

WEATHER:
North and South Car-
olina—Fair, warmer
tonight and Tuesday.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

TODAY'S NEWS
TODAY

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, MONDAY, MARCH 11, 1918.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

AMERICAN TROOPS IN FRANCE CARRY OUT THREE RAIDS

Two of the Raids Were Executed Simultaneously Saturday Night
ENEMY'S SECOND LINE PENETRATED
Americans Swept Over First Lines, Destroying Dugouts and Capturing Much Valuable Material

With the American Army in France Sunday, March 10.—American troops, cooperating with the French, carried out three raids opposite the American sector in Lorraine. Two of the raids were executed simultaneously last night. The Americans swept past the German first line and penetrated to the enemy's second line, 600 yards back. The two simultaneous raids, one on the left and one on the right, were of intense artillery preparation for four hours, in which German positions were levelled. At midnight two forces, each one of 1,000 men, with small French troops on their flanks, moved upon the German objectives behind a heavy barrage, each on a front of 1,000 yards. When the Americans reached the enemy first line the barrage was lifted so as to box in the German positions at both points. The men dropped into the enemy's trenches, expecting a hand-to-hand fight, but the Germans had fled. Coming to the advance, they went forward 600 yards to the second German line. All the time American machine guns were firing on each flank of the parties to prevent the enemy from undertaking flanking operations. A French flanking party found two German positions in a dugout and in them prisoners. The Americans and none. The Americans remained for 45 minutes in the enemy lines. They found pillboxes and concrete dugouts, which they blew up, and also brought large quantities of material and valuable papers. The men in the enemy lines were taken prisoner. The British artillery began a vigorous bombardment. It was quickly silenced by American heavy and light artillery, which hurled large quantities of gas shells on the batteries. An American trench mortar battery, some of whose men are (deleted) participated in the artillery preparation preceding the raid, helping to level the enemy positions. The artillery, both light and heavy, was manned by soldiers mostly from—(deleted). After these two raids had been carried out, the American staged another raid at a point further along the line. The men went over the top of the enemy's first line, in which the enemy's positions were obliterated. At this point the dugouts were found to have been constructed principally of logs. The Americans accompanying the raiding party completed the artillery's work. The American infantry, who took part in this raid are—(deleted) and the engineers—(deleted). The raids were carried out skillfully, but for the fact that the Germans fled more prisoners doubtless would have been taken. The American gas shells are believed to have caused many casualties among the enemy. No Americans are unaccounted for.

AMERICANS HOLDING FOUR TRENCH POINTS

in Sector Four and Half Miles Long—Drive Still Expected.
Washington, March 11.—Nothing developed to indicate that the Germans have abandoned their plans for a great offensive in the West. The War Department's weekly review of the military situation published today. Meanwhile, the Allies' statement continues, have taken the defensive and are content to let the enemy break himself against an impregnable line. The review discloses that the American troops occupied by American troops in four and a half miles of trench. It emphasizes that the Americans hold trenches at four separate points on the French front. The statement also indicates that the Americans seem as another futile attempt to shift the center of the war to the Western front.

