

The Watchman and Southron.

SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

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

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CUT OUT DEAD WOOD.

WAR DEPARTMENT WILL PICK ONLY COMMANDERS WHO CAN ENDURE GREAT HARDSHIPS.

Boards Busy Examining and Already Numbers Have Been Found Physically Unfit for Duty in France.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Commanders for American troops at the fighting front are to be selected only after rigid investigation of physical condition and efficient qualification for their task. Early announcement of the retirement or discharge of some of the general officers is to be expected as medical boards already have reported against men in both the regular and National Guard service.

Secretary Baker's statement follows: "The secretary of war announced today that all general officers of the regular army and the National Guard are being examined by medical boards and efficiency boards, with the view of determining the advisability of sending them for service abroad.

"The conditions of foreign service in this war are unusually severe, requiring that general officers shall be not only adequately grounded in military science and adequately alert physically to acquire rapidly the lessons which the new form of warfare requires, but able to endure prolonged hardships.

"The determinations of these boards are impersonal and in the interest of the success of our armies and the welfare both of the leaders and the men and will be affirmed by the department. This policy will no doubt commend itself to the people of the country as being in the public interest, and even where it is necessary to deny the opportunity for foreign service to soldiers of long experience it will be understood to imply nothing in any way prejudicial to the officers involved.

"Boards of this kind have already found some general officers of both the regular army and the National Guard physically disqualified. Such finding does not in any way reflect upon the past services of the officer or upon his present zeal and willingness to make personal sacrifices in the further service of his country, but the question to be determined is one of capacity to perform a highly specialized and arduous type of service."

The general officers of the National Guard were taken into the federal service with their State units without examination of their professional qualifications. Some of them had seen service on the border during the guard mobilization and all of them have been under observance since the guard was called into federal service for the war.

Most of the present regular army officers and men of lower rank have been given general officers' commissions for the duration of the war only. They were selected, so far as the line officers are concerned, by the same process which is followed with the nomination of men to permanent commissions in general grades of the army. By this process it has been the rule that seniority was followed, unless the record of an officer forbade this promotion.

The new order undoubtedly will eliminate a very considerable number of general officers, even of the grade of major general.

Today's announcement recalls the fact that soon after the outbreak of the war France found it necessary to shelve a large number of officers of high rank and that a similar process was followed later in the British service.

Secretary Baker's statement carries a warning that no appeals from the board will be considered. The dead wood is to be cut out with a firm hand, it is said.

FOREST RESERVE BLOCK.

Hostile Legislation in Georgia Interferes With Commission.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Hostile legislation passed by the Georgia legislature last summer has caused the national forest reservation commission to adopt a policy refusing to make further purchases in Georgia until after the repeal of that legislation. About twenty-five thousand acres recommended to the commission, will be excluded from purchase.

Amsterdam, Dec. 13.—No German peace conditions have been submitted to the Russian delegates, according to an official telegram received from Rome. It said that nothing had been discussed but the armistice.

ALIEN ENEMY ORDER.

FEW RESTRICTIONS TO BE IMPOSED ON AUSTRIAN SUBJECTS.

Get More Privileges Than Given Germans—Will be Free to Live and Travel Anywhere Except That They May Not Enter Into or Leave United States Without Permission.

Washington, Dec. 12.—Austro-Hungarian subjects in the United States, most of the million or more of whom are laborers and are loyal to the allied cause, will suffer few restrictions as a result of war between the land of their birth and adoption.

In a proclamation declaring a state of war with Austria-Hungary in accordance with the act of congress, President Wilson specified that unnaturalized Austro-Hungarians, unlike the Germans in this country, should be free to live and travel anywhere, except that they may not enter or leave the United States without permission and those suspected of enemy activity may be interned. They need not register, are not barred from the 100 yard zones about piers, docks and warehouses and are not required to leave the District of Columbia.

