Evading Draft.

Camp Funston, Kas., Feb. 20.—George Yeager, of Troy, Kas., convicted here recently by court martial on charges of evading the draft, today was sentenced to 20 years in the Federal penitentiary at Leavenworth. Yeager, who is 23 years old, refused to serve, denounced the government and boasted that he was a member of the I. W. W.

Montana Ratifies Amendment.

Helena, Mont., Feb. 20.—The Montana Legislature yesterday ratified the Federal prohibition amendment.

assumed an aggressive attitude.

"The concentration of an important body of German cavalry in the vicinity of Iraq is noted and it is believed that the Germans may find expedient to advance on Petrograd. It is difficult to determine the exact status of affairs in Southwestern Russia. The Russian contingents are evacuating the Black Sea which are being re-occupied by Turkish detachment. Trebizond will probably soon fall into Turkish hands."

It is important to record that large contingents of Arabs are joining the forces of the Sheikh of Mecca who is co-operating with the British.

"The Arabs have defeated the Turks in two encounters, occupied El Mazrah, southeast of the Dead Sea, and are advancing along the Hedjaz railway towards Mecca."

FIRST PHOTOGRAPH OF THE INTER-ALLIED NAVAL COUNCIL



First photograph showing the Inter-Allied Naval Council members before a session in London. Front row, left to right, Admiral Sims, U. S. N.; Admiral de Bon, France; Sir Eric Geddes, Great Britain's First Lord of the Admiralty; Admiral de Revel, Italy; Rear Admiral Fushikoshi, Japan. Back row, left to right, Admiral Fremantle, Great Britain; Capt. Twining, U. S. N.; Rear Admiral de Lost-ende France; Capt. Grease, Great Britain; and Admiral Wemyss, Great Britain's First Sea Lord. Copyright, Underwood & Underwood.

LLOYD-GEORGE'S GOVERNMENT HAS PASSED THE CRISIS

Turmoil Following General Robertson's Retirement Has Been Smoothed

THE PREMIER MAKES A FULL EXPLANATION

Tells House of Commons the Events Leading Up to Action by Council and the Results

London, Feb. 19.—Premier Lloyd-George and his government have surmounted another "crisis" and the parliamentary waters appear to run smoothly again after a week's turmoil stirred up by the retirement of General Robertson, chief of the imperial staff.

In the House of Commons today the Premier explained and defended the recent reorganization of the Versailles council and his dealings with the famous chief of staff. There was no proposal for a vote of want of confidence, but H. H. Asquith, the former Premier, expressed regret that the explanations had not been given a week ago, when the Premier declared he could not go into the subject without giving information to the enemy.

The Premier's speech was a detailed but guarded recital of the proposals by which the four powers at Versailles had arrived at the principles of their latest form of co-operation.

The plan finally agreed upon by the council, he said, was due largely to the strong logical representations which the American delegates had submitted and the Premier several times reverted to the influence which the results of the conference. He paid warm tribute to General Robertson and expressed the regret of the government that it had been unable to induce him to take a position in which his abilities will be most useful.

Mr. Asquith asserted the country regarded with deep concern the recent enforced retirement of the government's chief naval and military advisers, Admiral Jellicoe and General Robertson.

The public and their own professions had the utmost confidence in these men. Mr. Asquith added that the country had noted that both retirements were preceded by a hostile press campaign. The public questioned whether these losses were compensated by the retention of the Early of Derby in the war ministry and the appointment as director of foreign press propaganda—referring to Viscount Northcliffe, although he did not mention his name—whose newspaper had conducted the press campaign.

There was a little altercation between the two Premiers over the question of General Robertson's failure to approve the Versailles plan. Finally Mr. Asquith said he did not quarrel in the least with the decision of the Versailles council in respect to its functions. He took the view that the military representative

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AMERICAN PLANE LOST.

Washington, Feb. 20.—Vice Admiral Sims advised the Navy Department today that the American seaplane in which Ensign Albert Dalton Sturtevant, U. S. N. R. F., was lost, is claimed by Germans to have been shot down in flames. Ensign Sturtevant was second pilot in the machine.

"Apparently this machine was attacked by 10 enemy planes," the dispatch states.

