

PETROGRAD APPARENTLY NOW GOAL OF STEADILY PROGRESSING GERMANS

Second Line of Defense Russians Planned After Warsaw's Fall Rendered Untenable.

TERRIFIC SACRIFICES TO CAPTURE KOVNO

Russians Fighting Desperate Rear Guard Actions Near Kovno and Dvina—Hindenburg Advances.

London, Aug. 12.—The Baltic flank of the German army under Field Marshal von Hindenburg has virtually attained the banks of the Dvina between Riga and Dvinsk with Petrograd less than 300 miles away. Thence southward the line sweeps west with the Russian fortress of Kovno still holding out, but next week may see a great battle on the road to the capital.

The second line of defense on which the Russians planned to fall back after abandoning Warsaw has also apparently been rendered untenable and British and French newspapers are beginning to see in the Austro-German plans an ambitious plunge with Petrograd for its goal.

Meanwhile the Russian rear guard armies are fighting desperately especially in the critical Dvina region and at Kovno, to capture which the Germans are making terrific sacrifices of men.

It seems plan that the Germans propose no great demonstration in the west but intend rather to press untiringly their Russian campaign on the theory that conditions in the west are such that neither England nor France can immediately attempt a general offensive.

During the lull in the fighting in France and Belgium the British public looks to the Dardanelles to bring relief Russia needs, though he task of opening the straits remains a difficult problem.

The partial dismantling of Vilna in preparation for evacuation as reported from Petrograd is somewhat puzzling to British military commentators inasmuch as Russian reports had asserted that the Germans had been repulsed in attacks around the fortress of Kovno, which is 60 miles northwest of Vilna.

The Zeppelin reported over Holland and sailing in the direction of the Scottish coast has not been heard from.

German attacks on the fortress of Kovno are being pressed closely, according to the Renter correspondent at Petrograd, who points out that the village of Pitte, which the Germans have kept despite desperate counter attacks, is only six miles from Kovno on the west bank of the Niemen. Preparations are under way for the possible evacuation of the fortress. All the military supplies and government properties have been removed and factories are being dismantled.

A Zeppelin has appeared for the first time over the fortress of Dvinsk on the Dvina, 110

miles southeast of Riga. The airship circled the ramparts. Berlin, Aug. 11.—The German war office officially announced today that the Germans had occupied Fort Benpaminow situated to the east of Novogeorgievsk, the Russian stronghold on the Vistula, northwest of Warsaw.

Succeeds Von Saunders. London, Aug. 11.—The Grand Duke of Mecklenberg, according to the Athens correspondent of the Star, has been appointed as commander in chief of the Turkish forces in the Dardanelles, succeeding Liman Von Saunders.

Air Raid Kills Eight. London, Aug. 12.—A wireless dispatch received here from Berlin says that French aeroplanes have dropped bombs on Zwiobrucken and Saint Inshert, killing and wounding several civilians. Eight persons were killed by bombs dropped from the airships. The French airship raid was made over Rhenish Bavaria. Zwiobrucken is a town of the Palatinate, about 65 miles northeast of Nancy, a manufacturing town of about 15,000 inhabitants.

BUSINESS PROSPECT GROWING BRIGHTER

High Point Factories, While Below Normal, are Increasing Output.

High Point, Aug. 12.—With much labor the crust of business depression that for the past ten months has firmly bound High Point is being broken, and at many places through the furniture are appearing the signs of growing business, according to the most recent observations by local business men. It is true that the crop of orders is yet short of normal, but with careful cultivation and reasonable season this is expected to grow off rapidly under the sunshine of improved cotton fields and showers of improved conditions in the north.

As a rule the High Point managers of the varied wood-working manufacturing, on which this city depends so largely for its prosperity, are optimistic. This was shown conclusively during the period since the outbreak of hostilities in Europe. They felt the pinch of the times and felt it hard, but they heeded these things with the balm of hope for better times next month. That next month has been somewhat delayed in getting here, but now, unless the signs are misread, it is about to arrive.

