

WEATHER FORECAST.
North Carolina—Cloudy Sunday.
Warmer in east portion; rain at
night. Monday colder and proba-
bly fair.
South Carolina—Increasing cloud-
iness Sunday; warmer Monday
somewhat colder and probably fair.

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THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 11, 1917.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

ON JOURNEY OF MERCY SHIP IS SUNK

Hears Hunger Stalking Fatherland

AMERICAN SHIPS ARE TO FIRE ON SIGHT AT GERMAN SUBS.

Armed Neutrality Brings War Crisis to Its Very Last Stage, Thinks Washington

GERMANY'S ORDER TO BE RIGIDLY MET.

American Merchantships to Arm at Once and Given Direction to Fight—Senate Will Take Recess This Week Until Extra Session Convenes.

(By United Press.)
Washington, March 10.—Armed American vessels can shoot at German submarines, on sight within the German death area. One flash of a periscope will suffice to establish the American gunner's right to fire in defense.

The State Department announced these principles today, in the course of a decision of the rights of armed ships, now that this government has established armed neutrality and proposed to guard its commerce from German ruthlessness.

The department based the American right upon the fact that Germany has publicly renounced the doctrine of armed neutrality.

It assumes that German submarines will torpedo all vessels without warning, in keeping with the German battle zone statement to the world and subsequent statement that it was the "last word." Moreover, the right of Americans to fire first is based upon reiteration of a previously issued pronouncement by this government covering the matter of ship armament and submarine attack.

Secretary of Navy Daniels announced tonight that he expects to make a statement soon on the government's position, now that armament of American ships has been ordered. This announcement, it is assumed, will tell just what orders have been issued to gunners as to procedure upon the approach of a submarine or in case of actual attack.

Meanwhile, the work of arming merchant vessels is being pushed. There will be little delay in putting guns aboard and sending American ships forth in defiance of Germany's avowed unlimited warfare and in pursuance of long established neutral rights.

Guns placed aboard the vessels will be sufficient to cope with any submarine afloat at a distance of 10,000 to 15,000 yards. A shot landing astern from a three-inch or a six-inch gun, such as the navy furnishes, will sink the comparatively frail undersea craft. As soon as an armed vessel fires upon a submarine the armed ship loses its immunities. German commanders can—and undoubtedly will—return the fire or torpedo the vessel.

Such a situation presents but little chance, in the view of authorities, of a peace settlement. It is expected that sooner or later an American ship will not fall victim or that German undersea boats will be destroyed.

Peace societies are again on the move to check war, as a result of the present situation. But Congress will probably appropriate money to the expenses of armed neutrality and the government will not heed the "peace" propaganda. Daily the government is shaping its navy for war possibilities and preparing for providing an army if that becomes necessary.

STEAMER SUNK WITHOUT WARNING; SHELL BOATS

(By United Press.)
London, March 10.—Thirty persons aboard the Norwegian steamer Storstadt, a Belgian relief ship, are missing tonight. The Storstadt was sunk without warning by a German submarine. Thirteen survivors have been landed. Two life boats are unaccounted for. At least one American, John Roy Chritian, of Washington, D. C., who was among the survivors, said he was afloat in a lifeboat for 36 hours in a storm before picked up. Capt. Anderson, commander of the Storstadt, said the German submarine, which sank his vessel, shelled the lifeboats. The Storstadt was laden with food and was enroute from Buenos Aires to Rotterdam. She bore plainly printed signs on her sides, showing she was a Belgian relief steamer. The Storstadt was laden with food and was enroute from 1914 sank the Empress of Ireland, in the St. Lawrence, with great loss of life aboard that vessel.

BUSINESS MEN QUICKLY TO FORE

United States Chamber Commerce Has Committees Named for Government

(By United Press.)
Washington, March 10.—Request for Secretary of War Baker's request for committees of business men to assist the quartermaster's department of the army in selecting all supplies was so strong that the personnel of these committees is virtually completed tonight, the United States Chamber of Commerce announced.

