

The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

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

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BLOODIEST BATTLE YET.

AUSTRIANS AND ITALIANS FIGHT TO A FINISH.

Tension Digston That That Crossed Plave River Killed, Drowned or Captured to The Last Man.

Italian Headquarters, Italy, Sunday, Nov. 18.—The Austrians who forced their way across the Plave river above Zenson have been thrown into the river and drowned, bayoneted, killed or captured, until not any of the enemy remains on the west bank at that point. The fight was one of the most fearful chapters of the war, and the most glorious. The wounded were so numerous that they have not yet received aid.

ON THE FIGHTING LINE.

Italians in France are Kept Busy With Artillery Fire.

With American Army in France, Sunday, Nov. 18.—Artillery fighting and patrol activities continue on the American sector. The infantry has not taken part in any of the engagements. Nothing of especial interest has been reported from the front since the past 24 hours.

ITALIANS STRIKE BACK.

Start Offensive on Asiago Plateau, Capturing Trenches.

Rome, Nov. 19.—The Italian forces have begun an offensive on the Asiago plateau and have occupied advanced elements of the trenches, the war office announced. Further efforts of the Teutons to cross the Plave river have been stopped.

Fighting at Verdun.

Paris, Nov. 19.—Heavy artillery fighting is still progressing on the Verdun front, east of the Meuse, says today's official report, but the night was comparatively calm everywhere.

CONTROL THE RAILROADS.

All Lines Will be Placed in The Hands of President Wilson if Crisis Arises.

Washington, Nov. 19.—Formal announcement was made today that the railroads of the United States had decided if a crisis should arise to place their interests in the hands of the president for protection and for such disposition as he may deem necessary for preventing the interruption of transportation during the war. The announcement is regarded as eliminating the possibility of a strike by giving the president a free hand when he meets the brotherhood leaders in conference Thursday.

ALIEN ENEMY PROCLAMATION.

Foreigners Must Register and Obtain Permit to Travel.

Washington, Nov. 19.—All alien enemies will be required to register and to obtain a permit to travel, under a proclamation issued today by President Wilson. Enemies are also prohibited from approaching within one hundred yards of water fronts, docks, etc. They are also forbidden to reside in the District of Columbia. The proclamation provides that an alien enemy shall not, except on public ferries, be found on any ocean, bay, river or other waters of the United States. They are forbidden to fly airplanes or balloons or from entering the Panama Canal zone. Only Germans will be affected.

WANT HIGHER INTEREST.

Some Federal Reserve Officers Favor Raising Rates.

Washington, Nov. 19.—A modification of the discount rates was discussed today at the federal reserve advisory commission's quarterly conference with the federal reserve board. Some officials seem to think rates should be raised slightly as a means of preventing inflation and promoting sound business.

MURDERERS ON TRIAL.

Mrs. Bianca DeSaules Faces Jury for Killing Husband.

Mineola, Nov. 19.—The trial of Mrs. Bianca DeSaules, who is charged with the murder of her divorced husband, John DeSaules, opened here today. It is expected the jury will be secured before evening.

KAISER TALKS PEACE.

Petrograd, Nov. 19.—Emperor William, according to a Petrograd newspaper, has informed the Russian soldiers and workmen's deputies, that he will treat for peace only with the legal successor to the imperial government or a constituent assembly.

RAILWAYS NEED HELP.

VANDERLIP AND WARBURG GIVE TESTIMONY.

Chairman of War Savings Committee Thinks Government May Have to Acquire Ownership.

Washington, Nov. 16.—Frank A. Vanderlip, New York banker and chairman of the government's war savings committee, and Paul M. Warburg, vice governor of the federal reserve board, called by the interstate commerce commission today as expert witnesses in the 15 per cent. advance rate case, testified that radical action was necessary to remedy the railroad financial situation.

Mr. Vanderlip was of the opinion the proposed rate increases only touched the surface of the situation, while Mr. Warburg declared that should it be granted its effect from a psychological standpoint in restoring confidence among investors would be of greater advantage than the immediate monetary gain it might mean to the roads.

