

The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established 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."

THE TRUE SOUTHERN, Established June, 1868.

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GOOD WORK IN FRANCE.

AIRPLANE BUILDERS WILL BE ENCOURAGED.

American Secretary of War Highly Pleased in Visit to Aviation Center.

On Board Secretary's Special Train, France, Sunday, March 17 (By the Associated Press)—Secretary of War Baker in leaving an aviation center, said:

"Just before leaving America I investigated the progress of our aviation program. I found our manufacturers enthusiastic as to the outcome. When they learned of the preparations which have been made in France for the utilization of the material which they send, they will have a further incentive to speed up their efforts.

"Upon level fields, which were without a single building when we laid out a spur track from a neighboring station, has arisen a city of barracks, offices, shops and hangars with a population of Americans, entirely occupied as a training school for aviation. In this, as in all our other preparation in France, we have aimed at a force commensurate with our part in assisting the French and British and in gaining the complete, unbroken mastery of the air which is one of the prime requisites, if not the prime requisite for victory.

"The spirit of every man in this camp seems in keeping with the mission which brought him to France. The camp's appointments and organization are admirable. It is gratifying to learn from their French instructors that our young aviators are proving themselves daring, cool and skilful."

Secretary Baker is making important decisions in France upon such questions as in his judgment require immediate action. He is gathering knowledge for future use upon many aspects of the situation of the American army, but problems pressing for a settlement he solves on the spot.

Thus today in the headquarters of one of the American aviation centers, Secretary Baker inquired if all of the host of aviators sent first from America were first to complete their training in France and if all of them had been commissioned. The chief of aviation told the secretary that all of them had not yet, because of reasons which he explained, had a chance to take their final training.

The secretary went into the subject. He directed at the conclusion of the inquiry, with General Pershing's approval, that aviators so delayed should have their commission when they were ready for them dated ahead of those issued in America of men who had entered the service later. He said these men had a right to their priority.

When the secretary's train came into the aviation region the sky was darkly overcast and the clouds were blue gray color, which the aviation observers say constitute the finest background for seeing air works. Many monoplane and biplanes awaited the secretary's arrival upon the field; then with a rush one after another took the air, until towards the end of the morning 100 machines were in flight and every machine was driven by an American. Individual aviators practiced maneuvers used in combat, such as reversing the direction of the flight by turning edgewise upon the wing or spinning in nose dives. Then there were evolutions in flotta formation of fives, after that in squadrons of 15.

"With all these machines in the air," remarked a French officer, "we see no more than a tenth of what America has in this one school. You will soon have no more need for French instructors."

"We have shown everything we know and your young men have taken to the art with astonishing facility, as well as audacity, nerve and resource. The danger and difficulties fascinate and inspire them. I think it must be what you call the sporting spirit."

"Yes," said one of Mr. Baker's party, "so many of these men are direct from our colleges and universities. They are football and baseball players."

Secretary Baker discussed with various of the aviators themselves the difference between the machines. He brought to the subject much knowledge of details and unvaried interest. He spent many hours with them examining the types of machine, many of which he saw for the first time.

A closing incident of the morning's air training was a combat and the escape of one plane when attacked. The secretary watched with intense interest. He then visited the machine shops and sitting up shop and the

GERMAN SPIES ARRESTED.

FOUR HIGH CLASS ADVENTURERS SEIZED IN NEW YORK.

Secret Service Men Have Been on Their Trail for Weeks, but No Attempted to Leave the Country.

New York, March 18.—Four persons, claiming French citizenship, but who both American and French authorities say, have been intimately connected with German espionage activities in the United States, were arrested today in handsomely appointed suites in prominent hotels, by agents of the department of justice. They will be turned over to immigration authorities for deportation to France where it is expected they will be prosecuted.

The four syp suspects have been under surveillance for several weeks, but not until two of them, a woman styling herself Madame Despina Davidovitch Storch, and associate designated as Baron Herri de Beville, departed for Cuba one week ago after a mysterious two day junket to Washington did the authorities consider their apprehension advisable.

The other two suspects are known as Madame Elizabeth Charlotte Nix and Count Robert de Clairmont. Count de Clairmont, the authorities say, was frequently seen in the company of Edmund Roussetot Castillo, erstwhile \$15 a week telephone clerk who, posing as the Marquis de Castillot, opened negotiations with J. P. Morgan & Company several weeks ago for a loan of \$50,000,000 for King Alfonso of Spain, of whom he claimed to be a personal representative.

When Madame Storch and Baron de Beville were taken into custody at Key West, while en route to Cuba, a half bushel basket of papers were seized from a safe deposit box in this city which one of them had rented. A number of cable messages in code were among these papers.

Because of embarrassment which they said might result between the American State department and neutral a government which was no specified authorities withheld comment on certain features of the investigation, particularly in connection with one of the women under detention.

