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STEPS TO PUT NATION ON WAR FOOTING

President Directs That Navy Be Recruited to Full Authorized War Strength Of 87,000 Men—Two New Military Departments to Be Created—20,000 Men Needed For Navy Immediately.

Washington Dispatch, March 25. President Wilson took steps today to place the nation on a war footing. By executive order he directed that the navy be recruited without delay to full authorized war strength of 87,000 enlisted men.

For the army, the President directed that two new military departments be created in the Atlantic region. The order means that the task of organizing whatever army Congress may authorize will be divided among six departmental commanders instead of four in the interests of speed and efficiency.

To Protect Industries The third step was to assume as a national duty the task of protecting American industries from domestic disorders in the event of hostilities. For this purpose eleven full infantry regiments, two separate battalions and one separate company of national guards were called back into the Federal service to act as national police in important districts.

The President's orders were made known in terse official statements issued by both departments. No explanation accompanied them, except the statement that reorganization of the military departments, effective May 1, was designed to facilitate decentralization of command.

20,000 Enlistments Needed The navy must enroll immediately approximately 20,000 men to reach the required strength. Secretary Daniels supplemented it tonight with personal telegrams to newspaper editors all over the country urging them to aid the department in every way in their power, to obtain the men.

Congress must determine the system under which an army is to be raised. Today's action provides more elastic machinery, found necessary as a result of the recent border mobilization, for the enrolling and training of a great army, whether raised as volunteers, by conscription or through a universal service bill.

2 NEW MILITARY DEPARTMENTS

Division of United States Into 6 Instead of the Existing 4 Military Departments Announced by War Department

Washington Dispatch, March 25. Division of the United States into six instead of the existing four military departments was announced today by the War Department. The two new departments are the Northeastern, comprising the New England States, and the Southeastern, comprising the States in the old South.

Major-General Leonard Wood is transferred from the command of the Department of the East to the new Southeastern Department, with headquarters at Charleston; Major-General J. Franklin Bell from the Western Department to the Eastern Department; Major-General Hunter Liggett from the Philippines to the Western Department; and Brigadier-General Clarence R. Edwards from the Canal Zone to the Northeastern Department. Major-General Barry of the Central Department, and Major-General Pershing of the Southern Department, remain in their command.

14 Regiments of National Guard Called Into Service for Police Protection Purposes

Washington Dispatch, March 25. Calling into the Federal service of fourteen regiments of the National guard for police protection purposes was announced today by the War Department. The Second Virginia regiment is included in the call. The department issued this statement: "Many States have deemed it advisable to call out the National guard for police purposes of protection. As the necessity for such steps arises from local issues which are more national in character it has been deemed advisable by the President to call into Federal service for the above mentioned purposes the following organizations of the National guard: "Massachusetts, 2nd and 9th regiments; "Pennsylvania, 1st and 3rd regiments; "Maryland, 4th regiment; "District of Columbia, 1st separate battalion; "Virginia, 2nd regiment; "Vermont, company B, 1st regiment; "Connecticut, 1st regiment; "New York, 2nd and 71st regiments; "Delaware, 1st battalion, 1st regiment.

"The following organization which are now in the Federal service will not be mustered out: "13th Pennsylvania, A and B, companies of the 1st Georgia."

FRENCH TAKE MORE GROUND

Berlin Admits Retirement of Germans "According to Orders"—Germans Massing on Russian Front Press Summary.

The French forces and the Germans again have been engaged in heavy fighting on several sectors of the front between the Somme and the Aisne rivers, and again the French have made advances toward the strongly defended town of St. Quentin. According to the French war office the French troops have pushed forward over a front of about two and a half miles south and southwest of St. Quentin, the new positions taking in the town of Castres, three miles southwest and Essigny-le-Grand four miles south of St. Quentin. Gains also were made south of the Oise and north of the Soissons.

Berlin admits the retirement of the Germans "according to orders", before the British between Beaumetz and Roisel, northeast of Peronne, but says the Germans repulsed French attacks north east of Soissons. For the most part the fighting on the British end of the line has consisted of reciprocal raiding and bombing attacks.

