

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

FINAL EDITION

WEATHER FORECAST. Cloudy and colder tonight and Wednesday. North and South Carolina—mild.

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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, TUESDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 27, 1917

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

WILSON BEING OPPOSED IN CONGRESS

AMERICANS LOST LIVES AS RESULT OF LINER GOING DOWN

Woman and Daughter From Chicago Died From Exposure—Others Dead

PRESIDENT AWAITS ACTION OF CONGRESS.

No Further Move Until That Body Acts on His Appeal—Protest Received From "Peace Societies" Against Granting President's Request.

(By Associated Press) Washington, Feb. 27.—Official dispatches confirming reports of the death of the Americans on the Laconia torpedoed without warning, establish the case as the "overt act."

The situation, however, was unchanged from where the President left it yesterday when he asked Congress for authority to deal with the submarine peril.

President Wilson and State Department officials took the position that no further step would be taken until Congress had an opportunity to act on the President's request.

The view prevailed that the sinking of the Laconia should hasten action by Congress.

The first step of the government, it is indicated, will be to furnish American ships with guns and gunners for defensive purposes and insure them in the government war risk bureau.

On the basis of the official reports, the sinking of the Laconia is regarded as another Lusitania case in principle. Even though fewer lives were lost.

President Wilson, it was said today, is opposed to calling an extra session of Congress unless it is absolutely necessary. Word has been conveyed to him that the Republicans may filibuster in an effort to force an extra session, but he is hopeful that this intention will not be carried out.

The following dispatch from Consul Frost at Queenstown, dated at 11:15 o'clock last night, was received today at the State Department:

"Two American ladies believed dead from exposure and bodies lost at sea from Laconia, namely Mrs. Mary E. Hoy and Miss Elizabeth Hoy, of Chicago. Four Americans saved, F. B. Gibbons, Chicago Tribune; Mrs. F. E. Harris, wife of Colonel Harris, U. S. A. P. Dupont; Arthur F. Kirby, Upper New York street, New York; and Waring, of St. Joseph's Seminary, Baltimore.

"Laconia torpedoed without warning 10:30 p. m., February 25, 150 miles west of Fastnet. Overcast, heavy swells not breaking, fair breeze. Laconia carried 4.7 gun invisible at night. Second torpedo 20 minutes after first. Thirteen boats got away, of which number eight with Hoy ladies were lost. Wireless had been sent out. Boats picked up admiralty patrol 4 a. m., February 26. Cargo cotton, foodstuffs and non-explosive munitions. Apparently eight deaths out of 235 on board. Two hundred and sixty crew and 75 passengers, including many women and children.

"Ship sank in about 45 minutes from time of first torpedo. Had fired six rockets, which were seen by admiralty patrol. Wireless also used up to last moment. Boats scattered 10 or three miles in swells twelve feet high. Burned flares and were picked up seriatim between 3 and 4 a. m., February 26."

A second dispatch from Consul Frost, timed 8:30 o'clock this morning, says:

"Deaths Mrs. and Miss Hoy as reported, now positively confirmed. Cedric B. Ivatt, of New York, probably American, is apparently lost. Add to Americans saved the following negro fishermen and seamen:

"Douglas Adams, Newport News; Benjamin Carter, 33 W. 69th street, New York; Lewis Darnell, 505 Perry street, Baltimore; Carey Masseberg, 10 South 19th street, Newport News; Ed Smith, 333 South Manchester street, New York; Harry Young, 184 Park Road, New York; Barney Rheton, 264 West 61st street, New York; John Williams, address unknown; William Wynne, or Wing, 308 North Fourth street, Baltimore; Henry Smith, 126 Pratt street, Indianapolis; Joseph Lewis, 63 William street, Buffalo; Dan Israel 560 Olive street, Savannah; Isaac Boman, same address; John Joneson, 180 Park Road, New York; and Joseph Sumter, 65 Melton and Calhoun, Charlestown; fifteen in all.

