

North and South Carolina: Fair tonight and Saturday; continue cool tonight with light frost in exposed places.

# THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE.

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

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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 5, 1918.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

## WILMINGTON LANDS A SHIPYARD THE GERMANS RENEW THEIR OFFENSIVE

### BRITISH AND FRENCH TROOPS SUBJECTED TO HEAVY ATTACKS

Germans Hurl Forward 100,000 Men on a Nine Mile Front

DESPERATE ASSAULTS ARE VALIANTLY MET

With a Few Exceptions the Allied Line Held its Ground. American on Heights of the Meuse.

The French lines have held below Amiens and the Germans have been defeated with great losses in what probably constituted their most desperate effort yet to break in and cut off the communications of this important base from the South.

Similarly to the East of Amiens the British have maintained their steadfast defense and prevented the Germans from making any important headway here.

This battle, which raged yesterday and virtually all last night was fought along a line approximately 30 miles south of the Somme.

In the great battle to the South of the Somme the contending armies fought with fluctuating fortunes, the French giving some ground in the northern sector of their battle area, but closing the engagement with their line not only standing where it was along its Southern course but even advanced in one or two sectors where the Germans had been violently thrown back.

As a whole the Entente line may be considered, as the French official statement puts it, maintained in its entirety. So far as the German offensive South of Amiens, the railway line to Clermont is concerned, the German effort resulted merely in the protection of the fighting front, a distance of probably not more than 2,000 yards nearer to it, opposite Castel, where the map shows the enemy still nearly three miles away from the railroad.

The British fought yesterday and last night, chiefly on their Southern front between the Luce and the Somme, where the battlefront was a continuous one, linking up with the operation against the French. Here the British were pressed back out of a small salient that has projected in the neighborhood of Warusee-Abancourt, just to the North of Marcel, and almost directly on a line East of Amiens.

The British recession was slight and the line they now maintain runs East of Villers-Brittonneux, some 10-12 miles from the center of Amiens and about nine miles from its outskirts.

On that part of the battlefield running Eastward from Montdidier the French gave no ground, but on the contrary drove in about midway between Montdidier and Lassigny, and captured the creation of Epinette wood, North of Orvillers-Sorel. They held this ground against several counter attacks. Their success here was watched on the front North of Montdidier by their seizure from the Germans of Stagnan farm, Southeast of Grivesnes, which they likewise held against all assaults.

Government troops in Finland are reported to have occupied the Eastern part of Tammefors, North of Hel-

### SAYS BAKER'S VISIT WAS AN HISTORIC ONE

Daily Mail Declares it Will Leave Lasting Impression Among Allies

London, April 5.—The recent visit of Newton D. Baker, the American Secretary of War, the Daily Mail says, was a historic one and will leave a lasting impression on Anglo-Franco-American relations, as it was then decided that American regiments should be brigaded with British and French troops on the Western front.

Premier Lloyd-George, the Mail says, acquainted Secretary Baker with the situation, and expressed the desire of the British government for the immediate employment of the American fighting forces. Secretary Baker was much impressed and went to France the next day and saw General Pershing.

### CHARGED WITH ABDUCTION.

Judgment Was Withheld Until Tomorrow—Trial Long Drawn Out. Considerable time was required this morning for hearing the evidence in the case charging Phoebe Wilder, colored, with abduction, tried before Justice John J. Furlong. Judgment was withheld until tomorrow and the most the magistrate can do is send the defendant on to Superior Court for probable cause. Action against the Wilder woman was brought by Robert Walker, colored, who alleged and so testified that the woman influenced his daughter, less than 14 years of age, to leave home. The little girl swore on the stand that she left home because of the harsh treatment she received at the hands of her father and that she had not been persuaded or coerced by the woman to leave the family circle. She exhibited a couple of scars which she stated were inflicted by her father, adding that he was not at all choice about what he struck her with when she incurred his displeasure. The defendant stated that she had been employed in the Walker home for the purpose of taking care of the children; that she did not like the neighborhood and informed Walker that she would have to give up these duties unless he moved elsewhere; that he did not move and that she left and that she had nothing whatever to do with the girl's leaving.

### TRUCK DAMAGED TROLLEY CAR.

Collision Occurred at Third and Kidder Streets Yesterday.

Twenty-five dollars or more damage was done a trolley car on the Sunset Park line yesterday afternoon when it was in collision with the delivery truck of the Wilmington Furniture Company, officials of the company stated this morning. The collision occurred at Third and Kidder streets, and the better was that the heavy sand of that section caused the motor truck to skid into the car, which was moving at a low rate of speed, having just stopped to take on a passenger. The street car was in charge of Motorman C. E. Long, who stated that the truck did not stop and that it was fully a half block away by the time he got out of his car.

singers; and which has been the center of much fighting recently. One thousand prisoners and some war material were taken from the rebels. It is reported both sides are showing much bitterness. The rebels, or Red Guards, are accused of terrible atrocities by their opponents, the White Guards, who are charged with similar acts by the Reds.

