

WEATHER:  
North and South Car-  
olina: Probably cloudy  
tonight and Friday;  
colder.

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# THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1918

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TODAY

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## OPPOSITIVE ARMIES ON THE WESTERN FRONT TUNED FOR BATTLE

Raids and Counter Raids Are  
Becoming Stronger Each  
Day

WINS FLEE BEFORE  
PERSHING'S TROOPS

When Americans Start a Raid,  
Germans Hustle to Rear  
Trenches—Germans Now  
Hold Odessa

Unfavorable weather on most of the western front has led to increased fighting, but none of the armies has yet made an attack in great strength. All apparently are keyed up to the highest pitch, and the raids into opposing trenches are becoming stronger each day. In the Champagne where the German artillery has been very active, the French have withstood a German attack. The effort was repulsed by the French with severe losses to the attackers. American raiding parties and American gunners both are busy on the sectors northwest of Toul and east of Lunerville. The Germans do not remain in their trenches to fight the Americans, but flee to the rear lines when General Pershing's men appear.

British troops in the Ypres sector on Wednesday took the initiative and in a raid southeast of Polygon wood, captured 37 prisoners and three machine guns and inflicted casualties on the enemy. The German artillery activity is intense on the Ypres sector and between Arras and Armentieres, where strong German raids earlier in the week were repulsed by British and Portuguese troops.

On the coastal sector in Palestine, north of Jaffa, the British have advanced three miles on an eleven mile front. Six villages were taken and two streams crossed in the face of Turkish resistance. A slight advance has been made on the Jerusalem-Nabulus road in Central Palestine.

In the East, the Germans now hold Odessa, the great Russian seaport on the Black sea, which probably will be used either as a base for an invasion of India by way of Persia or as the terminal of grain shipments from Russia to the Central empires. Turkish-German planes in the Caucasus, including the surrender by Russia of three Caucasian provinces which would provide a roadway to Persia and the Caspian Sea, are opposed by the Caucasian government. Turkey has been informed that the Caucasus government does not recognize the treaty with the Bolsheviks and that it would treat with the Caucasus direct.

British shipping losses for the past week totaled 18 vessels, the same number as was lost in the two previous weeks. There is an increase, however, in the number of large ships sunk. Fifteen of 1,600 tons or over were reported this week, while in the previous two weeks the ships of large tonnage numbered 14 and 12 respectively.

German airships again raided the east coast of England Wednesday night and a number of bombs were dropped. Tuesday night's Zeppelin raid was ineffective, all the bombs dropping harmlessly.

**COURT REJECTS  
BOLO'S APPEAL**

Paris, Tuesday, March 12.—The appeal of Bolo Pashe from the sentence of death imposed by court martial for treason was rejected today by the court of revision which confirmed the original judgment. The same action was taken by the court in the case of Darius Forche, who was tried with Bolo Pashe and sentenced to three years imprisonment.

## FLOODS SWEEPING CANISTEO VALLEY

Rochester, N. Y., March 14.—Scores of families have been driven from their homes and all industries in the Canisteo valley are paralyzed as a result of a disastrous flood, due to a cloud burst that swept down the valley of the Canisteo early this morning, inundating one-third of the city. The entire factory district is under water and many buildings have been damaged to the extent of many thousands of dollars. Firemen and policemen have been working for hours in boats rescuing

## FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS NOT SUITING GERMANY

Newspapers Expressing an  
Uncasiness Over the Situation in Russia

Amsterdam, March 14.—Some sections of the German press are becoming uneasy over developments in the Far East.

The Frankfurter Zeitung considers that the breaking up of Russia into a number of independent States is a bad policy for Germany and urges that the greatest tact and prudence be used in dealing with the border States so that they will not "in the future sigh for a re-union with Russia and become so many thorns in Germany's side." The newspaper adds: "Clearly the Entente policy is to use the Japanese alliance to shove Germany out of Asiatic markets forever. Germany played their game by breaking up Russia. Germany now has no more hope than ever of being able to conduct a far Eastern policy except in conjunction with Great Britain and Russia. That is why a weak Russia will not contribute to Germany's ultimate welfare."

Captain von Salzmann, the military critic of the Vossische Zeitung writes: "Germany too late began to realize that the time might come when the United States and Japan would see that war is not always the most profitable way of settling differences. Germany's Russian policy has played the game brilliantly for Great Britain and the United States. In the same war Germany has increased Holland's debt of gratitude to Germany."

