

FRENCH BEGIN ATTACK ON BOTH SIDES OF YPRES.
 Thought to Be The Beginning of An Important Operation—Germans Try to Break up Attack—Italians Attacking on Wide Front—British Advance at Ypres.

The French this morning began an offensive on the Verdun front along a sector eleven miles wide on both sides of the Meuse. The first reports give few details, but the battle is developing favorable conditions to the French. Whether it is a major operation or not is not stated, but it is indicated that it is an important one. The Germans have been attacking on this front recently, probably with the knowledge that the French were planning an important operation and with the intention of breaking it up. The French bombarded this front heavily during the past few days. The British lines around Ypres were advanced slightly.

There is heavy fighting on the Italian front where the Italians are attempting to move forward on a thirty-seven mile front. The British dropped several tons of bombs in Belgium in a great air raid Saturday night.

TWO TRAITORS SENTENCED.
 Members of Exemption Board Sent to Prison.

New York, Aug. 28.—Dr. S. J. Bernfeldt and Louis Cherey, former members of the draft exemption board, who were charged with conspiracy to obstruct the draft law, pleaded guilty just before the trial was to start. They were sentenced to two years each. Kalman Gruher, the alleged "go between" elected to stand trial.

What Makes Cooperation a Success.
 Clemson College, Aug. 16.—In order to make cooperation successful there must be some real service to perform and then there must be assurance of efficient management. When marketing facilities are lacking, when there is dishonesty among local buyers, when farmers or planters can save by buying and selling coordinately, then there is a distinct need for cooperation, then a farmers economic association should be called into existence.

Mr. Harold G. Powell, general manager of the California Fruit Growers' Exchange, and author of "Cooperation in Agriculture," says that cooperation must be born of necessity but according to L. H. D. Weld in his "The Marketing of Farm Products," this is going a little too far. It would be better to say that some tangible economical saving or improvement must result in order to make cooperation successful. The "truth of the matter is that the "Cooperative spirit" that we hear so much about, is the result rather than the cause of successful economic endeavor. In other words, if farmers, planters or growers find that it "pays" to cooperate, they will cooperate.

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Sumter Readers Are Learning the Way.
 It's the little kidney ills—
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 That may lead to dropsy and Bright's disease.
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FEDERAL LAND BANK.
 Fifty-five Associations Have Been Organized Since February 21 and Nearly Two Millions in Loans Granted.

Columbia, Aug. 18.—The federal land bank last night issued a statement showing the number of associations chartered up to August 15. The grand total shows that 55 charters have thus far been granted since the institution started on February 21 and loans granted amount to \$1,916,308. Eleven other charters have been asked for since this statement was prepared, and will no doubt be granted. If this is done the total number of charters will number 66 and the money loaned will be approximately \$2,500,000.

The bank is daily receiving many requests for loans. It wishes, however, to make plain that it does not loan money for current requirements, such as purchasing of fertilizers, supply bills and money for operating expenses. Money is loaned only for constructive farm work and farm improvements.

The bank now has 18 bank appraisers in the Third District, which embraces the State of South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida. Lee county has one association, the Peoples of Bishopville, with loans of \$68,900. Sumter county has no association chartered as yet.

KILLED IN AUTO WRECK.

Southern Train Smashes Into Truck at Barnwell.

Barnwell, Aug. 16.—Two men were killed and eight others more or less seriously injured at the Main Street crossing of the Southern railway here this morning when Southern train No. 35 crashed into an automobile truck owned by the county. The dead are: T. W. Black, foreman of the county chaingang, and Willie Rasor, negro convict, both of whom died while being taken to Columbia for medical attention. The injured are: B. R. Goss, white, driver of the truck, broken arm; Zeke Mathis, white, chaingang guard, hip injured; Jack Greene, white, chaingang guard, injured about head and body; Charlie Taylor of Sycamore, negro convict, injured about head and body; Inell Johnson of Allendale, negro convict, broken collarbone; Willie Bradley of Ulmer, negro convict, injured about face and neck; Quince Halt of Williston, negro convict, injured on the head; Isadore Jones of Williston, injured on leg. Jim Miller, Sam Taylor and Heyward Wicker, all negro convicts, of Blackwell escaped without injury. The big two ton truck was damaged considerably as was the cowcatcher on the locomotive.

