

WEATHER.  
North and South Carolina: Fair tonight and Wednesday; probably showers tonight, west.

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# THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

10 PAGES TODAY

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, TUESDAY EVENING, MAY 7, 1918.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

## INTENSE ARTILLERY FIRE REPORTED ON THE BATTLEFRONTS

### Germany's Hordes are Still Being Held in Check in The West.

#### AMERICAN TROOPS UNDER HEAVY FIRE

Thousands of Gas and Explosive Shells Poured Upon Pershing's Men -- Attack Expected Any Moment.

Germany's hordes are still held in check. Neither in Flanders nor in Picardy, nor along the important Arras sector has the enemy renewed his attacks in force and he has not reacted against the gain made north of the Somme by the Australians in which more than 200 prisoners were captured.

On both battlefronts, however, the artillery fire has been most intense and the German attack cannot much longer be delayed if the enemy hopes to take the advantage of whatever disjunction has been done to the allied positions by the heavy bombardments carried out by his guns since the repulse north of Mont Kemmel more than a week ago. The greatest German artillery activity has been on the northern half of the Flanders front and south of the Somme to below the Avere in Picardy.

American troops in their positions south of the Somme have been subjected to intense artillery fire, the enemy using more than 15,000 shells, mostly gas, in a short period. There have been no signs of a German infantry attack against the Americans who confidently await the first signs of awakened activity.

A large part of the southern end of the important Arras sector has been taken over by Canadian troops, who also are being visited by a storm of German shells. French generals believe the Germans may attack simultaneously on the Flanders, Arras and Aieneis fronts in an effort to push the allies back in one mighty blow. The hill positions, however, held by the allies and their guns dominate the Germans all along the line.

The Austro-Hungarian blow against the Italian front has not developed. Rome reports only moderate fire along most of the front from Switzerland to the Adriatic and no infantry activity. The Austrians, however, may be waiting for the most favorable moment, probably the renewal of the German drive in Flanders.

Today, May 7, is the third anniversary of the sinking of the Lusitania by a German submarine with the loss of 1,275 lives.

## AMERICAN STEAMER DEFEATS SUBMARINE

### Believed U-Boat Was Sunk By Second Shot Fired by Steamer.

Washington, May 7.—A fight between the American steamer Tidewater and a German submarine on March 17, in which the submarine was defeated, and perhaps sunk, was reported today by the navy department.

The steamer encountered the U-boat at night and barely missed colliding with her as she was submerged. The Tidewater fired a shot which fell some distance ahead of the submarine's wake, but a second shot apparently was a clean hit. The crew of the ship was satisfied the shot was effective, but a third shell was fired at the place where the U-boat subsided.

The navy department's announcement said:

"The commander of the armed guard on the steamship Tidewater reports to the navy department that on March 17, about 11:30 p. m., a submarine was sighted off the starboard bow, heading towards the vessel, about 150 yards off. As the ship turned it missed the submarine by more than 20 feet. The U-boat was then submerged. The ship's guns were brought to bear and the first shot hit some distance ahead of her wake.

"The pointer fired the second shot and had what the captain, the chief engineer and myself and other members of the crew called a clean hit. The third shot was effective. The third shot was fired by the gunnery crew in charge of the ship's guns, having her spotted and fired in position she last submerged in. We resumed our course and commenced zigzagging, standing by for an attack, but the submarine did not appear again. We made preparations for an attack at daybreak but there were no signs of a submarine."

## METHODIST WOMEN BELIEVE THEY ARE BE RECOGNIZED

### Looks Like Long Standing Fight For Laity Rights is About Won.

## SEVEN BISHOPS WILL BE ELECTED

### Bishops Hoss to be Retired—Washington Man Would Lift Ban on Dancing and Card Playing.

Atlanta, May 7.—Announcement that the committee on revisions had decided to recommend concurrence in all memorials requesting laity rights for women caused much jubilation among the women at the opening of today's session of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. While it was stated that a minority report probably will be filed also, women leaders believed their long standing fight at last was to be won at this conference.

The general conference four years ago at Oklahoma City rejected their appeals by a vote of 171 to 105. Elimination of the following paragraphs of the church discipline is asked by the women:

"It is not in harmony with the spirit of our law that women be members of a district conference."

"It is not lawful to elect a woman as steward."

"A woman may be elected a superintendent of a Sunday school, but is not thereby a member of a quarterly conference."

The committee on episcopacy, it was reported, will recommend the retirement of Bishop E. E. Hoss. At the same time it was stated that seven instead of five bishops may be elected during the present session.

Bishop James Atkins, of North Carolina, presided at today's meeting. The religious exercises were conducted by the Rev. A. J. Lamar, of Nashville.