Increased Payrolls. Probably the best thermometer of a community's business is that community's banks. They are the first to notice a depression or a revival. The High Point bankers say they see an improvement in conditions recently in the size of the payrolls. Some of the factories, it is said, have increased their payroll considerably during the past few weeks. This is due to both an increase in the number of men employed and the number of hours worked per week. Plants that were working short forces about 30 hours a week are now employing more men and running 50 hours, per week. Others state that they hope to be able to be running capacity forces and time before the middle of next month and a few look for this to begin by the first of September.

Heretofore the local manufacturing plants have depended almost wholly on the greater south for their business. The blow that struck the cotton market last fall and left wounds that have not yet been completely healed, landed on the woodworking plants with an even greater force. With the estimate of the cotton crop of this year falling as low as 12,000,000 bales or under; with the hope that the British and French will, by force of circumstances, have to become large buyers of the south's money crop, the furniture men are feeling brighter. They say that if cotton brings eight cents or over they believe conditions will soon return to prosperous period. They are waiting in confidence for the establishment of an eight cent cotton market this fall and if their predictions are confirmed by facts, business will soon begin to boom, they say.

ENGLISH PAPER DEFENDS CONTRABAND COTTON

London, Aug. 12.—The Manchester Guardian denies the implication that the meeting held in London last night to urge that the government declare cotton contraband was tainted with commercialism and that English cotton interests would be benefited by such a declaration.

ENTENTE SURE OF VICTORY, HE SAYS

French Munitions Head Says Army Is Armed for Any Eventuality.

Paris, Aug. 12.—Albert Thomas, under secretary of war in charge of munitions tells the Petit Parisien that France's efforts to produce munitions are different in method but equal as to results to those of England which he recently investigated. The Petit Parisien quotes the following: "We have an army which at the present moment is armed so as to withstand any shock. We have an army capable of a strong offensive. The morale is good; that is to say, that army is prepared to remain as it is if necessary. "Every day our strength grows in England and France, notwithstanding the formidable resources at the disposal of Germany. It is not possible that the resources of the allies will not assure them, when the time is ripe, of complete victory. "What we have—what England has and will have, are all the resources we can create to assure supremacy. I am confident because I know. Every day I repeat to friends the conviction that we will be victorious."

THREE PARDONED BY GOVERNOR CRAIG

Governor Grants Two Absolute and One Conditional Pardon—Reasons Stated.

Governor Locke Craig who is spending the summer in Asheville with headquarters at the Battery Park hotel has granted a conditional pardon to Albert Burris of Stanley county and pardons to Amos Clay and Scott Carver of Person county. Clay and Carver were convicted of receiving stolen goods and sentenced to eight months on the county roads. The governor made the following statement in granting the pardons: "Judge Daniels, who tried this case, states that it was his intention before adjourning court to change the judgment so that the terms of the defendants would expire August 12; that in some way the judgment was not recorded as intended by him. This pardon is to rectify the mistake. "Burris received a sentence of eight months in jail for felonious breaking. In granting the prisoner a conditional pardon Governor Craig makes the following comment: "The defendant will be released upon the condition that he be a good citizen and obey the law. "The pardon is recommended by Solicitor Brock who prosecuted, by Judge Devin who tried the case, and other citizens. In recommending the pardon Judge Devin says: "I make this recommendation for the reason that the offense itself was not a serious one, no property having been taken, nor was there intent to do more than get something to drink, though there was forcible invasion of the prosecutor's premises; and the further controlling reason that this is a young man with a wife and four small children. "It is very doubtful that he owes any intent to commit a crime."

RAINES' CASE WILL REACH THE JURY TODAY

Arguments in the case of F. E. Raines, administrator of Bab Raines against the Southern Railway company, were completed just before Superior court adjourned for noon today and the case will go to the jury following the charge of the court at the afternoon session. The plaintiff is suing for \$20,000 damages as a death claim, alleging that Bab Raines was killed by a train operated by the defendant near Hubbes last year. It has been heard fought and long drawn out. James Glascock was granted a divorce on statutory grounds from Jeanette Glascock. The case of Edith S. Vanderbilt against S. F. Chapman and others was continued, for the plaintiff. A verdict for the defendant was returned in the case of Green and Goodman against Ivy Caphart, E. C. Curtis was granted a divorce on statutory grounds from Miss Minnie Curtis.

