

WEATHER FORECAST.

For North and South Carolina— Fair tonight and Tuesday. Heavy frost tonight with rising temperature. Tuesday, strong west winds.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE



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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, MONDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 9, 1917.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

WAR WITH AUSTRIA ABOUT TO BREAK

CLASH TO FOLLOW ACTION OF TODAY; SHIPS BEING SEIZED

Austro-Hungarian Ambassador Demands Passports and This Forecasts Strife. AMERICA SWOOPS DOWN ON VESSELS Government Loses No Time After Break Comes—Spain to Represent United States in Dual Kingdom and Sweden Will Act for Austria-Hungary in This Country

Washington, D. C., April 9.—Baron Eric Zedeck, Charge of the Austro-Hungarian embassy here, today demanded his passports. By this act Austria-Hungary breaks off diplomatic relations with the United States. By prearrangement, Spain will take over the diplomatic and consular interests of the United States in Austria-Hungary. All Austrian consular agents will depart from the United States with the diplomatic mission, as was the case with Germany. Up to the time Charge Zedeck asked for his passports, no similar action had been taken by Bulgaria and Turkey—Germany's tow allies—their representatives here disclaiming having any knowledge of the intention of their governments. Austria's break with the United States undoubtedly is the prelude to a declaration of a state of war. Sixty-two days elapsed between the break in relations between the United States and Germany and the formal declaration of war. How many days will elapse before Germany's chief ally enters a state of war with Germany's newest enemy will be decided entirely by circumstance. The diplomatic history of centuries show a state of war invariably follows a break in diplomatic relations between first-class powers. Quite aside from this however, Austria has subscribed, even if only academically, to Germany's campaign of ruthlessness, although she has not carried it out against American interests. Beside that, it is considered that it would be quite impossible to have a friendly status of the United States on a friendly status of Germany's ally. Anti-American propaganda conducted by Austrian agents, under German direction, has been no less effective than and scarcely less effective than the German propaganda itself. A clean break between the United States and Austria was sometime ago recognized as the logical development. It is quite possible, however, that there may not be warlike operations between the forces of the two governments, unless Germany carrying further her domination of the Vienna government, should force it. Austria-Hungary has asked Sweden to take over her interests in the United States. All American consular officers, as well as diplomatic, will be withdrawn from Austria-Hungary, and Spain will take over the interests of the United States. All Austrian consular officers as well as diplomatic will be withdrawn from the United States. Russia, Serbia, Japan, Greece, Morocco and Egypt will stand ready to turn over Austrian interests which the United States has represented in those countries to whatever nation the Austrian foreign office shall indicate. The United States, by the break in relations, is relieved of the care of probably two million war prisoners. Officials expect no difficulties to be placed before Americans in Austria and that all the American embassy officials will be allowed to leave without constraint or inconvenience, owing to the decidedly friendly feeling that Austria has shown, despite German pressure. Austria has in this country about 50 consular officers, in addition to her clerical, attaches and families. Safe conduct for all will be arranged at once and it is possible that the Austrians dismissed at this time may join the German officials dismissed from China and Cuba, in order to journey by the same route. Officials here, deeply regretting the (Continued on Page Eight).

***** DONATES FIFTY DOLLARS. ***** The Red Cross Relief Committee, through Archdeacon Thos. P. Noe, begs to acknowledge a donation of \$50 from Mr. D. L. Gore. It will go to the fund to be devoted to doing Red Cross relief work in case such becomes necessary among the families of Wilmington soldiers at the front. This starts off the fund with a nucleus of \$100, though no specific call has yet been made. *****