One of two things must be done to meet the situation, either the government must acquire ownership or some action taken to restore confidence in the securities, said Mr. Vanderlip.

In their arguments for the increase, Mr. Vanderlip said, railroad men themselves failed to see below the surface and view what he believed to be fundamentally wrong—the effort to force the two regulatory principles, prevention of combinations and fixing of rates to work smoothly together.

"Either one may be all right, but not both together," he declared. "As long as rates are regulated the railroads should have the right to form combinations."

The question of confidence was the principal thought in the statement of Mr. Warburg. He maintained that railroad stocks had reached such a stage that the roads' only method of obtaining money was through bond issues which could not be made on a satisfactory basis now.

PATRIOTIC AUSTRIANS MURDERED.

Purchasers of Liberty Bonds and Subscribers to Red Cross Slain in Minnesota.

Virginia, Minn., Nov. 16.—Three Austrians, a woman and two men, were murdered here last night, the police say, because they had subscribed to the Liberty loan and Red Cross funds. They were Mr. and Mrs. Paul Alar and Peter Trepich, a boarder in the Alar house. The skull of each had been crushed with an axe while the victims slept and each body mutilated with a knife.

On a kitchen table in the home of the Alars was a note, written in an Austrian dialect, reading:

"This is what you get for being against the kaiser. You have donated to the Red Cross and you have said the kaiser could go to hell. Don't look for us, for any one who does will get the same dose."

Red Cross and Liberty loan purchase signs generally displayed here, although the community has a large Austrian population, disappeared from the windows of Austrian residents today.

The Alars were each 33 years of age and Trepich was 60 years old. The men were miners.

TEXAS GOVERNOR INDICTED.

Former Executive Charged With Embezzlement.

Austin, Texas, Nov. 17.—Indictments in seven cases against Former Gov. James E. Ferguson, charging misapplication of public funds, were quashed today by District Judge Hamilton. Dismissal was refused in two other cases, charging embezzlement and diversion of special funds.

TO RESTRICT TRANSPORTATION.

Judge Lovett Will Not Take Further Action.

Washington, Nov. 17.—Further government action to restrict transportation of non-essentials is not at this time contemplated by Judge Robert S. Lovett, administrator of the priorities transportation act.

SIX BODIES RECOVERED.

Destruction of Asheville Negro School Still Unexplained.

Asheville, Nov. 17.—Another charred body was taken from the ruins of the negro school here today, bringing the number of bodies recovered from yesterday's fire to six. The origin of the blaze is still unexplained.

CHANGE COTTON SALES.

LOTS OF SEVENTY-FIVE BALES FAVORED.

Railway Men Consider Transportation Question Preparatory to Meeting Dealers.

Washington, Nov. 16.—Railroad men appointed to study methods of moving the cotton crop with the least possible strain on the railroads announced today that the only step which could be made effective would be a basis on the sales of 100 to 75 bales. This would permit full loading of cars and save much valuable shipping space.

The average loading capacity of cars is 75 bales and the railroad representatives said that sales of cotton in multiples of 100 bales forced the hauling of less than carload lots and nothing was gained by efficient loading. Already some mills have started purchasing in 75 bale lots.

The railroad men, members of a committee appointed by Lincoln Green, vice president of the Southern Railway, by authority of a conference recently held here under the auspices of the National Council of Cotton Manufacturers, will meet a committee of cotton men, appointed by George H. McFadden, Jr., of Philadelphia, here next Friday.

There have been suggestions that the size of bales be standardized and that greater compression be used, but the railroad men believe neither could be effected quickly enough to relieve the present traffic congestion. Congress may be asked to enact legislation requiring the use of a standardized gin box. The railroads have been urged to penalize over-size bales, which are common in the Mississippi delta sections where a levee tax is imposed on each bale grown.

In spite of the unusual demands put on the railroads, Mr. Green said today that fewer cars have been used in moving the same amount of cotton than ever before.

HAD NARROW ESCAPE.

