

The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"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 SOUTHRON, Established June, 1860.

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UKRAINE AGAINST BOLSHEVIKI.

ANARCHIST GOVERNMENT AT PETROGRAD THREATENS SOUTH RUSSIA.

Prospect of War Between Bolsheviki and Ukrainians Increased by Sending of Ultimatum—Ukrainians Stand Firm.

London, Tuesday, Dec. 18.—The Bolsheviki government, according to Petrograd advices, sent an ultimatum to the Ukrainian Rada, demanding that within 48 hours a decision be made whether the Ukraine shall cease to assist Gen. Kaledines by sending troops while forbidding the passage of the Bolsheviki troops. In case of refusal the Rada will be considered at war with the congress of workmen's and soldiers' delegates.

Bolsheviki Demand Refused.

Petrograd, Wednesday, Dec. 19.—The Rada, the governing body of Ukraine, has sent a negative reply to the ultimatum of the council of people's commissaries, Bolsheviki government.

SUBMARINE SITUATION IMPROVING.

Russia. Collapse Prevents Realization of Hope for Great Allied Success on Land.

London, Dec. 20.—Premier Lloyd-George stated in the house of commons today that the margin of losses at sea was narrowing, sinkings by submarines were decreasing while shipbuilding was increasing. On the military situation he said it was idle to pretend that the hopes of the allies had been realized and attributed this disappointment to the Russian collapse.

NOTHING NEW IN KAISER'S PEACE PROPOSAL.

Said to Be Practically the Same as Von Kuehlman's Last Summer Proposition.

Washington, Dec. 20.—What purports to be an outline of the Kaiser's much advertised Xmas peace offer has reached here through neutral diplomatic channels. In its main terms it is described as practically the same as those written by Foreign Minister von Kuehlmann during last summer. The disposition of Alsace-Lorraine is to be left to its plebeian inhabitants, England is to pay Germany for her lost colonies, the money to be used to rehabilitate Belgium and other countries; Poland to be independent under Austrian suzerainty; disarmament and freedom of the seas. Commercial matters are to be left to the peace conference.

HEAVY FIGHTING IN ITALY.

Italians Lose Nine Thousand Men in Prisoners Since Dec. 11.

London, Dec. 20.—In the fighting in Italy between the Brenta and Piave rivers since December 11th, the Teutons have taken nearly nine thousand prisoners, the general staff announces.

PEACE PROPOSAL COMING.

Germany Tells Russia That the Allies Will Be Approached.

Petrograd, Wednesday, Dec. 19.—According to press reports Russia has been informed by the Central Powers that they intend to make peace proposals to the Allies.

PRISON TERM FOR SLACKERS.

Ten Years Will be Sentence Imposed at Pacific Coast Trials.

San Francisco, Dec. 19.—Ten years in a military prison will be the sentence imposed hereafter upon conscientious objectors to the draft according to announcement today by Maj. Gen. Arthur Murray, commanding the Western Department of the army.

ELEVEN MINERS KILLED.

Fatal Explosion in Tennessee Coal Mine.

Knoxville, Tenn., Dec. 20.—Eleven miners were killed in an explosion in the Barbour mine near Nemo, Tenn., late yesterday, according to reports received here today. Seventy-five men were in the mine at the time. The bodies are being recovered. The cause of the explosion is unknown.

GERMAN ARMY STRENGTHENED

TREMENDOUS FORCE ARRAYED IN FRANCE.

Withdrawals From Russia and Drafts on Younger Classes Develops Great Strength.

Washington, Dec. 19.—Germany's strength on the Franco-British front is placed in official dispatches received here today at 154 divisions, or within one division of the great force amassed there last July when the German military effort against France was at its maximum.

Withdrawals from Russia and drafts upon the younger classes of reservists have enabled the Kaiser not only to make the enormous losses suffered in bloody battles with the allies, but to replace the men sent to aid the Austrians in their invasion of Italy. Winter therefore, finds the Germans with armies facing the allies in France very nearly to the largest ever before mustered, with advertisement of a great offensive, which may presage another peace proposal. The allies, however, are understood to maintain a considerable superiority in numbers on the French front.

