

GERMANS FAIL IN BIG ATTACK.

Try Vainly to Re-Capture the Messines Positions Although Fresh Troops Are Hurled Against the Carefully Planned Defense of the British. Their Line Still Intact. Germans Lose 7,000 Prisoners and Many Guns Since Thursday.

In addition to losing more than 7,000 prisoners in the British drive and the subsequent fighting since Thursday morning, the Germans lost a large number of guns, machine guns and trench mortars. Both official and unofficial dispatches show that the Germans made efforts of the most determined sort on Friday night to re-secure themselves in the Messines salient from which the British drove them in Thursday's memorable attack.

General Plumer's operations had been too well planned and executed, however, and his men were too ready and well placed in their new positions for the German front carried out by fresh troops in Messines though it was, to have any measures of success. The British brought up their artillery with extraordinary promptitude and although they had to fight the Germans a hard battle along the six mile front of the attack, they held their line intact and inflicted frightful losses upon General von Arnim's troops.

Meanwhile, the British commander-in-chief put his troops in other sectors of the front into effective action and carried out an operation that was much more than a mere raid in force along the line from LaBassee to well south of Lens. These moves seem to presage a speedy attempt to clean up the situation around the Lens coal district to which the Germans have been clinging for several weeks past under imminent likelihood of being forced out.

Reports from the Messines battle area show that more than thirty guns were taken from the Germans in the British attack, while many others were buried in the debris caused by the terrific bombardment and mine explosions and have not yet been unearthed.

The German accounts of Friday night's fighting on the new battle line east of Messines represent it as due to further British attempts to advance, which the German troops stopped.

The Italians have indicated that they are more than half expecting an Austrian offensive in the Trentino, made possible by the bringing of Austrian troops in large numbers from the Russian front. There is no indication of any such contemplated attack as yet, the reports announcing only normal activities in the Trentino. The Austrians are still contesting the ground occupied by the Italians in their notable thrust for Triest, and attacked several times Friday night, chiefly in the region north of Gorizia. The Italians beat off all these assaults.

There has been little military activity along the Russian front.—Associated Press Summary for Saturday.

COTTON PRICES SOAR UPWARD.

More New High Records Established, With July Delivery on 23-Cent Basis.

Whether or not cotton prices will go to 25 cents or above it, as intimated in some quarters, is a question, but the prospect seems less remote after the week's striking movements.

Bearing in mind the recent experience, almost anything may conceivably happen, and not a few people insist that even at 23.08 cents for July and about 22 3/4 cents for December and January the crest of the market has not yet been witnessed. These record figures were reached in Friday's session, and though the familiar reaction occurred when profits were taken, the list ended materially higher than it did last Saturday. The extreme fluctuation was fully 125 points in July and an average of 130 points in the other active deliveries, and in comparison with the low levels of last week the changes have been considerably greater. The further upturn in the late trading came after some speculators had shown a disposition to proceed more cautiously on the long side, and was chiefly explained by urgent covering by those who had sold short earlier.

It was stated in these columns when the official report was issued on June 1st that the condition figures of 69.5 per cent were surprising to many interests, and some people now seem to take it for granted that such a poor showing makes a small yield a certainty. This is a matter which time alone will definitely determine, and the recuperative powers of cotton are not to be disregarded; yet it is clear to everyone that the crop has started under a decided handicap and a considerable stretch of good weather will

gain the ground lost from the opening of the season. Since the date covered by the Government's return, May 25, the outlook has become more promising in most sections and further improvement may conceivably follow; but at present it is the rather general impression that the crop will prove inadequate, and this belief chiefly explains the recent striking rise of prices. Not all of the buying has been speculative, for the trade demand has attracted attention and there is a good deal of talk of an abnormally large domestic consumption during the coming season. Yet there remains the question of exports, and related official returns of shipments are plainly disappointing. Thus, the output in April, was 250,600 bales smaller than in April, 1916, though for the ten months ended with April an increase of about 430,000 bales is disclosed.—Dun's Review.

