

WEATHER FORECAST.  
North Carolina—Generally cloudy tonight and Tuesday; probably to clear Wednesday; somewhat colder tonight.  
South Carolina—Partly cloudy tonight and Tuesday; local rains.

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# INFORMATION ARE TOLD AMERICA WILL NOW ARM HER SHIPS

### State Department Sends Due Notice to Foreign Legations—Germany's Action

### FRENCH SHIP ALLOWED CLEAR WITH GUNS

### Question Now Is Will Other Neutrals Allow American Ships So Armed to Enter Their Ports—Government Orders Airships For Coast Patrols.

(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, March 12.—Formal notice that American ships traversing the German submarine zone are to carry armed guard for the protection of the vessel and the lives of persons on board, was sent by the State Department today to embassies and legations in Washington of all foreign governments.

The following is the text of the communication as made public by the department:  
"In view of the announcement of the Imperial German Government on January 21, 1917, that all ships, those of neutrals included, met within certain zones of the high seas, would be sunk without any precaution being taken for the safety of the persons on board, and without the exercise of visit and search, the government of the United States has determined to place upon all American merchant vessels sailing through the barred areas an armed guard for the protection of vessels and lives of the persons on board."

The notification, it is expected, will be sent to Germany by the Swiss legation here.

Whether other neutral governments will admit American armed ships to their ports is a question for them to decide, but it is not expected that objections will be made. Holland is the only neutral known to have barred armed merchantmen.

State Department officials did not wish to make it clear whether it was mandatory for all American vessels to carry arms or whether they might sail without them if they so desired. Previously the Navy Department under its policy of silence as to such questions had also refused a ruling.

The Navy Department's position is that it will equip with arms all ships whose owners apply to it.

Purchase of sixteen non-rigid dirigible airships for coast and harbor patrol work at a total cost of \$649,200 was announced today by the Navy Department.

The Curtis Aeroplane Company was awarded three for \$122,250; The Connecticut Aircraft Company, two for \$54,000; The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, nine for \$360,000; and the R. F. Goodrich Company, two for \$82,950. Deliveries will begin within 120 days.

The airships are the first of such type to be bought by the Navy under the recent \$5,000,000 appropriation for aerostatics. They will be 160 feet in length, 21 1/2 feet in diameter or 50 feet high over all, will be equipped with radio communication and 100 horse power motors capable of making a continuous flight of 16 hours at 25 miles each and a maximum speed of 45 miles an hour for ten hours.

The dirigibles will be able to operate from shore bases and alight on water surface in good weather. Permission for clearance of the New York liner, Rochambeau, from New York, the first belligerent merchantman to arrive in an American harbor with guns mounted fore as well as aft, was today granted by the State Department, which ruled that the Rochambeau, as a passenger-carrying vessel, plying usual routes, was a peaceable merchantman, entitled to the adequate precautions against illegal attack.

Undoubtedly the Rochambeau ruling will lead to a general policy of arming merchant ships at the fore. It was thought that the ship was sent into port largely as a test of this government's policy and that a wide armament is allowed, it is assumed that other entente merchantmen will follow suit.

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# THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

FINAL EDITION

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, MONDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 12, 1917.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

## STILL DIGGING AMID THE RUINS AT NEW CASTLE

### Search for Victims of the Torpedo That Swept Indiana Town Continues

### DEATH LIST STOOD 19 EARLY TODAY

### Hundred Homes Demolished and Two Thousand Damaged—Many Freaks of the Big Wind

(By Associated Press.)  
New Castle, Ind., March 12.—The death list from the tornado which swept New Castle yesterday afternoon was 19 early today and searchers were still digging in the ruins for other victims. A score or more persons were reported missing, while the hospitals were crowded with several hundred patients. The property damage will reach at least \$1,000,000. One hundred homes were demolished and approximately 2,000 were damaged.

A complete list of the dead and injured and the extent of the property damage cannot be compiled for several days.

The known dead are:  
Everett Dunlap, Price Skelton, 24; James Nellis, Gray Davis, Mrs. John Davis; Orville Davis, 6, son of Gray Davis; Mrs. Archie Fletcher, Mrs. Alice Williamson, Miss Opal Razor, 12, son of W. T. Razor; Newton, Bernice Day, 8, June Day, 6; Mrs. Mary E. Williams, Mrs. Vera Higgins, Ethel Waterman; William Lowery, one unidentified, man believed to be Ray Davis.

