

# The Watchman and Southron.

THE 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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## AMERICANS IN BATTLE.

### UNCLE SAM'S SOLDIERS LOOSE 758 ON ENEMY.

French Airmen Defeat Attempt of Hun Flier to Get Behind General Pershing's Men.

With the American Army in France, Saturday, Feb. 2 (By the Associated Press)—The whole American sector is resounding with the boom of guns. Airmen became exceedingly active along the American front on Saturday. Enemy snipers wounded two Americans slightly early this morning.

A shift of the wind today cleared away the mist which has hindered aerial preparations and other activities for several days. A number of battles in the air were fought by patrolling planes early this afternoon. In one instance the French aviators defeated an attempt of German fliers to cross behind the American trenches.

The artillery and snipers also have become increasingly active. American 75s are harassing traffic behind the enemy trenches. The Germans are confining their fire largely to the American trenches.

Throughout Friday night machine guns rattled ceaselessly from German positions.

### DRAFT LAW CHANGES.

Administration Bills Will Probably be Reported in Senate Monday—Machinery Made Broader.

Washington, Feb. 1.—The administration bill authorizing the president to call skilled experts in industry or agriculture into the military service irrespective of classification under the draft was approved today by the senate military committee. Arrangements also were made for final action tomorrow on another bill requiring youths reaching 21 years of age to register for service and changing the quota basis from State population to the number of men in Class one. Both measures probably will be reported to the senate Monday. Chairman Chamberlain and other committee members said tonight that the amendment of the draft law will not include provision for exemption of men who reach 31 years without being called into service. This was proposed by Secretary Baker but since development of opposition from Provost Marshal General Crowder it is understood that Mr. Ba. will not press for the amendment.

The bill for drafting of industrial and agricultural experts would give the president power to take registered machinists, artisans or other skilled labor from any or all parts of the country, principally to meet any emergency call from General Pershing.

### ARGENTINE VESSEL SUNK.

Steamship Goes Down in Two Hours After Series of Five Explosions.

New York, Jan. 31.—The sinking in the Mediterranean of the Argentine steamship Ministro Irriendo on January 26 was reported in a dispatch from Paris today to the correspondent here of La Prensa of Buenos Aires.

The dispatch quotes the captain of the *Irriendo* as saying that the ship was two hours after having been damaged by five explosions. No submarine was seen. The French destroyer *Bambara* vainly attempted to take the ship in tow. The crew were rescued and taken to Barcelona, Spain, and a report of the circumstances of the sinking sent to the Argentine consul at Toulon, France.

### Under French Flag.

Buenos Ayres, Jan. 31.—The steamer *Ministro Irriendo* left Buenos Ayres under the French flag. The captain of the Spanish steamer *Reina Victoria Eugenia*, which is now in port, says he met the *Ministro Irriendo* in the Mediterranean Sea, sailing under the Argentine flag and that he saluted the steamer as an Argentine vessel. The matter is being investigated.

### SHOT AT LENINE.

Another Unsuccessful Attempt Made to Kill Bolshevik Leader.

London, Feb. 1.—Another unsuccessful attempt on the life of Premier Lenine was made last night according to the Petrograd correspondent of The Daily News. A young man in a student uniform entered Smolny Institute and fired a shot from a revolver at Lenine, without hitting him. The Red Guards stationed on the outside of the premier's room were arrested, charged with neglect of duty.

## THE BERLIN STRIKE.

### GERMAN GENERAL ISSUES ULTIMATUM TO STRIKERS.

Time Limit Set in Brandenburg Province for Workers to Return to Jobs or Face Court Martial.

London, Feb. 3.—General von Kessel, military commandant of Brandenburg Province, in which Berlin is situated, threatens summary punishment of strikers who fail to obey his order that they resume work on Monday morning. An Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Copenhagen says the proclamation set 7 o'clock as the hour at which they must return to work, adding, "Employees failing to resume work will be tried by courtmartial, which is authorized to impose sentence of death, execution to take place within 24 hours of the time the sentence is imposed."

### Newspapers Throw Little Light on Movement of German Workers.

London, Feb. 3.—The latest news concerning the German strike situation appearing in the morning papers of today is confirmatory of the Berlin announcement that the movement is dying out.

Saturday's Berlin newspapers reaching Holland and Denmark failed to throw much additional light on actual happenings in Germany. The most interesting item appeared in the Socialist organ, *Vorwaerts*, in the form of a notice to its readers.

"Through the force of circumstances," said this notice, "it is at present impossible for us to give news of any events which would especially interest our readers."

### STRIKE PETERING OUT.

So Says Official Statement Issued in Berlin.

Amsterdam, Feb. 3.—Ending of the strike in Germany on Monday is predicted in a semi-official statement issued in Berlin on Saturday evening. It was:

"The strike everywhere is on the wane. Man factories now are working with full staffs, and it is assumed the strike will be ended entirely on Monday. This opinion is confirmed by reports from all parts of the country."

