The Manning Times.

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FIGHT OVER CANAL

GERMAN ATTACKS FORCE BLOODIEST FIGHTING OF SPRING

CANADIANS BEAR BRUNT

Push Towards Channel Ports is Foreshadowed by Success Gained Around Ypres District—British Say Germans Have Half Million Men Massed for Fight to Sea.

London reports: Over a 10-mile arch-like front in Belgian Flanders, touching the region of Bixschoote on the north of St. Eiol on the south, French, British and Belgian troops are locked with the Germans in a series of engagements which recall the stupendous struggles of last October.

Driven from Hill No. 60, south of Ypres, and failing to retake it by a counter attack, **the Germans have launched a sudden advance northeastward, and, after stupifying and killing men in the first trenches with deadly gases, according to British official reports,** have driven in a wedge of infantry that at some points forced the French and Belgians back across the Yser (Ypres) canal, and compelled the British line north of Ypres to fall back to conform with the French.

Although the German advance was considerable, extending, Berlin declares, over a front of five miles, the allies, with the French occupying the center, the Belgians the left and the British the right, started immediately a counter attack and compelled the Germans to give up some of the ground they had taken.

Berlin reports Sunday: We obtained further results at Ypres. The ground captured on April 24, north of Ypres, was still retained in spite of the attacks of the enemy. Further east we continued our attack and took by storm the Solaert farm, southwest of St. Julien, as well as the villages of St. Julien and Kerselaere, and advanced victoriously towards Grafenstafel. During these engagements about 1,000 Englishmen were taken prisoners and several machine guns were captured.

Berlin reports Saturday: "Attempts made by the enemy to reconquer a lost terrain north and northeast of Ypres (Belgium) failed. The French and British attacks broke down under the German fire. The number of prisoners—French, English and Belgian—rose to 2,470. The piecec of cannon captured up to the present total 35. In addition a large number of machine guns and rifles and much ammunition and other war material were taken by the Germans. West of the Ypres canal the Germans stormed the town of Lizerne."

Berlin reports Friday, in describing the opening phase of the forward movement: "In the western arena, during last evening, we advanced from our front at Steenstraate east of Langemarck, against the positions of the enemy, north and northeast of Ypres. With a rush our troops moved forward along a line extending as far as the hills south of Pilken and east of Douon. At the same time they forced their way, after a stubborn fight, across the Ypres canal to Steenstraate and Het Sas, where they established themselves on the western bank of the canal. The villages of Langemarck, Steenstraate, Het Sas and Pilken were taken. At least 1,600 French and British soldiers were taken prisoners, and thirty cannon, including four heavy British guns, fell into our hands.

Paris reports: "To the north of Ypres the Germans by employing large quantities of asphyxiating bombs, the effect of which was felt for a distance of two kilometres behind our lines, forced us to retire in the direction of the Yser canal.

"Toward the west and in the direction of Ypres, toward the south, the enemy's attacks were checked. Vigorous counter attacks enabled us to regain ground and make many prisoners.

"To the north of Ypres the Germans during the night of April 23-24 and during Saturday made strenuous efforts to avail themselves of the surprise they had engineered the day before yesterday with their asphyxiating gases. Their attempts failed.

"On Saturday at daybreak, on the left bank of the Yser, they had succeeded in carrying the village of Lizerne. The French zouaves and Belgian carbineers, however, through a vigorous attack, recaptured the village, which we soon left behind us.

"In conjunction with the Belgian army we made perceptible progress on our left. On our right we advanced more slowly.

"During that time the British troops were subjected to a fierce attack. They immediately replied by a counted attack.

"Supplementary reports furnish fuller particulars of the way the Germans succeeded in forcing our lines back during Thursday evening north of Ypres between the Yser canal and the Poelcapelle road. Thick, yellow smoke emitted from the German trenches and, driven by northernly winds, produced an effect of complete asphyxiation among our troops, which was felt even in our second line positions.

"Counter attacks made yesterday already hav enabled us to regain part of the ground lost. Our situation has been completely consolidated and our action is being carried out under good conditions with the support of the British and Belgian troops."

London reports: The German rushes in Flanders and the Woevre, where they claim considerable successes, are believed to be forerunners of another big effort to break through the allied lines in the west.

For many days Belgium has been sealed from the observation of neutrals, while German reinforcements are being moved to the south to take part in the new offensive, which they hope is to carry them to Calais.

The attack in Flanders, originally levied at the French, has been transferred to the British lines held by the Canadians, on the immediate right of the French, and here for two days the men from the Dominion have been engaged in a deadly contest with the Germans.

