

CHANNEL WAS FLOODED WITH MANY MINES

Suddenly Make Appearance in The Path of Vessels Leaving British Ports.

MINE SWEEPERS PUT TO WORK

Trans-Atlantic Steamers Ordered Back to Ports—One Hundred Mines Destroyed and Vessels Allowed to Proceed—American Airplane Returning.

(By Associated Press.)

March 30.—The fact that the Cunard liner, Orduña, was stopped off the Irish coast by a British torpedo boat destroyer and hurriedly ordered into the nearest port, while the North Channel was swept clear of a great flock of mines, suddenly discovered there, was revealed by the ship's officers as the vessel was three days overdue when she reached her American destination today.

Upon arrival in her Irish port of refuge, her officers said they found 27 other ships had already escaped the mine peril by putting in there, including one American ship. Two other vessels had fallen victims of the mines, they learned, and had gone down.

The mine sweepers worked two days clearing the sea of the menace, destroying more than 100 mines. Then all the ships were ordered out at once, making their way through a lane of protecting torpedo boat destroyers and patrol boats until they reached safe waters.

On board the Orduña were five American airplane experts who have been engaged in construction and instruction work for the French on the western front. It was learned they have been called back here to assist the development of this country's aerial service.

CLARK IS NAMED BY ACCLAMATION

Democrats Give Him Big Endorsement—Says He Is Certain of Re-election.

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, March 30.—Champ Clark, of Missouri, was nominated for re-election today as Speaker of the House at a caucus of Democrats. He was chosen by acclamation.

Mr. Clark is confident of re-election when the House meets Monday. There was no opposition to him today and it took 15 minutes to make the nomination. Representative Shackelford, a colleague, made the nominating speech and the formality of voting was dispensed with.

Mr. Clark has been in Congress more than 20 years and has been Speaker of the last three Congresses. After the nomination, the caucus took up questions of House organization.

Plans for prompt organization of the House when it assembles Monday, so there may be no unnecessary delay in hearing President Wilson's address, were made by the Democratic caucus today when Champ Clark was nominated by acclamation for Speaker, and the Ways and Means committee was instructed to report Democratic committee selections directly to the House. This latter provision will eliminate the usual delay of submitting the selections to another caucus, and was made in the interest of saving time.

COAL DEALERS WARNED NOT TO HOLD PRICES UP.

Washington, March 30.—There have been whispers that coal dealers in the United States won't make their normal reductions of from 50 cents to a dollar a ton in coal on dates from April 1 to May 15. So the Federal Trade Commission today went on record as warning the dealers that there is plenty of coal in the country and plenty of facilities to distribute it, and that if they fail to make their regular reductions they will be amenable to the commission. New York dealers announced they would make their annual 50-cent reduction beginning Monday. That was before the Commission spoke, however.

THE ALGONQUIN'S FLAG LOWERED

Lowered by Germans Before They Sunk This American Vessel.

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, March 30.—The crew of the German submarine which shelled and sank the American steamship, Algonquin, without warning in British waters on March 23 refused to let the freight ship go down with the Stars and Stripes flying, Captain Nordberg, of the Algonquin, said today. The captain and 25 of his men arrived this morning at an American port on the Cunard liner, Orduña, from a British port.

Before the Algonquin's men abandoned the vessel she was being shelled by the U-boat. Captain Nordberg said he decided not to haul down the American flag and hoped to see it flying when his ship disappeared, but the Germans who went aboard to place bombs, he said, lowered the emblem before they accomplished their work of destruction.

Captain Nordberg's story, upon his arrival, added no other essential details to the cabled accounts of the loss of the Algonquin. He confirmed dispatches which have told how he and his crew were denied aid by the U-boat's captain and how to row 65 miles to land. About three miles off shore another submarine was sighted, he said. The Algonquin was on her way from New York with grain and provisions when sunk.

TO THE VETERANS OF SPANISH WAR

Appeal From Their Commander to Come to Aid of The Country.

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, March 30.—Veterans of the Spanish war were called upon today to show their patriotism and loyalty in the present crisis in an appeal by their commander-in-chief, D. V. Chisholm, announcing that he expects to raise troops in each State to be offered to the government for protection against "any foreign foe," as soon as Congress "defines some program."

