

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

FINAL EDITION

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, SAT URDAY AFTERNOON, FEB. 24, 1917.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

WEATHER FORECAST. North and South Carolina—Fair tonight and Sunday. Colder tonight.

VOL. XXII. NO. 403.

SUBMARINES WREAK BIG DESTRUCTION; NINE SHIPS SUNK

Undersea Boats Secure Their Second Largest Harvest Since February 1st. TONNAGE AMOUNTS OVER 37 THOUSAND

Seven of The Victims Flew Dutch Flags—All Likely Destroyed in One Attack While Approaching English Channel—French Penetrate German Lines in the Vosges

Nine steamers are today reported to have been sunk by German submarines. Their total tonnage was approximately 37,000 tons, making the day's submarine bag the second greatest since February 1st. The February 6 record was 46,763 tons.

A Japanese press report announces the presence of a sea raider in the Indian ocean, where the exploits of the noted Emden were performed. The new raider, an armed merchantman, is said to have sunk two British steamers southwest of Colombo, Ceylon. In military operations there have been few important developments. The French have been active in the Vosges region and Paris records the penetration of the German lines north of Senones by a French detachment last night. Berlin reports that a French attack in the Champagne failed, but admits the occupation in the Somme sector.

British army estimates were issued today providing for an army of 2,000,000 men, while a naval estimate calls for 50,000 officers and men, making the naval personnel 450,000. The army estimates are exclusive of India.

Captain and Six Men Killed. London, Feb. 24.—The British steamer Grenadier has been sunk, London announces. The captain and six men were killed and the remainder of the crew landed.

The British steamer Trojan Prince has also been sunk. It is believed all the men on these vessels were saved.

Four of the seven Dutch steamers were homeward bound with full cargoes. The attack took place in the western approaches to the English Channel. No instructions as to the destination were either asked for or given by the British admiralty. All the arrangements were in the hands of the Dutch authorities.

Lloyds announces that the crews of the following steamers were landed yesterday, their vessels having been torpedoed on Thursday: Zaanndijk, Dutch, 4,189 tons gross; Zaanndijk, Dutch, 3,770 tons gross; Emden, Dutch, 3,770 tons gross; Menado, Dutch, 5,574 tons; Bandoeng, Dutch, 5,574 tons; and the Gaasterland.

More than 200 men of various nationalities, members of the crews of submarine ships sunk by German submarines, arrived in London today. The men were dressed in various styles of clothing. They were taken to the Sailors' Home, where they were supplied with new equipment. They will be cared for until they find new berths.

Consul Osborn.—Have said the Skrim was sunk by bombs planted in the ship after warning had been given. The Skrim was unarmed, in ballast, and bound from Treport to Caartricht, 20 miles from Treport. She was sunk on February 19. The crew, 14 in number, included Louis Pinto, a Porto Rican. They were rescued after 20 hours in small boats.

The bark Blenheim, according to Consul Frost at Queenstown, was sunk by shell fire after its crew had abandoned the ship and without injury to any of the ship's personnel. The Blenheim was of 1,029 tons and sailed from Pensacola, January 19. She was sunk February 22, thirty miles south-southwest, from Fastnet, Ireland.

Consul Frost said the master sighted the first shot was fired and was abandoned. The submarine was a British vessel. The crew was landed at Baltimore, Ireland, at 8:30 p.m. the same day without incident. The sole American on board was Solomon O. Troche, born in Porto Rico, whose parents reside at San Francisco.

The Blenheim was unarmed and without wireless. Two Dutch steamers, Gaasterland, were listed in maritime records. The larger, 3,917 tons gross, was engaged in trade between Holland and South (Continued on Page Eight.)

THE GERMAN U-BOAT WAR SUCCESSFUL, SAYS VON CAPELLE.



ADMIRAL VON CAPELLE

Amsterdam, Feb. 24.—In a statement given out in Berlin, Admiral von Capelle, Minister of the Navy, said that not one German U-boat had been lost since the submarine war started. Germany's toll in foreign shipping captured or sunk is 134 vessels in eighteen days in February.

