

WEATHER FORECAST.

North and South Carolina--Thunder showers this afternoon or tonight; cooler Tuesday; probably fair.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE



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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, MONDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 28, 1917.

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GREAT CLASH STILL RAGING NEAR TRIESTE

Italians Making Slow, But Steady Advance On That Important Austrian Base

CRISIS IN SPAIN DRAWING NEAR

Hastened By News of Sinking of Another Spanish Steamer--Brazil's Active Participation Only Question of Time--Political Discord in Germany and Austria.

The Italians have fought their way forward to within two miles of Duino, the most formidable natural barrier between them and Trieste.

Vienna stubbornly refuses to concede the Italian victories, but the map tells the story of General Cadorna's steady advance. Duino, at the gates of which the Italian guns are now hammering, marks a point at which the Carso plateau almost touches the sea.

From no other theatre comes any news of importance, but the political situation continues of absorbing interest.

Dispatches from Brazil indicate that it is merely a question of days before the Brazilian Parliament follows the lead of the administration and aligns Brazil with the eleven nations now fighting the Central Powers.

At the same time a new crisis is threatened between Spain and Germany through the sinking of a Spanish passenger ship with a heavy loss of life.

This disaster occurs on the heels of the announcement from Madrid that Germany had given satisfactory assurances in reply to Spain's latest note regarding the destruction of Spanish ships by German submarines.

No details, however, have been received in regard to the sinking of the passenger liner, and it is possible that the tragedy was not due to a U-boat.

The battle between the reactionaries and liberals in Austria-Hungary goes merrily forward and there are reports of further impending ministerial resignations in Vienna and Budapest.

Sensations are promised at the sessions of the Austrian Parliament, but it remains to be seen how much news will be able to escape the censor.

In Germany the violence of the attacks on Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg indicates the acuteness of the political crisis, but the recess of the Reichstag renders even more meagre than usual the information that seeps across the border.

German Activity at Verdun. Paris, May 28.--The Germans delivered three attacks last night and this morning in the Champagne in the regions of the Casque, the Teton and the Mond. All were repulsed, the War Office announces.

The Germans are bombarding heavily French positions in the region of Dead Man Hill and Hill 304 on the Verdun front.

A French detachment penetrated to the second German line near Uffholtz in Alsace and found many dead in the trenches. Prisoners were brought back.

There was very great aerial activity yesterday and last night. Enemy airplanes dropped bombs in the region of Baccarat, Nancy and Font St. Vincent, causing no important damage. Our squadrons made numerous sorties in the course of which they threw down nearly 7,000 kilograms (15,400 pounds) of projectiles on enemy military establishments and railroads. Particularly in the Champagne region of Chonville. Nine enemy airplanes were brought down and two were compelled to land with our lines. Others badly damaged were forced to land back of the enemy lines.

DEATH LIST FROM TORNADO MOUNTS AS REPORTS COME

MASS MEETING HELD IN MADRID

Populace Enthusiastic for the Allies--America's Influence As An Ally

Madrid, (Via Paris), May 28.--The long expected assembling of the elements in Madrid favorable to the Entente Allies was held yesterday morning at the Plaza de Turca. There was great enthusiasm on the part of the people, who were estimated to number 25,000.

Conspicuous among the decorations of the great bullring were the names of thirty-six torpedoed Spanish vessels, in huge letters. The speakers included all the leaders of the progressive party in Spain.

Miguel Unnamuno, former rector of Salamanca University, provoked thunderous applause when he declared that the liberal objects of the Allies in the war were demonstrated by the entry of the "great American democracy."

HARVARD M. D. UNIT ENTERTAINED BY LIPTON

London, May 28.--The most elaborate welcome yet given to any arriving American unit was a luncheon and tea tendered by Sir Thomas Lipton at his country home today for the doctors and nurses of the Harvard Medical unit which is on its way to France.

TEXAS NEGROES ON GOLD COAST

Left Destitute By Man Who Persuaded Them to Seek Homes There

Washington, May 28.--With dreams of wealth unrealized and faith in promoters destroyed, home-sick American negroes have petitioned the acting Governor of the Gold Coast Colony in Africa to send them back to Texas, which State they left in 1914 under the sway of the arguments of "Chief Sam," who pictured lives of ease.

The negroes turned over to "Sam" varying sums of money with the understanding that he would land them on the gold coast where they would receive titles to their own land.