WHEAT CROP WILL BE SHORT.

The Government Forecast Says There Will Be Sixteen Million Bushels Produced More Than Last Year; But Is Below Normal. Rye to Be Record Crop.

Washington, June 8.—America's 1917 wheat crop, as forecast today by the Department of Agriculture will fall far below normal despite a prospect for a more than ordinary yield of spring wheat.

A total yield estimated at 656,000,000 bushels will give the country 16,000,000 more bushels than last year's crop, but with the heavy demands from abroad and virtually no reserve store, it will not meet war needs unless the country practices the most rigid economy.

The department forecast a spring crop of 283,000,000 bushels, a big yield, but estimates of winter wheat production give a crop of only 373,000,000 bushels, 7,000,000 more than was forecast from the May condition, but still far from the normal yield.

Herbert C. Hoover, who will be food administrator under the food control bill pending in Congress, estimates the allies' needs this year at 1,000,000,000 bushels of grain, most of it to come from the United States and Canada. The short wheat crop means this country will have to cut its wheat consumption if it exports itself normally uses more than 600,000,000 bushels. At the beginning of 1916, there were 164,000,000 bushels on hand carried over from the previous year's record crop.

Some relief is seen in the better showing this year in the forecast of rye, which will be a record crop; oats and barley. A large corn crop also undoubtedly will be grown.

Winter wheat last fall was planted on one of the largest acreages ever recorded but severe winter conditions caused almost one-third of the area to be abandoned. The April forecast was only 430,000,000 bushels. May's forecast showed a reduction of 64,000,000 bushels. Today's forecast, based on June 1, conditions showed improvement of 7,000,000 bushels over May with a total of 373,000,000 bushels. The final out turn may be above or below that figure.

Spring wheat, the June report shows, was planted on an area almost as large as that of 1915, when a record crop of 352,000,000 bushels was grown. The condition of that crop on June 1 was almost two points below the 10 year average, indicating a production of only 283,000,000 bushels. With favorable growing conditions the production may reach greater proportions by harvest time.

Indications are for a crop of oats third in size in the country's history, and for a crop of rye exceeding the record by 4,000,000 bushels.

Fonville-Ragsdale.

Fuquay Springs, June 7.—The most brilliant social event of the season was the marriage this afternoon at 5:30, at the Baptist Church, of Miss Lena Ragsdale, accomplished daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Ragsdale, of Fuquay Springs, to Mr. D. R. Fonville, of Burlington.

The church building was elaborately decorated for the occasion, and presented a scene of unusual beauty. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Dr. J. O. Atkinson, of Elon College. Miss Emily Young, of Dunn, N. C., sang "Because," followed by "At Dawning." Miss Jennie Atkinson presiding at the piano. Miss Young was in splendid voice and charmed her hearers.

Correct.

A master, after giving some lessons on physical force asked: "Now, boys, can any of you tell me what force is that move people along the street?"

He was greatly surprised and the class highly amused at receiving from one of the boys the unexpected answer:

"Please, sir, the police force."—Pearson's Weekly, London.

WOMEN OF STATE PLEDGE SUPPORT

TO CO-OPERATE WITH STATE DEPARTMENT TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS AND FIRES.

STEP IN RIGHT DIRECTION

Commissioner Young Tells Women Awful Fire Waste Will Be Greatly Reduced.

At the annual convention of the North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs held at Durham during the first week in May the unanimous support of the organization was pledged to the work of the North Carolina Insurance department in fire and accident prevention. This action followed an address by Commissioner James R. Young in which he outlined the plans for the department along the lines of fire and accident prevention and told of the great need of co-operation on the part of all civic organizations in every town and city in the State and especially the co-operation of the women's organizations.

Commissioner Young expressed himself as highly gratified at the assurance of support given him and stated that he considered the action of the federation a step in the right direction and one which is sure to bring splendid results to the citizens and property owners of North Carolina.

