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AMERICAN TROOPS NOW IN BRITISH LINE IN FRANCE

New Offensive of Germans is Being Carried Out With Great Desperation—Germans Have Not Been Able To Break Through—Decrease in Shipping Losses.

American troops are now reinforcing the British line in France, along the greater portion of which the Germans are keeping up their strong attacks with hordes of men and great concentration of artillery in assaults, that now apparently have their objective in the penetrating of the battle front in Northern France and Belgium. It was a happy lot of men that swung into the sector chosen for them, and they were greeted with great enthusiasm.

From the south of Ypres in Belgium to the region of the La Bassee canal in France, the new offensive of the Germans is being carried out with great desperation with thousands of men, under cover of unprecedented bombardments of the Allied rear lines, endeavoring to pierce the bravely defended fronts held by British and Portuguese and now also at some unnamed point by Americans.

On several sectors of the new 20-mile battle line, a few deep salients have been driven by the enemy, but in the process the Germans nowhere have been able to break through, the line merely bending back under the great pressure. Particularly deep are wedges northwest of Armentieres and northwest of La Bassee—salients which seem to make certain the evacuation by the British of Armentieres and to threaten seriously the important railroad junction of Bethune.

British positions southwest of Armentieres along the five-mile front between the Ploegsteert wood and the Wytshaete-Messines ridge have been pressed back by the Germans. East of La Bassee, Givenchy hill, the key to Bethune, has been tenaciously held by the British and the town of Givenchy re-taken, while to the north in the region of Ypres the enemy's attacks against the high ground about the Messines ridge everywhere have been decisively repulsed. The British in recapturing Givenchy made nearly a thousand German prisoners.

The latest German official statement asserts that between Armentieres and Estaires the Germans have crossed the Lys river and that north of Armentieres the British lines on both sides of Waaste-Warmonet have been penetrated. Six thousand prisoners and 100 guns are claimed to have been taken by the Germans in the fighting between Armentieres and La Bassee canal.

The famous Vimy ridge, won a year ago by the Canadians is receiving a prodigious visitation of shells from German batteries.

While the battle in the north has been in progress the fighting south of the Somme where the British are aligned against the Germans has been rather subdued. Not so, however, on the sectors where the French and Germans are disputing the occupancy of the terrain. Furious assaults and counter-assaults have been going on around Chauny, the village changing hands many times. At last accounts the French not alone held the village, but also the nearby cemetery.

The German submarine menace evidently is growing less each week. According to the British Admiralty's statement, the sinking of British merchantmen last week by mine or submarine consisted of four of more than 1,600 tons. The total of the previous week was six merchantmen of the larger category and seven under that tonnage.

Only two French merchantmen were sent to the bottom during the week ending April 6.

LIBERTY LOAN

SPEAKING PROGRAM

Parkton—A. W. McLean and J. D. Proctor, Friday, April 12th, 8 p. m. Lumber Bridge—Dr. C. G. Vardell, Saturday, April 13th, 8 p. m. Red Springs—L. R. Varner and T. L. Johnson, Friday, April 12th, 8:30 p. m.

Fairmont—A. W. McLean and J. D. Proctor, Saturday, April 13th, 4 p. m. McDonalds—Stephen McIntyre, Friday, April 12, 8 p. m.

Orrum—H. E. Stacy and K. M. Barnes, Friday, April 12th, 8 p. m. Harmony school house—S. B. McLean and J. P. Wiggins, Friday, April 12th, 8 p. m.

Marietta—J. D. McLean and A. E. White, Friday, April 12th, 8 p. m.

The Liberty Loan committee for Robeson county is anxious that every community in the county be reached by speakers before the end of next week, and as soon as arrangements can be made further notices of speakings will be given. In the meantime, Chairman A. W. McLean desires to hear from any town or community in Robeson county wishing Liberty Loan speakers.

Former Robesonian Dies in Colorado.

Mr. Lacy McNair of the Rennett section was among the visitors in town yesterday. Mr. McNair informed The Robesonian of the death of his uncle, Rev. Evander McNair, which occurred at the home of the deceased in Colorado on the 4th inst. Deceased was a Presbyterian minister and left Robeson county 60 years ago. He was 87 years old and is remembered by many of Robeson's oldest citizens.

