

The Watchman and Southern.

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"Be Just and Fear not—Do all the ends Thou Aimest at be thy Country's, Thy God's and Truth's."

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STUDYING PEACE PROPOSAL.

GREAT CARE MUST BE USED IN FRAMING REPLY TO PONTIFF.

No Concrete Step Possible Till State Department Officials Have Exhausted Every Possibility of Being Drawn Into Untenable Position.

Washington, Aug. 17.—That the government is determined to give Pope Benedict's peace proposals the most deliberate and painstaking consideration before framing a reply was evidenced today again by developments both at the White House and the State department.

The cabinet, holding its first session since the note arrived, avoided any general discussion of the subject because President Wilson is understood to feel there must be a searching analysis of the questions raised before such discussion would be profitable. Secretary Lansing and his advisers, on whom most of the responsibility for making this analysis will rest, continued study of the pontiff's suggestions with every indication that it probably would be several days before any concrete step could be expected.

Meantime the undercurrent of official thought manifestly continued to trend toward a conviction that the grand alliance will find some of the proposals in the Vatican note very difficult to accept.

As the declared purpose of the pontiff's note was to present concrete bases for peace negotiations, it is regarded as highly essential that the exact meaning of every phrase be carefully weighed, keeping in mind that in the event the United States decides to entertain the proposals it will find itself irrevocably committed in the negotiations by the construction given at present.

On the other hand, should the president decide not to entertain the peace proposals at this stage, that also could not be done briefly or cursorily.

It was said at the state department it was not possible to predict when an answer could be returned. Of course, the note is undergoing a probably similar process of careful analysis in every one of the entente foreign offices.

Within a few days exchanges may begin between Washington and the entente capitals and perhaps between Secretary Lansing and the diplomatic representatives of these powers here.

NO WEEVILS THIS YEAR.

Export Says Cotton Boll Pest is Within Seventy to Eighty Miles of South Carolina.

Alken, Aug. 17.—Except for the intense cold weather last winter the western part of South Carolina would very likely be overrun with the boll weevil at the present time, according to G. M. Anderson of the department of agriculture, in charge of the boll weevil work in South Carolina, who has just returned to his headquarters at Alken after a trip throughout a portion of Georgia, where he went to determine the exact location of the cotton pest at the present time. As it is, says Mr. Anderson, there is no way of determining when the boll weevil will enter South Carolina, but there is no certainty that the pest will not be here before Christmas. The indications are that this year's cotton is safe, however, but there is no telling what may happen before Christmas. The nearest point Mr. Anderson located the boll weevil to the South Carolina line was 70 to 80 miles. Last December the weevil was reported seven miles northwest of Augusta, in Richmond, one of the border counties of Georgia, and the same distance from Savannah, which would indicate that the weevil was all the way at that time from Savannah to Augusta. The cold weather of last January seems to have killed the weevil, otherwise they would be in this State at present. Mr. Anderson says it is possible that a storm may blow the weevil all over South Carolina in one day, but he does not regard that as possible. He looks for the weevil in South Carolina, however, in the regular course of events in the next few months.

FAMOUS CATHEDRAL BURNED.

St. Quentin Destroyed by Fire of Unknown Origin.

French Front, France, Aug. 17.—The famous old St. Quentin cathedral was apparently destroyed by fire Wednesday night. The cause is unknown, but it was certainly not from French artillery fire as Berlin has reported.

URGE MORE WHEAT.

OFFICIALS STRESS NEED FOR LARGER CROP.

South Carolina Called on to Add 47 Per Cent. to Wheat Acreage and More to Rye.

Atlanta, Aug. 17.—Need of a greater production of wheat and rye in the South, and especially in the Southeastern States, was emphasized at a conference here today between officials of the federal department of agriculture and representatives of many Southern agricultural colleges and State departments of agriculture. The conference was the second of a series to be held throughout the country in line with the department of agriculture's campaign effort to build a larger acreage of food producing crops.

