

The Smithfield Herald

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SUNDAY EVENTS IN BIG WAR.

The Germans and Austro-Hungarians sustain heavy losses in Northern Italy. Armistice Signed Between Bolshevik Government and Teutonic Allies.

Notwithstanding the terrible losses they have sustained, the German and Austro-Hungarian armies in the mountainous region of northern Italy continue their efforts to break the Italian line and open a passageway to the plains below. In France and Belgium there is little military activity, except for small engagements by outposts and raiding contingents and artillery duels. The nearest approach to attacks in force were made by the Germans Saturday night in the Champagne region of France, and to the north of the Chemin-Des-Dames. In both of these the Germans were worsted by the French. A small British maneuver south of Cambrai resulted in the capture of a few German prisoners and a machine gun.

Between the Brenta and Piave rivers in the Italian highlands and fighting continues without cessation. The enemy to the east of the Brenta has been able, by throwing huge numbers of men into the fray and seemingly disregarding the enormous casualties that are being inflicted upon him, to advance his lines to Caprille hill, a dominating point at the head of the San Lorenzo valley, which leads to the Venetian plains. Here, however, he has been forced to step under the terrific defense of the Italians, who evidently have massed their forces in order to bar the way to a further advance. In the valley itself and on the slopes on either side of it, well-tried Alpinist regiments are stationed to exact a heavy toll for every inch of ground taken from them.

Prior to gaining the summit of Caprille the invaders twice were summarily repulsed, but for their final attack they brought up heavy reinforcements and valiant defenders were compelled to give ground.

The agreement for an armistice between the Bolshevik government in Russia and the Teutonic allies has been signed. It will run from Monday until January 14, and then will continue in force automatically unless seven days' notice of its discontinuance is given. On the signing of an armistice peace negotiations are to begin.—Associated Press, Summary.

NORFOLK SOUTHERN IS SHORT OF COAL.

Raleigh, Dec. 13.—President J. H. Young of the Norfolk Southern notified the corporation commission this evening that on account of the shortage of coal his railroad would be compelled to curtail its train schedule on its lines in Virginia and North Carolina until such time as it could obtain an adequate supply of fuel.

His road, he says, has not received its full requirements of fuel for several months past and has only been able to maintain its full schedules by drawing upon 8,000 tons of storage coal which it was able to put on the ground during the spring and summer. This supply is now entirely exhausted and the company is without coal at some of its most important coaling stations with a limited supply at the remainder and practically no coal in sight from the mines.

Report to the Chairman.

The State Director of the War-Savings Stamps campaign is desirous of keeping up with the progress of the work and asks each county chairman to report to him every week how many stamps are being sold. He can not keep up with this unless the postmasters and banks keep him posted. Mr. Ragsdale, the Johnston County Chairman, asks those selling stamps in this county to report to him the number sold every Friday or Saturday. In some places we understand that the people are getting busy and we expect good reports later on.

The Schools will soon take the matter up and push it along. This cannot be done to a great extent until after the schools open the spring session after the Christmas holidays.

FIFTY, FIFTY

An Apache chief in Utah reports that 5,000 Apache Indians will soon be enlisted in the American army. When Apache meets Hun, then should come the tug of inhuman war.—Kansas City Journal.

THOSE WHO CREATE UNREST.

A London dispatch states that industrial unrest in England is one of the depressing and discouraging features of the war to be contended with. The government's investigation into the cause of it discloses the fact that it is mainly the result of the ruinous prices of foodstuffs and the extreme difficulty of living.

The most effective aid that the enemy is receiving is from the profiteers who are taking advantage of the war to make money. The profiteers in England and America who are making millions of people hungry and bitter are none the less enemies of humanity than the Prussian militarism that sends ships to the bottom of the sea with women and children. Starving them is only another degree of inhumanity.

While the patriotic people of England and America are raking and scraping every cent they can spare to aid their countries in war they are also being compelled to rake and scrape some more to enrich the profiteers. British corporations handling meats and foodstuffs have been making the biggest profits in their history, while some of those in America are doing the same. Millions of people, not able to help their countries to win the war, nevertheless are compelled to come across with their spare change to pile up wealth for profiteers, who are far more effective allies of the Boches than are the Bolsheviks of Russia.—Wilmington Star.

NORFOLK HAS A BIG FIRE.

British-American Tobacco Company at Norfolk Wiped Out and 5,000 Men Lose Employment.

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 16.—The plant of the British-American Tobacco Company, composed of two six-story buildings, on Water street, was completely wiped out by fire early this evening. The estimated loss is \$500,000.

The fire originated on the second floor of the new building, facing on Water street and quickly spread to the old structure in the rear. The new building was completely destroyed. The old building was gutted. An immense stock of tobacco and several floors of cigarette machinery were destroyed.

