

The Battle-Cry
 By CHARLES NEVILLE BUCK
 Author of "The Call of the Camberlands"
 Illustrations by C. D. Rhodes

"And if I were a man, what would you say to me?" she inquired.
 "I reckon"—his words came with a icy coldness—"I'd be pretty liable to tell ye to eternally go to hell."
 "And if I were a man," she promptly retorted, "I'd endeavor with every ounce of manhood I had in me to see that you and the others like you did go there. I'd try to see that you went the appropriate way—through the trap of the gallows."
 She saw his attitude stiffen and his face flush brick-red to the cheek-bones. But after a few seconds she heard him speak with a fair counterfeit of amusement.
 "Well, it bears like we've both got to be right smart disappointed—on account of your bein' a woman."
 And this time it was she who flushed.
 "I don't hardly know why I'm takin' the trouble to make any statement to ye," Hovey went on. "It ain't hardly worth while. Ye came up here with your mind fixed. Ye've read a lot of hearsay stuff in newspapers, an' facts ain't hardly apt to count for much. I reckon afore ye decides to hang me ye'll let me have my day in court, won't ye?"
 "Before your own judge and your own jury?" she naively asked him.
 "That's the way you usually have your day in court, isn't it, Mr. Hovey?"
 "It's you that's settin' as the court just now," he reminded her. "I reckon you can judge for yerself how much I owns ye."
 In spite of herself she smiled.
 "I rather think I can," she admitted. "Approximately, at least."
 "I think I understand ye better than ye do me," he went on slowly. "I think ye're plumb honest in all the notions ye foted up here, despite the fact that most of 'em are wrong. Ye've done come with a heap of money to teach folks what you 'low they'd ought to know. Ye didn't know that they'r duther have ignorance than charity. Ye think that you an' Almighty God have gone in partners for the regeneration of these mountains, where no woman has ever been 'insulted an' no man has to bar his door against thievery; where all we ask is to be left alone. I reckon every day ye're wonderin' 'Is my halo on straight?' It's nat'ral enough that ye should be right scornful of a man that some newspaper reporter has called a murderer."
 "His voice fell away, and Juanita heard again the beating of the hammers out in the barn.
 "Is that all?" she asked, but the man shook his head and stood there looking down on her until under the spell of his unusual eyes she felt like screaming out: "Talk if you want to, but for heaven's sake don't look at me. I can't stand it!"
 "Mebby ef ye'd stopped to think about things," he resumed, "ye'd have seen that I didn't have no quarrel with your plans. Mebby I might even have been able to help ye. I could have told ye for one thing that whether the ways here be right or wrong, they've done stood for two hundred years. Ye've got to go slow changin' 'em. Ye can't hardly pull up a poplar saplin' with one jerk. That's a tap-root underneath it that runs down half-way to hell."
 "If people hereabouts is distrustful of furth teachers an' warden, it's because of the samples they've had. A



"You Have Taken the Boy—Very Well, I Mean to Take the Girl."

somebody might kill him. I warned him away to save his life. Ye've got to make folks forget about Trevor afore ye makes 'em trust you."
 "Thank you," said Juanita coldly. "I'll try to know them that I'm not another Trevor. Are you warning me away to save my life?"
 "I'm tol'able ignorant," went on the man, "but I've read a few books, an' one of 'em told the story of the Trojan hess. I wanted ter see what kind of a critter you was a ridin' into these hills. I come to this cabin the night ye got here to find out."
 "I thought so," she quietly answered. "I was to be inspected like an immigrant, and the lord of the land was to decide whether or not I should be sent back."
 "Put it that way it ye've a mind to," he answered. "Ye was comin' to be a schoolteacher here. Well, I'd done been a schoolteacher here. I see your smile—ye're wonderin' what I could teach. Maybe, after all, it's a right good idea to teach A B C's before ye starts in with algebra an' rhetoric. Ye wouldn't have me as a friend, an' I reckon that won't break my heart."
 "Then," said the girl, looking up and meeting his eyes with a flash of challenge, "I shall endeavor to get along without your favor. We could hardly have met on common ground at best. I shall teach the ten commandments, including 'Thou shalt not kill.' I shall teach that to lie hidden behind a bush and shoot an unsuspecting enemy is cowardly and despicable. I would not be willing to tell them that they must live and die vassals to feudal tyranny."
 (TO BE CONTINUED.)

