

WEATHER.
North and South Carolina: Generally fair to bright and Friday, except rain and colder Friday in extreme west portion.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

TODAY'S NEWS
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HERTLING'S SPEECH WAS LIP SERVICE

Chancellor's Latest Utterance Offers no Basis for Peace, Says Balfour

GERMAN ADVANCE MEETS RESISTANCE

Progress of Invaders Slowed Up by Russian Opposition. Americans Showered With Gas Bombs

No basis for peace is found in the speech of Count von Hertling by A. J. Balfour, the British Secretary for Foreign Affairs. In making the first official reply to the German Chancellor in the House of Commons, he rebuffed the Germans' suggestion concerning Belgium and said that the Chancellor's professed acceptance of President Wilson's four principles was only "lip service."

There was nothing to indicate that diplomatic conversations with the Central Powers in their present frame of mind would bring a lasting peace. To undertake negotiations unless they would lead to the righting of the wrongs committed by Germany would be "the greatest crime against the peace of the world." Secretary Balfour declared that Germany changed her policies to suit her needs. Mr. Hertling offered no new proposals. In her advance into Russia the Germans are meeting with more resistance and apparently they have been unable to make much headway toward Petrograd from Pskov. Petrograd is declared to be the "bottleneck" in the North. Tuesday the Germans made no progress there, or at least Berlin reports none, while in the South the greatest gains were made in the Ukraine. A German attempt to take Vitebsk, near the center of the front, failed before Russian resistance which forced the German to retreat. Petrograd says, "The American sector in France on Wednesday again was subjected to an attack by gas shells which had little effect. Tuesday's two gas attacks caused five deaths and the poisoning of about 60 American soldiers. The majority of those affected by the gas are not in a serious condition. German airplanes are still active over the American front, 27 having crossed the line Wednesday.

Aerial and artillery fighting on the British and French fronts is most severe. Eighteen German airplanes were brought down by the French and British airmen and guns, while Berlin claims to have accounted for 15 German machines. German airdromes, railway junctions and other military targets continued to be bombed by allied air men.

Shipping losses for the week show an increase over the previous period. Eighteen merchantmen, 14 of more than 1,000 tons, were sunk by submarines or mines, as compared with 15, including 12 of the large tonnage, the week before. France and Italy lost no ships of the large tonnage and the Americans only one vessel of more than 1,000 tons. Another Spanish ship, the *Serrano*, the sixth in the series, is reported to have been torpedoed by a German submarine.

Allen Slicker Bill.

Washington, Feb. 28.—The so-called Allen Slicker bill to bar from citizenship and authorize deportation of all aliens of draft age who claim exemption from military service and authorizing the drafting of any aliens for agricultural or manufacturing work was passed by the House last night by a vote of 24 to 21. It now goes to the Senate.

ASKS CONGRESS TO AID INVESTIGATION

Washington, Feb. 28.—Special and speedy legislation to lay bare the confidential files of the great meat packers and disclose what government investigators believe will show plans to take complete control of the meat industry was asked of Congress today by the Federal Trade Commission. The recommendation of Francis J. Heney, special counsel conducting the investigation, who has been restrained by court orders from releasing further papers and also from presenting already seized by his agents, the commission laid the facts before Congress and asked for action. "Charging that Henry Veeder, a partner in many papers which have been used as instrumentalities in the commission of felonies," Mr. Heney

GERMAN ARMY HALTS.

London, Feb. 28.—The German army has received orders to stop its advance into Russia, according to the Petrograd correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph Company, who has received information to this effect which he regards as reliable.

GLENART CASTLE HAD 182 PERSONS ABOARD

Survivors Believe Hospital Ship Was Victim of Submarine

London, Feb. 28.—The British hospital ship *Glenart Castle* had 182 persons on board, it is stated unofficially, when she went down Tuesday in the Bristol channel. Three parties aggregating 38, have been landed at Swansea, Milford and Pembroke. None of the others have been heard from. The missing include about seven female nurses.

Survivors of the *Glenart Castle* landed at Swansea, declared the ship was torpedoed by a submarine. No submarine was seen by them but a dim light was seen on the surface of the water before the ship was shaken by an explosion.

