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AMERICANS FOUGHT THEM VIGOROUSLY

GERMANS ATTACK OUR FORCES IN FRANCE.

The Enemy Was Finally Forced Back After Our Men Gave Some Ground. Gas Shells Were Thrown Against American Forces.

The daily papers for yesterday carried an account of an attack made by the Germans on the Americans on the sector northwest of Toul in France. The following is the story as told in Monday's papers:

With the American Army in France, Saturday, April 20.—(By the Associated Press.) German forces which attacked the American positions west of the Renners forest, northwest of Toul today came across No Man's Land in three waves. They had been especially trained for this operation. The Americans, though greatly outnumbered, fought for every inch of the way, giving ground slowly and pouring a deadly machine gun, rifle and automatic fire into the advancing enemy.

The German barrage began before sunrise, after a heavy bombardment on the American front and rear positions during the night. In an attempt to put the American batteries out of action, the Germans used an unusually large number of gas shells, but the American artillery replied vigorously, hurling hundreds of shells across the Teuton lines.

Fought Every Inch of Way.

A counter-barrage let down by the Americans caught the advancing Germans and killed a number of them before they had opportunity to reach the American trenches.

The Germans entered the shell-torn village of Seicheprey in the forenoon, but only remained a short time, being driven out again by a brilliant counter-attack by the American infantry. The commander of one unit holding an outpost reported at one stage of the attack that his men were slowly giving ground but they were "fighting every inch of the way."

General Pershing's Report.

Washington, Apr. 22.—General Pershing's first report of the German assault upon the American and French forces in the Toul sector Saturday is understood to indicate that the Americans sustained more than 200 casualties and to estimate the German losses at between three and four hundred.

It was learned tonight that the report had been received, but War Department officials refused to make it public or to comment upon persistent reports about the department concerning its contents. Secretary Baker is understood to be awaiting more details before making an announcement, though he probably will lay the information received before the House Military Committee when he appears tomorrow to tell of his trip abroad.

Family Reunion.

On Saturday, April 13th, there was held a family reunion at the old home place of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Peedin. All of their children and grand-children were present with their baskets filled with many good things which was very much enjoyed by all who were present. Mr. and Mrs. Peedin have seven children living, two girls and five boys. All are married and doing well. They have 28 grand-children and two great-grand children. Only two were absent.

Elder Wyatt, of Selma, was present and preached a very able sermon in behalf of Mrs. Peedin who is very feeble. After service dinner was spread in the dining room and all the families gathered around and enjoyed the feast together. After dinner was over the children took their departure for their homes, wishing their aged parents many more happy years.—One Present.

To Speak at Wilson's Mills.

Mr. J. M. Broughton, of Raleigh, will speak at Wilson's Mills Christian church Friday night, April 26th, on the War Situation. Public invited to hear him.

CALIFORNIA ROCKED BY A SEVERE EARTHQUAKE.

Twenty Buildings Demolished at San Bernardino; Man Killed At Los Angeles.

Los Angeles, Cal., April 21.—A severe earthquake of approximately 20 seconds duration shook the entire southern portion of California at 3:33 this afternoon. Dozens of plate glass windows in Los Angeles stores were broken and several women were injured in panics—at theatres in Los Angeles. The damage was quite extensive.

One fatality was reported, a man being trampled to death in the rush of a crowd on the Municipal pier at Santa Monica, near here. Hundreds of persons who were fishing off the pier made a mad rush for solid ground when the tremor began to rock the heavy concrete construction. Several persons were injured in the rush. Chimneys were shaken down in various localities and at San Bernardino, about 75 miles east of here, a brick building was reported to have collapsed.

According to authenticated reports, Hemet and San Jacinto, in Riverside county, were entirely destroyed by the earthquake. There were no telephone or telegraph wires in operation, but persons who escaped to nearby points reported serious destruction of property and probable loss of life.

COUNTY-WIDE TAX.

(By L. T. Royall.)

If the county-wide tax should be carried, each special tax district can reduce its tax to the amount of the county levy. The County Board of Education has asked that only ten cents be levied, hence if a district is paying a twenty-five cent special tax it is in the hands of the committee to lower this ten cents, or less if more money is needed; and let the county-wide tax take its place. It will then only be paying twenty-five cents as before, but will get more money since it will receive the benefit of the railroads and corporations. The railroads are valued at nearly three and one half million dollars themselves; then comes the corporations and wealth of the towns.

Some say the towns get the benefit of the school fund. There is not a town but what pays more into the general fund than it gets back. Take for instance Smithfield, it pays twice as much into the general fund as it receives. The funds are distributed among rural schools. Rural districts receive more than they pay. The county-wide tax will be distributed in the same manner as the general fund. Our schools that have no local tax will have a hard time getting teachers unless more funds are raised in some way. Why not vote a County-wide Tax and get the benefit of all the wealth who have helped to create, and put everybody on the same footing?

