

EVENTS IN BIG EUROPEAN WAR

Germans Deal Blows on Lens-Laon Front. Entente Success in Near East. Allies Storm German Lines Saturday in Bitter Struggle. British Take Bullecourt After Vigorous Action. Bloody Battle Along Scarpe River.

The following is the Associated Press's European War summary for three days ending Sunday, as published in the daily papers:

Friday In the War.

Bitter attacks by the troops of Crown Prince Rupprecht and the German crown prince are being made against the positions vital to the defenses of Lens and Laon, held by the British and French. Field Marshal Haig and Gen. Nivelle are holding their recent gains and throwing back the attacking Germans with heavy losses.

South of the Souchez river, one of the natural barriers to Lens, the Germans have made a third attempt to recapture the positions taken by the British Thursday, and for a third time have been thrown back.

A momentary footing was won by Prince Rupprecht's men, aided by liquid fire, in the new British positions, but a brilliant counterattack recovered the lost trenches and left the British line unchanged.

Around Cerny-en-Laonnois, on the plateau overlooking the Aislette river and only nine miles south of Laon, an important link in the German defensive system in France, the German crown prince is expending his man power freely but ineffectually in an attempt to regain lost ground. Throwing his men in waves against the French on both sides of the village, he succeeded only in gaining about 200 yards of an advanced element, but his gain was short lived, as a French counterattack immediately evicted the Germans.

On the lengthy front in Macedonia the entente forces continue their offensive with success between Doiran and the Cerna river. The British have checked Bulgarian attacks southwest of Doiran and hold their recently gained positions with a tenacious grip.

West of Doiran and west of the Vardar river, French troops have carried by storm an important position south of Puma on the Serbo-Greek border and withstood violent counter-attack by the Bulgarians. Twenty miles to the west and also nearer the border, the Serbians have captured two Bulgarian works north of Pojar. In addition to inflicting heavy losses on the Germans and the Bulgarians the entente forces in the Macedonian theatre on Thursday and Friday captured 300 prisoners.

The British government has issued a grave warning to munition workers on strike and gives notice of punishment for the inciters of the strikes, which were not authorized by the trades unions of England.

Voluntary recruiting, the British war office announces, soon will be extended to men up to 50 years of age, both single and married.

Saturday In the War.

Storming the German lines east of Arras along a 12 mile front British troops have forced back the Germans at two important points and have established themselves in Bullecourt, the scene of many desperate struggles recently. Heavy losses were inflicted on the Germans and more than 700 prisoners were taken.

Without giving the armies of Crown Prince Rupprecht time to recover after the repulse of their ineffectual counterattacks, Field Marshal Haig early Saturday threw his forces protecting Douai and in each place gained his objective. At the southern end of the line was Bullecourt, protecting Quent. Here thousands have fallen in attacks and counterattacks in the last two weeks. The battle here lasted for many hours, during which the British firmly placed themselves in the village.

Six miles to the north along the Arras-Cambrai road and between the villages of Monsohy and Guemappe the British straightened out their line by taking 1,200 yards of a German trench system.

Around Rocux, north of the Scarpe and at the northern end of the attacking lines, Field Marshal Haig's men captured German positions on a front of about one mile and a half.

Fourteen German airplanes were destroyed by the entente forces on Friday.

According to the German war office dense masses of British troops were employed in delivering a series of attacks along the roads leading from Arras to Lens, Douai and Cambrai. One of the main points of assault was in the vicinity of Bullecourt, which has been the scene of almost steady fighting for several days.

One of the points captured by the British was Cavalry farm on the road between Arras and Cambrai, together with a half mile of trenches north of it. Farther south the Ger-

mans threw a flying wedge against Guillemont farm, northeast of Hargicourt, and captured it, but were thrown out by a British counter-attack. The fighting was in progress at the Rocux railway station when the official reports were issued.

French artillery continues to bombard the German lines and munition depots along the Aisne front. The German war office asserts that the French were driven back at Bovelles ridge, in the vicinity of Cernay. There has been a violent artillery duel near Avercourt, on the left bank of the Meuse, on the Verdun front.

Resumption of an offensive movement by the Russian forces operating in conjunction with the British campaign in Mesopotamia was announced Saturday by the Russian war office.

The Russian troops crossed the DIALA river in the rear of the Turkish forces which had retreated before the British advances and taken refuge in the Jabel Hamrin hills, about 100 miles northwest of Baddad.

Farther north, on the Caucasian front, both Russian and Turkish forces have been on the offensive with alternate advances and retreats.

In Macedonia the Serbian troops have captured and held against counterattacks several trenches on Dobropolye heights, east of the Cerna river.

Signs of renewed activity on the part of the British army invading Palestine are evident.

The German admiralty asserts that a British destroyer was sunk in a naval engagement between the Dutch and English coasts on Thursday. Zeebrugge, on the Belgian coast, was heavily bombed by warships early Saturday morning.