### COTTON SHIPMENTS ORDERED.

Will Be Forwarded by Water From Southern Ports Will Relieve New England Shortage.

Washington, Feb. 1.—To relieve the shortage of cotton at New England mills, Director General McAdoo instructed C. H. Markham, regional director for the South, to ship immediately between 500,000 and 1,000,000 bales of cotton to Brunswick, Savannah, Charleston and other Southern ports for transshipment by water to New York and New England.

Mr. Markham was told to ship the cotton by any route in order to make the most speed. The shipping board, also has agreed, Mr. McAdoo announced, to furnish additional vessels to carry cotton now accumulated at Galveston, New Orleans and other gulf ports to the Northeast.

### RATIONS IN ENGLAND.

System Has Proven a Success in British Hotels.

London, Jan. 30.—Rationing of meat, flour and sugar has been an unqualified success in British hotels and restaurants, according to a report from the Ministry of Food. The reports received from the proprietors show that some hotels have used only half of their allowance of meat, while numerous eating places have been 20 to 35 per cent under their ration of bread and flour. The best report on sugar showed a total amount used of only two-thirds of the official allowance.

Under the present regulations, hotels and restaurants are allowed to use two ounces of meat for breakfast and five ounces for lunch and dinner. The other allowances are eight ounces of bread, two ounces of flour and one ounce of sugar daily.

### SHORT SESSION OF SENATE.

The Appropriation Bill to Come up Tonight.

Columbia, Feb. 4.—The senate was in session only a few minutes this afternoon, considering only uncontested matters. It will take up the appropriation bill tonight. The house does not meet until tomorrow afternoon.

## AMERICANS IN FRANCE.

### LORRAINE FRONT HELD BY AMERICAN SOLDIERS.

For First Time Censor Permits Publication of Exact Location of Sector Defended by Army of Democracy—Instructions Issued to Correspondents.

With the American Army in France, Saturday, Feb. 2 (By the Associated Press).—American troops now are occupying a sector on the Lorraine front. The military censor has permitted publication of this announcement.

The correspondents permanently accredited to the American army have been informed they may proceed to virtually any point in the zone of fire, except the trenches, without escort and without special permission. Arrangements were made today whereby newspaper men may proceed to any brigade headquarters a few kilometers behind the trenches after first reporting their presence within the zone to the headquarters of the division of which the brigade is a part. Unless there is some occurrence which makes it inadvisable in the opinion of the brigade correspondents to move nearer the front they may walk from his headquarters to regimental headquarters behind the lines.

Since all roads immediately behind the front are within easy German gun range and under German observation not more than two correspondents may move forward together. They must wear gas masks in alert position and helmets. Newspaper men must obtain special permission to visit the trenches and must be accompanied by an escorting officer.

The fact that American troops were in the trenches in Lorraine was revealed by the German war office three months ago. At that time, according to an official German announcement, the Americans were on the front at the Rhine-Marne Canal, which intersects the battle line near the German border, due east of Nancy. This announcement was made in the official report from Berlin of the first German raid on the American positions, in which three Americans were killed, five wounded and 12 captured.

The eastern end of the battle line in France and Belgium runs through French and German Lorraine. French Lorraine, in which is the American sector, is included in the departments of Meuse, the capital of which is Verdun; Meurthe-et-Moselle, whose capital is Nancy, and Vosges, with the capital at Epinal. The length of the front in French Lorraine is about 150 miles.

This section of the battle line extends into the Meuse from the Marne near St. Menchould, and runs eastward to the north of Verdun, south to St. Mihiel and east to the German border. There it turns to the southeast and almost parallels the border to the vicinity of Leintry.

Below Leintry it cuts across a section of French soil, past Badonviller and Senones and to the east of St. Die and again crosses the German border at a point west of Colmar. The remainder of the line to the Swiss boundary is in Germany.

Since the battle of Verdun there has been no fighting of great importance along this front. For the most part it runs through high and broken country.

### LAST INCREMENT CALLED.

Final Section of First Draft February 23rd.

Washington, Feb. 4.—Provost Marshal General Crowder announced today that the movement of the last increment of men of the first draft will begin February 23rd, and continue for five days. This will complete the operation of the first draft, as all States will then have furnished their full quotas.

The movement will bring the strength of the national army to 685,000 men. Of the new men Camp Jackson will get 3,383, and Camp Gordon will get 2,800 negroes.

### MUNITION FACTORY DESTROYED.

Serious Disaster With Many Deaths Reported Near Prague.

London, Feb. 4.—An explosion in a munition factory near Prague, the capital of Bohemia, involving the loss of many lives, is reported in dispatches received at Zurich, and forwarded by the Exchange Telegraph. According to the statement the depot was blown up intentionally.

