

WEATHER FORECAST.
North and South Carolina—Fair;
cooler tonight; Wednesday, fair.

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THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA TUESDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 1, 1917.

FINAL EDITION

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

THE OMINOUS SILENCE OF CENSORSHIP

Now Rules Behind The Lines of The Fiercely Struggling Teutons.

OUTSIDE WORLD IN IGNORANCE

Of Happenings in the Central Empires—Vague and Uncertain Rumors of Serious Labor Troubles—Typhus Fever Reported Prevailing In Industrial Centers.

(By Associated Press.)
May Day has dawned with the armed hosts of England, France and Germany still locked fast in the most tremendous struggle of the whole tremendous world war. But the eyes of the world are fixed for the moment on the stage behind the battle line, where, inside the closely guarded frontiers of the Central powers, the bursting of the long brewing storm of discontent is awaited with a mingling of fear and hope.

Extraordinary measures have been taken by the rulers of the Central empires to prevent the outside world from knowing what is transpiring within their borders. No German newspaper is allowed to pass into a neutral country, and for the last ten days all persons have been forbidden to leave Germany. Thus the scanty and dubious news formerly gleaned from the German press or from casual travelers has been completely cut off and the Teutonic empires are almost as isolated from the rest of the world as was ancient Japan.

Reports from Switzerland of vague and indefinite authority assert that the troubled conditions in Germany have been intensified by a widespread outbreak of typhus, said to be especially prevalent in the great industrial regions. The epidemic is attributed to the growing food scarcity, but the story lacks confirmation.

The same veil which has been drawn over events in Germany and Austria obscures the situation in Sweden, where a great nation-wide demonstration by the workers was also planned for today. Since the outbreak of a couple of weeks ago when rioting took place in Stockholm, the only news received as to conditions in Sweden has been the bare announcement that a general strike had been ordered by the labor leaders for May Day, coupled with a warning to the government against undue interference.

On the fighting front in France little change has taken place for some days. The French are striking hard gains in Champagne and have made some gains, but without, as far as the official communications go, materially altering the situation. The fighting in Macedonia, which was resumed on a wide front last week, is still in progress, but information regarding it remains too indefinite to judge whether the Allies are engaged in a major offensive.

In Mesopotamia the British are pushing steadily forward, but here, too, details are too meagre to throw any light on the extent of the campaign or the immediate objective of the British commanders.

ARMY BILL AGAIN BEING FOUGHT

Senator LaFollette Injects Question of Referendum On Conscription.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, May 1.—The army bill fight was renewed in the Senate today when work was begun on shaping the measure into a parliamentary form for conference. This is to be accomplished by the Senate substituting its own bill for the one which passed the House.

An attempt to amend the bill to recruit troops for the "present emergency" instead of the "existing war" was beaten in the Senate, as some Senators did not feel that they would authorize a draft in other than war on Germany.

Senator LaFollette's amendment for a national conscription referendum was pending when the Senate recessed to receive M. Viviani and Marshal Joffre of the French mission.

EXECUTIVE ORDER PROVIDING FOR SUPERVISION

Of Cable, Telegraph and Telephone Lines Communicating With Other Counties

OBJECTS OF ORDER FOR SUCH COURSE

To Prevent News of Interest to Enemy or to Hamper Our Officials in Conducting Operations.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, May 1.—An executive order signed by President Wilson providing for the censorship of cables out of the United States and of telegraph and telephone lines into Mexico, together with regulations governing the same, were made public today by the Committee on Public Information. The object is to prevent the sending of information which might be of value to the enemy.

The committee announced today that arrangements have been made to put the executive order into effect immediately. The executive order was signed by the President under authority vested in him by the Constitution and by the congressional resolution declaring the existence of a state of war. Enforcement is delegated to the War and Navy departments.

The order, dated April 28, is as follows:
"Whereas, the existence of a state of war between the United States and the imperial German government makes it essential to the public safety that no communication of a character which would aid the enemy or its allies shall be had.