A reduction of the awful fire waste in this country, Commissioner Young says, can only be brought about along educational lines and through the co-operation and assistance of citizens who are just beginning to realize the responsibility that rests on their shoulders because of carelessness or the lack of ordinary precaution. Every fire is paid for by all the people, Mr. Young says. Insurance is collected from all and paid to him who has a fire; hence the man who has a fire intentionally or unintentionally takes money from his neighbors.

Every week in this country fire destroys 1,600 dwellings, 140 apartment buildings, 26 hotels, 12 schools, 10 churches, 3 large department stores, 3 hospitals, 3 jails, 3 theaters, 3 public halls and 2 colleges. Eight thousand persons are rendered homeless and nine persons are burned to death every day in the year in the United States.

Reasonable care and precaution would have prevented a vast majority of these fires and accidents and the Federation of Women's Clubs in the state are to be commended for the position they have taken in the fire prevention campaign.

FOR A SAFE AND SANE FOURTH OF JULY

The North Carolina Insurance Department has issued a call to citizens, to merchants and to city and town officials in warning against the careless use and in fact the use in any manner of fire works in the celebration of Independence Day, July 4. The use of fire works in this celebration in North Carolina in the past has not been extensive but there seems to have been a tendency in recent years to make more use of them. This display when handled by the most experienced person is dangerous and in the hands of inexperienced people and of children is a menace to both life and property.

Insurance Commissioner Young in a recent statement said:

"In this year when every effort looks to conservation and preparedness it seems to me that the people of North Carolina ought to refrain entirely from the use of fireworks. The kind of patriotism North Carolina and America needs this year is not the kind that burns money uselessly and endangers property and especially property where foodstuffs are stored. The patriotism that will count now is the kind that makes for self denial and the conservation of every energy. The kind that looks to the bending of every effort which lend support to the government in the war of unknown extent upon which it has entered.

"I hope that every city official in North Carolina will see to it that no fireworks are sold or used for the celebration of the Fourth of July. And the sure way to do this is to pass ordinances forbidding their sale. It is a time now when every precaution should be observed to prevent fires. And the handling of fireworks, however careful may be the operator, is hazardous to life and property."

Most smokers would indignantly resent the charge that they are not "good citizens" but the burden of proof would seem to be on them in light of figures prepared by Wilbur E. Mallalieu, General Manager National Board of Fire Underwriters, on the causes of fires in the United States for the year 1915, which show a total fire loss of \$4,505,963, attributable to carelessness.—Michigan Fire Marshall's Bulletin.

DADDY'S EVENING FAIRY TALE

BY MARY GRAHAM BONNER

OLD-WIFE DUCKS.

"The Old-Wife," said Daddy, "is the family name given to Mr. and Mrs. Long-tailed Sea-Duck."

"Oh, gracious!" said Nick, "what a very funny name!"

"Do they like their name, Daddy?" asked Nancy. "I imagine so," said Daddy, "as they always seem to be happy and they can really sing quite nicely which is more than most ducks can do."

"They are also sometimes called the Old-Billy family, the South-southerly, Old-Injun, Old-Squaw and Old-Molly family."

"I never heard of so many names for one family in my life," said Nick. "And all such very funny names, too," said Nancy.

"They have black bills with orange tips, and their feathers are black and white mixed with red and silver gray. In the winter they have not the great long tail feathers which they have in the summer time."

"Altogether they sound very strange," said Nancy.

"They are not just like the usual kinds of ducks we see, it is true," said Daddy.

"Are we going to have a story about them?" asked the children together.

"If you like," said Daddy, "for I have a story to tell you."

"Hurrah!" shouted the children, so Daddy began.

"Now Mr. and Mrs. Old-Wife could live extremely well. In fact they were quite expert which means very good indeed."

"Let's give a diving contest," said Mrs. Old-Wife, "the children really need some exercise."

"They do indeed," agreed Mr. Old-Wife. So they gathered together all the Old-Wife family of ducks and they started in at once with their diving competition. They were such wonderful divers that it seemed as if all would win the prize. For they had a prize of goodies to eat which Mrs. Old-Wife had selected herself for the winner. Mr. Old-Wife was going to give the prize and make a speech. And then they were to sing a little song.

