

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1918.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

WEATHER.
North and South Carolina: Fair tonight, expect rain extreme east portion much colder; Friday fair.

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A CESSATION OF ADVANCE INTO RUSSIA

Paused Tuesday, But Resumed Wednesday to Straighten Out the Lines

RAIDS FEATURING ON OTHER FRONTS

Trench Raids in the West Grow in Frequency With Both Sides Participating. Germans Active

With the cessation of the German advance into Russia, military operations in the European war fields are confined to trench raids, artillery bombardments and corollary activities. Both sides are almost equally active in the newly developed raiding tactics, in which the artillery arm is chiefly employed by way of preparation and support. The German raids, however, were somewhat more aggressive than usual during the last 24 hours, according to the indications in the official reports which reveal that German troops virtually all along the line from Flanders to the Vosges.

The artillery fighting along the French lines centered chiefly in the Verdun region, where it was accompanied by raids which the French repulsed. Bombardments also have occurred at various points in Lorraine, but there is no mention of the American sectors in this district having been further driven at by the German infantry.

ENEMY RAIDS AT VERDUN REPULSED

Paris, Wednesday, March 6.—German raids on the Verdun front last night were repulsed by the French, the war office announces. The communication follows: "Rather heavy artillery occurred in the regions of Cormicy and Rheims. Last night, the Germans made raids against our trenches at Avocourt wood and northwest of Hill 344 (Verdun front). Our fire everywhere checked the assaults and prisoners, including an officer, remained in our hands. Our lines were bombarded intermittently today in the region of Avocourt and north of Douaumont. At times there was heavy artillery firing at various points in Lorraine and Alsace.

OVERMAN BILL WINS IN THE FIRST TEST

Washington, March 7.—Administration forces today won on the first test of strength in the Senate Judiciary committee when the Overman bill, sponsored by President Wilson to give him greater powers in re-organizing government departments and agencies during the war. By 19 to 7 the committee voted for a resolution by Senator Reed, of Missouri, Democrat, to have members of the cabinet inform the committee of legislation believed necessary or desirable. Three Republican members joined seven Democrats, defeating the resolution.

Neither faction regarded the vote as an indication of action on the Overman measure or settlement of the committee's controversy over the bill. Senators voting for the Reed resolution included Smith, of Georgia.

WILSON'S ADDRESS HAS INFLUENCE IN AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

Has Acted as a Leaven on Political Life of Dual Empire

OFFERS BASIS FOR PEACE DISCUSSION

It is Argued That the President's Proposals Should Not Be Coolly or Contemptuously Rejected

New York, March 7.—President Wilson's address to Congress early in January in which he defined 14 conditions for world wide peace, has acted like a leaven in the political life of Austria-Hungary and the conditions are reverberated to over and over again as a possible or concrete basis for negotiations as appears from the discussions in the German newspapers of the latter part of January now received here.

The President's proposals also have received considerable attention in Germany. The papers there explain the favorable echo the proposals have evoked in Austria by stating that the objectionable parts of the President's address do not apply to Austria as vitally as they do to Germany.

Various members of the Austrian House of Deputies declared in the budget committee of that body, that it was a mistake to reject the Wilson proposals coolly and contemptuously. They expressed the belief that even at the present time, it should be possible to reach an understanding with the Western powers and referred to the contrast between the peace views of the politicians and of the military.

FINNISH CAMPAIGN STIRS UP CRITICISM

Amsterdam, March 7.—Intervention by Germany in Finland and the consequent ill feeling against Germany in Sweden is criticised severely by Independent Socialists and progressive members of the Reichstag, a Berlin dispatch says. Baron von Dem Bussche-Haddenhausen, under secretary of foreign affairs, in reply, said that Sweden no longer raised objections to Germany's action, which was taken in response to appeals for help from Finland. The occupation of the Aland islands as a base, he said, had not yet taken place.

WANTS POWER TO SELL ANY ALIEN PROPERTY

Washington, March 7.—Congress was asked today by A. Mitchell-Palmer, alien property custodian, for legislation empowering him to sell any enemy property in the United States within his discretion. Such legislation attached to the urgent deficiency appropriation bill was requested by Mr. Palmer, before the Senate appropriations committee, in supplementing President Wilson's recent request for authority to acquire legal title to the German wharves and property at Hoboken, N. J.

Cost System for Motor Trucks. New York, March 7.—The adoption of a standard operating and cost system for motor trucks is to be one of the important subjects taken up at the National Truck Owners' Conference, which met today at the Waldorf-Astoria. The conference will continue its sessions over tomorrow and Saturday.

FRANCE SEES THE RAINBOW AFTER THE STORM



Welcoming members of the Rainbow Division as they marched through the villages and countryside on their way to their quarters at Base Camp No. 1, France.

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WOULD BREAK UP GERMAN HOLDINGS IN THIS COUNTRY

Plan to Destroy Outposts of German Kultur in United States

PALMER ASKS POWER TO SELL PROPERTY

Committee Readily Adopts Suggestion of Alien Property Custodian—Millions Involved

Washington, March 7.—Plans to break up the vast holdings of German interests in the United States and place them in other hands so that after the war they cannot continue to be what have been characterized as outposts of German kultur in America, were presented to Congress today by A. Mitchell Palmer, the alien property custodian, and unanimously approved by the Senate appropriations committee.

