

WEATHER FORECAST.
North and South Carolina—Fair
tonight and Thursday.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH



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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 2, 1917.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

PEACE OFFER FROM KAISER NOW DELAYED

Speech of Imperial German Chancellor Has Been Postponed.
Missions in United States Do Not Think Seriously of Report—Preparations Go On For Pressing The War. By The Entente and America.

At a caucus of the majority Socialists in the Reichstag, the group that supports the policy of not embarrassing the Chancellor and the government, it was decided to defer an interpellation that had been proposed regarding Germany's peace plans until a more suitable occasion. The interpellation was to have been made today.

KING GEORGE SAYS CUT DOWN ON BREAD

London, May 2.—King George has issued a proclamation exhorting the people to lessen their consumption of wheat and to practice the greatest economy and frugality in the use of all other kinds of grain.

RUSSIANS LEAVE AS TURKS COME

(By Associated Press.) Constantinople, Tuesday, May 1.—(Via London, May 2).—The evacuation by the Russians of Mush, in Turkish Armenia, is announced by the war office. The town has been occupied by the Turks.

GOVERNING BOARD CITY ORGANIZED THIS AFTERNOON

Few Changes in Various Departments Were Made—Voting Was Rapid.
MR. F. F. PILLETT IS TO BE CITY ENGINEER
Official Canvass of Elections Made—Board Recessed Subject to Call of The Mayor

Washington, May 2.—Secretary Lane told the Governors conferring here today with the Council of National Defense on the part State governments will take in the war, that the Federal government had heard 400,000 tons of shipping had been sunk in the last week by German submarines.

The re-elected men, Mayor Parker Quince Moore and Councilmen J. H. Hall and W. G. McCaig, together with the newly-elected Councilman Mr. L. L. Shepard, were administered the oath of office by Major Harris, Clerk of Superior Court, Councilmen Hall and McCaig took the oath jointly, while the two other men were sworn in individually.

Principally all of the nominations were made by Councilman Hall and but one was contested. When Chief of Police Nathan J. Williams was nominated for re-election, Councilman Shepard asked that action be deferred as to the election of a Chief of Police, but this was not done. The nomination of Councilman McCaig for Mayor pro tem was seconded by Councilman B. A. Merritt.

BELIEVES WAR WILL LAST LONGER, SAYS LANE

Cabinet Member Tells Governors That Need of America is to Build Ships.
MUST FIGHT ON THIS SIDE IF NOT ON OTHER
Destruction Being Wrought by Submarines Is Appalling, He Declares—Secretaries Baker and Daniels Also Make Addresses Before Council of National Defense.

Washington, May 2.—President Wilson told the delegation of the Council of National Defense it was the supreme duty of the United States to coordinate its energies so democracy shall be vindicated and the world shown that the American government does not live in vain. He declared that every force in the United States should be turned toward the supreme object of winning the war.

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"Many persons thought," said Secretary Lane, "that all we had to do was to issue bonds and that Germany would bow her head in submission. Nothing could be farther from the truth. We do not know when this war will end. It may not be a one-year war. Personally, I believe it will last several years. Herbert C. Hoover has informed this government that Germany has food enough to last two years, perhaps longer."

SUBS. ESCAPING BY NEUTRAL ROUTE

London, May 2.—In the House of Commons today Sir Edward Carson, first lord of the admiralty said there had been suspicions that enemy submarines which destroyed allied and neutral shipping had been finding their way out from enemy ports through neutral waters. He added that this subject had been under consideration.

HEAVY FIGHTING ON ROUMANIAN FRONT.

Berlin, May 2 (Via London).—Severe fighting was begun on the Rumanian front yesterday. The War Office announces that a Russian attack on the heights north of the Oltuz valley was repulsed and that heavy losses were inflicted by the Germans.

AMERICAN SHIP GOES TO BOTTOM; MANY MISSING

(By Associated Press.) London, May 2.—The American steamer Rockingham has been sunk by a German submarine. Thirteen men are missing. Two boats containing 33 men were picked up yesterday, one by a patrol vessel. One boat, containing 13 men, is missing. The Rockingham carried 49 men, including many Americans. The crew numbered 36 and the naval contingent consisted of a lieutenant and 12 men. The ship and her cargo were worth \$3,250,000. The vessel was due in Liverpool today.

The Rockingham sailed from Baltimore April 14. Among the native born Americans in her crew list were Louis M. Beasley, water tender, Norfolk; J. W. Simpson, North Carolina, water tender and C. Carney, Norfolk, water tender.

LAST REPORTS OF CASUALTIES

From Sinking of The Vacuum. The Lost and The Saved.
Liverpool, May 2.—Captain Harris, of the Vacuum, reports that 18 men of his crew were lost. Eight gunners and 18 members of the crew were saved. He also reports that Frank H. Lorie died of exposure after being landed, and that A. Donald, C. J. Fisher and C. F. Luckan were lost. These were members of the naval guard.

Lieutenant Thomas, U. S. A., lost his life by the sinking of the Vacuum, according to a telegram received today from Captain Harris by the American consul here, H. L. Washington.

The following naval gunners from the Vacuum have been saved: James E. Williams, John Williams, George W. Parker, Oswald H. Lucke, Henry J. Mueshorn, Jr.

