

Probably fair Saturday and Sunday; somewhat lower temperature.

THE MORNING STAR

WILMINGTON, N. C., SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 21, 1917

BUY AT HOME AND HELP BUILD YOUR HOME TOWN

VOL. XCIX—NO. 205.

WHOLE NUMBER 39,924

FRENCH LAUNCH NEW OFFENSIVE IN ARGONNE FOREST, ENTERING GERMAN SECOND LINE TRENCHES

Drive Against the Hindenburg Line Continues in Soissons and Rheims Regions

VILLAGE OF SANCY TAKEN

Berlin Admits Abandonment of Bank of the River Aisne Between Conde and Soupir

LIST OF PRISONERS GROWS

More Than 19,000 Captured by Nivelles Men Since Monday

Steady progress is being made by French troops in driving back the Germans in the regions of Soissons and Rheims. In a new offensive the French also have entered the Argonne forest. German counter attacks on the Vaulerue plateau, south of Laon, have been repulsed.

Since the beginning of the French offensive last Monday, more than 19,000 Germans have been taken prisoner. Guns captured exceed 100, not including machine guns.

German Attack Frustrated. Northeast of Soissons, the French Friday occupied the village of Sancy and continued their advance toward the Chemin des Dames, a road paralleling the Aisne, four miles to the north of the river. On the Vaulerue plateau in the region of Ailles and Hurtebis the Germans are reported by Paris to have launched an attack "with large effectiveness." The effort was frustrated by artillery and machine gun fire.

East of Rheims in the region of Moronvillers the French have taken several important points of support. The German resistance here is reported to have been stubborn. In the Argonne forest French detachments penetrated the German positions as far as the second trench. A great number of German dead were found.

River Bank Positions Abandoned. The abandonment of the bank of the river Aisne between Conde and Soupir is admitted by Berlin, which declares that the action completed the occupation of the Siegfried positions. Berlin says that a second French attempt to break through in the Champagne was frustrated and the latest statements that a large number of ships should be established overseas in the various theatres of war for the treatment of sick and wounded. In order to allow this to be done with great rapidity, it is essential to secure the services of every doctor that can possibly be spared from the United Kingdom.

Turks Again Defeated. Both in Palestine and in Mesopotamia, north of Bagdad, British forces have added to their recent successes. North of Wadi Thuzze (6222) in Palestine the British in an advance have occupied Turkish positions along a front of six and a half miles.

General Mandre continues successfully with his advance on Samara, 40 miles north of Bagdad on the Tigris, and his troops have secured a passage of the river. The advance is 12 miles southeast of Samara. More than 1,200 prisoners were taken in this operation by the British.

NEW ENGAGEMENTS EAST OF RHEIMS REPORTED BY BERLIN

Berlin, April 20. (via London).—The official statement issued by the German war office this evening reports that new engagements developed during the afternoon between the French, east of Rheims, and the Sulpes valley.

LONDON HAS NOTHING OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO REPORT

London, April 20.—The official statement issued by the war office this evening says: "Beyond mutual artillery activity at a number of places along the front there is nothing of special interest to report."

LAND WORTH \$500 PER FRONT FOOT TURNED INTO GARDEN

Winston-Salem, N. C., April 20.—With a view to reducing the cost of living and providing for a national food emergency, Winston-Salem has completed a survey of unplanted gardens and vacant lots and has employed a city demonstrator to give his assistance in instructing people in raising garden truck. A campaign begins Monday with a view to inducing the owners of over 1,000 unplanted gardens and vacant lots to begin work in the garden. The most unique instance is a garden plot in the heart of the city and worth \$500 per front foot.

Can Seize Food Factories.

London, April 20.—The food controller has authorized by an order in council the seizure of any factory or other premises where food is manufactured.

FAITH IN U-BOATS SHOWS NO WANING

German Newspapers Boastfully Assert "Submarine Cure Has Not Been Invented"

COMMENT ON U. S. FLEET

Volks Zeitung Discusses Possibility of American Warships Attempting to Attack Submarines in Their Home Bases

Amsterdam, (via London), April 20.—"Will the American fleet enable our enemies to break our submarine blockade? The answer is, mostly certainly not," says the Koelnische Volks Zeitung, which says "the submarine cure has not been invented. Therefore, it can not be invented because there is none."

