

### ALLIES WILL CLOSE UP EVERY PORT OF GERMANY, THEY SAY

#### Retaliatory Blockade Will Be "Most Complete Ever Attempted"

### "BEGINNING OF THE END"

#### British Recapture Trenches in France—French Gunners Silence "Big Berthas"—A Correspondent Says Russians Worsted

(By the United Press)  
London, Feb. 16.—England awaits the coming of the German blockade with supreme confidence. Officials accept the enforcement of the blockade, which commences Thursday as the "beginning of the end." It is felt that it will be Germany's last great blow, as her Zeppelins have failed and her fleet has been compelled to remain behind the land fortifications. It is considered certain that the combined British, French and Russian fleets will in retaliation enforce the most complete blockade ever attempted. It is the intention of this government to entirely cut off all German ports from shipping. Cattle Quarantine Zone Enlarged.

New agricultural department order bearing upon the foot and mouth disease situation has been issued. Live stock shipments, except for slaughter within forty-eight hours, are prohibited from all the territory east of the Mississippi and north of Tennessee.

Snow Hinders Operations in Alsace and Vosges.

Paris, Feb. 16.—Heavy snows interfere with the fighting in Upper Alsace and Vosges. The attempted German offensive has been checked in that region. An extensive movement of troops is reported to be in progress from the Aisne northward, and it is believed an effort to retake the ground north of the Aisne ceded by the Germans will soon be undertaken. German artillery continues the bombardment of Soissons. Inflammable shells have destroyed several blocks and ruined buildings in the center of the city.

Allied Gunners Put Big Krupp Out of Commission.

Paris, Feb. 16.—The British saying the offensive between St. Eloi and the Ypres canal have recaptured two lines of outlying trenches previously taken from them by the Germans. French artillery has silenced the German artillery in the Scarp and Argonne regions. French artillery all along the line is silencing the big German guns. The general situation is declared to be satisfactory.

### BULLETINS

(By the United Press)

#### GERMAN BREWERIES MUST CURTAIL USE OF BARLEY.

Berlin, Feb. 16.—It is announced that breweries shall again curtail the use of malt for beer in order that more barley be left for the public. A correspondent for the Lokal Anzeiger, just returned from the eastern fighting zone, declared today that in the recent fighting eleven Russian army divisions had been either annihilated or defeated.

#### FRANCE TO PUT UNEMPLOYED IN THE FIELD.

Paris, Feb. 16.—The mobilization of the unemployed will be conducted under the direct orders of the minister of public works, as the latest plan for the defense of the nation.

London, Feb. 15.—"I hope you will let your friends in America understand that we in England comprehend the difficulty and delicacy in which a neutral power finds itself, and we do not complain at it for calling our attention to questions of international law such as always have been raised during a maritime war," said Viscount Bryce, former British Ambassador to the United States in a letter read today at a dinner given by American women at the Lyceum Club.

### MANY THEORIES FOR YOUNG NEGRO'S DEATH

Coroner's Jury Is Awaiting Development of Further Evidence in Mysterious Death Sunday Morning—Negro Held.

The coroner's jury called Monday night for an inquest into the death of Paul Hill, colored, whose body was found by the crew of an eastbound Norfolk Southern train near Caswell Station Sunday morning, postponed their investigation until more evidence can be secured.

The killing of Hill remains a mystery. Leslie Mason, a young negro, has come forward with the statement that he saw John Sanderson, a black, sought for his knowledge of the affair, after the tragedy. Mason claims that Sanderson, who has completely disappeared, told him that he left Hill and Pete Canady, now in the county jail, in the vicinity where the former's body was found, to go to sleep at the station, and that when he awoke both were gone. Officers regard Mason's story as a fabrication pure and simple.

Canady, in jail yet, sticks to his story that he left Sanderson asleep beside the track some distance this side of the station and Hill sitting on the end of a cross-tie. The theory is now entertained by some that Sanderson, who Canady admits had threatened to kill Hill, murdered the man with a piece of iron used in repairing railroad track. The severe abrasion on Hill's head indicates that he was struck with a sharp implement. The sheriff, leaning in his belief to Canady's statement that Sanderson was too drunk to kill Hill, and that he has simply gone into hiding because after viewing the body he surmised that he might be accused of the crime, still thinks that the victim was struck by an early morning train.