The president's notice in drawing distinctions between Germans and Austrians were described as two-fold. First, it was realized that the sympathy of Hungarians, Roumanians, Poles, Servians, Czechs, Slovaks and other immigrants generally is not with Austria-Hungary and they have not been guilty of the multifarious campaign of violence practiced under the German war system. Secondly, such a large proportion of laborers are Austrian subjects that it was found practically impossible to administer against them the rigid regulation imposed on the Germans.

The department of justice even amended its former plans to register Austrians with Germans because of the immensity of the task and the administration's determination to minimize embarrassment to Austrians.

As an indication of the president's difference in feeling toward subjects of the dual monarchy it was pointed out that nowhere in the proclamation did he use the phrase "alien enemy" as was done in previous proclamations referring to Germans.

Attorney General Gregory explained the proclamation in this statement: "The proclamation issued by the president today proclaims a state of war existing between this country and Austria-Hungary, calls upon all citizens to perform their duty, warns subjects of the enemy to conform to our laws and enjoins upon American citizens the duty of treating subjects of the enemy who remain loyal to the United States, will all such friendliness as may be compatible with loyalty and allegiance to the United States.

"This proclamation differs from the preceding proclamation, relating to the subjects of the German empire, in that while it authorizes the arrest and internment of any subjects of the dual empire whose conduct may be a menace to the safety of the country, the only restrictions which it contains are prohibitions against either entering or leaving the United States without first obtaining permission.

"Many subjects of Austria-Hungary have already demonstrated their strong loyalty to this country by their faithfulness in industrial work, their organization of recruiting committees and in service with our armies. For he present therefore, no restrictions will be placed upon the movement of subjects of Austria-Hungary.

"They are not subject to the restrictions of previous proclamations relating to German enemy aliens; they will be permitted to reside and labor in prohibited areas and to travel freely without molestation. Only those who are dangerous or disloyal are subject to arrest."

FIGHTING IN FRANCE.

Artillery Fight in Progress on Whole Front.

Paris, Dec. 13.—Active artillery fighting is in progress along the whole front, the war office announced today.

THREE ATTACKS MADE.

Germans Try Desperately to Break British Lines.

London, Dec. 13.—Three attacks were made by the Germans in yesterday's battle, the war office reports. The first two were repulsed. On the third the enemy penetrated obliterated British trenches at the apex of the angle in the British lines near Bullecourt.

GRAND LODGE OFFICERS.

MASONS OF STATE CLOSE ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

Twenty Thousand Dollars, With More to Follow, Invested in Liberty Bonds.

Charleston, Dec. 12.—The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina closed its 181st annual communication this afternoon, after electing and installing officers for the ensuing year and resolving to hold its next annual communication in Charleston on the second Tuesday of December, 1918.

William W. Wannamaker of Orangeburg, for the past two years deputy grand master, was elevated to grand master and now presides over the craft in South Carolina.

J. Campbell Bissell of Landmark Lodge No. 76, Charleston, was elected junior grand warden, which puts him in the direct line of succession to the grand mastership. Mr. Bissell was the unanimous choice of the Grand Lodge, no other name being presented for the office.

The full list of elective officers chosen today follows:

Grand master, W. W. Wannamaker, Orangeburg; deputy grand master, W. A. Giles, Graniteville; senior grand warden, S. T. Lanham, Spartanburg; junior grand warden, J. Campbell Bissell, Charleston; grand treasurer, W. H. Prioleau, Charleston; grand secretary, O. Frank Hart, Columbia; grand chaplain, the Rev. W. E. Thayer, Sumter.

These were duly installed according to ancient ceremony, the Grand Lodge passing from the third to the first degree for the purpose, and, after they had been properly saluted the appointive officers were, in their turn, announced and installed, as follows:

Senior grand deacons, J. P. Duckett, Anderson, and C. K. Christberg, Rock Hill; junior grand deacons, T. B. Boland, Ware Shoals, and J. H. Fowles, Columbia; grand marshal, I. C. Blackwood, Spartanburg; grand pursuivant, A. J. Thackston, Orangeburg; grand stewards, F. L. Wolfe, Manning, and J. W. Wells, Gray Court; grand tiler, W. A. Winkler, Charleston.