"The diving kept on and from the splashes and excitement it certainly looked as if they were all having a splendid time, and as if the diving party were a great success."

"It looks as though no one would win," said Mrs. Old-Wife.

"It does look that way," said Mr. Old-Wife. "But someone must win. That is certain. Two can't come out evenly as I have my speech all arranged."

"Of course, I understand," said Mrs. Old-Wife. "You can't change your speech for anyone—and they mustn't come out evenly. How long did you spend over it, my dear?"

"A long time," sighed Mr. Old-Wife. "And in it I pretend that I am making it up on the spur of the moment. It would never do if I said something about one winner if there were two when I am making believe that I didn't write my speech all out on my mud pad with my quill pen which the Sea Gnomes gave me for Christmas."

"Well, we'll have to decide it some way, for the speech is the most important thing. I know that, for I've made speeches myself before the other Mrs. Old-Wife families at the meetings where we discuss how our children should be educated—whether they should have the regular sea method all the time, or whether a little inland water method would be good now and again. And I always write my speech ahead. If the truth were known—almost all creatures do. It's just pretend that they're made up all of a sudden. We pretend to be surprised if we are asked to make a speech—but we're not. Goodness no! We'd be far more surprised if we were not asked!"

"But just then, as luck would have it, the older ducks began to grow tired and at last one duck seemed to be making the finest dives of all."

"Time's up," shouted Mr. Old-Wife. "And now I will give the prize."

"Speech, speech," shouted the other ducks. Mr. Old-Wife seemed to be greatly surprised, and he began by saying he didn't at all know what to say—but he did, as we know, for he had learned it all off by heart. But they all loved the speech and the prize was appreciated. And before the party broke up, they all sang some songs."

"Teacher, what does income mean?" "I believe you know, if you would just think. Now see if you cannot give a sentence using the word correctly."

"The boy opened the door and in came a cat."—Exchange.

Mr. Old-Wife Seemed Surprised.

portant thing. I know that, for I've made speeches myself before the other Mrs. Old-Wife families at the meetings where we discuss how our children should be educated—whether they should have the regular sea method all the time, or whether a little inland water method would be good now and again. And I always write my speech ahead. If the truth were known—almost all creatures do. It's just pretend that they're made up all of a sudden. We pretend to be surprised if we are asked to make a speech—but we're not. Goodness no! We'd be far more surprised if we were not asked!"

"But just then, as luck would have it, the older ducks began to grow tired and at last one duck seemed to be making the finest dives of all."

"Time's up," shouted Mr. Old-Wife. "And now I will give the prize."

"Speech, speech," shouted the other ducks. Mr. Old-Wife seemed to be greatly surprised, and he began by saying he didn't at all know what to say—but he did, as we know, for he had learned it all off by heart. But they all loved the speech and the prize was appreciated. And before the party broke up, they all sang some songs."

Mr. Old-Wife Seemed Surprised.

portant thing. I know that, for I've made speeches myself before the other Mrs. Old-Wife families at the meetings where we discuss how our children should be educated—whether they should have the regular sea method all the time, or whether a little inland water method would be good now and again. And I always write my speech ahead. If the truth were known—almost all creatures do. It's just pretend that they're made up all of a sudden. We pretend to be surprised if we are asked to make a speech—but we're not. Goodness no! We'd be far more surprised if we were not asked!"

"But just then, as luck would have it, the older ducks began to grow tired and at last one duck seemed to be making the finest dives of all."

"Time's up," shouted Mr. Old-Wife. "And now I will give the prize."

"Speech, speech," shouted the other ducks. Mr. Old-Wife seemed to be greatly surprised, and he began by saying he didn't at all know what to say—but he did, as we know, for he had learned it all off by heart. But they all loved the speech and the prize was appreciated. And before the party broke up, they all sang some songs."

LIBERTY LOAN FIGURES GIVEN.

