

CALL ON LENOIR MINISTERS FOR COUNTRY'S AID

Henry A. Page Writes a Stirring Letter to All Ministers Here, as Well as All Other Ministers in State

The ministers of Lenoir churches have just received from Henry A. Page, State food administrator, the following letter:

"To the Christian Ministers of North Carolina.

"Gentlemen: Tens of thousands of men, women and children, particularly the latter, will perish in Europe this winter from starvation and exposure, even at the best.

"Unless the people of America, as individuals and as families, economize in the use of foodstuffs and substitute local products which are not suitable for shipping for those that are suitable for export, this number of starving people will be multiplied. The products which, because of their concentrated nature and keeping qualities, are suitable for shipping, are beef, and pork products, wheat, fats and sugar.

"Every American is requested by our government to substitute for the products named other products which they can secure and thus release the greatest supply possible of those exportable products for the use of our allies and to save from starvation as many as possible of the neutrals in Europe.

"The heartrending part of it all is that our people have not waked up to the horrible death that threatens several hundred thousand individuals in Europe or even to the terrible menace of a complete German victory if our European allies should collapse because we do not supply them with the foodstuffs they must have if they are to hold out.

"The critical period is NOW. Our people must save NOW if our allies are to have the foodstuffs which they are during the next few months.

"The hearts of those who do have a complete realization of the food situation in Europe are torn with anguish because of the suffering and because our people are slow to take the only steps that are possible to relieve their suffering and to save their lives.

"I am appealing to you as the ministers and teachers of our people to attempt to bring home to your people some sense of the unutterable horror of the situation and to get each one of them to realize that what they can save of the products suitable for shipping will certainly be used in relieving the suffering and in saving the lives of human beings in the countries of our allies and to as great an extent as possible in the countries of the European neutrals.

"Our government authorities are sending to Europe as fast as they dare these products. They are not going to send such a supply as will deprive our people, but they do appeal most earnestly to our people to make available to just as great an extent as possible by saving and by substituting of other products those things which may be shipped to Europe.

"Will you not lay this matter upon the consciences and hearts of your people both from the pulpit and in your daily contact with them, and entreat them to do everything they can NOW—later, lives will have been lost and their own liberties endangered.

Yours for humanity,
HENRY A. PAGE,
Food Administrator.

MR. PATTERSON RECEIVES 400 SHEEP FOR VALLEY FARM

A shipment of 400 sheep arrived here Saturday for Mr. Lindsay Patterson, who some time ago bought "Clover Hill," the Cowles home place in the Valley. Mr. Patterson has rented the adjoining farm, the Gwyn Lenoir place, for the winter. The sheep will be wintered on these two farms and early next spring they will be driven to Mr. Patterson's farms in Watauga county.

ANTI-ARMISTICE SENTIMENT IS GROWING IN RUSSIA

While the Bolshevik delegates have agreed to a ten-day armistice, as announced officially by the Berlin war office, powerful and growing opposition to the peace overtures is shaping itself in Russia, as appears from advices from various sources.

LIEUT. RICHARDSON IS STILL WITH BATTERY E

The Battery Will Soon Go to the Range for Target Practice— Gives Names of Its New Officers

The wholesale transfer of officers at Camp Sevier has not affected First Lieut. Sanford A. Richardson. "Sam" is still with the home boys and says he "certainly hopes to remain."

Lieut. Richardson's letter was written Saturday following the receipt of The Lenoir News, which gave an account of an interview with one of the boys from the camp. Lieut. Richardson's letter reads: "In the Friday's issue of The News I notice you carried an item regarding the transfer of the officers of Battery E. You were in error regarding the transfer of me. I am still with the battery and expect and certainly hope to remain with it, as I have so far had no intimation that I would be changed. The new officers of the battery are Louis E. Crayton, commander; Leroy C. Hand, second lieutenant; John W. Moore, second lieutenant, with the other first lieutenant vacant.

"The battery will very likely go to the range within the next two weeks for target practice."

PLENTY OF SUGAR SOON, SAYS FOOD ADMINISTRATOR

Lenoir folks who have been without a sugar sweetening portion for their coffee during the past week or two will be interested in the following announcement of the food administration:

"It has been announced by the food administration that the price of .045 a pound for the new crop of raw sugar in Cuba will 8-cent sugar to the consumer during the coming year. The Cuban crop, which is now being harvested, is estimated at from three million to three and a half million tons, which, added to our own crop of 600,000,000 tons of beet sugar and 200,000,000 tons of Louisiana cane sugar, will be more than ample for our needs with the exercise of reasonable economy in using sugar."

