

# The Watchman and Southerner.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Estab. Wed 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."

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## WAR IN ITALY.

### AUSTRO-GERMANS SEEK TO DOMINATE ITALIAN PLAINS.

With Recapture of Asolone Positions. Diaz's Men Take New Heart for Future Battles.

With the French Armies in Northern Italy, Saturday, Dec. 23 (By the Associated Press.)—Unexpectedly balked in their march towards the plain by the loss of the Monte Asolone positions within 24 hours after they had captured them, the Austro-German forces are concentrating heavily, according to all available reports, north and northeast of this important approach to dominating Monte Grappa. A new and unprecedented vigorous onslaught on the barriers to the plains is expected soon, not only at Grappa but on the Asiago plateaus and possibly the lower Piave.

Although expert opinion appears to be approaching unanimity that the Austrians have given up hope of breaking through the Italian line at present, so far as to force another great retreat, all available information indicates the enemy wants to accomplish another big success by capturing all peaks commanding the plain and would vastly prefer a position at the northern limit of the plain, at least where climatic conditions would favor his troops.

Even a cursory visit to the Grappa sector, however, is sufficient to reveal convincingly how very far the enemy is from accomplishing this objective and how formidable the Italian positions are, backed up by a rejuvenated army, thoroughly reorganized and re-equipped and whose spirit was shown by the counterattack in which he captured the great Asolone positions. Immediately after the regaining of the Asolone heights the correspondent found it possible to proceed to a vantage point slightly south and west of Grappa, which at the time was being viciously bombarded with shrapnel by the enemy who had lost it a few hours before. Had the enemy been able to hold it and conquered Monte Conston, this key position would have been seriously menaced.

Their rebuff at this important point, however, drove the Austro-German forces not only to a considerable distance from the plain they are seeking but makes their progress toward it extremely difficult, now that the weather conditions are severe.

A single day spent with the Italian forces on this mountain section serves to show convincingly what a stupendous task the Austro-German invaders have. While German shrapnel was viciously peppering the lost Asolone heights, countless light and heavy Italian batteries, honeycombing and dotting the two adjoining mountains, were hammering the enemy unceasingly. Every path in the mountainside disgorged troops working under the so-called rotation system, by which the enemy men in the first lines, after serving there for some days, fall back into the reserve, being relieved by reserves and then gradually working their way forward to the first line again.

At many points lay piles of ammunition and the way here and there was almost impassable by reason of the batteries that were making their ascent. Masses of troops lay waiting to relieve the first line fighters—troops obviously cheerful, well fed and confident that the reconquest of a great part of the Asolone positions had brought to a final halt the Austro-German progress towards the plain.

The concentrations on the Asiago plateau and along the lower Piave, while perhaps numerically less important than those in the Grappa region, are admittedly for the same purpose, according to the admissions of prisoners, who say the condition of their troops is terrible and they must at all costs secure a line on the plain and control the Brenta and Piave valleys so that they will not have to endure the winter in the mountains.

"We must secure these things at whatever price and sacrifice may be necessary," were the words in which Austrians summed up the situation. The prisoners, virtually without exception, predict that "the end of this year will be marked by 'furious battles which will last a fortnight.'"

## BATTLES IN AIR.

### French Have Destroyed Eighteen German Machines.

Paris, Dec. 24.—Intense aerial activity is reported by the war office. In the course of a hundred combats in the air during the past few days, the French brought down eighteen German machines.

## SUGAR FAMINE UNBROKEN.

### SHORTAGE DUE TO MOVEMENT OF SUGAR FROM AMERICA TO EUROPE.

Hoover Declares Without Price Fixing by Agreement Sugar Would Be Selling for 25 Cents Pound.

Washington, Dec. 25.—Food Administrator Hoover's statement on the sugar situation, which he tried unsuccessfully to get before the senate committee investigating the sugar shortage, was made public tonight by the White House. It attributes the shortage there to the heavy movement of sugar from the Western Hemisphere to Europe, and asserts that without the fixing of prices by agreement sugar would have been selling for twenty-five or thirty cents a pound, and more than two hundred million dollars probably would have been profited from the American people by this time.

