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## GERMANY RESPONDS IN FORM OF INSTRUCTIONS

Will Put Reply in Form of Note If Secretary Lansing Desires It--Apply Only to Merchantmen of Peaceful Character, Berlin Says.

(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, Feb. 28.—In a note presented to Secretary Lansing today by Count von Bernstorff, German ambassador to the United States, she has no disposition to disregard the assurances given in the Lusitania and Arabic cases not to sink without warning unarmed merchantmen. The note says Germany conceives no reason for changing or postponing the new instructions to her submarine commanders to sink merchant ships armed defensively.

(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, Feb. 28.—Germany's response to the request of the United States regarding assurances for the conduct of submarine warfare in the future is in the hands of Secretary Lansing today. The reply is in the form of instructions to her ambassador and will not be put into the form of a note unless requested by the secretary.

The ambassador's instructions were to inform the United States that Germany has no intention of making a distinction between Teutonic submarines, which are bound by the laws of nations, and those which are not. The instructions call attention to the claim of Germany that despite the assurance of Great Britain that her merchantmen "will never fire unless fired upon and will never attack any vessel," British ships have been engaged in attempting to destroy submarines.

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### THE WEATHER

For North Carolina: Overcast and warmer weather, with probably rain or snow Tuesday and in the western portion tonight moderate variable winds.

### COMPARATIVE WEATHER

Feb 27	1916	1915
Maximum	39	55
Minimum	22	35
Mean	30 1/2	44

### Nature a Great Teacher

(By J. F. Click)  
Nature is a great teacher; it is an honest teacher; it teaches the bad as well as the good, and that, too, in contrast which makes it the more impressive, the more lasting.

These sky and the clouds, mountains and plains, forest and fields and night and day constitute nature's great canvass on which God paints vivid pictures of life and death, of time and eternity, and of his loving kindness to man.

Reader, have you ever taken the time and shut yourself in from the busy and perplexing cares of the present-day world, and tried to commune with nature, and up through it with nature's God, and thus study God and yourself in contrast? If not try it. Anything, even sickness, or even the death that forces one to pull back the veil and thus look in, to the beyond, will prove a much needed, present blessing to him.

Like a mother's chastising for wrong doing, a teacher's keeping in at noons because of bad lessons, or a physician's nauseating medicines in case of sickness, it may appear hard, unkind and bitter, yet, when it all ends to our good, we are delighted to look back over it all, and "re-joice in affliction also," and thank God for the blessings thus sent, though, seemingly they come in disguise.

For over a week we were housed in, wrestling with grip, we won't say "old" grip; for it is practically a new disease. Anyway, we were here years before it broke in.

It must have come from some heathen who took his many other diseases, it would have some regard for old times—at least, not tackle a fellow but once. But it's got no respect, no mercy. Mean stubborn grip came to this country, we never heard of dreaded diseases, so common now days, called appendicitis. We believe that grip is a forerunner or breeder of appendicitis. Anyway, when it made us cough so hard, it gave us a pain where they say the appendix is, or are—as we have heard of two being cut out of the same person—but we guess, that was not true, though.

It is a wonder some fellow hadn't started the reporter that Adam had two ribs taken out that time when he was put to sleep and operated upon for that stingy, foolish disease, called "bacheloritis," a disease which a few of our citizens are now dying with. Poor, lonely fellows! Adam even, was no good until he was cured of it.

While grip could shut us in, it could not shut light, noise, kind friends and neighbors nor even the faithful physician out. We could look out through the windows and see the bright sunshine, the clouds, and at night, see the liberal moon and stars sharing with earth their borrowed lights. We could hear the wind blow, which, in reality, is the creature on earth. We could hear the railroad trains and automobiles rushing to and fro, loaded with human freight. It reminded us of the various vehicles of time on the broad and narrow roads, rushing to their destinations, that of life and death.

It reminded us, too, of the Old Ship of Zion, loaded with its thousands, sailing joyfully and safe under the banner of Christ, the "King of Peace," to that shore where there is no war, no sickness, no death!

Then, as we looked at the trees, grass and weeds and saw how bare, how dark and how lifeless they all seemed, a feeling of death came over us, we asked, "Is all nature down with grip, too? Has it lost all hope of restoration to health again? Are there no summer days in winter after all?" But as we pierced the lifeless gloom and saw the buds beginning to swell with their cheeks flushed with life, our hopes began to revive. And as we saw in the distance a great field of wheat, with its millions of stalks clapping their hands, shouting the joys of a resurrected life, and thus promising bread to the hungry despite the chilly blasts of winter.

(Continued on Page Four.)

## EGYPT UNAWARE YEGGMEN CRACK UNLOADED A CAR OF COLORED DINERS

### OF WHAT IS GOING ON

(By Associated Press.)  
Cairo, Egypt, Feb. 28.—Egypt is still very much in the dark as to what is going on along its frontier. Rumors of the most sensational kind are circulated, but there can be no doubt that the military authorities are running no risks as far as the defense of the canal is concerned.

