

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, TUESDAY

FTERNOON, FEBRUARY 6, 1917.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

WEATHER FORECAST.

North Carolina—Fair and warmer tonight and Wednesday.

VOL. XXII. NO. 385.

FINAL EDITION

EAVESTONE SINKING NOT LIKELY TO BE OVERTACT OF WAR

Washington Seems Merely Awaiting Incident That Will Cause the Break.

MOBILIZATION PLANS CONTINUE TO BE MADE. President's Proclamation Forbidding Transfer of Ships Deemed Vital—Senate Getting Ready to Endorse the Wilson Policy.

Apparently officials are confident that this incident will not prove to be the overt act that will cause hostilities, but nevertheless complete reports are awaited with anxiety.

AMERICANS HAVE BEEN SET FREE

Germany Notifies America That Prisoners From Old British Prizes Released

Washington, Feb. 6.—Official notice of the release by Germany of the 64 Americans held prisoner in Germany for having taken passage on board British armed merchantmen, captured by the German sea-raider, was received at the State Department today.

ROBESON HOLDS TO RURAL POLICEMEN

All Six Were Elected by County Commissioners Yesterday—Other News.

Lumberton, Feb. 6.—No change in the number of rural policemen was made by the Robeson County Commissioners at their regular monthly meeting, six being selected as follows: Eli Phillips, Lumberton, N. C.; C. L. Beards, St. Pauls; W. A. Smith, Red Springs; W. W. Smith, Maxton; J. H. Carper, Rowland; W. C. Britt, Fairmont.

DECLARES CONCEALED WIRELESS AT WORK.

Swiss Won't Follow Americans. The Commissioners elected Mr. M. A. McQueen cotton grader and weigher at Maxton.

Germany Desires No Conflict With The United States

London, Feb. 6.—A wireless dispatch received here today quotes the Overseas News Agency, of Berlin, to the effect that Foreign Secretary Zimmerman declared, in an interview that Germany joined with President Wilson in the wish that there may be no conflict and that the German government, after minute examination of the President's speech to Congress, appreciates "those words of a non-hostile character."

BIG ENGLISH GOLD ABOARD APPAM

Turned Over by German Lieutenant When U. S. Marshal Took Charge.

Newport News, Va., Feb. 6.—Plans are underway to move the German prize ship, Appam, from Newport News to Norfolk. If a suitable pier can be located in Norfolk the Appam will be moved tomorrow.

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BLEAK WEATHER DOES BIG DAMAGE IN FAR SOUTH

Vegetable Crops in Louisiana Suffer About Fifty Per Cent. Loss.

MOST SEVERE IN FIVE-YEAR PERIOD. Low Temperatures Prevailed Again Last Night in Florida. No Additional Damage. Already in Millions.

New Orleans, La., Feb. 6.—The extremely cold weather of the last few days caused losses of from 50 to 60 per cent. of the vegetable crops in Louisiana, according to reports received here today.

Has Already Cost Millions. Jacksonville, Fla., Feb. 6.—Cold weather of Saturday, Sunday and Monday has cost fruit and vegetable growers of Florida millions of dollars.

Several of them are in a grave condition. The temperature here, which was 26 at 7 a. m., was rising later in the day.

GERMANS RAID THE VERDUN FRONT

But Paris Reports That They Were Hurdled Back—French Penetrate Teuton Lines.

Paris, Feb. 6.—Two German raids last night on the Verdun front, at Louvemont and Eparges, gained no success, the war office reports. An attack on French trenches, near Parcy forest, reached the first line, but the Germans were ejected immediately by a counter attack.

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HOUSE FINALLY ADOPTS SENATE DIVORCE BILL

One Act of Infidelity Sufficient Now to Get a Divorce Decree

PISTOL TOTTING BILL IS PASSED. Measure Introduced For a Statewide Tax On Dogs—Near Sensation in The Senate.



SENATOR POINDEXTER

Washington, Feb. 6.—Senator Poindexter, of Washington, has entered a bill in the Senate proposing that the United States immediately begin building 100 more submarines than those already authorized by Congress.

FOUR SOLDIERS DIE FROM DEPRIVATION

Others Have Limbs Frozen While in Open Boat From Torpedoed Steamer.

Brest, Feb. 6.—The captain and 12 men of the Spanish steamer, Algorta, which was sunk by a submarine, have been landed here by a steam trawler.

AMERICA'S ACTION BOOSTS WAR LOAN

Rome Thinks It Will Hasten The End of The War—Let- ters From The Front.

Rome, Feb. 5, Monday (Via Paris, Feb. 6).—The newspapers comment favorably on the German-American crisis and express the hope that neutrals, without exception, will associate themselves with the United States.

TWO MORE VESSELS ADDED TO THE LIST

Lloyds Makes Report of Sinking of English Sailing Ship and Norwegian Bark.