The Volks Zeitung examines the possibility that the United States will send a fleet to German ports to attack the submarines in their home bases, and says that they will find Germany prepared. The newspaper then enters into technical details of American battleships for whose efficiency it shows respect, although it alleges certain minor faults. The newspaper can not understand the advantages of a trawler mast.

The number and size of the auxiliaries to the American navy, such as colliers, and oil ships, is admired by the Volks Zeitung but it says that the greatest American tactical mistake is the training of great battle vessels and also of fast scouting cruisers, and enlarges on the German superiority in these arms. The article boastfully concludes:

"All in all, if our high seas fleet faced the American fleet in open battle, we would beat them very quickly and thoroughly. But this is unlikely because before that is possible our submarines with the mallet flat, will have imposed a law of world peace on the enemy and also on America."

BRITISH DOCTORS CALLED TO SERVE IN WAR THEATERS

Sinking of Hospital Ships by Enemy Makes Action Necessary

London, April 20.—The war cabinet decided today that every physician and surgeon and every man with medical training of military grade must be called up for service immediately.

In reference to the calling up of the physicians and surgeons, the following official explanation is given: "The enemy, in total disregard of the accepted tenets of civilized warfare, has deliberately instituted a submarine campaign against hospital ships and it has, therefore, become essential that a large number of ships should be established overseas in the various theatres of war for the treatment of sick and wounded. In order to allow this to be done with great rapidity, it is essential to secure the services of every doctor that can possibly be spared from the United Kingdom."

RUMOR HAS IT THAT TWO ARGENTINE SHIPS ARE SUNK

Buenos Aires, April 20.—There is a persistent rumor here that the Argentine sailing ship Oriana has been sunk by a submarine in the Mediterranean. Confirmation or denial of the rumor is awaited with great eagerness. There is a report also that the Argentine steamer Cirumalan, of 1,527 tons, has been sunk. No news of her arrival at port of destination has been received so far.

SHIPPERS GIVE VIEWS ON THE RATE ADVANCE

Many Speakers Favor Increase, While Others Oppose It

Various Business Organizations, Including Several From the South, Are Heard by the Commerce Commission.

Washington, April 20.—Representatives of shippers from all over the country gave the Interstate Commerce Commission their views regarding the commission's tentative order permitting the railroads to file freight rate increases of 15 per cent effective June 1. Many of the speakers favored an advance of some sort if the railroads could prove it necessary; some advocated an immediate increase in rates on an immediate increase in rates on the ground that it would be cheaper to pay the increase than to suffer loss of business and others opposed any upward change.

The primary purpose of today's hearing was to bring out for the benefit of the commission shippers' opinions regarding the proposed rate advance. (Continued on Page Two.)

ENTRY OF U.S. IN TO WAR CELEBRATED

King and Queen Among Those Attending Exercises in St. Paul's Cathedral, London

AMBASSADOR PAGE THERE

Many Cities and Towns Bedecked With the Stars and Stripes and They Were Even Floated Over Westminster Palace.

London, April 20.—The entry of the United States into the world war on the side of the Entente allies was celebrated in St. Paul's cathedral today.

King George and Queen Mary and numerous members of the royal household, the mayors of the 26 boroughs of London, dressed in their official robes of scarlet; peers, cabinet ministers, the ambassadors and ministers of the Entente countries with their staffs; high army and navy officials and many Americans, including Walter Hines Page, the American ambassador, and his staff were present. Not a seat in the vast edifice was vacant.

The service was an impressive one, and King George evinced the deepest interest in it. The sermon was preached by the Right Reverend Charles Brent, Episcopal bishop of the Philippine Islands. The Archbishop of Canterbury delivered the benediction.

The entire congregation arose near the end of the service when the band played "The Star Spangled Banner" and three warlike choruses, the cathedral the sound of subdued voices singing the anthem. Even King George's lips moved as he followed the lines, and at the end of the stanza the words "The home of the brave" brought a smile to the monarch's face and he turned and nodded to the queen.

