

**WEATHER FORECAST.**

North Carolina—Fair. Cooler to-night. Possibly light frost in mountain districts. Thursday, fair. South Carolina—Fair. Cooler to-night. Thursday, fair.

# THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 23, 1917.

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## U. S. TROOPS HAVE REACHED EUROPE

### HAIL STORMS WREAK BIG DAMAGE TODAY; CROPS ARE INJURED

Twice Within an Hour Storm Raged in Wilmington and Vicinity.

MUCH PROPERTY AND CROPS DAMAGED

Hot Houses Destroyed and Windows Smashed—Damage Throughout the County—Other Points Report Crops Ruined.

Damage done crops, fruits, trees, gardens, automobiles, flower beds and buildings by the double-barrel hail storm, the first section of which hit Wilmington and vicinity at 11:35 o'clock and the second at 1:05, will run far into the thousands of dollars, it is estimated, these figures being based on authentic reports The Dispatch was able to get during the afternoon.

The biggest damage was done the city by the first section of the storm, during which time stones as large as hen's eggs fell, while the outlying districts suffered more from the second section, which struck about an hour and a half later. Neither were of long duration, but it is next to impossible to estimate the damage done.

The first section of the storm, which came from the West, hit Wrightsboro hard but missed Winter Park, East Wilmington, Wrightsville Beach and Masonboro, but the second section added the finishing touches to everything that was started by the first.

The first storm was followed by a downpour of rain, following which the sun threatened to burst forth, but evidently thought better of it and hid its face in the fury of the second part of the storm, which struck with amazing force, leaving a trail of destruction in its wake.

Rain fell in torrents during the second storm, following which Old Sol peeped from behind a rift of clouds in the West and smiled complacently down upon Mother Earth.

The rain that followed the downpour of the hail stones that bounced merrily off plate glass windows will do the crops untold good provided any part of the crops are left to receive the benefit.

The storm, in its entirety, covered an unusually large area, although the first part of it did but little damage outside the city. The hot houses of Miss Lucy B. Moore, on Market street, were badly damaged by the first storm, but were completely wrecked by the second, which hit the glass houses from an opposite direction.

Her flower beds suffered little from the effects of the first attack, but were cut to shreds by the stones that fell during the second part of the storm.

Fruit trees suffered to an unusual extent. Peaches were cut from trees at Winter Park and rolled about the ground like so many marbles, while all growing truck was cut to shreds.

Plate glass windows were smashed in many of the principal buildings of the city. Of the 24 windows in the Einstein Building, corner of Front and Grace streets, 13 were wrecked, the windows of the second floor of the building, occupied by Peterson & Ruffs, shoe dealers, Front street, were smashed, while those in the adjoining building occupied by the Wilmington Furniture Company suffered to a big extent from the attack of the unusually large stones that came hurtling out of the West.

Twenty-five window panes were smashed on the west wall of the Murchison National Bank Building, while several crates of berries at the establishment of the People's Supply Company were quickly cut into jelly by the attack from above.

Tops of various automobiles parked about the city were badly cut by the falling ice, and one horse ran away in the business section—unable to understand the multiplicity of blows administered him seemingly from nowhere.

Gardens in the city were badly damaged, the tender vegetables being cut. Hot Houses Damaged.

From the best information obtainable at noon the hot houses suffered the greatest damage. The monetary loss will be quite heavy on account of the (Continued on Page Three.)

### COMPLETE FAILURE OF GERMAN EFFORT TO STEM THE TIDE

Of Victory Setting Against Them on Western Battle Front

### PEACE RUMORS STILL AFLOAT

None of Them Authentic—Food Problem Acute—German-Spanish Crisis Passed

The second phase of the great battles of Arras, the Aisne and Champagne has ended in the complete failure of the most determined and costly German efforts to stem the tide of victory now setting against them. The net result of Field Marshal von Hindenburg's supreme effort to regain the initiative has been that the British and French have tightened their grip on the German line and have placed in great relief the key positions held by the Germans in northern France.

The customary fall which separates all major operations in modern warfare has now come and the expectation is that it will be broken by a British blow on a great scale against the Drocourt-Queant line, already practically outflanked.

In the meantime the usual crop of peace rumors which marks these lulls has made its appearance. Reports from all kinds of sources, unofficial, semi-official, "inspired," and the like, tell of offers from Austria to Russia, Germany to Russia, and Austria and Germany to the collective powers.

The unnamed diplomats who apparently infest Switzerland are unusually active, but there is nothing tangible or authentic to show what these reports are worth.

The latest German-Spanish crisis has subsided with the receipt by Madrid of assurances from Berlin which Premier Prieto announces as satisfactory. Germany promises to respect Spain's rights in her territorial waters, but the text of the communication is not made public.