These offensive movements by the Germans have been made possible by the state of the ground in the east, where operations are virtually impossible until Voods have subsided. Taking advantage of these conditions the Germans transferred a large number of troops to the west to make another big effort, which shows they are not content to rely on a passive policy.

It is believed that a half million new German troops have reached Flanders and that more guns and material are to be used than were provided for the original attempts to destroy the allied armies in the west—attempts which met with failure both in August and in October.

Londo nreports: The Germans are bringing up troops in Flanders to press the attack, which at the beginning has forced the allied back to the Yser canal, north of Ypres.

This movement, according to reports reaching Holland, has assumed even greater dimensions than those which preceded the battle that raged for more than two weeks in the same region last October. On that occasion the operations ended in the discomfiture of the Germans, who had declared their intention of pushing their way through to Calais.

While the attack originally met with considerable success, due, according to the allies' reports, to the use by the Germans of asphyxiating gase , it is said already to have been checked. The Canadians, who held the extreme left of the British line and were forced to retire when the remained of the front was pressed back, made a brilliant counter attack regaining most of the ground which they had conceded and retaking four guns which they had left in the hands of the Germans. In the words of Sir John French, they save dthe situation.

The British report does not say how much ground they recovered, but the statement in the Berlin offcial report that a British attack at St. Julien was repulsed shows they are well back in their old positions, for that town, which is on the main road between Ypres and Poelcapelle, is immediately south of Langemarck, whence the German attack was launched.

The Germans, however, maintain their hold on the Yser canal further north, for they speak of storming Lizerne, which is across the canal between the towns of Steenstraate and Hetsat, which they took in their first rush. The German attack south of Ypres, which was made ismultaneously with that to the north, apparently has failed entirely.

These attacks are believed to be the beginning of another battle which, with both sides strongly entrenched, promises to be one of the bloodiest and most biter of the war.

REFUSE TO RETIRE

AIKEN DISPENSARY OFFICIALS BUCKING GOV. MANNING.

Town of Aiken is Considerably Aroused Over Action—Old Scrap Opened Anew.

Refusing to be checked out and to turn over the affairs of the Aiken dispensary to the newly elected and commissioned dispenser, officials of the institution in that county who have been in control for several years past late Friday afternoon openly defied Gov. Manning, disregarding the action of the governor in issuing the commissions of the dispenser and officials elected at a meeting of the dispensary board held Tuesday of last week.

The refusal of the old officials to recognize the orders of the chief executive of the State and their expressed intention of holding on to their jobs, although their successors have been duly elected and commissioned, has created a serious situation and is causing much excitement.

Public sentiment is aroused and feeling is running high, as the general public, having tired of the agitation that has been going on for months over control of the dispensary, **a fight that started during the campaign of last summer when the dispensary forces were active in support of a defeated candidate for United States senator,** had welcomed the settlement of the matter of the control of the dispensary, as it was thought, when Tuesday two new members of the dispensary board and a third, holding over through the failure of the county delegation to nominate a member to fill the place of Mr. Rawls of Wagener, who had been named at former meeting of the delegation and resigned, organized and, according to law, elected officials for the several dispensaries throughout the county, cutting salaries and making plans for innovations aimed at lifting the dispensary out of county politics.

There is much resentment on the part of the public because, defying the governor, ignoring his orders and refusing to recognize commissions issued by the chief executive to new officials, certain old officials have in their attempt to retain control of the dispensary, opened the agitation anew.

What will be the action of the governor when he is informed of the development in Aiken is not known.

When the new chairman of the dispensary board, P. P. Dyches, served notice on the dispenser of No. 1 dispensary at Aiken, T. J. Southall, that his successor, R. J. Wade, had been commissioned by Gov. Manning, Mr. Wade being present and armed with his commission, Mr. Southall refused to comply with the demand that he turn over his keys to Mr. Wade after he had been checked out. He declared that he would not step out before May 1, if then.

Three members of the county delegation held a meeting at the office of Senator Williams. The other member of the delegation, G. L. Toole, was not notified of the meeting at that time, it is stated. A recommendation was made for appointment by the governor of another member of the county board. Mr. Rawls' resignation was handed in more than three weeks ago and since that time the terms of office of the old dispensary board have expired and the new board is in charge.

Following the refusal of the old officials of the Aiken dispensary to recognize the commissions of their duly appointed succesosrs signed by Gov. Manning, and the open defiance of the governor late Friday afternoon the three dispensaries in Aiken were clised Saturday morning by the chief of police, Jesse George, acting on orders from Mayor W. J. Moseley, a few minutes after they opened.

