

WEATHER FORECAST
North Carolina—Fair and colder tonight.
Friday fair and colder in east portion.
South Carolina—Fair and somewhat colder tonight. Friday fair.

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THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 8, 1917.

FINAL EDITION

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SENATE TAKES UP RULE THAT WOULD REMOVE THE SNAG

Cloture Agreed Upon By Both Democratic and Republican Caucus Taken up Today

SENATOR SHERMAN MAKES LONG SPEECH.

Will Vote For Rule or For War But Didn't Like President's Statement — One Senator Declares Body Takes Itself Too Seriously.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, March 8.—The cloture amendment to the Senate rules, approved by both Democratic and Republican caucuses, was taken up by the Senate today under unanimous consent.

Senator Martin, majority leader, in unanimous consent said he had no desire to shut off full debate. Senator Lodge, ranking Republican of the Foreign Relations committee, said he hoped there would be no objection. "I hoped this rule might be a little more drastic," said Senator Pomeroy. "It is my belief a majority of the Senate should be able to limit debate. I am satisfied, however, with this rule."

Senator Sherman, one of the two Republicans who voted against the cloture in caucus, read a portion of the President's statement on the "armed neutrality" bill, saying that it would be useless to call a special session now to pass that bill as unless the Senate rules were changed a filibuster could successfully maintain against it.

"The President," said Senator Sherman, "intentionally seeks to convey to the country the impression that only a change in the Senate rules can make the neutrality bill be passed at a special session of Congress. That is practically true theoretically. It may be made to appear true."

Senator Sherman added that a portion of the truth was deliberately omitted from the President's statement.

"In intent to support the armed neutrality bill," he said, "but I do object to making a few Senators the object of the President's wrath in a statement sent out to the general public."

The congestion of legislative business was not referred to in the President's statement, Senator Sherman said, and there was no question in his mind that the bill could be passed within thirty days if the President would call an extra session.

"The rules of the Senate are sought to be made the scapegoat in this emergency," he declared, and added that he thought it unnecessary to amend the rules to pass the bill.

Senator Sherman said he failed to see any reason to be "precipitate" and added that the sinking of the Lusitania nearly two years ago, and the sinking of other ships since, show that the President had not been in a hurry to demand action.

"I wish to remind the President," said the Senator, "when he seeks to blame the Senate and the Senate rules and a few Senators, that during a large part of this time he has ridiculed the press and he has ridiculed in the House and in the navy."

Mr. Sherman declared there was no doubt in his mind that the armed neutrality bill would give the President the right to arm munition ships and furnish warships to convoy.

"When we do that," he said, "we are in de facto war without the formalities that precedes the clash of arms. Bear in mind that I will vote for this bill, and I am prepared to vote for it when the President exercises the power given in this bill."

He said he hoped war could be avoided and declared himself in favor of conscripting every New York editor.

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TILT MARKED FIRST SESSION

Early Time at Meeting of Robeson County Road Commission.

(Special to The Dispatch.)
Lumberton, N. C., March 8.—The regular meeting of the new county road commission since its organization last week was held by the Robeson County Road Commission.

Chairman J. M. Butler, H. E. Stacy, attorney for a delegation from Rowland township, who were called on to ask that the changing of the name of the Rowland road. Mr. Stacy charged that the changing of the name was being worked in St. Paul township, which was overdrawn and that Rowland township had a balance of \$1,600 to its credit, but could not get the gang; in fact that Rowland township was paying for the work on St. Paul's roads. Two sections of the gang were ordered to be worked on the Rowland road March 8. Large delegations were present at the meeting of the commission which held Thursday.

BAD WEATHER IS NOW PREVENTING WAR'S RAGING

Only Artillery Action in Some Sectors Seems to be Spirited.

STAGNATION IN THE MACEDONIAN THEATRE.

Berlin Adds Over Score of Steamers and Many Sailing Vessels and Fishing Craft to Submarines' Toll.

