

WEATHER FORECAST.
North Carolina—Rain tonight, slightly colder in west. Thursday, generally fair.
South Carolina—Cloudy tonight, rain in north. Thursday, fair; slightly colder in the interior.

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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 21, 1917.

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CONGRESS CALLED TO MEET APRIL 2ND

A DECLARATION OF WAR EXPECTED

COUNTRY APPEALS TO WILSON FOR ACTION AND HE RESPONDS

President Summons National Lawmakers to Meet the Crisis of the Times.

STATE OF WAR WILL NO DOUBT BE DECLARED

Necessary For Congress to Take Action Promptly—Manufacturers of Country Ready to Throw Great Plants in the Scales.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, March 21.—President Wilson, recognizing that Germany practically is making war on the United States, today called Congress to assemble in extraordinary session on April 2 to deal with the situation.

The purpose of the session, now called two weeks earlier than the date first set, as announced in the President's proclamation, is to receive a communication from the Chief Executive on grave questions of National policy.

The President in his address to Congress will detail how Germany practically has been making war on the United States by the ruthless destruction of American lives and ships on the high seas in contravention of all the laws of nations and humanity.

Congress then is expected to pass a resolution declaring that a state of war has existed between the United States and Germany for some time. Such a resolution, in itself, will not be a declaration of war in a technical sense, although practically it will amount to the same thing.

As a consequence, the United States will take further steps to protect its interests on the high seas and elsewhere against the warlike acts of Germany and whether an actual state of war will come to exist in its full sense will depend on the future acts of the imperial German government.

Since last Sunday when three American ships were sunk in quick succession with loss of American lives—bringing the total number of Americans lost through German submarine operations to more than 200—President and all his advisers have recognized that a state of war existed, from all parts of the country have come calls for the immediate summoning of Congress in extraordinary session.

Although the President by the provisions of the Constitution, must leave it to Congress to make the practical decision of war, such advice from members of Congress, Government officials, public officials and many hundreds of citizens have convinced the President of the necessity of the move.

The cabinet, which urged the move upon the President at yesterday's session, is described by its members as having been more thoroughly united than it has been on any other question that has come before it.

PRESIDENT'S CALL FOR QUICK ACTION

(By Associated Press.) Washington, March 21.—The President's proclamation, calling Congress to assemble April 2, follows: "Whereas public interest requires that the Congress of the United States should be convened in extra session at 12 o'clock noon on the second day of April, 1917, to receive a communication by the executive on grave questions of National policy;

requires the Congress of the United States to convene in extra session at the capitol in the City of Washington on the second day of April, 1917, at 12 o'clock noon, of which all persons who shall at that time be entitled to act as members thereof, are hereby required to take notice.

AMERICANS LOST ON VIGILANCIA

Consul General Receives the Names of Those Supposed Dead.

(By Associated Press.) London, March 21.—Robert P. Skinner, the American consul-general, has received a list of the following five Americans lost from the American steamer Vigilancia, torpedoed and sunk last Friday:

Neils North, third officer.
F. Brown.
Joseph Fibera.
Estphan Lopez.
C. F. Aderahold.

AIRSHIP FACTORY MEN ON STRIKE

(By Associated Press.) Buffalo, N. Y., March 21.—Two hundred men employed by the Curtiss Aeroplane Company went on strike today. The men are employed in the metal parts division, where work is under way on army and navy orders.

ANOTHER ARAB CHIEF REVOLTS AGAINST TURK

(By Associated Press.) London, March 21.—Another important chieftain in Arabia has risen against the Turks, Foreign Secretary Balfour announced in the House of Commons today. The Turkish force near Aden has been isolated from Turkish headquarters.

GERMANY STARTS NEW RECRUITING CAMPAIGN

(By Associated Press.) Amsterdam, (Via London), March 21.—Germany has started a new and elaborate recruiting campaign in Poland, according to a Koenigsberg dispatch to the Frankfurter Zeitung quoting Polish papers. Under the new scheme 17 main recruiting offices, 74 district offices and 400 local bureaus have been opened. An appeal of the state council to the Poles to join the colors, will shortly be issued.

FRENCH RAPIDLY PUSHING ON IN WESTERN DRIVE

Today They Are in Sight of St. Quentin, Long Headquarters of Emperor.

TEUTONIC RETREAT HAS NOT HALTED

Battle in Macedonia Grows in Intensity—Russians Have Broken Through in Mesopotamia.

St. Quentin, reputed headquarters of the German Emperor and his general staff for the two years following the battle of the Marne, and scene of a great French defeat in the war of 1870, is today within sight of the French infantry who are following fast on the heels of the retreating German army. Twelve miles to the south French troops are also looking down upon LaFere, and are within reach of the German heavy guns if the invaders have really elected to hold the famous Hindenburg line, running from Lille to Laon.