NEWSPAPER SEES PEACE POSSIBILITIES

Amsterdam, Feb. 28.—Chancellor von Hertling's denial of any intention by Germany to establish herself in Estonia and Livonia, says the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, excludes misunderstanding. It adds: "It must now be assumed that there is no fundamental difference of opinion between the Chancellor and President Wilson, and peace discussion based on President Wilson's principles might begin immediately. It is important, however, for the President to induce his allies to recognize his principles. As they seem to be hopelessly entangled in their own plans while President Wilson himself is not free and a league of nations is not in existence to offer mediation, there is slight hope that the Chancellor's appeal will introduce general peace."

ACTS OF LAWLESSNESS BY SINN FEINERS

London, Feb. 28.—The newspapers continue to print reports of seizures of land and other acts of lawlessness by Sinn Feiners in Ireland. The police are said to be unable to prevent these acts. Among the minor incidents is a report that Sinn Feiners seized American flags which two boys were carrying in a street in Galway and tore and burned them.

Sparrow is Relieved.

Washington, Feb. 28.—Commander H. G. Sparrow, who has been acting as naval censor for several months, has been relieved and ordered to a sea post. His successor has not yet been selected.

asked for a supplement to the espionage law to facilitate the government's inquiry into the industry. After Federal Judge Landis of Chicago, had issued a search warrant authorizing the seizure of important documents in the possession of Mr. Veeder, the Federal circuit court of appeals restrained a marshal from removing or examining any of the papers in Veeder's vault, and further from examining or in any way using papers already seized by the government. The action of the appellate court in issuing the stay, said Mr. Heney, prevented the government from even examining papers already in its possession, and which a Federal district court had found had been used "as the means of committing felonies by Swift & Co. and other corporations."

German's New Dependence on the East



The double line on the map is revised "Hottan Line" behind which, according to the terms of the treaty, the Bolsheviks have agreed to sign, the German promise to withdraw after the completion of Russian demobilization. All Livonia and Estonia, however, are to be policed by the Germans until "the constitution of the respective countries shall guarantee their social security and political order."

RUSSIA AGAIN CALLS CITIZENS TO ARMS

The Proclamation Characterized German Socialists as Cain and Judases

London, Feb. 27.—The Council of Peoples Commissaries, according to a Reuter dispatch from Petrograd, has issued another call to arms in the course of which it is declared the German invaders are arresting the workmen and soldiers' councils, shooting captured Red Guards and arming German and Austrian prisoners in the Ukraine. The proclamation asserts that the troops at the front have now pulled themselves together and are resisting the invasion. It concludes: "May the blood spilled in this unequal struggle fall on the heads of the German Socialists who are allowing the German workmen to be ranked among the Cain and Judases."

EXAMINING THE MAIL ON SPANISH LINER

Havana, Feb. 28.—Postoffice Department officials and secret service agents are examining the mail from Mexico on the Spanish liner *Reina Maria Christina*. The Spanish minister to Cuba, who is in charge of German interests here, is watching the inspection.

An unconfirmed rumor was current last night that certain documents from the interior of Mexico addressed to a German consular officer in Spain had been found. The documents were said to contain information relating to the military plans of the United States and Cuba, against the Central Powers.

NOTHING FROM FRANCIS.

Washington, Feb. 28.—No further word from Ambassador Francis as to his plans for leaving Petrograd had been received here early today and Secretary Lansing, when asked about unofficial reports that the ambassador and some of the other embassies had departed, declared the State Department had no information whatever.

HURLEY MAY VISIT WILMINGTON LATER

(By Geo. H. Mannig.) Washington, D. C., Feb. 28.—Edward N. Hurley, chairman of the United States Shipping Board, has returned to Washington from a trip of inspection to some points in Florida and Georgia, where shipyards are building vessels for the Shipping Board and where it is proposed that other plants be located. Mr. Hurley made a hurried return from Savannah and did not stop off at Wilmington, as it was expected he probably would do. He has no plans for going to Wilmington to discuss with the business men there the establishment of a shipbuilding plant at Wilmington, but may be able to go there some time in the near future, he said.