Today's reports from the European war again indicate a period of bad weather, and unimportant military operations. Aside from the raiding activities the only feature in the official statements is the mention of rather spirited artillery activity in some sectors. Paris mentions the general region between the Oise and the Aisne in this connection and Berlin announces that only in the Champagne was the big gun fire violent.

There has been similar stagnation along the Russian and Macedonian fronts, according to the German official statement.

Berlin announces that an additional 21 steamers, 10 sailing vessels and 16 fishing craft of an aggregating of 91,000 tons gross, have been sunk by German submarines. The period in which these sinkings occurred is not definitely given, the word, "recently" being used.

Artillery Active. Spirited artillery actions continued during the night between the Oise and the Aisne, says today's official report. The French took prisoners in raids in Lorraine, and in an unsuccessful German attack on French positions at Seppois-le-Haut.

The announcement follows: "Between the Oise and the Aisne there were rather lively artillery engagements. Patrol encounters occurred in the region of Moulin-Sous-Toutvent."

In Lorraine northeast of Embremel French detachments penetrated German trenches and brought back fifteen prisoners after doing considerable damage to the enemy's works. In Alace a German attack on our positions near Seppois-le-Haut was repulsed completely. We took prisoners. Near Hilsenfirst French reconnoitering parties inflicted losses on the enemy.

"The night passed in quiet on the remainder of the front."

Quiet, Says Berlin. Berlin, March 8.—(Via Sayville.)—Conditions on the Franco-Belgian front were generally quiet yesterday owing to the prevalence of bad weather, army headquarters announced today. The official statement reads:

"Western front: Only in the Champagne was the artillery fire violent. On the other fronts during the hazy weather and snowstorms conditions were generally quiet."

"During reconnoiters, advances between the Somme and the Oise, 17 British and French were captured and several machine guns brought in."

Unimportant Operations. Berlin, March 8.—(Via Sayville.)—Operations on the Russian front yesterday were unimportant. In Macedonia only outpost skirmishes occurred. Today's army headquarters statement reads: "East front: No military action of importance occurred. Between Vileika and Olochevno bombs which were dropped caused a Russian railway train to jump the tracks."

Macedonian Front: North of Lake Doiran there were outpost skirmishes."

Russians Pursue Turks. Petrograd, March 8.—(Via London.)—The Russian in Persia have made further important progress in their pursuit of the Turks from Hamadan, the war office announced today. After their capture of the Asadabad summit they continued their progress southward and on Monday occupied the town of Kangaver.

On the Italian Front. Rome, March 8.—(Via London, British Admiralty, Per Wireless Press.)—"On the Trentino front in spite of yesterday's bad weather," says today's war office report, "there were violent artillery actions, especially in the Adige Valley zone."

"Several small encounters with the enemy occurred. He was everywhere repulsed."

"On the Julian front there were no events of importance."

GERMAN FOREIGN OFFICE LINKED UP WITH PLOT

Declared That Zimmermann Also Had Hand in Proposed Revolt in India.

MEN BEING TRIED IN NEW YORK.

United States, However, Was Not The Intended Victim. Federal Officers Find Evidence.

(By Associated Press.)
New York, March 8.—Documentary evidence purporting to show that the plans of Dr. Chandra Chakrabarty, a Hindu, and Ernest Sekunna, a German, chemist, arrested here in connection with an alleged plot to foment a revolution in India, had the approval of Dr. Alfred Zimmermann, with recommendations that financial aid be given certain intriguers in this country, will be laid before the Federal Grand Jury, it was learned from the government officials when the jury resumed today its investigation into German plots.

The bail bonds furnished Dr. Chakrabarty and Sekunna by the National Surety Company were withdrawn by the company today with the explanation that it had concluded not to furnish bail for persons regarded as un-American or hostile to the United States.

Among the papers seized by the police in the home of Dr. Chakrabarty, it is explained, is a document bearing the address "75 Wilhelmstrasse, Berlin," the foreign office. This evidence is considered highly important by the federal authorities. They declare they have no evidence to indicate the German-Hindu plot was aimed at the United States.