NO SUFFRAGE PLANK IN DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

State Convention Thought it Unwise to Make This an Issue During War Times—That Was the Only Question on Which There Was Division.

The State Democratic convention which convened in Raleigh yesterday at noon adjourned last night with the adoption of a platform that was silent on woman suffrage, for which the Republican convention held at Greensboro the day before declared. That was the only question over which there was anything like a fight. The prevailing opinion was that it is an issue on which the people of the State are too much divided to make it an issue during war times. The platform endorses the conduct of the war by the Federal administration, reiterates its faith in the Democratic administration of Nation and State, and assures its Republican opponents of confidence in their loyalty to the Nation.

Chairman T. D. Warren in opening the convention declared that this is no time for political fights. Temporary Chairman Victor Bryant of Durham in his "keynote" speech also emphasized the fact that the chief business now is winning the war and partisan fights should be avoided.

Attendance upon the convention was much smaller than usual.

Sixth District Meeting. At a meeting of Sixth district delegates in the Raleigh Chamber of Commerce rooms yesterday morning, the following elections were made: Vice president of the convention, Senator Frank Gough of Robeson; Congressional committee—J. C. Clifford of Harnett, Geo. McNeill of Cumberland, E. F. McCulloch, Harnett, Peter Ruark of Brunswick, A. D. Powell of Columbus, Frank Gough of Robeson, Z. W. Whitehead of New Hanover; judicial committee—R. H. Buckingham of Cumberland, E. F. Young of Harnett, T. L. Johnson of Robeson, H. H. Clark of Bladen, E. F. Burton of New Hanover, J. W. Ruark of Brunswick, D. J. Lewis of Columbus; for State executive committee—A. W. McLean of Robeson, Homer Lyon of Columbus, E. F. McCulloch of Bladen, T. E. Cooper of New Hanover (to succeed the late Maj. Bernard, this being the only change), Geo. McNeill of Cumberland, E. F. Young of Harnett, Geo. H. Bellamy of Brunswick; senatorial committee—S. K. Grantham of Harnett, R. H. Powell of Columbus, J. K. Pearce of Bladen, J. Q. Nimock of Cumberland, T. E. Cooper of New Hanover, Peter Ruark of Brunswick; platform—Homer Lyon of Columbus; permanent organization—W. B. Harker of Robeson; assistant secretary to convention—J. A. Sharpe of Robeson.

Mr. Geo. H. Bellamy of Brunswick presided. Very few of the delegates from Robeson attended, among those noted being: A. W. McLean, Frank Gough, W. K. Bethune, W. S. Britt and J. A. Sharpe from Lumberton; W. B. Harker, Maxton; Mac Arthur and Lacy Buie, Red Springs. Mr. Gough attended in Raleigh Tuesday a meeting of the State prison board directors, this being his first meeting with the board as a member.

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REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.

J. M. Morehead for Senate Against Simmons—Woman Suffrage Endorsed.

At the Republican State Convention

held in Greensboro Tuesday John M. Morehead of Charlotte was endorsed as the man to make the race for the United States Senate against Senator Simmons. Other recommendations were for Chief Justice of North Carolina, W. P. Bynum of Greensboro; for Associate Justice, Judge H. R. Starbuck of Winston-Salem, H. F. Seawell of Carthage; for corporation commissioner, J. J. Jenkins of Siler City. Mr. J. C. Snoddy of Red Springs was elected Sixth district member of the State executive committee. The convention endorsed woman suffrage in its platform.

Superior Court Adjourned Tuesday.

The civil term of Superior court closed Tuesday morning and Judge W. A. Devin left Tuesday for his home at Oxford.

The following jury trials were heard after the report of the proceedings published in Monday's Robesonian was prepared:

W. T. Adams vs. A. R. McEachern et al; judgment for plaintiff. Bladenboro Cotton Mill Co., vs. A. M. McNair; judgment for plaintiff. D. B. Thompson vs. A. W. Powell; judgment for defendant.

Three-Inch Snow in Virginia.

