



BUILD MARINE TO DEFEAT U-BOAT EFFORTS

Nations Plan to Defeat the German U-Boat Campaign

BULGARIA IS SEEKING SEPARATE PEACE SAYS A SWISS REPORT

KEEP THE ENTENTE SUPPLIED WITH NECESSITIES OF WAR

Build Three Merchant Ships of Two Thousand Tons Capacity for Every Day in Year

SHIPBUILDERS ARE TO BE CONSCRIPTED

The First Physical Strike Against the German Domination Is To Bring Resources of Nation To Work To Validate Germany's Under Sea Campaign Which Stand Holds Only Hope of Prussian Success.

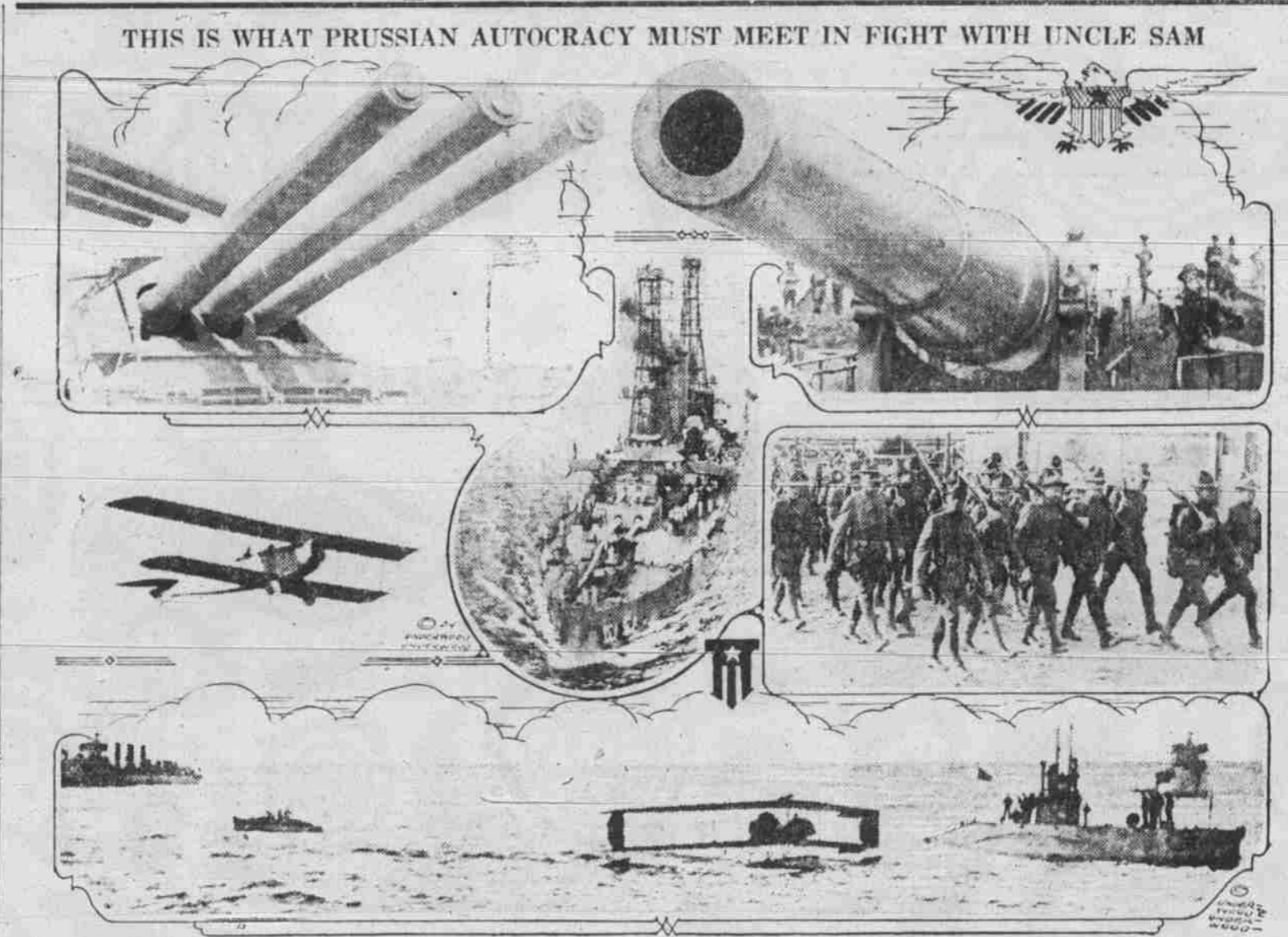
Washington, April 12.—A campaign of colossal proportions to break down the German submarine blockade and keep the Entente plentifully supplied with food, clothing, and munitions has been determined upon by President Wilson and his advisors as America's first physical strike against her enemy. Unable to send an army into the trenches, the President believes the United States can do an even greater service in the common cause against Germany by providing a great armada of merchantmen to invalidate the under-sea campaign which has been called the fading hopes of Prussian conquest.