"It is the intention of the national headquarters," said the appeal, "to recruit, if necessary, companies in every department, composed of experienced men, to be offered from our organization, whose services will be tendered to the government."

Commander Chisholm announced he would furnish experienced officers, veterans to drill civilian organizations. He has sent personal letters to every department commander in the United States, the Philippines, Porto Rico, Panama and China, and said today he believed he could gather at least 150,000 men able to pass the physical test, who would be invaluable in a crisis.

PUBLIC OPINION THAT WAR EXISTS

Such is The Information Conveyed to The White House.

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, March 30.—President Wilson now has before him recommendations of his principal cabinet advisers and in a general way has heard the sentiment of the country. The preponderance of opinion forwarded to the White House is for a declaration that a state of war exists between the United States and Germany.

Telegrams advising the President are being received in large numbers. Many of them, couched in identical language, favor the maintenance of peace.

GERMAN TROOPS FALLING BACK BEFORE BRITONS

Evidence Have Not Reached Point Where They Can Make a Stand.

BERLIN ADMITS BIG RETIREMENT

French Have Apparently Suspended Their Attack at the Southern End—No Important Developments.

German troops in Northern France are still falling back towards Cambrai, under the British pressure. Evidently they have not reached, in this sector at least, a line on which they feel inclined to make a stand against the entente armies.

Today's announcement from Berlin of a German retirement on a 4 1/2 mile front between Ruyal Court and Sorel, was forecast to some extent by the British announcement last night that the village of Neuville Bourjonval, on this line, had been captured. Berlin reports that the Germans gave way on the front indicated, after an engagement with stronger British forces.

The French apparently have suspended temporarily their attacks along the southern end of the line. Paris reports a quiet night along virtually the whole southern front.

North of the line of the retreat near Neuville-St. Vaast, Berlin reports four attacks by a Canadian regiment, all of which were fruitless.

There have been no important events on any of the fronts.

Heavy Fighting Suspended. Paris, March 30.—The heavy fighting on the French front since the beginning of the German withdrawal has come to an end for the time being. "From the Somme to the Aisne the night was calm along our outposts," says today's official report. "There were no important events elsewhere, of patrol encounters and rather lively grenade fighting in the sector of Maisons de Champagne."

Canadians Repulsed.

Berlin, March 30.—(Via Sayville).—Canadian troops made four attacks last night on German positions east of Neuville-St. Vaast, the war office announces. They were repulsed with heavy losses.

A further withdrawal of German troops on the Peronne-Fins road is announced.

The Berlin official statement reads: "Western Front: On the Artois front the artillery duel was lively."

"East of Neuville-St. Vaast a Canadian regiment four times attacked our positions during the night. They were each time repulsed with heavy losses. Some prisoners remained in our hands. On both sides of the road from Peronne to Fins our protecting troops, after an engagement with stronger British forces, gave way on the line of Ruyalcourt-Sorel."

"Northeast of Soissons, French battalions vainly tried to gain ground near Neuville and Margival. Our outpost repulsed them, inflicting upon them heavy losses."

"On the Aisne: Marne canal groupings between Saigniel and Lanenue indicated an attack in preparation which was held down by our batteries. In the Champagne as well, French troops held in readiness for an attack were efficiently shelled. "In Parroy forest on the Lorraine front our raiding detachments brought back 13 prisoners from hostile trenches."

ANTI SUBMARINE STEEL ROPE NETS

Navy Department Places Orders With Manufacturers For One Hundred.

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, March 30.—Orders were placed by the Navy Department today with the American Steel and Wire Company, of Philadelphia, for the immediate construction of 100 steel rope submarine nets. The nets will cost \$1,881 each, will be 1,950 feet long, 30 feet wide, with a 12-foot mesh. Deliveries will begin within three weeks and continue at rate of ten nets a week thereafter.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER

Will Be Heard Sunday, Coming Under Auspices of The Y. M. C. A.

Wilmington people twice Sunday will have opportunity of hearing one of the finest speakers of the South, and a man who is devoting much of his time to helping humanity. The speaker will be Dr. Lavius Lankford, of Norfolk, a noted surgeon. He will address a men's meeting at the Victoria Theatre Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock, on "The Habit and Power of Secret Sin," and will speak at Calvary Baptist church Sunday morning at 11 o'clock.

