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DUNKIRK BOMBARDED

THIS MORNING

2 German Destroyers and 2 Torpedo Boats Sunk by French and British Warships.

Special to The Robesonian.

New York, March 21.—A London dispatch states that German warships attacked Dunkirk this morning. French and British warships attacked them, sinking two destroyers and two torpedo boats. A British destroyer was damaged.

341 TONS NITRATE NOW.

This Amount Will Be Distributed Among Robeson County Farmers At Once—Mr. Bethune Will Go To Wilmington to Assist in Routing and to Hurry Delivery.

Three hundred and forty-one tons of nitrate of soda are available for immediate shipment to Robeson county farmers and Mr. W. K. Bethune, who has been appointed county distributor, will go to Wilmington to assist in getting it routed and to hurry up delivery.

Mr. Bethune received a telegram from the Department of Agriculture in Washington Tuesday advising that owing to small quantity of nitrate available for immediate distribution it would be possible to supply Robeson county farmers now only 341 tons. As stated in Monday's Robesonian, Mr. Bethune had requested 775 tons, or 25 per cent of the entire amount ordered by the farmers of this county, at once. The amount available for distribution now is a little more than 10 per cent of the amount of orders placed and Mr. Bethune wired for it to be shipped in amounts as follows to the places named, distribution over the county being practically on a 10 per cent basis:

To Rowland, 26 tons; Marietta, 10; Lumber Bridge 30; Maxton 50; Purvis 12; Medonald 20; Proctorville 12; Red Springs 20; Pembroke, 22; Fairmont, 30; St. Pauls, 16; Lumberton, 93.

U. S. AND ALLIES TAKE OVER MILLION TONS SHIPPING.

Dutch Vessels Lying in American and Allied Ports Put Into Service For Benefit of Allies.

From Associated Press Summary.

The United States and her associates in the war have come into possession of appropriating 1,000,000 tons of much needed shipping with which to aid in prosecuting the war against the Teutonic allies.

Having been unsuccessful in perfecting arrangements with the Netherlands government for taking over Dutch vessels lying in American and Allied ports the United States and Great Britain have ordered all such vessels seized in accordance with international law and put into service for the benefit of the Allies.

Holland, in the face of German threats and intimidations, long had hesitated to relinquish the desired mercantile marine and nothing remained but the United States and Great Britain to act within their sovereign rights and seize the ships, full compensation for the use or destruction of which is to be given.

Not alone will the owners of the vessels, many of which have lain idle for months, begin again to derive revenue from them but all the people of Holland will benefit by the seizures, inasmuch as the country will be permitted to receive ample foodstuffs from abroad and also be protected in carrying out her colonial trade.

As a result of the action of the American and British governments Germany may now be expected to begin a heightened campaign of frightfulness with her U-boats which doubtless will be met by a more intensive program of defense against sinkings on the part of the Allies.

Shipping Losses.

London Dispatch, March 20. The admiralty reports the loss by mine or submarine of seventeen British merchantmen last week. Of these eleven were 1,600 tons or over, and six under that tonnage.

Two fishing vessels were lost. Eleven merchantmen were unsuccessfully attacked.

Announcement was made by the British first lord of the admiralty that the tonnage of shipping sunk during the last twelve months aggregated 6,000,000. He denied it had been 9,500,000 tons, claimed by the Germans.

The losses of British merchantmen in the last week are slightly under the losses of the three preceding weeks, when during each of these periods 18 vessels were sunk by mine or submarine.

THE LAST LINE OF DEFENSE.

Farmers Urged to Grow Food Crops

To Support the Boys at the Front—Farmers Institute Held at Ten Mile Well Attended—Red Cross Auxiliary Organized.

Several hundred people attended the farmers' institute held under the auspices of the Robeson county Farmers' union at Ten Mile yesterday. Instructive addresses were made by Dr. A. H. Kerr, county farm demonstrator, Mr. T. B. Parker, conductor of farmers' institutes in North Carolina, and Dr. Jno. H. Jeffries, an expert in gardening.

