

The Smithfield Herald

VOLUME 36

SMITHFIELD, N. C., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1917.

Number 75

BRITISH SMASH GERMAN LINE.

**Haig's Victorious Troops Sweep Back
Enemy Five Miles At One Point in
Wednesday's Offensive. Italians
Holding Their Own on the Piave
River. British Making Progress in
Palestine.**

The Associated Press summary of the war news for Wednesday as published in yesterday's daily papers, is more encouraging than for several days past. It follows:

The great Hindenburg defense line, upon which the German commander-in-chief had built his hopes of holding the British from inroads into the open territory beyond, has been smashed. And the task apparently was an easy one.

Attacking over a front of 32 miles, extending from the Scarpe river east of Arras, to St. Quentin, Field Marshal Haig, with his English, Scotch, Irish and Welsh troops, has made one of the most rapid and spectacular drives of the present war, catching the Germans completely by surprise in the onslaught capturing numerous positions which were regarded as impregnable and taking in addition thousands of prisoners and numerous guns.

The apex of the offensive apparently is centered on the important railway junction of Cambrai, lying to the east of the old line midway between Arras and St. Quentin. Here, having taken the towns of Marcoing, Anneux, Grancourt and Novelles, the victorious troops at last accounts were well within gun range of Cambrai, with its railroad lines and roadways branching out toward all the main points of the compass.

The latest advices indicate that the British have not yet ceased their attack, but aided by monster tanks which are leading the way, followed by infantry and machine gun detachments, are pressing forward for further conquest.

French Begin Synchronous Attack.

Synchronously, to the south around St. Quentin and east of that point in the Aisne region, the French have begun an offensive. While no details of this movement have been received, it doubtless has the object of pushing back the Germans eastward in the former sector and northward in the latter region toward Laon, strategic moves which, if successful, doubtless would compel that part of the German line north of St. Quentin which is still intact to fall back precipitately eastward.

The British drive was begun without the usual artillery prelude, and as the tanks and infantrymen made their way through the wire entanglements and pressed into the German first positions, the surprised enemy began sending up myriads of signal rockets calling for assistance. Whether aid was rushed up is not definitely known, but seemingly the surprised Germans fled in disorder, leaving all kinds of equipment behind and in most cases did not even take time, as is usual, to apply the torch to villages they evacuated.

The British casualties are described as extremely light while German dead covered the ground as the British pressed onward.

Reports to date indicate that the depth of the penetration in the region of Cambrai has exceeded five miles, and that at one point at least the troops swept on five miles beyond the German lines, capturing additional villages. The offensive was under direct command of General Sir Julian Hedworth, George Byng, and General John J. Pershing, commander-in-chief of the American forces in France, was an interested observer of it.

Meanwhile, the Italians everywhere are holding the Teutonic allied invaders along the Piave river and in the hilly region from the upper reaches of that stream to Lake Garda. Nowhere has the enemy been able to gain additional ground. On the contrary, violent attacks in the hill country have been repulsed with heavy casualties. Probably owing to previous ineffectual attempts to dislodge the defenders, the enemy has not renewed his attacks against Monte Tomba and Mount Monfenera, the vital points barring the way to an invasion of the Venetian plain from the north.

On the coastal front, Italian and British warships are bombarding enemy positions.

Still further progress has been made by the British in Palestine, the line of General Allenby now having been driven to points five miles northwest

and six miles west of Jerusalem. The former position was taken at the point of the bayonet.

British shipping losses last week aggregated 17 vessels. Only 10 of these, however, were craft in excess of 1,600 tons.

An indication that the Germans' fortified line has been passed by the British at some points is the entry of the cavalry into the fray. Not since the famous retreat of the Germans along the Acre and the Somme in the spring of the present year have the horsemen been engaged. At that time they performed valiant service in harassing the retreating columns and in rounding up prisoners.

MANY SHIPS BEING BUILT.

Twenty thousand Tons Shipping Finished Last Week.

Washington, Nov. 20.—American shipyards whose construction was commanded by the government completed last week 20,000 tons of merchant shipping. The shipping board announced today that this brought their total output since the commandeering order was issued Aug. 8 up to 28 vessels of 159,000 tons capacity. With speeding up processes underway tonnage soon will begin to come from the yards at a much faster rate, shipping board officials predict.

