

The Smithfield Herald

VOLUME 37.

SMITHFIELD, N. C., FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1918.

Number 32.

GERMANS BALKED IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO FURTHER PRESS BACK DEFENDERS

Reinforced by French Troops, Allied Line is Holding Hard Against Further Incursions by Enemy.

FIGHTING VERY HEAVY.

Severe Fighting Thursday On Greater Part of Lys Battle Front; British Capture Many Prisoners and Inflict Heavy Casualties; Day's News from all the Battle Front.

London, April 18.—The Germans this morning opened an attack on the British front between Givenchy and Robecq, Reuter's correspondent at the British army headquarters in France says, and it is reported the Teutons are pressing hard in the direction of Givenchy and employing fresh reserves.

Reinforced by French troops the allied line is holding hard against further incursions by the Germans from the region of Labassee to the north of Ypres.

Everywhere the Germans have struck the line in an endeavor to press back the defenders they have been repulsed with heavy losses and have been successful nowhere in gaining further ground.

Attacks of an extraordinary violent nature are being thrown by the Germans on the ten-mile front between Givenchy and Robecq, where an endeavor is being made to cross the Labassee canal and bend southward the salient which now outflanks the important railway town of Bethune. A division of troops to each mile is being used by the Germans on this sector, but the British at last accounts were holding well and inflicting heavy losses on the enemy.

If successful, the new attack of the Germans would jeopardize the entire Arras sector, which includes the famous French coal region about Lens and the equally famous Vimy Ridge, where the Canadians are holding forth.

It seems evident that it is part of the strategy of the German high command to wipe out the salient by an enveloping move rather than again to give battle to the British about Lens and Vimy, two regions that already have proved slaughter houses for their men.

Following the usual custom prior to the launching of an attack the Germans throughout Wednesday night literally rained shells of all calibres between Givenchy and Robecq, the firing by daybreak having reached the intensity of drumfire. Large quantities of gas shells were intermingled with the high-powered missiles.

During Thursday midway between Bailleul and Ypres the Germans vigorously attacked the British positions south of Kemmel, which the British had recaptured from them Wednesday but were unable to gain any advantage in the face of the strong defense.

Considerable fighting has developed along the front in Northern Flanders between Langemarck and Kippe, held by the Belgians. At one point the enemy penetrated the Belgian front line but later was expelled, leaving six hundred prisoners, among them numerous officers, in the hands of King Albert's men.

East of Amiens, along the Avre river, the French have made successful attacks against the Germans on several sectors, capturing the greater part of the Senecat wood and also advancing their line east and west of the stream. The Germans in the Aisne region attacked the French near Champagne but in each instance were repulsed, while the French in Lorraine carried out a successful maneuver against the enemy in which prisoners were taken.

On the Italian front artillery duels and patrol encounters continue. Intense aerial activity prevails over the enemy front. Wednesday seventeen enemy airplanes were brought down—five by Italian aviators and 12 by British.

Viscount Milner has been appointed British Minister of War in succession to the Earl of Derby who has been given the post of Ambassador to France.

The political situation in Austria-Hungary has been made more acute through the resignation of entire Hungarian ministry.

MR. BRYAN TO BE HERE NEXT WEEK

America's Greatest Orator Coming to Smithfield.

Through the Efforts of Supt. Marrow of the Turlington Graded School. Smithfield and Johnston County Have a Rare Treat in Store on April 25.

It is seldom that a man of the ability and reputation of Williams Jennings Bryan give a speaking date to a town the size of Smithfield, and for this reason the people of Smithfield and Johnston County are doubly fortunate. No man in the United States stands above Mr. Bryan as an orator. For 22 years he has been more prominently before the public than any other American citizen. Men who were prominent in 1896, many of them, are now forgotten. Not so with Mr. Bryan. His great personality, his powers of oratory, and his great honesty of purposes have kept him to the front all these years.

Mr. Bryan will speak in Smithfield next Thursday, April 25, at about three o'clock. He comes here from Fayetteville where he speaks Wednesday night. He will speak here under the auspices of Turlington Graded School and the people of the town and county are indebted to Mr. H. B. Marrow, Superintendent of the city schools, for the plans which awaits them. There will be an admission fee of 50 cents and with such a moderate admission price, the biggest hall or warehouse in Smithfield should be crowded. The benefits will go to some department of the work of Turlington Graded School.

While in the city Mr. Bryan will be the guest of Mr. W. M. Sanders.

