

# The Watchman and Southerner.

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 SOUTHERNER, Established June, 1850.

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## BIG OFFENSIVE STARTED.

### GERMANS ATTACK ON WIDE FRONT IN FRANCE.

Assault Was Expected and Allies Were Ready to Meet It—Germans Stake Everything on Chance of Breaking Western Front.

British Army Headquarters in France, March 21, Afternoon (By the Associated Press).—The Germans this afternoon launched a heavy attack against the British lines over a wide front and near the Cambrai sector, and the assault bears all the earmarks of being the beginning of the enemy's much heralded grand offensive.

Hard fighting is proceeding from a point north of Lagnicourt southward to Gauche Wood just below Gouzeaucourt. The attack was preceded by a heavy bombardment from guns of all calibers, and the duel between the opposing heavy batteries has been rocking the countryside. The Germans have employed gas shells freely, and a constant stream of high velocity shells has been breaking with frightful concussion far back of the British lines.

The bombardment began in earnest at 5 o'clock this morning and about five hours later the enemy forces hurled themselves on the British front line trenches north of Lagnicourt and Louverval.

At the same time other German forces advanced behind a smoke barrage along the ridge running northward from Gouzeaucourt. It may be said that the attack in this region was by no means unexpected by the British.

The two vast forces have been locked in a bitter struggle over this wide front for hours. The bombardment was of a most terrific nature, and finally the infantry drove forward against numerous points in the Cambrai sector. The preliminary bombardment has extended from a point below St. Quentin, north to the river Scarpe, and at last reports sanguinary fighting was in progress as far south as the region of Hargicourt, and as far north as Bullecourt.

## INDICT MILWAUKEE MAYOR.

### Council of Defense Chairman Seeks Action on Grounds of Socialist Platform.

Milwaukee, March 21.—Wheeler B. Bloodgood, chairman of the Milwaukee County Council of Defense, told newspaper reporters today he had papers drawn up to seek the indictment of Mayor Daniel Hoan, Socialist, just renominated; that Hoan's reelection as mayor being practically assured he, Bloodgood, would seek to have Milwaukee placed under military law. "We might better act now than wait," said Mr. Bloodgood. "I assured Mayor Hoan that I would have him indicted. I am seeking his indictment on the grounds of the Socialist platform itself, to which Hoan subscribed. It declares that the people did not want the war, and that I was forced on them by the ruling classes."

## PETERSON GOES FREE.

### Camp Jackson Officer Acquitted in Raleigh.

Raleigh, N. C., March 21.—After Maj. George L. Peterson had been acquitted in Wake County court here today of a charge of having embezzled \$7,600 while paymaster of the North Carolina Guard, his counsel announced that the legislature which convenes next January would be asked to reimburse Major Peterson for that amount. After he was charged with embezzlement Major Peterson, who now is in federal service at Camp Jackson, Columbia, S. C., paid the State the \$7,600. He declared the apparent shortage resulted from failure to take proper vouchers.

## SEVEN MEN INJURED.

### Investigation on to Find Cause of Disaster on Hog Back Range.

Spartanburg, March 21.—Seven men were injured one of them perhaps fatally, today when a 4.7 gun exploded at the Hog Back artillery range. The gun was being tried by Battery E, 104th heavy field artillery. A defective shell is supposed to have been the cause, though as yet no report has been made as the result of an inquiry being conducted. The gun was blown to pieces, particles of it being picked up more than a quarter of a mile distant. Only one of the injured men have been brought to the base hospital; the others are being cared for in the regimental hospital at the range.

## DESTROY GERMAN TRENCHES.

### AMERICAN ARTILLERY WIPE OUT FIRST AND SECOND LINES.

Patrol Enters German Positions and Find Them Destroyed and Deserted—Number of Germans Surrender to Americans.

American Army in France, Thursday, March 21.—The enemy's first and second line positions on that part of the sector east of Luneville have been destroyed completely by American artillery fire. An American patrol today crossed No Man's Land, without the aid of artillery fire, and found the lines wiped out, and obtained other information. They returned without casualties.

Northwest of Toul last night a number of Germans deserted and surrendered to an American patrol.

## HUN OFFENSIVE FAILED.

### British Statement That German Program Was Defeated.

British Army Headquarters France, March 2.—Heavy fighting is still continuing, but the first stages of the offensive have passed. The enemy failed badly in the execution of his program, as attested by captured documents. The exact British line cannot be made public at present. Vigorous counter attacks late yesterday restored some of the positions which the British temporarily abandoned.

## FIGHTING IN CHAMPAGNE.

### Germans Carry on Heavy Bombardment All Day Thursday.

Paris, Thursday, March 21.—The Germans are today carrying out a heavy bombardment along several sectors of the front, it is announced officially. Three infantry attacks near Hurlus were broken up by French fire. During the day enemy artillery kept up a heavy fire between the Miette and Aisne, in the whole Rheims section and the Campagne front.