Mayor Moseley stated that he wanted to keep the dispensaries in his jurisdiction closed tight until the governor's orders can be obeyed. Other dispensaries throughout the county have remained open, but the action of Gov. Manning is being awaited with unusual interest, for it is believed that he will act decisively in the matter during the next week.

PUBLISH U. S. REPLY

ANSWER IS SENT TO RECENT NOTE OF GERMAN GOVERNMENT

AS TO EXPORTING ARMS

Uncle Sam Suggests That Ambassador Bernstorff is Laboring Under False Impressions—Declares Embargo on Arms Would be Violation of Neutrality.

The United States replied Wednesday to the recnt memorandum in which Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, declared "that if the American people desire to observe the neutrality they will find means to stop the exclusive importation of arms to ono side, or at least to use this export trade as a means to uphodl the legitimate trade with Germany, especially the trade in foodstuffs."

The American note, signed by Secretary Bryan, was drafted at the state department, but was finally penned by President Wilson himself. After pointing out that the language used by Count von Bernstorff "is susceptible of being construed as impugning the good faith of the United States in the performance of its duties as a neutral," the note "takes it for granted that no such implication was intended," and suggests that "evidently the German ambassador is laboring under certain false impressions."

It then declares that while the relations of the United States with any one of the belligerents "can not wisely be made a subject of discussion with a third government," such correspondence between the United States and the allies as has been published shows "the steadfast refusal" of the American government "to acknowledge the right of any belligerent to alter the accepted rules of war at sea insofar as they affect the rights and interests of neutrals."

The attitude of the United States on the question of exportations of arms is restated—namely, that to place any embargo on arms during the progress of a war would be "a direct violation of the neutrality of the United States." The note refers to the spirit of friendship, which the United States desires always to manifest toward Germany and its people and concludes with the declaration that the neutrality of the United States "is founded upon the firm basis of conscience and good will."

The communication was delivered by messenge to Count von Bernstorff late Wednesday and by agreement with the German embassy the state department made it public Wednesday night.

The text of the note follows:

"Excellency: I have given thoughtful consideration to your Excellency's note of the 4th of April, 1915, enclosing a memorandum of the same date, in which your Excellency discusses the action of this government with regard to trade between the United States and Germany, and the attitude of this government with regard to the exportation of arms from the United States to the nations now at war with Germany.

"I must admit that I am somewhat at a loss how to interpret your Excellency's treatment of these matters. There are many circumstances connected with these important subjects to which I would have expected your Excellency to advert, but of which you make no mention, and there are other circumstances to which you do refer which I would have supposed hardly appropriate for discussion between the government of the United States and the government of Germany.

"I shal take the liberty, therefore, of regarding your Excellency's references to the course pursued by the government of the United States with regard to interferences with trade from this country such as the government of Great Britain have attempted as intended merely to illustrate more fully the situation to which you desire to call our attention, and not as an invitation to discuss that course.

"Your Excellency's long experience in international affairs will have suggested to you that the relations of the two governments with one another can not wisely be made a subject of discussion with a third government, which can not be fully informed as to the facts, and which can not be fully cognizant of the reasons for the course pursued. I believe, however, that I am justified in assuming that what you desire to call forth is a frank statement of the position of this government in regard to its obligations as a neutral power. The general attitude and course of policy of this government in the maintenance of its neutrality I am particularly anxious that your Excellency should see in their true light.

"I had hoped that this government's position in these respects had been made abundantly clear, but I am, of course, perfectly willing to state it again. This seems to me the more necessary and desirable because, I regret to say, the language which your Excellency employs in your memorandum is susceptible of being construed as impugning the good faith of the United States in the performance of its duties as a neutral. I take it for granted that no such implication was intended, but it is so evident that your Excellency is laboring under certain false impressions that I can not be too explicit in setting forth the facts as they are when fully reviewed and comprehended.

"In the first place, this government has at no time and in no manner yielded any one of its rights as a neutral to any one of the present belligerents. It has acknowledged, as a matter of course, the right of visit and search and the right to apply the rules of contraband of war to articles of commerce. It has, indeed, insisted upon the use of visit and search as an absolutely necessary safeguard against mistaking neutral vessels for vessels owned by an enemy and against mistaking legal cargoes for illegal. It has admitted also the right of blockade if actually exercised and effectively maintained. These are merely the well known limitations which war places upon neutral commerce on the high seas. But nothing beyond these has it conceded. I call your Excellency's attention to this, notwithstanding it is already known to all the world as a consequence in regard to these matters with several of the belligerent nations because I can not assume that you have official cognizance of it.