Mr. Palmer asked, and the committee agreed, that legislation should be attached to the urgent deficiency bill empowering him to sell these properties to any private interests—but not to the United States government—the proceeds to be held in the treasury until after the war. Whether the German owners would receive the money would be determined by the peace terms.

American property in Germany, the committee was told, is subject to such action. Like treatment of German property in the United States, Mr. Palmer told the committee, would hamper Germany and help the United States win the war.

The committee, by a party vote, however, with Republicans opposing, also approved an amendment to authorize the President to take legal title to the German steamship piers and property at Hoboken, N. J. The Republicans opposed it, fearing that it might lead to government ownership and operation of shipping facilities after the war.

A GERMAN WARNING TO NEUTRAL STATES

Amsterdam, Wednesday, March 8.—In an obviously inspired article, the semi-official Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung warns neutral States in connection with the negotiations for a convention with the United States to acquire neutral tonnage and argues that vessels so acquired assume a hostile character and must be treated as such, no matter whether the tonnage is employed within or without the barred zone. The paper contends that such transfer of tonnage by neutrals is tantamount to indirect participation by neutrals in economic war against Germany and involves serious danger of complications, "as already shown in the history of the United States during the present war."

DEPARTMENT ADOPTS SIX DIVISION PLAN

Basis for Organizing American Armies in Europe is Outlined

Washington, March 7.—Based upon the three line method of trench warfare evolved in France, the War Department, it was learned today, has approved a plan of organization which fixes six divisions.

Three or more corps will constitute a field army and the immediate purpose of the department is to complete the organization of the first field army in France in the shortest possible time to give General Pershing the strength to hold a fully "Americanized" sector of the front. The plan leaves to General Pershing the determination of the numbers of corps and the number of field armies needed and also authorizes him to recommend commanders for the higher units.

By the six division army corps will occupy a front sector with two divisions, while two replacement or reinforcement lines of two divisions each will back them up. The effect is to produce the line of depth necessary for the type of warfare now in progress.

AMBASSADOR FRANCIS ISSUES A STATEMENT

Tells Russian People the Attitude of United States Toward Them

Vologda, Russia, Wednesday, March 6.—In a public statement to the people of Vologda today, on the international situation as it affects Russia, David R. Francis, the American Ambassador, said: "America has no plans or desires for territorial conquest in Russia. While the present government has never been formally recognized by our government or any of the Allies, both Premier Lenin and Foreign Minister Trotsky are aware, because I so advised them, that I had recommended to my government that it recognize any government the Russian people might select and would also earnestly urge that material assistance be rendered to such government, provided that it would continue the war against the Central Powers."

ANOTHER RUSSIAN TOWN FALLS.

London, March 7.—The Germans have captured Jamburg, east of Narva, while the Turco-German offensive is continuing beyond Trebizond, says a Russian official agency dispatch received here today. This action, adds the statement is despite the official announcement by the German high command that hostilities against Russia have ceased.

A NEGRO ARRESTED IN WINSTON MURDER CASE

Charged With Murdering Man and Wife—Carried to Raleigh for Safety

Winston-Salem, N. C., March 7.—Napoleon Spencer, colored, 18, was arrested at midnight last night at the home of his father, Henry Spencer, in the eastern part of this city, on a charge of being the murderer of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Hester, the white couple shot and killed late Tuesday afternoon at their home, two miles east of this city. The capture of Spencer was made by Sheriff Flint and Chief of Police Thomas, who did not bring their prisoner to the city, but instead hurried him through the country in an automobile, where he was being taken to the State prison near Raleigh. This action was deemed advisable, owing to the sentiment prevailing in the community. Spencer, who has the reputation, was found in bed by the officers with a 38-calibre pistol under his pillow. While the evidence against him so far is circumstantial, it is regarded as strongly incriminating.

Spencer was seen by various people in the vicinity of the Hester home Tuesday afternoon, and it is charged had fired his pistol several times. He also answers the description given by two white men on the Byerly Farm of the man seen leaving the Hester home after the shooting.

COURT AUTHORITIES AWAIT DEVELOPMENTS

Raleigh, N. C., March 7.—Solicitor E. Herbert Norris of the Seventh Judicial District today stated he would make no further move to have Major George L. Peterson brought back to North Carolina, to stand trial on a charge of embezzling more than seven thousand dollars of State funds until Peterson has been arrested at Columbia, where he is now serving in the South Carolina department at Camp Jackson. As soon as Major Peterson is taken into custody by the South Carolina authorities requisition papers will be issued and an officer will be sent to Columbia to bring him back to Raleigh.

SPEAKER CLARK 68 YEARS OF AGE

Washington, March 7.—Speaker Clark celebrated his 68th birthday today, receiving the congratulations of hosts of friends and being the guest of the Missouri delegation at a luncheon.

Former Speaker Cannon told the House he hoped Mr. Clark would live to be 100 years and then "run a foot race intellectually and physically." Speaker Clark responded characteristically and the House applauded and cheered as the speeches began and ended.

