

The Watchman and Southron.

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"Be Just and Fear not—Do all the ends Thou Aims't at be thy Country's, Thy God's and Truth's."

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METHODISTS IN SESSION.

OPENING OF GENERAL CONFERENCE MARKED BY PATRIOTIC DEMONSTRATION.

The Bishop's Address Was Read by Bishop Collins Denny and Was Greeted With Enthusiastic Applause.

Atlanta, May 2.—Patriotism marked the opening session of the general conference of the Southern Methodist Church here today when the bishop's address, declaring, "We should be less than patriotic and courageous Americans if we failed to give him (President Wilson) cordial support in every way" was greeted by enthusiastic applause. Another demonstration followed the declaration protesting against the utterance of any word which might weaken the president's hands or encourage and comfort the enemy.

The episcopal address to the eighteenth general conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was read by Bishop Collins Denny, of Richmond, Va., at the opening session of the conference here today. The address, which was written by Bishop E. E. Hoss, and confirmed by all the bishops, was one of the lengthiest ever delivered to the general conference, reviewing the work of the church during the past four years and making recommendations for the future.

Commendation of the action of President Wilson before and after the declaration of war against Germany was expressed by the bishops, who declared "We should be less than patriotic and courageous Americans if we failed to give him our cordial support in every way."

"It is scarcely necessary for us to say that the world is now involved in the most colossal war in human history," said the address. "The destruction of property and the loss of life have already been appalling and there is no prospect, so far as we can see, for an early peace. But we feel entirely justified in saying that our own country, though it has been drawn into active participation in the conflict, is in no wise responsible for originating it. Neither our rulers nor our people wanted it. As a nation we were more than content to live at peace with all men. By no act of ours had we incurred the just hostility of the belligerent powers. It gives us the greatest satisfaction to affirm that our president went to the utmost possible limit to keep us out of the fray. If he is censurable for anything—and we do not think he is—it is for having been too forbearing. Not until it became entirely necessary for us to fight or else submit to the most violent and brutal outrages at the hands of the German kaiser and those who are banded together with him for the tyrannical domination of the world, did Mr. Wilson at last advise the congress to draw the sword. In our judgment he was fully warranted in taking this extreme step, and we should be less than patriotic and courageous Americans if we failed to give him our cordial support in every way."

"The impartial verdict of history, which in the long run is always right, can hardly fail to approve the course which he has pursued. At this particular juncture, when so much depends on the harmonious and united action of all American citizens, we protest against the utterance of any word that would either weaken his hands or give the slightest encouragement or comfort to our national enemies. While we, of course, long and pray for peace, yet we trust when it comes it will be a peace full of justice and righteousness. It will be better to fight on and suffer on than to capitulate to a despotism whose methods recall the worst chapters of heathen barbarity. The bishops strongly oppose the movement to restrict the areas of the bishops, so that while they are unlimited as to the presidency of annual conferences throughout the whole connection they must reside in certain districts for a limited time and be responsible for the development of church work in that district and report quadrennially to the general conference. The address says in this connection that "any scheme for limiting their field or jurisdiction would be sure to diminish the esteem in which they are held by the general public and by the church."

The address touched on a very live question when it scored the board of missions for beginning to recast the boundaries of the work in Mexico before the meeting of the general conference. The address declared: "The

AMERICANS STOP ATTACK.

GERMANS REPULSED IN HEAVY ASSAULT.

Infantry Effort Made After Intense Bombardment—First Participation Here.

With the French Army in France, May 1 (By the Associated Press).—A heavy German attack launched yesterday against the Americans in the vicinity of Villers-Bretonneux was repulsed with heavy losses for the enemy. The German preliminary bombardment lasted two hours and then the infantry rushed forward, only to be driven back, leaving large numbers of dead on the ground in front of the American lines.

The German bombardment opened at 5 o'clock in the afternoon and was directed especially against the Americans who were supported on the north and south by the French. The fire was intense and at the end of two hours the German commander sent forward three battalions of infantry. There was hand to hand fighting, all along the line, as a result of which the enemy was thrust back.

The struggle which lasted a considerable time, was extremely violent and the Americans displayed marked bravery throughout.

It was the first occasion in which the Americans were engaged in the big battle which has been raging since March 21 and their French comrades are full of praise for the manner in which they conducted themselves under trying circumstances.

The American losses were rather severe.

College of Bishops, who had not been consulted in any initial stage of the proceedings, saw at the first glance that the plan proposed involved the complete dismemberment of our work in Mexico and on that ground, as well as for other reasons, entered an earnest protest against it. For this, it was said, the bishops have been charged with "autocratic assumption of an authority which we did not possess, but the fact is we only insisted on obedience to the action of the general conference."

The election of five bishops was recommended in the address.