DOUGHTON MAY BE CANDIDATE

Wise Politicians Assert His Uncertainty Is Caused by Desire to Be Next Governor But One.

ATTORNEYSHIP MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT BE

Sparta Statesman Quoted Directly as Aspiring to Be Governor After Bickett Retires.

(By W. T. Bost.) Raleigh, Aug. 12.—The Rufus A. Doughton candidacy for the attorney generalship having resolved itself into a series of reportorial contentions finds itself today less inclined to assume shadow than substance, according to prominent western democrats.

The story in Tuesday's Gazette-News had none the less justifiable basis for the destruction of all bridges behind it despite dispute of the experts, one set of whom produce convincing proof that Mr. Doughton will not run, and the other the yink of wisdom—"believe me, I know what I am talking about." These conditions naturally produce room for argument. The fact that Mr. Doughton has been encouraged by silence or indecision or semi-decision these varied journalistic breaks is not a reflection upon him. When he comes to announce his candidacy or renounce it, three or four fine friends will expect to have the release at the same hour. The fact that Mr. Doughton has at one time or another thought he would run and would not run is not going to be used against him. Behind his uncertainty is the real story. "What is to Be Governor?" The ultimate ambition of Mr. Broughton is said by wise politicians to be the governorship. Some of these w.p.'s employ categorical quotations on him and declare that he is debating the attorney generalship, not as it will affect his profession, his family or his estate, but his desire to be the success or Bickett when Bickett retires as governor. Mr. Doughton is undecided, so it is said, whether it will help him to the governorship if he be made attorney general and if it does not he will not run. Therein is the explanation of all the uncertainty. Bickett's administration as attorney general worked handsomely for him, but friends of Mr. Doughton declare that he is by no means certain that the thing for him to do is to be elected attorney general. George A. Adams has a hero who sang his way into the heart of a country girl with his big bass, but the succeeding green goaling who tried it fell down. Bickett has been singing a sight since he became attorney general but his song might not win for Doughton. The Sparta statesman has been quoted directly as aspiring to the governorship when Bickett retires and to that aspiratio n is ascribed the ambition to stop over at the first station on the way. This interesting rumor is the heritage of the last bar association's meeting in Asheville. It came on down to Raleigh and when dropped here gave the dropper thereof a sort of pity of feeling for newspaper men who guess at things in such ungraceful style. Of course Mr. Doughton has no designs upon the governorship in the coming campaign. It is being conceded to the east and Daughton and Bickett are the only candidates. Next big election year it will go to the west and then there will be almost as much demand for western candidates to beat him as there is this time for somebody in the west to trim Judge Carter. The residue from the bar association—the Doughton real aspiration, is nevertheless something that is going to interest the people. It is new, has the dew of morning on it, and appears to have authenticity in high degree. P. on or Service. Raleigh's postoffice service has been in the local eye the biggest thing for weeks and yesterday a letter of Congressman P. on is made public in which he promises that nothing shall be done to cripple the work. Whether this means that the assistant postmaster shall be discontinued or whether two men put on in the room of the one laid off, is not indicated, but the local papers have had a good deal to say against any curtailment that will make the service less strong than it is. Tobacco Reports. Our towns in North Carolina report tobacco sales for July amounting to 664,119 pounds as against 124,682 last year. Fairmont sold \$55,533; Fair Bluff \$10,548; Whiteville \$8,431; and Hidsville 1,555. This report will close the year on old sales. The 1914-1915 season has beaten the record. Governor Craig has made requisition on the governor of Alabama for Paul Clark, wanted in Moore county, on the charge of embezzling \$1,000. Solicitor Walter E. Brock made the request and says that Clark as executor disposed of a \$1,000 mortgage.

PRESIDENT AGAIN AT WHITE HOUSE

Comes From Cornish to Confer With Lansing on Mexican Plans.