A citizens committee sworn in by Mayor Watkins patrolled the streets and guarded the wrecked homes until the arrival of Indiana National Guardsmen, who were ordered here by Governor Goodrich.

The tornado struck the city from the west after leveling the rolling hills of Blue River valley.

It swept through the entire width of the city to Sixth and Twenty-fifth streets. The first homes in the path of the twister were leveled, after which the wind apparently raised slightly, taking the roofs from the houses from Tenth to Twentieth streets, where it again dipped, sweeping practically every house before it to Twenty-fifth street.

The greatest damage was done in the south section where a great many of the employees' residences and several thousand were homeless through the night. Two hundred special officers were sworn in by Mayor Watkins and a strict patrol was maintained.

The death list was all in the southeastern part, where the wind apparently struck low. One fire occurred, M. M. Minter losing his drug store and his home.

The tornado cut a path from 300 to 500 feet in width through the city for a distance of 18 blocks. It entered the city limits near the southwest boundary line and worked its way in a zigzag manner north for two blocks and then east. It turned south near the eastern limits and left the city in a southeasterly direction.

The moans of dying and the screams of persons less injured who were pinned under the ruins of their homes were heard on every side.

Most of the dead were taken from homes that were completely demolished. Many escaped injury by rushing into cellars.

The tornado played many freak acts. On a number of streets every house with one exception was leveled to the ground and in one block every second house was wrecked and the other homes escaped untouched. Entire roofs were torn from houses and carried for squares and one house was picked up and carried a half square and set down again practically unharmed.

The three New Castle ambulances were supplemented a few hours after the catastrophe by three ambulances from Muncie. The Muncie machines were filled with doctors and medical supplies. Muncie also sent a large squad of police to assist in the rescue work.

The State fire marshal wired the local gas plant to shut off its supply as a safeguard against fires from broken pipes in the ruins.

## RELIEF STEAMER TORPEDOED AS SHE WAITED

### Had Sent Up Her Flag of Mercy When Undersea Craft First Appeared

### SHELLED BEFORE HIT BY TORPEDO

### Disaster Occurred Off the Southern End of Ireland—All But One of Crew Accounted For

(By Associated Press.)  
London, March 12.—The sinking of the Norwegian steamship Storstad in the service of the American commission for relief in Belgium, occurred in latitude 51.20, longitude 11:50 (in the Atlantic off the southern end of Ireland).

The submarine fired about fifteen shots at a range of 3 to 4 miles. The Storstad stopped and hoisted the Belgian relief signal.

The submarine submerged, but half an hour later the Storstad, which had not resumed her voyage, was torpedoed without warning as she lay stationary in the water with all the crew on board. She sank at 12:10.

The crew, including one American, has been accounted for in its entirety, but the fourth engineer died of exposure before the men were rescued.

## CONTINUE PROBE OF ALLEGED PLOT

### Detectives Still at Work in Philadelphia—Intended Damage to Navy

(By Associated Press.)  
Philadelphia, March 12.—Government agents today continued their investigation into the activities of persons under arrest charged with smuggling ship chronometers from the German auxiliary cruisers interned at the Philadelphia Navy Yard and of persons suspected of having had a hand in the alleged violation of the customs laws.

The agents are reports that the Federal authorities have discovered a plot with many ramifications to damage property at the Navy Yard in event of war. Government officials, however, will neither confirm nor deny published reports that explosives have been smuggled on board the Kron Prinz Eitel Friedrich. The two ships, it was stated, would be searched today for explosives.

Albert K. Fischer, his wife, Helen, and Henry Rohner, head of a wholesale grocery concern here, are out on bail charged with smuggling the chronometers from the two German ships. Government agents are not sure that Rohner had knowledge of the alleged smuggling scheme. His friends declare he had been persuaded by Fischer to permit his motor truck to be used for bringing boxes from the Navy Yard when Rohner's employees deliver groceries to the interned ships.

Many papers and documents taken from the Fischer home in the suburbs are being examined. It was said that the Fischers are distantly related to the Hohenzoller family. Mr. Fischer is also said to be related to Koerting, the German iron master. The arrests of the Fischers and Rohner have given impetus to a movement started here last week to have the interned German cruisers removed from the Navy Yard. It is declared that in the event of war the 750 interned German sailors would be a serious menace to the Navy Yard.