A Birthday Party.

Wilson's Mills, April 22.—Last Friday night from 6:30 until 9:00 o'clock, Miss Dorothy Tomlinson delightfully entertained a number of her friends in honor of her 14th birthday. The guests were met at the door by her mother, Mrs. J. W. Tomlinson, to take hats and cloaks. They immediately went into the yard where several games were played.

Afterward they were invited in the dining room where hot chocolate, sandwiches and cake were served. Next was the guessing contest in which Miss Eula Todd proved to be the lucky one. Rook and old maid were then the chief amusement. Special music by Miss Jennie Beale Tomlinson was enjoyed by all present. They all departed at 9 o'clock, declaring Miss Dorothy to be a charming entertainer.

Those present were little Misses Dorothy and Maud Tomlinson, Lucy Gunn Uzzle, Carrie Belle Youngblood, Velissa Massey, and Eula Todd, Edwin Gordon, Wilson Uzzle, Charles Wilson, Leonard Massey, Battle Todd, and Robert Uzzle.

Mr. E. H. Moser, Superintendent of the Selma Graded School, was at his best in delivering the commencement address at the Oak Grove School Friday afternoon at 3 o'clock. His subject was "Community Team Work." A very interesting program was rendered by the school, and a picnic dinner was served at 6 o'clock.

REV. R. M. VON MILLER, OF FOUR OAKS, MAKES STRONG PLEA FOR FAIR PLAY

Ever since the war was declared on Germany by the United States, I have suffered the most undeserving persecution imaginable. The most outrageous falsehoods, that a human mind could invent, have been circulated against me all over the county. In fact they are too numerous to mention, everything said, had not even the remotest resemblance of truth. Several times my life has been threatened. Persistent rumors came to me that people had planned to waylay me at night. In short—on every hand I had to suffer the most outrageous indignities—unbelievable among fair minded people. During all this time, I simply suffered them, realizing that this ill-treatment originated with some irresponsible people, although I sincerely believe, that I would be justified to bring the matter to the attention of the U. S. Department of Justice, as there seemed to be no protection at home. It seems unbelievable, but it is nevertheless true, that these false rumors and distorted reports have affected some people, who have always been held high in my esteem. It is therefore necessary to come out with a statement.

Where Do I Stand?

There is not a person today that could stand out and point out anything in my every word and conduct, which is disloyal to the United States. There is practically no difference between me and any good citizen in this country today, except that I was born in Germany. And this is an accident, beyond any man's control.

I am 27 years in the United States, during this time I have identified myself with every American Institution. As a citizen I have been above reproach, and have almost exclusively spent my time in preaching the Gospel. In 1900 I married one of your own native born Southern Ladies from Sampson County. I have never in all these 27 years been identified with any German organization or fraternity because I do not believe in any organization which does not foster Americanism. In my theological preparation I selected an American, a Southern Baptist Theological Seminary of Louisville, Ky.) During my attendance there, one of North Carolina's foremost governors, I am referring to Governor Aycock, gave me his financial support. As far back as 1904 Vice President Fairbanks, of the U. S., commended me to the European Governments while traveling abroad as "a gentleman of the very highest standing and character." Senator Simmons and other Representatives of the U. S. on various occasions gave me gladly letters of commendation testifying to my loyalty as an American citizen and spoke of their personal esteem. These documents are still in my possession. Since the outbreak of the war, I offered my services to the U. S., and in every movement launched by our U. S. Government, especially war loan, thrift stamps, etc., I have given my heartiest support. On numerous occasions at public gatherings, from the pulpit, from the platform of various School houses in this and adjoining counties at school closings and special holidays, I have spoken in no uncertain sounds, pleading with the people to stand by the U. S. Government in the prosecution of the war against kaiserism, autocracy and to help with every dollar they can spare to win the war and help to make the world safe for democracy. Personally I am a most ardent admirer of the President of the United States, and have been a strong supporter of our administration. At the time when the president appeared before Congress asking that a state of war should be declared, I wrote him that I agreed with every word he said and offered my services to the United States when ever needed. America is the country of my choice, its flag is dearer to me than words can tell, because it protected me not only for 27 years, but especially when I was in the war zone in 1914. Under that flag I will live and under its shadow I desire to die. Under its sway I have labored the larger part of my life and raised my children to honor that flag, to fight for it if necessary. I love the American people, among them are my choicest friends, America's institutions and principles are sacred to me. I challenge

