

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FULL LEAD AND WIRE SERVICE

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 2, 1917.

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WEATHER FORECAST. North and South Carolina—Fair and much colder tonight, Saturday, fair and continued cold.

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COUNT BERNSTORFF PREPARING TO EXIT IF U. S. COMMANDS

Another Day of Waiting Adopted by United States Over New "Sub" Plan. OFFICIALS SURE U. S. WILL QUIT DIPLOMACY.

President Wilson Plays Golf, Holding No Conference During Morning on Situation—Entente Also Anticipates Break.

Washington, Feb. 2.—The new submarine crisis seems to have resolved itself into another day of waiting.

On every hand officials are convinced that nothing less than a break in diplomatic relations is the ultimate development.

The German embassy continued its official silence, calmly prepared for the Count von Bernstorff has said.

The entente embassies, fully expecting the United States to break with Germany, seem confident that the new campaign of ruthlessness will be of little greater effectiveness than the campaign which the entente governments contend the German submarines have been waging all along.

Discussions in the Reichstag committee revolve largely around the question of the prospective result of a campaign based on the number and efficiency of submarines.

Whatever measures are being taken by the Administration to prepare the country physically for a break with a first-class power, which in his opinion has been followed by war, are being carried out secretly.

From the official refusal to affirm or deny that any message had gone forward to Ambassador Gerard, an impression grew that some such message had been sent, but it was thought at the time that it was a first preliminary statement of the American position without definitely committing the country till a final decision has

COLDEST WEATHER FOR YEARS HITS NORTH AND SOUTH

Temperature Ten Degrees Below Zero in Chicago; Coldest Day of Winter.

CROPS ARE DAMAGED TODAY IN ALABAMA.

Memphis Temperature Drops Lowest Since 1912; Birmingham Lowest in Three Years Today.

Chicago, Feb. 2.—Chicagoans awoke today after the coldest night of the winter, the temperature at daybreak being ten degrees below zero.

In Ottumwa, Iowa, the temperature was 28 below. Omaha had a temperature of 23 degrees below zero; Lincoln, Neb., 20 below; Norfolk, Neb., 26; Sioux City, Iowa, 27; Sioux Falls, S. D., 37; Winner, S. D., 38 below.

At Quincy, Ill., the mercury this morning registered 15 below zero, the coldest since 1912.

Coldest in Three Years. Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 2.—The coldest weather in three years was experienced by Birmingham when the thermometer at 7 o'clock this morning registered 17 degrees, according to an announcement of the local weather bureau.

Breaks Record. Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 2.—The mercury here today registered 9 degrees above zero, the lowest since 1912, according to Weather Bureau officials.

Negro Convicts Hold White Men to Gain Hearing

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 2.—The State convict board today arranged to hold a conference with the two hundred negro convicts who, since yesterday afternoon, have held four white men prisoners in the Banner coal mine near here with the declared purpose of keeping them prisoners until the board agrees to oust Warden J. D. Hall, who, they claim, has been inconsiderate in his treatment of them.

It was pointed out to officials that the country was waiting for some statement or at least an official interpretation of the attitude of the administration.

President Wilson had no conference on the submarine question during the morning, but played golf for two hours.

CONNOLLY'S REPLY TO LEAK PROBERS IS BRANDED FALSE

Telegraph Operators Dispute Statements Made to the Committee Yesterday.

HEARING MOVES TO WASHINGTON TODAY.

Will Open in Capitol City Tomorrow—Ellis Will Probably be First Witness Called to Stand.

New York, Feb. 2.—When the Congressional "leak" inquiry adjourned today to meet in Washington tomorrow the testimony of F. A. Connolly, the Washington broker, regarding his sending a resume of President Wilson's peace note to E. H. Hutton & Co., New York brokers, had been disputed by every telegraph operator in Hutton's employ, who, Sherman L. Whipple said, might have handled Connolly's message.

George E. Ellis, of Hutton & Co., who wrote the message warning brokers of the coming of the President's peace note, probably will be the first witness.

Hutton's attitude toward Becker, Packard said, was that of a "criticism." Becker, the witness said, "made no reply."

E. M. Dick, an expert in values from the Hutton house, who advises customers regarding transactions, minimized the importance of the message forecasting the President's note.

In the light of the many rumors we have had in the last two years and a half," he said, "such a message would not have impressed me very much."

Dick declared that the only information he had about the note came from another member of the firm, probably late in the afternoon of Dec. 20. Secretary Lansing's statement, he said, did not have an effect on the market.

W. Frank Packard, a telegrapher employed by E. F. Hutton & Co., began his testimony at the leak investigation today with a voluntary attempt to discredit the testimony of James W. Becker, another telegrapher.

Becker, yesterday flatly contradicted F. A. Connolly, a Washington broker, that on December 20 he sent a message containing advance information on the peace note over a private wire to the Hutton office.

George W. Conklin, another Hutton operator, testified that he received no messages on December 20, but had sent out the Ellis warning. He said upon reading the President's note next day he "congratulated the firm on being able to send in advance an accurate forecast to its customers."

Hundreds of Hebrew, Lithuanian, Polish and Russian tenants of the district rushed into the streets scantily clad.

ROTATION BILL PRESENTED IN HOUSE TODAY

Speaker Murphy Offers Second Measure of Session to Tar Heel Solons

TO PROBE CONDITION OF PRISON FARM.

Committed to Go to Scene—Book Contract Up In House—Amends Cape Fear Navigation.

Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 2.—Speaker Murphy introduced a rotation bill into the House this morning, an act fashioned after the inaugural recommendations of Governor Bickett.

Representative Beasley presented a joint resolution appointing a House and Senate committee of five to inquire into prison conditions.

