

THE WEATHER FORECAST. Cloudy; rain or snow to-day; unsettled to-morrow. Highest temperature yesterday, 47; lowest, 31. Detailed weather, mail and marine reports on page 11.

DUAL SUBWAYS MAY BE ILLEGAL, NICOLL AVERS

Startles Thompson Committee by Doubting Status of Contract.

THOMPSON CONSCIOUS BLACKGUARD—QUIGG

De Lancey Nicoll, to whom the Interborough Rapid Transit Company paid thousands of dollars for his services in connection with the dual system contracts, started the Thompson legislative committee yesterday by asserting that he had grave doubts as to the constitutionality of the arrangements made for extending the rapid transit line. He could not be forced to admit that he still doubts the wisdom of the course of Appeals in deciding otherwise, but he pointed out that this conclusive action was made by a divided court with a bare majority in favor.

Lancel Ely Quigg in an open letter to Senator Thompson last night said to the senators: "Your conduct is the conduct of a conscious blackguard." He referred to the recent publication of letters of a J. Gillespie and the reproduction of a \$2,500 check given by the contractors to Quigg.

Clash With Thompson.

The question of whether or not it was a collusive suit and whether or not it was a collusive suit and whether or not it was a collusive suit...

Mr. Nicoll Questioned Validity.

De Lancey Nicoll testified that he had a conference with Messrs. Herbig and Messrs. Moore and that he stated to them that he had grave doubts as to the constitutionality of the contract. He said that the contract contained a preferential right to the operating company and that it was a collusive suit.

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Germans Take British Ship, 206 Aboard, to Spanish Port

The Westburn, With Sailors From Seven Vessels, Latest Victims of Mysterious Teuton Sea Rover. Sails Into Santa Cruz de Tenerife.

HAS SURVIVORS OF THE CLAN MACTAVISH

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. MADRID, via London, Feb. 23.—Flying the German naval ensign and in charge of a prize crew the British steamship Westburn, of 2,018 tons, has arrived at the port of Santa Cruz de Tenerife, according to despatches from the Canary Islands to-day. The Westburn asked the hospitality of the Spanish government "pending the making of repairs."

The Westburn is in command of a German prize crew consisting of one officer and seven men. She has on board 206 prisoners taken from six British and one Belgian vessel, all except one of which are believed to have been destroyed by a mysterious German raider. One of the members of the prize crew wore a cap bearing, according to the Tenerife despatch, the inscription "S. M. S. Moebius." This is assumed to be meant after slinking a British vessel in the Atlantic placed their crews, or part of them, on the British passenger liner Appam in charge of Lieut. Hans Berg and a prize crew of twenty-two and sent the young officer away with the command "Bring her into an American port or sink her."

British Survivors Aboard.

Among the prisoners aboard the Westburn are part of the crew of the British steamship Clan MacTavish, sunk according to its captain, by the Moosow on January 12 last off the coast of Brazil. This fact, coupled with the inscription on one of the sailor's caps, connects the Westburn with the exploit of that sea rover. A third vessel, more than three weeks ago—on February 14—the British liner Appam, of nearly 4,000 tons, at that time reported "lost," entered Hampton Roads in charge of Lieut. Hans Berg, commanding a prize crew of twenty-two and sent the young officer away with the command "Bring her into an American port or sink her."

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CURB BROKERS PLAN TO MOVE INDOORS

Radical Reorganization and Ticker Service Are Likely to Follow.

Wall Street heard yesterday that a special committee has been appointed by the New York Curb Market Association to move the outside market into a building within a block of its present location, thus stamping out the objectionable features and evils which under present conditions cannot be eliminated entirely.

NOT TO END AMERICAN CAN CO. IF IT BEHAVES

Baltimore, Feb. 23.—In an opinion handed down today in the United States District Court Judge Ross held that he would not order the dissolution of the American Can Company, but retain the bill filed against it by the government.

The court holds that "while it [the American Can Company] had its origin in unlawful acts and thereby acquired a power which may be harmful to the public, it is not in any event was contrary to the policy of Congress as embodied in the statute, if for some time past has used that power with the whole rather than for the whole."

