

WEATHER FORECAST.
North Carolina—Cloudy tonight and Wednesday; probably rain. Warmer Wednesday in east portion.
South Carolina—Cloudy tonight and Wednesday; probably local rain.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, TUESDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 13, 1917.

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NATIONWIDE STRIKE HANGS BY THREAD; SECRET MEETING

Heads of Brotherhood Conferred Today But Give Out Nothing.

REPORT THAT STRIKE MAY START SATURDAY.

Atlantic Coast Line and Seaboard Would be Included in First to Feel Effect of Strike. President Notified Men Will be Loyal to Government.

(By Associated Press.)
New York, March 13.—Information received by the National Conference Committee, composed of managers of the great railway systems and made public by that body today, indicates that the four employees' brotherhoods have completed arrangements for a progressive series of strikes to begin at 6 o'clock eastern time on Saturday night if the conference or the eight-hour question held here Thursday fails to reach a satisfactory agreement.

The proposed strike program, according to this information, is as follows:

Saturday, 6 p. m., call out all trainmen in freight service on the New York Central, Baltimore & Ohio, Erie, Atlantic Coast Line, Southern Railway, Louisville & Nashville and Seaboard Air Line. Such an order would involve 40,000 men.

Monday, March 19, 6 p. m., call out the freight trainmen on the Lehigh Valley, Lackawanna, Jersey Central, Pennsylvania, Long Island, Maine Central, Delaware & Hudson, Reading and all other roads in the Southwestern territory or extending to New York.

Tuesday, March 20, 6 p. m., call out all the freight trainmen in the Northwestern group, including the Hill roads and all those centering at Chicago.

Wednesday, March 21, 6 p. m., if the railroad still refuse to grant the men's terms, extend the strike to all other freight trainmen and call out the passenger trainmen on every road in the country.

Local railroad labor leaders from the Southeast met here today to discuss the renewed demand for an eight-hour day to be presented to the railroad Thursday by chiefs of the four South roads and the advisability of calling an immediate general railway strike if the demand is refused. Officers of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen of the Boston and Maine system.

Have No Order to Strike.
Boston, March 13.—Local chairmen of the railroad brotherhoods said that they had received no strike orders up to an early hour today and that they had not been notified that the National officers of the brotherhoods were planning a general strike.

"Any action of this kind were proposed I am sure that we would have heard of it," said Z. J. Blake, chairman of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen of the Boston and Maine system.

Told President of Conference.
Washington, March 13.—The railroad brotherhoods on March 7 wrote to President Wilson, it became known today, formally notifying him of the conference with the railroad representatives scheduled for March 15. In this letter the brotherhood leaders declared they were "hopeful" of making a satisfactory adjustment of questions pending with the railroads.

The Brotherhood representatives also informed President Wilson that if while they were negotiating with the railroads the Nation becomes involved in war, they would co-operate to the fullest extent with the government.

Neither President Wilson nor Secretary Wilson of the department of labor had official information today regarding the intention of the brotherhoods to strike unless a satisfactory arrangement was reached at Thursday's conference. An investigation was begun through Governmental agencies, however.

It was stated that there was little of a definite character that the government could do until the outcome of the meeting in New York Thursday is known.

At the direction of President Wilson, Secretary Wilson will keep in close touch with the conference in New York and should it fail the Government will then consider further steps.

Government officials regarded it as inevitable that there should be a (Continued On Page Three)

AMERICAN SHARE IN RELIEF WORK NOW APT TO END

Washington Believes Germany Trying Break Up Belgian Relief.

CASE OF STORSTAD IS BEING CITED

Official Report Shows That Vessel Was Sunk Without Warning Although Identity Known.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, March 13.—Probably early withdrawal of all American participation in Belgian relief, including the withdrawal of Brand Whitlock, American minister from Brussels, as a result of the pressure of the German submarine campaign, was forecast today at the State Department. The official report on the submerging of the relief ship Storstad intensified the situation. Consul Frost, at Queenstown, reported as follows:

"Norwegian steamship Storstad, Berms Aires, bound for Rotterdam, 9,000 tons maize, Belgian relief, under English charter, sunk by German submarine, seventy miles west of Skelligs, 11:30 a. m., March 8. Submarine first shelled ship from 3 miles, 15 minutes during which Storstad stopped and hoisted abundant unmistakable signs of Belgian relief errand. After 15 minutes interval, submarine torpedoed Storstad without warning from 400 yards, Belgian relief signals being prominently visible. Ship carried neither gun nor wireless. No shelling during abandonment. Submarine interviewed Captain's boat for all particulars, refusing request for towage, then fired additional shell and torpedoed sinking vessel. No attempt escape or resistance. Weather heavy, sea strong, east wind, dull showery skies, three boats became separated, Captain's boat rescued by patrol near Skelligs, 9:30 p. m., March 9. After severe battle with sea fourth engineer died of exposure and shock. Sole American aboard, John Roy Christian, 121 Mercer street, Seattle, saved, affidavit taken. Other two boats landed at Capricorn, evening 10th. Have telegraphed consul Liverpool take affidavits officers. Total deaths, 3. This report also Ambassador, Consul General."

