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## BRITISH DRIVE IS KEPT UP.

"On to Douai-Cambrai Line" Slogan In Great Advance Near Arras. Reap Big Harvest In Men and Guns. Haig's Troops Capture 11,000 Prisoners and 100 Cannon in Great Rush. Russians and British Make More Gains in Mesopotamia.

(Wednesday's War News.)  
"On to the Douai-Cambrai line" evidently is the slogan of the British forces fighting in France. Notwithstanding strong resistance by the Germans and the added handicap of a heavy snowstorm, King George's forces, notable among them the Canadians, have again hit the German line hard at several points for good gains along the front from Vimy southward and also to the west of Cambrai.

Five miles east of Arras the British have reached the suburbs of Monchy-lez-Reims and northeast of Arras have cleared out the Germans from the village of Farbus and Farbus wood, while to the immediate north of this sector the Canadians in hard fighting took additional important positions on the famous Vimy ridge and captured prisoners and machine guns. Ten miles west of Cambrai the British have established their line to the north of the village of Louverval.

In the two days' fighting along the front from Lens to the southeast of Arras the Germans have suffered great losses in men and guns.

More than 11,000 prisoners, among them 235 officers, have been taken, and 100 guns, 60 trench mortars and 163 machine guns have fallen into the hands of the British. Some of the larger guns are of 8-inch calibre. The advance of the British over the entire front was made to a depth of from two to six miles, the penetration being greatest east and southeast of Arras.

The Berlin official communication admits that two German divisions in the fighting near Arras Monday suffered "considerable losses" in stubbornly resisting superior forces. It admits also that the British succeeded in penetrating German positions, but says they did not break through the line.

On that part of the line held by the French reciprocal bombardments continue at various points. No infantry engagements have taken place.

Again the British and Russian forces report success over the Turks in Mesopotamia and along the Caucasus front. The Russians operating against the Ottomans in Mesopotamia from the Khanikin district, near the Perso-Mesopotamian frontier, have captured the village of Kizil Robat, 80 miles northeast of Bagdad, and to the north of this region have driven back the Turks in the district of Baneh, which lies about 1040 miles east of Mosul.

Fifty miles northwest of Bagdad the British troops have captured the village of Balad and Herbe from the Turks and made prisoner nine officers and 200 men. Two machine guns and railway material were taken by the British.

On none of the other fronts have there been any engagements of great importance.

## MILLION PAIRS OF ARMY SHOES

Already Contracted For at \$4.85 To \$5.10 Per Pair.

Chicago, April 10.—The Government has already contracted for more than 1,000,000 pairs of army shoes at prices ranging from \$4.85 to \$5.10, it was stated at one of the leading tanneries here today. Of these 626,000 pairs were ordered in St. Louis last week.

The National Association of Tanners recently offered to co-operate fully with the Government in the economical equipment of the army and navy with leather products. It was said the tanners' organization was ready to turn over its plants to the Government if that would decrease the cost of shoes.

The prices quoted in recent contracts were based on leather prices of March 1st. Since then, it is said, leather has again advanced.

## Twin Jersey Calves.

Some time ago a cow belonging to Mr. Thomas J. Talton, of Smithfield, presented him with two heifer Jersey calves. They are both living and doing well and beginning to grow.

## BICKETT AND GLENN TO SPEAK.

Mr. Glenn Speaks In Washington April 21 and the Governor During Reunion Week. Congressman Pou Appoints His Son Private Secretary.

Washington, April 11.—Ex-Governor Robert B. Glenn, of Winston-Salem, has accepted an invitation to deliver a speech before the North Carolina society of Washington, at the Powhatan Hotel, Saturday, April 21. The meeting was called by President Robert H. McNeill to make plans for the entertainment of the Confederate veterans and visitors to the re-union to be held here in June. Governor Bickett has accepted an invitation to address the North Carolina society and the veterans in a joint meeting to be held here re-union week.