### W. DURHAM P. O. SAFE

(By Associated Press.)  
Durham, Feb. 28.—Yeggmen early this morning broke into the West Durham postoffice and cracked the safe for the fourth time within a little more than a year. Thirty dollars in money and \$200 in stamps were torn into shreds by the nitro-glycerine used. Tracks of robbers left in asbestos scattered over the floor of the office is the only clue on which officers have to work. Many hundred dollars in stamps were not molested.

## FRENCH REINFORCEMENTS CHECK GERMAN ADVANCE

Battle or Verdun Continues With Unabated Fury, Defenders Apparently Holding Their Own--

German Slow Up North of Fortress--Important Contest.

(By Associated Press.)  
The great battle of Verdun, now entering its second week, is continuing with unabated fury, with the German armies driving hard at the French defenses along a lengthening line, which now runs far beyond the salient in which lies the fortress.

Paris asserts that with the pouring in of heavy reinforcements for the French armies, the positions are being held all along the line.

Along the Meuse to the north of Verdun the Germans have been unable to make as rapid progress as at first, although the battle has continued with intensity. On the Woivreux front, where the French at first fell back, they now appear to be offering resistance. Pressure here is particularly menacing to the fortress, as the crushing in the eastern end of the salient would spell disaster for the French stronghold.

Operations at places are taking the form of nature of counter offenses, as in the attack on Fort Douaumont, four miles north of Verdun. This development has been forecast in dispatches, which shows that the expectations of Paris was that the French, when they had fallen back, could drive back over the ground they had yielded to the Germans.

The German accounts fail to agree with the French version of the fighting, but advances for the crown prince's forces, including the taking of Fort

Bardoumont, east of Fort Douaumont.

The French themselves do not claim the recapture of this outlying defense of the main fortress, but claim the Germans who had gained a foothold east and west of the position, were being hard pressed, maintaining themselves with difficulty. They say the fort is closely "encircled."

A German attack against the French position at Manhuelles resulted in complete failure, the French war office announcement says.

Certain advance trenches near the Navarin farm in the Champagne were taken by the Germans by a surprise attack, the French admit.

London dispatch indicates a belief there that the Maloja and other steamers sunk in or near British waters were the victims of German mines sown recently. The sinking of the Russian steamer Petshanga of 1,647 tons, is announced today, fifteen persons on board being drowned.

Now that the Italians have evacuated Durazzo, their military efforts so far as Albania is concerned will be confined to the vicinity of Avlona, eighty miles to the south. Durazzo is declared to have been held as a base for the rescue of the remainder of the Serbian army, but was given up when that purpose was effected, but Avlona is regarded as strong strategically.

## SHELBY CASE IS BEING HEARD IN NEWTON

Newton, Feb. 28.—After the state had introduced only two witnesses, who showed that the Shelby Star was circulated in Catawba county and that the paper containing the alleged libel of B. H. DePriest, was identical with that received in Catawba county, the state announced that it rested in the county court here today in the case of DePriest against Lee H. Weathers for libel.

Thereupon the defense made a motion to quash the bill, and at 3:30 this afternoon attorneys were arguing this point. The witnesses examined were Geo. F. Cochrane, a Newton newspaper man, and J. H. Quinn, receiver for the Shelby Highlander.

The defense contended that the state had not shown that Mr. Weathers libeled the other editor, and the state insisted that the burden of proof was on the defense.

## TWENTY-TWO GAMES FOR CATAWBA COLLEGE

Newton, N. C., Feb. 28.—Manager Fesperman of the baseball team announces the following schedule of twenty two games for the coming season:

- March 25, Rutherford College at Davidson.
- March 27, Davidson College at Davidson.
- March 29, Mt. Pleasant Institute at Newton.
- April 31, Weaver College at Newton.
- April 1, Lenoir College at Hickory.
- April 4, Oak Ridge at Oak Ridge.
- April 5, Elon College at Elon.
- April 6, Spencer at Spencer.
- April 7, Mars Hill College at Newton.
- April 11, Horner College at Newton.
- April 14, Maryville College (Tenn.) at Newton.
- April 17, Oakridge at Newton.
- April 19, Bingham, Asheville at Asheville.
- April 20, Weaver College at Weaver.
- April 21, Mars Hill College at Mars Hill.
- April 22, Asheville School at Asheville.
- April 24, (Easter Monday) Lenoir College at Newton.
- April 25, Linwood College at Gasper.
- April 26, St. Mary's College at Belmont.
- April 27, Horner College at Charlotte.
- April 28, Mt. Pleasant Institute at Mt. Pleasant.

## MARKETS

### NEW YORK STOCKS

(By Associated Press.)  
New York, Feb. 28.—Selling of stocks in moderately heavy volume was resumed at today's opening of the market, and changes over the week end were moderate. Declines ranged one to two points in such issues as Mercantile Marine preferred, leading coppers, Crucible and Lackawanna Steel, New York Air-Brakes and Studebaker, New Haven, Union Pacific and Erie were heaviest of the rails. Rallies to one and one-half points occurred in secondary stocks.