## HITCHECOCK ATTACKS BAKER.

### STATEMENT TO SENATE WAS PREPOSTEROUS AND EXAGGERATED.

Republican Senator Says Secretary of War is Misled by Lack of Information and Wilson Himself Does Not Know Real Situation.

Washington, Feb. 4.—Secretary Baker's recent statement before the senate military committee that the United States would have a half million soldiers in France early this year, and that the prospects are not unpromising for ships to carry more during the year has been characterized by Senator Hitchcock in an address before the senate as "absolutely preposterous and so exaggerated as to convey false impression as what we can do and are doing."

He spoke in support of the war cabinet and munitions director bills. He said that Secretary Baker is no doubt sincere, but is misled by lack of information; that President Wilson himself "does not know the real situation." The Nebraska declared that blunders that "almost surpass belief have occurred in the war department;" that the shipbuilding situation is a farce and almost a crime; that the transportation system has broken down, is a gigantic wreck, with two millions of tons of freight at New York awaiting ships; that the fuel administration's order paralyzing war and other industries; that the food distribution has also been inefficient.

Administration leaders are prepared to reply to Senator Hitchcock and a spirited debate is indicated.

### BATTLE IN FINLAND.

General Mannerheim Arrests as Rebels Red Guard Alleges.

Stockholm, Feb. 3.—Troops of the Finnish government under General Mannerheim appear to be closing in on the revolutionary Red Guard at Uleaborg, on the Gulf of Bothnia, according to news reaching Haparanda. A dispatch from that point to The Aftonbladet says the Red Guard in Uleaborg sent a delegation to General Mannerheim for the purpose of reaching an agreement, but that the general declined to deal with the rebels and arrested the members of the delegation as bandits.

Two hundred of the Red Guard who left Tornea on Friday to reinforce the revolutionists at Uleaborg found that the railroad had been torn up a few miles south of Tornea and that government troops had taken up positions between Tornea and Kemi. Government forces also are reported to be approaching Uleaborg from the south.

A number of Russian officers have escaped from Kemi over the ice to Haparanda. The say the soldiers attempted to lynch them and their commander whose house was fired. The commander escaped. The situation at Helsingfors is increasingly serious.

A telegram from Helsingfors reports the assassination in prison of Deputy Emikkola, a leading member of the diet, and hints at additional cases of the same kind. The Swedish population of the city is eagerly awaiting the arrival of the Swedish gunboat and the three other vessels sent to remove Scandinavian subjects.

The Red Guard and their Russian helpers are reported to be murdering and plundering in Helsingfors. Thirty bodies are in the city morgue. The Scandinavians in Helsingfors are leaving the city.

A delegation of prominent Swedes held a meeting in Stockholm and later called on Prof. Eden, the Swedish minister, and Dr. Hellner, minister of foreign affairs, and declared their intention of aiding the forces of law in Finland in their struggle against anarchism and barbarism. The ministers expressed warm sympathy for Finland, but said no official intervention could be expected.

The Svenska Dagbladt, in a leading article, openly advocates assistance for the troops of the Finnish government in the way of arms and ammunition.

### THE HALIFAX DISASTER.

Blame Placed Upon Pilot of French Ship.

Halifax, Feb. 4.—The blame for the collision between the French munition ship *Mont Blanc* and the Belgian relief ship *Imo* on Dec. 6th, has been placed upon Pilot Mackay of Halifax and Captain Lamodes of the French ship in the judgment rendered today by the government commission which investigated the collision.

### AMERICANS MAKE GOOD.

First Artillery Duel Shows That American Gunners Are on Their Jobs.

With the American Army, France, Sunday, Feb. 3.—American officers are elated over the results of the first artillery duel between American and German gunners Saturday evening. The infantry commanders paid a tribute to the promptness with which the artillery responded to their call for a barrage and the effectiveness of the artillery fire.

### TO DELAY EXAMINATIONS.

Local Exemption Board Hears from Provost Marshal General About the Calls.

The local board has received a telegram from Washington instructing them not to call any more men for examination. No more calls will be made until orders are received; however, the men notified to appear will come before the members of the board and if any change of the regulations about the examining of the men is announced, the men will have the benefit of the change the same as all others.

### ORDERS TOO DRASTIC.

State Fuel Administrators Given Warning.

Washington, Feb. 2.—State fuel administrators were notified by the fuel administration tonight that they must cease exceeding their authority in issuing without instructions from Washington general orders restricting the use of coal.

The admonition was called forth by the fact that some administrators have enforced the Monday closing order in a manner more drastic than was intended by the government and because of their conflicting instructions to consumers. In a telegram to all State fuel administrators in the East sent out tonight, Fuel Administrator Garfield said:

"As a result of various restrictive regulations established locally by State fuel administrators in certain States we are receiving many complaints of discrimination between different States and inequalities in the requirements of neighboring communities. After careful consideration, United States fuel administrator Garfield has concluded that regulations in every State should in general be uniform with those promulgated by Washington.

