

The Smithfield Herald

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ANOTHER NATION ENTERS WAR

Cuba Joins Immediately After United States, While Brazil Thinks of Entering Conflict. Very Active Times in Air Over Western Front. Rumors of German Raider off Coast of America. French Bombard Teutonic Lines Violently.

(Sunday's War Summary.)

Cuba has declared that a state of war exists with Germany. The action of the Cuban congress was unanimous and carried out the proposal of President Menocal. Two republics of the Western hemisphere have proclaimed a state of war with Germany in two days, the action of Cuba following within less than 48 hours that of the United States. German steamships, self interned in Havana, have been taken over by the Cuban government. It is reported from London that Brazil on Monday also will declare a state of war with Germany.

Panama has pledged its aid to the United States for the protection of the isthmian canal.

Unusual aerial fighting has taken place on the front in France and both the entente and German losses are reported to have been heavy. For two days and two nights, Thursday and Friday, London reports, British airplanes have been active in raiding German ammunition depots and railway junctions and in more than 17 different raids eight tons of bombs were dropped. More than 1,700 photographs of scenes and localities far back of the German lines were taken by British aviators, who also harassed German lines of communication.

Shipping was detained in many ports along the Atlantic seaboard Saturday as the result of wireless warnings flashed broadcast along the coast that German commerce raiders had been sighted off Nantucket lightship and off the Virginia capes. Vessels in the vicinity of those places were warned to seek shelter in ports while the reports were being investigated by the naval patrol. Many officials said that undoubtedly many such rumors would arise from the sighting of unoffending vessels.

Announcement was made by the Russian minister of justice in Petrograd that if the Germans would follow the example of Russia and dethrone their emperor this would "offer the possibility of entering on preliminary negotiations." M. Kerensky denied he was going to assist in making a separate peace with Germany.

Destruction of 14 British and French airplanes on the Franco-Belgian front in one day's fighting was announced by the German war office, which added that the artillery duel continues with great intensity along the battle line from Lens to Arras.

NEW HIGH RECORD FOR WHEAT.

Two Dollars for May Delivery a Reality. Dismal Crop Reports Continue.

Dun's Review.

Time and again within recent months, bullish interests have predicted \$2 for the May wheat delivery in Chicago, and this week their expectations were realized. Not only was the coveted mark reached, but a price several cents higher was established, \$2.07 on Thursday, and on the same day July and September went to \$1.75½ and \$1.61¼, respectively. Considerable enthusiasm was aroused when May finally crossed the \$2 basis, and that the top has not yet been attained is the opinion in not a few quarters. Primarily, the advance to the present extreme levels has been made possible by the world-wide crop shrinkage last year and the substantially augmented consumption, while the recent pessimistic crop news in this country has accentuated the strength of the markets. Current reports regarding winter wheat make dismal reading, except for some speculators, and the Government estimate on Saturday is expected to confirm the private complaints of damage. Still, some people consider that present quotations discount about all of the bullish features in the situation, and it was noticeable that at around \$2 for May there was a good deal of realizing by successful holders.

Black River Union.

The Black River Union meeting will be held at Reedy Prong Primitive Baptist church, on Saturday and fifth Sunday in April.

LARGER FOODSTUFF ACREAGE.

Mecklenburg County Farmers' Union Adopts Resolutions. All Farmers Urged to Increase Acreage in Planting Foodstuffs. Cash Basis for Tenants.

At a meeting of the Mecklenburg County Farmers' Union, held in the court house Saturday morning at 11 o'clock, resolutions were unanimously adopted, urging all members of the union and other farmers of the county to increase the acreage planted in foodstuffs this year over any previous year. It was also urged that the farmer should see that his tenants also increased the acreage to be planted in foodstuffs.

At the meeting, the union further suggested that farmers should endorse notes for their tenants so they may be enabled to pay cash in purchasing necessary articles for the farm and thus avoid time prices, which are necessarily very much higher than on a cash basis. The notes will be handled by Charlotte banks and will bear interest at regular banking rates.