HUN OFFICER IS CAPTURED BY COLONEL

GERMANS HAVE NOT REACHED STARVATION

Food is Scarce, But Under Strict Rationing There is a Sufficiency

An Atlantic Port, March 7.—Due to a better system of food distribution and more rigid control of food supplies by means of ration cards, the last winter in Germany was not so severe on the poor people as was the previous winter, according to Miss Elizabeth McCann, an American who with her three sisters arrived here today on a Danish steamship. They left Germany last December, she said, after residing in that country for 14 years and were on their way to make their home in Philadelphia.

ANOTHER CADET FALLS TO DEATH

Fort Worth, Texas, March 7.—Burton Hurlbut, Royal Flying Corps, cadet, whose mother lives at Prescott, Ont., was killed this morning, when he tried to make a landing. He was flying with an instructor at the time. The latter, in the back seat, escaped uninjured. Hurlbut is the thirty-sixth cadet killed here.

DEATH OF REDMOND ALMOST A DISASTER

His Influence Was All Important in Trying to Settle Irish Questions

London, March 6.—The death of John Redmond at the moment when the convention which is to settle the future of Ireland is having its most momentous sessions, is considered in political circles to be almost a disaster. During the weeks which the Irish convention has been busy trying to find a solution to the Irish problem, to which he gave his life, Mr. Redmond exercised a great moderating influence and it is as dispatches from Dublin say, there is again a prospect of agreement, he must be given a great measure of credit for this state of affairs.

In fact, since he took over the leadership of the Irish Nationalists Mr. Redmond has been among those Irishmen who fought for a settlement of the home rule question by parliamentary means and when the act granting self-government finally became a law in 1914 it was a great triumph for him.

The war prevented the act from being put into force and while this was a great disappointment to Mr. Redmond he nevertheless stood by the English government, or, as he would have preferred to say, "the English democracy," in which he had great confidence and which he always said would see that Ireland received justice. His speech in the House of Commons supporting the government's decision to enter the war because of the invasion of Belgium by Germany greatly enhanced his reputation in England, where he had been always popular and respected and gained many converts for the cause which he championed.

The Irish convention adjourned for two hours today when it heard of Mr. Redmond's death. Later it passed a resolution of sorrow which said: "Throughout the proceedings of the convention his wise counsel was an invaluable aid for our guidance. He regarded the work of the convention and its outcome as fraught with the most vital interests of the Irish people and the whole empire."

American Officer Runs Across German Lieutenant and Brings Him Back

ANOTHER RAIDING PARTY DRIVEN OFF

Americans Refuse to Let Enemy Enter Trenches. Patrol Squad Spent Night in a Shell Hole

With the American Army in France, Wednesday, March 6.—An American staff colonel while with a French raiding party for the purpose of securing information a few days before his men took up their positions in the new American sector on the Lorraine front, met a Prussian lieutenant in an enemy trench and captured him. The colonel with an American captain brought the Prussian officer back to the lines the Americans are now occupying.

The German raid in this new sector occurred Monday night, a sharp fight taking place in which the Germans suffered a repulse, with losses. In it a unit which was among the most recent arrivals displayed the customary American fighting energy and apparently gave the enemy a much warmer reception than he expected.

The American troops here are training with French troops as at the Chemin-Des-Dames position. This makes the third American force now facing the enemy.

During several days of the American service here, the casualties have been extraordinarily slight as the sector is one of the quietest. The lines are far apart and the position is held by strong points rather than by continuous trenches.

The Prussian lieutenant captured by Americans in a new sector of Lorraine and also the first occasion upon which an American officer had captured either an enemy officer or a soldier in this sector.

Another Raid Repulsed.

Paris, March 7.—An official statement issued today by the French War Office announcing the repulse of German raiding forces on trenches held by Americans in a new sector of Lorraine says: "North of the Chemin-Des-Dames and east of Courcy, French troops conducted successful raids on the German trenches and brought back about 20 prisoners.

"On the right bank of the river Meuse, there was violent artillery fighting in the region of Courcieres and Chauve woods. At the last mentioned place the Germans yesterday morning delivered an attack but were repulsed after spirited fighting.

"Another German attack at Chevriers wood was completely checked by the French and we took some prisoners.

PROHIBITION AND WOMAN SUFFRAGE

Chicago, March 7.—Nation-wide prohibition and woman suffrage will be the leading planks in the platform of the new National party which resumed session of its first national convention here today, augmented by more than 100 delegates who bolted the Prohibition party late yesterday when that party deadlocked over a proposed merger. The adoption of a platform was expected some time today.

The Red Cross and the National administration were scored from the floor by Mrs. Frances Beauchamp, of Lexington, Ky., today, in an address. Mrs. Beauchamp attacked the Red Cross for its policy of encouraging the sending of tobacco to soldiers and alleged it is unwittingly the tool of the American Tobacco Company. She asked the convention to appeal to the administration to prohibit this policy. She said that under the present policy of the Red Cross persons are not allowed to contribute packages for transmission overseas unless the packages contain cigarettes or tobacco.