

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

FINAL EDITION

WEATHER FORECAST. North and South Carolina—Rain tonight and Sunday. Warmer tomorrow. Colder Sunday in West and Central part of former State and colder in northwest of latter.

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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 17.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

AMERICA IS NOW BEING BLOCKADED; DEEMED SERIOUS

Every Section of Country Complaining and President To Address Congress.

TIE-UP OF SHIPS IS INJURING BUSINESS

Effect of German Submarine Warfare Being Sorely Felt By American Shipping—Presents Grave Question and Now Overshadows All Else.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 17.—The government today tackled the problem of the tie-up of ships in American ports by the German submarine danger from several angles. While the President and the Navy Department considered over the arming of merchant men, Secretary McAdoo was preparing a list of vessels held in port, and Secretary Redfield was at work on a comprehensive analysis of the damage submarines are causing to shipping generally. Great Britain's proclamation of a new mined area in the North Sea restricts the movement of German submarines to and from home ports, and the plans to make Halifax instead of Kirkwall a port of search for trans-Atlantic shipping between the United States and Northern European neutrals, were expected to provide some relief from the general shipping congestion. By the latter plan vessels might avoid the war zone. Officials also noted with considerable wonder that the aggregate tonnage of submarine victims recently has been only a few thousand tons daily. The idleness of American ships was discussed at yesterday's cabinet meeting and the officials emphasized that the main problem in the German-American relations now is the submarine campaign and its effect on American commerce. Inquiries concerning the unoffered reports that the Yarrowdale prisoners have been released by the German government and in regard to a train load of consuls and other nationals long overdue from Munich have been addressed to the Spanish ambassador in Berlin. What has virtually become a blockade of American Atlantic ports by Germany's ruthless submarine campaign, was regarded by officials today as overshadowing the collateral issues of the situation. That President Wilson soon will go before Congress to announce steps to relieve the situation was the general accepted view, but no time has been set for his action, and there was an indication of how soon it will be taken. The effect on the country of the shipping situation was reflected in the receipt of hundreds of telegrams by government officials today urging that something be done to relieve the congestion. Officials recognize that the holding of the majority of American and other ships in port fast is becoming intolerable. Piling up of freight on railroads, while believed to be largely due to weather and other routine conditions, was nevertheless looked upon as in part the result of the inability of exporters to clear American ports of freight. Means of protecting American ships against the submarine danger still are under consideration before President Wilson. Many officials believe the President has the power to direct the Navy Department to furnish the vessels with guns and gun crews. Nevertheless, the possibility that a clash with Germany might result is expected to cause the President to go before Congress before taking a step. Ship Owners Are Ready. New York, Feb. 17.—Owners and agents of ships declared today they were ready to do their part in relieving the railroad freight congestion. They predicted that exporters would have no cause for complaint when they could not find vessels to carry their goods—at least no greater cause than existed before the declaration of the German submarine blockade. Railroad men were inclined to agree that the new submarine campaign was only small part in freight situation. They pointed out that before the German edict went into effect the British steamship companies preserved 85 per cent. of their cargo space for the use of their government. The most important factor in the situation, they said, was the weather which had been the worst in many years. Twenty-one merchantships arriving here yesterday promised greater cargo space than the port of New York had enjoyed for some time. Fourteen of these came through the war zone. Attention was called, however, to the fact that the arrival of so many vessels from Europe at this time did not throw as much light upon the severity of the new submarine peril as it would a week hence, because most

GERMANS TOLD WHITLOCK TO HAUL DOWN FLAG



Berne, Switzerland, Feb. 17.—According to official reports, Brand Whitlock, American Minister to Belgium, was asked by the German authorities to haul down the American flag that was unfurled over the legation at Brussels.

BRITISH OFFICERS MAKING SEARCH

Immigration Officers Swarm Aboard the Frederik VIII at Halifax.

