

For North and South Carolina—Increasing cloudiness, probably followed by showers late tonight or Friday, cooler Friday, moderate variable winds.

AMERICA'S FIRST MOVE ON GERMANY

BRITISH NOW HITTING THE LINES HARD

More Important Position Attacked and Taken in The Great Drive

GERMAN COUNTER MOVES BROKEN UP

Both British and French Make Big Advances—Arras Conflict Likely to Develop Into Greatest Battle of War.

Despite the most unfavorable weather conditions, the British continue the delivery of telling strokes against the Germans along the line from Lens to St. Quentin.

Apparently devoting the greater part of their attention to the important sector of the line near Vimy ridge, the key position on the northern end of the front, which they have captured, the British today drove against two important positions north of the ridge and captured them.

This blow was driven home just southwest of Lens and enabled the British forces to advance their lines on both sides of the Souchez river.

All German attempts to regain the ridge itself have been foiled. The Germans tried twice last night to drive General Haig's troops from the positions they had established on the northern end of the ridge, but the machine guns broke up the assaults with heavy German losses.

Further south progress for the British below the River Scarpe, where Monchy-le-Preux was captured yesterday is reported.

Much importance is attached to the resumption by the French of the general attack. Seemingly they are giving the Germans in the region southwest of Laon all they can attend to, preventing any reinforcements from this sector of the lines menaced by the British offensive.

The main drive by General Nivelle's forces was launched along the 3-1/2 mile front from Courcy-la-Ville to Quincy-Basse. A considerable gain of ground was effected here, taking the French to the southwestern edge of the upper Coucy forest.

There is every evidence that this attack was carefully prepared by extensive artillery fire and there would be little surprise if it developed into a continuous offensive.

The dent in the French line caused by the German attack in the Champagne some time ago has now been completely straightened out. Paris reports the position re-established intact by means of a sharp attack delivered east of Spigney.

Advices from Rio Janeiro indicate the expectation there that Brazil will rest for the present on the severance of diplomatic relations with Germany, not issuing a declaration of war in the immediate future at least.

Greatest Battle of the War.

London, April 12.—That the Arras conflict will develop shortly into the greatest battle of the war was predicted by Major-General F. B. Maurice, chief director of military operations at the war office, in his weekly interview with the Associated Press.

General Maurice declared the offensive being conducted according to plans completed in February, thereby controverting German claims that their retreat had upset the British schedule and that the Teutonic military authorities control the situation.

The British losses during the first two days of the offensive were only half of those sustained in the corresponding time in the Somme offensive, General Maurice declared.

British Capture More Guns.

About 1,000 yards of trenches south of Farbus wood in the region southeast of Vimy were captured by the British this morning, Reuters correspondent telegraphs from the front.

The latest news this morning is that we occupied about 1,000 yards of trenches running south from the commandant's house to the southwest of Farbus wood and have cleared the ground to the bank of the Cojeul river. We also occupied a German trench running southeast from Neuville-Vitasse and have taken Hill No. 50, lying southeast of Wancourt.

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EXPERTS AT WORK AT EDDYSTONE

Analyzing Powder in Shells—Theory That Acid May Have Been Put in Shells

(By Associated Press.) Chester, Pa., April 12.—Experts today continued analyzing powder in the shrapnel shells at the works of the Edgestone Ammunition Corporation, with the hope of establishing the cause of the explosions which killed 122 persons Tuesday.

There is a theory that if a plot existed, an acid capsule might have been dropped into a shell in the charging room.

State Fire Marshal Port said today he has not reached any conclusion regarding the cause.

Meanwhile investigators and police are running out every clue involving the possibility of a plot.

FRITZ KOLB MUST SERVE TIME IN PEN.

(By Associated Press.) Jersey City, N. J., April 12.—Fritz Klob, a German, convicted of having bombs in his possession, was today sentenced to not less than 3 years and four months nor more than five years in state prison.

Kolb was arrested March 5, in Hoboken. It was charged that he and Hans Schwartz plotted to cause a second ammunition explosion on Black Tom Island. The jury could not agree, as to Schwartz.

TRAIN ROBBER AGAIN IN LAW'S CLUTCHES.