Not One of Twelve Bank Districts Has Subscribed To Its Minimum Allotment. New York Makes Most Favorable Showing. San Francisco Is Lagging Furthest Behind; In Richmond District Only 35 Per Cent of Maximum Allotment Subscribed. Last Day for Subscriptions Falls on Flag Day.

Washington, June 10.—Totals of subscriptions to the Liberty Loan aggregating \$1,300,000,000, as announced Friday by Secretary McAdoo, were made public tonight by the Treasury Department, showing that not one of the twelve Federal Reserve districts has subscribed to its minimum allotment, although New York, with the most favorable showing, has nearly reached the minimum.

In some instances the amount of subscriptions from Federal Reserve districts has fallen to less than one-third of the allotments. The figures made public tonight are based upon actual subscriptions forwarded to the reserve banks. They follow:

New York—Subscriptions, \$588,000,000; allotment, \$600,000,000 to \$750,000,000.

Boston—Subscriptions, \$135,000,000; allotment, \$240,000,000 to \$300,000,000.

Philadelphia—Subscriptions, \$61,000,000; allotment, \$100,000,000 to \$175,000,000.

Richmond—Subscriptions, \$35,000,000; allotment, \$80,000,000 to \$100,000,000.

Atlanta—Subscriptions, \$22,000,000; allotment, \$60,000,000 to \$75,000,000.

Chicago—Subscriptions, \$138,000,000; allotment, \$260,000,000 to \$325,000,000.

Cleveland—Subscriptions, \$153,000,000; allotment, \$180,000,000 to \$225,000,000.

St. Louis—Subscriptions, \$27,000,000; allotment, \$80,000,000 to \$100,000,000.

Minneapolis—Subscriptions, \$50,000,000; allotment, \$80,000,000 to \$100,000,000.

Kansas City—Subscriptions, \$34,000,000; allotment, \$100,000,000 to \$125,000,000.

Dallas—Subscriptions, \$20,000,000; allotments, \$40,000,000 to \$50,000,000.

San Francisco—Subscriptions \$37,000,000; allotment \$140,000,000 to \$175,000,000.

The figures include subscriptions which had been received through all agencies including the banks, by Federal reserve banks, at time Secretary McAdoo made his announcement.

For Johnston County Soldiers.

The following paragraph of interest to Johnston County people is taken from an account of the proceedings of the Veterans Reunion at Washington last week:

"Mrs. James Henry Parker, of New York, has informed Col. W. B. Fort, of Pikeville, that the James Henry Parker Chapter of the U. S. C. of New York, desires to furnish the Johnston County soldiers who go to France with kits of safety razors and other toilet articles needed in the trenches."

"Col. Fort has taken the matter up with the War Department and will make the proper arrangements to have the gift accepted."

LLOYD GEORGE HEARS BLAST AT 130-MILE DISTANCE

London, June 7.—The tremendous blasts of 1,000,000 pounds of explosives that opened the British attack on Wyttschaete bend were heard by David Lloyd George, the British premier, who was staying for the night at his residence, Walton Heath. The plans for the attack had been long maturing, and when the preparations were perfected the premier was acquainted with the exact hour it was intended to open it.

Accordingly, on retiring last night Lloyd George gave orders to be called at 3 o'clock this morning on the chance of being able to hear the explosions. The premier and other members of his household clearly heard the tremendous detonations, as also did persons at the premier's official residence in London, who supposed they were the sounds of heavy guns until later they learned from the dispatches that they came from the explosion of mines.

From London to the region where the British mines were exploded along the German front the distance ranges from 130 to 140 miles.

How It Is.

"Not a regular reformer," replied Senator Sorghum. "A regular reformer doesn't have to run for office and depend on a salary. He can make all kinds of money merely by getting out before a crowd and telling people they'd better be good."—Washington Star.

South Dakota's 1916 products were valued at \$267,222,000. Of this sum \$36,515,100 was for wheat alone.