(By Associated Press.) Halifax, N. S., Feb. 17.—The task of examining the credentials of the various members of the German party on board the Scandinavian-American liner Frederik VIII, from New York to Copenhagen, was begun today by a corps of Canadian immigration and customs officers. The ship last night was taken to a secluded portion of Halifax harbor for this purpose. A small army of officials boarded the steamship this morning and the length of the vessel's stay here will depend on whether they find everything satisfactory with the papers of the German party, which includes Count von Bernstorff, former German ambassador to the United States. The most careful secrecy prevailed as to the operations of the officials, but the personnel of the investigating force—immigration officials, translators and women examiners—indicated that the work was to be thorough. Reports that it was possible that Hans Tauscher and Wolf von Igel, who figured in the revelations connected with the alleged plot to destroy the Welland Canal, and reported on the vessel, might be removed by the British naval authorities, were without confirmation. One of the immigration officers said no orders had been issued for the removal of any person at present, and any action would be taken only after the party's credentials had been examined. The Frederik VII was under the glare of a searchlight from a patrol boat all night, while this morning the rule about not allowing boats to approach close to the liner was carefully enforced. Members of the German party were early on deck though their shore view is not inspiring—a jail on one hand and a brewery on the other. The passengers will under no circumstances be allowed to land. They were reported well, though Countess Bernstorff is said to be suffering slightly from a nervous attack due to circumstances under which she has been called upon to leave her native land.

ADMITS TOLD TO DISABLE GERMAN SHIP IN PORT

Master of Vessel Received Orders from Member of German Embassy.

DID HIS WORK AS HE WAS DIRECTED

Sensational Evidence Brought Out at Trial Today—Name of Embassy Official Not Disclosed. (By The Associated Press.) Boston, Mass., Feb. 17.—Captain Charles A. Polack, of the North German Lloyd Steamship Kronprinzessin Cecile, testified today at a Federal Court hearing on a petition for the sale of the vessel that he had been ordered by a man connected in an official capacity with the German embassy, to disable its machinery. This was done, he said, to prevent the ship's use by this Government in the event of hostilities with Germany. He refused to divulge the name of the man giving the order. Captain Polack said he was in Hoboken, N. J., when he received the order and that he telegraphed his chief engineer to disable the engines. The work of destruction was done on January 31 and February 1, he said. When asked by counsel for the petitioners to give name of the person from whom the order was received, Captain Polack said: "Your honor, I am an officer of the German Navy and if I should have to disclose the name of this gentleman in this hearing, I might be tried for treason when I went home to Germany. I wish you would not oblige me to answer that question."

Judge Morton decided that it would not be necessary for the captain to answer at this time. Captain Polack said he met the embassy official in January at the North German Lloyd offices in Hoboken. The orders to disable the ships were given at that time in the presence of Captain Moller, superintendent of the company's lines in this country, he testified. Captain Polack was preparing to visit Hot Springs, Va., but changed his plans and returned to this city. Continuing his testimony, the captain declared that the embassy officials said to him: "The relations between the two countries are being severed and the condition is very serious."

The witness testified that he inquired whether the machinery was to be disabled immediately and that he received an affirmative answer. Captain Moller, he said, did not participate in this part of the conversation. The Kronprinzessin Cecile is held by United States Marshal Mitchell pending the determination of a suit for damages brought against the North German Lloyd Steamship Company by the Guaranty Trust Company and the National City Bank, of New York, for failure of the vessel to deliver a shipment of gold to bankers in England and France at the outbreak of the war. After sailing from New York the liner put into Bar Harbor, Maine. The Federal District Court originally decided that the banks were not entitled to damages. The Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the lower court and sent the case back for a hearing which began today. The banks seek to receive \$2,300,000. When diplomatic relations were severed the Marshal at the instance of the banks took physical possession of the steamer and dispossessed Captain Polack and his crew. After the crew had left the vessel an examination by experts showed that the machinery had been so damaged that it could not be repaired and made ready for sea for several months.

SOUTH CAROLINA ADDS ANOTHER DRY BILL

(By The Associated Press.) Columbia, S. C., Feb. 17.—Another of South Carolina's many new prohibition measures known as the Boyd bill was passed by the lower House of the Legislature early today after it had been debated all day yesterday and far into last night. It provides that no intoxicant containing more than one per cent of alcohol may be imported except for medicinal, sacramental or scientific purposes. The House passed this bill in lieu of the Durant measure which would allow any one to import one quart of liquor each month. The Senate had passed the Durant bill and refused to accept a "bone dry" measure. The Boyd bill now goes to the Senate.

TURKEY WOULD REMAIN FRIENDLY

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 17.—Expressions of friendship for the United States and of hope that friendly relations may continue, have been given to Ambassador Elkus by the Turkish foreign office. A dispatch from the ambassador makes no reference to Turkey supporting Germany's submarine policy or that she intends to apply it with the few submarines known to be under her flag.

GERMAN OFFER AS A PROTOCOL TO THE TREATY

Government Makes Public the Text of What It Was Asked To Do.

