

GERMANY'S POWER WEAKENING

Military Strength on Wane for First Time Since War Began. Never-ending Pounding of Allies on Western Front Effect on Teutonic Forces. Enemy's Resources Diminish at Time Increase is Demanded. Allies Holding Their Own While Uncle Sam is Getting Ready.

Washington, Oct. 9.—Germany's military strength now shows a clear decrease for the first time since the war began, according to a review based upon data of the French general staff made public here tonight by the French High Commission.

Worn down and driven back by the never-ending pounding of the Allies on the Western front, the statement says, the Germans have made their supreme military effort after drawing heavily upon their inactive armies in the East and calling out their 1918 and part of the 1919 reserves.

Thus, while the Allies have reached and are prepared to maintain their full strength while awaiting the coming of America's great army, the enemy's resources are diminishing at the very moment when the military situation demands that they increase.

"This shows," concludes the statement, "the decisive character attending the operations of 1918, when three great democracies, England, France and America, will unite their entire strength in attacking the enemy, in conformity with the only sound principle of war."

The commission's statement, issued through the committee on public information, follows:

"Both Franco-German fronts on the Aisne, 1917, and Verdun, 1916, have already been compared and it has been noted that they are practically of the same length. It has been stated that the German forces occupying them before the attack were equally comparable; 12 and 14 divisions. It is known today that during the same period, from May to September, the Germans had 25 fresh divisions at Verdun, and that they have been obliged to engage 45 on the Aisne. Furthermore, during an equal period the French took 5,863 prisoners at Verdun and 8,553 on the Aisne.

"The comparison included only a small sector of the French front. But it showed a very interesting result due to the increase of the material forces of the Allies and the improved French fighting methods since adopted by the other armies, and also, as testified by the German staff itself, apropos of the battle of the Somme, in explaining their defeat to the perfect use of technical methods."

"If the above-comparison is extended today to the entire Franco-English front, if you consider that from April 15th to June 15th the enemy engaged 108 divisions against the Anglo-French forces, and, finally, if one bears in mind that the successes of the British offensive at Ypres, obliged the enemy to engage 15 divisions during the last ten days you can understand why the German losses on the Western front grow heavier and heavier. (They admit the loss of 116,000 men during the month of May, 140,000 men are estimable to give a clear idea, increase the attrition of the Germans.)

"This constant activity, coinciding with the weakness and inaction of the Russians also explains why the Germans are obliged to maintain, and succeed in effectually maintaining, three times larger forces on the French front, than on the Russian front. It is known that the Russian winter practically puts a stop to all active operations, and that the reaction of the internal events in Russia on the Eastern front has allowed Germany to consider it during four months as a veritable reserve for the Western front. Not content with declining to give battle and withdrawing a portion of their front on the Hindenburg position, the German general staff has transported to the Western front between January and April a certain number of divisions drawn from the Eastern front. As this did not suffice they have drawn the picked men from each of their companies on the Eastern front, and with the assistance of the class of 1918 have formed 27 new divisions, 26 of which have appeared in France.

"However, in spite of using all these methods of which the latter have only been possible this year due to the trouble made by the Russian revolution, Germany has made her supreme military effort. The statement explains that while Germany still has great powers of resistance which will take all the Allied forces to break and she is capable of executing very vigorous local offensives, her resources are diminishing at the very moment when the military situation requires that they should increase.

"That is the principal point," it declares, and concludes:

"On the other hand, British and French armies have reached their full strength in men and material and are capable, with help of America of maintaining the enormous strength which they have gained to the end of the war. To this strength will be

added the great American army, which will arrive as quickly as possible, as three years of war have demonstrated the value of time and the advantage of each day gained.

"This shows the decisive character attending the operations of 1918 when three great democracies, England, France and America, will unite their entire strength in attacking the enemy, in conformity to the only sound principle of war."

THE NEWS UP CLAYTON WAY.

The Organization of a Home Guard For Clayton Now Under Way. New Electrician for Clayton. Local and Personal Items of Interest.

Clayton, Oct. 10.—Mrs. C. L. Barnes left Monday for Greensboro to spend the week with her daughter, Mrs. Shoemaker.

