

# The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1880.

"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, 1880.

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## JAPANESE MOVE SOON.

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTERVENTION IN SIBERIA EXPECTED IN WASHINGTON.

Congress of Russians Scheduled to Meet Yesterday But No News of Convention Reaches United States—Trotzky Changes Tactics Too Late.

Washington, March 14.—Japan's avowal of her intention to intervene in Siberia and the announcement of the courses to be taken by the United States and other governments aligned against the central powers are expected to follow closely upon the adjournment of the Russian congress of soviets called to meet today at Moscow. Official Washington and diplomats here still retain faint hope that the warring factions of Russia may yet reject the German peace terms signed at Brest-Litovsk, but almost all information that has reached here indicates that the fighting spirit of the disorganized people is too wounded to resist.

The state department tonight was still without official knowledge of the president's message of sympathy and promise of aid addressed to the Russian people through the congress. Word that the soviets actually had convened also was lacking.

Some little encouragement was found in the altered attitude of Trotzky, former Bolshevik foreign minister, as reported by Ambassador Francis. The ambassador said Trotzky had been quoted as saying that he favored putting the army under "iron discipline" and continuing the fight against Germany. This change in mind is believed here to have come too late.

Failure of the soviets to endeavor to muster the strength of Russia against Germany probably will bring to an immediate conclusion the negotiation concerning Japan's intervention.

## MANY TRAITORS INDICTED.

### Thirty-four Industrial Workers of the World Under Arrest.

Wichita, Kans., March 15.—Federal indictments were returned here today against thirty-five alleged members of the Industrial Workers of the World. With one exception the indicted men are now under arrest, and some have been interned for the period of the war.

## MUCH COTTON CONSUMED.

### Census Bureau Announces Total Used During Seven Months.

Washington, March 15.—Cotton consumed during February amounted to 510,187 running bales, and for the past seven months the total was 3,829,000 bales, the census bureau announced today. The imports of cotton during February amounted to 12,500 bales, compared with 56,000 bales a year ago. There were nearly a half million more cotton spindles active in February, 1918, than last February.

## SEIZE GERMAN TRENCHES.

### French Advance and Hold Ground in Champagne District.

Berlin, March 15.—Strong French detachments gained a footing yesterday west of Nauroy road on the German Crown Prince's front (Champagne district) says today's army headquarters statement.

## SHIPS IN COLLISION.

### Twenty-six Persons Missing as Result of Accident.

London, March 15.—Twenty-six persons are missing as the result of a collision between a naval vessel and the British steamer Rathmore.

## MOSCOW BECOMES CAPITAL.

### Old Capital Restored to Position It Held Long Ago.

Moscow, Thursday, March 14.—This city has again become the official capital of Russia. It was Peter the Great who moved the seat of government from Moscow to Petrograd.

Copenhagen, March 15.—Men in the workshops of the Austrian railways struck and refused to obey the orders of the military to return to work, the Berlin Lokal Anzeiger states. The strike is reported to be spreading to other factories.

Petrograd, Thursday, March 14.—All Russian Congress of Soviets, meeting at Moscow today, by a vote of 453 to 30 decided to ratify the peace treaty with the central powers.

## TANKER SINKS SUBMARINE.

### U-BOAT SENT TO BOTTOM IN BRISTOL CHANNEL.

Aim of of Gun Crew Bad at First, But Shrapnel Shell Finally Finds Mark.

An Atlantic Port, March 17.—At the end of an hour's battle between a German submarine and an American tank steamer, the Paulsboro of the Vacuum Oil Company, which arrived here today, the u-boat was apparently sunk, according to officers of the American vessel.

One of the crew on the tanker was wounded by a shell fired by the submarine. Two other shots struck the American ship, which was not seriously damaged.