Raymond A. Pearson, president of the Iowa State Agricultural College and recently appointed special assistant to Secretary Houston, explained at the conference that the government expected Georgia to increase its wheat acreage 100 per cent. over last year; South Carolina, 47 per cent.; Tennessee, 20 per cent.; Mississippi, 45 per cent.; Alabama, 50 per cent. He placed the increase in rye production asked of Georgia next year at 483 per cent.; Tennessee, 61 per cent.; South Carolina, 64 per cent.; Alabama, 100 per cent. Louisiana and Florida, he said, were not listed by the government as wheat and rye growing States.

Mr. Pearson announced at the conference that the federal department of agriculture had issued a bulletin on "Wheat Growing in the Southeastern States," which he stated would be distributed soon to farmers.

One of the greatest problems facing the department's campaign for increased production of the two crops, Mr. Pearson declared, was how to enlarge the acreage without affecting other important crops and interfering with crop rotation.

The government officials will leave tomorrow for Indianapolis, where a similar conference will be held, it was announced tonight.

GREAT CANADIAN POWDER PLANT DESTROYED.

Twenty Persons Reported Killed and Surrounding Country Covered by Dense Smoke.

Ottawa, Aug. 18.—First reports from the scene of the explosion at Curtis and Harvey Limited, Powder plant, Rigaud, Quebec, this morning say that two hundred and fifty were killed. The plant covers five square miles and employed five thousand men and women.

Montreal, Aug. 18.—All wire communication with Rigaud, the scene of the explosion, is interrupted. The Canadian Pacific has suspended operations on one line running close to the plant. Passing passengers on a train passing near have estimated the dead at twenty. The surrounding country is covered with a dense copper-colored smoke.

OFF FOR GREENVILLE.

Florence Field Hospital Corps Ordered to Camp Sevier.

Florence, Aug. 17.—The Field Hospital Corps which has been in camp here since mobilization orders were received leaves tonight at 10 o'clock for Greenville on hurry up orders to open the field hospital at Camp Sevier. The Coast Line has made all provisions to move the men comfortably and speedily to their station. They have been striking tents and packing baggage today and will be ready to pull out when the time arrives. This command has in charge a very valuable lot of property of the government, some \$65,000 worth. The hospital is well provided with all the necessities for work in the field in war time. It is one of the best equipped units in the service and hopes to be one of the two corps that will be equipped with motor trucks for field work. The people of Florence have every reason to feel proud of this body of men, which belongs peculiarly to them.

MOTOR REPAIR UNITS.

New Division of Army to Be Organized.

Washington, Aug. 17.—The organization of thirty-five hundred men into three units to repair motor cars and other transportation vehicles for army use in France has been ordered. They will probably be used behind the European battle lines.

RUSH CAMP WORK.

ORGANIZATION GOES FORWARD WITH DISPATCH.

Mobilization to Begin September 5. General Moore to Direct South Carolina Movement.

Columbia, Aug. 18.—Work is being rushed at Camp Jackson for the first arrivals of the National Army, which is to be mobilized September 5. At that time 30 per cent. of the quotas from North and South Carolina, Florida and Puerto Rico will be called. Number of men to report from these four military districts is 45,215. A second 30 per cent. will be added September 15; a third 30 per cent. October 1, and the remaining 10 per cent. not later than October 10.

Mobilization of the South Carolina contingent will be directed from the office of the adjutant general. General Moore will direct the movement of the troops in the same manner as this office served in mobilizing the National Guard.

Many officers are beginning to report at Camp Jackson to prepare for the advance to begin September 5. An additional unit for the quartermaster's department reported yesterday from Rhode Island. Preparations were being made late yesterday for several hundred cooks expected at once.

