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FELICITATIONS OF THE KAISER.

Congratulates Himself and Ally on Failure of Entente Offensives. Reports Big Drive Now at Standstill. Results, on Other Hand, Show That French and British Have Gained Much Ground and Captured Over Fifty Thousand Prisoners Since April 1.

Although Field Marshal von Hindenburg and Emperor William assert that the Anglo-French offensive on the Western front has failed after seven weeks of effort, a French official statement declares that the Germans lost more than 52,000 prisoners alone during the French and British drives against the German lines.

Emperor William writes the German empress that the fighting in France has reached a "certain conclusion." Since April 1, the British have advanced on a front of 20 miles from Loos to south of Bullecourt, to an extreme depth of six miles east of Arras. Field Marshal Haig's men have taken Vimy ridge, dominating the plains to Douai and have virtually surrounded Lens and St. Quentin and have held their gains against desperate and repeated German attacks, while inflicting heavy losses.

In the same time the French have advanced along a 15 mile front north of the Aisne and seized the heights dominating the valley of the Ailette river, the last natural defense before Laon. In Champagne the French troops in intrepid attacks have gained the heights of Mont Carnillet, the Casque, the Teton and Mont Haut, to the east of Rheims. All the French gains have been held. Repeated attacks by the German crown prince against the captured have been made without avail and he has expended thousands of lives in fruitless efforts to regain the lost ground.

More than 1,000 officers were included in the total of 52,000 prisoners captured. Enormous quantities of material were taken from the Germans, including 446 heavy and field guns, 1,000 machine guns and many trench guns.

Emperor William also has congratulated Emperor Charles on the failure of the Italian attacks along the Isonzo from Plava to the sea, but Gen. Cadorna's troops have gained the Vodice ridge and have made important advances on the Carso. The Italians added to their gains on Friday by taking Austrian positions on a front of one and a quarter miles to a depth of 400 yards south of Castagnavizza on one of the main roads to Trieste.

An advance of 400 yards along a mile and a quarter front by Italian troops on the road to Trieste, announcement by the Germans that they had captured a French position 1,000 yards in length northeast of Soissons and a British air raid on German bases along the German coast constituted the chief news developments in the war theatres Saturday.

Aside from the battle fronts, occurrences in Brazil and in Southern Russia bear important relations to the war.

Forty-six merchant vessels aggregating 240,779 tons are restored to the world's carrying trade at a time when they are urgently needed by a decree signed Saturday by President Braz of Brazil, enabling that country to make use of the German vessels now in Brazilian ports.

Thirty-three of the German vessels are of more than 4,000 tons each and one is of 12,350 tons.

This action was the first step taken by Brazil after revoking her declaration of neutrality in the war.

In consequence of Russian royalists riots in Tiflis, in the Trans-Caucasian government of Southern Russia, the Grand Duke Nicholas, formerly commander in chief of the Russian armies, is reported to have been arrested.—Columbia State, 2nd.

Her Disappointment.

Little Irene marched into the room breathless.

"O mother, don't scold me for being late for supper, because I've had such a disappointment," she said. "A horse fell down and they said they were going to send for a horse doctor, so I waited and waited, and what do you think? It wasn't a horse doctor at all. It was only a man."—Our Dumb Animals.

THINKS WAR WILL NOT LAST ANOTHER YEAR.

Melbourne, Australia, June 2.—Maj. Gen. James Gordon Legge, chief of the Australian General Staff, who left Australia in May, 1915, to command the first Australian division at the Dardanelles and subsequently served with distinction on the Gallipoli Peninsula and in Northern France, said on his recent return here from the western front:

"I am convinced that the German resistance will be broken by June, and I hardly think that the war will last another year. The duration of the German resistance after the main line is broken, can only be guessed at. Once Germany is beaten on the western front Turkey and Australia will soon cry enough and collapse like a house of cards."

General Legge said that the weather and the mud had all along been a greater obstacle than the Germans on the western front and had prolonged trench fighting.

