

WEATHER:
North and South Caro-
lina. Probably rain
tonight and Thursday.
Cool.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

THE STORE ADS
Bring news reports
from the stores. Read
them.

VOL. XXIV, No. 85

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 3, 1918

PRICE FIVE CENTS

FIGHTING IS ALMOST AT A STANDSTILL ON THE WESTERN FRONT

But at Any Hour the Storm May Again Break on the Plain of Picardy

THE ALLIED RESERVE ARMY STILL INTACT

British and French Confident That Enemy Will Make No Serious Breaks — Point of Next Blow.

Military operations are almost at a standstill on the more than 60-mile front from Arras to Chauny, but it is an ominous calm. At any hour the storm of battle, quiescent for two days, may again beat madly over the plain of Picardy.

Their great attack stemmed and their countless efforts to find a weak point in the Allied line repulsed with heavy losses. The German leaders probably are preparing for another plunge toward Amiens. Where the next stroke will come is uncertain, but the Albert-Montdidier section of the battle line may be selected, unless the Germans, convinced that it is impossible to look for victory on either side of the Somme, attempt to break through at some other point on the line, where, until now, it has been comparatively quiet.

The cessation of the German onslaughts is welcomed by the British and French who are busy preparing for the next great effort after their victorious defense against the stupendous enemy drive. Both armies are confident that the German efforts to separate the British and French will continue to prove fruitless.

There is much significance in the announcement that the Allied reserve army is still intact. This is the army of maneuver of which General Foch had immediate command and which it was thought might be used in a counter offensive. Meanwhile more than 100,000 American soldiers, eager for the fray, are marching toward the front. It is announced that American aviation mechanics have been assisting the British airmen on the battlefield.

Tuesday the Germans made no attacks either North or South of the Somme. Near Sarre, North of Albert, they captured a small operation and captured an enemy post. In the night the artillery bombardment was heavy between Montdidier and Noyon while further East German detachments were driven back from the Oise.

Small attacks have been repulsed by the French in the Woivre and in Upper Alsace. In Flanders there has been only the usual artillery activity. German guns have been bombarding the American sector Northwest of Toul heavily. Inclement weather is hindering operations on the Italian front and the artillery activity is slight.

THE DAILY CASUALTY LIST IS SUSPENDED

War Department Awaits Definite Information on Baker's New Order.

Washington, April 3.—Major General March, acting chief of staff, today directed that issue of the daily casualties here be suspending pending definite interpretation from Secretary Baker as to whether it is forbidden by his new order providing that General Pershing's headquarters shall issue all news relating to the troops in France.

The War Department does not believe the order is intended to preclude issuing these lists in Washington and expect to resume them as soon as Secretary Baker confirms his understanding of the order.

Officials here see no reason why publication of casualties through the War Department should not be continued as formerly. If the lists are to be given out abroad, and carried over press cables, there will be great duplication and an added burden on the already overworked facilities.

It was pointed out that casualty lists from the forces now being amalgamated with the French and British armies at the battle front necessarily will be slow in arriving. It may be weeks before the names are available, as the lists will have to filter back through British and French communication channels to American headquarters. For that reason, it is obvious officials say, that publication could disclose nothing of military value to the enemy.

FRENCH REPULSE ATTACK.

April 3.—A German attack South of Moreuil last night was repulsed by French fire and the enemy was unable to gain a footing in any part of the French positions, the War Office announces, except at one point. The French also broke up a German attack near Rollot and gained ground North of Pleumont.

British Repel Assault.

London, April 3.—British troops after sharp fighting last night repulsed a determined attack by the Germans in the neighborhood of Fampoux, the War Office announced today.

GERMAN WORKMEN ARE ANXIOUS FOR PEACE

They Have Suffered More Than Any Other Class of People.

New York, April 3.—The German laboring class is for peace because it has suffered more from the war than any other section of the German population. This statement was made on February 22 in the Reichstag by Deputy Herzfeld, Independent Socialist, during the discussion of a Socialist motion requesting that the Reichstag exercise its right and demand the release from imprisonment during the Reichstag session of Deputy Wilhelm Dittmann, a Socialist. Deputy Dittmann was arrested for his activities in connection with the recent strike in Berlin and other parts of Germany and sentenced to several years imprisonment.