PRICE FIXING COMMITTEE.

Board Announced to Pass Upon Prices of War Material.

Washington, March 19.—The creation of a price fixing committee, under the war industries board, which will pass upon prices for all basic materials purchased by the government and establish the price fixing policy from time to time to be approved by the president, was announced today by the Council of National Defense. Robert S. Brookings of the war industries board is to be chairman.

Delaware For Prohibition.

Dover, Del., March 18.—The Delaware senate late today ratified the federal prohibition constitutional amendment by a vote of 13 to 3. It passed the house last week. Delaware is the ninth State to ratify the amendment.

Bicycle thieves are again active in Sumter. For the past month no less than nine wheels have been stolen and so far only one has been recovered. Spring seems to be the most opportune time of the year for such thieves to get in their work.

storage buildings. He had explained to him the school organizations, which include eight classes, each with a separate camp. Short sporting rivalries exist among them.

St. Patrick's day was celebrated by six games of baseball among the 12 league clubs. The Young Men's Christian Association and Red Cross have restaurants and club room in the aviation area, both admirably managed.

The party left with the conviction that America's aviation effort is already a powerful one; that it combines the best to be found in the French and British service in addition to developments and that an organization has been created capable of schooling finely tempered battalions.

The aviation school in question has reached 97 per cent. of its expected efficiency. Graduating classes are turned out with steady regularity because of the speed with which the students reach the level of competent airmen. But this depends, of course, upon the amount of flying, which has been uncommonly abundant this spring.

DAYLIGHT SAVING LAW.

EVERYBODY WILL HAVE TO BEGIN WORK HOUR EARLIER.

Clocks Will Be Put Forward One Hour Last Sunday in March and Put Back Last Sunday in October.

Washington, March 19.—The daylight saving bill was signed by President Wilson today. The law puts all clocks forward one hour on the last Sunday in March and turns them back again on the last Sunday in October.

WAR CROSSES AWARDED.

THREE MORE AMERICAN SOLDIERS HONORED BY FRENCH.

In All Six Officers, Six Sergeants and Two Privates Have Received War Crosses in Luneville Sector.

American Army in France, Monday, March 18.—The citation of three more American soldiers, carrying with it the French war cross, was announced today at American army headquarters, while on the Luneville sector six officers, six sergeants and two privates received war crosses at an impressive ceremony. A majority of the men honored are from New York.

LOW ESTIMATE OF PATRIOTISM.

"The Finished Mystery" Declared a Delusion and the Work of Satan—Government Bars Volume.

Washington, March 18.—Because "The Finished Mystery," a Bible study text-book, described patriotism as "a certain delusion" and "a narrow-minded hatred of other peoples," and was a "work of Satan," distribution of the book was forbidden today by the department of justice, acting under the espionage act.

Thousands of copies of the book have been seized in many States. District attorneys have been notified to prosecute any dealers or other persons selling or offering the book for sale or for distribution.

The book was published in Brooklyn by the People's Pulpit Association, with which are affiliated the International Bible Students' Association and the Watch Tower Tract and Bible Association. It was compiled by Clayton J. Woodworth, of Scanton, Pa., who has been arrested on a charge of seditious writings. He is alleged to have prepared the book since the war started, and to have inserted derogatory references to America's cause in the war.

Some time ago the book was barred from the mails by Canadian authorities.

FRANCIS ON WAY TO JAPAN.

American Ambassador Accompanied by British and Japs.

Tokio, March 18.—(By the Associated Press.)—The ambassador to Russia, David R. Francis, the Japanese ambassador, Viscount Uchida and the diplomatic representatives of Great Britain and France were expected to arrive at Seoul today, according to a dispatch from the Korean capital. They are on the way to Japan.

The American ambassador and the diplomatic representatives of the Entente Powers left Petrograd late in February, going to Volodga.

The safe arrival there of Mr. Francis was reported February 28. About two weeks ago a report was current that Ambassador Francis and the Japanese ambassador were being held at Volodga, but this report was not credited at Washington.

HOLLAND ACCEPTS TERMS.

Will Yield to Demands of Entente Under Pressure.

The Hague, Monday, March 18.—Holland has accepted, with certain conditions, the Anglo-American demand regarding Dutch shipping. This was announced to the second chamber today by Foreign Minister London, who added that Holland could not go further and was awaiting the entente reply to the last communication.

STRIKE CALLED OFF.

Shipyard Workers on Gulf Coast All at Work.

Mobile, March 19.—All shipyard workers in the Gulf coast district are working today. The walkout that was scheduled having been called off, pending an investigation, it is announced.

RUMOR OF OFFENSIVE.

GERMANS INVITE CORRESPONDENTS TO WITNESS BIG PUSH.

News Comes from Copenhagen That Neutral Newspaper Representatives Have Been Given Permission to See Big Drive on Western Front.