The street railway has been taxed heavily to meet the exigencies of the early morning and late afternoon rush. Twenty-one cars were parked in the camp yard yesterday afternoon to handle the charge for city. From 5,000 to 7,000 passengers are being transferred over the car lines daily. Approximately a week must yet elapse before satisfactory schedules can be maintained. The track is settling rapidly to an even grade and squads of workmen are disposed all along the route tightening the loose joints and removing the irregularities in grade.

GERMANS FAIL TO RETAKE POSITIONS LOST TO BRITISH.

British Also Successful in Naval Engagement and Air Raid.

The German army made another effort early today to recapture the ground taken by the British near Lens. London reports there was sharp fighting northwest of the city but Germans were completely repulsed. In the vicinity of Ypres the Germans kept up a living big gun fire but did not attempt any infantry attacks. The British report a naval engagement between destroyers in which one German destroyer and two mine sweepers were severely damaged. British ships were not damaged. The British also report a successful air raid in Flanders.

Successful Russian Offensive.

Petrograd, Aug. 18.—Russians on an offensive on the Caucassian front took several villages.

ARRESTED AS GERMAN SPY.

Lieut. Schneider Nabbed on Presidential Warrant.

San Francisco, Aug. 16.—Lieut. Irving F. Schneider, of the German navy, was arrested here on a presidential warrant as a spy three days ago, department of justice officials announced today. Many maps and papers, declared to be of an incriminating nature, were found in his possession.

With Schneider was arrested Theo Kasinger, a former department store employe, who is accused of aiding Schneider in obtaining maps and other military information. Four Austrian officers also are being sought.

By the president's order the prisoners are being held incommunicado without bail and with a privilege of a hearing.

Among Schneider's effects was an iron cross, said to have been received by him for services rendered in the German navy. He recently married a young woman of Oakland, Cal.

Federal authorities said Schneider tried to join an aviation corps and later a department of the military service here, but was prevented from doing so by reasons not announced.

SPANISH STRIKE SUBSIDES.

Press Reports Indicate That Conditions are Becoming Normal.

Paris, Aug. 17.—A dispatch from Madrid to the Associated Press says the news from all over Spain indicates that everything is again becoming normal. The reports show that several persons were killed or wounded during the height of the strike disorders.

GUARDSMEN TO GO TO FRONT.

TWENTY-SIXTH TO ACCOMPANY FORTY-SECOND TO FRANCE, MAKING TOTAL OF 38,000 MEN.

Final Allotment of State Troops Among Army Cantonments Announced by the War Department.

Washington, Aug. 17.—Two army divisions instead of one, comprising a total of at least 38,000 men, probably will make up the contingent of the National Guard to go to France. Although no official confirmation was obtainable, there were evidences today that the composite Forty-second division, whose organization recently was announced, will be accompanied by the Twenty-sixth, made up of New England guardsmen. No New England States are among the 26 having representation in the composite division.

The commander of the Twenty-sixth is Major Gen. Clarence Edwards, now acting as commander of the Department of the Northeast, and it is presumed he would go to Europe with the division.

A report was current today that sufficient shipping will be available for forwarding two divisions within the time fixed for the departure of the Forty-second and that the Twenty-sixth had been elected to go because it comes from a compact area and is composed, for the most part, of regiments of high rating.

The Forty-second division is being mobilized at Mineola, Long Island, under the new European standard which requires that the strength of the individual infantry regiments be increased more than 50 per cent.

The process necessitates the addition of some units not included in the original order, for where one company of infantry, for instance, was to have come from any State, companies have been consolidated to give the 250 men necessary. Thus hundreds of men have been transferred to fill up the regiments selected to go. All the other National Guard divisions will go through a similar process on their arrival at their divisional camp. No hint has been given as to the probable time it will require to prepare the Forty-second for embarkation. As it is a wholly new organization, it is logical to assume that it will take some time to get it into working shape.

The original plan for a composite National Guard expeditionary force is known to have provided for two divisions made up of the composite plan.

