

WEATHER FORECAST.  
North Carolina—Fair, probably  
light frost in mountain district;  
Thursday fair, slightly warmer.  
South Carolina—Fair tonight and  
Thursday; probably light frost to-  
night, extreme northwest portion.

# THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 9, 1917.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

## AVIATOR AND PUPIL PLUNGE FROM HIGH TO INSTANT DEATH

People of Newport News  
Thrilled by Ghastly Spec-  
tacle in Midair.

VICTOR CHARLSTROM  
ONE OF VICTIMS.

Former Young Bank Teller  
The Other—The Machine  
Smashed to Bits and Bodies  
Were Horribly Mutilated—  
Carlstrom Noted Airman.

(By Associated Press.)  
Newport News, Va., May 9.—Victor  
Carlstrom, aviator-instructor at the  
Atlantic Coast Aeronautical Station  
here, and one of the foremost flyers  
in America, and Cary B. Epes, of  
Newport, a student flyer, were  
instantly killed this afternoon at 12:30  
o'clock when the aeroplane in which  
they were flying collapsed at an alti-  
tude of about 3,500 feet and fell like  
a plummet to the earth.

The machine was smashed to splin-  
ters and the bodies of the victims  
were horribly mutilated beyond recog-  
nition. The fall was witnessed by  
hundreds of persons in various sec-  
tions of the city and caused a near-  
panic among the children at one of  
the public schools, who were watch-  
ing the flyers during their noon re-  
cess.

Carlstrom was giving Epes his first  
flight. They left the ground and rap-  
idly rose to about 3,500 feet. They  
were flying along smoothly when  
those persons watching the machine  
suddenly crumpled up and  
plunged downward.

As the crippled machine fell observ-  
ers saw a portion of the plane splash  
after it. This proved to be the  
right wing, which evidently gave way  
and caused the remainder of the plane  
to collapse.

Carlstrom reached the zenith of his  
fame when he flew from Chicago to  
New York for the New York Times  
several months ago. Previous to that  
time he had flown from Newport  
News to New York without a stop,  
setting a record for cross-country  
flying. Carlstrom also held the Amer-  
ican record for altitude with pilot  
and one passenger, having ascended  
to a height of 16,500 feet here a year  
ago. Earlier in his flying days Carl-  
strom flew from Toronto to Buffalo.  
He had won numerous other laurels  
in the aviation world and had been  
awarded a medal by the Aero Club of  
America.

A few weeks ago Carlstrom had  
received an appointment as first lieu-  
tenant in the aviation reserve corps  
of the United States army. He was  
considered one of the best instruc-  
tors in the country and had a large  
class of army students at the local  
school.

Epes resigned his position as teller  
in a local bank last Saturday and  
had arranged to take the aviation  
course as a civilian until his appli-  
cation had been acted upon by the  
army authorities. He recently de-  
clined his own expenses to Wash-  
ington to undergo the examination  
and anticipated an appointment at  
an early date.

Raleigh Police Chief Makes  
Raid on Express Office and  
Gets Big Haul.

(Special To The Dispatch.)  
Raleigh, N. C., May 9.—Captain  
Warren, of the police force, raided the  
express office this morning and cap-  
tured, in ten trunks, seven hundred  
and nineteen pints of liquor. The  
hoose was through a customary  
trunk check, but the owners did not  
call for the liquor. It was then brought  
to city police station and is held for  
confiscation.

GERMANS AND BULGARS  
TRIUMPH.

(By Associated Press.)  
Berlin, May 9 (Via London).—  
German and Bulgarian troops  
have administered a severe de-  
feat upon the Entente forces in  
Macedonia, army headquarters  
announced today.

## CONSTRUCTION OF SMALL SHIPS AS AGAINST LARGE

Protest Against Former Prop-  
osition Made by Manches-  
ter Shipping Experts.

SERIOUS RESULTS  
OF SUCH POLICY

Pointed Out By The Protes-  
tants—Facts and Figures  
Given to Sustain Their  
Position.