"It should have been Germany's game to earn Holland's gratitude by guaranteeing her the safe possession of her East Indian colonies, but instead of this, she cemented the Anglo-Japanese alliance and delivered the Dutch colonies from Japanese pressure southward by opening the door to Japanese enterprise in Russia."

"Only the most limited intelligence can believe that the break up of Russia will be to Germany's advantage. The true results of Germany's Russian policy already are patent in the lessening of the differences between Japan and the United States and the cementing of the Anglo-Japanese alliance and the consequent security of the Anglo-Indian and Australian colonial possessions, as well as the Dutch and French colonies in Southeast Asia. The consequences are that Germany again finds herself without friends in the world while Great Britain laughs in the background."

**Bank Burglarized.**  
Chattanooga, Tenn., March 14.—Burglars blew open the vault of the Bank of Ringgold, Ga., last night and escaped with between \$4,000 and \$5,000.

**CHARLESTON WINS.**

Washington, March 14.—Charleston, S. C., has definitely been selected by the Shipping Board as the site of one of the two additional shipbuilding yards to be constructed on the South Atlantic coast.

Members of the board are Rear Admiral Frederick R. Harris, chairman for the Navy Department and Shipping Board; General Grothe Hutchinson, for the War Department; Colonel G. E. Humphreys for the engineer corps, and Ethelbert Stewart, for the Department of Labor.

Residents from their inundated homes. So far as is known no lives have been lost. The Erie and Shawmut railroad tracks are under water and no trains are moving. The flood extends 40 miles down the Canisteo river valley, almost to Corning. Rain continued all morning and the water is still rising. Soon after the storm broke and a flood was threatened the girls in the Hornell Telephone Exchange sent warnings to persons living in the danger districts.

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## A THOROUGH PROBE INTO OUTBREAK ON RUSSIAN STEAMER

Crew of Vessel at Norfolk  
Wanted Immediate Adoption of Bolshevik Rule

UNRULY MEMBERS  
OF CREW ARRESTED

Collector of Port Starts an Investigation Into the Matter—Men Armed Tried to Seize Ship

Norfolk, Va., March 14.—Armed United States sailors and inspectors from the office of the collector of customs were today searching every nook and corner of the big Russian steamer Omsk, tied up at Jones' wharf, for fire arms and other evidence which might be of value to the government in dealing with 47 members of the crew taken from the ship early this morning and placed in the city jail to await trial tomorrow under a State warrant charging them with mutinous conduct.

The thorough search of the steamer today added to the varied collection of fire arms, combustibles and other weapons taken from the crew when customs officials first boarded the Omsk. Visiting first the quarters of the crew in the forepart of the ship, the searching party found four revolvers in the personal effects of the seamen, a number of knives and dirks and hundreds of cartridges of different sizes. One of the revolvers was deeply imbedded in a package of sugar; another was found carefully wrapped in bolt of cloth, two being found in the suitcases of the sailors. The searchers ransacked the ship from stem to stern, from keel to deck, paying special attention, however, to the quarters of the crew. The search will probably continue well into the night.

Agents of the Bolshevik government in Russia, shipping at an American port, are believed by officers of the Omsk to have been responsible for the uprising of the crew. The ship's cook is suspected.

Shortly after the cook became a member of the crew, Officer Smiltreik said, he observed him preaching the Bolshevik doctrine to the seamen, urging them to refuse to obey the commands of the ship's officers and to demand higher wages and more pay. Smiltreik said the men finally demanded American pay for Russian hours of work, and the dispute over the wage question finally led to an ultimatum from the crew to Captain Javonksi demanding that before putting to sea the ship be placed in charge of a committee representing the sailors. Upon the refusal to accede to this demand the crew became surly and assumed a belligerent attitude.

It is the belief of Officer Smiltreik that the purpose of the crew in bringing firearms, ammunition and various kinds of weapons aboard was to kill or place in irons the officers at sea, assume control of the ship and divert her to some port other than the one to which she is bound in order that the seven million dollar cargo with which the Omsk is loaded, and the large collection of firearms might be delivered to the Bolshevik government. The officer said, however, that any attempt by the crew to divert the course of the ship would have been futile, as the Omsk would have been forced to remain on her course by the convoy of warships which is to accompany the vessel across the ocean.

An investigation of the outbreak of the crew of the Russian steamer Omsk was set in motion today by Collector of Customs Hamilton, while the vessel was rescued from an unruly crew lay at anchor under guard of the collector's deputies.