COUNTY NEEDS NEW JAIL.

J. C. Dunbar Points out Inadequacy of Present Building and Stresses Need of Action by Legislative Delegation.

Editor The Daily Item:
 The time being near for the legislature to convene, I respectfully ask space enough in your columns to submit the following:
 "The grand jury of the present year in looking after the public buildings of the county appointed a committee of its body for that purpose and I herein embody the report of that committee, of which we hope our legislative delegation will take notice:
 "We, the committee from the grand jury to inspect and report upon the condition of the public buildings, beg to submit this, an additional report touching the county jail.
 "The recent escape from this building of several prisoners accentuates the fact that the jail has become inadequate for the purpose for which it was constructed and, unless another building is constructed, we think the interest of the county may be jeopardized.
 "Respectfully submitted,
 "C. E. STUBBS, Chairman."
 This report within itself is sufficient evidence that the jail building has about outlived its usefulness and something more adequate to hold and accommodate the prisoners is necessary. I am confident that the county board is aware of its condition and is ready to do anything in its power to help the condition of things now existing, but the board must have assistance from a source other than its own, if we expect much improvement of the situation.
 Sumter county is fully able to have a place for her prisoners in keeping with the times and some thought should be given to the matter.
 It is now up to the delegation to authorize a levy sufficient for erecting a new building and if the old building can be sold for anything the proceeds can be applied to county purposes. The above committee in making their report to the grand jury gave an impression of great importance of the conditions and stressed the fact that something should be done and that soon. A casual observer would conclude at once, should there be a show of jail building competing for prizes, that ours would not do to enter the arena.
 Respectfully,
 J. C. Dunbar.

Death of Miss Emmie Saunders.

From The Daily Item, Dec. 14.
 Miss Emmie Alston Saunders, of Hagood, died this morning at about 1 o'clock at the home of her sister, Mrs. Hallie Eberhardt, at Chester, where she had been staying. Miss Saunders had been sick for some time. The funeral services will be held at the Church of the Ascension at Hagood tomorrow morning.
 The deceased was a daughter of the late S. H. and Rebecca Saunders, and is survived by several brothers and sisters, Messrs. Geo. M.; Willie L.; S. Harry, Augustus H.; of Hagood, and Marius B. of Asheville; Mrs. Hallie Eberhardt, Chester; Mrs. Jamie Blair, North Carolina; Mrs. Carrie Hopkins, Monroe, N. C.; Mrs. Louise Manning, Jacksonville, Fla.

There is an ordinance on the city books limiting the burning of trash in the city limits, but it does not seem to be enforced.
 The motor truck is expected to arrive in Sumter sometime between now and the first of the year.

UPHOLDS SUBMARINE ACTION.

AUSTRIAN ADMIRALTY WILL NOT DISAVOW SINKING OF ANCONA.

Naval Authorities Approve Act of Submarine Captain—Reply to American Note to Be Announced Wednesday.

Vienna, Dec. 14 (Courier to Berlin, via London, Dec. 15).—The Austro-Hungarian admiralty is entirely opposed to any disavowal of the course of the submarine commander who was responsible for sinking of the Italian steamer Ancona. On the contrary, it approves of his conduct fully and declared that he would have been considered as having failed to perform his duty if he had allowed the Ancona to escape.

The reply to the American note, it is understood, will be delivered soon, possibly Wednesday.

The correspondent of the Associated Press has not been able to secure a forecast of the terms of the reply, but all indications are that a pessimistic view of the situation is justified.

The admiralty today stated its case and attitude of the naval authorities as follows:

"It is a submarine commander's duty to make a report to the designated base as soon as possible, and the commander who sank the Ancona did this as soon as he was within wireless distance of land. He made a supplementary report at Pola and accompanied it with his log. No examination of the crew was held, because the commander's report was considered complete and there was no reason to suppose that the crew could add anything thereto.

"So far as the commander is concerned his course is clear. If the admiralty had found that the commander had done anything contrary to his instructions it would spontaneously institute an investigation against him without waiting for any demand to come from some foreign government. It can happen that a commander in heat of battle deals contrary to instruction, but nothing of the kind has occurred in this case.