American Congressmen Caught in Flurry of German Machine Gun Fire.

British Front, Belgium, Friday, Nov. 16.—Five members of the party of American congressmen and private citizens who spent yesterday and part of today visiting the Belgian war zone had a narrow escape when they were caught in a sudden burst of German machine gun fire while inspecting the front line of trenches near Dixmude. No one was struck, despite the fact that the shots came in showers.

AMERICANS IN THE GAME.

With American Army in France, Nov. 17.—Artillery fighting in the sector held by American troops is more lively, and there have been further casualties, shrapnel wounding some men in the trenches. Some of the men wounded during the last two days have died.

GERMANS DRIVEN BACK.

Rome, Nov. 17.—The German troops which forced a crossing of the Plave river at Zenson are being pressed back steadily, it is officially announced. In other sectors nearly one thousand prisoners were taken.

KERENSKY A FUGITIVE.

Petrograd, Friday, Nov. 16.—Deserted by most of his officers and virtually ordered to surrender to the Bolsheviks, Former Premier Kerensky evaded the guards sent for him and disappeared. M. Bibenko, member of the war committee of the marine, denied that Michael Romanoff, the former grand duke, was with Kerensky. He denied also that Gen. Korniloff had escaped from prison.

BRITISH GAIN GROUND.

London, Nov. 17.—Further progress was made yesterday by the British on the main ridge in the vicinity of Passchendaele, the war office announced.

NEW DRAFT RULES.

Men With Dependents Made More Secure.

Washington, Nov. 17.—Men of the draft age with dependent relatives are placed more in a secure position under the new regulations made public today. While deferred classification may be revoked when granted for any other cause, there is no way by which men with dependents can be called out of turn.

Paris, Nov. 17.—August E. Rodin, the famous sculptor, died today.

PUSH WHEAT CAMPAIGN.

REGISTER ALL FARMERS IN VITAL MOVEMENT.

Farm Demonstration Agents Gather in Columbia Next Monday for Instructions.

Columbia, Nov. 17.—Twenty-five farm demonstration agents will next week begin a State-wide campaign to increase the wheat acreage.

The campaign will be conducted under the direction of W. W. Long, State agent of farm demonstration work and director of the Clemson College extension department, and in cooperation with the State Council of Defense.

It is planned to register all farmers in the State in the wheat growing movement. The agents will also urge that much attention be given to the live stock industry and that the farmers grow as many hogs as possible so that a shortage of meat will be averted.

The farm demonstration agents have been called for a conference at the Jefferson Hotel for next Monday at noon when the plans of the campaign will be outlined.

Every farmer in South Carolina will be asked to sign a pledge card to produce more wheat and to raise as many hogs as possible. The census of the State will be taken through the school children. Every school child in South Carolina will be asked to carry a card home to be signed by the parent. The following letter will be sent to every country home in the State:

"I am sending you a card asking for your cooperation with your government in a service that is equally necessary with that of serving in the trenches and that is to assist in increasing the food supply of the world in the growing of at least two acres of wheat to the plow and the raising of at least one additional litter of pigs more than you have been doing in the past few years. If you expect to have your usual quantity of flour bread for the use of your family and plantation, you must grow it. The government will not permit you to draw upon the surplus supply of the West. This is going to feed our army and those of our allies.

"There are fewer hogs in South Carolina than there was in 1915. The meat supply of the United States and the world is less than at any time in the history of the world, so far as information is recorded. A 200 pound hog will bring you as much as you used to receive for a 500 pound bale of cotton. Remember that we are asking you to only increase your pork by raising the pigs from one additional sow. If every farmer will comply with this modest request the meat situation will be solved and the requirements of our government met. Could we ask you to do less?"

"These cards do not need to be stamped. Fill them out, sign them, and mail and they will be delivered without postage. Yours very truly, W. W. Long, Director."