London, March 19.—The heads of the German army have invited a number of neutral correspondents to be present at the German offensive on the western front, and they will leave for the front on Wednesday, according to news received from Copenhagen.

SAVINGS STAMP CAMPAIGN.

MISSOURI LEADS ENTIRE COUNTRY IN PATRIOTIC SAVING.

State Has Taken Nine Million Dollars Worth of Thrift Stamps Today—South Carolina Far Down in the List

Washington, March 19.—Missouri, with a total of nine millions, is leading the country in the sale of war savings stamps, according to the first detailed statement of the campaign results. Other States with total and per capita sales include Florida, three hundred eighty-one thousand, per capita thirty-six cents; South Carolina, one hundred and ninety-one thousand, per capita fifteen cents; Georgia, six hundred and forty thousand, per capita, twenty-two cents.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED NOW.

Recruiting Officer in City to Enlist Men for Army.

Contrary to a general but erroneous impression which seems to prevail at the present time, the United States army needs men now as never before in the history of the country, according to information obtained this morning from James B. Shuler, the army recruiting official, who is on duty in Sumter at the present time. Mr. Shuler stated that a campaign for recruits has just been launched by the members of the recruiting party all over this district, and expressed the hope that a goodly number of volunteers would be obtained from Sumter.

For the purpose of aiding in the inauguration of the campaign locally, Judson W. Chapman, of the publicity department of the main station for the district in Savannah, Ga., arrived in Sumter today and is lending his cooperation in the handling of publicity. Mr. Chapman came to Sumter from Newberry and will go from here to Columbia, before returning to Savannah.

In order that any doubt which may exist in the minds of some may be cleared up, the members of the recruiting party made the following statement, relative to the needs of the army, to The Item today:

Any man between the ages of 18 to 21 and 30 to 40, who is physically qualified, may volunteer for enlistment in the army by applying to the local recruiting official or to the postmaster. Men within the draft ages are ineligible for enlistment. The opinion of some that volunteers are really not needed is a great mistake, as they are needed more than ever, and it is the plain duty of all who can to volunteer and do their part in helping to make the world safe for democracy. Married men may volunteer on the same basis as single men, and liberal family allowances are given for the support of dependents.

Practically every branch of the service is open, among them, the following: Infantry, coast artillery, field artillery, quartermaster corps, medical department, cavalry for the white men and the stevedore regiments for the colored men. Few men are unable to find work in the army which is similar to the work they did in civil life before responding to the summons of their country. Rapid promotion comes to those who make good, advancement in the army coming more quickly now to those who enlist than at any previous time in the nation's history.

It is not only the duty of the men drafted to answer the call, but it is the patriotic duty of those not subject to draft to volunteer for service, if they can possibly do so, and do their bit for the sake of humanity, justice and freedom. Those who are weighed in the balances and found wanting will deeply regret in after years that they must answer "No," in answer to questions as to what part they took in the great world war.

Mr. Shuler's office is located in the postoffice building, and information will be cheerfully and gladly given there by him to any interested.

IRISH REVOLT THREATENS.

DILLON GIVES SOLEMN WARNING TO ENGLISH AND IRISH.

Charges English Leaders With Betraying Redmond and Warns Sinn Feiners to Lay Aside Dangerous Bluff.

Enniskillen, Ireland, Saturday, March 16.—"From the grave of John Redmond there is a great lesson to be learned by British statesmen," said John Dillon today on making his first public appearance as chairman of the Irish Nationalist party. "Redmond faced misunderstandings and horrible calumny in his endeavor to conciliate the Irish and British peoples. Had the English ministers been honorable men and stood by him and imitated his statesmanship Ireland today, instead of being an embarrassment to England, would be a source of strength and support.

"The English ministers were false to their honor and their pledges. They betrayed Redmond, while he was faithful and loyal, and are reaping the bitter harvest of their misdeeds."

Nationalists of Fermanagh and surrounding counties gathered in large numbers for the meeting. Mr. Dillon said he came to Enniskillen as chairman of a party whose ideal was to obliterate forever religious distinction and party conflict, which had been the curse of the Irish nation.

Discussing the Irish convention Mr. Dillon said no one had ever pretended it was a body of self-determination. It was appointed solely to determine whether the Ulster question could be settled by agreement, he pointed out, and was a fairly constituted and representative body as could have been selected.

"If the convention fails," continued Mr. Dillon, "the Irish question will assume within a week or two more formidable shapes than ever. I am of the opinion that Ireland is on the eve of one of the most momentous struggles in all her tragic history.

"Ireland is in a terrible condition at the present moment. She is invited by a numerous, clamorous body of young Irishmen to abandon her claim for home rule and set up a claim for an Irish republic.

