

WEATHER FORECAST.

Fair tonight and Sunday, except thunder showers this afternoon or tonight near the coast.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 30, 1917.

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NEW EFFORT BY GERMANS FOR VERDUN

The Crown Prince's Army Makes Desperate Drive Against French Lines.

SOME SUCCESSES TEMPORARILY MADE.

Germans Also on The Offensive on The Aisne Front—Using Liquid Fire Against The French—On Defensive at Lens.

One of the most interesting sections of the European fighting front just now is the Verdun region where a series of violent German attacks is taking place.

The German attacks began the day before yesterday. The first drives were made on Hill 304 northwest of Verdun, one of the commanding defenses which has protected Verdun on the western side of the Meuse.

The offensive tendency of the German under the Crown Prince is also in evidence on the Aisne front where they have attacked violently in the vicinity of Cerny and Corbeny.

This operation has carried the British line well into the south of the coal city. The Germans are still clinging to the place itself through the strength of their defenses in the salient immediately to the west.

FRENCH CRUISER SUNK BY MINE

The Kleber Strikes Mine and Goes Down—Thirty-Eight Lives Lost.

Paris, June 30.—An official announcement was made last night that the armored cruiser Kleber had struck a mine off Point St. Mathieu on Wednesday and sunk.

REPEATED DEFEAT HAVING ITS EFFECT GERMAN TROOPS

The Canadians Have Put Those Defending Lens on the Defensive

SUCCESSFUL DRIVE OF ALLIED FORCES

With Slight Loss—Germans Flood Lowland to Prevent Further Progress of British.

Canadian Headquarters in France, June 29 (Via London, June 30).—(By Canadian Press, Limited.)—Success, unexpectedly great and complete at a cost in casualties far less than in some recent unimportant engagements, has attended the drive of the Canadians along the valley of the Souchez toward Lens, during the last week.

Lying out in the water-soaked ground along the Souchez river this afternoon, still under fire, are the troops who attacked the enemy at 2:30 o'clock Thursday morning in the outskirts of Avion.

The situation Friday afternoon is regarded as most satisfactory. The enemy, by damming the Souchez river by blowing up the highway and the railway bridges crossing the canal, and by obstructing the connecting channels through the marshes in the region southwest of Lens, has placed a belt of inundated land between himself and the Canadian corps along a front of more than a mile.

There are daily increasing indications that German man-power is no longer what it was. The number of enemy troops in the field appears little less than before the opening of spring operations, but the spirit of the men is no longer that of an assured victory.

THUNDER SHOWERS FOR THIS WEEK

Washington, June 30.—Occasional thunder showers and moderately warm weather are indicated for the coming week in the South Atlantic East Gulf States and Tennessee, the Weather Bureau announced today.



PERSHING AND AD. SIMS IN LONDON. The group which met General John J. Pershing at London represented the American and British governments.

PROHIBITIONISTS AND SENATORS

Confer on the "Bone Dry" Provision in the Food Control Bill.

Washington, June 30.—Organized prohibition forces conferred with "dry" Senators and representatives today in an effort to determine their attitude on the "bone dry" prohibition legislation, modification of which is asked by President Wilson to facilitate passage of the Food Control bill by the Senate.

Regardless, however, of any action the league may take, it was generally agreed that the President's intervention has had the effect of preventing any interference with the manufacture of beer and light wines, and that the most prohibitionists can hope for at this session is legislation dealing only with distilled beverages.

The President's attitude on this subject was made known in a communication to the Rev. Dr. James Cannon, chairman of the Anti-saloon League's legislative committee, after conferences with Congressional leaders.

Prospects of the elimination of the prohibition issue, it is generally believed today, will bring about passage of the Food bill by the Senate early in the coming week.

TWO MILLION DOLLARS FOR NEW HOSPITALS

Washington, June 30.—President Wilson has sent to Congress a recommendation by Secretary Daniels, for appropriation of \$2,200,000 for additional emergency hospitals.

BRAZIL NAVY AFTER GERMAN WARSHIP

Washington, June 30.—Brazil's navy has begun co-operating with the American fleet in South American waters in hunting down German sea-raiders and watching for German submarines.

THE APPLICATION FOR HIGHER RATES DENIED RAILWAYS

The Commission Says Railroads Not Dependent on Higher Rates.

Washington, June 30.—Railroads of the country are generally in flourishing condition and not dependent on freight rate increases for continued prosperity, the Interstate Commerce Commission holds in its decision denying the roads' application for a 15 per cent. advance in rates.

Although refusing general relief, the commission indicated its willingness to increase class rates in the Eastern district approximately 14 per cent. This virtually allows Eastern carriers about 4 per cent. in gross freight revenue, as about one-fourth of the freight handled is moved under class rates.

Arguments of the roads that they were suffering heavily because of war time conditions received but little sympathy from the Commission, it being held that the carriers have profited greatly by the mobilization of troops.

The Commission concluded that the roads' pessimistic predictions of jeopardized incomes for early in 1917 are not substantiated by figures now available for those months. It points out that comparisons were made largely between last February's usually unfavorable statistics and those of 1916, a most prosperous year for all carriers.

NAVY PERSONNEL ALMOST DOUBLED

Nearly Up to Authorized Strength—Heavy Enlistment in Marine Corps.