North Carolinians in Washington are having considerable fun at the expense of former Congressman J. J. Britt, of Asheville. According to these Tar Heels the last report they had from the former congressman was an article published in Asheville and Greensboro papers quoting Mr. Britt as saying that he had been asked to come to Washington to help the Republicans organize the house. The Republicans, as every one knows now, made a complete failure in their attempt to organize. Democrats therefore have the laugh on the former congressman and are asking "Where is Mr. Britt, who came all the way from Asheville to make the House Republican?"

Hugh McRae will be here tomorrow to confer with Senators Simmons and Overman with reference to some method of conserving the nation's food supply. Mr. McRae is one of the best known business men in eastern North Carolina and has done much for the development of the State. His ideas therefore will have considerable weight with the powers here and the two senators will put him in touch with the proper authorities.

Representative Pou, chairman of the house rules committee, announced today that he had appointed T. B. Ward, of Nashville, chief clerk to his committee, and that he had named his son, George Ross Pou, of Smithfield, as his confidential clerk. Ward has been with Mr. Pou for several years in the capacity of secretary. He is now promoted to the more responsible position as chief clerk to one of the biggest committees of the house.—Parker R. Anderson, in the Greensboro News.

## WOMEN ARE ASKED TO HELP.

Carl Vrooman Addresses Council Meeting of Federation of Women's Clubs On Question of Solving the Food Problem.

New Orleans, La., April 11.—"For every regiment of soldiers fighting for their country there should be a regiment of women, conserving food, economizing and aiding every way possible to solve the food problem," said Carl Vrooman, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture in an address delivered at the night session of the council meeting of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

During the session late this afternoon civil service reform, art, literature and home economics were discussed by the chairmen of those departments. Mrs. Cyrus E. Perkins, of Grand Rapids, Mich., chairman of the art department, spoke of the various phases of the art and ended with the statement that the art of living and courtesy is the greatest of all. "We talk about Americanizing the immigrant," she said, "but somebody should say something about Japanizing the manners of Americans." Establishment of a clinic in every center of population to study and classify the criminal and delinquent and to ascertain the source of criminality, was suggested by Mrs. John B. Webb, of Glen Ridge, N. J., chairman of the Department of Industrial and Social Conditions.

## Twenty-Eight Ships to Be Built.

Bids were opened by Secretary Daniels Wednesday for the construction of 28 800-ton submarines. The contracts will probably be awarded this week. They will cost about thirteen hundred thousand dollars each.

When laborers evince affection for the boss it is usually a sign that they are not working very hard.

## CONSCRIPT EVERY IDLE ACRE.

State Food Conservation Commission to Organize and Direct Work Announced. Governor Bickett Talks on the Importance of Immediate Mobilization Against the Food Drive.

Raleigh, April 11.—A state food conservation commission to organize and direct the work "of mobilizing and conscripting the idle acres of the State" was announced from Governor Bickett's office tonight.

North Carolina is first here as at Bethel. Nor will she stop until the commission has organized every county into this food war. Commissioner W. A. Graham, Dr. B. W. Kilgore, of the experiment station; President W. C. Riddick, of the State Agricultural and Engineering College; C. R. Hudson, demonstration agent; J. Paul Lucas, president of the State farmers convention, and Dr. H. Q. Alexander, of the Farmers' Union, comprise the commission.

When the body meets here April 17 at 3 in the afternoon, it will name a full time publicity man. Governor Bickett in the opening of his address gives high tribute to the soldiery but argues immediate mobilization against the food drive. He says: "It is probably too late to decrease greatly the acreage of cotton and tobacco, the only money crops that cannot be used as feed and food. But that will not be necessary if only we will conscript and properly mobilize our idle acres."

"On almost every farm there are idle patches enough, if planted to sweet potatoes, peas, beans, late Irish potatoes, etc., to feed a family. The productivity of these patches could be greatly increased by the use of the manure from hen houses, unsightly chip yards, hog pens and other places where it is probably now going to waste. And in nearly every family there are women and children who do not work regularly upon the farm but who would gladly volunteer to do the hoeing in these patches in order that our people may be fed. Every tenant should be given, rent free, enough land to grow his vegetables."

