

The Watchman and Southron.

Published Wednesday and Saturday
—BY—
OSTEEN PUBLISHING COMPANY
SUMTER, S. C.

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The Sumter Watchman was founded in 1850 and the True Southron in 1866. The Watchman and Southron now has the combined circulation and influence of both of the old papers, and is manifestly the best advertising medium in Sumter.

Second Lieut. Louis C. Bryan has received just and merited recognition and has been promoted to First Lieutenant. His military training at the Sumter High School and for four years at the Citadel, from which he was graduated as an officer of the battalion, taken in connection with his personality and character, peculiarly fitted him for a commission in the army and we were surprised that he did not receive at the least a captaincy when he completed the course of training at the first Ft. Oglethorpe Officers' Training Camp. He was the whole local staff of The Daily Item for several years and in that time those connected with the paper came to know him well, to appreciate his worth and have confidence that he would make good wherever a real man is needed to hold down a job. The Item extends congratulations to Lieut. Bryan upon his promotion and in doing so records the belief that we shall have occasion to congratulate him again ere long.

Congratulations are likewise extended to Lieutenant George D. Levy upon a similar promotion. Lieut. Levy is also an old Item man having written the local news for several years immediately after leaving college until his law practice required all of his time and we have full confidence that he will go on up if merit is the prime requisite for rapid promotion.

Thinking of Bryan and Levy, the first named leaving The Item to enter the training camp and the latter the first regular reporter The Item ever had, brings to mind the boys who, at one time or another have been carrier boys for this paper, and who are now serving in the army. Among the number are Captain Wilson Spann, Captain Harrison Saunders and Lieut. Wade Willeford, "somewhere in France," Maj. Wesley Bradford, Captain Joe Chandler, Lieut. Sidney Burgess and Lieut. Warren Burgess of the Medical Corps, Turner White, Walter Mimms and Walter Sanders, the last named a sergeant in the regular army. There are other former Item carrier boys serving in the army, we are sure, but we cannot remember all of them at this time.

President Wilson so far has made very few mistakes. Even the acts and policies that have been most bitterly criticised as blunders have been proven by the unfolding of events to have been wise and well considered parts of a broad and far reaching plan. His critics and ill-wishers explain, or excuse, their opposition to his administration by saying, either that he has been lucky in saying or doing the right and wise thing at the proper time, or that if he had done or said something different the result would have been different and more advantageous. It does not appear that way to us, but to the contrary it seems that he has evidenced exceptional foresight, wisdom and firmness in dealing with difficult and puzzling problems, both domestic and foreign. The record of his five years administration in the most momentous and tremendous era of the world's history gives us confidence to trust in his wisdom and in his sincere determination to do that which is best for all the people of the United States. His endorsement of the fuel order and his outspoken approval of the policy of Fuel Administrator Garfield makes us hesitate to criticise any phase of the order, even though its operation seems likely to work unnecessary hardships in some instances. The practical results of the order may prove, and we believe will prove, to be so far-reaching in their beneficial effects upon the industrial and transportation systems of the country, as a whole, as to many times over-balance any bad effects that may follow its enforcement. There has been a storm of criticism and complaint from those who think that they are being damaged financially, but we believe that within a very short time the wisdom of the order will be so clearly demonstrated that the loudest critics will be even more loudly explaining that they did not mean exactly what they said.

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AMERICANS OBEY ORDER.

BUSINESS SUSPENDED GENERALLY EAST OF MISSISSIPPI.

With Few Exceptions Merchants and Manufacturers Obey Fuel Order to the Letter With Cheerful Spirit.

Washington, Jan. 21.—Business activity, east of the Mississippi river, was generally suspended today, the first of the series of ten heatless Mondays. At the same time manufacturing plants throughout the east are idle for four consecutive days in compliance with the fuel administration's order.

TO REGISTER ALL MEN.

Bill Introduced to Draft All Men Between Eighteen and Sixty-Two.

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, Jan. 21.—A bill authorizing the president to order the registration and drafting of all males between eighteen and sixty-two years to be used in conducting industries necessary to the promotion of the war is provided in a bill introduced by Senator McCumber and referred to the military committee.

VON STEIN CERTAIN OF VICTORY.

Prussian Minister Knows Nothing of America, but Assumes Cocksure Attitude Discussing War.

Amsterdam, Jan. 20.—"I do not know the Americans, nor do I know what they are capable of doing in this war," said General von Stein, Prussian minister of war in an interview in a recent issue of the Budapesti Hirlap. The general is quoted, however, as declaring that the central powers were well prepared for meeting America.

The war minister said he did not regard air fighting as a decisive factor. He had heard of extensive American plans in this connection. "But," he said, "much depends upon what the American engineers can do and still more depends upon whether efficient, experienced crews can be obtained by them."