DATE FOR SECOND DRAFT FOR ARMY NOT DETERMINED

Reports of When Draft is to Begin Guesswork, Says Baker

LAST OF THE FIRST DRAFT NOW MOVING

Movement Started This Week Completes First Call—Second Will Move in Lots of 100,000 a Month

Washington, Feb. 20.—Secretary Baker authorized the statement today that no date had been selected for the beginning of the second draft. Various estimates have placed the time between March 1 and June 1. These are declared to be entirely guesses.

The government's disposition not to disturb the labor situation, particularly on farms at the planting season is one of the factors being considered. The provost marshal general's office, it is understood, is disinclined to go ahead with the second draft until Congress has perfected the law by pending amendments to change the basis of apportionment, and to authorize the president to call into the military service men skilled in industry and agriculture regardless of previous classification.

The remaining increments of the first draft will begin to move forward to the camps beginning this week. It is probable that next month local boards may be asked to forward small increments necessary to replace men going overseas, but the expected summons of half a million will be later.

Plans for the second draft as now under consideration include calling 100,000 a month until the second quota is complete. In that way officials expect to avoid much of the confusion which accompanied the first call. The men will report in a steady stream and be assimilated into the military machine before the next lot is received.

It has been definitely settled that the first contingents will be used to fill vacancies in National Guard divisions caused by the withdrawal of men for the organization of special and technical units. Similar vacancies in the National Army divisions will have been filled by that time from the final increment of the first draft.

ASKS SHIP WORKERS TO JOIN RESERVES

Washington, Feb. 20.—Food Administrator Hoover, in a statement today called on all patriotic ship workers to enroll in the public service reserve. No amount of increased food production, decreased food use, or food substitution and saving will help unless ships for sending food across the Atlantic are available, he said.

"My anxieties about ships are no less numerous and various than those about food itself," said Mr. Hoover. "Hence it is with the utmost earnestness that I endorse the idea of creating a voluntary reserve of men from which the man power necessary to solve the great problem of shipping can be recruited as rapidly as it can be used. For every army of fighters there is necessary a much larger army of loyal, eager men devoted to the maintenance of the fighting unit. One is as essential and truly patriotic a service as the other."

Movement of Last Quota. Jackson, Miss., Feb. 20.—The movement of Mississippi's last quota of the first selective draft was started today for Camp Pike, and will be finished before the end of the week. The last quota consists of 6,000 white men and 3,689 negroes.

GOVERNMENT TO BUILD RAILROAD TO FORT CASWELL

Road to Be Extended From Southport to the Fort in 90 Days

TO FULLY INVESTIGATE PORT OF WILMINGTON

Chairman Hurley Assures Wilmington Delegation That He Will Look Into the City's Proposition

(By George H. Manning.)

Washington, D. C., Feb. 20.—The delegation of Wilmington business men has met with material encouragement in their labors here to have the government adopt a plan of building ships at Wilmington and undertake other developments in Eastern North Carolina.

Yesterday Congressman Godwin, accompanied by H. C. McQueen, M. W. Divine and M. J. Corbett, called on General Littell, in charge of cantonment and camp instruction for the War Department, and urged the extension of the Wilmington, Brunswick and Southport Railway from Southport to Fort Caswell.

The great advantage the government could obtain through the development of Fort Caswell as an army camp, and port of embarkation for the soldiers to France if the Fort is connected with the outside world through the construction of the 15 miles of railroad necessary between Southport and the Fort. Upon their return to the capital the party said that General Littell had agreed to undertake the plan and stated to them that the railroad will be completed in 90 days.

The party explained to General Littell that at Fort Caswell the government owns 2,760 acres of land adjacent to deep water for ships, fresh water for drinking purposes and enjoying excellent climate, where a big cantonment could be built to concentrate soldiers preparatory to shipping them to France. Fort Caswell is out of the way, they told General Littell, and troop movements could be carried on there with the utmost secrecy.

Yesterday afternoon the whole delegation from Wilmington, accompanied by Senators Simmons and Overman, and Congressman Godwin, held a conference with Chairman Hurley, of the Shipping Board, and urged him to establish a shipbuilding plant at Wilmington.

Mr. Hurley said he would not be adverse to assisting in the establishment of a ship yard there if he could be properly assured by the Wilmington business men that the necessary skilled laborers could be obtained about Wilmington in abundance, he said, but expressed doubt that it would be possible to assemble there the skilled shipbuilders necessary.

