

WEATHER FORECAST.
North Carolina—Fair and warm.
Sunday: Monday, fair; warmer
in eastern portion.
South Carolina—Fair Sunday and
Monday. Gentle to moderate shifting
winds.

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FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

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AMERICA SWINGING NEARER WAR'S FURY WITH RAPID STRIDE

Over Score of Destroyers Ordered And Other Preparations For Big Conflict Rushed By Navy And War Departments

WHITLOCK TO LEAVE BELGIUM AT ONCE

Governmental Officials Agree On Censorship And Press Associations to Co-operate—Sharp Watch Kept For German Spies

Washington, March 24.—The United States is swinging several paces nearer war today with big comprehensive preparedness moves.

I bought 24 new destroyers, with orders to hasten their completion.

I ordered Brand Whitlock to quit Belgium as minister to Belgium and withdraw American relief workers, at the same time branding Germany unfaithfulness even in her pledges of protection toward the giant errand more conducted in Belgium.

I ordered that two regiments of militia guard the big Fore River ship building plant at Quincy, Mass., and other establishments in the Old Bay State.

Other paces nearer war were: Announcement that the department commanders are getting ground for training camps like the Plattsburgh, N. Y., site, and that millions authorized by the last Congress will be spent on equipping these troops; formation that definite land defense plans are under way, though these have not been revealed, under a new censorship; notification to Germany that the government rejects the German proposals contained in a request to postpone the treaty of 1793.

A voluntary censorship was imposed on news, under an agreement between the State, War and Navy Departments, and the big press associations of the Nation. Later, it was suggested that actual war-time censorship will be imposed by legislation.

The National Council of Defense moved further into preparedness while the President is closely watching with all that pertains to approaching events.

The navy ordered all the destroyers ready at the moment, using money from the \$115,000,000 emergency appropriation to cover nine more than had been authorized.

The department wishes to gather 250 more of these craft, and will act at once to this task, though the delays involved in today's award that they were doing a capacity business.

Tonight Secretary Baker declared that the department is pressing ahead with all purchases needed to equip the army if called upon.

Executive government representatives are known to have this government provide them a big loan as a step. This will be done unless the Nation opposes the idea. Moreover, the allies, as far as their spokesmen express the view that it would be inadvisable to send an American army from this country at the moment.

Whitlock and Brand Whitlock and the American relief workers from Belgium mark the end of America's neutrality and likewise indicated the government's view that it could no longer permit the workers to remain in Belgium as they were endangered further.

In announcing the withdrawal, the department charged Germany with breaking her pledges about Belgium, especially in that recently she has been extending her ruthlessness to other ships and has failed even to heed American protests against such a course.

The withdrawal was announced as a preliminary to real war.

While these things go on, the government departments are more concerned about spies. Calling out two Massachusetts militia regiments, at the suggestion of Governor McCall, was directed at preventing any German moves to cripple vital communication units in the Bay State.

Germany's general submarine warfare toward neutral rights continues. The State Department has

RED CROSS SENDS OUT APPEAL FOR STORM VICTIMS

Hundreds Suffering as Result of Tornado That Hit Indiana Town.

DEATH LIST STANDS AT THIRTY-FOUR.

Tragedy's Toll May Reach Two Score When Search of Wrecked Buildings is Completed.

(By United Press.)
New Albany, Ind., March 24.—An appeal for \$250,000 to relieve the New Albany tornado sufferers was sent out tonight by John J. O'Connor, director of the Red Cross relief work. About \$20,000 of that amount was in sight. Residents held a mass meeting tonight to plan relief work and rebuilding.

The number of known dead remained at 34, with the probability that the number may reach 40 when the search of the tornado-wrecked buildings is completed.

Officials stated 500 persons needed immediate medical attention. Urgent calls were sent out for more physicians.

Two more companies of National Guard troops arrived tonight. The city was in darkness again.

Two commissary stores were opened late today. Hundreds of hungry persons were fed.