A new idea advanced now is that might have been the victim of other negroes at the party which he had attended in the company of Sanderson and Canady. This is not likely. (Continued on Page Four)

### SOCIETY WILL TAKE ITS ANNUAL LAYOFF BEGINNING ON 17TH

#### Ash Wednesday the First Day of Lenten Season Is Observed Throughout the World by the Liturgical Churches

Tomorrow, known among the liturgical churches as Ash Wednesday, marks the beginning of the most solemn season in the Christian calendar, Lent. For forty days, until the season ends with the Feast of the Resurrection, prayers will be said daily in sanctuaries throughout the Christian world, and the hearts and minds of men and women will be turned toward the suffering of Jesus Christ, through whose vicarious atonement the world is to be brought back to fellowship with the Father. Ash Wednesday services will be held in St. Mary's Episcopal church at 10:30 a. m. and 7:45 p. m.

Self-denial is the dominant thought of the lenten season. Following the baptism of Jesus He went up into the wilderness and prayed and fasted forty days and nights. There are many days set apart in Lent for the saying of special prayers. Each Friday during the period is a day of special services. Holy Week, the last week of the lenten season, contains Good Friday, commemorative of the day on which the Saviour hung for six hours upon the cross, while the blood for the "healing of the nations" flowed from the wounds on His body. Holy Thursday, the day before Good Friday, is also observed with great solemnity. On the last night of His sojourn Christ gathered His disciples about him and instituted the Holy Communion. The Knights Templar observe a sacramental service on that night.

On Good Friday black is prevalent in many churches; all colors are banished. At the end of the season comes Easter. "Christ is Risen!" Glad songs fill the air and from tens of thousands of sanctuaries sinners rejoicing a new found hope, give voice to their gladness. Easter Sunday occurs this year on April 4.

### ATTORNEYS HAVE AGREED ON PLAN FOR RECORDER'S COURT

#### Civil Jurisdiction Retained, and Salary of Judge to be \$1,800—People to Elect In Regular May Election—Further Conferences

The people of Lenoir county will in all probability be called upon to elect the first recorder of the county court on Tuesday, May 4.

The Bar Association met in the office of Mr. Y. T. Ormond, one of the members, Monday afternoon about 5 o'clock, to discuss the bill for the proposed court for the third, and possibly the last time. The association agreed upon the Wayne county bill, with amendments to suit local conditions, voted to include civil jurisdiction as well as criminal, and determined upon the salary of the recorder or judge, which is to be \$1,800 per annum. A smaller sum would not be reasonable compensation for a man who, in case he were a lawyer, would be required to give up his entire practice in both lines, the attorneys present decided.

The Wayne county bill is regarded by the majority of the Kinston lawyers as a model. Certain sections will have to be changed, of course, before the act would be acceptable to the people of this county, but these will not be many, and capable men are now going over the bill to make the changes determined upon at the meeting.

The judge of the county court will assume all the jurisdiction of the mayor. That official will, if the Legislature passes the bill sent to Speaker Wooten, Lenoir's representative, lose all his power as a trial magistrate. The bill's passage in the General Assembly is practically assured, of course; no opposition will develop there.

The idea in having the election of the recorder on the first Tuesday in May is to obviate the necessity for two separate elections in Kinston in the spring. The biennial municipal election of a mayor and aldermen is held on that day, and so the people of the city will be given the chance to vote on the recorder at the same time, and the voters in the various rural precincts cast their ballots for the recorder alone at their usual polling places.

The boards of aldermen and county commissioners will pass upon the bill in a few days, and with their endorsement, it will be considered completed and sent on to Raleigh. It is not expected as likely that any more changes will be made in the text before this ratification by the city and county boards, but if any are proposed it will be before they are called upon to recommend the measure. The Bar Association expects the aldermen and commissioners to meet in joint session to consider the draft. Chairman Churchill of the county board, today declared his willingness to call the commissioners together for the purpose when he is asked by the members of the bar.

