

WEATHER.
Partly cloudy and colder Saturday,
probably, along the coast, Sunday, fair.

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WILMINGTON, N. C., SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 24, 1917

SPRING IS just around the corner. Announcements are already being read with unusual interest by lady shoppers.

WHOLE NUMBER 39,868

AMERICAN MISSIONARY PERISHES AS FRENCH STEAMER GOES DOWN

Rev. Allen Haden, of Nashville, Tenn., Aboard the Athos When Torpedoed in Mediterranean.

BEING USED AS TRANSPORT

Vessel Was Convoysed by Two French Destroyers and Gunboat—1,450 Persons Saved.

CRISIS STILL UNCHANGED

Announcement is Made Following Meeting of the Cabinet.

Paris, Feb. 23.—The French steamer Athos, carrying Sengalese troops and colonial laborers, has been torpedoed in the Mediterranean Sea. The torpedoing occurred notwithstanding the fact that the Athos was escorted by the French torpedo boat destroyers Mameluk and Enseigne Henry, which aided by a gunboat, saved 1,450 persons from the steamer.

Washington, Feb. 23.—A flurry came late in the day over a dispatch announcing the torpedoing without warning of the French liner Athos and the drowning of Allen Haden, an American missionary, of Tennessee, on board as a passenger. Any idea, however, that this might be the overt act which would precipitate war was cleared away later by press dispatches, telling how the liner was being used as a troop ship under convoy of two destroyers.

SECRETARY LANSING GOES OFF FOR THREE-DAY REST

Washington, Feb. 23.—The departure of Secretary Lansing tonight for a three-day stay at White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., was variously interpreted in connection with possible developments in the German crisis. At first there was a general tendency to believe that it meant the government did not contemplate taking any new step before the middle of next week, but if decisions had been reached and plans worked out the head of the State Department could be spared for a few days rest now better than later.

There was a two-hour cabinet meeting this afternoon, followed by an announcement that the international situation had undergone no change. Members were more than usually reticent in discussion afterwards, although they indicated that President Wilson still had no plans for his expected visit to Congress to seek authority to protect Americans and their ships from submarines.

Administration officials would not comment on the probable effect upon the President's course or the Republican filibuster started in the Senate with the apparent intention of forcing an extra session and the threats of some Republican leaders to oppose granting any additional power to be used by the president after adjournment.

No word has been received from Ambassador Penfield concerning Austria's request for the return of a statement as to whether the Vienna government adhered fully to Germany's submarine policy and whether the pledges given in the Vienna and Persia cases are repudiated. Germany is understood to be exerting strong pressure on Austria for a complete defiance of this country, and officials here do not conceal their belief that a break is inevitable in spite of the reluctance of both governments to permit it.

Baron Zwielinek, "charge of the Austrian embassy, called at the State Department today and it is said to have learned that no time would be set for the presentation of credentials to the President by Count Tarnowski, the new ambassador, until the issue with the government was decided.

SPECIAL SESSION NOW THREATENED

Filibuster of Republican Senators Upsets Plans for Remaining Days of Congress.

FIGHT OVER REVENUE BILL

Opposition to Any Request of the President for Authority to Deal with Foreign Situation is Fore-shadowed.

Washington, Feb. 23.—Republicans of the Senate began a filibuster today that threw into the air all plans for the remaining eight working days of the session, threatening essential pending legislation and foreshadowing opposition to any request President Wilson may make for authority to deal with the international crisis after Congress adjourns. They did not challenge charges on the floor that they deliberately were seeking to force the President to call an extra session.

Although the Democrats believe the fight will chiefly be at the administration's emergency revenue bill, it drew prompt and hearty support from those opposing any grant of additional power to the executive which might result in aggressive action to protect American rights in the war zone.

The trouble began when the majority rejected an amendment modifying the excess profits tax provision of the revenue measure. There was a conference presided over by Senator Lodge and participated in by leaders of both sides of the Republican party.

Returning to the floor the Republicans began killing time, speaking one after another for hours on perfunctory amendments. No progress was made during the day or at a session lasting far into the night. Democratic leaders are considering forcing all night sessions in an effort to tire the filibusters out, and they may begin tomorrow. It is realized that the Republicans by persistent obstructive tactics can prevent the enactment of the revenue bill and thus make an extra session imperative.