Ambassador Spriggs Rice has notified the State Department that the indications are that Chief Sam grossly misled the immigrants and finally deserted them, leaving many in destitution. Whether any governmental assistance will be given to the negroes so they may return to the cotton fields of Texas is unknown.

ITALIANS TO VISIT NEW YORK

Mayor Mitchel Extends Mission Invitation--First Formal Conference Today

Washington, May 28.--The Italian mission today tentatively accepted an invitation to visit New York, which is said to have a population of Italians greater than any city in Italy. The date was fixed for June 11.

Mayor Mitchel and a delegation extended the invitation. The mission held its first formal business conferences with American officials today, discussing ships and transportation. The continued importation of coal and raw products for munitions manufacture is absolutely essential to Italy's safety and alarm about the U-boat campaign has been only slightly decreased by recent successes against them.

HELD ON CHARGE AS DANGEROUS PERSON

New Orleans, La., May 28.--Mary Brooks, wife of Fisher Brooks, a negro, alleged leader in the murder of Mrs. Julia May Hess, of Fulton, Ala., who was arrested here yesterday, is being held on a charge of being a dangerous and suspicious character.

Brooks and Albert Sanders, his alleged companion in the crime, are in jail in Montgomery. The regular sitting of the grand jury will begin next Monday, and the Hess murder will be the first case presented.

Big Wind Swept Four States and Left Tragedy in its Wake

OVER HUNDRED SO FAR KNOWN BE DEAD

Storm Took Heaviest Toll in Kentucky County--Heavy Losses in Alabama--Great Damage in Tennessee--Mississippi Also Suffered.

Reports received to noon today from the devastated territory in the four States swept by tornadoes yesterday and last night, placed the number of dead at 103 and the injured at more than 300.

Telegraph and telephone communication to scores of points had not been restored, but news trickling into the fewer towns indicated that property damage was heavy, though no estimates were available. None of the larger cities in the territory was seriously affected by the storms.

The tornadoes took their heaviest toll apparently in the country around Hickman, Ky., where 40 persons were reported killed and more than 50 injured. Bardwell, Bondurant, Clinton and Ledford were among the towns reporting losses.

In Mississippi county, northeast Arkansas, 10 dead and 29 injured were reported. Six were killed at Manila, while Burdette and Clear Lake reported two each.

Heavy losses also were suffered in Jefferson and Blount counties, Alabama, where 31 killed and more than 100 injured were reported. At Sayre, 8 were killed and 40 injured. Village Springs and Bradford, 20 miles north of Birmingham, reported 17 dead and 40 injured; Carbon Hill had four dead and 21 injured, while Sylacauga and Bibbville each reported one dead.

In Tennessee the storms struck in Tipton, Dyer and Carroll counties, taking more than a score of lives. At Dyersburg 8 dead and 40 injured were reported. In the vicinity of Dyersburg, Tenn., 6 at Cates' Landing, near Tiptonville, Tenn., and 2 at the village of Baker, near Antioch, Tenn., and 2 at Sharon, Tenn.

Within a radius of 12 miles of Hickman, where the storm probably wrought its greatest havoc, more than two scores of injured have been recovered from the wreckage of farm dwellings and the more substantial buildings in the towns of Bondurant, Bardwell, Clinton and Ledford. Near Cates' Landing the number injured was reported as between 25 and 30; in the central part of Dyer county, near Dyersburg, about 30 were injured, and Sharon reported 32 injured. Latest reports from Sayre estimate the number injured at 50 or more.

No estimate of the damage to property or to crops could be made with accuracy early today. Hundreds of buildings, however, were demolished or badly wrecked, and large areas of growing cotton and food crops leveled by the wind and heavy fall of hail, which accompanied the storm.

Reports indicate that the storm first made its appearance on the Arkansas side of the Mississippi river in Mississippi county, near the town of Manila, where 8 persons lost their lives. Crossing the river, Cates' Landing, Dyersburg and the territory about Hickman felt the full force of the storm late yesterday, and last night the mining town of Sayre, several hundred miles to the south, was swept by a tornado.

In Hickman, a number of residences were damaged and in West Hickman the power plant which supplies the city with light was wrecked, putting that city in darkness last night and adding to the confusion, besides making difficult the caring for the injured from the surrounding territory, brought there. In Hickman 2 persons were killed. Of the other known dead in that vicinity 18 lost their lives when tenant houses on the farm of Syd L. Dadds at Ledford were blown down.

