

Abbeville Press and Banner

Established 1844.

\$1.50 the Year.

Abbeville, S. C., Friday, Dec. 21, 1917.

Single Copies, Five Cents.

76th Year

GERMAN U-BOAT CAMPAIGN FAILS

British Naval Expert Tells of Achievement Tonnage Gains Edge

PRODUCTION KEEPS ASPACE WITH LOSSES

Ships Being Built Faster Than They Are Sunk—Gives The United States Credit For Contributing to the Reduction Of the Loss.

New York, Dec. 19.—Arthur Pollen, British naval expert, who has sailed for Europe after spending six months in the United States, gave to the Associated Press a statement in which he said that the campaign of the allied navies against the submarine has resulted in keeping the world's ship tonnage from showing a monthly decrease or will soon do so. Mr. Pollen gives credit for this success to the change in the chief command carried out by the British admiralty last spring and the participation of the American navy.

Mr. Pollen pointed out that six months ago the German submarines were causing a net attrition in the world's tonnage at the rate of nearly 25 per cent. annually. While the present rate of attrition is difficult to estimate, it was stated that last month Great Britain launched as much tonnage as she lost, and within the next 12 months a substantial part of the 6,000,000 tons provided for in this country will undoubtedly be afloat.

Great Britain's shipbuilding program will similarly increase month by month, and moreover the campaign of the allied navies against the submarine will grow in value week by week, he said.

German Effort Blocked.

"The significance of this to the fortunes of war does not have to be pointed out," Mr. Pollen continued.

"It means that Germany's flank attack on allied communications has failed and that there is no reason why, ultimately, the full military power of Great Britain, France and Italy and more important of all the United States should not be felt in the Western theater of war. This is a tremendous result."

Adverting to the recent North Sea raid by German forces, Mr. Pollen said:

"The only remarkable things about such incidents is not their occasional occurrence, but their rarity. Were the British or the American navy in the position of the German navy I fancy they would be fare more frequent."

UNION SERVICE SUNDAY NIGHT AT BAPTIST CHURCH

The regular fourth Sunday union service will be held next Sunday night with the Baptists, Rev. J. L. Daniel preaching the sermon.

POST OFFICE EXAMINATION.

There will be an examination held here on Jan. 12th for Fireman-Laborer for this Post Office. The salary will be \$660 a year. For information ask at the post office or write Secretary Civil Service, 304 Post Office Building, Atlanta, Ga.

A DODGE AND BUICK 4.

E. H. Longshore sold two more cars and delivered them Tuesday. A Dodge car to Mr. Lewis Ramey, of Sharon, and a Buick Four to McAdams Brothers at Antreville. They are mighty well pleased with their cars.

A GLANCE OVER THE COUNTRY

News in a Condensed Form to Be Read By the Busy Reader.

The German Chancellor says that it is entirely out of the question to talk peace to England.

The Congressman who fired the first shot on the Austrians is coming home. His hand is disabled.

All of the crews of the merchantmen in the convoy in the North Sea attacked by the submarine were saved.

Mexico's special envoy leaves Washington for Argentina where he will attend the Neutrality Conference. He didn't even say goodbye.

The English speaking people of Canada went solid for conscription in Canada. The German and French who are out numbered by the English were against it.

In Texas one Sul Ludin was arrested and put in jail pending an investigation. He had a German soldier's uniform and several toasts to the Kaiser written in his trunk.

Andrew J. Peters, former assistant secretary of the Treasury, is the new Mayor of Boston. The election was sharply contested and Mayor James M. Curley, who sought re-election ran second.

Judge W. C. Adamson of Georgia, a member of Congress, was appointed a member of the Board of Customs appraisers of the port of New York. W. C. Wright of Newnan, Ga., was nominated by the Fourth District Democratic convention to succeed him.

Hoover says to eat turkey by all means as that will conserve the red meats. The old fashion custom of turkey goose and vegetables is the very things that the Food Administration wants the people to eat as they conserve the wheat, red meats and fats which are so necessary to the war foods. Tuesday is the meatless day.

Westinghouse Plant at Jersey City requested the government to let the mhave 35 pounds of brown sugar. In the making of the electric globes a very small amount of brown sugar is used and if they did not get that amount the plant would have to be closed down. Federal Administrator Fielder of Jersey City gave assurance that the amount would be made available each week.

RED CROSS MEMBERS.

For the benefit of the Red Cross members and for those who have worked so faithfully in the Red Cross rooms, I have asked our county papers to publish the remarks on the Inspection Sheet returned to us from our headquarters in Atlanta "Permit me to thank you for your splendid service in this great Red Cross enterprise."

Three other boxes have been shipped since this one and hundreds of garments have been cut and are being finished preparatory to a shipment in January.

Mrs. T. G. White, Chm'n. of Woman's Bureau.