Arrangements have been made for some time for the replacement of Americans by a joint Dutch-Spanish Commission, but as there are practically no Spanish in Belgium, it is possible that the Swiss will share in the work. Germany's unwillingness to guarantee safety of relief ships lead officials here to believe that she is trying to break up the relief work.

"HI" JOHNSON QUITS GOVERNOR'S JOB

(By Associated Press.)
Sacramento, Cal., March 13.—Governor Hiram W. Johnson, Senator-elect, announced his resignation from the Governorship here today, effective March 15.

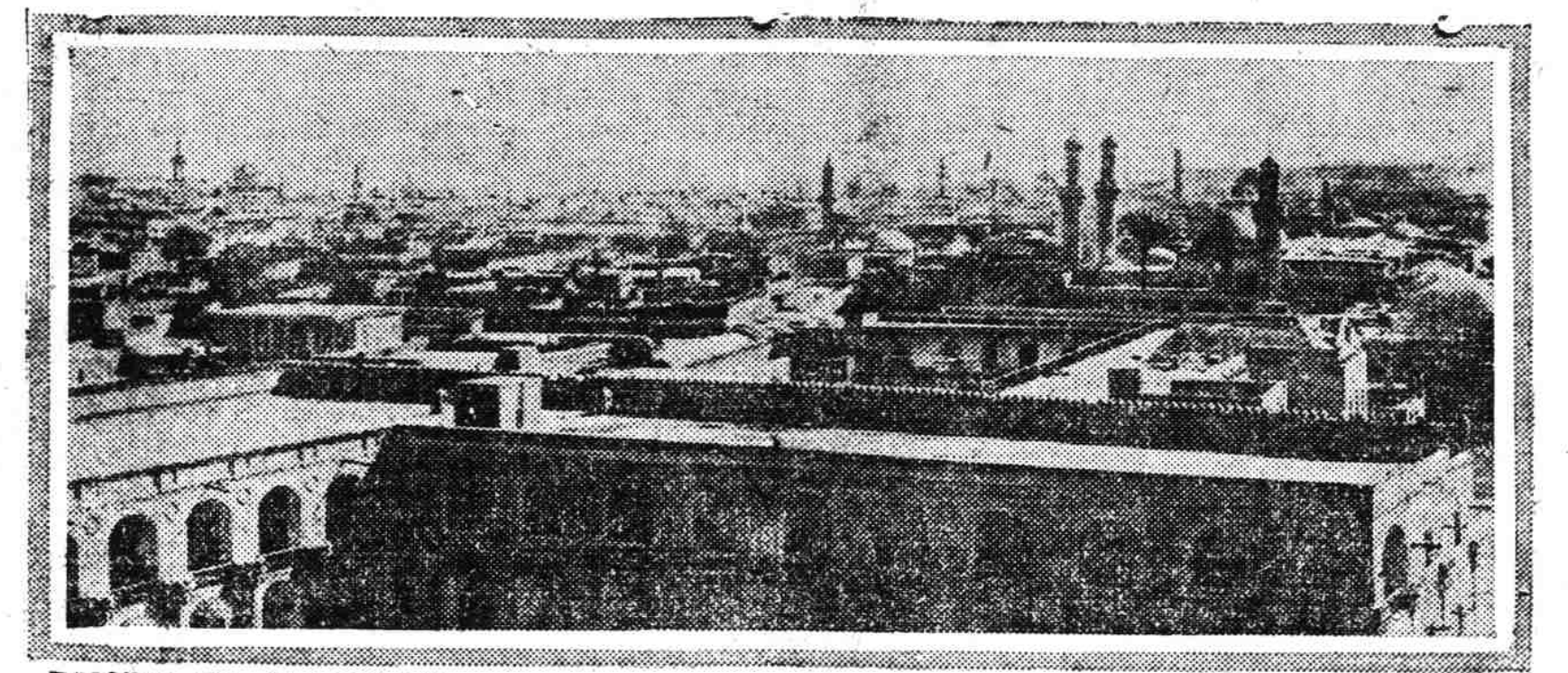
LIKELY AFTER A GERMAN RAIDER

Strange Looking Ship, Supposed Be English, Seen Cruising Around.