The recalled Cuban minister to Berlin reports that matters are going badly at home with the Germans and sees cracks in the imperial edifice, and there are fresh reports of strikes in Hungary. There seems little question that the food problem is an acute one for the Central Powers, but information is too meagre to permit judgment as to what effect it may have on the military situation.

**Von Hindenburg Witnesses Defeat.**  
On the French front in France, Tuesday, May 22 (From a Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press).—Von Hindenburg himself is understood to have been a spectator of the defeat which the French inflicted on the Germans yesterday evening on the Moronvilliers range which resulted in the capture of several lines of German trenches and a number of important observation points.

The German commander was just to the northward of this section on Sunday. His presence is supposed to have been connected with an attack on the French lines which the Germans intended to deliver on Tuesday morning. The French forestalled them and after demolishing German machine gun nests and other defenses with artillery launched an assault which was so brilliantly successful that more than 1,000 Germans were captured. At the same time the French obtained elbow room beyond the ridge for future operations.

### ADVERTISING TAX STRICKEN OUT.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, May 23.—The section of the war tax bill proposing a tax on advertising matter other than that contained in newspapers and periodicals was stricken out today by the House on motion of Democratic Leader Kitchin.

### WAR TAX BILL STILL UNDER FIRE

Leader Mann to Vote Against Its Amendments—Newspaper Postage Question

(By Associated Press.) Washington, May 23.—Republican Leader Mann aroused applause of the Republicans in the last hours of debate on the \$1,800,000,000 war revenue bill today by declaring that he would vote against the measure.

Too great an amount of money, Mr. Mann said, would be raised by immediate taxation under the bill. Bond issues or supplementary taxes, he declared, should raise the greater part of the required war revenue.

Democratic Leader Kitchin caused surprise by asking that the proposed 5 per cent. tax on advertising be stricken from the bill. He said he did not think it fair to tax advertising if newspaper advertisers were to be exempt, as the bill proposes.

The advertising section was stricken out by an aye and nay vote with only a few members opposing.

Representative Madden of Illinois, Republican, who has vigorously opposed the bill, also announced that he would vote against it.

Representative Cannon, Republican of Illinois, declared that he would vote for the bill because the country needed the money right away.

Increase of second class postage rates on advertising portions of publications is proposed in an amendment to the war revenue bill introduced in the Senate today by Senator Hardwick, of Georgia. It would leave the present cent-a-pound rate on news sections of publications, but increase that of advertising sections to 3 cents a pound until July 1, 1918, 6 cents a pound until July 1, 1919 and 8 cents a pound thereafter.

### FOOD LEGISLATION BEFORE BOTH HOUSES

(By Associated Press.) Washington, May 23.—Food legislation was placed in a favored position in the Senate today by unanimous consent for immediate consideration of the first bill, which deals with stimulating production. The bill became the unfinished business, giving it a privileged parliamentary status.

While it is being considered by the Senate, the House will take up the second administration measure, dealing with control of food and other necessities, introduced yesterday by Representative Lever, of South Carolina.

In presenting the first and revamped bill to the Senate today, Senator Gore, chairman of the Senate Agriculture committee, proposed to repress all efforts to attach any prohibition legislation. He hoped to have the prohibition question postponed for consideration with the food "control" bill in the House, a provision to that end being in the Lever measure offered yesterday to regulate grain used for manufacturing intoxicating beverages.

### FIRST ENGINEERS' DETACHMENT ARRIVES IN LONDON.

(By Associated Press.) London, May 23.—The first detachment of United States army engineers, under command of Major Parsons, arrived in London this evening. The second unit of the American hospital corps has reached Great Britain.

### VITAL QUESTION OF CHURCH UNION UP FOR DEBATE

Before The General Assembly of Southern Presbyterian Church.

### MAJORITY REPORT AGAINST UNION

Of The Two Churches—Minority Report Favoring Appointment of Committee on Conference.

(By Associated Press.) Birmingham, Ala., May 23.—Today's sessions of the 57th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States promised on of the most important developments of the meetings being held here—a probable decision of the question of union with the Northern Presbyterians.

The Assembly received a telegram yesterday from the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, in session at Dallas, Texas, reiterating the readiness of that body to enter into negotiations for organic union with the Southern branch of the church. A well-informed commissioner, but who was unwilling to be quoted, gave it as his opinion, however, that the Southern Assembly would hardly entertain favorably the proposition for union with the Northern church at this meeting.

A popular meeting in the interest of foreign missions will be held tonight.