USE OF RAILROAD OFFERED GOVERNMENT

(By United Press.)
Omaha, Neb., March 24.—The Union Pacific Railroad was tonight placed at the disposal of the United States government for use in connection with National defense. A statement by the company today said:

"All our equipment and all our resources will be at the command of the government and the Council of National Defense for preparedness in the present National crisis."

Military officers in this locality are co-operating with the railroads to protect bridges over all streams.

FINANCIAL AID FOR THE ALLIES

This More Important at Present Than Military or Naval Assistance.

(By United Press.)
Washington, March 24.—The allied countries will look first to financial aid from the United States in the event of war, now imminent, between this country and Germany, it was learned in allied diplomatic circles here today.

This will be the logical opening move in a plan for co-operation between the United States and the Allies in the prosecution of a vigorous war against the Teutonic powers.

American financial support, it was indicated, will be more appreciated at the outset than the proffer of aid in soldiers and war vessels.

It was pointed out that a government loan to the Allies will, for the greater part, be spent in the United States; an argument, it is felt, that will most likely appeal to the people of this country.

Such assistance as the navy could offer in the way of combating the submarine menace by sending across the Atlantic vessels of the submarine chaser type and destroyers is also expected for active co-operation in foreign waters of the capital ships of the American fleet.

Active participation of the land forces of this country is not expected at the outset, and in allied circles it is considered that the first armies that the United States might raise should be retained here in defense of their own soil.

That volunteer detached contingents, however, such as the "Roosevelt division," might be used in conjunction with the allied armies, was suggested.

WILLIAMS WANTS PROMPT ACTION

Mississippi Senator Ready For Drastic Move Against Germany.

(By United Press.)
Mobile, Ala., March 24.—United States Senator John Sharp Williams announced tonight that he favors prompt action against Germany when Congress meets in extra session April 2.

The Mississippi solon believes that the naval forces, the wealth and the moral support of this country will be of vast assistance to the entente.

Congressman J. Walter Kehoe, of Florida, said tonight that "Congress will support President Wilson in his efforts to preserve American rights. I believe every true American will back the President in this crisis."

BERLIN EXPECTS COUNTER RUSSIAN REVOLT.

(By United Press.)
Berlin, March 24.—(Via Sayville.)—The Russian provisional government may have to contend with a counter revolution expected in a few days through a movement of workmen to end the war, according to a statement issued by the official press bureau tonight.

FIGHT BREAKS OUT AT BIG PEACE MEET; FISTS WERE USED

Emergency Peace Commission Held Turbulent Session In New York.

FREE-FOR-ALL ROW WAS SOON STARTED

Pacifists Outnumbered Jingoos and Came Off Victors— David Starr Jordan Wants European War to End in a Draw—Joe Cannon Present

(By United Press.)
New York, March 24.—A small riot, with open fighting, featured attempts of several belligerent and militant spectators at the New York mass meeting of the Emergency Peace Commission to object to the pacifists' proceedings.

Three or four persons in the audience, directly adjacent to the speakers' stand, started heckling Chairman John G. Milholland. In a moment several hundred people charged the disturbers and a free-for-all fist fight ensued.

The hecklers were ejected after about 20 minutes of fast and furious fistfights.

The pro-war advocates were vastly outnumbered by the pacifists, but they put up a hot little fight, in which the pacifists showed they knew how to use their fists.

Madison Square Garden was in an uproar during the disturbance. At least six thousand persons were massed there. A number of women left frightened at the fighting. No one appeared to be much the worse for the scuffling.

John G. Milholland, who presided, strenuously defended the patriotism of those opposing war.

"We are loyal to the constitution," he said. "We resent to the utmost that these grave questions cannot be settled without going to war."

"Never mind being called a traitor," Milholland said, in soothing tones, "some day this country will be freed of this hell called war and it will then be fit to live in."

He referred to recent events in Russia.

"Are you an American?" shouted a man from the rear of the hall.

"Of course," returned Milholland.

"Throw him out!" (this from the rear). "No," retorted Milholland, "You won't throw anyone out."