(By Associated Press.)
New York, March 13.—An unidentified ship, assumed to be an entente vessel hunting for possible German raiders, was sighted off the Azores Islands on February 24 by the officials of the Norwegian steamship, Askild, which arrived here today from Gibraltar. The officers said the stranger, carrying four masts and two funnels and painted gray, did not interfere with the Askild after coming close enough to determine her nationality.

A tank vessel which reached here last week reported the presence of what was believed to be an armed German merchant ship north of the Azores.

BAGDAD, CAPTURED BY BRITISH



VIEW OF BAGDAD
Dispatches from London report officially the capture of Baghdad by the British. General Maude drove the Turks from Kut-el-Amara in disorderly retreat. He recently predicted that by the time the fleeing Turkish army arrived at Bagdad it would be an un disciplined mob. This picture shows a general view of Bagdad.

DEMOCRATIC HOUSE CAUCUS CALLED.
(By Associated Press.)
Washington, March 13.—Democratic Leader Kitchin today called a caucus of House Democrats for April 12, to consider organization of the House.

WAYNE FARMER WAS HELD-UP

John W. Howell Shot Through the Hand By an Unknown Negro Yesterday.

(Special to The Dispatch.)
Goldsboro, March 13.—A bold robbery was attempted about four miles north of this city yesterday afternoon when John W. Howell, a prominent farmer, of near Pikeville, was shot through the hand by an unknown negro man.

Mr. Howell stated to The Dispatch correspondent that he was on his way home from this city at about 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon and was passing a stretch of woods when suddenly and without warning two negroes sprang upon him from the side of the road. One negro held a revolver in his hand and commanded him to halt.

At this juncture the negro came nearer and Howell attempted to land him a terrific blow on the head with an axe when the negro fired one shot into Howell's hand.

Mr. Howell returned to the city immediately and notified the sheriff, who is today endeavoring to locate the assailant.

The section where the above robbery was attempted is considered a very dangerous place, for during the last few weeks not less than three people have been assaulted at or near that same spot and many people are inclined to believe that it is inhabited by professional crooks who know that the farmers when returning from the city have money on their person.

VON BERNSTORFF HAS REACHED COPENHAGEN

(By Associated Press.)
Copenhagen, March 12 (Via London).—Count von Bernstorff and his party arrived at Copenhagen at 10:30 o'clock this morning from Christiania. Count von Brockdorff-Rantzau, the German minister to Denmark, and the German consul-general, greeted the former Ambassador to Washington.

GERMANS CREATE BARRIER TO MASK THEIR NEXT MOVE

Closing of Dutch Frontier May Signify New Tactics on Part of Teutons.

THE WESTERN FRONT BRISTLES WITH ACTION.

Preparations Being Made For Operations on Large Scale But When Blow Will Come Uncertain.

The Franco-Belgian front is bristling with military activity. All reports indicate preparations for operations on a large scale. When the blow will come and where it will fall, however, are matters of speculation.

Much attention centers on the northern part of the front. The Germans recently closed the Belgian-Dutch frontier and there are reports of important troop movements behind the secret barrier. These are interpreted as pressing another attempt to break through the Yser lines in a drive for Calais.

In the Champagne the first fighting continues brisk, but whether an important offensive in either side is to be pressed here remains to be developed. Paris last night reported the regaining of all the trenches the Germans had taken on the commanding Hill 185, in the region of Maisons de Champaing. Today's French war office bulletin announced the complete repulse of a violent German counter-attack here, the French retaining all their positions.

Berlin's account of yesterday's fighting concedes the loss of ground on the southwest slope of Hill 185. The Germans report also announces an attack by the British on a wide front just south of Arras which it declares was repulsed with heavy British losses.

It has been apparent for several days that an intense battle for air supremacy was being waged on the Franco-Belgian front, with the British aerial forces the especial object of the German attack. Light on this struggle was thrown by a statement made for the British government today in the House of Commons in which it was conceded that the struggle for supremacy was notably intense at the opening of this active season, after a winter's strengthening of the aerial arm by both belligerents.

The British were taking every measure to gain the upper hand definitely, it was indicated, and there was every reason to hope, it was declared, that they would again assert their superiority.

BRITISH PUSH ON.

(By Associated Press.)
London, March 13.—British cavalry from Bagdad has occupied Kazimain on the Tigris river, five miles above Bagdad, it was officially announced today. This occupation took place on March 11.

TOOK MAIL OFF AMERICAN SHIP

English Officials Stripped Tanker of Mail Sent to The United States.

(By Associated Press.)
New York, March 13.—Mail carried on an American ship, the Standard Oil tanker, John D. Archbold, was removed by the British authorities at Halifax, according to the officers of the vessel, which arrived here today from Bergen, Norway.