District Deputy Grand Masters—First, W. G. Mazyck, Charleston; second, P. M. Buckner, Walterboro; third, A. A. Lemon, Barnwell; fourth, W. W. Edgerton, Aiken; fifth, B. E. Nicholson, Edgefield; sixth, Kenneth Baker, Greenwood; seventh, T. Frank Watkins, Anderson; eighth, R. T. Hallum, Pickens; ninth, A. S. Rowell, Piedmont; tenth, T. I. Swygert, Laurens; eleventh, Van Smith, Newberry; twelfth, M. H. Sandifer, Rock Hill; thirteenth, Joseph Lindsay, Chester; fourteenth, L. T. Mills, Camden; fifteenth, H. A. Richburg, Sumter; sixteenth, T. E. Wannamaker, Cheraw; seventeenth, J. C. Sellers, Sellers; eighteenth, T. W. Dantzier, St. Matthews; nineteenth, H. H. Anderson, Tuccapau; twentieth, B. B. Bishop, Inman.

The grand master announced the following standing committees:

Hall Committee—F. M. Smith, A. C. Furchgott, J. D. Kennedy, A. C. Conner.

Committee of Charity—I. W. Hirsch, A. L. Barton, Henry Blank, John Harleston, J. Berkman.

Committee on Cemetery—R. P. Evans, W. C. Miller, W. H. Prioleau, E. M. Schmetzer.

Board of Relief—I. W. Hirsch, A. L. Barton, John Harleston, J. Berkman.

Historical Committee—O. Frank Hart, James L. Michie and W. G. Mazyck.

Foreign Correspondent—J. L. Michie.

The business of the session today was wholly routine. Reports of committees left over from last night were disposed of and other matters of interest to the craft considered.

On motion the grand master was requested to appoint a committee to prepare a testimonial from the grand lodge to the retiring grand master, P. A. Cooper.

At last night's session the trustees of the Masonic relief fund were authorized and instructed to invest \$20,000 of the funds in their charge in Liberty bonds of the next issue and thereafter a similar amount in each issue of similar bonds made by the government until a total of \$100,000 has been thus loaned to the government for war purposes.

The amendment to the constitution providing for an increase in the salary of the grand secretary, which came over from last year, was, after an exhaustive debate adopted.

W. G. Mazyck, district deputy grand master, of Charleston presented to the Grand Lodge the portrait of

GERMANS LAUNCH ATTACK.

SAID TO HAVE ACHIEVED ONLY LOCAL SUCCESS.

Huns Attempt to Overpower British Forces by Sheer Weight of Numbers.

London, Dec. 12.—A fierce mass attack was made by the Germans today against the elbow in the bend of the British line between Bullecourt and Queant (about ten miles west of Cambrai), says the Reuter correspondent at British headquarters in France. Their intention was to overwhelm their opponents by sheer weight of numbers. Owing to the staunchness of the British opposition the attack only enabled the Germans to get footing in about 500 yards of the British front line when the attack was arrested.

Thus the attack was reduced to the limits of a very small local success at the most. The correspondent adds that it is difficult to get details but the fighting lasted from dawn until 1 o'clock in the afternoon and the continuance of firing after that suggested a British counterattack.

In his description of the battle the correspondent says:

"What apparently was intended as a determined German attack upon the sector of our line east of Bullecourt was delivered shortly after dawn, and owing to the staunchness of our troops, was reduced to the limits of a very small local success at the most.

"The Germans opened an intense bombardment as the first streaks of a frosty dawn were paling in the eastern sky. Our artillery promptly replied with a barrage put down between the opposing trenches in order to catch any infantry advance.

"Assaulting waves of advancing troops came over in close formation. It was the main intention to throw great pressure upon the front of the attack and overpower the defenders if possible by sheer weight of numbers.

"Fierce fighting ensued, but it is too early to get details since communications are always difficult during engagements. So far as I can gather, the Germans managed to get some sort of a footing in about 500 yards of our front line trenches before their attack was arrested.