The January strike, Deputy Herzfeld declared, was caused by the despair of the workmen that there would be no early peace, the laboring class having gained the impression from the Brest-Litovsk negotiations that the annexationists controlled the government's policies. During the strike, he added, the newspapers of the working class had been gagged and representatives of the working men had been thrown into prison whenever they were not sent to the trenches.

Deputy Herzfeld was frequently called to order by the vice president, Dr. Paasche, who at the outset declared he could not permit a discussion of the political reasons for the arrest of Deputy Dittmann. Hugo Hasse, Socialist, protested against limitation of the debate, saying the discussion would be only a farce and would not correspond to the dignity of the Reichstag.

The Reichstag decided that it had no right to interfere in the Dittmann affair and the Socialist motion was defeated over the votes of the Socialists, Danes and Poles.

MORE TERRITORY PUT IN THE DRY COLUMN

Prohibitionists Made Gains Yesterday's Election in Wisconsin and Illinois.

Milwaukee, Wis., April 3.—In the contest between the wet and dry forces of Wisconsin in yesterday's election with the drys today appear to have made some headway in territory gained.

Nine cities and towns, including Superior, Ashland, and Beloit, which were wet voted dry. Three towns which were dry, voted to become wet. Fourteen cities and towns which permitted the sale of liquor did not change, and nine dry places remained so.

Chicago, April 3.—Results of township local option elections in Illinois yesterday showed gains for the anti-saloon forces, about 150 saloons being put out of business, according to returns, compiled today.

Two of the larger down State cities, Bloomington and Rock Island, voted out saloons.

None of the larger "dry" towns voted to become "wet" but Aurora and Alton decided to retain saloons.

MEXICAN FEDERALS ROUT BANDIT FORCE

Chihuahua City, Mexico, April 3.—A Federal force under command of Major Antillon defeated Epifanio Holguin's rebels Monday at Las Varas, eight miles east of Gallegos station, on the Mexican Central Railroad. Miguel Polquin, brother of the leader, and 10 of the rebels were killed, according to word received today.

ALL MONEY TAKEN FROM THE EVERETT BANK RECOVERED

Trio of Robbers Are Captured Along With all Their Booty

MARTIN COUNTY BANK ROBBED YESTERDAY

A Sum of \$8,000 Recovered When one of Captured Trio Led the Officers to Their Hiding Place

Rocky Mount, N. C., April 3.—Recovery of the entire sum, representing approximately \$8,000 taken from the Bank of Everett, Everett, N. C., yesterday afternoon by masked robbers was made this morning when Noah Roberson, one of three men captured by a posse charged with the hold-up, led officers into the woods where the money had been left, and \$1,200 in cash and \$4,950 in government bonds was found. This, augmented by \$800 recovered when the trio were taken into custody yesterday, is believed to cover the amount taken from the bank. The three men alleged to have taken part in the hold up are Noah Roberson, Church Orber and Clyde Bowen.

CARPENTERS' STRIKE HAS BEEN CALLED OFF

Men Accept Offer and Agree to Return to Work This Afternoon.

Norfolk, Va., April 3.—Indications this afternoon were that, following the action of the 4,000 strikers in voting last night to return to their jobs, pending a decision by the army and navy departments in the matter of their demand for an increase in wages, the government construction work at the various plants in the vicinity of Norfolk and Portsmouth would be resumed tomorrow morning, with a full force on hand.

J. B. Overman, business agent of the local carpenters' and joiners' union, this morning advised Major H. B. Gitchee, representative of the War Department, at the conference with labor leaders here that the union had voted, as a result of the conference, to request its men to return to the government plants and resume work and that every man who had laid down his tools would report for duty not later than Thursday morning.

This action by the union, Overman explained, was taken under an agreement reached with Major Gitchee; that if the men returned to work by the time stated that an investigation of the complaints of the carpenters would be instituted at once by the government.

Reports reaching the office of Admiral Harris, chairman of the war control board for the Hampton Roads district, showed that the men were today returning to work, and Admiral Harris expressed the opinion that full forces would be at work at all the plants tomorrow morning.

LENROOT HAS LEAD OF MORE THAN 10,000

Milwaukee, Wis., April 3.—Returns to 7 o'clock on yesterday's Senatorial election show Irvine L. Lenroot, Republican, maintained his lead over Joseph E. Davies, Democrat. With 15 counties missing and many others incomplete, Lenroot had a plurality of 10,547.

