

Consolidated Aug. 2, 1881.

SUMTER, S. C., SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1918.

Vol. XLVI. No. 25.

WAR FRONT REVIEW.

INTENSE ARTILLERY DUELS ALL ALONG THE FRONT BUT ONLY MINOR ACTION BY THE INFANTRY.

Allied Lines are Being Reinforced at All Points to Meet Enemy When He Strikes.

Still another day has passed without the Germans on the western front attempting to commence a new phase of their offensive. Everywhere along the line there have been artillery duels, at some points of considerable intensity, and the Allied armies are lying in their positions waiting with expectancy and also with perfect confidence the blow that they realize soon will fall at some point in Flanders or Picardy.

Nowhere have there been any infantry operations which arose in importance above raids. Southwest of Arras, Neuville-Vitasse, the Canadians Monday night carried out a successful stroke, killing a number of Germans and capturing three machine guns.

The French in the Amiens sector also were successful in a similar maneuver. Doubtless the heavy ground, due to the rains, is holding back the preparations of the Germans, for it is no easy task to move up men, guns and supplies over the morass. Meanwhile the Allied line everywhere is being reinforced to meet the enemy when again he unleashes his infantry forces.

M. Clemenceau, the French premier, who has just returned to Paris from a visit to the battle front, is authority for the statement that American troops are continuing to arrive in the battle zones in force.

An indication of the heavy fighting the British are being forced to withstand is contained in the list of casualties reported during the week ending Tuesday. This list shows a total of 38,691, of which number 6,555 officers and men were killed or died of wounds. In the aggregate the casualties are the heaviest reported in any single week of fighting. It is probable, however, that the figures do not represent losses on the western front alone.

Considerable political turmoil has arisen in England over charges made by Gen. Frederick B. Maurice, who recently was removed from his post and sent to active duty in the field after he had made statements which were considered to be a reflection on Gen. Foch.

In a letter appearing in the London newspapers, Gen. Maurice charges Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, and Lloyd George with having made misstatements in the house of commons regarding military matters. A special court of inquiry is to investigate the charges.

Bombarding Back Areas.

With the British army in France May 7.—Yesterday and last night the Germans kept up a considerable bombardment of the back areas in Flanders with high velocity guns. The Allies, on the other hand, were busy hammering the enemy's roads and concentration points.

It rained again last night and this morning, making the Flanders battle ground still more difficult for the enemy to work over in carrying out preparations for a further attack.

TWO AVIATORS RESCUED.

Picked Up at Sea by Steamer Off Miami, Fla.

Atlantic Port, May 9.—Two naval aviators in a state of exhaustion after remaining afloat with a damaged hydroairplane, five miles off Miami, Fla., were rescued by a coast steamer, which brought them here today.

The rescuing ship took the naval aircraft aboard and it, with the aviators, was put ashore at the quarantine station here. Later they will be taken back to Florida.

The men were Ensign Arthur Lavrentis, naval aviator, and C. C. Cotten, observer. They were rescued 35 miles off Miami, after floating on the plane for 18 hours, without food or water.

AMERICAN CASUALTY LIST.

Seventy-six Names Mentioned—Ten Killed in Action.

Washington, May 9.—Today's casualty list contained 76 names. Killed in action, 10; died of wounds, 3; died of accident, 2; died of disease, 6; wounded severely, 13; wounded slightly, 41; prisoner, 1. Southerners included are, Private Forest H. Harrison of Deering, Ga., killed in action; Private Alvin M. Collier, Pelham, Ga., wounded slightly.

ARMY IN FRANCE.

HALF MILLION AMERICANS HAVE BEEN SENT OVERSEAS THIS YEAR.

Cabinet Member in Charge of War Preparation Told Senate Committee in January That Five Hundred Thousand Would Go.

Washington, May 8.—More than half a million American soldiers have been sent to France, said Secretary Baker today, authorizing the statement that his forecast to congress in January that 500,000 troops would be dispatched to France early in the present year now had been surpassed.