RESENT ACT OF WEBB AND KITCHIN Especially Strong Feeling Against Former For His Omission (By George H. Manning.) Washington, D. C., April 9.—There is a strong resentment and indignation among the North Carolina delegation in Congress and North Carolina residents here over the opposition of Congressmen Kitchin and Webb to the passage of the "war resolution," which was adopted by the House of Representatives in the early hours of Friday morning, by a vote of 373 to 50. The criticism of Webb, who did not have the nerve to vote against the resolution and left the House when the roll call began, after being paired against it, is more severe than against Kitchin. While it is true that Claude Kitchin, the constituted Democratic leader, who has failed to lead the House on any important measure desired by the administration, spoke in opposition to the war declaration and by that action encouraged many others to do likewise, he made a most logical argument against the resolution and again demonstrated that he is fearless in the courage of his convictions. And then, Kitchin concluded his speech with the declaration that when war is declared he will unswervingly, unhesitatingly and unselfishly do everything in his power to bring it to a successful conclusion. Contrasted with this stand, Webb moped around the House of Representatives for the seventeen hours the war resolution was under discussion, and a few minutes before the calling of the roll, without making known his position to his colleagues, arranged to be paired against the resolution and left the House. As far as is known he left no word behind as to whether he would support the administration and the United States of America after the declaration of war against Germany to uphold American rights and honor, or whether he would be a "slacker." The humiliation of North Carolina by the action of Claude Kitchin, the Democratic leader, in leading the opposition to the declaration of war and making a vigorous speech against it, was made complete by the failure of Webb to line up with the President and the American people against Prussianism. It was known early on Thursday that Kitchin would vote against the resolution and speak against it, and it was believed then that Doughton and Webb would follow him. After deliberating over the matter all day and far into the night, Doughton decided to stand by the President and voted for the resolution, much to the surprise and gratification of his colleagues. Early in the day Webb told his friends he would probably vote against the resolution but declined to frankly commit himself. Up until 2:30 the next morning, just half an hour before the vote was taken, he declined to commit himself. When Webb's name was reached on the first roll call it was called twice without response. It was called twice more on the second roll call without any answer from Webb. As he had been in the chamber but a short while before the roll call, the presumption was he was opposed to the resolution. (Continued on Page Eight).

DECLARES VICTOR PLAN INVALID Supreme Court Decides Adversely Scheme to "Fix the Price" (By Associated Press.) Washington, April 9.—Determining important questions regarding control by patents of retail prices of their products the Supreme Court today pronounced unlawful the "limited license" plan under which the Victor Talking Machine Company and many other products are distributed. The court held that patent grants for machines give others the right to use them, subject to the patent right, with "any appropriate material or supplies." This overturns the court's decision in the Dick Mimeo-graph case. The court did not decide legality of the Victor plan of limiting distribution solely through "licensed" dealers. Justices McKenna, Holmes and Vandeventer dissented from the decisions in the factor case. The Victor license plan was held to be mere price-fixing "which would work injustice" to the purchasing public and designed to avoid the court's previous decisions. In another similar patent infringement suit, of the Motion Picture Patents Company against the Universal Film Manufacturing Company and others, the court held invalid restrictions of the patents company upon use of competitors' films in the projecting machines.

DR. ZIMMERMANN IN CONFERENCE With Representatives of Brazil and Other South American Republics (By Associated Press.) London, April 9.—A dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from The Hague says that Dr. Zimmermann, the German foreign secretary, conferred for an hour on Sunday with the ministers of Brazil, Argentine and Chile. The dispatch says that it is thought in Berlin that the conference was connected with a possible rupture of relations between Germany and the three South American republics.

AMERICAN LINER ST. LOUIS RETURNS First Armed Steamship of This Country to Make the Round Trip (By The Associated Press.) New York, April 9.—The American Line steamship, St. Louis, arrived here today from Europe—the first armed passenger vessel to make a round trip voyage from America since the German decree of unrestricted submarine warfare. The St. Louis left New York on March 17, with American citizens among her passengers and passed safely through the U-boat zone. On her return trip she left a European port on March 31.

CAPE FEAR TO MAKE BIG RISE (Special to The Dispatch.) Raleigh, N. C., April 9.—The Cape Fear river will rise to a stage of about thirty-five feet at Fayetteville during the next twenty-four hours.

MANY INDICTED UNDER SHERMAN ANTI-TRUST LAW For Forming Combination to Put Up the Price of Coal. TWO MILLION TONS ANNUAL OUTPUT On Which Excessive Price Has Been Collected By the Combine. (By Associated Press.) New York, April 9.—An indictment naming 21 corporations and 18 individuals, charging violation of the Sherman anti-trust law in fixing prices of coal, was handed down today by the Federal grand jury. The individuals are accused of having combine during the past three years to eliminate competition in transportation and sale of what is known as "smokeless bunker coal," mined in the southern, southeastern and southwestern counties of West Virginia and placed on shipboard at tidewater ports at Newport News and Norfolk. Eighty per cent. of the coal for ocean vessels loading at those ports is declared by the Federal authorities to be supplied by the alleged combination. Upwards of 3,000,000 tons of coal at those ports annually, by taking from 80 to 4,000 tons each. On approximately 2,000,000 tons annually for three years a minimum price of \$5.10 a ton was fixed according to Federal attorneys, as compared with \$3.80 a ton before that period. On this basis the purchasers paid \$1,800,000 more than they might have paid had not the alleged combination been in effect. This computed loss fell for the most it is asserted, on the entire allies. Through the alleged fixing of a minimum price consumers were denied the benefits of competition, the indictment charges. Twelve of the 21 corporations named and 10 of the 18 individuals are among the defendants in the government's indictments announced some weeks ago against the so-called smokeless fuel combination. Among them is the Berwin-White Coal Mining Company, John E. Berwin, a director, is one of the individual defendants.

THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FOR PREPARATIONS Is to Receive Prompt Attention in Both Houses of Congress. NO SUSTAINED OPPOSITION None Expected to Any of the Proposed Measures for Raising War Funds (By Associated Press.) Washington, April 9.—Early action on the administration war legislative program was forecast upon the assembling of Congress today. Chief among these are measures to authorize issuance of bonds for billions of dollars and for raising a big army. Opposition to both measures is looked for, but is not expected to seriously threaten their passage. On the House side, Democratic members of the Ways and Means committee were preparing to introduce either today or tomorrow the resolution for a bond issue, and the Military committee heard representatives of the War Department explain its plan for raising an army. The House also is expected to agree promptly to a Senate amendment to the General Deficiency bill, giving the President an emergency fund of \$100,000,000. The Senate was expected to begin consideration today of the Army bill, carrying \$270,000,000, which was passed by the House at the last session. Other measures which probably will be taken up in their order are the Military Academy and the Sundry Civil Supply measures, both of which have already passed the House. In addition, other measures which will be ready for consideration during the week include the Espionage bill and amendments to strengthen the shipping law and the Federal Reserve act. About \$1,750,000,000, or one-half the \$3,500,000,000 asked for army and navy purposes within a year, will be raised by taxation, and the balance by sale of bonds, House and Senate leaders had virtually decided today. It is proposed that most revenue should come from increased taxation on incomes, inheritances and excess profits, and that an issue of 3 1/2 per cent. bonds be authorized for \$5,000,000,000, of which \$3,000,000,000 would be invested in war bonds of the entire nation, and \$2,000,000,000 would cover the balance of the war expenditures not met by taxation. All of the two billion might not be needed within the year, according to advance estimates. Members of the House Ways and Means committee today discussed details of the finance proposals, and there was some talk of pressing immediately only for the three billion dollar bond issue for the entire loan, allowing the two billion issue for army and navy expenditures to await more deliberate legislative action. Indications were that the bond issue would have little effective opposition in either House, although the problems of taxation for the war are likely to prove more difficult. A decision to introduce the \$5,000,000,000 bond issue measure on Thursday in the House was reached today by Secretary McAdoo and Representative Rainey, of Illinois, ranking Democratic member of the Ways and Means Committee.

A CONGRESSIONAL WAR COMMITTEE Resolutions Introduced, Providing for Creation of Such Committee With Power (By Associated Press.) Washington, April 9.—A joint resolution for a "congressional joint committee on the conduct of the war" was introduced simultaneously today by Senator Weeks of Massachusetts, and Representative Madden of Illinois, both Republicans. The committee would be composed of six members of the Senate, including four Democrats and two Republicans, and six from the House, evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats. The resolution provides that the committee shall be known as the "Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War," and shall sit during the sessions or the recess of Congress; shall make a special study of the problems arising out of the war; shall confer and advise with the President of the United States and the heads of the various executive departments, and shall report to Congress from time to time in its own discretion or when requested to do so by either branch of Congress. The committee would be clothed with the widest powers of investigation, compelling testimony under oath.

RICHARD OLNEY HAS PASSED AWAY Former Secretary of State Cleveland Dies Suddenly Last Night (By Associated Press.) Boston, Mass., April 9.—Richard Olney, Secretary of State under President Grover Cleveland, died at his home here last night. Mr. Olney had been ill several weeks although it was not until yesterday that his condition became serious. In an announcement issued by the family today it was stated that he died suddenly at 8:45 o'clock last night. Mrs. Olney and their daughter, Mrs. George R. Minot, of this city, were with him at the end. Mr. Olney's other daughter, Mrs. C. H. Abbot, is residing temporarily in Paris. Recently Mr. Olney had displayed deep interest in the international situation. It was said that he warmly commended the action when members of his family informed him Friday that President Wilson had signed a war proclamation.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN ALABAMA TOWN (By Associated Press.) Andalusia, Ala., April 9.—Fire swept one of the principal blocks of the city this morning, destroying the \$35,000 McArthur Opera House, the plant of the Andalusia Standard, and the following business houses: City Market, office of the Andalusia Light and Water Company, office of Southern Express Company, L. M. Johnson, grocer; A. C. Coffin, garage; Chero-Cola bottling plant; Andalusia Business College, and T. B. Chevington's tin shop. The Ray Hotel, the Dixie Hotel and a laundry were partially destroyed.