DEMOCRATS WILL MAKE A FIGHT

Determine to Squash The Republicans Over The Revenue Measure.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 24.—The Democrats of the Senate after a conference with Secretary McAdoo, determined upon a fight to a finish with the Republican minority over the revenue bill and preparedness legislation. They have practically decided to hold Congress in continuous session from now on, even to the extent of holding through Sunday.

The conference was held after Republican Senators had dropped all disguises in the filibuster and had participated in an obstructive debate for two hours on the legislative appropriation bill conference report which had temporarily re-placed the revenue bill in the Democratic conference, held in the Finance committee room were Secretary McAdoo and Senators Simmons, Stone, Martin, James, Thomas, Swanson and Hughes.

"We are going to insist on keeping this Revenue bill before the Senate no matter what happens," said Senator Simmons. "The whole preparedness program and the destiny of the nation is dependent upon this bill."

There will be no compromise on this measure and if the minority proposes to keep up this filibuster we shall have to fight them with a continuous session of the Senate. If the Republicans want to take responsibility for delaying preparation of the nation in this grave crisis," said Senator James, "they may take it, but the country will know where the responsibility lies. If Republican senators want to fight for the interests of munitions makers so that they may reap the profits of warfare and escape payment of any of its tax burdens, the country also shall be informed of that."

The conference took considerable time discussing revenue possibilities in case the Republican fight succeeded and the President declined to call an extra session. It was admitted that with treasury notes and available Panama bonds the government might get through under normal conditions but it would be impossible to proceed with a preparedness program.

Senator Smoot, one of the Republican leaders, after conferring with Representative Mann, Republican House leader said he had no idea that there would be an extra session of Congress basing his statement on the belief that the Republican fight would operate to prevent the President from going to Congress to ask for more power to handle the foreign situation on the absence of Congress.

"I do not believe the President will come to Congress at all," Senator Smoot said.

OLD NEW HANOVER GIVEN PRAISE IN THE HOUSE

Stood Ahead of All Others for Short Hours for Trained Nurses.

BOARD OF WELFARE BILL GETS THROUGH

House Passed The Bill Today. Also Adopted The Ouster Act—Rapid Work Done Today.

(Special to The Dispatch.) Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 24.—New Hanover county received the highest praise among all the counties in which hospitals train women for nurses, as the debate on Breece's bill regulating the hours of work brought out today.

The Breece's bill would limit the regular work hours to twelve and on special cases hospitals would be allowed to call upon nurses for sixteen hours' service, though sleeping quarters in the wards would be required and nurses would be allowed to sleep half that time.

Mr. Breece had discovered that New Hanover hospitals observe the short hours of the twenty-three examined by him.

The bill passed without a negative vote.

The House passed the act repealing the State Board of Public Charities and Corporations and enacted a Board of Public Welfare.

It also repealed the Franklin county special tax act, passed early in the session.

Both houses worked rapidly on roll call bills, after having passed Friday night the State-wide education bill, nominating in party primaries boards of education, who would be elected by the general assembly.

The House passed an ouster law for officers who do not enforce the law. Senator Warren's bill providing for the investigation of indebtedness of the Mattamuskeet railroad was a promising measure presented today.

The road has been much a consideration of the State council recently.

In the Senate, the Brenzier bridge bill passed less the toll feature, and the land Grant act of 1918 was repealed.

The Senate passed the Pegram pistol carrying bill, which provides drastic punishment for violation.

The House—Friday. The House was convened at 1 o'clock by Speaker Murphy. There were large numbers of bills reported from committees unfavorably, thus saving the House from considering them at all in the closing days of the session. New bills were introduced as follows:

Harker—Special tax for Pamlico county.

Ward, of Duplin—Amend the drainage laws.

Ward—Increase the pay of the Duplin commissioners.