The fight took place in Bristol Channel on February 24. The tanker tried to escape and was pursued. After the American vessel had been in torpedo range for some time without any attempt being made to sink her in this way, the u-boat began shelling her. The tanker halted and gave battle. The officers said the shrapnel shells fired by the American gun crew either fell short or passed over the u-boat for a time, but finally one struck the submarine fairly in the center and she disappeared immediately.

## GERMANS ON THE MOVE.

### Too Busy Carrying Off Bodies From No Man's Land to Stand up and Fight.

With American Army in France, Thursday, March 14 (By the Associated Press).—One of the American patrols last night encountered an enemy patrol in No Man's Land in the Toul sector and opened fire. The Germans fled, carrying with them several bodies supposed to be of men killed or wounded. They were so busy getting away that there was only a feeble reply to the American fire and none of the American patrol was injured.

Two enemy airplanes flew over the American lines during the night, one dropping flares as signals.

The American artillery continues to do effective work against the enemy lines and silenced a battery which was firing big shells in its direction from a point in the rear of Sonnard wood. Several other places where activity was observed also were shelled.

New German troops have entered the line in front of the Americans. Apparently they have been told they are opposite Americans because many times the new arrivals have been seen observing their opponents curiously through field glasses.

In the intermittent bombardments at various parts of the American sector considerable numbers of mustard phosgene and chlorine shells were used.

American aerial observers in the rear of the lines have been formed into a squadron under command of a French captain.

Charles S. Gordon of Iowa, the first man wounded in the Luneville sector, has been awarded the cross of war.

## BAKHMETEFF HEARD FROM.

### Russian Ambassador Denounces Acceptance of German Peace.

Washington, March 18.—Russia's acceptance of German peace terms was denounced by Boris Bakhmeteff, the Russian ambassador, who last November formally repudiated the Bolshevik government. M. Bakhmeteff said the conditions imposed by Germany threaten the existence and independence of the country. He declares the Russian embassy will continue to advocate cooperation with the allies in the war on Germany.

## INCREASE SHIP OUTPUT.

### Southern Commercial Congress to Launch Active Campaign.

Baltimore, March 18.—The Southern Commercial Congress, which held a meeting here today, will launch an active campaign to increase the output of Southern and Eastern shipyards. Delegates are attending the meeting from all Southern States. The meeting closes tonight.

## WATER POWER LEGISLATION.

### House Begins Hearings on Administration's Bill.

Washington, March 18.—Open hearings on water power legislation, which will afford opportunity for a full explanation of the administration's proposed bill, were begun today by the house interstate commerce committee.

## INCREASE IN FREIGHT RATES.

### ACTION ALLOWED IN COMMODITY SHIPMENTS.

South Affected Only by Shipments to and From Specified Territory.

Washington, March 15.—A general increase of about 15 per cent. in commodity rates was granted today by the interstate commerce commission to railroads east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio and Potomac Rivers, supplementing a similar increase allowed last June in class rates.

The order applies only to articles shipped in large quantities such as coal, brick, grain, foodstuffs, oil, stone, cement, lumber and other staple products shipped under the commodity classification. The new rates will go into effect as soon as railroads file new tariffs, probably within a few weeks.

The action will add about \$53,000,000 to revenue of the Eastern roads, although it will not actually increase their earnings since the sum will revert to the government on the system of common operation, and railroads will be paid on the basis of a fixed compensation outlined in the railroad bill just passed by congress. The railroad administration is not directly responsible for the raising of the rates action on which was taken six months ago.

Southern territory is not affected except for shipments originating in the East or destined for that section.

In general today's order of the commission allow increases averaging 15 per cent. in rates not raised by the commission's decision last June 27 in the 15 per cent. case, which has been pending for many months.

In addition to ordering the general increase in commodity rates, the commission took special action in a number of pending cases closely related to the 15 per cent. case and considered in conjunction with it, increasing rates in most cases.

The commission ordered that in raising the whole scheme of commodity rates, existing differentials or relationship between cities or districts be preserved. This provision will serve to maintain present relationships under the long and short haul laws.