The crew, after a day and night of rioting resulting from their demands that Bolshevik doctrine be put into effect on the Omsk, was taken to police station here last night, charged with mutinous conduct. It also was said that the misunderstanding between immigration officials and the collector's deputies when the former refused to arrest the members of the crew after they had armed themselves and returned to the ship would be investigated.

The Omsk, bound for England, with cotton from a gulf port put into Norfolk several days ago, and yesterday Captain Edmond Yanovsky received word from the British government that the ship would be released.

(Continued on Page Seven.)

## ARTILLERY AND AIRPLANES ON WESTERN FRONT

Big Guns Pounding Away and  
Myriads of Airmen Are Aloft

IDEAL FIGHTING  
WEATHER PREVAILS

Both Armies Are Awaiting  
the Signal for the Mighty  
Clash—British Aviators  
Making Records

British Front in France and Belgium, March 12.—This has been another day of ideal fighting weather, but there has been no change in the situation. The British and German military machines—tuned up to the finest pitch and probably as nearly perfect as it is possible to make them—are still awaiting the signal which will send them crashing against each other. Meanwhile the artillery pounds away in thunderous duels at various points and myriad airmen are busy bombing, photographing and acting as eyes for the respective armies.

The British airmen have been doing marvelous work recently. The first 10 days of March, as a whole, have been among the best yet recorded for the service. During the period in addition to a vast amount of reconnoitering and photographing, the intrepid Britishers destroyed 39 German airplanes and brought down 40 others out of the sky. Despite the fact that the first two or three days of the month were so stormy that aerial activity was virtually impossible. Against this great total, 15 British machines are reported missing.

Yesterday another fine record was made but the official figures are not yet available.

There have been many air battles and virtually all have occurred behind the German lines, which means that the British airmen have been carrying the aerial war vigorously into the enemy territory. Of the German machines destroyed, all but two were sent crashing down back of the German lines. The amount of photography work that has been done is amazing and a large number of the pictures were taken at close quarters.

Bombing raids by British aviators have been almost continuous. One of the most successful expeditions was that against three enemy aerodromes on March 9. This raid was carried out by a large number of machines during the day time. A British aerial fleet arrived at an hour when numbers of German machines about to start were standing in a field near their hangars. The British attacked at a height of 400 feet and, because of their low altitude were able to shoot with disastrous effect. Several buildings were set on fire and direct hits were observed among the German machines.

The British returned, flying at a height of 100 feet, which just enabled them to clear the tree tops. They used their guns on every military object in sight. The first attack was made on a horse transport. Some of the horses were killed and the rest stampeded, upsetting the wagons. Another horse transport was stampeded, and then a detachment of marching infantry came into range. Several of the soldiers were shot before they could reach cover. Equally effective was the shooting against some cavalry, two officers being among those toppled from their saddles. All the British machines returned safely. As a matter of fact they were not attacked by the enemy at all.

**SECRETARY BAKER  
HOLDS CONFERENCES**

Paris, Tuesday, March 12.—Secretary Baker was kept busy today attending conferences. In the forenoon he conferred with Arthur J. Balfour, the British foreign secretary and General Poch. Secretary Baker lunched with Generals Pershing and Bliss, his brother, Henry Baker, and a few other guests.

Early in the afternoon the American War Secretary conferred with J. R. Kearny, of the public information service and visited the headquarters of the Red Cross as the guest of Major Robert P. Perkins, head of the Red Cross mission to Europe. Afterwards the Secretary called on former Premier Viviani at his home and then saw Foreign Minister Pinchon at the foreign office. The Secretary also conferred with Oscar T. Crosby, representative of the American Treasury Department.

**AMERICAN WOUNDED  
IN RAID ON PARIS**

Paris, Tuesday, March 12.—A sergeant in the quartermaster's department of the American army who was acting as a chauffeur for the department in Paris, was injured slightly in last night's raid.

In a certain hospital in the Paris district six persons were killed and seven injured by bombs dropped by the German airmen.

## MRS. HIRSCH FACES JURY IN ALLEGED BLACKMAIL CASE

Charged With Attempting to  
Verbally Blackmail Atlanta's Mayor

CASE EXPECTED TO  
BE HARD FOUGHT

J. W. Cook, Mrs. Hirsch's Alleged Accomplice, Has Already Been Convicted. Evidence

Atlanta, Ga., March 14.—A jury to hear the evidence in the case of Mrs. Margaret A. Hirsch, charged with attempted blackmail of Asa C. Candler, millionaire mayor of Atlanta, was quickly secured when the case went to trial today before Judge Benjamin Hill in the Fulton county Superior Court. Only 28 talesmen were examined.

