

# The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1866.

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

THE TRUE SOUTHERN, Established June, 1866.

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## BATTLE OF FLANDERS.

### GAINS AS EXPECTED IN INAUGURAL STAGE.

France-British Offensive Between Lens River and Bousloghe Results In Success Fully Commensurate With Anticipations—Allies Carry German Trenches and Take Villages.

British Front in France and Belgium, July 31 (by the Associated Press).—An epoch making offensive, launched by the British and French against the German lines between the River Lens and Bousloghe at daybreak, has, with few exceptions, accomplished all that had been planned for the first day of this battle, which, in its early stages, gives promise of being the greatest conflict of the war.

Roughly speaking, the British penetrated positions held by Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria between Bousloghe and Warenton and at the time of the filing of this dispatch were in possession of the first three lines of the German trenches at most points throughout the front.

Reports received from the French troops, which are attacking over the difficult territory between Dixmude and a point near Bousloghe, say that they have forced their way across this marshy studded and partly inundated region and captured the first two lines of German trenches.

The casualties of the entente allies have been surprisingly light and the morale of the men continues at the highest pitch. The contest between the British and French armies has been constant and excellent.

Late today it was reported that the Germans have begun a heavy counter-attack at the point where the entente allies were joined.

The German front line trenches, which had been torn to pieces by the preliminary bombardment, offered little resistance, but once the allied forces had penetrated beyond them they met with fierce resistance at many points. Directly east of Zillebeke and again a little to the north the German lines were temporarily held up by a heavy machine gun fire, but only temporarily, for the troops charged through the rain of lead and forced the Germans from their positions in hand to hand fighting.

Again at a redoubt which was strongly held in the German line and defended by concrete fortifications, the British were brought to a stand by machine gun fire. But they charged with bayonets and dislodged the Germans.

One of the most striking and spectacular events of the day's fighting occurred at the so-called Menin tunnel, a great underground fortification constructed by the Germans on the Menin road opposite Hooge. The British preliminary bombardment had forced the Germans to hold the trench line thinly here, and the British divisions which were to attack at dawn lay out all night in shell holes within 35 yards of the German line waiting for the signal to advance.

When the time arrived for the charge and the British gunners had dropped a protecting barrage on the German front trench ahead of the British troops, it was seen that the Germans had taken to their heels and were fleeing. The British seeing their prey escaping, went mad and charged directly through their own barrage, fortunately without heavy casualties. The Menin tunnel, which was expected to be occupied by several hundred Germans, was found to be held by only 41, the rest having retreated.

It was only at the second line that the British met resistance and here, after sharp hand to hand fighting, they forced the Germans again to withdraw.

No check has yet been made on the number of German prisoners captured but they are flowing in a steady stream back of the British lines. Many of those captured at Menin tunnel and other points are mere boys.

The tanks again played a prominent part in the opening of the battle, and report from all sections of the British front say their work has been most satisfactory. Large numbers of these monsters were employed and in many cases pursued their destructive and uncheckable way to a distance far within the German lines.

Further information obtained from German prisoners concerning the effects of the British preliminary bombardment indicated that the effect of this unparalleled expenditure of munitions was disastrous in the extreme both in damage and to the morale of the German troops. With in the past few days six Bavarian divisions were withdrawn from the line and replaced by fresh troops because they were so thoroughly demoralized by the inferno of fire which they had undergone. Photographs taken by

## HITS WEAKEST POINT.

### WAR EXPERTS SEE CHANCE IN COASTAL ATTACK.

If It Fails, Campaign Must Revert to War of Attrition, With Victory Far Off.

Washington, July 31.—The British-French assault on the German right bank has made a profound impression here because in the judgment of many American army officers it is directed at the most vulnerable point on the entire German front. Complete success for the allies, sweeping the German line back from the sea along the entire Belgian coast, would be an immediate answer to the u-boat warfare. The main North Sea base for u-boat operations would be stamped out. Behind that achievement then would stand the possibility that the entire German line in France could be endangered by a flank attack.

