

FIRES BROADSIDE AGAINST SHERIFFS

MAJOR J. D. LANGSTON CHARGES GROSS NEGLIGENCE OF THEIR DUTIES.

DISPATCHES FROM RALEIGH

Things and Happenings That Mark the Progress of North Carolina People, Gathered At and the State Capital.

Raleigh.

Gross negligence of official duties, particularly failure to apprehend deserters from the army, is the rather startling charge that Major John D. Langston is bringing against the sheriffs of North Carolina, with an astoundingly small proportion of exceptions. That North Carolina is infested from Murphy to Manteo with deserters, who are either deliberately staying away from camp or who have failed to return questionnaires and to respond to the order of local boards to report for service, Major Langston declares is the condition existing and in a broadside against the official charges that they are either grossly negligent or in sympathy with the deserters.

Letters reaching his office indicate that the condition in the State is one to be deeply regretted and in instance after instance the charge is brought that the sheriffs and deputies are failing to co-operate with the military authorities in arresting the deserters. One letter particularly charges that the officers "positively refuse to aid us."

The condition in general, Major Langston points out, rather than particular and complaints have been registered against a large number of county officers over the State. Referring to it, he pointed out that the department of justice has ordered special operatives to Mitchell county, where the trouble is perhaps most aggravating. Unless the officials in the county will lend their aid, Major Langston says it will be impossible for the federal authorities to accomplish anything.

Davis county is another bad county and the conditions there are almost as bad as in Mitchell, according to reports to the adjutant general's department.

Under the selective service law and regulations, Major Langston says, officers of the United States, the various states and their subdivisions, are drafted into service and it is incumbent, under this law, upon the sheriffs and their deputies not only to apprehend deserters and carry them to the military authorities but it is plainly their duty thoroughly to investigate reported desertions and other violations of the selective service act.

While a zealous performance of duty

Reduce Number of Little Graves.

A large number of communities in North Carolina are taking an active interest in the Baby Saving Campaign, and the State Board of Health is daily called upon for literature, exhibits, lectures lantern slides and advice with regards to the methods of best arousing local interest. North Carolina is asked to reduce its infant deaths this year by more than 3,000 as the State's portion of the 100,000 babies which it is hoped will be saved in the United States during the year.

There are born each year in this country, now, over 2,500,000 babies, and statistics show that one out of every ten of these babies die during their first year of life, between 250,000 and 300,000 each year. It is fully realized by those who are well informed on questions relating to public health that at least 50 per cent of these die from preventable diseases. It is to reduce this appalling harvest of the Grim Reaper among the little ones that the Baby Savings Campaign has been inaugurated by the Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor.

Three thousand live and smiling babies in North Carolina this year, or that many little graves? Briefly, that is what the campaign in this State means.

Better Off Without Them.

Along with a mass of heavy routine and the necessary tedious work of arranging for the second registration, the office of Adjutant General Young is being daily besieged with letters from irate spouses urging that their husbands be drafted into the army.

Most of the letters charge abuse of deferred classification and most of them, General Young says, have been investigated and found to be correct. When inquiry by local boards confirms the statements made in the letters, the registrant is reclassified and inducted immediately into military service.