Filibustering continued until 11 o'clock tonight when leaders of both sides agreed upon a recess until tomorrow. For several hours the Underwood amendment to reduce the tax on excess profits was discussed and then the bond issue was used as the vehicle for consuming time.

With reference to the attitude of the Republicans towards the legislative program, some of them said tonight that the revenue bill might be allowed to pass some time next week but that the public may be very sure that there will be an extra session of Congress.

MR. O. M. POWERS FOR MAYOR.

Nominated, with Other Officers, in Chadbourne Last Night.

FOOD SITUATION DISCUSSED AT CABINET MEETING

Virtually Every Government Agency with Remotest Relation to Problem is Active.

MANY CARS ARE SENT WEST

Car Service Commission Says There is No Indication of Food Shortage Anywhere.

Washington, Feb. 23.—The soaring cost of foodstuffs throughout the country today engaged the attention of virtually every government agency with even a remote relation to the problem.

President Wilson and the cabinet discussed the situation, its cause and possible remedies. Views held by some of the conferees were that the record prices were intertwined with the general car shortage and congestion on transportation lines and indirectly affected by the German submarine warfare which has resulted in vast accumulations of freight and resultant car congestion at eastern seaports.

May Announce Relief Measures. Department of Justice agents resumed their investigation of the situation of prices to determine if there were an actual shortage of foodstuffs at large cities where rioting has recently occurred.

The Interstate Commerce Commission through its field force of investigators and officials here kept close watch on the railroads' efforts to unravel the tangle of cars at congested points, announced the transportation west of many trains of empties, chiefly for relief at Chicago, and were reported to be satisfied that the gigantic task of releasing conditions to normal was progressing satisfactorily as speedily as might be expected.

No Shortage Indicated. The car service commission of the American Railway Association, the railroads' supreme court in all subjects affecting shortages and congestion, disclaimed all responsibility on behalf of the railroads for contributing to the rise through failure to furnish transportation facilities and announced that at no time had any complaint been received which would indicate that there was a shortage of food anywhere in the country.

The newly created shipping board submitted to the President a plan for relief by placing American vessels in the coast to coast trade, thus releasing freight cars required for trans-continental traffic. A large merchant marine, available for this duty by service through the Panama Canal would be (Continued on Page Eight)

17 REPORTED LOST IN SERIES OF TORNADOES

Much Damage Done in Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia.

Numerous Cabins and Small Dwellings Are Swept Away—School House Blown Down at Georgetown, Miss., Injuring Six.

Seven persons are reported killed and more than a hundred injured in a series of tornadoes that swept portions of Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi today.

The most serious loss of life occurred in middle Alabama, where eleven of the deaths occurred. Hollins, Midway, Stewartville and Whitsett were swept, seven persons being killed and more than a hundred injured in the Hollins-Midway-Stewartville section, while at Whitsett four negroes were killed in the destruction of their cabins.

In addition much timber was blown down and several residences were damaged. Two negroes were killed at Lithonia, Ga., when the twisting wind struck that place and at least sixty small dwellings were demolished.

Six children were injured in a storm at Georgetown, Miss., two of them seriously, when a school building was blown down.

TOLL OF U-BOATS FRIDAY TOTALLED THIRTEEN SHIPS

Including French Steamer Athos, the Aggregate Tonnage as Reported. Was 25,456.

REVIEW OF THE WAR NEWS

On None of the Battlefields Has There Been Any Activity of Importance.

German submarines continue to sink entente ships. The total tonnage sunk as reported Friday was 25,456. This includes the French steamer Athos, of 12,000 tons, which was sent to the bottom in the Mediterranean while carrying troops to France and under guard of warships. One American, Robert A. Haden, a missionary in China, lost his life in the torpedoing of the Athos, from which 1,450 persons were saved.

All the 13 vessels reported sunk were of entente registry, except one Norwegian and several of unestablished identity. There has been no activity of importance on the battlefields of Europe. In the Somme and Ancre sectors, additional small gains of ground by British troops are reported by London. The repulse of German raids in the vicinity of Arrertrieres also is reported. Artillery bombardments continue as usual along the remainder of the western front.

In Galicia the Germans and Russians have been engaged in isolated fighting at Zlochoff. Berlin records the destruction of four mine shafts and the capture of 250 prisoners. Petrograd says the attackers were driven back to their positions after breaking through the Russian lines.