Western and Southern roads had planned to await action in the Eastern commodity case before asking increases for themselves. Now that the government controls the railroads, action affecting these sections will be taken only by direction of the railroad administration. Southern lines had not asked increases.

## HARTSVILLE CHIEF KILLED.

### John O. Folsom, Policeman, Shot by J. H. Gullede on Sunday.

Hartsville, March 17.—Hartsville was shocked today when John O. Folsom, chief of police, a genial and popular officer, was shot and instantly killed this morning on the street near the building in which is the office of the plant of the Pedigreed Seed Company by J. H. Gullede, overseer of the farms of J. L. Coker & Company, who surrendered himself to the authorities and was taken to Darlington and turned over to Sheriff Register.

The killing occurred between 9:30 and 10 o'clock this morning and as there is little passing on Sunday on the street on which the tragedy occurred nothing is known as to what happened or what words passed between the men prior to the shooting. It appears that Gullede met Folsom at the fire department headquarters and that the two rode off together in the chief's car; parties had seen them passing just a few minutes before the shooting.

The body of Mr. Folsom was found on the ground beside his automobile. The door of the car was open. It is not stated whether the fatal shots were fired while Mr. Folsom was at his steering wheel or as he was alighting from the car. Parties hearing the shots said that there were four fired at close range. The body was taken inside the Pedigreed Seed Company's building and the inquest was held, beginning at 12:30.

Mr. Folsom was elected chief of police several months ago and was generally liked. Gullede came here a few years ago from Pageland and has been employed by J. L. Coker & Company as an overseer.

The dead man leaves a wife and two married daughters. Gullede has a wife and three small children.

Washington, March 18.—The administration's war finance corporation bill, already passed by the senate, was before the house again today. The leaders are confident of reaching a dual vote this week.

## AMERICANS HOLD TRENCHES.

### GAIN IN LUNEVILLE SECTOR MARKS FIRST PERMANENT ADVANCE.

Sweaters Discarded by Sammies for First Time Since Last Summer.

With the American Army in France, March 14.—(By the Associated Press)—American troops in the Luneville sector have occupied and are holding enemy trenches northeast of Badonvillers, which they forced the Germans to abandon through recent raids and concentrated artillery fire. The trenches have been consolidated with ours.

This, though a small forward movement, marks the first permanent advance by the American army in France. The consolidation of the trenches enables the Americans and French to operate from higher ground than heretofore.

The Germans made only feeble attempts to retake the position, but each time were repulsed.

## Sunshine at Last.

With American Army in France, Tuesday, March 12.—(By the Associated Press).—After weeks of rain, snow, wind and murky weather there came to the American front today its first bath of genial spring sunshine. The skies were cloudless, and in the moderate temperature that prevailed sweaters were discarded by the men for the first time since last summer.

While in the villages where they are billeted and in the cantonments in the training area, the camps were decorated with rolls of bedding being given an airing. Men and horses basked in the sunshine in the streets and on the hillside—a grateful experience after the winter damp chill.

Everywhere one could see equipment hung out to dry, tent flaps and hut windows open and hospital patients breathing the sweet spring air. Meanwhile, the transport was being expedited by the rapidly-drying roads.

## IIUNS SHELL AMERICAN SECTOR.

### With French Allies, Pershing's Men Hold Trenches Subjected to Heavy Artillery Fire.

With American Army in France, Friday, March 15 (By the Associated Press).—The American troops in the sector east of Luneville, in conjunction with the French, are still holding the enemy trenches northeast of Badonvillers, although the Germans have made another attempt to drive them out with artillery. Shells, most of them heavy and some of them of the 12-inch type, have pounded the positions intermittently, but the Americans and their allies have held on.

Consolidation of the position has been continued and the series of operations in this particular part of the sector has brought the French lines up on a front of nearly three miles. The parapets have been turned towards the enemy and dugout entrances have been changed, and new dugouts have been built to protect the men. Tonight it appeared as if the enemy would abandon his attempt to drive out the Americans and French, realizing that this is an almost hopeless task. No infantry activity has developed so far in the sector.

