

## GOV. BICKETT TALKS TO ASH COUNTY PEOPLE

### Blames Action of draft evaders on Ignorance and False Information.

Jefferson, June 29.—In opening his speech here today Governor Bickett said: "Men of the mountain: I came to you today to save and not to destroy. I come to save the fair name of a county in which the whole state takes, and of which I have ever spoken with, peculiar pride. I come to save to you, men of the mountains, your birthright of honor and chivalry; I come to save wayward and willful boys from the sad and certain consequences of ignorance and sin."

"My hearts yearns after these boys even as the heart of David yearned after Absalom. Absalom had in him the elements of a hero. He was beautiful in form and brilliant in mind, but he listened to the whisperings of evil spirits. He deserted the house of his father; he rebelled against the law of Israel; he died as the fool dieth, and the king cried aloud: 'Ablalom, my son, would to God I had died for thee.'"

Continuing Governor Bickett said: "Already in North Carolina three young men, one in Jackson, one in Pit and one in Ashe have followed in the footsteps of David's son. Like Absalom they have died as the fool dieth, and to save others from this tragic and shameful end, I am here today."

### Probes for the Reason.

"I have tried honestly to get at the real cause of this unruly situation. I have put to my soul the question: 'Why do these men seek to hurt their country when every hand should be stretched to help?' Certainly it is not because they are afraid to fight. The mountaineer loves a scrap. He would just a little rather fight than not, for the same money."

"It is not because they are unwilling to do or to give their share. No where on earth will you find truer hospitality than right here in these hills, and if you were to tell any man in this crowd that he was unwilling to pull his end of the single tree, to tote his end of the log; that he was a slacker, who wanted to saddle his job on another man's shoulders, you would—well in a few minutes—you would devoutly wish that you had been born with sense enough to keep your mouth shut."

"I speak whereof I know," declared the governor. "I have spent much time in these hills, have walked with you along rushing mountain torrents and over rugged mountain slopes, and I know your hospitality and the real joy you take in doing your own part and in helping another fellow along."

"I am forced to the conclusion that these mountain boys are giving trouble because they have not been told the truth about this war, and because they have been told a lot of lies about it. Ignorance and misinformation is at the bottom of all this trouble and all this shame."

### Arraigns Barbarism.

"It is my purpose in kindness and in candor to lay before you the everlasting truth about this war and to strip naked in all their ugliness the lies that have been peddled out to these boys."

The chief executive continued his speech enumerating the atrocities of the Huns, in each instance supporting his claim of barbarism perpetrated upon humanity by them, and in clear, concise and forceful language justified the position of our land in this titanic struggle. The influence of his masterful address and appeal to the flower and manhood of the land was widespread, and already the influence of his coming here is greatly felt.

It is commonly understood that the governor decided to come here after receiving the report of Adjutant General Young who has been here investigating the actual situation. As yet the governor has not made public what action he will take to bring in

the deserters, which now number around forty, including actual deserters from army camps and technical deserters. He however appears to have thus far remained firm in his conviction that military assistance should only be resorted to after other methods have failed. In conversation here Governor Bickett said: "It is my earnest desire that these boys can be induced into service through conciliatory measures, and I shall persevere every effort to that end. But should civil and peaceful methods prove unavailing, I shall see to it that every one of them is placed in the hands of the authorities if it takes the entire military power of the state."

Latest information has it that the majority of the forty deserters, now lurking in mountain recesses, are armed. As yet it has not been determined how well organized the band or bands are, but it is generally believed that the entire number is not in one band.

## ENEMY STUNG, NOW PREPARING HARD BLOW

### Americans Are Ready For the Huns to Strike.

With the American Forces on the Marne, June 30.—Excessive movements of troops and materials north of Chateau Thierry together with the increased artillery and aerial activity, from the basis of the belief that American forces in this locality may be called upon to defend themselves in the near future.

Long streams of enemy troops and wagon trains have been observed in the neighborhood of the Bonnes wood. There have been more than 50 enemy aerial flights over the American lines northwest of Chateau Thierry in the last 24 hours. One German machine was shot down by our anti-aircraft guns.

The American artillery has heavily shelled many vital and active spots within the enemy lines, once obtaining a direct hit in a detachment of marching Germans.