COTTON GINNERS' REPORT.

Cotton Crop to Dec. 13th Amounted to 10,142,858 Bales.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Cotton ginned prior to Dec. 13th totaled 10,142,858 bales exclusive of linters, including 150,252 round bales and 83,352 bales sea island, the census bureau announced today. These statistics include South Carolina, 1,111,000.

FREIGHT RATE INCREASE.

Georgia-Florida Railroad Asks for Higher Rate.

Washington, Dec. 20.—The Georgia-Florida railway today applied to the interstate commission for permission to make increases of one-half cent and one cent per hundred pounds in rates on naval stores from Georgia producing points to Brunswick, Savannah and Jacksonville.

DODGING LA FOLLETTE PROBE.

Senators Continue to Absent Themselves From Committee.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Inability to obtain a quorum compelled the senate committee investigating Senator La Follette's St. Paul speech to postpone action again today for the fourth time. A meeting of the committee was announced for January 8th.

TRUST HUNT IN CHICAGO.

Effort to Discourse Ownership of Stock Yard Terminals.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Efforts of the federal trade commission to disclose the ownership of the Chicago Stockyards Terminal Railroads, began here today with an inquiry into the corporate relations between the Chicago Stockyards Company and four other organizations.

SHIPPING BOARD INQUIRY.

Senate Committee Starts Investigation Tomorrow.

Washington, Dec. 20.—The investigation of the government's shipping board and emergency fleet corporation's operations will begin tomorrow afternoon, with Chairman Hurley as the first witness, the senate commerce committee decided today.

MORE LUXBURG TELEGRAMS.

State Department Will Publish Twenty or More Plot Messages.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Some two score or more telegrams which passed between Count Luxburg, the German minister to Argentina and the German foreign office will be made public today. The Argentine government will also publish them simultaneously at Buenos Aires.

CORN PRICES JUMP.

Rumor of Removal of Maximum Price Causes Advance.

Chicago, Dec. 20.—Rumors that the castabound embargo on corn and oats would be lifted and that the maximum price on corn would be removed, led to a sharp upturn of corn and oats prices on the board of trade today. Corn advanced six and three-quarter cents and oats rose three cents.

Italy's Shipping Loss.

Rome, Wednesday, Dec. 19.—The weekly report of shipping losses shows two sailing vessels of more than a hundred tons and one of less than that size sunk.

ALLIES OVERCOME SUBMARINE

BRITISH NAVAL EXPERT TELLS OF ACHIEVEMENT.

Ships Now Being Built Faster Than They are Sunk—America's Work Helps.

New York, Dec. 19.—Arthur Pollen, British naval expert, who has sailed for Europe after spending six months in the United States gave to the Associated Press a statement in which he said that the campaign of the allied navies against the submarine has resulted in keeping the world's ship tonnage from showing a monthly decrease or will soon do so. Mr. Pollen gives credit for this success to the change in the chief command carried out by the British admiralty last spring and the participation of the American navy.

Mr. Pollen pointed out that six months ago the German submarines were causing a net attrition in the world's tonnage at the rate of nearly 25 per cent. annually. While the present rate of attrition is difficult to estimate, it was stated that last month Great Britain launched as much tonnage as she lost, and within the next 12 months a substantial part of the 6,000,000 tons provided for in this country will undoubtedly be afloat. Great Britain's shipbuilding program will similarly increase month by month, and moreover the campaign of the allied navies against the submarine will grow in value week by week, he said.

"The significance of this to the fortunes of war does not have to be pointed out," Mr. Pollen continued.

"It means that Germany's flank attack on allied communications has failed and that there is no reason why, ultimately, the full military power of Great Britain, France and Italy and more important of all the United States should not be felt in the Western theater of war. This is a tremendous result."

