

The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the ends Thou Aims't at be thy Country's, Thy God's and Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHRON, Established June, 1850.

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WILL HOLD WAR COUNCIL.

Questions of Policy in War to Be Discussed at Gathering in Washington.

British Commission Headed by Balfour and French by Viviani to Plan With American Statesman Concerted Action Against Teutons and Their Allies—Large Number of Matters in Present Difficult Situation to Be Decided on for Future Policy.

Washington, April 11.—Assembly in Washington within a few weeks of a great international war council was foreshadowed by an announcement from the State department today that a British commission headed by Arthur J. Balfour, minister of foreign affairs, is expected to arrive within ten days to discuss with the government here questions connected with the conduct of the war. In addition to the foreign minister, the commission will include Admiral de Chair of the British navy, Gen. Bridges of the army, and the governor of the Bank of England, attended by a numerous staff.

This was as far as the announcement made by the State department goes, but it was learned authoritatively that a French commission composed of officials and officers as distinguished as the British representatives also will be in Washington about the same time. This commission will be headed by M. Viviani, at present minister of justice in the French cabinet and formerly premier.

It is not known definitely whether any other of the allied powers will send commissioners to Washington but it is assumed that owing to the difficulties in passage and the probable delay, the interests of these governments will be confided to their resident ambassadors.

Beyond the statement that the object of the commission is to discuss generally questions of policy connected with the war no information was given at the State department. It was made clear, however, that in no way will the United States government depart from the traditional policy of avoiding anything in the nature of political alliances.

While it is by no means certain that there will be a joint meeting of the visiting commissions, if the State department should desire to avoid the appearance of an alliance, there is certain to be concert of action in some way.

The conference is said to have been sought by the allied leaders themselves to discuss every phase of the war. No attempt will be made to go into details or technical considerations, as the general policies involved are too stupendous to permit of it. The calibre of the men sent is very gratifying to officials.

One of the first questions to be taken up will be the distribution of the \$3,000,000,000 loan to the allies. Great Britain has been rendering financial aid of the most extensive scale to several of her allies and possibly when relieved of the necessity for continuing such allowances she may be able to get along with much less assistance from America than she would otherwise require. On the other hand, the countries whose exchange has suffered so heavily, such as Russia and Italy, might find welcome relief from the financial strain by an allotment of American funds which would have a reassuring effect upon the standing of these countries in the world's markets.

The greatest problems before the conference is stated to be the maintenance of the flow of American munitions and food supplies to Europe. This will be sought by naval cooperation to fight the German submarines; second, by construction of a huge fleet of wooden merchantmen to negate its destructiveness, and third, by all ways and means to increase many factors and the allies' ability to pay for the products.

Naval cooperation is understood to contemplate the policing of all North and South American waters by the American navy and the safeguarding by American ships of at least part of the sea lane to Europe.

Whether the latter will necessitate the actual sending of American warcraft to the other side has not been announced, but if it does, arrangements have been made to offer the port of Brest in France as an American naval base.

The military participation of the United States also probably will be discussed in broad terms, though it

FARMERS AWAKE TO DANGER.

GREAT INTEREST BEING SHOWN IN FOOD SITUATION BY WHITE AND BLACK.

Great Increase in Food Production in County Will be Result of Campaign—City Folks Also Active.

Local Farm Demonstrator Williams reports to the Sumter Chamber of Commerce that interest among the people of Sumter county, white and colored, in the campaign for increasing the grain, truck, and livestock products is the greatest he has ever heard of, and that the people are thoroughly awake in this county and in Sumter city, to the danger of hunger confronting them, if they do not plant plenty of food crops.

The colored people are as much interested as the whites. Organization of townships and communities by the township committees is going ahead rapidly every day.

The Sumter Chamber of Commerce is kept busy each day answering hundreds of inquiries and mailing out thousands of circulars and letters of information, and otherwise acting as the central bureau of publicity and organization for white and colored forces.

It is very gratifying indeed to see the practically unanimous and intelligent cooperative action all over Sumter county between white and colored people in this, the most important movement ever undertaken in this city and county, because this is a life sustaining effort. Sumter city is moving in great strides also and the city people are planting or preparing hundreds of vegetable gardens and formerly unused lots in grain and potatoes.

GERMANY FAMINE STRICKEN.