### Americans Are Ready.

For days the Americans have been expecting that the enemy, stung by the defeat administered to him recently on this front would make a vigorous assault upon the American forces, and it was partly for this reason that the American operations in the Belleau section were carried out. With these operations completed, the Americans now have the country for several miles in front of them under their eyes and guns and can see what is developing. In consequence, when the expected blow comes they will be much better prepared to meet it.

The American troops have made all preparations and the Germans will get an exceedingly warm reception if they try what the situation today indicates they have in mind. The Americans say that no matter where the enemy strikes he is bound to pay dearly for his effort and that the bigger the target the better the American forces will like it.

To the east of Chateau Thierry along the river Marne, except for constantly increasing long range shelling on both sides comparative quiet reigns. There has been no patrolling because the bright moonlight on the water prevents a crossing but the American snipers have been so active in the last four days that the Germans rarely ever make an appearance.

### Notice to Thrashers.

Owing to the fact that the wheat crop has been harvested earlier this year than usual and the further fact that the supply of flour is almost exhausted, after consultation with the committee and the Food Administration at Raleigh, it is decided that the thrashers can begin on the 19th of the month instead of the 15th. Thrashers will please govern themselves accordingly.

This July 2nd, 1918.

W. F. CARTER, Co. Food Adm.

## SENSATION IN HUNGARY LOSSES ARE ANNOUNCED

### "No Lack of Ammunition" says Premier; "Lack of Food," Declares Deputy.

Amsterdam, June 30.—Dr. Alexander Wekerle, the Hungarian premier, caused a sensation in parliament Saturday when a declaration regarding the Austro-Hungarian losses in the last Italian offensive, according to a Budapest dispatch received here today. The premier said that during the last few days exciting rumors were being circulated regarding the losses. These rumors, he declared were much exaggerated. The Austro-Hungarian armies were withdrawn on the Piave front in order to spare lives, he declared, since they must have sustained very great losses had they held that line.

"But how great are our losses?" interrupted Deputy Zlinsky.

"The number of prisoners taken was recently stated to be 18,000 the premier replied. "I must, however, correct that statement. The truth is that the Italians have taken 12,000, while 50,000 Italians fell into our own hands. In the case of an offensive and a retreat this figure cannot be termed excessively high. Much sadder is the loss we suffered in dead, wounded and sick, mostly sick. In the tenth and eleventh Italian offensives we lost 80,000 to 100,000 men. Now, however, our losses are similar, about 100,000 men."

Great excitement in the chamber marked this declaration. The premier continued:

"I am obliged to record this regretful circumstance. It is true that of three bridges thrown across the Piave the uppermost unfortunately collapsed and then both of the others were carried away with it. This figure includes the fallen, the slightly wounded and those brought back as ineffectives."

A great uproar interrupted the premier and there were cries of "they were all Hungarians." When quiet was restored, Premier Wekerle continued:

"I mentioned these figures in order to describe the situation with perfect sincerity. Also, because our enemies will certainly portray these losses in an exaggerated fashion and perhaps also our public opinion."

"There also are rumors circulating that on this occasion also Hungarian troops were called upon in excessively large numbers and that the losses fell upon them only. Therefore, I must point out that 33 Hungarian and 37 Austrian regiments participated in the entire offensive and retreat, or 47 per cent. Hungarian and 53 Austrian."

"In the entire advance and retreat the Italian losses amounted to 150,000, far surpassing our losses in dead wounded and sick."

"A report also is being circulated that our losses were due to a lack of ammunition."

A deputy here shouted: "Lack of food."

The premier relied to this by declaring that "our army never was so well provided with ammunition as during the middle of June."

"It is true" the premier added "that of three bridges thrown across the Piave, the uppermost unfortunately collapsed and then both of the others were carried away with it. Thus, unsurmountable difficulties arose in bringing up provisions during the sensational retreat, which followed according to the regular plan and only a few troops who remained behind, who covered the retreat, fell into Italian hands. The entire retreat was carried out in such an orderly and unobserved manner that the Italians continued their attacks on our positions."