A battle for the possession of Sannaly, northeast of Kut-el-Amara on the Tigris, is in progress. British troops were successful in the opening engagement. London reports that fighting is being hampered by high water in the Tigris.

FOUR VESSELS REPORTED BY LONDON AS HAVING BEEN SUNK

London, Feb. 23.—The British bark Inversauld, the Central News Agency says, has been torpedoed. The crew was landed. Lloyd's announces that these ships were sunk:

British steamer Belgier, of 4,538 tons; British steamer Washfield, of 5,012 tons; British steamer John Mills, of 687 tons.

VESSELS SUNK IN TWO DAYS ACCORDING TO PARIS REPORT

Paris, Feb. 23.—An official list of vessels sunk between February 20 and 22 issued today contains the following:

Doravore, Norwegian steamer, 270 tons; Apa, British steamer, 464 tons; San Michele, Italian three-masted bark, 583 tons; Giovanni P., Italian brigantine (Continued on Page Two)

DISTRICT PROHIBITION BILL MAY BE VOTED ON

Special Rule is Agreed Upon by the House Committee.

"Dry" Advocates Believe the Measure Certain of Passage Once it is Submitted to Vote—Has Already Passed the Senate.

Washington, Feb. 23.—A special rule expected to insure a vote in the House at this session on the District of Columbia prohibition bill was agreed to late today by the House Rules committee. The measure already has passed the Senate.

NEW MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY BRITISH PREMIER FOR SOLVING TONNAGE PROBLEM

Proposes Trained Force of 4,000,000

Army General Staff Universal Military Service Bill is Submitted to the House.

WIDE PUBLICITY SUGGESTED

Secretary Baker Wants Congress and War Department to "Have the Benefit of Enlightened, Thoughtful Public Opinion."

Washington, Feb. 23.—The army general staff universal military service bill was transmitted to the House military committee today by Secretary Baker without a definite expression by the administration, either on the general subject or the specific proposal.

The secretary suggested that wide publicity be given the staff plan "to the end that both Congress and the War Department can, in any subsequent consideration given to the subject, have the benefit of an enlightened, thoughtful public opinion upon the needs and wishes of the country."

In round numbers, the staff plan would supply a trained force of 4,000,000 men, with one year of intensive military instruction. It is estimated by the War College that approximately 500,000 boys in their nineteenth year would be available for training annually.

They would, under the plan, be liable to call to the colors until 22 years of age and then would pass into the unorganized reserve until 45 years of age. The bill's purpose is to constitute a first reserve of 1,500,000, ready to respond instantly to a call to arms. A second reserve of equal size, but only partially equipped, would require some time to take the field. Eventually there would be 1,000,000 additional men ready to fill in gaps at the front.

In addition, there would be a regular army of 24,000 officers and 285,886 enlisted men. Of these 97,000 would form the overseas forces and 23,000 the frontier forces, the remainder composing the permanent training personnel, which would take care of the instruction of recruits annually. If the proportion of available men for training was greater than estimated, the permanent training force would have to be proportionately increased.

SURPRISED AT APPEAL FOR FUNDS FOR THE REUNION.

Washington Committee Promised Veterans Sufficient Finances.

Montgomery, Ala., Feb. 23.—General Harrison, commander-in-chief of the United Confederate Veterans, in a statement issued at Opelika, Ala., today asserted that he was greatly surprised by the appeal for funds recently sent out by the Washington finance committee for the reunion at the National Capital this year, as the Washington committee which appeared at the last reunion at Birmingham and asked for the 1917 meeting had assured the veterans that they would finance the reunion.

General Harrison said he was taking the matter up with the Washington committee.

NO SERIOUS FIGHTING HAS YET TAKEN PLACE IN CUBA

Government Forces Delayed in Their Advance on Camaguey.

Havana, Feb. 23.—The government forces under Col. Pujol have been delayed in their advance against Camaguey, capital of the province of Camaguey, and still another day has passed without any serious fighting. Colonel Pujol reports from Gaspar that the rebels have been offering resistance to his advance, blowing up all stock from the zone through which he must pass, thus making it more difficult for his forces to secure food.