SEVERE FIGHTING BETWEEN BRITISH AND HUN TROOPS

Several Heavy Thrusts Arranged by the Enemy Were Forestalled

HAD INFORMATION OF PLANNED ATTACK

Deserters Had Warned British of What to Expect—Germans Gained Temporary Foothold

With the British Army in France and Belgium, Sunday, March 10.—Heavy artillery fire was proceeding at various points along the tense British and German battle lines today, but there has been no infantry action since yesterday morning, when the British in a violent counter-attack hurled the Germans from the posts they succeeded in capturing in the region of Poederhoek ridge Friday evening. The British defenses here and south of the Houtholst forest where the Germans also seized six posts Friday morning, have been re-established completely, after severe fighting in which the Germans lost heavily. Both these attacks were but apologies for what the Germans had planned originally. They had intended to make a pretentious assault on the Northern sector, south of the Houtholst forest, on February 20 to pinch off the British salient just southeast of the wood and gain a number of important positions. This became known to the British, however, through a deserter, and they buried the Houtholst front under such an avalanche of shells that the enemy was forced to abandon his scheme. The Germans decided nevertheless to make a smaller attack Friday morning, which gained them six posts temporarily. The final results were that they were driven out with severe losses and also had to abandon some of their own forward positions. A strong attack had also been planned for February 23 against the important high ground held by the British in the region of Poederhoek and southwest of that place. A prisoner taken by the British is said to have divulged the German plans. The British artillery effectively prevented the carrying out of this program and later German prisoners said their regiments had been prepared and informed that the attacks were postponed because the British had learned of it. The prisoners said the attack had been put off until the morning of March 8. Tuesday the British gunners put down a terrific barrage and the Germans did not attempt to advance. Friday evening, however, they moved against Poederhoek ridge under a smoke barrage and to the accompaniment of a heavy bombardment of the British positions. The enemy occupied a number of posts along a narrow front and a hard fight followed. Early Saturday morning the British organized a counter-attack which although executed gallantly, was without the desired result. A second counter-attack was completely successful and the Germans were driven out. One of the breaks of war occurred near Poederhoek ridge on Friday. The headquarters of a British company sustained three direct hits from German heavy guns and the building was demolished over the heads of the entire staff. When the infantry had cleared away the debris in an effort to reclaim their bodies it was found that a single officer had been injured, although some of them were suffering slightly from shock. This has been another magnificent day. The balmy weather of the past few days which might properly belong to April or May has brought out the leaves of the pussy willows and many woodland flowers. The ground still contains some frost, but the roads are dry and dusty.

Investigate Health Conditions

Washington, March 11.—An investigation of methods for the prevention and control of communicable diseases, especially near army camps, will be commenced immediately by the public health service at the direction of Secretary McAdoo. The work will relate largely to finding a reliable serum for meningitis.

WAR SECRETARY ARRIVES ABROAD WITHOUT HARM

Left United States About February 27, Reaching France Last Night.

ARRIVAL IN PARIS ANNOUNCED TODAY

No Attempt to Conceal Departure Other Than Request Newspapers Not to Refer to It

Paris, March 11.—Newton D. Baker, the American Secretary of War, arrived in Paris this morning. He was received by General Pershing, General Tasker H. Bliss, the American chief of staff, French officers representing Premier Clemenceau, and American Ambassador Sharp. The Secretary's voyage was without incident.

Washington, March 11.—Secretary Baker has arrived in France for an inspection of the American armies and a conference with military officials.

The news of Mr. Baker's safe landing in France was not let out until the Associated Press dispatch last night, brought a formal announcement from the War Department emphasizing that the Secretary's visit was purely military and not diplomatic. The War Department also announced that Mr. Baker sailed from the United States about February 27, accompanied by Major General M. Black, chief of engineers, Lieutenant Colonel M. L. Brett and Ralph Hayes, his private secretary. "Secretary Baker has not determined the length of time he will remain in France," said the announcement, "but his stay will be long enough to enable him to make a thorough inspection of the American forces abroad and hold important conferences with American military officers."

The statement added that his inspection tour would cover construction projects under way, back of the American lines as well as a visit to the American headquarters. On the eve of his departure from Washington, the Secretary told members of the press that he did not expect to be away for any considerable length of time.

Secretary Baker and his party left here without any attempt to conceal their movements other than request the press to refrain from reporting their departure aboard an American cruiser. The newspapers co-operated fully with all efforts to make the trip safe from submarines and no hint of the journey was printed.

For months the Secretary has been eager to see the results of the War Department's work to place in the field this year an army which will be a factor in the campaign and talk over the whole American war program with General Pershing. The trip was decided upon after Mr. Baker had conferred with President Wilson.

A dispatch received at the Navy Department today from the commander of the American naval vessel which carried Secretary Baker and his party across announced the safe arrival at a French port and reported that the trip was without incident.

OYSTER SUPPER POSTPONED.

Illness of Family Has Necessitated Postponement of Affair.
The oyster supper that was to have been given at the home of Mr. D. T. Shepard on Middle Sound, Wednesday night, announcement of which has been made, has been postponed indefinitely because of illness among members of the Shepard family. Announcement as to new arrangements will be made later.

