

FRENCH GAIN GROUND BY SUDDEN BLOW

Strike on Front of Two Miles.

GERMANS PREPARE TO STRIKE AGAIN

Usual Time Between Offensives Has Expired and Signs Indicate That Germans are Preparing for What May be Heaviest Blow Yet Delivered

French troops again have been successful in a resumption of the "nibbling" tactics which the allied command has followed, while the Germans prepare for a new blow. The fighting activity on the western front, however, still is much localized. From the enemy lines come no indications that the Germans are about to strike.

Important positions on a front of two miles to a depth of two-thirds of a mile and 350 prisoners were taken by the French in their latest effort in the region of Longpont, northeast of Villers-Cotterets. The sector on which the gain was made is just south of where the French last week made important local gains in the region of St. Pierre Aigle and northward for six miles toward the Aisne. No counter-attacks have been made by the enemy, nor has he struck back at the Australians in their new positions astride the Somme.

For several weeks the Germans have been drilling and instructing special attacking divisions behind the German lines leaving the front positions to be guarded by mediocre troops. German aerial activity has decreased in the past few days, and it is probable the airmen also are making ready for the next onslaught. The German artillery fire has increased to above normal only on certain sectors.

It is not unlikely the enemy will depend on the element of surprise in the impending blow, as he did on March 21 and in the attack against the Chemin-des-Dames. While the Germans have been spreading reports of an attack against the British, it is now known they have not constructed defensive works on the front between Soissons and Rheims. The usual interval between enemy offensive movements has about expired.

Entente airmen are keeping up an active bombardment of the area behind the German lines. British fliers again have invaded Germany, dropping bombs on Kaiser Lautern, east of Metz, and on Luxembourg. In aerial fighting British and French airmen have accounted for 25 German machines.

Patrol activity and local operations are increasing in number on the Italian mountain front. On the lower Piave the Austrians, it is estimated, lost 20,000 men killed, wounded and prisoners in the actions last week in which they were driven back across the river, relieving somewhat the pressure against Venice.

In western Albania French and Italian troops are withstanding strong counter attacks by the Austrians. All positions have been maintained on the heights of Bolnia and slight progress made elsewhere.

Various reports of happenings in Russia in connection with the murder of German Ambassador von Mirbach lack official confirmation. Germany, apparently has not yet acted. An advance toward Moscow has not been reported, although the Germans have had large forces of troops near Smolensk, 250 miles west of Moscow.

MR. McLAURIN'S CONDITION.

Physician Urges Immediate Treatment for Local Neuritis.

Bennettsville, July 6—Hon. John L. McLaurin reached Bennettsville this evening. Dr. W. J. Croiland, his physician, told your correspondent over the phone in reply to an inquiry: "Senator McLaurin is now and has been for several weeks suffering from a local neuritis. Any use of his right arm, such as hand shaking, gesticulating, etc., aggravates the trouble. I have advised him to go to a Charlotte hospital for treatment, where he can have special electric and massage service in order that his relief may be as speedy as possible."

BENET TO SUCCEED SENATOR TILLMAN

Governor Manning Appoints Columbia Man, To Go Into Primary. Appointee Will Ask for Short Term Nomination Extending to End of Session.

Columbia, July 7.—Governor Manning yesterday appointed Christie Benet, prominent attorney of Columbia and close personal friend and political adviser of the governor, to be the successor to the late United States Senator B. R. Tillman. In that the vacancy extends through approximately eight months and as an appointee by the governor could hold but six months, Mr. Benet will go before the people and ask for the short term nomination. Mr. Benet announced that he would go in the primary immediately after the appointment had been made. In making the appointment Governor Manning said:

"My responsibility in appointing Senator Tillman's successor impresses me deeply.

"The occasion calls for a man of full physical and mental vigor, who can present to the people of our State the grave issues of the war and the supreme necessity that every sacrifice should be made, who can gain for the government the full support of our citizens, and who knows and can explain the colossal task that confronts President Wilson and his assistants. I have appointed one whose sterling Americanism is undoubted, who is familiar with the plans and the needs of the administration, and who will stand four square and undismayed in support of the war and successful and forcible conclusion of it.

"I have appointed Christie Benet of Columbia. He had his papers prepared to enlist in the army, and had notified the proper military officers to that effect, but I am justified in appointing him by the valuable work he can do."

Senator Tillman was a member of the National Democratic executive committee and a successor will likely be chosen by the State Democratic executive committee at the special meeting in Columbia Tuesday.