The committees were selected by the Chambers of Commerce in the cities having quartermaster depots. They will virtually control the business end of war.

Part of the committee selections follow:
New York—Edward D. Page, Lucius R. Eastman, Jr., Daniel B. Morse, A. L. Salt and Henry B. Towne.
St. Louis—W. A. Layman, Thomas R. Aiken, George M. Brown, John A. Bush and Warren Goddard.
New Orleans—Leon C. Simon, Ben C. Casanas, R. H. Downman, A. M. Lockett and Albert Mackie.
San Antonio—Luther B. Clegg, Ernest M. Groos, Clinton B. Kearney, Albert Kronosky and W. B. Tuttle.

The first man mentioned is chairman of each committee.

FIVE ARRESTED IN A NEW PLOT

Philadelphia People Would Have Smuggled Goods to Interned Ships.

(By United Press.)
Philadelphia, March 10.—Five arrests were made here tonight following revelation of a plan to smuggle food aboard the Eitel Friedrich and Kronz Prinz Wilhelm, in exchange for valuable articles to be taken from the two interned German ships.

FLOCK OF AIRSHIPS OVER THE NEUSE

Farmers of Wayne Startled and Mystified by Five Aeroplanes Flying Their Way

(Special to The Dispatch.)
Goldsboro, N. C., March 10.—According to a statement made by J. L. Roberts, a prominent farmer of the lower section of Wayne county, five aeroplanes were seen flying over Neuse river yesterday. Mr. Roberts was in this city today and stated that he and several other farmers of that section for over one hour watched the aeroplanes, as they descended along the river and then would rise again going in a northerly direction. He said that it caused quite a sensation for miles around and people were inclined to believe that the aeroplanes were commanded by German spies.

Roberts was accompanied by two other gentlemen, and both reiterated his statement.

DECLARED GUILTY OF TRYING KILL PREMIER

(By United Press.)
London, March 10.—It took a British jury this afternoon just 32 minutes to declare the truth of the amazing story of poison plotting. They accepted practically all of the Crown's evidence against three of the quartet accused of planning the murder of Premier Lloyd-George and Minister Arthur Henderson.

Mrs. Alice Wheeldon, adjudged the moving spirit in the plot, was sentenced to ten years penal servitude; her daughter, Mrs. Winifred Mason, received five years; while her husband, Alfred Mason, chemist and mixer of the poisons, was given seven years. Miss Hetty Wheeldon, a second daughter, was found not guilty.

GERARD REACHES CUBA TODAY.

Havana, Cuba, March 10.—James W. Gerard, former ambassador to Berlin, will arrive at Havana at daybreak, according to a wireless received tonight. He will remain until Monday. Cuba will extend especial courtesies to him.

COUNTRY MAY SOON ONCE MORE FACE GENERAL STRIKE

NEST OF INTRIGUES AGAINST COUNTRY BEING UNCOVERED

Charged That Big German Fund May Have Been Created in United States.

USED IN BOTH STATES AND NAT. ELECTIONS.

German Discovered With Wireless and Code Book—German Govt. Connected With Schemes.

(By United Press.)
New York, March 10.—The United States Secret Service is slowly gathering in parts of an alleged German machine that was put together, in Wilhelmstrasse to violate American neutrality, or work against its interests in case of war.

Arrests in New York, Chicago and Philadelphia today, and Los Angeles yesterday, showed the extent of the Federal operations.

The District Attorney announced today that the Kaiser has been levying a war tax on his subjects in this country. Accredited representatives of Germany, it is said, however, systematically assessed Germans in America, and have collected millions of dollars. The dispensing of this money will be one of the objects of the grand jury probe already begun.

Indications that a huge German fund was in existence during recent elections to insure the election of Federal and State officials favorable to German enterprises, are being probed.

Intimations that bazars for German Red Cross benefit may be subject to scrutiny by federal officials who, it is said, do not believe most of this money has been sent to Germany. Nearly \$5,000,000 has been collected by this method, and it may have been used for Germany was the opinion expressed.

