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PRESIDENT CALLS FOR THANKS.

Sets Apart Thursday, November, 29, As a National Thanksgiving Day and Calls on the People to Cease from Their Usual Labors for One Day and Worship God. While We Render Thanks "Let Us Pray Almighty God that in All Humbleness of Spirit We May Look Always to Him for Guidance."

President Wilson has set apart Thursday, November 29, as a day of National Thanksgiving in the following proclamation issued last Wednesday:

"It has long been the honored custom of our people to turn in the fruitful autumn to the year in praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God for His many blessings and mercies to us as a nation. That custom we can follow even now in the midst of the tragedy of a world shaken by war and immeasurable disaster, in the midst of sorrow and great peril, because even amidst the darkness that has gathered about us we can see the great blessings God has bestowed upon us, blessings that are better than mere peace of mind and prosperity of enterprise."

"We have been given the opportunity to serve mankind as we once served ourselves in the great day of our Declaration of Independence, by taking up arms against a tyranny that threatened to master and debase men everywhere and joined with other free peoples in demanding for all the nations of the world what we then demanded and obtained for ourselves. In this day of the revelation of our duty not only to defend our own rights as a nation but to defend also the rights of free men throughout the world, there has been vouchsafed us in full and inspiring measure the resolution and spirit of united action. We have been brought to one mind and purpose. A new vigor of common counsel and common action has been revealed in us. We should especially thank God that in such circumstances, in the midst of the greatest enterprise the spirits of men have entered upon, we have, if we but observe a reasonable and practicable economy, abundance with which to supply the needs of those associated with us as well as our own. A new light shines about us. The great duties of a new day awaken a new and greater national spirit in us. We shall never again be divided or wonder what stuff we are made of."

"And while we render thanks for those things let us pray Almighty God that in all humbleness of spirit we may look always to Him for guidance; that we may be kept constant in the spirit and purpose of service; that by His grace our minds may be directed and our hands strengthened, and that in His good time liberty and security and peace and the comradeship of a common justice may be vouchsafed all the nations of the earth."

"Wherefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate Thursday, the twenty-ninth day of November, next, as a day of thanksgiving and prayer and invite the people throughout the land to cease upon that day from their ordinary occupations and in their several homes and places of worship to render thanks to God, the great ruler of nations."

"In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed."

"Done in the District of Columbia this 7th day of November, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and seventeen, and of the independence of the United States of America the one hundred and forty-second."

WOODROW WILSON.

"By the President:

"Robert Lansing,
Secretary of State."

Get Your Wood Soon.

The winter is drawing nigh and there is a scarcity of coal. There is not a scarcity of wood in this section, but at the present time everybody is busy and it is hard to get the labor to cut and haul the wood to market. Now is the time to make a special effort to get the winter's wood supply. The man or family who waits until the cold weather is here to get his wood may have to pay more than he ought. The real value of the wood will be no more when a big snow or freeze comes than it is now, but it will be more difficult to get it cut and hauled then and those who are so unfortunate as not to have a wood supply will have to pay more for it.

RUSSIA ANXIOUS FOR PEACE.

Powers Now in Control of Petrograd Issue Proclamation to Propose Immediate Peace, Says Semi-Official Russian News Agency.

London, Nov. 8.—The Maximalists have obtained control of Petrograd and issued a proclamation saying that the government will propose immediate peace, the semi-official Russian news agency announces.

The Maximalists were assisted by the Petrograd garrison, which made possible a coup d'etat without bloodshed.

Leon Trotsky, president of the central executive committee of the Petrograd Council of Soldiers' and Workers' delegates issued a declaration to the effect that the provisional government was no longer in existence and that some of its members had been arrested. The preliminary parliament has been dissolved.

Hylan Is Elected Mayor New York.