"Therefore, by virtue of the power vested in me under the Constitution and by the joint resolution passed by Congress on April 6, 1917, declaring the existence of a state of war, it is ordered that all companies or other persons, owning, controlling and operating telegraph and telephone lines or submarine cables are hereby prohibited from transmitting messages to points without the United States and from delivering messages received from such points, except those permitted under rules and regulations to be established by the Secretary of War for telegraph and telephone lines and by the Secretary of the Navy for submarine cables.

"To these departments, respectively, is delegated the duty of preparing and enforcing rules and regulations under this order to accomplish the purpose mentioned.

"This order shall take effect from date.

"WOODROW WILSON."

The objects of the censorship, as announced by the committee, are: "1. To deny the enemy information of military value or any information prejudicial to the interests of the United States or to the interests of other enemies or the imperial German government.

"2. To obtain information of value to the several departments of the United States government.

"3. To prevent the spreading of false reports or rumors likely to interfere directly or indirectly with the necessary operations of the naval or military forces of the United States or likely to prejudice relations with foreign powers or the security, training, discipline or administration of the naval and military forces of the United States.

MORE STRIKES IN GERMANY.

(By Associated Press.)
London, May 1.—"In the Rhine provinces more than half the munition workers decided to strike today," wires the correspondent at The Hague of the Exchange Telegraph Company.

Essen, home of the great Krupp works, is shut off from the rest of Germany and completely from the world in order to prevent the slightest information about strikes at the Krupp works from leaking out. Strikes are general in small towns near the Dutch frontier.

SUPPLY PROBLEM BEING WORKED ON

That is Upmost For Consideration By Missions In Washington.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, May 1.—The problem of furnishing supplies for the allied people's armies and of finding ships for transporting them were taken up today at the first formal conference of the British war commission with American government officials.

The British government was represented by Mr. Balfour, Sir Tric Drummond, his private secretary and Sir Richard Crawford, of the British embassy.

American officials present were Secretaries Lansing and Redfield and Chairman Denman, of the Shipping Board.

The British commissioners had supplied this government with details of their critical shipping situation and today's conference discussed apportionment of supplies among the Allies and the necessary balance to be maintained between food and munitions exports. The American government by bills pending and about to be introduced in Congress seeks direct control of the country's shipping and of the direction of exports.

The allied commissioners are expected to present a definite plan for handling exports to give the countries most in need of supplies what they must have to keep their utmost military strength on the war lines. It is considered likely that a plan will be worked out under which supplies and ships for all the Allies will be directed from Washington.

Today's conferences and others to follow will produce a definite export and shipping program to be followed by all the countries fighting Germany.

BIG TROOP SHIP SUNK.

(By Associated Press.)
London, May 1.—The Peninsula and Oriental Line steamship, *Ballarat, of 11,120 gross tons, which was used as a troop ship, was sunk recently by a German submarine. All the troops were saved. The Ballarat was carrying troops from Australia to England. The soldiers were rescued by British torpedo boat destroyers and trawlers.

AIR ATTACK ON DUTCH TOWN

Many People Killed and Houses Wrecked by Bombs From Airplanes.

(By Associated Press.)
London, May 1.—Bombs were dropped by an airplane Sunday night on Zierikzee, in the Dutch province of Zeeland, says a Reuter dispatch from The Hague, under Monday's date. Three persons were killed and much material damage was done, the message states.

(The Hague, May 1 (Via London).)—The Telegraaf, of Amsterdam, states that the bombs which were dropped on Zierikzee did such extensive damage that the village is in ruins, more than 100 houses being smashed or damaged. A terrible panic prevailed in the town, says the newspaper, intensified by the play of the searchlights operated by the airmen.

It is declared that the bombs were not dropped by mistake, the Telegraaf adds, but were purposely launched. The nationality of the airplanes has not been established.

PEACE TALK CAUSES DROP IN WHEAT PRICES

(By Associated Press.)
Chicago, May 1.—Reports that the Swiss minister in charge of German diplomatic interests in Washington had asked for a conference with President Wilson and that the German chancellor's peace terms would be outlined in an address to the Reichstag next Thursday, caused a sharp drop in wheat prices today. May declined 16 cents to \$2.55; July 10 3/4 to \$2.15; and September, 6 1/2 cents to \$1.82.

