

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, TUE SDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 20, 1917

FINAL EDITION

WEATHER FORECAST. North and South Carolina—Rain this afternoon and generally fair and somewhat colder tonight and Wednesday.

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PRICE FIVE CENTS.

FOOD RIOTS ARE CAUSING WORRY IN NEW YORK

City Officials Get Busy In Effort to Curb The Rising Cost of Living.

INDIGNATION MEETING HELD LAST NIGHT.

Crowd Kept at High Tension By Assertions That The People Can't Get Enough to Eat.

WANT BREAD FOR THEIR BABIES.

(By Associated Press.) New York, Feb. 20.—The cry of housewives unable to meet the advancing cost of food was heard in the city's seat of government today when several hundred women from the tenement districts stormed the City Hall screaming: "We want bread!" They came to place the plight before Mayor John P. Mitchell. Many carried babies. They swarmed up the steps and tried to push their way into the building. Policemen on the basement, where there is a police station, reserves rushed in and restored order. The women were informed that Mayor Mitchell had not yet arrived. The leader was Mrs. Ida Harris, president of the Mothers' Vigilant League. She and three other women were allowed to enter and await the mayor's coming. "We are starving," Mrs. Harris told the mayor's body-guard. "We demand help from the mayor. We will not be responsible for what happens if we don't get it."

New York, Feb. 20.—The city authorities today renewed their efforts to curb the rising cost of food which was responsible for riots yesterday in three different places in the tenement districts. Joseph Hartigan, commissioner of weights and measures, appeared to State commissioners of agriculture and State departments of food and markets, through the food supplies to the New York market.

The situation resulted from an unprecedented jump in the price of staples, particularly potatoes and onions, which were ascribed to short crops, heavy demand, speculation and railway congestion. The indignation of housewives in the lower east side of Manhattan and the Williamsburg and Brownsville districts of Brooklyn overflowed when the produce peddlers quoted potatoes from 5 to 7 cents a pound and onions from 15 to 18 cents. The police estimated that at least 1,000 women took part in the riot in Brownsville. Push carts were overturned and set fire and vegetables were doused with kerosene oil. There were similar scenes elsewhere and the police had their hands full dispersing the angry women.

In Manhattan the push cart men met the situation by calling a mass meeting last night. They explained to their customers that onions were costing them as high as \$15 a bag and potatoes \$10 a barrel. The crowd was kept at a high pitch of excitement by speakers, who complained that they were unable to buy enough food at the present prices to give their families proper nourishment. The meeting appointed a committee to call on Mayor Mitchell today and demand that he take drastic action. Commissioner Hartigan in his letter to the food authorities of the different States, asked what steps they were taking to organize producers and handlers of foods for the purpose of reducing costs. "This information," he said, "is sought for in the hope of any abnormal food conditions arising by reason of extraordinary results accruing from obvious domestic and international situation."

The commissioner asserted that New York was the greatest logical food market in the world and added: "It is evident, therefore, that much business can be given to producers, growers and shippers in your State who may find the New York City market convenient and profitable outlet for their products."

Leaders said that within a year the wholesale price of potatoes had risen from \$2.25 to \$9.00 for a sack of 165 pounds, and the price of onions since December 1, 1916, from \$3.09 to \$15.50 for one hundred pounds. The leaders were told today the mayor would not be at his office today, but would arrange a meeting later. "Sweet Marie" Gans, one of Mrs. Harris' companions, addressed the women from the City Hall steps, and was arrested, charged with disorderly conduct. When the police took her from the City Hall station for arraignment in court a group of women attempted to rescue her but were fought off and a guard was thrown around the City Hall.

THE GOVERNOR'S BILL IS PASSED BY THE SENATE

Crop Lien Measure Had Easy Sailing and Passed By Handsome Majority

HOUSE COMPROMISES ON EDUCATION BOARD

All Counties Would Have Right to Nominate—Clark Road Bill Is Now Law.

(Special to The Dispatch.) Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 20.—Governor Bickett's personally written bill remedying the crop lien evil, by fixing 10 per cent. as the maximum rate charged by time merchants in excess of the cash price, went through the Senate today by 33 to 11.

Governor Bickett transmitted a special message to the Houses today urging favorable action upon the committee report of yesterday. He got quick and effective response and was very happy. He has been more interested in this than any single measure.

Grant, of New Hanover, leading the lawyer's opposition to the bill changing the method of examining applicants for law license, did most to beat the bill. His twitting of Glier, stand-pat advocate of the change, caused merriment, and cheers in the galleries.

Without rollcall and with too little opposition to get one, the lower House today passed the new educational bill, which provides for the nomination in party primaries of one member biennially in each county, to be chosen by the general assembly at its succeeding session. This compromise measure, which gives to all counties the right of nomination, makes it mandatory in all. In the Senate a big fight is expected from counties which do not wish to change the present system.