The statement contains the food administrator's reply to charges made before the committee by Claus Spreckels, president of the Federal Refining Company, that the sugar situation was mismanaged and sets forth in detail the administration's efforts to keep sugar prices down, while supplying large quantities to the allies.

The committee, of which Senator Reed is chairman, not only had refused to make the statement a part of the Congressional Record, but has declined thus far to permit Mr. Hoover to take the stand to answer Mr. Spreckels' charges.

When the hearing is resumed Friday, however, it is understood Mr. Hoover will be permitted to tell his story.

At the outset the statement presents the world situation as it existed prior to the European war. The allies then produced much of their own supplies and purchased the remainder from Germany. Before the war they took only 200,000 tons annually from the Western Hemisphere. This year they have taken 1,400,000 tons.

"That," says the food administrator, "is the cause of the sugar shortage, and nothing else."

The statement says the food administrator has handled the situation with a view to sustaining the morale of France and England, where the sugar ration has been extremely low for months, and at the same time preventing a jump in price to twenty or twenty-five cents a pound here.

## EXPLOSION KILLS TWO.

### Men Killed by Gas Explosion in Macon Hotel.

Macon, Ga., Dec. 24.—The explosion of a gas pipe in the basement of the Hotel Dempsey early today fatally injured Policeman John Alexander and John A. Truman, proprietor of a pool room. The explosion was the result of a fire starting in the pool room. Both men were on the sidewalk in front of the hotel. They were blown high in the air.

## SAYS NO FLOUR SHORTAGE.

### Frank P. Carey Reports Big Supplies in Storage.

Minneapolis, Dec. 24.—Frank L. Carey, representative of the food administration's grain corporation, who returned today from New York, where members of the corporation have been in conference, declared in answer to reports of a flour shortage that there is breadstuff supplies in storage and on market now sufficient to answer the needs of the entire country for five months.

Mr. Carey also announced that approximately 1,000,000 bushels of wheat from the Pacific coast has been ordered shipped here for use of local flour mills.

## SHORTAGE OF CLOTHING IN NATIONAL ARMY.

### Army to be Supplied from Local Sources.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Aroused by reports of a shortage of clothing in the National Army camps the senate military committee today adopted a resolution requesting the secretary of war to immediately ascertain conditions by wire and supply all deficient troops by suspending departmental routine, if necessary by direct purchases from sources near the camps.

## Petrograd, Dec. 26.—The Bolshevik government has decided to send representatives to all countries, belligerents as well as neutral, to further their propaganda of internationalism. Two million rubles have been appropriated for this purpose.

## WATCHING ALL AGITATORS.

### I. W. W., BOLSHEVIKI AND IRISH AGITATORS MAY BE SEEKING WORLD-WIDE UPHEAVAL.

Shilka Incident One of Many Cases Which Have Aroused Agents' Suspicion.

Washington, Dec. 25.—Evidence has been uncovered by government agents indicating that American Industrial Workers of the World, Russian Bolsheviks, Irish agitators, and revolutionists in various countries at war with Germany may be seeking to lay the foundations of an elaborate world-wide plan to overthrow existing social orders.

This was admitted today by officials here including news of a discovery of a quantity of rifles, revolvers and ammunition on the Russian freighter Shilka, which has just arrived at a Pacific port manned by a mutinous Bolshevik crew. Government agents suspect that the guns and munitions were intended for the Industrial Workers of the World in this country.

The Shilka incident is only one of many cases which lead officials to believe the connection between plotters in several of the allied countries may be more tangible than the indefinite link of moral sympathy. Certain Irish agitators and Industrial Workers of the World leaders recently have gone from the United States to Russia, after being in close touch with each other here, and reports have been received that Bolshevik organizers would come to America before long to spread their doctrine of direct action for communal organization.