Mr. Baker dictated the following statement:

"In January I told the senate committee that there was strong likelihood that early in the present year 500,000 American troops would be dispatched to France. I can not either now or perhaps later, discuss the number of American troops in France, but I am glad to be able to say that the forecast I made in January has been surpassed."

As a result of a personal investigation of machine gun production during the past few days, the secretary announced that there is no present shortage of light or heavy types of these weapons either in France or America, and no shortage is in prospect.

Mr. Baker said there has been no question brought up as to the supplies of light type Browning guns, which were coming forward in quantities. He would not say whether shipment of these guns to France had been started. As to the heavy Brownings, he said:

"Early manufacturers' estimates as to the production of the heavy type perhaps were more optimistic than was justified. The estimate of the ordnance department in January has been met and is being met. Some of the heavy guns are being produced and there is evidence forthcoming that production will continue in increasing and substantial number."

The secretary chose his words about the troops in France with utmost care. He would not amplify the statement in any way and specifically asked that the press refrain from speculation as to what precise figures his guarded remarks covered or as to what possibilities of early additional increase in the force on the other side there might be.

There has been repeated official announcement, however, that the government is bending every energy to rush men across to back up the allied lines in France and officials directly in charge of transportation have expressed satisfaction with the progress made.

There are indications that the war department had adhered strictly to its policy of equipping fully before his departure every man sent across. That is the consideration in checking off supplies of clothing and arms.

Secretary Baker's conclusion as to machine guns follows on the heels of pessimistic statements by members of congress in this regard. In the discussion of the production of Browning machine guns, contracts for other types both here and abroad apparently have been lost sight of. These contracts preceded the placing of orders for the Brownings and that supply was designed to meet the emergency until the new gun was available in quantities.

The present practice of brigading American units with French and British divisions, it is pointed out, makes the artillery question less pressing as an immediate independent supply. The allied divisions to which the Americans are assigned already have the artillery necessary and the fact that American infantry is added to them does not mean a proportionate increase in guns.

Today's statement regarding the movement to France is the first official utterance made during the war indicating even indirectly the number of men sent abroad. The first force to go over was never described except as a division, although as a matter of fact it was constituted in two divisions soon after its arrival on the other side. The fact that more than 500,000 have gone this year also shows the accelerated rate at which the men have been moving forward since the winter passed and eased the shipping and embarkation situation.

The effect of Mr. Baker's announcement in Germany and Austria, if it is allowed to reach those countries, will be watched with interest. There is little doubt that the German general staff has known that some hundreds of thousands of men have been sent across by the United States,

BRITISH COUNTER-ATTACK.

GERMANS DRIVEN OUT OF ALLIED POSITIONS IN FLANDERS.

Heavy Losses Inflicted on Two German Divisions in Wednesday's Battle—Attack North of Kemmel Today.

London, May 9.—By a counter-attack last night the British drove the Germans from the portions of the allied front line which they had entered on the Flanders front in the Laclette-Voormezele sector, it is officially announced.

Yesterday's attack on the Flanders line was carried out by two German divisions, on whom heavy casualties were inflicted by the British.

A new German attack was made this morning north of Kemmel. The enemy pressed back the line slightly at one point.

BATTLE ON AVRE.

Heavy Artillery Fighting Reported on the Somme Front.

Paris, May 9.—Heavy artillery fighting on both sides of the Avre river last night is reported in today's official communication.

AMERICAN PATROL AMBUSHED.

Raiding Party Wiped Out in the Toul Sector.

With American Army in France, May 9.—An American patrol in the Toul sector fell a victim to a silent enemy sometime last night. The Germans evidently used bayonets and bullets of rifles. Nothing was heard of Americans who went out early in the evening, until another patrol happened across the spot where the others were ambushed.

BATTLE IN FLANDERS.