There has been considerable fighting in the air. The Berlin war office records the loss of 17 airplanes by the French and British, while London reports eight German machines were driven down out of control, but admits that four British machines failed to return to their base. Bombs have been dropped from German aircraft on Calais and Dunkirk.

While only small raiding operations and artillery duels have been reported from the Russian front, a dispatch from Petrograd says there is indisputable evidence that the Germans are bringing up large numbers of troops on the northern part of the line for an effort to break through toward Petrograd.

The spring thaws are holding the Russo-Rumanians and Teutonic allied troops in check in Rumania. In Macedonia near Monastir much artillery activity prevails. The usual artillery duels and small activity continues in the Austro-Italian theatre.

MINISTER WHITLOCK WITHDRAWN

Washington Dispatch, March 24. Because of the German government's disregard of its written understandings for the protection of Americans and American relief work in Belgium, the State Department announced today that American Minister Brand Whitlock had been withdrawn from Brussels and the staff of the American Commission for Relief in Belgium advised that they should not remain longer in German occupied territory.

Thompson Hospital Notes

Mrs. W. W. Peek, who recently underwent an operation, was able to leave the hospital today. Mr. J. R. Jacobs of Fairmont, who has been in the hospital as a result of a broken leg, is getting on fine. Mr. John Small of the Center section underwent an operation for hernia Thursday and is getting on as well as could be expected.

Mrs. R. L. Collins of Star route from Lumberton entered the hospital for treatment Saturday.

Two Funerals at Philadelphia Yesterday

Mr. H. Parnell of Buie is among the visitors in town today. Mr. Parnell told of two funerals and burials at Philadelphia yesterday. The funeral of Mrs. Henry McNeill of Wakulla was conducted at 11 o'clock a. m. and that of Mr. Earl Brown of Buie at 3 o'clock p. m. Mr. Brown died Saturday of tuberculosis. He was about 30 years of age.

Marriage of Miss Maude Oliver and Mr. Ralph C. Moore

Miss Maude Oliver of R. 2 from Fairmont and Mr. Ralph C. Moore of the Smyrna section were married at the home of the officiating minister, Rev. B. E. Stanfield, at Fairmont Saturday night at 8 o'clock. Both bride and groom are well-known and have many friends who will wish for them a most pleasant married life.

Tried for Letting Dog Run at Large Correspondence of The Robesonian.

East Lumberton, March 24.—E. Turner was before Mayor J. N. Hering for letting his dog run at large after being warned to confine him. He submitted and was fined \$1 and cost.

Paris, March 25—The French government has charged its representatives in all neutral countries to protest against "acts of barbarism and devastation on the part of the Germans" in territory evacuated by them in northern France.

Mr. H. B. Israel of R. 5 from Lumberton was among the visitors in town this morning. Misses Amanda Clarke and Catherine Lapsley of Clarkton spent a few hours in town Saturday at the home of Dr. and Mrs. D. D. King.

U. S. WILL PROVIDE AGAINST EVERY POSSIBLE EMERGENCY

Government Decides Upon Sweeping Measures to be Put Into Effect Following Expected Declaration by Congress That State of War Exists Between United States and Germany

Washington Dispatch, March 23. The American government has decided upon sweeping measures to be put into effect following the expected declaration by Congress soon after it meets April 2 that a state of war exists between the United States and Germany. Fully appreciating Germany's policy of acting in war first and talking afterwards the government has determined to provide against every possible emergency.

Questions involved were discussed today at a cabinet meeting to which heads of departments carried reports on preparations already made and others contemplated. Regretfully the government apparently has decided that since Germany is making war upon the United States through ruthless killing of Americans and destruction of their ships, the issue must be met with steps much more far reaching than mere attempts to protect individual merchant craft. Once a state of war is declared to exist, aggressive measures are expected to be taken.

As outlined after today's cabinet meeting, the preparations of the government are not to be for a short war, or a war marked by half-way measures. A complete program has been prepared so that everything will be carried out in a systematic manner.

