

FRENCH COMMISSION ARRIVES

REPRESENTATIVES OF DEMOCRATIC FRANCE VISIT UNITED STATES.

Comes to Confer With American Officials Concerning Methods to Be Followed in Equipping Army and Naval Forces for War on Germany—Celebrates Incident to Coming of Celebrated Foreigners are Informal.

Fortress Monroe, Va., April 24.—France's war commissioners to the United States reached Hampton Roads today, and tonight they are bound up Chesapeake bay for Washington on board the presidential yacht Mayflower.

The mission, of which Rene Viviani, vice premier and minister of justice, is the official head and Marshal Joffre a member, brings no written instructions from the French government, the ministry having decided to give its members unlimited powers to negotiate with the United States on all subjects, military, naval and financial.

It is proposed to discuss the sending of an American expeditionary force to France. Marshal Joffre and other military members will indicate to the American officials with whom they are to confer several important military reasons which they consider desirable. The most important of these reasons is found in the moral effect to be had from the presence of American troops and the American flag on the battlefields of France.

The French idea of an American expedition calls for a fighting force supported by auxiliary services, such as railway staffs, railway material, base repair shops, telegraph and telephone lines, automobile transports and a strong aviation section.

The French government is ready to offer whatever may be considered necessary to assist in sea operations, including the use for naval purposes of any or all ports in France. The ministry of marine has worked out for submission to the American government a comprehensive plan for overseas transport for both army and navy purposes and for the provisioning of the civil population.

Financially France needs loans of \$100,000,000 monthly to be spent in the United States. Detailed official information on this subject will be submitted to the American government at the conferences to be held in Washington.

Mr. Viviani, as official head of the commission, during his stay here gave the following statement to a staff correspondent of the Associated Press who accompanied the mission from France:

"Every American will understand that in deference to the illustrious president of the United States whom I am going to see very soon, I reserve first word for him. I will have occasion to see you again and tell the American nation through you in a more complete manner the emotions with which the representatives of France greet in the name of their country the first democracy of the world, with which France shares the same ideals.

(Signed) "Viviani." The members of the commission got their first glimpse of the shores of America at daylight this morning. American naval officials aboard a flotilla of destroyers met the former French passenger liner which brought the visitors over and their convoy at 11 o'clock last night about 100 miles at sea.

The French and the American vessels exchanged signals and then all continued toward the Virginia capes. Not a light was showing at any time during the movement and the vessels knew of each other only by the phosphorescence kicked up by the propellers. At dawn the flotilla and its guests fell in by rendezvous with an American cruiser which led the way into the great harbor of Hampton Roads.

All the members of the commission were on the bridge of their boat with the French admiral commanding shortly after 6 o'clock to see the entrance. The day was magnificent, with hardly a ripple disturbing the broad expanse of water. As the roads came into view Marshal Joffre turned to an American naval officer serving as pilot and said:

"What a wonderful scene. I love this sunshine. It reminds me of my own county—the south of France."

Once inside the harbor the American destroyers slipped away to their anchorages. Meanwhile every American ship in the harbor hoisted to their mastsheads the French tricolor, and the band of warship played "The Star Spangled Banner." Marshal Joffre and the military and naval members stood at salute until the last note had floated across the water while the civilian members stood with bared heads.

Immediately afterward came the French national anthem which was saluted in a similar manner.

The ship bearing the mission drop-

ped anchor off Fortress Monroe, while the convoy steamed several miles further on.

Gen. Vignal, the military and naval attaché of the French embassy at Washington, Stéphane Lauzanne, confidential representative, and Col. Spencer Cosby, U. S. A., assigned as Marshal Joffre's aide, came aboard soon after with dispatches and to greet the visitors. Admiral Mayo, commander in chief of the Atlantic fleet, called later.

There was no saluting, the formality of firing salvos of guns having been dispensed with by agreement.

"We are saving our powder for the Germans," remarked the commander of the French ship.

All of the commissioners returned Admiral Mayo's call later in the morning. They lunched on board their own vessel, finishing just in time to receive Ambassador Jusserand, Maj. Gen. Scott, chief of staff of the army, Assistant Secretary Long, Assistant Secretary Franklin Roosevelt, and several other officials, who arrived from Washington on board the Mayflower.

Upon his arrival Ambassador Jusserand went into conference with Mr. Viviani and the leading members of the mission. Two hours later Mr. Viviani, Marshal Joffre, Admiral Chocheprat, the naval representative, the Marquis de Chambrun, (Lafayette's grandson), Mr. Hovelauque counselor, and Joseph Simon of the ministry of finance went on board the American vessel with Ambassador Jusserand and the American officials and remained until their departure for Washington.

