

WEATHER FORECAST. North Carolina—Fair and colder tonight; probably light frost in the west and central portions; Sunday, fair. South Carolina—Fair and colder tonight; probably light frost in north; Sunday, fair.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FINAL EDITION

VOL. XXIII. NO. 65.

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 24, 1917.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

GERMAN LINE MENACED BY THE ALLIES

Hindenburg's Position Threatened by a Flanking Movement by The French

GERMANS OPEN FLOOD-GATES AT LA FEVE.

French and British Troops Make Further Gains—Germans Alive to The Seriousness of Their Position—Attack on Russian Lines.

Increased peril to the so-called Hindenburg line of the Germans in Northern France, running through Cambrai, St. Quentin, LaFere and Compiègne, is indicated by today's Paris official statement.

The French are continuing their pressure from St. Quentin to the Aisne and have driven through to the Oise river, directly north of LaFere, at some points. Apparently they have gained control of the high ground in this region and command the city with their guns.

That the Germans were despairing of holding LaFere, a keypoint in the Hindenburg line, was indicated by last night's announcement that they had opened the sluice gates and flooded the city. The new French advance to the Oise is a hardy feat to make the place still more difficult to hold.

Further progress also has been made by the French farther to the southwest on the east bank of the Aisne, where they have fallen back towards their new line, are apparently offering a stiff resistance. Paris military circles also point to a German raid here, where the left end of the German line at St. Gobain is threatened with outflanking.

Reports from the British end of the line also indicated strong German resistance, but recorded also the capture of General Haig's forces notably in the region southwest of Arras.

In part, at least, the German retreat in France may be explained by an official statement of the new Russian war ministry that the Germans are concentrating great quantities of munitions, supplies and men for the northern end of the Russian front. A Teutonic offensive soon is important but long neglected war area is thus indicated.

Field Marshal von Hindenburg, who is credited with establishing the new line in the west, is classed as a believer in the theory that a decision in the war can best be gained by a campaign on the eastern front against Russia.

Meanwhile the Russian provisional government continues its efforts to strengthen its defensive measures. One of the most important of the constituent parties of the new government, that of the Constitutional Democrats, led by Foreign Minister Shukoff, has just voted through its committee of parliamentary representatives for a republican form of government for Russia.

Paris, March 24.—The Allies continue to force ahead on the center and western right, and made substantial progress yesterday in the direction of St. Quentin and LaFere in the north of Germany determined resistance. Notwithstanding the efforts of the Germans to destroy the roads as they retired, the Allies have managed to bring up a good force of all their heaviest artillery, and the guns are again busy after a long rest.