"Total survivors landed here, 267. Landed at Battery, 1. Total on board, 294."

"Missing, 13, of whom 5 drowned and 8, including Hoy ladies, died of exposure and buried at sea. Six horses (Continued on Page Eight.)"

BRYAN COMES OUT AGAINST WHAT WILSON WANTS

Cancels Speaking Dates to Go to Washington and Fight Policy.

WOULD BE WRONG TO GIVE HIM SUCH POWER

Nebraskan Asserts He Has Greatest Faith in the President's High Purpose, However.

(By Associated Press) Jacksonville, Fla., Feb. 27.—W. J. Bryan, in a statement given out here today, said that he was opposed to granting powers to the President such as Mr. Wilson requested of Congress yesterday.

After receiving answers to a number of telegrams he sent to Washington today, he decided to proceed to the capital and use his efforts to have the request declined. Mr. Bryan cancelled five speaking dates in Florida yesterday after he had read the President's address.

"Whatever power is conferred upon the President should, I think, be so limited as not to constitute a surrender of the power of Congress," he said today.

Mr. Bryan said he has the greatest faith in the President's high purpose, but it is his opinion that it will be unwise to delegate to the Chief Executive the authority asked for "no matter how much confidence we have."

MRS. FUNSTON TO GET A PENSION.

(By Associated Press) Washington, Feb. 27.—A bill granting a pension of \$100 a month to the widow of the late Major General Frederick Funston was passed today by the Senate.

SCORE OR MORE DIE WHEN TRAIN HITS ANOTHER IN DARK

"BONE DRY" BILL NOW IN DANGER

Tie Up of Conferees Over Pneumatic-Tube Clause May Kill Measure.

(By Associated Press) Washington, Feb. 27.—Opponents of the Reed "bone dry" prohibition amendment were jubilant today because Senate and House conferees on the postal appropriation bill were unable to break their deadlock over the Senate amendment directing the Postmaster-General to renew pneumatic mail tube contracts for another year.

Unless the deadlock is broken and the bill finally passed by both houses before adjournment, the Reed amendment cannot become effective and it still will be legal to import liquor into States which permit shipments in limited quantities, although forbidding its manufacture and sale.

Senate and House conferees absolutely refused to budge from their respective positions today.

Should the Postal bill fail the Jones-Bankhead amendment to bear publications containing liquor advertisements from the mails in States which have laws against such advertising also would fall with it.

Chairman Bankhead, of the Senate conferees, said today:

"The conference has been unable to reach an agreement up to this time. The pneumatic tube amendment is the trouble. Of course, the Reed amendment is not in controversy. That was put into the bill by the friends of the liquor interests and for a purpose. I voted against it."

WILSON POLICY STRIKES SNAG

Effort to Modify His Demands So As to Simply Place Navy at His Disposal.

(By Associated Press) Washington, Feb. 27.—On an unofficial vote, the House Foreign Affairs committee today agreed to strike from the Administration bill to empower the President to take steps to meet the submarine menace, the words "other instrumentalities," and to substitute "to use the naval forces of the United States, including the naval militia."

The Senate Foreign Relations committee, considering the bill, showed a disposition to modify the broadness of the "other instrumentalities" phrase.

Republican Senators voted solidly against it, and got some support. It was said, from Senators Stone, Hitchcock and O'Gorman, Democrats.

TO DETERMINE SANITY OF HARRY K. THAW

(By Associated Press) Philadelphia, Feb. 27.—Lunacy proceedings were begun in common pleas court here yesterday to determine the sanity of Harry K. Thaw.

The petition was filed on behalf of Thaw's mother, Ellis Ames Ballard, an attorney, was appointed commissioner and he will sit with a sheriff's jury of six men to pass on Thaw's sanity.

In Twinkling of an Eye Mangled Human Bodies and Wrecked Cars Piled Up.

OCURRED JUST AFTER MIDNIGHT IN PENN.

