

PREPARE FOR S. L. I. COMING

2ND CELEBRATION TO BE HELD IN SUMMER ALL NEXT WEEK.

Various Civic Organizations Uniting to Make Occasion a Big Success and Return of Soldier Lads Will Add Interest—Committees Kept Busy Making Arrangements.

Sumter will celebrate in appropriate style the completion of the paving of many miles of streets and sidewalks with permanent material of concrete, bituminous, asphalt and vitrified brick, this month during the week beginning March 19th, the Civic League, City Council, and Chamber of Commerce, helped out by the Murphy American Shows and their splendid band, the Sumter Light Infantry, Calhoun High School military battalion, the fire and police departments, automobile owners and citizens generally participating in a big spectacular parade with hundreds of automobiles and apparatus decorated in national flags and banners or other national patriotic emblems. Sumter has put down three hundred thousand dollars worth of modern paving in eighteen months.

The home coming of the boys of Company L, S. C. National Guard, (Sumter Light Infantry) next week will be made the dual occasion of celebration and rejoicing by the citizens of Sumter city and county, and the date of the big parade will depend upon the time of the arrival of the gallant young soldiers of the home military company.

The celebration of the street paving program will be combined with the reception to the dear old "S. L. I." as that famous command is endearingly termed by Sumter county citizens.

Committees from the Sumter Civic League and Chamber of Commerce as follows met at Chamber of Commerce rooms yesterday and discussed final plans for the dual celebration some day next week.

Chamber of Commerce committee on Civic Celebration—Dr. E. S. Booth, First Vice President, Chairman; A. C. Phelps, president and H. R. VanDeventer, director of the Chamber of Commerce.

Sumter Civic League Committee—Mrs. Nina Solomons, President; Mrs. E. W. Moise, Chairman, Mrs. C. L. Wray, Mrs. J. J. Williams, Miss Hannah Christensen, Miss Lucile Phelps, Miss Aline Harby. These joint committees will have charge of the parade features of the celebration, the ladies of the Civic League committee being particularly charged with that portion relating to enlisting automobiles and the decorations thereof, and to seeing that the different church and civic societies desiring to do so are notified to bid on the serving of the supper complimentary to the returning soldiers of the Sumter Light Infantry.

The following members of the Chamber of Commerce are members of the general committee of arrangements for the reception of the Sumter Light Infantry: Dr. E. S. Booth, first vice president, chairman; Mayor L. D. Jennings, R. K. Wilder, treasurer; I. C. Strauss, W. B. Upshur, Bernard Manning, H. G. Osteen.

Every automobile in the big parade must have a national emblematical significance in its decorations with either flags or banners, national patriotism being coupled up with local civic pride and typifying the welcome to the soldiers returning from months of loyal military duty in the service of the nation.

Gov. Manning, Sumter's favorite son, has been invited to be here to welcome the boys of the "S. L. I." and he is expected to cancel all other engagements, if he has any, as his home town claims, on this special occasion, the right of way and first place in his official and private duties.

Hon. L. D. Jennings, Sumter's popular and hustling mayor, has been invited to address the "S. L. I." with Gov. Manning on the occasion of the banquet to be tendered in their honor by the men and women of Sumter under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce, Civic League, City Council, and citizens generally of their home city.

ERECTING IRON FENCE.

Landscape Gardener to Lay Off Ground at Postoffice.

An iron fence is being erected around the grounds at the postoffice, this having been secured through the efforts of Dr. Dick, the postmaster.

A contract has also been let for the laying out and beautifying of the grounds by a skilled landscape gardener, who will come to Sumter in the near future. These changes will add materially to the beauty of the grounds.

The removal of the old altar in St. Anne's Catholic church is under way preparatory to the erection of the handsome new marble altar, which is expected to arrive in the near future.

LABOR STANDS BY COUNTRY.

ORGANIZED UNION REPRESENTATIVES PROMISE AID IN TIME OF NEED.

Will Give Services in Any Capacity, if United States Needs Them—To Safeguard Rights of Workers, However, Even if War Comes.