Secretary E. N. Farris, of the Chamber of Commerce, met with the union and made a talk on the seriousness of the situation regarding foodstuffs. Following the talk by Secretary Farris, it was unanimously decided by the union that the organization co-operate with the Chamber of Commerce in its campaign, soon to be launched, to increase the acreage of foodstuffs in the county.—Charlotte Observer, 8th.

LATE NEWS ITEMS.

The following brief summary of the important events of yesterday are condensed from the news published in this morning's Raleigh News and Observer:

Richard Olney, Secretary of State in Mr. Cleveland's last Cabinet, died Sunday night, aged 82 years.

Philadelphia had an eight and a half-inch snow yesterday. The snow began Sunday night and ceased yesterday morning at seven. Snow also fell in New York.

Reports come from France that the British forces there are planning a big offensive along a fifteen mile front. Gains were made by the British and French yesterday.

The passenger liner, the St. Louis, has returned safely to port. She was the first armed American merchant ship to enter the barred zone. That she got through and back home to New York without harm is almost a miracle some think. She saw no sign of a submarine.

The situation in Brazil is getting to be acute and it now appears to be a question of only a short time before the relations will be broken off with Germany. Yesterday the Foreign Minister of the Brazilian government at Rio Janeiro refused to receive the German Minister.

The administration forces spent yesterday hard at work on the financial plans to be promulgated for the carrying on of the war. The measure calling for a bond issue of five billion dollars will be considered by the Ways and Means Committee this afternoon. Of this big issue probably three billion dollars will be loaned to the Allies.

Austria-Hungary has so strongly ranged herself on the side of her ally, Germany, that she has severed relations with the government of the United States. Austria's representative at Washington yesterday asked for passports for himself and the entire Austrian consular force. Immediately the Treasury Department ordered the seizure of all interned Austrian ships in our ports. The Austrian crews were ordered taken off and sent to the immigration stations. This act may be interpreted by Austria as one of war.

Black Creek Union.

The next session of the Black Creek Union will be held at Creech's Primitive Baptist church on Saturday and fifth Sunday in April. Micro and Selma are the nearest stations on the A. C. L. and Southern Railroads.

To keep railroad tracks clear of weeds and brush, a South Dakota man has invented a mowing machine, operated by a gasoline engine, to be mounted on a handcar.

CONTRACT FOR PAVING LET.

Smithfield to Have Five Blocks Paved at an Early Date. The Contract Was Awarded Friday to Robert G. Lassiter Company of Oxford at Approximately Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars.

The Board of Town Commissioners of Smithfield met Friday afternoon and let the contract for the paving of three blocks on Third Street and two blocks on Market Street. On account of the advance in materials and labor the bids were much higher than was expected and much higher than the prices paid a few months ago by some of our near by towns for a similar class of work.

The successful bidders were the Robert G. Lassiter Company, of Oxford, and the price is approximately \$25,000. The streets are to be paved with high grade bitulithic and the contract calls for the work to be done by September 1, 1917.

Market street from the post office to Fourth street and Third street from Bridge street to Church street are to be paved. There is talk of adding another block to the part to be paved. We understand that a petition is out asking for the paving of Second street from Bridge street to the post office.

As has already been mentioned in this paper, the paving is to be paid for by the town and the property owners whose property abuts on the streets to be paved. The town is to pay one-third of the cost of the paving while the other two-thirds is to be assessed against the property owners.

There were quite a number of representatives of the various concerns selling material for this class of work present here last Friday. The engineer who has been employed by the town, Mr. Gilbert C. White, of Durham, was also present and advised with the town board.

The contractors expect to begin work here at an early date and push the job to rapid completion.

ARCHER LODGE NEWS.

Group Commencement for the Archer Lodge group was held Wednesday, the 4th. Some of the schools were not represented, they having previously closed.