FIRE DEPARTMENT CALLED.

Small House Occupied by Colored Family Slightly Damaged.
The fire department was called to 807 Campbell street this morning at 11:08 to extinguish a blaze in the roof of a one-story frame house occupied by Ella Smith, colored, and owned by Mr. D. R. Foster. The damage was very slight. Spark from chimney was assigned as the cause.

DEATH LIST FROM TORNADO IN OHIO IS SIX OR SEVEN

The Property Damage Estimated at More Than Million Dollars

DETAILS OF HAVOC NOT FULLY RECEIVED

Storm Covered Rural Districts Principally Therefore the Small Number Killed.

Columbus, Ohio, March 11.—While reports continuing to dribble in show that Saturday's tornado wrought perhaps more than a million dollars damage in Van Wert and Paulding counties, Ohio, where it did its greatest destruction, it is thought today that the number of deaths will not exceed six or seven. Five are known to be dead and there are several injured who may die.

Details of the havoc are not yet fully received because of wrecked telephone and telegraph systems and blocked highways. The storm's path which contains much evidence that the wind was a "twister," was as narrow as 50 yards in some places, while in other places it spread into a windstorm miles wide.

Apparently its first fury was felt in the neighborhood of Conroy, Ohio, west of Van Wert. Wreckage shows it jumped Van Wert and then swept down upon Middle Point to the east. It then veered north, striking Miller City in Paulding county. Where the tornado itself did not strike a terrific wind storm did great damage blowing down buildings, trees and damaging orchards.

The greater loss of life and a more imposing loss of property was not let out until the Associated Press dispatch last night, brought a formal announcement from the War Department emphasizing that the Secretary's visit was purely military and not diplomatic. The War Department also announced that Mr. Baker sailed from the United States about February 27, accompanied by Major General M. Black, chief of engineers, Lieutenant Colonel M. L. Brett and Ralph Hayes, his private secretary.

Rural districts between the places bore the brunt of the wind's force. There is no estimate of the number of farm houses and outbuildings wrecked, but there were a score.

ICE ON THE SOUND.

Forecast for Tonight and Tomorrow Is Fair and Warmer.
Possibly realizing that it had struck a foreign field and that any efforts to freeze up the natural base of old summertime would not only be unwelcome but impossible, old winter, with his retinue of icicles and sharp stinging winds has already decided to move on, according to local weather bureau officials, and tonight and tomorrow's forecast is for fair and warmer weather. The minimum reading today was at 7 a. m., when the mercury ebbed to 32—freezing. It showed a tendency to rebound, however, and was still climbing toward its natural notch at noon.

Slight formations of ice were reported on the Sound by persons coming in this morning and it was stated from the office of Observer Felger that there were readings slightly lower than the freezing point registered here in outlying districts. A heavy frost is not unexpected tonight, but it was stated that it would not be sufficiently severe, in event it makes its appearance, to do any damage.

GENERAL PERSHING SENDS IN A REPORT OF 41 CASUALTIES

Washington, March 11.—General Pershing's casualty report today shows four privately killed in action, four severely wounded, 21 slightly wounded, four died of wounds and eight of disease.

Killed in Action.
Private Frank J. Osgood, Cook Denie G. Pillingen, Private Francisco Disabante, Private Otis D. Green.

Wounded Severely.
Private Joe E. Eush, Private John E. Frayne, Private (first class) Hance Van Hoose, Private Charles Goodisky.

Wounded.
Private Antoni Kulig, Private Charles B. Sandidge.