Reports from London or the front were still too meagre tonight to disclose the full scope of the new operations. Some observers here were inclined to believe, however, that unless the drive is supplemented by naval cooperation, with a landing behind the present German front, complete success is not to be expected.

The discussion here brought out strongly the fact that many American officers who have studied the situation believe the German right flank offers the only real opportunity to bring the struggle to decisive issue in a single campaign.

Short of that, they can foresee only a continuing repetition of the deadly business of frontal attack, which in time would wear down the German resistance since the allied powers have the greater resources in men and supplies. How long the wearing down process would require, no official is willing to suggest, however, and it is pointed out that if u-boat activity is not sharply checked, time will work strongly against the allies.

Recent German operations have produced the impression among some observers that the assault upon the right flank has been expected by the German general staff. The surprise attack some time ago upon a small sector of the British front, which swept the allies back beyond the Yser canal, materially strengthened that sector for the Germans.

In renewed German assaults upon the Verdun front observers have read also an attempt to prevent an allied concentration upon the right flank. In diplomatic quarters, however, the Verdun attacks are coupled also with the German advance in Galicia to furnish the stage setting for the renewal of peace suggestions.

The possibilities of the new offensive produced the suggestion today that if the allied front could be extended to the Dutch frontier, the Netherlands government might join the allies. Recent reports from neutral sources have indicated that the Germans feared some such action by their little neighbor. In that connection it has been noted that numerous small German steamers lying in Dutch waters since the outbreak of the war have been captured or destroyed recently while attempting to return to Germany and that several divisions of German troops have been reported massed along the Dutch frontier.

Some officers strongly believe a great part of the German success heretofore has been due to the fact that the allies have been forced to accept the type of warfare which the German high command elected. When the Germans early in the war fell back to the Aisne and dug themselves in, the allies followed suit and the opportunity for field operations was quickly lost. The game was mapped out as the German staff wished it to be played.

There are officers who believe that with the allies' greater forces and more powerful artillery, they now could be certain of fairly quick success if trench fighting could be abandoned for the shift and strategy of field operations.

## CORPORATION TAX REDUCED.

### Senate Finance Committee Handles Undivided Surplus Gently.

Washington, Aug. 2.—The tax on corporation's undivided surplus was reduced from fifteen to ten per cent by the senate finance committee.

Washington, Aug. 2.—The tax on aviators back of the German lines show that there was scarcely a square yard of territory along their front which was not devastated by the high explosives. It is small wonder, then that the Germans were holding their front line thinly and were swept back when finally the time arrived for the allied infantry to do its work.

## HOLD FLANDERS LINE.

### ALLIES MAKE GOOD THEIR GAINS IN BELGIUM.

Bad Weather Hampers Offensive Operations, but Allies Will Continue Battle as Soon as Big Guns Can be Brought up—Believed to Be Effort to Turn German Flank.

The British and French are busy consolidating the ground in Flanders and in beating off counter attacks by Germans in a wide territory they gained yesterday, while torrential rains hamper offensive operations.

The new line is from two to two and a-half miles ahead of the old positions and includes ten towns.

The logical supposition is that the battle will be continued as soon as the heavy guns can be brought up. Allied capitals believe the battle may last for weeks or even months.

It is believed the plan is to attempt to drive a wedge deep enough into the German lines to force their retirement on a large front. This threatens German submarine bases on the Belgian coast. The importance of this is reflected in the furious counter attacks of the Teutons.

The Germans attacked on a front between Avocourt and Hill 304, but were stopped when they reached the advanced lines.

## BATTLE IN MUD.

### Fight in Flanders Confined to Artillery Fire.

British Front, Aug. 1.—A heavy rain which has continued since last night has transformed the Flanders battle ground into a sea of mud, forcing a comparative lull in the fighting. The Germans heavily bombarded the positions they lost yesterday. The British poured shells into the new German positions. The airmen are helpless in the storm.

