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AMERICAN WATERS MAY SEE GERMAN U-BOAT OFFENSIVE

U-Boat Sinking Falling off Recently.

SECRETARY BAKER ISSUES WARNING

Recently there has been a marked decrease in U-boat sinkings and Secretary Baker takes this as indication of offensive on American shipping.

Washington, Jan. 27.—Warning that the Germans are preparing for a great submarine offensive against the American lines of communication with France in connection with the impending Teutonic drive against the western front is given by Secretary Baker in his weekly military review made public tonight by the war department.

Recently there has been a marked decrease in the number of allied merchant ships sunk by submarines. The explanation for this is explained in the withdrawal of submarines in preparation for the coming thrust on land and sea. The review says:

"As the time draws near when once again the enemy will endeavor to strike a decisive blow in the west, it must be emphasized that he will not be content with mere military operations on a large scale.

"During the past fortnight enemy submarines have been recalled to home ports to be refitted and the most powerful submarine offensive hitherto undertaken may be expected to be launched against our lines of communication with France, to interrupt the steady flow of men and munitions for our own armies and food supplies for the Allies.

"During the period under review, renewed activity along the entire western front is noted.

A carefully coordinated operation undertaken by British monitors acting in concert with land batteries in the area north of Ypres, subjected the German defenses of Ostend and surrounding country to a severe bombardment.

"No infantry action was attempted in this sector by the British, but later in the week the Germans reacted sharply and directed a strong assault against the short sector of the line in the Dunearca, which fringes the coast in the vicinity of Nieuport. This attack, which must be considered something more than a simple raid, broke into the French lines and, for a brief period, the enemy detachments were able to hold their ground in the advanced French outposts. The French speedily brought up fresh forces, drove out the enemy and were able to reestablish themselves in their former positions without difficulty.

"In the Italian theatre the importance of the successful French assault in the region of the Monte Tomba three weeks ago is proven by the retreat of the enemy in this area.

"The enemy has abandoned an extensive tract of terrain north of the Monte Tambo extending to the Piave. The Austrian lines now rest on the Monte Spioncia.

"It would appear that the enemy has for the time being abandoned his attempt to break through this channel to the plain.

"The Austrians, while still strong in this sector, nevertheless no longer directly threaten the key positions of the Italian line. Increasing liveliness of enemy artillery activity in the Val Lagarina is recorded.

"It is apparent that the Austrians are carrying out their plans of shifting their centre of attack further to the west.

"The Val Lagarina offers peculiar attraction for an invasion of Italy. It is a classic path of invaders coming from the north. We may expect that should the opportunity seem favorable the enemy may attempt an operation in this area.

"Reports reach us of the increasing restiveness of the Slav population of Austria, more particularly the Czechs.

"The general strike in Vienna and other upheavals throughout the monarchy are assuming serious proportions and they are no longer to be held of mere internal interest, but will inevitably react on the general political situation.

"In Russia, peace negotiations have continued with frequent interruptions.

TO CONDUCT SMILEAGE CAMPAIGN THIS WEEK

Books on Sale at Palmetto Bank and Powe Drug Co. Laurens Expected to Voluntarily Do Her Part.

The military entertainment council has selected this week as the time during which it will conduct its Smileage Campaign. Prof. B. L. Parkinson and L. G. Balle have been appointed directors of this locality. In speaking of the campaign Mr. Balle said:

"Uncle Sam is doing big things in a big way. Our boys in the training camps and cantonments are made to work hard but they are also given an opportunity to smile. In all the camps and cantonments Uncle Sam is building Liberty Theatres or auditoriums, or will set up a Liberty Tent in which he expects to provide entertainment of the clean, wholesome type by the best talent the country affords. This is done to keep our boys satisfied and free from homesickness as far as possible. Moreover, he realizes the boys must have amusement and relaxation after the day's grind and that if they cannot get it inside the camp they will take what they can get somewhere else—probably of a vicious nature and hence, the entertainments have a direct bearing upon the health of our army and are absolutely necessary in maintaining the morale of the boys in khaki. A Smileage Book is a book containing coupons entitling the holder to admission to the entertainments. There are two kinds of books—the \$1.00 size containing 20 coupons, and the \$5.00 size containing 100 coupons. The military entertainment council hopes to raise at least \$1,000,000 through the sale of these books. The books will be on sale at the Palmetto Bank and Powe Drug Company. It is not our purpose to make a whirlwind campaign as we believe our quota can be raised without that. Anyone who has a son, brother, husband or sweetheart will be expected to see that he gets a book. We feel sure Laurens will do her part along this line as handsomely as she did in the Liberty Bond, Red Cross and Y. M. C. A. campaigns."

BUYS LUMBER YARD SITE.

Mr. T. Mac Roper Buys the Lumber Yard Site now Occupied in Part by Herbert L. Roper as a Lumber Yard.