Interest in the trial was keyed to a high pitch and long before the hour for convening court, the room was filled with spectators, a great number of them being women.

Judge Richard B. Russell, formerly of the Court of Appeals, who joined counsel for the defense at the last moment, made an effort to enlarge the number of questions to be asked talesmen, but Judge Hill ruled that in permitting the three questions allowed in cases involving capital crime, he had taken sufficient steps to insure a fair trial.

The details of the visit of Mrs. Hirsch to the mayor's office in the Candler building on February 6, made the basis for the alleged blackmail demands, were again related by Mr. Candler, as the first witness. He testified that his acquaintance with the defendant grew out of her activity in Red Cross work, his testimony being practically a repetition of that given in the trial of J. W. Cook, jointly indicted with Mrs. Hirsch convicted and sentenced two weeks ago.

Mrs. Hirsch went on trial with the right of her counsel to question talesmen, as the jury is drawn, as to their prejudices. This permission, usually granted only in cases involving a capital crime, was accorded the defendant's counsel after Mrs. Hirsch's motion for a change of venue had been denied by Judge Ben Hill of the Superior Court. Mrs. Hirsch alleged in her petition that she would not get a fair and impartial trial in the county because of the prominence and influence of those connected with the opposing side.

The defense, it was said, had subpoenaed more than 20 witnesses including Cook, who was released from jail on \$3,000 bond recently pending the hearing of his motion for a new trial.

The charge for which Mrs. Hirsch is on trial is the outgrowth of a visit she is alleged to have made to Mayor Candler's private office early in February. According to Mayor Candler's written statement to the grand jury, he had known Mrs. Hirsch previously in connection with Red Cross work. During their conversations on the day Mrs. Hirsch called upon the mayor, his attention was diverted, it was alleged before the grand jury, and when he turned to face her again certain articles of her clothing had been removed. This with the sudden appearance of Cook at the mayor's office, led him to become suspicious. He said he then placed the matter in the hands of his attorney, who subsequently laid it before the grand jury. Witnesses before the grand jury are reported to have sworn that after Mrs. Hirsch's visit to the mayor's office, she and Cook had attempted to extort \$500,000 from Mayor Candler through threats of revealing alleged relations between the mayor and Mrs. Hirsch.

In a statement in his own defense at his trial, Cook alleged he and two other men had seen Mrs. Hirsch enter the mayor's office, and that later he appeared at the office and found Mrs. Hirsch there.

Long before the time for court to convene the room was filled with spectators, half of whom were women. Mrs. Hirsch made her appearance early, bright and smiling, followed a few minutes later by Cook. Both took seats at the table occupied by counsel for the defense.

A temporary halt occurred when Judge Richard B. Russell, formerly of the Court of Appeals, stated to the court, immediately on convening, that he had just been engaged by the defense and asked a few minutes to confer with his associates. The request was granted by Judge Hill and the attorneys retired.

On their return to the court room Judge Russell requested that the defense be permitted to question talesmen regarding their occupation and home address. The request was denied. Judge Hill stated he would permit only the three instructions provided by statute in cases involving capital crime. This was an unusual privilege in a misdemeanor case, given out by the War Department.

(Continued on Page Ten.)

## ALLIES WILL TAKE OVER DUTCH SHIPS

WILL INCREASE MEAT  
EXPORTS TO ALLIES

Arrangements Being Made to  
Send Much Meat to  
Europe

Washington, March 14.—Meat exports to the Allies will be increased 50 per cent. and perhaps doubled shortly under arrangements being negotiated by the Food Administration with the Allied food representatives here.

The purpose is to build up the Allied meat reserves from the great surplus which has been accumulated in this country and which recently brought a relaxation of restrictions on meat consumption. The Allies would furnish all the ships for moving the meat.

**ANOTHER ATTACK  
ON HOSPITAL SHIP**

London, March 14.—The hospital ship Castle was attacked unsuccessfully by a submarine in the Bristol channel on March 10, it was announced on March 10, it was announced officially today.

This is the second submarine attack on British hospital ships recently. A fortnight ago the Glenart Castle was sunk in the Bristol channel, about 150 lives being lost. The sinking, an official announcement said, was a violation of the German pledge as to the immunity of hospital ships in that area.