The appointment of Mr. Benet will necessitate his resignation as a member of the board of regents of the State Hospital for the Insane, and also as a member of the State Council of Defense, of which organization he is vice chairman. Mr. Benet will leave for Washington tonight, where he will be immediately sworn in.

Following his appointment, Mr. Benet said:

"The honor that Governor Manning has conferred on me is a great one and the appointment must be justified by my acts rather than by words.

"I will give my best in the senate and on the stump in support of President Wilson and the war.

"But let not him that girdeth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off."

"I shall enter the primary under the rules of the Democratic party, for the nomination for the short term."

SOVEREIGNS SEND HEARTY MESSAGES

The Rulers of France, Belgium, Italy and Greece Send Messages of Warm Appreciation of American Policy and Effort.

Washington, July 8.—Warm sentiments for America and appreciation of its efforts in the war for world freedom are expressed in Independence Day messages to President Wilson from President Poincaré of France, King Albert of Belgium, King Emmanuel of Italy, King Alexander of Greece, President Menocal of Cuba and Premier Venizelos of Greece. The messages with the president's replies were made public today at the state department.

President Poincaré said that the French and American people in communion of thought will remember the fights of old that won liberty for America and hope for the coming of victories which will secure for the world a just peace. President Wilson in reply said it was fitting that the anniversary of American Independence Day should witness the fraternity of free peoples in the cause of national self-determination.

King Albert thanked the American people for their efforts to ameliorate the sufferings of his stricken people and expressed his admiration for the bravery of the American troops on the battlefields of France.

SENATORIAL RACE NOT RE-OPENED

Resolution Was Proposed to Require Cole L. Blease and John L. McLaurin to Show Cause Why Their Names Should Not be Stricken From the Party.

No action was taken yesterday at the meeting of the state executive committee in Columbia toward re-opening the lists in the senatorial race to allow for the entrance of other candidates following the death of Senator Tillman. Although the question has been broached in the newspapers, the question was not opened in the convention, so the race will continue with the present entrants, Messrs. Cole L. Blease, N. B. Dial and James F. Rice.

A resolution was offered that Cole L. Blease and John L. McLaurin be summoned to show cause why their names should not be stricken from the list of candidates in the primary because of charges that have been brought that they conspired to form a Republican party in this state and because of Blease's refusal to attend

the campaign meetings arranged by the committee.

Former Governor John Gary Evans, chairman of the committee, read a prepared speech excoriating Blease and calling upon the committee to take some action. After a lengthy discussion the committee decided that it was without authority to act but ordered the message of the chairman printed in the papers as a warning to the Democrats of the state.

The committee decided not to call a convention for the purpose of re-opening the senatorial primary.

The primary for the short term will be held on the same date as that of the long term.

John Gary Evans was elected National Democratic executive committeeman to succeed the late Senator B. R. Tillman.

MASS MEETING FOR DIAL

Meeting Called by Chamber of Commerce to be Held in the Court House This Evening At Six O'Clock.

Pursuant to resolutions adopted at the meeting of the Chamber of Commerce Monday evening, President W. L. Gray has called for a mass meeting of citizens of the town and county this evening at six o'clock at which suitable resolutions will be introduced setting forth the qualifications of Mr. N. B. Dial, of this city, as a candidate for the office of United States Senator.

The matter of endorsing Mr. Dial's candidacy was taken up at the meeting Monday night, when it was pointed out by several members that it was the duty of Mr. Dial's friends and business associates here to acquaint those people of the state who do not already know him of the high estimation in which he is held here and of the constructive work which

he has carried on in this section during his life.

The meeting is to be an open affair, where every citizen of the county is welcomed to come and participate. As stated by those who suggested the meeting Monday evening, it was called without Mr. Dial's knowledge and without any suggestion from anybody connected with his campaign. Whether or not Mr. Dial himself will be present cannot be stated, as no direct invitation has been extended to him and it is not a part of the program as already laid out to have any formal speeches. Mr. Gray, in calling the meeting, however, has extended an invitation to any citizen of the county to come and voice his sentiments.

WAR STAMPS STILL SELLING.

Cash Sales of Stamps Go Over the Hundred Thousand Mark Week Ending June 29th.

War Savings Stamps are still selling lively in Laurens county. Since the report of last week additional districts have been heard from, adding about Twenty Thousand Dollars to the total of Five Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars then tabulated, 59 of the 62 districts in the county have now been heard from. The three missing ones are Cross Hill Nos. 1 and 6, and Jacks No. 1. There is still time for these communities to get busy and help make the response from Laurens county unanimous.

The central committee is in receipt of a letter of hearty thanks from State Director R. G. Rhett complimenting the county upon the good work done by the large forces of canvassers at a busy time. The cash sales of stamps in the county had gone over One Hundred Thousand Dollars for the week ending June 29th.