New York, Nov. 6.—John F. Hylan, a county judge of Kings county, was elected mayor of New York today by a plurality of more than 100,000. He carried with him the entire democratic city ticket, including Chas. L. Craig for comptroller; Alfred E. Smith, now sheriff of New York county, for president of the board of alderman and Edward Swann for District attorney.

The indications are that the democrats will have a majority in the board of estimate, which controls the expenditure of the city funds.

Mayor John P. Mitchell, who sought re-election as a fusion candidate, although not formally nominated by any party, was a poor second in the race. His vote in 1,996 districts out of 2,908 in the city was 145,996, compared with 288,435 for Hylan.

AMERICANS READY FOR ATTACK

Enemy's Shells Fall Thick and Fast Over the Line Held by Pershing's Men. They are Eager for Raid.

With the American Army in France, Nov. 7 (By The Associated Press).—The German artillery was very active all last night and today, shells of various calibers raining around the American soldiers. So thickly did they come at one time during the early hours this morning it was thought another barrage was about to be placed for a second raid on the American trenches. The Americans were ready for the Boche and hoping he would try another raid. But none developed.

The American artillery gave the Germans back shell for shell and added a few for good measure, pounding the enemy battery position and breaking shrapnel over their trenches.

Rain has continued for days and vast seas of mud now extend in every direction. At some points the water running down the mountainous hills has flooded into the dugouts, the occupants being forced to pump repeatedly in order that the dugouts might remain tenable.

U. S. LETS FIVE MORE SHIPS HELP GET SUPPLIES TO ITALY.

Five ships with about 25,000 tonnage thus far have been placed by the American government at the disposal of Italy for the transport of supplies. Before the month is over another 75,000 tons will have been turned over.

The Italians are chiefly in need of coal, steel and grain, and the first ships given them are carrying coal. Later an arrangement probably will be worked out by which Italy's coal requirements will be furnished by Great Britain. Under this plan some six thousand miles of transportation would be saved.

While America is shipping coal to Italy, Great Britain is sending it to South American countries and the vessels thus are crossing each other and going twice through the submarine zone.—Washington Post.

Colored Woman a Patriot.

Ellen Sturdivant, a colored woman of Wadesboro, has set a fine example. When subscriptions were being taken for the Red Cross, she subscribed and paid \$5.00. Then she volunteered her services to launder shirts free for the sewing room, and she laundered. Now she has subscribed for a \$100 Liberty Bond and she will pay, too. That's helping the government win the war and she can enjoy the sweet consciousness of having done her part.—Wadesboro Ansonian.

Y. M. C. A. MEETING SUNDAY.

Will Be Held in Methodist Church Sunday Afternoon at Three O'clock. Plans Are to Be Made to Raise the Sum of \$3,500 for This Great Work From Johnston County. The Call for Money Is Urgent and the Need Is Great. Come to Smithfield Sunday and Hear the Matter Explained.

A meeting of great importance is planned to be held in the Smithfield Methodist Church Sunday Afternoon for the purpose of organizing Johnston County for the campaign to raise a fund for the Y. M. C. A. work.

The present great war has made demands on us that we must meet. We have got to fight the war to a finish. We have to take care of our people. Every agency must be called into play to carry on the great work the nation is engaged in. Military efficiency must be carried to its highest point. This the Government is doing as rapidly as possible. The sick and wounded soldiers must be ministered to and cared for. This is the work of the Red Cross. But there is another and equally important side of the war that we cannot afford to neglect. That is the moral and spiritual side of the soldier's life. This is the work that falls to the lot of the Young Men's Christian Association.

America is planning at the present time to raise the sum of \$35,000,000 for the Y. M. C. A. Army work. North Carolina has been asked to raise \$200,000 of this sum. The Fourth District composed of the counties of Wake, Johnston, Franklin, Vance and Warren, has been asked to raise \$30,000 of this fund, and Johnston County is given the task of raising \$3,500. We are expected to raise this money and raise it at once. The campaign begins on Monday, the 12th of November, and closes Monday, the 19th.