Washington, March 12.—Organized labor in America through its representatives in conference here tonight offered its services to the country in every field of activity if, despite all endeavors and hopes, the United States should be drawn into war.

The action was taken by unanimous vote of more than 150 delegates from unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and five unaffiliated organizations including the great railroad brotherhoods.

In all, about three million American workers were represented in the conference, called to determine and announce the part to be claimed by labor in national preparedness plans.

A statement formally adopted and issued after the meeting set forth in addition to the offer, in case of war, various demands which were held to be fundamentals in safeguarding the rights of workers in war times as well as in peace.

Militarism was protested against; it was held that industrial service should be deemed as meritorious as military service; that service should conform to trade union standards and that organized labor should have representation on all agencies determining and administering policies of national defense and controlling publicity.

The concluding paragraphs of the statement, pledging labor's support to the nation, follow:

"We, the officers of the national and international trade unions of America, in national conference assembled in the capital of our nation, hereby pledge ourselves, in peace or in war in stress or in storm, to stand unreservedly by the standards of liberty and the safety and preservation of the institutions and ideals of our republic.

"In this solemn hour of our nation's life, it is our earnest hope that our republic may be safeguarded in its unswerving desire for peace; that our people may be spared the horrors and the burdens of war; that they may have the opportunity to cultivate and develop the arts of peace, human brotherhood and a higher civilization.

"But, despite all our endeavors and hopes, should our country be drawn into the maelstrom of the European conflict, we, with these ideals of liberty and justice herein declare as the indispensable basis for national policies, offer our services to our country in every field of activity to defend, safeguard and preserve the republic of the United States of America against its enemies whomsoever they may be.

"We call upon our fellow workers and fellow citizens in the holy name of labor, justice, freedom and humanity to devotedly and patriotically give like service."

BERLIN RENEWS EFFORTS

To Have the Prussian-American Treaty Amended.

Washington, March 12.—Germany today renewed her efforts to have the United States sign a protocol amending the Prussian-American treaty of 1779 so as to exempt all German residents in the United States from arrest or interference during war, and reserving to all German ships in American ports the right to safe conduct to home ports. It is the same protocol that Ambassador Gerard refused to consider before leaving Berlin.

The Swiss minister, Dr. Paul Ritter, called at the State department today by direction of the German foreign office with a copy of the proposed amendment to the treaty. He was unable to see Secretary Lansing. The matter probably will be given due consideration by State department officials though it is realized that such an amendment, even though the administration favored it, would not have much prospect of ratification in the senate.

Roanoke, Va., March 12.—Stockton Heath, Jr., a son of Captain Stockton Heath, of Washington and Radford, Virginia, was shot three times and seriously wounded at the home of C. E. Vawter, a professor in the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, at Blacksburg, where he often was a guest. No arrests have been made and no details have been given out.

Philadelphia, March 13.—Harry K. Thaw has been adjudged a lunatic by the common pleas court. Under the law he cannot be removed to New York to stand trial on the charge of assaulting Fred Gump, Jr., the Kansas City school boy. Thaw will be kept in a local hospital pending his removal to the Pennsylvania asylum.

AMERICAN STEAMERS ARMED.

UNITED STATES PUTS WORLD ON GUARD OF ARMED NEUTRALITY STEPS.

Details Regarding Placing of Guns and Sailing of Ships Will be Kept Secret as Military Secrets—Still Hoped That Actual Clash With Central Allies May be Averted.

Washington, March 12.—The United States government today took the only formal step that will precede the sailing for the war zone of American merchant ships armed to resist attacks by German submarines.

Notice to the world of the intention to place an armed guard on merchantmen was given in a communication sent by the state department to all embassies and legations in Washington.

The statement, which, it is assumed, will be transmitted to Germany by the Swiss minister, follows: "In view of the announcement of the imperial German government on January 31, 1917, that all ships, those of neutrals included, met within certain zones of the high seas would be sunk without any precaution being taken for the safety of the persons on board and without the exercise of visit and search, the government of the United States has determined to place upon all American merchant vessels sailing through the barred areas an armed guard for the protection of the vessels and the lives of the persons on board."