"In the second place this government attempted to secure from the German and British governments mutual concessions with regard to the measures those governments respectively adopted for the interruption of trade on the high seas. This it did, not of right, but merely as exercising the privileges of a sincere friend of both parties and as indicating its impartial good will. The attempt was unsuccessful; but I regret that your Excellency did not deem it worthy of mention in modification of the impressions you expressed. We had hoped that this act on our part had shown our spirit in these times of distressing war as our diplomatic correspondence had shown our steadfast refusal to acknowledge the right of any belligerent to alter the accepted rules of war at sea insofar as they affect the rights and interests of neutrals.

"In the third place, I note with sincere regret that, in discussing the sale and exportations of arms by citizens of the United States to the enemies of Germany, your Excellency seems to be under the impression that it was within the choice of the government of the United States, notwithstanding its professed neutrality and its diligent efforts to maintain it in other particulars, to inhibit this trade, and that its failure to do so manifested an unfair attitude towards Germany. This government holds, as I believe your Excellency is aware and as it is constrained to hold in view of the present indisputable doctrines of accepted international law that any change in its own laws of neutrality during the progress of a war which would affect unequally the relations of the United States with the nations at war would be an unjustifiable departure from the principle of strict neutrality by which it has consistently sought to direct its actions, and I respectfully submit that none of the circumstances urged in your Excellency's memorandum alters the principle involved. The placing of an embargo on the trade in arms at the present time would constitute such a change and be a direct violation of the neutrality of the United States. It will, I fell assured, be clear to your Excellency that, holding this view and considering itself in honor bound by it, it is out of the question for this government to consider such a course.

"I hope that your Excellency will realize the spirit in which I am drafting this reply. The friendship between the people of the United States and the people of Germany is so warm and of such long standing, the ties which bind them to one another in amity are so many and so strong, that this government feels under a special compulsion to speak with perfect frankness when any occasion arises which seems likely to create any misunderstanding, however slight or temporary, between those who represent the governments of the two countries. It will be a matter of gratification to me if I have removed from your Excellency's mind any misapprehension you may have been under regarding either the policy or the spirit and purposes of the government of the United States. Its neutrality is founded upon the firm basis of confidence and good will.

"Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) "W. J. Bryan."

At the German embassy no comment was made on the note further than a statement that it had been transmitted to the foreign office at Berlin, and that as it was a reply from the American government to a communication from the German government the embassy was without authority to say anything until instructed to do so.

GOODS CAN GO TO HOLLAND

British and Dutch Have Eliminated Germany.

Arrangements have been made between the British and Dutch governments whereby through embargoes and other measures, possibility of supplies reaching Holland by water being trans-shipped to Germany is eliminated.

Official notice was given Wednesday that not only conditional contraband, such as food supplies, but even goods on the contraband list of the British government may be given safe passage to Holland through the blockade lines. The British embassy issued this statement.

"1. Shipments of wheat, wheat flour, and meal, destined for consumption in Holland should be consigned to the Netherlands government.

"2. Shipments of all other articles on the British contraband lists destined for consumption in Holland should be consigned to the Netherlands Overseas Trust.

"3. The Netherland-American, the Royal Holland Lloyd, and the Royal Steamship company have instructed their agents that shipments of cocoa, coffee and tobacco must also be consigned to the Netherlands Overseas Trust."

POLES IN DIRE NEED

Seven Million People Face Danger of Famine.

Seven million Poles, of whom two million are Jews, are in dire need of food, according to a statement Thursday by Hermann Laundau, a prominent Jewish philanthropist associated with Jewish charities in London.

"The Jews are even poorer than the Gentiles," Mr. Laundau said, "because of the boycott against the Jews in parts of Poland before the beginning of the war.

"In parts of Poland evacuated by the Germans many Jews are living on potato peelings and garbage left by the army. The Catholic population has been able to vee beyond Warsaw in much larger numbers than the Jews.

"The citizens' committee at Warsaw is the only large agency for affording relief for refugees.

"Where relief is provided for the Poles the daily allowance to each person is only four cents, which is barely enough to keep the people alive in a country where prices are high. It is difficult to obtain food at any price."

Cotton Steamer Detained.

The Danish steamer Southerner, Charleston to Rotterdam, has been detained at Falmouth pending negotiations by the British to buy the cargo.

To Review Fleet in New York.

On May 17 President Wilson will go to New York to review the fleet. Afterwards the fleet will rendezvous at Hampton Roads, preparatory for its trip to San Francisco.

VILLA FORCES BEATEN

CAROTHERS CONFIRMS REPORT OF SIGNAL DEFEAT.

Villa Retreats From Irapuato, Making Desperate Effort to Rally Army at Aguascalientes.

