

The Watchman and Southerner.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the ends Thou Aim'st at be thy Country's, Thy God's and Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHERNER, Established June, 1866.

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GERMAN PLAN MISCARRIED.

EFFORT TO SMASH ALLIES' LINES FAILED DISASTROUSLY.

Now They are in a Difficult Position and The Fight is to Save Themselves from Destruction.

(By Associated Press.)

Facing American, French and British troops strongly entrenched and well equipped for battle, the German army has for the moment given up its direct drive against Amiens. After utter repulse in his efforts to smash straight through to his objective, the enemy now is attempting a new maneuver which is intended to broaden the field of action and reduce the menace of a counter offensive that would nullify all the gains made by the Teutons since March 21.

Reports from the battle line in Picardy disclose the first stages of this new German offensive aimed at either side of the salient in the allied lines. From La Basse Canal in the north, to the sectors east of Laon the great artillery forces of the enemy are thundering, with the bombardment deepening at places to the intensity of drum fire.

The length of this front is approximately 120 miles. North of Lens, east of Arras, along the new front running through Buequoy to Albert south to Montdidier and thence eastward past Lassigny and Noyon to a point far beyond Chauny the Germans are hammering the allied lines in an attempt to break the defenses and prepare them for the infantry assault which may be expected at any moment.

On the western "elbow" of the salient in the allied lines the Germans are forced to fight uphill. Their advance across the lower ground along the Somme, Aisne, Avre and Luce Rivers has carried them up to a parapet of hills which sentinel the Amiens. Attacks along this natural bulwark have cost the enemy only insignificant gains at great cost.

At points the German efforts have gained, but the gains have resulted only in the formation of sharp salients which are swept by rifle and machine gun fire and tempests of shells whenever enemy troops are seen forming for an attack.

There is a wholesome respect in the German general staff for the allied reserve army which, as yet appears to have been drawn up lightly to meet the Teutonic attacks. The attack on the French lines southeast of Chauny is for the purpose of removing a menacing salient and the gaining of better protection to the German left flank.

This assault is still going on and it has made considerable progress. The Germans struck through the lower forest of Coucy and have reached a point south of the village of Folembay. The Berlin official statement claims that 2,000 prisoners have been taken.

That an attack of large dimensions is planned for the front of Arras northward to Lens is considered probable by military experts. As long as this front is in its present position the Germans can not exert their full strength on the line before Amiens. The cannonade in this region may be the prelude of a massed attack such as bent the British line during the latter days of March.

Notwithstanding the statement made on Friday by Steven Pinchon, the French foreign minister that "Americans now are fighting in Picardy" nothing definite has been learned about where Gen. Pershing's men are located, or what part they are playing in this battle of battles.

On the American-held sectors near Verdun east of Lunéville, and northeast of Toul only ordinary trench activities have been reported.

Little has been heard from the Italian front. The concentration of Austrian troops in that theater of the war is considered warning that major activities may be looked for there.

Turkish troops are reported to be invading the Caucasus where they will take possession of the territories which were given them under the peace treaty at Brest-Litovsk.

The landing of British and Japanese troops at Vladivostok seems to have been merely for the purpose of policing that city. No attempts by the Bolshevik troops to eject them have been made.

EARLE READING SPEAKS.

ONLY BY FORCE CAN GERMANY BE MET.

England in War for Same Reason That Prompted America's Entrance—Must Be Sacrifice.

Washington, April 8.—President Wilson's pronouncement at Baltimore Saturday that Germany's challenge can be met only with force was emphasized here today by the Earl of Reading, British ambassador and high commissioner, in an address before the National Conference of American Lecturers.

"Only by force can Germany be met, and with that force she will be met," declared Lord Reading. At another point he said: "America stepped in to this war, and with it a whole new plane of thought was raised. America has fought and will fight only for ideals of world democracy."

The ambassador was frequently applauded by the audience, composed largely of speakers gathered here for a conference preliminary to launching a new patriotic speaking campaign. In addition to the Earl of Reading addresses were delivered by the Belgian and Serbian ministers, George Creel, chairman of the committee of public information, and John Barrett, director of the Pan-American Union.

In explaining the entrance of Great Britain into the war Lord Reading said his nation cast her lot with the allies, not because she was bound by treaties, but because, like the United States, she could not stand by and see the smaller nations suffer from Germany's aggressions. He urged the fostering of a spirit of self sacrifice.

"Is the sacrifice worth it," he asked. "Yes, worth it again and again. It is worth it if we realize that we are fighting for liberty and justice. This war is a challenge of brutality to justice. If the allies win—and they assuredly will—right and justice will triumph. Lend all your aid and all your power to it."