(Correspondence of Associated Press.)  
Manchester, April 26.—A commit-  
tee of shipping experts here has adopt-  
ed a report against the building of  
small ships in preference to big ones  
to offset the submarine danger. The  
report says:  
"The policy of small ship construc-  
tion can only have a most disastrous  
effect on the nation, the man power  
required by the army and our chances  
of victory."  
"The Germans' aim to be sinking  
9,000,000 tons a year and hope to sink  
still more. Allowing losses by mines  
and natural causes to balance any ex-  
aggeration of German claims and as-  
suming that we build one-half the lost  
tonnage and other countries the bal-  
ance, we have increased last year's  
output by about 4,000,000 tons, equiv-  
alent to 11,600,000 tons of cargo capac-  
ity per year.

"Comparing ships of 2,000 tons and  
16,000 tons displacement, carrying 650  
and 8,675 tons of cargo, respectively,  
and taking the North Atlantic passage  
as a basis, we should require building  
each year of 2,460 of the smaller ships,  
but only 185 of the larger.

"The smaller ships would cost 111-  
000,000 pounds sterling, the larger only  
46,000,000 pounds sterling. The small-  
er ships would use 1,550,000 tons of  
steel and 575,000 tons of timber, and  
would consume 6,750,000 tons of coal  
on the outward voyage per year. The  
larger ships would absorb 1,030,000  
tons of steel and 382,000 tons of tim-  
ber, and consume only 1,560,000 tons  
of coal.

"The number of men employed in  
building the ships, including making  
and handling steel and other materials,  
would be 635,000 for the smaller ships  
and 285,000 for the larger. The coal  
consumed would account for 45,000  
men for the smaller ships as against  
10,500 for the larger. Thus the larger  
ships would release about 350,000 per-  
sons for other national service. More-  
over the larger ships would require  
60,000 fewer mariners.

"Again the percentage of loss both  
in number of ships and in cargo car-  
rying capacity will be greater with  
small ships than large, and the former  
will produce greater congestion in  
ports.

## CONFERENCE ON U-BOAT QUESTION

Of Naval Experts—Prospects  
Of Success in Combatting  
Submarines.

(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, May 9.—It is bright-  
ening that American inventive genius  
has found the road that may lead to  
freedom of the seas from German sub-  
marines.

A conference of unusual importance  
was held last night at the home of  
Secretary Daniels. It was called in  
order that high officials of the navy  
might go over with members of the  
consulting board, the experts  
mentally already tried and those that  
are in prospect. "They believe they are  
on the right road," Mr. Daniels said.  
"They believe they are going to turn  
out something that is worth while.  
There will be more experiments. Fur-  
ther than that I do not care to say."

Those at the conference were Sec-  
retary Daniels, Admiral Benson, chief  
of operations; Rear Admiral Taylor,  
chief constructor; Rear Admiral Grif-  
fin, chief engineer; Rear Admiral  
Earle, chief of ordnance; Rear Admiral  
Grant, chief of the submarine service,  
and Capt. Wm. Strother Smith, who  
forms the connecting link between the  
department and the consulting board,  
and other scientific bodies.

W. L. Saunders chairman of the con-  
sulting board, headed the representa-  
tion of scientists. Reports also were  
available from Thomas A. Edison, who  
is at work on a somewhat different line  
of investigation.

No intimation has been given as to  
the nature of the experiments.

SUBMARINE SIGHTED  
THIS SIDE DANGER ZONE

(By Associated Press.)  
New York, May 9.—An officer on  
a British steamship arriving here to-  
day from Europe said a submarine  
was sighted "far west of the subma-  
rine zone." He refused to state  
which way the under-water boat was  
moving and his fellow-officers and  
the passengers declined to discuss the  
subject, except to assert that the  
passenger vessel was not molested.

## INCREASED COST ALSO APPLYING WATER CARRIERS

Head of Old Dominion Line  
Appears Before Commis-  
sion Today.