London, April 12.—The food situation is dominating all other considerations in Germany, according to the Berlin Vorwaerts, quoted in an Amsterdam dispatch. Some weeks ago German newspapers announced that bread ration would be reduced to one-fourth on April 15th, on account of the scarcity of wheat.

is realized on all sides that this country will not attempt to send an army to Europe for the present. There is, however, an intense desire on the part of the general public in the entente countries to see a small division of American troops at the front.

The complete reversal of American relations to the entente powers will necessitate an entire readjustment of the countries' diplomatic situation. The allies' policies of blockade, mails, censorship, blacklist and rationing of Holland and Scandinavia originally necessitated by the exigencies of war and bitterly protested throughout by this country as a neutral, must now be considered by the United States from an entirely new angle. While it is obvious that none of the restrictions built up by the allies will be abandoned, it is very doubtful as to how far this country will go in actually cooperating with them.

The United States is said therefore to find itself in a dilemma between the policies of its allies and the exigencies of the war and its own views of international law. The allied governments are understood to appreciate this situation and to be anxious not to make it more difficult. As a result it is probable that the inter-departmental board of the departments of State, treasury and justice will recommend to congress laws which will restate American policy without crippling the huge machinery already set up by the allies for bringing Germany to terms.

The situation of the few remaining neutrals is expected also to call for the deepest consideration at the conferences and it is the hope here that several other nations will definitely range themselves with the allies.

WANT 500,000 VOLUNTEERS.

WAR DEPARTMENT TO ISSUE CALL FOR MEN.

Will Test Volunteer System by Giving Men Chance to Enlist in National Guard and Army—May Retire at Close of War.

Washington, April 12.—The war department prepared today to issue instructions to recruiting officers which in effect call for half a million volunteers to fill up the regular army and Guardsmen units: Recruits who have enlisted since the declaration of war and those hereafter enlisted will be notified of discharge at the end of the war, putting them on the war volunteer basis. This will demonstrate whether the volunteer system is feasible.

Washington, April 10.—Lieut. Col. Fred P. Reynolds, medical corps of the army, has been ordered to report as soon as possible to headquarters at Charleston. Maj. Jacob C. Johnson, inspector general, has also been ordered to Charleston.

TO HAVE TRAINING CAMP.

WILL BE ESTABLISHED SO AS TO SUPPLY OFFICERS FOR FORCES.

Well Equipped Men to Command Troops is First Aim of Administration—Authorized Strength of Regular Army Will Soon be Obtained.

Washington, April 11.—Army building plans of the administration are to be supplemented at once by the establishment at many points throughout the country of civilian training camps for officers.

The great need of the war army to be raised will be properly equipped officers and to aid in meeting the demand the war department has decided to adopt the Plattsburg idea on a nation-wide scale.

Arrangements for the camps are already being made and civilians desirous of fitting themselves for commissions in the officers' reserve corps may apply now to departmental commanders for assignment to them. The number of camps to be set up will depend on the number of applicants received.

A course of three months' vigorous training will be given the prospective officers.

The qualities displayed by men undergoing this training will determine whether they are suited to army life and also the rank in the reserve corps which they are qualified to hold.

Commissions will be issued at the conclusions of the training period to those accepted, who will be assigned to units of the regular army, National Guard or the first contingent of troops to be raised under the draft plan.

The scheme is designed particularly to meet the situation of civilians who have had no military experience and who are too old to enter the second lieutenant grade of the reserve corps but are otherwise qualified by education and capacity to become officers.

The department, it was announced today, had suspended the regulation limiting new enlistment in the regular army to men not more than 35 years of age. This was made possible by the declaration of war against Germany. Under existing law men not more than 35 years of age could be accepted but to conform to the administration's army bill the maximum age now has been set at 40 years.

The present authorized strength of the regulars soon will be reached at the present rate of enlistment. Including all combatant and non-combatant troops and unassigned recruits this would mean a total of 138,000 enlisted men. Until the president so directs, the regiments can not be brought up to war strength or additional regiments be organized. It is apparent that the administration is not inclined to take this step until congress has acted on the new army bill.

An exception will be made in the case of regiments of negro troops, however, some of which already are over the authorized peace strength. They will be filled from waiting lists to full war time strength. Recruiting for other regiments also will be prosecuted vigorously, it is indicated, as the process of assembling, equipping and assigning recruits takes some time, and it is expected congress will have acted before any considerable

BULGARIA SEEKS PEACE.

