

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FINAL EDITION

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

WEATHER FORECAST. North Carolina—Rain tonight. Sunday unsettled; probably local rains. Colder in west.

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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 3, 1917.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

GERMANY ADMITS PLOT WITH MEXICO

SOUGHT NEW ALLIES FOR EXPECTED WAR WITH UNCLE SAM

Action Taken Only as a Matter of Defensive, Declares Foreign Secretary.

LOOKED UPON AMERICA AS HOSTILE NATION.

Cities Alleged Incidents That Went to Prove It, He Says. Had a Right to Act in Time, According to the Rules of War, He Contends—Explains The Situation.

(By Associated Press.) London, March 3.—Foreign Secretary Zimmermann's instructions to the German minister to Mexico, as published in the United States are admitted in Berlin to have been correctly quoted, according to a dispatch to Reuters from the German capital by way of Amsterdam.

The dispatch quotes the following telegram received in Amsterdam from Berlin on Friday, and which was published by the Associated Press: "The American press contains reports about instructions from the minister of foreign affairs to the German minister in Mexico City in the event that Germany after the proclamation of unrestricted submarine warfare failed to keep the United States neutral. These reports are based on the following facts:

"After the decision had been taken to begin unrestricted submarine warfare on February 1, we had to reckon in view of the previous attitude of the American government with the possibility of conflict with the United States. That this calculation was right is proved by the fact that the American government severed diplomatic relations with Germany soon after the proclamation of a barred zone and asked other neutrals to follow her example.

"Anticipating these possibilities it was not only the right but also the duty of our government to take precautions in time—in the event of a military conflict with the United States—in order to balance a new enemy. The German minister at Mexico therefore was instructed in the middle of January that in the event of the United States declaring war he should offer to the Mexican government an alliance and arrange further details. These instructions, by the way, expressly directed the minister to make no advances to the Mexican government unless he knew for a certainty that America was going to declare war.

"How the American government received information of the instructions sent by the secret way to Mexico is not known. It appears, however, that the treachery, and it only must have been treachery, was committed on American territory."

A Central News dispatch from Amsterdam says the Berlin telegram in regard to Secretary Zimmermann's instructions to the German minister in Mexico is semi-official.

Zimmermann's Version. Berlin, March 3. (Via Sayville).—The following was given out today by the Overseas News Agency (the official German news bureau): Foreign Secretary Zimmermann was asked by a staff member of the Overseas News Agency about the English report that a German plot had been revealed to get Mexico to declare war against the United States and to secure Japan's aid against the United States. Secretary Zimmermann answered: "You understand that it is impossible for me to discuss the facts of this revealed plot just at this moment and under these circumstances. I therefore may be allowed to limit my answer to what is said in the English reports, which certainly are not inspired by sympathy with Germany. The English report expressly states that Germany expected and wished to in both House and Senate. Among them on terms of friendship with the United States, but that we had prepared measures of defense in case the United States declared war against Germany. I fail to see how such a 'plot' is inspired by unfriend-

(Continued on Page Eight)

CONTROL OF NEXT HOUSE REMAINS MUCH IN DOUBT

Present Congress Will Adjourn Tomorrow, After Vigorous Last Day.

REPUBLICANS MAY GET NEXT HOUSE.

Death of Democratic Congressman Gives Them Lead—Independents Hold Balance Power.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, March 3.—Congress adjourns tomorrow with the control of the next House still in dispute.

As a result of the death of Representative Coney, of New York, the Republicans appear to have the lead. They now have 215 votes assured, it is conceded while Democrats have only 214. Reports also have reached here that three newly elected Democrats are seriously ill. No successor to Mr. Coney will be elected before next November, it is believed. Five members of the incoming Congress are classed as "independents." Hence, if a special session is called before next December, it would appear that the Republicans will have the advantage. As a majority of the membership of the House 218 members, are necessary to the selection of a speaker, however, the Democrats are not without hope.