## WASHINGTON IN THROES OF STRIKE

### Cars Being Manned by Strikebreakers and Row Started This Afternoon

(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, March 12.—Practically one-half of the street railway lines of the Capitol were being operated today by strikebreakers. The other half, owned by another company, was running as usual, with the regular men who had come to terms with their employers. Recognition of the Union was the chief question.

## WITH HARROWING TALE AMERICANS ARE AT LAST FREE

### Released From German Detention Camp They Are Now Safe On Swiss Soil

### ILLTREATED AND HAD LITTLE TO EAT

### Suffered Much From Cold and Lack of Food—German Guards Abused and Beat Them, They Declare

Zurich, Switzerland, (Sunday, Mar. 11, (Via Paris, March 12).—Laden with cigars, cigarettes and food showed upon them by the hospitable Swiss 59 of the now historic Yarrowdale prisoners arrived in Zurich today. They had arrived at the German frontier at Linden yesterday after a continuous trip of 52 hours from the prison camp at Brandenburg.

The sailors, although emaciated from their imprisonment and serious lack of food since their arrival in Germany on December 31 are in fair condition and confident that with a normal amount of food they will soon be themselves again. The party was met here by United States Consul General Keene who greeted them briefly and asked them not to forget that they were Americans and not to bring discredit on America by yielding to temptation to kick over the traces.

The men were distributed among several hotels until instructions shall have arrived from Washington. Their personal effects were lost when their ship was lost and their wardrobes had been only partially replaced by makeshifts which render them for the present, a decidedly motley crew.

Nevertheless their stories were told, not in a tone of complaint but in a philosophical way.

The sailors said that they were convinced that the raider which sank their vessel was the "Ritz of Bremen." They describe her as a brand new vessel of about 3,000 tons, capable of 18 knots, equipped with one funnel, two masts, one false funnel, four torpedo tubes, seven rapid firing guns and a wheel house which was hidden by the sides of the ship.

The funnels had a device by which the stripes could be changed at will and the ship's doors were so constructed as to cut off all light when they were open. The ship's sides were also so constructed that portions of them could be automatically dropped and raised.

The impression that the boat was new and built for raiding purposes was heightened by the fact that she was equipped with steel cells below and although looking like an old tramp was really an armored cruiser.

The sailors said that the Yarrowdale, although ordinarily capable of only ten knots had to make 14 at times to escape capture. She was carefully mined so that she could be destroyed at a moment's notice.

With their immediate needs, such as board and lodging, provided for the next attention to be given the men will be to supply them with clothing, of which they are badly in want. Their chief interest at first was in something to eat.

Between bites the Yarrowdale men told of the severe treatment to which they had been subjected to, in the German prison camps at Neutralitz, Dullen and Brandenburg, where they had been successively interned after having been brought into Swinemunde on the Yarrowdale and where they, as Americans, they said, were apparently singled out from all others. During their stay in Germany, they reported, they had subsisted on one allowance of soup daily and had made their long journey to the border on one such "meal." There was hardly one of them who they declared, had not felt the fist of a German camp guard and the squad of five soldiers which brought them to the border had exercised the privilege of abusing them up to the last possible moment.

The men tell of the terrible sufferings they underwent during a period of severe cold weather in Germany, due partly to lack of fuel and more to the absence of the shoes and clothing which they had lost. Since their entrance into Switzerland at Roschach, they say, they have been royally treated.

The party includes all the Americans detained except one seaman named Buleat of a French Canadian family, claiming to have been born in Massachusetts, who was held in Brandenburg. They were accompanied by one Brazilian and one Spaniard.

DATES FOR SOUTHERN CONFERENCE CHANGED  
(By Associated Press.)  
New Orleans, March 12.—The date for the Southern conference in New Orleans to discuss plans for the colonization and sale of the cut-over timber lands of the South, has been set forward to April 11, 12 and 13, instead of April 17, 18 and 19, according to the announcement made here yesterday by the committee in charge. The change in the date for the conference, it was stated, was made necessary by President Wilson's calling an extra session of Congress for April 16, which would prevent a number of prominent members of Congress and government officials from attending the conference on the dates previously announced.

