

WEATHER FORECAST.
North Carolina—Cloudy tonight and Wednesday; probably rain in west.
South Carolina—Cloudy tonight and Wednesday; probably local rains; warmer tonight in interior.

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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, TUE SDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 20, 1917.

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UNITED STATES VIRTUALLY AT WAR

COUNTRY IS RAPIDLY GETTING READY TO MEET SUB. MENACE

President and Cabinet In Vital Conference This Afternoon.

NEW MOVE EXPECTED SOON TO BE MADE.

Washington Thinks State of War Now Exists—More Submarine Chasers Ordered to Be Constructed at Once. To Enlist Women.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, March 20.—Further steps to protect American lives and property against the warlike operations of German submarines are expected to take some more definite form after today's cabinet meeting. As has been the case since all official Washington acknowledged that a state of war practically exists between the United States and Germany, there is a wide range of speculation on the precise action President Wilson contemplates, but there is no official ground for any forecast.

Calling of Congress in extra session before April 16, the day first chosen for its assembly, still continues foremost among the probabilities, but there are no indications that President Wilson had finally decided upon it. On the other hand, there were some indications that the date of the session would not be advanced. Preparations for carrying out the policy of armed neutrality to its fullest extent are being hurried in the Navy Department. The possibilities of their execution range even to active cooperation at sea with the British and French fleets to clean submarines out of the shipping lanes.

The New Orleans navy yard was today ordered to build at once four submarine chasers. The New York yard yesterday was ordered to build six. Secretary Daniels today ordered naval commandants at shore stations and all recruiting offices to be prepared to enlist women in the actual naval service in case of an emergency. The judge advocate general has ruled that women can be enlisted under the laws regulating recruiting.

While it is not intended to place women aboard ships, they may be utilized for shore duty in connection with coast defense work. Grades corresponding to the "yeoman" class will be given to those qualifying as stenographers, clerks, typists or similar positions. Training in camps, a number of which have been organized under the auspices of the Navy League, also will be recognized by navy officials as a factor in enlisting the women recruits.

Another grade of work for which they are designated is that of radio telegraph and other communication divisions. Difficulty of obtaining men stenographers and clerks for the navy from among the regular enlisted personnel caused the question of women's employment to be taken up. By filling the positions on shore with women, the department expects in time of emergency, to relieve the men for sea service and sea duty.

It was learned definitely before the cabinet meeting that the President had not finally made up his mind on any forward step beyond the active preparation of the navy for any emergency.

For the present President Wilson is taking the position that in all events the Nation must be placed in a better state of preparedness because he believes that from a practical standpoint Germany is making headway on this country. Members of the cabinet apparently were agreed that every possible step to safeguard American rights should be taken, but were not sure whether anything could be gained by advancing the date of the extra session of Congress. No doubt remains in the minds of most officials that unless there is some outlook for change before Congress meets the President will open an extra session with an address making clear the new position into which he feels the United States has been forced by Germany's ruthless disregard of American rights. He may discuss universal military training.

The indications before the cabinet meeting were that there would be (Continued on Page Eight)

ANOTHER BRITISH STEAMER SUNK.

(By Associated Press.)
St. John, N. B., March 20.—Sinking of the British steamer Bray Head, by a German submarine, March 14, was announced in cable advices received by local agents today from the owners of the vessel at Belfast, Ireland. Captain Hoy and 17 members of the crew, the message said, were missing.

GERMANY UNDER THE IRON HEEL

Socialist Writer in Berlin Presents Plain Talk to the People—Wants Reform

(By Associated Press.)
Berlin, Monday, March 19. (Via London, March 20.)—Philipp Scheidemann, Socialist leader in the Reichstag says in the Socialist newspaper Vorwaerts: "It does not require many words to explain why almost the whole world is arrayed against us. The answer is given quickly. The whole world sees among our enemies more or less developed forms of democracy and in us it sees only Prussianism. We have always answered by referring to the absolutism of Russia, but now Czarism has gone and the Emperor's successor is to accept the throne only if the representatives of the people agree. These representatives are to be elected on the basis of universal, equal, direct and secret suffrage."

