

**WEATHER FORECAST.**  
North Carolina—Probably show-  
ers and thunderstorms tonight and  
Tuesday; somewhat warmer to-  
night; cooler in west portion Tues-  
day.

# THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

**FINAL EDITION**

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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, MONDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 30, 1917.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

## WITH GUNNERS AMERICAN SHIP SUNK

### BOUND BACK HOME OIL TANKER FALLS A PREY TO SUBMARINE

**Oil Ship Vacuum Fell Victim  
to German Submarine De-  
spite Frowning Guns**  
**MANY ARE SAID  
TO BE MISSING**  
Among Those Unaccounted  
For Are Nine Naval Gun-  
ners—Left New York Mar-  
30th and Made Trip Over  
In Safety—Torpedoed Sat-  
urday

(By Associated Press.)  
London, April 30.—The American  
oil tank steamer Vacuum has been  
sunk. The captain and part of the  
crew and the naval lieutenant and  
nine American naval gunners are  
missing.  
The Vacuum was sunk by a Ger-  
man submarine on Saturday while  
she was on the way to the United  
States. The chief mate and 17 men,  
including three of the American navy  
gunners, have been landed. A boat  
containing the master of the ship and  
the remainder of the crew, together  
with the lieutenant and nine naval  
gunners, is missing.  
The details of the sinking of the  
Vacuum are not yet available here, nor  
have the names of the survivors or the  
missing been received by the officials.  
The survivors are expected to reach  
here tomorrow.

**Left New York March 30th.**  
New York, April 30.—The Ameri-  
can steamship, Vacuum, commanded  
by Captain S. H. Harris, of this city,  
left New York on March 30 for Bir-  
kenhead, England, and carried a crew  
of 34 men, of whom 15 were Ameri-  
can citizens, including 9 native born.  
As signed here before the United  
States commissioner, the Americans  
besides Captain Harris, were: Oscar  
Gales, mate, Russian, naturalized;  
Frank J. Verney, second mate, Bel-  
gian, naturalized; E. D. Husted, third  
mate, Mount Vernon, N. Y.; John  
Kirk, chief engineer, Scotch, natural-  
ized; John Simpson, assistant engi-  
neer, English, naturalized, 364 West  
55th street, this city; Francis J. Da-  
vison, assistant engineer, Swedish,  
naturalized; R. Williams, assistant  
engineer, born in Wisconsin; J. Wit-  
tens, born in New York; W. H. Crane,  
steward, 411 Eighteenth street, Brook-  
lyn; Thomas Ellis, Albany, N. Y.; L.  
J. Hatton, wireless operator, Niaga-  
ra, Wis.; Joseph Mullen, Brooklyn,  
and R. Punzie, and MCD.  
Log, both of San Juan, P. R.

The Vacuum, formerly the steam-  
ship Bayamon, was owned by the  
Vacuum Oil Company of California.  
She was built in 1912 at Escorse, Mich.,  
and was brought to the Atlantic by  
the Great Lakes and the St. Law-  
rence river. Since the war began she  
has made frequent trips to Europe.  
She was a vessel of 2,551 tons gross,  
carried oil in bulk, and was 247 feet  
long and with a 43-foot beam.

The Vacuum Oil Company received  
this message from its agents abroad:  
"Vacuum torpedoed 28th, 140 miles  
west of Barra. Number one life boat  
with captain and others missing."

**FRENCH SAILORS SHOT  
TO DEATH BY GERMANS**  
(By Associated Press.)  
Paris, April 30.—Twenty-one mem-  
bers of the crews of the two French  
fishing boats who took refuge in the  
English Channel after their craft had been  
attacked by a submarine off Audierne,  
were shot to the last man, according  
to a despatch to Gaulois today. The  
French maritime league immediately  
opened an emergency subscription for  
the 23 children who were left orphans.