"In some of our most populous counties large farms are lying idle for lack of tenants. County chain-gangs could rent these and easily produce their own food and feed. Every acre of stubble land should be planted to peas and late corn. Every vacant lot in cities and towns should be drafted into the service of the State by making it produce food for man and beast."

"We have here a plain and pressing duty which gives to all alike the opportunity for a great and patriotic service. The haunting spectre of of loosened belts, of hungry women and children should impell us to act speedily and with determination."

Rev. John D. Wicker, of Sanford, was here with an appeal to Governor Bickett today urging the governor to start a movement to exempt from military service men who have farmed for two years.

The Christian preacher would safeguard the country against the loafer and slacker by making impossible the exodus to the farm by tramps and cowards. But the genuine producer would be allowed his right to continue raising crops for those fighting at the front or guarding the home. The preacher missed Governor Bickett but will return to make this propaganda nation-wide.—W. T. Bost, in Greensboro News.

## Stewart-Snead.

New Hope, April 10.—Last Sunday evening at five o'clock, to the surprise of their many friends, Miss Myrtle Snead and Mr. Willis Stewart were happily married at the home of Rev. Charlie Johnson near Benson.

Only a few intimate friends and relatives were present to witness the ceremony. Among whom were Miss Fronie Stewart, Mr. Carson McLamb, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Messingill, Miss Sarah Jane McLamb, Miss Iva Johnson, Mr. Edgar Barbour and others. The bride is one of New Hope's most popular young ladies and Mr. Stewart is one of Johnston's prosperous farmers of near Smithfield.

After the ceremony they motored to Mr. Stewart's father's where they will make their home.

Mr. and Mrs. Stewart have many friends who wish for them a long and happy journey through life.

A widow usually selects a different sort of man the next time.

## CLAYTON NEWS.

Old Folks Concert Draws a Large Audience on Its Second Presentation. Quite a Number of School Boys and Girls Come Home for Easter. Other Items of Interest.

Clayton, April 11.—Mrs. Julian Starling, of Goldsboro, is visiting Relatives here this week.

Miss Julia Austin, who for the past few months has been taking training at Memorial Hospital, Richmond, arrived Sunday night to spend a couple of weeks with her parents at Wild Wood Farm.

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Smith and children, of Selma, were here Sunday visiting relatives.

Mrs. J. H. Austin, of Four Oaks, is visiting her mother, Mrs. M. E. Gattis.

Misses Blanche Ellis, Barbara Guley and Sulton McCullers spent Easter at Wild Wood Farm.

Mr. H. P. Yelverton, of Fremont, came up Sunday to join his wife, who has been visiting here for several days. They returned to Fremont Sunday, accompanied by Mrs. J. H. Hall, mother of Mrs. Yelverton.

Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Sanders returned Tuesday from a very short bridal tour north. They were married in Raleigh Wednesday of last week. Both of these people are very prominent in our town and their many friends hope them wonderful success and happiness.

Mr. and Mrs. John S. Barnes spent Monday in Raleigh.

Attorney Bennette Noe, Jr., went to Raleigh Monday on business.

Miss Lizzie Riddle, of Sanford, who has been visiting here for several weeks, returned to her home Tuesday, accompanied by her sister, Mrs. Hugh A. Page, and Master H. A. Page, Jr.

Messrs. J. L. Ellis, H. Coats, Attorneys J. R. Williams and Bennette Noe, Jr., attended court at Smithfield Tuesday.