Concerning the question of unification of American Methodism the bishops' address declared a report would be presented by the commission appointed at the last general conference to confer with a like commission from the Methodist Episcopal church. "The general conference at Oklahoma City endorsed the tentative plan adopted at Chattanooga in May, 1911, by the joint commission on federation," said the address. It was in addition suggested that the negro membership of the various Methodist bodies be formed into an independent organization and united church. It is already known throughout the church that the commission has had not less than four sittings. We are unofficially informed however, that the commission was not able to reach an agreement. The commissioners representing our own church went as far as they were authorized to go. However, our brethren of the Methodist Episcopal Church did not see their way clear to agree to the plan proposed. . . . It is still our earnest hope that a way may be found for some plan of cooperation among the Methodists of America which shall as far as possible, eliminate wastage of man and money in the territory in which both churches have established themselves."

The bishops reported the membership of the church to be: Traveling preachers, including supernumeraries 7,697; local preachers, 5,159; lay members, 2,164,515; an increase of more than 170,000 members since the last general conference. The address pointed out that there had been some arrest during the past year in the growth of the Sunday schools, but the report of the quadrennium showed remarkable progress. The record given, 151,792 officers and teachers, a gain of 19,820 and 1,745,745 scholars, a gain of 248,027.

Concerning missions the bishops said "The amount contributed by our church for missions during the past quadrennium is far in advance of any like period in the past, totalling \$5,076,061, a gain over the previous four year period of \$800,999. This, of course, includes what has been raised for woman's work."

The work of the Epworth League, the educational board, the fund for supernumeraries, the completion of the fund for a representative church to be erected at Washington and the work of the centenary commission,

WAR SITUATION REVIEWED.

FRENCH DRIVE GERMANS OUT OF LOCRE.

Much of the Snap of the German Attacking Forces Absent from Latest Manoeuvres in Flanders—British Also Advance Lines—Serbians on Offensive—Looking to Gen. Foch to Order Offensive.

Again there has come a pause in the battle of Flanders, where the ground everywhere is covered with the gray-clad bodies of German dead, and the British and French are holding securely to all their positions.

From Saturday until well into Monday night Gen. von Arnim's forces continued their efforts to break the British lines on the Ypres salient and to press back the British and French to the southwest, but everywhere their efforts were fruitless. True they gained their objective and again captured Loivre, but a counter-thrust forced them out again.

In the hilly region just to the north of Loivre the British also pushed back the enemy at several points, notably between Kemmel and La Clytte.

Much of the snap of the German attacking forces has been absent from the manoeuvres they have been carrying out in Flanders under the stiffened line of the Entente troops.

To the south near Amiens and to the east around Noyon the enemy likewise has failed in all his attempts to push farther forward. The British east of Villers-Bretonneux, which lies directly east of Amiens, have advanced their front, and in the Noyon sector the French have reestablished their lines, which the Germans previously had captured from them.

The Germans on various sectors of the line are still hurling tons of steel against the British and French positions, but the Allied guns are everywhere answering them.

While the present halt in the battle possibly may indicate the near approach of the throwing into the fray of the great reserve army which Gen. Foch has gathered, that such is the intention of the supreme commander of the Allied forces has not become apparent. It is not improbable, however, that a meeting of the interallied war council in Paris Wednesday measures having in view the turning of the tide of the battle will be uppermost in the discussions.

In all the various war theaters except the western the situation remains relatively calm so far as fighting is concerned. All along the front in Italy reciprocal bombardments continue.

In Macedonia the Serbians in the region of Monastir again have entered an enemy position and annihilated the garrison. They also have been successful in repulsing an attack by Bulgarians which had as its object the recapture of positions near Vetretsk.

M'LAURIN FOR GOVERNOR.

Former Senator to Enter Race This Year.

Bennettsville, May 1.—Former United States Senator John L. McLaurin returned to his home in Bennettsville this afternoon from Chesterfield County, where he made a Liberty loan speech today, and shortly after arriving in the city announced that he would enter the August primary this year for the Democratic nomination for governor.

When asked by The State's correspondent if it were true that he had decided to make the race for governor and if he had any announcement he wished to make, Senator McLaurin said:

"Yes. I have been strongly urged by petition, letter and otherwise to become a candidate for governor or the United States senate this year. These are troublous times, and while I am not anxious to hold office a considerable number of my fellow citizens think they need my services and I will give them the opportunity to vote for me for governor this year."

EMPERORS TO CONFER.

Charles of Austria Hastening to German Headquarters.

London, May 1.—Emperor Charles and Foreign Minister Burian, according to news received from Zurich, will proceed almost immediately to German headquarters to confer with the German emperor. Ukrainian and Balkan affairs, it is added, will be discussed.

which proposes to raise \$35,000,000 during the next five years, also were reviewed in the address.