"The raw sugar from Cuba will begin reaching our refineries within the next two or three weeks and the sugar problem will be very largely solved so far as any actual sugar famine is concerned. The utmost economy in the use of sugar, however, will be necessary during the period of the war on account of the very great decrease in the beet sugar crop of France and Italy."

REGISTRANT MUST LET EXEMPTION BOARD KNOW

Change of Postoffice Address Should Be Made Known to Board— To Mail Out Questionnaires on 15th

It is up to each registrant who has changed his postoffice address to notify the exemption board and advise them of his new address before next Saturday, the 15th of this month. On that day the board will mail out the questionnaires, according to the new draft rule, to each registrant. That is as far as the board can go, says Chairman F. H. Coffey, and he asks that every registered man who has changed his postoffice and not already notified the board to advise the board before next Saturday. The failure of any registered man to get his questionnaire fixed up and returned on time will cause him to be considered drafted into the service.

QUARANTINE LIFTED AT CAMP SEVIER FRIDAY

The quarantine which has been in force at Camp Sevier, Greenville, S. C. for several weeks was lifted Friday at noon, except for the 117th infantry and Battery F, 113th field artillery, although it is expected that this quarantine will also be lifted soon.

ALBERT CLOER DANGEROUSLY SCALDED AT PATTERSON

Albert Cloer was painfully if not dangerously scalded yesterday afternoon when the blow pipe under the big boiler at the Watts Manufacturing Company's cotton mill at Patterson burst and covered him with hot water and ashes.

URGE CALDWELL TEACHERS, 2,000 DEAD, MILLIONS IN PROPERTY BLOWN UP

State Supt. J. Y. Joyner Writes Supt. Smith Another Letter— Boost War Saving and Thrift

Aside from urging all Caldwell teachers and all other teachers in North Carolina to prepare for the observance of North Carolina Day— Dec. 14— Superintendent of Public Instruction J. Y. Joyner is recommending that at least one Friday in each month from now until the close of the schools be set aside for a patriotic celebration. County Superintendent R. M. Smith has just received a letter from Dr. Joyner in reference to this work, urging him to give all time necessary to bring about a realization of these plans. The letter reads:

"Again I urge you to give all the time necessary to making successful the celebration of North Carolina Day in every public school in your county for thrift, conservation and patriotism. Urge your teachers to have the program well prepared and well presented, to advertise the meetings thoroughly through the children and by personal invitation and public notice.

Advertise the meeting continuously through your county newspapers. Enlist actively all your county patriotic organizations—the council of defense, the food and fuel directors and committee, the Red Cross, the war savings, etc. Col. F. H. Fries of Winston, chairman of the war savings committee of the State and State director of this work, in co-operation with the State council of defense, is organizing a force of speakers in each county. It is hoped and expected to have a speaker at each public schoolhouse on North Carolina Day to present in five or ten minutes the war savings work and to make a patriotic appeal to the people. Co-operate heartily and actively with him, his committee and your county council of defense in organizing this speaking force in your county.

If the time is too short for all your teachers to make adequate preparation for the celebration of North Carolina Day on Dec. 14 you might postpone it until Friday, Dec. 21, provided the schools do not close for the holidays before that date. It is very desirable, however, to celebrate the day throughout the State on Dec. 14 if possible. Should you find a postponement of date in your county absolutely necessary give notice of it at once.

"The development of loyal American citizenship and of a spirit of service to our country and of sacrifice for her in her hour of need is the most important duty of the public schools at this time. Every public school now should be a patriotic association for organized service to our country and people. The public schools of this State and of this country have never had before so good an opportunity for such service. Heretofore, the work of our schools for preparing for American citizenship has been largely limited to instruction about the government and its machinery and the opportunities and privileges of American citizenship. War conditions and the needs of our country now offer an opportunity that must not be neglected for emphasizing the duties and obligations of American citizenship and for practical training in these duties and obligations through organized service.

To illustrate: The war savings stamps and certificates afford every child, every man and woman, the opportunity to cultivate the commendable virtue of thrift, even to the point of commendable sacrifice, and to make a practical application of it to the service of our country and of the world. Use North Carolina Day for the cultivation of thrift, conservation and patriotism and for the practical application of all of these virtues by children and adults to the service of their country in her hour of need.

I earnestly recommend that at least one Friday afternoon in each month until the close of the school term be set aside for a patriotic celebration in every public school. It is our hope and intention to follow up North Carolina Day program with brief programs for such celebrations about once a month."

