

**WEATHER FORECAST.**  
For North and South Carolina—  
Fair weather and slowly rising tem-  
perature today and Wednesday, frost  
in exposed places tonight.

# THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH



VOL. XXIII. NO. 82. WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, TUESDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 10, 1917. PRICE FIVE CENTS.

## HUNDREDS MEET DEATH IN EXPLOSION

### ACCIDENT TODAY IN A GIANT MUNITIONS FACTORY IN PA.

Terrific Explosion Occurred at Eddystone and Scores Killed and Other Maimed  
MANY YOUNG WOMEN AMONG THE VICTIMS.  
Estimates of The Dead Run as High as Three Hundred—Cause Not Known as Yet—Plant Had Been Closely Guarded.

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**AT LEAST HUNDRED DEAD.**  
(By Associated Press.)  
Chester, Pa., April 10.—At least 100 persons, mostly girls, were killed and 200 or more injured by an explosion today in the great munitions plant at Eddystone, Pa., near here, owned by the Russian government.  
Nothing is known as to the cause of the explosion, though there is a suspicion that it was not due to accident.  
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Chester, Pa., April 10.—A terrific explosion at the great plant of the Eddystone Ammunitions Corporation, at Eddystone, Pa., a mile from this city, is reported to have killed from 125 to 250 persons and injured at least 300 more.

A railroad official asserts that nearly 300 were killed, but this estimate cannot be confirmed.  
The explosion occurred soon after 10 o'clock in the pellet room of the shrapnel building, where about 100 girls were employed putting the finishing touches on shells. In a building adjoining approximately 30,000 shells were stored. A second explosion demolished this building and scattered the shells in every direction.  
Immediately calls were sent for outside aid and physicians, firemen and policemen from surrounding towns arrived in great numbers. The buildings in which the explosions occurred caught fire and were destroyed. Charred bodies were pulled from the wreckage and injured persons were picked up and taken to Chester, a mile away. The two main hospitals of the city were soon filled and others injured were taken to the Fifth Regiment armory and a frame tabernacle.  
No official of the company was found who could tell anything about the explosion. There were whispers of a plot to destroy the plant.  
The plant was originally constructed soon after the European war started by Baldwin Locomotive interests. Recently it was taken over by the Russian government, which has been employing about 10,000 people making shells.

The place has been thoroughly guarded night and day and after dark immense searchlights made every portion of the grounds as light as day. In addition Secret Service men and detectives worked in the various departments as munitions makers.  
At the undertaking place of Coronor White there are eighty bodies, seventy-nine being those of girls.  
Thousands of girls were employed at the plant, most of them coming from Philadelphia, ten miles away. They were attracted by the high wages paid.  
Officials of the Eddystone Ammunitions Corporation this afternoon said the damage to the plant was not serious. Announcement was made that operations will be resumed tomorrow.

Representative Henry T. Helgeson, of North Dakota, Republican, and member of Congress, since 1911, died in Washington today, after an operation for appendicitis.

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**BIG DEMAND FOR BOND ISSUE.**  
(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, April 10.—Application for allotment of the proposed \$5,000,000,000 bond issue has reached the Treasury Department in such quantity that the administration believes the success of the issue is already assured.  
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### DRAFT FEATURE OF THE ARMY BILL

President Wilson's Efforts to Break Down the Opposition Thereto.  
(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, April 10.—Efforts to break down opposition to the draft feature of the proposed army bill were continued today by President Wilson. He arranged to see Representative Anthony, of Kansas, a Republican member of the House Military Committee, and an opponent of conscription, and to explain how strongly he believes the United States should not apply the volunteer system in raising a big army for use against Germany. He made a similar personal appeal yesterday to Chairman Dent, of the Military Committee, who does not favor conscription.  
There was considerable talk today of a compromise to be presented by members of conscription service, and although the administration recognizes this possibility, no hint was given that it will recede from its insistence on conscription. Chairman Dent declared it would be at least a week before a bill of any sort is reported from his committee.

### NAT. GUARD PLAN OUTLINED TODAY

No New Units Will Be Recognized Save Under Special Conditions.  
(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, April 10.—Plans for the National Guard were definitely outlined today by the War Department.  
Adjutants-general of the States have been informed that no new units of the guards will be recognized except such special forces as may be necessary to complete divisional organization of the present establishment and those which have armories, have been recruited in definite localities and have other indications of "probable permanency."  
The purpose of the department is to prevent organization of purely volunteer regiments under the guise of National Guard units and which would not, in all probability, last beyond the duration of the war.

### ASHEVILLE AGOG WITH PATRIOTIC FERVOR

(By Associated Press.)  
Asheville, N. C., April 10.—What promises to be the biggest patriotic demonstration in the history of Asheville begins shortly after noon today with a parade in which white and colored citizens will show their loyalty to the Nation. Five thousand people are expected to march through the principal streets to the Auditorium, where addresses and music will complete the program. Mayor Rankin has proclaimed a half holiday and practically all business establishments announce that they will close.

