

GERMANS CAPTURE PORT OF RIGA.

SHAMEFUL COWARDICE ON PART OF RUSSIANS—ALLIES' SUCCESS ON WESTERN FRONTIER.

Riga, Russia's big port on the Gulf of Riga, is in the hands of the Germans and its garrison and the civilian population are in retreat eastward.

Following up rapidly the advantage they gained in driving the Russians across the Dvina river on both sides of Uskull last Saturday, the Germans threw bridges across this stream and soon were on the heels of the former defenders, some of whom showed resistance, but others of whom showed the white feather, giving the invaders no trouble in marching up the eastern bank of the Dvina toward Riga, fifteen miles distant. Seeing the disaffection and the inability to stem the tide of the advance, the Russian commander ordered an evacuation.

With the falling back of the Russians from the city proper and the advance of the Germans northward along both sides of the stream, the Russians still defending the western bank around Dahlen, seemingly are in danger of being caught between the two fast-moving bodies of the enemy and made prisoner.

Behind them the Russians in their retreat from Riga are laying the country in waste, burning villages and farms. Whether the city itself remains intact has not yet been made known, but doubtless the guns in the fortress and the ammunition stores either were removed or destroyed to prevent them falling into the hands of the Germans.

Aside from the strategic value of controlling the Gulf of Riga, and of a base nearer the mouth of the Gulf of Finland, at the head of which Petrograd is situated, for the moment it is impossible to see the importance of the German gain, especially with the near approach of winter, when military operations in this northern region are almost impossible.

On none of the other fronts have there been operations of great moment, except the Austro-Italian theater, where the Italians have made further progress on the Bainsizza plateau and in the Brestovizza valley and at various points along the line have repulsed fresh counter-attacks launched by Austrians. Throughout this entire theater violent artillery duels are in progress from Tolmino to the sea.

Advices to the Italian embassy in Washington are to the effect that in the present offensive the Austrians have lost more than 128,000 men. Reports from Udine, Italy, give the Austrian losses as one-third of the first line army.

The batteries of Field Marshal Haig are still pouring an incessant fire against the German trenches in Flanders, but as yet the anticipated new dash by his men to capture them has not started. Doubtless the knocking down of the defenses has not reached the limits which the British commander always requires before he throws his infantrymen into the fray.

On the remainder of the front in the west, held by the British, there have been the usual trench-raiding operations, in one of which south of Monachy-Le-Preux German dugouts and machine guns were destroyed and some prisoners taken.

Artillery duels, which are somewhat violent in the Verdun region, are taking place along the front where the French are facing the Germans. No infantry actions of importance have occurred.

OFF FOR CAMP JACKSON

Williamsburg's First Quota for Men Left Here Yesterday in High Spirits

This county's first quota of five per cent of the men drafted for military service under the selective draft act, consisting of twelve fine looking young fellows, left Kingstree on train No 80 yesterday morning for Columbia where they will report to Camp Jackson. To be certain that the five per cent could be mustered for the draft the local board sent out summons to eighteen men, six as alternates to take the place of any absentee. Those who left yesterday morning were:

J B Lovett, Cooper; Grover C Johnson, Lane; Clinton A. Clarkson, Heinemann; Kilgo Evans, Trio; William P Camlin, Trio; Thomas E Johnson, Vox; B B Goldston, Kingstree; David McC Coker, Cades; Chester A Camlin, Trio; J McD Calder, Cades; Henry C Johnson, Johnsonville; Ernest Cribb, Bloomingvale.

Alternates: J McD Calder, Cades; Louis F Harrington, Greelyville; Leo Hanna; Richard A Hughes, Hemingway; Grover C Wall, Johnsonville, and Dr W C Rogers, Hemingway.

W L Childress was summoned and was designated as one of the twelve to go, but failed to report here and J McD Calder was sent in his stead.

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A SURVEY OF STATE POLITICS

JOE SPARKS SIZES UP THE SITUATION AS IT APPEARS IN COLUMBIA AT PRESENT.

In spite of the all-absorbing and unusual interest in the preparation for war some South Carolinians have turned their attention to the political issues. The 1918 campaign at the present time gives promise of being most interesting. However, it is entirely possible that developments on the Western front may cause the people of the State to forget entirely the matter of politics.