### MAN LYNCHED FOR UTTERING ALLEGED DISLOYAL REMARKS

Mob of Illinois Miners Takes Prisoner from Officers and Hang Him

### PRAYED IN GERMAN BEFORE HIS DEATH

Was Charged With Making Remarks Derogatory to President Wilson—More Lynchings Feared

Collinsville, Ills., April 5.—Kneeling with his arms crossed, Robert P. Prager, who was lynched by a mob last night at midnight for alleged disloyal utterances, prayed in German for three minutes before he was strung up, it was learned today.

Prager was a coal miner and yesterday at Marysville, Ills., in an address to the miners on Socialism, is said to have made remarks derogatory to President Wilson. Miners there became angry and when they threatened to do him bodily harm he escaped to Collinsville, his home. Some of the miners, however, followed him, collected a crowd, took Prager from his home and led him barflog through the streets waving an American flag.

The police, fearing violence, took Prager from the crowd and placed him in the city hall. Later a large mob gathered in front of the hall and demanded the man. Mayor J. H. Siegel counseled calmness but the police force of four was overpowered and Prager was found in the basement of the hall hiding beneath a pile of tiling. He was dragged down the street and beyond the city limits, the crowd threatening to shoot if the officers approached.

One mile west of the city the rope by which Prager had been led was thrown over a limb of a tree. He was asked if he had anything to say. His answer was to drop to his knees and with arms crossed to pray in German for three minutes. Without another word he was pulled into the air 10 feet and allowed to hang. The mob then dispersed.

The police said that Prager, while in their custody had stated he was a registered enemy alien, that he was born in Germany, but that he had taken out his first naturalization papers and had hoped to become an American citizen.

Collinsville is 12 miles east of St. Louis and is in that section of Southwestern Illinois that of late has been active against disloyalists.

More Lynchings Feared. Washington, April 5.—Until the Federal government is given power to punish persons making disloyal utterances, Department of Justice officials fear more lynchings such as that of Robert P. Prager, a German, at Collinsville, Ills., last night. This was the first report reaching here of such extreme mob violence to a German, although officials who have observed the general feeling against Germans have feared such occurrences.

The government has no authority to take action against the lynchers. Officials of the Department of Justice deplored the act and expressed the hope that State or local authorities would speedily punish the lynchers. At the same time, it was pointed out that as soon as Congress passes the pending bill making it a Federal offense to speak or write obviously disloyal criticism of the United States in the war, the government can punish these acts and reduce the danger of mob action.

### LUMBER COMPANIES TO STOP UNFAIR PRACTICES

Warning Issued to 97 Western Firms by the Trade Commission

Washington, April 5.—The Federal Trade Commission today ordered 97 lumber companies in the West to desist from unfair methods of competition. The order applied also to Luke W. Boyce, a Minneapolis detective.

Procuring by bad faith or subterfuge of information intended only for bona fide customers of mail order houses, furnishing to Platt B. Walker, of Minneapolis, Minn., publisher of "The Mississippi Valley Lumber Man," of names of persons selling to mail order concerns to enable him to interfere with the free purchase of supplies by those concerns, the employment of Boyce to obtain the business secrets of mail order firms and the following of mail order salesmen to embarrass them in their business dealings, were forbidden in the future by the commission.

Walker and The Lumber Man Publishing Company recently signed a stipulation of facts in cases against them and an order was entered requiring them to cease and desist from the practices complained of.

### ATTEMPT MADE TO WRECK TROOP TRAIN

Toledo, Ohio, April 5.—Discovering a tie spiked across the Baltimore and Ohio track, 10 miles south of Toledo, near Perrysburg, last evening, Grace Doyle, 20, a country school teacher, at Roachtown, ran down the track, removed her coat and with it flagged a train, approaching rapidly.

It was a freight, followed closely by a heavy troop train. It took the freight crew 25 minutes to remove the obstruction. Several troop trains had passed there within a few days and it was evident that the person who spiked the plank to the track had information that another was approaching. Federal authorities have been notified.

### REV. M. N. McIVER DEAD.

Aged Maxton Minister Passes Away—Red Springs Man Dead.

