

WEATHER FORECAST.
North and South Carolina—Local showers this afternoon. Fair tonight and Friday.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

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FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

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WILMINGTON NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 26, 1917.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

UNREST FELT BEHIND THE GERMAN LINE

Indicate Possibility of Happening of Momentous Events in the Near Future.

TITANIC STRUGGLE ON BATTLE FRONT

Over Commanding Positions. Rigidity of German Censorship—Significance of Immediate Adjournment of Reichstag—Renewed Rumor of Peace Move by Austria.

The fourth day of the terrific struggle on the British front in France has opened with both sides still struggling vainly for a decision. The Germans have resorted to the terribly costly tactics of massed attacks and have apparently succeeded in checking the British advance. This partial success has been won, according to spectators of the titanic conflict, at a staggering toll of human life.

GERMANS EXEMPTED SENT TO RANKS

Amsterdam, April 26. (Via London.)—A Berlin official announcement received here, says that the German war office has ordered a great number of exemptions to be drafted for field service. They will be replaced in the war industries by women and those liable for the national auxiliary service.

RENEWED EFFORTS TO REGAIN GROUND LOST BY GERMANS

Germans Sacrifice Thousands of Men in Efforts to Drive Back British Wedge.

SURPRISE RUSHES BROKEN BY FRENCH

Unsuccessful Efforts to Dislodge French Forces From Their Position—Allies Lose Several Airplanes

Last night's fighting in the great battle in the Arras region seems to have been chiefly in connection with a renewed German effort to drive back the British village of Gavrelle. Through the capture of this place on Monday General Maig pushed a sharp wedge into the German lines along the Arras-Douai road. The Germans have sacrificed thousands of men in attempts to take it but have failed completely. Last night's efforts were as fruitless as the rest. The attacking forces were caught by the British artillery barrage and broken up.

ALLIES LOSE AIRSHIPS

Berlin, April 26. (Via London.)—The British and French lost six airplanes on the western front yesterday.

GERMANS PARLEYING WITH RUSSIAN SOLDIERS

Petrograd, April 26. (Via London.)—A telegram received here from Riga indicates that the Germans are continuing unrelentingly their attempts to parley with the Russian soldiers. At one place the Germans displayed a placard in which was written: "Russians! Do not attack. We also will not attack."

TERRIFIC FIGHTING

Paris, April 26.—Terrific fighting continued during the night on the front of the French offensive. The Germans renewed their counter attacks on the high ground near the Chemin-des-Dames, but gained no success, the war office reports.

AMERICAN SHIP SUNK BY U-BOAT

No Warning Given—Shelled While Crew Were Taking To Their Boats.

BOTH HOUSES DRAW NEAR VOTE ON ARMY BILLS IN CONGRESS

WALTON MURDER CASE RE-OPENED THURSDAY MORN.

Dr. Nesbitt Tells Jury It Would Be Unwise to Move Miss Davidson.

DR. HARLEE BELLAMY TELLS GIRL'S STORY

Not Known at Two O'clock Today Whether Girl Will Be Examined Immediately Or Postponed.

The Walton murder case was reopened this morning when the coroner's jury, after being told by Dr. Charles T. Nesbitt, county health officer, that the condition of Miss Florence Davidson, companion of Neal Walton on the night the latter was shot to death by an unknown party near Bellevue cemetery, was not sufficiently improved to warrant an examination of her by the jury unless that examination was conducted at the hospital, where she is a prisoner-patient, heard the events occurring on the night of the murder again recited. Dr. Harlee Bellamy, who followed Dr. Nesbitt in the witness chair, giving the jury Miss Davidson's story.

The attorneys in the case are very much opposed to going to the hospital for the examination. They made this plain this morning, but it could not be learned what the jury will do about this matter. This morning's inquiry brought out absolutely nothing new in the case. The inquiry will probably be continued throughout the afternoon or may be called over until the condition of the young lady is improved sufficiently to allow her presence in the Court House.

FIRST AMERICAN PRISONER BY GERMANY.

London, April 26.—The taking of the first American prisoner of war was reported to the American Embassy today through the American consul at Glasgow. It is usually the practice of the Germans to take prisoner captains of merchantmen sunk by their submarines. In view of this fact, the above dispatch may mean that an American vessel has been sunk.

