

WEATHER FORECAST.
North Carolina—Fair tonight, except rain near coast. Sunday fair, frost at night and cooler in the east.
South Carolina—Fair and colder tonight and Sunday. Probably frost Sunday night in west.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FINAL EDITION

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

VOL. XXIII. NO. 58.

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 17, 1917.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

STRIKE STOPPED AT ELEVENTH HOUR

British Now Capture Flame-Swept Bapaume

FORTY EIGHT HOURS DELAY OF WALK-OUT

Both Sides Agree to Resume Conference On Account National Situation.
BROTHERHOOD CHIEFS POSTPONE THE STRIKE
Climax Came Less Than Three Hours Before Time For National-wide Strike—Many Conferences This Morning.

(By Associated Press.)
New York, March 17.—Secretary Lane of the Federal mediation committee announced at 3:45 o'clock that it had been agreed to postpone the railroad strike for 48 hours.
He gave out the following statement:
"At our request and out of an appreciation of the National situation the Brotherhoods and the railroad managers have resumed negotiations. In the hope that some adjustment may be had that will avoid the necessity for a strike the Brotherhoods have wired or telephoned their general chairmen asking that all action be postponed for 48 hours, and unless prior to that time advised of a settlement, the men will leave the service under the authority already given."

New York, March 17.—The prospects that the great railroad due to be inaugurated within a few hours would be prevented or at least that a truce would be declared, brightened this afternoon when shortly before 2 o'clock Secretary Lane, members of the mediation committee of the council of national defense, announced that the situation was encouraging. Mr. Lane said he would have an important statement to make at 3 o'clock.
The announcement came soon after the mediation committee had finished a 2 1/2 hours conference with the Brotherhood chiefs of railroad employees. At the same time the committee of railroad managers was summoned to the hotel where the mediation committee was.
Whether a joint conference of both sides of the controversy was planned or whether the mediation committee would confer with the managers alone could not be definitely learned.
There was reason to believe, however, that Secretary Lane had a concrete proposal for submission to the railroad managers which he expected would meet with their approval. This proposal, it was reported, had already been communicated informally to the managers and had met with unofficial approval.
Secretary Lane announced at 2 o'clock that the situation was not yet such that he could make a statement.
Secretary Lane after coming out of the conference room to make this announcement returned after indicating that he would not be heard from again until he had something definite to say. At that time the hour for the strike to go into effect was only four hours away and it was recognized that if an agreement was reached to prevent it quick action would be necessary by the Brotherhood chief to call it off.
The new conference adjourned at 3:25 o'clock. W. G. Lee, for the Brotherhoods, when asked what had been the result said:
"The conference is off for the present."
(Continued on Page Eight.)

MEN BALKING ON OBEYING ORDER TO WALK-OUT

Three Fourths of L. & N. Employees Reported Will Not Quit.
MIDDLE WESTERN MEN WON'T STRIKE.
Trainmen in Philadelphia Seek Court Injunction Against Brotherhood—Sale of Tickets Discontinued
(By The Associated Press.)
Philadelphia, March 17.—A bill in equity which has for its purpose the prevention of the four railroad brotherhoods from calling a strike of railroad employees within the State of Pennsylvania was filed in Federal Court today by an attorney representing members of brotherhoods. No judge was in the Federal Building at the time, and although the bill is on file, it will not prevent a walk-out unless the papers are signed by a judge and order issued enjoining the men.
Leighton P. Stradley, attorney for the men who filed the bill, said the action "would take its usual course." He apparently is making no effort to find a judge.
According to the trainmen they believe that no more than ten percent are in favor of walking out. The bill alleges that the joint ballot upon which the strike was called is not in effect at this time inasmuch as it was obtained eight months ago when times were not so such a critical stage. This strike ballot obtained eight months ago was cancelled last fall when the Adamson law was enacted, the bill asserts.

Three-fourths Won't Quit.

Louisville, Ky., March 17.—Seventy-five per cent. of the Louisville & Nashville employees are expected to remain loyal in the event of a strike, according to a statement from the general offices here today. About one-half of the road's 35,000 men belong to the four brotherhoods.
Confidence that the road could continue practically uninterrupted operation was expressed.
Measures of preparedness, it was stated, consisted only in placing guards at important bridges, and in scanning the employees for men suitable to take strikers' places.
The offer to take over the insurance protection for Brotherhood members is expected to have a far-reaching effect.
Will Refuse to Strike.
Columbus, Ohio, March 17.—Engineers, conductors and trainmen of the Cincinnati, Lebanon & Northern Railroad, a subsidiary company of the Pennsylvania Railroad, this morning, informed Superintendent I. W. Geer, of the Southwest system of the Pennsylvania, that they would refuse to obey the strike order.
Sale of Tickets Stopped.
Knoxville, Tenn., March 17.—The Louisville & Nashville Railroad this morning discontinued the sale of tickets to and through St. Louis terminals. This was expected to be the first terminal to be tied up in case the threatened strike materialized tonight. This measure was taken as a precaution against having passengers marooned, from home in the event of a tie-up.