## TREATIES TO BE AMENDED.

### To Exempt Irishmen and Australians From Draft.

Washington, March 21.—The British-American and Canadian-American treaties were returned to the State department by the senate today at the request of President Wilson for certain changes before ratification. Amendments have been agreed upon by the governments which will exempt Irishmen and Australians in this country from draft by providing that the provisions of the treaties shall not apply to men not subject to conscription in their own countries.

## PLEA FOR PEACE.

### The Pope Sends Easter Message to America.

Rome, Thursday, March 21.—A plea for a lasting peace is made by the Pope in his Easter message to the United States, which he sends through the Associated Press. He says:

"The first message of the risen Saviour to His disciples was 'Peace be unto you,' and never has the world needed that message as it does today."

## GERMANS EXECUTE PRIESTS.

### Two Belgians Put to Death as Spies.

London, March 22.—The execution in Brussels of two Roman Catholic priests on the charge of espionage is reported in an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Amsterdam.

## SNOW IN TEXAS.

### Winter Comes Again in Pan Handle Region.

Fort Worth, March 22.—Snow was reported falling early today in the Texas pan handle.

## BAKER VISITS PAGE.

### Secretary of War Guest of Ambassador.

London, March 20.—Newton D. Baker, the American secretary of war, will be the guest of Ambassador Page during his brief stay in London.

Washington, March 22.—Twelve additional deaths resulting from the collision of the destroyer Manley, and a British warship were announced today by the navy department.

Cadiz, Thursday, March 21.—The Spanish Trans Atlantic liner Montevideo, which sailed Monday for New York, was held up by a German submarine Tuesday and forced to return here.

## GERMANS CLAIM VICTORY.

### ANNOUNCE TAKING OF MEN AND GUNS.

Sixteen Thousand Prisoners and Two Hundred Guns Boast of Huns After First Day.

London, March 22, (British Admiralty per Wireless Press).—Sixteen thousand prisoners and 200 guns have been captured by the Germans, according to a German official communication received by wireless tonight.

The text of the communication follows: "The success of yesterday in the fighting between Arras and La Fere was extensive in the continuation of our attacks.

"Sixteen thousand prisoners and 200 guns so far have been reported captured. Before Verdun the artillery duel continued. From other theaters of the war there is nothing new to report."

"From southeast of Arras, as far as La Fere, we attacked the British positions. After powerful fire by our artillery and mine throwers our infantry stormed in broad sectors and everywhere captured the enemy first line.

"Between La Fere and Soissons, on both sides of Rheims and in the Champagne, the firing increased in intensity. Storming detachments brought in prisoners in many sectors. "Ostend has been bombarded from the sea.

"In Belgium and French Flanders the heavy artillery duel continued. Reconnoitering detachments penetrated on many occasions into the enemy lines.

"Our artillery continued the destruction of enemy infantry positions and batteries before Verdun. On the Lorraine front also the artillery actively increased on many occasions.

"From the other theaters of war there is nothing new to report."

## NOT CONFIRMED BY LONDON.

### Neither Haig's Report Nor News From Correspondent Gives Support to German Claim.

London, March 22.—The news coming from correspondents at the front today that 40 German divisions were engaged in the fighting on the front of attack and that the greatest concentration of artillery in the world's history was operating gave the British public an idea of the tremendous struggle on the west front but nothing in the dispatches, either from Field Marshal Haig nor from the newspaper correspondents has prepared England for the German claim of the capture of 16,000 prisoners and 200 guns as the result of the first day's fighting in the new German offensive and the disposition at the moment is to regard the claim as an exaggeration.

According to the correspondents the British withdrawals where they were necessary were carried out in good order.

It had been intimated that the Germans would claim the capture of several villages, but the dispatch gave no hint of the names.

All the dispatches emphasized the heavy cost to the Germans of the first day's struggle.

## GERMAN DRIVE UNCHECKED.

### British Stubbornly Falling Back Before Titanic Onslaught—Voluntarily Give up Some Positions to Hold Unbroken Line.

London, March 23.—The Germans have forced their way into Mory, but a dashing counter attack drove them out. Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters reports. A large party was surrounded and probably captured. There is reason to believe that fifty German divisions are pouring into the struggle, the correspondent states, "with probably half as many more in close reserve. Under the tremendous onslaught the British troops are falling back slowly, in excellent order. At many places they are voluntarily withdrawing to maintain an unbroken front.

## DISASTER FOR BRITISH.

Berlin, March 23.—Between frontier, Lescaillies and Moeuvres the German forces penetrated into the second enemy positions, capturing two villages, army headquarters announced. British counter attacks have failed, so far, the statement says. Twenty-five thousand prisoners, four hundred guns and three hundred machine guns have been taken.