Mr. V. O. Parker, of Raleigh, is Chairman of this District. He has named N. E. Edgerton, of Selma, Chairman; T. J. Lassiter, of Smithfield, Secretary, and T. C. Evans, of Smithfield, Treasurer, for Johnston County. They are to have charge of organizing the work and raising the sum the county is asked to give.

In order that the work may be organized as quickly as possible a meeting has been appointed to be held in the Methodist church in Smithfield next Sunday, November 11, at 3:00 P. M. The County committee has named local committees for the several towns and communities, and hopes to have their hearty co-operation in the great work of raising the money to carry on the Y. M. C. A. work in the Camps and Cantonments. Letters are being mailed to these men today asking them to accept a place in the work and inviting them to come to the Smithfield meeting Sunday afternoon. Speakers from Raleigh are expected to be present to explain the work and assist in perfecting the county organization. Not only are those who will receive letters asked to come but every man and woman in the county interested in this great work is invited to come.

The life of the soldier in the camps is a monotonous one. He is kept busy for several hours with his military work. But what to do with his leisure is the great problem. Here is one of the places where the Y. M. C. A. can be of great service. Through it he is furnished amusement and recreation. The Y. M. C. A. has its educational department, its physical training department, its moral and its religious work. All these are important. But how are they to be carried on? The government provides no fund for this. True, it has its army chaplains. But not half enough to meet the spiritual needs of the thousands of men. So this great work under the government's plans naturally falls to the Y. M. C. A. And to provide the work requires funds to employ the secretaries and other workers. And this is the work we are trying to do now. It is very important and it is hoped that the people of Johnston will rise to the situation and do this full part.

Envious Pa.

Young Johnny had been reading the evening paper, and paused contemplatively for a few moments. "Father," said he, "what is 'inertia'?" "Well," replied the father, "if I have it, it's pure laziness, but if your mother has it, it is nervous prostration."—Tit-Bits.

COUNTY FAIR GREAT SUCCESS.

The Biggest Crowd of People Ever Seen in Smithfield Was Here Thursday To See the Fair. The Airplane Man Made a Fine Flight to the Delight of Thousands. The Exhibits Fine. The Midway the Liveliest Ever Seen Here. Good Racing.

The biggest crowd of folks ever seen in the town of Smithfield was here yesterday to attend the County Fair. There was a good attendance here on the opening day with a number of school children in line. But the people at large waited for yesterday, and they were here from every nook and corner of the county and the surrounding counties.

Hundreds of people were here who had never seen an airplane, and there were some here who did not believe the thing would fly. But they were convinced. They saw it ascend with ease under the perfect control of the aviator. Up, he went until the people began to wonder how high he was. He circled round and round and then began to gradually come down and when he neared the ground many of the people began to scatter for fear he was going to land on them. His flying was the admiration of the thousands who witnessed his stunts in the air.

The racing was good, the equal of the races seen anywhere. Thousands of people came to the Fair to see the races and those who were here yesterday and Wednesday were not disappointed.

The exhibits in all the departments were good. The ladies' departments were thronged all the time with people who were admiring the fancy work, the art work and the pantry supplies.

These livestock and the farm exhibits were all good, as was the poultry exhibits. They were as good as those seen at the Raleigh Fair. There were not so many of them however.

The machinery exhibits were fine. The biggest display of machinery ever seen here was the display made by the Roberts-Atkinson Company, of Selma, of which we shall have more to say in another issue. Then there was the exhibit of the "New Way" engines shown by the Cotter-Hardware Company, of Smithfield. All people who passed through the Floral Hall were delighted with the good music dispensed by those who had charge of the exhibit of musical instruments of the Thornton Music House. Mr. C. A. Corbett, of Selma, was here with his Briscoe, the automobile with the "half million dollar motor." Another very interesting exhibit was that of the Smithfield Garage and Machine Company, J. H. Kirkman, manager. The many electrical devices and appliances shown here attracted the attention of many.