Official confirmation of the report of the defeat of Gen. Francisco Villa by the Constitutionalists commanded by Gen. Alvaro Obregon in the battle of Celaya reached the state department in a dispatch received from Geo. C. Carothers, the special agent of the United States, who has been attached to Villa's military headquarters. Carothers said that Villa had lost 6,000 men.

Villa made three assaults upon the Obregon forces at Celaya in an effort to capture that city and crush the main army of the Constitutionalists. Repulsed with heavy losses, he fell back northward on the main rail line to his headquarters at Irapuato on Saturday, and his forces began retreating from Irapuato to Aguascalientes. Mr. Carothers fled to Aguascalientes on Saturday with the vanguard of the retreating Villistats.

Villa is making a desperats effort to rally his forces against the victorious advance of Obregon's army toward the north. Villista forces engaged in the attacks on Matamoras, Nuevo Laredo and Tampico have been called for and are being rushed toward Aguascallentes in the hope that they may enable him to stem the tide. Villa is greatly in need of men and ammunition.

The defeat of the northern chieftain is believed to be even worse than it is pictured by Carothers, who has been so friendly toward the cause of Villa that he has been slow to report his reverses.

Here is Secretary Bryan's announcement of the summary of Carothers' confirmation of the repulse of Villa:

"It is reported from Aguascalientes, under date of April 17, that the third assault by Villa on Celaya on the 14th to 16th was repulsed with great loss to the Villa forces.

"It is stated that Villa fell back to Irapuato, and that Obregon remained in Celaya. The estimated Villa losses up to the 17th were 6,000 men. Obregon's losses are unknown. Further advices, dated the 18th from Aguascalientes, state that four trains of Villa soldiers have arrived from the south with six cannon, apparently indicating a retreat on the part of the Villa forces around Irapuato. These troop trains arrived at Aguascallentes on the morning of the 18th."

UP TO GOVERNOR.

Frank's Lawyers Admit Pardon Alone Can Save Their Client.

Whether Gov John M. Slaton or Gov. Nat E. Harris of Georgia will be called on to pass on the Leo Frank case seems to be uncertain, owing to the fact that probable action by the prison board will fail, in greatest likelihood about at the time in June when the present governor goes out and the new governor comes in.

A few days' delay in one direction, or unexpected expedition in the other, could put it up to Gov. Slaton, or could carry it over to be decided by Gov. Harris, and a scanning of the closeness of possible dates leaves the matter in a complete state of uncertainty.

In the meantime, Leo Frank is through with the courts. His lawyers admit that with the unfavorable decision by the United States supreme court nothing now stands between him and the gallows but the prison commission and the governor's clemency.

DENIES BREAK.

Von Buelow Denies Negotiations at Italy are Threatened.

Prince von Buelow, the German ambassador to Italy, has requested The Associated Press to deny a widely circulated rumor that he has transferred the Villa Malta, his Rome residence, to his brother-in-law, the Prince di Camporealo, in view of the approaching rupture between Italy and the central empire.

Instead of there being a break between Italy and Austria-Hungary, Prince von Buelow said he thought the negotiations connected with his mission were proceeding satisfactorily; they had given him confidence that what he terms "the good sense of the Italian people" would triumph in the end.

The negotiations, according to Prince von Buelow, were now mostly being conducted in Vienna, but as in all the discussians the contracting powers had been far apart in their point of view, it was taking a long time to come to any definite conclusion.

DESTROY SUBMARINE.

British Picket Boats Prevent Escape of Secrets to Enemy.

The British admiralty announced officially Tuesday that the British submarine E-15 was destroyed by British picket boats.

The announcement says there appeared to have been danger that the vessel would fall in the hands of the enemy in a serviceable condition and two picket boats were sent to the point at which the E-15 had run aground, during the night of the 18th to destroy her. The picket boats were subjected to a heavy gunfire but torpedoed the submarine and rendered her useless. One of the picket boats was sunk but all of the crew was rescued with the loss of one man, who died of his wounds.

FIRE IN BIPLANE.

Rifle Shots and Machine Guns Turned on U. S. Birdman.

A United States army biplane flying over Fort Brown, near Brownsville, Texas, was fired upon late Tuesday from the Mexican side of the Rio Grande. About twenty rifle shots were directed against the machine, while simultaneously a machine gun on the Mexican side from Fort Brown fired about fifty shots directed, it is believed in army circles, at the aircraft. The machine landed safely.

Carranza Offers Apology.

Gen. Funston reports that the Carranza forces have apologized for the firing upon the American aeropiane and have advised him that such an occurrence will not happen again.