This is said to be the first time that a ship flying the American flag on the Atlantic has been denied the privilege of transporting mail from a foreign country, either neutral or belligerent.

The John D. Archbold took out of Bergen 29 sacks of mail from Norway, Denmark and Sweden. The vessel followed the custom of other neutral ships by putting in at Halifax, instead of Kirkwall. There she was detained three days, according to the officers, and all the mail taken off for examination. The tanker resumed her voyage without it.

Since the German submarine blockade began no mails have reached here on Scandinavian or Dutch ships. The Bergensfjord and Kristianafjord, the only two Scandinavian passenger liners to risk the voyage since February 1, sailed without passengers, cargoes and mails.

CANT BASE RAISE ON MORE EXPENSE

Coal Producers Can't Mule Consumers by Old Cry of Increased Cost Production

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, March 13.—The Federal Trade Commission today notified the country's leading anthracite coal producers that any failure to grant the usual Spring price reductions cannot be justified by claims of increased cost of production.

In its inquiry into the cost of mining anthracite, the report which soon will be issued, the commission has obtained information on the costs of companies which mined in 1916 about 75 per cent of the total production of anthracite. "This information," says the commission, "obtained directly from the records of the companies referred to, indicates no increase in average cost in the last four months of 1916, and further indicates an actual decrease of cost in the case of some of the companies whose cost of production is high."

LIEUTENANT BERG KEPT GERMAN ANY INFORMED ABOUT AFFAIRS

Government Has Positive Evidence That He Sent Messages to His Government From Appam.

KEPT WIRELESS AT WORK CONSTANTLY.
German Officer Aboard Interned Prize Ship at Norfolk Sent Messages to Sea—Probably Familiar With The English Code.

(By Associated Press.)
Norfolk, Va., March 13.—Evidence that Captain Hans Berg, German commander of the prize ship Appam, violated the neutrality of the United States constantly while the ship was at Newport News, has been placed in the hands of Department of Justice agents, according to information from a source generally authentic.

When the Appam was awarded to her English owners by the United States Supreme Court recently Berg and his German crew were sent to Philadelphia. It was then found that they rehabilitated the wireless outfit, which was put out of commission by the United States government and were using it to send and receive messages. A private wire had been run to Berg's stateroom, where he read the happenings of the world by flash lights.

An investigation has been in progress on the Appam for several days and it has been positively established that as late as December 8th last Captain Berg sent a wireless message to a German ship. It is believed that Berg was in constant touch with his own government and furnished it information of value. There is evidence that he was familiar with the English code.

The messages sent by Berg December 8th gave details of affairs affecting Germany being considered by Congress and President Wilson, it was said.

ARMED GUARDS ARE TOLD HOW TO ACT

Government Sends Instructions to Those Who Will Be On Duty.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, March 13.—Complete and definite instructions to the "armed guards" to be placed aboard American merchant craft bound through the German submarine zones have been completed by the Navy Department and approved by Secretary Lansing. They will be forwarded to the Navy personnel aboard the merchant craft whenever the ships are ready to sail.

The nature of the instructions will not be made public. They were carefully prepared by Navy officials and then submitted to Secretary Lansing, at whose suggestion some amendment was made.

It is planned not to broadcast the orders generally through the naval service but to furnish the officer in command of the armed guard on each ship with a copy when his vessel is ready to sail. The Navy Department is making every effort to suppress all information regarding armed ships, such as sailing dates, the equipment put aboard by the Navy, the personnel supplied to handle the guns or anything that might be of the slightest value to an enemy. It was said officially, however, that no conflict of jurisdiction between the shipmaster and the gun crews would arise.

ONE AMERICAN ON BOARD BUT ESCAPED.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, March 13.—The sinking of the Cunard non-passenger liner Follo with one American on board was reported to the State Department today in a preliminary dispatch from Consul Frost at Queenstown as follows:

"Cunard non-passenger Follo sunk off Waterford, 10th. Survivors landed Dungannon. Sole American, Boat's Surgeon W. J. Core, Nashville, Tenn., saved, uninjured."

ROADS WILL STAND PAT.
(Associated Press.)
New York, March 13.—Should the railroads be threatened by the four brotherhoods of trainmen with a Nation-wide strike at the conference here Thursday with the railroad managers, their stand will be, it was learned today, there cannot be any compromise on the question of the eight-hour working day now. This position will be based on the contention that the railroads agreed to enter a stipulation with the Government to do nothing to alter the status quo pending a decision from the Supreme Court on the Adamson law.

GERMAN SUBMARINE MAY BE STRANDED
(By Associated Press.)
London, March 13.—A German submarine is reported stranded in the neighborhood of Hellevoetsluis, on the Dutch coast, says a Reuters dispatch from The Hague.