"In Asia the Empire of the Mandarins opposed every reform. They desired an Emperor with absolute power, as long as he did their will and thereby undermined the monarchy, and laid the foundation of a republic. In the European Central Empire similar spirits seek to build similar Chinese walls and hinder every reform. The clock shows five minutes to 12. They imagine they hold up the time when they move back the hands to 11. "Why does the Chancellor shrink back now from unconditional necessity? Always the hesitator, the procrastinator, Bethmann-Hollweg wants to begin to cure Prussia after the war. Russia also promised all reforms after the war, but the war lasted too long for the Russians. Why postpone till tomorrow what is absolutely necessary today, what even the King himself declared years ago was one of the most urgent matters of the business of the State? Now is the time for decisive action. The difficulties which might arise if the Government adopts the Reichstag system of elections for Prussian elections are as a feather weight as compared with the difficulties which will come if it does not do this. The Chancellor should not delay one day. The Prussian people, as well as the other German states, will stand as one man at his side if he acts decisively."

JAP. WOMAN COMING OVER TO PREACH.

(By Associated Press.)
Tokio, March 20.—Miss Toshiko Sakamaki, a young Japanese woman, is leaving for the United States to preach Shintoism, the great Japanese religion of ancestor worship. She will settle in Los Angeles, and while her initial efforts will be to revive Shintoism among the Japanese in California she will strive generally to convert Americans. She explains her mission as that of endeavoring to counteract the tendency of young Japanese women to neglect the "beautiful manners and customs of old Japanese civilization." She is the first Japanese woman Shinto missionary to visit America. Many times sought in marriage she has always declined, declaring herself wedded to her cause.

Georgia Congressman Ill.
Washington, March 20.—Representative Gordon Lee, of Georgia, is seriously ill at his home here, threatened with pneumonia.

FRENCH TROOPS NEARING LINE OF BIG DEFENSE

Within Striking Distance of The "Von Hindenburg" Strong Position.

BRITISH ARE ALSO MAKING ADVANCE.

Thought Germany Intends to Halt Retreat and Fight—French Have Taken Vast Area.

French troops, pushing hard on the heels of the retreating Germans, are today within striking distance of the "Hindenburg line," the supposed goal of their retiring foe. The milestones on this line are the historic towns of Lille, Cambrai, St. Quentin, Laon and LaFerre.

The troops of General Nivelle were rushing towards St. Quentin yesterday at a rate almost unprecedented in the present world war, and had reached a point within five miles of the city. Unless some unheralded factor has entered into the situation the French have by this time either entered St. Quentin or the German retreat has halted.

In the meantime to the north the British are doggedly pushing forward toward Cambrai and are apparently within striking distance of that town, the heart of the Lille-La Ferre line, and famous since the days of the Romans. The British are advancing more slowly than the French, but nothing either in the official reports from Paris or London, or in the unofficial stories of newspaper correspondents at the front, indicates that either army has yet come in contact with the main German forces.

The theory that the Germans propose to halt their retreat on the Hindenburg line has been put forward by military critics in the allied capitals, but there has been no indication from Berlin of the plans of the German general staff and the purpose and meaning of the dramatic retreat of the invaders of France remain clothed in considerable mystery.

French military observers estimate that the German retreat has already released 150,000 to 200,000 troops who are available for a long predicted counter offensive to be launched against the allied lines at some speculative point. The Paris newspapers regard some such move on the part of the Von Hindenburg as almost certain and discuss the possibility of another tremendous effort to smash a way through to Calais.

In the meantime the only indication of a German attempt to assume the initiative is an apparently sporadic fighting in the Champagne district and on the Verdun front. Nothing has developed in either of these directions to indicate an offensive on a scale great enough to offset the sensational evacuation of a thousand or more square miles in Picardy.

French in Contact With Germans.
Paris, March 20.—The war office announces that the French are still maintaining contact with the Germans along the section of the front over which the retirement is taking place, but that the advance has become more difficult by reason of the destruction of all means of communication and on account of bad weather.