ROBBERS MADE A BIG RAID TODAY IN ROSEBORO

Atlantic Coast Line Station and Number of Stores Broken Into

HOUNDS PLACED ON THE TRAIL

Marauders Not Supposed to Be "Yeggs" and Were Only In Search of Money—Got Little.

(Special to The Dispatch.)

Roseboro, N. C., March 30.—Some time between midnight and 4 o'clock this morning robbers made a raid upon Roseboro, but obtained little booty, as they were evidently only in search of money and were baffled in their quest. They first made a raid on the Atlantic Coast Line station, smashing in the front door with an axe, but found the money-drawer empty. They next visited the A. R. HARRIS hardware establishment, the general merchandise store of J. O. Culbreth and the establishment of the Roseboro Drug Company. At the hardware establishment they succeeded in opening the front door of the safe, the combination not being on, but did not get through the inner door. They purloined several revolvers and then departed. Only a small amount of change was obtained from any of the stores, each of which was entered from the rear.

An investigation this morning indicated that the crime was not perpetrated by professional cracksmen. Bloodhounds from Raeford were obtained and followed tracks to the railroad crossing. There the scene was lost, and it is supposed the robbers, at this point, boarded a freight train, one passing here about 5 o'clock going to Wilmington and another passing on the way to Fayetteville.

TELEGRAPH SPARKS.

Seven hundred students at the Carnegie Institute of Technology at Pittsburgh, at a meeting yesterday, organized a permanent military training association. Plans are being made to start drilling at once.

More than 30,000 children in the Pittsburgh public schools will assemble in their rooms next Monday at noon and sing patriotic songs as Congress convenes in Washington.

Five companies of the Massachusetts naval militia were mobilized at their armories today under orders to begin a tour of duty on Sunday.

An instruction camp will be opened at the Uniontown Speedway, Uniontown, Pa., within the next two weeks for the training of automobile drivers and aviators who wish to prepare themselves for entrance into government service in event of war.

Investigation of financial and commercial conditions in Russia and the Far East is to be made immediately by the American Department of Commerce, and A. W. Ferrin, editor of a financial magazine, will undertake the work.

Operations at 29 bituminous coal mines in the Monongahela valley of Pennsylvania have been suspended, and nearly 20,000 have been temporarily thrown out of employment in their rooms next Monday at noon and sing patriotic songs as Congress convenes in Washington.

Orders are being prepared at the War Department, calling out additional guard forces in several Eastern States. They contemplate the increase of at least two regiments of infantry to the 50,000 guardsmen already added to the Federal Service for police protection work.

Battery A, Georgia field artillery; the Twenty-third and Forty-seventh regiments of infantry, New York Guard and Squadron A, New York Cavalry, are ordered mustered into Federal service for police duty.

Virtually all the soldiers and civilians comprising the rebel forces of Rigoberto Fernandez in Oriente Province, Cuba, between 500 and 600 in number, have surrendered to Colonel Varona at Guantanamo.

Announcement is made by the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis railway that all work on extensions and construction work generally, except a coal line extension on the Cumberland plateau, has ceased for the time being, owing to the inability of the road to secure the needed funds to carry this work forward.

The Russian government has issued a proclamation to all Poles, announcing formally its wish that Poland decide for itself the form of government it desires, says a Reuter dispatch from Petrograd. The government takes it for granted that the decision will be for a "new independent Poland, formal of all the three new separate parts."

The figures for British shipping losses for submarines and mines in the first 18 days of December and of January, February and March are given as follows by Thomas J. McNamara, financial secretary to the admiralty: December, 30; January, 26; February, 66; March, 55.

CABINET THINKS A CLASH MUST COME; TO SOON BE READY

REIGN OF TERROR SAID TO EXIST IN MEXICAN OIL ZONE

Several Persons, Including Two British Subjects, Killed By Marauders.

GERMAN INFLUENCE IN THAT LOCALITY.

Money Demanded by Bandits. The Bodies Mutilated—Cruelty to Mexican Children—Oil Works Closed

(By Associated Press.)