The committee on bills and overtures submitted an unfavorable majority report on the proposition of union between the Southern and Northern branches of the Presbyterian church to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, in session here, today. The committee, in its report, expressed grateful appreciation of the spirit in the telegram; but said "under existing conditions they declined to appoint a committee from this assembly to confer with a similar committee from the Northern assembly."

The telegram referred to was one received from the Northern branch of the church now in session at Dallas, Texas, expressing readiness to take up the proposition of union between the two branches.

A minority report signed by three members of the committee was submitted, favoring the appointment of a committee to confer with a similar committee from the Northern church. The majority report bore the signature of 14 committeemen. The proposition will be voted on by the Assembly late this afternoon, it was said.

The majority report of the committee gave three reasons for its action in declining to recommend favorably the proposition of union between the Northern and Southern branches of the church. "First," it reported, "because there seems to be no general demand for union of these churches in the Southern church; and second, only six of the 38 Presbyteries have expressed a willingness to consider the union, and the committee deems that if pressure of this matter is brought at this time, it would work sad consequences in the church."

"The third reason," the report said, "was because the Presbytery of New York has persistently continued to license for the ministry those who have denied many of the cardinal points of doctrine of Presbyterianism. They have, for instance, licensed men who do not believe in the resurrection of the Lord, and do not believe in the Virgin birth, and have denied the resurrection of Lazarus and other important points."

### RAILWAY SECURITIES HOLDERS MEET.

(By Associated Press.) Baltimore, May 23.—Owners of more than one billion dollars of railroad securities were represented at a conference which opened here today for the purpose of considering important questions of railroad financing.

The call for the meeting was sent out by S. Davies Wardlaw, chairman of the board of directors of the Seaboard Air Line Railway.

### AUSTRO-HUNGARY THREATENED WITH POLITICAL CRISIS

Rumors Current of The Resignation of The Imperial Cabinet.

### PREMIER TISZA SUBMITS PLANS

For Reforms to Emperor—Increased Opposition to Dominance of Berlin in Austrian Affairs.

(By Associated Press.) London, May 23.—A Central News dispatch from Amsterdam says that Count Tisza was premier, has resigned.

Reforms Submitted to King. Amsterdam, (Via London), May 23.—A Budapest telegram received here by wire of Berlin says it is reported Premier Tisza submitted to the King proposals for franchise reform. The King reserved his decision, upon which depends whether the cabinet will resign. Count Tisza, the dispatch says, is leaving for Vienna, where he will be received by the King.

Count Tisza, the "iron man" of Austria-Hungary, has been for many years the leader of the pro-German party in the dual monarchy and was the last survivor of the little group of statesmen who surrounded Emperor Francis-Joseph when the European war began. On the accession of Emperor Charles, the majority of the officials of the previous regime were either dismissed or resigned. There have been persistent reports from many sources that Emperor Charles keenly resented the dominance of Berlin in Austro-Hungarian affairs and that Count Tisza was the one great obstacle which prevented him from freeing his empire from the influence of Potsdam.

There have been several reports recently that the fall of Premier Tisza was imminent, but the rigid censorship imposed by Vienna has prevented the outside world from learning the exact condition of affairs. At the outbreak of the war a truce was declared between the political parties in Hungary, but last August Count Apponyi, leader of the Liberals and a strong opponent of the Pan-Germans, announced that the truce was ended and that he would resume criticism of the government's foreign policy. He was joined by Count Karolyi, president of the Hungarian Independent party, and the two popular leaders instituted a vigorous campaign against Count Tisza for failure to carry out franchise and other democratic reforms.

### FULL HEARING FREIGHT RATES

Mapped Out by Interstate Commission For Arguments By Both Sides.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, May 23.—Hearings of the railroads' petition for a 15 per cent. advance in freight rates were resumed today by the Interstate Commerce Commission, with an exhaustive program under which shippers, State railroad and public utility commissions and others will be permitted to state their views. Hearings will last three weeks and decision, it is expected, will be rendered prior to July 1, the date upon which the roads have asked for authorization of the proposed increase.

### AUSTRIA'S PEACE TERMS TO RUSSIA

(By Associated Press.) Amsterdam, (Via London), May 23.—It is the Austrian Emperor's idea to offer very generous peace conditions to Russia, according to a German correspondent of the T. M. These will include the integral re-establishment of Poland, free passage through the Dardanelles and even a loan to Russia.

## HERO OF THE MARNE AND COMRADES HAVE REACHED HOME SAFE

### CENSORSHIP IN ESPIONAGE BILL

Subject of Differences in Conference—President's Plea For Its Enactment

(By Associated Press.) Washington, May 23.—The Administration's determination to enforce a newspaper censorship through a section of the pending Espionage bill, which generally was supposed to have been abandoned in the face of the opposition in and out of Congress, came to the fore again today and threatened to force the fight all over again.