Fast Freight Hit Express Train and Tragedy Enacted—Many Injured While Others Die—Interstate Commerce Commission to Investigate.

(By The Associated Press) Altoona, Pa., Feb. 27.—At noon today Pennsylvania Railroad road officials said the list of killed stood at 20, of whom 17 have been identified.

NOW STANDS AT TWENTY.

(By Associated Press) Altoona, Pa., Feb. 27.—Twenty or more persons were killed when the eastbound Mercantile Express on the Pennsylvania Railroad was hit shortly after midnight by a fast freight train at the station at the little mountain town of Mount Union, 43 miles east of here, in a heavy fog.

Several others were injured. Those most seriously hurt were taken to the Blair Memorial Hospital at Huntingdon.

The express train had stopped to discharge passengers at Mount Union and members of the crew were testing the airbrakes when the heavy freight crashed into the passenger train from the rear.

Alongside the express train at the station was an accommodation train carrying workmen from the Mount Union (Continued From Page Six.)

EQUAL SUFFRAGE BILL AGAIN "HET" UP THE SENATE

Jones, of Buncombe, Poured Hot Shot Into The "Antis" As He Raked Them.

OTHERS RALLIED TO HIS SUPPORT.

Senate Also Killed the Boiler Bill—Grant Makes Fiery Speech on Fish Question.

(Special to The Dispatch) Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 27.—Jones, of Buncombe, fought one of the best fights of his scrapping career in the State Senate this morning, but lost his suffrage bill, which had been amended to confine its operations to votes for the ladies for presidential electors, and then only after a majority of the women of the State qualified in all particulars, except as to poll tax, had adopted it, by the vote of 20 to 24.

Jonas and Gregg, Republicans, helped out with the fight for the measure, which was most vigorously opposed by Eastern senators, Person of Franklin, Pollock of Lenoir, and Burgwyn of Northampton.

It was one of the most heated debates of the session.

Person rang Saint Paul in the discussion. Jones replied that Saint Paul was a miserable old bachelor, which same statement Pollock attempted to twist into an attack on Paul as a representative of the Christian Church.

Burgwyn said there was only one woman in Northampton who wanted the vote, and she was of uncertain years and single. He got his speech called "insult" by Warren of Danville for his pains.

Persons said his wife would not vote but his cook would, and Jones told him he could see how the wife of a man who preached such "damnable doctrines" would regard to women would not care to vote.

The Senate also killed the boiler inspection bill, which would have provided for the inspection of all uninsured boilers in the State which are over five-horse power. The discussion left a good bit of doubt as to whether many of the senators knew much of the purposes of a boiler.

The House, after passing the machinery bill, devoted itself to a thorough discussion of the fisheries bill, which produced some fiery speeches.

Especially did Grant of New Hanover, denounce the practice of fishing with "pound nets," which he declared had almost ruined the food fish industry of Eastern North Carolina.

By the narrow vote in the House this session, the bill of Grant, of Onslow, abolishing the fisheries commission was beaten on second reading this afternoon. The vote was forty-eight to forty-nine.

Grant's bill was displaced by committee substitute, which Grant championed as did Grant, of New Hanover, the ablest advocate of the new measure. Its chief news feature was its abolishment of the present commission, and the more centralized control of the fishing industry in Eastern counties. All Republicans save two voted for Grant's bill.

The Senate and House entered in the joint session yesterday afternoon and ratified the trustees of the University of North Carolina including 20 additional trustees provided for in a special act of this session. Lieutenant Governor Gardner and Speaker Murphy presided jointly.

The trustees in the order of their terms of office follow:

For terms expiring November 30, 1925—David G. Barnes, Hertford; D. F. Ray, Cumberland; Dr. A. R. Abernathy, Orange; J. S. Carr, Durham; Josephus Daniels, Wake; A. W. Graham, Granville; J. Bryan Grimes, Pitt; J. S. Cunningham, Durham; L. T. Hantsell, Cabarrus; Perrin Busbee, Wake; F. W. Hinsdale, Jr., Wake; F. J. Hobgood, Granville; W. Stamps Howard, Edgecombe; Paul Jones Long, Northampton; H. A. Long (Continued from Page Seven)

FINLAND REPORTS THAT SHE IS SAFE.