Mr. Edgar Stallings, of Petersburg, Va., spent last week-end here with his family at Clayton Hotel.

Mr. Willard McCullers and Hugh Ferrell left Sunday afternoon for New York.

Dr. V. M. Barnes and Messrs. Jesse Austin and Colonel Beddingfield spent last Sunday in Wilson.

Mr. E. L. Gulley, of Portsmouth, spent last Sunday here.

Mrs. Q. R. Huste, after spending several weeks here with her parents, left Sunday night for her home in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Mr. Doctor Austin, who for several months has held a position with the Department Store, has resigned his position and left for his home in Bethesda section.

Mr. Nat Myatt, of Raleigh, was in town on business Monday.

Mr. Vick Austin spent last Sunday in Benson with his daughter, Mrs. Jesse McLamb.

Mr. Herbert Coats has accepted a position with the Southern Express Company, having a daily run from Goldsboro to Greensboro. He is expecting to move his family to Goldsboro soon.

Mr. and Mrs. Y. M. Holland had as their guests Sunday their mother, Mrs. M. Holland, of Selma; brothers, Mr. Lonnie Hell and wife, of Greensboro, and Dr. N. T. Holland, of Smithfield.

Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Gulley spent last Sunday with relatives near Garner.

Mr. Ronnie Ellis being called under the draft, left last Saturday for Camp Jackson, Columbia, S. C. Mr. Ellis has friends here who are wishing him well.

Mr. L. E. Crech, of Pine Level, arrived this week to take charge of the express-business here, succeeding Mr. Herbert Coats.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. H. Killet, of Wilson, have arrived here and are stopping at Clayton Hotel. They will make their home here in the future and Mr. Killet is to superintend Clayton's light and water works. He succeeds Mr. T. M. White.

Mrs. C. W. Horne and Mrs. Morris leave to-night for a visit to New York and other northern points.

On Monday night the men of Clayton met in the school auditorium for the purpose of organizing a Home Guard. About thirty-five noble young men volunteered as members. It is supposed that after next Tuesday night no volunteers will be accepted. At that time they will meet again to perfect the organization. This is a great organization and it is hoped it will prove satisfactory.

Lawyer J. R. Williams spent Wednesday in Smithfield.

Mr. S. M. Spence spent Wednesday morning in Raleigh on business.

Death of Mrs. Y. R. Hales.

On Saturday, September 22nd, God in His great wisdom saw fit to take from the earth one of His jewels, and our devoted sister, Mrs. Nellie Hales. She had been in bad health for four months, but had borne her suffering with great patience. Mrs. Hales was a woman of noble character, not only in words but in deeds, and has gone to her reward at the age of twenty-eight years. To know her was to love her. The funeral services were conducted at Hopewell Baptist church by Rev. Mr. Faircloth, and her remains were laid to rest in the Hopewell cemetery.

She leaves a mother, five brothers, a husband and five children, with a large number of relatives and friends to mourn their loss.

She never had united with any church, but attended church as often as her health would permit. Although we grieve over the loss of our dear sister, we remember that while it is our loss, it is her gain, and whereas it has pleased God in His great wisdom, to remove from us our dear sister, we resolve to submit to the will of Him who doeth all things well. We trust those nearest and dearest to her can realize in this seemingly dark hour that all things work together for good to them that love the Lord.

MRS. WINNIE THOMPSON.

A flock of sheep often gives a farmer an excellent market right on his place for grain, hay, and root crops.

BUSINESS LOCALS.

CAR OF PIEDMONT WAGONS AT—The Austin-Stephenson Co. All sizes.

LOOK AT OUR WORK SHOES for Children—\$1.50 to \$2.50. N. B. Grantham.

IF YOU WANT THE LARGEST stock of goods in Smithfield to pick from you can find them at Austin-Stephenson Co.

LOOK AT OUR WORK SHOES for Children—\$1.50 to \$2.50. N. B. Grantham.

FOR SALE—TWO DARK GREY Percheron mares four and six years old, weighing about 1250 pounds each. Also one filly colt five months old. U. O. Jones, Godwin, N. C.

LOOK AT OUR WORK SHOES for men—\$3.00 to \$5.00. N. B. Grantham.

CAR OF PARKER BUGGIES expected daily at The Austin-Stephenson Company's.