Among the town girls and boys attending school elsewhere, who spent Easter here are the following: Misses Thelma Barbour, Cleo Ellis and Genie Thomas, of Meredith College; Miss Lois Massey, of Oxford; Messrs. Bouda Allen and Joseph Turley, of A. & M.; Herman Duncan, of Wake Forest, and Colonel Beddingfield, of Page's School of Pharmacy, Raleigh. Mrs. C. W. Carter and Mrs. W. M. Priddy, accompanied by Miss Mary Carter Noe and Master Walter Horne Priddy are visiting in Keyville, Va.

The Old Folks Concert which was given the second time on Tuesday night of this week, was attended by a large audience. This concert was given about two weeks ago and it was requested to have it again. The proceeds go to the building fund of the Baptist church.

## 686 NEUTRAL SHIPS ARE SUNK.

Nineteen of Them American. About 250 Americans U-Boat Victims, Washington Says.

Washington, April 10.—German submarines have sunk during the war a grand total of 686 neutral vessels, including 19 American, and have attacked unsuccessfully 79 others, including 8 American, according to an official tabulation given out at the State Department today and complete up to April 3.

Since the German war zone went into effect on February 1 more than one-third of the vessels sunk have been neutral, and a larger number of other neutral vessels have been terrorized into staying in port.

No estimate is available of the number of lives lost on neutral vessels, but it is shown to have been large. According to reports about 250 Americans have been lost on neutral and belligerent steamers together.

The department's statement is as follows:

"Information has been received by the department that since the beginning of the war, including April 3, a total of 686 neutral vessels have been sunk by German submarines, as follows: Norwegian, 410; Swedish, 111; Dutch, 61; Greek, 50; Spanish, 33; American, 19; Peruvian, 1; Argentine, 1—total, 686.

"Neutral vessels attacked and escaped: Norwegian, 32; Swedish, 9; Danish, 5; Dutch, 13; Greek, 8; Spanish, 2; Argentine, 1; Brazil, 1; American, 8—total, 79.

Even a sensible man likes an occasional taste of flattery.

## REGULATION OF FOOD PRICES.

Agricultural Society Urges Creation of Federal Commission With Power to Fix Prices and Supervise Marketing and Distribution of Food.

Washington, April 10.—Immediate creation of a Federal food commission, with power to fix prices and to supervise marketing and distribution of food in the United States during the war, was proposed formally today by the National Agricultural Society.

At an "agricultural mobilization" convention held here, the society adopted resolutions recommending this and other measures to meet a threatened food shortage, including increased food crop acreage, an amendment of wheat milling laws and a liberal encouragement of sheep raising.

The convention was called to aid the Administration in solving one of the most serious problems with which it is faced in the conduct of the war. The prospect of short crops is giving great concern to officials not only charged with the responsibility of seeing that America is fed, but keenly aware, too, of the fact that this country in a large measure must supply the other countries fighting Germany.

## SNOW STORM CHECKS BRITISH.

Movement of Troops Along the Arras-Lens Front in France Seriously Impeded Wednesday.

(Associated Press War Summary.)

A violent snowstorm has served for the moment to hold in leash the British forces which since early Sunday morning had been hammering the Germans hard along the Arras-Lens front. Lowlying clouds and thickly falling snow greatly impeded the movement of the troops Wednesday.

In the early hours of the morning the village and heights of Monchy-lez-Preux, east of Arras, fell into the hands of the British and were held despite two counter-attacks delivered by the Germans, according to London. To the north of this position Berlin reports the repulse with heavy casualties of British infantry and cavalry attacks near Fampaux and Rouex.

The London communication says that in the neighborhood of Bullecourt, west of Cambra, Field Marshal Haig's men penetrated a German position but later were counter-attacked by superior forces and compelled to return to their former positions. Of this fighting and also of a battle near Hardecourt (Hargicourt) northwest of St. Quentin, Berlin says a thousand British prisoners and 25 machine guns were taken.

Near St. Quentin, from Soissons to Rheims and eastward into the Champagne violent artillery duels are being fought between the French and the Germans.

The American flag is to fly immediately over the front in France. The LaFayette flying corps, composed mainly of American airmen is to adopt the American uniform and carry the stars and stripes during their incursions into enemy territory and in battles in the air with German aviators.