any man in the world and in Johnston County, who can prove any disloyalty on my part—if so let him be a man and step out in the open and prove his claim, and let justice prevail. But I think it unfair to ill-treat a man because he was born in Germany. At such a time as this I would be the first man that would bring any traitor to the attention of the authorities, be he of German blood or any other. I have moved in your midst for nigh three years, and I ask you, have you ever heard me utter a word or have you seen me ever acting any other than as a loyal American; I have stood with word and example for truth, morality, righteousness, and true Christianity. I have served these unflinchingly, my time has been yours, for which of these do you stone me? I appeal to you as fellow-citizens of the greatest commonwealth of the world, because I have always found that true American people will give a man a square deal. I ask this of your hands, will you give it? I am yours for service, call on me any time and I am with you in standing loyally in the rank and file with every true American to help to fight this war to a victorious conclusion. If we prosecute at all let us prosecute the war over there. America and her Allies will win, America will have a glorious share in making the world free and safe for democracy.

R. M. VON MILLER, Pastor.
Four Oaks, N. C.

THE NEWS IN CLAYTON.

Clayton, N. C., April 19.—Miss Helen Rogers left today for Greenville, S. C., to visit her brother who is in camp there.

Miss Barbara Gulley spent last week end with Miss Alma Hall in Bethesda section.

Mr. A. V. Gulley, of Smithfield, has been here several days this week on business.

Mrs. Chas. H. Killet and daughter are spending some time in Raleigh.

Miss Bertie Taylor is at Trenton this week attending to that branch of her line of millinery.

Mr. T. D. Blackwood, a citizen of Neuse, was here one day this week on business.

Miss Pauline Batten, of Wilders township, has accepted a position at Clayton Department Store.

Corporal E. W. McCullers, of Camp Sevier, is here for five days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. McCullers.

Those from out of town attending the play "The Girl Who Dared," at the Auditorium here Tuesday night were Miss Nancy Page, of Raleigh; Mr. R. H. Garrison, Raleigh; Mr. B. C. Allen and Bell Jones, of A. and E. College, and Mr. A. V. Gulley, of Smithfield.

Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Edgerton made a business trip to Smithfield Wednesday.

Miss Bessie Burkheimer left Wednesday for her home at Wilmington after spending a couple of weeks with Miss Melba McCullers.

"The Girl Who Dared" was a grand success from every standpoint. This play was gotten up by Miss Bessie Burkheimer, of Wilmington, assisted by Miss Melba McCullers. It was played Tuesday night in the Auditorium. All the characters were splendid and a packed house well pleased. Proceeds went to Red Cross.

Mr. Sam Musgrove is spending this week at Greenville on business.

Clayton now has waving over the bank the Honor Flag of the Third Liberty Loan which is awarded by the U. S. Treasury Department to every town in the country which sells its quota of Liberty Bonds in the present campaign. Clayton's quota was \$33,000 and was over subscribed before the official opening of the campaign. The flag is three by five feet, is white with red border and has three wide bars through the middle.

Death in Elevation.

On Friday, April 19th, Mrs. Alma Langdon, wife of Mr. S. T. Langdon, of Elevation township, died at her home of pneumonia. The burial took place Saturday at a graveyard on the farm of her father, Mr. S. A. Lassiter. She was thirty-two years old and leaves her husband and four little boys.

THREE BROTHERS DROWN IN CREEK AT WINSTON.

Charles, Burton and Sherman Clinard Lose Lives When Small Rowboat Capsizes.

Winston-Salem, April 21.—Three brothers, Charles Clinard, aged 38; Burton Clinard, aged 20, and Sherman Clinard, aged 10, were drowned in Salem creek at 12:30 this afternoon and at a late hour tonight their bodies had not been recovered though the creek was dragged by a number of men all afternoon.

The brothers in a small boat went in the creek which was nine feet deep and running swiftly. The boat began leaking and when the occupants attempted to row it to shore it turned over. Chas. Clinard could swim but in his efforts to save the other two they all went down clinging to one another. A small boy sitting on the creek bank was the only person that witnessed the drowning.

The oldest brother leaves a wife and several children.

The Great Change.