FOR SALE—WHITE WYANDOTTE and White Leghorn Pullets and Cockerels, April hatch. One Dollar each. W. H. Lee, Four Oaks, N. C., P. O. Box 136.

COTTER-UNDERWOOD COMPAN-Y's Store is the place to buy your Dry Goods at the right price.

CAR OF HACKNEY BUGGIES expected to-day at Austin-Stephenson Company's—ask any man who has owned one.

THE SMITHFIELD BUILDING & Loan Association has helped a number of people to build homes. It will help others, and maybe you. New series of shares now open. See Mr. J. J. Broadhurst.

THE SUREST MEANS FOR THE creation of wealth is systematic saving, the finest habit of thrift is weekly savings—The Building and Loan Plan. Try our plan and own your home. Stop rent. New Series now open. J. J. Broadhurst, Secretary and Treasurer.

T. W. WOOD'S SEED WHEAT AND Rye at wholesale prices. G. K. Massengill, Four Oaks, N. C.

IF YOU WANT TO BUY A PAIR OF ladies' fine Shoes, go to Cotter-Underwood Co.

YOU CAN MAKE MONEY BY BUY-ing your Furniture at The Austin-Stephenson Company's. A trial is all we ask.

WE HAVE FOR SALE—SOME mules and horses cheap for Cash. Cotter-Underwood Co., Smithfield, N. C.

SEED WHEAT FOR SALE—T. S. Ragsdale, Smithfield, N. C.

THE BEST AND LARGEST STOCK of Furniture in Smithfield is at Cotter-Underwood Co.'s, Smithfield, N. C.

LOOK AT OUR WORK SHOES for Boys—\$2.00 to \$3.50. N. B. Grantham.

WANTED AT ONCE—MAN WITH saw mill to log, saw and put on sticks four or five hundred thousand feet of pine timber. Timber stands thick—logging is easy. Write or phone G. L. Massengill, Selma, N. C.

ONE LOT AT NO. 306 NORTH Third, formerly Market street—Lot 60 by 225 feet, containing one 4-room cottage. Apply to N. E. Bradford, Goldsboro, N. C.

WHEN YOU WANT GOOD REPAIR work done, come to Four Oaks Blacksmith Company.

IF YOU WANT TO BORROW MON-ey on your farm at only 5 per cent interest, see A. M. Noble, attorney-at-law, Smithfield, N. C.

IF YOU WANT TO MAKE MONEY buy your Shoes, Clothing and Dry Goods from Austin-Stephenson Co.

IF YOU WANT TO BUY OR RENT a farm it will pay you to see E. F. Boyett, Smithfield, N. C.

FINE FARM FOR SALE OF 64 acres, 25 cleared, balance fenced in pasture. Good buildings, convenient to school and churches, on mail route. Easy terms. This is one of the best tobacco farms in Johnston County. Also tenants wanted for one and two-horse farms. J. Rufus Creech, Pine Level, N. C., R. 1.

MONEY TO LOAN ON IMPROVED farm land at 5 per cent interest. Five, seven and ten years time. Amount unlimited. A. M. Noble, Attorney-at-law, Smithfield, N. C.

The Goods And The Prices That Will Get Your Business If You Will Come and Look

Our Line Is The Most Varied In Johnston County

As one good man said Monday (after driving 12 miles,) "You sold me everything I needed, and saved me \$2.50 on a suit, 50c on a hat, \$1.00 on a pair of shoes." We can save you the same.

We Can Furnish Your Home Complete

See that \$200.00 Walnut Suit or a \$5.00 Bed. Anything in Furniture, Matting, Rugs or comforts

We Can Clothe

Every member of your family from head to foot. See our \$50.00 guaranteed all wool suit for \$8.50 Each

All-Leather Shoes for Less than we can buy them today in car load lots

We can sell you anything you want on the farm---A Good Mule; The Best Buggies, Surreys, Wagons and Harness.

LOOK!

Come to our store, where we can clothe you, feed you, furnish your home or farm and save you money.

We pay the highest prices for Cotton, Cotton Seed and All Kinds of Produce

We Know Your Wants! We Want Your Business!!

Austin-Stephenson Co.
SMITHFIELD, N. C.