Fighting Still in Progress Today Southwest of Ypres.

With the British Army in France, May 9.—Fighting was still in progress this morning near Vierstraet, southwest of Ypres. At one time the British were forced back slightly by machine gun fire. All the rest of the original defenses, however, appeared to be again in the hands of the defenders in the Voormezele-Laclette sector.

HOW ABOUT MURPHY?

Are You Eating Potatoes to Save Wheat For Our Soldiers.

Columbia, May 8.—"Did you eat a potato with your breakfast?" This is the question that the Food Administration is asking of every person in South Carolina.

Hapsburg Liebe says that the homely Irish potato has cut, and is cutting and will continue to cut almost as great a figure in this world war as the submarine.

In Germany, it is said, potatoes have been planted even between the ties of railroad tracks. Potatoes have kept the people of Germany alive. Probably Germany would have caved in except for the potato.

The argument is put forth by the Food Administration that if the potato will work for Germany, it will likewise work against Germany; and considering that food will win the war, there is no article of food that may be prepared in so many ways as the potato.

To make the potato work against Germany, in view of the present shortage of wheat, is to eat more potatoes and less bread so that more wheat may be sent to the comrade peoples of the allied countries in Europe.

Potato prices are low throughout the State; but patriotism as well as price is to be considered, says the Food Administration.

MAY DISSOLVE REICHSTAG.

Von Hertling Threatens to Dissolve Prussian Chamber.

Amsterdam, May 9.—German Chancellor Von Hertling, who is also Prussian premier, has decided to dissolve the Prussian chamber if on third reading the franchise reform bill is rejected, the Cologne Gazette reports.

but the size of the force has been carefully kept from the rank and file of the German army as well as from the civilian population.

To date 1,227,000 Americans have been called to the colors under the selective service act. Provost Marshal General Crowder today gave this figure as the approximate strength of the National Army.

MAY RAISE DRAFT AGE.

TALK OF FORTY YEARS IN HOUSE COMMITTEE.

Appropriation of Fifteen Million Dollars Asked for Expenses of Year—More Examinations.

Washington, May 8.—Legislation raising the draft age to 40 years was discussed as a possibility within a few months at a meeting today of Provost Marshal General Crowder and the house military committee. Although General Crowder made no special recommendation members of the committee said afterwards that the war department was considering a plan for changes.

An appropriation of \$15,762,000 was asked by General Crowder for expenses of the draft for the next fiscal year. Registration of men reaching the age of 21 will require the examination of half a million more men that originally was provided for. Class 1, the general said now has a total of about 2,265,000 men, of whom 2,000,000 are effective.

Chairman Dent, of the committee, announced today that he would ask the house to eliminate from the draft legislation pending amendments giving States credit for volunteers. In a letter to Mr. Dent President Wilson today came out in opposition to the credit plan and asked that the measure be passed as approved by the war department.

The conference on the bill for registration of youths becoming 21 will be called up in the house tomorrow with prospects of a lively debate over the proposal to exempt ministers from the law.

General Crowder explained that of the \$15,000,000 asked, \$4,370,000 is for allowances to draft board members for additional registrations and classifications, \$8,000,000 for clerk hire and \$3,000,000 for physical examination.

"It is estimated," he said, "that it will be necessary to examine 1,000,000 men in addition to those already examined, including men who were minors at the date of the first registration and who will have to be classified in Class 1 before June 30, 1919."

CONGRESS WAS SURPRISED.

Baker's Statement as to Size of Army in France Widely Discussed.

Washington, May 9.—Secretary Baker's statement announcing that his prediction that more than a half million American troops would be in France early this year had even been surpassed, was widely discussed in congress today. How many more than a half million have been sent may not be disclosed for military reasons.

AMERICAN CASUALTY LIST.

Seventy-five Names, Thirteen Killed—Kingstree Man Wounded.