ARGUES FOR RAISE  
OF FREIGHT RATES

Expense of Labor and Also of  
Coal Has Been Largely In-  
creased, Declares Presi-  
dent Walker.

(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, May 9.—H. B. Walker,  
president of the Old Dominion Steam-  
ship Company, told the commission  
that everything said by spokesmen for  
the railroads relative to increased  
operating costs applied similarly to  
the water carriers. Wages of em-  
ployees of all kinds have been raised,  
the company has had to stand a 73  
per cent increase in the cost of its  
coal, and supplies of all kinds have  
mounted. Both freight and passen-  
ger traffic, he declared, had been re-  
duced because of the war.

"The existence of the Old Domin-  
ion," said Mr. Walker, "is seriously  
threatened. An increase in rates will  
go far toward ameliorating conditions  
but it will not close the gap between  
operating costs and operating in-  
come."

Counsel for shippers today asked  
that the roads file complete state-  
ments of their relations with coal  
producing companies and operators.  
The commission granted the request.

Counsel for the roads then filed a  
formal petition with the commission  
for increases of from 5 to 15 cents a  
ton in the rates on anthracite coal.

Statistical tables showing revenues,  
expenses, property investment and  
return of 22 carriers of the South  
were filed with the commission. They  
were compiled by J. B. Duke, assist-  
ant comptroller of the Southern, and  
showed greatly increased operating  
costs of all varieties.

## THE CONFEREES STILL DISAGREE

On Roosevelt Volunteers En-  
listment Provision in The  
War Army Bill.

(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, May 9.—Conferees of  
the House and Senate on the War  
army bill today sought to compro-  
mise their differences over the ques-  
tion of whether Colonel Roosevelt  
shall be permitted, as provided by a  
Senate amendment, to raise a volun-  
teer force for service in France. Pros-  
pects of an agreement, however, on  
this, the main issue, seemed slight.

The only hope held out for a com-  
promise was said to be based on the  
chance that the Senate might recede  
from its position on the question. In  
that case it was said the House con-  
ferees might accept the Senate  
amendment fixing the age limit of  
those subject to selective draft at  
21 to 27 in lieu of the House provi-  
sion fixing it at from 21 to 40.

## WHEREABOUTS OF LENINE UNKNOWN

This Pro-German Agitator in  
Russia Suddenly and Mys-  
teriously Disappears.

(By Associated Press.)  
London, May 9.—It is reported in  
an Exchange Telegraph dispatch  
from Copenhagen that Nikolai Lenin,  
the Russian Radical Socialist leader,  
has been missing for two days. The  
dispatch, which quotes the Svenska  
Dagbladet, of Stockholm, as its au-  
thority, says nothing is known as to  
Lenine's fate.

Lenine, an expatriate under the old  
Russian regime, was permitted by  
the German government to return  
home through Germany from Switzer-  
land after the revolution. He under-  
took a vigorous campaign at the head  
of a group of ultra radicals in favor  
of peace and was so active that he  
caused some anxiety among those who  
supported the government in its deter-  
mination to continue the war. Later-  
ly, however, Lenine's influence is  
said to have been waning.

COALITION MINISTRY FOR  
RUSSIA.

(By Associated Press.)  
Petrograd, May 9 (Via Lon-  
don).—The Russian government  
today issued a declaration in fa-  
vor of a coalition ministry.

Mr. Hoover continued his testimony  
into the necessity for a central food  
department.

## FATE OF VAWTER WILL BE KNOWN TODAY

Case Expected to Go to The  
Jury Before The Sun  
Has Set.

DEFENSE HAVING  
INNING THIS MORNING

Attorney Calhoun Makes Stir-  
ring Plea For Vawter—Wim-  
and Crucified on Cross  
of Infamy, He Asserts.