Washington, Aug. 12.—President Wilson, returning from Cornish, N. H., reached the white house shortly after 9:30 o'clock this morning. President Wilson will confer today with Secretary Lansing and other members of his cabinet on the Mexican and other problems. With the president back in Washington developments are expected within the next few days in regard to Mexico. He is desirous of following the plan inaugurated when the Latin-American representatives were invited to confer on Mexican affairs, but he also is determined to afford protection to foreigners in Vera Cruz. The president was notified that General Carranza had sent word to Secretary Lansing that the Mexican people view with displeasure any attempt tending to frustrate the success of Carranza forces. It was understood the president will continue with his Mexican plans regardless of Carranza's attitude. Carranza is to be given an opportunity, however, to agree to the plan finally determined on. Secretary Lansing, on behalf of the United States government and the diplomatic representatives of Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, Uruguay and Guatemala, has signed an appeal addressed to the leaders of all factions in Mexico, asking them in the name of humanity and national patriotism to cease their civil strife and assemble a peace conference. The action was not of a joint character, but identical. An informal, but unanimous, note will be sent expressing the views of the seven governments that the conditions of chaos in Mexico have injured the prestige of the nation abroad and supplicating the Mexican leaders and generals to make a supreme effort to bring together all elements in the creation of a provisional government that can be given world-wide recognition. Beyond this step, yesterday's session did not go, reserving until a later date consideration of the situation that may be created by refusal of any of the factions to participate in a peace conference.

FUNDS APPORTIONED TO AID THE STATES MILITIA

North Carolina Gets \$200,000 More Than Last Year—\$2,000,000 Appropriated.

Washington, Aug. 12.—Four million dollars, this year's federal appropriation to aid the organized militia, has been apportioned today by Secretary Garrison. Half of the amount is for actual field service and rifle practice and is divided among the states according to congressional representation. Of the \$2,000,000 for supplies and ammunition, \$400,000 is reserved for special emergency allotment, and the remainder goes to the states on the basis of efficiency plans adopted by the war department. The result of the new plan is that New York receives for supplies and ammunition \$47,000 more than last year, Illinois and Massachusetts each will receive \$9,000 more. Michigan and New Jersey each \$5,000, Connecticut \$6,000, Georgia \$5,000 and North Carolina \$2,000. Texas will be the greatest loser, drawing \$14,000 less than last year, Alabama will receive \$3,000 less, Arkansas, Maine, Virginia and West Virginia and Wyoming each \$6,000; Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri and Tennessee each \$5,000; South Carolina, \$4,000; Mississippi and Oklahoma \$3,000 each, and Florida \$1,000.

SOU. RAILWAY AGENTS WILL ADJOURN TODAY

One of Most Successful Conventions Ever Held by the Association.

What is said by those taking part in the meetings to be one of the most successful conventions of the Southern Railway association will close today with the election of officers for the coming year. The agents met Tuesday morning at Grove Park Inn for a discussion of problems in transportation and railway accounting. The meetings have been held twice daily and all those present have joined in the exchange of opinions and ideas. Agents from all divisions of the Southern railway system have been in attendance and conditions and problems in the different territories have been considered and a variety of helpful comment and suggestion has been heard.