### MANY STATE BANKS DESIRE TO JOIN FEDERAL RESERVE

**Upon the Passage of Amend-  
ments to the Act Now  
Pending**  
**THE RESOURCES OF  
SYSTEM DOUBTED**  
By the Entrance of the State  
Institutions Offering to do  
So Under the Amend-  
ment

(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, April 30.—Assurances  
have been received by the Federal  
Reserve Board from scores of State  
banks and trust companies through-  
out the country that they will enter  
the Federal reserve system upon the  
passage of amendments broadening  
the scope of the law now before Con-  
gress.  
At least twenty of the largest trust  
companies and State banks have sig-  
nified their intention of joining the  
system, if the amendments pass. The  
amendments have been favorably re-  
ported and their passage appears  
likely. Hundreds of smaller banks  
have indicated they will follow the  
larger institutions into the system.  
Less than 50 State banks and trust  
companies have joined the system  
during the three years of its exist-  
ence. All National banks, under a  
law, automatically passed to mem-  
bership, and in addition approxi-  
mately 100 State banks and trust com-  
panies took National bank charters  
to come into the system.

Approximately 7,600 banks now are  
in the system and the number of  
State banks and trust companies, in-  
cluding private institutions, outside  
totals about 22,000. Not all those  
would join, nor would all be wanted,  
but indications are that the strongest  
and most desirable of the entire group  
will make application for membership.  
Resources of the system, already ap-  
proximately \$16,000,000,000, would be  
more than doubled.  
Amendments designed to bring in  
the State banks and trust companies  
would liberalize the existing law in  
many particulars. Chief of these are  
provisions to make it possible for such  
institutions to withdraw from the  
system should they desire to do so,  
and placing in the hands of the board  
the conduct of examinations for en-  
try. At present these examinations  
are conducted under the direction of  
the comptroller of the currency.

Other amendments provide for a  
modification of the regulations gov-  
erning interlocking directorates, so  
far as new institutions are concerned,  
the establishment of branch federal  
reserve banks and minor changes. The  
establishment of branch banks in  
many cities is anticipated by the  
board, should the amendments pass,  
and is regarded as highly desirable  
in the campaign to bring the outside  
banks into the system.

### INDIANA PREPARES FOR CONSCRIPTION

(By Associated Press.)  
Indianapolis, April 30.—Members of  
the conscription boards in each coun-  
ty in Indiana who were appointed  
Saturday by Governor Goodrich to  
have charge of the registration of  
men of military age as soon as the ad-  
ministration Army bill becomes a law,  
met here today to formulate plans for  
their work.  
A census taker will be appointed for  
each voting precinct in the State. It  
is planned to have these men ready  
for work by Wednesday.  
Speakers at the meeting urged that  
efforts be made to send to Washing-  
ton the first complete State census of  
military eligibles when the call for this  
comes to Indiana.

### BATTLE RAGING ON AS TORRENTS OF BLOOD FLOW

**Issue of Victory at Arras Still  
Remained In Doubt  
Today**  
**GERMANS HURLING  
THEIR RESERVES**  
Tens of Thousands Being Used  
By Hindenburg to Stem the  
British Tide In  
West