Speaking of German warfare, he said that while on the western front "on undoubted evidence" he was shown barn doors which bore marks indicating that men had been crucified upon the doors with bayonets; that he saw evidence at certain places that children's brains were wantonly dashed out. "Personally," he added, "I feel as if I could never again have social intercourse with a German."

General Legge was the organizer of the Australian universal military training system. He went on active service in this war when General Bridges was killed at Anzac Cove. He had served in the South African War.

Cotton Crop Far Below Normal.

Washington, June 1.—Cold weather in April and May hurt the cotton crop severely through the entire South.

The condition of the crop on May 25 was 69.5 per cent of normal, compared with 77.5 last year, 80.0 in 1915, 74.3 in 1914 and 79.1, the May 10-year average. The acreage planted in cotton will not be announced until July.

Revised estimates announced today of the area planted and in cultivation at the end of June last year place the acreage at 36,052,000, the area picked last year at 34,985,000 acres and the yield per acre at 156.6 pounds of lint.

An official statement today by the Department of Agriculture says:

"Temperatures for many days in early May were so low that frost formed even in the Southern part of the cotton belt. Much cotton was killed outright and the stand was damaged everywhere. There has been much replanting in every State and the cotton everywhere has a stunted appearance and has grown but little. In addition to cold weather, drought in some sections has kept the seed from germinating. The crop will average probably three weeks late in age and probably more in size and appearance."

"Many sections report lice. There is some complaint of weevils, but they have not shown up as yet to any great extent, probably owing to the lateness of the crop. Generally, cultivation is fully up to normal and there is little grass in the fields. There is a considerable shortage in the labor supply, but farmers are well up with their work in most places owing to the generally dry weather prevailing during most of the month. The labor shortage applies to the States east of the Mississippi River; those west of the river probably have sufficient labor to make the crop."

Condition of the crop by States follows:

Virginia, 75; North Carolina, 63; South Carolina, 70; Alabama, 61; Mississippi, 66; Louisiana, 74; Texas, 74; Arkansas, 64; Tennessee, 63; Missouri, 73; Oklahoma, 77; California, 82; Georgia, 69, and Florida 76.

A freshly killed chicken is never as tender to eat as though it had lain for about 12 hours, allowing the animal heat to escape naturally, and the muscles to relax.

Mr. Kicker, you think the editor of this paper should be able to please everybody, don't you? We suggest that you try scratching some fellow on the spot where he itches the most. After you have tried it a few times you will appreciate our position.

STORM SWEEPS MIDDLE WEST.

Towns in Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri Are Stricken. Communication Cut Off and Only Meager Information Available as to Extent of Life and Property Loss.

Kansas City, Mo., June 1.—Twenty-one known deaths, more than one hundred injured and unestimated property damage resulted from a series of tornadoes that swept several towns and sections of southeastern Kansas, north central Oklahoma and southern Missouri late today and tonight.

With 400 houses reported destroyed at Coalgate, Okla., a town of 3,000 inhabitants, and possibly 200 at Coffeyville, Kan., it was feared that the death total at these two places would be high. One message said that 13 bodies had been counted at Coalgate, and that the business section of the town was virtually destroyed.

Three persons were killed, several seriously injured and much property was damaged by a tornado which struck Moore, five miles southeast of Olathe, Kan.

Unconfirmed reports from Buffalo, Mo., told of considerable damage there. Another storm was reported to have passed between Springfield and Lebanon. All wires were down both directions.

At Drake, Okla., five known deaths were reported. That many school children were not killed in the demolition of the Drake school house was due to the presence of mind of a young school teacher who marshaled her charges into a storm cellar.

Nine persons were injured two perhaps fatally, by the tornado which passed north of the town of Seminole, Okla. Much livestock was killed and crops in the path of the storm were badly damaged.

Better Prices for Fruits and Vegetables.

Further increases in the price of fruits and vegetables was reported Wednesday by the Department of Agriculture in its weekly market review. Prices of new potatoes continue to advance slightly it was said, notwithstanding the steady increase in shipments. Supplies of old potatoes are practically exhausted. A total of 2,234 cars of potatoes were reported shipped during the week just ended of which about 80 per cent was new stock.