HERO OF MARNE GIVEN GREETING BY CONGRESS

Viviani and General Joffre Appeared on Floor of Senate Today.

EACH ACCORDED A BIG OVATION

France's Former Premier Made a Stirring Speech—Joffre Cheered by Crowded Galleries.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, May 1.—Rene Viviani and Marshal Joffre, heads of the French mission here, were received today on the floor of the Senate.

Viviani, as former premier of France, is by custom entitled to entry to the floor but the rule makes no provision for such a dignitary as Marshal Joffre.

By unanimous consent, however, the Senate rules were suspended to permit the marshal's appearance with M. Viviani, and the Senate took a recess in the midst of consideration of the Army bill to receive the visitors.

The galleries were packed with parties of distinguished visitors.

The appearance of M. Viviani and Marshal Joffre stirred the Senate and galleries to a patriotic outburst such as seldom has been equalled.

Mr. Viviani delivered a stirring address and was roundly applauded. When he concluded, and the party started to leave the chambers the Senators, scores of Representatives, who came from the House, and the crowded galleries, arose and cried: "Joffre! Joffre! Joffre!"

The gray-haired hero of the Marne returned to the rostrum, in response to the cries. The marshal waved his hat before him, bowed low and in a soft voice said:

"I do not speak English. Vive la Amerique!"

Cheer after cheer greeted this and they ceased only when the hero of the Marne had disappeared from the chamber.

COLLEGE TUTOR TO BE TRIED

Sensational Murder Mystery in Virginia to Be Aired This Week.

(By Associated Press.)
Christiansburg, Va., May 1.—When Montgomery County Circuit Court met this morning with Judge W. W. Moffet, of Roanoke, on the bench, attention of court officers and attaches, as well as that of the people of the State generally, was directed to the case of the Commonwealth vs. Charles E. Vawter, member of the faculty of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, at Blacksburg, charged with killing Stockton Heth, Jr., who was fatally shot in the Vawter home early in the morning of March 13.

Within 30 minutes after court convened this morning to take up trial of Charles E. Vawter, of the V. P. I. faculty, charged with killing Stockton Heth, Jr., in the Vawter home at Blacksburg, March 13, a grand jury was organized and within two hours a true bill had been returned.

Among the few witnesses appearing before the grand jury was Lieutenant Clement Heth, U. S. A., brother of Vawter's victim, who took Stockton Heth's dying statement. The little town of Christiansburg was thronged with persons from the rural districts, and surrounding towns and the courtroom early was packed to capacity. Many lawyers are here simply to watch proceedings.

When instructed to plead to the indictment Vawter said, "not guilty," in a clear, firm voice. His wife was not in the courtroom. Immediately the selection of a jury was taken up and before court adjourned at 1:15 o'clock a jury composed of eight farmers, one merchant, one merchant-farmer, one carpenter and one miner had been sworn in. At 3 o'clock, when court reconvenes, opening statements of counsel will be made.

The jurors selected are: G. G. Correll, farmer; Jerry Grant Whitaker, farmer; M. W. Zirk, merchant; G. W. Sisson, merchant-farmer; A. J. Allizer, farmer; J. T. Welch, carpenter; C. W. Allen, miner; R. H. Shelton, farmer; D. H. Lucas, W. C. Hensley, Joseph M. Kanode, and R. T. Smith, farmers.

SENATE PASSES ARMY BILL A NEW.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, May 1.—The Administration army bill, with the conscription provision retained, was passed anew today by the Senate without a roll call, virtually as it approved the measure last Saturday. The bill now goes to conference.

OFFICIALS FAVOR SENDING TROOPS TO FRANCE.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, May 1.—President Wilson and his cabinet held a very brief session today and while the subject of sending American troops to France at an early date was not discussed formally, it became known definitely that the prevailing view among administration officials is that a force should be sent as soon as possible.

DECISION TO BE MADE WITH AMERICA

Outcome of Submarine Warfare Will Depend on The Amount Tonnage.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, May 1.—Lord Percy today declared that the present rate of British construction of ships and the present estimated American rate could not keep pace with the present rate of destruction by submarines.