So far there is no evidence that the German retreat has halted, such facts as are known indicating the contrary. LaFere is supposed to be one of the corner stones of the Hindenburg line, yet General Nivelle has been able to occupy Tergnier, less than two miles from LaFere, apparently without encountering serious resistance. Tergnier is an important railroad junction from which three roads branch, one north to LaFere, a second southwest to Noyon, and a third northwest to St. Quentin. Even more significant is the fact that the British, advancing on the north against Cambrai, another vital point on the Hindenburg line, have seen incendiary fires blazing in the rear of that town.

The only fact to offset these evidences that the Germans are still retreating is that the advance of both British and French materially slackened yesterday. This is officially explained as due to an equinoctial gale which swept over the blackened wilderness in which the opposing armies were maneuvering. The British, whose advance has been constantly slower than that of the French, are still an appreciable distance from Cambrai, their nearest outpost being about 12 miles from that city.

The great importance of Cambrai lies in the fact that it is the principal barrier between the Allies and the great French coal and iron fields around Valenciennes, 20 miles further west. These fields have been held by the Germans since the first sweep through Belgium.

While uncertainty still reigns as to the outcome of the great drama being staged in Picardy the Germans continue their efforts to create a diversion in the region of Verdun, but so far nothing has developed to indicate that a major operation is under way. The most important fighting reported from any other theatre is from the long-quiet Macedonian front. Here the fighting between the Bulgar-Teutonic forces and General Sarraill's French troops has been steadily growing in severity with conflicting reports as to its results.

Russians Cross Frontier. Petrograd, March 21.—Via London (British Admiralty Press Wire Service).—Russian troops driving southwestward from Sakiz, Persia, have crossed the Mesopotamian frontier into Turkish territory, the war office announced today.

PLEAD GUILTY TO GERMAN CONSPIRACY

(By Associated Press.) New York, March 21.—Albert O. Sander and Charles N. Wunnenburg, indicted as members of the Central Powers War Film Exchange, on the charge of engaging in a military enterprise and sending spies to England to get information for the German military authorities, today pleaded guilty. They will be sentenced tomorrow.

DEPOSED EMPEROR TO BE EXILED

(By Associated Press.) London, March 21.—The Russian government has ordered that the deposed Emperor and his consort shall be regarded as having been deprived of their liberty and that they shall be brought to the Tsarskoe-Selo, Reuters' Petrograd correspondent telegraphs.

BULGARS HURLING GAS BOMBS KILL MANY CHILDREN

Threw Such Projectile Into Open City of Monastir On March 17th.

WOMEN AND OLD MEN ALSO AMONG VICTIMS.

Shell Fire Also Obtained Big Harvest in Death of Women and Children—Violent Bombardment.

(By Associated Press.) Corfu, Greece, March 20 (Via London, March 21).—Asphyxiating gas bombs thrown into the open city of Monastir by the Bulgarians in their violent bombardment on March 17 killed more than 60 civilians, including 25 women and 27 children, according to the Serbian press bureau. Nearly twenty others, mostly women and children, were killed by shell fire. The bureau has received the following from Saloniki: "According to supplementary reports the exact number of the victims of the terrible bombardment of the open town of Monastir by the Bulgarians on March 17 was: Killed, five old men, nine women, five children. "Wounded, two old men, two women. "Killed by asphyxiating gas: Six old men, 25 women, 31 children. "Suffering from the effects of gas, 61, who are not expected to recover."

THREE KILLED IN PISTOL FIGHT

Man Sought by Police Opened Fire and Tragedy Quickly Enacted.

(By Associated Press.) Vancouver, B. C., March 21.—Three persons are dead today as the result of a shotgun and revolver fight last night between the police and a man they sought to arrest. The dead: Chief of Police Malcolm B. MacLennan.

George Rolph, 9 years old. Robert Tait, negro. Tait, said to have been a drug addict, opened fire from a window on Chief MacLennan and a police squad as they approached a lodging house whose proprietor had telephoned that whose proprietor had telephoned that shot killed the Rolph boy.

The police squad rushed the house, but was driven off, Chief MacLennan having fallen just inside the door. Two hours later, when the police effected entrance, MacLennan was found dead, his head shattered by bullets. The negro also was dead, whether from the attacker's bullets or from a self-inflicted wound could not be ascertained. Two policemen suffered wounds about the head. Tait was armed with a shot gun and automatic pistol.

Tait's wife was found in the house, unharmed and taken into custody. She is held on a charge of murder.

PROMINENT CITIZEN DEAD IN ROBESON

Mr. James T. Barker Passed Away This Morning—Two Children Reside Here.