WOULD HAVE AMENDED THE OLD TREATY

Question at Issue Would Be Whether a New Document and Thus Needing Approval of Senate.

(By The Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 17.—The text of the explanatory and supplemental clauses proposed by Germany as a protocol to the Prussian-American treaty were made public at the State Department today. Briefly the protocol amplifies the treaty so as to place Germans in this country and American in Germany in case of war on exactly the same footing as to all property rights, freedom from detention, concentration camps, or sequestration of property that are applicable to other neutrals. Nationals of either country might remain fully undisturbed in the other country as long as they please and not for the nine months period provided in treaty. Merchant ships of either nation might not be seized or driven to sea unless under a safe conduct to their home ports through all possible enemies and their captains and crews may not be made prisoners. Officials here have pointed out that while Germany's violation of several provisions of the treaty may be taken by this country to have vitiated the convention, the United States will still continue to live up to its spirit. Two proclamations already have guaranteed that German ships or private German property will not even in case of war be seized and used by this government. Little interest is shown by the State Department officials in the German proposal. There is no indication that any immediate action will be taken. Whether the new document constitutes in effect a new treaty subject to ratification by the Senate, or whether it is a mere explanatory protocol is one of the points at issue. If it is shown to have new provisions or modify the sense of the earlier document Senate approval is essential.

WEATHER ON TAP FOR COMING WEEK

(By The Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 17.—Unsettled weather followed by fair weather after Tuesday is forecast for the Southeastern States during the week beginning tomorrow. There will be a pronounced change to colder weather Tuesday and Wednesday. Rain is again probable Friday or Saturday.

PROMINENT WOMEN WHO WILL FORM MILITIA UNIT



New York, Feb. 17.—Under the leadership of Mrs. John Hays Hammond, a number of prominent society women have offered their services as a "Flying Squadron" to assist the wives and families of the Naval Militia members who have been called into active service to guard bridges and other important points here. The new organization will be called "The Militia of Mercy" and has offered its services to Secretary of State Lansing, who in gratefully accepting them, said he appreciated their patriotism and would call on them at once in the event of war.

HOUSE NOW READY TO PASS REVENUE ACT ON MONDAY

This Was About All Done at This Morning's Session in Raleigh.

GRANTS PARDON IN NEW HANOVER CASE

Governor Bickett Sets at Liberty Brooklyn Boys Who Stole Auto Here—Judge Sought Leniency.

(Special to The Dispatch.) Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 17.—By finishing the second reading of the Revenue Bill today the House cleared the way for passage Monday, and in addition passed three small Statewide bills, though shying at many others. The revival is amended as to cartways, junk dealers are regulated and the efficiency in treatment of tubercular patients is increased as net result of Saturday's session. The House Friday night killed the bill asking the State to pay Young Norman \$250 annually for years on account of the loss of an arm while working on the State's test farm in Transylvania. The bill is referred anew. Gov. Bickett today pardoned Melville Humphreys and William Robas, Brooklyn boys, whose theft of an automobile in Wilmington last year gave them a year each in prison. Governor Bickett said the youth had just finished their high school course in Brooklyn and the wanderlust more than desire to steal had governed them. Judge Geo. Connor wrote Gov. Bickett that he would not have sentenced the boys to the State's prison had he known their youth.

TAR HEEL SENTRY KILLS A MAN

On Duty at Border He Shoots When a Civilian Did Not Halt.

(By Associated Press.) El Paso, Texas, Feb. 17.—A sentry from the second North Carolina Infantry, on outpost duty at the smelter outside the town, shot and killed an American civilian who refused to halt at his challenge early today. The sentry was placed under arrest. The dead man has not yet been identified.

TEUTONS DID NOT FOLLOW UP THEIR ATTACK IN WEST

Berlin, However, Announces That the French Were Repulsed in Champagne.



New York, Feb. 17.—Delia Gibbons is an Irish girl who recently arrived in this country after two years service as a nurse with the Allied armies in France.

Miss Gibbons wants to join the Women's Defense League and went to the headquarters of the organization to offer her aid. She was informed that if she would become an American citizen she would be welcome, so she made off post haste to the Naturalization Bureau and took out her first papers.