### SERIOUS SITUATION FACED IN TENNESSEE

(By Associated Press.)  
Nashville, Tenn., April 10.—Facing the extraordinary demand caused by war on farm and garden products, this section is also facing a serious situation unless there is a change in the unfavorable weather. It was excessively wet all during March and early this month, and hardly any corn is yet planted. The excess of rain fall at Nashville since January 1st has been 5.69 inches. For March it was three inches above normal, and so far in April it has been 2.21 above normal. Prospects now are for gardens to be 10 to 15 days late.

### AUSTRIAN BREAK DUE TO BEING AN ALLY OF GERMANY

Vienna Foreign Office So Informs United States Government.  
OFFICIALS WILL GET SAFE PASSAGE.  
American Government Gives Out Full Text of Note Received From Austria-Hungary.  
(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, April 10.—Austria's note to American Charge Crew at Vienna severing diplomatic relations with the United States because of this country's declaration of war with Germany and offering every facility for the return of American officials in Austria was made public at the State Department today with an official statement as follows:  
"The following dispatch, dated April 8, from the American Charge d'Affaires, Vienna, has been received by the Department of State:  
"Minister for Foreign Affairs has just informed me that the diplomatic relations between the United States and Austria-Hungary are broken and has handed me passports for myself and the members of the embassy. He states that we may leave the monarchy at our convenience and that every possible courtesy will be extended. Am telegraphing consuls to arrange their affairs and proceed to Vienna with a view to leaving for Switzerland if possible at end of week."  
"Following is translation of text of note handed me by Minister:  
"Since the United States of America has declared a state of war exists between it and the imperial German government, Austria-Hungary as allies of the German Empire, has decided to break off the diplomatic relations with the United States and the imperial and royal embassy at Washington has been instructed to inform the Department of State to that effect."  
"While regretting under these circumstances to see a termination of the personal relations which he has had the honor to hold with the Charge d'Affaires of the United States of America, the undersigned does not fail to place at the former's disposal herewith the passports for the departure from Austria-Hungary of himself and the other members of the embassy."  
"At the same time the undersigned avails himself of the opportunity to renew to the Charge d'Affaires the expression of his most perfect consideration."

### BETTER SERVICE IN WAY OF MAILES

Department Bears This News to Hood About Rocky Mount Connection.  
(By George H. Manning.)  
Washington, D. C., April 10.—The Postoffice Department advises Congressman George Hood today that there has been marked improvement in mail connections at Rocky Mount, which will permit people between there and Wilmington to receive their mail more promptly. Complaints had been made that because trains missed connections there much delay had been caused to mails.  
The postmaster at Richards, Pendleton county, has resigned and an inspector has been detailed to recommend his successor.

### MYSTERIOUS BOAT IN GULF OF MEXICO

Manned By Germans—Loaded With Gasoline—Captured By Coast Guard Cutter  
(By Associated Press.)  
Atlanta, April 10.—A launch manned by a German speaking crew and carrying more than 500 gallons of gasoline was captured several days ago off the Georgia coast and taken to Fernandina, Fla., according to a letter received here by Charles A. Arnov, State game and fish commissioner.  
The capture was made by a revenue cutter, Mr. Arnov said, adding that it had caused much speculation as to whether or not there was any truth in reports of German submarines in the Gulf of Mexico. Only one of the German crew spoke English. Mr. Arnov said. He had no information to show where they came from.

### RUSSIANS SUMMONED TO HIT GERMANS.

(By Associated Press.)  
Petrograd, April 10 (Via London).—The provisional government has issued a lengthy proclamation directing attention to the grave danger of a German effort to deliver a decisive blow at Russia and the necessity of immediately concentrating all of Russia's forces for the defeat of the enemy.  
"The provisional government," says the proclamation, "feels that it has no right to hide the truth. The state is in danger, and it is necessary to employ all our powers to save it. The old regime left Russia in a sadly disorganized condition, especially in the matter of finance, food supplies, transport and munitions."  
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### AMERICAN LINER STRIKES A MINE

No Casualties and Vessel Proceeds Under Own Steam to Liverpool.  
(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, April 10.—The American Liner, New York, struck a mine at 7:40 p. m., five miles off Liverpool bar. No casualties were reported and the vessel later proceeded to Liverpool.  
The State Department's report says: "The American Liner, New York, struck a mine at 7:40 p. m., five miles off Liverpool bar. Company reports passengers landed at Liverpool except four, who are still on ship. There were no casualties. The vessel proceeded under her own steam and is now (1 o'clock this morning) entering her dock."  
Carries Guns and Naval Gunnery.  
New York, April 10.—The American Line steamship, New York, left this port on March 29 for Liverpool, with 58 passengers, cargo and mail. The passengers included seven American citizens. She carried a navy crew of gunners and was armed. The ship's crew of 234 men included 144 Americans.  
The New York docked safely at Liverpool at 1 a. m. (English time), and all passengers are safe, according to a cablegram received here today by the American Line. The damage to the vessel was small, the message stated.