No objection will be raised by the government to any agitation which does not interfere with the progress of the war, officials declare. Officials do not intend to use the war exigencies as an excuse for suppressing free speech, except in so far as it leads to hampering the government in the fight against the Central powers. This basis of judgment, however, is recognized as broad, and will permit drastic action against foreign agents whose conduct directly or indirectly fosters Germany's war aims.

Action will be particularly swift officials say, when armed resistance to the law is threatened and when other material forces are employed by the agitators. Customs inspection will serve to prevent importation of arms and the close supervision of the crews of incoming and outgoing vessels is expected to make impossible traffic of communications on a large scale intended to foster revolutionary activity. There still are means of importing money into the United States, but government agents can trace remittances and keep a watchful eye on suspicious expenditures.

Although prosecutions of Industrial Workers of the World have been vigorous officials have evidence which they claim shows that the menace of this organization, believed to be supported largely by German money, remains strong. Further action against the agitators is forecast. This will be hastened if it is found that the band is working with Russian Bolsheviks leaders to bring about a premature peace in Germany's behalf or hamper operations of the war.

Extreme care is being taken by this government to avoid antagonizing the Bolshevik movement in Russia despite the international irritation it has caused. American officials do not care to appear to resist the development of democratic ideals even if it assumes the form of extreme and chaotic socialism reported in Russia under the new regime.

## RUSSIAN ASSEMBLY CALLED.

### Social Revolutionaries Will Hold Meeting in Defiance of Bolsheviks.

London, Dec. 26.—The Social revolutionary minority in the constituent assembly has decided to convoke that body on January 2d, according to a Petrograd dispatch to the Times, although the Bolshevik government has said it was determined to prevent the meeting of the assembly independent of its sanction.

Confirmation has been received of the reports that Stockholm will be the scene of the continuation of the Russo-German peace negotiations, starting early in January.

## Ohio Congressman Dead.

Akron, Ohio, Dec. 24.—Representative E. R. Bathrick of the Fourteenth district died at his home here last night.

## ENTIRE FAMILY PERISH.

### FLAMES CAUSE HORRIBLE CHRISTMAS EVE TRAGEDY FEW MILES FROM GREENWOOD.

Neighbor Hears Cries, But His Efforts to Save Victims Entrapped in Burning Home Fall.

Greenwood, Dec. 25.—Mrs. J. Lambert Whitman and her six children, aged from three to thirteen years, were burned to death last night at midnight in their country home four miles west of Greenwood. This horrible tragedy on Christmas brought to Greenwood a sadness that was very noted.

Mrs. Whitman and her six children had presumably made their preparations for Christmas, and the father was in town. A neighbor, Mr. J. H. Davis, one of the cotton weighers here, was late getting home, and had just arrived in his yard when he saw the fire. Hastily putting his horse back in harness, he rushed down the road to the house. Although the building was blazing from every side, he could still hear the cries of the unfortunate inside. Wrapping his laprobe about him, he attempted to enter time and again, but was driven back by the flames. The cries increased, and this morning all that was left of seven beings of the day before was a charred heap of bones.

The frame of the mother was clearly apparent, lying across a bed, where she had possibly tried to rescue some of the children and had fallen, overcome by smoke.

The charred remains have been brought here and are in the R. W. Blythe undertaking establishment. Tomorrow they will be started to Due West in a single coffin and buried that way at the former home of the mother. The oldest child, a young boy, was away from home on a visit. He and the father survive out of a family of nine. The house was known as the Ryckard place, just beyond Salak, and was one of the landmarks of that section of the country, where Mr. Whitman had lived only one year, working a crop on the place this year.

## STEFANSEN ARRIVES AT FORT YUKON.

### Intrepid Explorer and Party Safe—First News of Them in Many Months.

Ottawa, Dec. 26.—Vilhjalmur Stefansen, the noted Arctic explorer who was last heard from in a letter written in 1916, has arrived with his party at Fort Yukon, according to word received by the naval department.

