

The Roanoke Beacon

\$1.00 a Year in Advance

"FOR GOD, FOR COUNTRY AND FOR TRUTH."

Single Copies, 5 Cents.

VOL. XXVIII.

PLYMOUTH, N. C., FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 1917

NO. 8.

BIG OFFENSIVES DRIVING TEUTONS

FRENCH AND ITALIAN ARMIES
HAVE STARTED MONSTER
DRIVES.

BRITISH HOLDING GROUND

French Make Great Gains at Avocourt on Eleven-Mile Front. Italians Bombardment is of Appalling Intensity.

With the British troops busily engaged in the successful parrying of German counter thrusts against the newly-won ground in Flanders, the French and the Italians have started French and the Italians have started against the Germans near Verdun and the Italians against the Austrians from the region of Plava to near the head waters of the Adriatic sea.

Sharp, decisive blows have gained for the French positions held by the Germans on a front of more than eleven miles extending from the Avocourt wood eastward across the river Meuse and into the Bois de Chaume, while the Italians, after a bombardment of an intensity never before experienced in that theater, have leveled Austrian defenses, crossed the ruins and also the Isonzo river and now are at deadly grips with the enemy along a front of about thirty-seven miles.

Nearly 12,000 prisoners already have been counted by the French and Italians, and doubtless this number will be materially augmented when full details of the fighting are at hand. In addition the Germans and Austrians lost heavily in men killed or wounded and in guns and machine guns captured.

Weltered in Blood.

The new territory taken by the French embraces positions that have literally weltered in French and German blood in battles that have been waged to and fro since the German crown prince started his most costly enterprise, the attempt to take Verdun, which resulted in utter failure as a military maneuver and cost the lives of tens of thousands of his men.

UNITED STATES JUDGE HOLDS DRAFT LAW VALID

Common Law Cannot Prevail Against Act of Congress.

Mount Airy, Ga.—Federal District Judge Speer held the selective draft law constitutional in a decision made public here. The decision was rendered on application for writs of habeas corpus for Albert Jones and John Story, held in the Richmond county, Georgia jail, charged with violating the law and were represented by Thomas E. Watson. Watson contended that the law is in contravention of the involuntary servitude amendment.

Judge Speer left for Fairfield, N. C., where it is expected he will decide whether or not The Jeffersonian, a magazine published by Watson, shall be allowed in the mails. It has been denied admission by the postmaster at Thomson, Ga., the place of publication because it contained what had been charged seditious utterances.

Judge Speer in denying the writs, declared that to agree to the contention that the selective draft law contravenes the thirteenth amendment would be to conclude that the soldier is a slave.

"Nothing could be more abhorrent to the truth," said Judge Speer, "nothing more degrading to that indispensable and gallant body of citizens trained in arms to whose manhood, skill and courage is, and must be, committed the task of maintaining the very existence of the nation and all that its people hold dear."

PRICE OF HOGS GOES TO \$19.75 PER 100 POUNDS

Chicago.—Hog prices, which have risen every day since July 21, reached a new high record when they soared to \$19.75 per 100 pounds.

On August 1, 1914, hogs sold for \$8.90. The top price during August 1915, was \$7.85.

TWO EXEMPTION BOARD MEMBERS ARE SENTENCED.

New York.—With two former members of draft exemption board number ninety-nine in this city sentenced to two years each in the federal penitentiary at Atlanta, Ga., after they had pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy to obstruct the selective draft law, federal attorneys announced that speedy justice would be sought in the case of Kalman Gruher, a dentist, indicted as an alleged "go between."

MARGARET E. THOMPSON



Washington has licensed its first woman elevator operator. She conducts an old-fashioned outfit worked by a rope and located in the building occupied by the Y. W. C. A. Her name is Margaret E. Thompson.

WHOLE ARMY REORGANIZED

EVERY UNIT IS MADE TO CONFORM WITH EUROPEAN ARMY STANDARDS.

Infantry Company Hereafter Will Have 250 Men Two Captains, Four Lieutenants to Provide Against Disorganization.

Washington.—Complete reorganization of all branches of the American army to conform with European standards as recommended by Major General Pershing, is provided for in army orders revealing that the recently announced divisional reorganization plan is to be carried down into the regiments and companies. The administrative unit of the infantry arm hereafter will be a company of 250 enlisted men and six commissioned officers, in place of something over 100 men and three officers. The company will be divided into four platoons each in command of a lieutenant. There will be two captains as first and second in command, one first lieutenant and three second lieutenants. Reports of the review of the American troops in France show that this plan already has been carried out in General Pershing's forces.

