

FIGHT TO DEATH.

TROOPS GIVE PLEDGE TO KAISER TO STOP THE FRENCH AND AMERICANS.

Importance of the Alsace-Lorraine Line to Germans is Shown by the Prominence the German Press Gives to Promise Extracted of Troops by Kaiser to Hold the Lines Against the Americans at All Costs—Huns Will Make Their Last Desperate Stand in Defense of Metz.

Amsterdam, Sept. 23.—"We shall never let the French and Americans through here," was the promise given the Kaiser by the troops when he visited the Alsace-Lorraine front on September 19th and 20th, according to Carl Rossner, the emperor's chronicler, in the Lokal Anzeiger.

HOWARD ARCHER KILLED IN ITALY.

His Death Occurred on the 26th of August.

Anderson Daily Mail.

News has been received by Mrs. Bettie Archer that her son, Howard, died August 26th, from wounds received in action. The official message read as follows:

"Deeply regret to inform you that it is officially reported that Private Howard B. Archer died August 26 from wounds received in action."

Howard Archer has been in the service more than a year, having enlisted in June, 1917. Almost a year to the day later he sailed, leaving New York June 11th. He was sent immediately upon enlistment to Camp Crane, Allentown, Penn., and was assigned to the ambulance corps, which was sent to Italy this summer.

His older brother, Walter, also enlisted in the same corps. Walter is in a hospital now for an operation. It is supposed that they were sent somewhere near Rome. This spring they had their mother to visit them at Camp Crane and they took her to New York where she saw them bravely off for the other shore. This mother said that she had no fears of letting these boys go to the ends of the earth as far as their morals were concerned, that they were as steady as clocks. The younger boy was particularly fond of his church, and when quite young joined the First Baptist church at Sumter, where his mother lived for a few years.

After finishing school in Sumter the boys went to Columbia and got positions. They have never been separated, and have been tentmates since the beginning of their army service.

Howard Archer would have been twenty-three years old three days after his death, and is the youngest son of William Archer and Bettie Martin. He was only eighteen months old when his father died.

There are four brothers left, William Archer, who lives in Sumter; Frank Archer, Columbia; George Archer, Manning; and the brother Walter who was with him in Italy. And also one sister, Mrs. Annie Dean, who is now living in Hopewell, Va.

SERBIANS AT VARDAR.

SINCE SEPTEMBER TENTH THEY HAVE ADVANCED MORE THAN FORTY MILES.

They Have Cut the Main Railway Line Between Uskub and Saloniki, Have Reached the Vardar River and Have Destroyed the Communications of the Germans and Bulgarians—Great Captures of Prisoners and War Material Reported.

London, Sept. 23.—The Serbian forces engaged in the offensive on the Macedonian front have cut the main railway line between Uskub and Saloniki and are now on the western bank of the Vardar river, according to the Serbian official statement issued Sunday. West of the Vardar the Serbians have cut the railway line to Prilop, which is the main line of German communication in this region.

Serbian infantry units operating in the mountainous regions advanced twenty-five miles in one day.

The number of prisoners and the amount of war material captured increase each day. Neighboring German and Bulgarian sectors are now feeling the loss of their lines of communication, and enemy reinforcements have been forced to retreat.

Since September 10th the Serbians have advanced forty miles and have inflicted tremendous losses on the enemy.

How Much is Cotton Worth?

Austin, Texas, Sept. 10.—The following is given out by State Commissioner of Agriculture Fred W. Davis:

In the September 5 issue of the American Wool and Cotton Reporter of Boston, New York and Philadelphia, appears a most exhaustive discussion of the cotton situation the world over, the article covering more than two small-type pages of that great textile journal.

The Reporter starts out with the proposition that "cotton as a commodity and a necessity has always been underestimated," and that at this time, "there is scarcely a single bearish feature in the whole market."