MINISTER AT BERNE HAS MADE OVERTURES FOR SEPARATE ACTION.

Semi-Official Delegation from Bulgaria in Switzerland Dispatches Say.

London, April 12.—Press dispatches here from Rome say that the Bulgarian minister at Berne has made overtures to the entente ministers for a separate peace.

Dispatches from Lausanne say that the Lausanne Gazette states that a semi-official Bulgarian delegation is in Switzerland seeking a separate peace.

BULGARIA WANTS PEACE.

Reported that Proposals for Separate Peace Have Been Made.

London, April 12.—Reports from a Swiss source, received in Rome, are to the effect that the Bulgarian minister at Berne has made overtures to the entente ministers for a separate peace, according to today's Rome dispatches.

BOARD TO HANDLE LINES.

SPECIAL BODY TO DIRECT RAILROADS IN WAR.

Object is to Insure Best Possible Transportation Facilities Throughout the Struggle.

Washington, April 11.—Heads of the principal railroads in the United States meeting here today at the call of the council of national defense appointed a board of five men to direct the operation of American railways throughout the war.

It was announced that the purpose of the board will be to give the government the best possible service not only in transporting troops and military supplies but in handling every necessary commodity.

The following railway executives were chosen as members of the board: Fairfax Harrison of the Southern Railway, chairman; Howard Elliott of the New Haven, Samuel Rea of the Pennsylvania; Hale Holden of the Burlington and Julius Kruttschnitt of the Southern Pacific.

Under this committee will operate a special committee on national defense. It, with the board, will comprise 28 members. The present national defense committee of the American Railway association will be used as a basis for forming this committee.

Daniel Willard, president of the Baltimore & Ohio, and chairman of the defense council's advisory commission, will be an ex-officio member of the board, and the interstate commerce commission will be asked to name another.

The board, or central executive committee, as it is called, will operate through a special committee on national defense named some time ago by the American Railway association. Mr. Harrison, chairman, also of this committee, announced today its membership would be increased to 28, divided into six subcommittees, one each in the six military departments of the country. These subcommittees will deal directly with department commanders and with the quartermaster department. The railway association's car service committee will serve as a general subcommittee.

The railroad board will decide all matters of general railroad policy, but all systems will operate in cooperation with the government instead of under its direction.

STOPS FOOD SPECULATION.

Chicago Butter and Egg Board Abolishes Future Trading for War Time.

Chicago, April 11.—Speculation in butter and eggs through the Chicago butter and egg board was abolished "as a patriotic duty" by unanimous vote of the directors today. This was accomplished by abolishing all rules covering deals in these products for future delivery. Dealers desiring to assure stocks for future delivery may deal directly with shippers as individuals, but the action of the board, it is said, practically eliminates speculation.

Wheat Reaches New Record.

Chicago, April 12.—May wheat reached a new record today, \$2.16

number in excess of authorized strength may be ready to join their regiments.

SEVEN BILLION FOR WAR.

WAR FINANCE BILL REPORTED BY HOUSE COMMITTEE.

It Provides for Bond Issue of Five Billion in Treasury Certificates—Three Billion to Be Loaned Allies.

Washington, April 11.—The war financing bill, providing for five billion in bonds and two billion in treasury certificates was unanimously reported today for passage by the ways and means committee. Three billion from the proceeds of the bonds will be loaned the entente allies.

WILL NOT ENTER WAR.

Brazil Will Probably Not Declare War Against Germany at Present.

Rio Janeiro, April 12.—It is believed here that government will confine itself for the present to the severance of relations with Germany, and will not make a declaration of war, at least not in the immediate future.

HAVE NOT SEIZED SHIPS.

Brazil Postpones Action on German Ships.

Rio Janeiro, April 12.—Decision as to seizing German ships in Brazilian ports has been postponed. The German minister received his passports last night.

GERMANS WERE SURPRISED.

POWER AND SPEED OF BRITISH ATTACK THOROUGHLY DEMORALIZED THEM.

British Drive at Arras Continues and More Villages and Fortified Positions Captured—French Push Fighting Between Somme and Oise.

New York, April 11.—The British announce that they captured the village and heights of Monchy-le-Preux and the village of La-Bergere. They report satisfactory progress in other sections.