Several explosions of bay rum early after the discovery of the fire caused the flames to spread rapidly. At one time it looked like the United States customs house would go and a guard of marines was thrown about the structure by request of officials.

The origin of the fire is a mystery. Fire department officials declare it was probably the work of an incendiary. The entire plant was used for the manufacture of cigarettes for exportation to Europe. The entire force of 5,000 will be thrown out of employment.

NEW FORCE TO BE KNOWN AS UNITED STATES GUARD

The United States Guard will be the name of the 25,000 auxiliary force of troops, authorized by the war department, to supplement state and other forces now guarding war supplies, war industries and doing police duty essential to the conduct of the war, including patrol of water fronts.

President Wilson has signed the order for organization of the force and further orders were sent out from the war department Thursday.

Forty battalions will be organized to relieve regular troops, national guard or other purely military units of this guard duty.

The order prescribes that the force be raised by voluntary enlistment or draft. It is the purpose of the government to make up of men not available for war service at the front. Volunteers will be accepted only between the ages of 31 and 45. If resort to the draft is necessary men placed in the special classes under the new draft system as being fit for limited military service only, will be used to fill up the ranks.

The Herald as a Christmas Gift.

Would it not be a good idea to give The Herald to your brother or sister, your son or daughter, your husband or wife, or to your friend as a Christmas present? It would cost you only \$1.50, and would furnish good reading for a whole year. In this way you can help The Herald and the person to whom you send it as a gift. Try it.

A WARNING TO FOOD DEALERS.

Food Administration Is On the Look-out for the Profiteers. No Merchant Should Take Advantage of Conditions and Charge Exorbitant Prices.

I have just received a letter from the State Food Administrator which explains itself, to-wit:
To All Food Administrators:
Gentlemen:

"We have had complaints from several points in the State of exorbitant charges for sugar and other food products. We feel that 10 or 10 1/2 a pound for sugar affords the dealer a fair profit, but until present conditions are relieved Mr. Page has fixed 11c as the maximum that might be charged in North Carolina. If any merchants in your county are charging more than that price for sugar please warn them that they must put their prices within that figure and if they persist in profiteering after having received warning from you please report their name and the circumstances to this office promptly.

"We desire to call your attention to another condition. We have had information from one county that a number of consumers have purchased enough flour to last them until the next harvest. The Food Control Law is designed to prevent, and does forbid, hoarding by consumers and individuals as much as by dealers, and this office desires any definite information it can secure regarding this practice. Of course, the producer of wheat or any other product is privileged to have it ground and keep it in his hands as long as he desires but after it passes from the hands of the producer it is under the control of the Food Administration and it is imperative that no hoarding be allowed. Food commodities, when held by consumers or dealers in amounts greater than their requirements for a reasonable period, are subject to confiscation and we do not hesitate to say to you, and you need not hesitate to pass the word along, that those who attempt to hoard foodstuffs and to disarrange the whole food situation in the country will be dealt with promptly and vigorously."

In these war times no merchant should take advantage of conditions and charge more than price fixed by the Government for sugar. If they have and do not desist after this warning, they will be reported to the State Food Administrator who will forbid the jobbers and wholesale merchants from selling such merchant or merchants any sugar during the period of the war, besides otherwise dealing with them as the law directs.

The hoarding of food is mere waste. Every American citizen ought to be willing to take his chance with his fellow citizen and go as hungry as the average citizen, and if necessary all share together. "United we stand; divided we fall." It is now a time when we should all stand together. There is no need for any to starve in America, yet there is danger of many going hungry if hoarding of foodstuffs is done.

I call on the good citizens of Johnston County to advise me of any violations of the Food Law and I will do what I can to relieve the situation.

F. H. BROOKS,
Co. Food Administrator.
Dec. 17th, 1917.

Thirteen Thousand Men Enlist in A Single Day.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Nearly 11,000 men were listed as accepted yesterday for the regular army and reports showing an additional 2,000 came in too late for tabulation.

The total of war volunteers now is 313,852. War department officials expect an even greater showing tomorrow and Saturday, the last day when men of the draft age may be taken in through the recruiting stations.

Collins Cost White Sox \$65,000.

Chicago, Dec. 13.—The price Charles Comiskey, owner of the championship Chicago club, paid for Eddie Collins, star second baseman, was made public tonight by President Johnson of the American League.

He said Comiskey paid the Philadelphia club \$50,000 for Collins' contract, gave Collins \$15,000 bonus for signing, and signed him to a five-year contract at a salary of \$15,000 a year.

LEO HEARTT DIES AT RALEIGH.

Clerk of Federal Court Was for Many Years Prominent Banker in Durham and Raleigh.