"The artillery duel continued until about 1.30 o'clock, when it died down.

"This is really all there is to tell. It seems reasonable to believe that the Germans failed in their project, whatever it was, since the extent of their gain was so small and so indefinite in point of tactical achievement that it is difficult to regard it as representing any complete scheme of operations.

"The weather remains fine and dry, so that open warfare is still possible."

CONFLICT IN OHIO.

Gov. Cox and Fuel Administrator Garfield Clash Over Confiscation of Coal.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Fuel Administrator Garfield today informed Gov. Cox, of Ohio, that he would not be permitted to interfere with the distribution of coal in Ohio, under the direction of the State fuel administration.

Cox Defies Garfield.

Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 13.—The work of confiscating from the railroads coal consigned to the northwest, to alleviate suffering in Ohio, caused by the serious coal shortage, is being continued today by State authorities, under the direction of Gov. Cox. Gov. Cox issued a statement last night in which he characterized the coal situation in Ohio as "an unspeakable outrage."

Thomas Wright Bacot, who was grand master in 1817 when the reunion of the conflicting grand lodges of Masonry in South Carolina was accomplished. The grand lodge, at its last session, commemorated this event and instructed Mr. Mazyck to procure a portrait of the grand master of that period, to whose efforts largely was the gratifying reunion due. Mr. Mazyck had the work executed by a Baltimore artist, from a photograph of a portrait in possession of the Bacot family. The result is a beautiful piece of portraiture, which will be a rare addition to the gallery of grand masters possessed by the grand lodge. The picture will be hung in the grand lodge room.

The members of the grand lodge generally returned to the homes this afternoon. Several of the warrant officers among the number, will remain over for the annual dinner of the Fifteen Fellows of the Craft, which will be held this evening at the South Carolina Hall.

GENERAL FOOD BOARD.

PURCHASING AGENT FOR ARMY, NAVY AND ALLIES.

Admiral McGowan Made Chairman of One of Most Important Bodies of War.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Creation of a general food purchase board to coordinate the buying of foodstuffs for the army and navy and for the allied governments was announced tonight by Food Administrator Hoover. Members of the board were named by Mr. Hoover with the approval of the secretaries of war and navy. They are: Paymaster General Samuel McGowan of the navy, chairman; Maj. Gen. Henry G. Sharpe, quartermaster general of the army; W. V. S. Thorn, chief of the food administration divisions of coordination of purchases and representative of allied purchasers, and F. J. Scott of the federal trade commission.

"The functions of the board," said Mr. Hoover tonight, "are far reaching. The plan is to coordinate the purchasing as to place it strictly on an official basis and to disturb as little as possible market conditions."

At its first meeting today the board drew up the following principles of organization:

"The demand for certain food commodities by the army, navy, neutrals, allies and civil population is greater than the supply of such commodities.

"One of the fundamental purposes of the food administration is to protect these groups from exorbitant prices."

McGowan Defends Purchasing System.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Rear Admiral McGowan, paymaster general of the navy, in his annual report today, vigorously defends the navy's centralized purchasing system and urges its continuance without interference from any outside agency created for war purposes. The system, he says, has proved its efficiency under war strain and the task of supplying the navy has been kept up to date.

"There has been and will continue to be as long as the war lasts," Admiral McGowan declares, "a large number of persons who will naturally indulge in much criticism of government purchasing in general."

TROTZKY TALKS WILDLY.

Says Bolsheviki Are Hundred Times Stronger Than Cunning Germans—No Gulf There.

London, Dec. 11.—A Reuter dispatch from Petrograd quotes Leon Trotzky, the Bolsheviki foreign minister, as saying at a public meeting: "The allies have warned us that the Germans are deceiving us, but we are a hundred times stronger than the cunning Germans. It is only in Russia that there is no gulf between the government and the people.

"The German government did not agree to the people of Courland and Lithuania electing their own form of government. We will strew the trenches of the enemy with millions of proclamations in German. In three days the Germans will accept our conditions. After 28 days' armistice, who will want to restart fighting. If the allies do not agree to the stoppage of the war, we must stand on ceremony with them. If their governments do not agree to our conditions they will be overthrown."

