

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

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FINAL EDITION

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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.

LITTLE CREDCENCE GIVEN PEACE TALK

Missions in United States Do Not Think Seriously of Report—Preparations Go On For Pressing The War. By The Entente and America.

(By Associated Press.)
Copenhagen, May 2.—(Via London).—The speech which was to have been made in the Reichstag by Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, the German Imperial Chancellor, on peace and international relations, has been postponed to a more fitting occasion, according to word received here.

The situation as reported in a dispatch from Berlin, appears to be as follows:

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.

It is now expected that debate upon the political situation, together with the Chancellor's speech, will probably be postponed until the third reading of the finance measures.

Little Credence in Peace Talk.
Washington, May 2.—The British mission expects to be here at least ten days longer. Then the party will leave for New York and possibly a short trip into the Middle West. Several experts may remain permanent in Washington. Included would probably be shipping, munitions, food and trade experts.

Today was devoted largely to detailed discussion, especially in following out the shipping suggestions brought out at yesterday's first formal conference.

Reports of fresh peace offers from Berlin brought forth the statement from the mission today that a series of feelers were expected during the next few months, as an immense amount of quiet peace effort has been under way by Teutonic emissaries, but no credence is being placed in their acceptability.

KING GEORGE SAYS CUT DOWN ON BREAD

(By Associated Press.)
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.

The proclamation particularly urges the population to reduce the consumption of bread in their families by at least one-fourth of the quantity consumed in normal times.

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

- Mayor pro tem, Councilman W. G. McCaig.
- Public Affairs, Councilman B. A. Merritt.
- Police, Councilman J. M. Hall.
- Water and Sewerage, Councilman W. J. Bradshaw.
- Finance, Councilman W. G. McCaig.
- Streets and Wharves, Councilman L. M. Bunting.
- Fire Department, Councilman L. L. Shepard.
- Chief of Police, Nathan J. Williams.
- Chief of Fire Department, Charles Schnibben.
- City Attorney, Robert Ruark.
- Esq.
- Assistant City Attorney, Chesley M. Bellamy, Esq.
- City Clerk and Treasurer, Capt. Thos. D. Meares.
- City Engineer, F. F. Pillette.
- Superintendent Water Department, John M. Sweeney.
- Superintendent of Street, C. S. Burnett.
- Assistant Superintendent of Streets, M. Holton.
- Market Police—S. C. Harrison.

City Council, in session today at 1 o'clock, lined up in the above manner and while all city offices were not filled there was nothing to indicate that there would be any further change in the personnel of the force now in office. The above organization was effected after the official canvass of election returns had been made when, with the Board of Elections, composed of Messrs. C. W. Woodward, chairman; W. E. Lawson, secretary, and John Haar, J. J. Loughlin and Major W. N. Harriss, in attendance, Chairman Woodward announced the result of yesterday's election.

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.

The feature of the election of officials was the naming of Mr. F. F. Pillette as city engineer. Friends of Mr. Pillette will learn with genuine pleasure that he is to return here. He has held this office at a previous time, and is now in Texas. He will be notified at once of his election and will arrive in the city in a few days.

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.

(By Associated Press.)
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.

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 destruction, Secretary Lane said, was not only threatening the existence of England and France, but was alarming the United States. Study of inventions to combat the submarine menace is being diligently pursued in the Interior Department, he said.

The United States must build ships as rapidly as possible, he told the delegates. "If we don't fight the war on the other side," he said, "we shall have to fight it on this side of the Atlantic."

Secretary Lane declared he believed the war would last several years, and that every resource of the country must be brought into place to bring it to a successful conclusion. "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.

"Germany has put up the greatest fight of history and she has the advantage of now fighting a defensive warfare. Don't go back home and inspire your people with the thought that immediate action can bring this war to an immediate end. Your people must look to this year's crop and next year's crop and the next after that.

SUBS. ESCAPING BY NEUTRAL ROUTE

(By Associated Press.)
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.

(By Associated Press.)
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.

(By Associated Press.)
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. Loree 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.

Picked Up By Patrol Boat.
London, May 2.—Nine survivors including Captain S. S. Harris, from the American oil tank steamer Vacuum which was sunk by a German submarine Saturday, have been landed. This makes 27 men saved from a total of 45 aboard the vessel. Captain Harris wired to the offices of the Vacuum company that he, with Third Mate E. D. Husted, of Mount Vernon, N. Y., the boatswain, and six gunners were picked up by a patrol boat and landed.

Other Survivors.
Liverpool, May 2.—(Via London).—In addition to the naval gunners, William, 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, Libau, 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. The total number of vessels of various nationalities arriving here last month was 449, of which 121 were American. The total tonnage was 1,149,740; American, 317,202. In March the number of vessels arriving here was 398, tons 1,053,272, American 114, tons 284,732.

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.

Everything points to a crisis having been reached in the internal affairs of both Germany and Austria, but the outcome is uncertain. The demand for internal reforms is growing louder and more insistent in Germany, and the newspapers are voicing this demand with a boldness never known since the commencement of the war. The one certain thing of significance is that the German government is proceeding to unheard of lengths to prevent the outside world from learning the truth of the situation.