"And, by our assistance you will have done your part in driving down under ground the power of wrong, and in upholding and enthroning on high, to shine forever in the world, the power of right."

While admitting the seriousness of the submarine menace the ambassador pointed out that Great Britain has transported millions of fighting men across the seas with a loss of only 13,500 of them, including the 550 wounded men who have gone down with torpedoed hospital ships. The cargo ships have suffered heavily, he said, but England has been able to move more than 120,000,000 tons of commodities overseas despite the U-boats.

Both Great Britain and America are working feverishly on their shipping programs, said the ambassador, to provide great fleets to take men, munitions and supplies to France.

Lord Reading spoke of the third Liberty Loan, and expressed England's gratitude to this country for the readiness with which the treasury had aided by frequent loans the purchase of British war materials in the United States.

Declaring that America's economic assistance is of the greatest value, the ambassador urged the lecturers to disseminate the doctrine that "every stroke of the laboring man is equivalent to a shot at the enemy."

FLORENCE MAN INJURED.

G. T. Walker and Members of His Family Hurt When Machine Strikes Stump.

Florence, April 8.—In an automobile wreck, near Florence, G. T. Walker suffered an injury to his leg, necessitating amputation; his wife was severely cut about the face and head; George Walker, Jr., aged four years, was seriously cut in the head and the two other children, one of them a six months old baby, were painfully but not seriously hurt. The entire family escaped from fatal injury almost by a miracle. The limousine was shattered when it struck a stump and plunged into a ditch five feet deep. The negro chauffeur escaped without injury, though it is stated he was thrown through the glass windshield. A car came up immediately after the accident and brought the family to the infirmary here. Mr. Walker and his little son are still confined to the infirmary. The driver swerved too far to the left, it is said, to allow another car to pass him on the narrow road. He was going at a fast rate of speed. Mr. Walker is a merchant of this city.

ARMY MOVEMENTS HASTENED.

TRANSPORTATION OF TROOPS TO FRANCE GOES ON.

Estimated That Thirty Days Training With British Veterans Will Make Americans Ready for Service.

Washington, April 8.—Transportation of American troops to France already is proceeding at the accelerated rate contemplated by the speeding up measures taken after the battle of Picardy began. Acting Secretary Crowell made this statement today, but would give no details.

For military reasons the extent of the increased troop movement has not been made public.

Following the conference between Secretary Baker and allied officials orders were given under which a British official statement was issued saying that American forces were to be brigaded with British troops in order to hasten American participation in the war. Officials explained today that the process to be followed was similar to that adopted in placing American troops in the front lines with the French for training.

It has been estimated that 30 days training of this character, with American battalion units assigned with the British organizations will fit the new comers for active duty at the front. All divisions now moved from this side are composed of men who have had several months of preliminary instruction to take their full share in the fighting.

The training process will be quicker with the British than with the French, it is believed, because the language difficulty does not exist.

It was indicated that the new plans call for a more extensive training scheme with the British army than has been the case with General Pershing's original forces. There probably will be no attempt to set up a purely American force within the British ranks as has been done with the French.

The Americans are to be withdrawn when trained and turned over to General Pershing as a part of his army.

BARNWELL BOARD REFUSES PAY

Gives Money Allowed for Services to Red Cross Chapters of the County.

Barnwell, April 8.—Several weeks ago, at a meeting of the local board for Barnwell county, Messrs. W. I. Johns, of Bladock; W. H. Duncan, of Barnwell, and Dr. D. K. Briggs, of Blackville, passed a resolution in favor of donating the money that they will receive from the government for classifying the registrants in this county to the local organizations of the American Red Cross. As the number of registrants to be finally classified total around three thousand the chapters in this county will receive several hundred dollars with which to carry on the excellent work that they are doing.

Too much cannot be said in commendation of the patriotic spirit that prompts these gentlemen to make this liberal donation, thus giving the fruits of their arduous labor back to the government. It is not amiss to state here that the members of the board did not receive a cent for their services in the first draft. It is true that they put in claims for the work performed, but the money was used for clerk hire and to defray other expenses incurred in carrying out the law and for which apparently no provision had been made. When told of the board's action a gentleman remarked one day this week: "Well, that's what I call true patriotism." And it is the sort of patriotism that is going to lick the Kaiser.

BOLO GRANTED A REPRIEVE.

Claims Convicted Man Has Revelations to Make.

Paris, April 8.—Shortly following the action of President Poincaré in refusing clemency to Bolo Pasha, convicted of treason in acting as an agent of German propaganda in France, which caused the expectation that his execution would not be long delayed, it was announced today that the military judicial authorities had granted Bolo a reprieve. Their action was based on the representation of his attorney, Albert Salles, that the convicted man had revelations to make to the authorities.

