

**WEATHER FORECAST.**

North and South Carolina: Fair to night and Friday, little change in temperature.

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# THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE



WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 10, 1917.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

## AT LAST AGREE ON THE ARMY BILL

### FOR MASTERY OF VITAL POST OF FRESNOY

The Desperate Battle Between Germans and British is Still Raging. GREAT IMPORTANCE OF THE POSITION To That Section of The German Line—Enormous Concentration of The Enemy Against British—Fearful Loss by Germans—Disquieting News From Russia.

The battle for Fresnoy continues to rage with a fury which recalls the bloody struggles for Forts Douaumont and Vaux in the days of the battle of Verdun. Thousands of lives are being poured out for the mastery of the little loop of ruins that was once a village and the blackened, blasted stumps that were once a wood, until Fresnoy threatens to fall into the hands of the victor. The great importance of the position is due to the fact that it forms the last important defense of the northern end of the Drocourt-Queant line, and also covers the only remaining railroad to Lens, connecting the coal city with the main German line to the south. The Drocourt-Queant line traverses one side of a railroad triangle which has Lens, Arras and Vimy as its respective angles. All of one side of this roughly equilateral triangle is in the hands of the British and about one-half of its base, Fresnoy must be held if the whole triangle is not to be excavated and the fall of Lens rendered certain. The enormous concentration of German divisions on the British front and marked increase in gun-power added significance to the reports that Field Marshal von Hindenburg is withdrawing both men and artillery from the eastern area. The disorganization of the Russian army has apparently had a very serious effect on the whole allied situation and has materially increased the burdens imposed on the British and French.

While today's official reports throw little additional light on the situation around Fresnoy, where the heaviest fighting in the Arras battle occurred this week, they reveal important gains for the British and French at other points on the front in northern France.

London's announcement of British progress south of Souchez river, means a further pushing back of the German lines immediately south of Lens, tightening the hold of the nipper which the British are applying to this important industrial town and coal district.

Further inroads also have been made upon the German positions near Bullecourt, on the Hindenburg line, just west of its point of junction with the Queant-Doocourt switch, where the Germans, although reported nearly surrounded, are stubbornly clinging to the town.

Far to the south on the British front, two miles north of St. Quentin, General Haig's troops have pushed forward from Gricourt. They are right at the St. Quentin-Cambrai road at this point.

The French, like the British, have made no new general attack, but they are there and making valuable headway in preparing the ground for the next push. One of these effective operations was carried out last night after a German counter attack had been repulsed in the field point of Craonne. A fortified position of support near Chevreux was captured in this advance. In another operation, just to the northern slope, the recent French gains were enlarged and prisoners taken from a fresh German division. The news from Russia is far from reassuring in any respect and apparently the provisional government is still in a precarious position. There are no marked developments in the other war theatres. Fighting on the Macedonian front goes on with conflicting reports from the rival camps, but nothing as yet to tell whether a movement in force is under (Continued on page eight).

### WAR EXPENSE WILL GO TO FIVE BILLION, DECLARES KITCHIN

#### NEW YORK HONORS FRENCH NATION THROUGH JOFFRE

Unveiling Statue of LaFayette in Presence of French Commissioners. FRENCH VISITORS GIVEN OVATION Gold Miniature of Statue of Liberty Presented Joffre—The Marshal Greatly Touched.

New York, May 10.—France, through Marshal Joffre, hero of the Marne, unveiled a statue of an earlier one of her national life, LaFayette, at Prospect Park, in Brooklyn, today. Earlier, the general had been presented with a miniature gold duplicate of the Statue of Liberty in Central Park. After loosing the tri-color and the American flag, which concealed the LaFayette statue, the Marshal and his compatriots were the luncheon guests of the Merchants' Association.

Through thirty miles of New York, the French visitors motored and the sidewalks and the buildings at every point were thronged with demonstrative people. In Brooklyn, schools were dismissed and every child carried a French or an American emblem.

Mayor Mitchell accepted the LaFayette statue on behalf of the city from the estate of a Brooklyn citizen of French descent, and M. Viviani, France's former premier, delivered the dedication address. Joffre did not speak when he saw the bronze relief of LaFayette. He had uncovered and stood mutely in salute.

When Marshal Joffre arrived on the North Meadow of Central Park to receive the golden miniature Statue of Liberty, through popular subscription, raised by the New York World, 5,000 school children, waving the tri-color and the Stars and Stripes, greeted the hero with a great shout. Mayor Mitchell presented Marshal Joffre with the statue amid shouts of "Vive la France," and "Hurrah for Joffre."