### REPUBLICANS GIVE DEMOCRATS SURPRISE

(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, April 10.—Representative Martin, of Louisiana, a Progressive protectionist, was nominated today on the Ways and Means Committee by the Republican committee on committees. The nomination caused surprise because Representative Martin voted for the re-election of Speaker Clark.  
The Republicans completed their organization and arrangements were made for a meeting of the Ways and Means Committee late today to consider the proposed \$5,000,000,000 bond issue. A tentative draft of the administration bill provides not more than \$3,000,000,000 in bonds for a loan to the Allies and 2,000,000,000 more for war obligations of the United States.  
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### BRITISH SUCCESS GREATER THAN FIRST SUPPOSED

Great Quantity of Booty Secured From Retreating Germans.  
THE LONG RANGE CANNONADING  
By British Prevents German Rally—Canadians Capture and Hold Strategic Point.  
(By Associated Press.)  
As a result of the offensive begun yesterday along the line from Lens to Arras, the British have captured and hold apparently firm possession of Vimy ridge, considered the pivot of the great German retreat in Northern France.  
The German lines along the Scarpe, northeast of Arras, have been penetrated as far as the town of Fampoux, a distance of 3 1/2 miles.  
More than 9,000 Germans were captured in one day's fighting and 40 guns taken.  
Further south the battle is progressing favorably to the British, who have drawn close to St. Quentin, taking commanding ground to the northwest.  
North of the Lens-Arras sector the Germans made a drive on a narrow front, penetrating the British lines southeast of Ypres, but being ejected.  
The French continue to fight their way forward northeast of Soissons and report progress east of the lower Coucy forest.  
Brazil has broken diplomatic relations with Germany, dispatches by way of London state. Rio Janeiro advices have indicated that such a break was imminent. There are reports of suspicious activity of the Brazilian coast with the exchange of signals, wireless and otherwise, between Germans ashore and vessels at sea.  
London, April 10.—It is officially reported that the British captured over 9,000 prisoners and more than 40 guns in yesterday's operations.  
Heavy fighting took place last night on the northern end of Vimy ridge, from which the Germans were driven. The eastern slope was also cleared.  
Near St. Quentin the Germans have been driven from the high ground between Le Verguier and Hargicourt.  
Fighting continues along the entire front.  
The British have seized the village of Fampoux, and the neighboring defenses north and south of the Scarpe river.  
The Germans made a strong attack on a narrow front southeast of Ypres and reached the British support lines. They were driven from the British trenches by a counter attack.  
The announcement, which is timed 11:50 a. m., is as follows:  
"During the night there was severe fighting at the northern end of Vimy ridge, where the enemy had been driven. The eastern slope of the ridge has been cleared of the enemy and counter-attacks repulsed.  
"Our troops advanced and seized the village of Fampoux and neighboring defenses north and south of the Scarpe."  
The number of prisoners taken yesterday exceeds 9,000, and over 40 guns have been captured.  
"In the neighborhood of St. Quentin the enemy has been driven from the high ground between Le Verguier and Hargicourt. Fighting continues throughout the whole battle front."  
"After an intense bombardment the enemy made a strong attack last night on a narrow front southeast of Ypres and succeeded in reaching our support lines. He was immediately ejected from our trenches, leaving several dead."  
Further Advance by French.  
Paris, April 10.—A further advance was made south of the Oise by the French last night, the War Office announces. The statement follows:  
"North of the Oise the enemy's artillery showed less activity than on preceding days. Patrol encounters and rifle firing in the first lines occurred."  
"South of the Oise we made progress east of the lower forest of Coucy. The artillery fighting was rather heavy in the region northeast of Soissons and especially severe in the sector of Lafaux. Southeast of Rheims we repulsed a surprise attack against one of our trenches north of Sillery. Fighting with grenades occurred in the Champagne west of Maisons de Champagne."  
Meatless Day Causes Drop in Market.  
Chicago, April 10.—J. Ogden Armour's suggestion of meatless days and government control of foodstuffs was said to have caused the sensational break in prices on board of trade at the opening today. Part of the initial loss was subsequently recovered. Wheat declined five cents and provisions from 55 cents to \$1.55.