For weeks officials have been at work on such a plan but not until today was it reported on how great scale the task has been projected or how great importance was attached to it in the administration's general war program. Quickly built wooden ships of 2,000 tons and upward are to make the first fleet of merchantmen and to insure maximum construction the shipping board has enlisted the country's entire ship building facilities, now the greatest in the world. For the first year production is expected to average three ships a day.

Major General George W. Goethals, builder of the Panama Canal has been selected to supervise the construction program which is expected to involve within the next year a total tonnage of 3,000,000 tons, or more than twice building in all the shipyards of the world. Built for the most part of pine and fir the ships will range from 2,000 to 3,000 tons. Most of them probably will be equipped with oil burnings and will carry wireless and beam-sets. An average of about \$300,000 per ship is estimated. Each will carry a crew of about 30 men.

The first of the vessels are to be ready in about six months and during the year following the number about is expected to pass one thousand. Such a number, officials believe, constantly will be augmented in the months that follow to make it impossible for Germany to maintain her blockade with any degree of effectiveness. In their calculations the President and the shipping board have had the advice of the allied officials and have computed carefully the ability of German U-Boats to cope with large number of merchantmen. They are convinced by that building ships of only 2,000 or 3,000 tons and forcing Germany to pay with a torpedo each one sent to the bottom, the United States can exhaust the resources of the submarines for operating far from its bases. The German resources can be dissipated by routing the merchantmen through hundreds of ocean lanes to scores of European ports.

If the blockade running campaign does not actually end the war by destroying Germany's faith in the U-boat to which her alliance was transferred after hopes of decisive victory on land apparently had been abandoned, the administration is confident it will at least thwart the German threat of forcing an early peace on the allies through a starvation blockade.



Guns on U. S. dreadnought Pennsylvania; twelve-inch disappearing coast defense gun; a U. S. battleship; American troops; airplane; partial view of a destroyer, submarine chaser; hydroplane, and American submarine.

MINISTERS MAKE OVERTURES FOR A SEPARATE PEACE

Bulgarian Delegates Said to be in Switzerland Hoping For Separate Peace

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES

The Representatives of the Bulgarian Government are Said to Be Desirous of a Separate Peace at This Time.

London, April 12.—Reports from a Swiss source have been received in Rome that the Bulgarian ministers at Bern have made overtures to the Entente ministers with a view to the conclusion of a separate peace, says the Exchange Telegraph's Rome correspondent. Similar advice regarding Bulgaria are sent by the Exchange Telegraph's representative at Lausanne. He reports that the Gazette of that city states it has learned that semi-official Bulgarian delegates are in Switzerland endeavoring to arrive at a basis for a separate peace with representatives of the Entente.

AREAS CONFLICT WORLD WAR

London, April 12.—That the Afghan conflict will develop shortly into the greatest battle of the war was the prediction made by Major General F. B. Maurice, chief director of military operations of the war office in his weekly interview with the Associated Press today. General Maurice declared the offensive was being conducted according to plans completed in February, thereby countering German plans that their recent had upset the British schedule and that the Teutonic military authorities control the situation. The British losses during the first two days of the offensive were only half sustained in the corresponding time in the Somme offensive.

WANTS TO KNOW ABOUT LIGHTS

New York, April 12.—On behalf of the summer resorts along the Atlantic coast Congressman Caldwell has been asked to ascertain whether the War Department intends to prohibit brilliant illuminations at these places during the war. The question has been raised by the local authorities at Rockaway Beach where concessionaires have declined to take out leases until it is settled.