The warehouse and adjacent property on the west side of South Harper street, now occupied in part by Herbert L. Roper as a lumber yard, was bought several days ago from the owner, Mr. Robert J. Alderman of Acolu, by Mr. Roper's father, Mr. T. Mac Roper, the consideration not being stated. The property runs back to Caroline street and lies on both sides of the Greenville branch of the C. & W. C. Railroad. Mr. Roper does not intend making any changes in the property at present.

This old site has considerable local historical interest as it has long been devoted to the lumber business. The "oldest citizens" will recall that in 1852 was erected there what was claimed to have been the first steam saw-mill in the upper part of the state, the owner of which was a Mr. Hix and from him got the name "the Old Steam Mill" which has long clung to it and which is sometimes heard to this day. Since that time, of course, new buildings have misplaced some of the old ones, the present building occupied by Mr. Roper having been erected in comparatively recent years.

More for Armenian-Syrian Relief.

The Advertiser is in receipt of another subscription of Five Dollars for the Armenian-Syrian relief fund. The contribution is by an anonymous subscriber. The reports from the Armenian-Syrian headquarters in New York are to the effect that Armenians-Syrians are in dire distress under the persecution of the Turks, aided and abetted by the Germans, and that the subscriptions so far, while very liberal, do not near meet the needs of the situation. The Advertiser will continue to keep open the fund for their relief and will send forward the money collected from time to time. It has Ten Dollars now on hand and would like to have a much larger subscription before making the next remittance.

SCHOOL PUPILS RENDER AN ENTERTAINING PROGRAM

Friday Morning Chapel Exercises are Given Over to a Review of Things Southern. Public is Invited.

A number of people in attendance upon the opening exercises at the graded school Friday morning were charmed with a delightful southern program, rendered by some of the older pupils of the school, which had been substituted for the regular morning chapel exercises. Although a short religious service was held before the program, most of the time was devoted to the special exercises by the boys and girls. The program consisted of southern songs, dances and literary topics, all selected with a view to entertainment as well as enlightenment. Among the numbers on the program was a "Colonial Hop" danced by Misses Mildred Counts, Martha Barksdale, Margaret Taylor, Bernice Meng, Annie Barksdale, Frances Hudgens, Margaret Wright and Dorris Young. An old fashioned minuet was danced by the boys of girls as a last number on the program. What is reputed to be the oldest known negro folk song—"I've done what you told me to do"—was sung by James Dunlap, Edwin Fuller, Calvin Teague, Margaret Wrigt and Isabelle Sullivan. The same chorus sang that other old negro melody, "I know the Lord's laid his hands on me." Another number was a southern story by Joel Chandler Harris, "How Brer Tarapin Shows His Strength."

All the numbers were rendered in costume and were directed by Miss Kate Wofford. The exercises were presided over by John Hudgens in a very agreeable manner.

The public is invited to attend these exercises, which are held every Friday morning at the opening hour.

DEATH OF MRS. E. W. WILLIS.

Died at her Home Wednesday Night and Burial was Held Thursday Afternoon.

Mrs. Ophelia Willis, wife of Mr. R. W. Willis, died at her home on South Harper street Wednesday night after an illness of several days' duration, the immediate cause of her death being bronchial pneumonia, this having been preceded by cold and lagrippe. Her serious illness was not generally known, so the news of her death came as a shock to her friends and relatives. Interment took place at the Laurens cemetery Thursday afternoon, the services being conducted by Rev. M. L. Steadman, pastor of the First Methodist church, of which the deceased was a devout member. The following gentlemen acted as pall bearers: J. W. Dunklin, E. O. Anderson, R. B. Terry, L. G. Balle, J. P. Tolbert, C. B. Simmons, Aug. Huff, R. E. Babb, W. L. Gray, R. R. Nickels, R. A. Babb, R. A. Cooper, W. G. Lancaster, S. G. McDaniel, W. H. Gilkerson, and B. A. Sullivan.

Mrs. Willis was a native of Anderson, having been a Miss Hall before her marriage to Mr. Willis. Besides her husband, she is survived by her mother, who has been residing with her for some time, and several sisters in Anderson.

Visitor From Alabama.

Mr. W. F. Rose, a resident of Eufala, Ala., but a native of this county who left here about thirty-five years ago, has been visiting in this section and was in Laurens Thursday in company with Mr. J. O. Garrett of Landford Station. Mr. Rose's father will be remembered by some of the older citizens of the county who will recall that he taught school in various communities here when Mr. W. F. Rose was a boy. Mr. Rose was here selling some hogs which his neighbors raised after the boll-weevil had gotten in its work there. He said the boll-weevil worked havoc there for awhile, but after the people began raising hogs, velvet beans, peanuts, etc., there was a distinct turn for the better. The people there now, he said, are as prosperous as they have ever been. The cotton crop of his county was reduced from about 35,000 bales per year to about 4,000 bales per year.