The jury investigating the plot recently indicted Albert A. Sander and Karl Wunnenberg, officials of the Central Powers Film Exchange, in this city, for conspiracy to obtain British war secrets for the German government.

DECLINE TO VOTE CONFIDENCE IN STONE.

(By Associated Press.)
Jefferson City, Mo., March 8.—A motion expressing confidence that United States Senator Stone acted only from patriotic motives in opposing the armed neutrality bill but, declaring that the people of Missouri supported the President was defeated by a vote of 56 to 82 in the Missouri House of Representatives.

LAST COMPANY TO LEAVE BY MARCH 25TH

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, March 8.—The last of the National Guard organizations from the border will be en route for home by March 25 under the schedule of movements just completed, General Pershing today reported to the war department.

Some of the returning troops will be compelled to make the trip in chair cars and day coaches because of the shortage of tourist sleepers, General Pershing said.

MEMBERS FAILED TO APPEAR TODAY

Aftermath of The Irish Home Rule Scrap in Parliament Yesterday.

(By Associated Press.)
London, March 8.—The Nationalist members of parliament were holding a meeting to discuss the situation arising out of the debate in the tower house last night on the question for home rule for Ireland and did not put in an appearance when the speaker took his chair in the House of Commons this afternoon.

The Nationalists, of the William O'Brien group and Laurence Grimnell, and Independent Nationalist for North Westmeath, were the only occupants of the benches usually occupied by the Irishmen.

The Nationalists adopted a resolution declaring that the Irish party should remain in London in its full strength.

It was decided that the party, while retaining its attitude toward the war and remaining firmly convinced of the justice of the cause of the allies, felt bound to oppose the government by all the means in its power.