VETERANS GATHER

COLUMBIA IS HOST TO LAST WEARERS OF THE GRAY

OLD SOLDIERS WELCOMED

South Carolina Confederate Veterans Hold Reunion in Capitol City of the State, Where Fifty Years Ago Contending Armies Fought and Federals Burned City.

The passage of a half century of time was temporarily forgotten Thursday while the remnant of the heroes of the Confederate armies contributed to that gallant cause by South Carolina gathered in Columbia for their annual reunion.

The streets and business houses were gay with bunting and everywhere the Stars and Bars waved bravely to the April breeze. The city, which was laid in ashes fifty years ago by Sherman's army, threw wide her gates and recived with open arms the men who followed Lee and Jackson and Hampton and Butler and the other famed leaders of that epoch-making conflict.

Several hundred survivors of the Confederacy were assembled in the Columbia theatre at ten o'clock when Mr. W. A. Clark, commander of Camp Hampton, called the gathering to order. The stage and theatre were tastefully decorated with Confederate flage and growing flowers. Grouped on the stage were the sponsors and maids of honor, making a beautiful background to the gray uniform of the aged Confederate veterans, who occupied the seats on the front part of the platform.

The Columbia Mills band kept the old soldiers enthusiastic with the songs that they sang when going into battle a half century ago. And "Dixie" always brought the "rebel" yell. Mingled with the war songs of the Confederacy were the national songs, and even "Tipperary," the marching song of the British, was not forgotten.

The exercises were opened by the singing of the "Doxology," led by Mr. F. F. Wilden, of the Y. M. C. A., the entire audience standing and joining in the singing. The invocation was made by the Rev. F. O. S. Curtis of Walterboro, division chaplain, who feelingly voiced the rapidity with which the thin gray line is getting thinner, and who in the course of his prayer returned thanks that a Southern born man now occupied the chair of Abraham Lincoln, and was guiding the nation through the troubles of the present time.

Mr. Clark introduced Gov. Richard I. Manning, who made the address of welcome on behalf of the State. The governor was received with cheers and paid a warm tribute to the devotion and self-sacrifice of the Confederate soldiers and praised the rightconsness of the cause for which they gave their all.

His references to the old soldiers brought cheer after cheer and when the governor referred to the fact that the president of the United States was a Southerner, that the chief justice of the United States Supreme Court was an Ex-Confederate soldier, and of the commanding and leading part the South had in the affairs of the nation, he provoked prolonged applause.

Mayor Lewis A. Griffith welcomed the veterans on behalf of the city of Columbia and Mr. John W. Lillard, chairman of the board of directors, on behalf of the board of directors, on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce. Lieutenant Governor Andrew J. Bethea made the address of welcome on behalf of Camp Maxcy Gregg, Sons of Veterans, and Mr. W. A. Clark, commander of Camp Hampton, made an address of welcome. Responses on behalf of the veterans were made by Col. Alfred Aldrich of Barnwell and on behalf of the Sons by Col. A. L. Gaston of Chester, the State commander.

After the addresses of welcome Mr. Clark turned the gavel over to Maj. Gen. B. H. Teague of Aiken, the commander of the South Carolina division, U. C. V.

The annual oration was made by the Rev. Wm. E. Boggs, D. D., of Atlanta, a noble son of South Carolina, and himself a Confederate veteran. Mr. Boggs justified secession.

The veterans held a business session, at which time Gen. C. Irvine Walker, honorary commander of the United Confederate Veterans, was presented. Gen. Walker occupied a seat on the stage at the morning exercises.

The veterans were given a ride around the city, cars being furnished for that purpose by the Street Railway company. A reception for the official ladies and veterans was held at the Jefferson Hotel in the afternoon. Thursday night "Camp-fire Scenes" took place in the theatre, this being a decided hit.

The South Carolina Sons of Veterans are holding their reunion in Columbia also. The business sessions are being held in the Richland county court house.

Veterans are being housed and fed all meals being served at Craven Hall. The Boy Scouts are acting as guides and escorts for the Veterans and everything is being done for their enjoyment.

TEUTON SUBJECTS CALLED HOME

All Austrians and Germans From Switzerland.

All German and Austrian subjects in Switzerland, even those who never did military service, were recalled Thursday by their respective governments.

News reached Lugano, Italy, Thursday morning that the Italian government had stopped the trans-Atlantic service with the United States. Passengers who had purchased tickets have had their money returned to them. The Italian government, the report says, requires all the steamships.

Killed by Falling Wall.

More than a dozen persons were killed in Birmingham, Ala., Wednesday when a two-story brick store was crushed by the fall of a five-story wall.

German Victory in Africa.

Berlin claims that a force of British soldiers were defeated by the Germans near Pangani, with a loss of several hundred.