The war department announced today the final allotment of State troops among the army cantonments; and made public the list of colonels assigned to regimental commands in the various divisions both of the national army and the National Guard. Secretary Baker today approved the disposition of the 687,000 men of the first draft as recommended by the provost marshal general. The average number of men allotted to each of the sixteen cantonments is approximately 43,000.

Those allotted to Atlanta, include the troops from Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, (part) 40,785. Columbia, S. C., South Carolina, North Carolina, Porto Rico and Florida, 45,215.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL ARREST STRIKE LEADERS.

Will Wait Until They Commit Overt Act by Ordering Strike.

Washington, Aug. 18.—The president is making a personal study of the situation in the northwest where Industrial Workers of the World threaten a widespread strike.

Department of labor conciliators reported that the situation seems little or no better, but department of justice agents reported little change. In the recommendation said to have been reached between State and federal representatives at a conference all strike leaders will be summarily arrested as soon as strike begins.

An official in close touch with the situation surrounding the threatened miners' strike in the Birmingham district said he believed the strike could be averted by a development to be expected soon.

TWO NEW JOBS.

Assistant Secretaries of Agriculture Appointed.

Washington, Aug. 17.—Clarence Ousley, of Texas, and Raymond Pearson, of Iowa, have been nominated by the president as assistant secretaries of agriculture, under the provisions of the food survey bill.

NAVY LEAGUE DENOUNCED.

DEPARTMENT BREAKS WITH THAT ORGANIZATION.

"False and Slanderous Charge" Leads Daniels to Refuse to Receive Its Representatives.

Washington, Aug. 17.—All unofficial connection between the navy department and the Navy League was severed today by an order of Secretary Daniels as a result of the recent action of the league headquarters in charging that investigation of the recent fatal explosion at Mare Island Navy Yard was being blocked by influence of labor interests.

The secretary gave notice to the public that representatives of the league would not be admitted hereafter to any naval station or ship and that nothing whatever would be accepted by the navy from the league as at present officered and managed.

Thousands of women throughout the country are knitting sweat suits, wristlets and other articles for sailors under the auspices of the league.

The notice follows: "In view of the slanderous and false statements of the Navy League reflecting upon the honesty of the naval administration and the integrity of officers of the navy, responsibility for which has been assumed by officials of the league, notice is hereby given to the public that the navy department has directed that no officer, agent or representative of the Navy League will be admitted to any naval station, naval reservation or ship in the navy."

"Persons who contribute to the Navy League in the future will do so with the understanding that the navy department will not permit the acceptance of anything whatever from that organization as at present officered and managed."

When the league published its statement, saying it had reliable information that the Mare Island explosion was the result of a conspiracy and that the navy's inquiry was blocked by labor interests, Secretary Daniels denounced it as false and libelous and wrote Robert M. Thompson, president of the organization, that the best service he and his fellow officers could perform would be to resign. Mr. Thompson replied with an offer to resign if the secretary also would get out.

The Navy League is a civilian organization formed some 12 years ago to work for enlargement and improvement of the navy. Its membership includes many retired naval officers. Nine out of ten of the members, Mr. Daniels said today, are patriotic citizens doing a good work. Investigation of the Mare Island tragedy still is going on and no report has been made. The secretary in his statement said it had been current rumor that the magazine was set off by a time fuse but that, according to custom, no publicity had been given the facts pending a report from the naval board.

FAVORS PEACE MEETING.

Kerensky Says Send Delegates to Stockholm Conference.

London, Aug. 16.—A Petrograd dispatch to The Daily News says Premier Kerensky denied that he told Albert Thomas, Socialist member of the French war council, that he personally opposed the Stockholm Socialist conference. On the contrary, he thought it very important. He declared that any opposition to the conference by the allied governments and any difficulties put in the way of the delegates was simply playing into the hands of the Germans.

Premier Kerensky's statement regarding the Stockholm peace conference has made a strong impression in London and it may materially influence the British government's policy. The Manchester Guardian says the situation may change rapidly and that the reasons for the government's opposition to the conference may disappear. The newspaper also says that the wishes of the Russian government should be decisive.