HISSES GREETED REPRESENTATIVE WHO HEAPED CRITICISM ON THE PRESIDENT.

ADVOCATE GIVING ROOSEVELT A CHANCE

Senator Hale Favors Sending American Troops to Europe—House to Vote Tomorrow or Saturday and Senate by Midnight of Later Day.

Washington, April 26.—The Army bill continued to thread its way through debate in both Houses of Congress today under constant fire of attack from those who oppose selective conscription and ardently defended by those who support the administration plan.

The first prospect of a vote came in the House, where it was agreed that general debate should close with adjournment today, and leave only the summing up of speeches by leaders of each side.

Tomorrow Chairman Dent, of the Military committee will close the administration selective conception plan.

Then the bill will be considered by the House under the five minute rule, with prospect of a vote probably Friday night or Saturday.

An agreement to vote upon and finally dispose of the bill not later than Saturday night, was reached in the Senate. The agreement, made by unanimous consent, promises a final vote not later than midnight Saturday and possibly earlier. It also provides that no other business shall be considered in the meantime and that, if any Senator desires to speak, no adjournment or recess shall be taken. Another provision provides that at 1 o'clock p. m. Saturday debate shall be limited to five minutes on amendments and ten minutes on the bill itself, to each Senator. The Senate agreed informally, however, that the unanimous consent, if no member desires to proceed with the Army bill, other business may be brought up without objection.

QUARTER MILLION ON STRIKE IN BERLIN.

Washington, April 26.—Reports to the State Department through official channels tell of a strike of 250,000 laborers in Berlin. While the name of the official who gave the information is withheld, the department says the incident shows the growth of desire for peace on the part of the workmen. It is reported also that bread rations have been reduced from 1900 to 1600 grams per week.

Leader In Its Field

No paper published in Eastern Carolina can show the gains in circulation and in advertising patronage to equal that scored by The Wilmington Dispatch in the last 12 months.

From an almost exclusive local circulation it has grown until now there is hardly a point within a radius of 100 miles of Wilmington that does not have a large number of daily readers of The Dispatch.

Renewals Are Coming In

on nearly every mail which shows conclusively which paper the people of this section prefer to read. They want The Wilmington Dispatch because it gives them the news and it gives it to them while it is news—the same day it happens. The circulation is constantly increasing both in Wilmington and outside and this without the aid of a solicitor. Shortly we are to put canvassers in the field and a right lively campaign will be waged for new subscribers.

Advertising Patronage

both local and foreign has shown an increase that compares very favorably with the growth in circulation. The advertising patronage has more than doubled, evidence of the fact that the advertisers find the afternoon paper the most profitable one in which to place their business, even though the cost is sometimes greater, for The Dispatch has a rate card and lives up to it religiously. No rate cutting is done by this paper.

Increased Facilities

The Wilmington Dispatch hopes soon to greatly increase its equipment, which will better enable it to take care of its large and very rapidly growing business and at the same time give the people a still better paper. It is the constant aim and desire of the management to make the paper better from day to day and every effort of every person connected with the establishment is put forth to bring about this condition.

PRESIDENT GREETED AND HIS COMRADES NOTED FRENCH HERO

DIRECT CONTROL OF SHIPPING BY THE GOVERNMENT

Legislation to This Effect Will Soon Be Asked of Congress.

FREIGHT TONNAGE TO BE INCREASED

By Building New Ships and Putting German Vessels in Commission—Work Progressing Rapidly.

Washington, April 26.—Legislation to give the government direct control of American shipping will be asked of Congress soon, it was learned today after a conference between the shipping committee of the council of national defense and members of the shipping board. Under the measures to be proposed the President and the shipping board would be authorized to direct the movements of American ships so that they could be operated where most needed.

Within thirty days the shipping board can put into trans-Atlantic service 65,000 additional tons of shipping, 25,000 tons from the coastwise trade and the rest German vessels under repair. The German ships will be ready for service within less than ten days.

Within a few days the shipping board will begin to let contracts for a great fleet of wooden ships to be built on the coast and along the larger rivers. Steel shipbuilders will be called into conference within a week or so to discuss means of hurrying construction. At this conference steel manufacturers probably will be heard as to whether they can supply steel in larger quantities for shipbuilding operations.

It was made clear today that the shipping board does not intend to operate any ships if they can be leased or chartered to private concerns.