A little girl, dressed in a zouave uniform, standing close to Joffre, shouted "Vive la France." The Hero of the Marne took her in his arms and kissed her on both cheeks. Then turning to the Mayor, he said in French: "I am profoundly touched by the remarkable souvenir which, with such delicate attention, you offer me. I am profoundly touched above all and I feel the value of this emblem that comes to me from the common people of America, from the people as a whole. I thank you. I thank you from the bottom of my heart, and I ask you to thank the people for this gift which I shall keep all my life, which I shall carry to my home, which I shall have under my eyes every day to remind me of my love of America and of what America has done for France. I shall treasure it for what it stands for and for what it means for us."

#### GERMAN AGENT UNDER ARREST

In Chicago, Charged With Making Bombs to Blow Up French Mule Transport. (By Associated Press.) Chicago, May 10.—Hans Halle, a German, who has been under surveillance by Government agents almost constantly since December, 1914, when he was arrested in New Orleans, on a charge of making bombs to blow up a French mule transport, is under arrest here today. Halle had been working as an expert mechanic in a railway roundhouse. Pending orders from Washington federal agents directed that he be held in the county jail.

#### WILL RUN OVER A BILLION AS ESTIMATED, HE SAYS IN OPENING DEBATE.

THOSE WHO STAY HOME SHOULD PAY COST Demands of War Necessities He Asserts, Necessitate Prompt and Decisive Action—Money of Nation to be Conscripted—Makes Strong Speech.

Washington, May 10.—Democratic Leader Kitchin, in opening debate on the \$1,800,000,000 Revenue bill in the House today predicted that the war expenditures for the rest of this year and the next fiscal year would reach \$5,000,000,000 instead of the \$3,800,000,000 his committee had conservatively estimated. Mr. Kitchin declared that those who stayed at home in war time should be glad to pay the bills. Demands of war necessitate prompt and decisive action, he continued, and patriotism called for prompt passage of the measure. "Men whose boys are conscripted for the army," he declared, "have a right to expect that the money of the nation would be conscripted to support that army. If I were not ready to fight, I would be willing to tax every dollar in my pocket. They say this bill is going to take half out of the wealthy, is going to raise a howl throughout the country. We have heard that howl in our committee. I believe that the business men, the manufacturers and the wealthy class are patriotic and that they are going to stand by this bill. Everybody should do that. We have heard more protests, complaints and kicks from every tax in this bill than any other tariff I have helped to write, hundreds of times more than in the past."

#### FATAL ACCIDENT AT NAVY DRYDOCK

Destroyer Allen, on the Ways, Falls—One Man Killed, Several Wounded.

Philadelphia, May 10.—One man was killed and seven others injured at the Philadelphia navy yard last night when the destroyer Allen, in drydock, fell against the coast guard cutter Guthrie, also in drydock. Information of the accident was given out today by the navy's censor office.

#### SHIPPING BOARD BUYS SEVEN AUSTRIAN SHIPS

Washington, May 10.—The Federal Shipping Board announced it had purchased from American owners seven Austrian merchant men held in American ports, totaling 52,651 tons, for \$6,778,000. The price is about half the prevailing price for ships. The vessels will be repaired within a few months and placed in the war emergency trade by the board.

LIBERIA ALSO BREAKS (By Associated Press.) Washington, May 10.—Liberia's decision to sever relations with Germany was officially reported today by the Liberian minister there. Considerable importance is attached to this step as Liberia is the landing point of many cables and was used for some time by German residents as a base against the British. Recently, however, the Liberian authorities have suppressed that hostility.

#### INSANE YOUNG FARMER KILLS MANY PEOPLE

Father and Mother Among Victims of a Crazy Kentuckian Today. MIND MADE MAD BY ILL HEALTH Wholesale Tragedy, Climaxed By Suicide of One Who Caused It, Enacted This Morning.

Elkton, Ky., May 10.—Frank Millen, a prominent young farmer, aged 30, insane, it is supposed, from brooding over ill-health, this morning killed his father, Charles Millen, his mother, his brother Elmo and the latter's wife, a bride of three months, and then ended his own life by hanging and shooting himself, at the family home three miles from this place. News of the tragedy, the most awful in the history of Todd county, reached the authorities at this place through a telephone message from Frank Millen himself, to Coroner Bartlett, about 6:30 this morning. The message said: "Come out to Charley Millen's at once, the whole family is dead but me and I'll be dead when you get here."

#### GEN. PERSHING CALLED TO CAPITAL

May be Connected With The Sending of American Troops to France.