THIRD REGIMENT ALMOST COMPLETE.

Columbia, Dec. 12.—Petitions from nine South Carolina cities and towns to permit the formation of companies of the new Third Regiment of State troops have been received and approved by the governor. This will allow them to complete their organization at once. Col. Henry T. Thompson, who is in command of the new organization, has been touring the State, assisting in the recruiting and will be busy this week completing the organization of companies in other parts of the State. Sixty names are required before the petition can be considered. The towns which have sent in petitions are: Charleston, two companies; Columbia, Greenwood, Florence, Spartanburg, Bishopville, Cheraw and Pelzer one company. Newberry Union Gaffney and several other towns have also sent in applications and the other two companies will be given to these. It is also very probable that a headquarters company and a supply company will be formed and stationed in Columbia.

FACING HEAVY BURDENS.

MUST SUFFER MUCH TO WIN WAR.

Missouri Senator Declares Germany Now Has More Man Power Than Allies.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Warning that the United States must prepare to assume further burdens to win the war was given today in the senate by Senator Reed in vigorously opposing the Webb export combination bill, which President Wilson recently urged congress to enact.

Declaring that congress should concentrate upon great war problems the Missouri senator said that with Russia out of the war and Roumania also "gone" the enemy numerically is superior in man power.

Although an opponent of army conscription, Senator Reed predicted that new draft levies probably would be necessary and urged military training of youths between 18 and 21 for coast defense work. Invasion of America, he asserted, was not beyond the realms of possibilities should other allied powers fall beside Russia, Roumania and Serbia.

The Webb bill was denounced by Senator Reed as destructive of the Sherman anti-trust law at behest of legalizing of illegal combination which would encroach on consumers abroad, and increase domestic prices.

"It repeats," said, "every vestige of that system of anti-trust statutes built up during 28 years by the federal government so far as the same applies to commerce with foreign powers. It is intended to directly legalize the creation of combinations and trusts to control every foreign market in which the American citizen sells his goods.

"This legislation has the enthusiastic support of the allied trusts of the United States, together with their servants, agents employes and sympathizers. It will be supported by every newspaper that believes in the control of big business."

Senator Cummins of Iowa also opposed the bill as a virtual repeal of foreign trade combination provisions of the Sherman law.

Defending the measure were Senator Pomerene of Ohio, who has it in charge and Senator Townsend of Michigan. Debate was not concluded and opposition threatened to interfere with the leaders' plans to pass it before the holiday recess.

BATTLES IN THE AIR.

Great Activity on Cambrai Front Monday.

London, Dec. 12.—There was great activity in air Monday, especially in the Cambrai region, according to the official statement issued last night. Five German machines were brought down. Three British machines are also missing.

RUSSIAN ARMY DISBANDING.

Russia Will Soon be Helpless in Hands of Kaiser.

Copenhagen, Dec. 12.—The semi-official German news agency says that the demobilization of the Russian forces has already begun and that peace negotiations, restricted to the Russian front, have been authorized.

WAR ON AUSTRIA.

First American Shot Fired by Boston Man.

Italian Army Headquarters, Northern Italy, Tuesday, Dec. 11.—The first American shot against Austria was fired by Representative Tinkham, of Boston, on the lower Piave front when Mr. Tinkham pulled the string firing a large hundred and forty-nine millimeter gun and sending the shell to the Austrian positions.

RAID AROUND RHEIMS.

Germans Feeling Out French Lines.

Paris, Dec. 12.—German raiding parties felt out the French lines northwest of Rheims last night, according to today's war official announcement. No activity of importance elsewhere is reported.

Roumania Quit Fighting Sunday.

Jassy, Rumania, Dec. 12.—The official announcement was made today of the signing of an armistice in accordance with which hostilities were suspended at 10.30 Sunday night until further notice.

Greenville, Dec. 12.—In order to aid the fuel administration, it is stated that the public schools here will suspend for a month, beginning December 14th.