Other Survivors. Liverpool, May 2 (Via London).—In addition to the naval gunners, Wilson, Lesher and Nickola, the survivors of the Vacuum, who have arrived here are: Oscar Gales, first mate, Boston; John Simpson, first assistant engineer, New York; William Langrin, ship's carpenter, Newport; August Lotas, quartermaster, Liban, Russia; Robert Williams, third assistant engineer, New York; L. Halton, wireless operator, Wisconsin; William Andrews, mess boy, New York, and eight foreigners, including oilers and seamen.

INCREASED SHIPPING DESPITE SUBMARINES

(By Associated Press.) New York, May 2.—Fifty one more vessels entered the port of New York last month than in March, notwithstanding the German submarine New York. The increased tonnage was 96,468, of which 32,470 was represented by seven more ships flying the American flag than during March. Departures in April were decreased by 13 vessels, or 37,562 tons, as compared with March. Eighteen fewer American ships sailed from here. These represented 49,651 tons.

VEIL OF SECRECY STILL SHROUDS THE SITUATION

Yet Rumor Has It That Crisis Is at Hand For Central Powers.
DEMAND GROWS FOR INTERNAL REFORMS
Deadlock Continues on The Fighting Front in France. French Minister of War Under Fire.

Beyond an officially inspired dispatch from Berlin stating that no disorders occurred in Germany during May Day, the veil of secrecy which has been drawn over the situation in the Central empires remains unbroken, as far as any direct news is concerned.

News dispatches from the German frontier speak of great strikes and rumors pile up on rumors in regard to the growing unrest among the Teutonic nations, but there is little that is tangible on which to base a judgment.

It is reported that Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg will make a new peace offer before the Reichstag tomorrow, but this is based entirely on a newspaper statement and lacks either detail or confirmation.

Virginia—Improvement Norfolk harbor, including channel to Newport News, \$380,000; maintenance and continuing improvement of James and other rivers, \$72,000.

South Carolina—Charleston harbor and channels, maintenance and improvement, \$120,000; Winyah bay and Pee Dee rivers, maintenance, \$70,000.

LONE BANDIT HELD UP TRAIN CREW

(By Associated Press.) Sparta, Wis., May 2.—A bandit, concealed in the rear coach of a train on the Chicago and Northwestern railroad forced two members of the train crew to stand with their hands above their heads, while he rifled the pockets of the sleeping passengers, just as the train pulled into the station early today. Brakeman John Hockett was confronted with a pistol and forced to jump from the rear of the moving train, two miles out of Medary, but was not seriously injured.

ADMITTS HE SHOT HETH BUT ONLY IN DEFENSE OF HOME

Virginia College Professor Star Witness at The Sensational Trial.
HIS LITTLE SON ALSO A WITNESS
Wife of Accused Man in Court With Children—State Introduced But Two Witnesses in Chief.

Christiansburg, Va., May 2.—Taking the stand in his own defense at his trial here today, Charles E. Vawter, professor of mathematics at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, admitted that he shot Stockton Heth, Jr., after a series of incidents which he believed indicated improper relations between Heth and Mrs. Vawter.

But on the night of March 13, according to the defense attorney, the Vawters returned home from theatre and found Heth awaiting them with intoxicants. The party drank and retired. Later Heth came to Vawter's bedroom with the liquor and they drank again. Vawter, according to the attorney, awakened about 3 o'clock in the morning and found Mrs. Vawter absent. He ran into the hall and saw her entering the room of the little Vawter boy. He ran down stairs for a revolver, followed by Mrs. Vawter who remonstrated with him.

Returning up stairs he met Heth on the landing. There was a struggle and he shot the young Virginia society man to death.

The second stage of the trial of Prof. Charles E. Vawter, charged with the murder of Stockton Heth, Jr., opened this morning with the court room filled to suffocation with people eager to hear the proceedings.

Mrs. Vawter was in court early neatly dressed in a blue cloth suit and blue hat, and looking beautiful, wonderfully beautiful, despite the fearful ordeal through which she is passing. She sat near her husband. They were accompanied by their children, Charles, aged 11, and Rachel, aged 9, and also by Mrs. Vawter's sister, Mrs. C. P. Miles.

The prosecution announced that they would examine only two witnesses—in chief—Dr. Henderson and Dr. Jones, the latter a physician at the Roanoke hospital, where Heth died.

Dr. Henderson said that he was called to the telephone by Vawter who asserted that he had shot young Heth and begged the doctor to come immediately. He was met at the door by Mrs. Vawter. Dr. T. B. Ellett came a little later. They found Heth in the hall and after administering anaesthetics prepared to rush him to a hospital in Roanoke. Dr. Henderson said that at his request Vawter surrendered his pistol. It was hammerless, had five chambers and three empty shells.

WOULD INSURE MEN ON MERCHANT SHIPS

(By Associated Press.) Washington, May 2.—Secretary McAdoo has recommended to Congress that the powers of the government war risk insurance bureau be enlarged so as to permit the insuring of lives of officers and men on merchant ships. Liability for loss of life would be placed between \$1,500 and \$5,000 with proportionate indemnity for injuries. Owners of all vessels insured by the government would be required to take out insurance upon the lives of officers and crews.