The institute was opened at 11 a. m. "America" was sung by the audience and prayer was offered by Mr. J. N. Regan.

Appeal for Organization. Dr. Kerr was the first to speak and he made a strong appeal for the organization of the farmers. He explained how the farmers of a community, if properly organized, could get the market reports and told of many ways by which the citizens of a community are benefited by being organized. Dr. Kerr made a good impression upon the audience.

Farmers The Last Line of Defense. Mr. Parker's address was in the nature of a patriotic appeal. He declared that any well-organized army had several lines of defense. The young men of our country, the speaker said, are making up the first line, and the last line of defense must be made by the farmers of the South.

The speaker declared that the people of America are facing a test that should bring out the best of men and women. We as citizens of the United States owe a responsibility to our country and to our God. Robeson county has already been honored because of the fact that at least two of her sons have given their lives for the principles for which we are fighting. We must keep the battle lines in Europe. If we fail to do this then they will come to America, and then the American people will realize that war is going on.

Grow Food Crops. Declaring that all the allied soldiers are our brothers, the speaker urged the farmers to grow food crops and in so doing support the boys at the front who are sacrificing their all for those who are left at home. Unless we furnish food to the allied soldiers then we might as well surrender to Germany. Can we deny our own sons this support? the speaker asked.

In closing his address Mr. Parker told of some plans for providing water for growing crops. Plenty of vegetable matter, he said, is one of the most important factors for supplying water for crops.

Gardening. Dr. Jeffries made a most instructive lecture on gardening. The speaker urged the importance of selecting well-drained plots for a garden and also explained the importance of good fertilization.

A picked male choir furnished splendid music for the occasion, which as a whole was highly entertaining and instructive.

Mr. W. P. Barker, vice-president of the Robeson Farmers' union, presided and introduced all the speakers.

After the speaking was over a public dinner was spread on a long table in the grove. After all had feasted to their satisfaction many basketfuls were taken up.

Red Cross Auxiliary Organized. A branch of the Lumberton Red Cross chapter was organized in the afternoon. Quite a number of members joined.

Mr. Woodberry Lennon of the Lumberton bar made a stirring address on the work of the Red Cross before the organization.

Chairmen of Liberty Loan Committees Will Meet in Raleigh Saturday.

Mrs. L. T. Townsend, chairman of the Robeson county Women's Liberty Loan committee, will attend Saturday night of this week in Raleigh a meeting of all the county chairmen in the State. Mrs. Townsend has been notified that the Treasury Department at Washington has planned a tour of notable speakers whose mission is to stimulate the various Liberty Loan organizations, to furnish information and inspiration for all Liberty Loan workers, and to serve as a preliminary work for launching the third campaign on April 6.

These speakers, headed by Hon. John Burk, Treasurer of the United States, and accompanied by a British officer who has seen active service in the present war, will be in Raleigh for a mass meeting on the night of March 23rd, and it has been decided to call into session at that time all the county chairmen of the Women's Liberty Loan committee of North Carolina.

County chairmen of men's committees will meet at the same time and the first conference will be held at 2:30 Saturday. Reservations for all the women chairmen have been made at the Yarrowborough hotel. The Government will pay railroad fare and hotel accommodations for all county chairmen to this meeting.

Tobacco Plant Shortage.

Judging from reports from the tobacco-growing sections, there is a tobacco plant shortage in Robeson. The plants in many places failed to "come up." Some farmers have plenty of plants and will soon be transplanting.

CALLED TO REPORT

MARCH 23RD

Registrants of Robeson Division 1 to Be Entrained for Camp Jackson Saturday.

Registrants of Robeson division No 1 have been called to report to the local board in Lumberton Saturday of this week prepared to be entrained for Camp Jackson as follows:

Whites and Indians—Rufus M. Sanderson, John N. Hardin, Lock Shaw Currie, James Bryant, Kelly Bass, Richard A. Dial, Johnson William Lane, Melton O'Berry Sellers, Gregory A. Hardin, James B. Boyce, Jr., Neil K. Powers, Oscar Middleton Baxley, Millard Dawkins, Evander Parryer, Abner P. Stone, Joseph H. Raymond, Joseph Clyde Cook, Johnnie Collins, Henry Chester Pitman, Thomas John Collins, Furman Martin Parnell, Duckery Calder, Edmund W. Britt.

