

WEATHER.

Increasing cloudiness and warmer Wednesday, probably followed by rain at night or on Thursday; somewhat colder Thursday in west portion.

THE MORNING STAR

FOUNDED

WILMINGTON, N. C., WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 14, 1917

10 PAGES TODAY ONE SECTION

VOL. XCIX—NO. 140.

WILMINGTON, N. C., WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 14, 1917

WHOLE NUMBER 39,855

VIGOROUS ACTION TO BE TAKEN IF GERMANY DOES NOT RELEASE PROMPTLY 62 AMERICAN SEAMEN

United States Takes Preliminary Step by Making Inquiry Concerning Retention.

IS DISCUSSED BY CABINET

Severance of Relations With Austria, Turkey and Bulgaria is Strongly Indicated.

SITUATION LITTLE CHANGED

Cabinet Reaches No Agreement as to Arming of Ships.

Washington, Feb. 13.—An inquiry concerning the retention by Germany of the sixty-two American seamen brought in by the prize ship Yarowdale was dispatched to Berlin today by the United States preliminary to more vigorous action, if the men are not promptly released.

The plight of these sailors occupied much of the time at today's cabinet meeting, given over to the crisis growing out of Germany's submarine warfare. It was agreed that their liberty again should be demanded in most emphatic fashion. Pending complete reports as to the treatment of German crews on war-bound ships in the Philippines, Hawaii and elsewhere, however, the government will content itself with the inquiry as to why the Americans are held and under what conditions.

Cabinet Discusses All Phases.

The cabinet discussed every phase of the international situation. The question of providing guns for American shipowners desiring to arm their vessels for defense was considered, but it was stated officially afterwards that no decision was reached. It is understood that there was a division of opinion with most of the cabinet officers strongly favoring furnishing the guns both on the ground that permitting American ships to remain idle in port suggests acquiescence in Germany's course and because the congestion of ocean-bound freight in the country's ports is assuming serious proportions. Other members are said to have contended that the policy would be unwise. The president will decide the question.

Tension Not Greatly Increased.

News that an official statement had been issued at Berlin announcing that yesterday was the last "day of grace" allowed neutral shipping before the unrestricted submarine warfare went into full effect, did not appreciably increase tension here. There has been full realization ever since the sinking of the Anchor liner California that the German campaign is being carried on in defiance of the United States and that the overt act against American life that will precipitate war has not been committed.

Further Ruptures Probable.

There were strong indications during the day that the severance of relations with Germany would be extended to other Central Powers. Austria's adherence to Germany's position is regarded as practically certain to force a break with that country. Ambassador Elkus at Constantinople was instructed today to ascertain whether submarines operating under the Turkish flag were under the same instructions as those of Germany and Austria.

Serious difficulties with Turkey already exist over interference with Armenian and Syrian relief and the detention of more than 1,000 American refugees.

It develops that no message has been received at the State Department since the break with Germany from either Ambassador Elkus at Constantinople or from Consul General Murphy, at Sofia, who cares for American interests there.

Points must go through Vienna, but officials have no indication as to whether they will be carried by the local Bulgarian and Turkish authorities.

Relief Ships Delayed.

Meanwhile, the naval collier Caesar, loaded with food and clothing contributed by Americans for the sufferers in Syria, and the cruiser Des Moines, loaded with medical supplies, are lying at anchor in Alexandria harbor, unable to continue their voyage to Beirut because of the uncertainty as to what was being done at Beirut, where they were long overdue at that port.

It was explained after the cabinet (Continued on Page Two)

President of Cuba Calls For Volunteers to Check Revolt

Is Rumored That Former President Gomez Has Landed at Camaguey, and That the Commander of Forces There and All His Men Have Mutinied—Fighting Reported Already.

Havana, Feb. 13.—Outwardly, the revolutionary situation here tonight was virtually as it has been for the last three days, but there were any rumors of uprisings in Camaguey, where, according to unconfirmed reports, Lieutenant-Colonel Quinones, commanding the troops in that province, has rebelled together with his forces.

Communication with Camaguey remains completely cut off. No trains have arrived from there since yesterday. Among the stories in circulation concerning the trouble in Camaguey is one that former President Jose Miguel Gomez has landed there to join the rebels.

