

THE WEATHER

Local thunder showers Friday; Saturday, partly cloudy in east, showers in west.

VOL. XXVI—NO. 67.

WILMINGTON, N. C., FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 28, 1915

Convincing advertising influences the reader to make a purchase today, which otherwise he might make "sometime" or might not make at all.

THE WILMINGTON STAR

WHOLE NUMBER 39,213

BIG BRITISH BATTLESHIP MAJESTIC IS SUNK: SHIP ACCIDENTLY BLOWN UP

German Submarines in Dardanelles Successfully Torpedo Warships.

PRINCESS IRENE LOST: Over Three Hundred Lives Lost When Explosion Occurs on Ship.

Battles in the East Continue the Most Severe.

London, May 27.—The British battleship Majestic, another of the ships supporting the Allied army on the Gallipoli peninsula, was sunk by a German submarine today. Nearly all the officers and crew were saved.

At about the same time the steamer Princess Irene, built last year for the Canadian Pacific-British Columbia coast survey, and which was taken over by the admiralty at the commencement of the war, was destroyed by an accidental explosion, while at anchor at Sheerness, where she was undergoing repairs.

All of the vessels in recent accidents, however, were designed before 1912, points out the Secretary of the Navy.

Washington, May 27.—While unofficial reports indicating that half of the 12 submarines assigned to participate in the war game with the Atlantic fleet were at least partially ineffective, Secretary Daniels today announced his determination to make a thorough investigation to find the cause of, and, if possible, a remedy for the too frequent breakdowns of the navy's underwater craft.

With the growing importance of the submarine as an instrument of warfare, said the Secretary, "I feel that too much attention cannot be paid to this branch of the service and every effort of the department will be directed to improving the records made by the submarines during the recent marine maneuvers. The submarines are still in an experimental stage, and the best of two years ago as compared with those now in active service abroad probably is even more comparatively obsolete than an automobile of three years ago."

"Of the 13 submarines which came to New York for the maneuvers one was unable to proceed and various others suffered from breakdowns necessitating repairs of greater or less importance which took them out of the game for varying lengths of time.

The machinery of a submarine is very delicate. "The battery trouble as already announced we hope to have eliminated in our newer boats, if the Edison battery lives up to its preliminary tests. The other troubles are being eliminated with each new design as the defects of old designs become apparent.

"In the meanwhile the plans for the 26 new submarines authorized by the 63rd Congress are being pushed with all possible speed and I am greatly pleased with the rapid and efficient work of the bureau of construction and repair and steam engineering in this matter. Bids will be invited for their actual construction next week. These boats include two more of the new seagoing submarines, which we are going to try to make the last word in such craft.

"It must not be forgotten that all of the submarines which have been in trouble recently were designed before 1912. The newer boats, both nearing completion and about to be begun are of the latest design and are upon the whole, much more reliable than the older models, and it is thought that the greater part of previous weaknesses have been eliminated."

DRAWN ATTENTION TO THE SUBMARINE

Recent Accidents to Underwater Craft to be Probed.

DECLARES MR. DANIELS

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KILLING FROSTS REPORTED IN MANY NORTHERN STATES

Middle Atlantic and Lake Region States Suffer From the Cold Wave.

Washington, May 27.—Generally fair weather with rising temperatures is following the cold wave and killing frosts which swept down from Canada last night causing damage in the agricultural districts along the Great Lakes, through Northern and Western Pennsylvania and New York.

Forecasters of the Weather Bureau tonight said the territory affected by the wave probably would have light frosts tonight, but that warmer weather would follow tomorrow.

Reports from Upper Michigan said temperatures there fell several degrees below freezing last night. Philadelphia, May 27.—The thermometer in this vicinity went as low as 44 degrees during last night, a record for May 27. In Northeastern Pennsylvania there was a heavy frost.

Waterbury, N. Y., May 27.—A killing frost covered this section last night doing great damage to gardens. The thermometer touched 23.

STORMS GENERAL OVER THE SOUTH

Nine Negro Fishermen Die in Blow Off Charleston.

FLOODS IN SOUTHWEST

Two Persons Reported Killed at Tallahassee, Okla., as Result of Storm—Cloudburst is Reported—Heavy Rains Fall.

Charleston, S. C., May 27.—Nine negro fishermen are known to have been drowned and it is thought several others perished in a storm early today off Charleston light. Returning fishermen report that the wind attained a velocity of 60 miles an hour and that many of the vessels of the fishing fleet were swamped.