Wounded Slightly.
Corporal Edward J. Smith, Private Charles A. Roberts, Private Floyd B. Leseman, Private Nazareno Faghetta, Private Emer, Wolfe, Private Henry E. Stedman, Private Elmore Murley, Corporal Henry W. Dawson, Private Walter E. Moore, Corporal Herbert L. Livingstone, Private Joseph

HOW TELEPHONE SYSTEM HANDLED WAR EMERGENCY

President Vail, of the Bell Company Tells of the Gigantic Task

TRAFFIC LAST YEAR BROKE ALL RECORDS

Government Service Was Given Preference—Thousands of New Operators

New York, March 11.—How the Bell Telephone system met the emergency of an enormous expansion during the entry of the United States in the war and provided adequate service to the various branches of the government without disturbance to commercial interest is shown in the international report of Theodore N. Vail, president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company and its associated companies. "Immediately upon the declaration of war," President Vail says, "precedence was established throughout the system for all government service and 12,000 toll operators were speedily trained for this work. Precedence was also established at Washington and over the entire country for the maintenance of existing facilities and the construction of numerous additional facilities for communication. Elaborate plans had been worked out in advance and work was done in a few weeks that ordinarily would have taken several months."

During the last year, the report shows, there has been a tremendous increase in the telephone service in Washington, to handle which it has been necessary to enlarge the switchboard five times and to bring in several hundred trained operators from other cities. Several of the department switchboards are large enough for a city of 100,000 population.

For the national service, the report states, 15,000 miles of toll and 27,000 miles of circuit for telegraph use have been taken from commercial service and devoted exclusively to the use of the government. In addition, during the year, the company provided extensive telephone facilities for the National Army cantonments, National Guard camps, division headquarters of the army and navy; aviation fields, training camps and various Federal and State camps in different parts of the country. More than 300 miles of submarine cable and 1,200 miles of land lines connecting the coast guard systems.

Naples Bombed.

Rome, March 11.—Naples was attacked by enemy aviators early this morning. Twenty bombs were dropped in a residential quarter. The victims included seven occupants of a hospital.

MANY ADDRESSES MADE.

Splendid Work Being Done to Wipe Out Hog Cholera.
Dr. O. L. Lockwood, veterinary field agent for the bureau of animal industry of the United States Department of Agriculture, with headquarters in Wilmington, carried on educational and demonstration work for the prevention of hog cholera, in five counties during the past month. He made 12 addresses and conducted 14 demonstrations of preventive treatment. He treated 451 hogs, and interviewed 153 farmers. The work is progressing in a satisfactory manner, and the growers are co-operating with Dr. Lockwood in every way.

SECRETARY BAKER NOW IN FRANCE

AN AMERICAN WOMAN KILLED BY A BOMB

Mrs. Ford and Son Found in Wreckage of a London House

London, March 11.—The bodies of Mrs. Lena Gilbert Ford, an American poetess, and her son, about three years old, were discovered today in the wreckage of a house destroyed in the German air raid last week. In this house 12 persons were killed. Mrs. Ford formerly lived in Elmira, N. Y. She was author of "Keep the Home Fires Burning," one of the most popular English war songs. She had made her home recently with her son, Walter, in the northwestern section of London. Her mother, Mrs. Brown, of Elmira, was extricated on Friday from the wreckage of the house and taken to a hospital seriously injured. The Ford home and five adjacent houses were wrecked by a bomb.

NINE OF TUG'S CREW DROWNED

New Orleans, March 11.—Nine members of the crew of a large tug owned by the Bisco Tow Boat Company, were drowned shortly after last midnight when the tug was sunk in the Mississippi, about four miles above Pointe a La Hache, La., as the result of a collision with a steamer, according to a telephone message received here. Eight other members of the tug's crew were rescued.

No mention was made of casualties or serious damage aboard the steamer, the name of which was not given. According to the report the collision was due to a misunderstanding of signals. The steamer was coming up the river toward New Orleans and the tug was going down stream. Survivors of the tug's crew were reported to have declared that the steamer whistled it would pass on the right and the tug replied with a similar signal. A moment later the vessels crashed in the darkness and the tug was sunk within a short time, in deep water.

MUST TAKE BETTER CARE OF ROSTERS

Washington, March 11.—The long delay in the publication of the roster of American troops on board the transport Tuscania, sunk February 5 with a loss of more than 150 lives, has caused the War Department to adopt more stringent regulations governing the preparation and safeguarding of rosters. A general order issued today instructs company and detachment commanders to prepare the records of units prior to entraining for the port of embarkation and to hold them readily accessible at all times throughout the entire journey to Europe. The officers are ordered also to leave behind the service record of each man left at the port of embarkation and to furnish promptly records of every man otherwise detached.