COTTON MARKET

Cotton ----- 30 c.
Seed ----- \$1.05

SEPARATE PEACE IF BOLSHEVIKI RULE

Separate Peace Is Inevitable Result of Bolsheviki Rule

RUSSIAN OFFICIALS AT WASHINGTON DESPONDENT

Germany Hastening Negotiations So That Peace Can Be Concluded Before Fall of Lenine and Trotsky.

Washington, Dec. 19.—A separate peace between Russia and Germany is inevitable and nothing less than a miracle will prevent its consummation unless Russia shakes herself free from the stranglehold of Bolsheviki, Russian officials predicted today.

"The effects of a separate peace between Russia and Germany cannot be overestimated," a Russian official stated. "Once a separate peace has been signed, the action will be irreparable. Germany realizes this and will let no obstacle stand in her way. She will even make concessions which she has no intention of keeping in order to further the criminal actions of the Bolsheviki.

Officials forecast at the embassy is that Germany and Austria will comply with Trotsky's "no annexation, no contribution and self-definition of boundaries" demands.

The Teuton foreign ministers, probably will also agree not to use any forces now on the Russian front against the allies—because the Germans no longer have a formidable force stationed there. What forces formerly stationed along the Russian front have not been transported to other front, or replaced by weaker units, have mostly been withdrawn far enough from the line to place them out of the jurisdiction of the "joker" in Trotsky's peace program.

"Conclusion of a separate peace, which now seems inevitable," an official said, "will be an irreparable wrong to loyal Russia and her allies. Once separate peace articles have been signed, Russia will be permanently out of the war. The fact that such a peace agreement will be illegal, having been consummated by an irresponsible power, will in no way mitigate its effectiveness.

Germany's Game.

That the Bolsheviki will continue in power long enough to put over their peace program is predicted by Russian officials. Latest reports indicate that more than one-half of Russia territorially and numerically has repudiated the Maximalist regime. At the present rate of disintegration, their downfall should come within a month, it was stated, but this will be too late.

"German's game is to sign a separate peace before the downfall comes," a high Russian official said. "The central powers will not push their demands for contributions at present because they know it will be virtually impossible to collect. It would make a separate peace more difficult. Germany also can afford to agree, in her hypocritical way, to no annexations because Lithuania, Poland, Courland and Finland's insistence upon autonomy will make them easy victims for German absorption after the war."

The Lenine-Trotsky threat of terrorism to be instituted against their opponents is no idle boast, officials believe. It has always taken an iron hand to rule Russia, and the Bolsheviki are not inclined to ignore Kerensky's experience. They would inaugurate a reign of terrorism as readily as they are now insisting upon separate peace. But, in the bloody excesses which are bound to come, Russia will again regain her sense of political equilibrium, officials predict.

CONGRESS MAKING CLEAN SWEEP OF IT

War Preparations of Army and Navy Under Investigation

TWO MORE PROBES ARE TO START FRIDAY

Investigation of Sugar Situation By Senate Committee May Be Concluded.

Washington, Dec. 19.—War preparations of both the army and navy are under investigation by Congress. While the Senate military committee continued its inquiry into ordnance shortages the House naval sub-committee today opened hearings on the activities of the Navy Department.

Secretary Daniels and Rear Admiral McGowan were the navy witnesses and they told in detail and with evident satisfaction the accomplishments of their departments in meeting the tremendous expansion and extraordinary activities required by the war. Other testimony probably will not be heard by the committee until after the holidays.

Manufacturers Heard.

Private munitions manufacturers occupied today's hearings of the Senate committee. They agreed that there had been delays at the outset, but that production of rifles and machine guns of the finest type now was proceeding rapidly.

Investigation of the sugar situation by the Senate manufacturers committee may be concluded tomorrow with the testimony of Food Administrator Hoover and Friday or Saturday the committee will launch its coal inquiry.

BRITISH REPORT SINKING OF SEVERAL VESSELS

London, Dec. 19.—Fourteen British merchantmen of more than 1,600 tons and three under that tonnage were sunk by mine or submarine during the past week, according to the admiralty statement tonight. One fishing vessel also was sunk.

The shipping losses by mine or submarine in the past week are slightly under those of the previous week, when fourteen vessels of more than 1,600 tons and seven under that tonnage were destroyed.

AMERICAN BULLETS EASILY PIERCE HUN'S ARMOR PLATE

With the American Army in France, Dec. 19.—The German soldiers' armor will not withstand the hard hitting American bullet, it has been shown. A heavy breast plate removed from a German prisoner for a test was literally chewed to pieces by machine gun fire and a rifle bullet fired at a good range had torn a hole in the armor as big as a silver dollar.

Even the bullets from an automatic pistol did the work it was expected they would in this respect.

DISORDER IN PETROGRAD

Petrograd, Dec. 19.—The executive council of workmen's and soldiers' has proclaimed a state of siege in Petrograd in an effort to repress disorders due to the looting of wine cellars and shops.

WARMER WEATHER.

Yesterday dawned a dismal, cloudy day and the hearts of every one who had shopping to do sank down deeper. As the morning grew up into the day the sun came out and the snow began to melt rapidly. Although the mud and slush is bad and disagreeable the air is warm and everyone is rushing to get their shopping done. There is only two more days after today to prepare.