## MRS. HIRSCH GUILTY.

### Convicted of Attempting to Extort Five Hundred Thousand Dollars From Mayor Asa G. Candler.

Atlanta, March 16.—Conviction of attempting to extort \$500,000 from Mayor Asa G. Candler, and sentenced to serve one year in jail and pay a fine of \$1,000, Mrs. Margaret A. Hirsch, wife of an insurance man, late today returned to her cell in the county jail, which she has occupied since her indictment a month ago.

Counsel for the defense announced a motion of appeal would be made later and bond was fixed at \$3,000.

The case was given to the jury late this afternoon and a verdict was returned in 26 minutes. Mrs. Hirsch received the verdict of guilty calmly, betraying no signs of emotion. She remained seated while Judge Hill pronounced sentence and at the conclusion looked up and said: "I haven't a word to say."

Stockholm, March 16.—An attaché of the American legation left today for Finland, carrying a formal protest from Minister Morris to General Mannerheim, the commander of the government forces, against the arrest by Germans on the Aland Islands of Henry Crosby Emery, and a demand is made on the Finnish government to secure the release of Emery.

## BATTLE PLANES READY.

### ADEQUATE PROTECTION IN AIR BY JULY.

Virtually Full Membership of House Military Committee Given War Secrets.

Washington, March 15.—American-built battleplanes will be in France by July in sufficient quantities to insure adequate air protection of the sectors then held by American troops. This statement rests on the highest authority and was made tonight with full recognition of all failures and disappointments that have hampered the development of the air program.

Figures of the aviation situation as well as facts and figures on every other branch of the government war preparations were laid today before virtually the full membership of the house military committee. Yesterday they were disclosed to the senate committee. Acting Secretary Crowell again presided at the session at the war department where the new policy of taking congress directly into the confidence of the executive branches of the government was launched.

The comment of Representative Kahn (California), ranking Republican member of the house committee, expressed the sentiment of the house members on the new policy. He said it means teamwork by the whole government on the enormous problems that face it. The figures revealed to the committee the immediate current demands of the war program and the progress being made in meeting them, he added, made it clear that the country was still unawakened to the enormity of its undertakings. Mr. Kahn predicted that great results could be looked for from now on if the weekly conferences with the legislative committee are continued.

It was disclosed to the committee members that the aviation program is far short of what it had been hoped for. Figures estimating that deficiency in percentage that have been quoted, however, were shown to be wrong. The actual delay can be figured only in point of time. The airplane production program today is substantially 60 days behind what had been hoped for by the most sanguine officials. The foreign contracts which were to have provided the initial fighting equipment for General Pershing's air forces are still further behind. There is every prospect, however, that some of the delay will be made up.

Even should the 60 days' lost time stand, however, and even though there should be no deliveries on the European contracts, General Pershing will receive a considerable number of American built planes by July. Estimates of the time required to get a completed battleplane from the factory in the United States to the front have been placed at 90 days. The war department now is concentrating its efforts of reducing that period with bright prospects of cutting it in half. Speeding up efforts are being directed also at every other element in the aircraft program.

## FOUR THOUSAND BOYS WANTED.

### South Carolina's Quota Named to Campaign for Working Reserve for Farmers.

Washington, March 17.—Quotas of boys which each State is to furnish in the campaign to enlist a boys' working reserve of 250,000 for the farmers, which opens tomorrow, was announced by the department of labor tonight. It includes:

Georgia, Alabama and Virginia, 8,000 each; North Carolina and Arkansas, 7,000 each; South Carolina, 4,000; Florida, 2,500; Kentucky, 9,500; Oklahoma, 11,000, and Texas, 25,000.

## AUSTRIA REDUCING ARMY.

### Old Men are Being Released From Active Service.

Amsterdam, March 18.—Vienna dispatches say that the demobilization of three oldest landsturm lines serving with the Austrian forces will begin immediately.