Richmond, Va., Dispatch April 9. Reports from various parts of the state indicate that the cold weather of today seriously damaged the fruit crop. At Winchester a blizzard raged for the greater part of the day and snow was falling late tonight. Fields were covered to a depth of three inches. Reports from Lynchburg said the Blue Ridge mountains are snow-covered tonight. At times the storm reached blizzard proportions. Snow fell in Richmond today and a cold rain is falling tonight.

CHURCH NEWS NOTES

Mt. Elim. In the absence of the pastor, Mt. Elim pulpit will be filled next Sunday afternoon by Rev. R. E. Sentelle. Four o'clock, Washington time.

Chestnut Street Methodist—Dr. R. C. Beaman, Pastor. Sunday school 9:30 a. m. Preaching at 11 a. m. and 8:30 p. m. Visitors cordially welcomed.

Lot Donated for Church in North Lumberton.

A member of the First Baptist church of Lumberton has purchased and donated a lot upon which to erect a house of worship in North Lumberton. A drive will be launched immediately to raise funds with which to erect the building.

First Baptist—Dr. C. L. Greaves, Pastor.

In the absence of the pastor, who is in Waynesville conducting a meeting, Dr. L. E. M. Freeman, professor of Bible at Meredith college, will preach next Sunday morning and evening. This is Dr. Freeman's first visit to Lumberton and it is hoped that he will be greeted by large congregations. He is an earnest and gifted preacher and will deliver splendid messages.

Gospel Tabernacle.

A special service flag service will be held Sunday morning in connection with the Sunday school and we would like all who have loved ones in the service of the Government to be with us for this service. All service held according to the U. S. Government standard time. Sunday school 9:30 a. m. Preaching by the pastor at 11 a. m. Subject "The Great Leader." The time of the evening services will be announced at the Sunday school and the morning service. Come and worship with us.

Presbyterian—Dr. G. E. Moorehouse, Pastor.

Correspondence of The Robesonian. Sabbath school every Sabbath morning at 9:30 (new time). Classes for all ages, men, women and children. Come.

This is written on the parliaments of the nations, and on the palaces of Kings: That is morally wrong cannot be politically right; and what is morally just, must be politically expedient. All history teaches this as a fact.

Morning worship at 11 o'clock (new time). Sermon theme: "Reasons for Unreasonableness."

Evening worship at 8:30 (new time). Sermon theme: "Courage." A sermon we need to hear at this time.

Mid-week service Wednesday at 8:30. Subject: "Attendance at Prayer Meetings." Read Acts III.

All Presbyterians and those of kindred faith and order, and all who have no regular church affiliation in this town are cordially invited to share with us all the services of this church. There is a cordial welcome, and a comfortable place for you, and you will be certain to hear a message that will help you in your spiritual life. Come with us, we will try to do you good.

MORE MEN TO CAMP.

Twenty-Nine Colored Men Will Be Called April 26—Eleven White Men To Be Sent to Camp During Week of April 26—Farmers May Be Defered Temporarily.

Twenty-nine colored registrants from Robeson district No. 1 will be called for military duty on April 26. Of this number 9 will be sent to Camp Grant, Ill., to complete the first quota of colored men from this district, while the others will be sent to Camp Jackson, Columbia, S. C.

During the week of the 26th 11 white registrants of the second quota will be sent to Camp Jackson from this district. The order number of the last white registrant called was 1,008.

Under a recent ruling of the War Department men who are actually engaged in farming and in cases where the crop would be lost if a registrant was taken away at this time, such registrant may get a temporary postponement, providing he makes the proper affidavit. However, registrants cannot apply to members of the exemption board to get the affidavits arranged, but must apply to some member of the legal advisory board. This board is composed of all the attorneys in the county and a number of business men throughout the county.

Affidavits should not be made except in cases where a crop will be lost if a registrant is taken away at this time.

Field Worker for County Health Board.

Mr. Ira Britt of R. 4 from Lumberton has accepted a position with the county board of health as field worker. He will begin work the first of May. Dr. McPhaul will use five field men this summer in the health work in the rural districts.

All Of Crew Drowned.

London, April 8.—A British torpedo boat destroyer sank last Thursday as the result of a collision and all hands on board are believed to have been drowned, according to an admiralty statement issued tonight.