BIG STERILIZING MACHINES READY

New York, March 11.—Ten sterilizing machines, each weighing 8,000 pounds, said to be the largest pieces of disinfecting apparatus ever manufactured, have been completed for shipment to the American overseas forces, it was announced today. By use of the specially devised apparatus, it is expected the danger of typhus fever and other diseases among the troops will be reduced to a minimum. The machines not only will sterilize the clothing and effects of the fighters, but will be used for disinfecting the surgical dressings.

THE SANTA MARIA TO GO TO CHICAGO

Charlottetown, P. E. I., March 11.—The Santa Maria, reproduction of the flagship of Christopher Columbus, is to leave Charlottetown next June on her return to Chicago. She has laid up here since October, 1916. She was sold under an admiralty court order to meet wage claims and later resold to the South Park Commissioners of Chicago. A United States patrol boat will tow her to Chicago, where she will rejoin her sister ships, the Nina and Pinta.

First Member of America's Cabinet Lands Safely in Europe

WILL SPEND SOME TIME OVER THERE

Will Confer With French Officials, General Pershing, and Inspect the American Troops

Secretary of War Baker, the first American cabinet officer to visit Europe in an official capacity since the United States entered the war, is now in France for conference with General Pershing and an inspection of the American troops and the positions they occupy on the front between Soissons and Alsace. The Secretary's mission is purely military and has no diplomatic significance. On board an American cruiser, Secretary Baker and his party eluded German submarines and arrived yesterday at a French seaport whence he departed for Paris. After a few days in the French capital where he probably will meet President Poincare and Premier Clemenceau, the Secretary will visit the American troops in the field.

Increased activity, especially in the artillery on the Western front has not yet resulted in any determined attack by either of the opposing forces.

The Germans are more active on the British and Belgium fronts than elsewhere. Near Kippe, in Flanders, the Belgians have driven the enemy from parts of the trenches he took several days ago. Recent German attacks on the British lines in the Ypres area were checked through British knowledge of enemy plans gained from deserters and prisoners. The enemy intended to take important positions south of Houtholst forest, but heavy British artillery fire prevented a major effort and the strong British defenses threw back the strong local attack the Germans carried out. On the American sector northwest of Toul the artillery and the aerial activity has increased. American gunners have shelled effectively various enemy targets opposite the American trenches. The German reply was with out result. German airplanes have attacked American trenches with machine gun fire, while French gunners brought down an airplane within the American lines.

Progress is being made by the British armies in Mesopotamia and Palestine. Eighty miles west of Baghdad, on the Euphrates river, the British have occupied Hit, the Turks retiring without opposition. Advancing northward in Palestine, General Allenby's forces have gained ground immediately west of the Jerusalem-Nabulus road. The Turks resisted strongly in both places. On the Jerusalem-Nabulus road the British advance was two or three miles on a front of 13 miles.

TROTSKY DISMISSED BY PREMIER LENINE

London, March 11.—Leon Trotsky was dismissed as Bolshevik foreign minister by Premier Lenine, owing to a quarrel over the German peace terms, according to a dispatch to the Morning Post, dated Saturday in Petrograd. Trotsky held that the peace had been extorted by force and that no law recognized promises made under duress as obligatory. "Therefore," he is reported to have said, "it was Russia's duty to fight, if only guerrilla warfare, and the German treaty should not be ratified." Premier Lenine on the other hand, held that the treaty must be ratified and carried out on the theory that disastrous treaties do not necessarily annihilate nations, as Prussia had proved several times.

Two Bolsheviki Leaders Quarreled Over the German Peace Terms

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DR. JOHNSON'S TRIAL PUT OFF UNTIL APRIL

(Special to The Dispatch.)
Richmond, Va., March 11.—The trial of Dr. Lemuel J. Johnson, the Middlesex, N. C. dentist, charged with the murder of his young wife here some weeks ago by administering poison was today postponed, upon request of counsel for the defendant, until April 25.