Wind and Rain Storms Sweep Southern States—Floods Damage.

Port Smith, Ark., May 27.—Two deaths resulted today from wind and rain storms prevalent over Eastern Oklahoma. Mrs. John Kirkland, of Thomasville, Okla., was drowned when her home was washed away in a storm of the proportion of a cloudburst. Several other buildings at that place were washed away.

W. W. Wood was killed by lightning at Mannford, Okla., and two others severely injured. Stigler, Okla., swept by a tornado last Saturday, was visited by a second storm today which resulted in much damage. The light and power plant is in ruins and the town tonight is in darkness.

More than a hundred farmers tonight with a score of teams are laboring to erect a levee about Port Gibson, Okla., the Arkansas river in that section being at high stage and rising.

One hundred farmers today was reported killed in the tornado at Tallahassee, Okla., Wednesday, is alive but may die from injuries.

KANSAS CITY THREATENED.

Low Sections of City Threatened With Floods—People Leave Homes.

Kansas City, Mo., May 27.—A heavy rain storm that broke over Arkansas, Eastern Missouri and Eastern Oklahoma today following yesterday's rains, increased the rising waters and almost cut off communication with these districts.

Deaths reported by drowning or lightning. All streams in the district were reported in flood stages. The Arkansas river was rising four inches an hour at Manhattan, Kas., and only three feet below the danger mark. Many residents in the southwestern part of Kansas City who returned to their homes today thinking the danger past, were forced to flee again tonight when Turkey creek rose rapidly.

Railroad washouts and damage to growing crops were reported. At Little Rock, Ark., heavy rains caused a further rise in the swollen Arkansas river, threatening damage along its course.

The low farm lands of the Arkansas river valley were under water with the river rising at Muskogee. Eight hundred negroes who were on their way to a Tulsa convention, arrived there safely.

STORM IN SOUTHWEST

Two People Killed in Oklahoma Town—Heavy Rains Cause Fear of Flood.

Port Smith, Ark., May 27.—Two persons are reported dead at Tallahassee, Okla., as a result of the storm which last night and early today swept Western Arkansas and Eastern Oklahoma. Reports from Antlers, Okla., assert more than 60 persons were injured at Tallahassee.

(Continued on Page Eight.)

A FALSE MANIFEST ON RUBBER EXPORTS

Causes Indictment of New Yorkers for Conspiracy.

VIOLATES NEUTRALITY

Discovery of Rubber in Rossin Barrels and Bales of Waste Cotton Made by Use of X-Ray—Foreigners Are Held by U. S.

New York, May 27.—A conspiracy to defraud the United States through the filing of a false manifest on exports of rubber in order to conceal its contraband character, is alleged in indictments found by the Federal grand jury today against Harry R. Salomon and his cousin, Albert Salomon, of the importing and exporting firm of Salomon Brothers, of this city; Albert E. Newman, a commission merchant; Franz Rosenberg, of Hanover, Germany, representative here of an Austrian Rubber Company, and Sigmund Karman, of Budapest, Hungary, a rubber expert, who also is said to be in this city.

Two shipments of a fine grade of rubber, valued at \$50,000, are alleged to have been falsely manifested for export to Germany by way of Italy. One lot, it is stated, was found concealed in 300 barrels of rosin, and the other in 178 bales of cotton waste. The shipments were detected as the result of an X-ray examination, and were seized.

Violates Neutrality. While classed as technical violations of the customs laws, the acts charged also are considered by federal officials to be violations of American neutrality.

According to information given by Assistant District Attorney Wood, Harry Salomon was abroad when the war broke out and being a German army reservist, answered the call in 1914. In the course of a few months, it is stated, he was made a lieutenant so as to organize the rubber contraband conspiracy. According to Mr. Wood, he was given a furlough and came to this country, where he established a rubber plant at Greenpoint, L. I. He and his associates, it is stated, were well supplied with money.

Salomon Brothers and Company is regarded as one of the biggest importing and exporting houses in the country.

Statements Issued. Counsel for the defendants, in a statement issued late today, said: "Franz Rosenberg, a merchant of Hanover, Germany, came to New York for the purpose of purchasing rubber for certain rubber concerns in Austria. Sigmund Karman of the rubber corporation, accompanied him for the purpose of passing on the quality of the rubber. Newman was employed by them to do odds and ends.