MUCH GREATER ARMY.

NEW ARMY ESTIMATE BASED ON DETERMINATION TO WIN WAR.

Secretary Baker Goes to Congress Today—Expected to Explain That Department Believes it Can Handle Double Number Now Under Arms.

Washington, May 1.—Secretary Baker will carry to congress tomorrow the army increase program mapped out by President Wilson and his advisers based on the determination to win the war if it takes the whole manpower of the nation to do it. There are indications that he will ask that all restrictions on the number of troops to be raised be removed and the government authorized to mobilize as many men as it can equip, train and send to the battle front in France.

When the war secretary appears before the house military committee with supplemental estimates for the army, he is expected to disclose that the department has reason to believe it can handle during the present year at least double the existing force under arms of approximately 1,600,000 men. That would mean a total of 3,000,000 soldiers for whom clothing, equipment and transportation now are in sight. Should additional facilities become available, however, it is indicated that President Wilson wishes to be able to call out more men without delaying to seek authority.

Evidences came today in various ways of the effort that already is being made to send American armies into the fight in such numbers and in such time as to make victory certain. In the morning heads of the shipping board and the war industries board met with the war council, composed of army officials. Details of additional ships and supplies were gone into, it is understood.

Later the president's war cabinet met with him at the White House and went over the ground thoroughly.

In the house, Chairman Dent of the military committee introduced a bill that would authorize the mobilization and organization of 4,000,000 selective service men, instead of the 1,000,000 to which the government is limited by the existing act. Mr. Dent said the measure was his own and he had not consulted the war department on it.

Under the new classification scheme there are understood to be 1,800,000 men immediately available for active service in Class 1. That estimate is based on the returns of numerous States and the law of averages. It excludes all men rated as fit only for limited special service, all delinquents slated for immediate induction into Class 1 when apprehended, and all of the so-called remedial cases, the men who will be fit for active service after operations or medical treatment to correct minor physical defects. Behind that, also, stand the men who have reached 21 years since the draft act was passed and who will be brought in under pending amendments. Probably the total of effectives in Class 1 will prove to be 2,500,000 men when the definite figures are available.

This is the first reservoir from which men will be drawn to fill up the new armies. It is conceivable that Class 1 will be exhausted in time, but not before it had furnished all the men who can be shipped to France before congress meets again. For this reason it is regarded as probable that the question of increasing age limits of the draft act or of drawing upon Class 2 can be deferred until congress again convenes.

Secretary Baker appeared today before the conference of shipping board officials with ship owners and seamen's unions to urge prompt manning of new ships. He told the conference that the movement of troops was going smoothly.

The record of achievement during the last few weeks is pointed to with pride by war department officials. Military precautions forbid disclosure of the rate at which the army is being sent to the front, but Mr. Baker will be able to give the house committee tomorrow some interesting figures in this regard.

In pressing forward the troops, the war department, it is learned, has abandoned its previous policy of completing organization of a unit before it goes over. Under the new plan regiments or larger units go forward on schedule even if they are short a considerable part of their full enlisted strength at the time. They will be filled upon the other side by drafts

LEVER FOR SENATE.

SEVENTH DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN ANNOUNCES.

Strong for Wilson—Thinks People Should Hear From Stump Administration View of War Situation.

Columbia, May 2.—Asbury Francis Lever, congressman from the Seventh Congressional District, yesterday announced his candidacy for the United States senate. Mr. Lever came to Columbia early yesterday morning and spent the day in conference with many friends from all sections of the State.

Mr. Lever last night authorized the following statement:

"I am a candidate for the United States senate for the term beginning March 4, 1919.

"In my opinion, the people of the State are entitled to have the position of the national administration touching the world situation presented from every stump in the State and in terms which no man can misunderstand.

"The wisdom of this country's entrance into the war at the moment it did and the righteousness of the cause for which she fights are each day becoming more and more apparent, and the people of the State will continue to demand as their representative in the senate a man who has never doubted or questioned either. He must be a man who measures up to the true test of undoubted patriotism and Americanism. He must believe so strongly in the cause for which we fight as to go to the very limit for the achievement of complete victory over Prussian autocracy which threatens the destruction of the civilization of the world. He must not only believe in these things, but he must be able to make his belief count by voice as well as vote.