"The balancing figure in the world struggle," said Lord Percy, "is the tonnage the United States can supply."

Lord Percy's announcement was the first intimation that the shipping conference had actually resulted in any agreement. It was taken as a forerunner of a very wide degree of cooperation in which the present tonnage and the future building powers of this country will be pooled with the Allies to defeat the German submarine menace.

Lord Percy stated that the British mission had supplied the American government with every detail of the shipping problem, including the total allied tonnage, the total destruction by the U-boats, the irreducible needs of the allies, the present rate of construction aboard and the standardized building plans. The American shipping board, he said, had shown the heartiest co-operation with the fullest understanding of the urgency of the situation.

"The shipping issue," said Lord Percy, "dominates everything else and is very grave indeed. Both the present British construction and the estimated American construction cannot keep pace with the present rate of destruction. Both must be speeded up very appreciably if the seas are to be kept open. The war has resolved itself into a race between the efficiency of the British and American shipyards and the German submarine.

"The balancing factor in the world struggle is the tonnage the United States can supply. Only in case this is large can the present military service and food supply be continued. This is the most vitally serious problem which cannot be exaggerated."

HOLLWEG WILL MAKE ANOTHER PEACE OFFER.

(By Associated Press.)
The Hague, Netherlands, May 1 (Via London).—Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, the German imperial chancellor, will make another peace offer in the Reichstag on Thursday of this week, according to an announcement made today by the Berliner Tageblatt.

WILMINGTON MAN NAMED ON BOARD

Governor Bickett Announces Members of State's Building Commission.

(Special to The Dispatch.)
Raleigh, N. C., May 1.—Mr. Hugh MacRae, of Wilmington, Col. Charles E. Johnson, Raleigh, and R. Frank Dalton, High Point, are the Democratic, and Dan W. Patrick, of Snow Hill, and Joseph M. Prevatte, North Wilkesboro, the Republican members of the State Building commission appointed today by Governor Bickett. The three Democrats, and Patrick are wealthy men and big builders, selected for that reason, but young Prevatte, who represented Wilkes in the lower house, was endorsed by all the big Republicans from Linney, candidate for Governor, down.

This commission has charge of all State construction, and handles tremendous projects.

GOLDSBORO VISITED BY SEVERE STORM

(Special to The Dispatch.)
Goldston, N. C., May 1.—The entire city was in darkness for several hours and Goldsboro was visited by the worst wind and thunder storm in years last night at 10 o'clock. Trees and wires were torn down by the terrific wind, but no one is reported injured.

The Chautauqua tent, in this city, taxed to its capacity last night, threatened being tossed away, and this caused considerable excitement among the spectators, who were forced to take refuge from the storm outside.

INTENDED TO BLOW UP MORGAN OFFICE, THEY TELL POLICE

AMERICAN GOVT. GETS OFFICIALS NEWS SINKING

Consul General Skinner Sends Report on Destruction of The Vacuum.

OFFICER AND SOME MEN YET MISSING

Details of Act Received by American Embassy But Not Made Public—Survivors on Way Liverpool

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, May 1.—First official news of the submarine destruction of the American tanker Vacuum, with loss of some of the American gun crew was received today by the government.

Consul General Skinner, at London, reporting the destruction of the ship, confirmed that Lieutenant Thomas, commander of the naval gun crew, some of his men, Captain Harris, and some of his crew, still are missing and probably lost. Seventeen of the ship's crew and three of the naval gunners, all in one boat, were rescued.

Pending receipt of more detailed information, the Navy Department will not make public the names of the gun crew.

Officials of the Vacuum Oil Company here in response to a cable to London asking further details on the sinking of their steamship today received the following:

"Harris, captain, unofficially reported drowned. Further details later."

Will Reach Liverpool Tonight.
London, May 1.—The survivors of the American oil tank steamer Vacuum, who will arrive in Liverpool at midnight, include Robert Williams, Oscar Gales, W. Lundgren, A. B. and Raymond Nunez.

The details of the sinking on April 28 of the Vacuum have been received at the American embassy here, but cannot be made public, it was explained today. The full particulars are in the hands of Rear Admiral Sims and the American naval attaché, who presumably have made reports upon them to Washington. The American consular officials will obtain the customary full affidavits from the officers and members of the crew who already have landed.