Washington, May 8.—The casualty list contains seventy-five names. Killed in action, 13; died of accident, two; died of disease, 3; wounded severely, 13; wounded slightly, 41; missing in action, 3. Lieut. Edgar B. Noland, of Leesburg, Va., previously reported missing, is now reported wounded. The other southerners included are Wagoner Daniel D. McConnell, of Kingstree, S. C., and Private John Phillips, of Griffin, Ga., slightly wounded.

PRESIDENT GIVEN BROAD POWERS.

Overman Bill Formally Reported to House.

Washington, May 7.—The Overman bill granting broad powers to the president to reorganize and coordinate government departments was ordered favorably reported to the house today by the judiciary committee. The vote was 15 to 1.

BILLIONS FOR SHIPS.

Shipping Board Asks Congress for \$2,223,835.

Washington, May 8.—Estimates submitted to congress today by the shipping board call for appropriations totaling two billion, two hundred and twenty-three million, eight hundred thirty-five thousand dollars.

TAMPA LAUNCHES SHIP.

Florida Shipyard Completes First Wooden Vessel.

Tampa, May 8.—The Nameoki, the first of four wooden steamships being built here, will be launched this afternoon. The hull was laid last October.

CRISIS IN PARLIAMENT.

LYOYD GEORGE CABINET FACES VOTE OF CENSURE.

Former Premier Asquith Leading The Fight on Lloyd George and Supporters of Government Have Been Summoned to Attend Sitting of Commons Thursday.

London, May 8.—The government has issued summons to its supporters requesting their attendance on the House of Commons Thursday, when "Mr. Asquith will move a resolution which, if carried, will be vote of censure of government." The call says a "division is absolutely certain."

REUNION IN ABBEVILLE.

Confederate Veterans of State End Meeting.

Abbeville, May 8.—Following the concert of the One Hundred and Fiftieth Infantry Band, the business meeting of the South Carolina Division, United Confederate Veterans, opened in the opera house this morning with prayer by the Rev. G. W. Swope. The roll was called and 36 camps reported delegates present. M. M. Buford of Newberry offered a resolution bringing up the Tillman resolution, which refers to the refunding of the war tax imposed on the people of the South just about the close of the war. W. A. Clark of Columbia offered a resolution indorsing the Wilson administration and the secretary was instructed to send a copy to President Wilson, to the secretary of war and to the secretary of the navy.

Resolutions were passed condemning the terrible cruelties of the Germans on the civil population in captured territory.

The McLaurin committee on pensions was continued. The pension board was reelected and consists of Carlton W. Sawyer, comptroller general; Capt. B. R. Fleniken, Dr. W. M. Weston, Col. W. H. Edwards and Col. R. J. Morris. Gen. B. H. Teague declined reelection as commander of the division and was elected honorary commander for life. Gen. W. A. Clark of Columbia was unanimously elected major general to succeed General Teague as commander of the division. Col. J. Fuller Lyon was elected to command the First Brigade, succeeding General Clark. Gen. C. A. Reed was reelected commander of the Second Brigade.

After voting the following resolutions of thanks to the people of Abbeville the division adjourned:

"Resolved, That the thanks of the South Carolina division of Confederate veterans be and are hereby returned to the Chamber of Commerce and to the citizens of Abbeville for their generous hospitality and delightful entertainment extended to the old soldiers, to the committees which planned and so effectively carried into effect the excellent arrangements for the comfort and pleasure of the veterans, to the press for courtesies, to the ladies who graced our reunion at all times, to the soldierly Boy Scouts to the owners of automobiles whose kindly attention has been very helpful to the old men, to the railroad officials for reduced rates, to the bank and to all others who have contributed to the pleasure that the reunion has been to each one of our command."

The people of Abbeville and the various organizations of the city have worked to make the reunion a pleasant one for the old soldiers, realizing that for some it will be the last. It was an inspiring sight to see in the parade today the grey haired men with their banners flying, marching behind the khaki clad band that will soon be in France.