Leo D. Heartt, clerk of the Federal court for the eastern district of North Carolina, died at his home in Raleigh Friday night at 8:30 o'clock. The death was entirely unexpected although he had been suffering somewhat from heart trouble for sometime. He was 68 years old, was for many years a prominent banker in Durham and Raleigh and for more than a year served as clerk of the Federal court succeeding the late Mr. Blow, of Greenville. He is survived by Mrs. Heartt and three daughters, Mrs. Victor Bryant, Mrs. Joe Graham, of Durham; Mrs. Harvey, of Kinston; also one son, Leo D. Heartt, Jr., of Raleigh.

CONNIE MACK SELLS PLAYERS.

Strunk, Bush and Schang to go to Boston Americans for Sixty Thousand Dollars.

Philadelphia, Dec. 14.—The sale by the Philadelphia Athletics of Strunk, Bush and Schang to the Boston Americans for \$60,000 and three players which was announced in Chicago today is the second big base ball surprise for the Philadelphia fans this week. They had hardly gotten over the surprise caused by the sale of the Philadelphia National's star battery, Alexander and Killifer to the Chicago Cubs.

Amos Strunk is 28 years old. He came to the Athletics in 1909 and is ranked as one of the fastest fielders in the American league and also as a hard hitter.

"Bullet" Joe Bush is 25. He joined the Athletics in 1912 and was one of Connie Mack's dependable pitchers when his other twirling stars began to wane. In 1916 he pitched a no-hit-no-run game.

"Wally" Schang came to the Athletics in 1913. He is 28 years old Schang is an all round player, having filled positions in the outfield and infield as well as catcher.

Gaston Means Set Free.

Concord, Dec. 16.—Gaston Means has won his freedom!

The jury that gave it to him after an incarceration since September 22, returned the verdict of not guilty this morning at 10:30 following a trial of 19 days. Solicitor Clement announced that he had no other charge than that of murdering Mrs. Maude A. King, and on motion of Judge Frank Osborne, senior counsel for the defendant, Judge Cline discharged the prisoner.—W. T. Bost, in Greensboro News.

"Baby Bonds for Billions."

The new war-saving certificates will represent an obligation on the part of the United States quite as secure and quite as sacred as the Liberty loans. But under the so-called "Baby Bond" plan war stamps of the denomination of 25 cents can be purchased and affixed to thrift cards which will enable the owner to save and at the same time get four per cent interest upon such savings when they amount to as much as \$4.12 or more. By this means the Government has placed within the reach of practically every body an opportunity to help in financing the war. It is expected to raise \$2,000,000,000 in this way, and that is a very substantial sum. But the greatest value of this plan will be to enable the great mass of the public to demonstrate its patriotism and active interest in the war for humanity. It will unite all people in the common cause and emphasize the fact that this war is the business of all.—Kansas City Journal.

Italians Driving Enemy Back.

The latest news from the Italian front reports that on the northern front the Austro-Germans have been driven back in disorder.

Missing Seaman Found.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Vice-Admiral Sims notified the navy department today that Lested Joseph Gilson, a seaman previously listed among the missing of the destroyer Jacob Jones, had been found among the survivors. Gilson's mother lives at Green Bay, Wis.

TIGHT-WAD PATRIOTS.

As we get further into the war, the need for everyone in the nation to take hold and help becomes more pressing. Battles are not won alone by the armies in the field. If the armies are to fight well, they must have guns and ammunition, clothing and food, and all the machinery of war. The people at home must provide money for those activities which can be carried out alone by the government. This money must be furnished either by lending to the government on its bonds, or by paying it outright in the form of taxes.

In addition to furnishing the government the means for carrying on strictly government activities, we must voluntarily give money to carry on certain forms of war work which can be handled better by voluntary organizations of people than by the government; for example, the Army Y. M. C. A. work and the Red Cross work. The Army Y. M. C. A. is just as necessary as the machinery of war and the food and clothing. It is the one way by which our boys can be kept up to fighting trim. It gives them a home, a club, a place to gather for friendly intercourse, and a place for recreation—everything of this sort which tends to keep their minds occupied and their bodies healthful, and helps to safeguard them from things which undermine their ability as soldiers. The Red Cross, in addition to its work among suffering civilians, helps to provide needed articles of clothing which the government does not furnish, and helps to look after the wounded.

Our nation has responded splendidly, both by lending money on government bonds and by giving to the Red Cross and the Army Y. M. C. A. But scattered through the country are large numbers of people who have not as yet done their share in this work, people who are able to help. Some of them sympathize with the enemy instead of this nation, but a larger number are simply "tight-wad patriots." Their dollars are so big in their eyes that they cannot see anything else. They do not seem to understand that this country is in war—a costly, bloody war. They do not seem to realize that we are fighting against a nation whose people have been organizing for war for more than a generation, and every member of which is working for its success. We cannot hope to win against a nation of that sort unless we also organize, and unless all of our people do what they can best do. Neither do these tight-wad patriots seem to realize that this is just as much their fight as their neighbors' fight. They would like to have a cushioned seat on the side lines, with an umbrella over their heads when the sun is hot, and a nice, big fur coat in cold weather, and watch their neighbors and their neighbors' boys do the fighting for them.