Officials continued to be reticent today about the arming of ships and the probable date the first would be ready to sail. All such details are regarded as military secrets.

In fact there is a general disposition to avoid discussing any phase of the situation pending the outcome of the defiance of the submarine menace by American vessels with naval guns and gunners on board.

Speculation continues as to the part the United States may play if forced into actual hostilities by Germany. In official quarters the opinion is very clear that President Wilson for the present at least is contemplating no more direct connection with the European war than is necessary to protect American rights on the high seas.

Preparations for any eventuality are going forward, but the president is known still to cling to the hope that there will be no actual clash between America's armed merchantmen and German submarines.

The president, who has been confined to his bed for several days by a cold, was able today to discuss international questions with Secretary Lansing. He probably will be in his room for a day or two longer; however, and the usual cabinet meeting tomorrow is expected to be cancelled.

GUNS FORE AND AFT.

State Department Rules Passenger Ships May Carry Arms Sufficient for Defense.

Washington, March 12.—Permission for clearance of the French liner Rochambeau from New York, the first belligerent merchantman to arrive in an American harbor with guns mounted fore as well as aft, was today granted by the state department, which ruled that the Rochambeau as a passenger carrying vessel plying usual routes was a peaceable merchantman, entitled to take adequate precautions against illegal attack.

Undoubtedly the Rochambeau ruling will lead to a general policy of placing arms on the forward parts of vessels. It was thought she was sent into port largely as a test of this government's policy. It is assumed that other entente merchantmen will follow suit.

ILLITERACY BOARD NAMED.

Governor Appoints Commission at Request of Women's Clubs—Dr. Clinkscales Chairman.

Columbia, March 13.—Acting upon the suggestion of the South Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs, Gov. Manning has appointed the following illiterate commission for this State: John G. Clinkscales of Spartanburg, chairman; J. E. Swearingen, State superintendent of education; Miss Wil Lou Gray of Laurens and Mrs. Walter E. Duncan of Aiken.

WHISKEY RAID IN COLUMBIA.

Large Amount of Liquor Seized by State Constables. Columbia, March 12.—A force of State constables, consisting of Chief Smyrl, Lowe and Thornton, gathered in a considerable amount of whiskey through a wholesale and sudden raid in different parts of Columbia late this afternoon. The constables visited several places and are understood to have captured a good deal of contraband. Ten gallons were found in one spot and this was secured early in the afternoon. The raiding excited a good deal of interest over the city.

VETERANS MEET IN CHESTER.

ANNUAL REUNION TO BE HELD IN APRIL.

Thriving Up-State City Has Entertained Heroes Who Wore Gray Twice Already.

Columbia, March 14.—The South Carolina division, United Confederate Veterans, will hold its annual reunion at Chester April 24-27. This is the third time this city has been host to the heroes who wore the gray.

Maj. Gen. B. H. Teague has appointed Miss Mary Evelyn Cloud, of Rock Hill as sponsor and she has appointed her mother, Mrs. E. E. Cloud, as matron of honor, and Miss Lenora Jeffries of Gaffney as maid of honor.

The annual oration will be delivered by H. H. D. Twiggs of Savannah, who Gen. Teague describes as "a gallant and gifted veteran."

The veterans are also looking forward to the general reunion at Washington June 5, 6, 7. A special train will be run by the Southern railway to accommodate the veterans from South Carolina. The division headquarters at Washington will be at the St. James hotel on Pennsylvania avenue.

Chester has done itself proud on the last two South Carolina division reunions held in that city and the veterans are looking to the meeting in April with unusual pleasure.

TO PAY COLOMBIA.

Senate Approves Treaty Giving Southern Republic \$25,000,000 for Canal Zone.

Washington, March 13.—The senate foreign relations committee approved in a modified form the treaty with Colombia by which the United States is to pay Colombia \$25,000,000 for the partition of Panama. It is to be pressed to a vote at the present special session of the senate.

WON LEGION OF HONOR.

An American Aviator in France Highly Honored.

Paris, March 13.—American Aviator Sergeant Major Racul Lufbery has been decorated with the cross of the Legion of Honor, which is only conferred on men in the ranks for especially distinguished service. Lufbery has destroyed seven German machines.