All amendments offered today were voted down. The House killed the bill changing the method of examining applicants for law license. The Supreme Court had asked relief from these semi-annual examinations, but only 42 votes were cast for it and sixty-six against it. A special order for the Gardner suffrage bill, which provides that a constitutional amendment may be submitted if in a specially prepared box at the next general primary fifty thousand women petition for it, was made for Thursday.

In the Senate the Clark road bill providing the issue of \$400,000 semi-annually by the State to the counties at 5 per cent. to be used for roads, passed and the bill is now law. The State will lend to the counties and townships at five per cent. and automatically the debt is discharged in forty-one years.

The House—Monday. The prayer for the opening of the session of the House at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon was by Representative Hewett, of Buncombe county. The House heard read a letter from President Wilson to the North Carolina Assembly, thanking the Assembly for its vote of confidence in connection with the foreign situation.

LANSING URGES BILL BE PRESSED.

(By The Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 20.—Secretary of State Lansing and Assistant Attorney General Warren urged the Senate Judiciary committee today to press a bill authorizing the President to use the armed forces of the United States to enforce its neutrality obligations, particularly with reference to armed vessels of a belligerent interned in ports of the United States, which might seek to escape.

WANTS EXCHANGE TO HELP MOVEMENT

(By The Associated Press.) London, Feb. 20.—Arthur Neville Chamberlain, director-general of National Service, went to the Stock Exchange today to urge the members to assist in the National Service Movement. He suggested that they consider closing the Exchange for a day or part of a day each week so that they and their employees might do work of National importance.

RIGID "SPY" BILL PASSED BY THE SENATE TODAY

Drastic Measure to Protect Nation is Adopted by Big Vote.

HEAVY PENALTIES CARRIED BY BILL

Much Arbitrary Power Vested In President—House Has Not Passed The Measure.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 20.—The Administration Espionage bill, providing severe penalties for spying on matters of National defense and punishing conspiracies to violate American neutrality, was passed today by the Senate, 60 to 10.

The bill takes in 14 separate measures suggested by the Department of Justice. Senators opposing it declared its terms so stringent as to impede American liberty of speech and of the press. It has not passed the House. The spy section makes it a crime, punishable with two years' imprisonment or \$10,000 fine, to approach or enter any place connected with the National defense, to unlawfully obtain information or to make photographs, blue prints, plans, etc., of things connected with such defense or to dispose of a code, signal book or model, or anything else of National defense value. Where these things are done for a foreign government in time of peace, "whether recognized or unrecognized" by the United States, the penalty is increased to 20 years' imprisonment and in time of war to life.

Any person who in war time, with the intent that it shall be communicated to the enemy "shall collect, record, publish or communicate or attempt to elicit any information," with respect to the movement, numbers, etc., of the armed forces of the United States or its war materials or its plans of military or naval operations, or any other information relating to the public defense or calculated to be shall be punished with death, or by a fine and not more than thirty years' imprisonment. This penalty is reduced to three years' imprisonment where there is no intent that the information be communicated to the enemy, but where it might be useful to such enemy.

The President is given arbitrary power to designate other things and places in addition to those specially named which shall be included in the term National defense.

The bill includes sections making it a crime to make untrue statements under oath to influence the conduct of a foreign government in any dispute or controversy with the United States; to punish the impersonation of foreign government officials; to regulate the issuance of passports and punish their forgery and the conduct and movements of interned soldiers or sailors.

Another section authorizes the President to seize, detain or condemn munitions of war and ships carrying or about to carry them destined to any enemy of a nation with which the United States is at peace and in so doing he is empowered to use the army and navy. Regulation of the anchorage and movement of foreign ships in the waters of the United States in case of National emergency is provided in another section with power given to place guards on such ships to prevent damage. It is made punishable with two years' imprisonment for any person commanding or in charge of any private, foreign or domestic ship to destroy or damage it or to permit it to be used as a place of resort by conspirators against the United States or its treaties or obligations.

CUTS SUPPLY TO ONE QUART PER

South Carolina Legislature Tightens Up on Its Prohibition Law.

(By The Associated Press.) Columbia, S. C., Feb. 20.—The so-called "quart a month" liquor bill, as reported by a conference, was passed by both branches of the South Carolina Legislature today and now goes to Governor Manning for his signature. It allows the importation of one quart of whiskey for medicine or one gallon of wine per month for sacramental uses, to a male adult or a woman if she is the head of a family. Present laws as to druggists, hospitals and laboratories or alcohol for science or the manufacture of chemicals remain unchanged. The measure requires the filing of an affidavit with the probate judge stating the purposes for which intoxicants are desired and the securing of a certificate from him. It would become a law sixty days after being signed by the governor.