Of the villages in southwestern Kentucky through which the storm cut its path, Bardwell and Clinton were reported badly damaged. Virtually the entire business section of Bardwell was wrecked and at Clinton a number of residences and several school buildings were demolished.

South Dyersburg suffered severe property damage and most of the dead (Continued on page eight.)

BOMBS ON AMERICAN SHIP.

(By Associated Press.) Havana, May 28.--An explosion occurred today in the hold of the American steamer Lackawanna, while its cargo of coal was being unloaded at a dock in the harbor. Two Cuban and one Spanish workmen were injured, the Cubans seriously. The amount of damage to the vessel has not been determined, as the explosion caused a fire and it was necessary to flood the hold. Captain Johnson believes the explosion was caused by bombs placed by spies in Norfolk, whence the ship sailed.

LOYD-GEORGE IS CHALLENGED

By Berlin to Make Good Statement As to Defeat of Submarines

(By Associated Press.) Amsterdam, May 28 (Via London).--The speech of Premier Lloyd-George last week, in which he said German submarines were being combatted successfully and that England could not be starved by the submarine campaign, is characterized as "only empty words," in a semi-official German reply. "Facts are lacking," says the reply, "because our navy has found little trace of the new methods whereby, according to the views of the enemy, the submarine danger can be met. Hitherto all enemy experts have agreed that with the present means they are powerless against the serious dangers occasioned by submarines. A change in tactical methods cannot be achieved in a fortnight. We calmly await Lloyd-George's prediction as to the future."

RAILWAY MEN CROSS EXAMINED

By Shippers of Game and Live Stock Before Interstate Commerce Commission

(By Associated Press.) Washington, May 28.--Shippers of grain and live stock had their opportunity today before the Interstate Commerce Commission to cross-examine officials of railroads which are asking for a 15 per cent. increase in freight rates.

The commission has scarcely begun to hear the cross-examinations by shippers and that phase of the investigation will continue until June 2. By that time it is expected that representatives of shippers of practically all bulk commodities which would be affected by the increase will have been heard, and the attorneys for both sides will have opportunity to submit evidence in rebuttal and close to the case.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ELECTS OFFICERS

(Special to The Dispatch.) Wake Forest, May 28.--The Wake Forest Alumni Association has elected the following officers for the ensuing year:

President, N. W. Weatherspoon, of Laurinburg; vice president, W. L. Wyatt, Raleigh; secretary-treasurer, Hubert A. Jones, Wake Forest; orator, Dr. Rufus W. Weaver, Nashville, Tenn.

After a thorough discussion as to the matter of appointing an alumni representative whose duty it shall be to organize and keep in touch with local alumni associations throughout the State, to arrange inter-high school contests at Wake Forest, to confer with prospective students, and to keep in close touch with all the alumni of the college and help them to increase the patronage of the college, a committee, consisting of President W. L. Poteat, Dean N. Y. Guley, Hubert A. Jones and W. L. Wyatt, was appointed to lay the matter before the board of trustees at the earliest possible moment and to urge their cooperation in the project. It is expected that some action will be taken soon.

REAR ADMIRAL SIMS MADE VICE ADMIRAL

(By Associated Press.) Washington, May 28.--Rear Admiral Sims, in charge of American naval operations in European waters, was formally appointed today a vice admiral by President Wilson.

SENATE COMMITTEE BEGINS TO WHACK OFF WAR TAX ITEMS

DEATH TOLL IN MIDDLE WEST STATES.

(By Associated Press.) Revised figures on dead and injured in the storms of the last three days in Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, Alabama and Arkansas show a total of 246 dead and 1,207 injured. The table of casualties follows:

Table with 3 columns: State, Dead, Injured. Illinois: 95, 650; Indiana: 12, 220; Kansas: 26, 60; Kentucky: 40, 60; Missouri: 1, 12; Tennessee: 20, 53; Alabama: 32, 100; Arkansas: 23, 52; Total: 246, 1,207.