"It is futile to discuss a possible Irish republic and as the Sinn Fein leaders are not united or consistent as to their aims, why should they not lay aside their dangerous bluff, coalesce with their fellow countrymen and make a united demand for that which is almost within our grasp?" Mr. Dillon warned young enthusiasts against being led into another rising and giving the military an opportunity of shooting them down.

NO MORE SUNDAY BOXING.

But General Bailey Will Have Soldiers Train.

Columbia, March 19.—"There will be no more Sunday boxing matches at Camp Jackson," was the announcement made yesterday by Gen. Charles A. Bailey, commander of Camp Jackson. General Bailey said that it was his desire and plan for every man in Camp Jackson to learn to box, but he had decided to prohibit boxing on Sunday out of deference to South Carolina public opinion. Public sentiment in the State, he said, seems overwhelmingly to associate boxing with prize fighting.

Boxing is being made a regular feature of the training in every training camp and cantonment throughout the country and its importance as a preliminary training for the hand to hand fights of the trenches can hardly be over estimated. Following a general athletic program being carried out with only slight variations in every cantonment, Capt. James Driver, Camp Jackson athletic officer, began two weeks ago what was to be the first of a series of regular weekly boxing matches. The first match was held but rain prevented the five bouts scheduled for yesterday.

London, Monday, March 18.—Eighteen German machines were destroyed or driven down out of control and one observation balloon was destroyed by the British in air fighting Sunday, according to the official announcement tonight. Four British machines are missing.

American Army in France, Monday, March 18.—The American artillery on the front today bombed several towns within the enemy line. On several occasions a considerable number of gas shells were used. Some shell hits in the town of Esseny, and others in Mont Secy were observed.

FARM BANK LOANS.

"SHORT TERM ABSTRACT" PLAN HAS BEEN ADOPTED.

New System Will Enable Applicants to Secure Loans with Less Delay.

Columbia, March 18.—To expedite loans and to overcome, if possible, the cumbersome processes of investigations prevalent in this section, the Federal Land Bank system has adopted what is known as the "short term abstract," according to an announcement just made by the Columbia Land Bank. Under this method, when an application is made for a loan, the reality on which the money is to be secured is to be traced back for twenty-one years. Should the applicant who makes the loan have held the property for that period or longer, then the title will be traced back to the first transfer beyond that period. Conversely, should the reality in question have changed hands once or several times in the twenty-one years then the title will be traced back for the full period of twenty-one years.

"The great handicap from which this bank has suffered," said R. H. Welch, of Columbia, general counsel of the Columbia land bank, today in discussing the "short term abstract," "and the same thing is true of federal land bank districts Nos. one, two, three, four and five—this district being No. three—is the slowness in which applicants have been able to furnish abstracts of their property; and this in turn has been due in great measure to the old system of requiring an abstract to carry title back to the grant from the State, or, failing in that, to some remote period. This requirement, when applied to titles in the original thirteen States, which make up the districts above named, has made the closing of loans very, very slow.

"The object, therefore of this short term abstract is to cut out this tedious process of abstracting over such a long period and to substitute in lieu thereof the short period of twenty-one years. The period beyond twenty-one years, and therefore not covered by the short term abstract, is the period on account of the conditions of our records which has been so troublesome to the abstractors and consequently has been such a prolific source of delay to the applicants in getting their loans closed.

"To protect this bank against loss, however, of any kind by reason of any defect in the titles beyond the period abstracted in our short term abstract we have a bond from the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company, of Baltimore, Md., and the Fidelity and Deposit Company, of Maryland, also of Baltimore, completely saving the bank harmless in case of any loss which may arise out of any defect in any title upon which a loan has been made, based upon the short term abstract.

"The western banks are a long way ahead of the eastern banks in the amount of loans closed, and all because of the difference in the title situation. The short term abstract will, therefore, place this bank on an equality in title matters with the Western banks. This is only another way of saying that it places the farmer in this section on the same footing with a farmer out West."

Miami, March 19.—Two men, Matthew Mullen of Brooklyn and an unidentified white man were killed and 33 others injured in the collapse of a hanger at the naval air station five miles south of here early today, during a thunderstorm. Nine of those most seriously injured were brought to the Miami hospital.

Washington, March 19.—Cotton seed statistics for the period to Feb. 28th announced today by the census bureau, show receipts of 3,802,000 tons; crushed 3,203,000; on hand 633,000 tons.

Washington, March 19.—Flat pay increases of fifteen per cent. for all employees in the postal service, including all grades and classes was recommended today by the senate postoffice subcommittee in revising the annual postoffice appropriation bill.

London, March 19.—Fifty persons were killed and great material damage was done by allied airmen when they raided Coblenze, Germany, on March 12th, according to a neutral traveler, who arrived Monday at Hague, the Times correspondent reports. The traveler said the German people believed the raiders were Americans.