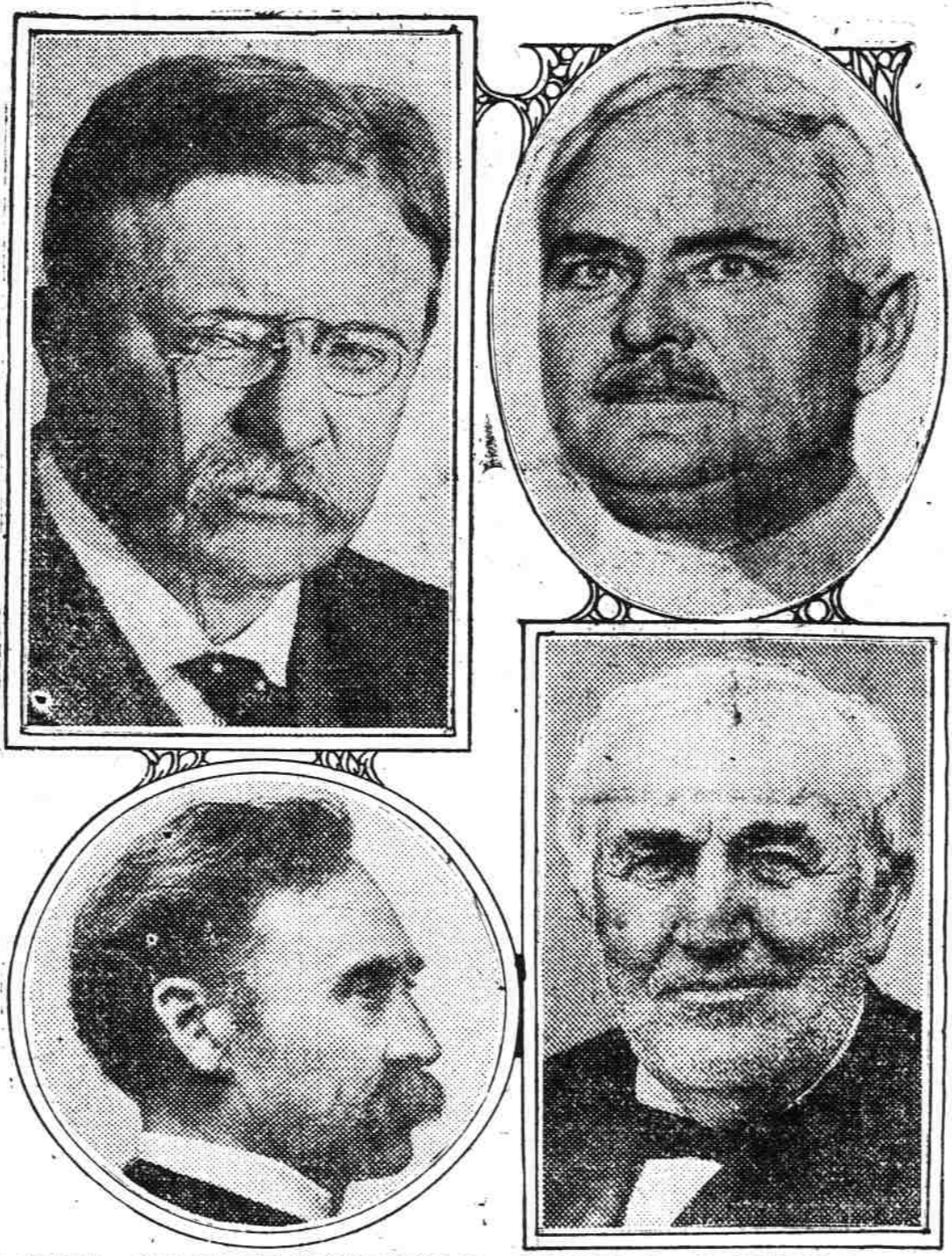
The pressure of the French from St. Quentin to the Aisne is so powerful that it begins to seem doubtful, in the opinion of the French military circles, as to whether the Germans will be able to hold on to the so-called Hindenburg line. The invaders have opened the sluice at LaFere, apparently feeling that their chances of holding the town are not good, now that the French have got a footing on the high ground in the Jussy region, southwest of Tergnier. If General Nivelle is able to establish himself in this position his guns will command LaFere.

Further south the French are making solid progress against the five-mile salient covering St. Gobain and formed by the lower Coucy forests. The columns here are working hand-in-hand with columns operating southwest of Soissons in the direction of Laon. The latter made continuous progress today and their advance extended the left extremity of the German line at St. Gobain to the risk of being outflanked and driven back on Laon.

It is evident that the German staff is alive to the growing danger, and they are making desperate efforts to check the French advance. The fighting is fiercer here than in any other section.

(Continued on Page Eight)

FAMOUS MEN WHO WOULD BE CALLED FROM PRIVATE LIFE IN CASE OF WAR.



ABOVE—THEODORE ROOSEVELT & GENERAL GOETHALS. BELOW—REAR-ADMIRAL PEARY & THOMAS A. EDISON.

Many hundreds of famous men would give up private life and place themselves at the call of the government in case of war with Germany. Here you see four of the most famous of America's famous "men who have done things," who promptly would offer their services to their country.