German attacks at Avocourt Wood and Hill 804 on the Verdun front were repulsed. Serious loss was inflicted on the Germans.

French troops in Macedonia, according to a war office announcement this afternoon, have captured a hill and two towns about three miles north of Monastir, after stubborn resistance by their antagonists. They also took more than 1,200 prisoners, including 11 officers.

Military activity by British forces east of Lake Doiran resulted in the (Continued on Page Eight)

ANCIENT REGIME OF RUSSIA HAS GONE FOREVER

Old is Dead and The New Will Hereafter Hold Forth.

REPUBLICAN FORM MAY BE ESTABLISHED.

Council of Ministers In Full Control Pending Decision—Jews Will be Free.

(By Associated Press.)
Petrograd, Monday, March 19 (Via London, March 20).—Russia's government today, will rest exclusively in the control of the council of ministers until the convocation of the constitutional assembly. The duma committee having fulfilled its task, will surrender its extraordinary powers to a cabinet whose premier, Prince Lvoff, will have the authority approximating that of the President of a republic.

It is impossible as yet to forecast with any certainty the final form the government will assume since it will depend entirely upon the collective will of the entire population.

The belief prevails in official circles that the opinion of the country will favor a republican form of government under a commission similar to the governing body of Switzerland.

In any event the old regime is dead, the foreign office today informed the Associated Press and nothing can resurrect it. If the people decide upon a monarchy, it will be a monarchy of the most limited type and the monarch will be ruler in name only. The foreign office reiterated the declaration concerning the liberty and full rights for all the races of the nation, and it was stated that since this was applicable to Jews nothing stood in the way of a new commercial treaty with the United States.

MURDERERS MAKE DARING GET-AWAY FROM BIG CITY JAIL

Will Make Hard Fight For It

Democrats Believe They Can Elect One of Their Kind In New Hampshire.

(By George H. Manning.)
Washington, March 20.—The Democrats are going to make a hard fight to elect a Democratic successor to Congressman Cyrus Sulloway, Republican, of New Hampshire, who died here a week ago of pneumonia. A special election will soon be ordered held by the Governor of New Hampshire to elect Mr. Sulloway's successor.

Three of the best Democratic campaigners in the last presidential election, Speaker Champ Clark, Congressman Thomas Heflin, of Alabama, and Senator Ollie James of Kentucky, were today invited to campaign in New Hampshire for the Democratic nomination, and have accepted.

It is claimed by the Democrats that with the help of good Democratic speakers like Clark, Heflin and James, who are in the confidence of the President, they can elect a Democrat and obtain the vote that will give the party almost undisputed control of the House of Representatives.

AIRSHIP DROPPED SIX SMALL BOMBS.

(By Associated Press.)
Amsterdam, March 20.—(Via London)—A telegram received here from Frankfurt-on-the-Main says that on March 18 a hostile airplane flew over the town and dropped six small bombs, one of which slightly damaged the roof of a house. The others fell in the river or in fields and caused no damage. The airplane was fired on by anti-aircraft guns.

The French war office announced on Saturday that Frankfurt-on-the-Main had been bombed by a French airplane in reprisal for the setting afire of Bapaume.

ENTENTE LOOSENS GRIP ON GREECE; FOOD FLOWS IN.

Permits Wheat to be Landed In Answer to Appeal From the Government.

INDICATE LIFTING OF BLOCKADE.

Allies Promised to Relinquish Blockade if Greece Met Demands—Entente Minister Back in Athens.

(By Associated Press.)
London, March 20.—The ministers to Greece of the Entente nations have again taken up their residence in Athens. Reuters correspondent there reports. The discharge of a cargo of wheat destined for Piraeus begins today.

The admission of wheat to Greece indicates the lifting of the blockade which has been in effect for several weeks. The Greek government has made repeated representations that widespread suffering was being caused by the shutting off of food supplies to which the Entente responded that the blockade would be lifted when Greece had complied fully with its demands. The most important of these demands were the transfer of the army to Lower Greece and disbanding of the reservists, for the purpose of removing the possibility of an attack by Greek troops on the rear of the allied forces in Macedonia.