Lieut. Barnett Promoted.

Lieut. D. Eugene Barnett, of Camp Jackson, is another one of the Laurens boys to receive recognition of his abilities. Lieut. Barnett was recently promoted from Second Lieutenant to First Lieutenant.

TILLMAN NOR BLEASE FAVORED BY McLAURIN

Says Neither Should be in the Race for the United States Senate.

"Should I go on the stump this summer I shall unhesitatingly say that I regard the election of either ex-Governor Blease or Senator Tillman as a stupendous blunder," declared former United States Senator John L. McLaurin in a signed statement given out to the Charlotte Observer during his visit to the North Carolina metropolis Sunday and published Monday morning in that newspaper. It is one of the most striking and independent utterances in the annals of South Carolina politics in many years.

Ex-Senator McLaurin did not say that he would be a candidate for governor. He said "whoever is elected governor will necessarily have to line up on one side or the other" of the "present factional lines" and "this I absolutely refuse to do."

With reference to ex-Governor Blease, regarded as a certainty in the next senatorial race, ex-Senator McLaurin declared that "his advent into the senate would greatly strengthen La Follette and a 'little group of willful senators who are doing all in their power to hamper the conduct of the war.' I cannot by silence make myself a party to a national calamity of this character," says the former senator.

Referring to Senator Tillman's expressed desire to "die in harness," ex-Senator McLaurin says "this talk is all rot. A broken down horse dying in harness is exactly to animals." Moreover, the ex-senator declares, "it is unfair to the balance of the team when the load is heavy and the pace is so fast to be handicapped by bog spavin and heaves in an old horse which won't work at all unless he is in the lead."

"Then, too, we need galling gams instead of old rusty worn-out pitchforks," Senator McLaurin observes.

W. D. BYRD IS NAMED COUNTY FOOD ADMINISTRATOR

Arrangements are being Made for the Distribution of Supplemental Food Cards.

Food Administrators have been appointed for thirty-five counties by William Elliott, United States Food Administrator for South Carolina. The Administrators for the remaining counties will be named at an early date by Mr. Elliott. W. D. Byrd has been named food administrator for this county.

The county administrators have been asked to appoint food representatives for all communities in each county. The food administration is making arrangements for the distribution of a supplemental home card which contains the creed of the administrator, to all of the homes of the state. All homes that do not receive this card should get in touch with the county food administrator.

OUT FOR SUPERVISOR.

S. S. FARRAR, of Mountville, States that He will be in the Race this Summer.

Mr. S. S. Farrar, the well known citizen of Mountville, was in the city yesterday and while here announced definitely to a number of his friends that he will be in the race for county supervisor in the approaching campaign and expects to lead in the race. Mr. Farrar was a candidate for county commissioner in the last primary and failed of election by a few votes.

Y. M. C. A. Subscriptions Overdue.

Mr. E. O. Anderson, treasurer of the Y. M. C. A. fund for this county, states that a few of the subscribers to the Y. M. C. A. fund had failed to pay their subscriptions and that he is very anxious to close the books and make a good showing for Laurens county. Committeemen who are responsible for funds in their communities are expected to get busy and make full collections at the earliest possible date.

Cotton Ginning Figures.

Cotton ginnings for this county up to January 19th were 34,615 bales, so reports Mr. C. W. McCravy, county agent. To the same time last year 30,492 bales had been ginned. The ginnings for the entire season last year were in the neighborhood of 31,500. Observers estimate that the total yield this year will be in the neighborhood of 36,000.

HALF MILLION MEN TO BE ACROSS EARLY THIS YEAR

MONDAY WAS AGAIN A FUELLESS DAY

Practically all Lines of Business Observed Spirit and Letter of Fuel Order Monday.

Monday was again a day of rest in Laurens. Practically all lines of business and industry ceased activities Saturday night and remained inactive until Tuesday morning. All of the manufacturing industries, both large and small, except those especially exempted by the government, were closed Monday and all the stores and most of the banks remained closed. The grocerymen, although allowed to remain open under the fuel order, decided that the spirit as well as the letter of the ruling could best be observed by closing with the other merchants, decided not to open their doors at all Monday or any of the following fuelless Mondays up to and including March 18th. The druggists remained open throughout the day, but sold only drugs and medicines as provided under the ruling, except those that operated without heat. The picture show, under a late ruling, was allowed to remain open Monday, but operated Tuesday without heat.

The following agreement with signatures from bankers and grocerymen was secured Saturday:

As a patriotic move and in co-operation with the business houses of the city to conserve the fuel, we hereby agree to close our banks and stores on next Monday, 28th inst., and also on the following eight consecutive Mondays up to and including March 18th, next.