The slogan of the campaign will be: "Waging war against Germany not in trenches but on the farms of South Carolina." Those who have been called to Columbia to assist in the campaign are the following farm demonstration agents:

J. G. Williams, Clemson College; V. W. Lewis, Clemson College; L. W. Summers, Orangeburg; E. E. Hall, Clemson College; J. R. Clark, Columbia; James Shealy, Balentine; J. F. Williams, Sumter; G. W. Baker, Kingstree; W. H. Barton, Simpsonville; C. A. McFadden, Manning; W. P. Stewart, Simpsonville; W. R. Elliott, Winnsboro; A. A. McKeown, Rock Hill; A. E. Chapman, Greenville; H. G. Boylston, Blackville; S. E. Evans, Bennettsville; J. F. Ezell, Spartanburg; C. B. Farris, Greenwood; T. H. Mills, Prosperity; C. S. Patrick, Saluda; P. H. Senn, Manning; W. J. Thomas, McCormick; Colin McLaurin, Marion; R. E. Grubel, Gaffney.

STORMED ITALIAN FORT.

Germans Capture Position and Take Prisoners.

Berlin, Nov. 17.—The Austro-German forces invading Italy yesterday stormed Monte Prassalon, between Breta and Plave river and took eight hundred Italian prisoners, says today's official statement.

STRIKE IN FINLAND.

Helsingford, Nov. 17.—A general strike of all workmen is now in progress and business is at a standstill. The Russian government troops have united with the Proletariat Red Guard and are in control.

EQUIPPING THE ARMY.

VAST TASK OF ARMY ENGINEER CORPS AND HOW IT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED.

Personnel in Officers and Men Increased in Seven Months From 2,500 to 100,000—Supplies Purchased and Delivered to Army of One Million—Railroads Built Complete in United States and Sent With Operating Force to France—Coast Defenses and Camps Constructed.

The Corps of Engineers of the Army since April 6 has not only been supplying the engineering equipment for an army of a million men, but has undertaken the unprecedented task of furnishing railroads complete from the United States for operation in France.

The engineers construct the free arteries through which flow great armies, reinforcements, supplies, and ammunition to the extremities of the lines.

From March 1 to November 1 the corps of engineers increased its personnel from 256 officers on the active list to 394 officers and 14 retired officers on active duty and in addition has commissioned more than 5,000 reserve officers. The enlisted force has expanded from 2,100 to 95,000, and there has also been a heavy increase in civilian employees.

In addition, nine railroad regiments and one forestry regiment have been raised as part of the National Army. Seventeen pioneer regiments have been authorized as part of the National Army and are rapidly organizing National Guard units equivalent to about seven regiments, have been called into the federal service, and their reorganization into 17 pioneer engineer regiments for the 17 divisions of National Guard troops is well under way.

Engineer officers' training camps were established in each of the 16 training camp areas, the number of candidates for engineer commissions taken from each camp being 150. After a month's training in the same camps with candidates for commissions in other branches of the service the engineer sections were transferred to three engineer training camps with special facilities for technical instruction, one in the vicinity of Washington, one at Fort Leavenworth, Kans., and one at Vancouver Barracks, Wash. Instruction was continued there for two months. In August, 1,900 candidates were graduated and are now holding commissions.

Large numbers of engineer graduates of training camps have been assigned to new regiments and special units are being organized and the training of enlisted men in the National Army will be largely under their supervision. A number are in France for special training.

On December 1 about 1,200 engineer reserve officers will be graduated from a second engineer officers' training camp.

A duty imposed upon the engineers has been the purchase of the necessary engineer equipment for more than 1,000,000 men. The urgent deficiencies act approved June 15, 1917, appropriated for the purpose amounts aggregating in excess of \$130,000,000, an amount comparable with the purchase of material, equipment, and supplies for the Panama Canal during the 10 years of its construction. The urgent deficiencies act approved October 6, 1917, provides \$198,100,000 additional for engineer purposes and it is expected that all of this will be expended during the present fiscal year.

Within 350 hours after the engineer corps, following the declaration of war, advertised for equipment, awards had been made covering the requirements of 1,000,000 men, a total of 8,700,000 articles, which included among other items 4 miles of pontoon bridge. Approximately two months was the average time of delivery secured on all of this material.