FEW ALIENS ARRESTED FOR NOT REGISTERING

Washington, April 3.—Less than 250 Germans have been arrested for failure to register in the enemy alien census taken in February and few of these have been interned, the Department of Justice announced today. The tabulation of Germans registered has not been completed, but it is estimated about 500,000 were recorded.

ENGLAND WATCHES INDUSTRIAL PEACE TREATY'S RESULT

Comment on the Agreement Reached Between American Capital and Labor

ANOTHER EVIDENCE OF DETERMINATION

London Times Says the Treaty and Decision to Send More Troops Show America's Earnest Desires.

London, April 3.—The treaty of industrial peace between labor and capital in the United States, the Times says, in an editorial, coincides appropriately with the military decision to bring the American forces in France at once in the battlefield among their British and French comrades in arms.

"Both moves," the editorial continues, "are an earnest manifestation of the determination of the United States to put all its strength into the struggle. The effect of the peace treaty will be watched here with keen interest and with the earnest hope that it may be more successful than the corresponding agreement concluded in our own war industries three years ago."

"A hopeful feature of the American treaty is the spirit out of which it comes and that it is due to an actual condition of affairs. The issue and nature of the conflict are understood as they never have been before. The fate of Russia, the accumulated evidence of German character and conduct and the present military situation have opened the eyes of all men.

"The whole atmosphere at the present moment is different from that which the has carried on during the three years. At the back of our failure to keep the industrial treaty made in March, 1915, and of innumerable other failures, has been the general complacency about the war, and over-confidence in the result born of ignorance and government reticence. A grand change recently has set in. Even those self-appointed outside advisers of 'labor' who consistently have fostered suspicion, ill will and strife or now deprecating strikes and declaring them inopportune.

"The American industrial treaty comes into the world at this solemn moment of world wide suspense and we do not doubt that it is an expression of real intention on both sides. That is the best augury for its success."

BRITISH AIRMEN HAD A BUSY DAY MONDAY

Dropped 17 Tons of Bombs and Downed 16 Enemy Planes.

London, April 3.—British aviators were very active Monday on the battlefield in France, dropping 17 tons of bombs and bringing down 16 German airplanes and two balloons. The official statement on aviation issued tonight says that the night bombing squadrons dropped bombs on railway stations in the areas behind the German lines. The statement reads:

"There was good visibility Monday and our low-flying airplanes again were active. More than 17 tons of bombs were dropped and thousands of rounds were fired from the air at the enemy's infantry and other targets on the ground. Hostile aircraft also were active on the Southern portion of our front, some of their two-seated machines firing at our troops with machine guns from low heights.

"Ten hostile airplanes were destroyed and six others driven down out of control. Another airplane was brought down within our lines by infantry. Two hostile balloons were destroyed by our airplanes. Eleven of our machines are missing.

"After dark, our night flying machines bombed enemy railway stations, billets, troops and transports, dropping many bombs on the Cambrai railway station, on the station Southeast of Douai, on the railway line South of that town, as well as on other targets. All of our machines returned."

"BULL DURHAM" FOR SOLDIERS

New York, April 3.—The government has taken over the entire output of the "Bull Durham" cigarette tobacco, manufactured by the American Tobacco Company at Durham, N. C., and will devote it to the needs of the American troops abroad. It was announced here today. It was stated that the government will pay the same price for the goods as domestic jobbers have been paying.

ADOPT MEASURES FOR SPEEDING UP DRAFT PROGRAM

Official Announcement Along This Line is Expected at Early Date

NO NEW DRAFT IS EXPECTED TO BE MADE

The Only Effect Will Be to Hurry Up Call to the Training Camps to Fill Ranks of Army in France

Washington, April 3.—Measures to speed up the draft program are in contemplation, and an official announcement is expected soon. The intention is to meet the emergency in France. For that reason 800,000 called this year, will be called more rapidly than was previously planned. Arrangements to this end are in progress, but no suggestion that the 500,000 figure be exceeded during this year has been put forward at the War Department.

Reports that the draft would be raised from 800,000 men to 1,500,000 were denied.