BRITISH FORCE GERMAN TO EVACUATE BAPAUME.



The latest advance of the British north of the Aisne River, resulting in the capture of Greville and the Loupart Wood, important positions west of Bapaume, and the withdrawal of the Germans from their entire defensive position in that sector has outflanked Bapaume and bitten so deeply into the German lines that it is likely they will be forced to abandon the entire Aisne salient.
The solid line on the map representing the British front following the completion of the first stage of the German withdrawal. Enclosed within the dotted line is the territory that has fallen to Haig's troops during March. This stretch of ground, a slice three and a half miles long and a mile deep, immediately west of Bapaume and extending to its very outskirts, was occupied by the British.
"With the fall of Achiet-le-Petit and Bucquoy, to the northwest of Bapaume, it is likely the Germans will begin a new withdrawal, which may not end until the Arras salient has been surrendered and new lines taken up running from the district immediately south of Arras to a point east of Bapaume."

TIME OF TRIUMPH NEAR AT HAND

Teutons Certain to Lose In War, Declared Czar as He Abdicated.
(By The Associated Press.)
Petrograd, via London, March 17.—The following is the text of the imperial manifesto in which the Russian Emperor announced his abdication and that of his son:
"We, Nicholas II, by the grace of God Emperor of all the Russias, Czar of Poland, and Grand Duke of Finland, etc., make known to all our faithful subjects: In the day of the great struggle against a foreign foe, who has been striving for three years to enslave our country, God has wished to send to Russia a new and painful trial. Interior troubles threaten to have a fatal repercussion on the final outcome of the war. The destinies of Russia and the honor of our dear fatherland require that the war be prosecuted at all cost to a victorious end. The cruel enemy is making his last effort and the moment is near when our valiant army, in concert with those of our glorious allies, will definitely chastise the foe.
"In these decisive days in the life of Russia, we believe our people should have the closest union and organization of all their forces for the realization of speedy victory. For this reason, in accord with the Duma of the empire, we have considered it desirable to abdicate the throne of Russia and lay aside our supreme power. Not wishing to be separated from our love in the son we leave our heritage to our brother, the Grand Duke Michael Androvitch, blessing his advent to the throne of Russia. We hand over the government to our brother in full union with the representatives of the nation who are seated in the executive chamber, taking this step with an inviolable oath in the name of our well-beloved country. We call on all faithful sons of the fatherland to fulfill their sacred patriotic duty in this painful moment of national trial and to aid our brother and the representatives of the nation in bringing Russia into the path of prosperity and glory. May God aid Russia."

ZEPPELIN FELL A MASS OF FLAMES

Great German Airship Shot Down on The French Front In The West.
(By Associated Press.)
Paris, March 17.—A Zeppelin has been shot down in flames near Compiègne. All of its crew were lost.
The Zeppelin was sighted shortly before dawn and was reached by French anti-aircraft guns at a height of more than two miles. The airship caught fire and the wreckage, with the burned bodies of the crew, fell outside Compiègne.
Compiègne is 45 miles northeast of Paris and is close to the battle front, which the Zeppelin had presumably crossed.
It passed over the town at a height of 3,500 metres. It remained flying in the air for a moment and then fell, striking a garden wall and breaking in two.
All the bombs were thrown overboard during the fall. They dropped on vacant ground. Most of them did not explode.
Several of the crew jumped out and were crushed to death. The others were burned.
An official report says that the Zeppelin brought down was the L-39. The incident occurred, adds the statement, in the region of Compiègne at 5:30 o'clock this morning.
TAR HEEL POSTMASTERS CONFIRMED BY SENATE.
(By George H. Manning.)
Washington, D. C., March 17.—Just before adjourning sine die late yesterday afternoon the Senate confirmed the North Carolina postoffice nominations pending action for some weeks, except that of W. T. Potts, to be postmaster at Highlands. The postmasters confirmed are:
William C. Allen, Sunburst; Albert R. Bauman, Montreal; Annie K. Brown, Red Springs; Joseph B. Colvard, Jefferson; D. O. Daniel, Southport; Wm. H. Lane, Leaksville; Lewis B. McBraver, Sanatorium; Edgar F. McCulloch, Elizabethtown; E. Roy Martin, Maydan; Edward K. Morris, Creedmoor; Archie J. Sykes, Fomona; and George L. Taylor, Fletcher.