And then the midway! How the people did like that. The Dorman & Krause shows did a thriving business. Hundreds went in to see the educated pony and the acting dogs. The Merry-Go-Round, the Whip, the Ferris Wheel and the many other things kept the crowds entertained and there was not a dull hour from the time the gates opened until the late hours last night.

Today the Fair will close. While the crowds will not be as big as they were yesterday it is expected that a large number of people will be here today.

SLAYER OF SWEETHEART SAVED FROM THE CHAIR.

Raleigh, Nov. 5.—Because he believed the police conscience of North Carolina does not demand the life of a nineteen-year-old boy for his first and only crime, committed in a frenzy of despair, Governor Bickett commuted the death sentence of Charles Walker to life imprisonment. His death sentence was for killing his sweetheart, Florence Sutphin, in Caldwell County.

Up to the time that he shot the girl to death he had borne a good reputation and the killing was the outcome of a wild impulse stirred by the persistent refusal of the girl to resume erstwhile sweetheart relations with him, the governor says.

The statement of reasons makes three closely typewritten pages. The governor does not believe the conditions under which the killing occurred could constitute the deliberation necessary to make first degree murder.

Second Liberty Loan Oversubscribed.

Washington, Nov. 7.—Americans respond to the call for a second Liberty war loan by subscribing \$4,617,532,300, an oversubscription of 51 per cent of the \$3,000,000,000 asked, and only \$383,000,000 less than the \$5,000,000,000 maximum fixed by the treasury.

Tabulations completed tonight, eleven days after the close of the nationwide bond-selling campaign, showed that every federal reserve district exceeded its quota and 9,400,000 persons subscribed in the big war financing operation, which Secretary McAdoo described as the greatest ever attempted by any government.

Half of the over-subscribed sum will be accepted, making the actual total of bonds to be issued \$3,808,766,150. Ninety-nine per cent of the subscribers will receive the amount for which they bargained, all subscriptions for \$50.00 or less being allotted in full and those above that amount being pared down in carrying proportions, ranging from a 90 per cent allowance on subscriptions between \$50,000 and \$100,000 to 40 per cent for the largest single subscription of \$50,000.

WEDNESDAY'S WAR NEWS.

The Italian armies are continuing their retreat westward over the Venetian plain from the Tagliamento river, and southward from the Dolomites and Carnic Alps region toward the plain. The retreat is declared by the Italian war officer to be an ordinary one, with the rear guards on both fighting fronts holding back the enemy and with airplanes also playing an important part in harassing the invaders, destroying bridges that have been thrown over the Tagliamento and bombing troops trying to cross the stream.

Although the Berlin official communication asserts that the Germans have reached the Livenza river on the Venetian plains along which it had been expected Gen. Cadorna would fight a retarding action, it is believed that this greater portion of General Von Below's forces still is negotiating a passage to the Tagliamento or working its way westward over the flat country harassed by the Italian cavalry.

There has been no indication as to where the line of Italians retreating from the hills southward has reached. Nor is there any information concerning where General Cadorna, reinforced by the British and French, will make his stand, but the belief still prevails that the Piave river will be chosen for this purpose.

That aid by the allies is required—and in no unstained measure—has been asserted in semi-official quarters in Rome. The Teutons are declared to have staked everything on their attempt to crush Italy and the allies must rush up assistance with the utmost speed if Cadorna is to check the enemy.

Thus far since the retreat from the Tagliamento and the north began it is evident that the invaders have not come in close contact with the main Italian forces, for the Berlin war office tells of no great battle having been fought anywhere and does not dilate on large numbers of prisoners having been taken, merely saying that several thousand troops have fallen into Teuton hands.