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### ROOSEVELT APPEALS TO BE ALLOWED GO TO BATTLE FRONT

#### KITCHIN READ YTO LEAD WAR BILL ON TO VICTORY

Democratic Leader Declares He Is In Line and Ready to Fight.  
OTHER PACIFISTS WILL JOIN IN.  
Kitchin Expresses Surprise That He Should Have Been Doubted—Will Let Caucus Have Say.  
(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, April 10.—Democratic Leader Kitchin today announced his readiness to pilot the administration war program through the House. He vowed against the war resolution and there was some doubt of his position.  
Mr. Kitchin also announced that he would give the Democratic caucus an opportunity to decide, if it desired, to deposit his name as House leader. While a large majority of the Democrats disagreed with his opposition to the war resolution, the general feeling is that he voted his conviction and now that he is willing to take charge of the war measures he is not open to attack.  
Great surprise was expressed by Mr. Kitchin over any question being raised as to his being willing to push the war measure through the House. He never had any intention of opposing them once the war resolution passed, he said.  
"Now that the resolution has passed I certainly am willing to take charge of the measures and push them through," said he. "I cannot understand why it ever has been intimated that I would be unwilling to take charge of the bill. I express my willingness in my address to the House and I wish to reiterate it now."  
Belief was general in Congressional circles that all the so-called pacifist factions would join with Mr. Kitchin in support of the measures.  
Despite Kitchin's announced willingness to father the administration's war revenue measures as the chairman of the Ways and Means committee, several of his friends express belief that he probably will oppose universal military service and training.

#### L. AND N. MEETING WAS HELD TODAY

E. W. Cole Elected Chairman of Board—Financial Statement Submitted.  
(By Associated Press.)  
Nashville, Tenn., April 10.—The directors and stockholders of the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railway met today. Whitford P. Cole, son of a former president of the road, Colonel E. W. Cole, was elected chairman of the board, to succeed Major E. C. Lewis, deceased. Claude Waller, general counsel, was elected a director in Major Lewis' place. Reports submitted to the stockholders showed that for the year ending December 31, 1916, operating revenues were \$13,519,588.47, as against \$11,539,843.48 for 1915.  
Operating expenses were \$9,749,810.40, an increase of \$742,684.88. President John H. Peyton, in calling attention to the increasing cost in operation and maintenance, said that with a return to normal conditions "it will be difficult indeed for even the best managed and most favorably located railroad properties to escape the harmful results arising from the many existing adverse conditions."

#### GOES TO WASHINGTON IN INTEREST OF FORMING DIVISION FOR SERVICE.

HAD CONFERENCE WITH THE PRESIDENT.  
Believes His Plan For Sending Force to Europe Will Be Approved—Gives Out Enthusiastic Statement to The Press.  
(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, April 10.—Colonel Roosevelt, who reached Washington unheralded at midnight and went to the home of his daughter, Representative Longworth's wife, would not discuss this morning the object of his hurried visit. He had no plans for the morning, it was stated, but might have something to say during the afternoon.  
Colonel Roosevelt's desire to take a force of American soldiers to France is believed to be the object of his visit, and it was thought probable he will see President Wilson and Secretary Baker during his stay.  
Colonel Roosevelt called on President Wilson at the White House today and was received in the Executive Mansion. He was accompanied by his daughter, Mrs. Nicholas Longworth.  
Colonel Roosevelt laid his plan for raising a division of troops for foreign service before the President and said afterward that he had been received with the utmost courtesy and consideration.  
When Colonel Roosevelt left the White House he waved his hat enthusiastically to a large group of waiting correspondents and, shutting off questions, dictated this statement:  
"I came on, desiring to see the President personally to reiterate what I had already said about my message to Congress and to lay before him in detail and explain just what I desired to have his direction to do in connection with my division and why it was my earnest hope and belief that it would be well that I should have the authorization to raise such a division to be sent as part of a force to France at an early moment."  
"The division and myself, of course, would be put under the command of whoever was at the head of the expeditionary force."  
"The President received me with the utmost courtesy and consideration and doubtless in his own due time will come to a decision in connection with the division."  
After announcing his intention of seeing Daniel Willard, chairman of the Advisory Commission of the National Defense Council, and Congressional leaders, the former President explained his position toward universal training.  
"I am heart and soul for the principle of universal military training," he said. "I am for both universal obligatory training and service. Call me a conscriptionist and I will say yes. You cannot frighten me by any name."  
"The division that I ask permission to raise would be made up of men who would not be taken under conscription."  
In the midst of his statement, Colonel Roosevelt turned to Secretary Tumulty and said:  
"If I say anything I shouldn't be sure to, censor it. I'm already under orders."  
Colonel Roosevelt slapped Tumulty on the back and remarked he might get him.  
As Colonel Roosevelt turned to leave, "Jack," a negro messenger who served at the White House during his administration, came up.  
"Hello, Jack," exclaimed the Colonel, shaking the negro's hand vigorously.

#### BRITISH PRESS ON.

(By Associated Press.)  
London, April 10.—The British have made a further advance in the capture of the Bagdad railway, and the town of Herbe.  
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