Speaking of the present situation General von Stein said: "All humanity desires peace and naturally so do I. As a soldier I know only one possibility for ending the war and that is victory. Every renunciation is only a sign of weakness and an acknowledgment of defeat. He who renounces the fruits of his success on the battlefield puts the enemy in a position to consider himself a victor and helps him in his plans of destruction. There is no sign of a desire for an understanding on the part of our enemies."

"In reality a military decision has already been obtained. When our enemies recognize that they can not drive us out of the occupied territory they will thereby admit that they have been defeated."

General von Stein asserted that the "moving and decisive power is the individual man," and he declared the Germans were not afraid of the wonders of technical science.

"There are, for instance," he said, "the tanks which made their first appearance in the Somme battle. At first, we naturally did not know how to destroy them. My soldiers even climbed on top of them and tried to blow them open with hand grenades. But we soon learned that there was one dead weapon against them, namely, our guns."

FIXES NITRATE PRICE.

Secretary of Agriculture Makes Announcement.

Washington, Jan. 18.—A price of \$75.50 a ton f. o. b. cars for the nitrate fertilizer which the department of agriculture has purchased in Chile for sale to American farmers at cost was announced today by Secretary Houston. The farmers must pay the freight charges from ports and the State tag fees and payment must be in cash.

Ships carrying the nitrate will be directed to the most convenient ports, including Savannah, Wilmington, N. C., Charleston, Norfolk and Baltimore, the secretary said, and the nitrate will be handled at seaboard by representatives who will serve without compensation. In the farming districts county agents, assisted by local business men chosen by them, will handle the shipments.

Farmers are required to file their applications with the agents or committees not later than February 4.

London, Jan. 19.—The war office tonight stated that the British line yesterday was advanced to a maximum depth of one mile on a four mile front in the neighborhood of Durah, twelve miles north of Jerusalem. Some prisoners were captured.

HARD WORK MOVING TRAINS.

EASTERN ROADS BATTLE TO OVERCOME CONGESTION.

Movement of Coal Under Fuel Order Encouraging for New York and New England.

New York, Jan. 20.—Although handicapped by weather conditions even worse than have prevailed for the last fortnight, railroads in the Eastern territory were battling manfully today to untangle the congestion which made necessary the drastic embargo on the use of fuel. Reports received at the office of A. H. Smith, assistant director general of the railroads, told of desperate efforts to move trains in spite of great obstacles.

The severe cold has slowed up traffic and has hampered unloading and clearing of main lines, yards, tracks and terminals.

For the 24 hours ending at 6 a. m. today it was announced that 1,402 cars of anthracite and bituminous coal had been dumped at tidewater terminals, compared with 1,464 the day before.

There were 321 vessels waiting for bunker coal compared with 371 the previous 24 hours.

Coal handled for New England showed an increase in the last 24 hours.

Temperatures of from 20 to 30 degrees below zero were reported from the Pennsylvania coal districts and 18 degrees below in the Mohawk valley. In New England the thermometer registered 15 below at the western connecting points and 20 below along the coast.

At some points the cold weather caused rails to break and numerous minor accidents to metal parts on engines and other equipments were reported.

As the fuel administration's coal embargo gradually relieves the shortage in New York and its suburbs the city looked forward cheerfully to its first "heatless Monday."

JOLT FOR NEWLY WEDS.

Washington, Jan. 21.—The government appeal agents have been instructed to appeal all cases where local draft boards have granted deferred classifications in either class Two or Four because of marriage since May 18th last, became known today.

GOES TO PRISON.

Baltimore, Jan. 19.—Walter Spoermann, who was arrested ten days ago at Newport News, Va., charged with violating the alien enemy permit, was sent to Fort Oglethorpe prison camp today.

War Savings Stamps Campaign.

Charleston, Jan. 17.—The net results of the first month of the war savings stamps campaign in South Carolina, in which this State is to raise \$30,000,000 of the two billions which the government expects to raise during 1918 by the saving stamp investment, are encouraging to the State headquarters of the campaign. R. Gwyn Rhett, State director, today made the following statement:

"A review of the work accomplished during the initial month is satisfactory evidence that the State intends to do its share in this great work. Reports received from postmasters, county chairmen, and other agencies are encouraging, as they show that thousands of the citizens are taking an active interest in the campaign, which is simply for the purpose of diverting money to war needs that would otherwise be expended on unnecessary luxuries.

"We want every man, woman, and child in the State to use the dimes, quarters, and dollars usually spent for luxuries for the purpose of helping the government win the war and win it at the earliest possible moment. The government will pay in five years \$5 for every saving stamp bought now for \$4.12, which represents the original price plus interest at 4 per cent per annum, compounded quarterly. The thrift stamps sell for 25c each and can be converted into the war savings stamps.

"Every postmaster in the State is selling these stamps and will give complete information about them. Postmen and rural carriers will deliver the stamps to any residence or office on their routes. Many banks are handling them, and hundreds of other agencies will be appointed. War savings societies among all classes of people are being formed. It is absolutely the safest and simplest investment that can be made, and pays good interest. "I am confident that South Carolina will respond to this appeal."