DRIVE ON ITALIANS RENEWED BY HUNS

BUREAU BLAMED FOR SHORTAGE

Claim Millions Were Spent for Manufacture.

Washington, Dec. 19.—How ordnance manufacturers, anticipating the government's war needs, spent millions in preparations, on the chance that war orders would follow while the army ordnance bureau refused to act, was related today by manufacturers to the senate committee conducting the war inquiry.

The manufacturers agreed, however, that the war department's decision to change the type of army rifle, even though it involved a delay in delivery, was a wise one, because it enabled the American army to use a very superior grade of ammunition.

But the efforts of the manufacturers, the witnesses said, to get the ordnance bureau to give its orders for guns on the certainty that war was coming, were futile, and after the war was started delaying changes in specifications were made.

Vice President Stoddard, of the Marlin Arms corporation, declared that when he offered to begin work on guns on the certainty that war was coming, Colonel Rice, of the ordnance bureau, told him: "We're not interested."

"It was utterly impossible to make the ordnance department realize the possibilities of war," said Mr. Stoddard, "and we simply folded our tents and went home."

After the manufacture of rifles began, it was testified, Colonel Thompson wanted to delay production several months by insisting on new standards, but the manufacturers appealed to General Crozier, chief of the bureau, and went ahead with the work.

All the witnesses agreed that the new Browning machine gun, now being manufactured for the army, is superior to any other weapon of its kind in existence.

Change Brought Delay.

Several months' delay in supply rifles, ordnance manufacturers told the senate military committee today resulted from the war department's decision to modify the Enfield type. Factory machinery changes, the committee was told, reduced the output of Enfields for England and production will not return to maximum until next May.

Delays in congressional appropriations, Kimball also stated, further delayed the output. His firm hesitated to take a contract in the absence of definite appropriations.

The new modified rifle and also the American ammunition, Vice President Tyler, of the same concern, testified, are regarded to be superior to British types. After war was declared in April, he stated the war department immediately began negotiations with them to devote their factories, engaged on a British contract for 400,000 Enfields, to make the modified American type.

MR. HORTON HOME.

Editor E. C. Horton, of The Medium, came home from Washington yesterday to spend the holidays in the city with his wife. He says he is getting on fine and likes his work.

TELEPHONE OFFICE CLOSED

As the custom has been for the last twelve years or more the Telephone Office will be closed on Christmas Day from 8:30 in the morning until 5:30 in the afternoon.

Kaiser Throws Masses of Troops Against Defenders of Plains.

SOME GROUND GAINED IN HARD FIGHTING

Berlin War Office Claims Capture of Two Thousand Prisoners—Teutons Also Suffer—Decrease in British and French Losses to Submarine.

The Austro-Germans have renewed in great strength their effort to pierce the Italian line and debouch upon the plains of Venetia in the region of Bassano. In fierce fighting around Monte Asolone in which the enemy again suffered severe losses and several times was repulsed, reinforcement in large numbers were brought up and the Italians were compelled to give ground. The fighting lasted throughout Tuesday and, according to the German war office, more than 2,000 Italians were made prisoners.

Likewise along the southern reaches of the Piave River, the invaders and the Italians are engaged in heavy fighting. A crossing of the old Piave on pontoon bridge was successfully carried out by one enemy detachment, but later the Italians drove them back to the water's edge.

The fighting on the other fronts still remains below normal, although the intense artillery duels in various sectors continue. The artillery activity between the French and Germans in Champagne and in the mountainous regions near the Swiss border is increasing in volume, probably forecasting infantry attacks at an early date.

Again the losses to British shipping through mines or submarines shows a decrease. According to the weekly statement of the British admiralty 17 merchantmen were sent to the bottom last week, as compared with 21 the previous week. French shipping suffered only the loss of one vessel during the week.

Little material damage was done by the Germans in Tuesday night's air raid over London, Essex, and Kent. Ten persons were killed in London and 70 injured. Outside the capital five persons were wounded. One enemy machine was brought down.

Another Spanish steamer, the Noviembre, has been torpedoed without warning by a Teutonic allied submarine.

JOHN A. HOLLAND THE MUSIC MAN

John A. Holland and his brother were in town Wednesday on business. Mr. Holland says that he is doing a big business with his pianos and organs and he is well pleased with the patronage that the people of this county have given him. He intends to do considerable advertising with The Press and Banner next year. It will be worth the time of our readers to watch his ads. He handles a fine line of up-to-date pianos and organs and he delivers them immediately, as he runs two automobile trucks.

He sold a fine piano to Mr. and Mrs. Allen Hagen with which they are delighted. He also sold a fine piano to Mr. R. H. Stevenson for his daughter. It was loaded on the truck at Greenwood and brought through Abbeville and taken to his home four miles out of town and put in Mr. Stevenson's home inside of two hours.

Misses Sarah and Mary Haigler and Mary Milford are at home for the holidays from Coker College at Hartsville.