That the government is preparing to meet a more serious situation was demonstrated today by the issuance of an official decree, by President Menocal, authorizing the enlistment of volunteers for service during a period of 90 days. Men between the ages of 18 and 45 are called for, and neither non-citizens nor lack of ability to read or write Spanish will act as a barrier to volunteers. It was officially announced today that

BAND OF MEXICANS KILL 3 MORMONS

Private Advice Tell of Raid on the "Corner Ranch" Southwest of Hachita, N. M.

ONE MAN TAKEN PRISONER

General Manager of Palomas Land Company Receives Report That Three Americans and Seven Mexicans Taken Away.

El Paso, Texas, Feb. 13.—Private advice received late tonight from Columbus, N. M., said three Mormons were killed by a band of Mexicans which crossed the international boundary, 60 miles southwest of Hachita, N. M., today and raided the "Corner Ranch." Andrew Peterson, another Mormon, was held a prisoner, it was said.

H. S. Stephenson, general manager of the Palomas Land and Cattle Company, said he had received a report from his foreman at Hachita that three Americans and seven Mexicans were captured and 109 American horses and mules, and \$1,500 worth of supplies taken away. His report made no reference to any loss of life.

MILITARY OFFICERS MAKE EFFORT TO CONFIRM REPORT

Columbus, N. M., Feb. 13.—Military officers here were making every effort tonight to confirm the reported raid of the "Corner Ranch" on the American side of the border southwest of Hachita, N. M.

The Villa band which camped at Palomas Lakes late yesterday has disappeared, according to the airplane observers who made observations today. Army officers believe the band was an exploration party for a large force of Villa troops which was reported twenty miles south of the border.

Outposts have been established by the Twelfth United States cavalry along the line and airplanes are being used as scouts along the border for fifteen miles east and west.

The Nogales ranch on the Mexican side of the boundary south of Hachita, owned by Americans, also was raided, according to word received here.

The "Corner Ranch" is located in American territory. Ten dead horses were found on the ranch after the Mexicans had raided it and large supplies, including ranch stock and other property, were seized, according to messages received here. Several ranch employees were taken prisoner.

RECEIVES WORD HIS SON WAS CAPTURED BY MEXICANS

Domine, N. M., Feb. 13.—A. C. Peterson received word tonight that his son had been captured by Mexican raiders at the Corner Ranch on the border south of Hachita and had been carried into Mexico. The message said that two other Mormons and a number of Mexicans were carried away. Mr. Peterson had appealed to General Pershing for military aid in recovering his son.

BERNSTORFF BIDS FAREWELL TO THE NATION'S CAPITAL

Expresses Hope That War May be Averted and Friendly Relations Soon Restored.

SAILS FOR GERMANY TODAY

Many Personal Friends Call to Tell Him Good-Bye, While Others Send Letters.

Washington, Feb. 13.—In a farewell statement before leaving tonight for New York to sail for home, Count von Bernstorff expressed the hope that war between the United States and Germany might be averted, and that friendly relations might soon be re-established. The former German ambassador said to a group of newspaper correspondents gathered at his home:

"In leaving the United States after a stay of eight years, I wish to extend to my many personal friends my heartfelt thanks for the great kindness and cordial hospitality they have shown me. My heart is full of gratitude to those whose personal feelings never wavered during the trying years of the war. In the last few days I have received so many cordial farewell messages that it was impossible to send thanks for them individually.

"Countess Bernstorff joins me in this expression of our deepest personal gratitude. I hope that war may be averted and that the old friendly relations between the United States and Germany may soon be restored."

The former ambassador, together with his wife and his suite, left Washington late tonight in a special train placed at their disposal by the State Department and guarded by United States secret service men. The train will leave the city at 11:30 p. m. for New York, where it will be met by the German ambassador, Dr. Ritter, and will sail for Germany tomorrow afternoon. The entire party expects to go directly aboard the ship.