R. B. Terry, Pres. Palmetto Bank.
H. K. Aiken, V-Pres. Laurens National Bank.
C. W. Tunc, Cashier, Peoples Loan & Exchange Bank.
Clyde T. Franka, Cashier Farmers National Bank.

John A. Franks, Owings & Owings, Hunter Bros., J. M. Philpot, J. C. Shell & Co., Owings & Bobo, Kennedy Bros., J. H. Sullivan, Martin & Moore, Fowler & Owens, A. L. Mahaffey.

GRAY COURT CITIZEN DEAD.

Mr. John C. Smith Succumbs to Attack of Pneumonia After Short Illness.

Mr. John C. Smith, a well known citizen of Gray Court, died at his home there last Wednesday after a short illness of pneumonia. His body was laid to rest at Friendship Baptist church the following day, the services being conducted by Rev. Hopkins. Mr. Smith was in the 64th year of his age and had been a member of Friendship church for many years. He was a popular citizen in his community and highly regarded by all who knew him. He is survived by his wife, who was Miss Pamela Putnam, and the following children: Mrs. J. M. Henderson and Mrs. T. C. McCauley, of Gray Court; R. L. Smith, of Ora; R. C. Smith of Gray Court; Mrs. F. B. Kendrick, of Charleston; Mrs. I. G. Smith, of Atlanta; J. H. Smith, of Greenville and G. A. Smith, of Nome, Alaska. The last named is a telegrapher in the government service and has charge of the government office at Fort Davis, near Nome.

Good Time for Gardening.

The shutting down of many of the industries of the state on every Monday for the next nine weeks presents a splendid opportunity to employees of these industries to prepare and plant their spring gardens. The critical food situation in the country makes it absolutely imperative for every family to have the largest possible supply of vegetables for immediate consumption and for canning, and we hope that every employee in the state who is made idle by the fuel administration order will improve his opportunity for gardening.

Needle Craft Club.

Miss Allene Franks was the hostess to the Needle Craft Club on Saturday afternoon. Delightful refreshments were served by Misses Martha and Allene Franks.

Committee Amazed at the Preparations.

MILLION MORE READY TO GO

Secretary Baker Amazes Military Committee with the Completeness of Military Preparations. Men to Go as Quickly as Ships can be Provided for Their Passage.

Washington, Jan. 28.—America will have an army of half a million men in France early this year, with a million more trained and equipped ready to follow as quickly as ships can be provided to carry them and the outlook for this is not unpromising.

Secretary Baker gave this information to the nation and to the world today in a statement before the Senate military committee, baring much that until now has been carefully guarded with the army's military secrets in answering charges that the government has broken down preparing for war.

From early morning until late afternoon the secretary addressed the committee and a crowd including many members of both houses of Congress, gathered in a big hearing room of the Senate office building. He spoke extemporaneously, beginning with details of the mammoth task of building an army of a million and a half, answering such complaints of inefficiency as were cited by Senator Chamberlain in his recent speech and declaring that such instances were isolated and not general. Some questions were asked and Mr. Baker from time to time had assistants go to the telephone for reports on specific questions.

Then toward the close of the day, the secretary delivered a dramatic general statement of the American war plan, telling of the coming of the Allied missions, of the day and night conference with men from the scene of battle in which the plans now being executed were adopted, and of success beyond the most sanguine expectations in building the army and its industrial support at home, transporting men across the ocean, constructing railroads in France and preparing to strike the enemy with every resource at the country's command.

When Mr. Baker closed it was apparent he had created a profound impression. Chairman Chamberlain said so before he left the stand. There was no attempt at cross-examination. The chairman proposed that the secretary be given a rest, and it virtually agreed to recall him for further examination later after the committee has completed its hearing of officers on the medical corps, aviation section and other branches of the service.

While many things disclosed impressed the committee that body was frankly amazed when told that the men of thirty-two national guard army divisional camps are ready to go today at need. When members wanted to know why such things had not been given publicly before, Mr. Baker spoke of the reluctance of the military men to reveal their war plans and quoted German remarks about America's advertisement of her preparations.

Emphasizing that he was not there to defend himself or anybody else, the secretary urged the committee again and again to lay bare any short-coming or failure of the department that it might be corrected. Frequently he paused to seek stronger language to describe the devotion of his associates in the department, military and civilian.

"For one reason or other," he said, "the impression has gone out into the country, to some extent at least, that the war department has fallen down. 'It would be a tragical thing if this tremendous effort, this wholly unprecedented sacrifice made by men, were in fact to turn out to deserve the comment that it had fallen down.'"

Never in the history of time, he declared, had an army of its size been raised, equipped, trained and prepared for battle as had that of the United States.

Mr. Baker took personal responsibility for getting men under training before their equipment was ready "to the last shoe button." Such officers as Major General Leonard Wood, he

(Continued on Editorial Page)