"God Save the King" was a great vocal chorus in which every one in the cathedral participated except King George. A large American flag and the Union Jack were the only decorations in the cathedral.

London and many other cities and towns throughout the United Kingdom were bedecked today with the American flag in honor of the occasion. Even on the Victory tower of Westminster Palace the Stars and Stripes were hung to the breeze beside the British flag. Never before has any flag except the Union Jack or the royal standard been flown from the tower.

After the services in St. Paul's, King George greeted Ambassador Page and Rear Admiral Sims, U. S. N., who is on a mission to England. King George later held a few moments' conversation with the admiral, to whom he expressed pleasure that the American and British navies were working together in a common cause.

R. J. REYNOLDS' EMPLOYEES RECEIVE 10 PER CENT RAISE

Increase Was Voluntary and Came as Surprise to the Workers.

Winston-Salem, N. C., April 20.—A ten per cent increase in the factory employees of the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, effective every man, woman and child in their employ, and increasing the annual payroll by \$390,000, was announced today. The increase was voluntary and came as a surprise to the small army of employees of this gigantic concern. The increase is in addition to the four per cent bonus announced last December.

SWEDEN FLOODED WITH PRO-PEACE CIRCULARS

Propaganda Actively Carried on by German Element.

Danish Minister Stauning Arrives in Stockholm to Confer With Socialists Concerning the Approaching Meeting.

Stockholm, Thursday, April 19 (via London, April 20).—M. Stauning, minister without portfolio in the Danish cabinet, has arrived here for a conference with the local socialists concerning the approaching meeting of the socialist international committee to be held in Stockholm.

The peace propaganda is being actively carried on, but it appears to be almost entirely supported by the Activist and other pro-German papers and elements with the exception of a few of the most radical ultra-socialists, whose activities are inspired not by partisanship for one or the other groups of belligerent nations but by general "brotherhood of man" ideas. The newspapers, which formerly headed the Activist movement, for Sweden's entrance into the war of Germany. (Continued on Page Eight)

MR. HOUSTON ASKS FULL POWER FOR FOOD SUPERVISION

Plan is to Have Agricultural Department Direct Production and Distribution

WOULD MAKE FOOD SURVEY

Authority is Sought for the Defense Council, in an Emergency, to Fix Prices

Washington, April 20.—The government's program for food control during the war was put before Congress today by Secretary Houston in a communication to the Senate asking power for the Department of Agriculture to take direct supervision of food production and distribution in the United States and requesting a \$25,000,000 appropriation for putting the plan into operation.

Authority was asked for the Council of National Defense, in an emergency, to buy and sell foodstuffs and to fix minimum or maximum prices.

World Survey Food Supply. As outlined to the Senate, the government's plan is first to make a complete survey of the country's food supply to determine its ownership and distribution, then if necessary to license and control its production, and finally to engage in the manufacture of food or feeds, agricultural implements and all materials required for agricultural purposes. Authority is sought for the agricultural department to take over and operate the concerns if it appears at any time that course is demanded by the public interest.

Giving the government power to deal in foodstuffs probably would make its application unnecessary. Secretary Houston declared, as its very existence would tend to keep conditions normal. Which would be necessary for farm products, Secretary Houston said, is one of the chief needs of the country to insure proper conditions in producing and marketing farm products.

Authority also was asked for the department to require of transportation companies preference for the movement of farm machinery, seeds, fertilizers and materials that enter into the processes of food production.

For Relieving Congestion

The department wishes to allow its market service division to assist in obtaining re-routing of foodstuffs to relieve congestion on transportation lines.

In its plan for an investigation of the present food supply the agricultural department has arranged for the help of the Federal Trade Commission, which is re-organizing, was directed by President Wilson early in the year to make an inquiry to ascertain the amount of food stocks and to determine if the anti-trust laws have been violated in food production, storage and distribution. As soon as the department has the necessary appropriation for this specific inquiry the trade commission will proceed.

Some officials believe the trade commission has enough power to make unnecessary the use of extreme legislation in regulating the control of food, although additional powers should be given for an emergency.

Officials of all departments and divisions of the government realize that the facts of the situation existing must be learned before remedies can be planned. Now, no one knows how much food there is in the country, and how it is distributed.