### NEGRO BOY TRIED TO ASSAULT 3-YEAR-OLD GIRL

Smithfield, Feb. 15.—About 11:30 this morning, Cephas Cole, a negro boy of eighteen, is alleged to have criminally assaulted Cleo, the three and half-year-old daughter of John William Wood of Meadow Township, county commissioner, who was in Smithfield on business at that time. The little girl was at the barn lot and as the negro passed to the field he took her over the fence and towards the woods. J. Mangood, a grown brother, was some distance off, and heard his sister cry out.

He started toward them and the negro came meeting him, disclaiming any wrong doing, saying he was picking flowers for the little girl. Wood beat him with a stick and the negro ran to the house and told Mrs. Wood he had done nothing. The child had gone to the house crying, and was clinging to her mother's knees. She examined her child and found mute evidence of attempted crime.

Sheriff Moore carried the negro by Benson and hence to Smithfield, where he was lodged in jail, where he is tonight.

### CONGRESS MAY QUIT WORK WHEN WILSON FINISHES, IS REPORT

#### No Extra Session If Shipping and Appropriation Bills Pass

### SHIP PURCHASE NEEDED

#### Every Day Need Grows, President Declares—Oregon Levies Tax on the Preachers—New Hoop and Mouth Quarantine

(By the United Press.)

Washington, Feb. 16.—President Wilson today made it clear that if the shipping and appropriation bills are passed there will be no extra session. He declared new evidence is accumulating every day, showing the necessity for the shipping bill.

#### Ministers Taxed for Relief of Needy.

According to a dispatch from Mexico City, Obregon, Carranza's military commander in Mexico, has levied a contribution of 500,000 pesos on the clergy of the Mexico City district, which is being distributed to the poor.

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLVES PURCHASE OF SHIPS CORRECT

#### "Slap in Face to Kitchin," McMichael Testily Accuses—North Carolinians Have Right to Differ With Leader, Says Ward

(By W. J. Martin.)

Raleigh, Feb. 16.—The Senate and House both passed a joint resolution today endorsing the administration ship purchase bill pending in the United States Senate. Senator McMichael opposed this "slap in the face" for Congressman Kitchin, the floor leader of the House. Senator Ward, author of the bill, insisted that no reflection upon Mr. Kitchin was intended, but that he and others in North Carolina had a right to differ with him on any measure.

Senator Weaver withdrew his child labor bill from the calendar, where it was a special order for noon today. This was at the request of Governor Craig, who believes that within the next few days there can be an agreement reached between the advocates of further child labor legislation and manufacturers. Weaver is supported and says he intends to stand out for mill inspection by the State.

The Snow and Cooper bills for the election of members of the school boards in Wake and New Hanover counties by the people in spite of the State policy of legislative appointment of such boards, were set as special orders for Friday.

The House took up at noon the Seawell bill for the State Department of Insurance to have the power to raise or lower rates of fire insurance and generally revise State Insurance laws. The House argued until after 2 o'clock on the bill and adjourned until 10:30 Wednesday, without reaching a vote.

The Senate passed the Ward bill for the reclamation of juvenile delinquents, the Nash bill, to provide for co-operative organization (model of Wisconsin law), and the McRae bill to designate a North Carolina "Arbor Day."

### WHEAT UP FEW POINTS AGAIN THIS MORNING

(By the United Press)  
Chicago, Feb. 16.—Wheat is up again. May wheat sold today at \$1.63 3/4 a bushel.

### WILLIAM B. GASKINS BROWNED IN NEUSE AT JOHNSON'S POINT

#### Young Man of New Bern Was Well Known in Kinston, Where He Had a Number of Kinspeople—Body Recovered

William B. Gaskins, a well known young man of New Bern was drowned Sunday night in Neuse river, near Johnson's Point, about fifteen miles below New Bern, relatives here were informed late Monday. Young Gaskins' body was found some hours later.