How serious a defection in the Democratic ranks over prohibition legislation will effect the proposed organization of the House is causing Democrats some concern. About a dozen "wet" northern Democrats have split with the southern "dry" leaders, and yesterday they showed their independence by defeating a judiciary bill greatly desired by southern Democrats. Both sides are threatening retaliation in the way of committee assignments of the Democrats organize the next House. Democratic leaders hope, however, to effect a truce before a vote on the Speakership comes.

Senators and representatives today entered upon their last 24 hours of the present session with legislation before them which may keep them continually at work until noon Sunday, when by law the 64th Congress expires.

The bill to give the President authority to arm American ships and the Army Appropriation bill were the principal items under pressure in the Senate to be followed by the military academy appropriation bill, and provision for a \$150,000,000 bond issue to expedite naval construction as soon as received from the house.

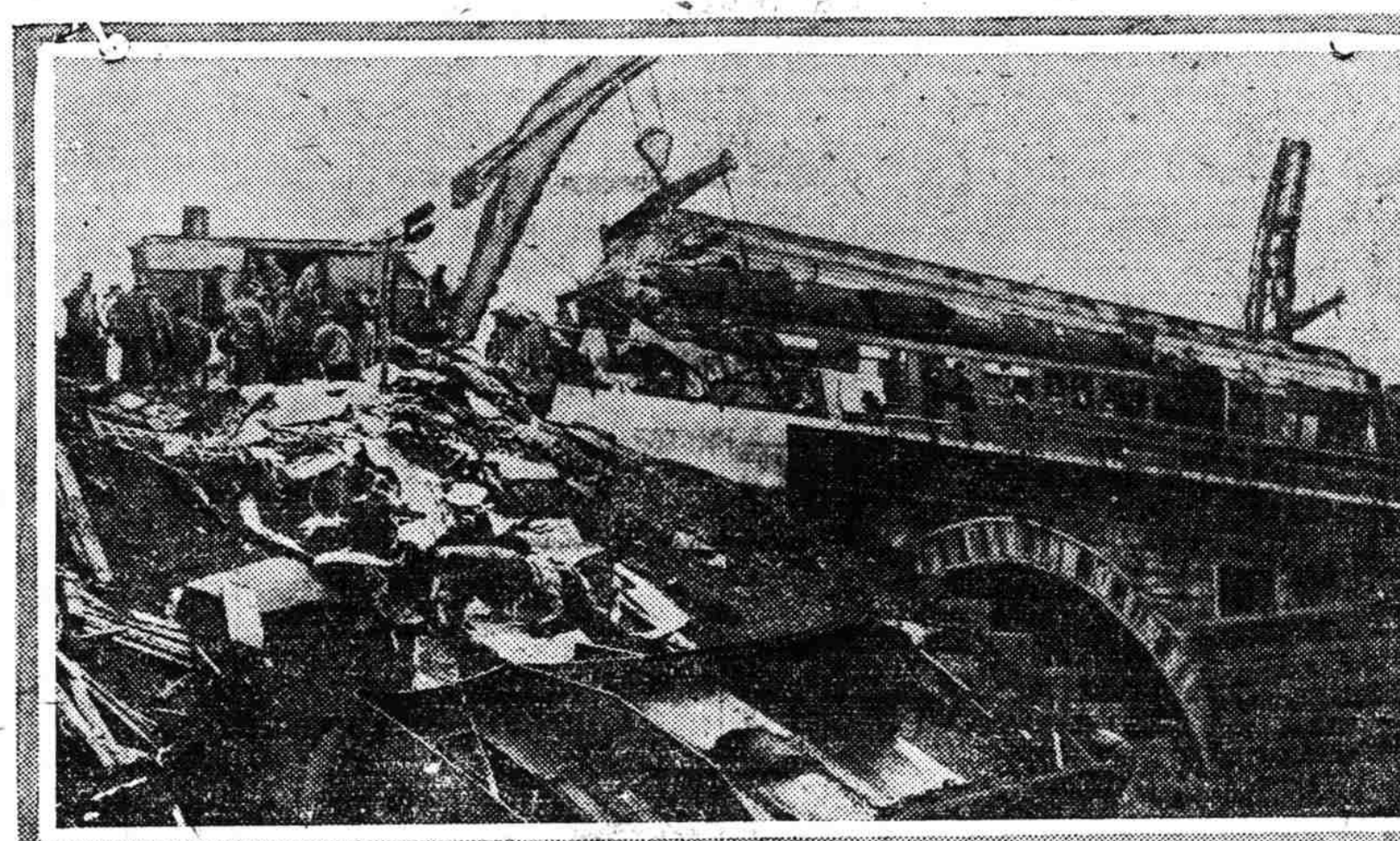
Conferees of each house were busy harmonizing differences in various important measures already passed. Adoption of reports from these conferees will occupy the closing hours of the Senate and House.

