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GERMAN OFFENSIVE ON WESTERN FRONT

TEMPEST OF RAGING FIRE ON A FIFTY MILE LINE.

German Guns Make Savage Attack on British Forces and Penetrate Front Lines at Heavy Cost to Themselves. Germans Use Gas Shells. Attack Began at Five O'clock Thursday Morning and Five Hours later Launched Against Front Line.

(News and Observer, 22nd.)

British Army Headquarters in France, March 21—(Afternoon)—The Germans this afternoon launched a heavy attack against the British lines over a wide front in and near the Cambrai sector and the assault bears all the ear-marks of being the beginning of the enemy's much heralded grand offensive.

Hard fighting is proceeding from a point north of Lagnicourt southward to Gauchwood, just below Gouzeacourt. The attack was preceded by a heavy bombardment from guns of all calibres, and the duel between the opposing heavy batteries has been rocking the countryside for hours.

The Germans have employed gas shells freely, and a constant stream of high velocity shells has been breaking with frightful concussion far back of the British lines.

The bombardment began in earnest at 5 o'clock this morning and about 5 hours later the enemy force hurled themselves on the British front line trenches north of Lagnicourt and Louverval, the latter place lying due west of Boursies.

At the same time other German forces advanced behind a smoke barrage along the ridge running northward from Gouzeacourt. It may be said that the attack in this region was by no means unexpected by the British and that they made great preparations to meet the onslaught.

The two vast forces have been locked in a bitter struggle over this wide front for hours. The bombardment was of a most terrific nature, and finally the infantry drove forward against numerous points in the Cambrai sector. The preliminary bombardment had extended from a point below St. Quentin north to the river Scarpe, and at last reports sanguinary fighting was in progress as far south as the region of Haricourt and as far north as Bullecourt.

Trying to Drive a Wedge.

The early stages of the battle would seem to indicate that the enemy was trying to drive a wedge on both sides of the Cambrai salient and pinch it off. A keen struggle has been proceeding in the neighborhood of Bullecourt and Lagnicourt and south of the salient near Hargicourt and Ronssoy.

The British had been looking for this attack today. Not only have prisoners declared that yesterday or today would mark the beginning of the offensive on this front, but there were abundant signs of an enemy smash against this sector which was the scene of the last great battle in the British theatre. That the Germans were as thoroughly prepared as possible was well known and as a consequence the

British had taken extensive steps to meet the blow.

It is too early to predict the outcome of the first few hours of the struggle, in which vast forces and every conceivable engine probably was employed. On general principles, however, it may be stated that the great concentration of attacking forces will probably result in the defensive line being pushed back in places. This would merely be history repeating itself.

This is certain: At no period has the British war machine been in such perfect condition. Never before has there been higher morale or optimism among the British troops. The general impression on the front is in agreement with that of the Germans—that this is the decisive contest of the war. But on the British side there is no doubt that the decision will eventually be in the allies' favor.

Germany is staking everything on this play and if the great attacks fails to break clear through, it is believed that the Germans will be finished for they have nothing further to offer except a gradually weakening defense.

General Haig's Report.

London, March 21.—Field Marshal Haig's report from British headquarters in France describes the German offensive as comprising an intense bombardment by the artillery and a powerful infantry attack on a front of over 50 miles. Some of the British positions were penetrated, but the German losses are declared to have been exceptionally heavy.

MR. STEPHENSON TO SPEAK.

State's Gifted Orator to Speak at Selma on War Savings Stamps and Why Buy Them. Public Invited.

The citizens of Selma and Johnston County are to have the privilege of hearing Mr. Gilbert T. Stephenson, of Winston-Salem, Director of Service of the State War Savings Campaign, at 8 o'clock, Monday night, March 25, the city auditorium.

Mr. Stephenson is one of the State's best orators. He is giving his entire time to spreading the gospel of Thrift and Saving throughout the length and breadth of North Carolina. He believes that saving and lending to the Government now is not only necessary as a means of winning the war, but that thrift and economy must be practiced and instilled into the life of every individual in order to meet the exigencies that are sure to follow after the war. Mr. Stephenson has a message that never fails to thrill the hearts of his hearers.

Speaking of the benefits to be derived from saving and investing in War Savings Stamps, Mr. Stephenson says: "To the grown people it will mean the laying by of something to live on in old age. Not one person in four has enough property at his death to require the service of an administrator. Over 97 per cent of our people 60 years of age are dependent upon children or charity for their living during the remaining years of their lives. Grown people will find that today's prosperity will probably diminish after the war, and money invested in War Savings Stamps will be of great benefit to them when the war is over."