The first political announcement of the year of interest was made by C L Blease, former Governor, who has been running for one office or another for more than a score of years. Mr Blease announced positively that he would not be a candidate for Governor next year. Of course this statement is subject to revision. The minor lights in the Blease organization have been clamoring for a chance at the Governor's race, and it now seems that the leader of the faction will step aside and let some of his lieutenants have a try at the pie. Among those who will probably be in the race for Governor on the Blease ticket are: Thos H Peoples, now serving as attorney general; W A Stuckey, well known and successful farmer of Bishopville in Lee county; John G Richards, member of the railroad commission, and possibly others.

Mr Blease has stated that he would not be a candidate for any office unless urged or called upon by the members of his faction. There is a possibility that he will be in the race for the United States Senate to succeed Senator B R Tillman. Senator Tillman has made no announcement as to whether he will ask for re-election, although it is thought that he will be in the race. If Mr Blease enters the race for the Senate there will be others. Among those mentioned are: N B Dial of Laurens; Jasper W Talbert of Edgefield county; W P Pollock of Cheraw, and others.

There is another angle to the situation. It is entirely possible that Mr Blease will confine his efforts to being elected to Congress from the Seventh Congressional district. A F Lever, now serving from the district has made a national reputation by his work as chairman of the House committee on agriculture and especially has he gained recognition for handling the food legislation in such a statesman like manner. He has been considering the matter of entering the race for the United States Senate and would make a formidable opponent for any man in South Carolina. Mr Lever has been too busy attending to the affairs of the nation in Washington to give much thought to politics.

Over in Lexington county much opposition has been created against Mr Lever because of his thorough going American stand on the war issues. There are many who do not believe that he could carry his own county in the congressional race. However, the other counties of the district would re-elect him over Mr Blease or any other man who might offer.

Robert A Cooper of Laurens is considered just now the most formidable man in the race for Governor. Who ever is the next Governor of South Carolina will have to make a second race with Robert A Cooper. Other discussed candidates for Governor are: Andrew J Bethea, now serving as Lieutenant Governor; Thos F McLeod of Bishopville and former Lieutenant Governor. Then there is John T Duncan of Columbia, who is always in the race. Opposition may develop to some

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DRAFTED MEN AT CAMP JACKSON.

237, SOUTH CAROLINA'S FIRST CONTINGENT, REPORT FOR DUTY IN NATIONAL ARMY.

Columbia, Sept 5:—Two hundred and thirty-seven men from South Carolina drafted for service in the national army arrived at Camp Jackson and were mustered into federal service this morning.

The drafted men from North Carolina and Florida arrived this afternoon, along with the remainder of South Carolina's increment, and were promptly mustered into the army.

Throughout the morning trains bearing quotas from various counties in the State arrived in the capital city. The morning's arrivals were brought to Camp Jackson on a special train, which left Columbia at 11:30 o'clock, which the exception of the troops from the counties of Berkeley, Charleston, Darlington, Georgetown, Lee, Marlboro and Sumter, which were brought direct to the camp by the trains upon which they left their homes.

Columbia's foremost men and women welcomed the incoming drafted men at the union station. Brig Gen F H Barth, commander of Camp Jackson; Major Lewis A Griffith and others joined in the ovations that were given each detachment of men as they detrained. The Columbia Chapter of the Red Cross society erected a lunch stand at the union station and all incoming men were sumptuously fed with sandwiches, coffee and various delectables.

Noting the very unusual enthusiasm displayed by the drafted men, an army officer remarked:

"This sort of spirit will make the best army on earth."

Following are the detachments which arrived at Camp Jackson this morning, with their detachment conductors and number:

Columbia 10, Richland county 10, Florence 14, D S Dubose; Marion 8, G A McIntyre; Williamsburg 12, Bratt Lovett; Horry 12, J P Dearborn, Jr; Berkeley 7; Charleston 12, Darlington 8, Georgetown 7, Lee 10, Marlboro 13, Sumter 13, Saluda 10, W W Steadman; Aiken 19, W R Phillips; York No 1 6, G A Beach; York No 2 6, Carl J Goulden; Dillon 10, B J McCutcheon, and Clarendon 10.

of the members to Congress because of their vote on the war issues. It is not believed that a man will be beat because of his position in favoring the defense of American honor. It is understood in Columbia that Wyatt Aiken will enter the race against Fred H Dominick in the Third district.