"If, despite these regrettable events I draw deductions from the whole it is not to be doubted that we inflicted important losses on the Italians and

prevented them from sending a considerable part of their troops to the western front, which, in the interest of the common conduct of the war, is undoubtedly the objective which it was our duty to attain. This aim, too we attained."

### Could Turn out 10,000

#### Aerial Dreadnaughts.

New York, June 29.—The claim that Handley Page, the British airplane constructor, could turn out 10,000 "super-aerial dreadnaughts" in the United States by April 1, 1919, was made in a formal statement tonight by W. H. Workman; special representative in this country of Handley Page, Ltd.

These planes, Mr. Workman declared, could be landed in France under their own power, with enough guns, bombs and aviators "to defeat the Germans within 30 to 60 days, if we start now."

After announcing that he had acquainted the war department and the aircraft board with this proposition, Mr. Workman said he believed none of the 10,000 planes would be lost in trans-Atlantic flights, and that, with a British and an American aviator; he would be willing to make the first flight, proceeding from Newfoundland to France, via the Azores and Portugal.

Asserting that he considers this route the best, he explained that a 7,000-foot volcano in the Azores would serve as one guide and suggested that "at least ten destroyers in a state of obsolescence could be stretched out to act as lightships," so that "pilots of the airplanes would never be out of sight of a destroyer, together with their compasses and wireless."

"Once this is started," he said, "there will be a continuous chain of airplanes connecting the United States with the continent of Europe, from early morning until late at night one machine leaving every ten minutes, every day."

Mr. Workman said that Mr. Page could bring here a staff of expert designers and turn out the machines in factories in Cleveland, Buffalo, Detroit and Grand Rapids, delivers to start December 1, 1918.

He added that in three days these planes could be flown from the middle west to France, saving many tons of shipping.

These 10,000 airplanes, he declared, could drop 38,000 tons of explosives on and behind the German lines each night, or the equivalent of 38,000 shells from the "biggest guns yet constructed."

### General Carleton Grants

#### Clemency to Two Soldiers

Spartanburg, S. C., June 29.—Clemency was shown two privates at Camp Wadsworth convicted by general court-martial when Brig. Gen. Guy Carleton, commanding the corps and army troops, reviewed the cases. One sentence was reduced by half and the other sentence entirely aside.

Charged with being absent without leave from May 10 to May 23, Private Anthony Felevillano of company L, of the Second Pioneer infantry, has been sentenced to serve a year at hard labor by a general court-martial. Felevillano will have to serve but half that time as General Carleton, the reviewing officer in the case, reduced the sentence to six months.

Private Leo R. Pickles of company B, Third Pioneer infantry, who was convicted by a general court-martial on a charge of assaulting Private Calvin E. McKenzie, of the same organization, and who was sentenced to serve three years' imprisonment at hard labor, has been restored to duty. General Carleton in reviewing the case decided the evidence submitted was not sufficient to establish the guilt of Pickles, beyond a reasonable doubt, and for that reason ordered him restored to duty.

## A TAR HEEL LAD ENJOYS FIGHTING.

### Is a Soldier of Fortune as Well as a Soldier of Uncle Sam, And a Splendid One too.

By H. E. Bryant in Charlotte Observer.

Washington, June 29.—Alexander Taylor, son of Dr. and Mrs. I. M. Taylor, of Morganton is somewhere in France, hunting Germans. He is six feet, two inches, in his stockings, and freckled, fore and aft. He stands erect, like a pine, and wears a determined look upon his face. Behind his rugged features there is a cool head, a warm heart and a keen sense of humor.

Not long ago, I came upon Lieutenant Taylor, standing on F street rubbering at the girls who promenade on that fashionable thoroughfare, and I thought what a formidable opponent he would be, armed with a gun, bayonet and a butcher knife. He said he was on the way to the front, and his constant prayer was that the Lord should give him more power and an early opportunity to confront a Hun. Lieutenant Taylor is well known in North Carolina and Tennessee, where he went to school and worked. He has the reputation of being clever, daring and a bit reckless. At college he shunned books, and took to the outdoors. For that reason he spent a while at Davidson and another while at the university, but did not graduate. He took his education where he found it, and he is well equipped.

No sooner had the United States entered the war than did Alexander Taylor enlist for the war. He quit railroading and began to prepare for the work of an army engineer.