Directing his remarks to the man in the rear, Milholland continued, declaring: "We are not going to inaugurate any dictator in Washington or anywhere else. We want time to consider this question thoroughly and shall refuse to be stampeded."

Other speakers were Joseph Cannon, Dr. David Starr Jordan, Dr. Judah Magnus and Prof. Scott Nearing.

As Milholland concluded, an officer marched from the hall, taking the man from the rear, charged with "disturbing the peace."

Dr. David Starr Jordan, next speaker, declared the high cost of living in America was not due to speculation.

"Germany and England are being starved to death," he said. "There is not enough food to go around. The high cost of living is not due to speculators. We are feeding too many idle people."

"Are we going to send a great army to Europe and starve ourselves, an army that will take 1,000 ships to move, when we have only 15 or 20?"

"I wish to speak of the downfall of the Kaiser. Well, if his son is to succeed him, I, for one, say, long live the Kaiser."

"A German success would be a calamity. Peace without victory is the only thing."

Mention of President Wilson by Dr. Judah Magnus started a storm of hisses, followed by a wave of applause of appreciably lesser volume.

"I wish to say that I have all honor and respect for our President," he said, when the noise had died down. "As we leave here tonight let us not forget that the President has kept us out of war."

Bryan's name was cheered. Mention of Elihu Root was booed.

After Magnus had explained his respect for President Wilson, he said:

"He has pleaded peace without victory because all belligerents are guilty, the victim of a system, government and international law.

"There shall be no victory. The wages of this war shall be defeat for all. Shall this great democracy adopt the militarism of Europe?"

"Let us not be drawn into this great war by high and mighty words. If we do enter, let us do it with broken hearts.

"It is plain the people don't want war. If it is to be war, let the people say so.

"Why should we fight on a question of which our own State Department does not know the meaning? Our own State Department does not know what international law means; if you use poisoned gas it is civilized; if you are blown up by a submarine it is uncivilized."

Benjamin Marsh, secretary of the Municipal Ownership and Operative Society, declared:

"Let us pray for the death of Root and Roosevelt."

Loud cheering greeted this.

"If we do declare war," he declared, "this government must confiscate Rockefeller's oil fields, railroads, telephone and telegraph lines, and all other public utilities."

UNITED STATES OF RUSSIA THE NEW REPUBLIC

Foreshadowed as The Outcome of The Recent Revolution in Russia.

NEW GOVERNMENT RESTORING ORDER

A General Assembly to Meet. Proposed New Government Popular—People Urged To Unite.

GERMANS SPREAD RUIN TO STOP THE ENTENTE ADVANCE

Destruction Part of The Plan in Behalf of Military Interest.

THAT IS THE CLAIM MADE BY BERLIN.

Admit Terrible Acts Were Per- petrated But Claims Justi- fied by Military Interest and For Neutrals

(By United Press.)
Berlin (Via Sayville Wireless), March 24.—"Terrible as they may be the measures were taken in military interest, as well as in the interest of neutrals," declared an official government press bureau statement today, explaining the work of destruction in the German retreat.

"A large strip of the line has been changed into a wall of loneliness, in which no village or farm remains standing; no road and practically no railroad tracks are serviceable."

"In places where formerly there were forests there are now only the stumps of trees. The wires are blasted; wire cables are destroyed; the enemy finds no cellars which they could use for protection; no wood which could be used for construction. All materials were sent back, all sources from which material could be gained were annihilated. Roads were blocked by huge trunks of trees and meadows were turned over by the plough during spring rains.

"Terrible as these measures may be in themselves, they were taken in the military interest, and in the neutral interest as well. German correspondents acknowledge that the limit of military necessities was never forgotten. Neutral correspondents even frequently expressed astonishment that the German humanitarian sentiment went so far as almost to endanger their own interests.

"Thus, in Noyon, which was spared, 70 cows were left in order to provide milk for small children. Far from the town signs were posted announcing that Noyon was undefended and that there were 8,000 civilian inhabitants in the town. Neutral correspondent asserted that regard for the population and disregard of military interests could not be carried further."