An open letter was presented by J. Henry Smythe, Jr., of Washington, urging the abolition of the ban on dancing, theater-going and card playing. The writer maintained that "movies" should also be added to the list forbidden by the Book of Discipline if the church would be consistent. The letter will be referred to the committee on revisions.

Senator Brandegee, republican, of Connecticut, was among the first to call for one, and Chairman Chamberlain responded with his announcement of the committee's intentions.

While the senate was discussing the aircraft situation, Secretary Baker and other department officials were urging before the house military committee a new billion dollar aircraft appropriation.

Secretary Baker declared facts and figures regarding aircraft planes should not be made public. He said the committee was entitled to the details, but he was opposed to presenting them publicly. Despite suggestions by several members of the committee, he said nothing should be given out by the committee. He said criticisms of the aircraft plan were inspired by pro-German influences and the details of the government's plans should be kept secret on the ground of military necessity.

Plans for the military committee's further investigation have not been fully formulated and will be outlined at an early meeting. Members said today it was probable the inquiry would be behind closed doors but with a public report to be made later.

The investigation, Senator Chamberlain announced, would be to determine how and where the immense appropriations were expended, adding that the committee proposed to "put its finger on the men responsible," and added further:

"The committee does not propose to engage in any whitewashing process either."

In making his announcement, Senator Chamberlain declared there had been something radically wrong with the whole program. He had never seen the borghum report, he said, but declared the conclusion reached in the H. Snowden Marshall report were in accord with those of the committee.

The senate committee, he said, was a part of the government's authorities, and added significantly, he was glad the president approves its course in advance.

New charges of a sensational kind in connection of aviation are brought forth daily, Chamberlain continued.

"These charges are coming to me and other members of the committee every day," he said. "This committee is determined to do whatever is necessary to help win the war."

Senator Vandenberg, democrat, of Mississippi, asked how many American planes were abroad, and Senator Chamberlain replied that not one American-uilt airplane had been sent there, although American material in large quantity has been shipped for assembling.

"Our people ought to be informed," the senator proceeded, "of the truth of the situation and they never have been."

Referring to testimony of Major General Squier, chief of the signal corps, before the committee regarding failure to train 1,500 American cadets sent to France because no airplanes were available and plans to return them to this country for training, Senator Chamberlain said a large number of the cadets had never received any training abroad.

Senator Walsh, declaring the statement extraordinary, asked if there were any "confession of failure."

## RODERICK MUST PAY THE DEATH PENALTY

### Supreme Court Decides Against Young Man Convicted of Wife Murder.

Immanuel Roderick, Jr., convicted of wife murder several months ago by a New Hanover jury and since confined in the county jail pending disposition of his appeal to the supreme court, will have to pay the death penalty unless executive clemency is shown, the opinion of the supreme court having been certified down and received today by Major W. N. Harris, clerk of superior court.

Commitment for Roderick was handed to Sheriff Jackson during the day and he or one of his deputies will leave for Raleigh in the morning, carrying the condemned man to the state penitentiary where he will be given over. A new date of execution must be named. He was to have paid the penalty November 16, 1917, but his appeal stayed execution. A new date will be named by the governor.

Roderick, it will be remembered, shot his wife to death several months ago on the rear porch of their home in the southern section of the city, a few minutes after she had returned from a visit to friends on the sound. He made no effort to escape, but met the arresting officers and gave himself up, advising them what he had done. Roderick was employed as a watchman at the Clyde line wharf.

### Nellie Bly Missing.

New York, May 7.—Through a suit brought in the Supreme Court in Brooklyn, it was learned today that since the United States entered the war Mrs. Mary J. Cochrane heard from her daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Cochrane Seaman, who as Nellie Bly circled the globe in less than 80 days for a New York newspaper. Mrs. Seaman went to Austria in 1914, presumably on a newspaper mission, and what explanations had been given.

"The extreme optimism of the chief signal officer, and those associated with him," Senator Chamberlain replied, "is the explanation."

"They thought, in perfect good faith, I think, that they would have the planes there to train them."

## DO YOUR DUTY MR. VOTER.

(Editorial.)

Tomorrow at the polls, the qualified of New Hanover county will register their answer to the appeal of the school authorities for better facilities for the school children of the county. Tomorrow night the children will know whether they will be assured of ample and safe buildings in which to prepare themselves for life's battles. What will your answer be, Mr. Voter?

