

WEATHER FORECAST. North Carolina—Local rains to night. Thursday, fair and somewhat colder in the interior. South Carolina—Cloudy tonight. Thursday fair and somewhat colder.

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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 14, 1917

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

AMERICAN STEAMER IS A SUB. VICTIM

CHINA SEIZES MANY GERMAN SHIPS

FIRST SHELLED AND THEN BLOWN UP BY BOMBS PUT ON HER

Big Freighter Out From New York With Foodstuffs Meets Disaster.

NO LOSS OF LIFE SO FAR REPORTED.

Administration Can Do No More Than is Now Being Done—Congress Alone Can Declare War—Germany Might Beat United States To It.

BOMBS DID THE WORK, NOW REPORTED.

The American Steamship Algonquin with ten Americans aboard, was sunk by a German submarine on March 12 with a loss of vessel and cargo valued at \$1,700,000.

The message said the vessel was torpedoed but did not indicate where she was at the time.

The Algonquin sailed from New York on February 20 with foodstuffs.

Formerly a Canadian owned boat under British registry, the Algonquin transferred to the American flag last December when she was purchased by the American Star Line.

She carried about 2,000 tons of cargo, was commanded by Captain A. Nordberg, a naturalized American of Norwegian birth.

When she left here on February 20 her owners expected her to reach the submarine zone about March 8.

She was a single screw steamer and was commanded by Captain A. Nordberg.

She was a vessel of 1,806 tons gross, 245 feet long and 45 feet beam.

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TARIFF BOARD IS NOW COMPLETE

President Names The Commission, Headed By Harvard Professor.

Professor FRANK W. TAUSSIG, of Harvard University, former representative David J. Lewis, of Cumberland, Md.; former representative William Kent, of Kentfield, Cal.; Daniel C. Roper, of McColl, S. C.; E. P. Costigan, of Denver, Colo., and W. S. Culbertson, of Emporia, Kans.

Professor Taussig, who will be chairman of the commission, is a native of St. Louis. He has been connected with Harvard University since 1882 and has obtained a leave of absence from that institution until September, 1918, to accept the position on the commission.

Professor Taussig is authority on economics and has written extensively on the tariff.

David J. Lewis, Democrat, was chairman of the labor committee of the last House of Representatives. He was defeated for election as Senator from Maryland in the last election. He is a native of Pennsylvania.

Daniel C. Roper, Democrat, was connected with the House Ways and Means committee during the framing of the present tariff bill as an authority on statistics. He is a native of South Carolina, and until recently was first assistant postmaster general.

William Kent, independent, was a member of Congress from the first California district in the last Congress, but did not run for re-election. During the last campaign he supported President Wilson and was president of the Wilson Independent League. He is a native of Chicago.

E. P. Costigan is a lawyer who is looked upon as one of the founders of the Progressive party in Colorado. Originally he was a Republican, but in 1912 and again in 1914 he was the Progressive candidate for governor.

Mr. Culbertson, Republican, is an examiner in the legal department of the Federal Trade Commission. He comes from Emporia, Kans.

STILL DECLINE TO GIVE THE DETAILS

College Professor, Who Shot Student, Released on Bond in Virginia.

Charles E. Vawter, professor of mathematics at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, was arrested on a warrant charging him with the felonious shooting of Stockton Heth, Jr., in the former's home here early yesterday, it became known today.

Heth is in a critical condition in a Roanoke hospital, but his condition today was said to be more favorable than it was last night.

The high cost of living is given as the cause for the boost in the price of baseball bats.

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BRITISH HAMMER NOW AT PORTALS OF OLD BAPAUME

Germans Continue Their Retreat Along The Somme Front.

REASONS FOR IT ARE NOT KNOWN

Teutons Report Hurling French Back—Constantinople Admits Fall of Bagdad.

Another great retreat by the Germans on the Somme front is in progress. The consequent British advance has brought General Sir Douglas Haig's forces almost to the outskirts of Bapaume, the speedy fall of which is now counted among the probabilities.

Various reasons for the movement are advanced. The theory that Field Marshal von Hindenburg's intention was to carry out a strategic retreat with the expectation of drawing the British into the open is held out by one of the German military writers, quoted in a Berlin newspaper.

If von Hindenburg's intention was to disconcert the British, some of the French military writers declare, it was frustrated by the British tactics. They say the Germans beginning their retreat as a strategic operation to interfere with the British plans for an offensive were compelled to continue the movement because the British followed up the retreat with their superior artillery instead of piling in after the Germans with their cavalry, as the Germans apparently had expected.