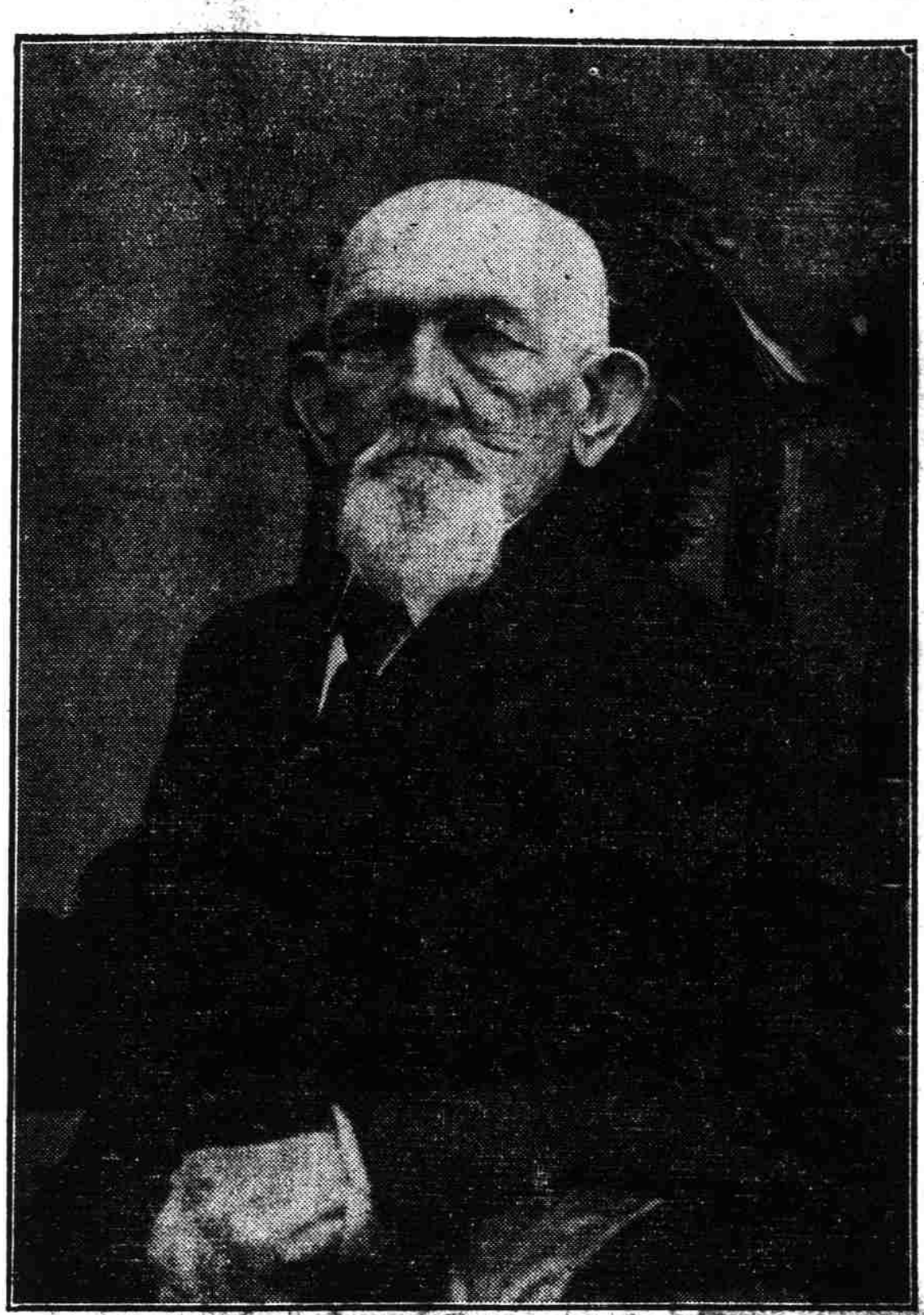
The battle of Arras still rages with  
the issues remaining in doubt. For  
six days torrents of blood have flowed  
and the armies of Britain and Ger-  
many yet struggle for the mastery in  
a conflict which baffles superlatives.  
Tens of thousands of reserves have  
been hurled against the British battle  
front by Field Marshal von Hinden-  
burg in a supreme effort to check the  
British advance, but so far without  
avail. Almost literally foot by foot,  
General Haig is forcing his stubborn  
foe back. Both sides are fighting  
with a resolution as grim and savage  
and it seems to be a question as to  
which can sustain its ghastly sacri-  
fices the longest.

However momentous the issues  
which hang on the bloody struggle in  
France, they are insufficient to hold  
the attention of the German people,  
who are facing a situation at home  
fraught with even more tremendous  
possibilities. On the eve of the  
great general strike planned for May  
Day the German press and leaders  
are displaying a feverish apprehension  
as to what the morrow will bring  
forth.  
The majority Socialists are energeti-  
cally supporting the government in  
its efforts to cajole or threaten the  
workers into refraining from striking.  
Even the radical minority seems to  
be frightened at the possible results  
of the agitation it has fostered. Some  
of the radical newspapers are report-  
ed to have launched an eleventh-hour  
appeal in an effort to avert the strike,  
fearing that in sowing the wind they  
will reap a whirlwind that will shake  
the foundations of the German govern-  
ment.

Austria and Sweden are two other  
storm centers where May Day may  
evoke popular uprisings of far-reach-  
ing effect. In the face of the brew-  
ing storm word comes that the Hun-  
garian government has declared itself  
in favor of important democratic re-  
forms. On the other hand, the Aus-  
trian Emperor is reported to have re-  
fused the resignation of Premier  
Tisza, "iron man" of the dual mon-  
archy and bulwark of pan-German-  
ism.