Daniel—Change Green county from the Fifth to the Sixth Judicial district.

Sellers—Amend the 1909 drainage laws.

Brothers—Authorize Kinston Graded School bonds.

Daniel, of Warren—Protect North Carolina highways.

Shaw—Relating the Scotland county courts.

Authorize stockholders in banks to act as notaries public.

Wright—Punish for false statements in securing credit.

Wright—Define punishment for using explosives in burglary.

Doughton—Provide for the levy of taxes for counties, the creation of sinking funds and the payment of interest on bonds.

Brummitt—Bonds for Creedmoor School.

Brummitt—Tax dogs and make them subjects of larceny in Granville.

RELIEF MAY COME SOON FOR HUNGRY OF NEW YORK

Committee Devises Plan to Buy Food and Distribute at Reasonable Prices.

GREAT DEMONSTRATION FOR THIS AFTERNOON.

New Yorkers Plan to Present Protest at Madison Square Garden—Governor on The Scene.

(By Associated Press.) New York, Feb. 24.—Relief is in sight for the poor of New York city who have been suffering from the high prices of food. Spurred by riots, boycotts and mass appeals the city government and wealthy citizens have taken action.

The most definite measure is the purchase of a large quantity of food which will be brought here for distribution at the lowest possible price. George W. Perkins, chairman of the mayor's committee on food supply, announced that a campaign had begun to popularize rice as a substitute for more costly foods. The committee has bought 4,000,000 pounds. Information from Woodland, Cal., says Mr. Perkins had telegraphed the county board of trade there asking terms for immediate shipment of 15,000,000 pounds.

The mayor's committee has purchased a carload of smelts on the Pacific coast which will be used to force down prices in the local markets. Funds for these purchases were guaranteed by members of the committee. The board of estimate and apportionment has asked the state legislature to authorize an amendment to the city charter giving the board power to appropriate, in case of emergency, city funds with which to buy foodstuffs to be sold at reasonable prices.

Governor Whitman who came here last night from Albany said that he could devote the date to the food problem. The governor expressed the belief that the Wicks food and market bill now before the legislature would ultimately bring some relief. The situation, he said, demanded an immediate remedy.

The district attorney has joined the State and city officials in their campaign by starting an investigation of reports of illegal combinations to raise prices.

Arrangements have been made for a great demonstration this afternoon in Madison Square. If the police will permit those in charge of the meeting, say that, after the speaking is over they will start a parade on Fifth avenue.

STIRRED BY NEWS OF THE SINKINGS

Consternation Prevails at The Hague Over Work of Submarines.

(By The Associated Press.) The Hague, Netherlands, Feb. 24.—(Via London).—Consternation was caused here by the announcement of the torpedoing and sinking by German submarines of several Dutch cargo vessels of which the Noorderdijk and the Zaanndijk, grain laden and bound for a home port, belonged to the Holland-America Line.

Two others the Remland and the Gaasterland, were en route for the United States for grain while the Jacatra also was grain laden. The Bandoeng was coming from the East Indies with a cargo of piece goods. All the vessels left (probably Falmouth) February 22, it having been given to understand by the German authorities that the date would be "relatively safe" the so-called safe period for neutral ships sailing from British ports which originally expired February 8, having been extended at the request of the Dutch government.

The ship sunk aggregated more than 40,000 tons. The Holland-America Line has received a report that the crews of the Zaanndijk and the Noorderdijk were saved.

The foreign ministry today made the following announcement: "When unrestricted submarine warfare was proclaimed the Netherlands government not only protested against it, but insisted that the German government should take care that no Dutch ships, then en route to or from Dutch ports should be victims of new measures. Germany declared her willingness to do this, but added that it was impossible to guarantee absolute safety."

The statement says further that the seven ships have been torpedoed availed themselves of a German offer to sail on February 22. They were to sail together on a westerly course out of the danger zone and then proceed to their destinations. The report then mentions the dispatch received from the Dutch minister in London, announcing the disaster, which adds that the ships were torpedoed without examination of their papers. The communication ends with the statement that it is believed all the crews were saved.