A notable instance of liberal and hearty support of this war measure comes from the Banna Mill village at Goldville. The population there does not exceed 160 people at this time. They bought \$3,245 worth of stamps during the campaign thus exceeding a quota of \$20 per head. All the mill people everywhere showed a willingness to help the cause and a detailed report of what they did will be compiled for the state by the chairman of this department who is Pres. Mebane of the Republic Cotton Mills, of Chester county.

The war will end someday and from out the loss and death and disaster some benefits will stand out conspicuously. One will be a new sense of national unity. Another will be the universal habit of intelligent thrift. It is a hard lesson, but Americans are slowly learning it. Thrift begins with care in the spending of money and ends with the purchasing of Liberty Bonds and War Savings Stamps. Buy them yourself and see to it that your neighbor does, too.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Huff, of Greenville, spent the week-end in the city with Mr. and Mrs. Aug. Huff.

W. C. BLAKELY DEAD.

City Health Officer Passed Away at Hospital Early Monday Morning.

William C. Blakely, city health officer, passed away at the Julia Irby Sanitarium early Monday morning following a sickness of about a week's duration. Mr. Blakely was carried to the hospital last week as a result of an attack of appendicitis and following an operation it was seen that his condition was such that his recovery was doubtful.

The funeral services were held Monday afternoon at the Laurens cemetery, the services being conducted by his pastor, Rev. W. L. Mullikin, of the Second Methodist church, assisted by Rev. J. L. McLin. The pall bearers were selected largely from among his associates in the city government and from personal friends. They were Mayor C. M. Babb, Aldermen Sexton and Hellams, City Clerk J. R. Workman, Messrs. Coleman, John Switzer, A. L. Mahaffey, Don Irvin, and A. H. Sanders.

The deceased is survived by his wife, two brothers, Messrs. Ed. Blakely, chief of police, and John Blakely, of New Orleans, Mrs. Mace Motes and Mrs. Joe Ledford.

Mr. Blakely was a man of strong sense of honor and duty. He was a very popular citizen among all who knew him and took a great deal of interest in the welfare of the city. He was always to be counted on in movements for the elevation of the moral and educational welfare of the city, taking an active part in such matters as promoting the Chautauqua, selling Liberty Bonds, soliciting funds for the Red Cross, Y. M. C. A. and other agencies.

Promoted to Captain.

Friends here of Lieutenants J. McC. Barksdale, of this city, and Leon Dodson will be gratified at the announcement of their promotion to captains. Another Laurens boy recently promoted from the ranks to Second Lieutenant is Lieut. Harold Washington, of the Mt. Olive section of the county, who went to Camp Jackson with an early increment of selectmen.

LOCAL COAL ADMINISTRATORS VISIT STATE ADMINISTRATOR

Return to Laurens Much Encouraged Over the Outlook for the Winter.

Messrs. W. R. McCuen and Lamar Smith, local fuel administrators, went over to Anderson Saturday afternoon to confer with Mr. B. E. Gossett, the state fuel administrator, in regard to fuel supply for this city. They were accompanied by Mr. W. E. Meng, of the Laurens Gin & Fuel Company, and a representative of The Advertiser. The trip was made through the country by automobile.

On their arrival at Anderson they went immediately to the office of Mr. Gossett, who had just returned from a conference with Washington officials. After going over the local situation thoroughly and receiving from Mr. Gossett a very frank outline of the duties and responsibilities of his own office, the local administrators came away very much encouraged over the fuel supply for the city this winter.

Mr. Gossett stated that while it was probable that the problem which the fuel administration had to face the coming winter would doubtless be more difficult to solve than last winter, yet he felt safe in stating that a sufficient supply of coal would be forthcoming to prevent any suffering. The policy of the administration, he said, had been to encourage the manufacturing industries with their ample financial resources, to lay in large stocks of coal now so that when winter approached the demand for fuel from that source would not be as heavy as last winter and that transportation facilities would not be taxed so heavily at that time to meet their needs. With the mills' requirements partly met, he pointed out, in an emergency all the available coal in transit could be diverted from manufacturing plants to domestic consumers.

Mr. Gossett told the Laurens administrators that a large supply of run-of-the-mine coal was now available for domestic as well as manufacturing purposes, but it had been the policy of his office to discourage the purchase of the former for domestic purposes because of the large waste entailed in its use. The coal mines have been turning out more of the run-of-the-mine coal than block coal because they claimed that the margin allowed by the government for the additional cost of turning out the latter was not sufficient to cover it. However, Mr. Gossett said, since his return from Washington he felt that the administration would take some action at an early date to remedy this phase of the situation and after that is done he felt that an ample supply of block coal for domestic use would be forthcoming. With this hope, he said, he was still withholding his approval of shipment of run-of-the-mine coal into this state in quantities.