BAPAUME AT LAST

(By Associated Press.)
London, March 17.—Bapaume, on the Franco-Belgian front, has been captured by the British, Reuter's Agency announces.
Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters in France says telegraphs that the towns of Le Transloy and Achiet-le-Petit also are reported to be in the hands of the British.
"Our troops entered Bapaume this morning, after stiff fighting," Reuter's correspondent telegraphs. "This place was in flames, the Germans having evidently made all plans for setting fire to it when forced to retreat."
"Our troops are reported to be beyond the town."

NEW HOME OF THE INTERIOR DEPT.

Handsome New Home Provided For Important Part of Government.
Washington, D. C., March 17.—Within the next few weeks the five thousand government officials and clerks connected with the Department of the Interior will begin moving from the many buildings scattered throughout Washington, which they now occupy, to the department's new home, facing the Mall and the new Lincoln Memorial. The new building is the largest, with the possible exception of the Capitol, owned by the government, and larger than any government building in any other country.
The building occupies two entire city squares and has cost the United States two million dollars without mechanical or office equipment. It contains seven stories and has a total of floor space that is surpassed by only one other building in this country, the towering Woolworth Building in New York City. Although the new structure is only seven stories in height, its floor space approximates 785,000 square feet.
The building is nearly square, each side being approximately four hundred feet long. Supporting the building are 7,500 tons of structural steel, a small amount considering the size of the building, but small because the building is low and does not require the heavy steel girders which are absolutely necessary in towering skyscrapers. Nine million bricks are concealed behind the exterior walls of limestone. Incidentally, there are 220,000 cubic feet of limestone. If placed end to end the slabs used to trim the bases of the interior walls would extend twenty-seven miles.
One of the most important points is the unprecedented fact that the huge structure will be delivered to the United States on or ahead of the time specified in the contract. Although it has been the traditional procedure for the government contractor to secure an extension enabling him to complete a building a year or so after the time of delivery first indicated, and although the contractor in this case has been hampered by changes in the plans, other difficulties, he believes now that the building will be ready for occupancy by the middle of next month.
The practical completion of the building marks another step in the government policy to assume all branches of individual departments under one great roof. It shifts the center of governmental activities in Washington. The building is so large that the geological survey has been called upon to take its measurements in the same way that it would measure a mountain in the Rockies. The Survey will weigh building to a pound. The number of tons of terra cotta will be determined, as will the number of miles of water pipes and electric wires, the size of the panes of glass which all of its windows would make, and the length of time it would take a charwoman to wash all of the windows. This is the first time that any such computations of any large building have been made.
It is estimated that if a newsboy should attempt to start at the top of the building and leave a newspaper at each of the one thousand rooms, the news would be stale by the time he reached the main floor. If he were a fast walker he might complete the task in three or four hours. The main corridors alone that he would have to traverse aggregate nearly four miles in length.

RUSSIA TO CARRY ON WAR WITH MORE VIGOR THAN EVER

German View Does Not Consider There Will Be Any Slack in Fighting.
NO OFFER FOR A SEPARATE PEACE
Germany's Hope, However, is That Ultimately The Spirit of Revolt Will Go Unchecked and Thus Will Rear Difficulties For Russian Government.
(By Associated Press.)
Copenhagen, March 17.—(Via London)—The German view of the Russian revolution, so far as it can be made out from the press comments here and from utterances of informed German circles, is that the revolution by no means presages a weakening of the Russian conduct of the war for the time being. No hopes of a change in Russia's determination to continue the struggle or of overtures for a separate peace are expressed. On the contrary it seems to be believed that the new regime will prove even more of a war government.
There seems to be a disposition in certain quarters that the day of Emperor Nicholas' abdication may be celebrated as the birthday of peace, but this idea finds little favor in what are believed to be the best informed German circles. These circles however, seemingly anticipate that the new Russian ministry, although probably is united in determination to prosecute the war with vigor, may later find itself in difficulties which ultimately will help the cause of the central empires. The government, they predict, will not only be faced by the open opposition of the ousted faction but will be exposed to attacks of thousands of revolutionists released from prison and returned from exile, who have been bred upon the spirit of revolt against the government.
A dispatch from Vienna reports that the news of the revolution was greeted by Russian soldiers in the trenches with an outburst of cheering.
LAPLAND HAD TWO NARROW ESCAPES.
(By Associated Press.)
New York, March 17.—Two attempts were made to sink the White Star Liner Lapland on her last outward voyage from this port, beginning February 14, according to officers of the ship which arrived here today from Liverpool.
The first attempt occurred just off the Irish coast when a submarine that appeared in the ship's path was sunk by a patrol boat. The second attempt a few hours later was near the mouth of the Mersey river, when a torpedo was observed passing the Lapland's bow.
NO LOSS OF LIFE IN MEMPHIS FIRE.
(By Associated Press.)
Memphis, Tenn., March 17.—There was no loss of life in the fire which early today virtually destroyed the Graham Apartment building here. The loss is estimated at \$100,000, partly covered by insurance. The fire, it is believed, originated in a defective furnace.
FOREIGN TRADE SHOWS A FALLING OFF
(By Associated Press.)
Washington, March 17.—American foreign trade decreased approximately \$190,000,000 during February, the first month of Germany's unrestricted warfare. In a statement issued today the Department of Commerce gives decrease in exports as \$147,032,659 and the decrease in imports \$42,239,685.