WHALE BACK SHIP HAS GONE ASHORE.

(By Associated Press.)
Norfolk, Va., March 20.—The whale-back steamer Bay View, owned by the White Oak Transportation Company, of New York, is ashore at Hog Island. She is light. Assistance has been sent from Norfolk. The vessel is not thought to be in any danger.

MURDERERS MAKE DARING GET-AWAY FROM BIG CITY JAIL

David Overton and Others Escape From Prison In Birmingham Today.

EVIDENTLY RESULT OF A BIG PLOT.

Wardens Quietly Subdued Men Ran to Outside, Jumped Into Auto and Disappeared—Posse In Hot Pursuit.

(By Associated Press.)
Birmingham, Ala., March 20.—In what is believed by officials to be the successful culmination of carefully laid plans, David D. Overton, under sentence for the murder of Judge W. T. Lawler, in Huntsville last summer, with six other prisoners, two under death sentence, all armed with either revolvers or razors, early today overpowered their keepers and escaped from the Jefferson county jail here, and took flight in a small automobile. They are believed to have gone north, and are being pursued by a posse of deputy sheriffs in motor cars.

The men who escaped with Overton were Tony Molina and Sam Messina, under death sentence for the murder of a peddler here several months ago, and four other prisoners under indictment on felony charges.

The escape occurred about 8 o'clock and apparently was carried out with precision. Tony Molina was at breakfast in his cell with Inside Warden Orr and Wade Allen, a turnkey, according to these officials. Suddenly Molina jumped from his seat in the cell where the trio were eating and threw the brake on the door locking the two in. The doors to the cells which held the other prisoners were quickly unlocked. The prisoners rushed out and were met by Turnkey W. H. Cole, and overpowered him. From the corridors they rushed into the jail yard. There they met Warden Lem Lavender, Overton and Messina held him up, Overton carrying a revolver and Messina a razor. They took the warden's keys away and locked him in the jail kitchen.

From the jail yard the prisoners are said to have rushed down an alley leading into Twenty-first street. When they reached Twenty-first street they were seen by Deputy Sheriff M. G. Smith, who was driving to the jail. He turned his car quickly, he said, and at the same moment the (Continued on Page Three.)

INTERNED GERMANS MADE BOLD BREAK FROM NAVY YARD

Attempted to Gain Freedom From Philadelphia Camp But Caught. MANY THOUGHT TO HAVE ESCAPED. Marines and City Police Succeeded in Rounding Up Others—Fourteen Concerned in The Attempted Escape.

NO LIVES LOST ON CITY OF MEMPHIS.

(Associated Press.)
New York, March 20.—No lives were lost in the sinking of the American steamer, City of Memphis, in the German submarine zone. The boat which was missing containing Captain Borum and seven men has reached Glasgow safely, according to a dispatch received here from the captain today by the owners, the Ocean Steamship Company.

KNITTING MILL BEING ORGANIZED

Tar Heel Manufacturers Meeting Today For This In Charlotte.

(By Associated Press.)
Charlotte, N. C., March 20.—A State organization of the knitting mills of North Carolina is being perfected here today. Representatives of the ninety-nine mills are here. Trade subjects and markets are the chief discussion, especially foreign markets, and plans are to be made for extension of foreign trade. W. Graham Clark United States Department of Commerce, Boston, will make the principal address. His subject will be "Hosiery Trade With South America."

The knitting mill industry has made rapid progress in North Carolina the past year. Of the 6,197 machines added to the mills in the Southern States, 3,075 of them were installed in North Carolina mills.

GRAIN CROP SMALLER IN NORTH CAROLINA.