In answer to an inquiry from the local administrators, Mr. Gossett stated that an order had been promulgated from his office forbidding the sale of coal to individuals or groups of individuals except upon the written approval of the local administrators. This, he said, was done in the interest of equitable distribution of the supply to be had and to relieve the local administrators of much criticism and confusion. Hereafter, therefore, all coal sales must go through the hands of the regular authorized dealers except where special permission is granted by the local administrators.

The conference of the local administrators with the state administrator was purely informal and resolved itself toward the end into a social meeting in which the administrator talked very interestingly of the duties and responsibilities of his office and its ramifications. He said that he received notice of all coal that comes into the state and that it was almost impossible for anyone to secure a car of coal without his knowledge. Last year, he said, all kinds of schemes were resorted to by some people to secure more coal than the administrator allotted to them but the schemes were very quickly discovered. In many cases, he said, where it served the purpose of the administrator these schemes were allowed to keep their coal but in nearly every case his office was aware of the game that had been played.

Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Owens and children, Mrs. R. H. McDonald, Misses Bruce and Jennie McDonald and Miss Louise Zobel, all of Columbia, spent the week-end in the city with Mrs. J. Ran Little.

COOPER GIVEN OVATION IN HOME TOWN

Received with Outbursts of Applause.

LARGE CROWD WAS PRESENT

Death of Sen. Tillman Cast Gloom Over Meeting Which was Devoid of Sensational Events. Ex-Senator McLaurin was Absent From the Meeting.

The outstanding feature of the state campaign meeting which was held here last Wednesday was the ovation tendered to Robert A. Cooper, the home candidate for Governor, both at the beginning and the end of his speech. The announcement of the death of Senator Tillman cast a pall of gloom over the audience, a large proportion of which heard of the news for the first time at the opening of the meeting.

The meeting adopted a resolution of sympathy for the family of Senator Tillman. The office seekers at a conference preliminary to the regular meeting drafted a resolution, instructing their chairman, Junius T. Liles of Orangeburg, to send a telegram of condolence to Mrs. Tillman, which said: "The candidates for State offices extend sympathy and condolence to you in your hour of bereavement."

The meeting held in the court room of the Laurens county court house, was attended by about 600 voters. The room was packed to capacity and the crowd extended out into the corridors. As it is the home of Laurens' favorite son, Robert A. Cooper, he received a tremendous ovation. He was presented with two bouquets of flowers at the conclusion of his speech, one of which was from the Baraca class of the First Baptist church, which he taught for years. The other candidates were also generously applauded.

The candidates for governor again stressed the importance of the tax question. Thomas H. Peoples said that he could not promise to reduce the taxes as that was a legislative function, but he would pledge his right of veto if he found anything in the appropriation bill which he thought useless or extravagant. He believed in economical progress of the State government.

John G. Richards said that he would not only promise a reduction of taxation even during the war, but that he could curtail expenses without impairing the institutions of the State.

Robert A. Cooper denied that he had ever said that he was "an apostle of high taxes," but would state that he did not believe taxes can be reduced during the war, but rather that they would be increased. If elected he would endeavor to see that there was economy practiced in all branches of the State government.

John Madison DesChamps again reiterated his belief in higher taxation to put the State in the forefront of the commonwealths of the Union.

Andrew J. Bethea again voiced his belief that the only way to handle the tax situation was by readjustment and equalization.

Major Richards and Mr. Cooper again joined issues today on the scholarship question, the former being for the retention of the system and the latter for a State loan fund.

John T. Duncan paid the larger part of his attention to the "system" and excoriated Cole L. Blease in the bitterest words yet used on the campaign for Mr. Blease's reputed anti-war utterances.

John E. Swearingen, for State superintendent of education, with the consent of his opponent, Victor E. Rector, spoke out of his usual order today in order to catch a train to attend the funeral of his uncle, Senator Tillman.

J. T. McLaughlin, A. A. Richardson, D. L. Smith, T. J. Vowell and H. H. Arnold, for railroad commissioner, preceded the gubernatorial candidates. Following the candidates for governor J. T. Liles and G. W. Wightman, for lieutenant governor, S. M. Wolfe, C. N. Sapp and R. P. Searson, for attorney general and B. Harris, W. D. Garrison and H. T. Morrison, for commissioner of agriculture, commerce and industries, spoke.