Speaking of the change in the chief command in the British admiralty Mr. Pollen said:

"In bringing about this new order of things at Whitehall the reformers were undoubtedly assisted, first, by the fact that an extremely effective, well equipped and brilliantly commanded contingent of American destroyers was already at work in a very important area of the theater of war and next by the British government waking up to the truth that the belligerency of America meant not only the cooperation of a very gallant and enterprising ally, but the domestication, so to speak, of a new and extremely intelligent critic."

Mr. Pollen mentioned the conversation with the British admiralty of three distinguished and resourceful American naval officers, Admirals Sims, Mayo and Benson. Through these men, "American professional knowledge," he said, "has gained a first hand experience of the reality of war and has been able to contribute upon the character of the operations to be pursued and of the methods of command under which they should be carried out. I can not doubt for a moment that much of the improved efficiency of the counter campaign is due to this intellectual stimulus."

Mr. Pollen paid tribute to Secretary Daniels, praising what he described as the secretary's policy of obtaining loyal team work by allowing the forces under his orders to be directed "in strictly professional matters according to the judgment and advice of the singularly able and efficient officers that, so to speak, form his council of war."

Reverting to the recent North Sea raid by German forces, Mr. Pollen said:

"The only remarkable things about such incidents is not their occasional occurrence, but their rarity. Were the British or the American navy in the position of the Germany navy I fancy they would be far more frequent."

GEN. SARRAIL RECALLED.

Commander of Allied Armies in Saloniki Succeeded by General Guillemet.

London, Dec. 19.—General Sarrail, commander of the allied armies at Saloniki, has been recalled, according to newspaper announcement in Athens, says a Reuter dispatch from the Greek capital under date of December 15. The successor of General Sarrail in command of the Macedonian forces it is stated, will be General Guillemet.

Petrograd, Dec. 19.—The executive council of workmen's and soldiers' has proclaimed a state of siege in Petrograd in an effort to repress disorders due to the looting of wine cellars and shops.

PROGRAM OF WAR.

NEWLY CREATED COUNCIL TAKES DEFINITE FORM.

Three Members Relieved From Present Duties to Devote Entire Attention to Task.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Secretary Baker today moved forward the organization of the new created war council by relieving from their present duties three of the five officers assigned to that body. This will leave them free to devote all their time to the council's task of coordinating all war department activities in such a way that the time heretofore believed to be necessary for the sending to France of an army of sufficient size to insure the defeat of Germany will be materially reduced.

Mr. Baker announced that Maj. Gen. George W. Goethals had been recalled to active duty and would become acting quartermaster general, relieving Maj. Gen. Henry S. Sharpe for service with the council, Maj. Gen. Erasmus Weaver will be relieved by Brig. Gen. John D. Barrette, who becomes acting chief of coast artillery, and Maj. Gen. William Crozier by Brig. Gen. Charles Wheeler who becomes acting chief of ordnance.

Gen. Tasker H. Bliss, chief of staff, and Maj. Gen. E. H. Crowder, the other officers of the council, will remain in their present positions, the former as chief of staff, and the latter as judge advocate general and provost marshal general. Gen. Bliss retires December 31 for age. Preparations being made today for the council indicated that General Crowder might be able to devote only a small part of his time hereafter to other duties.

Mr. Baker decided that offices of the council must be in the war department building itself.

Mr. Baker indicated in his last war review that the Russian armistice has made it necessary for the United States to accelerate its war preparation. The gap in the allied ranks, vacated by Russia must be filled promptly, many officers here say, if the general situation shall continue to show a balance of actual as well of potential power in favor of the United States and the allies when the summer campaign reaches its height in 1918. Members of the house mission which participated in the war conference in Paris are believed to have brought back a similar message.

It is generally believed the American representatives at the war conference made some definite statement as to what the United States could and would do and how long it would take to do it. The new council probably will undertake to make certain the delivery of whatever military strength was pledged to the allies at that time.