Prohibition Not Yet Necessary. Suggestions that the government is contemplating measures for national prohibition during the war as a means of increasing the food supply are met with the statement by officials that no early action in that direction is likely, as it is not considered necessary at the time. Secretary Houston alluded to it today in his letter to the Senate by a reference to European action in restricting the manufacture of alcoholic liquors. He made no recommendations, however, merely pointing out that European governments have saved considerable food that way.

Estimates, he said, put the amount of food made into liquor in the United States at about \$145,000,000 worth annually.

Mr. Houston warned today against agricultural experiments with new areas and tests of new crops. The increase of food, he said, must come about largely through increased farm efficiency and on farms and ranges already in operation. The problem he defined as one of more concentration of effort, not that of putting more land under cultivation.

TWO NEGROES MUST DIE FOR MURDER OF POLICEMAN

Charlottesville, Va., April 20.—Hamilton Cosby, negro, who was convicted here tonight by a jury in the county circuit court of the murder of Policeman Meredith Thomas, of this city, and with his accomplice, Robert Jones, convicted several days ago, was sentenced by Judge Dabney to die in the electric chair June 20.

BANKERS PLEDGE SUPPORT IN FLOATING GREAT WAR DEBT

White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., April 20.—The board of governors of the Investment Bankers Association, meeting here today, voted unanimously to assist the government in the flotation of the 7,000,000,000 war loan. A telegram detailing this and other actions of the board was sent tonight to Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo.

Various Munitions Plants In Germany, Including The Krupps, Affected by Strike

Chancellor Hollweg Declines to Assume Task of Arbitrator and 20,000 Workers in Four Factories at Berlin Refuse to Return to Work—Hindenburg Says Every Strike is an "Inexcusable Crime Against Fighting Forces."

Copenhagen, April 20 (via London).—According to the Berlin Vorwaerts the strike continues everywhere in Berlin and Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg's reply to a deputation of workers from the Deutsche Waffen and Munitions Fabrik of Berlin was a declaration to assume the task of arbitrator.

Field Marshal von Hindenburg says he recognizes that the population has been hard by the regulation of the bread ration, but undoubtedly the increase in meat and the regular delivery of potatoes will compensate therefor. While he is convinced that the authorities will see to the proper distribution of foodstuffs, the field marshal said:

"I am, therefore, quite unable to see how the food situation can be made ground for strikes by the workers, while our present position on the western front, which must be fought out there, demands an undiminished production of war supplies of all kinds. He is the first task and takes precedence over all others."

A Reuter dispatch from Amsterdam says that von Hindenburg concluded his message by asking General Groener to continue the production and dispatch of arms and munitions, and also to have the necessary explanation given the government to that end which "in my opinion appears the principal condition for attaining our great aim."

HINDENBURG SENDS MESSAGE ON THE STRIKE SITUATION

London, April 20.—A message sent by Field Marshal von Hindenburg to General Groener, head of the German munitions department, with reference to

FIRST CALL TO BE MADE UPON BANKS

Will Soon be Asked for Subscriptions to Treasury Certificates for the War Debt

RESERVE BOARD IS AIDING

Co-operation of Both State and National Banks Sought—First Offer of Certificates Will Probably Be \$200,000,000

Washington, April 20.—First call to the country for war finances will be made, Secretary McAdoo announced today, as soon as the \$7,000,000,000 financial bill becomes a law, probably within three or four days.

The call will be for subscriptions to a part of the \$2,000,000,000 issue of Treasury certificates of indebtedness designed to meet financial needs pending the issuance of the \$5,000,000,000 in bonds and the receipt by the government of its war taxes, and will be made upon the banks of the country and not upon individuals.

The first portion of the \$5,000,000,000 bond issue probably will be offered to the public within sixty days, hardly earlier.

In making its first call for finances, the government will utilize the machinery of the Federal Reserve system. The Federal Reserve Board today instructed the 12 reserve banks to make and list the co-operation of all banks throughout the country, state and national, as well as trust companies, in (Continued on Page Eight)

WAYNESVILLE SCHOOL WINS THE AYCOCK CUP

Defeats Brilliant Girl Debaters From Mount Olive.