Sunday In the War.

After days of intensive fighting in which positions have changed hands numerous times, the British troops have recaptured the greater portion of the village of Bullecourt and repulsed violent counterattacks delivered by the Germans east of the village.

Along the Scarpe river to the east of Arras there also have been sanguinary encounters, but again the advantage rested with Field Marshal Haig's forces. Portions of the village of Rocux have been taken by the British and another step forward has been gained by them on the western slopes of Greenland hill.

There has been no let up in the air fighting which has been going on since the spring offensive began. Eleven German airplanes were accounted for Saturday by the British—ten of them in air battles and one by an anti-aircraft gun. The British themselves lost several machines.

On the southern end of the line held by the French the Germans Sunday morning made strong attacks on the plateau of Craonne on the section north of Rheims, and in the region of Maisons de Champagne. Not alone did the French put down all these attacks with the fire of their artillery and rifles causing heavy casualties, but they pushed back the German line and in addition made prisoners. There still is no indication of the approach of any fighting of moment between the Austro-Germans and Russians in the Eastern front from the Baltic sea to Roumania. Along this entire line of operations consist mostly of small skirmishes and reconnaissances.

In Macedonia violent artillery duels are in progress along the entire front with the preponderance in the gun power apparently on the entente side. Sunday saw no infantry actions there.

The Cost of High Living.

Eighty-eight million gallons of whiskey were made in the United States last year.

Who drank it all? Fifteen billions cigarettes were manufactured in the United States last year. Who smoked them all?

Thirty-two million pounds of snuff were manufactured in the United States last year? Who did all the sneezing?

Two hundred and twenty million pounds of smoking tobacco were made in the United States last year. Who had all the pipe-dreams?

Eight and a half billion cigars were made in the United States last year. Who made all the smoke?

Half a million packages of chewing-gum were manufactured last year in the United States. Who worked their jaws?

Twenty thousand moving-picture theatres paid \$25,000,000 for films last year and 11,000,000 persons saw the moving pictures. Where did they get all the dimes and nickels?—John A. Steicher, in Leslie's Weekly.

The commencement of St. Mary's School at Raleigh, will be in progress May 25 to 29, and the principal address will be delivered May 29 by Governor Bickett. The commencement sermon will be by Bishop Darst, of the Eastern Carolina Diocese, Sunday, May 27th.

CHANGES IN COTTON LESSEN.

Fluctuations Still Narrowing. With Comparatively Little Net Alteration.

Whereas the leading cereals, and especially wheat, are still a sensation, price movements in cotton are not now a conspicuous feature. With an extreme fluctuation of less than 60 points on the average, the southern staple no longer compels general attention, and the market this week reflected comparatively little net alteration. Thus, the list ended only 5 to 20 points above last Saturday's closing, and on one occasion it was 32 to 37 points lower, with May down to 19.35c, July to 19.14c, and October to 18.36c. These figures represent losses of from about \$7 to \$11 a bale, the latter on July, from the top levels reached on the striking upturn a month ago, and the spot quotation has yielded fully \$7.

To a not inconsiderable extent, the recent depression in cotton may be properly attributed to the influence of the war situation. The effects of the economic readjustments necessitated by this nation's participation in the conflict are now more clearly apparent in business and speculative circles, and doubts about future changes cause hesitancy in not a few quarters. Government expenditures of magnitude stimulate activity in many directions and large quantities of cotton are being used in the manufacture of military supplies, and more will later be required for this purpose. Yet the practice of economy on the part of the public is growing, because of the extreme prices and for other reasons, and reports of a lessened distribution of dry goods, due in some measure also to the unseasonable weather, are not now uncommon. The suggestion of taxation, moreover, has affected cotton, as well as securities, and the liquidation in Wall Street has precipitated not a little selling of options in the southern commodity. As an offset, crop advices are not so favorable, on the whole, and interior offerings of the actual staple are said to be less liberal.—Dun's Review, 12th.

Wheat Prices and Bread.

New York Times.

It is more than possible that much of the advance in the price of wheat, which has led to the rise in the cost of bread to consumers, is due to speculation. No one contends that there will not be enough wheat until the new crops starts coming in, a period only about eight or ten weeks distant. While the Government reports during the last week was rather pessimistic as to winter wheat, the fact was brought out that it was in better shape than it had been, and there is every indication that much of the deficiency may be made up by the crop of spring wheat. Another encouraging sign is that exports of the article are dwindling. In the nine months ended with March the exports were about 28,000,000 bushels less than in the corresponding period the year before, and about 105,000,000 bushels less than in the similar period the year before than. It is noteworthy that about 50 per cent of the decrease for the nine months ended with March was in the exports of February and March of this year. Exports of wheat flour in the nine months period were about 3,000,000 barrels less than in the similar period the year before, the great percentage of decrease being also in February and March, 1917. The logic of the situation is likely to bring some of the wheat manipulators to grief should the proposition be put in operation to check all dealings in futures, while the passage of the food control bill would probably result in an immediate and decided drop in prices of both wheat and flour. A realization of these things has probably had much to do with the action of the Board of Trade Directors in Chicago in stopping trading on May wheat.