Gaskins, in company with Lyle Smith, also known to many here, and a member of the crew of a lumber barge, were en route to New Bern from Oriental in a power boat. The unfortunate youth went forward to attend to some detail of the work connected with the craft's operation, fell over the side and was not seen again. That he struck something which rendered him unconscious or injured him so that he could not keep afloat is surmised, since he is reported to have been an excellent swimmer. His absence was noted almost immediately by Smith, a young fellow of model character, and the steerman. They stopped the boat and made a thorough but unavailing search for the body in the water. Finally, giving up hope of finding it, they left an oil can as a buoy to mark the spot and continued on their way to New Bern. Before searching parties reached the place Monday about midday the body had come to the surface almost alongside the oil can.

Several parties of searchers, including naval reserves in a steam launch, put out for Johnson's Point as soon as Smith and his remaining companion made known the news of the mishap to young Gaskins. The first boat to arrive took on board the remains. The chief of police was asked by Smith to communicate with the victim's family.

D. H. Gaskins and wife are the parents of the young victim. He was connected directly or by reason of former marriage of his grandfather to a number of Kinstonians, including Mrs. Paul Hemby, Mrs. Charles E. Spear, Mrs. Claud Ballard, Mrs. L. P. Elliott, Mrs. Thurman Cox and numerous others. He frequently visited this city, and was very popular with his kinspeople here. A number from here attended the funeral this afternoon.

### WAYNE COUNTY NEGRO PLANTER SUICIDES.

Goldsboro, Feb. 15.—In Stoney Creek township, General Best, a well-to-do negro farmer of this section, owning his own farm, hung himself in his buggy shed at an early hour before day—this morning, his dead body being discovered by members of his family when they arose to go about their daily work. Ill health is assigned as the cause of his self destruction.

### 23 AMERICAN SOLDIERS WOUNDED BY PANAMANS

Washington, D. C., Feb. 15.—Details of the Panama carnival riot in which a Panama policeman was killed and twenty-five persons, twenty-three American soldiers and two civilians, were wounded Saturday, came to the department today in a report from Brig.-Gen. Clarence Edwards, commanding the Canal Zone garrison. All the wounded are expected to recover, the general said.

"The soldiers were without arms of any kind," the report says. "Americans, both soldiers and civilians, were fired on by the Panama police and mob. A few soldiers took small 22-caliber target rifles from a nearby shooting gallery in the tenderloin and fired a few shots. They were immediately disarmed by Lieutenant Ederly, who turned them over to the police and then summoned all non-commissioned officers and with a small provost guard, locked arms and pushed all soldiers and Americans back. The police and mob moved the other way. I have forbidden soldiers during the remaining days of the carnival to visit the city of Panama. Do not anticipate further trouble."

### CHAMBER'S GOOD ROADS MEETING THIS EVENING

Every Member of Directorate Asked to Attend—Necessary for Quick Action to Get Bill Before This Legislature

Every member of the Chamber of Commerce is requested by its officers to be present at the special meeting this evening at 7:30 o'clock, to consider the bill for a good roads bond issue for Lenoir county.

It is very necessary that, if the directors accept the draft and give its presentation to the General Assembly their official endorsement, the bill be gotten to Raleigh immediately in order that it may be passed at the present session. The meeting will be held in Secretary Sutton's office.

### COTTON EXPORTS INCREASED BY 300,000 BALES IN JANUARY.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 15.—Cotton exports were beyond normal proportions during January, being more than 300,000 bales greater than last year, according to the monthly report of the Census Bureau issued today.

Cotton used was less than the usual January total, as 500,000 fewer spindles were operated during the month. Manufacturing establishments held less cotton Jan. 31 than they did a year ago, but in independent warehouses, the quantity on hand was greater by 1,800,000 bales.

### JUDGE BOYD ENTITLED TO RETIRE BUT WON'T

Greensboro, Feb. 15.—Judge James E. Boyd of the Federal Court, who was seventy years old yesterday and entitled to retire, will not do so for many moons yet to come, according to the opinion of his friends. The Judge is in the best of health and apparently much younger than the records make him.

### GOLDSBORO EDITORS WILL HAVE HEARING BY SUPREME COURT

#### Famous Contempt Case Instituted By Judge Peebles Before High Tribunal—Brilliant Array of Counsel for Both Sides

The famous case of Judge R. B. Peebles, who is presiding over the spring terms of Superior Court here, against Charles A. and George W. Brown, is up in the Supreme Court at Raleigh today. The Browns are the editors of a Goldsboro weekly paper adjudged in contempt.