All of today's last in Washington—the former ambassador remained with the press, bidding adieu, saying good-bye to many personal friends and reading letters of farewell from out-of-town friends and from officials and diplomats in Washington who felt that in view of the situation they could not properly call in person. In the afternoon the Swiss minister, Dr. Ritter, arrived at the embassy and formally took charge of it and its archives. Two German clerks were left behind to assist Dr. Ritter. Eventually their return to Germany probably will be arranged for by the State Department.

When the newspaper correspondents arrived the count sat in front of the fireplace and dictated the statement quoted above. He denied emphatically reports that he had talked to various persons on the subject of peace since the break between the United States and Germany.

"I have not talked politics with anyone since the break came," he said. "Any statement to the contrary is pure fiction. You can believe me when I say this. I have never lied to a newspaper correspondent since I have been in Washington."

"Where am I going when I get to (Continued on Page Two)

METHODIST ORPHANAGE BURNED

Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 13.—Fire today destroyed the boys' dormitory at the Methodist Orphanage here. No one was injured, but much of the clothing and personal effects of the boys were burned. The damage to the building was about \$8,000, and contents about \$2,000.

Fire in Sampson Fatal to Five Men

FIVE NEGRO MEN REPORTED BURNED TO DEATH IN SHANTY AT LUMBER MILL OF T. E. OWEN NEAR ROSEBORO

(Special Star Telegram.) Clinton, N. C., Feb. 13.—A cabin in which ten negro men were sleeping at a logging camp near the mill of Thomas E. Owen, at Mints, Sampson county, burned last night. Five of the negroes were burned to death and five were injured by the flames. All were sleeping soundly and the building was falling in before any awakened.

(Special Star Telegram.) Fayetteville, N. C., Feb. 13.—Five negro men were burned to death in a shanty at Thomas E. Owen's lumber mill near Roseboro last night, according to a report reaching here today.

Two of the men were twin brothers named Owen, about 18 years old. They and another one of the men named Freeman, worked on the farm of Dr. J. F. Highsmith, of Fayetteville, and news of the tragedy was phoned to him here.

No other particulars are known here.

BERLIN DENIES THAT ANY EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO AVOID WAR WITH U. S.

HUGE NAVAL BILL PASSED BY HOUSE

Carries an Appropriation of Over \$368,000,000, Greatest in Nation's History.

KITCHIN LEADS OPPOSITION

Only Twenty-Three Votes Cast Against Measure—Immediately Sent to Senate Where Consideration Will be Hastened.

Washington, Feb. 13.—The largest naval appropriation bill in the country's history was passed today by the House and sent to the Senate, where a sub-committee immediately was appointed to hasten its consideration. It carries \$368,000,000, provides for the second installment of the great three-year building programme adopted last year, and includes administration emergency amendments authorizing the government to commandeer private ship yards and munitions plants in time of national peril and to purchase the basic patents of aircraft.

The voting on the bill was 363 to 23, eighteen Democrats headed by Majority Leader Kitchin, four Republicans and one Socialist voting against it.

During the debate, which was in progress intermittently for about a week, various provisions proposed as a result of the submarine crisis were added to the measure. Because of the government's difficulty in placing contracts for warships authorized last year, an amendment asked for by Secretary Daniels providing an additional \$12,000,000 for equipping navy yards for construction was inserted.

The measure will be taken up in the House Thursday. Those voting against the navy bill were:

Democrats—Bailey, Pennsylvania; Burnett and Huddleston, Alabama; Callaway and Davis, Texas; Doughton, Page and Kitchin, North Carolina; Gordon and Sherwood, Ohio; Johnson and Thomas, Kentucky; Saunders, Virginia; Sears, Florida; Sisson, Mississippi; Tamm, Illinois; Thompson, Oklahoma, and Tillman, Arkansas.

Republicans—Cramton, Michigan; Hollingsworth, Ohio; Lindbergh, Minnesota; and Nelson, Wisconsin.

Socialist—London, New York.

GERARD IS EXPECTED TO REACH PARIS TOMORROW

Paris, Feb. 13.—James W. Gerard, former American ambassador to Germany, and Mrs. Gerard, are expected to arrive in Paris Thursday. They will be the guests of William Graves Sharp, the American ambassador to France, and Mrs. Sharp.

SAYS U-BOAT MENACE NOT TO BE FATAL ONE

Confident British Will Have it Under Control in Six Weeks.