(By The Associated Press.) Charlotte, N. C., April 12.—H. Grady Webb, train robber, who was being transported to Atlanta federal prison from West Virginia and escaped from the officers on a train while in the yards here one night last week, was captured today at Badin, near Salisbury, and will be carried to Atlanta today to begin his sentence.

Army Wedding in Hawaii.

(By Associated Press.) Honolulu, April 12.—A wedding of interest in American military circles today was that of Miss Margaret Treat and Lieut. Archibald Vincent, U. S. A. The bride is the daughter of Brig. Gen. Charles G. Treat, the commandant at Schofield barracks, where the wedding was celebrated.

Sam (Little) Chip, the comedian, died suddenly in a hotel at Rochester, N. Y., last night, after an attack of acute indigestion. In private life he was Samuel Kornblum, of Brooklyn.

BULGARIA SAID TO BE READY SUE FOR SEPARATE PEACE

(By Associated Press.) London, April 12.—Reports from a Swiss source have been received in Rome that the Bulgarian minister at Berne has made overtures to the Entente ministers with a view to the conclusion of a separate peace, says the Exchange Telegraph's Rome correspondent.

Similar advices regarding Bulgaria are sent by the Exchange Telegraph representative at Lausanne. He reports that the Gazette of that city states it has learned that semi-official Bulgarian delegates are in Switzerland endeavoring to arrive at a basis for a separate peace with representatives of the Entente.

ENGLAND SALUTES AMERICA NOW AS A COMRADE IN ARMS

LAND APPRAISERS NAMED

(By George H. Manning.) Washington, D. C., April 12.—The Federal Farm Loan Board today announced appointment of H. C. Prosser, of Hamlet; A. M. McDonald, of Charlotte; W. C. Hammond, of Statesville, and A. J. McKinnon, of Maxton; as land appraisers of the Columbia Federal Land Bank District.

BETTING ON THE WAR'S DURATION

Present Rates on Peace Before End of Year—Cargo Insurance Rates.

(By Associated Press.) London, April 12.—A feeling in some quarters that the war may end before the last of the year is indicated by the fact that in underwriting circles business was done yesterday "to pay total loss if peace is not declared before December 31 at 45 guineas per cent."

Some time ago business was done at the rate of 15 per cent, against the declaration of peace within 18 months. A report that 10 to 1 was being offered at Lloyds that peace would be concluded within 90 days was described as more in the nature of a jocular bet than an attempt to trade. The wide betting odds frequently mentioned are not seriously considered as indicative of market opinion.

Cargo insurance rates between England and America hold firm at around 8 to 10 guineas per cent, according to the steamer, and insurance for securities vary between 20 and 30 shillings per cent.

ANOTHER VICTIM OF SUBMARINE

American Schooner Sunk—Crews of Two Torpedoed Vessels Suffer Exposure

(By Associated Press.) Washington, April 12.—The American schooner Marguerite, of New York, was captured and presumably sunk 35 miles southwest of Sardinia on April 4, and her crew, including one American, exposed to 46 hours in open boats. A dispatch to the State Department today forwarded the information from the American consul at Tunis. The ship made no attempt to escape or resist and was refused all aid by the submarine.

Exposure of the crew, including one American, of the Norwegian bark Marion, Limerick to Pensacola, sunk without warning by a German submarine, to 47 hours in open boats was reported to the department today by Consul Washington at Liverpool.

Statesmen Gather at Luncheon in London to Celebrate Advent of United States

PREMIER LLOYD-GEORGE PRAISES AMERICA.

Country Has Never Fought Save For Liberty, He Declares—Welcomes United States to Seat at The Final Peace Council Table—America's Part.

(By Associated Press.) London, April 12.—Addressing the American Luncheon Club today Premier Lloyd-George said the advent of the United States into the war had given the final stamp and seal to the character of the conflict which was a struggle about military autocracy.

The premier said he was not surprised that America had taken time to make up her mind as to the character of the struggle, having regard to the fact that most of the great wars in Europe in the past had been waged for dynasty aggrandizement and conquest.

Early in the war, Mr. Lloyd-George continued, the United States did not comprehend what had been endured in Europe for years from the military caste in Prussia. Saying that Prussia was not a democracy, but that Emperor William had promised it would be after the war he added: "I think the Kaiser is right."

