

**WEATHER FORECAST.**  
North Carolina—Generally fair tonight and Thursday, except partial rain in west. Warmer tonight and Thursday in east.

# THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 7, 1917.

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## VITAL CONFERENCE AT WHITE HOUSE

### PRESIDENT TO AWAIT MOVE OF SENATE

Conference Held at White House This Morning With Senators.  
**SECRETARY LANSING WAS CALLED IN.**  
Cloture Rule Discussed and Democratic Senators Leave to Confer With Republican Allies—Confident of Success.

(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, March 7.—Some administration officials today were urging on President Wilson their view that he may legally arm merchant ships now without awaiting express authority which Congress might give if called in special session. They urged that the old law passed in 1819 forbidding a merchantman to fire on a public armed vessel of a nation in unity with the United States, would not apply to the present situation. The President heard these views with keen interest, and indicated that he is seeking some legal means of acting promptly, but would prefer Congressional approval.

It appeared quite probable today that the United States would not press the issue created by Austria-Hungary's notification that she adheres to Germany's principles of submarine warfare, inasmuch as the communication has a reconciliatory tone and points out that since Austrian submarines operate only in the Adriatic and Mediterranean, the chances of actually violating American rights are not very great.

President Wilson had a conference early today at the White House with Senators Owen, Reed, Walsh, Swanson, James and Hoke Smith, the committee named by the Senate Democratic caucus and discussed the proposed changes in the Senate's rules which would prevent unlimited debate and filibustering such as killed the armed neutrality bill.

Secretary Lansing was called to the White House to see the President just before the departure of the Senators. Secretary McAdoo was also present. The conference continued for more than an hour.

Returned Subs. Report Big Success.  
(By Associated Press.)  
Berlin, March 7.—(Via Sayville)—German submarines returning between March 1 and 3 from their operations, made reports indicating the sinking of vessels with an aggregating tonnage of 204,000, according to the Overseas News Agency.

### TO INVESTIGATE CANNED GOODS

National Research Council to Make Inquiry to Look For Poisons.  
(By Associated Press.)  
New York, March 7.—It is announced here by the National Research Council that an exhaustive investigation is to be undertaken to determine to what extent, if any, the danger of poisoning is involved in the use of canned goods. The National Canners' Association, representing practically all producers of canned foodstuffs in this country, is to bear the entire expense of the investigation, which will be conducted entirely independent of the association except in the matter of the financing of the work. A sum of over \$100,000 will be appropriated by the Canners' Association, should the work require as large an expenditure.

The proposal to make such an investigation was brought forward by Dr. George E. Hale, director of the Mount Wilson Solar Observatory and chairman of the National Research Council, who believed there was widespread interest in such an important subject as the danger of poisoning from the use of canned goods. Approaching the National Canners' Association Dr. Hale found that organization eager to have such an independent investigation made, firm as it was in the belief that canning methods as generally used in this country thoroughly protect the public from the danger of poisoning. Many cases of illness that have been attributed to poisoning from eating canned goods are believed by the canners to have actually resulted from entirely different causes or from disregard of the ordinary precautions, such as not allowing goods to stand in a can after being once opened.

The Canners' Association itself has for years maintained its own laboratory in Washington, adequate to conduct its own investigations, but has, nevertheless, thought it wise to put its case into the hands of an independent research board, for although the subject is one that has been investigated to some extent before, there has as yet been no complete survey of this problem. With a view to supplying this deficiency, the National Research Council has appointed a committee to supervise the inquiry, which will be undertaken by the Harvard Medical School in its department of Preventive Medicine and Hygiene. The work has been entrusted to Dr. M. J. Rosenau, of Harvard, who is one of the most eminent pharmacological chemists in the country. The results of the research will be published through scientific channels from time to time, but it is expected that it may be a matter of three years or more before the ground is completely covered.

The advisory commission which has been named by the National Research Council in conference with Dr. Rosenau and under the advice of Dr. William H. Welch, president of the National Academy of Sciences, which will have supervisory charge of the investigation is as follows: From John J. Abel, Johns Hopkins University; Reid Hunt, Harvard University; E. O. Jordan, University of Chicago; Lafayette B. Mendel, Yale University; Frederick G. Novy, University of Michigan; Eugene Opler, Washington University, and H. Gideon Wells, University of Chicago.

### GRANT WON MOST OF HIS BILLS IN THE LEGISLATURE

Public Defender Act and Raise in Salaries Have Become Laws.

### SOLICITOR BILL WAS ALSO PASSED.

Boiler Inspection Measure Failed in Senate—Grant Made Present by The Advocates For His Work.

(Special to The Dispatch.)  
Raleigh, N. C., March 7.—Representative Grant and Senator Cranmer may not have composed all differences but the New Hanover man wins his point in the retention of Thomas E. Cooper as a member of the Board of Education.