House talk indicated, too, the likelihood of changes in the book adoption system.

Little resulted from this morning's session of the Senate. If the incubator had been expected to come off, it disappointed those who had placed eggs in it.

Adjournment was until noon Monday with practically everything of the importance before the Senate set next week.

House Thursday. Speaker Murphy convened the (Continued on Page Eight.)

GERMAN TROOPS BREAK THROUGH RUSS OUTPOSTS

Dressed in White Overalls, Teutons Push Through First Line Trenches.

SEVERE WEATHER STOPS FIGHTING TO A DEGREE.

Artillery and Reconnoitering is Lively in Sectors of Franco-Belgian Front, Reported Today.

Petrograd, Feb. 2. Via London (British Admiralty Per Wireless Press).—German troops dressed in white overalls yesterday broke through the Russian first line trench positions at Solovtina, southwest of Brezhezany, says the official statement issued today by the Russian war department.

There were artillery actions last night at Louvemont, north of Verdun, and at Metzler in the Vosges.

Artillery Active. Berlin, Feb. 2. (Via Sayville).—Artillery and reconnoitering activity of a lively sort is reported in today's army headquarters statement in many sectors of the Franco-Belgian front.

Owing to the severe cold and heavy snow falls there were no important events," says today's official report regarding the Russo-Gallican front.

No changes on the Rumanian or Macedonian fronts are recorded.

JAPANESE FEELING GROWING SERIOUS AGAINST AMERICA

Anti-Alien Land Bills Pending in Idaho and Oregon Legislatures Today.

WASHINGTON WIRES "HAVE BILL KILLED."

Tokio Fears Enactment of Such Legislation May Entice Japs to Want to Take Up Arms Against Country.

Washington, Feb. 2.—Japan's representations to the United States against the anti-alien land bills pending in the Idaho and Oregon Legislatures are considered no less serious at this critical juncture of international affairs than her protests against the California laws four years ago.

The state of feeling in Japan has been represented to the State Department as being so serious that the Japanese statesmen who wish to preserve friendly relations with the United States fear the passage of more legislation in this country directed against their country may force the situation at home beyond their control.

Protest Is Wired. Boise, Idaho, Feb. 2.—The State Department at Washington, it became known today, has sent telegrams to members of the Legislature and to Governor Alexander, protesting against the passage of the bill pending in the Legislature to bar subjects of Japan from land ownership in this State.

The Idaho Daily Statesman, quoting a telegram from Senator Borah, printed with his authorization, says: "Secretary Lansing and Mr. Polk paid a second call, Thursday night at Senator Borah's residence and represented that Tokio fears the enactment of such legislation at this time may so incense the Japanese people as to force the government in self preservation to signify a willingness to register by force of arms its protest against the Idaho bill."

Germany's Note to U. S. is Printed Under That Caption.

Paris, Feb. 2.—Germany's Last Card is the caption under which several morning newspapers print Germany's note to the United States, Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg's speech, etc.

BIRTH CONTROLLER GOES TO HOSPITAL

Woman on "Hunger Strike" is Recovering; Will Stop Her Campaign.

New York, Feb. 2.—Miss Esther Byrne is in a hospital today recovering from the effects of the hunger strike which she undertook as a protest against a sentence of thirty days in prison for disseminating information about birth-control.

TO ENFORCE NEUTRALITY. Washington, Feb. 2.—Customs collectors at all ports of the United States, Hawaii and Porto Rico were instructed by the Treasury Department today to exercise the utmost vigilance to see that neutrality regulations of the United States were enforced in their ports.

TO PROBE N. Y. EXCHANGE. Washington, Feb. 2.—The Senate today passed the resolution of Senator Smith, of South Carolina, directing the attorney general to investigate buying and selling operations of the New York Cotton Exchange to ascertain if the methods employed were in restraint of trade. There was no debate.

Immigration Bill Up. Washington, Feb. 2.—Immediate consideration of the immigration bill passed over the President's veto by the House last night was blocked in the Senate today by Senator Reed, of Missouri, but agreement was reached to proceed to a vote on re-passage of the measure at 4 p. m. next Monday.

NEARLY 50,000 AMERICANS ARE IN KING'S ARMY

Approximately Four-fifths of These Are Under Field Marshal Haig.

MAJORITY JOINED CANADIAN TROOPS.

They Have Helped to Write Many Bright Pages in History by Their Pluck and Daring.

With the British Armies in France, Feb. 1 (Via London, Feb. 2).—(From a Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press).—Nearly 50,000 Americans are estimated to be fighting for the Allies, and nearly four-fifths of these are in the khaki-clad British army commanded by Field Marshal Haig.

It is computed that the actual fighting force of Americans now in France, under the Union Jack, is probably larger than the United States army, which was actually engaged in hostilities in the Spanish American war.

All have fought with a pluck and determination which have won them universal respect and admiration.

The Canadian regiments naturally attracted the greatest number of Americans.

Many former members of the United States army and crack National Guard regiments answer to the British roll-calls.

The bulk of the Americans being absorbed in the various Canadian battalions have been through some of the hardest fighting on this front.

Through all to vast and wonderful war machine, built up by Great Britain from the North sea to the front line trenches, the Americans can be met "doing their bit" and fighting with willing heart and steady bravery.

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LAST CARD PLAYED, SAYS PARIS PRESS

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Germany has contracted formal engagements with the United States," says the Petit Parisien. "It is these engagements," continues the newspaper, "that she is violating today so that it would seem as if she wished to force America into a rupture of relations, for it would not be easy for President Wilson to tolerate such insolent laceration of a contract almost solemn."

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