The reason the government itself is having wooden vessels constructed, it was explained, is because it was feared private concerns would not build them. Steel vessels are bringing such high prices there is no need, it was said, for the government to have them constructed.

German ships almost ready to be put into operation are the Nasovia, Armenia, Portonia, Clara Mennic, Mala and Pisa, all at New York, and the Arcadia at Newport News. Twenty-three German vessels under repair by the War Department in the Philippines also soon can be used.

FRIENDS OF DRAFT BILL SANGUINE

Of Success in The House—Canvass Shows Majority of at Least Sixty.

Washington, April 26.—Results of a canvass to ascertain sentiment of the House membership on the Administration bill providing for raising an army by selective draft, caused renewed confidence today among champions of the measure of its passage by the House by a safe majority.

This was the feeling, despite the enthusiasm created among opponents of the bill by Speaker Clark's speech in opposition to the draft system. Senate leaders were equally confident of the bill's passage there.

The House canvass, taken by friends of the bill, disclosed, it was stated, a majority of from 60 to 70 in favor of the measure.

Distinguished Party Busy Paying Official Calls In Washington.

GIVEN WARM WELCOME BY PRESIDENT WILSON

Commissioners Received in Blue Room of White House. Government Employees Thunderously Cheer Joffre and the Other Visitors From France.

Washington, April 26.—The French commission began its first day in Washington with a round of official calls. The first was at the State, War and Navy departments.

Former Premier Viviani, head of the mission, Marshal Joffre, Admiral Chocheprat and Vicomte de Chambrun, called first at Secretary Lansing's office. The clerks of the great building lined the halls and gave the French men a reception of almost continuous cheers, and hand-clapping.

After spending a few minutes with Secretary Lansing, M. Viviani, Marshal Joffre and Admiral Chocheprat went over to the White House to be formally received by President Wilson. As the party left the building, the cheering was acknowledged by all observers to be the most enthusiastic and loudest ever heard there. The corridors of the great building fairly rang with hurrahs for France.

The visitors took their short ride from the State Department to the White House. Hundreds of automobiles decorated with French tricolors and people lining the streets added to the cheering.

At the main entrance of the executive mansion a large party of the President's army and navy aides, in full dress uniforms, met the Frenchmen. Salutes were exchanged and the distinguished guests were ushered into the blue room, where President Wilson was waiting to receive them.

The White House reception differed from that accorded the British in that it included all the members of the French mission. Minister Viviani, Marshal Joffre, Admiral Chocheprat and Inspector General of Public Instruction Hovelague entered first and were followed by the others.

Since neither Minister Viviani nor Marshal Joffre speak English, M. Hovelague acted as interpreter. The President shook hands warmly with Marshal Joffre and the other members of the mission, and they chatted for about ten minutes. Then the other members of the commission were taken in and introduced to the President.

Immediately after the President, M. Viviani went to the capitol. Marshal Joffre, accompanied by Colonel Spencer Cosh of the Army and Lieutenant Commander Robert L. Berry, of the Navy, walked from the executive mansion to the State, War and Navy Building.

When the American officers started to mount the long flight of stairs to the entrance of the State, War and Navy Building, Marshal Joffre, despite his age and weight, ran up lightly, and left his companions trailing after him. Marshal Joffre and Admiral Chocheprat returned to the building to pay calls on the Secretary of War and Secretary of the Navy. The reappearance of the marshal was marked by a reception no less vociferous than the one a few minutes before. For the victor of the Marne was reserved a shout each time he came in sight. The high voices of the women clerks always led the cheering.

President Wilson, in the brief exchange of greetings, told the Frenchmen how deeply the American people appreciated the action of the French republic in sending the commission and Minister Viviani replied saying that the French people felt very deeply the bond of friendship between the two nations cemented by the entrance of the United States into the war. He brought a letter to the President from President Poincare.

While Marshal Joffre and his aides were calling on Secretary Baker and the American army officers, Admiral Chocheprat and his aides were calling on Secretary Daniels. In the meantime M. Viviani had been at the capitol and visited Vice President Marshall. The former premier was invited to address the Senate at some later time and it was said it might be arranged. A similar arrangement is being considered for British Foreign Minister Balfour.

Marshal Joffre later returned to Secretary Lansing's office, where he was presented to many other officials of the State Department and then left with Admiral Chocheprat.