Briefest Funeral Oration.

Perhaps the briefest funeral oration ever delivered was that of an old negro of Mississippi over the body of another of his race who had borne a very bad reputation. Lifting his hat and looking down upon the coffin, the old fellow said in solemn funeral tones: "Sam Viser, yo' is gone. We hopes yo' is gone whar we 'specs you haven't."—Ex.

AN AGED COUPLE

Tell How They Regained Strength and Vigor

Stuebenville, Ohio.—"My husband is 79 years old and I am 78 years of age and we owe our good health to Vinol, the greatest strength creator and medicine there is. When either one of us get into a weakened, run-down condition, Vinol has never failed to build us up and restore strength. We have often said we would not be living now were it not for Vinol."

—MARY A. LEBE. We guarantee Vinol to create strength for feeble old people. HOOD BROS., Druggists, Smithfield, N. C.

Advertisement for Block's Chocolates. The packages cover a wide assortment—one for every mood or fancy—each a work of art. Thus a gift of BLOCK'S CHOCOLATES charms and delights from the moment the box is first seen until the last piece is eaten. The candy as well as the package, will please you and your friends. 80c, \$1.00 and \$1.25 per pound. For Sale By CREECH DRUG CO. Smithfield, N. C.

Governor Bilbo, of Mississippi, has issued a proclamation urging the people of that State to observe a meatless and flourless day once a week.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS.

Wrightsville Beach, N. C., June 1917.

As information we wish to advise that the following conventions have been booked up to date to be held at Wrightsville Beach during the month of June:

Laundry Association of the Carolinas, June 11th-12th.

Independent Order of Red Men of North Carolina, June 13th-15th.

North Carolina Bankers Association, June 19th-21st.

Hardware Association of North and South Carolina, June 19th-21st.

Southern Textile Association, June 22nd-23rd.

North Carolina Baptist Chautauqua, or Assembly, June 27th-29th.

We take pleasure in advising further, notwithstanding the reports and rumors to the contrary, that Wrightsville Beach will be open this season as in former years; that the Government has not made any restrictions whatsoever as to illuminating the beach; that the hotels and "Lumina" will be open to the public as heretofore; that material improvements have been made in hotel accommodations and attractions, and in many respects the beach season promises to be more attractive than heretofore.

W. J. CRAIG, Passenger Traffic Manager. T. C. WHITE, General Passenger Agent. Atlantic Coast Line Railroad.

RAT CORN Kills Rats & Mice

For Sale by Creech Drug Co., Smithfield, N. C.; R. C. Lassiter & Co., Four Oaks, N. C.; J. R. Ledbetter, Princeton, N. C., and all good Dealers.

NOTICE.

State of North Carolina, Johnston County, Pine Level Township.

H. Weil & Bros.

J. L. Creech.

The defendant above named will take notice that a summons in the above entitled action was issued against said defendant on the 20th day of April, 1917, by W. F. GERALD, a Justice of the Peace of Johnston County, North Carolina, for the sum of \$29.50 (twenty-nine dollars and fifty cents) due said plaintiff by account which summons is returnable before said Justice at his office in Pine Level in said County and in Pine Level township, on the 26th of May, 1917, when and where the defendant is required to appear and answer or demur to the complaint or the relief demanded will be granted. This May 20th, 1917.

W. F. GERALD, J. P.

NOTICE.

The undersigned having qualified as Executor on the estate of Nancy L. Richardson, deceased, hereby notifies all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to me duly verified on or before the 17th day of April, 1918, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery; and all persons indebted to said estate will make immediate payment. This 16th day of April, 1917.

ROGER F. RICHARDSON, Executor. ABELL & WARD, Attorneys.

Save The Pieces! If you should happen to break your Eyeglasses or Spectacle Lens, bring the broken Lens to me and I will duplicate it and guarantee it to be exactly like it was before it was broken. I will charge you about one-half what you would pay an eye specialist. I have a complete line of spectacles and eyeglasses on hand. Also a complete line of lenses. I have passed the State Board and am a member of the State and National Optometry Society. Repair Work I now have with me Mr. J. B. Moore, of Murphy, N. C., a first class watch maker. I am prepared to do all kinds of repair work on short notice. Every job guaranteed to be first class, or money refunded. Bring me your work. Your friend, J. W. Whittenton The Jeweler. Benson, N. C.



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Screen Doors plain, price \$1.50. Screen Doors with Spindles \$1.75. Windows from 50c up and made to slide on outside of bottom sash. Doors and windows made of 16 mesh galvanized wire. Send measurements to

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