(By Associated Press) New York, Feb. 27.—The steamship Finland, of the American Line, which left from Liverpool on February 17, with 166 passengers, including many Americans, reported by wireless to her owners here today that she would reach the Ambrose channel lightship a few hours after midnight and would dock early tomorrow.

The Finland was the third American Line passenger vessel to leave England after Germany's proclamation of unrestricted submarine warfare. The others were the New York and the Philadelphia. With the arrival of the Finland, this line's entire fleet will be tied up in New York for the first time since the Spanish-American war.

PRESIDENT DEEMS LACONIA SINKING THE "OVERT ACT"

ONLY ONE AMERICAN OF CREW PERISHED.

(By Associated Press) London, Feb. 27.—American Consul Frost, at Queenstown, reports that an American, Thomas Cassey, colored, a member of the Laconia's crew, was among the lost. He was the only American member of the crew that perished.

TRAGEDY MARKED END OF HER LIFE

Wilmington Lady Committed Suicide in Richmond—Mrs. Kelly Also a Victim.

(Special to The Dispatch) Richmond, Va., Feb. 27.—Dr. Alfred Mordecai, of Raleigh, arrived here early today in response to news that his sister, Mrs. R. C. Kelly, of Ashboro, N. C., had shot herself through the head with suicidal intent last night in the vicinity of Westbrook sanitarium, where she had been a patient for several months. It was said at Johnston Willis today that Mrs. Kelly, who has a pistol wound in the right temple, has but little chance of recovery.

Mrs. Kelly made the attempt on her life in a quarry pit, together with Mrs. Roberta L. Russell, of Wilmington, widow of Dr. Frank Russell, of that city, who was successful in her effort to end her life with the same weapon.

The two women disappeared from Westbrook soon after supper and it was not until several hours later that searching parties located them. Mrs. Russell was found dead near her companion.

Mrs. Russell is believed to have shot the pistol when she recently went to her home in Wilmington. It was said today that both she and Mrs. Kelly were to be discharged very shortly from Westbrook as cured of nervous ailments.

Mrs. Kelly, who shot herself, died early this afternoon.

The remains of Mrs. Russell will arrive in the city Wednesday and will be interred in Oakdale cemetery, although the place and hour of the funeral had not been decided on at an early hour Tuesday afternoon. Relatives here received the sad news of her tragic death Tuesday morning.

WHISKEY BOAT WAS CAPTURED

Patrol Had Fight With Blockader in Virginia Waters Last Night.

(By Associated Press) Richmond, Va., Feb. 27.—Governor Stuart today received a brief telephone report from Lancaster Court House, sent by the captain of the State oyster police boat, Commodore Maury, stating that a ship fight had occurred last night between the Maury and the schooner Elizabeth Clark, of Baltimore, engaged in running the whiskey blockade, and that the schooner had been captured by boarding after Captain Ike Bozeman and his mate had been wounded by the guns of the Maury.

No one on the State's vessel was injured by the schooner's fire.

Bozeman and his crew were lodged this morning in Lancaster county jail. Twenty cases of whiskey were seized. Two hundred cases, it was found, had been sold at Rapahannock landings.

BRITISH PUSHING ON IN WEST AND TEUTONS RETREAT

Berlin Announces Sinking of British Transport—Others Sunk.

TURKS ARE STILL IN FULL FLIGHT.

Somme Front the Scene of Great Military Activity—General Haig Takes More Ground.

Two American Women passengers of the Cunard liner Laconia, torpedoed and sunk off the English coast while bound from New York to Liverpool, lost their lives as a result of the submarine attack. They died from exposure and were buried at sea.