Secretary Baker today would not discuss General Bliss' successor as chief of staff. Many reports as to who will be the new chief have been current in the war department but the only public recognition Mr. Baker has given them was to say that a recent report that General Pershing was to be recalled to fill the post was without foundation.

Among officers mentioned for chief of staff have been Maj. Gens Hunter Liggett, John Morrison, Clarence Edwards, John Biddle, the present assistant chief, Joseph E. Kuhn, Leonard Wood and other divisional commanders. Recently the possibility was suggested that General Crowder might be considered and from France has come a suggestion that Maj. Gen. Peyton March might meet with approval among General Pershing's officers.

FRENCH TRANSPORT SUNK.

Old Cruiser Sent to the Bottom in the Mediterranean.

Paris, Tuesday, Dec. 18.—The old French cruiser Chateau Reneval, employed as a transport, was torpedoed and sunk in the Mediterranean on Dec. 14th. The submarine which attacked her later was destroyed, according to the announcement of the French ministry of marine. Passengers on the transport, all of whom were officers and men, were saved. Ten members of the crew were lost.

Large Acreage in Wheat and Rye.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The area sown in winter wheat this fall aggregates forty-two million, one hundred and seventy thousand acres. Condition, 79.3 per cent, normal on December 1st. The department of agriculture today announced the acreage as four per cent greater than last year. Area in rye is six million, one hundred and nineteen thousand acres more than thirty-six per cent greater.

THE ARMY INQUIRY.

PRIVATE ORDNANCE MANUFACTURERS TO BE HEARD.

Quartermaster General Will Have Much to Tell—McCormick Takes Issue With Crozier.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The congressional inquiry into army war preparations broadened today with the senate military committee's decision to hear private manufacturers of ordnance and ammunition tomorrow and to delve into the clothing, cantonment building, food and transportation situation Friday by examining Maj. Gen. Henry Sharpe, quartermaster general.

From Representative McCormick of Illinois, who recently visited the European battlefields, the committee heard statements in executive session tending to contradict testimony of Maj. Gen. William Crozier, chief of ordnance regarding the extra supply of General Pershing's equipment, especially heavy artillery. McCormick said neither the British nor the French had enough artillery; that they were supplying Pershing only because the Americans were still worse off.

As a result of the charges of delays and shortages in the ordnance outfitting, the senate before adjourning, for the holidays, indefinitely postponed action on the nomination of Gen. Crozier for reappointment. The nomination was brought up by Chairman Chamberlain of the military committee which had unanimously recommended his confirmation. Several senators including committee members objected to immediate action, sharply criticizing Gen. Crozier, and Senator Chamberlain agreed that it was advisable to postpone action until the results of the investigation were fixed.

Evidence supporting General Crozier's statement regarding prospects of increased production of ordnance was given to the committee today by Samuel Vauclain, vice president of the Baldwin Locomotive Company, a member of the civilian advisory committee of the war industries board in charge of munition work. He stated that with equipment of many factories which had never before engaged in making ordnance the supply would be adequate in the future to equip the American forces. He cited comparative production figures of American and British factories in making rifles and small and heavy artillery and declared American production is greatly on the increase.

Continuation of the inquiry this week was arranged by the committee but next week a recess over Christmas may be taken.

Representatives of the Colt, Remington and other munitions manufacturers are to be examined tomorrow and Thursday, Gen. Sharpe on Friday and Col. Isaac Lewis, inventor of the Lewis machine gun, on Saturday.

Committee members say it is probable that, in addition to inquiring into contracts and past and future ammunition deliveries the committee will seek causes for recent explosions in ammunition plants, reported to be due in some cases to neglect of safety precautions and awarding contracts to inexperienced contractors.

In a statement tonight partially summarizing his testimony before the committee representative McCormick said neither France nor Italy has any artillery to spare. "The British," said Mr. McCormick, "who in proportion to their front have more guns by far than either of their Western allies, according to their chief military authorities will not have guns enough until next spring. The guns which the French give us use of, they give because the immediate necessities of our little army in France are even greater than their own."