DOWN BOARDMAN WAY.

Setting Tobacco and Planting Cotton—Personal Mention.

Correspondence of The Robesonian.

Boardman, April 9.—Tobacco setting and cotton planting seems to be the order of the day.

Mrs. D. F. Hester went shopping to Whiteville Friday.

Messrs. Henry and Francis Lennon were Elizabethtown visitors Friday.

Mr. John Ellis visiting relatives at Raeford recently.

Mrs. John Evans' health, which for many months past has been very bad, seems unimproved.

Miss Maude Kelly spent the weekend in Whiteville visiting her uncle and aunt, Dr. and Mrs. Ross Davis.

Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Freeman of Bladenboro visited Mrs. Freeman's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hayes Hester near Boardman Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. C. C. Britt spent a while in Bladenboro shopping Saturday.

Mrs. Matilda Hill of near Boardman spent some time with relatives the past week.

Mrs. Dan Perry spent a few days at Hope Mills with relatives last week.

Messrs. A. M. Kelly and Duncan Lennon made a business trip to Chadburn Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Bullard of Brazil spent Saturday night and Sunday with Mrs. Bullard's mother, Mrs. Ellen Lennon.

Quite a large crowd attended church at Lennon's Sunday morning and our pastor delivered quite an able sermon.

Mr. Will Thompson is spending a few days with his family.

This section was visited by quite a gale last night and today.

RENNETT NEWS NOTES.

Red Cross Unit Doing Good Work—

School Closes April 26—School Buys Flag—Personal.

Correspondence of The Robesonian.

Rennett, April 10.—Those from here attending the funeral of Miss Maggie Brown at Philadelphus Saturday were Mrs. Mary Graham, Miss Katie B. Webster, D. F. Webster and Master Dan Everett.

Misses Lillie Oakley, Leila Culbreth, E. H. Wilkins and D. F. Webster visited Mr. Bill Webster in Red Springs Sunday afternoon.

Mr. W. T. Covington and son Frank were Raeford visitors Friday, going over to hear Governor Bickett speak.

Mr. W. L. Everett and son Dan, visited home folks in Laurinburg Sunday.

Mrs. W. L. Everett, who has been quite sick, is improving.

Old Glory is waving over us these days, the school having purchased a nice flag some time ago.

Rev. J. J. Murray failed to fill his regular appointment here Sunday, but will preach here the 2nd Sunday afternoon.

Miss Fay Brooks has returned to her studies at Pineland school, after spending a few days with her mother, Mrs. A. M. Tolar.

Our Red Cross unit is progressing very nicely. Some are knitting and a good number of hospital garments have been made. Any one wishing to join should see Mrs. Duncan Graham.

Our school will close April 25-26. Everybody cordially invited.

Don't forget the Wednesday night prayer-meetings. They are very helpful. Mr. Porter always brings us good thoughts.

PHILADELPHUS

SCHOOL NOTES

Play Given at Fairmont for Benefit

Red Cross—Junior Red Cross Making Garments For Belgian Children

—Commencement May 8, 9, and 10.

Correspondence of The Robesonian.

Philadelphus, (Red Springs, R. 2) April 10.—The play "The Dust of the Earth" was given at Fairmont last Friday evening. The proceeds were given to the Red Cross.

Last Friday morning the domestic science class rendered an interesting program in chapel on food conservation.

The girls were dressed in cooking aprons with food conservation badges on their caps. If Mr. Hoover could have been present he would have heartily agreed with the sentiments expressed, for all the reading and songs had one refrain "Save the food so that our soldiers may be fed."

The Junior Red Cross has been sewing every Wednesday afternoon. The girls are at present making garments for the Belgian children, and they are finding their work very interesting.

Messrs. Angus Stewart and Coit Whitlock spent the week-end at home near Maxton.

Miss Theresa Pearson, accompanied by Miss Peyton Markham, spent the week-end in Fairmont.

All grades of the Philadelphus school are busily using out of school hours preparing features of commencement exercises which will be held May 8th, 9th, and 10th.

The regular quarterly meeting of the directors of the Planters Bank & Trust Co. was held Tuesday morning.

The report of the secretary for the last quarter was very satisfactory to the directors.