The length of the reprieve is not given in the official announcement in which making public the fact of the reprieve states that it is granted "for the moment."

ANOTHER BIG BUYER BOBS UP.

A Live Agency Makes a Good Sale—Lancaster County is Pushing Sumter For Place.

Add to Big Buyers: J. S. Riddle, through Claremont Cigar counter, \$500.00.

He sure was welcome. Its been a long time since a Big Buyer joined the club; Saving Sammy was afraid that the club would have to do like all the other clubs did when dry times hit the State; quit.

There is life in the ranks once more; another recruit has waltzed in. A few more coming up would make Big Buyers look like a Liberty Bond rally.

"All right, sir; what name shall I put down, sir?"

On the report of sales for week ending March 23rd Lancaster county was next to bottom, 44th in number, with sales of \$976.00. On the report of March 30th, one week later Lancaster county ranked 11th, with sales of \$6,507.75.

We have heard of jumping, but that is jumping. Something must have happened in that burrough; the cap'n must have told the boys to get busy. All the spare change in the ballwick must have gone into Thrift Stamps.

That jump took Lancaster right next to Sumter, who on the same report was 10th place. The Sumter People will please take notice that there is a strong fighter right behind her. If the Sumter people do not keep a-going and a-going fast somebody is going to pass somebody else, and you can make your own guess, for we are not calling names.

Get this straight. A War Saving Society, or a school class, has bought as many stamps as its members own. Own. Catch the idea? Own. Not what you have bought for others, or what you have bought and sold again; but what you have bought and sold have and intend to keep till you cash them in January 1st, 1923. There are two objects to War Savings; one is to save money for yourself. When you buy stamps for your neighbor or for your brother or your sister or someone else you are not doing a bit of saving. You are not handling one cent of your own money. You are merely acting as an agent for somebody else. The somebody else is doing all that, but you are not.

The other object is to lend money to the government. When you buy a stamp for somebody else you have not loaned a cent to the government. When you buy it through your society and sell it again the other person has loaned the government; you have not. If all were passers there would be no sales. Its nice to help others to be purchasers, but to be patriotic you too must be one. Act as an agent; too if you like to; but also loan your own money to your government. It needs it.

Societies and classes in reporting their records must report in dollars and cents what their members own at the time of the report. Report War Savings Stamps at \$5.00 each. Teachers may be members of their class societies.

Saving Sammy says: Because your big brother or your wealthier neighbor can buy bonds and you cannot, do not feel that you cannot help.

Euy stamps.

GERMANS TRY TO CALM REPUBLIC.

General Staff Instructs Military Correspondents.

Washington, April 8.—A digest of German opinion on the situation in Picardy, given in an official dispatch today from France, says the German general staff is instructing the military correspondents to reassure the public and with over emphasized explanations is betraying the dismay of the public at the prospect of a check of the great offensive. The dispatch follows:

"Among the descriptions of the war and the notices in the newspapers the different currents of German opinion produced in Germany by the offensive can be defined. There is first the anxiety caused by the extent of the losses. The general staff charges the Wolf bureau and the military correspondents to reassure the public and to put them on guard against the enemy communications.

"The staff no longer contends that the losses of the assailants had been minimum but it now affirms that they now are normal and proportionate to the results obtained. The general staff

CONDENSED WAR BULLETINS.

FORCES OF ALLIES MEET FURIOUS GERMAN DRIVE.

Teutonic Commanders Throw Massed Divisions Against French and British in Great Conflict Which Has Been Itaging Since Thursday Without Giving Invaders Advantage Commensurate to Sacrifice of Lives Made—Withdrawals Do Not Seem to Have Cost Defenders so Much as Enemy.

In a battle which has lasted since Thursday and which probably is continuing with utmost fury, the Germans have been hurling massed divisions against the British and French lines from far north of Albert to a short distance north of Montdidier. Probably there has not been a more sanguinary battle fought since the beginning of the Teutonic offensive, March 21, than this, which has for its objective the driving of a wedge between the British and French armies, the cutting of the Paris-Amiens railroad south of Amiens and the capture of that city.

But, in spite of the power of the attack and the disposition of the fighting, the entente allied legions have stood firm over the most of their front. Only at points have they been forced to give ground, and these seem, on the map, to be only minor successes when compared with the sacrifice of lives which they have cost. Just to the southwest of Albert, the British have withdrawn a short distance, and the French have given up the village of Castel, west of Moreuil.

It seems probable that the entente allies have abandoned their Fabian tactics and now are prepared to give battle to the Germans. They have fixed their lines about 12 miles east of the city of Amiens, and it is evident that here they have turned at bay against the invaders. The contour of the country back of the allied lines lends itself to defensive tactics. It is quite high and is of a character which compels attacking forces to expose themselves to concentrations of fire from artillery and infantry.