CHINESE EARTHQUAKES DO GREAT DAMAGE

Peking, China, Feb. 20.—Reports here today from the districts of ear quakes last Wednesday showed a loss of life and heavy property damage. The hundred were reported from Swatow. A number of persons injured have been reported. One-fifth of the city was destroyed. Great damage was reported from Ching and Delta towns, exact details which were lacking.

HUN ARMIES CONTINUING INTO RUSSIA

HURRYING PEACE TREATY.

Petrograd, Feb. 20.—General Hoffman, the German military representative at the Brest-Litovsk conference, has telegraphed to the Bolshevik government for a written authentication of the Russian wireless peace message sent yesterday to Derling. General Hoffman, according to a Russian official statement given out today, says that the authentication must be sent to the German command at Dvinsk.

The Russian official statement says that a message from Petrograd is being sent by Dvinsk today with the original peace message which was signed by Premier Lenin and Foreign Minister Trotsky.

Despite Report That Russia Has Accepted Peace, Invasion Proceeds

TEUTON PEOPLES ARE OPPOSED TO THE WAR

Renewal of Hostilities Against Russia Provokes Storm at Home—Activity on Western Front

Notwithstanding the Bolsheviks have announced their willingness to conclude an immediate peace on the Central Powers' terms, the German armies are continuing to advance into Great Russia. The German headquarters statement today reports a further forward move of the German forces, which recently crossed the Dvina on the Northern front and occupied Dvinsk. They pushed on east and northeast of that city yesterday it is announced.

Germany undertook this campaign to safeguard peace and order in the occupied regions on her Eastern frontier. Dr. von Keuhlmann, the German foreign minister, told the Reichstag main committee yesterday. She has lost faith in the pacifist intentions of Russia, he declared.

Nevertheless, Dr. von Keuhlmann announced, Germany even now was ready to make peace with the Russians on a basis which would protect German interests. It seems probable that his address was made before the Bolshevik protest and offer of submission was received in Berlin, but the continued advance of the German armies reported today makes it appear that the German military authorities, at least, are in haste to check the forward movement.

MEXICO BUYS WHEAT IN SOUTH AMERICA

Allied Governments Likely to Interfere With the Argentine Purchases

El Paso, Texas, Feb. 20.—Between 30,000 and 40,000 tons of wheat and flour have been purchased in Chile and Argentina for distribution in Mexico according to El Universal, a semi-official newspaper published in Mexico City, a February 11 copy of which was received here today. The wheat and flour purchased by agents of the Mexican government, already are being loaded at South American ports and are expected to reach Mexico City by March 15, the newspaper said.

Argentine to Object

Washington, Feb. 20.—Any attempt by Argentina to dispose of any considerable quantity of wheat other than to allied countries probably will meet with opposition by the United States and her co-belligerents. The reports that Mexican agents had made contracts for wheat in Argentina were supplemented by information at the State Department today which indicated that the agents were members of the party that accompanied Luis Cabrera to South America.

Contracts already have been made by the French and British for the greater part of the surplus Argentine wheat and officials of the American government assume that the Argentine government will see there is no violation of those agreements. In the event an effort is made to move grain to Mexico in large quantities difficulties probably will be placed in the way of providing bunker coal for any ships that might be intended for that purpose.

SELF STYLED MARQUIS PLEADS NOT GUILTY

New York, Feb. 20.—Pleas of not guilty to three indictments were entered by Edmond Rousselo, self-styled "Marquis Di Castillo," who posed as a French diplomat and confidant of King Alfonso, of Spain, when arraigned in the Federal Court here today. In default of bail, the bogus nobleman was remanded to the Tombs.

In addition to charges of obtaining money under false pretenses, he is accused of violating the espionage act.

BANKS TO REPORT ALIEN PROPERTY

Washington, Feb. 20.—A. Mitchell Palmer, alien property custodian, today urged all banks, trust companies, surrogates, United States attorneys and internal revenue collectors to report at once any enemy-owned property known to them.

Mr. Palmer says many persons, including banks and trust companies, have failed to report enemy property and he has ordered an investigation.

FARM LOAN BANKS LOANED \$11,787,000

Washington, Feb. 2.—Farm land banks loaned in January \$11,787,000. The bank in Columbia, S. C., made \$288,000 in loans. New Orleans \$778,000 and Houston \$1,006,000.

DAILY COST OF WAR 6,384,000 POUNDS

London, Feb. 20.—Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, speaking in the House of Commons today, said the average daily expenditure during the four weeks ending February 16 was 6,384,000 pounds sterling.