REPORTS CONFLICT AS TO FATE OF RUSS. DYNASTY

Now Said That Grand Duke Michael Still Holds The Throne There.
AIRSHIP RAID OVER LONDON LAST NIGHT
Germans Continue to Retire in The Somme Region—French Still Attacking In Macedonia.
Somewhat conflicting advices are coming out of Russia regarding the fate of the Romanoff dynasty.
Dispatches this morning announced that Grand Duke Michael had accepted the throne from his brother, Nicholas II, subject to the consent of the Russian people expressed through a plebiscite.
Last night's advices reported the abdication of Nicholas II in favor of the Grand Duke Michael and the subsequent abdication of Michael, thus bringing the Romanoff dynasty to an end.
Of the abdication of Emperor Nicholas there can now be no possible doubt, as the text of his manifesto announcing it has been received from Petrograd. What has occurred in the case of Grand Duke Michael, however, is still far from clear.
The stirring news from Russia has detracted attention largely from military operations. Nevertheless, these are almost daily assuming greater scope and importance. The Germans on the Franco-Belgian front, are continuing their retirement and extending it far south of the Somme and by a movement announced today by Berlin, have made at least a beginning on the drawing in of their lines at the point where they have been nearest to Paris—west of Roye.
The Berlin announcement reports the occupation by the French of trenches between Beauvais and Lassigny in this sector, which the Germans had abandoned. "According to our plans," the distance between these two places is about five miles. Paris last night indicated this movement by reporting further progress. "At various points of the front from Andechy to the south of Lassigny," the front on which the withdrawal movement is thus indicated is approximately eleven miles.
Further retrograde movements of the Germans in the Somme region are almost daily occurrences. One was reported by London last night when the occupation by the British of nearly all of St. Pierre Vaast Wood about midway between Bapaume and Peronne and trenches north and south of the wood on a front of 3,000 yards was announced. Berlin virtually concedes this today in mentioning withdrawals. "According to plans" between St. Pierre Vaast Wood of trenches which were occupied by the British.
The French are continuing their attacks in the Monastir region on the Macedonian front in which Berlin yesterday admitted they had won some success. The outcome of the new engagements is not indicated in the German report.
French artilleryists this morning brought down a Zeppelin which was flying over Compiègne two miles high. The airship was broken in two by its fall. All the occupants were killed.
London, dispatches indicate a Zeppelin raid on that city but give no hints as to the damage, if any, or other results. An official statement from London last night reported a raid over the southeastern countries, which were still in progress when the announcement was made. Bombs had been dropped in the county of Kent, it was stated. A news dispatch this morning said 27 bombs were reported to have been dropped in rural districts.

German View Does Not Consider There Will Be Any Slack in Fighting.

NO OFFER FOR A SEPARATE PEACE

Germany's Hope, However, is That Ultimately The Spirit of Revolt Will Go Unchecked and Thus Will Rear Difficulties For Russian Government.
(By Associated Press.)
Copenhagen, March 17.—(Via London)—The German view of the Russian revolution, so far as it can be made out from the press comments here and from utterances of informed German circles, is that the revolution by no means presages a weakening of the Russian conduct of the war for the time being. No hopes of a change in Russia's determination to continue the struggle or of overtures for a separate peace are expressed. On the contrary it seems to be believed that the new regime will prove even more of a war government.
There seems to be a disposition in certain quarters that the day of Emperor Nicholas' abdication may be celebrated as the birthday of peace, but this idea finds little favor in what are believed to be the best informed German circles. These circles however, seemingly anticipate that the new Russian ministry, although probably is united in determination to prosecute the war with vigor, may later find itself in difficulties which ultimately will help the cause of the central empires. The government, they predict, will not only be faced by the open opposition of the ousted faction but will be exposed to attacks of thousands of revolutionists released from prison and returned from exile, who have been bred upon the spirit of revolt against the government.
A dispatch from Vienna reports that the news of the revolution was greeted by Russian soldiers in the trenches with an outburst of cheering.