"We particularly desire to uniform regulations for the whole country at the earliest possible date not later than February 6, having especially in mind conformity with national orders for lightless night and orders restricting churches, theatres and other public gathering places, as well as orders relating to closing drug stores, food stores and others selling necessities.

"In general, we feel that the United States fuel administrator's order of January 17 is sufficiently drastic and that further extension should not be attempted unless absolutely required by local emergency and substantially supported by local sanction.

"If you have already established additional regulations, we ask that you announce a date in the near future, after which regulations in your State will be uniform with those of Washington."

### WHEAT FOR THE ALLIES.

Australia Has Grain if Ships Can be Secured.

Washington, Feb. 2.—Millions of bushels of wheat are available in Australia to feed the armies of the allies if only ships can be obtained, Crawford Vaughn, former premier of South Australia, today told twenty-eight State directors of the public service reserve, who are aiding the campaign to enroll workers for shipbuilding.

"The prime need of the Allies is ships," Mr. Vaughn said. "There are today 300,000,000 bushels of wheat in my country waiting for tonnage."

Louis F. Post, assistant Secretary of Labor, sent a reassuring message to the States represented by the directors that the voluntary recruits for industrial service will be withdrawn from their present positions in such a way as to disturb manufacturing conditions as little as possible.

Cooperation of all branches of the government and of the Red Cross was promised the State directors in their work. The campaign has two more weeks to run, and from preliminary reports it is expected that the goal of 250,000 men enrolled will be more than reached.

## HOOVER ISSUES WARNING.

### INCREASE IN FLOUR PRICES MUST BE CURBED.

Food Administration Will Take Prompt and Severe Action Under Act Giving Control.

Washington, Feb. 1.—Unwarranted price increases in wheat flour substitutes will not be permitted. The food administration tonight gave warning to dealers they must not take advantage of temporary shortages in other cereals brought on by the heavy demand the new baking regulations has caused.

Many complaints reached Food Administrator Hoover today that dealers in the substitutes already have begun to lift their prices.

Mills of the country, said Mr. Hoover, "are prepared to meet the greater demand of housewives and bakers for other cereals during the next few months.

"At least one of the substitutes is produced in quantity in almost every part of the country. If any shortages occur they will be local. The supply of substitutes is ample to meet our needs.

"The normal tendency or local scarcities would advance prices out of line with the cost of production and distribution. Under the food control act this will not happen. All licensees dealing in food commodities who do not give their customers the benefit of fair and moderate prices selling at no more than a reasonable profit above cost will have their licenses revoked.

"Unlicensed food retailers who sell at more than a reasonable profit will have their supplies cut off by the food administration."

### ARGENTINA CALLS ATTACHES.

Officers Summoned From Berlin and Vienna.

Buenos Ayres, Feb. 1.—The minister of war has recalled Argentina's military attaches from Berlin and Vienna. In political circles this action is regarded as significant and connected with the sinking of the Argentine steamer *Ministro Irriendo* January 26.

The Argentine minister to France has confirmed the fact that the steamship was flying the Argentine flag when sunk. The government has not announced by what authority the change of flags was made after leaving this country—the vessel having sailed under the French flag—but accepts the sinking as an unfriendly act, even though the use of the home flag was unauthorized. The assumption in political circles here is that Germany does not intend to keep her promises in regard to Argentina's shipping.

The situation here is tense and the authorities are maintaining more than their usual silence on the subject. After an unusually long lapse of time the foreign office today replied to the notes of Peru and Uruguay which notified Argentina of their rupture of relations with Germany and that of Brazil informing Argentina of her sister country's state of war with the central powers.

Argentina in the three notes sent in reply expressed her appreciation and warmest sympathy with the three other South American countries. The note to Brazil, which was the most significant, says that the Argentine government has followed all the phases of the causes which led to this just resolution. The notes and simultaneous recall of the military attaches from Berlin and Vienna are regarded as indicating that the country is working on a crisis in its international relations.

### ITALIANS HOLD POSITIONS.

Attack by Austrians Fails to Dislodge Them From Newly Gained Positions.

Rome, Feb. 1.—Austrians attacked on the Asiago plateau yesterday in an attempt to drive the Italians from their newly won positions in the Monte di Val Bella region, the war office announced. The enemy, however, were unable to reach the Italian line. The Italians by a sudden attack at dawn yesterday advanced their lines as far as the head of Telago valley in this sector.

Washington, Feb. 2.—An agreement to report favorably to the senate on Monday the administration railroad bill was reached today by the senate interstate commerce committee which decided upon government control to terminate eighteen months after war, and giving the president power to initiate rates, subject to appeal to the interstate commission.