SUMMARY OF WAR NEWS.

French Repel Fierce Attacks—Americans Use Gas and German Airmen Drop Gas Balls—Secretary Baker Has Narrow Escape—Germans Threaten Petrograd.

All along the western front the activity of the fighting forces still has been held down to small infantry attacks and artillery duels which on some sectors have been quite violent. To the French again has fallen the task of repelling fierce infantry attacks, but all of them were put down with sanguinary losses to the attackers. At several other points the Germans also have endeavored to penetrate French positions, but everywhere have been beaten off, leaving behind the men killed or wounded.

The American troops on the Toul sector recently have been giving the Germans, and effectively, a dose of their own favorite weapon—asphyxiating gas. Four different sectors of the Germans were gas shelled and the quietest attitude of the enemy upon all of them afterward indicated that the gases had had the desired effect.

On their part the Germans have adopted another new plan of warfare which the American troops on the sector attacked described as "dirty work." This was the dropping from an airplane of large rubber balls filled with mustard gas. None of the American troops was injured in the attack.

Secretary of War Baker has had a narrow escape on the American front. A German shell burst within forty yards of his automobile, but did no damage.

Although the snow is melting in the mountain regions of the Italian theatre sufficient of it still lies on the ground to make impossible for the present the commencement by either side of hostilities of great magnitude. Bombardments continue all along the front, being especially violent west of Lake Garda. Heavy freshets have made the Piave river impassable to large forces of troops. Enemy airmen continue to drop bombs on Venice, where the already great damage daily is being added to. Large portions of the populations are evacuating the city.

In Russia the Germans and Austro-Germans are still advancing. Petrograd is being menaced by a force of Germans which is operating 150 miles south of the former capital, while in the south, Kharkov is being approached by combined forces of the enemy. Even Moscow is reported to be in danger of an enveloping maneuver and there is talk of again moving the capital.

While special dispatches from Russia continue to assert that the Bolshevik leaders are hostile toward the invaders no concrete evidence has been forthcoming to show that for the present at least efforts are being made to reorganize the army and give combat.

KILLED BY A HORSE.

13-Year-Old Boy's Foot Caught in Harness and Horse Ran Away With Him.

Wade Baxley, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Baxley, who live near Red Springs, was killed by a horse when he started to the field to plow Saturday afternoon about 1:30. The horse had the harness on and when young Baxley started to get on the horse to ride to the field the horse became frightened and darted off and caught the boy's foot in the harness and dragged him for a half mile, breaking his neck. He was about 13 years old.

Sold 20 Bales Cotton at 32.47.

Mr. J. A. McAllister sold 20 bales of cotton yesterday at an average of 32.47. He sold the cotton to Mr. John T. Biggs.

The Democratic primary in New Hanover Tuesday resulted in the nomination of W. B. Cooper for the State Senate, renomination of L. Clayton Grant for the House of Representatives, Sheriff Geo. C. Jackson and Recorder Geo. Harris.

THE GRIM REAPER BUSY.

4 Deaths Reported by Parkton Correspondent—Mrs. Mary Jane Moore.

Mr. Neill D. McMillan and Mr. Neill McNeill of Parkton Community and Mr. A. H. Tolar of Bladen.

Correspondence of The Robesonian.

Parkton, March 18.—Mrs. Mary Jane Moore departed this life on the 12th and the remains were buried on the 13th at the family burying ground near the home. Mrs. Moore was the wife of James Moore who died 40 years ago, deceased being in her 85th year, and was a good woman; was only confined to her bed about two weeks. The funeral was conducted by Rev. J. K. Hall, pastor of the Presbyterian church. Deceased is survived by six sons, all of whom were present during her illness and at the funeral.