STRIKE PROGRAM ARRANGED.

WILL START SATURDAY IF THURSDAY'S CONFERENCE IS UNSATISFACTORY.

Summons to A. C. L., Southern, S. A. L. and Other Roads Will Come at That Time, if Strike is Ordered, and Other Lines Will Follow Later.

New York, March 13.—Information received by the national conference committee composed of managers of the great railway system, and made public by that body today, indicated that the four employes' brotherhoods have completed arrangements for a progressive series of strikes to begin at 6 o'clock Eastern time on Saturday night if the conference on the eight hour question held here (Thursday) fails to reach a satisfactory agreement.

The proposed strike programme, according to this information, is as follows:

"Saturday, 6 P. M.—Call out all trainmen in freight service on the New York Central, Baltimore & Ohio, Erie, Atlantic Coast Line, Southern Railway, Louisville & Nashville and Seaboard Air Line. Such an order would involve 40,000 men.

"Monday, March 19, 6 P. M.—Call out the freight trainmen on the Lehigh Valley, Lackawanna, Jersey Central, Pennsylvania, Long Island, Maine Central, Delaware & Hudson, Reading and all other roads in the Southeastern territory or extending to New York.

"Tuesday, March 20, 6 P. M.—Call out all the freight trainmen in the Northwestern group, including the Hill roads and all those centering at Chicago.

"Wednesday, March 21, 6 P. M.—If the railroads still refuse to grant the men's terms, extend the strike to all other freight trainmen and call out the passenger trainmen on every road in the country."

It was announced tonight that there will be a meeting here tomorrow of 80 brotherhood chairmen on Eastern lines that will be attended by the chiefs of the four organizations. All phases of the situation will be discussed, it was said.

Hale Holden, president of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, who was chairman of the committee of eight railroad presidents that conferred with President Wilson during the crisis last fall, was in the city today but asserted his visit had no connection with the present situation.

GERMANS BEGIN RETREAT.

FALL BACK ON SOMME FRONT BEFORE BRITISH ADVANCE.

German Military Critics Say Retreat is Strategic Move to Draw British Into Open — French Say British Gained Advantage by Pursuing Germans with Artillery Fire.

New York, March 14.—Another great retreat by the Germans on the Somme front is in progress, consequent to the advance which brought the British to the ridge west of Bapaume where the Germans abandoned their main defensive works on a front of three and a-half miles. The speedy fall of Bapaume is probable.

German military writers, who announce that Gen. von Hindenburg is directing the operations on the western front, see in the retreat a strategic movement to draw the British into the open, much as he did with the Russians in East Prussia.

Paris writers say that if the German retreat was begun to disconcert the British plans it was frustrated by the British tactics. The British forced the Germans to continue their withdrawal by following them up with superior artillery fire instead of going after them with cavalry.

The French have captured Romainville Farm in the St. Mihiel Salient.

The Turks continue their retreat north of Bagdad.

LIEBENSFELS PARTIALLY RAISED.

Government Experts Busy at Work Seeking to Float German Steamer.

Charleston, March 14.—The German freighter Liebensfels, which was recently sunk in Charleston harbor by the crew, has been pumped out by government experts sufficiently to move it into shallow water. It soon will be floated.

TARIFF COMMISSION NAMED.

President Wilson Appoints an Important Board.

Washington, March 14.—President Wilson has selected the following members of the tariff commission: Frank W. Taussig, a Harvard professor; Former Congressman David J. Lewis, of Maryland; Former Congressman William Kent, of California; Daniel C. Roper, of South Carolina; E. P. Costigan, of Denver, and W. S. Culbertson, of Kansas.

New Styles For 1917.

Come in and let us show you the New Styles for Spring.

We have new models and new fabrics in Hart, Schaffner & Marx, Dreyfous Lang & Co. Suits. They are very attractive.

Our Hat line is full of Novelties including Greys and Greens with puggaree bands.

A Full Line of

Shirts, Belts, Ties, Underwear And Other Furnishings.

Drop in and take a look, we will take pleasure in showing you.

The D. J. Chandler Clothing Company,
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