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ON ITALIAN FRONT NOW

Great Austrian Offensive Against Italians Has Begun—Italian and Allied Armies Are Holding Austrians.

The long-awaited Austrian offensive against the Italians began Saturday morning at 7 o'clock on the front from the Asiago plateau to the sea, a front of nearly 100 miles.

The latest news from the front is to the effect that the Italians have driven the Austrians back across the river Piave. Quiet prevails on the French front.

Austrian troops and heavy artillery are endeavoring to break down the resistance of the Italians, who are aided by French and British forces. This morning's summary of war news says:

The Italian and Allied armies are bravely sustaining the weight of the Austrian forces, which are attacking along the front of the Italian theatre from the northwest of the Asiago plateau eastward to the Piave river and thence along that stream to where it joins the headwaters of the Adriatic sea, a front of nearly 100 miles.

The Austrians having made extensive preparations for the drive by bringing up strong reinforcements in men and guns, many of them coming from the former battle line in Rumania and Galicia as a result of the debacle in the east, are using them without stint in the effort to debauch from the mountain passes and cross the Piave river and gain the Venetian plains.

Everywhere the fighting is of an extremely sanguinary character, especially east of the Asiago plateau, in the Brenta valley and on Monte Grappa. In the initial struggle the enemy succeeded in capturing several front line positions in the mountain region from the British and also in crossing the Piave. Counter-attacks, have restored all the positions in the mountains, including territory to a depth of 1,000 yards along a 2,500 yard front captured from the British. At last accounts the allied troops everywhere were strongly holding the army and King Victor Emmanuel's men were gallantly striving to throw back the invaders across the Piave. The Italians have taken more than 2,000 Austrian prisoners among them 89 officers.

As yet the Vienna war office has given only brief mention to the battle saying that the Austrian armies had invaded the Sette Comuni plateau, lying at an altitude of 2,400 feet northwest of Asiago, and that up to noon Sunday more than 10,000 Italians, English and French soldiers and a considerable number of guns had been captured.

With the commencement of the long-expected Austrian offensive the fighting in France has simmered down almost to subnormal, except south-west of Soissons where the French have delivered several violent attacks against the Germans holding territory captured last week. Where the enemy a week ago was throwing thousands upon thousands of men against the allied lines between Montdidier and Noyon Sunday saw him worn out with his useless efforts and his forces sadly depleted through men killed and wounded.

19 Tons of Explosives Dropped On Enemy Establishments.

The French official statement issued Friday evening reported no infantry action during the day added:

"To the material captured from the enemy on the 11th of June should be added nine guns, including seven heavy ones, and forty machine guns. Our chasing air squadrons have brought down five airplanes and two captive balloons. Seven other German machines have been put out of action. During the night of June 13-14, our bombing squadrons dropped on establishments, stations and cantonments in the enemy zone nineteen tons of explosives, causing important damage."

American Prisoners Paraded Through German Towns.

A Geneva dispatch of the 14th states that American and British prisoners, together with French colonial troops, recently captured by the Germans, are being paraded through the streets of the Rhine towns to impress the population, according to advices from Strassburg received in Basel.

Arrested on Charge of Desertion.

Faulk Davis of the Fairmont section was arrested Thursday by Rural Policeman W. C. Britt on the charge of army desertion. Davis registered and failed to fill out a questionnaire or to answer when he was called by the board. He will be taken to Camp Jackson this evening.

Robeson Boy Among Dangerously Wounded.

Mr. Allen Hayes of the Marietta section has been advised that his son Mr. Grady Hayes has been dangerously wounded at the front in France.

Case of Smallpox in Town.

County Health Officer W. A. McPhaul reports that Mrs. M. A. Geddie has smallpox at her home, on the Elizabethtown road where it crosses the Virginia & Carolina Southern railroad.

TO ROUND UP IDLERS

County Council of Defense Appoints Committeemen in Each Township to Report Those Who Are Idle.

In accordance with Gov. Bickett's proclamation, published elsewhere in this paper, calling upon the people of the State to see that no idlers are allowed at this time, the county council of defense, Mr. H. E. Stacy of Lumberton, chairman, met this morning at the court house and appointed committeemen all over the county to report any idlers to the county chairman, who in turn will report to the Governor, who will report to the War Department. Those who attended the meeting were H. E. Stacy, A. E. White, Lumberton; Dr. J. L. McMillan, Red Springs; J. S. Oliver, Marietta; G. B. McCormick, Parkton. Members of the council not present are A. J. McKinnon, Maxton, and A. R. McEachern, St. Pauls.