"In shipping the rubber in the manner they did, they did so for the purpose of circumventing the enemy and they failed to comply with the law in having given an improper description in the manifest they were entirely ignorant of such violation.

"The crime of conspiracy can only be proved if the parties are shown to have intended to violate the statute. "We do not believe that this intention can be shown in view of the fact that the defendants had no knowledge of the law."

Albert and Harry Salomon declared in a statement that they had learned with great surprise of the indictment found by the grand jury. They said they were informed that they had been indicted for violating a "highly technical" statute.

"We feel ourselves entirely blameless in the matter, and we are not conscious of having committed any wrong whatever."

CHARLES BECKER MUST DIE, SAYS DISTRICT ATTORNEY

No Plea That Condemned Man Can Make Will Get Stay of Death Sentence.

New York, May 27.—No plea Charles Becker can make will save him from the electric chair, if District Attorney Perkins can prevent it, according to an announcement by Mr. Perkins today.

In making this announcement, Perkins took official cognizance of a rumor that Becker, facing death for the murder of Herman Rosenthal, was willing to make disclosures regarding "men higher up," if his life should be spared. Becker's second conviction recently was affirmed by the Court of Appeals.

"This thing might as well be settled once and for all," Perkins said. "No confession implicating officials, however high, for giving or taking bribes, would warrant an application for an appeal for clemency to the Governor, for one convicted of murder in the first degree cannot be pardoned. It is more important that instigators of murder should be punished for their acts."

RECEIVE REPORTS AS TO NEBRASKAN

State Department Has No Evidence Ship Was Torpedoed.

START INVESTIGATION

Damaged American Vessel Should Have Reached Liverpool Last Night—Naval Experts Think Was a Floating Mine.

Washington, May 27.—Ambassador Page, at London cabled the State Department tonight that Captain Gagne, of the American steamship Nebraskan, had given the naval attaché of the embassy a sworn statement at Liverpool concerning the explosion on his ship off the Irish coast Tuesday and that the attaché was returning to London.

Lieut. Powers, the attaché, was accompanied to Liverpool by Naval Constructor McBride, who is expected to make an examination tomorrow with the hope of ascertaining definitely whether the Nebraskan was damaged by mine or torpedo.

The captain's affidavit will be forwarded to the State Department as soon as Lieut. Powers reaches London, but any decision as to action by the American government probably will be delayed until the constructor's report is received.

In his report to Consul General Skinner at London by telegraph today Captain Greene said his ship either struck a mine or was torpedoed and officials here think his affidavit may not be more definite.

Many officials are inclined to the belief the ship struck a floating mine. Naval officers say the upward explosion as described by Captain Greene is of a character more likely to have been caused by a mine than torpedo. Ambassador Page reported that he had begun an inquiry. The vessel was due at Liverpool late tonight.

Any diplomatic action as a result of the incident will be deferred until there is definite proof of the cause of the explosion. Should it develop that the vessel was torpedoed, the fact that her flag had been lowered a few minutes before at sundown would have no bearing on the action of the American government which has insisted upon the exercise of the right of visit and search before an attack upon any merchantman.

May Have Been Mine. If it is proved that the Nebraskan hit a mine, the case would be similar to the Elyshyn to the American cotton ships Elyshyn and Carib, which struck mines, the responsibility for which has never been fixed.

There is no international convention in force relative to the laying of mines. The United States ratified the Hague convention on this subject, but it is not operative because some of the signatories did not ratify it. The principles laid down in that convention, however, were that the laying of unanchored contact mines should be forbidden and that all mines should be of a character as to become harmless on being detached from their anchorages.

Courts. Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, today presented a memorandum to the State Department, stating that mines laid by Germany become harmless when unmoored. Previously, the British government had given the United States similar assurances.

GREENE SAYS WAS TORPEDO

Captain of Nebraskan Arriving at Liverpool—Brief Statement.

Liverpool, May 25.—The American steamer Nebraskan, which was disabled Tuesday night by an explosion off the coast of Ireland, arrived here shortly before midnight, the captain said: "I saw no submarine, but am certain it was a torpedo which hit us."

"Moreover, a submarine could not have failed to see our name and nationality, which was outlined in huge letters on our sides."

Body of Girl Found in Home of Doctor

Chicago Woman Physician and Her Son Being Held Pending Investigation.