The Associated Press correspondent says the speed and power of the British drive in the battle of Arras seemed to have thoroughly surprised the Germans. The usual German retaliatory artillery fire was absolutely negligible for two days.

The French announce active artillery fighting between the Somme and Oise rivers.

BATTLE IN MEXICO.

Refugees Say Carranza Lost 1,500 in Battle With Villa.

Laredo, April 12.—Passengers reaching the border say that Carranza forces lost fifteen hundred in dead and wounded in a recent battle with Villa troops. They said that reports of Villa troops being routed near Chihuahua City were myths.

RECRUITS WANTED NOW

National Guard Ordered to Recruit to Maximum Peace Strength At Once.

Columbia, April 12.—One thousand men are needed at once to bring the National Guard of South Carolina up to peace strength. That this quota be raised immediately was authorized today by the department of the East.

W. W. Moore, the adjutant general, today received the following telegram from the Department of the East:

"War department authorizes recruitment of National Guard organizations to maximum peace strength of regular army. We have informed commanding officers of those in federal service." Immediately following the receipt of the message the adjutant general notified company commanders throughout the State to begin a campaign for recruiting.

There are now about 2,100 officers and men enlisted in the National Guard of South Carolina. The placing of the Guard on a peace strength basis would require 3,510 officers and men.

CALL FOR CANAL BUILDER.

GOETHALS ASKED BY PRESIDENT TO BUILD SHIPS.

Many Wooden Vessels to Be Constructed at Once to Carry on Traffic Despite Submarine Warfare—Will Replace Tonnage Destroyed.

Washington, April 11.—Maj. Gen. George Goethals, builder of the Panama canal, was formally requested by President Wilson today to take charge of the building of 1,000 wooden ships for foreign commerce. Increase of ocean tonnage is regarded as an imperative need to defeat the German submarine campaign and keep up the flow of supplies to the entente allies and consequently the greatest importance is attached to the plans of the shipping board for building wooden ships, which have been approved by the president and the council of national defense. The entire resources of available ship building yards are to be used for the purpose.

The president hopes that Gen. Goethals will undertake the work and if he does so he will be placed in general charge with unlimited authority.

In 1916 the United States had 500,000 tons of shipping in the trans-Atlantic trade. During a meeting of railroad executives here today the question was taken up of making arrangements so that ships now on the Great lakes and in the coastwise trade can be utilized for ocean going commerce. Under such a plan it is estimated that the present trans-Atlantic tonnage can be doubled and possibly tripled.

Use of German merchant ships now in American harbors will add approximately 600,000 tons.

"KAISER WAS RIGHT."

Lloyd George Says Prussia Will Be Democracy After War.

London, April 12.—In addressing the American luncheon club on the entry of the United States into the war, Premier Lloyd George said: "I think the Kaiser was right" when he declared that Prussia will be a democracy after the war.

BRITISH DRIVE CONTINUES.

BATTLE OF ARRAS HAS NOT BEEN FOUGHT TO A FINISH.

British Maintain Strong Pressure on German Lines and Make Additional Gains at Important Points—French Also Active in Champagne Region.

New York, April 12.—The British offensive continues vigorously around Vimy Ridge, according to the official announcement, which says the British have captured two more important positions north of Vimy Ridge despite stormy weather. Two German counter attacks were repulsed.

The French last night below St. Quentin drove the Germans back to the southwestern edge of upper Coucy forest. The French also ejected the Germans from trenches east of Sapiignul in the Champagne region.

German newspapers received at Copenhagen term the battle of Arras only of local importance, and say that the British drive has already been brought to a standstill.

Much importance is attached to the resumption of general attack by the French. Seemingly they are preventing reinforcements being sent to the lines menaced by the British.

There would be little surprise if the French attack in the upper Coucy forest developed into a continuous offensive.

The British made still more gains today, according to Reuter's correspondent, who reports about one thousand yards of trenches captured southeast of Vimy.

Germany announces that British cavalry and armored car attacks yesterday north of Monchy failed with heavy losses. The British were also repulsed on the northern bank of the river Scarpe.

Washington, April 11.—The government's armor plate and projectile factories, for which congress appropriated \$12,700,000, will be built at Charleston, W. Va., a location recommended by a special navy board as offering an ideal combination of military safety and easy access to manufacturing materials.