Gaiveston, Texas, March 30.—W. H. T. Buckingham, general manager of the Aukula Oil Company, on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, and his cashier, named Bannerman, were killed by bandits at Nanchital on March 9, according to information brought here today by passengers arriving from Mexico on a tank steamship. Both men were British subjects. After Buckingham had been killed his body was hacked to pieces with machetes, the reports say. The passengers also report that a reign of terror has prevailed for several weeks in the oil fields near Minatitlan, and is said to be the result of German influence. The oil fields lie between territory occupied by Carranza troops, on one side, and the forces of Zapata on the other. Buckingham and Bannerman were killed following a demand by the bandits for \$1,500, and their discovery that the safe contained only \$1,300. Buckingham had been in Mexico for 26 years.

The next day, says the report, the bandits killed a Mexican farmer, his wife and father, and cut off the hands of the farmer's two little girls. The operations in the oil camps have ceased since March 9, and there is little prospect of resumption, it was said.

GENERAL REVOLT CENTRAL AMERICA

Alleged German Conspiracy to Accomplish This Under Investigation.

New Orleans, March 30.—Information was obtained here today from sources considered reliable indicating that General Julian Irias, former presidential candidate of the Liberal party in Nicaragua, arrested last night by city detectives and Federal agents on a nominal charge of being in the United States illegally, really is being held for investigation of his possible connection with an alleged conspiracy of magnitude said to be backed by German influences in Latin America. General Irias is held incommunicado at the parish prison, and Federal authorities refused to discuss the charges against him, but from other sources intimations were given that Federal agents were investigating charges of violation of neutrality in connection with Irias' detention.

THE BEST LAWYERS FOR POOR LITIGANTS

(By United Press.) New York, March 30.—Because unscrupulous lawyers have caused poor people to get unfair treatment in New York courts, a corps of the best lawyers money can buy is being organized under the direction of the public defender to see that the poor get a square deal.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and other wealthy men are backing the plan financially. The Public Defense Bureau will open Monday. Each case will be prepared for trial by experts and a capable member of the staff assigned to defend it in court.

ENLISTING CREWS TO SERVE ON YACHTS.

(By Associated Press.) Chicago, March 30.—Orders have been received by Commandant W. A. Moffett, of the Great Lakes training station, to rush the enrollment of a division of 3,000 men to serve on 500 yachts and power boats being collected for the navy. Arrangements have been made for the distribution of the yachts on the Great Lakes, and a preparation for a cruise of three weeks, was started today.

FREIGHT RATES INCREASED.

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, March 30.—Increases of about 5 per cent. in freight rates on all classes and commodities moving east and west by way of rail and ship lines over the Great Lakes, went into effect today when the Interstate Commerce Commission declined to suspend tariffs proposing them.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT TO AN OLD LADY

Badly Crippled by a Fall—Smallpox Appears in Magnolia, Started by Negro.

(Special to The Dispatch.) Magnolia, N. C., March 30.—Quite a serious and sad accident happened east of Magnolia yesterday. Mrs. J. V. Croom, who is now 81 years old, fell and broke her thigh. The doctor was called, but said that he could not do her any good. We feel very sorry for her and her husband and daughter. Her case is more pitiable because of the fact that she is blind and has had to be led by her daughter. The community's greatest sympathy goes out to her in her great pain and trouble. We hope that it may be the Lord's will that she may soon be able to go to hear the preacher at her church, as she is apt to be there, and feels at home in her old church in the country.

There are several cases of smallpox in Magnolia, and lots of people are being vaccinated in hopes of keeping it off. There is quite a number of cases among the colored people. Some white people have it, too. We hope that "hot weather" will soon be here and the contagious disease will be broken up. It was spread through here by a loafing negro boy, who is no good to himself or anyone else, and we feel like we can get along without that kind of loafer.

A REMARKABLE DOUBLE MURDER

Two Men Kill Each Other With Same Pistol—Each Shot Three Times.

(By Associated Press.)

Franklinton, N. C., March 30.—J. O. Burnette, 33, and L. A. Woodlief, 42 years of age, are dead as the result of a shooting affray here today in a barber shop owned by Burnette. Six shots were fired, all from one pistol, and the authorities believe one man, after having been wounded, wrested the weapon from his assailant and shot him. Both were struck three times. The pistol, it was said, was owned by Burnette. There were no witnesses, and both died without making a statement. Woodlief had been employed by Burnette, but was leaving today, it was said.

CANDIDATES ACTIVE

Miss Mary Pickett Vacates Unlucky Position.