A large crowd was present at White oak Baptist church on Easter Sunday.

Farming in this section is being held back now by continued cold and wet weather.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Poole, Jr., of Selma, spent Sunday in this community.

There is much war talk in this section. If this section is an index to the country, that 500,000 will soon be in arms.

Ball playing in Wilders township had its real beginning for this season on April 4th, when in almost a faultless game the Archer team crossed bats with Nowell and Richardson's Store Team. The game was played on the Archer Lodge diamond, and was witnessed by a large crowd of lusty rooters. The principal feature of the game was the work of the pitchers, Nathan Barnes for the home team and Rufus Richardson for the visitors, before whom almost every batter was perfectly helpless. Upton Hocutt was umpire, and the game throughout was fair and clean. The score stood 2 against 1 in favor of the Archer team.

The Archer Lodge school will have its closing exercises on Saturday, April 21st. The afternoon exercises will begin at 1:30 o'clock. At 4:00 o'clock a game of ball will be played between the Emit team and the home team. At 8 o'clock the night exercise will begin. The program will consist of songs, marches, speeches, dialogues and plays, and sandwiched in between will be some of the finest fiddling one can possibly hear in Johnston County. Every one wishing to forget his "war blues" and who knows how to enjoy and appreciate an old time country school close is earnestly invited to visit Archer at that time and witness the performance.

Archer Lodge, April 9, 1917.

Johnson School Closing.

The closing exercises of Johnson school will take place Friday night, April 13, beginning at eight o'clock. Following the exercises will be a Shadow Party, proceeds of which will be given to the school library. Public invited to attend.

PRESIDENT SIGNS MEASURE.

Notification That War Is On Flashed by Wireless To All Naval Vessels and Stations. Mobilization Order Follows. Brings 15,000 More Men to Service of Navy.

Washington, April 6.—President Wilson signed this afternoon the war resolution which was passed by the House of Representatives at 3 o'clock this morning. Immediately afterwards the President issued a proclamation declaring the existence of a state of war between this country and Germany.

The President signed the resolution with a pen handed to him by Mrs. Wilson and which he will preserve. The act was done in the Executive Mansion.

Immediately upon the signing of the resolution Lieut. Byron McCandless, aide to Secretary Daniels, wigwagged a message from a White House window to the Navy Department and telegraphers there passed it on to the great wireless tower at Arlington for instant broadcasting to all naval vessels and stations.

Measures to make ready for actual hostilities with Germany went forward swiftly at the War and Navy Departments and President Wilson issued a statement urging the prompt enactment of the General Staff's army plans, to be taken up tomorrow by the House Military Committee.

Complete mobilization of the navy was ordered by Secretary Daniels immediately after the Cabinet meeting.

The Naval Militia and Naval Reserve, totalling nearly 15,000 men, will join the colors within two or three days. Every preliminary arrangement had been made.

Mobilization means the immediate organization of the Coast Patrol Service and the taking over of the swift, privately owned motor craft already enrolled. Volunteer crews for these boats also will be called out. While the men were assembling, telegraphic orders to contractors in all parts of the country were on the wires providing supplies of every kind that will be necessary. The messages were ready for instant dispatch when Secretary Daniels gave the word.

Under the call for the reserves, scores of retired naval officers are starting to posts previously selected for them to relieve every active officer now on shore duty and whose services can be spared. The active men will go to the fleets, active and reserve, and to merchant craft already surveyed and listed and to be drafted into the Federal service.

HAS CONFIDENCE IN NEGRO.

Governor Bickett Believes Blacks in North Carolina Will Prove Loyal.

Raleigh, N. C., April 7.—Declaring that to question the loyalty "of our colored population," "is a horrible injustice to these faithful people" and that "the men in our midst who are still citizens of Germany need have no apprehension of danger to their persons or property," Governor Bickett late today gave out a statement to the press in which he declared that he wanted "especially to proclaim my abiding faith in the loyalty of our colored population."