The four other American passengers on the Laconia were rescued. Of 294 persons on board 13 were lost. A news agency report says eight were American negro members of the crew.

News dispatches state that the Laconia was torpedoed without warning. Washington advices indicate that while the incident is looked upon as serious no immediate action will be taken by President Wilson. Official comment is being withheld pending a full investigation.

In the field of submarine activity Berlin further announces the sinking of the British transport steamer A-19. No indication of the name of the vessel or loss of life, if any, is given.

Military operations of high importance are in progress on the Somme front in Northern France, where the British continue to push forward after the retiring Germans.

General Haig's outposts at last accounts were but three miles from the German stronghold of Bapaume and there is apparently yet no indication as to how far the Germans intend to retreat.

Elsewhere except on the Tigris where the British are pursuing the Turks westward, after capturing Kut-el-Amara, military activities do not appear to have been of major importance.

Transport Sunk. Berlin, Sunday, Feb. 25 (Via Sayville, Feb. 27).—The sinking of the British transport steamer A-19 was announced by the Admiralty today.

French Take Prisoners. Paris, Feb. 27.—"Southeast of Vailly we entered the German lines and returned with prisoners," says today's official announcement. "There were patrol engagements in the region of Bezonvaux and in the Vosges. Elsewhere calm prevails."

British Repulsed. Berlin, Feb. 27 (Via Sayville).—British troops yesterday many times attacked the German positions on the front between Ypres in Belgium and the river Somme, says the official statement issued today by the German army headquarters staff.

At only one place were the British successful in entering the German lines, at a point to the east of Arras, the statement adds, and there the British were rejected by a counter-attack.

Two More Steamers Sunk. London, Feb. 27.—The British steamer Arles, of 3,072 tons, has been sunk by a German submarine, Lloyd's shipping agency announced today. The crew was landed. Sinking of the British steamer Seagull, of 144 tons, also is announced by the agency. The Seagull's crew likewise was landed.

(Continued on Page Six)

White House Considering Sending Official Report On The Act.

WOULD NOT VEST FULL POWER IN HIM.

Senate and House Committees Wrangle on What Should Be Done—President Plays Game of "Watchful Waiting"—Attack on Laconia Considered "Unwarned."

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 27.—While details of the deaths of ten Americans, in the unwarned destruction of the Laconia, began coming in today, the opposition in Congress to giving President Wilson the broad authority to deal with the submarine menace, began taking definite form and showed considerable strength.

At the White House it was made known authoritatively that the destruction of the Laconia was a clear cut and ruthless violation of American rights and life; a demonstration of what might be expected in the future, of sufficient force to hurry Congress into clothing the President with full authority to meet the peril.

Nevertheless, the House Foreign Affairs committee, after debating the Flood bill, which has the backing of the President, decided that the broad powers to be conferred by the use of the phrase "other instrumentalities" should be modified and that the President should be limited to using the "naval forces of the United States including the naval militia."

In the Senate Foreign Relations committee, Republicans voted solidly against giving the President blanket authority and it was reported they drew support from three Democrats, Senators Stone, Hitchcock and O'Gorman.

No formal action was taken in either committee and while the House committee was in adjournment until 4 o'clock this afternoon, Chairman Flood took to the White House proposed amendments, including one to prohibit arming of ships carrying munitions or contraband, and the other to limit the President's authority.

Administration officials considered the attitude of Congress, in the face of the Laconia case, of sufficient importance to discuss sending an official report on the killing of the Americans to Congress in some official way.

The Senate committee has decided to re-draft the bill to make it more explicit.

The right to arm ships, it was said, would take the form of authorizing owners of all American ships to arm and defend them and authorizing the government to supply guns and gunners for this purpose.

All members of the foreign relations committee were practically agreed, however, that a measure giving the President authority to arm merchant ships, defend the neutrality of the United States and to give him further authority to safeguard the property and rights of Americans on the (Continued on Page Six.)