SITUATION ON BORDER GRAVE

MOST TROOPS MAY BE ORDERED TO FRONTIER

Washington, Aug. 12.—Because of brigandage on the border order will probably soon be sent to the army posts to hold their troops ready if not to move. Secretary Garrison, who has conferred with his staff, said this would have nothing to do with the fighting in Mexico and would have no political significance. He declared that some lawless people were using this time of excitement as an opportunity to plunder and steal. "We are not sure they are all Mexicans," he said; "some we know are not." Under General Funston commanding the troops on the border are nine regiments of cavalry; six regiments of infantry and two full regiments of field artillery—about 14,000 men. At other posts there are about 12,000 more of mobile troops. Reports have reached here that more than 1000 Carranza troops that have been under the command of General Nabaretta in the state of Tamaulipas had moved into Texas near Brownsville and had scattered in bands to rally Mexicans with the announced purpose of beginning an uprising. They are reported to be under the command of Juan Delos Santos Vincente Vavila and Carlos Gardia. Reassuring dispatches have been received from Vera Cruz. The governor made public a statement deprecating the anti-foreign demonstrations and incendiary speeches and said quiet had been restored. Munitions Details Asked. Washington, Aug. 12.—American manufacturers of war supplies have been asked by the war department for information concerning their facilities, with particular reference to what service the United States government could expect from them in emergency. With virtually every private plant in the country taxed to capacity filling orders from Europe, army officials want to know whether expansion of facilities has kept pace with the demand. Even in ordinary times the government factories produce only a part of the arms and ammunition for the national defense are stretched to result in vastly increased demands for supplies, aside from any emergency that may arise. The following statement was issued by the department: "Recognizing the fact that the armaments would be unable to produce adequate supply of war material to meet an emergency of war, it has been the practice of the government, both in time of peace as well as in war, to purchase from private establishments a considerable part of the war material currently required. This policy makes it necessary for the ordnance department to obtain from these establishments from time to time information as to their ability and capacity to produce various classes of such material. "Such extraordinary changes and unprecedented expansion of the facilities of American manufacturers have resulted from the demands for material by the warring nations of Europe particularly for the production of certain classes of ammunition, that it has been necessary for the ordnance department recently to correspondingly increase its activity to keep in touch with this industrial development. It is probable that the expansion noted has not ceased, but officials believe that a stage has been reached which renders desirable a general inquiry as to the manufacturing facilities now in existence, and with a view to obtaining information on the subject, the ordnance department is sending out letters of inquiry to a number of manufacturers, accompanied by forms designed to facilitate the making of replies. "The war department expressly states that it does not now contemplate purchasing any of the material referred to as it has no special funds which may be used for such a purpose. No special inquiry is deemed necessary for the expenditure of the limited funds from current appropriations which are at the bureau's disposal."

RAIDERS WIDEN ZONE OF THEIR OPERATIONS

Bandits Said to Have Organized Under "Plan of San Diego," to Wrest Territory from U. S.

Brownsville, Tex., Aug. 12.—Action by the federal government in response to an appeal made by Governor Ferguson of Texas to increase the Rio Grande valley was availed by officials today. "We are not able to stop the depredations of the bands of Mexican ranch raiders," the governor in his appeal declared, and he further asserted that the situation was perilous and grave and that he doubted the ability of the state forces and local officers to still control the situation. Citizens of Brownsville and other border towns do not agree that the trouble is due to political feuds. The raiders are said to have organized several bands for operation under the "Plan of San Diego," a movement started a year ago at San Diego, Tex., at which a resolution was passed declaring for wresting from the United States a strip of territory along the border to be added to Mexico. While the situation is expected to be partly relieved with the arrival of the Third battalion, Ninth Infantry, sent from Laredo yesterday, the expression of officials generally was that it would require more soldiers to suppress the movement. The zone of operations of the raiders has been widened extensively during the past 24 hours. The latest meeting of bandits with troops was at Katherine, 80 miles north of Brownsville, where 30 Mexicans attempted a daring raid on the one store of the town. The attempt was frustrated by a dozen United States soldiers stationed in the store, who fired on the bandits, injuring two, it is believed. No reports have come of further killing since Monday, when ten people were killed. Confirmation is lacking of the report that Mexican soldiers in considerable numbers have crossed the border to join the revolutionary movement, although Governor Ferguson in his appeal to the president declared: "An unusual occurrence now would come as a disastrous invasion of Texas from Mexico."

LOCAL FIREMEN WERE IN RACES AT NEW BERN

Borrowed Team From New Bern and Won Fifth Prize—Officers Elected.

Unable to watch the races held yesterday at New Bern by the State Firemen's association without participating in the events, eight members of the Asheville delegation borrowed a team from the New Bern firemen and won fifth money in the races, according to a message received at the local headquarters last night. The first prize was won by the Morehead City team No. 1, in 32-2 seconds and the second team from there won the second in 30 seconds; Lexington winning third in 30-1-5 seconds and Kingston fourth in 30-2-8 seconds. The state firemen elected the following officers and selected Raleigh as the next meeting place: James B. McNeil, of Fayetteville, president; A. H. Boydan, of Salisbury, vice president; A. J. Clark, of Southern Pines, second vice president; John A. Miller, of Concord secretary; Charles Schilben, of Wilmington, treasurer; and T. D. Davis, of New Bern, statistician. Several invitations were received from the different organizational organizations of Raleigh to the convention, urging that the 1916 convention be held there, and the vote was unanimous for that city.

Governor Ferguson Appeals for More Troops—Thinks Present Forces are not Sufficiently Strong.

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