Co-Operation With Allies Possible.

The exact measure of American participation in the war is not expected to be revealed until after the President addresses Congress and until public sentiment crystallizes. So far as is known no political alliances with the Entente Allies is contemplated, although military as well as naval co-operation is possible and the government will be unsparring in both money and supplies for the Allies.

The President has not yet written his address to Congress, although he has a general idea of what he will propose. Whether an army will be sent abroad is left to the future. But this possibility is being taken into consideration and the government proposes to be ready for it as soon as practicable.

Detailed plans requiring congressional action are expected to be complete when Congress meets April 2. Prior to that time the Democratic and Republican leaders will confer with the President and members of his Cabinet. Speaker Clark and Representative Kitchin returned to Washington today from the South.

The measures decided upon are military, naval, industrial and financial. They are understood to be most comprehensive.

Army Plans Fully Drawn

The army plans have been fully drawn. Their first object will be to fully protect the United States against any contingency.

The navy program contemplates the building of vessels of all classes as rapidly as possible and the manning of them as fast as they are completed. Secretary Daniels will confer with private builders tomorrow.

The industrial plans, being co-ordinated by the Council of National Defense, include the mobilization of skilled and unskilled labor for the manufacture of munitions in as large quantities as possible and also for the continuance of all necessary industries.

To Furnish Money to Allies

Just how much money will be asked of Congress has not been revealed. A movement is well under way for furnishing the Entente Allies with an enormous loan, either in the form of credits or money. It also is understood that the supply of munitions for the Allies will be augmented, rather than diminished.

After the cabinet meeting the President saw Governor McCall of Massachusetts, for an hour and was told of preliminary preparedness measures taken by New England States and offered complete co-operation.

Conferences on the legislative program will begin at the capitol early next week. Secretary McAdoo, Representative Hull are expected to talk over the fiscal situation before next Wednesday, the tentative date set for the meeting of the Democratic members of the ways and means committee, the revenue raising body of the House. Various measures for providing additional revenues are being considered, including the possibility of resorting to additional taxes on whiskey, tobacco and other specific articles.

\$5,000,000,000 Loan Suggested

Suggestions placed before the President today included the possibility of floating a loan of five billion for the Entente nations. The banks of the country, it was pointed out, are in a position of strength the greatest in their history. The latest report of the comptroller of the currency shows the resources of the Federal Reserve system to be greater than those of all the chief belligerents combined. Nearly all the huge accretions of money that have poured into the country during the two and one-half years of war could be made available for use in war whether expended by this government or by other governments engaged in fighting a common enemy.

Thus while an American army of

FAIRMONT NEWS LETTER

Preparing for Debates March 30—Commencement at Baltimore—Ladies Aid Meets—Personal Mention Correspondence of The Robesonian.

Fairmont, March 24—Messrs. Dan and Fred Prevatt of Orrum were Fairmont visitors Friday. Mrs. J. L. Watson, Mrs. H. L. Blue, Mrs. J. O. Bobbitt, Mrs. G. W. Thompson and Miss Lorena Lewis attended the N. C. Federal Woman's club Thursday.

Dr. and Mrs. H. H. Pittman and Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Pittman spent Thursday in Fayetteville. Mr. W. L. Kyle, member of the Marrow-Kyle & Son Tobacco Co., Augusta, Ky., returned home Thursday night after spending a few days in Warsaw.

Rev. B. E. Stanfield and wife are spending a few days in Wilmington. Mrs. E. J. Chambers and Miss Catherine Galloway returned last night from Gretna, Va., where they spent the winter.

Fairmont graded school debaters are already preparing for the preliminary debates which will be held March 30 to determine what schools in the State may go to Chapel Hill to contest in the second preliminary. The query to be debated is, "Resolved, That the Federal Government should own and operate the railways." The affirmative will be represented at home by Misses Bertha Jenkins and Fate Ratley, while a team from St. Paul will defend the negative here. Messrs. Victor Hayes and Vernon Lassiter will uphold the negative side of the query at St. Paul.