The last batch of Grant's bills did not fare the best, but he does win his public defender act, by which such persons as cannot pay attorneys will be allowed defense counsel in the Recorder's courts, and he won his salary bill for county officials; also that defining the duties of the solicitor. Notwithstanding his defeat on the boiler inspection bill, which went through the House and failed in the Senate, the boiler men in appreciation of his splendid fight gave him a beautiful cuff button set.

Grant also aided effectively in the settlement of the fish law. By the conference committee's act this morning pound nets for edible fish cannot be set in the Atlantic Ocean and purse-nets are prohibited entirely. Grant did not win all but he got half. The House ratified the fallen women's home which had no better champion than Grant. It passed at 9 o'clock last night with the hands of the clock driven three hours forward. There was no objection, 62 votes being cast for it.

The newspaper advertising bill was finally defeated and the House voted to pass no bills. Matthews, or Bertie, introduced late Monday an act which would pay the newspapers five cents a line for first insertion and two cents subsequent. Ray, of Macon, alone stood in the way. Matthews said the newspapers must defend the acts of the Legislature, many of which are indefensible, and "they get no pay for it." Ray threatened, on losing his roll-call demand, to raise the no-quorum issue and that beat it.

Clarke, of Pitt, did get through his resolution thanking the newspapers for able work done in public sentiment created for progress.

### RUSSIAN CRUISER STRUCK MINE

Badly Damaged in The Gulf of Finland and Had to Be Docked.

(By Associated Press.)  
Berlin, Tuesday, March 6.—(Via Tuckerton, March 7).—The Russian armored cruiser Rurik struck a mine in the Gulf of Finland and was badly damaged, according to reports from Stockholm, says an Overseas News Agency announcement.

### LEGISLATURE ADJOURNS.

(Special to The Dispatch.)  
Raleigh, N. C., March 7.—The General Assembly adjourned this afternoon at 3 o'clock after hastily amending the act passed yesterday placing the reprinting and editing of destroyed Supreme Court reprints into the hands of the Chief Justice and the Secretary of State. These reprints must now be as they originally were.

### ALL READY FOR THE WOODMEN

New Bern to Entertain The Head Camp of The Order Next Week.

(Special to The Dispatch.)  
New Bern, March 7.—Practically all plans have been made for the meeting of the head camp of the Woodmen of the World, which is to be held in this city next week and indications are that the event will prove to be a big success in every detail and will, in fact, be the most auspicious ever held in this State.

The local Woodmen have made elaborate arrangements for the entertainment of the visitors, of whom there will be more than two hundred, and they will be made to enjoy their visit to this city and to carry away with them a pleasant recollection of the place.

A number of business sessions will be held and the social side of the gathering will also be given special attention. One of the eleven members of the crew of the coast guard cutter Yamacraf, who were lost when they were attempting to give aid to the tanker Louisiana off Ocean City, Md., last Sunday night, was a former New Bernian. This was Ross Harris, a former member of the crew of the coast guard cutter Pamlico, and whose brother and sister, Mr. Martin Harris and Mrs. Charles Squires, now reside in this city.

### AIR FIGHTS APPEAR SIGNAL NEARNESS OF A VITAL MOVE

Aviators Busy on The Franco-Belgian Front and Many Have Been Shot Down.

### BRITONS OCCUPY ABANDONED TRENCHES

French Regain Lost Ground But Failed in Attack Last Night—Cold's Grip Lessening in East—British Cavalry Push On Along Tigris.

Intense aerial activity prevailing on the Franco-Belgian front indicates the probability of important developments there soon.

The entente aviators are taking extra hazardous risks in their insistent search for information of hostile movements and dispositions. This is evidenced by Berlin's report of 18 entente airplanes destroyed yesterday. The aerial scouting, interrupted by Monday's storm, was thus apparently in full swing again on Tuesday, with the clearing of the weather.

In the realm of infantry activity, the British, while continuing to pick up trenches abandoned by the Germans in their sustained retrograde movement along the Acre, have contented themselves with raising operations in the Bucharesnes sector, north of Peronne on the Somme front, after having effected a gain along a front of nearly three quarters of a mile there in a recent attack.

### EAST CAROLINA RIVERS FAIL DO MUCH DAMAGE

Most of Them Are Now Falling and Other Almost at Standstill.

### TENNESSEE ROADS FEELS THE EFFECTS

Floods Inundate Tracks and Made Bridges Unsafe—Yard at Chattanooga Covered With Water

(By Associated Press.)  
Raleigh, N. C., March 7.—Rivers in eastern North Carolina, which for several days have been above the flood level, either were falling or were almost at a standstill today. The Roanoke river was rising slowly, but prospects were that the height of the flood would pass Weldon today, the local weather bureau announced. The Cape Fear reached its highest point at Fayetteville last night and was falling today while the Neuse at Smithfield was at a standstill. The Tar river was slowly rising, but the crest of the flood was expected to pass Tarboro tomorrow. No serious damage has been reported in any of the river valleys.