The essence of the article is to show that recent advances in the price of cotton are more than justified, and that much higher values may reasonably be anticipated. The writer, at the same time, disclaims any tendency to treat the situation from the viewpoint of the grower. The prediction of higher prices for cotton and the reasons given as favoring same, partake more of the nature of a warning to manufacturers of cotton goods, domestic and foreign, not to permit themselves to be deluded by dreams of lower values for cotton. The salient features of the article follow:

"Cotton is coming to be no longer the victim of circumstances such as it has always been, but the tendency, more and more, is to value it at its worth, as compared to other values and especially to values of fibers with which it competes, and with fabrics

into which it is fashioned."

The Reporter claims, however, that cotton, even at the higher levels to which it has risen, does not nearly approach, relatively speaking, the prices of cotton fabrics; or of other fibers competing with cotton. The point is made that after cost of working cotton into cloth is deducted, plus a reasonable profit, there is no reason for undue gap between the value of raw cotton and the finished fabric, relatively.

Among the influences which the Reporter writer believes will put cotton higher instead of lower, is the fact that the grower himself is coming to understand better the economic value of his cotton and financially, is getting in better shape to contend for cost of production plus a profit. The Reporter mentions also the element of violent fluctuation which has operated against the cotton market heretofore, and hints rather broadly that there will be less of this in the future; a covert threat, no doubt, against speculative influences, which fatten upon fluctuation and starve on stability, and are dreaded alike by nearly all other interests.

As offset to influences regarded as bearish by many, the writer calls attention to the fact that cotton is used more and more in fabrics into the manufacture of which, heretofore other fibers rapidly mounting in value, exclusively entered. The further point is made that in estimating "carry-over" cotton, the 1,401,000 bales of mill stock on hand should not be considered, as this cotton only represents orders now held by the mills which must be filled.

This writer contends that mill stocks are "entirely too low for normal conditions, and would not be tolerated a minute, except for lack of ship space, and the extreme conservatism noted among manufacturers." He evidently regards as possible, if not probable, a cotton goods shortage which would require 3,500,000 bales in stock by the mills, and adds: "Let these figures circulate among buyers, so that they may understand thoroughly the manufacturing conditions."

Referring further to "carry-over" cotton, the extent of which he appears to regard as unimportant as a determining factor in estimating value, he says that lack of ship space and idle spindles, account largely for the small surplus, and that he believes a good deal of that is not available; in other words, is not for sale.

He also emphasizes the fact that, after all the talk about increase of world's cotton crop, the trend appears to be downward, both as to area and field, as compared to the ante-bellum situation in these respects. He does not overlook, meantime, the futile efforts to increase cotton production in Egypt and other countries.

Referring to the cotton supply in England, which he maintains is, no more meager than in other countries, he says: "We doubt if, in the whole of England, including warehouse and manufacturer's stocks together, there is more than a quarter of the cotton which many would consider of normal necessity. What if the war should terminate, or what if shipping condi-

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ons should so improve that cotton could be exported? He answers the question by the statement that "when or the outlook clears, the amount of cotton which could or would be purchased, would be uncertain, depending largely upon circumstances and conditions which no one may estimate; but it would be simply tremendous; so great in fact, that the amount of cotton available to supply the demand would be exceedingly small."

He calls attention to how the world's consumption of cotton holds up, even in the face of such adverse conditions as have been caused by the war, and by the following table of production and consumption, how closely even under such adverse conditions, consumption keeps pace with production:

The world's production of cotton has been in 1912, 20,602,000 bales; in 1913, 21,618,000 bales; in 1914, 23,836,000 bales; in 1915, 17,795,000 bales; in 1916, 18,385,000 bales; and in 1917, 17,410,000 bales.

The consumption has been: For the year ending July 13, 1915, 19,761,000 bales; For same date 1916, 21,011,000 bales; and 1917, 20,180,000 bales.

Of course, the consumption ending July 31, 1918, has been somewhat less, possibly about 12,000,000 bales or lower.

Under post-bellum conditions, he estimates that a world supply of 35,000,000 bales may be required, but estimating the world's requirements at only 25,000,000 bales, he adds, "where is the cotton to come from?"