Officials do not regard it as possible that more men will be sent abroad this year than the department already has arranged to summon, even with additional British shipping made available as troop transports. There are now under arms here in Europe more than 1,500,000 American soldiers. The number will have been raised to about 2,500,000 by the end of the year, counting drafted men, volunteers and special technical forces, to be enlisted.

It is possible to get a total of 1,500,000 men to France by January 1 next, the best previous hopes of the War Department will have been realized and there still will be a force of almost equal size in training here. The present effort is directed more towards getting the men to France early in the year to meet the emergencies there than toward increasing the number to be sent during the year.

Many factors, it was said, enter into any proposal to increase the number of men under training here. They must be drawn largely from agriculture and industry and the Allies supply lines as well as the American lines largely dependent upon American food and supplies.

SIX PERSONS KILLED IN MISSOURI TORNADES

Various Sections of the State Were Badly Damaged Last Night.

St. Louis, April 3.—Six persons are known to be dead, scores were injured and property damage totalling many thousands of dollars was done by tornadoes last night in Missouri, according to reports received here early today. A tornado struck Hunterville and Gray Ridge, small towns in Stoddard county in the Southeastern part of the State, killing three persons, two of them at Hunterville and one at Gray Ridge. In both places many persons were injured, some severely, and property damage was extensive. Farmers living nearby reported barns and other outbuildings swept away.

At New Florence, in Montgomery county, 85 miles west of here, two persons were killed and at Mineola, also in Montgomery county, one person was killed.

ITALY WARMLY GREETS WAR SECRETARY BAKER

The Secretary Spent Busy Day Conferring With Italian Officials

Rome, Tuesday, April 3.—After his arrival from the Italian front today Newton D. Baker, the American Secretary of War, called upon Premier Orlando. In greeting the Secretary, the Premier said that he spoke in the name of the Italian government and people who were so closely connected with the United States in the past through emigration, and now are linked indissolubly in a sacred alliance. Later Secretary Baker visited General Zupelli, the minister of war, and discussed the military situation with him at length.

Finance Minister Nitti called upon Secretary Baker and renewed the acquaintance formed in America. Secretary Baker said he was greatly touched by the genial warmth of the welcome extended him in Italy.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY WAS ON POINT OF DISCUSSING PEACE

Count Czernin Says the Wind Veered and it Was All off

CZERNIN BEGINS A NEW GERMAN PEACE OFFENSIVE

That is the Way Washington Views the Count's Latest Statement

DENY THAT PEACE OFFER WAS MADE

Statement That Clemenceau Expressed Willingness to Discuss Peace is Not Believed in America.

Washington, April 3.—Count Czernin's statement that France had suggested peace discussions with Austria-Hungary was characterized by officials here today as the beginning of a new German peace offensive with the Austro-Hungarian minister acting at Germany's behest.

The speech of Count Czernin, it was declared, was a political maneuver designed to spread the impression in the Allied countries that the Allied governments are fighting solely to recover Alsace-Lorraine. "The peace move, they said, was timed to follow the breakdown of the Teutonic military offensive.

Any Teutonic suggestions that the time had come for peace discussions is near at hand will find nothing but a negative response in America.

The State Department made it clear today that officials of this government do not believe the present great engagement in Europe will result in any weakening either at the capitals or among the people of the nations at war against Germany.

Count Czernin's statement that Premier Clemenceau had indicated a willingness to discuss peace was not given credence. It was believed that a willful misinterpretation had been given to some statement of the French Premier for the purpose of securing a favorable reaction in France.

Count Czernin's declaration that Austria-Hungary almost was on the point of beginning peace negotiations with the Entente was branded by officials as false. It was said that no suggestions of such a discussion had reached Washington and that if they had been made this government would have been informed.

Officials characterized the foreign minister's speech as a "feeler" which probably would be followed by some declaration or announcement in Germany.

ROLL PUSH BALL FROM BUFFALO TO NEW YORK

Unique Scheme for Selling Liberty Bonds in New York State.

New York, April 3.—Rolling a huge push ball from Buffalo to this city, a distance of 473 miles, will be the privilege of buyers of bonds for the Third Liberty Loan, it was announced today by the loan committee of the Second Federal Reserve district. The ball will represent the district's quota and its movement will be symbolical of the progress of the rolling up of that quota. It will be put in motion on April 6, the day the loan drive begins, and is expected to arrive at Madison Square Garden here on May 4, having travelled at an average of 16 miles a day.