The object of assigning two captains to each company, it is understood, is to provide against disorganization of the unit through the loss of its commander. The second captain, under the European system, does not go into battle line with the company if his senior is present. He is held as a reserve to reorganize the company if necessary. Under the new plan each regiment will have three battalions of four companies, making a total of 3,000 men. Supplemented by the regimental headquarters, supply and machine gun organizations, the strength of the new regiments will be brought up to approximately 3,600 men as against little more than 2,000 in existing war strength regiments.

Other Arms Not Changed.

The unit organization of the field artillery and other arms of the service has not been changed. As a result of reducing the number of regiments in a division, the division, instead of 28,000 men, will total hereafter about 19,000 men, 15,000 of them infantry.

NEWLY APPOINTED OFFICERS GO TO FRANCE.

Will Be Given Intensive Training By Gen. Pershing.

Washington.—From the 27,000 officers taken from the training camps just closed a considerable number are being selected to begin immediately intensive training in France under direction of Major General Pershing. The plan provides for establishing an officers' school in the American army where they can be given intensive instruction similar to that being given the regular army contingent already there.

NORTHERN TROOPS MAY GO TO FRANCE

MANY NEW ENGLANDERS WILL PROBABLY NOT COME SOUTH TO TRAIN.

TWO DIVISIONS WILL GO SOON

Will Make Up First Contingent of National Guardsmen to Go Abroad From New England Who Will Train Six Weeks at Home.

Washington.—Two army divisions instead of one, comprising a total of at least 38,000 men, probably will make up the first contingent of the national guard to go to France.

Although no official confirmation was obtainable, there was evidence that the composite forty-second division whose organization recently was announced, will be accompanied abroad by the twenty-sixth, made up of New England guardsmen.

The commander of the twenty-sixth is Major General Clarence Edwards, now acting as commander of the department of the northeast. The forty-second is commanded by Major General W. A. Mann.

A report was current that sufficient shipping will be available for forwarding two divisions within the time fixed for the departure of the forty-second and that the twenty-sixth had been selected to go because it comes from a compact area and is composed largely of regiments of high rating, and representing states whose troops were left out of the composite division.

The forty-second division is being mobilized at Mineola under the new European standard, which requires that the strength of the individual infantry regiments be increased more than fifty per cent. The process necessitates the addition of some units not included in the original order, for where one company of infantry, for instance, was to have come from any state, two companies have been consolidated to give the 250 men necessary. Thus hundreds of men have been transferred to fill up the regiments selected to go. All the other national guard divisions will go through a similar process on arrival at divisional camps.

No hint has been given as to the probable time it will require to prepare the forty-second for embarkation. The question of equipment also enters into the fixing of a sailing date. The same considerations apply also to the twenty-sixth.

The war department announced the final allotment of state troops among the national army cantonments and made public the list of colonels assigned to regimental commands in the various divisions both of national army and national guard.

WILSON TO GIVE APPEAL OF POPE GRAVE ANALYSIS

May Be Several Days Before Concrete Step is Taken.

Washington.—That the government is determined to give Pope Benedict's peace proposal the most deliberate and painstaking consideration before framing a reply was evinced again by developments both at the white house and the state department. The cabinet, holding its first session since the note arrived, avoided any general discussion of the subject because President Wilson is understood to feel that there must be a searching analysis of the questions raised before such discussion would be profitable.

Secretary Lansing and his advisers, on whom most of the responsibilities for making this analysis will rest, continued their study of the pontiff's suggestions with every indication that it probably would be several days before any concrete step could be expected.

Meantime the undercurrent of official thought manifestly continued to trend toward a conviction that the grand alliance will find some of the proposals in the vatican note very difficult to accept.

PLAN SEVEN BILLION DOLLAR LOAN FOR ALLIES

Washington.—Issuance of \$7,538,945,000 worth of four per cent federal bonds, subject only to income surtaxes, war profits and excess profit taxes and designed to provide \$4,000,000,000 for further allied loans and to retire the \$3,000,000,000 non-taxable three and a half per cent issue now authorized to cover loans to the allies is contemplated in suggestions submitted by Secretary McAdoo to the house ways and means committee.

C. A. RICHARDS



President Wilson's export embargo proclamation made it necessary for the government to create machinery to carry out his orders. A division of export licenses in the department of commerce was formed with C. A. Richards as its head. Mr. Richards is one of the "big business" volunteers who are giving their time and energies to the government in war time. He is export and import manager for one of the biggest exporting firms in New York, and is exceptionally qualified for his work.