Baron Beresford Points Out That Loss in Ships is Not as Serious as It Appears—Debate in the House of Lords.

London, Feb. 13.—In the house of lords today Admiral Baron Beresford, drawing attention to the submarine menace and asking what measures had been taken to meet it, said:

"We have lost since the beginning of the war 4,000,000 tons of shipping. That is a fact which the public should know, but it is not nearly as serious as it appears. We have made up the loss very considerably. Three million tons which have been lost have been more or less adequately filled."

In conclusion, Baron Beresford, while acknowledging the submarine menace was serious, said it would not be a fatal menace, and he was confident that in six weeks or so the nation would have the submarines really in hand.

The Earl of Lytton, replying for the admiralty, said the government would be glad if it were possible to take the public entirely into its confidence, but that that would involve imparting information to the enemy.

No Note Inviting Suggestions for Peace Addressed to the American Government.

U-BOAT PLAN UNMODIFIED

Germany Not to Recede From the Program Which is Already Being Carried Out.

Berlin, Feb. 13. (via London).—It is absolutely denied here that Germany in a note to the United States, or through other mediums, is inviting suggestions for the avoidance of actual war. It is reiterated that the German government is not permitting doubts in any quarters regarding the position assumed in the U-boat warfare, and that there can be no talk or thought of recession from the program already being carried out.

In view of this, it is declared in authoritative circles that any further parley or exchange of the notes with the United States may be dismissed as unwarranted and improbable.

The origin of the report is ascribed to the recent announcement, made through the Swiss government, that Germany was willing to negotiate respecting the amended treaty of 1793.

SAYS GERMANY IS WORKING TO "DELAY CONSEQUENCES"

Paris, Feb. 13.—"The rupture with the United States forestalled the plans of Germany," says the Temps, "and Germany is now working to delay the consequences. The imperial government wanted by terrorism to stop the maritime communication of the allies and it has succeeded in detaching a large number of neutral ships in port. It is a patriotic satisfaction, which it seems to prolong by the activity of its pirates against allied ships and by its policy of neutral ships in port. It is a patriotic satisfaction, which it seems to prolong by the activity of its pirates against allied ships and by its policy of neutral ships in port. It is a patriotic satisfaction, which it seems to prolong by the activity of its pirates against allied ships and by its policy of neutral ships in port."

RECORD EARNINGS MADE BY DUPONT POWDER COMPANY

Plans Already Made to Cope With Contingencies After the War.

Wilmington, Del., Feb. 13.—All records, both as to volume of business and net earnings, were broken by E. I. DuPont de Nemours & Company last year, according to the annual report of the company, made public tonight. Gross receipts for the year 1916 aggregated \$12,848,692, an increase of 1,130 per cent, as compared with the average sales for 1913 and 1914, which amounted to \$26,927,478. Net earnings in 1916 were \$8,108,692 and in addition to payment of six per cent, in dividends was distributed to the common stockholders during the year.

Since October, 1914, about \$60,000,000 has been expended in the construction of new plants to fill "war orders."

PUBLIC WANTS NEWS OF U-BOAT ACTIVITY

Appeal Made in House of Lords to Drop Veil of Secrecy.

Reply is Made to the Effect That the British Navy is Thoroughly Awake and Using Every Means to Combat Danger.

London, Feb. 13.—The British public has indulged the idea that the meeting of parliament would show light on the problem of how the navy is dealing with Germany's intensified submarine warfare. The press and many public men have been constantly urging the government to drop the veil of secrecy, on the ground that the losses were well known to the Germans and that therefore there would be no harm in allowing the British public to know, while the knowledge would end to encourage the people to bear patiently the necessary sacrifices.

Gossip has played with the nation that many German submarines are being destroyed or have been brought up their crews to British ports.

Admiral Lord Beresford raised the question in the House of Lords today. He appealed to the government for more open treatment of the public, thereby voicing an urgent demand for information. The Earl of Lytton, civil lord of the admiralty, and the Earl of Curzon, lord president of the council, replied to the effect that certain routes for neutral commerce were being kept free and that the situation was less aggravated than might be supposed. They declined, however, to divulge whether the improved condition was due to a better means for ships escaping the attention of submarines or to the actual destruction of submarines, though on the latter point Lord Lytton described Admiral Sir

(Continued on Page Two)

NEW STATE REVENUE BILL PRACTICALLY LIKE THAT OF 1915

House Passes Bill for 15 Instead of 20 Licensed Pilots at Port of Wilmington.