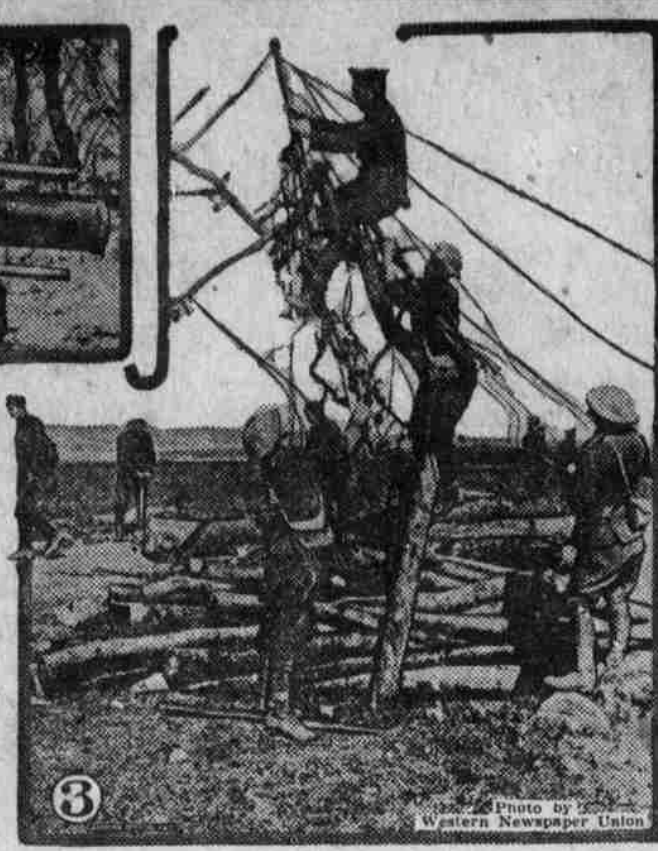
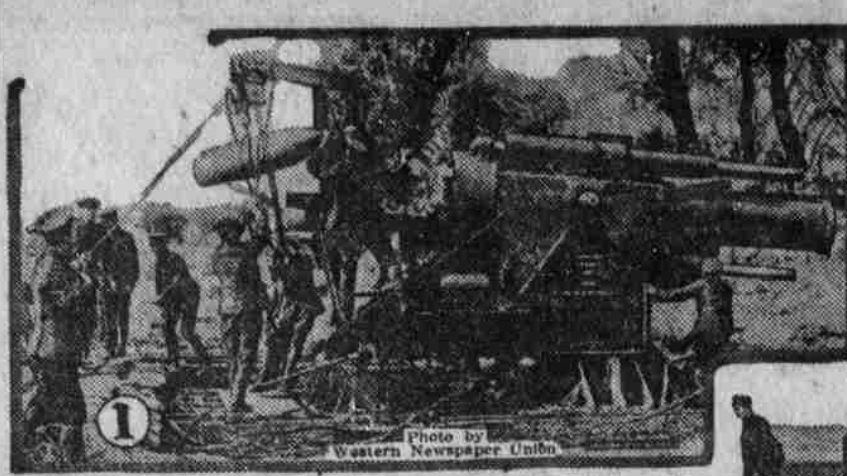
The general run of the complaints reaching the Adjutant General come from wives of registrants who have been given deferred classification because of dependent families. These, largely, aver that the registrant is not supporting his family and, in short, is a nuisance and much better suited for the army than "hanging around."

These are not all, however. Every mail brings to General Young a question like this: "We, the undersigned, who have dependent mothers or sisters, wives or other relation, are in class one and we would like to know why —, whose mother has enough property to amply support her, (sometimes the right of industrial classification is challenged), is in class 3?"

In these good wives' views all can concur. Many a wife in North Carolina would fare far better without the things they must call husbands. Authorities are close behind the cases in this state and everyone will get justice—but justice is just what these idlers don't want.

Carr Urges South.

Speaking before a mass meeting of citizens at Wilmington, Gen. Julian S. Carr and Dr. Clarence L. Owens, of the Southern Commercial Congress,



1. One of the American heavy howitzers in France being loaded for action. 2. Riveters in the federal shipyards at Kearney, N. J., trying to beat the English record of 3,095 rivets in a nine-hour day. 3. Canadian engineers making an emergency telephone post out of a wrecked tree.

NEWS REVIEW OF THE PAST WEEK

America's Great Record in the Raising and Sending of Troops Is Revealed.

CROWDER HITS AT LOAFERS

Every Registered Man Must Fight or Engage in Useful Occupation—Allies Strike at Reorganizing German Armies—British Arrest Plotting Sinn Feiners.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

Ninety thousand American troops landed in France in the first ten days of May a million men to be on the other side in a year from the time the first were sent across the Atlantic; a grand total of 2,038,222 in active service or in training, to be increased to 4,000,000 or 5,000,000 before the end of the next fiscal year. Such is the proud record of the war department and its plans for the near future as stated to the house of representatives by Mr. Caldwell of the military affairs committee. The committee unanimously approved the \$11,000,000,000 army appropriation bill and it was reported to the house.