2,000 DEAD, MILLIONS IN PROPERTY BLOWN UP

Explosion of Munition Ship in Halifax Harbor Thursday A. M.— Relief Rushed to the Stricken People

Three thousand tons of munitions on board the French line steamship Mont Blanc exploded in the harbor of Nova Scotia Thursday morning as a result of a collision with the Belgian relief steamship Imo, killed about 2,000 persons, injured 3,000 or more others, many of them probably fatally, and laid waste a wide area of the city, causing millions of dollars damage.

Practically all the northern and oldest part of Halifax, known as Richmond, was shattered by the terrific concussion or wiped out by the fires that started at once.

The monstrous energy suddenly released by the blast swept irregularly over the country about Halifax, did vast damage in Dartmouth, across the bay; broke windows sixty-one miles off, and by the force of its concussion killed a telegrapher at his desk four miles from the bay.

Witnesses of the disaster who escaped reported that the crew of the Mont Blanc began to work desperately to check the flames, knowing that their own lives, at least, were at stake.

Men on the waterfront and on ships in the harbor within sight of the Mont Blanc saw the crew driven back step by step by the flames until finally they abandoned hope and rushed for the boats. They rowed as hard as they could toward the shore, while the Mont Blanc drifted.

Seventeen minutes after the collision the munitions ship blew up. The harbor at this point is less than half a mile wide. On the south shore is the Richmond section of Halifax. On the north shore is the town of Dartmouth. On each side the land slopes rather sharply upward from the waterfront, so as to form a trough, confining the explosion in some degree and increasing its destructiveness.

The main waterfront works, piers for loading ships and warehouses of supplies and munitions, are located between the ocean and a point some distance to the southward of the scene of the explosion, so that they escaped the full effect of the blast. They were damaged badly, but reports indicated that the explosion had not crippled the principal waterfront developments used by the government in loading transports and munitions ships.

The great loss of life was in the Richmond district. This is built up for the most part of small wooden houses on narrow streets. Because of their situation on a slope the roofs of the houses were lifted above those nearer to the waterfront, so that most of the dwellings were exposed to the full violence of the blow.

Much of this section was flattened to the ground. Women at home, children at school and men at work were caught and crushed in a twinkling when their buildings sprung down on them like traps. The terrific heat of the blast from consuming gases of the munitions swept an area strewn with thousands of tons of kindling wood.

When those who had escaped crushing in the wreckage could recover themselves they found fire racing through splintered woodwork in several spots in the Richmond section. Nothing could save great tracts from being burned over, and before the fire was out it appeared that nearly half the area of the city was

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BAPTIST CONVENTION MEETS IN GREENSBORO NEXT

Greensboro gets the next session of the Baptist State convention. Rev. Dr. B. D. Gaw, pastor of the First Baptist church of Durham, or his alternate, Rev. J. W. Harte of Oxford, will preach the annual sermon.

The convention committed itself with enthusiasm to the program of launching a movement to raise within the next four years, beginning Jan. 1, a million dollars for the endowment and equipment of the Baptist educational institutions of the State. This is considered the crowning act of the convention. W. L. Poteat, A. T. Mann, B. C. Herring, J. J. Hart and others spoke advocating the movement.

WEATHER EIGHT ABOVE YESTERDAY MORNING

Bureau Says Warmer Days—Cold Wave Over Entire East— Much Suffering, Especially in Cities

The thermometer at the government weather station here registered eight degrees above zero yesterday morning, the coldest weather so far this winter. Sunday morning the thermometer registered ten degrees above. The mountains have been covered with snow and the wind coming from across them has been unusually cold.

A cold wave has covered almost the entire country. Much suffering has been reported from the cities.

A report issued by the weather bureau says that the weather will begin to moderate today.

PLANS FOR CARE OF INJURED RETURNED FROM EUROPE

The receiving hospital for United States soldiers brought back from Europe, to be established at Staten Island, N. Y., will have a capacity of 2,500 beds. This marks the beginning of a comprehensive plan for the care of soldiers who are disabled in the line of duty. It will be used only for distribution.

From the Staten Island institution men will be transferred to general or special treatment hospitals, sites for which are now being selected throughout the country. Whenever possible injured soldiers will be sent to places near their own homes. They will be fitted for trades to which they are adapted, and at the time of discharge the government will assist them in returning to their proper places of industry.

FORMER LENOIR WAS NOT IN HALIFAX TIME OF EXPLOSION

Messages have just been received here by Mr. W. H. Craddock advising him that his nephew, R. J. Craddock, with the U. S. navy, was not at Halifax, N. S., Thursday morning when the French munition ship blew up and killed from 2,000 to 4,000 people. R. J. Craddock is a son of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Craddock, who moved from here to Texas about one year ago.