Of great significance to the Italian situation and to that of the allies generally is the announced arrival in a British port of the American representatives to the inter-allied conference which is to discuss and lay plans for the successful carrying on of the war. Col. E. M. House, long known as President Wilson's confidential adviser, heads the mission.

On none of the other fronts than the Italians have there been any engagements of great importance. The Canadians are holding their gains of Tuesday before Passchaendale without the Germans offering serious interference. On the greater portion of the remainder of the western front there have been only small encounters, in which the French obtained the advantage over the Germans. Gaza, on the Mediterranean coast in Palestine, has been captured by the British and the column operating north of Beersheba has made an additional advance of eleven miles.

Twelve British merchant vessels sunk by mines of submarines last week marks the minimum losses for any week since Germany began her unrestricted campaign last February.

Y. M. C. A. ARMY WORK WEEK.

Governor Bickett Has Issued a Proclamation Setting Apart Next Week for the Raising of North Carolina's Part of the Big Sum for Y. M. C. A. Work in the Army Camps.

The leaders in the Y. M. C. A. work have planned to raise the sum of \$35,000,000 for the Y. M. C. A. war work. The committee has asked that North Carolina raise \$300,000 of this amount. Next week is the week for the campaign to raise this money in every section of the United States. Governor Bickett has given official recognition of the work by issuing the following proclamation:

"The people of North Carolina have been called upon to contribute \$300,000 to the national fund of \$35,000,000 for the support of the Young Men's Christian Association in the work it is doing among our soldiers at home and abroad."

"In view of the service being rendered by the army and navy war work council for the moral and military efficiency of the soldiers and sailors of our country, in training camp and at the front, and among our allies in the great struggle for world-wide democracy;

"Now, therefore, I, Thomas Walter Bickett, Governor of North Carolina, do hereby set apart and proclaim November 11th to 19th, 1917, as Army Y. M. C. A. War Work Campaign Week. During this period I earnestly urge and request that every citizen do his duty by contributing liberally to this cause of safeguarding and giving happiness to the nation's youth in arms. I especially urge all pastors and church leaders and members of churches of all denominations and of all creeds to cooperate in this campaign. I also earnestly request that all people who are not members of any church, but who believe in the cause for which America is fighting, devote their best energies to this campaign to the end that North Carolina may do its full share of the work that must be done in order that the national fund may be raised."

PRICES SHOULD BE LOWER.

The Food Administration Is Hoping for Patriotic Co-operation of Retailers and Stabilizing Prices.

Raleigh, Nov. 7.—According to officials of the U. S. Food Administration the effect of the new License System should be felt immediately in lowering prices in many stores on canned corn, tomatoes, peas, and other food products.

It is stated that many lines of canned goods were bought by dealers at low prices last spring on future contract. These goods are now being delivered, the canning season being at an end. If dealers take only a reasonable margin of profit on these goods, the prices to the consumer should be correspondingly low.

It is expected that goods which the wholesalers still have on hand and which were bought early will be sold on a lower margin under the licensing regulations than has prevailed up to the present, and also in accordance with voluntary assurances given by them to the Food Administration.

In the present movement for reasonable profits on staple foods the retail grocer will find many opportunities for readjusting his prices on the odd-penny basis. Sales of groceries have been hampered for years by the so-called round prices; that is, prices in even nickels and dimes. Odd-penny prices have been used to build up sales of department stores and mail-order houses and are just as effective for the retail stores.

The Food Administration is hopeful of the patriotic co-operation of retailers in its work of reducing and stabilizing prices of food products to the consumer. Representatives of the retail grocery trade have adopted resolution endorsing the work of the Food Administration and pledging their hearty support. However, it is expected that there will be retailers in some places who have taken advantage of conditions and may attempt to continue the practice of exacting exorbitant profits from their customers. That such dealers as this will receive the merited attention of the Food Administration is assured.

Woman suffrage was defeated in Ohio. The prohibition cause in Ohio, which on first report seemed victorious, appears to have been defeated.