

WEATHER FORECAST.

North Carolina—Fair tonight and Wednesday. Cooler Wednesday and in north portion tonight. South Carolina—Fair tonight and Wednesday.

VOL. XXIII. NO. 86.

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, TUESDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 24, 1917.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE



LEAD BY MARNE HERO FRENCH COME

DECLARES IT WILL NEVER BE PASSED

Speaker Clark Vigorous in Opposition to Selective Draft.

ASSERTS VOLUNTEER SYSTEM COMES FIRST

Predicts War Department Measure Will Never Pass Congress—The Department Trying to Bulldoze The People, He Says.

Washington, April 24.—Speaker Clark opposed the selective draft and predicted it never would pass Congress, today in receiving a delegation from the National Security League.

"Conscription never will pass, in my opinion," he said. "I am for letting the flower of youth of this country volunteer before we fasten the disgrace of a draft upon them."

STRIKERS THREATEN TO BLOW UP PLANT

Stanton, Va., April 24.—Falling to revive wages demanded, nearly one hundred laborers in the Augusta Wood Products Company at Deerfield, Va., eight miles south of here, threatened to blow up the plant yesterday afternoon.

SUBMARINES AT WORK THREE SHIPS SUNK.

London, April 24.—It is officially announced in Norway, says a Central News dispatch from Christiania that the Norwegian steamer Reice has been sunk by a German submarine in the North Sea and the Norwegian steamer Skjold of 1,125 tons in the Atlantic.

Torpedoed.

London, April 24.—Dispatches from Petrograd today state that the Russian Socialists are greatly exercised over the sinking by a German submarine of the steamer Zara, which was taking home a number of Russian refugees.

U. S. STEEL DECLARES EXTRA DIVIDEND.

New York, April 24.—The United States Steel Corporation today declared an extra dividend of 3 per cent, on the common in addition to the regular quarterly dividend of 1-14 per cent.

ANOTHER AMERICAN KILLED IN FRANCE.

Paris, April 24.—Corporal Ronald Hosler, of South Orange, N. J., one of the stars of the American flying corps, has been killed in an aerial combat in the offensive that is now in progress.

GERMANS PROMOTE REVOLT IN BRAZIL. (By Associated Press.) Rio de Janeiro, April 24.—Telegrams received here from Parana confirm reports that the Germans in Southern Brazilian States are concentrating in the State of Santa Catharina. It is believed a German insurrection in the South is imminent.

GERMAN TACTICS ON FRENCH LINE

Explanation of Recent Gains of Terrain and Capture of Booty By Allies.

Amsterdam, April 24 (Via London).—Major Morath, writing in the Tages Zeitung, says that the results of the French offensive are hitherto completely unimportant. Major Morath writes: "The possession of single portions of terrain, such as trenches, villages and borders of woods, no longer plays a decisive role in deeply echeloned and fortified zones."

BALFOUR SPENDS A BUSY DAY

Head of British Board Holds Conferences—Pan-American Reception Tonight.

Washington, April 24.—Arthur James Balfour, British foreign secretary, spent today consulting other members of the British commission on means to dispose of the enormous amount of work which has already developed.

Officials of all the American administrative departments having to do with conduct of the war have indicated to the British information which would be of value and Mr. Balfour personally is trying to work out the means of securing and distributing the results of England's experience to the best advantage.

Representatives of 175,000 anthracite miners yesterday formerly presented to a committee of operators a request for an increase of 20 per cent in wages "proportioned in such manner and way as to be helpful and constructive."

TELLING THRUST BY THE BRITISH IN NEW SECTOR

They Push Forward to and Cut The St. Quentin-Cambrai Canal.

VIGOROUS COUNTER ATTACKS REPULSED

British Maintain All Their Grains—Many Prisoners Taken—Defeat of Turks in Mesopotamia.

While continuing to deliver hard blows upon the German lines in the Scarpe river region, east of Arras, where their offensive was resumed yesterday, the British have pushed home a telling thrust in another sector of the great battlefield.

Pushing along the Peronne-Cambrai railway further north, General Haig's troops captured the villages of Beaucamp and Villers-Plouich, which places a bare three miles from Marcon, another important railway center, 3-1/2 miles southwest of Cambrai.

The solid nature of the British gains, despite the violent German efforts to nullify them, is shown in a report of another particularly heavy counter attack delivered this morning at the village of Gavrelle, on the Arras-Douai road, captured yesterday, which the British successfully withstood.

Along the Aisne and in the Champagne the French are playing their part in the great battle by keeping up a heavy artillery fire while preparing for their next infantry move. Incidentally, in local operations, they improved their positions at some points, notably on the Chemin-Des-Dames plateau.

In Mesopotamia the British are continuing their victorious progress of the Tigris Valley. After fighting a hot battle with the Turks south of Samarra, 70 miles northwest of Baghdad, they occupied Samarra station, making important captures, including 16 locomotives and 224 railway trucks.

Sofia reports the repulse by the Bulgarians of a British attack in Macedonia, between the Vardar and Lake Doiran, which followed drum fire preparations.

ACROSS ATLANTIC WITH THE FRENCH COMMISSIONERS

Associated Press Representatives' Account of The Start and The Voyage.

OUT OF PARIS IN THE DARK OF NIGHT

Fast Liner With Lights Out Steams Rapidly Through Danger Zone—No Vessels Allowed Approach

(By Associated Press.) Washington, April 24.—The Associated Press correspondent who accompanied the commissioners from France, sends the following dispatch from the port of arrival: When the ship bearing the French commission came into port today American warships broke out French colors from their mastsheads and American bands played the French National anthem.