BRITISH ANNOUNCE NEW DANGER ZONE



Above is a map of the new British mine zone in the North Sea, which the British Admiralty announced was necessary because of pending operations against the enemy. The new mine field reaches from Danish to Dutch waters and neutral shipping is warned not to enter it except at its own peril.

WILL RETURN TO PALMETTO STATE

South Carolina Has Probably Solved The Vexing Insurance Problem.

(By The Associated Press.) Columbia, S. C., Feb. 20.—Readjustment of South Carolina laws governing the fire insurance business virtually was completed today when Governor Manning signed two of a series of seven bills recommended by a commission which investigated the situation. Three other bills already had been signed and the remaining two, not considered imperative at this time, will not be acted upon at this session. Many insurance companies which ceased to do business in South Carolina, after passage of drastic regulation laws at the last session, are preparing to enter the State again.

The bills signed today provide for a building code in cities and towns and allow the State Insurance Commissioner to accept service as an attorney. Others signed provide maximum fees to be charged companies by municipalities, regulation of rates and standardization of methods to be employed in investigating origin of fires. Those not acted upon provide for the examination and licensing of agents and for repeal of the so-called "valued policy" law.

ITALIANS OCCUPY POSITIONS IN GALACIA

(By The Associated Press.) London, Feb. 20.—The occupation by two Italian battalions of Konitza, in western Greece, near the Albanian border, is reported in an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Athens which says this announcement has been made officially. The Greek authorities at Konitza are reported to have withdrawn southward to Janina.

FIFTH MARYLAND BACK FROM BORDER.

(By The Associated Press.) Baltimore, Feb. 20.—The Fifth Regiment of Infantry, Maryland National Guard, returned home today after eight months' service on the border. The guardsmen were enthusiastically welcomed as they marched from the station to their army.

TWO SCHOONERS SUNK.

(By The Associated Press.) London, Feb. 20.—The New Foundland fishing schooners, *Mayola, 146 tons, and Dorothy, *57 tons, have been sunk, Lloyds announced today. The nationality of the schooner Dorothy reported sunk by Lloyds today, was not disclosed by that agency. Some of the London newspapers, however, describe her as the American schooner of that name.

HAS BEEN AMERICAN.

St. Johns, N. F., Feb. 20.—It is believed here that the schooner described as Dorothy in a London dispatch announcing she had been sunk, was the New Foundland vessel, Rose Dorcas, which was returning to this port from Oporto, Portugal, with fishing salt. She was formerly owned at Provincetown, Mass., but a year ago was sold to local parties and transferred to British registry.

UNITED STATES IS SEEKING TO KNOW AUSTRIA'S STAND

Wants That Country's Position on Submarine Warfare to be Defined.

BREAK WITH AUSTRIA TO INVOLVE TURKEY.

America Reluctant to Break Off Diplomatic Relations But Must Know Austria's Stand—The Lyman Law Case Not At Issue.

(By The Associated Press.) London, Feb. 20.—Frederick Penfield, American Ambassador at Vienna, is said by Reuters' Amsterdam correspondent, to have delivered to the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister a request for a clear and final definition of Austria-Hungary's attitude regarding submarine warfare.

The Amsterdam dispatch says that according to a telegram from Vienna Mr. Penfield handed an aide memoire today to the foreign minister requesting clear and final information as to what standpoint the Austro-Hungarian government has assumed regarding submarine warfare, and whether the assurances given on the occasion of the Ancona and Persia incidents are to be regarded as changed or withdrawn.

The foreign ministry, the dispatch says, will submit the aide memoire to a thorough examination and then make a reply. After the sinking by an Austrian submarine of the Italian steamship Ancona, in November of 1915, occasioning the loss of the lives of several Americans, the Austro-Hungarian government sent a note to the United States in which it said:

"The Imperial and Royal government can also substantially concur in the principle expressed in the very outset (and note that private ships, insofar as they do not flee or offer resistance, may not be destroyed without the persons aboard being brought into safety.")

Such an instruction was sent to the Ambassador more than ten days ago and it is possible that it has been reinforced in view of the delay in securing the response, although State Department officials today declined to make any statement on the subject for publication.

Unofficially it has developed that the State Department is reluctant to sever diplomatic relations with Austria, desiring to maintain as long as possible some official relations with at least some of the central powers. A break with Turkey and Bulgaria is regarded as certain to follow a rupture with Austria and deep concern for the welfare of the many American citizens in the Orient is one of the influences that have affected the State Department's policy in holding off.

Some of the tension created by the destruction of the American schooner Lyman M. Law has disappeared as the result of a statement credited to the captain of the American vessel.

The crew of the submarine which destroyed the ship were sent to Germany. The old Petrolite case involving an unwarranted firing upon that American ship and taking a part of her stores by an Austrian submarine remains the only concrete issue between the United States and Austria in the absence of any overt act in line with the new German policy of ruthless destruction of shipping.