25 Cent Books At Special Prices

For the Next Few Days We Will Sell Any Book in the List Below for 20 Cents; Any 3 Books for 50 Cents; Any 7 Books for \$1.00.

- The Boy Scouts with the Motion Picture Players. The Boy Scouts of the Flying Squadron. A Fool for Love. Wallingford, by Chester. Trolley Folly, by Phillips. The Motormaniacs, by Osborne. Chimes from a Jester's Bell. The Princess Elope. Four in Family. The Fifth String, by Sousa. Eccentric Mr. Clark. Four Years of Fighting. Flower Fables, by Alcott. Camping Out, by Stephens. Pretty Polly Pemberton. A Modern Cinderella, by Alcott. Bertha's Christmas Vision. Wood's Natural History. The Water Babies, by Kingsley. Greek Heroes, by Kingsley. Coming Back with the Spitball. Poor Boys' Chances, by John Habberton. The Young Editor. Frank's Campaign, by Alger. The Boy Scouts with the Geological Survey. Folly in Fairyland, by Carolyn Wells. Hospital Sketches, by Alcott. Adventures in Frozen Seas. Left on Labrador. Merle's Crusade, by Carey. The Boy Geologists, by Houston. Story of John G. Paton. Andy Grant's Pluck, by Alger. Another Year With Dennis and Ned Toodles. Moods, by Mrs. Alcot. Ruth Fielding of the Red Mill. Charlie Codman's Cruise. See Kings and Naval Heroes. Friends Though Divided, by Henty. In the Reign of Terror, by Henty. The Lion of St. Mark, by Henty. Through the Fray, by Henty.

LIST NUMBER ONE OF 35-Cent Books.

- Any book in this list for 25c., or any four books for 90c. Endurance Test; or How Clear Grit Won the Day. Under Canvas; or The Hunt for the Cartaret Ghost. Elsie Dinsmore. (3 copies). The Motor Maids by Rose, Shamrock and Thistle. Her Senator, by Gunter. Under Two Flags, by Onida. The Camp on the Big Sunflower. The Rivals of the Trail. The Strange Cabin on Catamount Island. Lost in the Great Dismal Swamp. Caught in a Forest Fire. Chums of the Campfire. The Chouans, by Balzac. Hans Brinker; or the Silver Skates. Mr. Potter of Texas, by Gunter. The Schonberg-Cotta Family. Larry Dexter in Belgium. Larry Dexter and the Stolen Boy. Tales From Shakespeare. The Bobsey Twins at Meadow Brook. Dora Thorne, by Braeme. The First Violin.

LIST NUMBER TWO OF 35-Cent Books.

- Any book in this list for 30c.; any two for 55c.; any three for 80c.; any four for \$1.00. The Pioneer, by Cooper. The Deer Slayer, by Cooper. The Last of the Mohicans, by Cooper. The Spy, by Cooper. Treasure Island, by Stevenson. Louise deValiere, by Dumas. Memoirs of a Physician, by Dumas. Barrack Room Ballads, by Kipling. Toilers of the Sea, by Hugo. Cast Up by the Sea, by Baker. The Adventures of Daniel Boone. The Boy Scouts on Sturgeon Island. The Boy Scouts on the Trail. The Boy Scouts Through the Big Timber. The Boy Scouts in the Maine Woods. The Boy Scouts First Camp Fire. The Boy Allies on the North Sea Patrol. The Boy Allies Under Two Flags. The Boy Allies with the Flying Squadron. The Boy Allies with the Terror of the Seas. The Boy Allies at Liege. The Boy Allies with the Cossacks. Our Young Aeroplane Scouts in Turkey. The Boy Scouts on Belgian Battlefields. The Boy Scouts with the Allies in France. The Boy Scouts at the Panama-Pacific Exposition. The Boy Scouts on Sturgeon Island.

THE HERALD OFFICE, Smithfield, N. C. READ "LLOYD GEORGE, THE Man and His Story," price one dollar. An interesting story of the life of one who has risen from lowly beginnings to the chief place in the government of one of the greatest nations in the world. Herald Office.