"It appears clearly from his report that his ship was in danger, indeed, in double danger, first from the fact that an enemy was approaching on a line that threatened to cut off his retreat and the enemy ship and the Ancona could have escaped his radius of action and could set a torpedo boat flotilla on him, and, second, there was danger of the Ancona escaping, which, according to his instructions, was to be prevented in all circumstances. Hence the conduct of the commander, much as the loss of innocent lives must be regretted and deplored, can not be disapproved.

"On the contrary, if he had departed without destroying the Ancona it would have been failure in his duty since the Ancona could have notified other ships of his whereabouts. The loss of American lives is regrettable, as well as that Americans used a vessel belonging to a nation at war with Austria-Hungary."

A naval writer and expert said to the Associated Press correspondent in a discussion on the demands of the American note:

"It should be remembered that Austria's fleet is her favorite child. Its honor and prestige are treasured to the highest degree. The government might possibly yield points in a matter affecting the army, but disavowal of an act of an Austrian naval officer is hardly thinkable in any but abnormal circumstances. I am certain that it would have to be a very extreme case, indeed, which could justify in the eyes of all Austrians any humiliation of a naval officer at the behest of a foreign power."

The American note relating to the Ancona has not yet been published by the Austrian newspapers, hence the contents of the note are known to only a few of the most prominent officials. One of the leading men in Vienna has summed up the situation for the Associated Press as follows:

"My position requires me to keep in close touch with public affairs. There is no doubt what our that sentiment is with us. Whether the United States breaks off relations with Austria-Hungary rests entirely with her.

"America could not injure us much more as an open enemy than she already has done. She has supplied munitions of war to our enemies and beyond doubt has prolonged the war, which otherwise would be over long since. Our diplomatic and consular officers there have been shamelessly harried and persecuted and have been grossly insulted by the press. The entente has recruited soldiers on American soil; submarines are constructed in American ship yards. It is true that only parts are made and taken into Canada for assembling, but the result is the same. A great number of Americans are fighting with the French and British armies.

"We have not been able to communicate with our ambassador in cipher because America forbids it, although

the American ambassador can cipher. Our side of the case has not been heard and distorted reports from our enemies receive full credence.

"Now we have received a note couched in terms never before addressed by one nation to another, a note couched in terms of open insult. America considers us bound by a former warning delivered to Germany regarding submarine warfare. That note was not communicated to us and can not be considered binding on us. "Austria-Hungary is not an appendix of Germany but a sovereign state."

VIEW OF ADMIRALTY FAILS TO EXCITE.

Washington, Dec. 15.—While the gravity of the situation existing between the United States and Austria-Hungary is emphasized by the statement of the Austrian admiralty on the action of the submarine commander who sank the Ancona, officials said here tonight they were not surprised at the admiralty supporting its officer. It was pointed out that the admiralty vigorously defended the torpedoing of the Lusitania and that the concessions made by Germany to the United States in the matter of her conduct of submarine warfare were the work of the Berlin foreign office.

Officials observed that the statement reveals that the submarine commander supplemented his first report on the destruction of the Ancona and turned in his log, thus apparently disposing of reports that the Vienna government was handicapped in preparing an answer to the American note by inability to communicate with the commander.

A reply from Austria is expected before the end of the week, but no word had been received tonight to indicate just when it would arrive.

News and Views of Pisgah.

Pisgah, Dec. 13.—Winter has come. The fine and pretty Indian summer that we had is a thing of the past. No doubt it will be many years before we see such another.

Very good stands of wheat and oats are seen. The rain Saturday night will bring up the late plantings. During the rain Saturday night the lightning flashed and the thunder roared something not often seen in a cold December night.

I have heard it thunder in January when it was warm, but not in December when it is cold.

Mr. Leon Stuckey of Stateburg has purchased Rev. T. L. Cole's place at Pisgah church and has moved up. He is making improvements to his house. We gladly welcome them to our midst. Mrs. Stuckey is again on her native heath.

Pisgah church has called a Mr. Roton for next year. If he accepts he will probably live at Mizpah church and supply Mt. Olivet, Pisgah and Mizpah churches as his field of labor.

Rev. A. E. Fulman of Westville, Kershaw county, has accepted Swift Creek church and preaches there on the 2nd and 4th Sundays in the afternoon.

The many friends of Rev. J. P. Attaway are pleased that he will remain another year in his present field of labor. He is a fine man and preacher.

Christmas is nearly here and the prospect is for a dull one.