Governor Bickett urges that in present day excitement no injustice be done good men, that the Germans have done much towards upbuilding the South, that "they are safer in North Carolina than they would be in Berlin."

As to the negroes, he says that "there is no page in history that shines more gloriously than that which records the loyalty of the black men to white women and children from 1861 to '65 when the white men were at the front. Treason and disloyalty are foreign to the soul of the negro. In this crucial hour he can be counted upon to do his full part in defense of the honor of the Nation and the safety of those around him. I want the Nation to know and the world to know that the loyalty of North Carolina is 99 99-100 per cent pure. Cranks and lunatics will doubtless appear but these should cause no suspicion to attach to any class of our people. In due time North Carolina will be called upon to do her part, and will do it."—Wilmington Star.

In 1916 there were constructed 227 miles of new roads and 1,975 miles of trails in United States national forests.

WHEAT FORECAST GIVEN OUT.

Estimated at 430,000,000 Bushels. Farmers' Efforts for Bumper Winter Crop Apparently Defeated.

Washington, April 7.—Efforts of American farmers to bring this year's winter wheat crop to record production for war time needs apparently have been defeated by severe weather conditions and a crop of only 430,000,000 bushels is expected. In forecasting that total today the Department of Agriculture announced that the average condition of the crop April 1 was the lowest ever recorded on that date.

The production estimate was based on the assumption of average abandonment of acreage and average influences on the crop between now and harvest time.

Production of rye this year promises to establish a record with 60,000,000 bushels as forecast from April 1 conditions. Farmers in the rye growing states increased their acreage by 740,000 acres last autumn, foreseeing a demand for that cereal and higher prices because of the war.

From present indications the combined winter wheat and rye harvest will be 490,000,000 bushels for those two crops last year.

Prevailing high prices for wheat a larger acreage under spring wheat and officials look for a record crop of that cereal.

FOUR OAKS NOTES.

Four Oaks, April 9.—Messrs. Jesse B. Adams, T. E. Davis and B. I. Tart attended the Wesley Bible Class Federation in Rocky Mount last week as representatives of the Business Men's Class of the Four Oaks Methodist Sunday school. They report a most enjoyable and highly inspirational meeting. The Business Men's Class appreciates the honor conferred upon it in the election of the efficient teacher of the class, Mr. B. B. Adams, as First Vice President of the Federation for the ensuing year.

Mr. and Mrs. Milton Massengill spent Sunday at Mr. Ed. Coats, father of Mrs. Massengill.

Messrs. C. C. Lee, W. R. Keen, J. S. Stroup, Bert Barefoot, E. L. Ray and W. H. Tucker attended court in Jonsboro last Tuesday to testify in case State against Chas. Ammond for misrepresentation.

Mr. Leon A. Adams, of Company H, Warrenton, N. C., National Guard, is at home and confined to his bed with grip.

Attorney F. Hunter Creech and Mr. and Mrs. N. L. Perkins, of Smithfield, were in town Friday.

Miss Gladys Adams spent Easter here with her mother. She is a student at Louisburg Female College.

Mr. B. B. Adams attended a meeting of the Trustees of the State Hospital at Goldsboro Tuesday.

Mr. C. H. Wellons is moving into his newly remodeled home on the National Highway.

Miss Florence Adams is spending the Easter Holidays with friends in Greensboro and Winston-Salem.

Mr. J. N. Creel, of Dunn, was in town Monday completing arrangements for moving the Dr. Young residence, recently purchased by Dr. J. H. Stanley.

Quite a number of Four Oaks people went to Goldsboro Sunday to see the Second Regiment in camp and a few of them have decided to use trains in future so as to avoid "The Central Highway."

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Massengill left Monday for a visit to Fuquay Springs.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Tucker spent Sunday in Lucama. Miss Paschal returned with them for a visit here.