CHARLOTTE GIRL IN FRANCE.

Goes With Party of Y. M. C. A. War Workers.

New York, April 16.—The latest party of Young Women's Christian Association workers to leave this country for duty overseas has arrived safely in France, according to a cable message received here today by the Y. W. C. A. war work council. The workers will make their headquarters in Paris at the hotel Petrograd, conducted by the association.

Miss Willie Young, of Charlotte, N. C., is the only Southern girl in the party.

They will return to the United States soon after making a survey to determine how American women at home can best aid the women of France.—Wilmington Star.

Crop Acreage to be Listed.

Raleigh, N. C., April 17.—With all the essential enterprises of the Nation taking stock and listing their ability to do emergency work, it is no less important, and in fact more important, that the ability of the farms also be listed and figures furnished as to what these great producing factors can do. During the month of May tax lists in the townships of most of the counties of the State will secure the different crop acreages at the same time that the tax lists are made. County Commissioners in most of the counties have agreed to have this work done.

This is purely an intelligence movement on the part of the Agricultural Extension Service of the State College and Department of Agriculture and will in no way affect taxes or the sales of farm produce. It is being made to furnish the agricultural authorities with true figures as to the actual acreage devoted to the different crops in the State. Farmers are heartily in accordance with the idea and it is expected that exact figures as to acreages this year, and last, will be given. The whole state is supporting the Nation's program for food production, and to know just what is being produced it is essential that acreages be worked out now for reporting in May at the time of Tax listing.—F. H. J.

Remember that W. J. Bryan will speak in Smithfield Thursday April 25th.

KITCHIN MAY SUCCEED CLARK AS SPEAKER

It Is Believed Clark Will Accept Appointment to United States Senate.

HE WOULD SUCCEED STONE

In that Event It Is Practically Certain Tar Heel Would Be Chosen Speaker.

ONE TAR HEEL SPEAKER.

Nathaniel Macon, Who Served in the Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Congresses Was Speaker.

Washington, April 16.—There is more than an even chance that Majority Leader Claude Kitchin will be elected speaker of the house of representatives within the next 10 days. The death of Senator Stone, of Missouri, has created an embarrassing situation for the Democratic party in that state because of the unsettled political conditions are such that it is claimed Speaker Champ Clark is the only man in the state who can bring harmony to the party and be elected. Hence the speaker's friends are urging him to accept the temporary appointment to the senate and make the race for election this fall.

Close personal friends of the speaker in Washington told the Greensboro Daily News correspondent tonight that the speaker would very probably accept the appointment and make the race provided he would not have to fight a member of his own party for the nomination. Mr. Clark as speaker of the house draws a salary of \$12,000 a year while the senatorial toga is only worth \$7,500. But the latter position holds good for seven years while the house members must fight for reelection every two years.

Speaker Clark is now in Missouri attending the funeral of Senator Stone and well informed Missouri Democrats here say that it is more than an even chance that he will be persuaded to take the senatorial toga and run for election for the full term in the November election. Clark is the most popular man in Missouri and there is strong influence being brought to bear upon Governor Gardner to offer the place to the speaker.

Speaker Clark would have the backing of the Washington administration. He has been a strong supporter of the administration's war measures and is held in high esteem at the White House. But Clark does not need help of the President or any one else in a political fight in his native state of Missouri. Champ Clark is loved wherever he is known because of straightforward dealing with the people of the country. It is said he can be elected by an overwhelming majority if he can be prevailed upon to make the fight.

With Speaker Clark out of the house there is only one man in that body that can be elected speaker. That man is Majority Leader Claude Kitchin, of Scotland Neck, N. C. Kitchin has the largest personal following of any man in the house. He is the ranking Democrat for the place, but that is not all. He has the ability to fill the job, with dignity, and this fact is known to both Democrats and Republicans, and he would have little or no difficulty in being elected to this high honor.

The only North Carolinian who has ever been elected speaker of the house was Nathaniel Macon. He served three terms—seventh, eighth and ninth Congresses. Macon also served two terms as president pro tem, of the senate, having been elected to the senate after leaving the house. During part of the time when Macon was speaker of the house Jesse Franklin, also of North Carolina, was serving as president pro tem, of the senate for one term, and Willie P. Mangum served in the same capacity for four terms, while the last North Carolinian to occupy this high position was Senator Matt Ransom.—Parker Anderson, in Greensboro News.

Has to Hold on Some Way.

"Do you believe the old assertion that a politician is a statesman out of a job?"

