

Published Wednesday and Saturday
OSTEEN PUBLISHING COMPANY
 SUMTER, S. C.
 Terms:
\$1.50 per annum—in advance.

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The Sumter Watchman was founded in 1850 and the True Southern in 1866. The Watchman and Southern now has the combined circulation and influence of both of the old papers, and is manifestly the best advertisement in Sumter.

State Council of Defense.

The South Carolina State Council of Defense has been authorized by the National Council of Defense to give out from time to time official and definite information on military affairs in this country. The following interesting material has been given out on the subject of training camps.

The beginning of winter finds the work of training going on at full blast in a hundred camps and stations.

Not far from half of the total number of men training are encamped in the big National Army cantonments. In these the United States has 16 new cities, each as large as Sacramento or New Britain or Davenport or Macon.

Sixteen camps, nearly as big as the cantonments, but not built so durably, are housing the National Guard divisions.

Two hundred and fifty thousand men have joined the regulars since the war broke out. There are seventeen regular army stations and camps being used for the training of these recruits.

Seventeen stations are engaged in training men for the navy and marines are being turned out in three more.

Not all the Aviation Fields have been finished, but in a dozen of them cool-headed young men are being taught to fight in the air.

Nine camps have just rounded off the second increment of officers for the Reserve Corps.

Five medical camps are in operation, and three camps for engineers.

All of the larger camps have been built in the last six months. The biggest of them, the National Army Cantonments were built in three months at a total cost of \$150,000,000. Only a little over twice as much was required to build the Panama Canal and that took ten years.

Something between six hundred and seven hundred millions of feet of lumber went into the National Army cantonments. The figure for all the army camps is about one billion feet.

In population the camps range from 300 to 47,000. The men in a flying camp may know one another as men know one another in a small college. One of the larger cantonments, on the other hand, contains more men than can be crowded into the Polo Grounds or Comiskey Park.

A good average crowd for a world's series game is 30,000. Such a crowd is enough to swamp a half dozen cur lines. All of the men in one of the National Army cantonments would make a crowd half again as large.

Living conditions in the camps may not be quite up to the top of the high American standard. But it can safely be said that no large army of soldiers was ever housed so comfortably before. There will be no freezing this winter. Four of the cantonments situated farthest north have steam heat. The rest have to put up with hot air systems. But an American army spent a winter at Valley Forge once without even a hot air system.

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Death.

Mr. William J. Ard, aged 47 years, died at the State Tuberculosis Camp, Columbia, at 11.30 o'clock last night, after an illness of more than two years, the last year and a half having been spent at the camp. He was a native of Sumter and had made his home here during the greater part of his life. He is survived by two brothers and four sisters.

The funeral services will be held at the cemetery at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning immediately after the arrival of the second train from Columbia.

Death.

Little Gladys Huggins, who was seriously burned last Thursday morning, died at 6 a. m. today after a week of suffering. The little girl was only eight years old and was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Huggins. The funeral services will be held from the residence, 25 Chestnut street, at 11 a. m. tomorrow.

Death.

Owing to the uncertainties of Russian politics, it is a guess whether Mr. Lenin is in the fortress of St. Peter and St. Paul or in Berlin getting his next week's orders.—Kansas City Times.

HANGED AT SUNRISE.

NEGRO SOLDIERS DIE FOR PART IN RIOTING.

Thirteen Members of Twenty-fourth Infantry Executed at Fort Sam Houston One Minute Before Sunrise—Forty-one Others Spend Lives in Prison.

San Antonio, Dec. 11.—Except for the ashes from two huge bonfires, an isolated thicket on the big government reservation, near here, showed no signs tonight that it was the execution place early today of 13 negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry. The negroes convicted of participating in the riots at Houston, Texas, August 23 last, were hanged at 7:17 o'clock, one minute before sunrise.

After dark last night motor trucks carried the lumber for the scaffolds and a company of the engineers to the clearing. The scaffolds were built by fire light. Motor trucks shortly after 5 o'clock this morning carried the condemned negroes from the barracks where they spent their last night, and the officers and military guard to the place of execution. The trucks later carried the bodies to a place as indistinguishable as the execution, where the burial took place and then they hauled back to Fort Sam Houston every piece of timber used in the scaffold so that the site was clear before formal announcement of the execution had been issued by the Southern Department headquarters.