The Department report continued: "Present wholesale prices of new potatoes \$3.00 and \$4.00 per bushel, approximately twice as high as at same time last year. Carlot shipments of strawberries now at height. Home-grown berries now beginning to appear on many markets. Price firm for good stock, but shows wide range on poor stock. Best stock approximately 3 cents per quarter higher than at same time last year. Shipments past week 1,780 cars, approximately 375 cars more than previous week this year but 634 cars less than corresponding week last year. Texas onions lower, due to continued heavy shipments and larger crop than previously estimated. Shipments this week 676 cars, 320 cars more than shipped in corresponding week last year. Both f. o. b and jobbing prices on Florida tomatoes are about \$1 per carrier lower than a month ago, and about \$1 lower than wholesale prices at this time last year. Total shipments of tomatoes past week were 792 cars, over 500 cars more than shipped at same time last year. Cabbage is still high, though nearly 100 cars more shipped week of May 23-29, inclusive, than corresponding week last year.

"Supplies of lettuce, celery and asparagus compare favorably with the shipments at this time last year. Watermelon shipments are being made in considerable volume from Florida. Shipment of California cantaloupe expected to begin early next week."—Dun's Review.

Flowers-Johnson.

Mr. and Mrs. Pias B. Johnson had the pleasure of announcing the marriage of their daughter, Eva Belle, to Mr. Leslie G. Flowers, on Thursday evening, June fourteenth, nineteen hundred and seventeen, at half-past eight o'clock, Trinity Baptist church. Relatives and friends are cordially invited.

DECLINE IN WHEAT CONTINUES

Prices Show Extensive Losses from Previous High Levels. Crop Estimates Raised.

The decline in wheat, which started when the limitations on trading were fixed less than a month ago, has met with comparatively little interruption, and prices have fallen 66c. to 82c. from the former record levels. This means that the July delivery in Chicago has dropped to \$1.93 and September to \$1.79, and the possibilities of further recession are recognized in all quarters. Yet, with the enforced restrictions on trading, interest in the speculative situation has naturally diminished, and crop advices monopolize attention. Fortunately, news from the fields has recently taken a decided turn for the better, and revision of opinion regarding the probable winter wheat harvest has become necessary. Raising of estimates has latterly been general, and if the next official report fails to disclose substantial improvement many people will be surprised, as well as disappointed. Reason for encouragement is not alone found in the prospects for larger yields in the Southwest than previously seemed likely, for the outlook in the Northwest is said to be highly favorable and it is believed that with continuance of good weather the spring wheat crop may run over 300,000,000 bushels. If this should actually happen, and winter wheat makes 400,000,000 bushels, as is now predicted in some quarters, the result would be highly gratifying. In any event, less talk is now heard of famine.—Dun's Review.

Comparing Grocery Prices.

A leading North Carolina merchant in comparing the prices of groceries with a few years ago says:

"Then I gave twenty pounds of meat for a dollar. Now I can hardly give four pounds. I sold flour for \$3.25 per barrel. Now it is about \$15.00. Corn meal was fifty cents per bushel. Now it is sixty cents a peck. Peas were fifty to sixty cents per bushel, but the price has gone to \$3.50 per bushel. Eggs were seven and a half to eight cents per dozen, and I have bought them for six cents. Now they are thirty cents per dozen. Grown hens then sold for twenty cents each, but will bring close to a dollar each now. Black pepper then cost me eight and a half cents. Now it is worth wholesale about sixty cents per pound. Rice then cost \$3.75 to \$4.00 per hundred pounds, but now is eight and a half to nine cents per pound."

Talk About Eating Rice.