SCORE MAY HAVE BEEN KILLED IN THE TORNADO

Central Alabama Yielded Up Big Death Toll as Result of Big Wind.

WHITES AND NEGROES BOTH MEET DEATH.

Over One Hundred People Injured in The Disaster—Wire Communication Badly Crippled.

(By Associated Press.) Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 24.—Reports here early today placed the number of dead from yesterday's tornado in Central Alabama at between 11 and 20 persons. Wire communication with the storm-swept district was interrupted and an accurate estimate of the loss of life was impossible.

Three white persons are known to have been killed at Stewartville, two were killed and one fatally injured at Hollins; two at Midway and four negroes lost their lives at Whitsett. In addition unverified reports brought to Birmingham were to the effect that eight persons were killed and two fatally hurt at Coghill.

Probably 100 persons were injured in the Stewartville-Hollins-Midway district, according to word from Sylauga, where many of the injured were removed. These reports said the school buildings in these towns were razed, with many other houses, and that school children were among the killed and injured. The tornado extended in Georgia, where at Lithonia two negroes were killed and several persons were injured. Six houses were destroyed, mostly small negro dwellings.

Wetumpka and Hartsboro, Ala., experienced severe storms and suffered considerable property damage, but no lives were lost.

It is reported from Selma that the tornado did damage in Autauga and Dallas counties, but details are lacking.

Three Negroes Killed. Lithonia, Ga., Feb. 24.—Three negroes, two women and a man, are dead, and six other persons, four of them white, are slightly injured as the result of a tornado which swept the outskirts of Lithonia late yesterday, demolishing more than thirty small houses and damaging a hundred others. Wire communication, partially interrupted last night, was restored today and work of clearing away the wreckage begun.

Death List Mounts. Sylauga, Ala., Feb. 24.—The death list of victims of the tornado which died yesterday swept through southeastern Alabama counties reached twelve today. More than one hundred persons were injured and the damage to property is believed to have run into the thousands. Hollins, a small village near here, practically was destroyed, and in the sections consisting of Hollins, Midway and Stewartville, thirty stores and dwellings were demolished. In this section seven were killed.

Montgomery, Elmore, Macon, Autauga, Perry and Bibb counties all suffered considerable damage to property and at Whitsett, Hale county, four negroes met death at the hands of the storm. In Calhoun county "wind jockets" of great velocity are said to have wrought considerable damage.

FUNERAL OF FUNSTON IN 'FRISCO TODAY.

(By Associated Press.) San Francisco, Feb. 24.—The funeral of Major General Frederick Funston took place today at the First Presbyterian church, the services being conducted by the Rev. William K. Guthrie. The body lay in state through out the night at the city hall, under a military guard.

The escort for the body of the distinguished soldier to its final resting place in the national cemetery at the presidio overlooking the golden gate, consisted of two regiments of coast artillery, commanded by Major General J. Franklin Bell, his staff, a company of Bluejackets, companies of Spanish war veterans, and representatives of other military organizations. All city officers and courts were closed during the funeral and Mayor Rolph issued a proclamation requesting that citizens cease their occupation for a few moments during the time the body was being lowered into the grave.

AMERICANS ABOARD BUT SHIPS WARNED.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 24.—Sinking of two more vessels by German submarines both with an American sailor on board was reported to the State Department today by American consuls. In both cases the vessels were warned and the two Americans landed safely. The vessels sunk were the Norwegian steamer Skrim and the bark Blenheim. The latter was bound from Pensacola to Greenock.

HOLLAND IS FACED BY SERIOUS STAGE OF SUB. WARFARE

Tremendous Destruction of Dutch Shipping During the Last Two Days.

POPULAR RESENT NOW POPULAR RESENTMENT.