The condemned negroes had known of their fate since Sunday. Twelve of them sought spiritual counsel of Army Y. M. C. A. workers. The 13th, whose name has not yet been disclosed, gave no inkling that he knew. Outwardly all were stoical. They did not know the date of the execution, but last night they were taken from the cavalry guard house where they have been prisoners more than a month and placed in separate barracks.

Aside from less than a dozen officers of the Southern Department and the sheriff of Bexar County, no one in the city or the army camps knew of the execution date or place.

The condemned men were aroused this morning before regular army reveille. The military guard had been summoned silently and no sound was heard in the camp where nearly 40,000 men were sleeping, except the purring of the army truck motors awaiting their loads. The negroes dressed in their regular uniforms as carefully as for inspection.

They displayed neither bravado nor fear. They rode to the execution singing a hymn, but the singing was as that of soldiers on the march. Arrived at the clearing the song ceased, the men, shackled, were helped from the trucks to the scaffolds and seated on chairs. A low "Good bye, boys" addressed to members of their military guard who had been in charge of the negroes since they were brought here from Fort Bliss, was the only expression from any of the negroes.

The men's feet were bound. An army chaplain offered prayer. An officer called, "Attention!" and as on parade the negroes stood erect. They stood quietly while caps and noose were adjusted and then stepped on the traps. The major in charge of the execution gave a signal and soldier sprung the traps.

The negroes plunged nine feet to instant death.

No announcement has been made when the 41 negroes given life sentences by the courtmartial will be taken to Fort Leavenworth.

Of the others, four were sentenced to dishonorable discharge from the army, forfeiture of all pay and allowances due, and prison terms of two years and two years and six months. Five were acquitted and sent to join their commands.

In spite of the executions and announcement of the other sentences today, the riot at Houston is not a closed incident. Investigation is still in progress and it is expected additional courtmartial will follow.

The executions created some demonstration among negroes who had followed the progress of the trial, in the nature of "mournings" at a few negro churches. Crowds at these however were small.

RUSSIAN CONGRESS CALLED.

It Will Open When Four Hundred Delegates Arrive.

Petrograd, Monday, Dec. 10.—The constituent assembly will be opened by representatives of the National Commissionaries on the arrival here of over four hundred members of the assembly, according to a proclamation issued today from the Smolny Institute. The date of the opening is a matter of conjecture. Demonstrations are rumored.

Snow in Georgia Also.
 Athens, Ga., Dec. 12.—Snow this morning covers all northeast Georgia to a depth of three inches.

GERMAN PEACE MOVE.

SUGGESTION OF PEACE MADE IN SEPTEMBER.

Great Britain Replied That It Would Discuss any Communication With Allies.

London, Dec. 11.—Foreign Secretary Balfour told the house of commons today that a communication had been received by Great Britain from Germany last September, through a neutral diplomatic channel, to the effect that Germany would be glad to get into communication with Great Britain in regard to peace.

The British government replied it was prepared to receive any communication the German government might decide to make and to discuss it with Great Britain's allies.

Germany returned no reply, Mr. Balfour added.

The foreign minister said that Great Britain had answered the communication, stating that she informed Italy, France, Japan, Russia and the United States of the German suggestion.

Among the secret diplomatic documents made public by the Bolsheviks as quoted in a Petrograd dispatch last week was a telegram from the Russian charge d'affaires in London dated October 6, which indicated that Germany had made another peace move. The telegram said the charge had received information from Madrid that a highly placed personage in Berlin had expressed the wish to the Spanish ambassador to Germany to enter into peace negotiations. The information was communicated to the allied governments and, the dispatch says, Great Britain replied it would receive any communication from Germany respecting peace and consider the measure in conjunction with its allies.

CHURCHILL PESSIMISTIC.

Says Situation is Serious for the Allies.

London, Monday, Dec. 11.—Speaking today at Bedford on the subject of the allies' war aims, Winston Spencer Churchill, minister of munitions, said that the situation was more serious than it had been reasonable to expect three months ago. The country and the allied cause, Col. Churchill added, were endangered. The future of the British Empire and of democratic civilization was hanging in the balance and would continue to hang there for a considerable period.

"When I say the country is passing through a time of danger," Col. Churchill continued, "I mean there are people who wish to bring about a premature peace."

"The British do not mean to put up anything but the legitimate and righteous aims with which we entered the war, and if such an issue as this were seriously raised it could be decided only by the whole nation. I cannot see that there is the slightest danger in submitting that question to the free decision of the whole nation."