SHOT BY STRANGE MAN

THREE MEN AT GRESHAM STIR UP MUCH SUSPICION.

When Citizens Go to Investigate Their Presence They Are Fired Upon and One is Hit.

Late Wednesday afternoon Mr. Whaley, a young white man, and two friends of Marion noticed that three men were concealed in the bushes near the railway at Gresham, on the North and South Carolina Railroad, in this county.

Arming themselves, the three citizens went out to investigate, two going in one direction and Mr. Whaley in the other. The latter was the first to come upon the suspects, and when he asked them what they were doing around there, they replied, "Attending to our own business and you had better leave."

After this remark they began to walk away into the woods, and Mr. Whaley followed them to a wire fence, which the suspects crossed. As Mr. Whaley started to cross the fence the larger of the three men told him not to come any further, but Mr. Whaley continued to climb.

The large man raised his pistol and shot Mr Whaley in the abdomen, inflicting a serious wound. Mr. Whaley's companions, hearing the shot, rushed to the scene and found Mr. Whaley, but the men had disappeared into a swamp. Friends phoned to Marion for Sheriff Dazier, who left for the scene promptly, taking Rural Officer Davis with him.

They began an all-night chase, beginning at Gresham, where the strangers got back on the railroad, which they followed to Mullins. At the latter place the sheriff found that the men wanted had just passed Smithboro, headed for Dillon, and were concealed in a box car. Dillon was advised to be on the lookout, but when Sheriff Dozier reached Dillon it was found that the N. and C. freight, upon which the men reached Dillon, arrived there just at the time a northbound freight on the Atlantic Coast Line pulled in, and the suspects quickly changed trains and made a get-away.

Mr. Whaley, in speaking of the appearance of the men, said that two of them were white, one a large man and the other a small man, and that the third party was a negro. One of the trio carried a bag, which appeared to be partially filled with tooks, this latter fact giving cause for the belief that the men were yeggs.

PRESIDENT SENDS GREETINGS

To the Confederate Veterans in Reunion in Columbia.

The Columbia Record Friday morning received from the president of the United States a telegram of greetings to the Confederate veterans of South Carolina in reunion assembled:

"Washington, D. C., April 22.
The Record, Columbia, S. C.

"I am sure that every American joins with South Carolina in profound gratitude for the 50 years of peace which have reunited the country in every effort of patriotism and common duty.

"Woodrow Wilson."

Dr. Jos. R. Wilson, father of the President of the United States, is buried in the quiet church yard of the First Presbyterian church of Columbia, of which he was pastor for several years. Dr. Wilson was a strong sympathizer of the Confederacy, having been pastor of the First Presbyterian church at Augusta from 1858 continuously throughout the scenes of the war until 1870.

It is stated that on one Sunday morning, in response to a message from Gen. Lee, Dr. Wilson adjourned his services that his congregation might go to the arsenal in Augusta and assist in getting ready a lot of ammunition to be dispatched to the armies in the field.

OPEN DOOR IN CHINA.

United States and Great Britain Make no Change in Policy.

While declining to discuss in detail the American policy toward the Japanese-Chinese negotiations, Secretary Bryan said Tuesday the United States government still stood firmly on the announcement made at the beginning of the Wilson administration of its purpose to support the policy of the open door and freedom of commercial opportunity in the far East.

From Sir Edward Grey's statement of a similar character in the British parliament, officials believe that Great Britain's position has undergone no change and that the principle of the open door will continue to be the aim of the powers.

The Japanese government has given assurances that it is not its purpose to violate either the open door policy or China's territorial integrity. How far its present demands on China may be considered as infringing on these principles can be answered only by a knowledge of details of the negotiations, something officials are unwilling to discuss because of the injunction of secrecy placed on the matter by the Japanese government.

Officials appear optimistic over the progress of the negotiations, indicating a belief that the difficulties at Peking may be adjusted satisfactorily without requiring further diplomatic correspondence between the United States and Japan.

OUTSIDE NEW YORK.

Three Big Foreign Cruisers Are Seen Off Harbor Entrance.

A squadron of three foreign cruisers, the most powerful gathered since the war began, lay off the entrance to New York harbor Wednesday.

Nearest the shore was a four funnel British cruiser, seven miles east of Ambrose Channel lightship. Her name and the names of her companions could not be made out, even through glasses. Ten miles east of the Highlands rode the second ship, an auxiliary cruiser, big and with lines that spelled speed. This cruiser, observers thought, was a stranger here, the Caronia having departed, presumably for supplies.

The largest ship of the squadron, a four funnel cruiser, lay 15 miles southeast of the Highlands. This vessel, too, had not been seen previously by shore observers.