The first of the government's great fleet of nearly 1,000 vessels for which contracts have been let will be completed in the Skinner & Eddy plant at Seattle, November 24. It is of steel, of 8,000 tons capacity and a designed speed of 11 knots. The first of the wooden ships will be launched about December 1.

PRINCETON PENCILINGS.

Princeton, Nov. 21.—Mr. A. E. Arment, of Goldsboro, is visiting relatives in town.

Miss Bessie Mason and Miss Winstead, of Goldsboro, are spending a few days with Miss Rochelle Hinton.

Rev. Mr. Alderman, of Delway, filled the regular appointment of Rev. J. M. Duncan at the Baptist church Sunday.

Mrs. P. C. Duncan and little son, of Clayton, are spending a few days with Mrs. J. B. Strachan.

Rev. Mr. Dupree, of Salemburg, will preach at the Baptist church Sunday afternoon, December 2nd, at 3 o'clock. A good attendance is desired.

Mr Frank Wells has gone to the sanitarium for treatment. Mr. Walter V. Woodard will have charge of the garage until his return.

Mr. and Mrs. Willie Whitley, of Raleigh, are spending a few days with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Whitley.

Mr. Jas. B. Moore and family are preparing to move to Dillon, S. C.

Mr. W. S. Edwards and family have moved to Scotland Neck, N. C., where Mr. Edwards is in business.

Mr. W. E. Raiford has returned home after being in the hospital at Durham for some time. He is greatly improved, but is still very feeble.

Mrs. W. M. Pettway, of Goldsboro, has been spending a few days with Miss Leona Holt.

Mr. Clarence Williams and wife, of Goldsboro, spent Sunday with their parents.

Mrs. Rebecca Raiford, of Durham, is visiting Mr. and Mrs. Herndon this week.

Mrs. Fannie Warren, of Goldsboro, has been spending a week with relatives around town.

Miss Lissie Woodard has accepted the position as music teacher in a school near Dunn.

We are pleased to note that Princeton raised nearly one hundred and sixty dollars in the Y. M. C. A. campaign. This, of course, is a small amount as compared with other towns, but it's a big item for this town.

Church Bazaar at Kenly.

Kenly, November 21.—The Woman's Missionary Society of the M. E. church will hold their annual bazaar December 7 and 8. There will be two booths. One will have beautiful and artistic fancy work. The other will have miscellaneous articles, consisting of canned material, fruits, candies, etc. Two delightful meals—dinner and supper—will be served each day.

Everybody invited to attend.

Alma Gluck has promised to set aside \$25,000 from her forthcoming concert tour, which sum will be donated to the American Red Cross.

CHAIRMAN'S FINAL REPORT.

Army Y. M. C. A. Campaign Fund In Johnston County Goes Five Hundred Dollars Beyond the Assessment.

I am happy to be able to report that we have exceeded our assessment by \$500.00, which is clearly evident that our people are vitally interested in the welfare and care of our soldiers at the front.

Credit must go first to those who contributed to this fund, particularly I want to make mention of the fact that The Smithfield Herald, our Johnston County paper, contributed largely towards the final results of this campaign by continuously keeping the matter before the people with considerable cost to them and without cost to us. And for this, if for no other reason, we should show our appreciation by subscribing for our County paper, letting those men who were so considerate know that their sacrifice for this grand and noble cause was appreciated. I want to extend my personal appreciations to those who assisted me in this hurried campaign.

My estimate is that only one-fourth of the population of Johnston County contributed to this fund; to such I am sorry that you can not rejoice with those who did contribute, but I will say as a warning to you that if this war continues beyond next July, you will again have an opportunity to show what you will do.

I want to ask in this connection that the various Chairmen and Secretaries send their reports and contributions to T. C. Evans, Smithfield, N. C.; and collect as soon as possible all subscriptions as this money is badly needed.