Interest in South Carolina politics is dwindling. The factional lines are not so bitterly drawn as a few years ago. The war may be the means of eliminating factional lines and cause the men of the State to give more attention to issues than to personalities.

YORK COUNTY MAY BE SHOCKED

GRAND JURY WILL BE CALLED TO INVESTIGATE LYNCHING OF NEGRO PREACHER.

York, Sept 3:—"W T Sims came to his death at the hands of parties unknown to the jury." Such was the verdict of the jury of inquest into the killing of Rev Watson Sims, a negro, near here August 23, which was rendered at 5:45 this afternoon. The coroner's jury was dismissed and announcement was made that the grand jury would be called to meet Monday morning to continue the investigation.

A crowd of more than 500 people, most of them from the community in which the tragedy occurred, filled the court house here long before the inquest was resumed this morning. Practically every business man in Sharon closed his place of business for the day and came here. More than 200 negroes were present.

The ninth arrest in connection with the affair was made this afternoon when T R Penninger, a blacksmith of Sharon, and a man who has many friends, was lodged in jail. He is the father of Fred Penninger, who was placed in jail the morning the dead body of Sims was found. What evidence there is against the senior Penninger has not been divulged.

Little testimony of value came out at the hearing today. Solicitor Henry was present and he put in a busy day. The authorities are confident now they know every man in the crowd who killed Sims and all will probably be arrested before the grand jury meets Monday. They say

they know every essential detail connected with the tragedy.

The whole county will undergo more or less of a shock when announcement of arrests yet to be made is published. Men in positions of trust will likely have to clear themselves of the charge of being parties to the lynching.

Nobody was surprised at the inquest jury's verdict today. With what little evidence was before them they could not have done otherwise. The grand jury's investigation next Monday will be more searching and thorough.

T F McDow, Esq, of this place, has been retained to defend the nine men now in jail charged with complicity in the lynching.

Town Election Tuesday

The primary for the nomination of municipal officers: mayor, six aldermen and one commissioner of public works for the town of Kingstree, was held Tuesday.

L W Gilland, Esq, the only candidate offering for mayor, was nominated, receiving 125 votes.

There being no opposition to Mr Lee for re-election as commissioner of public works, he was nominated by 128 votes.

Candidates for aldermen were voted for as follows:

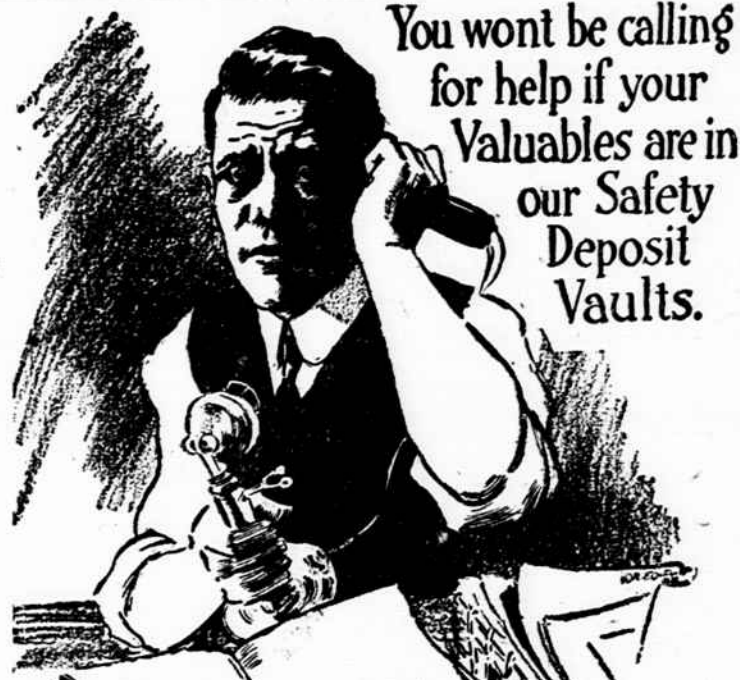
F W Fahey	111
Thos McCutchen	108
H A Miller	106
Harry Britton	88
T E Arrowsmith	80
Claude J Thompson	70
W F Tolley	58
W L Taylor	56
W E Nesmith	56
F Earle Bradham	40

The six first named gentlemen are the nominees which is equivalent to election. Of the three members of the present Board of Aldermen offering for re-election, namely, Miller, Britton and Tolley, two were chosen.

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