At a mass meeting of the citizens in the Town Hall, Monday night, Mr. J. B. Adams was nominated for Mayor and Messrs. B. B. Adams, W. R. Keen and J. W. Sanders Commissioners, and Mr. J. S. Stroup, Town Constable.

Corn Options at Top Position.

Scarcely less striking, if any, than the rise in wheat has been the further advance in corn to new high levels. The upturn in the costliest cereal was a factor, but the strength of the cash position, an active domestic and export demand, and the soaring prices of hogs were the controlling influences. At the top on Thursday, May corn stood near \$1.28 and July and September at \$1.26½ and \$1.25½, respectively, but speculative profit-taking caused some reaction from the best figures.—Dun's Review.

CUBA ALSO DECLARES WAR.

Joint Resolution Declaring State of War Exists Passed by the Senate and House and Signed by President Menocal. German Ships Seized. Tender Army of 10,000 Men to United States.

Havana, April 7.—The Cuban senate today adopted unanimously a joint resolution declaring that a state of war exists between Cuba and Germany.

Seventeen senators were present. The only speech was delivered by Dr. Dolz, the Conservative leader, who was chosen to speak in the name of the Cuban people.

The resolution declaring that a state of war exists between Cuba and Germany, already passed by the senate, was approved unanimously by the Cuban house of representatives shortly after 6 o'clock this evening.

President Menocal at 7:16 p. m. signed the joint resolution passed by the senate and house late today which declared a state of war exists between Cuba and Germany.

The Cuban authorities this evening seized the four German ships interned in Havana harbor, in addition to the two announced yesterday.

New York, April 7.—Cuba is making preparations to place a Cuban volunteer army of 10,000 men at the disposal of the United States, was the announcement made here tonight by the Cuban Republic News bureau when news was received that the Cuban Congress had declared war on Germany.

NEED OF EXTRA TAXATION.

Half of First Year's War Cost to Come From Current Revenues. Big Source Found in Income Imports.

Washington, April 8.—President Wilson's policy of paying America's war bills so far as possible, while the war is being waged, was reflected tonight in a virtual decision by leaders in the house and senate to raise 50 per cent of the first year's expenditures by taxation.

Under this programme congress will be called upon to raise war revenue to the extent of \$1,750,000,000 through new and increased measures of taxation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1918. This is exclusive of the \$5,000,000,000 bond issue, authorization for which will be sought of Congress this week. The total demand upon the financial resources of the country during the first year of the war under this programme would be \$6,750,000,000.

Of the \$5,000,000,000 to be raised by a bond issue \$3,000,000,000, it was definitely stated tonight, would be loaned to the entente allies. The entire issue, house and senate leaders have agreed, will bear interest at the rate of 3 1-2 per cent. It is proposed to make the loan to the allies at this interest rate, which is lower by far than the rate they have been compelled to pay on their previous issues.

The plan is to hold the remaining \$2,000,000,000 to be applied, as necessary on the war expenses of the United States. In requesting authorization for a \$5,000,000,000 bond issue, administration leaders have in mind the necessity of allowing for a slight margin of safety so that the work of the war and navy departments would not be handicapped by a lack of funds due to the possible failure of proposed tax measures to raise the entire sum of 50 per cent desired.

Indications are strong that congress will be asked to authorize the \$5,000,000,000 in one lump sum. Legislation to this effect will be considered by the ways and means committee within the next day or so, possibly tomorrow, and probably will be reported to congress for action before the end of the week.—Associated Press.

Appointments.

We are asked to announce the following appointments:

There will be religious services held at Sardis Baptist church the third Sunday in April at 3:30 in the afternoon, instead of in the morning as heretofore.

Rev. D. J. Broadwell will preach at Live Oak church the third Sunday in April at 11 o'clock.

Rev. C. H. Stevens will preach at Peacock's Cross Roads the third Sunday in April at 11 o'clock and Saturday before at 3 o'clock. He will preach third Sunday afternoon at the Glenwood school house at 3 o'clock.