Maxton, N. C., April 5.—Rev. M. N. McIver died at his home here at 2:30 yesterday morning. Mr. McIver had retired from active service many years since, but prior to that time was pastor of various Presbyterian churches. He has been critically ill for sometime. He is survived by a widow and eight children, none of whom are resident in Maxton, except Mrs. R. L. McLeod.

Mr. Hector Brown, of near Red Springs, died at the Mapleshade hotel here at about the same hour, 2:30. He had been to Charlotte for treatment and was on his way home, stopping over here for the day. In the afternoon he went to his room and was found later unconscious. Every assistance possible was furnished by the hotel management, but without avail.

Maxton's contribution to the camps continues to increase. Abraham Fine, Howard Hasty and Murdoch Taylor leaving for Columbia this week. Capt. J. C. Everett received news a few days since that his son, Lieut. Frank G. Everett, had arrived somewhere in France. The Captain is proud of his two-starred service flag. Miss Elizabeth Alford entertained this week in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Hector Austin, Maxton's latest bride and groom.

Germany Concentrate Troops. London, April 5.—The Germans concentrated troops early this morning near Albert, the war office announced. British artillery took them under its fire. In the neighborhood of Bucquoy, and in the Scarpe Valley there was active artillery fighting during the night.

### Expected to Denounce Lynching.

Washington, April 5.—Attorney General Gregory took to the cabinet meeting today a report of the lynching of a German, Robert P. Prager, at Collinsville, Ills., last night for discussion with President Wilson. The government is expected to denounce the mob's lawless act and to express the hope that there will be no repetition elsewhere.

### Two Suits Started.

Two suits were begun in Superior Court today by the City of Wilmington; one is against Ephraim Bishop and wife and the Cooperative Building & Loan Association and the other was against James A. Ratcliff and the Metropolitan Trust Cooperative Building & Loan Association.

## EMERGENCY FLEET CORPORATION WILL BUILD SHIPS HERE

### KANSAS CITY SUFFERS \$2,500,000 FIRE LOSS

Three Blocks in Wholesale District Wiped Out Last Night

Kansas City, Mo., April 5.—The fire which last night destroyed about three city blocks in the wholesale and manufacturing district in the western section, entailing a heavy financial loss, was of incendiary origin, James E. Marvin, fire warden, said today. He added, however, that no clue had been found to establish the theory definitely. He placed the loss at between \$2,000,000 and \$2,500,000. Representatives of the insurance inspector's bureau said the loss would not exceed \$2,500,000. Several of the larger warehouses in the vicinity of the fire contained food and those inclined toward a plot theory used that fact to prove their claim that enemy agents may have been responsible for the fire.

Buildings occupied by 18 business concerns were destroyed. The structures themselves were mainly of minor value, it was said, but the contents of several were valuable. Six firemen were injured, none seriously, and Nicholas Stofel, 30 years old, was run over and killed by a fireman's motor car. The old Star House, famous years ago, when the union station was located in the West Bottoms, was one of the buildings destroyed.

### BELIEVE CZERNIN IS TALKING WITH WILSON

Zurich, April 5.—Austrian parliamentary circles believe negotiations have been opened between President Wilson and Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister. A telegram from Vienna to the Neueste Nachrichten, of Munich, says: "Count Czernin's speech has created a profound impression in Austrian parliamentary circles, where it is believed that communications have been opened between Count Czernin and President Wilson which already have reached further than Count Czernin's speech shows."

### GROWING IN INTEREST.

Large Congregation Heard Rev. J. A. Taylor Last Night.

Despite the inclement weather the attendance at the First Christian church last night was very gratifying and the masterly sermon delivered by Rev. J. A. Taylor was heard with intense interest. Talking for his subject, "The Whole Bible," at 7:15, he held the close attention of his congregation throughout. Mr. Taylor used a chart for illustrative purposes, taking up the study of the Old and New Testament, and showing the value of each separate book and the relation of the New Testament to the life of the individual.

### Open Thursday Nights.

To Red Cross work rooms in Murchison building are being kept open each Thursday night, owing to the stress of work. There were 65 ladies present last night, who worked until a late hour. The lights went out during the storm, but the workers sat there calmly until the lights were fixed and then continued with their work.

### Five Buildings Burned.

Rochester, N. Y., April 5.—Fire of supposed incendiary origin early this morning destroyed the five buildings of the W. H. Osborne Company, canning plant at Honeoye Falls, 20 miles from this city, involving a loss of \$100,000. United States Marshal John D. Lynn was notified by village officials that they believed an incendiary was responsible for the fire. He will order an investigation.

### FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR BOND CAMPAIGN

Sale of the Third Liberty Bond Issue Will Start Saturday

Washington, April 5.—Final preparations were being rushed today for the opening tomorrow of the sale campaign of the Third Liberty Loan. Directors of the drive announced that 40,000 of the bonds already had been turned out by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and it was estimated that 100,000 will be ready by tomorrow. Hereafter the bonds will leave the presses at the rate of 500,000 to supply demands for cash sales and immediate delivery.

Legislation necessary for floating the loan was completed yesterday when the House accepted minor Senate amendments to the bill authorizing the issuance of additional bonds and President Wilson approved the measure. Announcement of the complete plan for the new loan was made earlier in the day by the Treasury Department.

### RED CROSS ENTERTAINMENT.

East Watha Unit Raised Large Sum Last Friday Night.

(Special to The Dispatch.) Watha, April 4.—The East Watha Red Cross unit gave a very enjoyable entertainment last Friday night, March 29, at the Hall schoolhouse, which was beautifully decorated for the occasion.

The school children rendered a short program in a very creditable manner. Those deserving special praise are: Little Miss Marion Flowers and Master William Hall, who sang, "The Little Soldier and the Red Cross Maid," and also those taking part in the negro play cannot be complimented too highly on their splendid acting. The ladies and girls of the Red Cross unit, wearing veils, served cake, cream and oysters. A voting contest for the prettiest girl was held. Miss Lillian Hall being the winner. The large sum of \$50.67 was raised.

### TAKEN VIOLENTLY ILL.

Captain George W. Smith, Removed From Office to His Home.

Captain George W. Smith, day sergeant at police headquarters, was taken violently ill at headquarters shortly before noon, losing consciousness and was carried to his home, 613 South Second street, in the police emergency wagon in a critical condition. Dr. R. H. Slocum, acting health officer, was called and after a hurried examination was of the opinion that Captain Smith had suffered an attack of acute indigestion. Friends of the genial and obliging day sergeant will learn of his illness with keen regret, for there is not a better liked man on the force, and all hope that he will be sufficiently recovered to return to his duties in the early future.

### RECRUITS BADLY NEEDED.

Shipmasters and Various Tradesmen Are in Big Demand.

The following was issued to the officers of the general recruiting service yesterday afternoon from the office of Sergeant James B. Bradford, in charge of recruiting locally: "You are authorized to accept for the 57th engineers (Inland Waters) Laurel, Md., qualified and eligible applicants to be sent for enlistment to the nearest recruit depot or post, en route to the station of this organization, or to be camp at Laurel, Md." "The following classes of men are needed: Master ship carpenters, marine gasoline engineers, hoisting engineers, riggers, bargemen, ship carpenters, steersmen, blacksmiths, sailmakers and teamsters."

### Chairman Hurley Makes Official Announcement of Wilmington's Selection

### SEVEN CONCRETE TANKERS ORDERED

Shipping Board Will Build Three Small and Four Large Tankers to Be Used in Mexican Oil Trade

Washington, April 5.—Selection of Wilmington, N. C., as the site of one of the Shipping Board's new concrete ship yards was definitely announced today by Chairman Hurley.

The Emergency Fleet Corporation will build the new yard which has three ways. The Shipping Board is so well pleased with a concrete ship just built for it on the Pacific coast that it intends to enlarge considerably the concrete ship building program. Concrete ships can be built in less time than can wood or steel vessels.

Chairman Hurley told the Senate commerce committee today that three small concrete tankers and four large concrete tankers will be built at Wilmington and they will be used in the Mexican oil trade. The yard can be built within 60 days, Mr. Hurley said, and ship construction can begin immediately thereafter.

It was learned here this afternoon that the government had accepted the offer of the site made by Wilmington for the proposed hospital, stating that the other sites available for shipbuilding and offered the government would not be disturbed at this time. This is taken in local quarters to indicate that the government has other plans for the future and that Wilmington will be included in carrying out these plans. Local interests could add nothing to the press report concerning decision of the Shipping Board to locate one of its proposed shipyards for the building of concrete ships here, saying that they had no idea what site the government would decide upon for its yard, and adding that there were many other splendidly located ones that could be had.

The posting of bulletins about noon by The Dispatch to the effect that definite decision had been reached by the Shipping Board to establish a yard here almost took the breath of many, so overjoyed were they, and one gentleman who is heart and soul in the project and who has his every thought and interest wrapped up in the city was of the opinion that a holiday should be declared, giving everybody an opportunity to celebrate. An effort was made to determine approximately how many persons would be given employment, but without success. The fact that the yard is to be a three-way yard means that three ships will be constructed at the same time, but because concrete shipbuilding is still in its infancy in this country at least no one was willing to advise an opinion as to the number of workers that will be employed, and just what the venture will mean to the city.