Misses Monnie and Osa Collins of Lumberton are spending the week-end with Miss Blanche Ashley. Quite a crowd from here is attending the commencement at Baltimore. Baltimore school defeated Fairmont school in a game of tennis Friday afternoon.

Messrs. L. Weinstein and D. R. Mitchell have gone to Chadbourne, where they will open up a store during the berry season for H. Weinstein.

Mrs. E. B. Hayes entertained the Ladies Aid society at the home Wednesday afternoon. The object of the meeting was to elect new officers for the following year. The following were elected: president, Mrs. W. T. Sledge; vice president, Mrs. O. I. Pledge; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. J. E. Anderson. A delicious pineapple salad and nabiscos and hot coffee was served.

Miss Teva Ashley, who has been teaching at Baltimore, is spending the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Pittman. Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Kelly, Misses Montie Jordan and Lizzinia Baker spent Saturday afternoon in Lumberton. Miss Dina Belle Floyd, who is teaching in the Orrum high school is spending the week-end at home.

Mrs. J. M. Ashley of Mt. Airy is visiting Mrs. J. P. Brown.

CLEAN-UP

The following proclamation has been issued by the mayor: I hereby designate and set apart, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, March 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th as clean-up days and respectfully urge all citizens of the town of Lumberton to co-operate with the officials in this important work. Rake up all trash, tin cans, waste paper, etc., and pile on edge of street, and same will be removed promptly by the town wagons.

An extra force will be employed for this purpose if necessary. I also suggest that all stables and cow lots be given a thorough cleaning. Let's make a determined effort to make Lumberton a clean, flyless town. A. E. WHITE, Mayor.

FARMERS MEETING APRIL 4

Farmers' Union Members and Other Farmers Asked to Meet in Lumberton—Special Message From Gov. Bickett

At the request of Thomas Walter Bickett, Governor of North Carolina, I am calling upon all Farmers' union members in Robeson county and all other farmers who will to meet in the court house in Lumberton Wednesday, April 4. While the Governor himself will not be present at the meeting a special message that will benefit every farmer who hears it will be read. Don't forget the date and don't fail to be present. It will pay you—and pay you well.

F. GROVER BRITT, Sec.-Treas. Robeson County Farmers' Union.

Preliminary County Commencement at Fairmont Tomorrow

The first of the 5 preliminary county commencements to be held in the county before the final is held in Lumberton on Friday, April 6, will be held at Fairmont tomorrow. Nineteen schools will take part in the commencement tomorrow and no doubt one of the largest crowds that ever assembled at Fairmont will be there tomorrow. The East Lumberton band will furnish music for the occasion.

sufficient size to conduct aggressive warfare has not yet been raised and would have to be trained and equipped, American dollars, it was pointed out, need no training and are abundant.

A DELIGHTFUL PLAY

Miss McLeod and Her Pupils Delighted a Capacity Audience at the Opera House Friday Evening—"An Adamless Eden" Was the Play

A packed house greeted Miss Irene McLeod and her school of dramatic art when they presented at the opera house, Friday evening "An Adamless Eden", a comic opera in one act. The performance lasted less than an hour and it was good fun all the way through, the audience enjoying every minute of it. One likes to see in the flesh on the home stage folks one sees on the streets every day, one's own children and one's neighbors' children transformed for the nonce into actors and actresses of parts; interpreting with nonchalance and aplomb parts that you never suspected they could get away with. And so the audience was tickled and voted it the best show at all. The opera proved an excellent vehicle for transporting the tyros and their audience into another realm, and that the audience so lost itself on the trip is a high compliment to Miss McLeod and every one of her pupils.