Appelt of Manning Sick.

Senator Appelt of Manning lies dangerously ill in a Columbia hospital.

BRITISH CONFIDENT

MINISTERS INDICATE IMMINENCE OF GREAT MOVEMENT

HAVE SENT 750,000 MEN

Allies Appear to Have Large Armies Concentrated on Continent and Seem to be on Verge of Making Determined Drive at Turkey—Naval Activity Expected.

London reports Glowing accounts of the strength and conditions of the British army and of the great increase in the output of munitions, of which it is expected next month will amount to twenty-five times what it was last September, given by David Lloyd George, chancellor of the exchequer, and Harold J. Tennant, parliamentary secretary of the war office, in the House of Commons have increased enthusiasm and confidence of the people of England.

Supplementing the chancellor's statement that Great Britain has more than thirty-six divisions of troops on the continent, and that the output of munitions has increased enormously, Mr. Tennant Thursday, speaking on behalf of the secretary of war, Lord Kitchener, declared that recruiting had been most satisfactory and gratifying; that the health of the troops was splendid and that the wounded were in the London hospitals twenty-four hours after they were stricken in France. He wished to impress on the country the necessity of increasing the supplies of artillery ammunition, adding "There is no limit to the amount required."

The frankness of the cabinet ministers in making known the number of men at the front and the reports that reach London from various sources have convinced the people that at last the big effort against Germany and Turkey is about to commence. Both in the Aegean and North seas there are signs of increasing activity. From Thursday all steamboat communication with Holland is stopped by order of the British government.

Taken in connection with the news from Berlin that British submarines have been in the Bight of Heligoland, where the German admiralty lays claim to having sunk one and perhaps more, this is believed to foreshadow some movement in the North sea; while there is no longer any endeavor to hide the fact that a big Anglo-French force is prepared to go, as Gen. d'Amade, the French commander, has said, "to any point where it is required."

A German report says that part of this force, which is under command of Gen. Sir Ian Hamilton, has been landed at Enos, a Turkish town near the Turko-Bulgarian border, on the northern side of the Gulf of Saros, under the support of the allied fleet. At the same time there is news of transports loaded with troops passing the Island of Lemnos, not far from the entrance of the Dardanelles, and of others being sighted off Smyrna, on the coast of Asia Minor.

This make it uncertain where the blow is to be struck. There are Anglo-French troops in the Aegean sea, including Senegalese, who were transferred from France, and British "Tommies" from the outposts of the empire, which, with the disappearance of the last German raiders, are considered safe from attack.

Farther east, in Mesopotamia, the Turkish army sent to bar the British advance from the head of the Persian gulf, after having suffered six thousand casualties, is in full retreat, harassed not only by the British, but by Arab tribesmen, whom they had enlisted on their side and who, now that the Turks have been defeated, have turned against them.

Nearer home the British are holding tenaciously to Hill 60, near Ypres, which they captured from the Germans Saturday and which the Germans since have been trying to retake. The French are pressing hard on the two sides of the German triangle in the Woevre.

The Russians, according to their accounts, are repulsing repeated Austrian attacks southeast of Lupkow pass in the Carpathians and are holding their own against the Rustro-German efforts on their flanks near Gorlice, in western Galicia, and Stry, in the eastern part of the same province. These attacks apparently are being made with the object of holding the Russians where they are while the Germans are preparing to strike at the Russian lines at some other point, possibly from the direction of Cracow.

Although rumors are many and divergent, no definite news has been received of Italy's intentions. While dispatches indicate that the tension between Rome and Vienna has slackened, the belief is general that before many weeks both Italy and some of the Balkan states will assume a more definite attitude.

POWER OF STATION IS TREBLED

Power of Wireless at Sayville, L. I., is Increased.

To insure wireless communication between Germany and the United States under all kinds of static conditions, the power of the Telefunken wireless station at Sayville, L. I., has been almost trebled. Through this plant the German governments transmits most of its official communications to the United States government and the German embassy communicates with Berlin. Many of the official war bulletins from the German capital are received at the Sayville station.

The electric plant has been increased from 35 kilowats to 100 kilowats. Three 500 foot towers to support the wireless aerials are at Sayville ready to be placed in position and it is expected that before the end of next week the new and powerful apparatus will be in operation.

Peace Reports Are Numerous.

Rome, Italy, reports that persistent rumors of peace are current and they will not down. Nothing is authentic.

French Air Squadrons Active.

Two French aerial squadrons attacked railway positions along the Rhine Monday, firing some forage stores at Manheim.

Merchant Marine Grows.

The United States merchant marine increased 135 vessels, of 485,586 tons, during the month of March.