STEEL NET NOW GUARDS THE PORT

Placed in Position Today To Protect New York—No Vessel Can Enter at Night

(By The Associated Press.) New York, Feb. 17.—A steel net designed to protect the port of New York from hostile submarines and other warcraft in the event of war was put in place today. For the present it will be kept in position only between sunset and sunrise. In case of war, its construction provides for placing it as a permanent barrier, if naval requirements make it advisable. Three tugs and three lighters from New York navy yard lowered the net early this morning to the bottom of the channel. Anchors secured it to the bottom and buoys will keep the top of the net near the surface. Beginning tonight all vessels intending to enter this port, will be requested to remain outside until next morning, when the section of the net closing the channel will be removed, to be restored again at sunset. Similarly no ship will be permitted to sail except during the day, beginning tomorrow.

HIS WOUND MAY NOT BE FATAL

Hope Expressed For Life Of Jealous-Crazed Oil Salesman of Texas.

(By Associated Press.) New Orleans, Feb. 17.—Physicians at Charity Hospital today expressed hopes for the recovery of E. J. Hargrave, oil salesman from Houston, Texas, who fired a bullet into his right temple after shooting and seriously wounding Mrs. Mathilda Koneman, formerly of Dallas, in the crowded lobby of a prominent hotel here last night. The physicians also said Mrs. Koneman would recover. Police officials said investigation indicated Hargrave's acts were caused by jealousy. Hargrave is a widower and has two children. Mrs. Koneman is a widow and said she has a son 19 years old. She told the police she met Hargrave two years ago and that he had been close friends. She said Hargrave was jealous and twice had threatened her life.

BATTLING ANEW ON RUMANIAN FRONT

Net Known Which Side Took the Offensive in This Latest Development—Only One Steamer Reported Sunk So Far Today.

Apparently the Germans have not followed up the attack, Berlin reported yesterday as having gained ground for them half a mile deep on a mile and a half front in the Champagne. Today's announcement from Berlin mentions no further German effort. The French, however, are declared to have been repulsed in an attack in the Champagne, south of Ripont, where the Germans reported their advance had been scored.

The Paris official statements so far have not mentioned any infantry fighting in the Champagne during the period covered by the German claim. Today's bulletin reports merely the continuation of artillery actions. Another attack made by the French was in the Aisne region, west of Berry-aux-Bac. Berlin reports this likewise was repulsed. The blowing up of several Enclente ammunition depots in the Somme region is reported by the German war office.

Pronounced activity by raiders developed along large sectors of the Franco-Belgian front—in the Artois—along the Somme, southeast of Verdun and in Alsace. The most important development in the other war areas was the beginning of engagements along the northern part of the Rumanian front, north of the Oultuz valley, reported by Berlin. The fighting there started at dawn today. The German statement did not indicate which side took the offensive. Petrograd's statement refers merely to outpost engagements in the Rumanian war theatre.

One steamer was added by the morning reports to the list of vessels destroyed. The victim was the British steamer Lady Ann, of 1,316 tons, sunk by striking a mine.

French Attacks Failed. Berlin, Feb. 17.—(Via Sayville)—French troops made attacks yesterday on the Aisne, west of Berry-aux-Bac, and in the Champagne south of Ripont. Today's official communications says these efforts failed.

Artillery Duels. Paris, Feb. 17.—Artillery duels in the sector of Maisons de Champagne are reported in this afternoon's official communication.

The French made an attack at Ammerweiler. An appreciable loss was inflicted on the Germans, the statement says.

NOTE NOT CREATURE OF THE SWISS

Report From Berne Says Germany Sent the Note to the United States.

(By The Associated Press.) London, Feb. 17.—There is reason for stating with authority, telegraphs Reuter's Berne correspondent, "that the note presented by the Swiss minister to the American Government suggesting fresh negotiations regarding the submarine warfare owed its origin to no initiative on the part of the Swiss minister or the Swiss government. The latter would take no such initiative at this juncture, being quite content to limit its activities to serving as a medium of inter-communication between the belligerents." "Little doubt is felt here that the note emanated from Germany."

WILSON FORCED MILL OFFICIALS TO YIELD

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 17.—It became known today that the print paper manufacturers yielded in their opposition to the government's efforts to restore normal prices and agreed to permit the Federal Trade Commission to determine a fair scale only when confronted with the alternative of personal action by President Wilson and a special session of Congress to pass remedial legislation.

BANKS HAVE OVER MILLION REQUIREMENT

(By Associated Press.) New York, Feb. 17.—The statement of the actual condition of clearing house banks and trust companies for the week shows that they hold \$165,715,220 reserve in excess of legal requirements. This is an increase of \$1,256,470 over last week.