"General Petain said to me, 'Make guns. Send us guns and ammunition rather than steel bullets. We are grateful for the little force you have sent us. The echo of its footfalls carried hope to every heart in France but as it grows there must be a period when we shall be taxed to supply it. While its numbers slowly increase you Americans, who are a greater industrial people, must see that this war is an industry of destruction. It will understand how urgent it is to send us guns, middle heavies and shells, in order that we may be armed to win victories and to defend ourselves so that some of us may be alive to fight by your side when at last America is ready.'"

"The Italian army," Mr. McCormick continued, "had something less than one quarter as many guns as the British and French armies combined,

CANADA WILL CONSCRIPT.

UNIONISTS AND CONSCRIPTION WIN DECISIVE VICTORY AT POLLS.

With no Record of Action Overseas Domestic Vote Shows Balance of Forty Seats in Favor of Sir Robert Borden and Colleagues.

Ottawa, Dec. 18.—The union government has won a decisive victory at the polls and conscription confirmed. At an early hour this morning virtually complete returns from the eastern provinces and results not quite so complete from west of the lakes indicate that, apart from the soldiers' vote to be counted in January, the government will have a majority in excess of 40.

Early returns received from all over Canada indicated that the government of Sir Robert Borden had been elected to administer Canadian affairs for another five years and that Sir Wilfrid Laurier was as definitely defeated as the reciprocity election of 1911. Returns indicated that the French portion of Canada had gone heavily for Sir Wilfrid Laurier and English constituencies have returned men who will support the union government measures and maintain Premier Borden in office.

The vote has been very heavy everywhere and the majorities are very large. The soldier vote which will not be counted for some days will increase the already heavy majorities of government members and will likely increase the government majority.

The provinces east of the Ottawa River more than verified the predictions of those who believed that the Unionists and Liberals would break about even, but Ontario and the West proved a surprise. The opposition counted on at least 20 seats from Ontario and obtained only half that number. Liberals thought they could count on not less than 15 seats in the West, but up to 1 o'clock Mulloy of Provencher, Manitoba, was the only supporter of Sir Wilfrid Laurier elected.

Two or three seats in Northern Alberta may still be in doubt but there is little to indicate the possibility of more than three or four of the opposition being elected in Western Canada.

In Ontario 72 out of 82 of the constituencies have been won by the Unionists and all the mayors have been elected by large majorities.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier was returned in Quebec, by 6,000 majority.

Quebec did even worse for the Unionists than was expected, 62 out of the 65 seats going into the Liberal column.

Returns at 12:15 a. m. follow: Union government 133; opposition 91; deferred 4. Incomplete or not heard from, one in Ontario, three in British Columbia and three in Alberta.

RAIDS IN FLANDERS.

German Patrols Were Active Last Night.

London, Dec. 19.—German patrols were active last night in Flanders near Passchendale, but otherwise there were no operations of importance, the war office reports.

GERMAN ATTACKS REPULSED.

Two Attempts in Argonne Defeated Last Night.

Paris, Dec. 19.—French forces defeated two attempts by Germans to approach French positions in the Argonne near Fort Deparis last night, the war office announced.

although there was no greater difference in the length of the fronts. In Italy they suffered from a shortage of ammunition.

"The middle heavy is to this war what the steam shovel was to Panama. If we make guns enough and transport them to Europe before the spring of 1919 we ought to win this war without terrible losses. Without the guns we shall lose the men and maybe lose the war."

"We must build for ourselves and the allies 25,000 cannon. That is the estimate of the best military opinion in Europe. But apparently we shall have produced practically no guns within a year after our declaration of war."

"It seems evident enough that we must create a department of munitions just as the French and English have done. The problem of guns and munition making is so big that even the ablest industrial executive in America will find he is taxed to the ultimate in directing their production. Time is the essence of victory and cannon are the weapons by which it must be won."