TO TAKE OVER WHEAT CROP

HOOVER PREPARES FOR ACTION IF NECESSARY TO STABILIZE FOOD PRICES.

Form Fifty Million Dollar Corporation, With All Stock Held by Federal Government to Buy and Sell Wheat at Principal Terminals.

Washington.—The food administration prepared to take over the entire 1917 wheat crop if necessary to stabilize prices throughout the year. It formed a fifty million dollar corporation, with all of the stock held by the federal government to buy and sell wheat at the principal terminals.

The move was the first of a series to be taken to reduce the price of bread. Millers already have agreed to put themselves under voluntary regulations and are working out with the food administration a differential of profits. Distribution of flour by the wholesalers and the baking of bread will be taken up next.

In announcing formation of the wheat corporation, the food administration also has made known the personnel of committee which will fix a price to be paid for this year's wheat yield, and the names of thirteen men who will act as purchasing agents for the corporation at terminals.

The wheat corporation will be put under the administration's grain division. Its chairman will be Herbert Hoover and its president Julian Barnes, a Deluth exporter now serving as a voluntary aide in the food administration. The price-fixing committee will be headed by President Garfield, of Williams college.

The wheat corporation will handle all allied grain purchases and will do the buying for the American government. The allies will be required to purchase flour instead of wheat on the theory that manufacturing costs will be reduced and American industry encouraged.

GERMANS SPEND MILLIONS BRIBING WEARY RUSSIANS.

Root Discusses Conditions Found While on Visit in Russia.

New York.—Expressing confidence in the soundness of the character of the Russian people for self-government, Elihu Root, head of the special diplomatic mission to Russia in two addresses here at this city's official reception to the mission, denounced the part played in that country during its time of peril by "men corresponding to the I. W. W. here, the extreme socialists and anarchists with whom the German agents made common cause."

Col. Theodore Roosevelt, who also spoke at the meetings, first at city hall and then at the chamber of commerce likewise declared "that organizations like the I. W. W. are criminally aiding German propaganda in this country" adding:

BIG WAR PROGRAM IS WELL ADVANCED

LEADERS EXPECT VACATION BY SEPT. 15 OR OCTOBER FIRST AT LEAST.

SOME NEW FINANCE BILLS

After Passage of Revenue Measure Congress Leaders Will Devote a Short Time to a Peace Debate on Resolution of LaFollette and Others.

Washington.—The legislative program of Congress has assumed such definite form that leaders expressed hope for a vacation about September 15 or not later than October 1.

Included in the program for disposal within the next three or four weeks are:

The \$2,000,000,000 war tax bill.

A new war budget authorizing about \$7,500,000,000 in bonds, probably at four per cent for further loans to the allies and to retire the \$3,000,000,000 of 3 1/2 per cent bonds already authorized and providing for \$2,000,000,000 worth of certificates of indebtedness and a like amount of small denominations war savings certificates.

Great New Appropriations.

A deficiency appropriation measure aggregating between \$6,000,000,000 and \$7,000,000,000 now being prepared by the House appropriations committee.

The administration trading with the enemy bill, which passed the House July 11.

The administration insurance of soldiers and sailors bill.

The Webb export trade bill, peace resolutions in the Senate, extension of the espionage act and several minor measures.

Most of these measures leaders believe can be disposed of while the war tax bill is in conference. Should obstructive opposition develop against the less important bills some may be postponed until Congress reassembles.

Passage by the Senate this week of the war tax bill is expected by leaders of both parties. The Senate has entered upon decisive and vigorous disputes over the income, war profits, publishers' and consumption tax provisions.

Immediately after passage of the revenue measure, Senate leaders plan to devote a short time to a peace debate, on resolutions of Senator LaFollette and others.

Administration and some republican leaders expect to overwhelmingly table pacifist proposals.

NOW PERFECTING PLANS FOR GREATEST TROOP MOVEMENTS

Draft Armies of 687,000 Men to be Mobilized in Three Increments, the first September 5th.

Washington.—Plans for the most important troop movement ever attempted in this country involving the transportation of 687,000 men are being perfected by the American Railway Association at the request of the federal government, according to an announcement made here by Fairfax Harrison, chairman of the railroads' war board.

"The movement of troops from the various states to the army cantonments will start September 5," said Mr. Harrison, and between that date and September 9 the railroads will complete the entrainment of 200,000 men, approximately thirty per cent of the total number to be moved.