Judge Peebles in 1914 at a hearing in Jackson, his home town, and sentenced to sixty days in jail and fined \$500 each. Their appeal developed one of the most interesting cases to come before the Supreme Court at this term. The Browns charged Judge Peebles in editorials with improper conduct, over-indulgence in drink, etc., and the venerable jurist strenuously objected to and emphatically denied the accusations.

The array of legal talent on both sides is large and probably expensive. Representing the defendants are Matt H. Allen, son of Judge Oliver Allen of Kinston; Ex-Judge W. S. O'B. Robinson and W. F. Taylor of Goldsboro. The State and the Judge are represented by Attorney General Bickett, G. C. Peebles and F. R. Harris, the latter two prominent attorneys of Northampton county.

The outcome, needless to say, is being awaited with eagerness by the legal fraternity, jurists of the Superior Court bench, newspaper editors and others throughout the State.

### VA. LUMBER RATE O. K., I. C. COMMISSION SAYS

(By the United Press)

Washington, Feb. 16.—Sixteen cents a hundred pounds, the rate on carload lots of lumber from Virginia producing territory to Pittsburgh and Columbus, Ohio, was today declared reasonable by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

### SERIOUS CRISIS IN RELATIONS OF U. S. & GERMANY FEARED

#### Bitter Feeling Against Americans Is Spreading Throughout Empire

### PRESS IS ANTAGONISTIC

#### Allies Are Using American-Made Arms to Advantage, Kaiser's Soldiers Say—Amsterdam Says Note Will Be Answered

(By the United Press)

Berlin, Feb. 16.—The bitter feeling throughout Germany against Americans is spreading. Officials and American citizens fear some incident will occur to lead to a serious crisis. Wounded Germans returning from the front declare their losses are becoming much greater now that the French are using American manufactured arms and ammunition. Berlin papers are publishing statements which are creating anti-American sentiment.

#### Germany Will Insist Upon "Rights."

Amsterdam, Feb. 16.—Berlin advises say the German reply to America's note protesting against the planned submarine blockade of the British Isles is expected to be forwarded today. It is declared the answer will be couched in friendly terms, but very firm and positively insist upon the right of Germany to declare the waters around England a war zone.

#### T. R. Gets the Blame for Curious Plot.

Berlin, Feb. 16.—The Berliner Zeitung yesterday published a pamphlet which charged that former President Roosevelt is urging the United States to join the Allies to crush Germany. Americans throughout Germany are no longer wearing the tiny American flags in their button-holes that were so noticeable and so generally applauded in the early days of the war.

#### Gerard Says "Be Calm."

According to the Lokal Anzeiger, James W. Gerard, the American ambassador, sees no cause for alarm in connection with the present negotiations between the United States and Germany, growing out of the submarine blockade.

#### Dutchers Inclined to Be Excited About Blockade.

Berlin, Feb. 16.—The beginning of the German submarine operations in British waters is anxiously awaited. The Germans have been warned not to be too anxious for results. It is pointed out that it will be several days after the blockade takes effect before any news will be received.

### ANOTHER EARTHQUAKE IN CENTER OF ITALY.

Rome, Feb. 15.—Renewed earth shocks occurred today in parts of Central Italy visited by seismic disturbances several weeks ago.

One person was killed and six injured in the collapse of a house at Nazahano.

At Rocca Sinibaldi, the belfry of the convent of Santa Maria, fell upon several houses, burying ten persons. Cittaducale was wrecked and at Veroli several houses were rendered uninhabitable.

Since the recent disaster the district has been shaken almost daily.

### SHIPS PURCHASE STANDS NO CHANCE IN THIS TERM.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 15.—Charges and counter-charges from Democratic and Republican sources concerning influences for and against the government ship purchase bill, which have smoldered about the capital for weeks, were made the subject of a special investigation today by the Senate.

The decision to inquire into alleged lobbying by agents of the "shipping trust" against the bill and into intimations of negotiations for options on belligerent ships to sell to the government was unanimous. With the decision departed the last hope of some of the most earnest champions of the shipping measure that the bill could be passed in the Senate by March 4.