The mission will place itself at the disposal of the president during the entire period of its visit to this country.

FRENCH REACH WASHINGTON.

Commission Landed Safely at Navy Yard and Proceeds to Quarters Through Streets Lined with Cheering People.

Washington, April 25.—The French commission headed by Gen. Joffre, and former Premier Viviani, landed safely from the Mayflower at the Washington navy yard. Rousing cheers and handclapping both from officials and private citizens greeted the Frenchmen, Secretary Lansing headed the American welcoming committee. The route from the navy yard to the commission's headquarters was lined with cheering people.

TURN TO WAR STUDIES.

Southern Colleges Devote Much Time to Work.

Birmingham, April 24.—Practically all universities, colleges, and preparatory schools in the South, supported by faculties and students are turning their attention to questions relating to the support of the government in its war with Germany. Many of them have canceled their athletic schedules and are devoting liberal periods of the daily programme to military training. Others are falling in line with movements looking to increased food crops.

Probably the most conspicuous movement for national defense is in progress at Washington and Lee university, where 90 per cent. of the student body is taking part in daily military drills.

The Lexington students are being trained through the assistance of cadet officers from the Virginia Military Institute.

At Vanderbilt university the students are devoting a certain class period to drill under the instructions of United States army officers. Similar training is being given to the men at the University of Alabama, the University of North Carolina, and the University of Georgia.

At the Virginia Polytechnic institute a civilian training camp has been established.

At Auburn, Miss. A. & M. and many other Southern institutions where military training is a part of the curriculum, class room studies practically have been superseded by training in the field with arms.

SAYS PEACE IS NEAR.


Copenhagen, April 24 (via London).

"My opinion is that peace is nearer than many think," the Berlin Vossische Zeitung's correspondent quotes the Eulgerian minister of war as saying. "The Russian revolution and American intervention," he added, "have brought peace nearer."

"President Wilson through his declaration of war, has furthered the cause of peace, for America will now require ammunition and food supplies and must cease supplying the allies. America, in reality, through her war declaration ceased to wage war against the central countries."

STAR AVIATOR KILLED.

Paris, April 24.—Corporal Ronald Hosker, of South Orange, N. J., one of the stars of the American flying corps, was killed during the present offensive.



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DEALERS



The Willis-Overland Company, Toledo, Ohio
Manufacturers of Willis-Knight and Overland Automobiles and Light Commercial Cars

MORE CORN, LESS WATER.

Grow Variety That Will Produce Gain Instead of Cornstalks, Says Department Specialist.

It sometimes becomes necessary to do heavy work, such as hauling water to put out fire, but what's the use of hauling water from the cornfields to the feed lot and hauling it back again to the fields in the shape of uneaten cornstalks? Very tall-growing corn when sappy and immature is almost all water, and so is wet corn stalk manure.

It used to be that many growers prided themselves on the great height of their cornstalks. The more successful farmers, however, have ceased to haul water from the cornfields to the feed lot in the form of coarse stalks which remain uneaten and haul it back to the fields in the shape of wet cornstalk manure. They do not grow such tall stalks and often profitably allow animals to gather the grain, leaving the stalks in the fields to enrich the soil.

A few years ago silage was thought to have a fixed food value. One can not take out of the silo any more food value than is put in. Hauling and silaging large sappy stalks is heavy work and not as profitable as putting a good, almost mature corn crop into the silo. A somewhat larger and later maturing variety of corn that will thoroughly mature for grain can be used in the northern States for ensilage. Even silage corn should be planted early and given sufficient time to make its best growth and reach the stage of maturity at which husks turn brown and the ears become glazed.

A co-operator in the department's corn work grows a high-yielding variety of corn the stalks of which reach a height of about 6 feet, while his neighbor grows a big, 12-foot variety. In helping each other shred their crops the neighbor's tall-growing corn was shredded first. The stalks were bulky and high loads were hauled from the fields to the shredder. When beginning the shredding of the competitor's corn, which that year produced over 100 bushels of dry shelled corn per acre, the neighbor put on the accustomed high load, and his team could not pull it out of the

field. He got down off the load to make an examination, thinking the rack must be pressing against the wheels. The competitor told him he would have to take off a part of the load, to which he replied that he did not have on a big load and was accustomed to hauling larger loads. After being convinced that it was the weight of the load that stalled his team, they removed a portion and hauled the balance to the shredder, from which they obtained 40 bushels of corn, or almost a ton and a half of ears.