The following are other survivors who have been landed: John Simpson, August Lotos, William Orell, G. Witzam, Louis Purdi, J. Mauchel, Marc Singros, Camillo Dief Andrews, Leslie J. Hutton, John Mekola, George Wilson and F. Lasher.

Robert P. Skinner, the American consul general in London, received only a meagre report from the survivors of the Vacuum, who were landed at an obscure point out of touch with the telegraph service. The early report did not indicate how many gunners were among the survivors.

It is not believed here that the missing gunners were taken prisoners, although it is possible that the master and lieutenant may have been taken aboard the submarine. The whole crew of the gunners, however, would have been too many visitors to be comfortably accommodated on a submarine.

The probabilities that the missing boat load was lost, as life boats of the size carried by the Vacuum, according to naval men, would have been overloaded with more than a dozen men on board.

AMBASSADOR ELKUS NOW RECOVERING

(By Associated Press.)
Stockholm, (Via London), May 1.—Abram I. Elkus, the American ambassador to Turkey, who is suffering from typhus fever, passed the crisis on April 28. He now is convalescing and will be able to travel in a month.

This information is conveyed in a message from Constantinople through the Swedish foreign office to the American minister here, Ira Nelson Morris.

Germans Arrested in New York Admit Having Plotted Dynamite Acts.

WANTED TO STAMPEDE THE STOCK MARKET

That is Their Assertion But Some Think It is a Blind—Held in Large Bail For Trial.

(By Associated Press.)
New York, May 1.—Intention to destroy a "big Wall street institution" (tap telegraph trunk lines, send out false reports of President Wilson's assassination and U-boat raids on the Atlantic coast, and then disrupt the wires to prevent denial, all to affect the stock market for speculative benefit, was the ambitious plot confessed today, the police declare, by Wolf Hirsch and George Meyringer, Germans arrested last night charged with having a prussic acid bomb in their possession. The men were employed at Roosevelt Hospital.

Hirsch, the police assert, besides being a chemist, is a former German secret service officer and a reserve petty officer in the German navy, while Meyringer, who was a kitchen man in the hospital, is an expert telegrapher and a student of finance.

The Germans expected, the police say, to make a fortune in Wall street on "short" investments. "Fishes" familiar with the market conditions have informed the police that the Germans either were misled about the probable outcome of such an occurrence in Wall street, or that they are putting this story forward to hide their real intentions.

Confession was made in court today by Wolf Hirsch, arrested last night with George Meyringer, both Germans, that they were on their way to blow up the offices of J. P. Morgan & Co. with a bomb when intercepted by the police.

Hirsch told the court that the explosion of a bomb at the Morgan offices was a part of a scheme to create a stock market reversal from which he and Meyringer could profit. He told the court he had made the bomb under the direction of Meyringer and another man in a laboratory at the Roosevelt hospital, where they worked. He said Meyringer had induced him to speculate in Wall street and had suggested as a quicker way of getting profits a scheme to frighten the stock market. The plan included blowing up the Morgan office and the sending out over tapped telegraph wires of false news that President Wilson had been assassinated.

The men were held in \$10,000 bail each.

NAVY RECRUITING NEARLY TO LIMIT

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, May 1.—The enlisted strength of the navy now has reached \$6,326—within less than 700 of the full war quota now authorized.

The marine corps has already completed recruiting for its full authorized strength of 17,400, but both services will continue recruiting campaigns without modification as bills pending in Congress are expected to give the navy an authorized total strength of 150,000 and raise the marine corps to 30,000.

GERMAN STEAMER GIVEN ENTENTE

Being Turned Over to Them by United States Government For War Use.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, May 1.—The United States has already placed a considerable amount of ship tonnage at the disposal of the Entente Allies. Lord Eustace Percy, ship expert, with the British mission, said today that the government had supplied certain vessels to be used according to the Allies' needs.

The German liners, Portonia and Clara Mennig, at New York, have been turned over by the American government for use of the entente allies. One ship will go to France and the other to Italy.