Colonel Roosevelt's value as a leader of men cannot be questioned. His name would be as valuable as a recruiting factor in America as was Kitchener's in England. Thousands upon thousands would follow Colonel Roosevelt, where they might hesitate to follow another.

A SEA MONSTER TO BE LAUNCHED

The New Mexico, Super-dreadnaught, Most Ready For The Water.

Washington, D. C., March 24.—At this time when the public mind is fixed on the question of the national defense, battleship construction possesses more than ordinary interest.

The forty-second battleship built for American navy since 1892 will take the water next month, when the super-dreadnaught New Mexico slips from the ways at the New York navy yard. Compared to the first modern battleship of the American navy, the Indiana, launched in 1893, the New Mexico will be nearly twice as long, half again as wide and of three times as great displacement. Against the Indiana's four 13-inch guns and eight 5-inch, the New Mexico will carry twelve 14-inch and twenty-two 5-inch rifles.

In addition to the great size of the new ship's main battery, the guns are of forty-five calibre as against the thirty-five calibre of the Indiana's 13-inch guns, identical with those aboard the famous old Oregon, which played their part in the battle of Santiago. With the fourteen guns of the New Mexico in her turrets, the Oregon could have halted any one of the fleeing Spanish ships almost without leaving her station. The New Mexico's guns will have a range, even at the low elevation of American navy mountings, of fifteen miles or more, against eight or nine miles for the old thirteen.

The New Mexico will be the sixth battleship built by the United States in its own navy yard at New York. The others were the Connecticut, the dreadnaught Florida, and the super-dreadnaughts New York and Arizona, in addition to the California, now building.

AMERICAN AFFAIRS IN THE BALKANS

Taken Charge of By The Embassy at Constantinople.

Berlin, March 24.—(Via London.)—A telegram from Sofia says that the American embassy at Constantinople has taken charge of the legation at the Bulgarian capital. The legation was formerly conducted in connection with the Bucharest legation.

Charles J. Vopicka was formerly American minister to Rumania, Serbia, and Bulgaria. After the capture of Bucharest by the Germans, Mr. Vopicka, then in residence there, was asked to leave in common with the other neutral ministers. He returned to the United States and since then Moewe, has been appointed aide de camp to Emperor William.

JURY FAILED TO REACH VERDICT IN RAE TANZER CASE

After Being Out For Sixty-seven Hours Jurors Discharged Today.

HOLDS RECORD IN NEW YORK CITY.

Case Was Outcome of Attempted Blackmailing of Jas. W. Osborne—Tried In Federal Court.

(By The Associated Press.) New York, March 24.—The Federal jury trying Rae Tanzer, charged with perjury in her breach of promise suit against former Assistant District Attorney James W. Osborne, was unable to reach a verdict after deliberating 67 hours, and was discharged today by Judge Van Fleet. The jury was nearly in a state of collapse. After the 65th hour one of the 12 was stricken with acute indigestion and was attended by a physician.

This was the longest deliberation by a Federal jury in this district, court officials recalling today that the previous record was 61 hours in the case against the New Haven Railroad officials in 1916.

ENTIRE REGIMENTS OF BULGARIANS DESERT

(By Associated Press.) London, March 24.—Semi-official dispatches from Serbian headquarters in the last few days have reported serious trouble among the Bulgarian troops around Monastir.

Several regiments are reported to have deserted in a body as the result of friction over supplies and their relations with their Teuton allies.

According to these reports it has been necessary to rearrange several large units for the Bulgarian army, distributing troops of suspected loyalty to places where they could do the least harm.

WALLER ACCEPTS PRISON FOR LIFE

Farmer Convicted of Murder in Louisiana Has Withdrawn Appeal.