He refers to the extent to which production has been cut down, in both essential and non-essential industries, such as harvesting machinery, automobiles, etc., into the manufacture of which cotton largely enters. Considering that under restricted output of such things, 19 to 20 million bales have been consumed by the world, what may be expected to happen when enormous ship space shall be available and all these restricted industries come back?"

This rather extraordinary article, considering its source, takes into account the disastrous deterioration of the present crop; and touching upon the claim of many that the price of cotton is too high, adds: "So is the price of cloth, and many other commodities. Those who study the situation expect high prices, especially of cotton."

On the theory that we shall win the war, which appears certain at this time, the writer says:

"We have felt confident that the end will come sooner than many have predicted. Gen. March indicates that the end of the war may be expected some time during the latter part of 1919. Well and good, but it may occur previous to this time, and it is on the basis of possibilities that the user of cotton must figure. If the manufacturer waits until 1919 before buying a normal supply and operates his plant on a hand to mouth basis until that time, what right has he to expect that the price of cotton will be lower in the meantime or that there will be a larger crop in 1919 than that which can be grown

this year or has been obtained in recent years?"

The only thing indeed, which he regards as vitally against higher values for cotton, is the possibility that the government may fix a price which will hold values down. In the absence of such influence, he predicts that cotton will, at the end of the war, sell for 75 cents to \$1 per pound.

It may be observed that the writer takes for granted that in the future the farmer will demand cost of production plus a profit.

It may be well to add in conclusion, that under the direction of the agricultural commissioners of all the Southern States, intelligent farmers throughout the South this year have been keeping careful tab on the cost of producing cotton, the initial move having been made by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

So sensitive is electrical apparatus invented by a French scientist that it will detect the presence of one part of bicromatic of potash in 200,000,000 parts of water.

NEW FRONT FEARED.

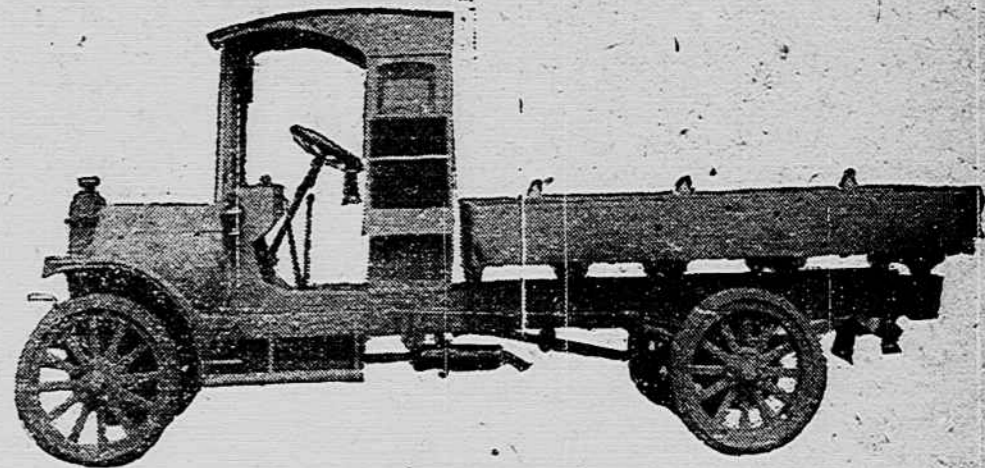
Bill Urges Russians to Join Soviet Troops.

Peking, Sept. 22 (By the Associated Press).—News has been received here that the German emperor on September 10 issued an order to all Austro-Hungarians and Germans in Russia saying it was their first duty to join the Russian soviet troops and to oppose Japan and her allies who threaten to restore the Eastern front.

ASKS PRESIDENT TO WAIT.

Gov. Manning Wants Conference on Cotton Price-Fixing.

Columbia, Sept. 21.—Gov. Manning of South Carolina, today sent President Wilson a telegram asking him to defer action fixing the price of cotton until after Monday and requesting the privilege of seeing the president Monday.



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