Interest continues to grow in the Red Cross Contest and today sees a new candidate breaking into the company of the leaders, this being Miss Gladys McEachern, who took possession of twelfth place from the start. Miss Vera Furlong continues at the head of the list, with Miss Annie Banks in second position. Miss Mary Pickett caused a commotion in the ranks of her jump from thirteenth to third place, going over the ten candidates with ease in quitting the unlucky position. After her marvelous climb of yesterday, Miss Janie Iredell Meares has remained stationary since. Following is the official count today at noon, the candidates who continue in the race with but thirteen votes having been dropped. Their votes are registered, however, and when they start upward their names will be re-entered in the official count.

Misses Vera Furlong 1,295 votes, Annie Banks 873, Mary Pickett 654, Dorothy Meier 630, Elizabeth Powell 544, Louise Nelson 479, Janie Meares 475, Elizabeth Sweeney 400, Mary Houston 392, Florence Morrison 340, Mary Bellamy 338, Gladys McEachern 325, Lucile Solky 275, May Wright Taylor 213, Lucy Murchison 210, Elizabeth Westbrook 157, Virginia Farmer 152.

Opinion Seem to Prevail That United States Was About to Actively Enter War.

DON'T THINK GERMANY WILL STOP SUB. WAR

Secretaries Report That All Is In Readiness For Whatever Emergency Comes—Labor Resources to Be Mobilized.

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, March 30.—As the cabinet met today with President Wilson for the last time before the assembling of Congress, Monday, the consensus of opinion was that the United States was about to actively enter into war with Germany.

Taking for granted from the speech of the German chancellor that Germany will not abandon her submarine campaign of ruthlessness, officials generally have given up hope that an actual clash with Germany can be averted.

Secretary Baker said that the early graduation of the upper class at West Point was under consideration, but had not been determined upon. Secretary Redfield said everything was in readiness for turning the ships and crews of the coast and geodetic survey over to the Navy Department for war purposes. Preliminary plans have also been made for having the navy take over direction of wireless plants.

Secretary Wilson said that satisfactory progress was being made in plans for mobilization of labor resources. Members of the cabinet who are also members of the Council of National Defense reported that everything possible is being done to coordinate all of the resources of the Nation for the government in war.

ADJUSTMENT OF FREIGHT RATES

Changes on Perishable Goods Made By Commerce Commission.

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, March 30.—General revision of freight rates on fruits and vegetables from Southern States to Northern and Middle Western markets in order to bring rates to a parity with those from producing sections, were approved today by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Carload and less than carload rates on about 48 kinds of fruits, melons and vegetables from every section of the South to Kansas City, St. Paul, St. Louis, Chicago, Cincinnati, Louisville, Pittsburgh, New York, Philadelphia and numerous other towns and cities, are involved. In the case of the cities mentioned 447 rates are increased, 332 rates are reduced and 37 rates left unchanged.

The commission found that most of the railroads' proposals for a readjustment of rates were justified, but that in certain specific instances the proposals were disapproved.

Disapproval included proposals to increase rates on potatoes from points in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Kansas; to increase rates on fruit from Arkansas, Oklahoma and Missouri; and to increase rates on cantaloupes and muskmelons from Arkansas, Oklahoma and Missouri, where such rates are already as high as the commission believes are justified.

FIRE DESTROYS HOUSE

One Total Loss, Another Had Roof Burned.

Fire this morning at 11:50 o'clock destroyed a one-story frame dwelling, occupied by Mrs. Mary Williams, No. 1103 Orange street, and burned the roof of the adjacent house, No. 1105, occupied by Mrs. Judge. The alarms were sent in from boxes Nos. 54 and 51. When the fire apparatus arrived on the scene the building in which the fire originated was in a light blaze. Little could be done to save it and the efforts of the firemen were to confine the fire to that one building. However, the roof of the house next door was badly damaged.

A RECORD AUCTION OF FURS TO BE HELD.

(By Associated Press.)

St. Louis, March 30.—A record auction sale of furs will be held in St. Louis, beginning April 16, when 2,750,000 furs, worth approximately \$3,500,000, will be sold to purchasers from nearly every country in the world. The sale is expected to last eight days.

The Japanese government will offer 1,553 raw seal furs, and several large shipments of skins intended for this sale are on route from Manchuria and Russia. This sale will make approximately \$12,000,000 worth of furs to be auctioned here since January 1.