London, Feb. 6.—The British sailing vessel Belford has been sunk, Lloyds shipping agency announced today.

STILL ONLY QUESTION FOR THE INDIVIDUAL

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NEW HOPE COMES THAT WAR MAY YET NOT BREAK FORTH

DISABLE THE SHIPS FEARING SEIZURE BY UNITED STATES

Crews of Nine German Ships Tamper With The Engines and Boilers.

MANY OF THEM ARE TAKEN IN CUSTODY. Other German Seamen are Being Detained—Happened In The Hawaiian Islands.

Honolulu, T. H., Feb. 6.—Engines and boilers of all nine German merchant vessels, tied up in the Hawaiian Islands, have been disabled by their crews.

The crews of the North German Lloyd steamers, Pommern and Prinz Waldemar, have been formally taken into custody and crews of the other seven vessels are detained at the immigration station.

Representative Pogram's pistol-carrying bill providing minimum fine of \$50 and a maximum of \$200, also thirty days' minimum or two years' maximum imprisonment, went through the House, and Ray, of Macou, offered a Statewide dog tax bill, imposing \$1 each.

HEAVY SHIP LOSS DURING JANUARY

Past Month Biggest For Har- vest by German Warcraft. No American Boat Sunk

New York, Feb. 6.—The destruction of merchant tonnage due to submarines, mines and kindred war causes, was greater during January than any previous month, according to statistics published today by the Journal of Commerce.

ARMY AGENTS MAKING SOME BIG PURCHASES.

Washington, Feb. 6.—Immediate purchase of reserve quartermasters' supplies for the army up to the limits of available appropriations was ordered by Secretary Baker.

WALL STREET HEARD THE WILD RUMOR.

New York, Feb. 6.—Rumors widely circulated in the financial district at noon today that Germany had declared war upon the United States caused a sharp break in the stock market.

TWO BRITISH STEAMERS SUNK.

London, Feb. 6.—Lloyds late today announced the sinking of the British steamship, Floridan, of 4,777 tons gross. Sixteen members of the crew were landed.

German Foreign Minister Raises Encouragement In The United States BUT MAKING READY FOR WAR PROCEEDS.

Emergency Amendments to Naval Bill Introduced in The House Today—Officials Calmly Await Developments in The New Danger Zone.

Washington, Feb. 6.—Germany's disposition to regard the break with the United States with calmness and deliberation and in a peaceful spirit, as expressed by Foreign Minister Zimmerman, brings new encouragement to those who hope the breach between the two countries will go no further than a severance of diplomatic relations.

The real test, however, comes on the actual performance of the campaign of unrestricted submarine warfare, and while all American officials fervently share the hope that the break will go no further, there is no disposition to recede from the position that American lives and rights will be protected by whatever measures are necessary.

Emergency amendments to the Naval bill were presented to the House today by Chairman Padgett of the Naval committee after conference with administration officials. They propose:

Issue of \$150,000,000 of 3 per cent. 5-year bonds to cover cost of quick delivery of ships and war supplies, including more submarines, destroyers and ammunition.

Appropriation of \$1,000,000 for purchase of basic patents for manufacture and development of air craft.

Blanket authority to the President and Secretary of the Navy to order ships or war material from any plant they please, within the limits of appropriations to take possession of any plants that refuse to give the government precedence and to draft employes of private plants entered in this work into the naval establishment.

The War Department put its quartermaster agents in the market to bring reserve stores up to the maximum supply at once.

Optimistic View. Berlin, Sunday, Feb. 4 (via Wireless to Sayville, Feb. 6). Delayed—Although late this afternoon no official confirmation has reached Berlin that relations with the United States had been broken off, the text of President Wilson's address to congress removed all doubts in the minds of the general public as well as in the official world as to the exactness of early private information.

Foreign Secretary Zimmerman made the following statement to the Overseas News Agency: "We regret this measure taken by President Wilson all the more since against all traditions and all international law we are cut off from all direct communication and regular intercourse with the trans-Atlantic world."

"The text of the President's message in absence of other official documents, has therefore been examined most minutely. They give no reason for hostility to the United States. Remembering the traditional friendship which has existed between the countries practically from the first days of the United States, we naturally appreciate the words of a rather non-hostile character, which among others of a different character, are found in that message as transmitted by Reuters. In them President Wilson gives assurances that he wishes no hostile conflict with Germany, and I can add that we appreciate this and other paragraphs in the message, joining in this respect with President Wilson's note."

GREATEST SERVICE OF THE FARMERS

Head of Reserve Board Tells of It to Tar Heel Commercial Secretaries.

Washington, Feb. 6.—"The greatest service that the farmers of the South can render their country," W. P. G. Harding, of the Federal Reserve Board, said today in a telegram to the North Carolina State Convention of Commercial Secretaries, at Gastonia, N. C., "is to coax from the soil during 1917 as great an abundance as possible of crops of all kinds."