"The next six years will be the most vital to the future of this country of any six years in its history. The problems of peace will put to the test the real strength of representative government. The next senate by the very force of circumstances will become the most important legislative body in the world. It will be called upon to ratify the peace treaties, and whether peace shall be permanent or only temporary will depend upon the wisdom of these treaties. When peace has come, the entire world will be forced to readjust itself to the changed conditions. The most far reaching problems of an economic and social character must necessarily arise during this period of readjustment, the chief of which will be to hold the nation solidly for representative government as opposed to a government built upon the theory of socialism. In the solution of these problems South Carolina must continue to have in the senate one whose Americanism and loyalty to the principles of Democracy, as exemplified in the teachings of Woodrow Wilson, have been tested and proved to be 100 per cent. pure, because of all the States in the Union South Carolina is most typically American.

"Every man, woman and child in the State is familiar with my attitude toward the war, my loyalty to the Democratic administration and my unswerving zeal for President Wilson and the policies he represents. His confidence in me is well known, as has been shown in the fact of his having repeatedly entrusted to me the management of some of his most difficult legislative proposals thought by him necessary in the successful prosecution of the war, and it is not too much to say that it is generally recognized that I have handled these with entire satisfaction to my Democratic associates, as well as to the administration itself.

"If the people of the State shall honor me with their confidence, I assure them that I shall give in return the benefit of my 16 years' experience in national legislation and my undivided energies, physical and mental, to the discharge of my duties."

Having done their bit in relieving the egg famine the hens will now be permitted to give their lives for their country.—Chattanooga News.

from replacement camps in this country.

The number of men scheduled to be called to the colors this month under the selective service act has been raised to 250,000. Last month 150,000 were mobilized. At this rate half of the 800,000 which the department, before the German drive was launched, had planned to call during the present year will have been called out in two months' time.

TROTZKY CALLS TO ARMS.

WANTS WIDE COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE.

Measure Includes Workmen, Peasants and Unemployed From 18 to 40 Years of Age.

Moscow, April 23—Tuesday—(By the Associated Press).—Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik minister of war and marine, speaking at a meeting of the central executives last night, urged the issuance of a decree for compulsory military service.

"Fearing destruction, Russia must have an army," he said, "we do not know the hour when we will be openly challenged by the imperialistic enemy threatening us in the east."

The central executive adopted a resolution to this effect. The measure provides for the training of workmen, peasants and unemployed from 18 to 40 years of age for eight consecutive weeks. School boys from 16 to 18 will be trained in similar manner. Women may volunteer. The enlistment will be for a minimum of six months.

Germany has protested to the Bolshevik foreign minister, M. Tchitcherine, against the landing of 6,000 allied troops at Murmansk, declaring that permission for such landing was a violation of the Brest-Litovsk treaty, which stipulated peace with Finland and non-interference in its internal life. It was denied in the protest that Germans had participated in the raid of the Finnish White Guards upon Kem.

Gen. Count von Mirbach, the German ambassador to Russia, arrived today with a staff of more than 70 persons, including various commissions and also a Turkish commission. In connection with this arrival a prominent Bolshevik leader expressed surprise to the correspondent regarding the attitude of the allies towards the present Russian government, particularly the Americans, who are the most sympathetic and the most trusted, saying that Germany will control Russia economically, if permitted undisputed sway. He insisted on the necessity of American cooperation.

There has been a report here that the entire Black Sea fleet has been captured by the Germans.

A fierce battle between the Finnish White Guards supported by Germans and much artillery and Red Guards near Terioki, Finland, is reported. Train loads of wounded are arriving at Petrograd.

The Finnish Bolshevik government has protested to American Ambassador Francis and the allied representatives against the German support of the White Guards, declaring that Finnish laborites will continue to fight for the cause of freedom.

The German advance in Russia continues uninterrupted. The German forces have captured several cities and are nearing Kursk, capital of the government of the same name.

General Dutoff, the rebel Cossack chief, has been captured by soviet forces.

Word has been received here of the arrival at Berlin of Adolph Joffe, the Russian ambassador to Germany.

DISASTROUS HUN DEFEAT.

Attempt to Protect Kemmel Position Colossal Failure.

London, April 30, via Ottawa.—The correspondents with the British army agree that the enemy yesterday suffered nothing less than a disastrous defeat. It was the first phase of the battle in his desperate attempt to capture the line of hills held by the Allies, which endanger his possession of Mont Kemmel. The Germans have probably used thirteen divisions from the east of Ypres southward on the line of battle, with two more northward and the violence of the gun fire was never greater or more unceasing at any period of the war.

The successful allied defenses made the day the bloodiest yet experienced by the enemy, as attack after attack was smashed by artillery and infantry fire. The Germans had already suffered heavily on Sunday, when their concentrations of troops were caught and shattered and French center neither bent nor broke.

MINNESOTA GUARD DISBANDED.

Government Will Not Accept Additional Units.

Washington, May 1.—Indications that the war department has decided not to accept any additional National Guard units in the forces to be sent abroad were seen today in an order telegraphed to the governor of Minnesota instructing him to disband the second Minnesota artillery.