The annual reunion ball was danced on the stage in the opera house, bringing to a close an enjoyable occasion.

GUNNERS KILLED IN EXPLOSION

Eight Soldiers Meet Death Near Fort Worth.

Fort Worth, Texas, May 8.—Eight American gunners were killed and seven injured more or less seriously near Benbrook, a few miles west of Fort Worth, when a three inch shell exploded late today. One gun crew, composed of men of the headquarters company of the One Hundred and Forty-first Infantry was entirely wiped out and a second crew from headquarters company of the One Hundred and Forty-second Infantry suffered heavy casualties. Six of the men were instantly killed and two died within a short time after the explosion.

SEDITION MEASURE PASSED.

OFFICIALS DECLARE LAW WILL ENABLE THEM TO CHECK WAVE OF MOB OUTBREAKS.

In House Only Representative London Voted Against Conference Report on Measure.

Washington, May 7.—Final legislative action was taken today on the sedition bill, giving the government broad new powers to punish disloyal acts and utterances. Adopting a conference report already approved by the senate, the house sent to the president for his signature the measure which has been before congress for weeks, assailed as a menace to free speech and championed as essential to order at home.

The president is expected to sign the bill promptly and officials of the department of justice say they will be able to do much toward checking the wave of mob outbreaks for which unpunished disloyalty and enemy activity are blamed.

Penalties of twenty years imprisonment or a fine of \$10,000, or both, are provided in the bill for those convicted of uttering or printing disloyal, abusive, profane, scurrilous, contemptuous or abusive language about the United States or the government, or the form of government, or the flag, or for those who are convicted of favoring Germany or her allies in the present war.

HITCHCOCK SUCCEEDS STONE.

Senator From Nebraska Made Chairman of Foreign Relations Committee.

Washington, May 9.—Senator Hitchcock, of Nebraska, was today made chairman of the senate foreign relations committee, succeeding the late Senator Stone.

APPROPRIATION FOR BRUNSWICK.

Senate Commerce Committee Restores Item to Rivers and Harbors Bill.

Washington, May 9.—The senate commerce committee today adopted a resolution authorizing Chairman Fletcher to restore to the rivers and harbors bills the item appropriating \$13,000 for improvement to the Brunswick, Ga., harbor, provided Brunswick interests establish the necessity of the appropriation. Senators Smith and Hardwick today protested against the elimination of the item.

GREAT HAUL OF BOOZE.

Officers Seize \$85,000 Worth of Whiskey Near Savannah.

Savannah, May 9.—The greatest catch of liquor was made last night when a solid carload of bottled whiskey, valued at \$85,000, was seized near here. Four men, six automobiles, two wagons and three mules were also captured.

TWENTY MILLIONS PLEDGED.

Seven Other Banks Yet to Complete Reports.

Columbia, May 9.—South Carolina's subscriptions to the third Liberty loan yesterday passed \$20,000,000. Seven banks remained to make complete reports at 7 o'clock last night, the figures tabulated then being \$20,044,000. The State's apportionment was \$14,625,000.

The seven banks to report are: Enterprise of Bamberg; National Exchange, Chester; Citizens Bank, Mayesville; Farmers' and Merchants' Bank, Bank of Norris, Norris; Bank of Ruby and Mt. Croghan, at Ruby; St. Matthews National.

The largest subscription reported from Columbia was by E. W. Robertson, State chairman. Mr. Robertson took \$30,000 worth of bonds and also subscribed \$500 to the apportionment of Kennebunkport, Maine, where he has a summer home.

NOT MOVING CENSURE.

Former Premier Asquith Says His Action Misconstrued.

London, May 9.—In the House of Commons today Former Premier Asquith denied that his move respecting the Maurice affair was designed to obtain a vote of censure of the government, saying it was absurd to describe it as such. He declared that should he find it his duty to censure the government he hoped he would have the courage to do so in direct and unequivocal form.