"To the soldier returning from the trenches at the end of the war, the Savings Stamps will be a means of enabling him to catch up the broken threads of life. What a fine thing it will be for a soldier when he comes back, to find money ready to enable him to complete his education or go into business!"

To the children of our land War Savings will mean learning the habit of Thrift. Saving money or spending it almost altogether a habit. Encourage the boy to save his pennies and nickles and buy Thrift Stamps, and he will become a money-saver, and a money-saving child will grow into a

SMITHFIELD HAS GONE OVER THE TOP

CHAIRMAN T. S. RAGSDALE HAPPY OVER THE RESULT

Sends Telegram to State Headquarters That His Home Town Has Taken or Pledged to Take Its Quota of the War Savings Stamps. Col. Fries Wires "Most Hearty Congratulations."

Johnston County has been asked to buy War Savings Stamps during the year 1918 to the amount of \$910,822. The town of Smithfield is asked to buy \$29,634 worth of War Savings this year. The county has not yet reached her quota, but, the town of Smithfield has.

That is the people of the town have already bought and pledged beyond what was asked of them. Chairman Ragsdale is very happy over the result and yesterday afternoon sent Col. F. H. Fries, at Winston-Salem, State Director of War Savings Campaign, the following telegram:

"With sale of Stamps and pledges worth one hundred cents on the dollar Smithfield goes "over the top" by a thousand dollars and pledges still coming in. Will double our quota by December 31st."

Col. Fries wired back to Mr. Ragsdale at once this message:

"Most hearty congratulations on having first town in the State to report full quota. Your wire most encouraging."

After Mr. Ragsdale sent his message to Col. Fries two or three more men joined the Thousand Dollar Limit Club. So Smithfield is three or four thousand dollars beyond the quota fixed for this town.

Chairman Ragsdale has been at work vigorously this week and is greatly encouraged over the result. He now feels like there will be no trouble in carrying Johnston County over the top before the last day of the year.

FUNERAL OF MISS EMMA ROSE

Held In Selma Sunday With a Large Crowd Attending. Her Tragic Death Greatly Deplored.

Selma, N. C., March 20.—The funeral of Miss Emma Rose, who was shot by Ernest Crocker on March 11th, was held at the Selma Baptist church last Sunday morning at 11 o'clock. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. Carles E. Stevens, of Four Oaks, her former pastor, assisted by Rev. C. K. Proctor.

Miss Rose was shot by Ernest Crocker, a former sweetheart, on the street near her home, as she was returning home from her duties in the telephone exchange, at 7:00 o'clock on Monday night, March 11th. She lived until Friday evening, March 15th, when death relieved the intense sufferings she had endured since the tragedy. All the possible medical and surgical aid was given her without any avail.

She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Rose, and was a girl that was loved by all her acquaintances. She had been a faithful member and an earnest worker in the Selma Baptist church for a number of years. She was a member of the Fidelis Class in the Sunday school of this church and organist for the Sunday School. She worked in the local telephone exchange, and was a favorite among the girls in the office, and was often

thrifty, industrious, prosperous and patriotic citizen."

A rare treat is in store for the people of this community on this occasion and no one should miss hearing Mr. Stephenson. His addresses are always full of power and patriotism, and he has the ability to transmit it to his audience.

COMMITTEE TO HOLD MEETING MONDAY

GILBERT STEPHENSON COMING TO SMITHFIELD

New Interest Being Taken in the War Savings Campaign in Johnston County. Chairman Ragsdale Appeals to County With Mr. Stephenson.

One of the liveliest men engaged in the work of the War Savings Stamps campaign in the State is Mr. Gilbert T. Stephenson, of Winston-Salem. Mr. Stephenson is able to explain the meaning of W. S. S. in a way that makes the words live before you. He is coming to Johnston County next Monday and will meet with the Executive committee and the other committees at Smithfield at three o'clock Monday afternoon. Chairman Ragsdale is very desirous of having as many members of the committee as possible meet and hear Mr. Stephenson. To this end he has sent each member of the County Committees the following letter:

"The State office of War Savings plan is sending Mr. Gilbert T. Stephenson, field secretary, to Smithfield on Monday, March 25th, to hold a conference with all the committees. This meeting will be held in the courthouse at three o'clock. As your chairman, I have been very desirous to get Mr. Stephenson to this county for such a meeting and trust that you will do Mr. Stephenson and myself the kindness to be present.