It is necessary for the Germans to break through the British and French lines in this region or to outflank the allies by a drive to the north and south of it. The fighting near Albert and north of Montdidier seems to have for its object the turning of the allied positions.

The dawning of the first anniversary of the entry of the United States into the war finds General Pershing's veterans somewhere in the battle zone. How many are there, what units have been chosen for the fight and where they will make their first appearance is not known.

In spite of the terrific strain to which they have been subjected, the allies have struck back at the Germans and have regained some ground. One of these points is near Grivene, a short distance northwest of Montdidier, another near Hebutoune and another between Montdidier and Noyon, near the village of Orvillers-Sorel. It is in this latter region that the great allied counterattack has been expected to be launched.

There have been artillery engagements in various sectors of the Belgian and French fronts outside of the battle area in Picardy. The city of Rheims has again been subjected to bombardment by the Germans. In no sector, however, has there been infantry fighting of an unusual nature. In Italy there has been only the usual patrol activity.

SODA HAS COME.

Government Nitrate of Soda at Depot For Delivery.

The first allotment of government nitrate of soda for Sumter county farmers has arrived at the Sumter depot and at other depots and sidings in Sumter county, and is now ready for immediate delivery. Farmers having soda in this allotment are notified to call at once at their depot or siding for the soda.

explains to the impatient public what difficulty the transports are encountering in supplying the army, difficulties which have been augmented by the bad weather. It recalls the success of the preceding days and describes the demoralization of the enemy armies, the exhaustion of their reserves.

"These over emphasized explanations and these encouragements betray the dismay of public opinion in Germany which begins to fear a check of the great German attempt on the west front."

BATTLE CRISIS NEAR.

SECOND PHASE OF OFFENSIVE CLOSELY WATCHED.

America Getting in and War Department Busy With Plans to Speed Troop Movements and Call More Men.

Washington, April 5.—Developments of the second phase of the German offensive in Picardy was watched closely here today, army officers apparently feeling that the critical point of the great struggle is rapidly approaching. Meagre official reports gave little information on which to base definite opinions as to the trend of the fighting, though it seemed evident that the Germans were trying to force a foothold in strategic positions before Amiens, and at the same time to increase pressure against the junction point between the French and British armies.

Under the new policy laid down by Secretary Baker the war department again had nothing to add to official reports from London and Paris on the battle. Strict silence on all matters relating to the program of the battle or the participation of American troops in the fighting was maintained.

The department is forging ahead with its efforts to speed additional American forces across the water to back up the beleaguered lines. One element of the speeding up plans was learned authoritatively. The first increment of the second draft, to be summoned this month, will be 150,000 men instead of 50,000 as previously planned. They will be the first considerable force mobilized of the 800,000 drafted men to be called to the colors this year. The remaining 650,000 will be called out in monthly increments.

There are indications that troop movements towards the Seaboard of unusual proportions are already in progress. Railway passenger and freight schedules in some sections of the country have been set aside temporarily in order to give the fighting men a night of rest to make up for points.

The call for American man power is being answered promptly and to the fullest extent of shipping facilities that can be spared.

Movement of American troops already in France is screened completely behind the rigid censorship imposed by General Pershing. Press dispatches give no hint of the whereabouts of the forces last reported as hastening through France to the front.

Accounts of American movements in England have indicated that the most seasoned veterans of General Pershing's army, the men of the first expedition, are included in the units sent into the battle in Picardy. The message specified that American regulars were to bear the brunt of the first entry of the crusaders from the new world into the center of the convulsion that is shaking the old world to its foundation.

With the increased menace against Amiens, officers recalled hopefully the calm confidence with which General Foch, supreme commander, has asserted that the town will not fall into German hands.

They visualized reserve forces of great strength massed behind the actual fighting lines, or the possibility that a counter-movement will be initiated if the pressure becomes dangerous. So far, it is said, the allies have not been compelled to resort to use of their reserves to meet the German efforts.

The endurance of the Germans in this second stage is being watched closely. The French have noted that seven out of 15 divisions hurled against their lines last night and today were newcomers to the fighting. This means that the lull which preceded this second storm was occupied by the Germans in replacing wornout units and rushing up from far in the rear men who had been held there for just this emergency.

LANDING AT VLADIVOSTOK.

Washington, April 8.—News of the landing of the British force at Vladivostok, which followed a Japanese party into the city, reached the State department officially today from the American consul at Vladivostok. No details were given.

Additional advices to the State department said that only fifty sailors were landed from a British cruiser. They were sent ashore to guard the consulate. The Japanese force was increased Saturday by 250 men. No resistance was offered either to the landing of the British or the second Japanese force.