There have been several engagements between the Russians and the Teutonic allies on the Russian front, but no important changes in positions have resulted.

The Austrians and Italians on the western portion of the Austro-Italian theater are bombarding each other heavily. On the Carso plateau in the east the Italians have pushed back the Austrians at various points. The Brazilian government has handed the German minister his passports. This action was due to the recent destruction of the Brazilian steamer Parana by a German submarine.

## Two School to Be Represented.

In the contest for the Aycock cup which comes off at Chapel Hill on April 19, seventy-two high schools in North Carolina will be represented, their debating teams having won both sides of the railway ownership question in the triangular debates two weeks ago.

Johnston County will be represented by two schools—Benson and Selma. Last year Smithfield and Wilson's Mills were represented at Chapel Hill.

## TEDDY CALLS AT WHITE HOUSE

Has Conference of Half-Hour With President Wilson. Seeks Permission to Take Division to France. Spends Busy Day in Old Haunts.

Washington, April 10.—Colonel Roosevelt, full of his old-time vigor and enthusiasm, here today began a personal campaign designed to result "at the earliest possible moment" in the appearance of the American flag and American soldiers, including himself, upon the firing line in France.

The former President placed his plans for recruiting a division of troops before President Wilson at a half-hour conference at the White House and during the remainder of the day and evening was busy with callers at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Nicholas Longworth. He talked about his project to the chairmen and minority members of the House and Senate Military Committees, and made arrangements to write them letters giving more specific details. He conferred with Secretary Baker and with Howard Coffin, Daniel Willard and Julius Rosenwald, members of the Advisory Committee of the Council of National Defense. He also received calls from the British, French and Japanese Ambassadors; Assistant Secretary of State Phillips, Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin Roosevelt, many Senators and Representatives and a score or more of personal friends.

The Colonel apparently enjoyed himself thoroughly. He did not spend a quiet moment from early morning until late at night. At all of his conferences he spoke not only of his own plans, but made it clear that he stood squarely behind President Wilson in the proposal to raise a war army on the principal of universal military service. He emphasized that his plans were not intended to interfere in any way with the policy of the Administration, and that he was anxious to place himself and the division he proposes raising under the orders of whatever regular Army officer may be given command of an American expeditionary force.

## PERISH IN GREAT EXPLOSION.

One Hundred and Twelve, Mostly Women and Girls, Killed at Eddystone, Pa., When Big Shell Factory Is Scene of Disaster.

Chester, Pa., April 10.—One hundred and twelve persons, most of them women and girls, are known to have lost their lives and 121 were injured by a series of terrific explosions today in the shrapnel building of the Eddystone Ammunition corporation at Eddystone, one mile from Chester. Many of the injured were fatally hurt and it is feared the final death list will reach 150.

How many of the 300 or more employees in the building, in which were stored approximately 30,000 shells, escaped is a mystery, as there was scarcely a fragment of the structure left intact. Fire added to the horror and most of the bodies were so badly charred that identification was impossible.

Rumors of plots and arrests were numerous after the disaster, but all lacked confirmation. Detectives reported the explosion apparently was purely accidental and advanced the theory that shrapnel placed near a radiator might have caused it. An official of the company, however, said there never was more than half a ton of powder in the building and that this never was in bulk.

The explosion occurred about 10 o'clock in what is known as the "10-F" building, a two-story structure 75 by 300 feet. In this building line fuses were prepared, more than 80 per cent of the workers being women and girls. Probably 50 men and boys were employed in the building at the time of the blast and most of them escaped.

## To Operate the Railroads.

The heads of the big railroads held a meeting in Washington Wednesday at the call of the Council of National Defense and planned for the operation of the American railroads during the war. A committee of five was appointed to plan for the service of the government in transporting troops, military supplies, and necessary commodities. Fairfax Harrison, President of the Southern Railway, was made chairman of the committee.