President Wilson early this morning summoned the Senate conferees on the bill to the White House. It was understood he sought to impress on them the necessity for an enforced censorship as outlined in his letter, made public last night to Chairman Webb, of the House Judiciary committee.

The Senate conferees have been holding out against the section, as the Senate voted it out of the bill. The House conferees contend for a so-called "modified censorship" section in the House bill which has the support of the administration.

Until the President projected the weight of his influence anew, into the situation, it was supposed that Congress itself had given up all ideas of an enforced censorship. Those who sought censorship on the floor of both Houses pointed out that the administration still had opportunity to exert pressure on the conferees.

Senators Overman, Fletcher and Nelson, the Senate's conferees were asked by the President to learn whether it is possible to ally the Senate's objections, and if possible bring out a new and so-called modified censorship clause.

President Wilson said that he deems authority to invoke censorship of some sort very essential. He said he did not ask for a drastic provision, but felt he should have legislation giving him some degree of power to impose newspaper censorship. He said he had confidence in the patriotism of American newspapers as a whole, but felt censorship authority was necessary to deal with isolated cases which might be detrimental to the National interest.

The Senate's opposition to any form of censorship was made plain to the President by the conferees, who expressed doubt that the Senate would consent to any censorship whatsoever. But all agreed, under the President's earnest request, to sound out sentiment and see if it is possible to pass a modified section.

Senator Overman thought that the most that could be done would be a modified compromise. He believed the House censorship provision that juries shall decide whether violations of censorship regulations gave information to the enemy would be rejected.

If the new censorship provision can be agreed upon, Senator Overman thought it probably would not go further than one by Senator Cummins, once accepted and later stricken out by the Senate, which authorized "reasonable" censorship when in the interest of "public safety" it was deemed necessary only for "public welfare."

The President's renewed plea for inclusion of the censorship section in the bill, now in conference, developed a marked difference of attitude between House Democrats and Republicans today.

Democratic leaders started a fight for the censorship amendment and Republicans seemed determined to stand by their caucus decision yesterday to oppose it.

### AMERICAN RED CROSS RECEIVED BY KING

(By Associated Press.) London, May 23.—The American medical unit under command of Major Harry L. Gilchrist, which reached England last week, was received by King George today at Buckingham palace. Ambassador Page presented the Americans.

Frenchmen Secretly Left New York Nearly Ten Days Ago.

### NEWSPAPER MEN KNEW BUT WOULD NOT TELL

Commissioners Were Supposed to be Still in This Country—Said Farewell to President and Then Left Washington On Special Train.

(By Associated Press.) Paris, May 23.—Marshal Joffre and former Premier Viviani arrived at Brest last night on their return from the United States. They reached Brest at midnight and are due in Paris tonight.

Left America May 15. Washington, May 23.—Premier Viviani, Marshal Joffre and the French mission sailed from New York Tuesday, May 15, unknown except to a few officials and many American newspapers.

So well was the secret kept by the volunteer censorship by which American newspapers are co-operating with the government, that the French commissioners generally were supposed to be still in Washington, and up to yesterday invitations to them to visit various sections were received in great number.

The party slipped away on the same steamer which brought them over, conveyed by a French warship. The departure was attended by as much secrecy as the government could throw around it.

On Monday, May 14, the Frenchmen returned to Washington on a special train from their tour. It was presumed they were returning to take up their conferences, but they really returned to make their farewell visits to President Wilson and other officials. Their special train was held in waiting and late that afternoon the mission sped away again, reaching New York before midnight.

Tugs were waiting and the Frenchmen were taken to the liner in mid-stream. The ship sailed out through the harbor guards in the early hours of the morning.

### BRITISH ROYALTY CULTIVATING CROPS

(By Associated Press.) Windsor, May 6 (Mail).—King George can be seen most afternoons in Windsor Park cultivating a potato patch which he started himself when the general allotment scheme was initiated. Princess Mary, also the owner of an allotment adjoining her own, and one of the young princes, put in a good deal of time on a small patch of vegetables.

### RELIEF WORK FOR DESTITUTE

Food and Clothing Being Supplied Victims of Atlanta Fire.

(By Associated Press.) Atlanta, May 23.—Field kitchens from Fort McPherson today were stationed near the area devastated by fire Monday and the soldiers prepared food for about 4,000 negroes who lost everything they had. At the armory the Fifth Georgia Guards' kitchen outfit was being used to feed something over 1,000 white persons. The relief work was entirely in the hands of the Red Cross, and funds were supplied from public subscriptions.