Washington, June 30.—The navy has almost doubled its personnel since war was declared and now needs less than 25,000 men to bring it up to the new authorized strength of 150,000.

OFFICIAL REPORT NOT YET RECEIVED

Of the Landing of American Troops at French Port.

Washington, June 30.—No official report on the landing of the American expedition in France had come to the War and Navy Departments, today officials said. It is assumed that the foregoing dispatch is the announcement of the safe landing of all the units of the first expedition.

Paris, Wednesday, June 27.—(Delayed by Censor) The first expeditionary unit of American troops in command of Major General William L. Sibert arrived safely at a French port.

Rear Admiral Gleaves has called Secretary of the Navy Daniels saying the expedition has arrived safely.

A dispatch received in New York Wednesday afternoon from France announced that the second contingent of the troops from the United States had arrived and disembarked during the morning.

The town soon took on a holiday appearance and before the day was over scores of American flags were flying along with the tri-colors of France over public buildings and private homes.

Delegations of American army officers from Paris and American naval men from elsewhere were present with French military men of high rank and a similar representation from the French navy to receive the new fighting forces of the Allies.

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Paris, June 30.—Said Major-General Pershing, on his return to his headquarters today after a quick trip to the port of debarkation: "The landing of the first American troops has been a complete success. In this remarkable transfer of a large force across the ocean—one of the largest operations we have ever undertaken—not a man or an animal was lost or injured, and there was not a single case of serious sickness. The men landed in splendid morale, with keen, confident and eager spirit. The physical appearance of our men is truly inspiring."

BATTLESHIP IDAHO MONSTER FIGHTING MACHINE LAUNCHED

BRANDS GERMANY AS THE MAD-DOG AMONG NATIONS

Apologizes to Nero For Comparing the Kaiser to Him.

DECLARES GERMANY MUST BE CRUSHED

Charlotte Minister Delivered Strong Address Before Baptist Seaside Assembly Today.

Rev. Walter M. Gilmore. "Germany is the mad dog among nations. She must be crushed and destroyed, or else civilization is wrecked. The Kaiser is the greatest criminal since Nero. In fact, I should apologize to the shades of Nero."

Paris, Wednesday, June 26.—The first contingent of American troops, landing today, were greeted joyfully by the population of this whole district.

The transports, whose expected arrival had not been previously announced publicly, came steaming into the harbor in a long line at an early hour. The news that the Americans were arriving spread with amazing rapidity and by the time the troops were later transferred to a camp far from port.

"I met a gentleman some time ago, just prior to President Wilson's notable address in which he declared that the United States was in a state of war with Germany. This gentleman remarked, 'I do not think the United States wants war.' My reply was, 'If the United States does not want war, the United States ought to want war.' This shows my personal attitude in this matter, and this has been my attitude ever since the Lusitania went down."

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This Newest Wonder of Super-dreadnaught Type Successfully Takes the Water

A HARD PROBLEM FOR SUBMARINES

Built to Withstand Their Attacks—Armed With Heaviest Guns—Requires Crew of Eight Hundred Men—To be Followed by Ships of Heavier Armament.

Camden, N. J., June 29.—Another monster fighting machine for the navy took the water here today from the yards of the New York Shipbuilding Company, when the superdreadnaught, Idaho, sister ship to the Pennsylvania, flagship of the Atlantic fleet, was successfully launched.

There will be twenty-two 5-inch 50-calibre rifle guns among the Idaho's sides as her protection against torpedo craft, and four 3-inch anti-aircraft guns of the long range type recently designed by the Bureau of Ordnance.

Like the Pennsylvania, the Idaho will need 25 senior, 16 junior and 10 warrant officers; 40 chief petty officers and more than 800 men as her fighting complement. She will carry 70 marines and be fitted with quarters for an admiral and his staff in addition to the regular officers' quarters, so that she can carry the flag for the commander-in-chief of the fleet if necessary.

The Idaho, Mississippi, California, New Mexico, Arizona, Pennsylvania and Tennessee will be the last American battlecraft to carry twelve 14-inch rifles in their main batteries. They will complete a wing of 7 gigantic vessels, with this armament, and next from the ways will come the West Virginia, Washington, Maryland and Colorado, carrying eight 16-inch rifles. Behind those will come the new class of 42,000 tonners, five of which have already been authorized, which will carry twelve 16-inch rifles.

FEARFUL WRECK ON THE SEABOARD

Fast Freights Collide—Four Trainmen Killed—Wreckage Burned With Bodies

Raleigh, N. C., June 30.—Four trainmen were killed and two others more or less seriously injured early today when two fast freight trains on the Seaboard Air Line Railway collided head-on near Franklinton, N. C., about 20 miles north of Raleigh. The dead are: Engineers H. Gaskins and Samuel G. Linkous of Portsmouth and Raleigh, respectively; Fireman O. L. Wells, of Raleigh; Brakeman George Napier, of Portsmouth. Wells and Napier were white men. T. C. Jones and John Smith, the injured, are from Raleigh. The wreckage burst into flame immediately after the crash and everything inflammable was destroyed. The bodies of the dead had not been recovered several hours later and it was believed they were consumed. The smash-up was described by railroad officials as one of the worst freight wrecks the system ever had. Both locomotives were demolished and 27 cars of vegetables, feedstuffs and other commodities smashed to bits and burned.