COUNTY AUDIT BILL PASSES

State Good Roads Bond Issue Bill Passes House With Only One Dissenting Vote.

(By W. J. MARTIN.) Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 13.—The House passed and sent to the Senate today the bill to amend the navigation law for the port of Wilmington by reducing the number of licensed pilots from 20 to 15 and to exempt inland water-way shipping whenever the port becomes a port of entry for such vessels.

The revenue bill came into the House through Chairman Doughton of the Finance committee and 300 copies were ordered printed. It is really a general working over of the revenue act in force the past two years, with only minor changes. Tax rates are left exactly as in force the past two years. There are some changes of only minor importance in the special taxes scheduled in Sections B, C, and D. The State-wide bill directing the Corporation Commission to have books of county officers examined and to devise and install a uniform system of accounting for all counties was passed after Senator Gough renewed his efforts to have the books examined and other counties joined in the effort. Senator Brenizer explained that the bill was necessarily State-wide. The measure passed 31 to 12 and was sent to the House.

New Bills in Senate. New bills were: Authorize cities to establish planning boards.

Long, of Alamance—Authorize continued suspension of construction work on the Greensboro, Northwestern & Atlantic Railroad for five years.

The Brenizer bill for authorizing towns of 20,000 or more population to join with their counties in establishing homes for fallen women came up and was opposed by Senator Jones, because there were loop-holes in it that would make it possible for women other than those denominated "fallen" to be sentenced to the institution. This brought Senator Robeson's amendment for amendment to be incorporated.

The Brenizer bill for the inspection of hotels as to their safety and sanitation was explained by Senator Brenizer and amended by Senator Burgwin to limit the application of the bill to establishments of 15 or more rooms. The bill passed as amended and was sent to the House.

The Senate adjourned to 11 o'clock Wednesday.

New bills offered in the House were: Page—Provide for the election of Moore county board of education.

Kittrell—Amend the law as to the compensation of attorneys appointed to defend capital felons.

Murphy—Extend aid to Confederate veterans in attending the 1917 reunion at Fayetteville, D. C., by authorizing any county board of education to pay veterans unable to attend otherwise. It was given immediate passage and sent to the Senate.

Wright—Provide for county hospitals for tuberculosis.

Russell—Relief of former Sheriff Hancock, of Carteret county.

Passed Final Reading. Bills passed final reading as follows: Authorize the Wilson county commissioners to build a court house; Primary law for Gates county; Repeal the Columbus county law; Protect Oakdale church, Robeson county, and Western Prong church, Columbus county; Amend the law as to the election of Montgomery county commissioners; Authorize the Robeson commissioners to provide for the expenses of Confederate veterans to the Washington reunion this year.

State Road Bond Law Passed. Speaker Murphy laid before the House the bill by Clark, of Pitt, providing that the State may issue \$400,000 road bonds semi-annually for counties that vote for road bonds, the State bonds to carry 4 per cent and the county subsidiary bonds 5 per cent, that will liquidate the bonds in the course of 41 years. The bill passed with only one dissenting vote, that of Lloyd, Republican, of Orange county, after Clark had explained it.

Representative Clayton got through a bill to abolish the recorder's court for Hyde county.

The bill to furnish farmers ground phosphate at lowest possible cost was re-committed.

A bill passed to permit high school students to attend schools in adjoining counties; also to put Beaufort county under the State-wide primary law.

The House adjourned to 11 o'clock Wednesday.

ARMOR PLANT BOARD AGAIN TO VISIT SOUTHERN CITIES. Washington, Feb. 15.—The armor plant board, it was announced today, would make its second inspection trip, leaving Washington February 18 for Southern cities. It will visit Bristol, Va., and Johnson City, Tenn., February 19; Kingsport, Knoxville, Chattanooga, Birmingham, Tuscaloosa Gadsden and Rome, Ga., are also on the board's itinerary.