The \$4,000.00 subscribed by Towns and Country Churches is as follows: Batten's Cross Roads, \$ 5.00 Sanders Chapel, 120.00 Bentonsville Township, 99.55 Brown's School House, 2.50 Selma, 1,405.42 Smithfield, 544.25 Benson, 500.00 Four Oaks, 145.00 Clayton, 500.00 Wilson's Mills, 80.00 Princeton, 166.66 Pine Level, 118.55 Micro, 116.85 Baptist Center S. S., 1.60 Thanksgiving S. S., 4.00 Kenly, 200.00 Elevation Township 10.00 Total \$4,019.48

N. E. EDGERTON,
Chairman.
Selma, Nov. 22, 1917.

Y. M. C. A. WAR FUND GOES OVER

Almost Fifty Million Dollars Raised for Great Work.

The national war work council of the Young Men's Christian Association announced at New York Tuesday night that the grand total of the nation-wide war fund campaign is \$49,209,411. This exceeds by nearly \$15,000,000 the \$35,000,000 goal set at the beginning of the campaign on November 12.

President Wilson, on being informed that the fund was greatly oversubscribed, telegraphed congratulations to John R. Mott, general secretary of the fund.

"My heartfelt congratulations on the remarkable and gratifying results," the President's telegram read. "I think it is a national blessing."

Over \$450 Per Acre.

One of the best records in making tobacco we have yet heard of was the record made by Mr. J. L. Strickland, of Pine Level, Route 1. Mr. Strickland sold the crop off of four acres for \$1,895.27, clear check. He sold at the Banner warehouse and is very proud of the record he made. He realized nearly \$475 per acre clear of warehouse charges.

To Build Flour Mill at Lowell.

We learn that the people of Beulah Township are planning to build a flour mill on the site of the old Lowell factory on Little River. Mr. J. W. Darden, of Kenly, owns the property and is organizing a stock company to build the mill. We understand they intend raising about \$25,000 to \$30,000 for this purpose. On account of the increased interest in wheat growing, many farmers are taking stock in the company.

LIVE ITEMS FROM SELMA.

Community Library Organized. Selma Has Established a Municipal Wood-yard, Entertainment to Be Given at Municipal Building Tonight.

Selma, Nov. 22.—Selma's Dollar Day will be held Thursday, December 13th. Watch for the merchants' ads.

Mrs. Geo. H. Morgan returned yesterday from a visit to her daughter, Mrs. C. D. Wood, at Wilson.

Miss Marion Hood, of Dunn, is spending this week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Hood.

We are pleased to announce that Mrs. W. B. Driver, who has been very ill at her home on Railroad street, is improving.

Mrs. J. D. Massey and Miss Ruby Griffin are spending today in Raleigh shopping.

We regret to announce that Mr. D. H. Hill is confined to his room with pneumonia.

Rev. C. K. Proctor made an address at Kenly last Thursday night in the interest of the Y. M. C. A. war fund.

Rev. and Mrs. C. E. Stevens returned last night from a visit to Magolia, Clinton and Newton Grove.

Mr. and Mrs. Jno. Wiggs and Mrs. E. V. Woodard spent last Sunday with Mrs. Wiggs' father, Mr. B. H. Woodard, at Princeton.

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Woodard will spend tomorrow in Raleigh, and will see the "Birth of the Nation" at the Academy of Music.

Prof. E. H. Moser made an address Thursday night at Princeton on the Y. M. C. A. War Fund.

Mr. Henry Terrell, Jr., spent last Sunday with friends in Fayetteville.

The Knitting Club will meet this afternoon at the residence of Mrs. W. H. Etheredge on Anderson Street at 3:30 o'clock. The Club is engaged in knitting articles for the soldiers.

November 27th is the date for the next Lyceum Attraction. Judging from the other number played here it will be good, and will have a good attendance.

Mr. J. N. Wiggs spent Monday at his farm near Micro looking after his various interests there.

Mr. D. H. Terrell has made considerable improvements in his market, for which he is to be commended. The painting and general cleaning up gives it a very sanitary appearance.

The Selma Supply Company are arranging for concrete side walks in front of their property on Raiford Street. Keep the good work going.