BRITISH ATTACK GERMAN FORCES ON EXTENDED LINE Satisfactory Progress at All Points Is the Official Report NEW OFFENSIVE FORESHADOWED By Intense Aerial Activity—Danger Point For the Germans—Their Plans Frustrated. (By Associated Press.) London, April 9.—The British early this morning attacked the German lines on a wide front from a point south of Arras to the south of Lens, thus opening what is believed here to be a general spring offensive. The move has been looked forward to eagerly for some days. The offensive of the British flying corps in the latter part of last week, the attack on Zebrugge, Saturday night, and the activity of the French in Belgium, as shown in yesterday's official communication from Paris, were considered a prelude to important military operations. The British commander, General Haig, whose reports are always modest, says the German line has been penetrated everywhere and that satisfactory progress was made in the direction of Cambrai and St. Quentin, two important positions in connection with the new German line. The extension of the attack northward to Lens doubtless was intended to give the British more elbow room for their operations from Arras to the point of juncture with the French around St. Quentin. Referring to the attack on the front between Arras and Lens the official statement says: "We are making satisfactory progress at all points. The statement is as follows: "We attacked at 5:30 o'clock this morning on a wide front from south of Arras to south of Lens. Our troops have everywhere penetrated the enemy's lines and are making satisfactory progress at all points. "In the direction of Cambrai, we stormed the villages of Hermies and Bourseries and have penetrated into Havrincourt wood. "In the direction of St. Quentin we captured Fresnoy-le-Petit and advanced our line southeast of La Verguier. "No estimate of the prisoners taken can yet be given, but considerable numbers are reported captured." The fighting line from Lens to Arras is approximately 10 miles in length and lies directly north of the field of the retreat which the Germans have been conducting for the past several weeks. The fact that this line has been penetrated by the British all along this wide front indicates that the movement there is a general offensive. That it is proving a successful drive is indicated by the statement that "satisfactory progress" is being made "at all points." An entire new phase of operations on the western front is opened up in this new battle on the Lens-Arras line. The field of attack represents the greatest danger point for the Germans, as in the recent fighting a sharp salient was driven into the German line southeast of Arras. In the Lens region, into which the British are driving, is a rich coal field, which the Germans have been exploiting since their occupation of this territory early in the war. The opening of the new offensive had been foreshadowed in the intense aerial activity of the past two or three days, in which hundreds of aeroplanes have been engaged. This work, as the British statements have indicated, has given General Haig's staff photographic reproductions of the German positions for long distances behind the fighting line. Further south the British have continued their progress in the field of the German retreat, the advance reported at Hermies and Bourseries being particularly important. Bourseries is directly on the road from Bapaume to Cambrai, about 8 miles from the latter place. Hermies lies just to the south of Bourseries. In their drive toward St. Quentin the capture of Fresnoy-le-Petit puts the British within 2 1/2 (Continued on Page Eight).

OUR AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA SAFE Reaches Zurich—No Confirmation of Report of His Passport Sent Him (By Associated Press.) Paris, April 9.—The arrival at Zurich last evening of Frederic C. Penfield, American ambassador to Austria, Mrs. Penfield and three members of the embassy staff, is reported in a Havas dispatch from St. Gall, Switzerland. Mr. Penfield made arrangements some time ago for a trip to Washington, expecting to return to Vienna after an absence of perhaps three months. It was reported in press dispatches last week that the Austrian government had severed diplomatic relations with the United States on account of the war between this country and Germany, but no official confirmation has been received.

COTTON PRICES SKYROCKETING Sensational Advance at Opening of New York and New Orleans Markets (By Associated Press.) New York, April 9.—One of the most sensational advances in the cotton trade occurred at the market's opening today. May sold up \$5.55 and July \$7.80 a bale above Thursday's closing prices. The upturn was attributed principally to the continued unfavorable weather east of the Mississippi, with the strength of the spot situation as an added factor. Since the war began there have been a number of extraordinary price movements, but none has approached today's in magnitude or excitement. May contracts at the opening sold at 21.25, or 113 points above the closing price before the Easter holidays, and the near-month shorts appeared to be almost panic-stricken. July showed even greater strength, selling up to 21.40, or 156 points net higher, on active and agitated buying from virtually all quarters.