EXTRA SESSION CALLED AS W. VA. LEGISLATURE ADJOURNS

Charleston, W. Va., Feb. 23.—The West Virginia house of delegates and senate adjourned sine die at 1:15 o'clock this morning after failing to agree on appropriation bills. Governor Hatfield immediately issued a call for an extra session to begin at 11 o'clock today. The items listed for consideration in the call are appropriations, Virginia debt and good roads.

NEW GERMAN WAR CREDIT OF 15,000,000,000 MARKS ASKED

Berlin, Feb. 23 (via Sayville).—A new war credit of 15,000,000,000 marks was introduced in the Reichstag today by Count von Roedern, secretary of the Imperial treasury, who made a detailed speech. The discussion was short and its details only the radical socialist minority dissenting. The Reichstag adjourned until Tuesday, next.

OUSTER MEASURE OFFERED BY GRIER PASSED BY HOUSE

Senate Votes for County Nomination and Legislative Appointment of School Boards.

NO MORE COURT DISTRICTS

Resolution for State Vote on Constitutional Conventions Ready for Ratification.

(BY W. J. MARTIN.)

Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 23.—The House passed tonight, 50 to 38, the Grier ouster law for the State Anti-Saloon League forces. The debate continued probably half an hour, the opponents of the measure being Grant, of New Hanover, and others, who believed there is danger of prosecution of officers by some group of five men of an opposing faction who might bring charges just for the humiliation and harassment of the officer, the ouster provisions covering the whole scope of official duties.

The House defeated the Senate bill to place the age of consent at 16 years. The vote was 41 to 45. A bill passed providing more adequate rewards for recapture of felons. Numbers of local game laws were passed.

Calls on Supreme Court. The Senate passed a resolution tonight asking the Supreme Court to give an informal construction of the constitutional amendment especially as to its bearing on the extension of corporate limits of cities and towns and whether the Legislature can continue to pass bills for specific annexations or must include this matter in the general act for the government of cities and towns. It was sent to the court by special messenger.

The Senate spent the evening arguing most strenuously the substitute bill from the House for the nomination of members of the county boards of education by both parties in county primaries and appointment by the Legislature. In the end all amendments were voted down and the bill passed as a State-wide measure, the Senate even refusing to exempt Bertie or Franklin or other counties that had procured special acts for these counties to elect.

In opposing the bill, Senator Jones said he spoke for his people, who would certainly oppose him if he voted to deprive them of their privilege of electing their boards. The bill was passed and ordered enrolled for ratification.

Senator Turner introduced a lengthy bill prescribing a system for handling and controlling convicts. It was ordered printed.

PEOPLE WILL VOTE ON A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 23.—The Senate passed today and ordered enrolled for ratification the Stubbs resolution from the House providing for the question of the calling of a constitutional convention to be submitted to the people at the next general election, delegates to the proposed convention to be chosen at the same time. The vote was 41 to 44, about the only speech against it being by Senator Little, of Anson, who considered such a procedure an unnecessary expense.

The Senate passed the bill from the House to create a board of examiners for the profession of chiropractors, a measure that has been hard fought through both houses with the physicians and the osteopaths opposing it.

The House defeated the bill from the Senate to create four new judicial districts and judgeships and have two judges always available for emergency service.

New Bills in Senate

New bills introduced in the Senate were: Outlets—Provide referendum for Cumberland voters on the issue of salary system for officers. Harrell—Amend the law as to professional nurses. Warren—Amend the general drainage laws. Follock—Authorize bond issue for Kinston schools. On motion of Senator McLeod the bill to give Sampson county the right to elect its board of education was taken from the unfavorable calendar and put on its readings. It was lost on the second 17 to 31. McLeod claimed that the committee had sent the bill to the unfavorable calendar on a "prophecy" that the committee had no right to make that the Senate would not pass it.

The Justice bill providing machinery for special school taxes under the constitutional amendments was passed without opposition; also a farm life school bill for Jackson county.

Inter-Marriage Bill. There was re-consideration of the vote by which the Pollock bill prohibiting marriages between the races on the same basis that controls the attendance of children in the white schools was defeated, and the measure was debated at length. An amendment by Senator Linn was adopted enabling offspring of any marriage in violation of the act to inherit property. An amendment by Senator Jones would specify that the bill not apply to offspring of marriage already contracted. This was lost and the bill passed 33 to 12.

Bills out of order: Allen—Provide for the nomination and election of Wayne commissioners. Davenport—Authorize the Board of (Continued on Page Eight)