Reading in cold type dramatic personae who sung and danced and skipped and glided with exquisite grace before admiring eyes is a poor substitute for the real thing, but if you were not so fortunate as to be present you can get some idea of the feast by reading the following (and come to think of it, even in cold print the dramatic personae and the musical numbers something tingle):

Dramatic Personae: The Duchess of Breeks, Vicerey of the Island of Eden—Miriam Weinstein; Lady Mantrap, Chief Secretary—Mary Lee Caldwell; Lady Dorothy Demurrer, Attorney General—Margaret Pope; Sophie Syntax, Chairwoman of the School Board—Miss McLeod; Lady Ruby Wallops, Commander-in-Chief—Jeannette Biggs; Sarah Stamps, Postmistress General—Elizabeth Wishart; Lady Cockle Curlew, Physician in Ordinary—Gwendolyn Barrett; Skimmery Hall, M. A., School Board Tutor—Evelyn Sentelle; Periury Jones, Superintendent of Police—Evelyn Whaley; Peter Blobs, a "Masher" and a Pilgrim—Abner Nash; Algy, Reggie, Pilgrims—Frank Gough, Rudolph Thompson; Robert Reece, Pupil—Edgar Dees; Fred Blazer, Special Correspondent—Leon Hamilton; Lady Minever, Lady Ermine, Lady Sable, Ladies in Waiting—Maitland Thompson, Sarah Carlyle, Elsie Thompson, Yaka, Hula, Dula, Cupids from the Briny—Clarence Deese, Mary Lawrence, Roberta Nash.

Musical Numbers Introduction, Chorus—"Now Ended in a Panic"; Chorus—"Yaaka Hula Hickey Dula"; Song—"The Way We Live Now"—Peter and Corus; Duet—"I Lightly Fly"—Peter and Chairwoman; Trio—"He's Kiss'd Me"—Peter, Duchess and Postmistress General; Song—"There Must Be Little Cupids in the Briny"—Chairwoman, Chorus and Cupids; Duet—"I Hurl You Defiance"—Chairwoman and Attorney General; Political Chorus—"Give a Motion"; Song—"An Adamless Eden"—Duchess and Chorus; Quintette—"Love Has Won"—Peter, Duchess, Secretary, Pilgrims; Finale. Time—Present. Place—Down Highway.

At the piano—Miss Hilda Weinstein.

DEBATES FRIDAY EVENING

One Lumberton Team Will Meet Wilmington Team Here and Another Will Go to Goldsboro

As has been mentioned in The Robesonian, the triangular debates which have been arranged between the Lumberton, Wilmington and Goldsboro high schools will be held in all three of the above-named places Friday night of this week. The query is, "Resolved, That the Federal Government should own and operate the railways."

The affirmative side of the query will be defended here by Messrs. Robert Proctor and Forest McGill, while the negative side will be represented by Miss Lydie Penton and Mr. Owen Martin from the Wilmington high school. Miss Evelyn Sentelle and Mr. John B. McLeod will uphold the negative side of the query at Goldsboro on the same night. In order to enter the finals at Chapel Hill a school must win both sides in the first debate.

A special of the 23rd from Goldsboro to the Wilmington Star says that Harry Enstein and Mandel Kadis of the Goldsboro high school will oppose the Lumberton team at Goldsboro.

THIS IS THE LIFE

Here's a Man Who Brought \$67.45 Worth of Peas and Potatoes to Town Saturday

Mr. W. J. Wilkerson, who lives on R. 3 from Lumberton, was among the visitors in town Saturday. Mr. Wilkerson is a farmer who believes in raising plenty of foodstuff. Saturday he brought \$56.25 worth of peas and \$11.20 worth of potatoes to town, and sold them. He received \$2.25 the bushel for his peas and 80 cents the bushel for his potatoes. His load of produce brought more than a 500-pound bale of 12-cent cotton is worth.

SPECIAL SHOWING

of silk dresses for one day only, Wednesday, March 28th, at R. D. Caldwell & Son's. This shipment comes from the manufacturers and will offer an opportunity for selection of the new styles at moderate prices.

BRIEF ITEMS OF LOCAL NEWS

—The Wishart company has recently added a 40-H. P. motor truck to its business.

—Lumberton Chapter No. 77 will install officers for the coming year tonight, 7:30.

—Regular meeting K. O. T. M. tomorrow evening at 8 o'clock. All members urged to attend.