Kill the Cur, Save the Sheep.

Woolgrowing improvement and anti-cur sentiment go strictly together in this country, and all publicity which will explain the situation to the public is a national service. The best grades of wool are raised in average farm flocks where sheep can be properly cared for and clipped. Even in Australia the best grades come from flocks of moderate size, and the tendency there, where wool-growing has been carried to as high a stage of development as that shown in any country, is toward the farm flocks rather than the large sheep ranches. The greatest obstacle to wool-growing in this country has been the roaming cur, protected by the humane sentiment of city people who believe that in reasonable restrictive laws for the safeguarding of sheep some injury is done to the dog as they know him. The kind of dog that works damage to a flock of sheep is the common undomesticated cur. A dog breeder, writing to the Breeders' Gazette, urges that a heavy tax be put on mongrel dogs, especially curs kept by farmers themselves, who underfeed them, give them no training and allow them to roam at large. This breeder believes that the situation calls for improvement in dogs. If people buy well-bred dogs, paying good prices therefor, they will take better care of them, and the roaming, sheep-killing "everybody's dog," the common cur that does most of the damage, will go out of fashion. In every section where sheep are grown flocks are constantly being destroyed by dogs. Such news should be gathered and published for the encouragement of woolgrowing industry.

London, Dec. 12.—Premier Lloyd George today announced in the house of commons that Gen. Allenby, the British commander in Palestine, entered Jerusalem on foot on Tuesday.

WAR INQUIRY BEGINS.

CONGRESS STARTS INVESTIGATION OF CONDUCT OF THE WAR.

Senate Makes Beginning on Work of War Department in Arming and Equipping Army.

Washington, Dec. 12.—An inquiry by congress into the general conduct of the war was begun today with the investigation, by the senate military committee, of the war department of the work of arming and equipping the American forces. Major General Crozier, chief of ordnance, said: "It was apparent that the original program did not contemplate our participation in the war, we compressed a five year program into one year when it became apparent that the one million men program would not do."

Another British Credit.

London, Dec. 11.—In the house of commons tomorrow the chancellor of the exchequer, Andrew Bonar Law, will move a credit of 550,000 pounds, bringing the total for the fiscal year 1917-18 to 2,450,000,000 pounds.

AUSTRIAN BATTLESHIP SUNK.

THE WIEN WAS TORPEDOED ON SUNDAY.

Report From Vienna Says Most of Crew Were Saved But no Details of Affair Are Given.

London, Dec. 12.—The Austrian battleship Wien was torpedoed and sunk Sunday night, according to a Vienna official statement received at Amsterdam and forwarded by the Central News. Most of the crew were saved. The Wien displaced five thousand, five hundred and twelve tons had a complement of four hundred and forty-one men.

DEATH LIST SMALLER.

Halifax, Dec. 12.—A revised estimate today of the explosion casualties reduced the death list to approximately eighteen hundred. The known dead total eight hundred, and it is believed that not over one thousand bodies are under the debris. The list of victims is steadily becoming smaller as relatives are reunited and the refugees return.

BATTLING FOR PEACE.

GERMANS HAZARD OFFENSIVE OF GREATEST MAGNITUDE.

Using All Arms to Bring Off Coup That Will Incline Allies to Conclude Peace.

London, Dec. 13.—When the Associated Press correspondent inquired of a high naval authority today, "if the anti-submarine war is going well, what was the reason for the high rate of sinkings during the past three weeks," the answer was:

"The enemy has had more submarines at work. They have actually been attempting a submarine offensive of the largest possible magnitude, in the effort to reinforce their offensive on land. They are trying to bring off a coup which will incline us to peace. They have failed signally on sea as on land, and have had to pay heavy prices. Our counter measures are meeting with increased success."

The census crop reporting bureau announced today that the estimate of the cotton crop for the year 1917-18 is 10,949,000 bales.

Christmas Gifts

For Men.

In making your Xmas purchases remember that our name on a gift is like Sterling on silver, a guarantee of the best.

We are Showing

- HATS
- CAPS
- SUITS
- SHIRTS
- SOCKS
- TIES
- MUFFLERS
- COLLAR BAGS
- OVERCOATS
- RAIN COATS
- MACKANAWS
- SWEATERS
- UNDERWEAR
- FANCY VESTS
- BATH ROBES
- SMOKING JACKET
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