LOST IN PACIFIC.

Five Ships Long Overdue Believed to Have Been Sunk by Bombs.

Pacific Port, Aug. 16.—Five ships—three American, one Japanese and one British—which are overdue here have been practically given up as lost by the owners and agents. Mariners believe they were blown up by time bombs set in the cargoes by enemy agents. A sailor reported finding fragile bottles of acid set in powder which would be ignited if the glass was broken. The American vessels were sailing craft.

NEW LIBERTY LOAN.

RATE MAY BE RAISED TO FOUR PER CENT.

Total of Over Seven Billion Dollars' Worth Soon to Be Put on Market.

Washington, Aug. 17.—Issuance of \$7,538,945,000 worth of 4 per cent federal bonds, subject only to income supertax, war profits and excess profits taxes, and designed to provide \$4,000,000,000 for further allied loans and to retire the \$3,000,000,000 non-taxable 3 1-2 per cent. issue now authorized to cover loans to the allies is contemplated in suggestions submitted by Secretary McAdoo today to the house ways and means committee.

Receipt of the suggestions caused immediate activity among both Democrats and Republicans of the committee, many of whom are opposed to the details of the secretary's plan. While taxing the bonds is generally favored, something more concrete than the secretary suggests, such as a flat levy of 6 per cent. on the interest rate or application of the income tax, appears to be more generally desired by house members.

The 4 per cent. interest proposal probably will be accepted by the committee. The secretary has impressed members with the necessity for prompt disposal of the bonds and the possibility of attaining this result by an increased rate. Only a most unreasonable tax rate, it is agreed, can prevent a lively demand for the bonds at 4 per cent. The fact that they will be exempt from all save federal taxation is in itself sufficient inducement to create a good market.

One of the principal arguments advanced for the secretary's plan is that it would protect the small investors. Surtaxes would not apply under the revenue bill now before the senate on incomes of less than \$5,000. Variations in war and excess profits taxes are so great that it is difficult to present even a general idea of what rates might be collected through such sources.

Calculations on super-tax returns, however, are easily made. Under the proposed law, for instance, the supertax on \$375,000 worth of bonds would be \$250 and \$500 on \$500,000 worth. Thus the holder of \$375,000 worth of 4 per cent. bonds would receive a net income of 3 15-16 per cent., while the holder of a 500,000 allotment would receive 3 9-10 per cent.

Members of both parties in the house are demanding the establishment of a definite bond marketing and retirement policy.

One of the chief objections to the secretary's plan urged at the capitol is that it proposed to leave the investor largely subject to the whims of future congresses and the fortunes of war.

Representative Moore of Pennsylvania issued a statement today indicating his belief that Republicans would support authorization of the bonds unreservedly.

"The disposition of congress for the present," he said, "is to let the president have what he wants for the purposes of the war. The administration believes it to be its bounden duty now to help the allies to the limit. We are in the war, it is said, and we can not back out. We must help sustain the allies as they go into winter quarters."

MORE CANNED GOODS.

Three Hundred Per Cent. Over the Amount in 1916.

Washington, Aug. 17.—Three hundred per cent. more canned and dried foods were put up in 33 States of the Union this year than in 1916, according to preliminary reports to the department of agriculture. Unofficial reports coming from the 15 remaining States indicate similar increases.

This is a record-breaking year in food conservation says the department statement today.

Will Continue to Sink All Uncertified Hospital Ships.

Madrid, Aug. 18.—Germany agreed to protect hospital ships from submarine attack provided there is a neutral commissioner on every ship to see that only sick and wounded are carried. The agreement was handed to the government by the German attache.

Normal Temperatures and Fair Weather.

Washington, Aug. 18.—Normal temperatures, with generally fair weather is the forecast for the South Atlantic and Gulf States for the coming week.