Mr. Caldwell added: "The potential man power of America, for a seven year war, may be conservatively estimated at 20,000,000 fighting men of recognized military age—this out of a population of 125,000,000."

Continually harassed by the artillery record with that of Great Britain, he said: "We began with less, went further, and arrived with more in shorter time."

The army bill was so amended that President Wilson is given unlimited power to call drafted men to the colors.

As a step toward realizing the government's expectations in the matter of man power, Provost Marshal General Crowder on Thursday issued a drastic amendment to the selective service regulations, which will compel every man of draft age to either fight or work after July 1. Idlers and all engaged in non-useful occupations will be called in by draft boards and given their choice of joining the colors or finding some useful occupation. Among those affected by the order are gamblers and race track attendants, baseball players and other professional sportsmen, waiters and bartenders, theater ushers, passenger elevator operators and other attendants of clubs and hotels, domestics and clerks in stores.

In applying the rule deferred classification on account of dependents will be utterly disregarded, and local boards may take action whether they have original classification of the registrant or not.

It is believed in Washington that the "fight or work" plan will go a long way in solving the problem of getting sufficient labor for the farms, the shipyards and the munitions plants. Until the results of its operation are seen there will be no more talk of the conscription of labor.

Attorney General Gregory followed up General Crowder's order with the statement that all who leave the country to escape the draft will be prosecuted on their return.

That there will be enough ships to meet the requirements of the situation seems assured, for the shipyards are turning them out in steadily increasing numbers. At Rutgers college last week Secretary Daniels said that before another summer we shall have enough ships to carry millions of troops to France, and enough destroyers to see them there in safety. "The emperor of Germany," he added, "knows that when the United States builds enough ships his end has come, and we are going to build enough ships."

President Wilson has consented to restore to the original number the fleet of steamers employed to carry food to the ten million starving inhabitants of German-occupied Belgium

and France, but on the other hand he has caused Holland to be notified that if it wants the remainder of the grain promised it by America it must send Dutch ships for it at once. The Netherlands government had prohibited the departure of Dutch vessels from its ports, where more than 400,000 tons of shipping are lying idle. The grain rations promised to Norway are going forward, in Norwegian bottoms.

The food situation in France has improved so much that the end of the regime of restrictions is in sight, and the three meatless days a week, only recently instituted, have given such excellent results that the measure will be of short duration. Many of the older French soldiers will be released, for farm work as the American troops arrive in greater numbers.

In sharp contrast with this is the condition existing in Germany and Austria, where the people are reliably reported to be on the verge of starvation and of consequent rebellion. Washington is informed that even with the reduced ration planned for June 15 Germany will not have enough food to last through to the next harvest. The Berliner Tageblatt says horse meat and dog meat are being used by the poorer classes in Saxony, and the price has gone up.

The war prisoners of Germany of course are the greatest sufferers. The first contingent of Russian prisoners, 1,500 in number, to be exchanged under the recent agreement, has just reached Petrograd and they are described as "veritable walking dead men."

As was predicted in this review weeks ago, the food supply to be obtained from the Ukraine, of which the German government boasted so much in advance, has proved so small as to be almost inconsequential. And the Kaiser's treacherous treatment of that country greatly aggravates the situation there, for the people do not propose to raise crops only to be robbed of them.

Continually harassed by the artillery and air forces of the allies, the German commanders were still laboring heavily last week to complete the reorganization of their armies on the west front for the resumption of the drive. So great was the task and so effective the interruptions that competent observers believed the offensive could not be begun again before the middle of June. Meanwhile General Foch and his associates, instead of waiting quietly to be attacked, took every opportunity to improve their situations, with the result that their lines grew stronger daily. First the British and then the French, always aided materially by the Americans, struck hard in local operations so extensive that in previous wars they would be classed as battles. The Anzacs started off the week by recapturing Villers-sur-Ancre, inflicting heavy losses on the Huns. Next the Poles made one of their whirlwind attacks on a 4,000-yard front in the Loere region, near Kemmel, taking a considerable number of prisoners and holding the objectives gained, which strengthened their defensive positions around Scherpenberg, Mont Rouge and Mont Noir. On succeeding days the Germans were pushed back in other sectors, the allies always gaining ground of tactical importance. The Huns seemed to have lost much of their fighting spirit and their counter-attacks had little dash and no success.