ROZIER RAFTS.

Farmers Almost Through Planting. Irish Potatoes Killed By Cold. Personal Mention.

Correspondence of The Robesonian.

Rozier, (Lumberton R. 2), April 9.—The farmers of this section are almost through planting and some corn is up.

We are having some right cold weather now and some Irish potatoes were killed last Friday night, as there was a frost.

The quarterly meeting that was held at Rozier the fifth Sunday was quite a success, and was enjoyed by a large crowd.

We had a good rain today which we were all glad to see.

Mr. H. C. Conner of Lumberton was a visitor in this vicinity Sunday.

Little Miss Alma Campbell, who has been spending some time here at the home of her grandmother, Mrs. Anna Holder, returned to her home at King Hiram Sunday.

Several from here attended the W. O. W. unveiling at Ten Mile Sunday afternoon.

It seems that some people are getting their April fools mixed up in and around this vicinity from what we can hear.

Messrs. Otis Kirtel and Robert Puley and Jenning of Fairmont attended the quarterly here the fifth Sunday.

Mr. L. N. Martin of Camp Sevier Greenville, S. C., who was a visitor at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. N. Martin of the Ten Mile section last week, spent Friday here at the home of his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Carlyle.

Messrs. Douglas Britt and Stedman Holder visited in the Oak Grove section Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Barker spent Sunday at Sadletree.

Messrs. Thera and John Collins of Lumberton spent Sunday afternoon in this vicinity.

Miss Annie Belle Hancock of Apex, who spent a few days here visiting at the home of her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Butler, returned to her home last week.

Mr. W. K. Bethune of Lumberton passed through this vicinity Monday afternoon.

Mrs. S. W. Martin of Ten Mile visited her sister, Mrs. J. C. Carlyle, one day recently.

Aunt Becky, we enjoyed your war song and wish you would write more.

Miss Mary Barker of the Great Marsh section spent the week-end with Miss Pattie Odum.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Johnson and little daughter, Onell, of the Great Marsh section visited relatives here recently.

Messrs. J. Goodman and Rabon and Misses Annie and Bertie McDonald of Clio, S. C., spent Sunday here at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. McDonald.

Mr. Jack Carter of King Hiram visited friends in this vicinity recently.

GADDYSVILLE GRIST.

Labor Problem is Serious but the Farmers are in Good Spirits—No School Closing Entertainment—A Pious.

Correspondence of The Robesonian.

Gaddysville (Fairmont, R. 1), April 4.—The labor problem is becoming very serious but in the face of this the farmers are in very good spirits. They are buying more fertilizers than usual and are preparing for an extraordinary food crop. Some already have corn up, and Madam Rumor states that some are plowing cotton.

Tobacco plants are doing fairly well and the tobacco planters are waiting on the shower for transplanting.

The school here was preparing for a concert but has suspended it and will have no entertainment at the close, so far as we know. This seems to us a very logical idea, for no gala day and elaborate school closings, considering the turmoil the world is now in. There has not been a word said about the school here through this paper, but nevertheless Rowland Sealy has had things on a boom and the people are well pleased with his management.

"Trench and camp" is a newspaper gotten out by the soldier boys and through the generosity of our good friend Mr. P. E. Miller we received a copy. It is splendidly put up and is chock full of interesting stuff for the civilian as well as the Sammies.

Mr. Miller is now at Camp Johnson in the 2nd M. D. He is well remembered here as having taught school here last year. Going back home he was elected county superintendent of schools for his county, also was holding the chair of normal teaching in Berea college, then volunteered his services to his country. His many friends here wish him the very best.

Talk about "cuss words" used in regard to the Germans, it's as much harm as any form of profanity, but we know a very pious man who was never known to blaspheme, say the other day "Well, damn the Germans. I'm glad God made a hell for the devils."

Well, we shall write again for this paper each week and shall refrain from talking about the three W's—the war, women and weather—or at least endeavor to.

W. V. B.

BRIEF ITEMS OF LOCAL NEWS

—It is said by some that a small amount of snow fell hereabouts Tuesday night.

—License has been issued for the marriage of Ernest Graham and Carrie Belle McNeill.