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. The storm of criticism against the Chancellor is steadily growing in bitterness, and from all quarters is heard the demand for a "strong man" to guide Germany through the troubles which beset her.

The great labor demonstration in Sweden took place without any disorder being reported and a similar demonstration in Austria is declared to have passed peacefully.

On the fighting front in France the deadlock persists. The results of the French offensive have caused considerable dissatisfaction in Paris and the Minister of War will have to face the fire of a number of deputies when the French Parliament meets later in the month. In England criticism is centered on the admiralty, the growing submarine menace rapidly increasing the critics of Sir Edward Carson.

SWEET POTATOES FOR THE SOUTH

Prolific and Inexpensive Crop. Statement by Department of Agriculture.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, May 2.—Bigger sweet potato acreage in Southern States was urged by the Department of Agriculture today in a statement explaining that by using vine cuttings from early-set plants, the cost of planting an acre would be only \$4 for sweet potatoes, compared with \$40 for Irish potatoes.

"Sweet potatoes," says the statement, "are the South's chief instrument for a quick and effective increase of the food supply. Seed is plentiful; last year's crop was the second largest ever produced. By means of vine cutting it is possible to plant almost unlimited areas of this crop and at the same time conserve the present supply.

"That is, a farmer who wishes to plant 10 acres will bedseed enough—say, 8 to 10 bushels—to get slips for one acre. Vine cuttings from this acre would plant many more acres, planting being possible until the first of August in the lower South. This system enables the utilization of land from which early potatoes, cabbage and other truck crops have been taken.

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.

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.

(By Associated Press.)
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.

Vawter declared that on the night of the shooting he and Heth had been drinking together and later he had seen his wife emerging from Heth's room, despair written on her face. He went downstairs for his revolver and returning engaged in a violent struggle with Heth, in which Mrs. Vawter also joined, in an effort to prevent him from shooting Heth. He said he fired the fatal shot just as consciousness was slipping from him.

As early as last June, Vawter declared he had discovered evidences of improper relation between Heth and his wife, resulting in his writing Heth a letter asking him to keep away from his wife and not to communicate with her, explaining that "the happiness of our lives has been ruined," and accusing Heth of doing "the worst thing that could be done" for his wife's happiness.

The defense, as outlined by Attorney Colburn, in his opening statement to the jury was that Heth had been a frequent visitor to the Vawter home at Blacksburg, Va., and had often treated Vawter with liquor. Vawter, after finding his wife in a compromising situation with Heth more than once, protested both to Mrs. Vawter and to Heth, and an agreement was reached whereby Mrs. Vawter was to avoid Heth and Vawter was to quit drinking.

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 first witness for the prosecution today was Dr. W. F. Henderson, physician of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, who first answered the call to the Vawter home on the night of the shooting. Dr. Henderson was delayed in reaching court by an order from the War Department to examine a large squad of Institute cadets detailed for the officers' training camp at Fort Myer.

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.

Dr. A. P. Jones, a surgeon in the Roanoke hospital to which Heth was taken, described the operation performed on Heth, and said that after 24 hours it became evident that Heth could not live. John L. Lee, for the prosecution, announced that the Commonwealth rested.

Charlie Vawter, little son of the accused, was the first witness called for the defense. The child was questioned, as usual, as to his understanding of an oath, and said that little boys who tell stories, "go to the bad place," explaining in answer to questions, that his mother and father (Continued on Page Eight).

RIVER AND HARBOR APPROPRIATIONS

Recommendations of Appropriations by House River and Harbor Committee.

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, May 2.—The House Rivers and Harbors committee today resumed consideration of the annual Waterways Appropriation bill based on War Department recommendations for maintenance and continued improvement items.

The tentative draft includes the following: Virginia—Improvement Norfolk harbor, including channel to Newport News, \$380,000; maintenance and continuing improvement of James and other rivers, \$72,000.

Waterway from Norfolk, Va., to Beaufort Inlet, N. C., continuing improvement, \$100,000.

North Carolina—Northeast, Black and Cape Fear rivers, maintenance, \$85,000; completing improvement Cape Fear river below Wilmington, \$35,000.

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

The Secretary of War is directed to have preliminary examinations and surveys made of these localities: Virginia—Elizabeth river.

North Carolina—Treat river, with view to deepening channel known as Foy's flats; harbor of Silver Lake, Ocracoke Island, and entrance from Pamlico Sound; Smith, Broad and Queens creeks; Northeast and Little rivers.

South Carolina—Lynches river; Charleston harbor; Cooper river, South Carolina, from the entrance to Sanders Creek, including Town Creek channel; Church and Bohicket creeks; Ashley river to provide eight feet depth.

LONE BANDIT HELD UP TRAIN CREW

Bold Act of Desperado on Train in Illinois Early This Morning.

(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.

The bandit re-entered the coach and started a search. He was still busy as the train stopped at Sparta. Conductor W. F. Frenz saw him as the train pulled out of the station springing from the rear coach. The conductor stopped the train and notified the police. Sheriff Henry, with a posse of 12 men, immediately started a search for the robber.

No estimate of the amount of money the bandit obtained could be learned from the passengers.