Hon. Geo. M. Stuckey, of Bishopville, was in the city today.

## HEAVY LOSSES SUSTAINED.

### BRITISH AND GERMANS SUFFER GREATLY.

Some Progress Made by Teutons But at Other Points Attack Breaks Down.

London, March 22.—The Germans on Friday along almost all of the battle front continued their attacks in great strength. At several points the enemy made gains against the British, but at others he was repulsed in counter-attacks, according to the British official communication issued tonight.

The communication says: "This morning the enemy renewed his attacks in great strength along practically the whole of the battle front. Fierce fighting occurred in our battle positions and is still continuing.

"The enemy made some progress at certain points. At others his troops have been thrown back by our counter-attacks.

"Our losses inevitably have been considerable, but they have not been out of proportion to the magnitude of the battle.

"From reports received from all parts of the battle front the enemy's losses continue to be very heavy, and his advance everywhere has been made at great sacrifices.

"Our troops are fighting with the greatest gallantry. When all ranks and all units of every arm behave so well it is difficult at this stage of the battle to distinguish instances.

"Exceptional gallantry was shown, however, by the troops of the Twenty-fourth Division in a protracted defense at Leverguier and by the Third Division who maintained our positions in the neighborhood of Croisilles and the north of that village against repeated attacks.

"A very gallant fight was made by the Fifty-first Division in the neighborhood of the Bapume-Cambrai Road against repeated attacks.

"Identification obtained in the course of the battle shows that the enemy's opening attacks was composed of some 40 divisions supported by great masses of German artillery reinforced by Austrian batteries. Many other German divisions have since taken part in the fighting and others are arriving in the battle area.

"Further fighting of a most severe nature is anticipated."

## ALIEN ENEMIES ARRESTED.

### Three Men Using Positions of Trust to Do Germany's Dirty Work.

Philadelphia, March 22.—Two enemy aliens and one naturalized American were arrested today and held in heavy bail tonight on the charge of conspiracy to defraud the government by furnishing defective gauges for torpedoes used on American warships.

The men under arrest are Fritz Bleret, assistant to the general manager of the United States Gauge Company of Sellersville, Pa.; William Hendricks, general foreman, and George Schubert, foreman.

An affidavit, sworn to by a government agent, says the company is engaged in manufacturing gauges for the United States government. It was set forth that the gauges are subjected to an endurance test.

It is charged that the accused men installed secret taps and pumps to the gauges with the result that the test was defeated.

The defeat of the tests left some of the gauges, which are used to measure the air pressure of torpedoes defective, according to government agents. Whether any of the defective gauges are now on torpedoes on board warships, government officers could not say.

## LUMBER COMPANY SEIZED.

### Alien Enemy Corporation Taken Over by Government.

Washington, March 23.—The government today took control of the German-American Lumber Co., of Pensacola, which is capitalized at three million dollars and operates mills throughout Florida. The company's president, Kuhlenskamp, is already interned at Fort Oglethorpe.

## DUTCH REFUSE OFFER.

### Decline Allies' Offer to Exchange Grain for Ships.

London, March 25.—The Dutch cabinet is said to have decided Sunday to send the Allied powers a formal refusal of their offer of grain in return for ships, a dispatch from The Hague to the Daily Mail says.

## GERMAN DRIVE HALTED.

### GREAT OFFENSIVE HAS NOT DESTROYED ALLIES' ARMY.

Road to Paris Not Yet Open to Huns for British and French Stand in The Way With Determined Bravery.

London, March 25.—Fresh attacks by the Germans have developed northward and southward of Bapaume, the war office announces. The British repulsed powerful attacks yesterday northward of Bapaume.

The British drove back to the eastern bank of the Somme bodies of German troops which had crossed the river between Licourt and Brie, south of Peronne.

The statement says: "The battle continues with great violence along the whole front. Powerful attacks which were delivered by the enemy Sunday afternoon and evening north of Bapaume were heavily repulsed. At only one point did the German infantry reach our trenches, whence they were immediately thrown out. During the night and this morning fresh attacks again developed in this neighborhood and also south of Bapaume."

Berlin, March 25.—The Germans are now standing to the north of the Somme in the midst of the former Somme battlefield, it is officially announced. Bapaume was captured in night fighting. In the evening Nesle was taken by storm. The British Americans and French were thrown back through the wooded country. More than forty-five thousand prisoners have been taken.

## FRENCH IN THE FIGHT.

### Have Come to Assistance of British on Battle Front.

Paris, March 25.—The French on Saturday went to the assistance of the British and took over a sector of the battlefield.