(By Associated Press.)  
Christiansburg, May 9.—What  
promises to be the closing day of the  
trial of Prof. Charles E. Vawter, of  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute, for the  
killing of Stockton Heth, Jr., March 13,  
brought the first view of the sun this  
section has had since early in the trial.  
The sun in turn brought a renewal  
of the large attendance of the sensa-  
tional testimony days, to hear the speeches  
of W. H. Colhoun, closing for the de-  
fense, and "Jack" Lee, closing for the  
State.

The court was to convene at 10  
o'clock, sitting again in the moving  
picture theatre, now given over to  
staging a vivid spoken drama, and the  
house early was filled.

Yesterday brought one of the most  
dramatic moments of the trial and  
probably the first time in the history  
of a Virginia court a recess was  
ordered to permit jurors, court officials  
and spectators to compose them-  
selves after the sentimental upheaval  
caused by the pleading of Judge R. L.  
Jordan, of Radford, for Vawter.

It is expected the case will be in  
the hands of the jury before 6 o'clock  
and a verdict this evening is consid-  
ered likely.

Attorneys and court officers are re-  
ceiving a flood of communications from  
all over the country giving advice in  
the case and seeking information.

Attorney Calhoun, who speaks this  
morning for the defense, received a  
letter from a Richmond woman ad-  
vancing an argument for Vawter that  
even he had not thought of. The writer  
suggested a plea for Vawter's acquittal  
in view of his wonderful technical  
knowledge so badly needed by the  
country in the present crisis, with the  
proviso that Mr. and Mrs. Vawter en-  
ter into bond never to drink again.

Mr. Colhoun began speaking, the  
first address of the day, at 10:40 a. m.  
He painted in vivid fashion Mrs. Vaw-  
ter's sacrifice on the stand, when at  
last with the whiskey furnished by  
Stockton Heth out of her system, with  
the power of his dominating influence  
gone, her womanhood reasserted itself  
and she took up the cross of shame  
which she must bear to her grave to  
make atonement for her sin.

The attorney arraigned the prosecu-  
tion for holding up "the crazy letter"  
to spring without warning. Stockton  
Heth, he described, as insidiously go-  
ing about his task of dragging down  
the name of a woman until he crucified  
her upon the cross of infamy.

With dramatic intensity, Colhoun  
recounted details of the struggle which  
resulted in Heth's death and exclaim-  
ed:  
"I thank God that some kind fate  
guided the hand of the deluded woman  
and that her finger found the trig-  
ger of that pistol, permitted her to  
have part in firing the shot that killed  
the truder and avenged her ruin."

Colhoun referred to the alleged  
statement of Heth that all women  
were approachable as "the damnable  
lie of him; an insult to womanhood."  
"Had physical force been used,"  
said the attorney, "his crime would  
have been fully white outside the one  
committed." Colhoun closed by re-  
ferring to the sunshine as a prophecy  
from God of happiness a favorable  
verdict will bring to the home at Blacks-  
burg.

## ASKS LIQUOR MAKING STOP

Grain Needed For Eating, De-  
clares Herbert Hoover to  
Congressmen.

(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, May 9.—Prohibition  
of the use of grain, including barley,  
in the manufacture of beverage alcohol  
or beer during the war was urged to-  
day, before the Senate Agricultural  
Committee, by Herbert C. Hoover of  
the food council of the committee  
of National Defense, and Dr. Alonzo  
Taylor, a special assistant to Sec-  
retary Houston of the Department of  
Agriculture.

Dr. Taylor said the brewers who  
told the committee recently that bar-  
ley was not good for human food  
were wrong and that it was used in  
Europe. He said 87,000,000 bushels  
would be saved by prohibitory legis-  
lation.

Mr. Hoover continued his testimony  
into the necessity for a central food  
department.

## THE SUCCESS OF GERMANS TEMPORARY

NEW YORK CAN'T GET THAW.

(By Associated Press.)  
Harrisburg, Pa., May 9.—Gov-  
ernor Brumbaugh today refused  
to extradite Harry K. Thaw to  
New York City, where he is want-  
ed on an indictment for assault.  
Thaw is still in a Philadelphia  
hospital, where he was taken af-  
ter an attempt at suicide.