Traffic Delayed.  
Atlanta, Ga., March 7.—Railroads with lines in Tennessee today were feeling effects of the flood, according to reports received at railroad offices here. The Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis was operating its trains between Chattanooga and Dalton, Ga., over tracks of the Southern because of high water and the danger of the collapse of a bridge over Chickamauga Creek. The bridge today was weighted down with loaded cars.

The Southern suffered a washout on a fill between Knoxville and Morristown, but it was reported here it would be repaired this afternoon sufficiently to allow trains to pass. Railroad yards at Chattanooga were covered.

### WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOUTHERN BRANCHES CLOSER

Wadesboro Wants Extension of Railroad From Norwood to That Place.

Wadesboro, March 6.—The wholesale merchants of Wadesboro are being urged to give every encouragement to the promoters of the plan to extend the Southern Railroad from Norwood to this point. "This town is located at a point that makes it a natural distributing center. It is 52 miles east of Charlotte, 89 miles south of Winston-Salem, 125 miles west of Wilmington, and 135 miles west of Raleigh. It has three railroad connections giving an outlet in all directions and with a chance for advantageous schedules. It is claimed that the business men of Wadesboro either are indifferent to their interests or their protests meet with little response in the making of schedules on freights from here. Especially is this true in regard to the Atlantic Coast Line, it is asserted.

With the addition of the Southern, which is contemplating the extension of its road from Norwood to this point and perhaps through Chesterfield, S. C., Wadesboro will be in a position to dictate schedules on all the roads leading into the city.

## THUNDERS CONTEMPT ON THE SENATORS WHO BARRED WAY

### ALL STATE TROOPS TO HURRY BACK

Wilmington Engineer Company Due to Leave Border March 12th.

(By Associated Press.)  
San Antonio, March 7.—Orders were received by Southern Department headquarters to "speed up" the return movement of State troops from the border so that all organizations will be home for muster out by April 1. State troops still on the border approximate 30,000 men.

It is understood that a shortage of funds, due to failure of the army appropriations bill to be passed before adjournment of Congress, caused the war department to quicken the rate of speed at which the State troops were being released under former orders.

Under the plan being followed in sending home the remainder of the National guard units, it was estimated that the last of them would be moved shortly after April 15. As a result of the new instruction, it will be necessary to advance dates of departure of many of the organizations.

Officers are at work on new schedules, but many dates can not be set definitely until after advices regarding muster out points have been received from commanders of other departments. Organizations scheduled to start home today included: Third Tennessee Infantry, at San Benito.

### EXPUNGES RESOLUTION CENSURING THEM.

(By Associated Press.)  
Des Moines, Ia., March 7.—A resolution censuring Senators Cummins and Kenyon for their opposition to the President's armed neutrality bill, was expunged from the record of the Iowa House of Representatives today by unanimous vote. Representative Rayburn, its author, was absent.

### TOBACCO COMPANY GIVES BIG DIVIDEND.

(By Associated Press.)  
New York, March 7.—An extra dividend of 6 per cent. on the common stock was declared today by the P. Lorillard Company, tobacco manufacturer, in addition to the regular quarterly dividend of 3 per cent. This extra disbursement is larger than any previously declared.

### Senator Walsh Bitterly Denounced Those Who Prevented "Armed" Action.

ASKS MUST COUNTRY BE HELD AT BAY? Presents Argument in Behalf of Cloture Rule For Senate. No Action Today, But Adjournment Until Tomorrow Noon.

(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, March 7.—Senator Walsh on the Senate floor today arguing for the cloture, said each new Senate was separate entirely and that it should enact its own rules.

Senator Walsh declared "a genuine alarm pervades the country lest some enemy may, in the near future, attack us."

After advising the Senate to take immediate action in such an emergency, Senator Walsh continued: "It is scarcely conceivable that we should be defeated or be impeding without an appeal from the President for hurried action by Congress. Such an appeal comes to this body. It finds a ready response except from a small coterie of Senators, who shell each other on the floor until the enemy thunders at the gates of our cities and the Republic has had its death blow. They may be honest but misguided peace-at-any-price men who refuse to believe that war is inevitable and continue to hope that the awful horror of armed conflict may be averted, by further peaceful overtures."

### HEAD OF UNIVERSITY TO MAKE ADDRESS.

(Special to The Dispatch.)  
Loris, S. C., March 7.—Dr. William Spencer Currell, the able President of the South Carolina University, will deliver an address in the Loris Methodist church on Friday evening, March 9th.