The ball will be painted in the national colors and consist of steel and rattan, covered with canvas, and the custodians will be attired to represent Uncle Samuel and will carry a red, white and blue banner with the following inscription:

"Help Push the Liberty Ball from Buffalo to New York. Every Bond You Buy Is a Push Toward Winning the War. Keep the Ball Rolling."

Paris, April 3.—The Germans again began to bombard Paris at 9:50 o'clock this morning.

COUNT CZERNIN SAYS THE WIND VEERED AND IT WAS ALL OFF

ALSACE-LORRAINE CAUSED THE HITCH

Czernin Declares Premier Clemenceau Had Approached Austria Before the Big Drive Started

"CZERNIN LIED."

Paris, April 3.—"Czernin lied." This is all Premier Clemenceau had to say when told today of the Count Czernin that he had inquired through an intermediary whether Austria-Hungary was ready to negotiate if so on what basis.

The Premier departed from Paris for the front this morning and learned of Count Czernin's speech on his arrival there.

London, April 3.—Austria-Hungary was recently almost "on the point" of beginning peace negotiations with the Entente; Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, declared yesterday in an address to the Vienna Municipal Council. The wind suddenly veered," he added, the Entente deciding to await developments in his country "which caused it to hope that the dual monarchy would soon be defenseless." The foreign minister's words were:

"Recently we were almost on the point of entering into negotiations with the Western powers, when the wind suddenly veered around, and as we know with certainty, the Entente decided it had better wait, as parliamentary and political events in our country justified the hope that the monarchy would soon be defenseless. I do not intend to go begging for peace or to obtain it by treaties and lamentations, but to enforce it by our moral right and physical strength." Count Czernin declared. "Any other tactics I consider will contribute to the prolongation of the war."

In regard to Bulgaria's claims against Serbia, the foreign minister said:

"Bulgaria must receive from Serbia certain districts inhabited by Bulgarians. We, however, have no desire to destroy Serbia. We will enable Serbia to develop and would welcome closer economic relations with her. "Since I came into office," declared Count Czernin, "I have striven only after one aim, namely, to secure an honorable peace to the monarchy and to create a situation which will secure to Austria-Hungary her free development and moreover, to do everything possible to ensure that this terrible war will be the last one for time out of mind. I have never spoken differently."

Count Czernin added here, however, his declaration that he had no intention of begging for peace.

Count Czernin declared that Premier Clemenceau of France had asked Austria-Hungary on what basis she would negotiate peace, according to a dispatch from The Hague to the Daily Mail. Austria replied that the only obstacle to peace with France was Alsace-Lorraine and Premier Clemenceau said that it was impossible to negotiate on that basis.

"Some time before the Western offensive began," Count Czernin said, "Premier Clemenceau addressed to me an inquiry whether and upon what basis I was prepared to negotiate. In agreement with Berlin I immediately replied that I was prepared to negotiate and that as far as France was concerned the only obstacle I could see in the way of peace was the French desire for Alsace-Lorraine. The reply from Paris was that it was impossible to negotiate on this basis. Thereupon there was no choice left."

"The colossal struggle in the West has already begun. Austro-Hungarian and German troops are fighting shoulder to shoulder as they fought in Russia, Serbia, Rumania and Italy. We are fighting together for the defense of Austria-Hungary and Germany."

"Come what may, we will not sacrifice Germany's interest any more than she will leave us in the lurch. We are not fighting for imperialistic or annexationist aims for ourselves or for Germany."

The Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, according to an Amsterdam dispatch to the Daily Chronicle, declared also that he had an earnest desire for peace and that his country wished to avoid any further military offensive. After referring to his reply to Premier Clemenceau regarding Alsace-Lorraine, he said that Austria would insist on the status quo, adding:

Count Czernin declared he did not believe that President Wilson in his recent address really desired to cause a separation between Vienna and Berlin, because that was impossible. The Count added that President Wilson probably saw that Austria-Hungary was more favorable toward peace than Germany.

PARIS AGAIN SHELLED BY LONG RANGE GUN

Paris, April 3.—The Germans again began to bombard Paris at 9:50 o'clock this morning.