POLICE ATTACKED BY PEACE CROWD

Police Arrest Socialist Speaker--Rioting Follows--Many Arrests Made

(By Associated Press.) Cleveland, Ohio, May 28.--Police attempting to prevent anti-war speeches by Socialists on the public square were attacked by a crowd of 300 late last afternoon and a pitched battle ensued. Just previous to the trouble the recruiting station, erected on the public square, registered 211 recruits. The police dragged one of the Socialist orators off the stone rostrum and the crowd attacked them. Reserves rushed to the scene, clubbed the crowd and half a dozen men were arrested. The crowd followed the police and prisoners to the police station, where another battle took place and more arrests were made. Mounted police and more reserves, a hundred police in all, charged the crowd and cleared the streets, after sticks and stones had been thrown at the police station, breaking several windows.

SPY HUNTING IS ACTIVE IN GERMANY

(By Associated Press.) Copenhagen, (Via London), May 28.--Spy hunting and precautions to prevent leaks of military secrets are the order of the day in Germany. New regulations to check the passage of military information across the frontiers are published daily.

German soldiers whose families reside abroad can no longer meet them when it is most convenient. A military order designates five cities on the Scandinavian, Dutch and Swiss frontiers as meeting places. Another bars alien workmen from factories manufacturing airplanes, submarines, explosives and weapons for close range fighting like hand grenades, mine and grenade throwers, etc.

WAR SENTIMENT AMONG THE IRISH

Changed By German Attacks on Fishing Fleets and Threats to Shell Towns

(By Associated Press.) London, May 28.--According to stories printed in the morning papers there has been a complete revision of feeling toward the war in the south and southwest of Ireland, as a consequence of the recent attacks by German submarines on Irish fishing fleets.

A number of fishing boats have been sunk and the victims of one attack off Baltimore say that the Germans told them that they had already sunk the Kinsale and Waterford fleets and would soon put all Irish fishing boats to the bottom of the sea because they sent fish to England. They also threatened to shell villages on the coast.

To Exempt Movie Films, Jewelry and Chewing Gum From the Burden of Tax

DECIDES ON STAMPS FOR SOME ARTICLES

Changes Today Follow Decision to Strike Out 5 Percent Tax On Manufacturers' Sales--Proposed Tax On Confectionery.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, May 28.--Involving further reduction of the House War tax bill by \$15,500,000, the Senate finance committee today decided to exempt motion picture films, jewelry and chewing gum from taxation. A new confectionery tax was considered.

Instead of the House rates on manufacturers' gross sales of athletic goods, perfumes, cosmetics and proprietary medicines, the committee decided to keep them as sources of revenue, but by stamp taxes instead of the 5 per cent. gross sales tax.

The changes decided upon today followed the committee's decision to strike out the 5 per cent. tax on all manufacturers' sales. No substitutes for the House rates on motion picture films, jewelry and chewing gum are contemplated.

SAFETY SURVEY OF FEDERAL PLANTS

(By Associated Press.) Washington, May 28.--A safety survey of the country's navy yards and arsenals and other government establishments where employment is considered most hazardous is being made by the new Federal Employees' Compensation Commission in co-operation with the various executive departments.

In an announcement today the commission explained that it desired "to ascertain the conditions under which civil employees labor, in order to administer the compensation act intelligently and, if possible, to reduce the number of accidents and personal injuries."

SUNK IN COLLISION OFF CAPE HATTERAS

(By Associated Press.) Lewes, Del., May 28.--The Norwegian bark Stiffender, from Savannah, arrived here today and reported that she collided with the Norwegian steamer Selje off Hatteras on May 24. The steamer was sunk and the crew is aboard the Stiffender. The Selje was last reported at Baltimore.

HUNDRED THOUSAND AMERICANS AT FRONT

(By Associated Press.) London, May 28.--An official statement issued here today says that counting the Americans serving in the British and French armies, and the additional units ordered to France, there will shortly be 100,000 Americans in France.

STORM HIT RICHMOND AND DID DAMAGE TODAY.

(By Associated Press.) Richmond, Va., May 28.--With the wind velocity officially reported at 33 miles an hour, rain storms, accompanied by heavy lightning, did considerable damage to property in Richmond and nearby places today. Trees were split open, houses rocked, windows broken and fences blown down. Crops broken and fences blown down. Crops including corn, which was a foot high in many places, were damaged. In low-lands much corn was washed away by high waters.

CONFEREES AGREE ON ESPIONAGE BILL

(By Associated Press.) Washington, May 28.--Final and complete agreement on the Administration Espionage bill, including the newspaper censor, ship provision as re-drafted Saturday, the export embargo, search warrant and mail censor, ship section, was reached today by the Senate and House conferees. Their report will be submitted tomorrow with action first in the House probably next Thursday.