Another curious and unexplained  
item from Austria-Hungary says that  
in Bohemia, long a hot-bed of disaf-  
fection, all German papers have been  
suppressed.  
The entire situation in Europe ap-  
pears to have reached one of those  
confused stages where conflicting  
views makes the relative importance  
of events uncertain and obscure, a  
situation intensified by the increasing  
rigors of the censorship in all coun-  
tries. The military command in  
France is under fire and there are re-  
ports in the Paris press that the ap-  
pointment of General Petain as chief  
of staff heralds many other changes  
among high officers.  
Outside of Europe interest centers  
on the possible course of Brazil and  
China. Dispatches from Peking say  
that the Chinese republic will prob-  
ably enter the war against Germany  
within two weeks. The Brazilian  
congress meets on Wednesday and  
will then decide on peace or war. In  
the meantime Brazil has issued a de-  
claration of neutrality as between the  
United States and Germany which  
may have a bearing on Brazil's future  
action.

RICHARD J. JONES



Greatly beloved and admired citizen of Wilmington who passed away  
this morning in the 96th year of life. For over half a century he had been  
treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows of North Carolina, and for  
almost a like period he had been treasurer of the Tidewater Power Com-  
pany. For years he had been secretary and treasurer of Oakdale Cem-  
etry Company and had been allied with other business interests. He had  
been honored with public office by his fellow-citizens and was one of Wil-  
mington's best known men.

### GERMAN CITIZENS OF THIS COUNTRY

**Declared By Count Bernstorff  
to Be Traitors to the  
Fatherland.**

(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, April 30.—Count Von  
Bernstorff, former German ambas-  
sador to the United States before the  
war, spoke disparaging of German citi-  
zens in this country, saying they had  
run away from the Fatherland to  
avoid military service and were "out-  
laws," according to a statement made  
public today by Senator Phelan, of  
California, in connection with com-  
ment on the passage of the Army War  
bill.  
The remarks attributed to Von Bern-  
storff, Senator Phelan explained, were  
made during an interview which he  
had with the Ambassador in Munich in  
1913, in an effort to get Germany to  
participate in the Panama Pacific Ex-  
position. Mr. Phelan urged a German  
exhibit on the ground that Germans in  
the United States would be proud of it.  
"He immediately resented that,"  
said Senator Phelan in his statement.  
"Much to my surprise, he substantially  
said: 'Do not talk about these people.  
We do not care what they think or  
want. They have deserted the Father-  
land. They have run away to avoid  
military duty. They have been false  
to the old traditions. They are 'out-  
laws'; and that was the sentiment of  
official Germany then, as I believe it  
is today. They regard those good peo-  
ple, who are expected to render ser-  
vice to the autocracy now, as outlaws,  
as men who have fled from their duty."  
"I think our German-American citi-  
zens should know and understand  
that, which is the Prussian estimate of  
them, and they should be confirmed  
in what I believe to be sincere con-  
viction, that their duty lies with Am-  
erica in this struggle."

### BICKETT DENIES WILCOX PARDON

**Governor Declines Petition of  
Murderer of Neal Cropsey  
—Grants Others**

(Special to The Dispatch.)  
Raleigh, N. C., April 30.—Governor  
Bickett issued the biggest list of his  
pardons today, but the most impor-  
tant of the petitions before him was  
that of James Wilcox, who is denied  
clemency.  
Governor Bickett finds the commu-  
tation of Neal Cropsey's slayer im-  
possible, largely on the showing made  
by Wilcox. The Governor cannot un-  
derstand Wilcox's willingness to re-  
fute testimony on two trials, since  
the first was capital conviction, and  
the second for thirty years.  
Likewise, Governor Bickett fails to  
see Wilcox's refusal to give any light  
on it while the prisoner seeks clem-  
ency. Wilcox declares he has tuber-  
culosis, and asks mercy on that  
ground. He has served 14 years.

### AMERICAN AVIATORS WON MORE HONORS

(By Associated Press.)  
Paris, April 30.—American aviators  
again emerged victorious from a bat-  
tle in the clouds with German air-  
men, it is learned here. "The heroes  
of the encounter were Willis Haviland,  
of Minneapolis and Ches. C. Johnson,  
of St. Louis, who are under command  
of Lieutenant Wm. Thaw, of Pitts-  
burg.

### FOOD BILLS INTRODUCED.

(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, D. C., April 30.—  
The administration food bills  
were introduced in the House to-  
day by Chairman Lever, of the  
Agricultural committee. They do  
not cover price-fixing or control  
of the use of grains for distilling  
liquors. These subjects will be  
covered in a bill to be introduced  
later.  
The bills introduced today are  
designed to stimulate production,  
prevent hoarding, make for equi-  
table distribution, and suspend the  
law prohibiting the mixing of  
flour. They contain provisions to  
prevent conflict with the anti-  
trust and interstate commerce  
laws.