(By Associated Press.) Minden, La., March 24.—Henry Waller, farmer, convicted of killing John Nelson Reeves on Christmas eve last, and sentenced to life-imprisonment in the State penitentiary, formally withdrew his notice of appeal and agreed to accept the verdict of the jury. His attorneys filed the necessary notice of withdrawal. In consideration of Waller's abandonment of appeal the prosecution agreed to drop the three remaining charges of murder against him. Waller also was indicted for killing the three children of Reeves, who were slain at the same time as his father.

This probably will end the Reeves case, which has resulted in the conviction of five men, four of them negroes. Chester Tyson and Mark Peters, negroes, were sentenced to be hanged.

STEVENS-WATTS WEDDING TODAY.

(By Associated Press.) Philadelphia, Pa., March 24.—Miss Frances Watts, daughter of Ethelbert Watts, United States consul-general in Belgium, and Theodosius Stevens, of Castle Point, Hoboken, were married today. The ceremony was performed at the Watts residence in the presence of members of the two families and a small party of intimate friends.

AMERICAN SAILORS CAPTURED BY GERMANS

(By Associated Press.) Copenhagen, Friday, March 23 (Via London, March 24).—The return of the German raider, Moeve, to a German port, having on board about 600 sailors, the crews of merchantmen captured during the last part of the cruise, may give rise to a new Yarrowdale case, as it is probable a number of Americans who were serving on armed merchantmen were captured by the raider. According to the German rule, such men would be treated as prisoners of war.

Among the British steamers destroyed after the Yarrowdale was sent to Germany, the Governor, 5,524 tons gross; Demeteron, 6,048 tons; Otaki, 9,575 tons, and Brecknockshire, are specifically mentioned in the official account of the Moeve's return as having been armed.

London, March 24.—A Central News dispatch from Amsterdam says it is reported from Berlin that Count von Dohna-Scholdien, commander of the Moeve, has been appointed aide de camp to Emperor William.

ABANDONMENT OF THE GERMAN EMPEROR NOW FORECAST

THE DESOLATION LEFT BY GERMANS IN NORTHERN FRANCE

Great Rejoicing of The People In The Recovered Territory.

AMERICAN CHARITY SAVED THEIR LIVES.

American Relief Committee Distributing Food Among The People, Who Tell Their Sad Experiences

With the British Armies in France, Thursday, March 22 (From a Staff Correspondent of The Associated Press Via London).—The real human interest in the great retreat of the Germans lies in the half ruined villages formerly occupied by them. The joy of the people is wonderful to see. A package of well-buttered ham sandwiches distributed among the children of one village caused greater excitement than the evacuation of the Germans.

"It is bitter!" cried several shrill little voices at once, as the recipients scampered away to their houses to show their elders what they had received. Through the open doors could be heard, "Praise God, there is butter again in France."

The American Relief Commission has been able to distribute flour, coffee, sugar, hard limited quantities of rice, some cereals, soup, salt and vinegar, but no butter.

The Associated Press correspondent today had a cup of American coffee with a peasant family living next door to the charred ruins of German dugouts near the bank of the Somme. There was a loaf of brown bread on the table.

"That also is from the Americans," said the peasant mother, who was holding a child of 2 years of age. "We shall never forget the assistance given us by America. It saved us. We have had nothing else since soon after the beginning of the German occupation. When the Germans first began taking our goods, our horses, our cattle, our sheep and everything else we raised on the farm, they gave us bits of paper which they said were bonds, telling us we should present them to President Poincare for payment.

"But in the last year or so all we have been able to raise has been taken without even these poor bonds. We have been encouraged to cultivate our farms, when everything was taken and we were compelled to live on American relief. It is terrible, sir, but you are American. Please have another cup of coffee. I am sorry we have no milk. We have had none for more than a year, all the cows having been taken away by the Germans. We have had no fresh meat for nine months."

ITALIANS CHEER RUSSIAN REVOLT

Chamber of Deputies Celebrate Advent of New Russian Regime.