There are two propositions to be voted on in this county tomorrow: One authorizes the levy of 10 cents on the \$100 valuation of property and 30 cents on the poll. The proceeds will be applied to paying the salaries of the superintendents, teachers and janitors, buying wood, coal, chalk, ink and hundreds of other incidentals. This money is necessary if the schools are to have enough qualified teachers for the proper training of the children, and for furnishing fuel necessary to keep the little fellows comfortable through the winter. This is necessary because there is not, under present methods, sufficient school funds for meeting these expenses and the school board is in debt to the amount of \$30,000 because expenses have been increased and the income has been practically standing still. Any one can see the importance of providing more money to meet these obligations, and there is no use to argue it with any sensible person.

The second question to be voted on is the issue of bonds in the sum of \$250,000. It is to this, for some alleged reason, or possibly it would be better to say excuse or combination of excuses, there seems to be the most opposition. The issue of \$250,000 in bonds is asked because that is the amount fixed by the legislature in the bill authorizing the election. It can be no more nor no less, but must be that or nothing. The purposes to which the proceeds of this issue are to be applied are also fixed by legislative enactment.

This money cannot be used for current expenses, but only for repairs, erecting new buildings, and taking care of the present debt. The board cannot use one dollar of this bond money for any other purpose than specified by law.

The two questions to be voted on tomorrow must go together if the full benefits be obtained. The carrying of the bond issue alone will not provide funds for the teachers, fuel and incidental expenses; the voting of the special tax alone will not take care of the outstanding debt; neither will it provide safe and ample room for the children. Neither will it accomplish much without the other, and it is the duty—yes, the plain duty—of every voter in the county to vote for both of these propositions. It is not a duty because the school board asks it, though that in itself should be sufficient; but it is one that you owe to your children and the children of the city and county. The man who is influenced against these two issues by something other than contained in the questions is working a great and irreparable injury to the coming men and women of New Hanover. That is the question the voters must answer, and no dodging behind some extraneous matter will relieve a single voter of the responsibility resting upon him. The man who shirks this responsibility is working harm to every boy and girl in the county, and is just as much a slacker as the man who fails to do his whole duty by his country in the war.

Had this city not secured the shipyards with its necessary influx of people, there would not have been sufficient funds for paying the teachers and meeting the increased expenses caused by the war time cost of everything. The buildings were not sufficient to comfortably house the children now here, and one of these buildings is not safe to risk the hair on the head of one child in the city in it, much less the lives of more than five hundred children. The next school session is expected to find hundreds more of children seeking to enter the city schools, and by utilizing fire-traps and every other available school room there will not be accommodations for them. Shall we say unto these children we cannot give you opportunity to get an education; wait until a more propitious time and we shall see what we can do for you? A few years from now will be too late for these boys and girls. Their chance will have passed never to come again, and it will be because the voters of New Hanover have failed in their duty. Will you have that charge marked up against you, Mr. Voter? If you are a man you will not. If you are something else, you are not worthy of bearing the responsibility of citizenship.

Give the boys and girls their chance. They are entitled to it. And in giving them their chance, don't make it so that their lives are endangered while they are grasping the opportunity of making themselves worthy men and women. Everything worth while depends on the result of tomorrow's election. Health, happiness, future careers and even life itself may be decided by your vote. Do your duty, every man of you.

## CONCRETE SHIPYARD WILL EMPLOY 1500 EXPERT WORKMEN

### Means an Increase in Wilmington's Population of From 3,000 to 5,000.

## THE FAITH GOES ON FIRST TRIP TOMORROW

### First Bog Concrete Ship Will Carry Cargo of Salt on a Pacific Ocean Voyage—Wilmington Interested in Trip.

(By Frank P. Morse.)

Washington, D. C., May 7.—Wilmington will have a special interest in a voyage scheduled to begin tonight or tomorrow morning from a Pacific port. It is the initial trip of the Faith, the big 7,900-ton concrete ship recently launched by the San Francisco Shipbuilding company. This will be the first severe test of the first concrete boat built for trans-oceanic traffic and the results of this voyage will have a direct bearing on the eight concrete vessels that are to be built this summer in Wilmington. The Faith took on a cargo of 4,000 tons of salt yesterday and made a short cruise in San Francisco bay. This experimental trip indicated to the complete satisfaction of the United States shipping board representatives as well as the builders that the new boat will answer every test. Consequently the world's largest concrete vessel will clear either tonight or tomorrow morning for a Pacific port, where the cargo of salt will be returned to home station. On her return she will take on a new capacity load and begin a long voyage across the Pacific to ports in New Zealand.

Now that the government is thoroughly satisfied with the first of the big-capacity concrete boats, work will be pushed at top speed on the Wilmington and other yards where vessels of this type are to be turned out. The shipping board expects the Wilmington concrete shipyard to reach completion during the first week of June. Keels will be laid immediately for two concrete cargo boats of 8,500 tons each, and four concrete tank ships of 7,500 tonnage. The first of these boats will be ready for trans-Atlantic service in October, or earlier if the Wilmington yards can break established records.