The statement here today of a wireless expert that communication could be established between Germans in this country was followed by the arrest here of Max Hans Ludwig Wax. He was found to have enclosed in a box a complete and complicated wireless, capable, according to the police, of sending messages a distance of 100 miles and of receiving them from Nauken, the site of the huge German wireless station.

Wax had code letters and other documents in his pocket which showed that he had received large sums of money from Germany through the Deutsche bank, here, and that his mail had come to him addressed in the name of the German consul general, in this city.

Wax refused to discuss himself. He declared, however, he often had received money from his "people" in Germany.

Dr. Chanda Chakrabarty, Hindoo physician, whose arrest revealed an alleged plot to start a revolt in India, was surrendered to the police a second time tonight.

While the grand jury investigated the charges against him, Chakrabarty and his alleged fellow conspirator, Dr. Ernest Hekunna, were released under \$25,000 bail. One bonding company surrendered the Hindoo on grounds of patriotism. Declaring a few days ago they did not care to continue the bail after becoming familiar with charges against him. Tonight the United States Guaranty Company took the Hindoo to police headquarters and announced they had been unable to reach an agreement with him regarding bond. He was held.

Railroad Men Grow Restless and Demand The Eight-Hour Day At Once.

BROTHERHOODS TAKE ACTION IN SECRET.

Announcement Made That Eight-Hour Day Must Be Had Regardless of Adamson Case—Important Conference.

(By United Press.)
Cleveland, Ohio, March 10.—Four hundred representatives of the great railway brotherhood, in secret meeting here today, prepared to fight for a settlement—peaceful, if possible, but by strike if necessary—of the eight-hour day controversy.

As the formal statement was issued tonight, telling of the meeting, W. G. Lee, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, announced a letter had been sent to President Wilson assuring him the trainmen will co-operate to the fullest extent in moving troops, equipment and supplies in case a strike should be coincident with a war with Germany.

Presenting a solid front the brotherhoods are going to press immediately for the eight-hour day regardless of the action of the Supreme Court on the Adamson law or on probable war. These facts became definitely known tonight following the adjournment of a meeting of 400 general chairmen of the brotherhoods here.

The formal statement, declaring conditions of railway labor are much worse than when the Adamson law was enacted, did not mention the letter to President Wilson.

President Lee, of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, told of the letter, declaring the men are loyal. Lee announced the brotherhoods have lit upon a plan by which they declare the 8-hour day must become effective regardless of whether the Supreme Court declares the Adamson law unconstitutional. This new plan was not explained.

The unannounced meeting of 400 chairmen today represented nearly all of the Eastern railroads and several lines West. It was understood to be an executive council meeting called to reinforce the four brotherhood presidents with the assurance that in the series of conferences next week in Washington and New York they speak for an undivided body of union railway employees.

The conference of brotherhood representatives and railway heads in New York Thursday will be a final showdown on the question of the eight-hour day. If the eight-hour day does not result from that conference, there will be a National railroad strike, brotherhood leaders positively asserted tonight.

The brotherhood heads will confer with Samuel Gompers in Washington Monday. They will meet with delegations of railway systems who were not represented here, in Washington Tuesday. Wednesday, in New York, they will meet still others, and on Thursday they will meet the railway managers.

The following statement, signed by W. S. Stone, Grand Chief Engineer, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers; L. E. Shepard, acting president Order of Railroad Conductors; W. S. Carter, president Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, this evening was issued:

"A meeting was held in Cleveland by representatives of the four trainmen and enginemen organizations in response to a call issued by the chief executives for the purpose of conferring as to the situation regarding a settlement of the eight-hour day proposition. It was decided to renew efforts to obtain a settlement and a meeting has been arranged with the National conference committee of the railways to be held Thursday, March 15.

"The nearly 400 chairmen of the four railway transportation lines attending the meeting, reported the conditions existing on their various systems as even worse than on Sept. 2, 1916, when the Adamson eight-hour law was enacted. They complained bitterly because the men they represent are working for the same rates of pay and longer hours and worse conditions than prior to the enactment of such law and called attention to the fact that nearly all other classes of labor have been given substantial increases during the past year, which, in a measure, offset the increased cost of living."