President Wilson will go to the capitol tomorrow to sign bills passed at the last minute.

One hundred and two members of Congress will close their legislative careers tomorrow noon when the 64th session ends by constitutional limitation. Of this number 15 are Senators. They include: Bryan of Florida, and Lea of Tennessee.

The number will return to private life after tomorrow is unusually large in both House and Senate. Among them are the more picturesque of these figures in the House are: Sparkman, of Florida, who has served 22 years successively. Representative Murray, of Oklahoma, familiarly known as "Alfalfa Bill," and Representative Davis, of Texas.

PENNSYLVANIA R. R. WRECK IN WHICH MANY PERSONS WERE KILLED



WRECK OF THE MERCANTILE EXPRESS. Wreckage of the Pennsylvania railroad freight train, the Mercantile Express, crashed into a dense fog at Mount Union, Pa., by a fast freight carrying food supplies for the East and going fifty-five miles an hour. Bodies of eighteen persons were recovered from the wreck. Almost every person in the last car of the express and sleeper perished. The terrific impact caused the sleeper to telescope the car ahead, another sleeper, and they appeared as one car when wrecking crews arrived. This is the first fatal wreck on the Pennsylvania in three years.

NEW HANOVER'S BOARD NAMED

Messrs T. E. Cooper and C. B. Newcomb New Members of Board of Education.

(Special to The Dispatch.) Raleigh, N. C., March 3.—The omnibus education bill passed by the General Assembly last night carries the legislative appointees for county boards of education with only a few counties whose members are created in bills.

Alamance is provided in bills, as are Bertie, Currituck, Gates, Guilford, Halifax and Lee. The others named are as follows: Alexander—Van W. Teague for 6 years.

Alleghany—N. A. Higgins, 6 years; F. M. Osborne, 4 years; W. E. Cox, 2 years.

Anson—J. P. Ratliff, 6 years. Ashe—Dr. J. C. Gambrell, 6 years. Avery—R. L. Wiseman, 6 years.

Beaufort—John B. Sparrow, 6 years; R. L. M. Banner, 4 years; and T. R. Hodges, 2 years.

Bladen—C. Monroe, 6 years; Dr. W. H. Lucas, 4 years; F. D. McLean, 2 years.

Brunswick—John L. Simmons, 6 years. Cabarrus—W. F. Smith, 6 years. Caldwell—W. L. Minish, 6 years.

Camden—John R. Sawyer, 6 years; J. Logan Sawyer, 2 years. Carteret—Benjamin F. Royal, 6 years.

Caswell—L. A. Gwyn, 6 years. Catawba—Robert Brady, 6 years. Chatham—W. B. Hradnig, 6 years. Cherokee—D. T. McNab, 6 years.

(Continued on Page Eight.)

PRESIDENT HAS SIGNED BILL

Military Park For Guilford Battleground Is Now Assured.

(By George H. Manning.) Washington, D. C., March 3.—Congress has passed the bill to establish a National military park at the battlefield of Guilford Court House, N. C., and it has been signed by the President.