The special train bearing the mission slipped out of Paris in the early morning, observed only by a few secret service agents and railway men. The hour of leaving was known nowhere in advance and when the train stopped at cities along the way to the port of departure Marshal Joffre walked up and down the station platform, acknowledging pleasantly the salutation of the few persons who happened to be in the stations.

ASHEVILLE WANTS TRAINING CAMP

Making Strong Move to Have One Located On Part of Biltmore Estate.

(By George H. Manning.) Washington, D. C., April 24.—After a conference yesterday with officials of the War Department, in regard to the establishment of a military training camp at Asheville, J. E. Striker, leather, commissioner of public works at Asheville, and Dr. F. J. Clemenger, connected with the North Carolina militia, left for New York this afternoon to confer with Major-General Leonard Wood, commander of the Eastern Division, in charge of all military movements for points east of the Mississippi.

OPPOSING FORCES IN DEATH GRAPPLE FOR SUPREMACY

At Vital Point of Vantage on The Eastern Battle Front.

GERMAN REPULSE MEANS DISASTER

To Hindenburg Line—Fighting Principally Above Ground, With Machine Guns—Precarious Conditions.

What is apparently the bitterest fighting of the present Anglo-French offensive is raging today along the Wotan line, the hastily organized position east of Arras, to which the Germans retired when the northern end of the Hindenburg line was turned by General Haig.

The British have driven two wedges into the German positions, forming sharp salients in the region of the Scarpe river and north of the Bapaume-Cambrai road. The head of the first salient has been thrust within four miles of Vitry, the most important point on the Wotan line, but the tenacity and power with which the Germans are fighting leaves the issue for a time in doubt.

The situation behind the German lines, fraught as it is with far more tremendous possibilities than those presented by any battle, remains dubious and uncertain. The little news that trickles across the German frontier indicates that the authorities have gained the upper hand over the strikers by the drastic method of militarizing the munition industry and forcing strike leaders into the fighting ranks.

WILSON SIGNS WAR BOND BILL.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, April 24.—President Wilson today signed the war bond bill, authorizing the sale of \$5,000,000,000 in government bonds and \$2,000,000,000 in treasury certificates.

SAFE ARRIVAL OF COMMISSION FROM FRANCE ANNOUNCED

DOMINATION OF GASOLINE MARKET BY STANDARD OIL

Report of Federal Trade Commission to Senate on the Subject.

INCREASED PRICE OF GASOLINE

Accounted For to Great Extent By Course of Action of That Company—Synopsis of the Report.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, April 24.—Domination of the gasoline industry by Standard Oil interests, the Federal Trade Commission reported to the Senate today, has been largely responsible for high gasoline prices of the last two years.

The report declares interlocking stock ownership prevents any real competition among the various Standard Oil companies, and the Commission recommends legislation to permit reopening of the oil trust case to obtain modifications of the Supreme Court's dissolution decree.

Reached Some American Port at an Early Hour This Morning.

DISTINGUISHED MEN IN THE PARTY

General Joffre and Minister of Justice Vivianie Among Them—Brought by Fast Steamship Convoys by War Vessels—Met by American Destroyers.

WILL REACH WASHINGTON TOMORROW.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, D. C., April 24.—Later the State Department issued this further statement: "The Department of State is advised that the French commission will reach Washington tomorrow morning. The precise time and place of arrival will be announced later."

Washington, April 24.—The French commission has landed in the United States. This official statement was made early today by the government: "The Department of State is advised of the safe arrival of the French commission."

The commission, which includes Marshal Joffre, and former Premier Vivianie, arrived early this morning, on board a speedy steamship of the French line, which was convoyed across the Atlantic. The vessels were met off the coast by American torpedo boat destroyers and escorted to a port. The distinguished commission was welcomed with salutes as the French vessels dropped anchor.

How to Sell More Goods In the Wilmington Territory. The Wilmington Dispatch, the paper with the largest circulation, will carry your advertising message into a majority of the homes of the better and buying class in Wilmington and adjacent territory every evening at minimum cost. For better business in Wilmington Concentrate in The Wilmington Dispatch. The growth in the advertising patronage of The Wilmington Dispatch, both local and foreign, is evidence of the recognized worth of this paper as an advertising medium.

Other members of the party are: Marshal Joseph Jacques Cesaire Joffre, commander-in-chief of the French armies until last December, now military adviser of the government; Vice Admiral P. L. A. Chocheprat, dean of French admirals, and an expert on submarine problems; Marquis Pierre De Chambrun, member of the Chamber of Deputies and a student of international affairs; M. Simon, inspector-general of public instruction; and Surgeon Major Dreyfus. Vivianie was born at Sidi-Bel-Abbes, in Algeria, November 8, 1862, and was admitted to practice before the Court of Appeals at Paris in 1887. His Socialistic tendencies early manifested themselves and he became counsel of the railway workmen and employes. Elected to the Chamber of Deputies in 1893 and again in 1898, he retired temporarily from politics to become a French citizen, practicing law in the provinces. He was re-elected to the Chamber in 1906, however, and has maintained his membership ever since. He has the reputation of being one of the most fervent and eloquent of French orators, and also has attained distinction as a journalist, writing many articles for the great French dailies. On June 14, 1914, Vivianie succeeded Gaston Roumergue as president of the Council of Ministers, and Minister for Foreign Affairs. In that dual capacity he accompanied President Poincare on a special mission to Russia, and only four days after the (Continued on Page Three).