What variety of corn should you plant? Since there are thousands of so-called varieties, it is not possible to designate by name the variety you should plant. Furthermore, with corn there is very little in a name. Two lots of seed of the Leaming variety, sometimes differ from each other more than two varieties differ from each other. An accurate test of two different lots of the Boone County White variety resulted in one lot producing 18 bushels more per acre than the other lot. Quality is what counts and the varietal name does not designate quality. Plant a variety that has made good in your neighborhood. Plant seed which was grown in your part of the State and was properly field selected and properly cared for during the winter.

DOWN ON HOLLWEGG.

Movement to Overthrow German Chancellor Gaining Strength.

Copenhagen, April 25.—The movement for the overthrow of Chancellor von Bethmann Hollweg, halted for a time by the adoption of ruthless submarine warfare, is again becoming evident in Germany. The agitation is encouraged by dissensions over internal reforms, possible peace terms and food troubles.

REICHSTAG HAS ADJOURNED.

German Parliament Refused to Discuss the Food Problem.

London, April 25.—Despite the efforts of social Democrats to have it discuss the food problem, the Reichstag adjourned, after a brief session yesterday, until May 2nd, according to an Amsterdam dispatch.

WARNING TO AUTO DRIVERS.

Chief of Police of Sumter Will Accept No Excuse for Violation of Traffic Ordinance.

Editor Daily Item:

I wish once more to impose upon your good nature.

In view of the fact that past warnings seem to have been speedily forgotten and the number of accidents have increased, owing to the violation of the traffic ordinances to which I formerly called special attention, and which I now wish to again and for the last time call the attention of the driving and riding public.

Do not exceed the speed limits. Keep to the right.

Indicate at all corners which way you are going to turn.

Watch out for all stop and other signs and obey them.

Stop means what it reads—STOP! No cut-outs must be used within the city limits. They will not be long-tolerated. They are inexcusable with our present streets.

I have a small force, but am going to use every means to enforce these necessary precautions and to detect the violators of traffic and other ordinances.

J. R. Sumter,
 Chief of Police.

Autos Must Stop at Corners.

Quite a number of citizens who own or drive automobiles were in the recorder's court this morning on the charge of violation of traffic ordinance by failing to bring their cars to a stop at the Sumter-Oakland avenue street corner. They were let off with fines of \$3.00 each and warned by the chief and recorder that all cars must be brought to a stop—and stop means what the word implies—before they can proceed across the street or turn from one street into the other. Policeman DuRant was placed at this corner yesterday to see that the regulation was enforced there and it will be enforced also at other corners where the stop signs are put up.

J. Denmark was tried on the charge of reckless driving of an automobile and was fined \$25. It was alleged that he was exceeding the speed limit when he and Mr. C. W. Kingman had their collision of auto and bicycle Saturday night.

T. P. A. ELECT OFFICERS.

Abe Ryttenberg Chosen President—To Hold Annual Fish Fry Soon.

At a recent meeting Post G., T. P. A. elected officers for the ensuing year as follows:

President, Abe Ryttenberg; 1st vice president, H. L. Scarborough; 2nd vice president, H. R. Witherspoon; 3rd vice president, W. R. Phillips; 4th vice president, H. A. Moses; 5th vice president, W. P. Smith; secretary and treasurer, Louis Lyon; board of directors, A. C. Phelps, chairman; T. H. Siddall, J. M. Brogdon, J. W. Jackson, L. B. Phillips, C. S. Anderson; chairman Railroad Committee, J. W. McKeiver; chairman Press Committee, H. A. Moses; chairman Hotel Committee, C. A. Bruner; chairman Legislative Committee, W. P. Smith; chairman Employment Committee, T. H. Siddall; chairman Good Roads and Public Utilities Committee, W. R. Phillips, chairman Membership Committee, H. J. Harby; chaplain, R. S. Truesdale; surgeon, Archie China; delegates to attend annual State convention, H. L. Scarborough, W. Percy Smith, Neill O'Donnell, H. R. Witherspoon, L. I. Parrott, W. L. Boyle, J. M. Brogdon, and President Abe Ryttenberg and Secretary Louis Lyon.

The post decided to hold the annual fish fry on Wednesday, May 2. A committee consisting of Messrs. W. R. Phillips, H. R. Witherspoon and Louis Lyon was appointed to make all of the necessary arrangements for this annual event which is always largely participated in by the members of Post G. and anticipated and shared in with a great degree of pleasure.

It was decided to hold monthly meetings of the post, the next meeting and meetings thereafter to be held on the second Saturday night of each month.

The meeting was enlivened by interesting remarks made by Messrs. H. L. Scarborough, T. H. Siddall and H. A. Moses.

S. M. WITHERSPOON,
 Veterinary Surgeon and Dentist
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