"Not altogether," replied Senator Sorghum. "Sometimes a statesman gets a job and turns politician trying to hold to it."—Washington Star.

SECRETARY OF WAR BAKER AT HIS DESK

Returning From Battle Fronts He Addresses Himself to Big Work.

EXPEDITE MOVEMENT

TROOPS TO FRANCE.

Encouraged By the Knowledge He Gained, He Returns With "Sense of Pride."

Washington, April 16.—Steeled to the work ahead of him by personal knowledge of conditions at the battle fronts in Europe, Secretary Baker returned to his desk at the War Department tonight from his trip abroad prepared to concentrate every energy on expediting the movement of American fighting men to France.

The War Secretary, it is understood is not inclined to underestimate the peril that further German successes in the present terrific onslaughts against the Allied line might involve. There is no doubt, however, that he believes adequate measures to checkmate the German effort will come out of the pooling of all Allied and American resources under command of General Foch, the impressive French commander-in-chief.

On his arrival early today at an Atlantic port, Mr. Baker authorized this statement: "I return with a sense of pride and confidence at the achievements of the United States and Allied troops abroad that would justify many trips across the water."

Whatever direct information the War Secretary may have as to the plans of Gen. Foch will be for the ear of President Wilson alone. During his trip, Mr. Baker visited England, France and Italy and saw the battle fronts all along the line. He has been in the American front line trenches under fire. Once a German shell exploded close to his automobile and another occasion he stood in the window of a battered building behind the allied line to watch high power missiles come howling to tear great craters in a field less than a hundred yards away.

When he reached France, the War Secretary placed himself in the position of an American soldier, just arrived at the goal of his ambition "over there". He wanted to know exactly what preparations had been made for the care of the men from the time they arrived. He knew what the government was preparing to do on this side, but of the great matters across the water, he had only cold official reports or the inadequate descriptions of returning officers.

Mr. Baker returned more than ever confident of the capacity and judgment of General Pershing for the great burden of responsibility he is bearing. The American commander is said to be developing and broadening even as the army he is building is expanding.

No doubt was left in the visitors' minds of the stimulus given French spirit by the arrival of American fighting forces in France. Mr. Baker was given repeated proof of the amazing degree of comradeship that has sprung up between the American and French soldiers and the Americans and the civil population among whom they moved daily.

State Baraca-Philitha Convention.

The State Baraca-Philitha Convention will be held in Rocky Mount April 26-28. There are a number of these organized Sunday school classes in Johnston County who will doubtless be glad to send delegates to the Convention. A very fine program has been prepared, with many prominent church and Sunday school workers billed to make addresses. The meeting will be worth while to every one who can attend and take part in the discussions on the several live topics to be presented.

The county board of education of Iredell county have instructed the county superintendent and the district committeemen not to employ any teacher in the school of the county who is pro-German in sentiment; and that the superintendent shall ask every applicant the direct question whether or not he or she is in sympathy with Germany. This is eminently wise and proper, and this course ought to be pursued in every county in the state.—Charity and Children.

THREE IMPORTANT STRATEGIC TOWNS TAKEN FROM BRITISH FOLLOWING BITTER STRUGGLES

U. S. SHIPYARD FOR WILMINGTON

Will Build Both Steel and Concrete Ships.

SCORES OVER CHARLESTON.

Shipping Board Transfers 12 Steel Ships From Charleston to Wilmington.

Washington, April 17.—Wilmington went over the top again today. Last week North Carolina's seaport made a ten strike when it secured the government concrete yard—the first of its kind to be established in the history of the country—but not satisfied with that the old Tar Heel city added stupendously to its laurels today when it pulled in a contract for 12 fabricated steel ships. As the Daily News correspondent predicted yesterday, Wilmington not only obtained a giant contract, but scored handsomely over Charleston, S. C.

Today the shipping board made a transfer of a contract held by the Carolina Shipping company for a round dozen 9,600-ton steel ships from Charleston, S. C., to Wilmington, and announced that the matter was settled and that work would soon be under way at the new location. But the transfer of the contract means more than the shift of scene of the location for a private concern, as the yard is to be government owned, the Carolina Shipbuilding company being simply designed as the shipping board's agency. This in itself is something big, as it will be permanent government work and it also means that the government of the United States has officially recognized Wilmington's worth and is to back it from now on. In fact, Senator Simmons and Overman were informed by the shipping board that it "was only the beginning" and Industrial Agent Cowan, of the Wilmington chamber of commerce, who has been in close touch with the situation, declares that plenty of more is to come.—Greensboro News.