The luncheon, held to celebrate the entrance of the United States into the war, brought together a distinguished gathering. The guests included chairman Bonar-Law, Colonel Winston Spencer Churchill, Lord Reading, General Smuts, Lord Derby, Lord Bryce, Walter Hume Long, the Italian ambassador, the Cuban minister, and Herbert C. Hoover.

The premier said he was happy to salute the American nation as comrades in arms.

"In three years we tried every kind of blunder," said Mr. Lloyd-George. "We got into every bunker. But now we have got a good nibble stroke and we are right out into the course."

"It is worth America's while to study our blunders and begin where the Kaiser is right."

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RALEIGH'S WAR CELEBRATION

That City to Hold Mammoth Celebration Tonight—Negroes to Participate.

(By Associated Press.) Raleigh, N. C., April 12.—Thousands of persons are expected to participate tonight in the first organized patriotic demonstration here. Patriotic societies, military organizations, Confederate and Spanish war veterans, citizens and nearly two thousand college students, including several hundred negroes from Shaw University and other local schools, are to take part in a parade. Arrangements have been made for the participation of negro citizens and organizations and negro leaders declare their section of the line will be one of the features.

Governor Thomas C. Rye, of Tennessee, is to be principal speaker at the patriotic exercises after the parade.

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Telephone 176 or send a postal card to The Wilmington Dispatch Circulation Department if you want regular service by carrier at your home.

NEWSPRINT MEN INDICTED TODAY.

(By Associated Press.) New York, April 12.—The Newsprint Manufacturers' Association and seven members of its executive committee were indicted today by the Federal Grand Jury charged with violation of the Sherman anti-trust law.

ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO BLOW UP PLANT

Pistol Duel Between Guard and Would-be Wreckers of Benzol Factory.

(By Associated Press.) Birmingham, Ala., April 12.—An attempt to blow up the benzol plant of the Woodward Iron Company, at Bessemer, Ala., 15 miles from here, is believed to have been frustrated early this morning, when two men were routed from the company's property by a night watchman, after he had engaged with them in a pistol fight.

After the fight the watchman discovered a stick of dynamite under one of the tanks near where the men were seen. According to the watchman when he saw them they were told to halt. Upon refusing, he fired at them, and his shots immediately were returned, as fusilade of shots was exchanged, and the men finally disappeared in the darkness.

The Woodward plant is not far from the benzol plant of the Edison Company at Bessemer.

AN EXPLOSION IN POWER MILL

Near Philadelphia Causes One Death—Declared to be Entirely Accidental.

(By Associated Press.) Philadelphia, April 12.—An accidental explosion of powder in the detonating department of the government arsenal at Frankford, a suburb, where ammunition is being manufactured in great quantities, today killed Philip McNally and fatally injured Joseph Miller. The two men were the only occupants of the small structure. McNally was instantly killed. Miller was blown through a window and terribly injured.

In buildings nearby 1,500 women and girls were at work making ammunition and soldiers' clothing. Colonel Montgomery, commandant, said the explosion was purely accidental.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST TEUTON UNDERSEA BOATS TO BE BIG

CAPTAIN ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY

For Wrecking Engines of Austrian Steamer—Says He Did it Under Orders.

(By Associated Press.) Norfolk, Va., April 12.—That he wrecked the engines and machinery of the Austrian steamer Budapest, seized by the United States authorities at Newport News last Monday afternoon, and that he did so upon instructions, was admitted by Captain Kehrer, who is now being detained in the quarters at the local immigration bureau.

Captain Kehrer told W. R. Morton, inspector in charge of the local bureau, that he received instructions to put the machinery of the Budapest out of commission on January 31, and that he sent the chief engineer of the vessel ashore on a pretext and proceeded to carry out the instructions. He would not say where or from whom the instructions were received.

Captain Kehrer was examined by Inspector Morton today and took the responsibility for the condition of the machinery of the Budapest upon his own shoulders, simply stating that he was doing what he had been told to do by those "higher up."