FUMES ROW IN SUPREME COURT

La Guardia Asks Leave to Proceed Against New Jersey Concerns.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—F. H. La Guardia, Deputy Attorney-General of the State of New York, filed a motion in the United States Supreme Court to-day asking leave to sue the New Jersey Manufacturing Company, the Midland Lined Seed Company, the Corn Products Company and the Barrett Manufacturing Company.

DISMISS HELP, SAVE, IS PLEA.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. LONDON, Feb. 23.—The press bureau of the national organizing committee on war savings issued an appeal to-day addressed to employers of domestic servants in large houses.

The appeal urges that the householders drastically reduce the staffs of servants, close part of their houses, take simpler meals and sacrifice garden luxuries, especially hot-houses, in order to save money and release labor for useful purposes.

GERMANS REPORT BIG GAIN AT VERDUN

Pierce French Line Almost 2 Miles. Capturing 3,000 Men. Berlin Says.

HEAVY OFFENSIVE GROWS

Seven Army Corps in Attack —Paris Admits Loss, Says Enemy Paid Dear.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. LONDON, Feb. 23.—The battle north of Verdun, precipitated by the offensive of the German army under command of the Crown Prince, which was begun Monday night, is increasing in intensity. The German official statement issued to-day claims the taking of the French positions to a depth of three kilometers (a mile and seven-eighths) on a ten kilometer front (six miles and a quarter) in the region of the village of "Cote de Meuse." More than 3,000 French were taken prisoners, the German statement says, and the French also lost heavily in killed and wounded and in material captured.

German Attack Persists.

The Crown Prince's attack on the Verdun sector resulted on Monday, its first day, in the capture of a stronghold in certain advances, French trenches at Brabant-sur-Meuse, between the forest of Hautel and L'Herbebois. They were taken after a day of fighting in which they had penetrated at some points.

Snake Bites Mrs. Archbold.

Bitten in Left Leg, She Kills Daughter-in-Law.

THOMASVILLE, Ga., Feb. 23.—After being bitten by a large rattlesnake late this afternoon Mrs. John F. Archbold, daughter-in-law of John D. Archbold, head of the Standard Oil Company, shot and killed her daughter-in-law.

BARRED FROM YALE BY ACCENT

Harvard Professor's Talk Described as "Too English."

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Feb. 23.—According to a statement made today by Prof. John Wesley Weizel, an eminent Harvard professor because of his Harvard accent, he will no longer be asked to preach to Yale students in the college chapel.

German Official Report.

Following is the German official report: In the neighborhood of the trenches captured by our troops February 21 to the east of Souchez the positions of the enemy were considerably damaged by mining operations.

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PHONES HE'S SLAYER, IS CAUGHT BY WIRE

Police Locate Man Who Shot Woman and Order His Seizure.

CALLS IT AN ACCIDENT

Detectives Find Him in a Saloon With Eleven Men Guarding Him.

"Hello! Is this 3100 Spring?" asked a man's voice over the wire of Patrolman Julius E. Scheffer, a wide-awake telephone operator at Police Headquarters, at 7:02 o'clock last night. "Sure thing," replied Scheffer. "What do we do for you?"

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CONGRESS DEFIES WILSON; HIS U-BOAT POLICY TO FORCE U. S. INTO WAR, SAY LEADERS

Threatens to Put Ban on Armed Ship Travel Over His Head.

AGAIN HE INSISTS HE OPPOSES WARNING

Tells Senator Stone Rights of U. S. Citizens Must Be Protected.

STATE DEPARTMENT TAKEN BY SURPRISE

Many of Wilson's Influential Friends in Congress Deserting Him.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—A grave turn in the submarine controversy came to-day, when formidable opposition flared up in Congress to President Wilson's determination to force a showdown with Germany.

Wilson's Talk of a Break Stuns State Department

Officials Say U. S. Could Not Consistently Shut Doors to Further U Boat Discussion With Germany—Should Await Allies' Replies.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—State Department circles to-night seemed amazed over the sudden wave of apprehension which has swept through the House and Senate following the publication of the details of the conference at the White House on Monday night, when the President met Senators Stone and Kern, and Representative Flood.

Wilson in Worst Plight.

Not since the submarine issue was raised in the President's first message in such a discouraging predicament as tonight. At the moment when he needs the strongest support to carry his issue with Germany to a successful conclusion he finds himself deserted by many of his influential leaders in Congress.

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