### MILLIONAIRE TO DO HIS PART IN THIS STATE

(By Associated Press.)  
Greensboro, N. C., April 30.—J. B.  
Cobb, retired millionaire tobaccoist,  
of New York, is contributing his share  
towards the increase of foodstuffs for  
war purposes by cultivating 500 acres  
of his hunting lodge, situated four  
miles from this city, in an effort to  
increase the country's production of  
wheat, corn, potatoes and other food-  
stuffs. A tractor and 20 men are en-  
gaged in the work, which is being su-  
perintended by Mr. Cobb personally.

### GOVERNOR'S WIFE TO THE FRONT IN ECONOMY'S CAUSE

**Sets the Example of No Re-  
freshments at Social  
Functions**  
**BUMPER FRUIT  
CROP THIS YEAR**  
The Predictions of Horticul-  
turist Hutt—Peculiarities  
of Raleigh Politics—Davis-  
Gay Controversy

(Special to The Dispatch.)  
Raleigh, April 30.—Mrs. Thomas  
Walter Bickett will lead the women  
of North Carolina in the war against  
Germany by eliminating from her own  
social functions the immortal refresh-  
ments, Raleigh women say.  
The Governor's wise wife went  
away this afternoon and the Raleigh  
story did not receive official sanction.  
But from a multitude of women it has  
been learned that Mrs. Bickett will  
go before the Woman's Club this week  
and ask that in their own social  
functions they banish all those deli-  
cious promoters of indigestion, the  
couple-course that comes too early  
for dinner, too late for lunch. In a  
multitude of gossippers there is safety.  
Mrs. Bickett was impressed with  
the letter which that "Farmer's Wife"  
wrote her husband a few days ago.  
The lady out in the sticks grew tired  
of receiving bricks hurled from the  
heights of academic perfection and  
said so. She had been advised to  
plant a pig and to crib more cans, to  
bulldoze more hens into laying, to  
eludop it more, when she was doing  
it she could not remember to have  
been mortal hours a day. "Why," this  
woman persist in serving refresh-  
ments to people who are not hungry  
and eat three square meals a day?"  
country for foodstuffs.  
Factionalists in Raleigh have been  
not a little displeased to observe in  
this correspondence the published sat-  
isfaction of Collector J. W. Bailey  
with the recent city primary.  
These anti-Bailey men have a feel-  
ing that if ever an election went off  
without Bailey's having had a blessed  
thing to do with it, save the defeat  
of his candidate for commissioner of  
public safety and the return of Mayor  
Johnson, on whom Bailey never has  
been long, this late poll was one of  
them. Consequently, when they read  
that Bailey was pleased and Bailey's  
boys claimed the victory it made 'em  
mad.  
For the capture of Raleigh has ever  
been beyond the Baileys when the  
fight was open and on that issue. It  
always took the "embattled farmers"  
to turn the trick and then a judicious  
use of pokeberry and of the Secre-  
tary of the Navy, Raleigh being ever  
beyond the reach of the pure in-  
herent County-wide fight offen-  
sive perhaps, went with the Bailey  
men. But the anti-Bailey faction does  
not wish a claim set up in Bailey's  
behalf since that shrewd gentleman  
was not noticeably active for anybody  
and especially for Uzzell, who is going  
to be commissioner of public safety.  
State Horticulturist W. N. Hutt has  
enough news from the State to make  
him free to predict a bumper crop of  
fruit.  
So long as the weather hovers about  
40, of course, Mr. Hutt inclines to  
hold to wood, but he is quite satis-  
fied now that 1917 will see one of the  
greatest fruit yields within his mem-  
ory. He does not expect the moun-  
tains to do all that he had earlier  
hoped. The peaches that first ven-  
ured to blossom were nipped by cold,  
but the apple crop which has been so  
many years the admiration of the  
country is in perfect shape.  
Rev. R. L. Gay, who has been field  
secretary of the North Carolina Anti-  
Saloon League, has gone to Virginia  
to visit Mrs. Gay's relatives and while  
in that commonwealth will probably  
choose one from the several fields of  
work offered him since Brother R. L.  
Davis deposed him as secretary.  
Mr. Gay was offered attractive pas-  
torates and other work, either of  
which afforded him more satisfactory  
features than that left, but he had  
not made up his mind when he left  
Raleigh Friday. He will return to  
the ministry if he desires. The place  
is ready for him and if Brother Davis  
were disposed to indulge slang he  
would be compelled to confess that  
Mr. Gay is "some preacher." The Ber-  
tie man made friends everywhere he  
spoke.  
Brother Davis is an artist in getting  
rid of people. In writing the resigna-  
tion of Mr. Gay for him, Brother Da-  
vis uses the short form. In his let-  
ter written replying to Mr. Gay, who  
reported ill luck, in Wilmington  
Brother Davis says things were  
blue. "It is hard for me to under-  
stand the whys and wherefores. All  
things considered, I suggest that you  
be on the lookout for other work with  
(Continued on Page Eight).