It is expected that a second movement of 200,000 men will begin September 18, continuing for four days and a third movement of the same size on October 3.

"Some conception of the task which confronts the association may be gleaned from the fact that 6,229 cars made up in 366 trains, with as many locomotives and train crews, are required to one field army of 80,000."

"The railroads have also been asked to supply transportation for 350,000 soldiers of the national guard to their training camps. This has already been started and will continue in increasing volume until all have been moved."

FORMER CZAR NOW EXILE IN SIBERIA

Petrograd.—It was officially announced that the residence of Nicholas Romanoff, the deposed Russian emperor is at Tobolsk, a western Siberia town which recently achieved a dubious publicity in revolutionary Russia as the birth place of Gregory Rasputin, the mystic monk, who wielded a remarkable influence over the ex-emperor's family up to the time of the priest's assassination.

MEANS MONEY SAVING

SPECIAL STEPS TAKEN TO PROVIDE AMPLE FACILITIES FOR STORING OF POTATOES.

Government Officials Have Worked Out a Plan Which It Will Be for the Best Interests of Growers to Follow.

Washington.—Active efforts are to be made by the federal authorities to secure concerted action in the effort to conserve the country's supply of potatoes. In this connection the following statement has been issued:

Unusual facilities for financing storage are offered American potato growers as a result of war conditions. The federal reserve system is at their disposal, and farmers who store their 1917 potato crop in approved local warehouses, may obtain, upon their storage receipts, 90-day loans from member banks of the reserve system at a rate not to exceed 6 per cent. Mr. Lou D. Sweet, potato expert with the food administration, was instrumental in bringing this matter to the reserve board's attention.

New England growers have started a movement to take advantage of this ruling to help them solve their marketing problem. The prospect which the growers of this group of states face is that of handling 45,000,000 bushels of potatoes—one-tenth of the entire United States crop—without causing an overstocked market and the resulting loss of all profit on the crop.

The growers communicated with local authorities in their respective states, who in turn laid the situation before the food administration. A conference between the growers, local authorities and experts from the food administration was held recently at Boston, Mass. A plan of action was mapped out at this meeting which includes the following:

1. Marketing of only one-third of the crop at harvest time; another third in 90 days, or placing in storage and later distributed as demand affords opportunity; the remaining third to be stored by the grower and marketed throughout the year.

2. All potatoes to be graded with care, taking out culls, cuts, cracks and any that are bruised. It was recommended that a wire screen grader be used—one and seven-eighths-inch mesh for oblong tubers and two-inch mesh for round ones. Graded stock then to be placed in good two-bushel sacks—one hundred and fifteen pounds to the sack—and the sacks sewed tightly so as to prevent shucking and bruising.

3. Increasing the load in each railroad car from the normal 30,000 pounds. That these cars can be unloaded within 24 to 36 hours of their arrival at destination.

4. That municipalities and other bodies provide storage for as large quantities as possible at the peak of the harvest.

"A storage house," said Lou D. Sweet, who attended this meeting, "such as will conform to the requirements laid down by the Federal Reserve board, does not call for a specially constructed house. There are innumerable buildings, which, if properly cleaned, ventilation provided, and managed so as to maintain a temperature of about 35 degrees, will answer admirably for this purpose."

"This year the United States planted its potato crop from the poorest quality of seed that ever went into the ground, and naturally the harvest will be potatoes of poor quality. Strict grading, careful packing, common-sense storage, and careful shipping are necessary to insure just returns to the growers who have responded to the president's call for increased production of potatoes."

SHE HAD WAYWARD DAUGHTER

Neighbor Was Surprised When She Found Cause of Severe Rebuke Administered by Mother.

A lady living in a large apartment house relates the following:

"I had occasion one day to visit the apartment of a neighbor. Such grave earnest tones of remonstrance came from my ears, as I approached my room, that I hesitated about entering. I found her winsome young daughter with her, and the mother had been rebuking her, for the girl was flushed, and there were tears in her eyes.

"I said my friend, 'I have just said I was saying to Jenny, she will remember my words.'"

"Ah, these children—these children!" thought I to myself.

"I have just been telling her," continued my friend, "that she must not wear her evening gloves when she goes shopping in the morning. In the first place, it is not genteel; and in the second place, it is extravagant."

Her evening gloves! And yet, I assure you, her tone and expression, and the impression made on the child, would have befitted a serious wrongdoing—one that had issues in time and eternity.