ANOTHER STOVE EXPLOSION AT PATTERSON SCHOOL

The hot water coil in the kitchen range at the Patterson School burst yesterday morning shortly after the fire had been built for breakfast. No one was injured when the explosion occurred.

ITALIANS SUCCESSFULLY HOLD AUSTRO-GERMANS

Huge Fleet of 150 Italian Planes Flying Low Scatters More Than 2,000 Bombs Among Enemy Troops Assembled in Force

The battle of Asiago is virtually suspended, with the enemy checked, if not defeated, in his main design of breaking through to the Brenta valley and the plain a few miles below, although he succeeded in advancing his lines a short distance when the Italians fell back to new positions, says a report from the Italian army headquarters.

These positions, guarding the Frenzela and Gadena passes, have successfully resisted enemy efforts and the Italians on the steep heights on each side of the passes rain down artillery and rifle fire and release huge boulders every time the enemy forces territory to get through.

This has continued until the Italians seem reasonably assured of holding the passes and compelling the enemy to look for another line of approach.

An exceptionally large air raid was carried out with a fleet of 150 airplanes, including Italian light and heavy squadrons. The huge fleet flew low, scattering more than 2,000 bombs, which caused extensive damage in the northern sector, where the enemy is assembling forces and supplies. Troop trains were scattered, railway depots destroyed and munition supplies blown up. Large fires marked the route of the raiders, indicating the extent of the destruction.

If you need Printing see The News.

FORMER LENOIR MINISTER IS HELD IN GREENSBORO

S. R. McCorkle is Arrested on Charge of Larceny—Police Found Many Items of Merchandise

Rev. S. R. McCorkle, a colored minister who has preached at one of the churches in West End, is being held by the Greensboro police on a charge of larceny. In reference to the case Saturday's Greensboro Daily News says:

A complete line of merchandise, varying from a cake of toilet soap to a new suit of clothes, was found yesterday afternoon on the premises of Rev. S. R. McCorkle, a negro minister residing on East Lee street, and McCorkle is now in jail, charged with stealing them. Thursday a clerk in a local grocery store, it is said, had reason to believe that the negro stole a ham from the store and when he came in yesterday and purchased some candy he was watched and, according to the story told the police, was seen taking two twelve-pound sacks of flour. The police were called and the negro was arrested. He has not been able to raise the bond asked of him, \$500.

Yesterday afternoon the officers went to the home of the minister with a search warrant and found a large quantity of merchandise on his property. A half box of pencils, a large quantity of flour and lard, several pairs of shoes, and other household articles were among the things found. About two wagon loads of the goods were carried to police headquarters.

It is said that as many as half a dozen different stores have been robbed by the negro. He stated that he fills a circuit near Lenoir and has preached in Greensboro at times. He usually travels carrying a suit case and when arrested by the police yesterday a cake of soap and a bottle of toilet water were in the suit case. He told the officers that his home was on East street, but the articles which he is charged with stealing were found at a house on East Lee street, at which place he is said to reside.

It has been expressed as a belief by the police that he has been taking things from stores in the western part of the state and bringing them to Greensboro for final disposition. His stock of Christmas goods, if it is proved that they were his, is certainly complete, for from appearances he overlooked nothing in his plans for preparedness and his effort to meet the high cost of living. Several of the articles found bear the price and cost marks on them. It is said that he has been tried in the city court before on charges of larceny.

CAMP HOSPITALS IN NEED OF TRAINED NURSES

The outbreaks of measles at the cantonments, followed by the resultant complications, including pneumonia, have increased the need for additional nurses at the hospitals established in connection with the camps. At least 500 trained nurses are wanted at once.

After a recent inspection trip to one of the camps with a high rate the surgeon general reported there had been 3,000 cases of measles. At the time of his visit there were 300 cases of pneumonia in the hospital.

The height of the measles epidemic is over, but pneumonia does not develop for some time after the incidence of the measles, so a considerable number of cases of pneumonia may be expected.

Th pay of nurses is \$50 a month and maintenance. Application should be made to the superintendent, Army Nurse Corps, Mills Building, Washington, D. C.

WILL ASK CONGRESS FOR SODIUM NITRATE

In session Thursday the North Carolina board of agriculture at Raleigh adopted a resolution in which the members of Congress from this State are to be memorialized on the necessity of obtaining nitrate of soda supplies for the farmers of the State.

In preparing its budget for the year the board made virtually no change in the amounts heretofore appropriated for the various divisions. The only departure made from the regular financial program of the board was the salary increase allowed at the meeting Wednesday.