### THE SECOND WEEK OF CONFERENCES IN WASHINGTON

**Finds the Foreign Commission-  
ers Settled Down to Work  
of Their Mission**  
**POSITION DENIED BY  
STATE DEPARTMENT**  
Of Any Change By It In  
Published Statement of  
Marshal Joffre's Address  
To the Press

(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, April 30.—The British  
and French commission settled down  
today with the preliminaries cleared  
away and the ground work laid for per-  
fection of the part the United States  
is to take in the grand alliance for  
overthrow of Prussian autocracy.  
M. Viviani, head of the French mis-  
sion, accompanied by Ambassador  
Jusserand had an hour's conference  
with President Wilson. No announce-  
ment was made about the meeting, but  
it was understood the needs of France  
and the co-operation of the United  
States were fully discussed.  
M. Viviani and Marshal Joffre were  
to have made a visit to the capitol to-  
day, to meet Senators and Representa-  
tives, but at the last moment the  
visit was postponed until later in the  
week.  
State Department officials were an-  
xious today to make it plain that the  
Department had no part whatever in  
the expurgation of portions of Mar-  
shal Joffre's statement yesterday on  
the participation of American troops  
on the battlefields of France. They  
made it plain that any changes in the  
prepared statement as read by Marshal  
Joffre, when later given out to the  
newspapers, had been made by the  
French mission on its own initiative,  
and that the State Department's only  
part in issuing the revised statement  
was to place its facilities of distribu-  
tion at the disposal of the French  
commission.  
The State Department issued this  
statement:  
"There is absolutely no truth in the  
intimation appearing in the press that  
the remarks of Marshal Joffre yester-  
day were censored, expurgated or al-  
tered by the Department of State or  
by any one save the French commis-  
sion."  
Members of the British commission  
today spent considerable time confer-  
ring with the various committees of  
the Council of National Defense. Mil-  
itary members discussed with the mu-  
nitions and manufacturing commit-  
tees the needs of the Allies for various  
war supplies and means of keeping  
them flowing constantly toward the  
battlefields.  
Yesterday the foreign commission-  
ers and representatives of the Ameri-  
can government went to Mount Ver-  
non, where the flags of France, Eng-  
land and the United States floated  
proudly together over the tomb of  
George Washington.

### JOHNSTON ON STAND.

Oscar Johnston, colored con-  
vict-truster, suspected as the mur-  
derer of Neal Walton and assail-  
ant of Florence Davidson, is an-  
swering questions before the cor-  
oner's jury this afternoon. John-  
ston was given to understand that  
he need not answer any question  
that would tend to incriminate  
himself and advised to be perfect-  
ly at ease and understand all  
questions thoroughly before he  
made any effort to answer them.  
The negro presented a very  
pathetic picture as he sat in his  
overalls—the emblem of hard  
manual labor—and while the  
whites of his eyes shone conspic-  
uously, he answered all questions  
clearly and directly. He had made  
no effort to hedge, denying some  
and answering the others, at 3  
o'clock this afternoon. The early  
part of his examination had to do  
with his early life, but what com-  
passion might have been felt by  
the jury that he had never receiv-  
ed any education and was unable  
to even write his own name was  
probably dispelled when the sus-  
pect admitted killing one man  
and cutting the throat of another,  
and without so much as the quiver of  
an eyelash Johnston told the  
jury that his parents died when  
he was so small he could hardly  
remember it, which would indi-  
cate that he has never had an  
opportunity of being other than  
what he is.