Another sad death was that of Mr. Neill D. McMillan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel A. McMillan, which took place Saturday night at 9 o'clock at his home 3 or 4 miles east of town. Deceased was about 50 years old and leaves a wife and several children to mourn his departure. Mr. McMillan was a stout man physically and died suddenly. He was a member of Big Rockfish Presbyterian church. The funeral was conducted Sunday afternoon at 5 o'clock by Rev. J. K. Hall pastor of the Presbyterian church of our town. Interment was made in the family burying ground near the home.

The writer, in company with Messrs. Alvy Wright, John Currie, and Charlie Williamson, attended the funeral Sunday afternoon from Bladen Union church ten miles away of Mr. A. H. Tolar, one of Bladen county's best men. He was the youngest son of ten. Captain William Tolar, formerly of Fayetteville, being the oldest. Deceased was in his 68th year and died a triumphant death. He was conscious of his approaching death and was perfectly resigned and expressed his preparedness. Was a member of a most noteworthy family. The ten brothers all were in the war at the same time. Deceased was a distant relative of the writer and one whom I have always loved and admired. He was a well-read and posted man on all issues. He was a great admirer and reader of The Robesonian and for years was one of the reporters from his section. He will be greatly missed by his family and community. The funeral was conducted by his pastor, Rev. R. L. Byrd of Tolarsville, at Bladen Union church, Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock, a very large congregation being in attendance. Deceased was a deacon of the above named church for years and one of our town's and community's most influential citizens.

Mr. Neill McNeill died at his home Sunday afternoon near 3 o'clock. While he had been in feeble health for several months his death came as a shock. He died rather suddenly. He was a little unwell Sunday and the doctor was with him only a few hours before his death. When his physician, Dr. D. S. Currie who had been so faithful and true to administer and respond during his illness, arrived he saw that the end had come. Deceased was in his 77th year and had enjoyed the best of health up till about a year ago. He was a ruling elder of the Presbyterian church here and Superintendent of the Sunday school. He was a man of great intellectual power. We all looked to him for counsel. He was a man of strong convictions and one that was quick to amend his mistakes; a man of power in prayer; a man that will be sorely missed from our midst. He is survived by his daughter, Miss Mary Jeannett, and several brothers and sisters. The funeral was conducted from the Presbyterian church Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Rev. J. K. Hall, pastor of the scripture lesson, and Rev. J. L. Jenkins led in prayer; then Dr. Hill of Maxton preached the funeral sermon, which was of great power and very eloquent and appropriate. He said he had known deceased for a number of years and had known his family for more than 40 years; had been his guest on numerous times, and was in position to know of whom he spoke and he could truthfully say that the deceased was a good man; and that was the best thing he could say of any one. The singing by a large choir was most beautiful. Every thing was done that could be done for the recovery of deceased. He had spent a month or more at the Highsmith hospital and recovered sufficiently to return home several days ago, but he didn't gain much strength. His only daughter and only child, Miss Mary Jeannett, was very attentive to her father and rendered all comfort in every possible way. Her devotion and affection were touching. Interment was from Big Rockfish church at 3 o'clock and the largest procession we ever knew or witnessed—more than 100 autos were in the procession. The floral designs were numerous and the prettiest we ever viewed. The pall bearers were: active—J. A. Johnson of St. Pauls, J. D. Gillis of Parkton, N. H. McGeachy of Fayetteville, Dr. Robert McGeachy of Camp Sevier, McNatt Conoly of Wagram, David McNeill of Wade; honor—E. C. McMillan, Dr. D. Hughes, J. B. McCormick, J. C. Hughes, Charlie Livingston. The Massors had charge of the services at the grave. The benediction was pronounced by Rev. J. K. Hall.

TOLARVILLE TOPICS.

Preparing Gardens—Box Supper Tomorrow Night—Forest Fires—Demonstration Club Meets—Personal.

Correspondence of The Robesonian.

Tolarsville, March 19.—Preparing gardens seem to be the order of the day in this section now.

There will be a box supper next Friday night, March 22nd. The public is invited. The ladies are requested to bring boxes, while the boys are requested to be prepared to buy.