After several meetings between conferees of the Senate and House the bill was agreed to by both houses containing provision for a commission of three members to have charge of the park.

But the salaries of the proposed commissioners was reduced from \$2,000 to \$1,000 per year for the resident commissioner, and from \$500 to \$100 per year for each of the two non-resident commissioners.

The bill provides that the resident commissioner shall be a resident of Guilford county, and that one of the non-resident commissioners shall be a resident of Maryland and the other of Delaware. The office of the resident commissioner, who is to also be secretary-treasurer, is to be at Greensboro.

It is planned to appoint Paul Shenck, of Greensboro, as resident commissioner. Shenck has been in charge of the battlefield for some years under its ownership by the Guilford Battlefield Company, which was organized by Shenck's father.

Colonel Steadman, of North Carolina, introduced the bill in Congress and was chiefly responsible for its passage.

MEXICO HAS NOT HAD PROPOSAL

Denied That Germany Had Approached Mexican Government For Alliance.

(By Associated Press.) Guadaluajara, Mexico, March 3.—General Candido Aguilar, the provisional minister of foreign relations, today formally denied that the Mexican government had been approached by Germany in the object of forming an alliance hostile to the United States.

The statement given out by the Mexican foreign minister says: "The government of Mexico has not received in behalf of the government of Germany any proposal for an alliance looking toward war with the United States."

(Continued on Page Eight.)

JAPAN STILL STICKS BY THE ENTENTE

Foreign Minister Hoots at Idea Of Proposal Through Mexico.

(By Associated Press.) Tokio, March 3.—The declaration of the Japanese government through Foreign Minister Viscount Motono, that Japan has received no proposition from Mexico or Germany to join in a possible war against the United States, was supplemented today in a statement made to the Associated Press on behalf of the government by Kijuro Shidehara, vice foreign minister.

"We are greatly surprised to hear of the German proposal," he said. "We cannot imagine what Germany is thinking about to conceive that she could possibly involve us in war with the United States merely by asking Mexico. This is too ridiculous for words. Needless to say, Japan remains faithful to her allies."

CLASH WITH UNION CLOSES STORES

Scores of Department Stores Refuse to Open Their Doors in Memphis.

(By Associated Press.) Memphis, Tenn., March 3.—Efforts of a recently organized union of clerks to compel recognition of their organization and enforce other demands reached a climax today with the refusal of approximately sixty department stores and other retail establishments in the downtown shopping district of Memphis, to open their doors and an announcement by the Memphis Retailers Association that business would be temporarily suspended "to prevent possible disorder." Employees, however, will be paid their regular wages during their period of enforced idleness, it was announced.

The action of the merchants was taken in answer to resolutions adopted at a mass meeting last night of representatives of various trades unions for the recognition of the union. Previously the demands had been presented to the different business houses, and it was stated, only one small establishment agreed to sign the agreement with the union.

The demands included a minimum wage of \$6 a week, provision for overtime and arbitration of differences and certain other rules as to hours and working conditions. In a statement replying to the union demands the retailers contended that the requirements of the labor organization as to wages and working conditions now are generally observed.

EGGS WAY DOWN IN PRICE IN ALABAMA.

(By Associated Press.) Mobile, Ala., March 3.—Eggs were advertised here this morning by large retail grocers at twenty five cents per dozen, guaranteed strictly yard eggs. The price is a sensational drop from recent quotations, eggs having sold as high as sixty cents per dozen.

NO EXTRA SESSION OF CONGRESS SAVE FOR EDICT OF WAR

BOND ISSUE BILL NOT PASSED YET BUT SEEMS SURE

Senate Adopts Measures Carrying Money For Two State Institutions.

OMNIBUS BILL IN UPPER HOUSE.

Several Changes Made in House Appointees—Pollock Loses His Pet Measure.