Rice is one of the best, and cheapest cereals and should be eaten much more extensively than at present. In many parts of the world people have not learned to cook it or to eat it. In this section our leading merchants who sell rice at all order but little of it at a time. A merchant will order, say one to two or three bags of one hundred pounds each, and sometimes it takes a long while to sell that much. In a small town about fifty miles east of Smithfield rice is sold by almost every merchant in the town. It is not uncommon to see five to ten and fifteen bags of rice in a store. Not long ago one of these merchants received thirty-five bags of a hundred pounds each of rice. He states that a few years ago he received at one time a hundred bags of rice. Ten thousand pounds of rice here would seem like a very large stock, but this merchant says he had no trouble selling it. Why this difference in the demand for rice? Why is so much sold around the little town mentioned above? It is simply that a few years ago the farmers around that town raised rice and learned to eat it. Then there were rice mills at Goldsboro and Wilmington. This reminds us that people eat what they are taught to eat. They eat what they try to learn to eat.

America is in the war and only one outcome can be considered possible by Americans. That is victory. To achieve victory the country must furnish the sinews of war. With victory will come peace and therefore each purchaser of a Liberty Loan Bond may be considered an agent of peace.

JOHNSTON COUNTY TO TEST CLARK BOND ACT

An agreed case from Johnston County to test the validity of the Clark bond act was prepared yesterday evening and will be submitted to Judge Albert Cox and then passed on up to the Supreme Court on Saturday for its opinion. Owing to the importance of this question the court last Wednesday consented to recess until Saturday to receive the case and after filing opinion, which is expected quickly, will adjourn for the summer.

Two townships in Johnston County have asked the State to take \$90,000 worth of their bonds under the Clark act. The validity of the act having been questioned it is necessary for an opinion of the Supreme Court before any county can take advantage of the act.

The questions at issue are whether or not the supplemental act changing the date of the first election from the second Tuesday in April to the second Tuesday in May affected the act sufficiently to require a roll call; whether the county commissioners in providing for tax levy to mature bonds shall levy tax on poll as well as property, the language of the act not covering this point; and to pass on the form of bonds as to whether it sufficiently binds the county for its indebtedness to the State.—News and Observer.

Mrs. Charles Gulley Entertains.

Clayton, June 2.—On Friday morning on the spacious green lawn of Mrs. Ashley Horne on Main street, Mrs. Charles Gulley entertained the Wednesday Afternoon and the Halcyon Clubs in honor of her mother and two sisters, Mrs. M. H. Wooten, of Warsaw, N. C., and Mrs. Fred Hines, of Columbia, S. C., and Miss Theo. Wooten, who has just returned from Raleigh, where she had been attending Peace during the last year, all of whom are the house guests of Mrs. Gulley.

The guests were graciously received at the gate by Mrs. Ashley Horne and introduced to the receiving line, composed of Mrs. Charles Gulley, Mrs. Wooten, Mrs. Hines, Mrs. Mark Gulley, Mrs. Walter Creech, Mrs. Arthur Griffin, Mrs. R. W. Sanders, Mrs. Edith Sullivan, of Gaffney, S. C., Mrs. J. Graham Davidson, of Oxford, College and Mrs. John Ellington.

The guests were then introduced to Mrs. J. J. Young and Mrs. Herbert McCullers, who escorted them to the punch bowl, presided over by Mrs. B. M. Robertson and Mrs. Glenn Pope, where they were served delicious fruit punch. Mrs. Walter Priddy, of Wichita Falls, Texas, who is here visiting her mother, Mrs. Ashley Horne, very charmingly received in the west lawn. Cream and cake were served by Mrs. Clement W. Carter and Mrs. Will H. McCullers, assisted by Misses Theo Wooten, Soule McCullers, Thelma Barbour and Lois Massey.

A very interesting feature of the morning were the delightful readings of Mrs. Hardee Horne and Mrs. J. Graham Davidson.

Do Animals Fear Death?