FIRST AUSTRO-ITALIAN BATTLE IS DESCRIBED DASH ACROSS BORDER

Associated Press Correspondent a Witness of the Dash Into Austria.

ITALIANS WERE READY

Army Was on March Thirty Minutes After Order Came From Rome to Start.

Austrians Blew Up Bridges—Obstructed Roads.

At the Italian Front, Eastern Front, May 26, via Paris, May 27.—Italian gunners today brought down an Austrian aeroplane in the first contest of the Italian campaign between flying machines and anti-aircraft guns. An aeroplane, rising from behind the Austrian lines at 9:30 o'clock this morning, darted over the rock ground in front of the Italian positions. A field battery fired. The first shot missed. The second struck fairly, causing flames to burst from the motor. The aeroplane plunged downward and was splintered on the rocks.

This was one of the incidents attending the opening of the Austro-Italian campaign as witnessed by a correspondent of The Associated Press. Along this part of the front, where the Italians are advancing in the direction of Trieste there were stirring scenes, although as yet there has been little heavy fighting.

At Palmanova, a town near the border, it was possible to obtain a bird's-eye view of the surrounding country, which falls away from that point. The people of the village were watching the spectacle of cavalry charges and artillery action over the nearby front. It is a picturesque region of green hills and quaint villages, among which wind dusty, white roads.

When the order was given earlier in the week for the advance across the border, the Italian troops were ready for the move. The command came at 2:30 o'clock in the morning and half an hour later, the soldiers were on the march. The infantry proceeded in long files, headed by sharpshooters. From converging roads came artillery carriages, motor trucks and detachments of cavalry.

The first shot of the war was fired by a "free" Italian soldier, who, having seen in the semi-darkness a shadowy figure approaching, shot dead an Austrian soldier attempting to fire a mine. With the sunrise artillery fire opened and Italian troops everywhere sprang to the attack, fording the Idria, swarming across bridges and climbing the hills beyond.

From time to time tremendous explosions went off above the roar of artillery. They marked the firing of mines as the Austrians blew up their bridges. The Austrians made little attempt to halt the Italian advance, although elaborate preparations had been made along the border. Railway lines were obstructed by heavy beams, laid across the track and fastened down with chains. The roads were blocked with trenches, trees and wire entanglements.

Brasiano is the first village on Austrian soil in which the Italian flag was flown. It was run up on the belfry of the village church.

At San Giovanni Mazano the correspondent saw the first of the Italian wounded and the first Austrian prisoner captured. A member of a landstrum from Friuli. As he was brought into the Italian lines he kept repeating "I am an Italian."

All along this section of the front there were signs of war. Roads were filled with long lines of transports and Red Cross automobiles. Everywhere battalions of soldiers were to be seen, held back near the fighting line, picking their way through the wire. The roads were carts drawn by oxen in which were women and children with their household goods. Behind them walked the men, fleeing from the battle-wreath region.

RUSH TO THE COLORS

Italians of All Ages and Classes Joining Army—Patriotism.

Italy Front—(via Paris), May 28.—The rush to join the colors continues throughout Italy the volunteers including every age and profession. Already 50 members of parliament and 50 journalists of Rome have enrolled.

Leonida Bissolati-Bergamschi, leader of the Reform Socialist, has taken the rank of sergeant in the fourth Alpine regiment.

The poet Gabriele D'Annunzio has received permission to serve as a volunteer on a warship. Peppino Garibaldi and his volunteers will take service with the brigade known as the "Hunters of the Alps" which was founded in 1859 and was commanded by an independent corps during the war of Serbia and France against Austria, by Giuseppe Garibaldi, the Italian patriot.

Philadelphia, May 27.—The directors of the Baldwin Locomotive Works today postponed action on the semi-annual dividend on the common stock of the corporation, but declared the regular semi-annual dividend of 1-2 per cent on the preferred stock. Action on the common stock was postponed, it was said, because of business conditions during the last six months.

It is understood that several of the South American countries determined to have better service to United States.

Washington, May 27.—A definite plan for creating a market for bills of exchange drawn on banks in the United States payable in dollars was presented today at the conference between business and financial representatives of the United States and the Chilean delegation attending the Pan-American Financial Conference.

It was said tonight that the Guggenheim copper interests, the Bethlehem Steel Company and the Dupon Powder Company, all of which have large interests in Chile, are behind the plan which would involve exchange agreements giving some \$100,000,000 a year.