The artillery firing on both sides increased during the week all along the line. The Germans were especially free with the use of gas shells, but in the American sector northwest of Toul, at least, they got more than they gave, for the Yankee batteries fairly deluged the German positions and cantonnments in the Gerschamp wood with gas, inflicting severe punishment on the enemy.

The Americans carried out a number of spirited patrol actions and raids in their sector but had no extensive engagements.

Fighting and bombing operations of the aviators were extraordinarily numerous and exciting last week. Many machines on both sides were brought down, but the Huns were by far the greater sufferers. Among the noted air men lost was Major Raoul Lufbery, the American, who jumped from his blazing machine and was killed. Other American aviators were very active and many of them gained new laurels.

The allied air men carried out numerous bombing raids over German towns, besides dropping many tons of explosives on the enemy's military establishments.

The Germans made a great air raid on London, killing 44 persons and losing five of their planes, and attempted two raids on Paris with little success. More satisfactory to the Hun mind were the results of some air raids on British hospitals behind the lines, for several hundred sick and wounded soldiers were killed and injured, and among the victims were several women nurses who would not desert their wards. The commander of the squadron of Gothas that made this characteristically brutal attack was brought down and captured and declared he did not see the Red Cross signs on the hospitals, though they were plainly visible.

Austria's renewed drive against Italy did not develop last week, but reports from Vienna said Austria had ceased all military operations in the east on May 20 in order to concentrate her forces on the Italian front, so it is likely the offensive will be started there very soon. The allies have little fear of the result.

The Germans captured the city of Abo in Finland and also occupied Bjorko, an island in the Gulf of Finland 80 miles from Petrograd. In Kiev, capital of the Ukraine, there was heavy fighting between the forces of Skoropadsky, the new Ukrainian dictator, and troops that remained faithful to the rada. In Baku, on the Caspian, which was previously reported captured by the Russians, the bolsheviks and Mussulmans fought long and bitterly. More than 2,000 were killed and much of the city was burned. The food situation in Russia was reported to be growing steadily worse except in Moscow. Petrograd is now entirely without bread.

Copenhagen dispatches say that General Mannerheim, commander in chief of the Finnish white guard, has resigned because he was ordered to invade the Russian province of Karelia.

Declaring that it had discovered an extensive and dangerous pro-German plot in Ireland, the British government descended upon the Sinn Fein suddenly and arrested several hundred members of that party, including its president, Professor de Valera, and practically all the other leaders. The coup raised a storm in Ireland and even the nationalists, though disclaiming any sympathy with the revolutionary aims of the Sinn Feiners, declared the government's action was not sincere and was taken to cloud the home rule and conscription situation. The Irish objectors to the draft seem to rely greatly on public opinion in the United States, and over here there is a tendency to suspend judgment concerning the Sinn Fein arrests until the British government adduces its proof of a plot.

It is said the existence of the plot was known for weeks by American secret agents and that such notorious Irishmen in America as Jeremiah O'Leary—now missing—were concerned in it. It is certain that no pro-German plotters in any of the allied countries will get any sympathy from the American government or the American people.

Director General McAdoo started the country last week by summarily removing from their positions all presidents of railroads, in order to obtain more complete co-operation in the running of the lines, and, incidentally, to save about \$20,000,000 a year in salaries. Many other high rail officials also have lost their jobs because they were doing little to earn their pay. It is Mr. McAdoo's intention to appoint a federal director of the roads in each region, and some of the best of the deposed presidents will get these places.

The government also has taken over the carrier business of the Pullman company, making it a part of the railway system. The company will be paid rental for its carrier industry based on the three-year average earnings prior to June 30, 1917.

Mrs. Rose Pastor Stokes, well-known socialist, was found guilty of violating the espionage act by a federal court jury in Kansas City. She had attacked the government as an ally of the profiteers.