FOOD PRICES SHOW ANOTHER ADVANCE

per cent. added to the retail prices of food from December 15, 1917, to January 25, 1918, made a total of 25 per cent. while the cost of living advanced in the year ending on the latter date. The Bureau of Labor statistics today announced that 11 of the 15 standard articles increased in price from December to January, the greatest advance being 8 per cent. in hens. Flour decreased 2 per cent. and lard, bacon, corn meal one per cent. each. In the 12 months from January, 1917, to January, 1918, potatoes alone registered a decline in price, being 16 per cent. cheaper. Corn meal advanced 77 per cent., bacon 64, lard 53, milk 35, hens 29, butter 23, sugar 18 and flour 17.

DISTRICT ATTORNEYS NAMED BY WILSON

Washington, Feb. 28.—The following nominations were made today by President Wilson: United States Attorneys—William C. Hammer, Ashboro, Western District of North Carolina; and Francis H. Weston, Columbia, Eastern District of South Carolina. To Be United States Marshal—James L. Sims, Charleston, Eastern District of South Carolina.

PLANS FOR HOUSING SHIPYARD WORKERS

Designed to Protect Men From Exploitation Through High Rentals

Washington, Feb. 28.—Plans of the Emergency Fleet Corporation to provide ample living accommodations for shipyard workers are being completed today in anticipation of President Wilson's approval of the \$50,000,000 appropriation recently made by Congress for housing purposes. The bill carrying the appropriation is now before the President. In a statement of the Fleet Corporation's plans J. Roger Flannery, director of housing, said the expenditure of funds authorized would be administered in such fashion as to "absolutely protect the men from exploitation through high rentals." It is the intention of the Shipping Board to erect houses in the vicinity of shipyards only where suitable living accommodations can be obtained for workmen by no other means. Where improvement or expansion of transportation facilities to and from shipyards will serve the purpose, this will be authorized instead of new construction.

"Where construction is necessary," the statement says, "the individual shipbuilding company will apply to the Fleet Corporation for the loan which, if granted, will be amortized over a period of 10 years, bearing interest at the rate of five per cent., payable semi-annually, and be secured by a first mortgage upon the real estate upon which the development is had. "The shipbuilding company then will organize a subsidiary company which will acquire at its own cost and expense and hold in its own name real estate upon which the houses would be erected. "This subsidiary company will have charge of the maintenance, the renting and sale of these houses; it will be restricted in its right to pay dividends, salaries and various other expenses, until such time as the loan to the Fleet Corporation had been entirely paid, and even beyond that time for the protection of the men."

DEATH SENTENCE FOR SLEEPING SOLDIERS

JAPAN PREPARING TO PLAY A MORE IMPORTANT PART

In Conjunction With United States Would Look After Siberian Resources

ENTENTE POWERS HAVE BEEN SOUNDED

Negotiations Between Japan and United States Concerning Proposed Action in Progress

London, Feb. 28.—A speech made Sunday by Viscount Motono and reported from Paris as to Japan's possible activities in view of the German advance into Russia are given prominence by the morning newspapers. The Times says it understands that the statement of the Japanese foreign minister is regarded in well-informed quarters as an authoritative declaration on Japan's policy. In its editorial comment The Daily Mail says: "General Foch's appeal to Japan and the United States to co-operate in confronting the Germans in Siberia is answered by Viscount Motono as far as Japan is concerned. . . . "If an allied expedition in which Japanese and Americans would necessarily have leading parts could control the Siberian railway and with it the rich food raising and mineral bearing districts of Siberia, a heavy counter stroke would be dealt to Germany's advance. Japan's service in the allied cause already is considerable; it is not impossible that she will soon add to it."

Announcement was made in Washington Wednesday that Japan had sounded the Entente powers and the United States concerning joint military operations in Siberia. Negotiations on the subject between the United States and Japan are still in progress.

ANOTHER ADVANCE IN BITUMINOUS PRICES

Increase Granted Because of Wage Increase to Employees at Mines

Washington, Feb. 28.—The Fuel Administration today raised the bituminous coal prices in the Tug river district of West Virginia and the upper Clinch district in Virginia. The new Tug river prices are: Run of mine \$2.40; prepared sizes \$6.25; slack \$2.15. The new upper Clinch prices are: Run of mines \$2.50; prepared sizes \$2.50; prepared sizes \$2.75; slack \$2.25. The old prices in both fields were Run of mine \$2.00; prepared sizes \$2.25; slack \$1.75. The Tug river prices apply to mining operations on the Norfolk and Western railroad, west of Welch to Panther, including its branches except New Hall, Berwind, Cane Break and Hartwell. The upper Clinch prices apply to operations on the Norfolk and Western from Hockman to Finney, inclusive. Forty-five cents a ton in addition is allowed to be added to the new prices to cover recent wage increase granted by the operators. That already is being paid in most instances.