The ladies of the town met yesterday afternoon at the Graded School building and arranged for a Public Community Library. The Library will be installed at the school building, and will be open every Sunday afternoon from two until five o'clock for the benefit of those who like to spend their leisure hours pleasantly and profitably. Magazines and books by standard authors will be accepted gladly and placed in the library. A capable manager will be in charge. This move will be especially beneficial during the winter months when the weather is too cold to be out.

The City Fathers have arranged for a Municipal Woodyard to be located on Webb Street and are going into the wood business. We understand that Mr. H. D. Hood has been appointed Manager, and they will begin immediately to have the wood brought in.

We think this is a very commendable step on the part of the city administration since the fuel situation promises to become acute with the coming of the real cold weather which we expect later on, and doubtless much actual suffering would have occurred had they not taken this step, as the local dealers seem to be unable to control the situation.

"Our Allies in Signs and Song" is the title of a play by local talent from Clayton that will be given here Friday night in the new opera house for the benefit of the Red Cross. More than one hundred characters will take part in this pageant which will under the direction of Mrs. Charles G. Gulley. The program will be interspersed with Mutt and Jeff performances. Mrs. Gulley has a great deal of experience, and the fact that this play is under her direction is sufficient evidence that it will be well worth while to attend. The play will begin promptly at 8:00 o'clock, and since the proceeds go to Red Cross Chapters of Selma and Clayton, we think it the duty of our people to fill the house, and thus help our boys who are and will be on the firing lines.

The Civic League which in the past

has done so much for our town in the way of making it a clearer and prettier place in which to live, are considering the placing of galvanized garbage cans at all the stores and in the public places as receptacles of paper and trash that is now being blown broad cast upon our streets. The cans will be furnished at wholesale cost and the merchants and business men will be asked to provide these for their places of business. The cans are needed and we hope that there will be no trouble in getting our merchants to provide this necessity.

Under the auspices of the Merchants Association, "Pay-Up-Week" will be observed in Selma, December the 10th to the 15th, inclusive. Although prices to the consumer this year have been high, they have never received higher prices for their products, and as the year is coming to a close it is only fitting and right that every man who is in a position to do so should pay up his bills and be ready to start the new year with a clear sheet.

Our merchants will offer special inducements to their customers to pay up their accounts during this week, and on Thursday of this week, the merchants will display special Dollar Sales where the public will be able to buy staple and seasonable merchandise at prices less than it cost the merchants today.

During the next two weeks these events will be thoroughly advertised, and great results are anticipated for both the merchants and the customers.

The Southern Railway has had a construction force at work on new yards between Selma and Pine Level for several months, but on account of the scarcity of labor, the work is progressing very slowly. This week they are moving the freight depot, and putting in new tracks to accommodate the unloading of freight. This work when completed will be an advantage to Selma in that it will remove all the side tracks out of town except those that are necessary around the freight depot.

NOW 18,975 AT CAMP GREENE.

And No Crowding at That for 40,000 Can Be Accommodated.

The total population of Camp Greene at 5 o'clock Monday afternoon was approximately 18,975 officers and men, including regular army and national guard units. These figures represent a compilation of reports by commanding officers made to a representative of The Observer upon arrival of the respective regiments. The attaches of the base hospital and troops at the remount station, both at the camp but considered as separate, were included in this total.

Occupied by regiments at full war strength, the camp has accommodations for approximately 40,000 soldiers. It is not considered likely that this figure will be reached within the next six weeks, if at all. Each of the regiments at the camp is far below war strength, however, and expecting hundreds of enlisted men to arrive for expansion of the units. This has not begun yet, though, and official information is lacking as to when such forces will begin to arrive and as to whether or not they will be drafted soldiers or regular army recruits.

—Charlotte Observer, 20th.

Automobiles which Left the Road.

Last Saturday Afternoon two young men were coming from Raleigh on their way to their home near Ayden, N. C., and had an accident at the Smithfield bridge over Neuse river. A tire was off one of the front wheels, but they were running on the rim of that wheel. Just before reaching the Smithfield end of the bridge it seems the steering gear broke and the car ran against the railing of the bridge which it broke down, the car then turning completely over and going to the ground fifteen feet or more below. Fortunately the men landed in a ditch below the car. One man crawled from under the car and pulled his friend out. One of them had a collar bone broken, but otherwise they do not seem to