"The sale of War Savings in this county is far below most of the counties in the State, but we feel that if you will meet Mr. Stephenson here Monday, we will be able to lay some plan by which we can increase the sale of stamps in this county, and take our place in the forefront where John ston belongs.

"Lay as do your business for one afternoon, and give that time to your government, so that you will be better prepared to further the sale of stamps in this county."

There is a new interest being taken in the War Savings campaign since the Governor spoke here last Saturday. Several men have joined the "Limit Club" and the town of Smithfield has gone "over the top" with its quota. This is good news to the remainder of the county. If Smithfield can go across, the remainder of the county can come over too."

Mayor Eaton, of Winston-Salem, will speak in Clayton tonight and at Kenly tomorrow at eleven o'clock. Mr. Giloeo Stephenson will speak in Selma Monday night. With these good speakers coming among us and with the good work of the committees Johnston will soon stand in a place where she can hold up her head with any of the counties.

A Correction.

In our write-up of the death of Mr. Walter M. Ives in Tuesday's Herald, our memory played us false for the time being and made us say that Mr. Ives married Miss Cora McCullers, when we should have said Miss Cora Nowell. She was the daughter of the late Rev. W. C. Nowell, who was a well known Baptist preacher and pastor of the Smithfield Baptist church about twenty-five years ago.

praised for her excellent services by the Chief Operator. The other operators marched behind her casket to the church Sunday morning, bearing many beautiful wreaths of flowers, that were silent tokens of love and sympathy.

The floral designs were many and beautiful. The local telephone operators sent a design, and wreaths were sent by the operators in the offices at Raleigh, Greensboro and Henderson, and also an especially beautiful design from the Fidelis Sunday School class, besides numerous designs from individuals.

The church was crowded to its capacity, as Rev. Chas. E. Stevens stood behind the flower banked casket, and spoke the words of sympathy and cheer to the sorrowing relatives and friends that had gathered. The remains were interred in the city cemetery immediately after the funeral, and the largest crowd attended that had been present in Selma at a funeral in many years.

COUNTY SCHOOL MEETING.

About Forty School Folks Gather at Selma to Discuss the County Wide Election for Public Schools. Meeting Followed by Delightful Luncheon.

The campaign for the county-wide election for the purpose of voting a special tax for the public schools in Johnston County was launched at a meeting held in the Selma Graded School building last Friday afternoon when about forty educational leaders and teachers met at the call of Mr. M. C. Winston to discuss the proposition. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Winston who told in a few words, eloquent for their truth and brevity, something of the situation in Johnston County in regard to the great need for more money for schools. Supt. Moser was called on to further explain the object of the meeting. Mr. Moser told of the rising cost of living and the stationary salaries of the public school teachers that were never too much at the best and in most cases far too little even under the old conditions.

Mr. W. G. Wilson, Chairman of the County Board of Education, told of the situation confronting the Board, and of the imperative need for more money for the schools or see them suffer, and said that the only way open was to call a special election and vote more taxes, or ask the County Commissioners to levy a special tax. Of the two the Board preferred to have the election and this has been called for Tuesday, April 30th. Supt. L. T. Royal spoke briefly agreeing with Mr. Wilson and emphasizing all that Mr. Winston and Mr. Moser had said. Others were called on and responded briefly, all agreeing that the only way to keep the schools going and keep them efficient was to vote more money to help them along. Among those who made remarks on the subject were: Supt. Cates, of Clayton, Supt. Andrews of Kenly, Supt. Pope, of Wilson's Mill's Mills, Supt. Marrow, of Smithfield, Mrs. Lucas, Principal of Four Oaks School, and the Editor of The Herald.

Upon motion a resolution was unanimously carried pledging the most earnest support of those present to the movement for carrying the election in the county and Supt. Andrews, of Kenly, was instructed to put the resolution in fitting language and have same published. This resolution was published in The Smithfield Herald for March 19th.

Following the discussion which was most hearty and unanimous on the one question in which all are interested Supt. Moser invited all to repair to the Domestic Science rooms where a most palatable four-course luncheon was served by Miss Paris and the members of her Domestic Science class. To one and all it was one of the most enjoyable features of a most delightful occasion. It would have been most pleasing to Mr. Hoover had he been present. The luncheon was given by Mr. M. C. Winston, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Selma Public Schools, and prepared and served under the direction of Miss Paris, the popular and efficient Domestic Science teacher. Upon motion a rising vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Winston and Miss Paris. The educational interests of the county have no better friend than Mr. Winston.