FEWER WORKMEN IN INDUSTRIAL PLANTS

Washington, Feb. 28.—Cigar making, paper manufacturing and the iron and steel mills were the only industries out of 13 investigated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which employed more persons in January, 1918, than in the same month last year. The increase was 4.9 per cent. in cigar factories, three-tenths of one per cent. in paper mills and two per cent. in iron and steel. Automobile plants showed the greatest decrease in workers, 1.04 per cent. Nine industries had a greater payroll last month than in the same month of 1917, the greatest increase being 15.3 per cent. in woolen manufacturing. The payroll of cotton factories increased 17.4 per cent. as compared with 1.8 per cent. decline in the number of workers.

JAPAN'S NEW MOVE WIDELY DISCUSSED

Washington, Feb. 28.—Japan's move to develop the feeling of the Allies toward a proposal for joint military operations in Siberia to keep the vast stores at Vladivostok and also the trans-Siberian railway from falling into the hands of the German invaders of Russia, was widely discussed today among diplomats and officials, but all were reluctant to give opinions for publication. Opinion in London, that the declaration by the Japanese foreign minister, Count Motono, in the Japanese Diet, could only be incorporated as a declaration that Japan was about to intervene, was regarded as further evidence of the negotiations now proceeding between the co-belligerents to make the action of an international character, probably including the participation of American forces. While officials here were silent and disposed to minimize discussion of the subject, it is known that exchanges of opinion are going on with the object of a perfect understanding between Japan, the United States and the other co-belligerents which would make the plan of joint action wholly acceptable to all and thoroughly define its extent and duration. Russian representatives here oppose action by the Japanese in Siberia, but the co-belligerents are thoroughly alarmed, lest the vast quantities of supplies piled at Vladivostok, bought and paid for with American cash, should fall into the hands of the Germans.

Four Americans were Caught Asleep on Sentry Duty. Sentenced to Die

CASE REFERRED TO WAR DEPARTMENT

While Pershing Has Power to Execute Men, He Has Asked That Their Cases Be Reviewed by Washington

Washington, Feb. 28.—Four American soldiers, caught asleep while doing sentry duty in the first line trenches, have been sentenced to death, but General Pershing, although he has authority to carry out the sentences, has referred their cases to the War Department for review.

These are the first cases of the kind since the American troops went to France. One soldier has been executed there for an unspeakable offense on a French child, and in his case General Pershing acted swiftly without as much as referring it to Washington. In these, however, some extenuating circumstances may be found, for men, tired and nerve worn by front line trench duty in a hitherto unknown manner of warfare, to save them from the death penalty at the hands of their own fellows. President Wilson, probably, in the end, will review their cases. Going to sleep on sentry duty has long been recognized as an unforgivable offense punishable by death, and such cases, rare as they have been in the American army, have furnished some of the most absorbing incidents of history.

FRANCE TO CHARTER SHIPS FROM BRAZIL

Paris, Wednesday, Feb. 27.—The Chamber of Deputies voted today to appropriate 110,000,000 francs, to be used in chartering German ships placed at a disposal of France by Brazilian carriers.

FORBID TO NEW.

FORBID TO NEW. Pichon, in supporting the new law, it was the first transaction between French and Brazilian government. France and Brazil broke with Germany and was a genuine demonstration of Brazil's friendship toward France. The Brazilian government, he said, had had to choose between identical offers from the United States and France. Very amicably Brazil had leased the ships to France and no less amicably the United States had accepted the decision.

The agreement consecrated the entente between France and Brazil. Besides from an economic view it was an additional bond between the two countries which M. Pichon regarded as important in view of the great future of Brazil.

SEVENTEEN BRITISH SHIPS LOST

London, Feb. 28.—Eighteen British merchantmen were sunk by mine or submarine in the past week, according to the British admiralty report. Of these 14 were vessels of 1,600 tons or over and four were below that tonnage. Seven fishing vessels also were sunk.