The following committeemen were appointed: Dr. J. L. McMillan, J. N. Bue, B. W. Townsend—Red Springs; J. S. Oliver, C. E. Morgan—Marietta; W. N. Hubbard—Fairmont; J. W. Barnes—Barnesville; A. J. Mills, B. A. Edens, J. W. Ward—Rowland; J. B. McCormick, A. J. Garrison—Parkton; M. L. Marley—Lumber Bridge; T. W. Maxwell—Tolersville; H. E. Stacy, A. E. White, Ira Bullard, W. F. French, R. H. Crichton—Lumberton.

Messrs. A. R. McEachern and A. J. McKinnon will appoint men for St. Pauls and Maxton, respectively.

Women Will Hold Mass Meetings Reported for The Robesonian.

The women's committee of the council of national defense met with the men's committee this morning at the court house to discuss plans by which the ladies of our county can aid our boys at the front.

The ladies then had a special meeting of their committee to make further arrangements. Mass meetings for ladies are to be held in every town and community as soon as they can be arranged for. It is hoped that every lady in Robeson county will put forth every effort possible to help our boys in the trenches and that when these mass meetings are called they will respond most heartily and patriotically.

Mrs. J. O. Bobbitt of Fairmont was added to the committee.

MRS. L. T. TOWNSEND, Chairman.

MISS JANIE CARLYLE, Secretary.

Women's Committee of National Defense.

BIGGEST WHEAT CROP

More Wheat Raised in Robeson This Year Than Ever Before—Large Acreage and Yield is Good.

It will be interesting to learn, when statistics are available, how many more acres were planted to wheat in Robeson this year than ever before. And how much more wheat has been raised. J. E. Dial, Indian, who lives about 5 miles from Lumberton on R. 2, was a Lumberton visitor Thursday afternoon, and he told The Robesonian something about how busy he has been cutting wheat lately. He bought a reaper and binder this year and has been kept busy cutting wheat for some time, so busy that he had not been able to find time to cut his own wheat up to that time, and he says he has the best wheat he has ever had. He says he knows of two other men in the county who bought new reapers this year, and Mr. W. K. C. J. Dial of R. 6 from Lumberton, has had a reaper for two or three years, and all of them have had all they could do since the wheat began to ripen. He thinks there has never been anything like the amount of wheat raised in this county before. And the yield is good. On the day he was here Dial was cutting over nine acres on one of Mr. L. H. Caldwell's places 4 miles from town and he said it was the best wheat he ever saw, two or three times as good, he was satisfied, as wheat he had last year that yielded 20 bushels to the acre.

Dial says he traveled over several wheat-growing States last year and that he did not see any wheat to beat some of the Robeson-grown wheat this year. It used to be considered useless to try to raise wheat in this county, but during the past five years the matter has been given a pretty thorough test and the folks have come to see that good yields of wheat can be raised. And when the wheat is harvested there is plenty of time to raise a good crop of corn on the same land.

Because they are making large profits out of the war, zinc and lead mine operators are willing to pay increased taxes, Temple Chapman, of Joplin, Mo., told the House of Congress ways and means committee Thursday during hearings on new war revenue tax legislation. He is the first witness to flatly advocate increasing the taxes on his industry. Since the life of the mines is short, Mr. Chapman suggested that in fixing higher tax rates the committee should take cognizance of the fact that large profits are warranted.

Give up your luxuries that the Kaiser may be made to give up his ambitions.

WAR SAVINGS DRIVE JUNE 22ND TO 28TH

Robeson's Quota is \$1,063,986—This is More Than the County's Quota in All Three Liberty Loans—Man's Size Job for Robeson But County Will Go "Over the Top"—Quotas and Chairmen For Each Township.

A big War Savings drive will be launched June 22nd, and will continue through June 28, to secure pledges for the purchase of the entire \$2,000,000,000 of War Savings stamps which the Government will sell this year. North Carolina's quota is \$48,538,314, and Robeson county's quota is \$1,063,986. The amount Robeson county people are asked to invest in War Savings stamps this year is greater than the county's quota in the three Liberty loans so far sold, but that the county will go "over the top" and meet this duty, as it has met every other duty in connection with the war, there can be no doubt.

During the week June 22-28 it is desired that this entire amount be pledged. That does not mean that one must buy at one time all the War Savings stamps one can invest in, but simply that one pledges himself or herself to buy stamps to the amount of his or her pledge before the end of the year. This is not only a duty but a privilege. War Savings stamps are a good investment, and by purchasing them one is helping to win the war.