Miss Sallie Parnell is visiting relatives at Barnesville this week.

Mrs. R. A. Martin of the Ten Mile section visited relatives here this week.

Forest fires are still raging in this section.

Sorry to report little Alex and Calvin Flowers very sick of pneumonia.

Our regular meeting of the demonstration club met Saturday afternoon at 2:30. We had a very interesting program. Miss Cassidy talked on the canning club for a while, then organized one with a goodly number. Dr. Kerr also talked to the farmers for a while.

Mr. L. E. Ellis made a business trip to Fayetteville last Saturday.

Rev. R. L. Byrd filled his regular appointment near Fayetteville last Sunday.

Sorry to report Mrs. L. E. Ellis on the sick list. Also Mrs. E. W. Britt.

Best wishes to the many readers of The Robesonian.

COLLECT OLD CLOTHING.

To Be Sent to Destitute Belgians and French—Increased Attendance in Red Cross Work Rooms—Children Doing Their Bit—Thrift Stamp Offered.

Reported for The Robesonian.

Several ladies responded to the appeal for more help in the sewing room of the Red Cross chapter and the increase in attendance and interest for the past week has been most gratifying.

It must be remembered in looking over our sewing room that some of our good workers are doing their bit at home, by making one or more of the hospital garments a week.

The children, too, are doing their bit by meeting with us each afternoon and cutting snippings for the comfort pillows. Mrs. E. K. Proctor and Mrs. S. McIntyre are the chairmen of this table and Mrs. Proctor is offering a Thrift stamp to the child who cuts the most snippings for a month. In the sewing room will be placed this week a large box which we hope to fill with old clothing to be sent to the destitute Belgians and French. We would be glad if the ladies in town would send to the sewing room any old clothing they may have for men, women or children, also blankets, pillow cases, etc. The following is taken from the Wilmington Evening Dispatch:

"The movement is of a nation-wide nature and is sent out jointly by Chairman Davis, of the Red Cross, and Food Administrator Herbert Hoover, who is also chairman of the commission for relief in Belgium.

"The articles needed by the commission, which wishes to collect 5,000 tons this week, includes men's wear, women's wear, boys' and girls' clothing and articles for infants and also blankets, pillow cases, etc.

"The commission for relief has the ships, if the clothing can be obtained. In these vessels carrying cargoes and other foodstuffs to the Belgians and French in the territory occupied by the Germans, there is room for all the clothing you can give. The commission for relief has safe conduct passes for its ships, and the absolute assurance through its own representatives in Brussels that the clothing will only be delivered to those for whom it is intended. The Germans are said never at any time to have seized the personal apparel of individuals.

"It is useless to send a garment which is not made of the strongest and most durable materials, as the clothes are subjected to the hardest kind of use. But this does not mean that all garments must be in perfect repair. There are upwards of a hundred thousand women in Belgium and northern France who will do anything for a little work, who were mobilized to make new clothing while there were still raw materials and who can repair and mend old clothing.

"There is a great need for blankets as well as clothing. These to be sorted and packed, must go to the warehouse of the commission. From there it goes to the docks and thence by ship to Rotterdam. Four or five times a month general cargo vessels will take hundreds of tons of this clothing. To meet the situation and the opportunity, this week should see not less than 5,000 tons of clothing collected and on its way to the commission warehouses."

MISS EMMA H. NORMENT, Sec. Red Cross Sewing Room.

The annual naval appropriation bill, carrying more than \$1,300,000,000 and authorizing a war-time increase in the navy's enlisted strength from 87,000 to 180,000 men, was reported to the House of Congress Tuesday by Chairman Padgett of the naval committee.

BRIEF ITEMS LOCAL NEWS

—Born, to Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Williamson, Saturday, a fine girl.

—Mr. Will Rheder of Wilmington will have a cut-flower and plant display at the Lumberton Bargain House Saturday.

—Albert J. Houser, traveling State Auditor, is spending this week in Robeson for the purpose of collecting unpaid privilege taxes.