BRITISH NOW WITHIN RANGE OF BIG GUNS ON GERMANY'S LINE

Tommies Fight Their Way Through Teutons' Rear Guards And Advance.

RESISTANCE GROWS MUCH STRONGER.

French Continue to Hurl Themselves Forward and Another Town Almost In Their Clutch—Russians Re- new Their Violent Attacks.

SUBWAY BLAST AT MIDNIGHT KILLED MANY WORKMEN

Explosion Startled New York Just Before Sunday Morn' and Caused Excitement.

BODIES ARE NOW BEING BROUGHT OUT.

Three Dead Men Found Early This Morning and Others Being Sought—Many Injured.

(By United Press.)
New York, March 24.—Premature explosion of a blast set in the new Queensborough subway, at the point where it crosses Blackwell's Island, killed several men in a section of the tunnel shortly before midnight.

Police reported three or four men were believed to have lost their lives and that eight were injured.

Reports that seven were killed reached police headquarters shortly after the explosion.

At the hospital located on the island, all information was refused.

The explosion was at a point near the Queen's Borough bridge, giving rise to the belief that an attempt had been made to dynamite the bridge. Twelve hundred prisoners on the island were thrown into a state of excitement which led the police to concentrate heavy bodies of reserves on the island.

Physicians from the Metropolitan Hospital, located on the island, rushed to relief work, and the injured workmen were taken to the hospital as soon as rescue parties reached them.

At 1 o'clock rescuers had brought out bodies of three dead and seven injured workmen. The force of the blast caved in the walls and roof of the tunnel, piling the debris on top of many of the workmen. Some fought their way free, sought aid and helped to dig the others out.

AMERICAN INDIANS READY FOR THE WAR.

Carlisle, Pa., March 24.—Three hun- dred original American Indian boy students at Carlisle Industrial School, are trained and ready to fight for the white men who wrested from them the land Columbus discovered.

AMERICA LACKS ARMY, SAYS TAFT

Former President Continues to Receive Big Welcome in The South.

(By United Press.)
Birmingham, Ala., March 24.—America has no army, only a mob, and if war comes tomorrow the American people will be guilty of murder if they send their army to foreign soil, former President Taft said in speaking here today for the League to Enforce Peace.

"If ever universal service, which is practically conscription," is added, he believes America would become involved in the war in a short time.

He said the United States would have little trouble obtaining officers, as the "American soldier is potentially superior to the European soldier now in the trenches."

"The recent (7th) of the National Guard to the border showed that our soldiers were potentially troops of ability and strength," he said. "And we will not suffer from lack of generals."

Mr. Taft made two addresses here Saturday, and the speeches were occasions of patriotic demonstrations.

The President of the city commission of Birmingham announced Saturday he would honor the request of the Universal Service League and join with other mayors in calling mass meetings for universal service March 31.

ANOTHER PRECEDENT BY THE PRESIDENT.

(By United Press.)
Washington, March 24.—President Wilson established another precedent this afternoon when, accompanied by Mrs. Wilson, he called upon the Secretaries of War and Navy. The President and Mrs. Wilson spent about 40 minutes in the offices of each.

At Secretary Baker's office it was stated that the visit was "merely routine," while at Secretary Daniels' office came the information that it was "purely social." Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt attended the navy "conference." It was the first the last five secretaries that a President, it was stated, in the history of dent has been accompanied by his wife on a visit to the Secretary of War.

AMERICAN AVIATOR'S BODY FOUND.

(By United Press.)
New York, March 24.—Ser-
geant J. R. McConnell, of the
American French flying corps,
* was killed in a fight with three *
German aeroplanes, according to *
special Paris dispatches publish- *
ed by the New York Sun. His *
body was found in a wood near *
* Jussy, badly mangled. Several *
* bullets had penetrated the body. *
* McConnell is the son of a North *
* Carolinian.