Washington, May 10.—Orders summoning Major General John J. Pershing, commanding the Southern department, to Washington, have aroused much speculation here. Officials have declined to give an explanation or to comment on reports that the general's visit is connected with the subject of selecting a commander for a military expedition to France. General Pershing is known to have the confidence of administration officials because of his record as commander of the punitive expedition into Mexico. Since the bulk of the regular army now is under his command, however, and since several of the big army mobilization camps are to be established in his territory, it was pointed out that his trip here might have to do only with organizational work.

### AGE LIMIT OF FIRST CALL IS MADE THIRTY

TRIED TO KILL PRESIDENT OF CUBA. (By Associated Press.) Havana, May 10.—An attempt was made last night to assassinate President Menocal, of Cuba, by means of a bomb explosion. Nine arrests were made before the conspirators could carry out their plan.

#### BELGIANS FORCED INTO GERMAN ARMY

The Fact Admitted in Reichstag by Representative of German War Department. (By Associated Press.) Copenhagen, (Via London), May 10.—A representative of the German War Department has admitted in the Reichstag that a number of Belgian subjects, resident in Cologne, were drafted into the German army in spite of their protests that they were veterans of the Belgian army. The admission was made in answer to an interpellation by a Radical Socialist deputy. The War Department official promised that the question of citizenship in these cases would be reviewed.

#### GERMAN DESTROYERS CHASED BY BRITISHERS

London, May 10.—A British force of light cruisers and destroyers chased eleven German destroyers today, engaging them at long range, but being unable to overtake, says an official statement this afternoon.

#### AMERICANS HELD AS PRISONERS

Crews From Armed Vessels Captured by German War Ships. (By Associated Press.) Washington, May 10.—That 127 Americans still are held prisoners in Germany, probably crews from captured armed merchantmen, was revealed today at the State Department. It is assumed that the men were brought to Germany by raiders operating in the South Atlantic.

#### WEST POINT CLASS GRADUATES AUG. 30TH

(By Associated Press.) Washington, May 10.—The first class at West Point will be graduated August 30, the War Department announced today and 154 highly trained officers to aid in the instruction of the first 500,000 selective draft army to be called to the colors some time in September.

#### BRITISH MINE SWEEPER SUNK BY SUBMARINE

London, May 10.—A British mine sweeper was torpedoed and sunk on May 5 with the loss of two officers and 20 men, the admiralty announces.

#### CONFEREES REACH AGREEMENT IN CONGRESS ON THE ARMY BILL

FIRST REPORTED TO THE HOUSE Eliminated Provision For Roosevelt But Hold to Prohibition as to Army Posts—Representative Kahn Declined to Sign The Conference Report.

Washington, May 10.—Conferees on the War Army bill reached an agreement today and the measure will be reported back to the two Houses for confirmation as soon as possible. The Senate amendments prohibiting the sale of liquor at army camps and otherwise safeguarding the morals of the troops were retained.

The conferees made the age limit of those subject to the selective draft 21 to 30 years inclusive, in place of the 21 to 27 limits in the Senate bill and 21 to 40 in the House measure.

The so-called Roosevelt amendment, put in by the Senate, permitting the Colonel to raise four divisions for service in France was eliminated from the bill as was that authorizing the raising of three regiments for border patrol duty.

Representatives Kahn and Anthony, Republicans, announced they would not sign the conference report. Anthony was opposed to eliminating the Roosevelt amendment, and Kahn opposed the prohibitory sections, maintaining he could not approve provisions making the United States appear to be either a drunken or an immoral nation.

Elimination of the Roosevelt amendment is expected to arouse some opposition in the Senate, where it was put in by a large vote. An agreement, however, is expected.

The prohibition amendment was modified so that while liquor, wine or beer cannot be sold or possessed on military reservations or camps it will not be unlawful to furnish or give them to men in uniform.

One of the difficulties in reaching an agreement was over the tribunals which shall pass on exemptions from the selective draft. The provision accepted gives right of appeal from a first tribunal to a second. No military men are to be on either and they are to be distinct from courts of the United States or the States.

General Staff officers were much pleased at the agreement of the conference and the total elimination of the volunteer system from the new armies. While they preferred the narrower age limits of the Senate bill, as it would yield on the whole, a younger lot of men, they were satisfied with rejection of the House provision which extended the age as far as 40.

Chairman Chamberlain, of Senate Military committee, said he expected to report the agreement today but because the House must first act, the bill may not finally be agreed to until later in the week.