—License has been issued for the marriage of Ralph C. Moore and Maude Oliver; Thomas Simmons and Dairy Adams.

—Mrs. W. T. Jenrette of Marietta underwent an operation at the Thompson hospital Friday and is getting along as well as could be expected.

—It is understood that a bowling alley will be opened in the Griffith building, Elm street, formerly occupied by the Lumberton barber shop, at an early date.

—Messrs. Gurley Fields and Troy V. Kissam of Evergreen joined Uncle Sam's army at the local recruiting station Saturday. They left Saturday afternoon for Fort Thomas Ky.

—Mrs. J. B. Ward of R. 2 from Lumberton went Thursday to Charlotte, where she entered a hospital for an operation. She was accompanied by Dr. W. L. Grantham.

—Archie Grantham, Indian, who lives near McColl, S. C., was a Lumberton visitor Saturday. Archie says he doesn't know his exact age, but is sure that he is more than 90 years old. He has raised 22 children to manhood and womanhood.

—Miss Ellen Jordan and Mr. E. D. Sherrill, both of East Lumberton, were married at the home of the officiating officer, Justice M. G. McKenzie, Elm street, Saturday afternoon at 5 o'clock. Only a few friends witnessed the marriage.

—Miss Daisy Adams and Mr. Thurman Simmons, both of the Marietta section, were married here in the store of Messrs. White & Gough Friday afternoon at 6:30 o'clock. Mayor A. E. White officiated. Quite a number witnessed the marriage.

—Miss Eva Mace of Marion, S. C., arrived Saturday and is relieving Miss Helen Cannon, stenographer for the law firm of Messrs. McLean, Varner & McLean, this week. Miss Cannon has gone to her home at Florence, S. C., for a visit. Miss Mace was formerly stenographer for this firm, resigning recently.

—News has been received here of the death of Mrs. R. M. Gaffney of Gaffney, S. C., mother of Mrs. Chas. H. Boyd of Lumberton. Mrs. Gaffney died Wednesday night of last week after a few weeks illness. Mrs. Boyd was with her mother when the end came. She will return home Thursday of this week. Deceased was 65 years old.

—This reporter has heard much kick recently from people who have to wait about the union station about the condition of the waiting room. The seats are allowed to go undusted and ladies who would like to sit down on the seats in the waiting room have to take the risk of soiling their clothes. One man remarked that the union station is the dirtiest place in town.

—The auto wheel which has been turning from the breeze of an electric fan for several days in the show window in the hardware department of Messrs. R. D. Caldwell & Son's store, will be stopped tomorrow night. The committee appointed to determine who came the nearest guessing the number of miles it would run in 14 days will make its report Wednesday at 10 o'clock a. m. Several hundred guesses have been made.

—Good and artistic work has been done around the Gospel Tabernacle church and its near-by parsonage recently by the pastor, Rev. W. D. Combs. A ravine that runs back of the church and residence wanted to eat its way further toward the street and Mr. Combs reinforced the wall of earth with heavy timbers. Then on the edge of the ravine at his house and at the church he has built the cunningest rustic fence you ever saw. Useful and ornamental work.

Personal

Mrs. Leslie Watson of Fairmont is a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Thompson, Fourth street, today. Messrs. Hezzie Phillips, Stacy Marton and Fulton Barker of R. 1 from Orrum are among the visitors in town today.

Miss Christine Moorehouse, student at Flora Macdonald college, Red Springs, came home Saturday to spend a few days.

Mr. J. E. Nye of R. 2 from Fairmont passed through town today en route to Laurinburg, where he will spend some time on business.

Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Petty and small son, T. E. Jr., arrived Saturday to visit at the home of Mrs. Petty's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Thompson, Elm street. Mrs. Petty left this morning and Mrs. Petty and T. E., Jr., will spend some time here.

Headquarters of the Virginia division of the Seaboard Air Line Railway will be transferred from Richmond to Raleigh on May 1, railroad officials announced at Raleigh Friday. All lines of the Seaboard north of Raleigh are included in the division.