Wilson Takes Oath Of Office For 4 Years More

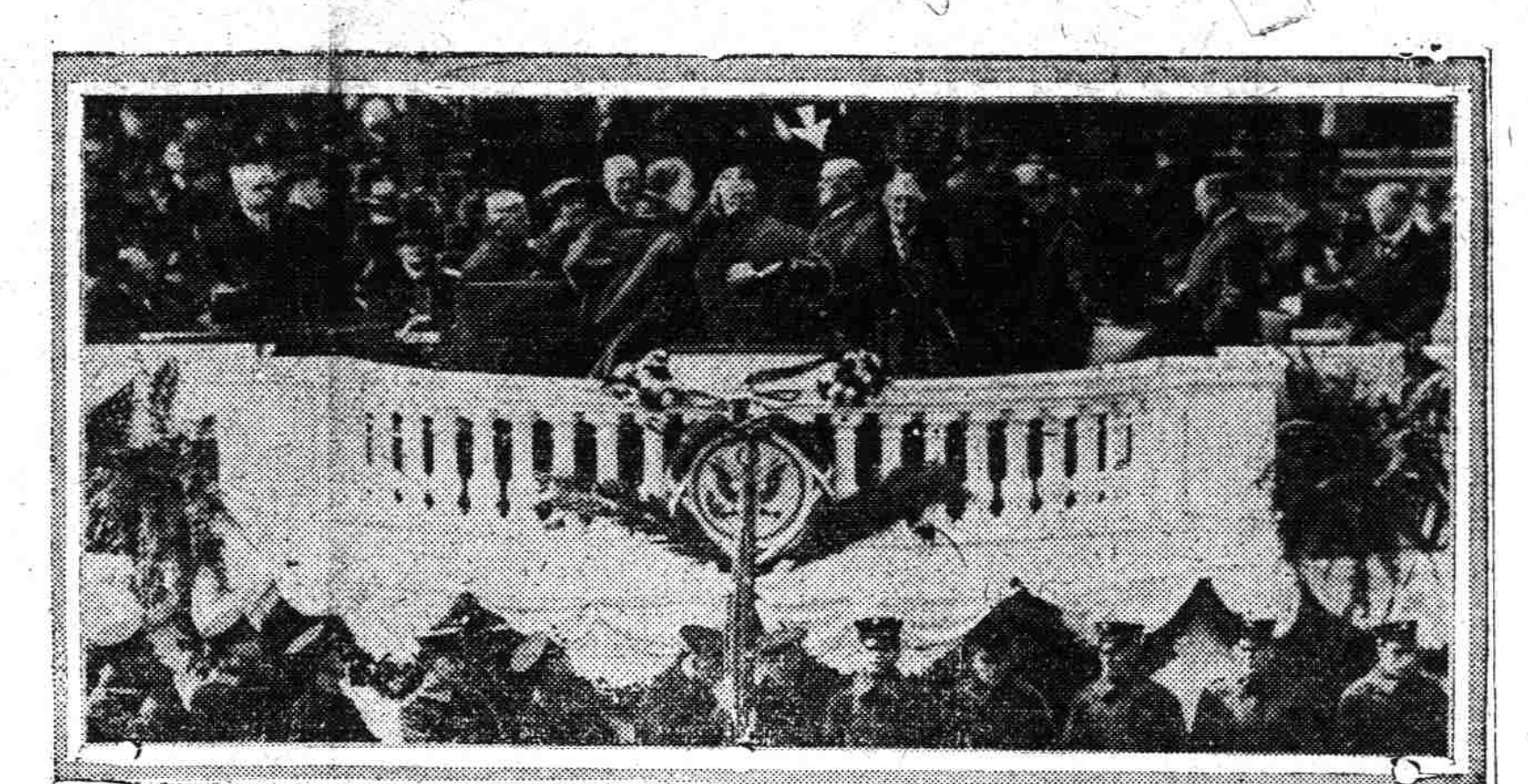


PHOTO SHOWS PRESIDENT WILSON TAKING THE OATH. Photo shows the impressive scene enacted in front of the National capital, when President Wilson took the oath of office for four more years. In the picture Chief Justice White is administering the oath to the President.

CONDEMNNS ACTION OF VARDAMAN

People of His State Taking Action to Show Their Disapproval of Filibuster.

(By Associated Press.)
Wiggins, Miss., March 8.—A petition is being circulated here condemning Senator Vardaman's act in not supporting the armed neutrality bill. The petition has been signed by practically all the citizens of the town and reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned citizens of Stone county, Mississippi, realizing the crisis that our country is now undergoing, and placing implicit confidence in the ability of our President and relying upon his judgment in dealing with the warring nations, and approving of his policy to arm merchant ships for the protection of our commerce, do hereby condemn the act of Senator James K. Vardaman in attempting to block, and voting against the proposed bill."

PRESIDENT MUST HAVE REST.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, March 8.—Dr. Grayson said at noon that the President's temperature was above normal and that absolute rest for several days was necessary. The President spent a quiet night. The prospects were that Mr. Wilson would have to remain in bed for several days although his condition was not serious.

STRUCK BY WHEEL; KILLED INSTANTLY.

(Special to The Dispatch.)
Lumberton, N. C., March 8.—Luther Townsend, a young white man, was struck by a flying wheel and instantly killed while working at a saw mill near Moss Neck, this county, Wednesday morning. When the governor belt on the engine came off the engine ran so fast the large driving wheel flew off. This struck Mr. Townsend, breaking his neck and one arm. Hector Duncan, a laborer at the mill, was slightly injured.

OVER FOUR THOUSAND SECURED FOR ARMY.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, March 8.—Recruiting during February resulted in 4,852 men being added to the regular army, the war department announced today. Officers believe the army can be brought to its authorized strength before June 30.

CAPTURED REBELS NOW IN PRISON.