## MORE CONCRETE SHIPS.

### Ten to Be Built at Brunswick, Ga., on Ninety-day Contract.

Boston, March 18.—The launching on the Pacific coast of a concrete ship by the Liberty Shipbuilding Company was announced here today.

The keel for the first of ten three-thousand ton concrete ships has been laid at Brunswick, Ga. The contract calls for the delivery of the first ship within three months and the balance at the rate of one per week thereafter.

## CONCRETE SHIP LAUNCHED.

### PACIFIC COAST YARD TURNS OUT BIG SHIP.

Claim Made That Vessels of This Construction Can be Turned Out More Rapidly and at Less Cost Than Either Steel or Wooden Ships.

A Pacific Port, March 14.—So successful was the launching here today of the larger reinforced concrete ships, that builders announced they immediately would begin construction of 50 similar ships of larger size and expected that all would be completed within 18 months.

Six weeks from the day concrete was poured into the forms, the 7,900 ton ship, christened "Faith" took the water. Engineers declared themselves so satisfied with the launching that it would be unnecessary in their opinion to give the Faith a trans-pacific towing tryout as intended.

Every step of the construction has been watched by the government. The vessel is 320 feet between perpendiculars, 44.6 feet wide and 30 deep, and when loaded will draw 24 feet of water. Her displacement will be 7,900 tons and she will have a carrying capacity of 5,000 tons and make ten or eleven knots an hour with triple expansion engines furnishing 1,700 horsepower. She is ten times larger than any concrete boat now on record in this country.

Advantages claimed for the new vessel are that concrete construction does not interfere with steel construction, plenty of concrete can be had; concrete vessels can be built for the present cost of wooden vessels; concrete vessels of 7,500 tons can be launched within 90 days after work starts; while the cost of the "plant" is "as \$25,000 to \$500,000" compared with a steel shipyard.

"When the first steel vessels were built, people said they'd not float, or if they did, they would be too heavy to be serviceable," said W. Leslie Comyn, president of the concern, which built the boat. "Now they say the same thing about concrete. But all the engineers we have taken over this boat including many who said it was an impossible undertaking, now agree that it is a success."

The floor of the vessel is about four and one-half inches thick; the side four inches, with a great steel shoe down the bow. Imbedded in the concrete are 540 tons of steel; a continuous basket work of welded steel mesh, and hundreds of heavy iron bars, also welded together.

A watertight wood flooring resting on the bottom beams constituting the double bottom of the vessel. No provision is made for water ballast, the theory being that the vessel will travel without ballast, riding safely with her heavy bottom. Six concrete bulkheads divide the vessel. The main deck is wood laid on concrete stringers; the shelter deck is concrete. The dead weight is put at 600 tons more than that of a steel vessel of like capacity. The vessel will burn oil, using 160 barrels a day and her reinforced concrete tank will carry 30 days' supply.

## PENNSYLVANIA TRAIN WRECK-ED.

### Big Boulders Drop on Cars in a Deep Cut.

Harrisburg, Penn., March 15.—The Cincinnati, Indianapolis and Chicago Express on the Pennsylvania railroad was struck by boulders while passing through a deep cut early this morning. The rocks wrecked two sleeping cars, killing two women and injuring 15. It is estimated that one of the rocks weighed twenty tons. It will be necessary to use dynamite to remove it from the tracks. The steel cars, the officials said, prevented a heavy loss of life.

## LABOR FOR SHIPYARDS.

### Volunteers Will Not Be Called in Large Numbers Now.

Washington, March 15.—Men who have volunteered for shipbuilding will not be called in large numbers for some time, the department of labor announced today.

## BATTLES IN THE AIR.

### British and Germans Active on the Western Front.

London, Thursday March 14.—There was severe aerial fighting on the western front Wednesday between large groups of British and German machines. British airmen accounted for 24 enemy machines. The official aviation statement says five British machines are missing.