The meeting was a very enjoyable one and one that will give added stimulus to the educational interests of Johnston County. If more of these meetings could be held at the different schools in the county it would be worth to them as a whole than are the "cut-and-dried" programs sometimes given at the teachers' meetings. The "get-together spirit" was manifest and every one present showed an earnestness in the coming educational election that spelled success in big letters.

Russian advices indicate that the Bolsheviks, while preparing to give up Petrograd without a struggle, are seriously concerned over Moscow, fearing they may have to evacuate the ancient capital as well as the more modern one. The movements of Teutonic troops eastward are considered so menacing as to threaten the isolation of Moscow, where the Bolshevik government has been established and talk is heard of moving the government anew, possibly to Nizhni Novgorod, or even to Saratoff, more than 400 miles to the southeast.

When in doubt about how to invest your surplus money, hesitate no longer, but buy War Savings Stamps.

MR. PAGE SOUNDS A NOTE OF WARNING

JUDGE F. H. BROOKS ALSO REMINDS THE PUBLIC

That Millers and Merchants Are Liable to Indictment for Selling Articles of Food for Use By Blockaders in Making Whiskey. Good Citizens Called on to Aid.

Hon. Henry A. Page, U. S. Food Administrator for North Carolina, has dropped a bomb into the camp of blockaders and those merchants and millers who have been supplying blockaders with food products. Mr. Page's statement covering the matter was characteristically short and sweet, Here it is:

"To use food products, sugar, corn meal, molasses and the like in the manufacture of blockade whiskey, rum, etc. is clearly a wilful waste of food and as such is punishable under the Lever Act.

"It is also unlawful for merchants or millers to sell these products to such persons or in such quantities as make it appear reasonably certain that they are to be used in the manufacture of illicit intoxicants.

"The Federal Food Administration for North Carolina gives notice that it will take prompt and drastic action when evidence can be secured that any merchant and miller has offended."

There are a great many blockaders in Johnston County who are using sugar, meal, molasses, yeast, etc. in the manufacture of blockade whiskey, "monkey-rum," etc., and the merchants who sell them are reasonably sure of the purpose for which it is going to be used. Both the buyer and the seller lay themselves liable to prosecution under the Lever Act and also to be penalized by the Food Administration putting such persons on the black list and forbidding the sale to them of such food products for the period of the war or such shorter time as the Food Administration may decide upon.

Upon motion a resolution was unanimously carried pledging the most earnest support of those present to the movement for carrying the election in the county and Supt. Andrews, of Kenly, was instructed to put the resolution in fitting language and have same published. This resolution was published in The Smithfield Herald for March 19th.

Following the discussion which was most hearty and unanimous on the one question in which all are interested it will be noted that the Food Administrator "will take prompt and drastic action" against violators of this order. Those persons buying such products and the merchants selling him such had better take notice and put a stop to it immediately. If they will not desist from a patriotic standpoint then they had better do so from a fear of criminal prosecution in the U. S. Courts. I call on all good citizens of Johnston County to assist me in the detection and conviction of all persons buying and selling food products to be manufactured into blockade whiskey, etc.

F. H. BROOKS,
County Food Administrator.

MAYOR EATON TO BE AT KENLY

To Speak in the School Auditorium Saturday at Eleven O'clock on the War and Patriotism.

Among the men of the State who are giving of their time and energy to the War Savings campaign Mayor O. B. Eaton, of Winston-Salem, is one of whose words are telling for the work. He is busy but he is willing to do what he can to carry on the great work. To win the war is the slogan of the day and every man who gives of his time and his energies is doing something to win in the great fight.

Mayor Eaton will be in Johnston County today and tomorrow to give his voice in the cause for which his townsman, Col. Fries, is working so hard. Mayor Eaton will speak in the School Auditorium at Clayton, tonight. Tomorrow, (Saturday) Mr. Eaton will speak in the School Auditorium at Kenly. The people of Kenly and community should hear him. He is a fine speaker and is throwing his heart in the work. It has been suggested that the merchants and business men of Kenly may close their places of business during the speaking hour.

We are in a great fight and every time we stop and lend our aid in any way to the carrying on of the war we are doing that much toward crushing German autocracy.

First awards of the new American military cross for meritorious service by American soldiers are announced by General Pershing. The men honored are a lieutenant and two sergeants, who receive the decoration for extraordinary heroism in action.