Slowly but surely the public mind has been undergoing a change on the war question. Six months ago thousands of people, perhaps they were numbered by millions, were bitterly opposed to our going to war with Germany. They were indignant that we were involved in a foreign struggle, and felt that France and England should be allowed to fight it out for themselves. This large element was just as honest as those who clamored for war. They were followers of William Jennings Bryan. They could not see that this fight was our fight. They did not realize the force of Mr. Wilson's slogan "making the world safe for democracy." They had not yet reached the point where they could willingly give their boys to the bloody struggle. But as the days and months have passed, and the meaning of German oppression has been borne in on the public mind, a great change has come over the spirit of their dreams. They are seeing now as they have never seen before, that Germany intended to fasten its yoke upon the neck of every human being. They are beginning to comprehend the devilry and depth of German arrogance. They are at last convinced that Germany does not think anybody is fit to live unless they bow to the House of Hohenzollern; and as this conception gets hold of the hearts and minds of free Americans they are getting mad. The dull indifference of the past is giving way to a warm and holy indignation. The average citizen of the United States is gritting his teeth and saying: "These godless Huns shall not rule this world." And the air is charged with spirit of resistance and a determination to fight that spell defeat for the Teuton barbarians. This sentiment will continue to deepen and widen every day. The issue, so hard to understand, is now plain, and clear. Making the world safe for democracy means the saving of our civilization from the blight of German blasphemy. It means the saving of our religion, the protection of our wives and children, the perpetuation of our peaceful and happy home life. Now fathers and mothers are bidding good bye to their boys with a sacred sorrow, it is true, but brightened with a smile. Our hearts are heavy, but they are no longer bitter. If our brave boys must suffer they suffer for a cause as holy as any that ever unsheathed a sword.—Charity and Children.

Walt Holcomb To Be in Selma.

Selma, April 22.—The churches of Selma are uniting in an Evangelistic Campaign to begin May 19. These services are to be union in nature and led by Rev. Walt Holcomb, of Nashville, Tenn. Holcomb is one of the South's great evangelists. A son-in-law of Sam Jones and a co-worker with him at the time of the death of Jones. He is a popular Lyceum and Chautauqua speaker and a preacher of great force.

The churches of Selma, under the leadership of their pastors, are making extensive plans for the meetings, which will probably be held in the old "Rough and Ready."

Mr. E. H. Moser, of Selma, will speak at Shiloh Wednesday night at 8:30 o'clock, explaining county-wide tax. Every voter is urged to be present.

MY WAR PROGRAMME

(By M. B. Andrews.)

What would be an adequate war program for our nation? The unexampled success and popularity of the selective draft law for forming an army makes me feel warranted in suggesting the application of the principle of this law to many other phases of national activity. I favor the drafting of wealth. Some of our citizens have heard of War Stamps and Liberty Bonds until they are tired of hearing of them. Every individual in the land today knows that money is necessary with which to win this war. It would save time, energy, and resources to draft American money power into service. I do not believe that this is a time in which it is right to say, "To him that hath shall be given, and to him that hath not shall it be taken away." Rather, the reverse of that great statement should be put into execution at the present time. From those who have should be taken, and from those who have not should nothing but loyalty, co-operation, and unselfish service be demanded.

I favor the drafting of food necessities, clothing necessities, and all other necessities for the success of the war. Several of the strongest journals published in this Country have already become convinced that voluntary food conservation is, though wonderfully effective in itself, decidedly inadequate to meet the needs of the world. It would be well to convert the whole Hoover department of the Government into a kind of menu and food supply directory reaching authoritatively every home and every individual in America. It is evident to the thoughtful man that food is wasted in ten thousand unnecessary ways; it is equally evident to the thoughtful man that individual initiative will not eradicate the waste. Our soldier boys in camp are pulsating with life and energy; I venture the guess that the average soldier really disposes of less food a day than does the average citizen. Government supervision and regulation of the daily menus in American homes would materially increase the efficiency of the mass of our citizens and would at the same time make it possible for a larger quantity of food to be diverted into the proper channels for the feeding of our soldiers and the soldiers of our allies.

I favor the drafting of labor. The term labor to us includes every individual who is capable of earning his bread by the sweat of his brow. Government supervision and regulation of all individual activity for the duration of the war would mean an increase in war preparation, execution, and general efficiency from one hundred to ten hundred per cent. I am willing to have all that I possess drafted into service. Guaranteed food, clothing, shelter, and congenial companionship, I am willing to work just as many hours a day and just as many days a week as my Government thinks wise until this war is won. I am willing to say that not one penny more will I add to my present possessions until this war has passed into history. My brothers cut loose from home, profit, and the future and volunteered all that they had including their own lives to save humanized civilization. I am willing to follow their example. I am willing to surrender all.

Kenly, North Carolina.

Handsome Gift for Church.

Dr. James Sprunt, of Wilmington, has increased his gift to the Presbyterian church at Chapel. Last year he gave thirty thousand dollars for the building of a new church at the State University as a memorial to his wife. The architect's plans called for more money and now Mr. Sprunt has added twenty-thousand more to his gift, making fifty-thousand in all. The building is to be colonial in design with tall spire. When completed the Presbyterian church at Chapel Hill will be the equal of almost any church in the State.

The building of a handsome and commodious church at the State University where more than a thousand young men from all sections gather for the scholastic year is a very fine move. If some rich and consecrated Methodist, Baptist and Episcopalian would do likewise for their denominations they would be serving a great cause.