WORK BEGINS ON WILMINGTON YARD.

Wilmington, April 18.—An army of workmen, hastily today, bebg kqjj workmen, hastily recruited today, began clearance of the Sunset Park site, preparatory for actual construction of the shipyard where twelve fabricated steel ships are to be built by the Carolina Shipbuilding Company under government supervision, and it was stated that this work would be hurried to completion and actual ship construction begun in the early future.

Ralph Starrett, general manager of the company holding contract for these ships, accompanied by his engineers, arrived in the city this forenoon and after employing local engineers began rounding up all available labor. The men were supplied with axes and repaired to the site immediately. The ships will be built on property adjoining Sunset Park, only a short distance below the city.—News and Observer.

FARMERS BUY LIBERTY BONDS.

Mount Moriah Community Goes Over the Top Taking Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars.

Mr. F. L. Woodall, who lives near Mount Moriah, was in town Tuesday and informed us that at a meeting at Mount Moriah Baptist church last Saturday night the farmers of that community subscribed for Liberty Bonds to the amount of \$7,500. One farmer took \$3,000 and another \$2,100. This is one of the finest rural communities to be found anywhere and the way the farmers came to the support of the government in buying Liberty Bonds shows that the people of that section are thoroughly patriotic. There are other communities which could bring honor to themselves by emulating the example of Mount Moriah.

Will Live Longer.

Liberty and justice will outlive the longest gun the Krupps will ever build.—Detroit Free Press.

Bailleul, Wulverghen and Wytschaete Added to Enemy Captures in Flanders.

MESSINES RIDGE STORMED.

British Hold Their Own Until Swamped by Fresh Masses of German Troops.

MERVILLERS STILL HELD.

Counter Attacks By Haig's Men "Must" Be Expected.

(Wednesday's War Summary.)

German's mighty effort on the battlefields of Flanders has won new successes. According to the latest reports, the important strategic towns of Bailleul, Wulverghem and Wytschaete are in German hands, and more important still, the Teutons have carried a large part of Messines ridge by storm.

Struggles Most Bitter.

Probably there has been no more bitter struggle during the war than that waged along the battle line through Wulverghem and Wytschaete. Neuve Eglise was taken Monday but Bailleul held out until fresh masses of German troops were hurled into the fray and charged repeatedly on the tired defenders. The same story might be told of Wulverghem and Wytschaete, while the battle for the Messines ridge must have been frightful in its intensity.

Germans Widening Salient.

The Germans have not attempted to advance their wedge further into the British line for no new attacks on Merville and further west have been reported. They have devoted their sole attention to the work of widening out the salient and striking at Messines ridge and the railroad running about six miles north of Bailleul. Messines ridge is the key to the Ypres sector and its position will give the Germans a commanding position in starting a new drive.

British in Serious Plight.

The successes of the Germans in the last day have an important bearing on the campaign on the northern battlefront. If they are continued there must be a British retirement from Ypres and possibly for some distances further south while cutting of the railroad passing through Hazebrouck would be still more serious for the British.

Counter-Attacks Probable.

So important are the points won by the Germans that the British must be expected to counter-attack at once in an effort to sweep the invaders back into the lowlands once more. All accounts of the battle along this line speak of the small British forces which attempted to withstand the attacks by heavy legions of Teutons which were brought up fresh for the assault.

British Have Higher Ground.

There is higher ground just to the north of Bailleul and Neuve Eglise, from which the British can still conduct a terrific defense. Mervillers is still standing firm in spite of terrific attacks, while along the southern side of the salient there have been no engagements reported. The same condition holds true in the sector before Amiens, where there have been only artillery duels.

Raiding operations in which both sides have taken the initiative are reported from the French front in the Champagne.

Berlin Claims American Defeat.

In spite of the reports from the American front that German attacks there have been utter failures, a report from Berlin via Amsterdam says that the American positions near St. Mihiel were taken by storm by the Germans, who held them against determined counter-attacks. It is probable that the German report deals with the battle in which the Americans administered a sound beating to special shock troops brought up by the Germans to take the American positions.

The Germans in Finland are advancing east of Helsingfors and are encountering little if any resistance.

Ten German Trawlers Sunk.

Ten German trawlers have been sunk in the Cattagat (the narrow strait between Jutland and Norway) by a British fleet. The survivors of the trawlers' crew were rescued.—Associated Press.