On September 7, two weeks after receipt of instructions, equipment was enroute to the various National Guard and National Army organizations at cantonments throughout the country. These shipments comprised a total of about 48,000,000 pounds in some 64,000 separate cases and packages.

By November 1 the outstanding obligations on orders placed for engineer material, equipment, and supplies, aggregated \$130,000,000, and disbursements in payments for material delivered had reached the sum of \$15,000,000 per month.

Another important task of the engineers has been to provide efficient methods for the receipt, storage, and shipment abroad, with proper ac-

EPIDEMIC AMONG SOLDIERS.

QUARANTINE ESTABLISHED AT CAMP SEVIER.

Men Not Allowed to Go Off Military Reservation and All Amusement Houses Closed.

Camp Sevier, Greenville, Nov. 16.—

Maj. L. D. Gasser, acting chief of staff, Thirtieth Division, authorized the following statement tonight: "Due to an epidemic of measles and some few cases of pneumonia and meningitis, the soldiers will be quarantined and not permitted to leave the reservation nor to visit Greenville, Camp Sevier or Paris.

"All amusement houses in the reservation will be suspended and not permitted to open, including the Y. M. C. A. buildings, the Kights of Columbus hall, the "Hostess House" and any other such buildings. The post exchanges will be closed so far as allowing men to enter. They will be required to make openings so that the men can be served on the outside. The usual program of instruction administration and supply will be carried on.

"This quarantine does not prohibit visitors from entering the camp, the object being to prevent men from gathering in closed buildings. The quarantine goes into effect Saturday morning."

Major Gasser stated over the telephone that the situation was not considered serious, but that the quarantine had been decided upon as a precautionary measure. It is believed that the disease will be entirely eradicated in this way in the shortest possible time. The length of the quarantine, Major Gasser thinks, will depend entirely on the cooperation the men accord the authorities. The quarantine, sweeping in its nature, will be rigidly enforced and applies to officers as well as men.

Pekin, Friday, Nov. 16.—The entire cabinet resigned with Premier Tuan Chi-Jui today. It is considered probable that the president will accept their resignations.

counting system, for this mass of supplies as well as for the vast equipment for field operations and construction work.

The engineers of the railway section have undertaken to transport and install and put into operation overseas a complete railroad equipment. The railway problem in the theater of operations in France involves not only the organization, equipment, and military training of railroad troops for the construction, maintenance, and operation of standard and narrow gauge roads necessary for the supply of our armies, but also the purchase, inspection, and shipment of immense quantities of railroad equipment—rails, ties, locomotives, cars, shop tools, etc.—necessary for the development of adequate port facilities, construction of new lines and their successful operation. The estimate of the situation in France was confirmed by the French commission, headed by Marshal Joffre, and the means of meeting it have been carried on with intensity.

Trained officials in various departments of American railroads were called upon for the officers, and experienced railroad employees for the enlisted men, of the nine railroad regiments, each of 33 officers and approximately 1,100 men.

The cost of materials ordered to date is approximately \$70,000,000, including some hundreds of locomotives, more than 100,000 tons of steel rails, more than 3,000 complete turnouts, 500,000 ties, 12,000 freight cars, 600 mill and ballast cars, 600 miles of telephone wire and apparatus, as well as vast quantities of construction and repair equipment.

The engineers have also undertaken the work of organizing and equipping special troops for special services, such as lumber supply, road construction, sanitary construction, camouflage service, gas and flame service, mining work, mapping, etc.

Preferred attention has been given to the organization and equipment of the first forestry regiment, to be sent to France to produce lumber and timber from French forests. Three additional regiments are to be organized. The cooperation of the Forestry Service of the Department of Agriculture has been extended in the selection of personnel and equipment.

In addition to all of these duties, the engineer corps has maintained its regular service in the preservation and improvement of navigable waters in the United States and construction of coast defenses. New batteries are being pushed to completion with energy.