—Tom Graham and Maggie Johnson, colored, were married by Justice M. G. McKenzie in the court house last evening about 7:30.

—Miss Harriet Humphrey went yesterday to St. Pauls in response to a message advising her that her mother, Mrs. R. B. Humphrey, was ill.

—There will be a concert at the Bethesda school house Wednesday night, April 17th. Misses Mary Wetmore and Stella Murray are the teachers.

—There will be a children's exercise at Tolarsville Sunday evening, April 14th, at 5 o'clock, by the Sunbeams and Y. W. A's. The public is invited.

—Mr. A. E. White spent Tuesday in Wilmington on business. He heard Secretary of the Treasury W. G. McAdoo speak in Wilmington Tuesday evening.

—Dr. W. A. McPhaul, county health officer, will attend a meeting of the State county health officers' association at Lincolnton Monday and Tuesday of next week.

—The "Flying Squadron" campaign has been called off by agreement with State director Fries and the Liberty Bond campaign management, hence no meeting in Lumberton today.

—Farmers coming to Lumberton from the Rennett section say Irish potatoes in that section were killed by the recent cold. They were surprised to find potatoes about Lumberton apparently unharmed by the cold.

—Mr. J. D. Monroe, who for some time has held a position with the McAllister Hardware Co., moved his family yesterday from Laurinburg to Lumberton. They moved into the Barnes residence, Chestnut street.

—A history of Antioch church, Hoke county, written by Messrs. Jno. A. McGowan and Fred Brown, has just been completed and will be published in pamphlet form. It is dedicated to Mr. A. W. McLean of Lumberton.

—"Stop my ad. The first insertion moved the goods," was the word The Robesonian received yesterday from a Robeson farmer who placed an ad in the "Business Builder" column recently. Robesonian advertising sells the goods.

—Miss M. V. D. Costello and little Miss Margaret Redmond went yesterday morning to Charleston, S. C., to attend the wedding of Miss Costello's niece, Miss Marguerite Barrett. They will visit other relatives before returning home.

—All Red Cross members are urged by the chairman of soldiers' literature committee not to forget to send magazines to the local workrooms every week. They will be stamped and mailed immediately to the soldiers, who need them.

—The public school at Bethany, Sadletree township, will close Tuesday, April 16. There will be exercises by the school on the night of the 16th beginning at 8:30 (old time). The public is invited. Miss Henrietta Duncan is teacher.

—Vance, 6-months-old son of Mr. and Mrs. G. V. Hardie of Boardman, died at the Thompson hospital here Tuesday afternoon. Death was due to pneumonia. Interment was made in the Ward cemetery, near Orrum, yesterday afternoon.

—The D'Esta Rhoads company will give entertainments in the graded school building at Fairmont Tuesday and Wednesday nights of next week. This company delighted large audiences at the school auditorium here Tuesday evening and last evening.

—News has been received here to the effect that Mr. T. Olin Edins, formerly of Lumberton, had his left arm broken while engaged in a battle on the French front. Mr. Edins joined the U. S. engineers soon after war was declared against Germany by the United States.

—Mrs. C. B. Skipper, Sr., returned Tuesday night from Columbia, S. C., where she spent some time visiting her son and daughter-in-law, Lieut. and Mrs. C. B. Skipper, Jr. She was accompanied by Mrs. C. B. Skipper, Jr. Lieut. Skipper left Camp Jackson yesterday with his command for "somewhere."

—The "keep well" campaign is still going on and Dr. McPhaul, county health officer, says he is still receiving applications for the free medical examinations and a good many are being examined Mondays and Tuesdays of each week. School children of the county are being examined other days in the week.

—Frank Spear of Charlotte, a native of Germany but for 33 years a resident of America, was convicted in Federal court in Charlotte last week of threatening the President but was allowed his freedom by Judge Boyd in order that he might provide for his wife and child. He was ordered to report to the judge at the next session of court, when sentence may be imposed. The indicted against Spear charged that he said "the President ought to be shot," that he "proved a traitor," and that "the President ought to be taken out and his head chopped off."

Cigarette books, book covers, and papers invoiced at the American consulate at Nantes, France, for the United States during 1917 were valued at nearly \$1,000,000.