The Guilford Castle is a steamship of 5,056 tons gross. The Bristol channel, in which the attack was made, is an arm of the Atlantic extending into the southwestern part of Great Britain between Wales and England.

**RAILROADS ORDERED  
TO MAKE INVENTORY**

Washington, March 14.—Railroads were ordered today by Director General McAdoo to make an inventory of materials and supplies on hand December 31, 1917, when private control ceased, for use in connection with government administration of purchases, additions and betterments, and railroad financing.

The inventories must be begun by May 1, and are to be adjusted to show conditions on December 31. If inventories have been taken since that date or within 90 days before then, they may be used as the basis for the report.

These inventories will be valuable to the government and the railroads when the period of common control ends, and the government is required to return the railways' property in as good condition as when it was taken over.

**TROTSKY TO OPPOSE  
RATIFYING PEACE**

Washington, March 14.—Further indications that Leon Trotsky, the former Russian foreign minister, will oppose ratification by the Soviet Congress of Germany's peace terms, and that he will advocate reorganization and use of the army in defending Russia, were contained in a despatch to the State Department today from Ambassador Francis at Volodga.

**Flying Cadet Killed.**  
San Antonio, Texas, March 14.—Howard Holladay, Denver, Colo., a flying cadet at Kelly Field, was killed late Wednesday when his airplane fell 4,000 feet.

**STORM WARNING ISSUED.**

Washington, March 14.—Southwest storm warning signals were ordered up this afternoon from Baltimore to Southport.

**GERMANS REPORTED  
AS TAKING ABO**

Petrograd, Wednesday, March 13.—A strong German detachment is reported to have occupied Abo, on the coast of Finland, west of Helsinki. The Germans immediately began to march into the interior of Finland.

**RAINBOW DIVISION  
REPULSED GERMANS**

Washington, March 14.—American troops that repulsed the German raid of March 5 were from the 42d or Rainbow division, which is made up of National Guardsmen, General Pershing reported today.

The commander of the American division was personally congratulated by General Gerard, commander of the eighth French army, for the manner in which the Americans conducted themselves.

General Pershing's message as

Holland Has Been Delaying  
Too Long in Reaching an  
Agreement

**MUST ACCEPT BY  
THE COMING WEEK**

If Government Doesn't Consent, Allies Will Proceed to  
Take Over 1,000,000 Tons  
of Dutch Shipping

London, March 14.—Because of the long delays in the negotiations with Holland over Dutch ships in Allied ports and the slowness of the Dutch government to act in this respect, Great Britain and the United States have reached an agreement to end the negotiations and take over all such ships next week for the use of the Allies.

The amount of tonnage made available to the Allies through the Dutch arrangement is 1,000,000 tons of which 70 per cent. is in the United States, 15 per cent. in British ports and 15 per cent. in other Allied ports. Every precaution will be taken to safeguard the rights of the owners. The ships will be insured and armed and any ships sunk will be replaced at the earliest possible time after the war.

A similar arrangement already made in the case of Norway is working satisfactorily to the Norwegian owners and shipping interests.

The Allied decision finds a legal basis in the Lex Angaria, or the law covering the forcible seizure of a ship for public use, under which a belligerent nation may use neutral tonnage if adequate compensation is paid. The Germans exercised this right on British vessels in the Franco-Prussian war.

As regards Dutch ships in other than ports in Great Britain and the United States, it is believed the arrangement includes a number of such vessels in the Far Eastern ports. A telegram from the Hague yesterday stated that the Dutch foreign office had learned that clearances had been refused to several Dutch vessels in Singapore.

The negotiations with Holland have been in progress for many months and it was expected an arrangement would be reached last Christmas. The Germans, however, were continually bringing pressure to bear upon Holland and the delay in reaching an agreement operated continuously to the advantage of Germany and the disadvantage of the Allies.

Realizing the difficult position of Holland, the Allies decided to force an immediate settlement. While Germany has been obstructing the employment of Dutch tonnage by the Allies, she has been enjoying the use of Dutch barge tonnage on the German canals to an amount greater than the ocean going tonnage which the Allies will obtain under the new arrangement.

**Final Notice Presented.**  
Washington, March 14.—The United States and Great Britain have presented a final notice to Holland that unless the pending agreement for Allied use of Dutch ships is accepted by March 18, the ships will be taken over for Allied use.

The Netherlands minister, Augustus Phillips, had an engagement to the President Wilson today and it was believed he would present a final appeal for his government that the intentions of the United States and Great Britain to take over Dutch shipping, at least be modified.

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