## SHIP BUILDERS WANTED.

### Enlistment Cards for Ship Builders Reserve.

The ship builders' reserve cards are now ready and are being circulated that all may sign who will; no one has to sign who does not want to.

The cards read:  
I hereby volunteer to work on ships that are being built for the government, if called upon.

Date of signature .....  
Name .....  
Occupation .....  
Address .....  
Age .....

These cards are in the hands of the Labor Committee and the Central Committee and the Chamber of Commerce. The members of the Labor Committee are Messrs. E. L. Witherspoon, F. W. Carr and Dan McKiever. The central committee consists of H. R. VanDeventer, J. M. Harby, T. H. Siddall, E. L. Witherspoon and H. A. Moses. The desire is to have them signed by carpenters, plumbers, mechanics and painters.

The United States is at war, and to push the war successfully there must be at hand ample means of transportation. This means "ships, more ships and yet more ships." To build ships labor is needed, needed in greater proportion by many times than is now employed at the ship yards. The policy of the United States is not to draw enough labor from any one place to hurt conditions at that place, but to draw in small numbers from all over the land. Therefore it is asking each town to make a card index of its workers who are willing to go if called upon so that if they are needed places can be offered to a few men from all points.

## COTTON CROP ESTIMATE.

### Government Predicts a Crop of Nearly Twelve Million Bales.

Washington, Aug. 1.—The department of agriculture estimates the cotton production at eleven million, nine hundred and forty-nine thousand bales, based on the condition on July 25th of 70.3. The South Carolina condition is 74, Georgia 69 and Florida 80.

## NEGRO TROOPS NOT WANTED.

### Nicholls Secures Change in Guard Plans for Spartanburg.

Washington, July 31.—No negro troops from New York will be sent to the Spartanburg camp as originally arranged. Realizing that such a plan would probably not work out to the best advantage, Congressman Sam J. Nicholls took up this matter with the war department when he heard that this was to be done and today received assurances that the negro soldiers would be sent elsewhere.

## HARD ON SHIRKERS.

### MERE MARRIAGE NOT CONSIDERED SUFFICIENT.

Provost Marshal General Explains Exact Status of Hurry-up War Bridegrooms.

Washington, July 31.—Hasty marriages made since July 20, the date of the army draft drawing, in an effort to escape conscription through the claims of a dependent wife will not be considered ground for discharge unless the wife is actually dependent on the husband's daily labor.

Prompted by reports from many cities of marriage license bureaus besieged by men included in the first draft call, Provost Marshal General Crowder today ruled that "marriage is not itself a valid ground for making claim for discharge."

Dependency is a matter of fact, not of law, General Crowder pointed out.

"A man whose wife is mainly dependent on his daily labor for support," he said, "may claim exemption on that ground. Only the exemption board can determine this fact. Where dependency is claimed and circumstances show a marriage hastily consummated since July 20 by a man whose number is high on the available list, the actual fact of dependency must be closely scrutinized."

"Moreover," General Crowder declared, "women who marry men merely to aid them to be slackers are liable to prosecution under the draft act."

In his ruling General Crowder adhered strictly to President Wilson's draft regulations which draw no distinction between a dependent wife acquired before or after the drawing. Secretary Baker, however, advocated refusing exemption to any man married after the drawing, saying the draft should be considered a prior claim, but this course will not be followed.

Fears of some officials that delay in obtaining materials and sufficient labor for National Army cantonments would postpone the mobilization long past September 1, were dissipated today by an announcement by Secretary Baker that 78 per cent of the cantonment material is now on the ground and that reports indicate everything will be in readiness, or nearly so, in another month.

## LABOR AGITATOR LYNCHED.

### Leader of I. W. W. Troubles in Oregon Hanged to Trestle.

Douglas, Arizona, Aug. 1.—Frank Little, a member of the executive commission of the Industrial Workers of the World and the labor trouble leader in Arizona, was taken from his lodging house by masked men and hanged to a trestle. He was a forceful speaker and is understood to have had the confidence of William D. Haywood. On his body was found a note saying: "First and last, take warning. Others take notice Vigilantes."