Representatives of the United States in this conference group were told that Chile exacted an export duty on nitrate and had provided that 90 day bills of exchange on London payable in pounds sterling shall be practically legal tender in the payment of these duties and for other purposes. It was suggested that a law be enacted to make bills drawn on banks in the United States legal tender to the extent to facilitate the business interests of the United States which spend millions each year in wages and in purchases in Chile.

The Chileans promised to urge their government to take the steps necessary. "Later" it was said the same proposal would be made to other South American countries where bills on London are legal tender.

Features of the conference today were a general session, a luncheon given by Secretary McAdoo and a trip to Mount Vernon on the Presidential yacht Mayflower. Tomorrow there will be more group conferences and a general session at which the groups are expected to make reports on the exercise of the right of visit and search before an attack upon any merchantman.

Some of the South American countries probably will remain in the United States after the conference closes in the hope of enlisting capital or of making other arrangements that will assure the establishment of steamship lines in connection with the financial conference, Dr. P. P. Claxton, commissioner (Continued on Page Eight.)

London, May 27.—The foreign office announced tonight that the government had informed the representatives of American cotton interests whose shipments on 17 vessels have been purchased by the government, that it was ready and anxious to make payment at once. The representative, however, admitted his inability at present to make any definite claim in respect of any one of the cargoes of these vessels, but he has undertaken to obtain the necessary information in order to present his claim as soon as possible.

While most anxious to satisfy all claims as promptly as possible, it is said the statement issued by the foreign office, "it is obvious that the process of arriving at speedy settlement is delayed by the necessity of establishing the real ownership of each consignment, and of ascertaining whether it has passed from the shipper to the consignee and who is the right person to receive the payment. The question is complicated by the fact that Swedish consignees of a number of cargoes have instituted proceedings here with the view of preventing the purchase by the government from American shippers of cargoes which, it is alleged already have been bought and paid for by these Swedish consignees."

Chicago, May 27.—Miss Anna Johnson was found dead today with a bullet wound in the right side of her head at the residence of Dr. Eva S. Shaver, a physician. A coroner's autopsy indicated that an operation had been performed, and Dr. Shaver and her son Clarence Shaver are being detained.

The coroner is continuing his inquiry to determine whether the bullet wound was inflicted by the young woman herself or whether there is ground for suspicion that she was shot to hide another crime.

Miss Johnson came here a year ago from Ludington, Mich., and was employed as a hair dresser. She occupied a room in Dr. Shaver's house. Her body was found today by W. C. Harvey, another roomer, who failed to notify the police for several hours, and when he was detained. Later he was released.

Marshall Hostetter, the girl's fiancé, who had been seized on suspicion, was released, but Dr. Shaver and her son were ordered held, pending the completion of the inquest.

Nanaimo, B. C., May 27.—About 40 miners were trapped by a gas explosion in the reserve mine of the Western Fuel Company here late today. Sixteen have been rescued and two bodies recovered.

Session of General Synod Being Held at Akron, O., Takes Action.

Akron, O., May 27.—Steps for a nation-wide celebration by Lutherans of the 400th anniversary of the Reformation were taken today by the 47th biennial convention of the General Synod of the Lutheran Church.

A new institution which will be known as the "Inner Missionary Society" was formed. Members of the board in each church will seek homes for homeless, feed the poor and provide work and homes for girls. Dr. W. H. Greener, D. D., Columbia, S. C., editor of the Lutheran Survey, was the speaker today.

Reports from the Southern Presbyterian Church was presented by representatives of that body.

Next year's assembly will be held at Atlantic City.

Efforts of Governor Hunt in Behalf of Condemned Men of No Avail.

Phoenix, Ariz., May 27.—By a vote of 9 to 4, the Arizona state senate tonight declined Governor George W. P. Hunt's request to memorialize the state board of pardons and paroles to relieve five Mexicans condemned to die tomorrow at the Florence penitentiary.

Governor Hunt had made a last effort to save the lives of the Mexicans, based upon a message received today from Secretary Bryan, who suggested that their execution might endanger the lives and property of Americans still resident in the territory controlled by the Mexican chief General Villa.

The Governor sent Secretary Bryan's telegram to both the legislature and the state board of pardons and paroles.

MEXICANS MUST DIE.

Reports from Antlers, Okla., assert more than 60 persons were injured at Tallahassee.

(Continued on Page Eight.)

Foreign Office Informs Representative of American Cotton Interests.

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