Those who predicted that Germany would plead for peace before Christmas are up against it. If she has, I have never heard of it, the wish was father to the thought. Hope she will wipe the Allies up.

Death of Mrs. F. M. Zemp.

Camden, Dec. 13.—Mrs. F. M. Zemp died in a sanitarium near Washington Saturday. She had been in ill health for two years, but her friends did not think that the end was so near. Mrs. Zemp was Miss Catherine DeLoache, only child of James I. DeLoache of this city. She was born July 29, 1863, and spent a happy girlhood in Camden. In October, 1884, she was married to Frank M. Zemp and they reared their family in this their native town. A lovely Christian character, she was beloved by all who knew her. The remains were brought home for burial and the funeral services were held at the Methodist church Monday morning, conducted by the Rev. C. B. Smith. The floral offerings were many and beautiful. She is survived by her father, her husband and the following children: Marion Zemp of Sumter, Mrs. R. M. Kennedy, Jr., Miss Katherine Zemp, Eugene Zemp and James Zemp of Camden.

GRANT CAPTAINS SAFE CONDUCT

Washington, Dec. 15.—The British embassy received today from London authorization to issue safe conduct to Capt. Boy-Ed and Capt. von Pappen, the withdrawn German naval and military attaches. The safe conducts will be unconditional, it having been decided by the allies not to require the officers to give assurances that they will refrain from participation in the war after reaching Germany.

GOD'S ACRE CLUB.

Hebron Church Has Successful Plan for Raising Money for Missions.

Thirteen members of Hebron church (Presbyterian) this year organized a club known as "The God's Acre Club," the purpose of which was to raise money for foreign missions. The plan adopted by the club was to set aside one acre each and on it grow a crop for the mission fund. A majority of the members planted cotton on their acres, but other crops were grown by others. On December 10th a meeting was held at the church to receive the reports of the club members. The meeting was largely attended, for there was great interest manifested in the operations of the club throughout the community, and everyone was eager to learn the results of this novel method of raising funds for the foreign mission work. When the reports of the thirteen club members had been tabulated it was shown that \$700 had been raised from the sale of crops produced on the thirteen acres. Some of the club members turned in the gross receipts from their acres, while others turned in the net proceeds, deducting the actual cost of fertilizer and cultivation. The results of the first year's operation of the club were so satisfactory that the club was reorganized with an increased membership for next year and the proceeds from next year's "God's Acres" will be devoted to the foreign and home mission causes. Miss Gertrude Dick was elected president of the club.

The meeting was addressed by Rev. L. L. Legters of Bishopville and Rev. J. P. Marion of Sumter.

BIG FIRE IN SPARTANBURG.

Store Room Occupied by Red Iron Racket Guttered by Early Morning Flames.

Spartanburg, Dec. 15.—Fire here early yesterday morning destroyed the stock of the Red Iron Racket store and completely gutted the store room occupied by the firm on Morgan square two doors west of the Chapman building. The loss is estimated at more than \$40,000. Several thousand dollars worth of furniture owned by the Herring Furniture company stored in the rear of the building was also lost. The flames were discovered shortly before midnight by a police officer, but not before the fire had gained considerable headway. The Red Iron Racket store is operated by J. C. Burns & Co. of Laurens and is managed by C. D. Etriken. The stock of Abe Goldbery in an adjoining building was damaged while the Wright-Scruggs Shoe company's store east of the burned building escaped with slight loss.

HIGH COTTON SEED.

Writing from Columbia, December 10, a special correspondent of Cotton and Cotton Oil News (Dallas) says: "Within the past two weeks I have covered practically all the cotton mill points in the Carolinas. Last week I reported the cotton mills running full time, some of them overtime and a few of them night and day, with good demand for their output at profitable prices, while the oil mills all over the belt were having a very bad year, because of the very high price of seed this season.

"Many of them told me they could not possibly figure a profit on the seed they were crushing, while some of the smaller mills had shut down and were selling the seed they had on hand to the big companies. The same conditions prevail in the territory covered this week.
 "Well posted men figure South Carolina crop at probably 1,250,000. It is practically all gathered. North Carolina's crop about same as last year."

In the Recorder's Court.