(By Associated Press.) Rome (Via Paris), March 24.—The Russian revolution was the subject of an enthusiastic demonstration in the Chamber of Deputies today. An eulogistic speech by Premier Boselli was interrupted by frequent applause. The premier concluded:

"In the name of the Italian government and the army of Italy I cordially wish for the Duma a glorious and prompt consolidation of the liberal institutions which are the basis of the new order of things. I wish new success for the heroic Russian armies, and to the Russian people we send today the kiss of brotherhood, which we shall soon exchange for the kiss of victory."

The Only Thing to Save The German Empire From Destruction.

PRESENT SITUATION FORCED UPON HIM.

His Opposition to Submarine Warfare Overruled—His Bitterest Political Opponents—Whom He Most Fears—Denounced in The Reichstag.

(By Associated Press.) Paris, March 24.—The abdication of the German Emperor is forecast by the former German magistrate who wrote the celebrated book "J'Accuse" in an interview published in Oeuvre. He says:

"The Kaiser is obsessed by the thought that he is responsible for the war, a thought which poisons his whole existence. He feels that he is menaced by three enemies at home without counting those abroad:

"First, is the crown prince the real author of the war? Second, is the junker pan-Germanist?—you cannot imagine the smouldering hatred of the Emperor for those he believes to be maniacs who are driving him into an abyss. Third, are the people, not the Socialist party, but the people who are starving and who he feels are growing in number, rising little by little against those who organized the war."

"The other day at the meeting of the parliamentary presidents and the ministers of the Federal Sovereigns at which the submarine war was decided upon, the struggle between the Kaiser's party and that of Von Tirpitz was most bitter. The majority against the Emperor was so great, however, that he was obliged to submit and pretend that he was convinced. In particular he was personally opposed to a break with President Wilson, but he was forced to consent. Documents will be published one day which will prove that secretly he did everything not to bring America down upon him, and that he considers that the rupture was an irreparable mistake. The failure of the submarine war will soon show that he was right, but it will be too late.

"The people he fears most are the anti-militarists, anti-Frussian, Liberal Republicans, who want the Reichstag to be based on universal suffrage. That is why Wilhelm is so anxious to convince the nation that he did not want war. All his protestations are made to appease the liberals and his fanatical dandies, subjects whose murmurs are growing stronger. He wants to continue popular at any price and that is why he spoke the first word of peace. The people were grateful for it, but the submarine war came and spoiled everything.

"It is hard to realize how this Emperor, who enjoyed a popularity unexampled in our epoch, suffers in his pride. He alone perhaps in Germany knows the whole truth, since he alone has in his possession the elements for forming a judgment on the situation, as a whole. How can he resist morally and physically under such a strain? Certainly he hopes sometimes, but less and less, for the success of the unrestricted submarine war which he opposed. He sees the isolation of Germany becoming more and more complete.

"Once he tried to initiate peace negotiations and failed. To try again would be to admit and proclaim to the whole world, but above all to the German people, which he fears most, Germany's real situation. If the Allies solemnly declared, as they did with Napoleon in 1815, that they would refuse to treat for peace with the Hohenzollerns, it would be a knockout blow. Our German people, who still believe in him, would abandon him, for peace at any price would soon be the unanimous and hidden thought of tortured Germany.

"What resource is left to him, but a dramatic abdication in order to retain the sympathies of the German people and save the political future of Prussia. He will say: 'I sacrifice myself to make peace. Without me those only are responsible who desired a savage war and the complete isolation of Germany, those who took at the beginning my son as their party leader and forced me to mobilize, a measure I hesitated to take.'"

The Emperor Denounced.

London, March 24.—The German Emperor and Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg were denounced in the Reichstag by Socialist Deputy Kumer as the originators of the war, according to a Berlin dispatch to Reuters by way of Amsterdam. The incident occurred Thursday during a debate on the public health estimates. Vice

(Continued on Page Eight)