

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.

VOL. XXIII. NO. 53.

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 dirigibles. 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 dirigible 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 same 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.

DO YOU GET YOUR PAPER REGULARLY?
Any reader of The Wilmington Dispatch who does not receive a copy of The Dispatch by the close of the circulation Department will call us on either telephone 176 or 206.
The Wilmington Dispatch is endeavoring to perfect its delivery system so that every one may read their favorite newspaper by supper time.

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.

The order threw most of the city into darkness as the electric current to all of the southern portions of the city was cut off.

Communication with nearly all villages was broken off but the reports from persons coming into New Castle in automobiles were that at least several persons had been killed in the vicinity.

It was reported three had been killed at New Lisbon, three at Morehead and three at Mount Summit.

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 delivered 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.

Services on the lines under the strike, while infrequent, was being maintained without disorder and the company expressed its confidence that operations would return to normal in a few days.

The first activity by the strikers was shown on a busy corner near the patent office this afternoon. Dozens of the strikers rushed cars and disabled them by removing figures, others with chalk wrote striking slogans on the sides of the cars while they were stalled. Although large numbers of police were hurried to the corner the strikers appeared to have it all their own way and so long as no evidence of violence was done the police made no arrests. Traffic was delayed.

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.

WOULD FOCUS ALL STRENGTH OF U.S. NAVY

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.

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

(By Associated Press.)
Charleston, March 12.—Eight officers of the German steamship Liensiefel, 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.

NO DECISION TODAY ON THE ADAMSON ACT.

(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)

GERARD ON THE WAY TO KEY WEST

Former Ambassador to Germany Left Cuba for Home This Morning

(By Associated Press.)
Havana, March 12.—James W. Gerard, former American ambassador to Germany, and a party of 54 sailed for Key West at 10:40 a. m. today on the steamship Governor Cobb. Mr. Gerard was escorted to the dock by Wm. E. Gonzales, the American minister; Guillermo Patterson, assistant secretary of the Cuban State Department; Lieutenant-Colonel Edmund Wittenmyer, the American military attaché, and the captain of the port of Havana.

TENNESSEE JURY SAYS EX-JUDGE NOT GUILTY

(By Associated Press.)
Memphis, Tenn., March 12.—Jesse Edgington, former judge of the Criminal Court of Shelby county, was acquitted of a charge of having accepted a bribe in the report of the jury returned to the court today. The jury was ready to report yesterday, but Judge Thomas Harsh held the report could not be legally returned on Sunday and refused to accept it until court convened today.

Edgington was impeached and removed from office after a hearing before the Tennessee Senate last year. The indictment in which he was tried charged that he accepted a bribe of \$1,000 from an agent for an out-of-town brewing company just before he signed a modification order in connection with an injunction affecting certain liquor interests. This charge was one of the personal issues on which impeachment proceedings were based.

LUNACY HEARING FOR HARRY THAW

Jury Drawn Today and Hearing Started in Secret in Philadelphia

(By Associated Press.)
Philadelphia, Pa., March 12.—The jury of six men drawn by the sheriff of Philadelphia county in the lunacy proceedings instituted by Mrs. Mary Copley Thaw against her son, Harry K. Thaw, had its first sitting today. The proceedings were secret. Thaw was not present, nor was District Attorney Swan, of New York, or his representative.

Thaw cut his throat January 11, after his indictment in New York on a criminal charge. While the New York authorities were pressing for his extradition, Mrs. Thaw instituted the lunacy proceedings. It is understood here that the New York authorities are not taking any part in the lunacy proceedings on the ground that to do so would be to admit there is some question as to Thaw's sanity.

TO HEAR APPEAL OF L. & N. ON OCTOBER 2ND.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, March 12.—Appeals of officials of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad from lower court decision requiring them to submit testimony of campaigns in the Interstate Commerce Commission's investigation were set for hearing in the Supreme Court on October 2, by an order announced today by Chief Justice White.

DECLINES REVIEW OKLAHOMA OIL CASE

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, March 12.—The Supreme Court today refused to review Oklahoma proceedings annulling a deed for valuable oil lands near Sallis, Okla., secured by the Prairie Oil and Gas Company from Annie Carter, an one-eighth blood Creek Indian. The ruling, attorneys for the oil company said, would affect titles of other Oklahoma land owners who bought or leased Indian lands before expiration of a five-year Federal statutory restriction.

DO YOU GET YOUR PAPER REGULARLY?

Any reader of The Wilmington Dispatch who does not receive a copy of The Dispatch by the close of the circulation Department will call us on either telephone 176 or 206.
The Wilmington Dispatch is endeavoring to perfect its delivery system so that every one may read their favorite newspaper by supper time.

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.

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.

While the President's cold had been pronounced cured, his condition was so weakened that he went to bed again during the morning. He will see only the most important callers for several days.