(Special to The Dispatch.) Lumberton, N. C., March 21.—James T. Barker, a prominent citizen of Lumberton, died this morning at 10:30 o'clock, after an illness of one week. Mr. Barker had been in failing health for some time, but his condition did not take a serious turn until the past few days. Had he lived until April he would have been sixty-seven years old. Mr. Barker is survived by his wife, three sons and two daughters, D. M. Barker, James Barker, Johnnie Barker, Mrs. A. J. Linkhaw and J. J. Moore, the two latter of Wilmington. Funeral arrangements have not yet been completed.

CONGRESS TO BACK PRESIDENT WILSON DECLARE LEADERS

Chairman Flood, of House Foreign Affairs Committee, Certain of This.

KITCHIN ISSUES CALL FOR CAUCUS ON MARCH 30TH

Republicans Are Expected to Summon the Clan for Conference.

PARTY LEADERS HURRYING BACK

Emergency Action Will Be First Considered by the New House After Organization.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, March 21.—Word was received here this afternoon from Majority Leader Kitchin that a Democratic caucus to consider organization of the new House will be held March 30. The call was issued from his North Carolina home. The caucus had been set for April 12. The Republicans had tentatively planned a caucus for April 14, but they also are expected to advance their meeting. Calls for all party leaders to hurry back to Washington went out immediately after the President's proclamation was issued. Speaker Clark is expected from New Orleans Friday. Republican Leader Mann is in Chicago.

At the capitol those Congressmen already here agreed that granting of emergency authority, in some form, will be the first business after organization of the House. Some members favor maintaining the present temporarily to expedite emergency business on which there are no party lines, thus avoiding a political fight. Outside of all emergency legislation the four failed supply bills—army, military academy, general deficiency and sundry civil—which include some legislation of vital import to National defense, will be pressed for quick enactment.

Clark Back to Washington. New Orleans, March 21.—Speaker Champ Clark, of the House of Representatives, who is visiting his daughter, Mrs. James M. Thompson, and family here, when informed of the President's call for an extra session of Congress April 2, stated that he would leave tonight for Washington.

While it is not known how much money President Wilson may suggest to Congress as necessary to meet the situation, leaders in the Senate have held the view that not less than \$500,000,000 should be granted at once in case war is declared. It is not probable that legislation giving such a sum would meet with any opposition.

When the word that the President had summoned Congress went through the allied embassies this morning, it was received with acclaim.

TOKIO GROWS IN IMPORTANCE TO BRITISH

(By Associated Press.) Tokyo, March 21.—Additional evidence of the growing importance of Tokio in British eyes is found in the announcement that a new monthly review will be started in Japan by Englishmen with the specific object of developing the understanding that exists between Japan and Great Britain. This organ follows the recent appearance of a French periodical known as "L'Information d'Extreme-Orient," which is published weekly in French and Japanese to further the understanding between Japan and France. The title of the English review, which will also have a Japanese section is "The New East."

Chairman Flood, of House Foreign Affairs Committee, Certain of This.

STATE OF WAR NOW LIKELY TO BE DECLARED

Cabinet Discusses Liberty of American Ports For Entente Warships and Co-operation. Allies' Embassies Joyous Over the News.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, March 21.—President Wilson's action today was quickly followed by predictions at the capitol that Congress speedily would declare a state of war existing.

Chairman Flood, of the House Foreign Affairs committee, said he expected Congress would quickly pass a resolution declaring that a state of war exists and endorsing the President's course.

"Congress will declare that a state of war exists, will endorse the President's stand and will make whatever appropriations are necessary to enable the President to carry forward the war plans as quickly as possible," said Mr. Flood.

"There probably will be an appropriation of very much more than the \$100,000,000 provided in the armed neutrality bill which passed the House and failed in the Senate. There will not be any material opposition to immediate legislation along these lines."

Senator Poindexter, Republican, of Washington, said today that "Congress will pass quickly a law authorizing a limited war on German submarines."

"I expect Congress," he said, "to take vigorous action immediately." It became known today that yesterday's cabinet meeting discussed what active steps the United States should take after a state of war is declared, considering the opening of American ports to warships of the entente allies, the opening of the vast credits to the allies for their supplies and co-operating action with the allied fleets in clearing the submarines out of the shipping lanes and guarding transports to Europe.

One of the measures now under consideration by the Federal Shipping Board is the building of a large standardized fleet of small wooden cargo steamers to carry supplies through the submarine zone. The question of participation of an American army on the European battlefields was touched upon, it was understood, as one of the possibilities of the future, but not to be considered as a protective step now.

While it is not known how much money President Wilson may suggest to Congress as necessary to meet the situation, leaders in the Senate have held the view that not less than \$500,000,000 should be granted at once in case war is declared. It is not probable that legislation giving such a sum would meet with any opposition.

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