(By Associated Press.)
Havana, Cuba, March 8.—Secretary of the Interior Hevia arrived at Havana at 9 o'clock this morning bringing with him ex-President Jose Miguel Gomez, Colonel Quinones, the former military chief at Camaguey, Captain Juan Izquierda and several lieutenants of the insurgent forces who were captured in battle yesterday near Pinaros.

MORE CONDEMNATION.

(By Associated Press.)
St. Paul, Minn., March 8.—A resolution censuring the United States Senators who conducted the filibuster against the armed neutrality bill was passed by the Minnesota House today with one dissenting vote—that of F. G. Strand, Socialist.

TROOPS LOOKING FOR ARMED BANDS OF MEXICANS

United States Cavalry Off From Fort Hancock to Scout for Rebels.

MACHINE GUN SQUADS READY FOR ACTION.

International Border Being Strongly Protected Today. Villa Men Visit American Ranch.

(By Associated Press.)
Fort Hancock, Texas, March 8.—At dawn today patrols of cavalry left here to scout along the border for signs of armed bands on the Mexican side of the river. These patrols carry not traces of General Murguia's force, which expected to engage a rebel force at the San Martin ranch today.

The machine gun company, of the thirty third Michigan Infantry, in command of Captain Crossman, has been divided and the eight motor machine guns were sent to guard the river ford near here. All regular and national guard troops stationed here were held under arms all night ready to repel any attempted crossing by Villa forces. Signal rockets were seen on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande last night by American army patrols.

A Villa band of thirty men, in command of Epifanio Holguin, and believed to be engaged in smuggling was located on the Mexican side late yesterday. Holguin's band visited the San Juan mine, owned by Americans, seven miles south of the border Sunday, but took nothing save food.

WILSON IS LIKELY TO ORDER ARMS ON SHIPS SHORTLY

GOVT'S MARCH CROP REPORT

Department of Agriculture Gives Out Figures On Farm Products.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, March 8.—Corn on farms March 1, was about 789,416,000 bushels compared with 1,116,559,000 bushels last year, the department of agriculture today announced in its March crop report.

FAVORS BIPARTISAN HOUSE ORGANIZATION

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, March 8.—Representative Lever of South Carolina, who has been chairman of the House Agriculture committee, since the 63rd Congress, announced today he was strongly in favor of a bi-partisan organization of the House in the coming Congress. He is the first prominent Democrat to openly command such organization.

GETTING BIG MONEY FOR THEIR COAL

Operators Soaking Both Retailers and Railroads For Higher Prices.

(By Associated Press.)
Chicago, March 8.—Operators of coal mines are asking greatly enhanced prices for their product even of their biggest customers, including the railroads, it was stated today. Instances the prices at the pit mouth are 100 per cent more than a year ago. Following are some of the new contracts:

The New York Central this week bought 600,000 tons of Southern Illinois coal at \$2 a ton for steam lump, an advance of 65 cents a ton. The Southern Railway bought 900,000 tons of big seam coal at \$1.65, compared with \$1.12 1-2 a year ago. The coal docks of the upper lakes this week bought 400,000 tons of Pocahontas lump and egg coal at \$3.75. The price a year ago was \$1.60. The dock also paid \$3 for Pocahontas mine run coal, which last year cost them \$1.35. The Louisville & Nashville Railroad paid \$2 a ton for Alabama coal, which cost \$1.23 1-2 a year ago.

These instances are said to be typical of innumerable others and suggest the possibility of even greater exactions from the small consumer next fall.

There is no shortage of coal at the mines, it is stated. Experts estimate that the underground supply is sufficient to last the country 2,500 years. The car shortage, however, has adversely affected production during the last year.

Signs Accumulate That President Will Take Firm Stand for "Armed Neutrality."

MAY AWAIT ACTION OF SENATE FIRST.

Although Confined to Bed By Cold The President is Still Considering The Question. Resolutions For Approval By The Senate.

(By The Associated Press.)
Washington, March 8.—Indications accumulated today that President Wilson is likely to act at anytime in the situation caused by Germany's announcement of ruthless submarine warfare. Although the President was kept in bed by a cold, it was stated he was still considering the subject.