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FOOD AND MONEY BADLY NEEDED BY GERMAN PEOPLE

GERMANS ACTIVE IN MEXICO COME BACK REPORTS

Big Radio Station Established and Germans are Flocking to That Country.

AMERICANS BRING THE VITAL NEWS.

New Version of The German Note to Carranza Given—Germans Said to Be Plotting His Death.

(By United Press.)
Galveston, Tex., March 10.—Full information of reports that Germans are erecting a powerful wireless station for trans-Atlantic messages was brought here today by American passengers arriving on the Norwegian steamer Harold, from Vera Cruz.

F. L. Kroulitz, of Youkon, Okla., and Harry S. Whitney, of Sherborn, Mass., stated a tower had been erected on a high hill near Mexico City, and the wireless plant was nearly ready for operation, under the direction of German engineers. In addition, four or five other powerful stations are near completion in various portions of the republic, which are expected to furnish means of communication, with German sea raiders or other German vessels.

Hundreds of Germans are arriving in Vera Cruz every week from Havana and American ports, the passengers said.

Whitney said the chief engineer and his assistant from the interned German steamer Vaterland, at New York, are in Mexico City operating the big wireless station.

A Mexican newspaper published a report before they left the country that British marines landed at Port Barrios, Guatemala.

Says Carranza Got the Note.
El Paso, Tex., March 10.—A new explanation of the revelation of the German-Japan-Mexico alliance note of Germany's foreign secretary, Dr. Zimmermann, was contained in advices reaching here from Mexico tonight.

This was that First Chief Carranza was actually given the Zimmermann letter by German Envoy Von Eckhardt, at Mexico City, and turned it over to a messenger, who took it directly to Washington.

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Reports That Nation Is Staggering Under Financial Burden and Growing Weak.

GERMANY UNABLE TO REACH CREDITORS.

Food Situation is Described as Distressing—Forced Peace Thought to Be Just Beyond The Horizon—Situation for Fatherland Daily Growing Worse.

(By United Press.)
Washington, March 10.—Germany's financial system is staggering to the breaking point.

This, coupled with a growing shortage of food that pinches more and more, is gradually squeezing out the endurance of the German nation, and bringing the end of the war nearer.

These facts are revealed by information in possession of the government tonight.

This information tending to verify the meager news of approaching starvation coming out of Germany stresses however, the financial side more than the food situation, and to the latter there are conflicting evidences, though all show that starvation may come as only a matter of months, provided the war continues.

On financial side there is evidence that Germany is practically "kiting" her checks. She is draining the gold of the whole nation, and having no access to her ordinary outside credit agencies she must virtually "rob Peter to pay Paul"—make one loan stand as payment for another.

Information to the United Press tonight indicates that a state approaching national bankruptcy will result if the war goes on much longer. Hence, while the American armament of merchantmen presages war or a state of war, peace probably is really just beyond the horizon.

The food situation is pictured as extremely depressing. Short rations are the portion everywhere. One of the striking evidences of how short of food Germany really is lies in the complaint of American Yarrowdale prisoners that their fare was scanty and poor.

The real story is that they were kept on rations that stripped the flesh from their bones.

Germany cannot adequately feed her own folks—much less give prisoners ample supplies.

Official information shows the situation to be distressing and increasing, growing worse, though not yet quite to the point of actual starvation.

It is, however, to this stage, where many Germans are ill nourished and where her fighting men, though still well supplied, are not getting the full

(Continued on Page Eight)

Widely Circulated In Columbus County

March 9, 1917.

The Wilmington Dispatch, Wilmington, N. C.

My Dear Sir:

I am sending herewith an announcement of our County Commencement, which we expect to hold at Whiteville Friday, April 6th. I will thank you very much to give this announcement a place in the columns of your valuable paper, which is so widely read in our county.

Yours sincerely,

F. T. WOOTEN,
County Superintendent.