The train, which was running between Columbia and Savannah, was in charge of Conductor Blanton, with Engineer U. M. Hicks of Columbia at the throttle. The crossing where the accident occurred is particularly dangerous, the vision of both engineer and driver being obscured for a considerable distance. After hitting the truck, which was turned completely around and headed in the opposite direction, the engineer brought his train to a stop a few hundred feet from the crossing. Physicians were summoned and first aid was given to the injured men, those who were most seriously hurt being taken to Columbia on the north bound train that passes here at 1 o'clock.

Sheriff J. B. Morris, who arrived on the scene shortly after the accident placed Engineer Hicks under arrest pending the outcome of the men's injuries, his train being held here until another engineer was brought from Blackville. No attempt has been made yet to determine who is responsible for the accident. It is understood that there is a division of opinion by those in a position to know as to whether or not the engineer blew his whistle and sounded his bell before approaching the crossing.

To The General Public.

The first annual picnic of the Black River Missionary Union will be held at old Salem "B. R." Church, Wednesday, August 29.

The following churches make up the Union: Salem "B. R.," Concord, New Harmony, Sardinia, Midway and Brewington. The committee has prepared a fine program. Dr. Wilkins and John Bradley of China, Rev. Luther McCutchen, of Korea, and Dr. J. O. Revis of Columbia, are expected to speak, with Rev. L. L. Legters of Bishopville as utility man.

Every one is invited to come and bring well filled basket, as we expect to give them value received for their time and all else that they put in it.

Mount Airy, Ga., Aug. 20.—In deciding the questions raised by Thos. E. Watson and others as to the constitutionality of the draft law, Federal Judge Speer held the law to be constitutional.

South Slandered.
 Greenville Piedmont.

Despite the federal department of agriculture's foolish assertions to the contrary, the South not only feeds itself but helps feed the balance of the nation. This has been demonstrated by the government's own figures. And yet the agricultural department persists in promulgating falsehoods as to this section? For instance its weekly news letter of July 14 contains this paragraph:

"As each person, it is calculated, consumes about three-fourths of a barrel of flour a year, and as the population of the Southern States is approximately 30,000,000, it is obvious that the general use of these wheat-flour substitutes would result in a marked reduction in the total quantity of wheat flour consumed in the South. On the basis of a total flour consumption in the Southern States of over 22,000,000 barrels, it has been estimated that if the practice became universal the use of 25 per cent of flour substitutes grown in the South would save over 5,500,000 barrels of flour. As a matter of fact, however, the saving would be far greater than this, because a much larger proportion of flour substitutes can be used in the preparation of biscuits than in bread. In view of this fact the total saving might amount to 10,000,000 barrels of white flour. All this flour, it must be remembered, is imported into the South from other sections, and the consumer must pay freight rates on it."

Read that last sentence again. It is rankly false. The Manufacturers Record resented that misrepresentation of the South and asked the department of agriculture for an explanation as to what States it classed as Southern and on what basis of computation it reached its conclusion as to the flour consumption of the South. The reply contained the following paragraphs:

"According to the World Almanac for 1912, the population of the South Atlantic States in 1910 was a little over 12,000,000; that of the East South Central states somewhat over 8,000,000, and that of the West South Central States was 8,500,000, making a total population for those Southern States mentioned a little over 29,000,000.

"The average annual consumption of flour in this country is about one barrel per capita. It was assumed that the Southern people did not eat so much wheat bread as the rest of the country, and because of that fact it was also assumed that about three-quarters of a barrel of flour per capita would approximate the amount of flour consumed. These are mere assumptions, and if they are not correct and you have any information which will give more correct data, we shall be very glad indeed, to receive the same."

There is some very effective satire in the Manufacturers Record's comment upon that letter. It says:

"The Census Department of the United States issues annually an estimate of the population of the country, but an official of the department of agriculture has to turn to the World Almanac of 1912 for the statistics of the South's population of 1910 in order to get the figures! Surely, a school of statistics should be established in Washington for the benefit of men who undertake to handle the government's figures. This is 1917, but a government official charged with the responsibility of issuing statements about the consumption of flour in the South finds nothing later than the figures of 1910, seven years ago, published in the World Almanac for 1912, five years ago. No wonder the Department of Agriculture is constantly putting forth the veriest trash! There are some bureaus in the Department of Agriculture which send out information of much value, but evidently there are other bureaus which need a radical overhauling.

"But even if we should take the figures of 1910 instead of the figures of 1916, the absurdity of the statement that all of the flour used in the South is 'brought from elsewhere' is strikingly illustrated. For in 1910 the production of wheat in the South Atlantic States, the East South Central States and the West South Central States, classed broadly under the term of Southern States in this report, was 113,992,000 bushels.