Berlin's official report today does not mention the retirement in the Somme region. It says the operations there were British attacks yesterday afternoon and last night in the Ancre sector which were repulsed with heavy losses.

Other fighting of a notable character is in progress on the Franco-Belgian front. Not the least significant, possibly, is a French operation in the St. Mihiel region, the sector of the famous German salient, lying southeast of Verdun. The French, in an attack late yesterday, made an impression on the salient, capturing the Romainville farm. The Germans admit that one of their posts here was pushed back.

The French also have held the Germans from effecting gains in new attacks on the hotly contested positions near Malson de Champagne and have made fresh progress themselves in hand grenade operations there.

The Turks are apparently still in retreat up the Tigris from Bagdad. They announced the evacuation of that city indirectly in an official statement recording a Turkish retirement from the south of Bagdad to a point between Bagdad and Samara, which latter place is on the Tigris, about 75 miles northwest of Bagdad.

On the Russian front the operations have consisted mainly of raids. In Macedonia, however, there seems to be an entente movement of some importance in progress. The Berlin statement reports attacks by the French in the Lake region west of

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CHINESE GOVT. NOW READY ENTER WAR

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, March 14.—China has severed diplomatic relations with Germany, take possession of all the German merchant ships in Shanghai, about six in number, placed their crews on shore under guard, and placed armed guards on the vessels.

American Minister Reinsch, at Peking, today reported to the State Department that China had severed diplomatic relations with Germany and that the German minister had been handed his passports.

China's severance of relations has been expected here for weeks. The action of the United States in breaking relations was received with acclaim by Chinese officials and press.

Feeling against Germany has run high, not only because scores of Chinese on the way to Europe have been killed in German submarine operations, but from memory of the Kaiser's order to his Boxer Punitive force to make the word Germany of the whole province of Shantung for the murder of two missionaries.

Seizure of the German ships may be taken by Germany as an act of war as in the case of Portugal.

China's action may be followed by seizure of German property in China, which is very extensive.

CHASED BY SUB. WENT ON ROCKS

Newport News Insurance Man Tells of Experience Aboard Fleeting Ship.

Newport News, Va., March 14.—George Bland, local insurance man, who shipped from here as assistant foreman aboard the British horse boat Leysian, which was wrecked off the west coast of the British Isles, February 20, returned to Newport News today and stated that the Leysian was being chased by a German submarine when the ship went on the rocks.

He said that the Leysian had unloaded a cargo of horses at Belfast and was one day out of that port, bound for Cardiff, Wales, for coal, when the ship was wrecked at a point about ten miles from Fishguard.

Mr. Bland stated that all of the crew and horsemen took to the life boats, and after being adrift about three and half hours they were picked up by an admiralty boat.

The Leysian was wrecked at 7:30 o'clock at night, but did not go to pieces until the next day. She was broken in two by being thrown on the rocks.

The Leysian left here the first week in February, the day before the United States government severed diplomatic relations with Germany.

GERARD NOW BACK IN WASHINGTON.

Washington, March 14.—Former Ambassador Gerard arrived here today and was met at the railway station by Secretary Tumulty and other officials.

Any plans Mr. Gerard may have had for making a statement were changed when the State Department arranged for him to say he could make no detailed statement until he conferred with the department.

Mr. Gerard may not see the President for a day or two for the President is receiving no visitors until he fully recovers from his cold.

"PENNSY" TO OPEN NEW ROUTE SHORTLY.

New York, March 14.—The Pennsylvania Railroad announces that it expects to open the route between New England and the South via New York City and the new Hell Gate bridge on April 1.

Through passenger service at the opening will be confined to the operation of the Federal Express at night between Washington and Boston.

APPROVES ATLANTA'S DISCOUNT RATE.

Washington, March 14.—The Federal reserve board has approved Atlanta reserve bank a discount rate, effective March 15, of 3 1/2 per cent. on commercial, live stock, agricultural and commodity paper, 15 days or less.

GERMAN MONEY BEING MADE WORK

Reported That Germany's Legation Directed Mexico's Peace Note.

Washington, March 14.—Confidential diplomatic reports passing through here from the representatives of a neutral government in Mexico on their way to Europe say the German bank in Mexico City and German legation there are guiding virtually the entire financial and diplomatic affairs of Mexico.

According to these reports the action of Mexico in sending recently to the American republics a note on the subject of peace in Europe was directed by officials of the German legation, while the German bank is said to have come into control of the Mexican financial situation.