Maj. Adna R. Chaffee, adjutant, acting chief of staff, gave out Friday a list of promotions of officers at Camp Jackson. Among the number were the following Sumter men: Capt. Wyndham M. Manning to be major; Second Lieutenants Louis C. Bryan, Geo. D. Levy and J. Pringle Brunson to be First Lieutenants.

DUTCH SHIPS CHARTERED.

Holland Signs Agreement to Turn Over Fifty Ships to United States.

Washington, Jan. 21.—The charter to the United States government of all Dutch steamers held in American ports has been decided by the Dutch government in agreement which has just been signed in London. The agreement provides a charter for one round-trip of upwards of fifty vessels.

It is a part of the agreement that the Dutch ships shall carry one hundred and fifty thousand tons of food for the relief of the Belgians. They may be used for other voyages later in the American coastwise trade.

HOLLAND IS INDIGNANT.

Press Criticises America's Alleged Detention of Munitions.

Amsterdam, Jan. 18.—Commenting on a statement made by the war minister to The Netherlands Parliament concerning the alleged detention in America of 1,000 machine guns and 10,000,000 cartridges which had been bought and paid for by the Dutch government, The Hague Nieuw Courante protests indignantly against such treatment by a friendly nation. The newspaper declares that the holding up of the arms and ammunition is profoundly humiliating and amounts to a cool denial of Holland's good faith and asks whether it is in America's interest to deprive a neutral State of the means to defend its neutrality.

FOOD ADMINISTRATION NOTICE.

Heads of Families Urged to Join Food Conservation Movement.

Columbia, Jan. 18.—Effort will be made by the United States food administration to register all homes in South Carolina in the food conservation movement, according to an announcement by William Elliott, food administrator for this State.

During the campaign last fall more than 100,000 homes joined the food administration forces by signing the pledge cards. There are nearly 400,000 homes in the State and every effort will be made to secure all for membership in the United States food administration.

There are 4,967 families in Sumter county registered as members of the food administration. There are 9,056 families in the county. All families who have not joined the food administration should write immediately to the food administrator, Arcade building, Columbia, and secure the beautiful window card, the kitchen card and other information which is to be distributed. The food administration is making arrangements for the wide distribution of information that will be of value to every householder. Those signing the pledge cards, merely promise to save food insofar as possible, so that America may be successful in the war.

The food administration has received a limited supply of War Cook books and the homekeepers who apply first for membership will receive one of these books free of cost.

"Food will win the war; don't waste it," is the slogan of the United States food administration.

LABOR FROM PORTO RICO.

Government Arranging to Bring in 50,000 Men.

Washington, Jan. 19.—Arrangements for the early transportation of 50,000 common laborers to the United States from Porto Rico is being made by the department of labor. As soon as tonnage is available 60,000 others will be brought from Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands, sufficient, the department announced today, to take care of any shortage in the domestic supply of railroad and agricultural workers.

London, Jan. 21.—British casualties reported for the week ending today were 17,943. This represents a decrease of nearly eight thousand.

SODA DISTRIBUTION PLANS.

Clemson College to Assist South Carolina Farmers in Securing Chilean Fertilizer.

Clemson College, Jan. 20.—The organization in the several counties of the State will be perfected in the next two or three days by the demonstration agents and others for making arrangements to distribute the nitrate of soda supplied by the government. The rules and regulations for the distribution were prepared by officials in the United States department of agriculture. They will be published in the county papers and by posters, demonstration agents simply carrying out special instructions from Washington. Where counties are without demonstration agents a representative from Clemson College extension division will visit such counties on Tuesday, February 22, to make necessary arrangements.

Indianapolis, Jan. 19.—After two days stirring debate the United Mine Workers overwhelmingly ratified the Washington agreement which grants a substantial wage advance to bituminous coal miners and provides penalties for violation of contracts.


SODA DOCKED AT CHARLESTON.

Ships Change in Original Plans Found Necessary Because of Shallow Water in Other Harbors.

Washington, Jan. 20.—It has been held that inasmuch as Savannah can not accommodate deep draft vessels which are bringing nitrate of soda from Chile to the United States, the first ship, which will arrive shortly, will dock at Charleston. Original plans contemplated docking at Wilmington, Charleston, Savannah and Jacksonville, but as neither of the two latter cities have deep enough water, supplies for Florida, South Carolina and Georgia farmers will be unloaded at Charleston. Savannah interests are today endeavoring to find some way of having the original plans carried out, but as this is a practical question there appears to be no feasible way of unloading, except at Charleston.

PORTO RICO DECREES.

Washington, Jan. 21.—The Porto Rico decrees holding the island to be an organized incorporated territory of the United States with the federal constitution in full force here, have been reversed by the Supreme Court.



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