"In 1916 the production of wheat in these States was 125,642,000 bushels, or equal to 25,000,000 barrels of flour. Thus when we take into account the whole South as covered in the Agricultural Department's estimate, this than the Department of Agriculture section actually produces more flour estimates its consumption to be.

"There are some States in the Central South which produce much less wheat than their consumption, a few which produce little or none, but there are other States where the production of wheat is in excess of local demands.

"Just a little more intelligence in the handling of statistics bearing on the South, and, indeed, for that matter, on the country, is greatly needed

in some bureaus in the Department of agriculture.

"In this case the official statement has gone to the world that every barrel of flour of the 22,000,000 assumed to be used in the South is brought in from other sections, a direct slander against this section without the shadow of a foundation."

Why Are We at War?

(By William English Walling of The Vigilantes.)

Why should this question be asked? The greatest war of history has been waged for three years. The United States has been at war for four months. We have the largest number of newspapers and are the best informed people in the world. The war began to affect our pocket-books, on the whole unfavorably, from the first day it began. We were almost immediately involved in the most critical disputes with all the belligerents. Yet we are still told, even by such influential leaders as Senator Borah, that we do not know why we are at war.

"Why are we at war?" Why should such a humiliating question be asked among a great democratic people? There is but one answer. For three long years the ceaseless German propaganda has been penetrating every day to the most remote corners of the land, and it still continues under the pseudonym of "pacifism." These mountains of lies thus persistently and systematically spread over a thousand daily issues of a large part of our press during a period of three years cannot be removed within a few months. Indeed, it may be doubted if this devil's work by which so many Americans have been intellectually perverted and morally corrupted can be undone even by an equally long campaign of sound logic and of facts.

Were it not for this vile and bloody propaganda not one American man, woman or child would now need to ask the question, "Why are we at war?"

We are at war because "the arch-devils of despotism," having completely dominated one nation and successfully inoculated it with its intellectual and moral virus, having spread their mastery and system of lies to the subject-peoples they euphemistically call Allies, now seek a large if not a controlling voice over the high-seas, and in all parts of the earth where there is the slightest prospect of obtaining control—either through their plots and propaganda or through the butchery of a sufficient part of their inhabitants. And as long as this program succeeds or promises to succeed it has the fanatical support of the overwhelming majority of the German people, which for half a century the arch-devils have trained, perverted, and dehumanized for this purpose.

We are fighting to rid the world of despotism, which, driven from nearly every other country on the earth, aside from Germany and her Allies, now menaces the liberties of all mankind.

They All Mean Well.

"What's the matter?" asked the young doctor of a patient who seemed extremely pessimistic regarding his chances. "Oh, I don't know, doctor; but I feel that I shall never pull through here." "Nonsense, my boy—nonsense. Why, your case is absolutely the same as an illness I had years ago. Yet look at me—strong and hearty as ever!" "Yes," replied the patient, "but then I expect you had a good doctor!"

That Was Long Enough.

Henry, aged five, had been sent to a store to purchase a pair of stockings. "How long do you want them?" asked the clerk. "I don't want to borrow them," replied Henry. "I want 'em to keep."

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ESCAPED TEUTONS CAUGHT.

Recognized by Woman Lawyer in Georgia Town.

Chattanooga, Aug. 16.—William Wagner, Robert Auer and Gustav Hartwig, three Germans who escaped from the detention camp at Fort Oglethorpe, near here yesterday, were captured at Trenton, Ga., late today. They were recognized by Miss Elinore Coonrad, a woman lawyer, of this city. The fugitives were returned here and again imprisoned in the detention camp.

FIND WIRELESS PLANT.

Argentine Inquirers Locate Secret Station.

Buenos Ayres, Aug. 16.—A secret wireless station has been discovered

on the coast of the Territory of but by the Argentine navy de ment. The authorities believe station was to be used in communicating with suspicious vessels in South Atlantic.

AFTER THE SLACKERS.

Eight Men Taken Before Commissioner at Orangeburg.

Orangeburg, Aug. 16.—The authorities are hot in behind the slackers of Orangeburg and nearby counties. Already eight men have been brought before J. Leroy Dukes, United States commissioner, at Orangeburg, while numerous slackers have been reported in Orangeburg, Barnwell, Aiken and Dorchester counties. These persons will be arrested and brought before the commissioner.

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IN TO WIN

All hats are off to the men on the firing line who are defending our country's honor with their lives.

All hands are outstretched to those at home who are enlisted in the great cause of increased production and greater thrift.

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We invite conference.


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