In appointing the township chairmen whose names are given below, Mr. L. R. Varner, county War Savings chairman, selected men upon whose hearty cooperation he felt sure he could count. Each one is urged to see that the quota for his township is subscribed. The quotas are figured on a basis of \$20 for each man, woman and child.

In the township quotas given below no apportionment is made for Fairmont, Gaddy, Rennett, Rowland and Shannon townships. This is on account of the fact that at State War Savings campaign headquarters only census figures for 1910 were available, and those townships had not then been established. Chairmen of those townships are expected to figure their quotas from the quotas of the townships from which they were formed.

Township Quotas and Chairmen. Alfordville township, \$67,518; chairman, W. F. Bullock, Rowland. Back Swamp, \$35,046; chairman,

M. M. Singletary, Lumberton R. 3. Britts, \$34,144; chairman, W. L. Thompson, Lumberton, R. 4. Burnt Swamp, \$29,810; chairman, J. B. Humphrey, Red Springs, R. 2. Fairmont, to be determined; chairman, F. L. Blue, Fairmont. Gaddy, to be determined; chairman, Worth Burns, Lakeview, S. C. Howellsville, \$36,278; chairman, N. A. Kinlaw, Lumberton, R. 7. Lumber Bridge, \$69,674; chairman, Rev. J. L. Jenkins, Lumber Bridge. Lumberton, \$110,748; chairman, R. C. Lawrence, Lumberton. Maxton, \$77,682; chairman, A. J. McKinnon, Maxton. Orrum, \$20,438; chairman, Marshall Shepherd, Orrum. Parkton, \$26,950; chairman, J. C. Hughes, Parkton. Pennington, \$42,570; chairman, R. H. Livermore, Pennington. Raft Swamp, \$16,918; chairman, J. A. Carlyle, Buie, R. F. D. Rennett, to be determined; chairman, A. M. Tolar, Rennett. Red Springs, \$72,380; chairman, Rev. H. M. Dixon, Red Springs. Rowland, to be determined; chairman, Geo. K. McNeill, Rowland. Saddletree, \$19,778; chairman, G. S. Harrell, Rennett, R. F. D. Shannon, to be determined; chairman, J. N. Clark, Shannon. St. Pauls, \$62,778; chairman, Prof. T. S. Teague, St. Pauls. Smiths, \$61,820; chairman, A. H. White, Maxton, R. F. D. Sterlings, \$33,748; chairman Pittman Barnes, Barnesville. Thompson, \$132,358; chairman, Spurgeon McLean, McDonalds. Whitehouse, \$37,362; chairman, W. T. Jenrette, Marietta. Wishart, \$23,336; chairman, J. C. Stansel, Allenton.

Some people in the county have been buying War Savings stamps regularly and will continue to do so, but only a small per cent of the county's quota has been purchased so far. With the proper amount of work—and that that will be done there is no doubt—Robeson's quota will no doubt be oversubscribed at the close of the drive June 28.

GREAT DAY AT FAIRMONT.

Patriotic Rally Held There Saturday Biggest Occasion Since Old Soldiers' Reunion in 1913—Pledges For Red Cross.

Special to The Robesonian.

Fairmont, June, 16.—The patriotic rally held here yesterday afternoon is declared to have been the biggest occasion Fairmont has had since the Old Soldiers' reunion in August, 1913. About 1,500 people heard Evangelist Luther Bridges speak in the People's tobacco warehouse, which was fittingly decorated for the occasion. Among the decorations were the service flags from all the churches in town, these flags showing 58 stars, each star representing a man who is in his country's service. Five young men at home on furlough from camp were in the choir and added just the right touch to the meeting.

In the warehouse where he has been preaching powerful sermons to large crowds for the past week, Evangelist Bridges delivered a patriotic speech that roused his hearers to the highest degree. Pledges were taken for monthly contributions to the Red Cross as long as its war needs last. Some pledged \$5 a month, and many pledged smaller amounts. It is expected that when all returns are in tomorrow it will be found that the Fairmont chapter will receive as a result of these pledges \$125 a month.

THE RECORD OF DEATHS.

Mrs. Sarah "Fleet" Moore of Orrum, R. 1.

Mrs. Sarah "Fleet" Moore, aged 65 years died at the home of Mr. Howard Watts on R. 1 from Orrum Thursday afternoon. Deceased had been sick for several weeks. Interment was made in the Collins burying grounds Friday.