MIDDLESEX DENTIST ON TRIAL

Dr. Lemuel Johnson Being Tried at Richmond, Va., Charged With Murder of His Three Weeks' Bride.

Special from Richmond, Va.—When the fight for the life of Dr. Lemuel Johnson, Middlesex, North Carolina, dentist, charged with the murder of his girl wife, is resumed the battle will be waged upon the admission as evidence of letters seized by detectives after the arrest of Johnson at Wilson, N. C. When Attorney Harry M. Smith left at the afternoon adjournment, he carried with him letters passing between Johnson and his wife and those written to Miss Ollie White, Zebulon N. C., music teacher, with him.

The letters were used at the preliminary hearing where it was disclosed he repeatedly referred to the music teacher as "My Dear."

One of the letters whereby the prosecution seeks to establish a motive, which was introduced at the preliminary hearing, closed with: "I want you to come to my burial. I have always loved you, and you shall be the last to come to my mind before I die. You have trusted me in every way and have caused my life to be happy. Ollie, I want you to get married if you can ever find another. Good-bye forever."

This letter was found in the room in the Wilson hotel where Dr. Johnson sought to end his life and was addressed to Miss Ollie White, so the prosecution claims. The State claims this letter established a motive as to why Johnson should have sought to kill his wife whom he married three months prior.

Another letter was addressed to Dr. E. C. Powell of Middlesex, N. C. It said:

"My trouble is this: In order to save the character of another, I ruined myself, my name and honor. I have never loved but one and I cannot bear to look into her innocent face again."

Many other letters are included in the seizure and it is understood the defense, after perusing the contents, will make every effort to have them excluded from the testimony when the case is resumed Monday.

Johnson for the first time was visibly affected Saturday afternoon when his attorney drew from the suitcase containing the exhibits, a piece of ribbon which had bound the floral offering Johnson had placed on his wife's casket. A card hung at one end upon which was written "My Wife." He placed his handkerchief to his eyes and sobs shook his frame.

Home Gets New Start.

Raleigh.—The first step toward the realization of a home for wayward girls and women since the passage of the act creating the "State Home and Industrial School for Girls and Women" by the legislature of 1917 came when Governor Bickett announced the appointment of the Board of Managers consisting of five persons, three of whom are women. The board is to meet in Raleigh on May 28 when it will organize and perfect plans for the establishment of the home. The legislature appropriated \$25,000 for the buildings and \$10,000 annually for maintenance. Additional funds necessary to establish the institution must be raised by popular subscription.

The Board of Managers appointed by the Governor and their term of office are:

Dr. A. A. McGeachy Charlotte, for a term of five years.

Mrs. J. R. Chamberlain, Raleigh, for a term of four years.

Mr. W. S. Blakeney, Monroe, for a term of three years.

Mrs. Stephen C. Brown, Washington, for a term of two years.

Dr. Delia-Dixon Carroll, Raleigh, for a term of one year.

Dr. McGeachy, given first appointment on the board and for the longest term, has for years been an earnest advocate of the measure which got through the legislature of 1917. At the 1915 session he led a State-wide fight for the institution, and only the policy of economy in State appropriations defeated the measure. In 1917 the fight was so strenuous and the need for such an institution was so strongly presented that even the policy of curtailment failed to bring it to defeat.

NORTH CAROLINA BRIEFS.

Money must be plentiful here in North Carolina. A colored man in this state advises in a paper that he will give a reward of four dollars and a half for the return of a poodle dog that is lost. Four dollars and a half for the return of a little old white poodle dog, and "over yonder" are hungry orphan babies whose fathers have been killed fighting to make the world a safe place in which to raise poodle dogs.

The wheat crop in Caldwell county this year promises to be the best ever known. They are having a glorious season and all crops are looking exceptionally well. Every farmer and gardener now has an opportunity to help win the war.

With appropriate exercises and addresses the cornerstone of Guilford county's new half a million dollar courthouse was laid by the Grand Lodge of Masons of North Carolina. Grand Master George M. Nordcutt, of Winston-Salem, and the other grand officers were in attendance, and took part in the exercises.