Mr. Morton is carrying on an examination of the crews of the Hamburg-American steamer Arcadia, seized at Newport News when the United States declared war with Germany last Friday morning, and the Budapest. All except Captain Hans Hasse and Chief Engineer Rahliff of the Arcadia are in detention quarters at local headquarters. Those two officers are at a hotel.

ALIENS IN RICHMOND WILL HAVE TO REGISTER

(By Associated Press.) Richmond, Va., April 12.—Chief of Police Werner today, under instructions from Attorney-General Gregory, issued an order to all enemy aliens to report at his office for registration and to deliver up any arms or other articles forbidden them under the President's proclamation.

LOUISBURG SUFFERS FROM A BIG BLAZE

(By Associated Press.) Louisburg, N. C., April 12.—The plant of the Louisburg cotton oil company and 500 bales of cotton were destroyed by fire yesterday. The estimated loss is \$150,000.

WOULD ALLOW THE ENTENTE RECRUIT ITS CITIZENS HERE

(By Associated Press.) Washington, April 12.—With the approval of Attorney-General Gregory, Chairman Webb, of the House Judiciary Committee, will introduce tomorrow, a bill to allow the allied governments to recruit their citizens in the United States. Chairman Culberson, of the Senate Judiciary Committee, will introduce the same bill.

A resolution favorably reported from the House Foreign Affairs Committee expresses sympathy of this government with the people of Russia in their efforts to establish a democratic government and the hope and belief of this country that they successfully will bring about the happiness of the Russian people and the progress of their government.

To Be Inaugurated by United States Navy and Conducted on Colossal Proportions

AMERICA'S FIRST AID TO THE ALIES

To Furnish Them Food and War Munitions—To Rush Work on One Thousand Vessels to be Used in Clearing Sea of Submarines and Transporting Supplies.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, April 12.—A campaign of colossal proportions to break down the German submarine blockade and keep the entente plentifully supplied with food, clothing and munitions has been determined upon by President Wilson and his advisers as America's first physical stroke against her enemy.

Unable now to send an army into the trenches, the President believes the United States can do even greater service in the common cause against Germany by providing a great armada of merchantmen to invade the undersea campaign about which have been rallied the fading hopes of Prussian conquest.

For weeks officials have been at work on such a plan, but not until today was it revealed on how great a scale the task had been projected, or how great importance was attached to it in the administration's general war program. Virtually every detail now has been completed, and by fall the campaign itself will be in full swing. Many officials believe it may attain a supremacy over the submarine which will prove the decisive victory of the great war.

Quickly built, light wooden ships of 2,000 tons and upward are to make up of merchantmen, and to insure maximum construction the shipping board has enlisted the country's entire ship-building facilities, now the greatest in the world. Upwards of a hundred private plants will help, giving the board's orders precedence over every other class of work except the most urgent naval construction. For the first year production is expected to average three ships a day.

Already lumber interests have given assurances of an adequate supply at reasonable prices. Engine manufacturers have pledged their co-operation, too, and all the necessary machinery can be assembled as fast as the ships can be turned out at the yards. At more than one plant new ways already are under construction.

The question of labor, however, is giving officials some concern, and a call may be issued, appealing for patriotic co-operation by laborers to insure that the campaign against the submarine begin at the earliest possible moment. The shipping board estimates that 150,000 men will be needed to work all the plants to complete the building program in the time determined on. This is nearly ten times the number of laborers now employed in building merchant-craft.

Volunteers, it is pointed out, need not be experienced in ship-building, as comparatively little expert labor will be required. Within a few days the board will establish a labor bureau to enlist such volunteers. The American Federation of Labor already is co-operating and motion picture companies are planning to display pictures of ship-building operations as part of the campaign.

Major General George W. Goethals, builder of the Panama Canal, has been selected to supervise the construction program, which is expected to involve within the year a total tonnage of 3,000,000 tons, or more than now is building in all the shipyards of the world.

Built for the most part of pine and fir, the ships will range from 2,000 to 3,500 tons. Most of them probably will be equipped with oil-burning engines, and all will carry wireless and be armed. The engines will be standardized, as far as possible, so that damaged parts may be replaced if necessary. An average cost of about \$300,000 per ship is counted on. Each (Continued on Page Eight).