In some administration quarters it was believed the President is certain to act this week, but other officials took the position that he would wait until the Senate has had an opportunity to revise its rules.

Mr. Wilson has been advised that he has sufficient power to arm American merchantmen without waiting for action by Congress, and some officials believe he will act on this advice forthwith.

On the other hand, a strong sentiment undoubtedly exists in the administration for the President to take action along the line calling an extra session of Congress to meet in the very near future.

Reports given to the President agree that the Senate rules will be revised. (Continued on Page Eight.)

TELLS WHY THE TURKISH HOLD WAS ATTACKED

British Commission Makes Known Its Finding About Dardanelles Campaign.

TAKEN ON INITIATIVE OF SPENCER CHURCHILL.

Russian Note Spurred On Desire to Capture Straits From Ottoman Government. Responsibility Fixed

(By Associated Press.)
London, March 8.—The Dardanelles expedition as far as Great Britain was concerned was undertaken on the initiative of Colonel Winston Spencer Churchill, then first Lord of the Admiralty, according to a majority report of the commission appointed to inquire into the responsibility for the expedition which was issued today. The report summarizes the conclusions reached as follows:

"The question of attacking the Dardanelles, was, on the initiative of Mr. Churchill, brought under the consideration of the war council on November 25, 1914, as the ideal method of defending Egypt. It may reasonably be assumed that inasmuch as all the authorities concerned were prima facie in favor of a joint military rather than a purely naval attack, such an attack, if undertaken at all, would have been of the former rather than of the latter character. Had not other circumstances led to a modification of the program. A communication from the Russian Government of January 2, introduced a fresh element into the case. The British Government considered that something must be done in response to it and in this connection the question of attacking the Dardanelles was again raised.

"Political arguments which were adduced to the war council in favor of a prompt and effective action if such were practicable, were valid and of the highest importance but the practicability of whatever action was proposed was equal importance. Mr. Churchill appears to have advocated an attack by ships alone before the war council, on a certain amount of high-powered and hesitating support. Opinions which favored a tentative or progressive scheme, beginning with an attack upon the outer forts. This attack, if successful, was to be followed by further operations against the main defenses of the narrows. There does not appear to have been direct support or direct opposition from the responsible and naval military advisers, Lord Fisher and Sir James Wilson, Lord Fisher and Sir James Wilson as to the practicability of carrying on the operations as approved by the war council, viz, to bombard and take the Gallipoli Peninsula with Constantinople as the objective.

"The First Sea Lord and Sir Arthur Wilson, who was the only naval adviser present at the war council, expressed no dissent. Lord Kitchener, who occupied a commanding position at the time the decision was taken, was in favor of the project. Both Lord Fisher and Sir James Wilson would have preferred a joint naval and military attack, but they did not so express to the war council and were not asked to express any opinion on the subject and offered no objection to naval operations, as they considered them experimental and such as could be discontinued if the first results obtained were not satisfactory. The commissioners think that was an obligation, first on the

(Continued on Page Eight.)

COLUMBIA'S CASE BEFORE BOARD

South Carolina Folks Press Claims of Columbia For Nitrate Plant.

Columbia, S. C., March 8.—The Government Nitrate Board, consisting of Secretary of War Baker, Secretary of the Interior Lane and Secretary of Agriculture Houston, and a corps of government engineering and electrical experts accompanying them, held a public hearing this afternoon at which Columbia claims for the location of one of the nitrate fixation plants here were heard.

Because the train carrying the board members was late, plans to take them to nearby power sites had to be abandoned. The party is expected to leave Columbia this afternoon at 5:50 o'clock for Augusta, Ga.

BRITISH ALMOST AT BAGDAD.

(By Associated Press.)
London, March 8.—British cavalry is now within 12 miles of Bagdad. This statement was made today to the Associated Press by Major General F. B. Maurice, chief director of military operations, at the war office.

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