CAR SHORTAGE BILL REPORTED FAVORABLY

(By The Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 20.—The Esch car shortage bill, giving the Interstate Commerce Commission, in freight traffic emergencies, broad powers to suspend all car service rules and make any reasonable regulations to meet the situation, was favorably reported to the House today by the Interstate Commerce Committee.

L. AND N. CONDUCTORS ACQUITTED BY LODGE.

(By Associated Press.) Louisville, Ky., Feb. 20.—Fourteen passenger conductors of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad were acquitted at a lodge trial here yesterday on the charge of having violated rules of the Order of Railway Conductors through the institution of a lawsuit to prevent a strike last September, it was reported.

MANY WEST VIRGINIA SOLDIERS DESERT.

(By Associated Press.) Charleston, W. Va., Feb. 20.—Eighty-five members of the Second West Virginia regiment have deserted since the regiment left here last fall for San Antonio, Texas, according to a report made to the adjutant general. The adjutant general has been authorized to offer a reward of \$50 each for their arrest.

BODY OF FUNSTON WILL BE LAID AT REST IN 'FRISCO

Short Funeral Services Over Hero at Fort Sam Houston This Afternoon.

GUARD OF HONOR WITH THE REMAINS.

Widow Requested That Remains Be Sent to San Francisco and They Will Leave Tonight.

(By Associated Press.) San Antonio, Texas, Feb. 20.—The body of Major-General Frederick Funston, who died here suddenly last night, will be taken to San Francisco tonight for burial.

Short services will be held at Fort Sam Houston this afternoon and the body will then be conveyed to the Southern Pacific station to await the train for the West. It will be accompanied by Captain Fitzhugh Lee, aide to General Funston, and a guard of six enlisted men.

Mrs. Funston is at her home in San Francisco and requested the body be sent there for burial.

DIED LAST NIGHT.

San Antonio, Texas, Feb. 20.—Following the arrival of Major-General Pershing from El Paso and advice from Mrs. Funston, who, with her three children, is in San Francisco, funeral arrangements will be made for the late Major-General Frederick Funston, whose sudden death occurred here last night.

General Funston was seated in the lobby of a local hotel after dinner with friends, talking to acquaintances, when he suddenly collapsed from an attack of angina pectoris or hardening of the arteries of the heart. Although quickly removed to a room where restoratives were attempted, death, according to Lieutenant-Colonel M. W. Ireland, his physician, was practically instantaneous.

Two weeks ago the general suffered from acute indigestion and placed himself under Colonel Ireland's care. According to the latter he had fully recovered and was in the best of health and spirits yesterday. Nevertheless he was particular at dinner last night to eat sparingly, saying that he feared another attack. The heart affection which caused death first appeared, according to Colonel Ireland, in 1910, but had not been considered alarming. Pending General Pershing's arrival, Colonel Malvern Hill Barnum, chief of staff, will be in charge of the Southern Department, and movement of National Guardsmen to their homes will not be delayed.

General Funston was 51 years old and came to San Antonio from San Francisco in February, 1915, as Southern Department commander. Since mobilization of the National Guard following Villa's raid on Columbus, N. M., in March, 1916, he had commanded the largest army gathered in a single department since the Civil War. General Funston saw active service in Cuba, both in the Cuban army and with the United States Volunteers; in the Philippines and at Vera Cruz, Mexico, where he commanded the American expedition.

STEERAGE PASSENGERS ON BOARD "BERNSTORFF SHIP" MUST FIRST BE EXAMINED.

(By The Associated Press.) Halifax, N. S., Feb. 20.—The steamship Frederick VIII, carrying Count von Bernstorff, is not likely to resume her voyage to Europe for three or four days, it was indicated here today.

Canadian immigration officials this morning began examining the steerage passengers, chiefly to discover whether there are secret agents of the German government among them. It is understood that if any are found they will be removed and possibly interned. The officials are said to be aided by detectives who have watched alleged German operations in the United States.

MOTHER MAY NOT BE AT FUNERAL.

Emporia, Kan., Feb. 20.—The mother of General Funston may be unable to attend his funeral. She is ill at the home of her daughter, Mrs. F. A. Eckdall. The news was conveyed to her last night and the shock aggravated her condition.

Mrs. Funston's home is at Iola, Kan. Expressions of sympathy are reaching her from many places.

PERSHING NOW IN COMMAND.

Washington, Feb. 20.—Major-General Pershing notified the War Department today that he had assumed command of the Southern Department, embracing the American forces on the Mexican border, which post was held by Major-General Funston. Secretary Baker said General Pershing's succession was automatic, he being the next in grade to General Funston.

General Pershing will retain command until a permanent successor is named by the War Department. No consideration has yet been given to appointing a new commander for the Southern Department.

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