(Special to The Dispatch.) Raleigh, N. C., March 3.—Forty-two Senators, indicating their purpose to stay out of the session, made certain today considerate treatment of all future bills introduced and acted upon in the assembly. The \$3,000,000 bond issue yet to be voted by the House has had all sides at work today. Leading Republican politicians are urging the minority not to head off progress but many Democrats are objecting. Little doubt of its passage is expressed however.

The Senate today passed the certification and institute conductors bill, thus making it law, with the solitary "no" of one member in opposition. It passed the \$25,000 bond bill for the Caswell Training School for the Feeble Minded, and \$25,000 for the Women's Reformatory.

It passed the substitute omnibus bill appointing county boards of education making several changes in the House appointees. "Prohibiting intermarriage of the races" when the blood is of remotest degree, was killed on second reading while the House was in great confusion. Senator Pollock's personal efforts to reconsider it failed again, and the bill is lost. The House passed the State highway commission bill diverting the automobile fund by which course seventy per cent returns to the counties, and thirty will be used by the State.

BERNSTORFF TO BE REICHSTAG MEMBER.

(By Associated Press.) Amsterdam, March 3.—(Via London)—Count von Bernstorff, former German ambassador to the United States, has been nominated as a candidate for Reichstag in place of the late Herr von Neiding, according to the Telegraph.

WEATHER STYLES FOR NEXT WEEK.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, March 3.—Clearing and colder weather Sunday, followed by several days of fair and moderately cold weather is forecast for the southeastern States during the week beginning tomorrow. Warmer weather is probable after Wednesday.

PRESIDENT TAKES OATH TOMORROW.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, March 3.—President Wilson will take the oath of office for his second term in his room at the capitol at noon Sunday.

He will take the oath again on Monday in front of the capitol just before he delivers his inaugural address.

GREEK VESSEL SUNK.

(By Associated Press.) London, March 3.—Reuters says the Greek steamship Proconissos of 2,769 tons gross, when it had been requisitioned by the Greek royalist government to go to America for 5,000 tons of grain for the assistance of the royalist population of Old Greece, has been torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine.

President Makes This Plain to Republican Leaders In Order to Hurry Vital Bills.

WOULD CALL CONGRESS IF WAR IS IMMINENT.

Senator Stone Intends to Press His Amendment to Withhold Protection From Munition Bearing Ships—President Has About Completed His Inaugural Speech.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, March 3.—President Wilson has no intention of taking action that would bring war with Germany unless Congress is summoned in extra session. This was communicated to Senate leaders today by representatives of the President, who takes the position that if no extraordinary crisis arises it will not be necessary to call an extra session before late in the spring and then only to pass any appropriation bill which may fail at the present session.

Administration leaders approached the closing continuous session today fearful lest opposition by Senators La Follette and Stone to the bill authorizing arming of merchant vessels might prevent enactment by noon tomorrow.

Senator Stone, it was declared, was determined to fight for his amendment to withhold protection from munition-carrying ships. Senator La Follette, who yielded a point late last night in permitting an advance in the preliminary position of the bill, was ready to make a long speech against it.

When debate was resumed today Senator Hitchcock, to perfect the bill's parliamentary status, had the Senate draft, with two slight amendments, substituted after the enactment clause, for the House text. One amendment eliminates the provision for arming merchantmen "fore and aft" thus removing specific directions as to armament. The other prevents United States protection for foreign ships.

The President today continued efforts to persuade Republican Senators to assist in the passage of needed appropriation bills. These Senators were told by representatives of the President that their argument that Congress should remain in session because of the German situation was not logical because he naturally would take no action leading to a declaration of war without the co-operation of Congress.

The President was represented as feeling deeply the implication back of the effort to force an extra session. He desires the important appropriation bills passed at this session, so that if an extra session is forced by the German situation Congress could begin work immediately on emergency measures.

The President will seek an opportunity in the near future to make his position clear.

Although the President has completed his inaugural address he may decide to make some changes in it with reference to the foreign situation should developments warrant. The address probably will not be issued to the press until shortly before the President begins his speech after taking the oath Monday, in order that he may reflect the situation as it stands at that time.