## URGED TO ENLIST IN NATIONAL ARMY.

### Greek Government Will Reward all Greek Citizens Who Will Serve Uncle Sam.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Greece wants her citizens in the United States to enlist in the American army, according to a note from the Greek government that was delivered to the State department today. Not only will she suspend punishments which ordinarily follow the enlistment of Greeks with a foreign power, but she will reward them for the supporting of American arms.

## MORE COAL NEEDED.

### Production Has Increased But Consumption's Greater.

Washington, Dec. 26.—The war demands for bituminous coal have been greater than the mines could meet, although the increase in production this year has been normal, fuel Administrator Garfield testified. He said the administration is laying greater emphasis on the stimulation of production rather than regulating prices. Dr. Garfield said he knew big profits were being made, but believed it necessary to stimulate production.

## HUNT TAKES OVER OFFICE.

### Campbell Surrenders the Governorship of Arizona.

Phoenix, Ariz., Dec. 25.—Thomas E. Campbell turned over the governorship of Arizona to Gov. George W. P. Hunt today in obedience to the mandate of the State Supreme Court, which found that Gov. Hunt was the legally elected governor by a plurality of forty-three votes.

The ceremony was without feature. Hunt's first official act was to tender to Campbell a place on the State tax commission. Mr. Campbell declined.

## AMERICA AIDS KALEDINES.

### TROTZKY CHARGES RED CROSS WITH HELPING ENEMY.

Ambassador Francis Says Neither United States nor Society is Helping Counter-revolution.

Petrograd, Saturday, Dec. 22.—Leon Trotzky, the Bolshevik foreign minister, at a meeting of the revolutionary organizations assembled in congress today, read documents and telegrams which he declared contained evidence the Americans were helping General Kaledines, leader of the Don Cossacks.

"Last night," said Trotzky, "we found that American agents in Russia were participating in the Kaledines movement. We arrested Colonel Kolkashnikov, attached to the American mission to Roumania, who was trying to get a train load of automobiles, clothing and supplies to Rostov. Among the documents was a letter from David R. Francis (American ambassador to Russia), requesting that the train be given free passage as it was bound for the mission at Jassy."

"One letter from Colonel Andersson (head of the American Red Cross mission to Roumania) to Kolkashnikov said that if money were needed Ambassador Francis was ready to advance 100,000 rubles on the account of the Red Cross. We think that the American ambassador must break his silence now."

"Since the revolution he has been the most silent diplomat in Petrograd. Evidently he belongs to the Bismarck school in which it was taught that silence is golden. He must explain his connection with this conspiracy."

"We will tell all the ambassadors. If you think that with the help of American gold, under the guise of the holy mission of the Red Cross, you can support Kaledines you are mistaken. If you think that you are no longer the representative of America but private adventurers the heavy hand of the revolution will reach out after you."

"I desire to let the representatives of all the foreign powers know that we are not so blind as to allow our feet to be trampled on. In the affair of Tchiteherin and Petroff we have already had occasion to show the British ambassador that the revolutionary government is not lacking in dignity and pride and that we are not acting under the influence of the Anglo-American bourgeoisie, but have a pure principle for which we will conquer or perish."

The audience cheered these utterances wildly. Mme. Alexandra Kollanta, Bolshevik minister of public welfare, moved then that the meeting send legates to France and England "to light the torch of a world revolution."

Raymond Robins, head of the permanent American Red Cross mission to Russia, on hearing of the arrest of Kolkashnikov, prior to Trotzky's speech, offered to explain the matter to the Bolshevik leader, but Trotzky refused to hear him unless he came as the representative of the embassy. Ambassador Francis in a statement to the Russian press declares that the embassy and the Red Cross are in no way involved in counter-revolution. He says that Kolkashnikov received no funds from the embassy.

## CANADA CUTS OUT LIQUOR INDUSTRY.

### Importation is Prohibited and Manufacture Will be Stopped.

Ottawa, Dec. 22.—Importation of intoxicating liquors into Canada after Monday next is prohibited and their manufacture will be prohibited after a date to be determined later, Premier Borden officially announced today.