The following cases have been tried in the Recorder's Court:
 Emma Archer, transporting whiskey for unlawful purposes, plead guilty, and was given a sentence of \$50.00 or 30 days.
 William Brock, transporting whiskey for unlawful purposes, plead guilty and was given a sentence of \$50 or 30 days.
 Joe Levin, jumping train, \$5.00 or 10 days.
 Sylvester Vaughan was tried by a jury on the charge of transporting whiskey for unlawful purposes and having more than a lawful quantity in his possession. J. H. Clifton represented the city and A. S. Merrimon the defendant. The jury found a verdict of not guilty. The defendant was arrested by H. G. McKagen and had a gallon jug and several quarts and pint bottles, which he stated he was getting for other parties. Before the testimony was taken Mr. Merrimon moved to quash the indictment on the ground that the gallon a month liquor law was unconstitutional.
 Washington, Dec. 16.—Well informed circles stated this afternoon that the president will spend his honeymoon at White Sulphur Springs, Va.

ALLEGED CROOKED BUSINESS.

CONGRESSMAN TAVENNER SAYS NAVY LEAGUE AND NICKLE TRUST ARE ALLIED.

Says President of Defense Organization is Chairman of Trust and Connected with Munition Manufacturing Plants—Calls for Government Control of Manufacture of Munitions.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Allegations connecting the Navy League and its preparedness program with the International Nickel Company and other corporations manufacturing munitions were made in the house by Congressman Tavenner, of Illinois. He asserted that Col. Robert Thompson, president of the Navy League, is chairman of the directorate of the Nickel company and that the directorate of the United States Steel corporation, the Midvale Steel Company and other munition manufacturing plants are interlocked with the directorate of Thompson's company. Among the directors of these allied corporations are some of the most liberal contributors to the Navy League, declared Tavenner, whose funds are used in "entertaining the secretary of the navy and other officials." Tavenner urged the government to control all munition manufacture.

CROPS GATHERED AT DALZELL.

Dalzell, Dec. 14.—The crop is about all gathered and a short one it is. Cotton should bring a good price, if supply has any controlling influence. With an eleven million bale crop, with the surplus bought over from last year, we have not anything extraordinary and the world is bound to be scarce of cotton before there is another crop made.

The oat crop, which is a great essential in farming, is about all in. There is some yet to be sowed, but not very much. There is also a good deal of wheat planted, which is an indication that so much flour will not have to come from the west to supply the demand next year.

Farmers are talking about the high price of fertilizer and a good many are somewhat at sea as to whether they will buy the amount used heretofore. Another short crop of cotton will be a blessing to the South and the prices now asked for fertilizers is another blessing in disguise. Some, who claim to be informed, tell us that the belligerent nations need cotton and must have it for manufacturing explosives and various other purposes, so it looks to the average observer that if the war continues for another year or two and the South continues to make short crops of cotton and plenty of foodstuffs for man and beast, we will soon recover some of our losses, which we have sustained in the past. Plenty of hog and hominy, winter cover crops and less commercial fertilizer, with less land, time and attention devoted to cotton spells a more prosperous people. Such a policy should be the slogan of the South.

Germany now seems to be ready to consider terms of peace, but the entente Allies don't seem to be ready. The sacrifices of life, money and property has been astounding, and one hundred thousand square miles of territory has been lost by the quadruple entente, and it does seem reckless on their part to want to keep up such a bloody strife. Serbia is practically lost and the invasion of Montenegro means that it soon will be subjugated by the central allies. So, considering these facts, and all other territory the German factions have with power to levy an extortionate tax upon, to be appropriated in prosecuting the war, the outlook for the entente does not appear particularly bright.

President Wilson's message to congress the other day is worthy of study by every man of average intelligence. Not only congress should ponder and weigh it well, but the whole American people should give it profound consideration. Unpreparedness, in case of an attempt by some of the great powers of Europe, to invade our country would put us in a helpless plight and self-preservation being the first law of nature, we should by all means do all in our power to be ready for such an event, notwithstanding we are a peace-loving people. A commercial marine is another important factor that this country needs as bad as anything else in building up her interest as a progressive nation. The president said the other day that it had been shamefully neglected. That is no new information to the American people. When this country reaches that stage, where she can do her own shipping, or a greater per cent. of it, new fields of trade will open up, and rates of transportation will be less, which, of course, will be a valuable asset to the shippers of this country, and the producer having to bear all burdens of freight on his product, will share in the reduction. Such improvement in conditions is what this country sorely needs.
 J. C. Dunbar.