EX-LIEUT. GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK DEAD

New York, March 14.—William F. Sheehan, former lieutenant-governor of New York, died at his home here today.

When the Legislature became deadlocked in the struggle to select a Democratic candidate for the United States Senate in 1911, it was Mr. Sheehan on whom the fight centered.

The deadlock was broken by the agreement to choose James A. O'Governor.

Mr. Sheehan was taken suddenly ill last night on a train returning from Florida. Death was due to heart trouble. He was 58 years old.

DANIELS PROTESTS TO COUPLE PAPERS.

Washington, March 14.—Secretary Daniels sent a protest today to the New York World and the Washington Herald against publication of the news stories today in those papers relating to the arming and movements of American merchant ships.

"Newspapers generally are gladly and cordially co-operating with the spirit of the policy the government is carrying out," the secretary said in his message, referring to the request he had made to suppress publication of any information regarding American merchant craft in the trans Atlantic trade.

"This item is not in accordance with the policy of the government," he continued, "and I earnestly ask that no such publications be made in future."

THIRTY MILES BEYOND BAGDAD.

London, March 14.—The British have advanced 30 miles above Bagdad, it is announced officially.

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WILSON AMAZED AT NEWS OF A STRIKE SUCH CRUCIAL HOUR

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, March 14.—President Wilson is amazed at the proposal of a nation-wide railway strike at this juncture of International affairs.

It was stated authoritatively today that he expects railroad men at their conference in New York tomorrow to consider the state of the country's foreign relations and make every possible effort to agree.

It is possible that he may appeal to both sides on that ground. Today the President was being kept in touch with the situation through Secretary Wilson, of the Department of Labor.

Meeting Strictly Secret. New York, March 14.—Strict secrecy was thrown about the meeting here today between the National chiefs of the brotherhoods of railroad employes and eastern brotherhood official to discuss plans for the strike which may be called Saturday if the chiefs at the conference with the railroad managers here tomorrow fail to attain the desired results.

While professing not to know what the brotherhood chiefs would demand railroad representatives just before a meeting of the National Conference Committee of the railroads, said they would not be surprised if they demanded that the provisions of the Adamson law be put into immediate operation, together with a provision for time and a half for overtime, or, in substance, complete compliance with the demands which began the controversy a year ago.

A circular alleged to have been sent to the 400,000 members of brotherhoods from the Cleveland headquarters in the past week and signed by W. S. Carter, president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, was made public today by the railroad managers. It said, in part:

"If there is a sincere public demand that the railway employes shall not strike for the eight-hour day, then let the Federal government operate the railroads and assume responsibility for the wages and working operations of the employes."

While the National chiefs of the four railroad employes brotherhoods were discussing with the Eastern brotherhood officials here today the plans for the threatened nation-wide railroad strike, which may begin Saturday, representatives of the railway managers made public what they declared was a promise not to strike made by the brotherhoods in secret meeting in Chicago, January 13. They quoted from the text of the statement a passage saying:

"No radical action would be taken until the decision of the Supreme Court had been handed down in connection with the eight-hour law."

W. G. Lee, president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, was asked about this statement after the brotherhood meeting had been recessed with an announcement that no action had been taken at the forenoon session, but that the meeting would be resumed this afternoon. He said he would not discuss anybody's interpretation of the Chicago statement.

"It was right then and it is right now," he declared. "And I am not going to say anything about it."

Asked if the present conferences looking toward a strike might not be considered a violation of the Chicago statement, he said:

"We never said we were just going to sit still and do nothing indefinitely. Our position has been to wait a reasonable time, and who is to be the

SOUTHEAST STORM MAY BE ON WAY.

Washington, March 14.—An advisory southeast storm warning bulletin from Norfolk to Eastport, Me., was issued today by the Weather Bureau. The storm is expected to shift to the southwest at sunset.

PRESIDENT BACK AT WORK IN WHITE HOUSE.

Washington, March 14.—President Wilson was so near complete recovery from the cold with which he has been suffering for more than a week that he attended to public business today in his study. He is not expected to leave the White House for several days.

LAST DAY ARGUMENT IN STEEL TRUST CASE.

Washington, March 14.—This was the fourth and last day of arguments before the Supreme Court in the Federal dissolution suit against the United States Steel Corporation. Solicitor-General Davis summed up for the government.

NAMES POSTMASTER FOR HENDERSON.

Washington, March 14.—President Wilson today nominated Isaac J. Young to be postmaster at Henderson, N. C.

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