The premier said there would be an investigation and consideration of the situation in the liquor industry before the date for prohibition of manufacture is decided upon.

The ban will remain in force during the war and for one year after conclusion of peace.

## A DEMOCRATIC PEACE.

### Trotzky Explains to French Ambassador Aims of the Bolsheviks.

Paris, Sunday, Dec. 23.—Leon Trotzky, the Bolshevik foreign minister, according to a note issued by the Havas Agency, called on French Ambassador Noulens at Petrograd, and explained that the Bolsheviks wished to keep to the principle of a "Democratic peace," leaving to the peoples the right to dispose of themselves.

## BRITISH NAVAL CHANGE.

### ADMIRAL JELICOE DISPLACED BY VICE ADMIRAL WEMYSS.

Shake up the Result of Public Dissatisfaction With Management of Navy and Continued German Raids.

London, Dec. 26.—Vice Admiral Sir Rosslyn Wemyss has been appointed first sea lord in succession to Admiral Sir John R. Jellicoe, according to an official announcement issued this evening.

Admiral Jellicoe has been elevated to the peerage in recognition of his very distinguished service. The hope is expressed that his experience may be utilized later in another important post.

The translation of Sir John R. Jellicoe to the honorable eclipse of a seat in the house of lords and the promotion of the second sea lord to his place, briefly announced in an official communication tonight, will convey—but one interpretation to the mind of the general public in view of the strong criticisms for a long time passed upon the admiralty, which culminated in deep disappointment and dissatisfaction at the impunity in which German raiders recently again sank a British convoy.

The official announcement says nothing of Admiral Jellicoe having for any reason desired to resign his appointment but merely announces his replacement by Vice Admiral Wemyss and the bestowal of a peerage "in recognition of his very distinguished services."

Admiral Jellicoe, who had performed notable service in the British navy as commander of the Atlantic and Home fleets and also as second sea lord, was made supreme commander of the home fleet at the outbreak of the war. In the summer following the Jutland battle he was appointed first sea lord, turning over command of the grand fleet to Vice Admiral Sir David Beatty. Jellicoe is 58 years old.

Vice Admiral Wemyss became second sea lord of the admiralty in August of the present year. Although little known to the British public, Wemyss has always borne the reputation of being a fighter of the first order. He won commendation for the part he took in the Jutland battle. Wemyss was made a rear admiral in 1912. He represents the old aristocratic element in the navy.

## MAY HAVE BEEN SPY.

### Charles H. Feig Believed to Have Been Attempting to Send Information to Germany.

El Paso, Dec. 22.—Charles H. Feig was shot and killed by United States army patrols when he attempted to cross the river to Mexico here late today. Feig, it is believed, was a German spy, who sought to transmit military information to Germany through Mexico. When his papers were examined a note book, drawings and ground plans of troop camps, Fort Bliss and other fortifications near here were found. He carried a camera.

Feig was killed after he had crossed the boundary line on what is known as Little Island, formed by a bend in the Rio Grande. Three border guards fired shots at him with pistols. His body was brought to the American side in a wagon by a Mexican woman. Charts found in his possession showed the location of international boundary monuments, wireless towers and other military information. His clothing bore the markings of New York clothing stores.

## GERMAN SOCIALISTS ARRESTED.

### Three Hundred Seized by Military Party and Imprisoned Christmas Eve.

London, Dec. 27.—More than three hundred members of the German minority Socialist party were arrested on Christmas Eve by the German military authorities, according to a Zurich dispatch given out today by the wireless press.

## Birmingham, Dec. 26.—W. D. Wynee and his son Alfred are dead and his wife and another son and Miss Turner were injured when an Atlanta, Birmingham and Atlantic train struck their automobile today at Owenton crossing.

## Petrograd, Dec. 26.—An American Red Cross train left here yesterday with the approval of the Bolsheviks, carrying all its original supplies except automobiles.