## AMERICAN GUNNERS ACTIVE.

### Persistent Artillery Fire Destroy German Trenches.

American Army in France, Sunday, March 24.—American artillery in the Toul section continued today to shell effectively the enemy first line and important points behind the line. Many American shells have fallen in the German trenches. The first two lines at least one place have been virtually abandoned.

One American patrol inspected this point in enemy line without molestation last night and this morning. They remained there several hours. There has been no contact between the infantry within the last twenty-four hours.

## FIGHTING NEAR NOYON.

### Heavy Battle on the Right Bank of Oise River.

Paris, March 25.—In the region of Noyon and the right bank of the Oise river heavy fighting with the Germans is in progress.

## ENGINEERS IN CONFLICT.

British Army Headquarters, France, March 25.—A further advance late yesterday by the Germans at some point along the battle front is reported. The American engineers again have been in the throes of the fierce conflict, in which they have done excellent work in transportation.

The Germans are pushing forward by sheer weight of numbers with assistance of little artillery. Between Bapaume and Peronne the British fell back again somewhat late Sunday. This retreat marked the main success of the enemy.

## PARIS UNDER FIRE.

Paris, March 25.—The long range bombardment of Paris was resumed at 6:30 this morning, but was interrupted after the second shot. Two more shots were then fired and the bombardment was again suspended at 9:30 o'clock.

## Air Raid By Night.

Paris, March 25.—Another air raid alarm was sounded shortly after 1 o'clock this morning. After three-quarters of an hour the all-clear signals were sounded.

## WERE NOT IN BATTLE.

Washington, March 25.—German statements that American troops have taken part in the fighting on the British front had not been confirmed today and officials including Maj. Gen. March, chief of staff, declined to comment on the reports.

## NOTHING TO FEAR.

### FRENCH HIGH COMMISSIONER SPEAKS OF SITUATION.

Captain Tardieu Urges American People to Prepare to Strike Enemy Telling Blow.

New York, March 24.—There is nothing in the current news from overseas to warrant any disquietude on the part of the American public or any of the nations allied against Germany, in the opinion of Capt. Andre Tardieu, French high commissioner to the United States. In a statement issued here today, however, he counseled the hastening of preparations in this country to deal the enemy "blow for blow" and the maintenance by Americans at home of the same "calm confidence" in the ultimate issue of the war as has been manifested by the nation's troops in France.

Germany's "long distance bombardment" of Paris can have no significance from a military viewpoint, Captain Tardieu declared. The British retirement near St. Quentin, on the Western front, the high commissioner said, was a move paralleling that of the French during the first two days of the battle of Verdun.

"The German attack," said Captain Tardieu, "seems to have exceeded in violence by the number of guns as well as by number of men all previous attacks. The British retirement near St. Quentin relatively is not more important than the French retirement was at the beginning of the Verdun engagement.

"Ten days later at Verdun we had ceased to retire and the result was of negligible value to Germany. We have every right to think that the outcome will be the same this time. I think the numerical superiority of Germany is six to five, but the British and French are much stronger and much better armed now than we were at Verdun. Therefore, there is no cause for anxiety.

"In their official communique the Germans declare that the first stage of the great battle has ended. This is a very mediocre result. What will follow we shall see and I do not choose to be a prophet, but I have a conviction that the beginning of this battle holds nothing that should be disquieting to the allies.

"As regards the bombardment of Paris by long range guns the bombardment does not seem to have hurt Paris as much as is usual in a bombing by airplanes. I have only one word regarding this firing on Paris. If there really exists such a gun, the initial speed of the shell must be such that the gun will not be able to work after a very limited number of shots. We must therefore maintain the same attitude that the Parisians have held—there must be complete calm!

"Finally, I ask our American friends to draw from the first two days of battle only two conclusions; first, the necessity of keeping cool and making themselves the critics of the news, and, second, the necessity to act rapidly and increase with all haste the preparation of the American help. In such a great battle as this, we must see the who 'hing and not only a part of it.

"In the last two days I have noticed a tendency now and then on the part of the American press and the American public to be a little nervous. American boys are on the front. The American public in the rear must keep as calm as the American boys on the fighting line."

## HUNS OCCUPY PETROGRAD.

### American Consul Sent Report on March 20th.

Washington, March 25.—German occupation of Petrograd within twenty-four hours was predicted by American Consul Tredwell in a dispatch to the State department dated March 20th. Virtually all Americans had left the city, the dispatch stated.

## BRITISH COUNTER ATTACK.

### Battle in The Region Between Nesle, Ham and Rehors.

London, March 25.—British this morning are counter attacking between Nesle, Ham and Rehors, according to Reuter correspondence. The French are also in action. North of Bapaume, he says, the Germans failed to get through the British barrage.

## STOCK MARKET WEAK.

### War News Caused Heavy Selling and Market Broke One to Three Points.

New York, March 25.—Stocks broke one to three points on the opening of the market on further heavy selling, impelled by war news.