## YOUNG MEN MARRIED.

### Record Broken at New York Bureau.

New York, July 31.—The record for marriages at the marriage license bureau was broken here today, when 161 ceremonies were performed, the bridegroom in almost every instance being of military age.

The number of marriage licenses issued was 294, considerably under the expectations of clerks when they saw long lines of young men and women waiting for the bureau to open this morning. The reduced number was due to the action of Thomas D. McCarthy, United States marshal, and a force of deputies, who appeared early in the day and compelled every man of draft age who could not show his registration card to leave the building.

## AMERICAN STEAMER SUNK.

### Submarine Destroys Ship En Route From New York to Queenstown.

London, Aug. 1.—The American steamship Motano was sunk by a submarine yesterday. Twenty-seven of the crew have landed. The Motano was of twenty-seven hundred tons gross. She sailed from New York July 2 for Queenstown. The crew numbered thirty-four.

In the absence of J. Roy Pennell, State highway engineer, who is captain of Company A, Engineers Battalion, National Guard of South Carolina, the State highway commission yesterday appointed E. H. Murray now assistant to Capt. Pennell, acting State highway engineer, and R. T. Browne and Edward McCrady, acting assistant engineers.

## TRAINING CAMP NEWS.

### YOUNG OFFICERS AT FORT OGLETHORPE NEAR END OF COURSE.

All Are on Edge Awaiting Announcement of List of Commissions Awarded—Training Will Conclude With an Eight Day Hike.

Special to The Daily Item.

Camp Warden McLean, Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., July 30.—The past week, two weeks, in fact, have been filled with speculation among the candidates in the training camp as to their chances of securing commissions, and with the calling of men before the company commanders this morning, and the rumor that all men to be dismissed will be given discharges before the hike starts on Thursday for a practise march of eight days across the State of Georgia, the speculation and rumors have more than doubled. Nothing definite will be known of "who will get what" until the A. P. announces the appointments on August 15th. In the meantime there will continue to be much unrest and uneasiness among the candidates.

According to the reports in the local papers, two majors, fifteen captains, sixteen first lieutenants, fifteen second lieutenants, will be appointed from each company and other men to total of one hundred and three. Practically every man who has shown that he is efficient, or whom the company officers consider so, will be given a commission on the reserve waiting list. This is for infantry. The artillery appointments will be about the same as in the infantry, while in the one cavalry troop the percentage of appointments will probably be a little higher.

Rivaling in interest the recommendations for commissions, is the eight-day hike which commences on Thursday. The march will be under war conditions, except that there will be only a simulated enemy.

During the past two weeks the candidates have been going before the examining board, all the examinations, which were mere casual glances and a few informal questions from the board members, being completed on Friday. The recommendations will probably go in this week, from here to Charleston to be approved by the department commander, and thence to Washington for issue of commissions.

The hike ends on August 9th, and camp will probably end about the 14th, when the candidates, or most of them will go home for a short furlough, before going into active service.

Along with the examination by the board, the companies have been sent up for a special examination of lung and heart by the surgeons. Only a very few of the men were held up on this examination, as they had previously been examined, and this was merely a confirmation of the former examination.

Considerable time has been spent in studying and the practise of trench warfare methods of late, building, revetting and the methods of attack and defense. Along this line, a very interesting talk was made by Major Wood of the English army on fighting at the front, especially the use of the bayonet. Maj. Wood was a visitor to camp the past week with Gen. Wood, who also came to the camp for a couple of days. The former is an American, an officer in the English army and had served in France, where he was wounded.

The weather has been exceedingly hot of late, but it has been cool enough for good sleeping every night, and the men are keeping in excellent health.

The Sumter contingent in camp is as uncertain, if not a little bit more so, as any one else about what commissions, if any, they will get. Some of them complain of the system operated in their companies, by which they have had no chance. One or two of them are somewhat discouraged, but all are still hoping. Their friends will know as soon as they, through the papers, of their appointments.