COTTON MARKET

New York, April 12.—There was a renewal of sentiment liquidations in the cotton market early today. The opening was steady at a decline of 6 points to an advance of 3 points, most of the active months being lower. Offerings became heavier shortly after the call with May contracts selling off to 20.13 and July 14.74 or about 16 to 17 points net lower while October declined to 18.59 or 7 points under last night's closing. Cotton futures opened steady: May 20.05; July 19.85; October 18.64; December 19.75; January 18.78.

STOCK MARKET

New York, April 12.—Yesterday's late rally in the speculative issues was resumed at the opening of today's market. Munitions and equipments again leading the advance with shippings, metals and some of the high grade rails. Lackawanna steel rose more than two points with a point or better for Bethlehem steel's new stock. Republic iron, American Smelting, Marine preferred, and industrial alcohol, the latter, however, some reacting. United States Steel gained a substantial fraction with Virginia-Carolina Chemical Co., Central Leather and sugars.

RESEARCH CLUB ELECTS OFFICERS

Enjoyed Meeting Is Held at Home of Mrs. J. B. Ramsey Tuesday Evening.

The annual business meeting of the Research Club was held Tuesday afternoon with Mrs. J. B. Ramsey of Home street. The new officers elected were Mrs. J. B. Ramsey, President; Mrs. A. P. Thompson, Vice President; Mrs. T. S. McPherson, Recording Secretary; Mrs. L. D. Hattick, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. J. B. Ramsey, Treasurer; Mrs. James W. H. Haring and J. S. Gordon, reference committee. Program committee, Mrs. E. S. Spruell, chairman; Mrs. J. C. Braswell; Mrs. L. D. Rollack; Mrs. Jacob Battle; Mrs. Emma Morton.

At this meeting the following resolution was passed: Resolving that the district and want existing in the world today that thousands of women and children are in need of food, clothing, shoes and other necessities; we the members of the Research Club have agreed to dispense with the unnecessary social feature at our meetings, namely refreshments during this war.

Every lady present most heartily endorsed this stand the club has taken for humanity's sake. Mrs. Ramsey served tempting and delightful refreshments in two courses from attractively decorated tables.

ONLY INDIVIDUALS TO BE ENLISTED

A letter to Mayor Tilley from the Adjutant General of North Carolina today states that Home Guard organizations, benevolent or fraternal bodies or any body of citizens cannot be received into the national service in a body, but that they will have to enlist as individuals in compliance with the recruiting laws. The reply was in response to a letter to the Adjutant General asking whether such organized bodies could be received into the federal service as a unit. The Adjutant General states that there will be no additional National Guards units authorized and that members of the organizations may be taken in individually, but not as a body.

VOLUNTEERS FOR END WAR ONLY

War Department Issues Call For Practically Half A Million Volunteers For Term of War Only.

Washington, April 12.—The War Department projected today to issue instructions to recruiting forces which will be to offer a call for 500,000 volunteers to fill up the regular army and the existing units of the national guards. All recruits collected since the declaration of war and those to be enlisted hereafter will be notified that they will be discharged by the close of the war, being then in the status of war time volunteers.

MANY ADDED TO THE ARMY

Washington, April 12.—A total of 4,525 men, all ready to have been enrolled in the regular army, who will come into line, such as states. This number of recruits was accepted during the first ten days after the passage of the war resolution. By this plan, while absorbing the volunteer spirit of the country, the possibility of depending entirely upon volunteers will be minimized. Army officers are certain that it will show Congress where there are some doubts of the expediency of a plan that conscription is not necessary to maintain an army to meet the present situation.

TO TAKE CENSUS OF WAR ELIGIBLES

New York, April 12.—New York state next month will take a careful census of all men and women between the ages of 16 and 44, to ascertain their availability for war service. Citizens will be directed to enroll at room offices throughout the state.

WATER PLANT TO BE GUARDED

A guard will be placed on duty at the municipal water works plant of Rocky Mount. At a special meeting of the Board of Aldermen yesterday afternoon a resolution was passed authorizing the city to protect the plant against any possible danger by persons hostile to the welfare and interests of the people of the city.