NEW HOME OF THE INTERIOR DEPT.

Handsome New Home Provided For Important Part of Government.
Washington, D. C., March 17.—Within the next few weeks the five thousand government officials and clerks connected with the Department of the Interior will begin moving from the many buildings scattered throughout Washington, which they now occupy, to the department's new home, facing the Mall and the new Lincoln Memorial. The new building is the largest, with the possible exception of the Capitol, owned by the government, and larger than any government building in any other country.
The building occupies two entire city squares and has cost the United States two million dollars without mechanical or office equipment. It contains seven stories and has a total of floor space that is surpassed by only one other building in this country, the towering Woolworth Building in New York City. Although the new structure is only seven stories in height, its floor space approximates 785,000 square feet.
The building is nearly square, each side being approximately four hundred feet long. Supporting the building are 7,500 tons of structural steel, a small amount considering the size of the building, but small because the building is low and does not require the heavy steel girders which are absolutely necessary in towering skyscrapers. Nine million bricks are concealed behind the exterior walls of limestone. Incidentally, there are 220,000 cubic feet of limestone. If placed end to end the slabs used to trim the bases of the interior walls would extend twenty-seven miles.
One of the most important points is the unprecedented fact that the huge structure will be delivered to the United States on or ahead of the time specified in the contract. Although it has been the traditional procedure for the government contractor to secure an extension enabling him to complete a building a year or so after the time of delivery first indicated, and although the contractor in this case has been hampered by changes in the plans, other difficulties, he believes now that the building will be ready for occupancy by the middle of next month.
The practical completion of the building marks another step in the government policy to assume all branches of individual departments under one great roof. It shifts the center of governmental activities in Washington. The building is so large that the geological survey has been called upon to take its measurements in the same way that it would measure a mountain in the Rockies. The Survey will weigh building to a pound. The number of tons of terra cotta will be determined, as will the number of miles of water pipes and electric wires, the size of the panes of glass which all of its windows would make, and the length of time it would take a charwoman to wash all of the windows. This is the first time that any such computations of any large building have been made.
It is estimated that if a newsboy should attempt to start at the top of the building and leave a newspaper at each of the one thousand rooms, the news would be stale by the time he reached the main floor. If he were a fast walker he might complete the task in three or four hours. The main corridors alone that he would have to traverse aggregate nearly four miles in length.

RUSSIA TO CARRY ON WAR WITH MORE VIGOR THAN EVER

German View Does Not Consider There Will Be Any Slack in Fighting.
NO OFFER FOR A SEPARATE PEACE
Germany's Hope, However, is That Ultimately The Spirit of Revolt Will Go Unchecked and Thus Will Rear Difficulties For Russian Government.
(By Associated Press.)
Copenhagen, March 17.—(Via London)—The German view of the Russian revolution, so far as it can be made out from the press comments here and from utterances of informed German circles, is that the revolution by no means presages a weakening of the Russian conduct of the war for the time being. No hopes of a change in Russia's determination to continue the struggle or of overtures for a separate peace are expressed. On the contrary it seems to be believed that the new regime will prove even more of a war government.
There seems to be a disposition in certain quarters that the day of Emperor Nicholas' abdication may be celebrated as the birthday of peace, but this idea finds little favor in what are believed to be the best informed German circles. These circles however, seemingly anticipate that the new Russian ministry, although probably is united in determination to prosecute the war with vigor, may later find itself in difficulties which ultimately will help the cause of the central empires. The government, they predict, will not only be faced by the open opposition of the ousted faction but will be exposed to attacks of thousands of revolutionists released from prison and returned from exile, who have been bred upon the spirit of revolt against the government.
A dispatch from Vienna reports that the news of the revolution was greeted by Russian soldiers in the trenches with an outburst of cheering.

FOREIGN TRADE SHOWS A FALLING OFF

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, March 17.—American foreign trade decreased approximately \$190,000,000 during February, the first month of Germany's unrestricted warfare. In a statement issued today the Department of Commerce gives decrease in exports as \$147,032,659 and the decrease in imports \$42,239,685.

GRAND DUKE ACCEPTS THE THRONE.

(By Associated Press.)
London, March 17.—Grand Duke Michael has accepted the throne of Russia, conditioned on the consent of the Russian people, according to a statement received here today from the semi-official Russian News Agency.