The challenge of the Sumter Volley Ball team, extended sometime ago, was accepted by a Virginia team and a match staged during the past week. The Sumter team were easy winners, the men on it being Wendell Levi, Joe Chandler, Louis Bryan and Irvine Richardson, with T. D. Ravenel, Jr., R. O. Purdy, Jr., and Geo. D. Levy, as subs. No other teams have accepted the challenge.

## FLOUR MILL PROBE.

Washington, Aug. 2.—The Federal Trade Commission begins next week a flour milling investigation as part of the general food inquiry.

## BATTLE WITH SUBMARINES.

### U. S. DESTROYERS ATTACK U-BOATS AND PUT THEM TO FLIGHT IN SHORT ORDER.

One Submarine Was Bold, But When Uncle Sam's Gunners Got Her Range She Dived Quickly.

American Naval Base in British Waters, July 31—By the Associated Press.

American destroyers today reported to have engaged two submarines simultaneously six miles distant, causing both of them to speed away and submerge without firing a shot—typical of the behavior of submarines when they see destroyers.

One of them had just sunk a steamer by gunfire and the second was attacking a merchantman when the destroyers opened fire. The second submarine, which is described as a super-type, almost as long as a destroyer, raced off and submerged at the first shots, but the other, which had sunk the steamer, displayed unusual boldness, remaining up several minutes, while the destroyer dropped shells around her. Only when a shell splashed within 25 yards of the submarine did she submerge, according to the crew of the steamer, who watched the attack from a small boat close by, and who were later rescued by the destroyers and brought here.

A French tanker bound for America limped into port today, with a 30-foot hole in her bow as a result of a fight with a submarine. The tanker was twice attacked. In the first attack, early in the voyage, she easily beat off the submarine and reached a point 400 miles toward America. She was then attacked by another submarine, the shells of which, despite the stout resistance of the tanker's gunners, shattered the pilot house, smashing the compass and tore a gaping hole below the water line. The tanker began to settle and the crew abandoned the ship, the submarine disappearing. The crew rowed away in a rough sea, but later, surprised that the tanker did not sink, returned to her and managed without bearings to bring her to port.

## ANOTHER GERMAN TRICK REVEALED.

### Effort to Force Physical Rejection Exposed.

New York, July 31.—Evidence that young men were plotting to evade conscription by the use of a heart stimulation which would cause their rejection by medical examiners was laid before Francis G. Caffey, United States district attorney, by Roscoe S. Conkling, deputy attorney general, representing the New York adjutant general. An immediate investigation was ordered.

Mr. Conkling obtained the information from a man whose name he withheld, but who told him that a physician of pronounced pro-German sympathies had arranged to treat two young men with the drug previous to their examination by the draft exemption board of their district. The names of other young men who are believed to have received offers of the same treatment also were given to Mr. Conkling.

Dr. Karl Osterhaus of the bureau of information for medical examiners in Mr. Conkling's office, said it would be an easy matter to detect the presence of the drug and that tests would be applied in every case of unusual heart activity.

Louis Berger, who signed himself as treasurer of the New York Vegetarian Society, today wrote to Mr. Conkling asking whether members of the organization would be exempt from conscription because of conscientious scruples against war. He wrote that members of the society were opposed to killing any living thing.

"Perhaps if you would devote a little more time to trying to be real Americans and be willing to sacrifice a little bit toward defending the honor of this country," Mr. Conkling wrote in reply, "instead of worrying about vegetarian societies and exemptions at this particular time, you might sleep better at night and have the feeling you had done something worth while."

## WILD COTTON MARKET.

### Futures Jumped Cent and a-quarter on Government Report.

New York, Aug. 1.—The government cotton report giving the crop condition as seventy and three-tenths caused a jump of one hundred and fifteen to twenty-five points. Even the bulls were surprised as they believed the condition to be much higher. Profit taking caused reaction of almost half of the gain.