### CHICAGO WHEAT

(By Associated Press.)  
Chicago, Feb. 28.—Heavy selling of wheat resumed today from reports that Germany would not postpone the program to dispense with any warning in attacks on armed ships. After opening unchanged 1/2, with May at 1.13 1/2 and July at 1.10 to 1.10 1/2, prices dropped all round to 2 1/2 under Saturday's finish.

### COTTON FUTURES

(By Associated Press.)  
New York, Feb. 28.—The cotton market showed renewed nervousness today. Liverpool showed steadiness, and the opening here was steady at an advance of 7 points for March and with other months one point lower to three points higher. The market was unsettled by weakness and New Orleans and southern selling, and the prices here were six to seven points lower after the call. The market steadied at the decline on continued Liverpool buying and a moderate demand from trade interests, however, and prices rallied to about Saturday's closing at the end of the first hour.

The market closed steady.

March	11.18	Open	Close
May	11.32		11.32
July	11.54		11.53
October	11.74		11.72
December	11.86		11.89

## ENGLISH DYE-MAKERS WILL PUSH TRADE

(By Associated Press.)  
Leeds, Eng., Feb. 28.—The directors of the British Dyes Company, which hopes to supplant the German dye makers in the production of aniline colors, are pushing the construction of their mammoth factories on the 250 acre site allotted them by the British government at Huddersfield. A considerable part of the new works will be in operation during the spring.

In the meantime the production of vegetable dyes in Great Britain has greatly increased, and aniline dyes are being made at home in smaller factories and imported in unprecedented quantities from Switzerland. As England formerly sent the raw materials of the aniline dyes to Germany to be returned to her as the finished product, now she is sending these raw materials to Switzerland, and many British dye users have signed contracts to continue the import of Swiss dyes even after the war is over.

## MRS WARNER'S UNCLE DEAD

Mrs. H. W. Warner today received a telegram announcing the death of her uncle, Mr. Jesse Lassiter, which occurred at Laurinburg today. The funeral will be held at Charlotte tomorrow, but owing to colds in Mrs. Warner's family she may not be able to attend.

## CLIMATE OVERCOME SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Hickory was compelled to share in the weather furnished the rest of the country Saturday afternoon and night and Sunday, but today the climate asserted itself and nothing was more lovely than the 28th day of February.

Saturday afternoon late, however, snow was whipped by the winds, and a breeze, carrying the blizzard, shot around the corners. The snow couldn't continue falling.

Sunday the wind was high during most of the day, but towards late afternoon, was quieter and by night, the indications pointed to a regular Hickory Monday. Snow on the mountains put tang in the air—a little too much tang Sunday, it is said—and today everybody was feeling good or ought to have been.

One result of the "blizzard" was the cutting down of attendance at the various churches at both services yesterday.

The weather man is predicting rain or snow Tuesday for the western end of the state, and it is likely that Asheville, Morganton, Lenoir and other towns around Catawba will be wading about.

## MRS. WARREN STILL IN FORSYTH COUNTY

(By Associated Press.)  
Winston-Salem, Feb. 28.—Although daily expecting to receive orders to transfer from the Forsyth county jail to the state penitentiary Mrs. Ida Ball Warren and Samuel P. Christy, now under sentence of death, Sheriff Flynn today stated that he had heard nothing regarding their transfer to the state penitentiary.

The continued presence in the Forsyth county jail of the prisoners, when they should be in the penitentiary, has attracted attention throughout the state.

Friends of Mrs. D. E. Moose, who was in the hospital to be treated for paralysis, will be glad to learn that she is improving.

## ROLICKING COMEDY TO BE STAGED TONIGHT

Interest in "Miss Ruby's Boarders" has grown from day to day, and the Record has it on good authority that they are the most remarkable lot of people that ever gathered around a dining room table or wended their way into any house. It is a comedy that will bring the laugh. The high school girls have worked on their parts as only animated students can work, and the public will get the benefit of it tonight at 8 o'clock at the Hub. The play will last exactly two hours.

Mrs. D. E. Moose, who has been spending sometime in Charlotte with her daughter, is now the guest of her son, Mr. J. W. Moose. She was accompanied by two daughters, Mrs. E. L. Hamilton and little daughter Ruby, and Miss Mary Moose, who returned to Charlotte today.

## Only 260 Persons Known to Be Saved When British Passenger Ship Hit Mine

(By Associated Press.)  
London, Feb. 28.—Of the total complement of 411 passengers and crew on the Peninsula & Oriental Line steamship Maloja, which struck a mine and sank within half an hour two miles off Dover yesterday, only 260 are known to have been saved. Of the total of 119 passengers, 64 names of persons saved have been received at the steamship company's office. It was stated there that it was hoped that other passengers would be saved.

The bodies of three more Larsons of the crew of the Maloja have been washed ashore, making the total of bodies recovered 47.