With massed reserves of every  
available gun at his command Crown  
Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria is striv-  
ing to halt the ceaseless British as-  
saults on the Drocourt-Queant line,  
the last bulwark protecting the richest  
prize of the Germans in northern  
France, the coal fields of Lens.

The reckless expenditure of human  
life by the German commander has  
had at least a temporary reward in  
the recapture of Fresnoy at the north-  
ern end of the line. This little vil-  
lage and the wood which surrounds  
it formed a sharp salient driven by  
the Canadians to within two miles  
of Drocourt.

For the first time in the present offensive  
a German counter attack has suc-  
ceeded in wresting an important po-  
sition from the British.

Curiously enough, the same official  
statement from Berlin which an-  
nounces the capture of Fresnoy in-  
dicates that the British are much  
closer to the southern end of the  
Drocourt-Queant line than has been  
claimed by London. The German War  
Office tells of heavy fighting between  
Riencourt and Fontaine, the former  
village being a bare mile and a half  
from Queant and less than that dis-  
tance from Cagnicourt, the next Ger-  
man stronghold north of Queant.

Everything indicates that the pres-  
ent struggle on the British front is re-  
garded on both sides as one of the  
most important actions of the war, but  
it may be many days before any de-  
cision is reached.

The determination with which the  
Germans are fighting and their strenu-  
ous efforts at the concentration of  
guns and reserves show that the  
Drocourt-Queant line is regarded by  
them as of vital importance and will  
only be surrendered in the last ex-  
tremity.

From two other war theatres news  
comes that opens up many possi-  
bilities. The fighting on the Macedonian  
front, constantly developing in severity  
and extent, gives renewed color to  
the belief that General Sarraill is in-  
itiating operations of major impor-  
tance and possibly a general offensive.

The developments on this front ap-  
pear to have given fresh impetus to  
the revolutionary movement in  
Greece, reinforced by the news that  
Venizelist troops are on the firing  
line and have been victors in the  
first clash with the Bulgars. King  
Constantine has been declared de-  
posed at a great mass meeting in Sa-  
loniki and an Athens dispatch says  
that the King's followers are desert-  
ing to the provisional government in  
increasing numbers.

Mesopotamia offers the second point  
of interest, with an announcement  
from Petrograd that Russian troops  
are again on the move in the Persian  
border. The unexplained inaction of  
those forces was believed in some  
quarters to have been responsible for  
the sudden halt in the victorious ad-  
vance of the British army from Bag-  
dad. General Maude's successes had  
resulted in the practical surrounding  
of the Turkish army in Mesopotamia  
when the Russian withdrawal from  
Mush and the halting of the Russian  
drive from Persia changed the situ-  
ation.

Field Marshal von Hindenburg's tre-  
mendous drive of yesterday in an ef-  
fort to stem the tide of British vic-  
tory on the Arras battlefield speedily  
spent its force and all his lavish ex-  
penditure of men and material bids  
fair to be wasted.

Already the British have reacted so  
strongly that most of the ground lost  
in the vicinity of Fresnoy has been  
regained.

The Germans are still clinging to  
(Continued on page eight).

RUSSIANS SMASH GERMAN  
LINE.

(By Associated Press.)  
Petrograd, May 9 (Via London).—  
Russian troops on the Ruma-  
nian front, northwest of Benne,  
yesterday broke through the  
Teuton positions and advance  
towards Jenawer, says the offi-  
cial statement issued today by  
the Russian war department.

NORWEGIAN STEAMER  
SUBMARINE VICTIM

(By Associated Press.)  
London, May 9.—The Norwegian  
steamer Kaparika, 1,123 tons gross,  
has been sunk by a German subma-  
rine, the Norwegian foreign office an-  
nounces, says a special news dispatch  
from Christiania today. Two men of  
the crew were killed.