—Miss Lacy Johnson has resigned her position as bookkeeper in Mr. A. Weinstein's department store. She left this morning for her home at Hope Mills.

—Seaboard train No. 13 from Wilmington, due here last evening at 6:10, did not arrive until 2:15 this morning. The delay was due to engine trouble.

—Mr. J. A. Raine returned last night from Hot Springs, Ark., where he spent three weeks for his health. His condition is not thought to be improved, however.

—Sheriff R. E. Lewis is assembling the material for erecting a 6-room residence on his lot, North Elm street. Sheriff and Mrs. Lewis will occupy the residence when completed.

—Mrs. B. L. Cox of Lumberton R. 4, returned Wednesday morning from Baltimore, Md., where she had been in the Johns Hopkins hospital for treatment. Her condition is very much improved.

—Vincent Revels, Indian, who lives on R. 2 from Lumberton, near Saddletree church, had the misfortune of getting his house burned Saturday afternoon. The fire caught from the stove flue between the shingles and the ceiling and very few pieces of furniture were saved. He had no insurance.

—Mr. W. P. McAllister returned Monday night from Hendersonville, where he went week before last with Mrs. McAllister and their small daughter, Nancy Pope, to install them in their summer home in the mountains. Mr. McAllister will divide his time during the summer between Hendersonville and Lumberton.

—Mr. C. P. Hayes of Kemper, S. C. Monday night brought his father-in-law, Mr. Carey Elvington, to the Thompson hospital here. Mr. Elvington, who is 84 years old, fell the other day and dislocated his left hip joint and there is little hope of his recovery. Mr. Hayes returned home Tuesday and was in Lumberton again yesterday to see Mr. Elvington.

—Mr. John S. Walker, who had held a position in Messrs. White & Gough's department store for several months, left yesterday for Winston-Salem, where he will visit his mother until the 30th inst., when he has been ordered to report at Greenville, Pitt county, for military duty. Mr. Walker was at Greenville when he registered under the selective draft act and will be sent from Greenville to Camp Jackson.

—Mr. Joe S. Thompson, who has served for several months as street foreman and sanitary officer, has resigned this position, his resignation to become effective Saturday of this week. The board of town commissioners is called to meet tonight, at which time it is expected a successor to Mr. Thompson will be appointed. Mr. Thompson will leave soon for Norfolk, Va., where he has accepted a position as salesman in a large shoe store.

COTTON CROP

11,285,999 BALES

Final Report of Census Bureau of Season's Ginnings.

Cotton production from last season's crop was 11,285,999 equivalent 500 pound bales, exclusive of linters, the census bureau announced yesterday in its final report of the season's ginnings. Linters produced to March 1 amounted to 829,019 equivalent 500 pound bales.

In December the Department of Agriculture estimated the production at 10,949,000 equivalent 500 pound bales. Early indications were that a crop of more than 12,000,000 bales would be produced but a heavy killing frost about the middle of October resulted in damage estimated to have reduced the crop by a million bales.

Production of the 1916 season was 11,449,930 equivalent 500 pound bales and for the 1915 season, 11,191,820 bales.

Ginnings by States are: Alabama, 517,279, Arizona 20,899, Arkansas 973,399, California 55,705, Florida 37,820, Georgia 1,881,503, Louisiana 638,388, Mississippi 903,237, Missouri 60,668, North Carolina 616,673, Oklahoma 957,676, South Carolina 1,235,735, Tennessee 239,677, Texas 3,124,185, Virginia 18,583, all other states 4,642.

Compromise Settlement of Carlyle Will Case Agreed Upon.

Attorneys for the caveators and the propounders in the Athesia Carlyle will case have agreed to a compromise settlement. The terms of the settlement will not be made public until after the order has been formally signed by the judge. It is expected the case will be finally disposed of immediately after the next term of civil court convenes.

J. Franklin Deaderick, a bank cashier, was shot and killed at Lexington Tuesday by J. Graham Hege, in the latter's home. Hege immediately gave himself up and said he shot in defense of his home.