This will not do. The further into the war we get, the less patience people will have with these tight-wad patriots. Already some folks have had their stores and their houses and barns painted yellow, because they have failed to do their share. There will be more of this as time goes on.

We are in a very serious war, in which our very life as a nation is at stake. The time for arguing as to whether we should fight has gone by. We are fighting. Our boys are in the trenches, and some are being killed and wounded. People who sympathize with the enemy instead of with their own country should go away to some other country. Tight wad patriots who refuse to give their money when others are giving their lives will have an increasingly uncomfortable time of it; and they should.—Wallace's Farmer.

Hogs in Germany.

There are now about 13,000,000 head of hogs in Germany, as compared with 25,000,000 before the war broke out. As long as food conditions are critical in Germany, they will raise only a sufficient number of hogs to clean up waste material. But at the first sign of peace, every brood sow available will be bred, and within two years hog production in Germany will again be very nearly normal. During the first year following the war, however, there is every reason to believe that Germany will import hundreds of millions of pounds of hog products from the corn belt of the United States, in order to conserve her breeding stock so far as possible.—Wallace's Farmer.

AT THE CAPITAL OF BEULAH.

Special Red Cross Meeting for Tuesday night. Christmas Bazar Meeting with Success. Funeral of Mr. Hardy Edgerton Held Friday, Conducted by Elder Styron.

Kenly, December 14.—Because of the heavy snow that fell here Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, school has been suspended until next Monday morning.

A special meeting of the Red Cross Society is planned to be held in the school auditorium Tuesday night at seven o'clock. One or two out of town speakers will be present; the program will be brief, forceful, and to the point; it is the purpose of the organization to organize a local chapter here at that time; all of the people of the community are invited to be present.

The annual bazar given by the Missionary Society of the Methodist church met with exceptional success this year. The large hall over the Watson Company's store was beautifully decorated and artistically arranged by the energetic women of the organization. There were several departments: one offered a beautiful assortment of fancy work; another offered a large variety of canned goods, and still another served old fashioned country meals, consisting of baked turkey, fried chicken, various styles of oysters, and a number of other good things to eat. By some kind of pleasant accident, it happened that, just about the time the meals were ready to be served, a train-load of soldier boys stopped at the railroad station. More than fifty enjoyed hot suppers prepared by the Methodist women. The Treasurer of the organization reports that approximately three hundred dollars were realized; the money will be used in making a payment on the new four thousand dollar parsonage recently built for the pastor.

The funeral sermon of Mr. Hardy Edgerton, of Goldsboro, was preached in the Free-Will Baptist church Friday afternoon at four o'clock by the pastor, Rev. E. H. Styron. Mr. Edgerton died in Goldsboro yesterday, his doctor naming heart failure as his death. His people live near Kenly; his body was laid to rest in the family graveyard.

THE STATE FAIR.

With the recent election of Mr. Chas. Horne of Clayton as president of the State Fair Association there have sprung up manifestations of a revivification in the affairs of that institution of a character long hoped for by the people of North Carolina, whose impelling desire has been to see a fair at Raleigh that would be in fact a credit to the State and that might be put in the class of the best in the south. The neglect of North Carolina opportunity in this direction has been a standing rebuke to the State. A meeting of the association is booked for Raleigh the coming Tuesday when the public may have an outline of the new aspirations. Dr. Clarence Poe, Col. Bryan Grimes, Judge R. W. Winston and Mr. W. C. Riddick, the committee selected to make suggestions for the amendments to the by-laws, will make report. The association will consider the suggestion that a charter be secured from the State and that the new corporation issue stock to as large an amount as it can float. The main idea will be the placing of the fair upon a business basis and making it representative of the agricultural and mechanical life of the State through the bringing of the various counties into close association with its affairs. The question of asking the Board of Agriculture to take charge of the fair will also be discussed. It is possible that opposition will be developed against this suggestion, but a closer co-operation of the Agricultural Department with the work of the fair might prove desirable. The one thing that will be of immediate satisfaction to the people of the State is the manifest fact that better days are ahead of the State Fair at Raleigh.—Charlotte Observer.

Small Streams Are Frozen.

Winston Salem, Dec. 14.—Parties crossing the Yadkin report that there is considerable ice on the river. It is learned that all of the smaller streams in this section are frozen over. In the present temperature continues many days owners of ice houses will have no trouble in securing a good quantity for filling.