(By George H. Manning.)
Washington, D. C., March 20.—The wheat, oats and corn crops of North Carolina will be considerably smaller this year than in 1916, it is estimated by the Agriculture Department, based upon reports from the crop agents on the condition on March 18. The department estimates the North Carolina wheat crop will be 1,769,000 bushels this year compared with 2,551,000 bushels last year; the oats crop will be 853,000 bushels in 1917 compared with 1,288,000 bushels last year; and the corn crop will be 21,996,000 this year, compared with 29,232,000 in 1916.

PALMETTO GOVERNOR APPEARS WARLIKE

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, March 20.—Governor Manning, of South Carolina, a White House caller today, said that, although he had been opposed to war with Germany until recently, he believed the time had come for using the full strength of the United States to protect its rights. He declared for an immediate summoning of Congress, the calling out of the militia, the summoning of volunteers and the aggressive use of the navy.

"BUD" WEISER NOW MUCH WISER.

(By Associated Press.)
Little Rock, Ark., March 20.—Harry "Bud" Weiser, secured from the Philadelphia Nationals with Pitcher Ben Tincup in a trade for Ernie Walker, who had declined to report because of fear of heat in the South, today wired he would join the Little Rock, Southern Association, at once.

SUPREME COURT TO RECESS APRIL 9TH.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, March 20.—A recess of the Supreme Court after decisions next Monday until April 9 was announced today by Chief Justice White.

Attempted to Gain Freedom From Philadelphia Camp But Caught.

MANY THOUGHT TO HAVE ESCAPED.

Marines and City Police Succeeded in Rounding Up Others—Fourteen Concerned in The Attempted Escape.

(By Associated Press.)
Philadelphia, March 20.—The police today said that from three to ten of the crew of the German raiders Kronprinz Wilhelm and Prinz Eitel Friedrich got away in the dash for liberty last night in which four sailors were captured. Navy Yard officials are silent but the police say possibly ten men got away.

A search today around the marsh where some of the men were caught revealed ten life-preservers, three discarded uniforms and a dagger. Civilian clothing in oil skin bags was found and this was believed to have been placed there by accomplices. The police say each of the men had \$100 in new ten-dollar bills.

Four men were captured while attempting to leave their ship. The crews of the Kronprinz Wilhelm and the Prinz Eitel Friedrich were at once mustered and it was found that the lieutenant and nine men were missing.

Two of the four men caught while attempting to leave their ship were in civilian dress and were well supplied with money.

In connection with the coup, it may or may not be significant that Baron von Schoen, a former attaché of the German embassy, transferred to Mexico before the break with Berlin, recently has been reported traveling in the United States.

In the light of the present situation, and all the circumstances, the presence of a German diplomatic agent abroad in the country is looked upon with some concern. The prospect of German sailors at large also is regarded with apprehension.

All the men interned at Philadelphia are to be transferred this week to Forts McPherson and Oglethorpe, Georgia, where they will be kept in stockades and guarded by troops of the 17th Infantry.

WOULD RAISE RATES ON COAL BY FREIGHT.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, March 20.—Proposals to increase freight rates on bituminous coal from Virginia and West Virginia fields to the seaboard from 5 to 6 cents per ton among the fields in Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky, to New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore by five cents a ton have been filed by the railroads with the Interstate Commerce Commission. The advances would become effective between April 1 and April 16.

Applications to suspend the proposed increases will be heard informally by the commission Thursday.

ALL BUT TWO MEMBERS HAVE NOW REPORTED.

(By Associated Press.)
Nashville, Tenn., March 20.—Only two members of the Nashville Baseball Club have not reported, Pitcher Kroh and Third Baseman Kross. Ray O'Brien, outfielder, purchased from Davenport in the I. League, reported today.

GRANDSON OF FAMED MAN AN INVENTOR.

(By United Press.)
Williston, N. D., March 20.—Charles J. Field, grandson of Cyrus K. Field, the man who laid the first trans-Atlantic cable and turned it over to the American government, has invented a torpedo, designed to guide itself on a magnetic control, into the bowels of enemy vessels. The torpedo attaches itself to the ship by magnetism and remains there until its explosion, which is controlled by a timing device. Government tests credit the torpedo with seven out of eight perfect explosions.