A force of 1,500 expert workmen is now being assembled for the Wilmington plant. These men, with their families, will make an immediate addition of from three to five thousand people to the population, which, with other government projects planned for the North Carolina port, will mean an increase of fifteen or twenty thousand to the population of Wilmington during the present summer. It will mean, also, a tremendous weekly payroll that will be reflected by a sharp increase of Wilmington business activities.

## STEAMSHIP TYLER TORPEDOED NEAR COAST OF FRANCE

### Formerly Old Dominion Freighter and Was Carrying Grain to Genoa.

## ELEVEN PERSONS LOST THEIR LIVES

### Six of Those Who Perished Were Members of the Crew and Five Were Navy Gunners.

New York, May 7.—The American steamship Tyler, formerly an Old Dominion freighter, has been torpedoed and sunk off the French coast, according to reports received here today. Eleven persons are said to have lost their lives.

The Tyler was a vessel of 3,390 tons gross and was built in 1913. She was sunk on May 2.

Of the 11 who perished six were members of the merchant crew and five were navy gunners. The members of the merchant crew killed were E. W. Mears, third assistant engineer; Washie Creek, Va.; Clarence E. Knowlton, oiler, 407 West Thirty-first street, Norfolk; F. Kaua, mate, messman, no address; Jose Rodriguezes, fireman; Gregario Carro, coal passer; Fernando Lasse, fireman; and the three last from Corunna, Spain.

The Tyler was last reported as leaving Portland, Me., March 3, for Genoa. She carried a cargo of grain shipped through the Italian ministry of shipping. She was commandeered by the United States shipping board last October and since then has been engaged in the Italian trade.

London, May 7.—British casualties reported during the week ending today reached a total of 38,691.

## A MILLION DOLLAR CORPORATION FOR BUILDING HOUSES

Plans were tentatively laid with the naming of a board of directors looking toward the formation of a million dollar corporation for the building of houses to accommodate the city's ever-increasing population drawn here by shipyard activities, at the Tuesday morning mass meeting held at the court house, and approximately half the money needed to start building operations was subscribed prior to recess. A committee composed of C. C. Chadbourne, L. Clayton Grant, Roger Moore, Dave Chadwick, Louis Shrier, with J. A. Taylor, chairman of the mass meeting, as ex officio member, was named to continue the work of soliciting subscriptions, and they will report accomplishments at the Thursday morning adjourned session of this morning's meeting, to be held at the court house at 11 o'clock. This latter action was taken upon motion of Industrial Agent James H. Cowan, who pointed out the fact that many of the city's biggest men financially were not present and that they should be given an opportunity of joining the movement that has as its object providing adequate housing facilities for the vast army of workers and their families that will be flowing into the city in a steady stream in the early future. The meeting was well attended and was in session for two hours, J. A. Taylor, presiding.

The meeting was called to order by President Marcus W. Jacob, of the chamber of commerce, who briefly outlined the object, and Mr. Taylor was then elected to the chairmanship. After speaking briefly concerning the object he called upon C. C. Chadbourne, who pointed out the crying need of houses and passed a resolution if the city is to care for those who will come here for work in the ship-

spoke and all were agreed that the city is far from being in position to properly house the increased population that is inevitable. The matter was discussed from every angle and while there were some who wanted to understand the matter more thoroughly before putting money into the venture, there were dozens who were willing to put up the required amount and listen to explanations later.

After the matter had been thoroughly discussed a call was made by the chair for persons who would subscribe \$5,000 to the corporation and many names were put down. The next call was made for those who would subscribe for half this amount and again the responses came in a spirited manner. This process was a little slow, however, and the meeting decided to continue the work through committees and recess until Thursday morning, when all are again urged to assemble at the court house and complete that which was begun this morning.

The directorate of the proposed corporation was named by a committee composed of J. B. Rice, I. W. Cooper and W. D. MacMillan, Jr., appointed by the chair upon motion, duly seconded and passed, and later voted on by the meeting after report had been made. The directorate as first constituted was composed of 33 members, but the nominating committee, upon motion, was made members of the board of directors. Those named to the directorate include Henry C. Coe-Queen, C. E. Taylor, Thomas E. Cooper, Fred W. Dick, J. W. Yates, H. F. Wilder, J. W. Taylor, Marcus W. Jacob, Walter P. Sprunt, C. C. Chadbourne, A. M. Chinnis, J. C. Williams, John D. Bellamy, Sr., M. J. Corbett.

(Continued on Page Nine.)