# WOULD FOCUS ALL STRENGTH OF U.S. NAVY

## WILL PRESS VOTE ON THE TREATY

### Democratic Leader Confers with President About Colombian Treaty

(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, March 12.—Senator Martin, the majority floor leader, announced at the Democratic caucus today that an effort would be made to get a vote at the special session of the Senate on the treaty with Colombia providing a payment of \$15,000,000 for the partition of Panama. Senator Martin conferred with President Wilson this morning and it was understood the announcement reflected the President's wishes.

No attempt was made in the caucus today to bind Democrats to support the treaty.

The Republican conference developed strong opposition to the treaty and although no attempt was made to bind Senators, leaders expressed confidence of its defeat.

## SHIP'S OFFICER GAVE BOND TODAY

### Charleston, March 12.—Eight officers of the German steamship Liensiefels, convicted at Florence in Federal court Friday on charge of sinking their ship and sentenced Saturday to a year in the Atlanta Federal prison, today made bond of \$6,000 each, pending their appeal in the case.

(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, March 12.—The decision upon constitutionality of the Adamson railroad law was today again withheld by the Supreme Court.

## CHINA MOVES STEP NEARER ENTERING EUROPE'S WAR

### House of Representatives of Flowery Kingdom Favors Rupture With Germany

BRITISH AND RUSSIANS MAY LINK FORCES  
That Seems to Be the Most Likely Outcome of the Fall of Bagdad—Activity Continues on the Franco-Belgian Front—Paris Reports French Gains Today

Without political importance attached to the capture of Bagdad by the British, the military results of the notable event are of even greater immediate interest, pointing to the possibility of a comparative speedy linking up of British and Russian movements against the Turks in this far-away field of war.

The conditions which General Maude found upon entering the city of Calipha and the status of his supply arrangements must, in great measure, affect any plans for a further advance. Given the assurance of adequate supplies and replenishments it seems probable that he will not rest content with holding Bagdad, but will attempt a further move up the Tigris. This river is navigable for small steamers northward on its course as far as Mosul, nearly 250 miles away, favoring the transport arrangements of the British force. The measure of Turkish resistance along this line will be affected in no small measure by the rate of progress of the Russian columns moving towards Mesopotamia from Persia.

These columns, operating from Hamadan and Sakkiz, are still far short of the points where they stood last spring when the British were (Continued on Page Eight)

## Officers Advise Government to Mobilize the American Navy In Full

### CONSENT OF WILSON NECESSARY FOR IT

Germany Renews Request That United States Sign Protocol Amending the Prussian-American Treaty—Swiss Minister Bears Request

(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, March 12.—Mobilization of the complete fighting strength of the navy has been recommended by naval officials. The approval of President Wilson is required before orders can be sent calling out the reserves, assembling the naval militia, and releasing all active officers now on shore duty for sea service.

Immediate graduation of the first-class of Annapolis would be included in the plan in order to make up as far as possible the threatened shortage of officers.

In addition to mobilization of forces already enrolled in the militia or reserves, an active recruiting campaign would be necessary to supply all ships of military value with full complements. Officials believe they would have little difficulty in obtaining the men if mobilization were ordered.

Germany today renewed her effort to have the United States sign a protocol amending the Prussian-American treaty of 1795 so as to exempt all German residents in the United States from arrest or internment during war and reserving to all German ships in American ports the right to safe conduct to home ports. It is the same protocol that Ambassador Gerard refused to consider before leaving Berlin.

The Swiss minister, Dr. Paul Rittler, called at the State Department today by direction of the German foreign office with a copy of the proposed amendment to the treaty. He was unable to see Secretary Lansing. The matter will probably be given due consideration by State Department officials, though it is realized that such an amendment, though the administration favored it, would not have much prospect of ratification in the Senate.

## FREE SEED GONE, REPORTS GOVT.

### Hundreds Apply for the Wherewithal for Planting Home Gardens.

(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, March 12.—Since the home gardening movement began throughout the country as a means to meet the increased cost of foods, the Department of Agriculture has been swamped with hundreds of thousands of requests for free seeds.

Officials of the department say that unfortunately they have no seeds to distribute. The free seeds provided by Congress are distributed by members of Congress themselves direct and this year's supply of about 200,000,000 worth was long ago exhausted. No more free seeds will be available until late in the summer.

PRESIDENT WELL AND BACK AT WORK  
(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, March 12.—President Wilson had completely recovered today from the cold which kept him in bed most of last week, and this morning held two conferences, the first with Senator Martin, the new Democratic leader of the Senate, and the second with Secretary Lansing.