Wilmington, With Nearly a Score of High Schools, Eliminated at Final Preliminary at Chapel Hill Yesterday.

(Special Star Telegram.)

Chapel Hill, N. C., April 20.—Before an audience that taxed the capacity of Memorial Hall, Waynesville High School, represented by Vinson Smathers and Roy Francis, tonight defeated the brilliant debaters from Mount Olive High School, Misses Gladys Andrews and Emma Lindsay. The debate came as the culmination of one of the most interesting and closely contested events in the history of high school debating in the State.

The two teams which met in the finals tonight were not chosen until late this afternoon. Soon after eight o'clock the debaters, led by President Graham, Messrs. E. R. Rankin and R. O. Everett, marched to the stage amid (Continued on Page Eight)

FIRST BIG FIGHT OVER ARMY BILL WILL BEGIN TODAY

Senate Will Take Up the Measure With Many Members in Favor of Volunteer Plan

TO BE EXTENDED DEBATE

House Committee Will Vote Today on Substitute for the Administration Measure

Washington, April 20.—The first big fight over the administration war program will begin tomorrow when the Senate takes up the war army bill drawn by the general staff and approved by President Wilson. The bill goes to the Senate with seven of the 17 members of the military committee in favor of a call for volunteers instead of the proposed bill to raise the war army by a selective draft.

There is certain to be several days of debate. Lines have not been drawn definitely but friends of the bill were confident tonight it would be passed by a good majority, supporting the amendment has the approval of six other committee members and will be submitted formally tomorrow.

Senator Chamberlain expects to keep the bill before the Senate until a vote is reached which may be by the end of next week.

The House military committee will meet tomorrow and go through the formality of approving the measure a majority has substituted for the general staff measure which provides that the volunteer system shall be given a trial before draft is resorted to. The minority will vote for the staff bill and reports by each side will be filed with the House when it meets Monday. Chairman Dent of the committee said tonight the bill would be taken up Monday. A vote may be reached Thursday.

COAST-WISE SHIPS WILL BE DIVERTED TO FOREIGN TRADE

Defense Council Will Confer With Heads of Steamship Lines

Washington, April 20.—Heads of railroad owned and other coast-wise steamship lines have been asked to come to Washington Monday for a conference with the Council of National Defense on a proposal to divert a large number of vessels from the coastwise trade to foreign trade services. The conference, first set for today, was postponed until next week to permit all the transportation men to attend.

In furtherance of its policy of putting every available ship to transporting supplies to the front, the council has asked the railroads to rearrange their schedules and facilities as to permit the earliest possible release of their vessels.

Increasing activity of German submarines has spurred officials in speeding up government machinery to put every ton of shipping possible on the Atlantic. Work on damaged German and Austrian ships in American ports is being hurried to the utmost, and the government is raking the country for labor to build its great fleet of wooden ships. Legislation will be introduced today to take over ships building in American yards for foreigners as fast as they are completed.

The question of increasing the construction of steel merchant ships in addition to the wooden fleet was taken up today by the cabinet. Secretary Daniels said he had not decided whether to postpone naval construction so that merchant vessels can be built instead, but that is under consideration.

NORTH CAROLINA WOMEN AND GIRLS TO DO THEIR SHARE

Approximately 30,000 Will Be Enrolled in Canning Clubs

Raleigh, N. C., April 20.—Acting on the principle that no more patriotic duty can be performed by the girls and women of North Carolina than the canning of every ounce of surplus fruit and vegetables, the North Carolina Agricultural Extension service is undertaking an extensive enrollment of girls and women in club work for this purpose.

More than 3,000 girls are already enrolled. It is estimated that fully 5,000 will be enrolled by the various agents throughout the state in the next few days. These, with the additional number of adults, will make up a total of more than 10,000 women and girls engaged in this form of food conservation in the present emergency.

GERMAN MUNITIONS STRIKERS ATTEMPT TO BURN TOWN HALL

London, April 21.—Ten thousand strikers, mostly munitions workers tried to burn the town hall at Magdeburg on Friday, according to a dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Oldenza, Holland. Soldiers fired on the rioters, killing and wounding many, and the town is in a state of siege.