Dr. Paul Ballion, according to a paragraph in the Globe, remarks that animals are resigned to death with a serene gravity which denotes a sense of its approach. It is only before death seems inevitable that they struggle and resist it. An orang shot by English sailors in Sumatra looked at his hunters so piteously that they felt as if they had committed manslaughter. A cercopithec, wounded by Brehm, the naturalist, appeared so noble and human that he had to put it out of pain. Jules Gerald relates that Algerian lions taken in pitfalls and there shot, after gazing in scorn at the Arabs, lie down to die. Tigers, in the like predicament, according to Morins, after trying to escape, crouch and await their death stroke. A similar tranquility has been observed in dogs and horses, buffaloes, bulls, bisons, elephants, and so on. Exceptions, however, have been noticed in the case of dogs and cats, living with persons. They sometimes show real sorrow at the approach of death, and the separation from their human friends.—Sidney Band of Mercy.

"To our task we dedicate our lives and our fortunes."—President Wilson.

PENDER EXPERIMENT STATION

Fine Farm With 125 Acres Cleared Run Under State Management. Fine Herd of Jersey Cattle, Strawberries, Vegetables and Other Crops Grown.

(By J. M. Beatty.)

On the railroad between Goldsboro and Wilmington, one and three-quarter miles from the town of Wallace and one and a quarter miles from Willard, is the Pender County experiment station. It is known over the State by the above name, but its official name is Branch Experiment Station. Being placed in the great strawberry section, for some time the idea was held that it was mainly to test the varieties of strawberries, but it does much more than this. It was my pleasure last week to visit this station. The State has there 215 acres of land with about 125 acres cleared. Last week they harvested a large field of oats and vetch which yielded two tons per acre. This part of the farm will now be planted to corn for the silo to feed the cattle next winter. The silo is cement and a hundred ton capacity. On the farm there are seventeen varieties of pecans. Last year one eight-year-old tree of the Schley variety yielded twenty-eight pounds which sold for forty cents. A Russell pecan tree gave fifteen pounds which sold for 35 per pound. A young Rome tree had on it forty pounds which brought thirty cents per pound.

There are between forty and fifty head of cattle, all Jerseys, with a fine pure bred bull as the head of the herd. Fifteen of the cows are now giving milk which is handled in an up-to-date manner. They have a first class dairy barn and a good milk house. When the milking is done the milk is run through a separator. The cream is shipped to Wilmington and sold and the skim milk is used for the hogs. I arrived there just as the cattle were starting to the pasture and it was an interesting sight to see them.

There are on the farm more than fifty head of hogs. I saw in one place thirty-one shoats feeding on rape. The manager told me he gave them one pound each of grain daily. The hogs are all pure bred Berkshires.

There are twenty-five varieties of strawberries which are grown mainly for experimental purposes, but the berries are sold to help pay expenses. There I saw seventy-nine blocks of vegetables of almost every kind. The onions, squash and beets are extra fine.

There are two and a quarter acres in a young peach orchard which is made up of fifty varieties. These trees are sprayed regularly, which insures healthy trees and perfect fruit free from worms and premature decay.

Ten acres are planted to cotton of several different varieties.

There are fifteen acres of vineyard which shows many varieties of grapes and methods of pruning. In the vineyard is a fine lot of bur clover on which the hogs run part of each year.

There are two acres of apple trees containing ten early varieties. The fields are terraced and tile drained.

The manager told me he was rather much limited in help, having only four mules and four regular men for the farms besides the two men who look after the stock. The manager is Mr. R. G. Hill who seems to be a very competent man and just the man for this place. It would pay any one who can do so to make a visit to this station.

Weather Report for Cotton Region.

New Orleans, La., June 2.—Colder weather prevails in Oklahoma and northwestern Texas with temperatures from forty to forty-six degrees in western and central Oklahoma. Oklahoma City reports lowest of record. Temperatures elsewhere near or slightly above normal. Maximum temperatures generally above ninety in interior of southern districts.

Light to moderate showers in Carolinas, extreme eastern and northern Georgia, extreme northern Mississippi, eastern Oklahoma, and locally in northeastern east Texas. Good rains in central and western Tennessee and heavy in Arkansas.

Heavy rains—Tennessee, Arlington 1.26; Arkansas, Dardanelle 3.04, Mena 1.04, Prescott 2.62, Bentonville 1.44, Pine Bluff 1.18, Oklahoma 2.06, McAlester 2.06.