ROCKY MOUNT'S HONOR ROLL TODAY

ENLISTED FOR NAVAL SERVICE: Edward Stephenson, Halifax; William Henry Brown, Tarboro; James Coleman May, Nashville; George Frank Batchelor, Sharpsburg; Alex Thomas Sumner, Pinebluff; Dennis Simmons Robbins, Sharpsburg.

ENLISTED FOR NATIONAL GUARD SERVICE: Clarence Pitt Rocky Mount; Carl Baker, Sharpsburg; Ethna Dawes, Sharpsburg; Ephraim E. Jones, Rocky Mount.

NEGRO CITIZENS OFFER TO ENLIST

Several negro citizens of the city have offered their services to the national government and now are endeavoring to get others of their race to join in with them in getting a good sized body to enlist individually for the navy and army. Postmaster O. A. Snipes wishes to notify all the colored citizens of Rocky Mount who wish to join the federal service will notify for enlistment at his office tomorrow morning. He also announces that those who enlist can go in the same company if they wish and will not be separated.

STILL SEEK A CAUSE DISASTER

Greenville, Pa., April 12.—Exports today continued unloading powder in the shrapnel shells at the works of the Edgewood ammunition corporation with the hopes of establishing the cause of the explosion which killed 142 persons Tuesday. There is a theory that if a plant expert or officials of the plant were taken in and possibly might have been dropped into a shell in the shrapnel room.

WHEAT REACHES A NEW RECORD

Chicago, April 12.—Assertions that export business was being done on a much larger scale than public announcements would indicate today brought about unusually sharp upticks in wheat. May delivery reached a new record of \$2.16, a raise of 7 1/4 to 7 1/2 cents above yesterday's finishing. The previous topmost price was \$2.15 1/4.

BRAZIL ONLY SEVERS RELATION

The Minister at Berlin Is Last Night Given His Passports

DECIDE ON SEIZURE

The Declaration of War Will Not Be Issued at Least Not at the Present Time, According To Reports Today.

Brussels, April 12.—It is believed here that the government will continue to hold itself for the present to the severance of diplomatic relations with Germany and that a declaration of war will not be issued at least not in the immediate future.

Decision as to seizing German ships in Brazilian harbors has been delayed. The Brazilian minister at Berlin was given his passports last night.

TWO KILLED IN AN EXPLOSION

Philadelphia, Pa., April 12.—An unexpected explosion of powder in the gunpowder arsenal at Frankfort, a suburb where ammunition is being manufactured in great quantities today, killed two men. They were the only occupants of the small structure in which the explosion occurred.

ESCAPED NEGRO PRISONER CAUGHT

Oscar Melvin, a negro who last November broke jail here and has been at large since that time, has been arrested at Benson and Officer Wheelless, of the local department is on his way to that place to bring the negro back to Rocky Mount. The negro was tried and convicted of highway robbery. He escaped from jail a few days after he was sentenced to a term in the prison. A reward of ten dollars had been offered and this will go to the authorities at Benson.

WEATHER NO BAR TO ENTENTE ON WEST FRONT

Despite the most unfavorable weather condition the British continue the delivery of telling strokes against the Germans along the line from Lens to St. Quentin, apparently devoting the greater part of their attention to the important sector of the line near Vimy Ridge. The British today drove against two important positions north of the ridge and captured them. All German attempts to regain on the ridge itself have been foiled. The Germans tried twice last night to drive the British troops from the positions they had established on the northern end of the ridge but the machine-guns broke up the assault with heavy German losses. Much importance is attached to the resumption by the French of the general attack. Seemingly they are giving the Germans in the region southwest of Lens all they can attend to preventing any reinforcements being sent from this were not present.

TWO NEGROES UP FOR AFFRAY

Frank Strango and William Small, the two negroes who declared war on each other with bottles and pistols recently, made a truce at this morning's session of municipal court. The terms of the truce provide three months on the county roads for Frank Strango and William Small will enrich the municipal treasury to the extent of \$20. They were convicted of assault with deadly weapons. Frank Strango, one of the belligerents was also charged with retailing liquor, but judgment against him was suspended, in that case. William Small, who also handled the deadly weapons, was found not guilty of gambling and that charge was dismissed against him. The case against Cary's Bradshaw, charged with using profane language recently on an Atlantic Coast Line passenger train, was continued until tomorrow, as the witnesses in the case any reinforcements being sent from this were not present.