In a recent letter to his mother, Lieutenant Taylor sized up the situation in France as far as she is concerned in the following sentence: "I like it very much over here, and you need not worry about me."

Lieutenant Taylor is a soldier of fortune, with a love for his native land.

"The French people are about as I expected to find them," wrote Lieutenant Taylor. "One sees only the very old and the very young here; that, suppose is on account of the war."

"Men here scramble for pennies, just as children do back home. While on the boat, before disembarking we amused ourselves throwing pennies to a scow full of them. All the children beg for money and when they see any one coming they hold out their hands. Nearly all the time children are running out to give us flowers."

"Over near the port where we landed the children wear wooden shoes—so do the grown people—and when they start down street they sound like runaway horses."

"The American troops over here are in the best of spirits, and those who have been to the front say that they like it a lot. They like it so much that they have counted up how many hours it will be before they go back, just as we school boys used to count the days before we were to start home for Christmas."

"There aren't many of the boys who get hurt at the front. I figure there isn't much more danger there than there is anywhere else. If one gets hurt it is an accident, just like being struck by lightning."

Lieutenant Taylor had a jolly time on the way over; he had charge of some North Carolina negro draftees.

"The trip over," said he, "was very pleasant. Two days of rough weather made quite a number sick. During the rest of the journey the ocean was nothing to do but go to 'life-boat drill' and to stand watch once for four hours. The rest of the time I was either reading or sleeping."

"It was mighty uncomfortable aboard for everybody. There were four officers in my state room, which was about one-half the size of the

sewing room at home. It had to be shut so as to keep light from going out. Bathing facilities were poor; we had only salt water showers. The mess was good.

"The last three days we had to stay fully dressed at all times, and to wear our life preservers, which was not very comfortable. If the ship had been sunk it would have been my duty to go overboard on a raft with a bunch of negroes."

"On the last night out the submarine siren started up about 3 o'clock and we could tell the ship was making emergency speed. We got to our places, ready to go over the side, and stayed there for hours."

"Later we learned that one of the ships in our convoy sighted a sub 25 feet off its side. The destroyer took care of it, while we beat it ahead."

"I don't believe that the subs have a chance in the world of getting a transport except by sacrificing themselves and those Huns like to live just as much as anybody else. So I don't think the United States will lose many transports. They do not take a chance."

"There were quite a number of negroes on the ship—some of them from Morganton. Most of them were from the country, and ignorant of the ways of the outside world. I certainly did feel sorry for them, because, you know, some of them had never been away from home before, and lots of them were seasick. A negro preacher among them held prayer meetings every night. It was an old time prayer meeting, and it interested everybody on board. The preacher said his preaching saved the ship."

The next sentence shows the heart of Lieutenant Taylor.

"Should you hear any of the negroes speaking of their boys who were drafted and sent to Camp Grant, you might say to them that they are all safe in France now," he wrote. "They are non-combatants."

In writing his mother Lieutenant Taylor gave a great wealth of detail about what he saw in France after landing. He agreed with Lieutenant May Murphy that France is a beautiful country, with elegant people and pretty flowers.

### American Casualties Has

#### Thus Far Total 10,383.

Washington, June 30.—Casualties in the American expeditionary forces thus far reported total 10,383, summaries issued today by the war department and marine corps show. Of this number 9,131 were in the army and 1,252 in the marine corps.

Army casualties, including those reported today, were summarized as follows:

Killed in action (including 291 lost at sea), 1,491.

Died of wounds, 479.

Died of diseases, 1,287.

Died of accidents and other causes, 465.

Wounded in action, 5,024.

Missing in action (including prisoners), 385.

The summary of casualties among the marines, which also included today's list, follows:

Deaths, 407.

Wounded, 842.

In hands of the enemy, 1.

Missing, 2.

Four hundred and ninety-seven casualties in the army were reported during the week, including 179 killed in action, 47 died of wounds, 19 died of disease, 19 died of accident and other causes, 213 wounded in action and 20 missing in action, including prisoners. The week before 549 casualties were reported.

The marine corps summary did not show how many of the deaths reported were in action, from disease, accidents and other causes. It did divide the officers and men showing that 14 officers have died, 29 have been wounded and one is missing.