Millions of Dollars Worth of Property of Neutral Country Destroyed by German Submarines—Washington Thinks The Situation is Acute.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 24.—The tremendous destruction of Dutch shipping during the last two days is regarded here as the most acute phase of the international situation.

It is regarded even as bringing nearer the probability of a break in diplomatic relations between the Netherlands and Germany. So far, Holland has only made protests against destruction of her neutral ships by German submarines but the startling operations reported yesterday and today are expected to arouse a wave of popular indignation in The Netherlands which the government may find it difficult to withstand.

The situation for Holland in relation to Germany as it is observed from Washington, is growing more and more difficult. Officials and diplomats here will be surprised if the government does not take some action.

Enormous Loss. New York, Feb. 24.—The destruction of Dutch ships by German submarines, as reported from London, involved the loss of vessels and cargoes valued at \$11,600,000, according to estimates made here today by agents of the lines owning the seven ships sunk.

The Zaanndijk was owned by the Holland-America Line. According to William van Doorn, the line's agent here, the vessel was en route from Rotterdam to New York in ballast. She had put in a Falmouth for examination.

The Noorderdijk, also a Holland-America liner, carrying a cargo of grain from New York to Rotterdam had put in at Falmouth and was sunk between Falmouth and Rotterdam. The grain was intended for the Dutch government.

The Eemland was owned by the Royal Dutch Lloyd's. She was coming from Rotterdam in ballast for New York and had called at Falmouth.

Like the Zaanndijk, the Eemland was coming here to take on grain consigned to the Dutch government.

The Jacatra, owned by the Rotterdam Lloyd's left New York January 26, with grain for the Dutch government. She had put in at Kirkwall.

The Mena also owned by the Rotterdam Lloyd's was believed to be on her way to the United States from Rotterdam to get grain.

Apparently most of these vessels were in Kirkwall or Falmouth during the early days of the period of Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare. For more than a year all ships flying the flag of Holland have been filling from 60 to 80 per cent. of their cargo space with grain while the other space was commandeered and the grain was all consigned to The Netherlands government. None of the ships reported sunk carried passengers.

GERMAN WAR TAX HAS BEEN RAISED

Still No More Than What Other Belligerents Doing, It is Claimed.

(By Associated Press.) London, Feb. 24.—War taxation in Germany has been increased 20 per cent. in the budget presented to the Reichstag yesterday by Count von Roedern, finance minister, according to an Amsterdam dispatch to Reuters.

In his speech in which he announced the new war credit of 15,000,000 marks Count von Roedern explained that the increase was necessary because the budget provides no new money while the "safety law" enacted last year called for an increase of 50 to 60 per cent. in the legal reserve.

The finance minister said the question of taking over the coal mines had been rejected. He added that Germany was well able to rely on its own coal production and that the commodity could be taxed all the easier because the price was lower than in foreign countries, averaging 15 to 18 marks. He maintained that an average taxation of 2 1/2 marks on coal and 80 pfennigs on lignite was too high. There will be a levy of 10 to 15 per cent. on railroad tickets and 7 per cent. on all freights.

Count von Roedern said that the war credit voted last October was nearly exhausted.

AMERICAN STEAMER WAY FROM LIVERPOOL.

(By Associated Press.) New York, Feb. 24.—The American Line steamship Finland carrying 166 passengers, among them Henry Van Dyke, former American minister to The Netherlands sailed from Liverpool on February 17 and is due here next Tuesday or Wednesday, the American Line announced today. She is now presumed to be safely beyond the submarine zone.

SPOKE BEFORE TEACHERS. Member of Faculty of A. & M. College in The City. Professor T. E. Browne, of Raleigh, a member of the faculty of A. & M. College spoke before the reading circle of the rural school teachers in the auditorium of the Hemenway school this morning on agriculture in the schools, and was heard with much interest by his audience. Professor Browne was to have reached the city yesterday at noon and spent the afternoon in company with Mr. J. P. Harrington, county farm demonstrator, visiting the schools at Castle Haynes and Writingsboro this morning and only reached here this morning.