Infant Son of Mr. and Mrs. Van Skipper.

Lawrence Ernest, 16-months-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Van Skipper of West Lumberton, died yesterday. Death was due to colitis.

Beatrice Myers, Colored.

Beatrice Myers, colored, aged 20 years, died at her home in "Newtown" Saturday.

FIRST BARN OF TOBACCO.

Special to The Robesonian.

Pembroke, June 15.—Messrs Wesley Kirby and W. A. Cox, who live near Pembroke, cut their first barn of tobacco today. This is the first barn of tobacco we have heard of being cut in Robeson county this year.

FARM-LIFE SCHOOL

ON LARGER SCALE

County Farm-Life School to Be Reestablished at Philadelphia—Additional Equipment and Land Provided.

HIGH AND FARM-LIFE SCHOOLS UNDER ONE MAN

Correspondence of The Robesonian.

Philadelphia, June 15.—The board of education met at Philadelphia Thursday afternoon for the purpose of re-establishing the farm life school at this place. The majority of the citizens of the district, also a few interested from Red Springs, were present to discuss the matter with the board.

Upon motion of Mr. N. B. McArthur for a vote to ascertain who, if any, of the citizens of the community would like to have the school operated again under the plan that it has been run by for the past four years, the chairman of the board, Mr. McRae, ruled that since there was no evidence that anybody cared for it that it was not necessary to vote, and did not put the motion.

Mr. McRae was correct in his ruling. There had been no objection by anybody to the school being discontinued, run and operated as it was. The citizens of the community and board of education have been unduly criticised because of the discontinuance of the school. The board of education acted upon the request of the people. They knew that the reputation of Philadelphia school and community was due to its citizenship and that those citizens are capable of knowing what they want and need in their midst as they were of building for themselves the good name that Philadelphia high school and community enjoys.

It was decided at the meeting to change the plan of the farm-life school, to further equip it to the amount of \$500, to be raised by private subscription, already subscribed, also to purchase ten acres more land to be paid for by the people of the community, then to operate the farm-life school with the high school under the superintendency of one man.

With the people of the county interested in vocational education; with a full realization on their part that this is Robeson county's farm-life school not Philadelphia farm-life school; that it is free to the boys and girls of the county, run as it will be in connection with Philadelphia high school, under the same management, the board of education doing all in their power to make it a success; with the people of the Philadelphia community united to a man for the success of both, we see no reason why this should not only be one of the best schools in the State, but the very best.

AMENDMENT TO SELECTIVE SERVICE REGULATIONS.

Marriage Since Enactment of Selective Draft Law Will Not Be Accepted as Ground for Exemption Except in Certain Cases.

Marriage since the enactment of the selective draft law no longer will be accepted as cause for exemption from military service except in the case of men who have become of age since June 5, 1917 who may be exempted if they married before January 15, 1918, the date on which the joint resolution requiring their registration was introduced in Congress. Drastic amendments to the draft regulations were announced Friday night by Provost Marshal General Crowder under which local boards are required to re-classify all cases including such marriages. Dependency claims on account of children of such marriages will be allowed where children are "born or unborn before June 9, 1918."

Following is an order sent to all State draft executives: Please promulgate at once to local boards the following important amendment to the selective service regulations:

"Rule 5, Section 72, SSR is amended to read as follows: "Rule Five A.—The fact of dependency resulting from the marriage of a registrant who has become 21 years of age since June 5, 1917, and who has married since the date of the introduction of the joint resolution in Congress requiring his registration, to wit, Jan. 15, 1918, will be disregarded as a ground for deferred classification."

"B. If a registrant who has attained the age of 21 since June 5, 1917, and who has contracted marriage subsequent to the date of the enactment of the selective service law to wit, May 17, 1917, but on or prior to Jan. 15, 1918, claims deferred classification on the ground of dependency resulting from his marriage the fact of dependency will be disregarded as a ground for deferred classification unless the dependent is a child of the marriage born or unborn on or previous to June 9, 1918, in which case such a registrant upon satisfactory proof being made shall be classified in Class 2.

"C. If a registrant, other than one who has attained the age of 21 years

BRIEF ITEMS OF LOCAL NEWS

—Regular communication St. Albans lodge No. 114, Tuesday evening at 8:30. Election of officers.

—A bunch of boy scouts from McColl, S. C., passed through Lumberton in three autos this morning bound for Lake Waccamaw, where they will camp out for a spell.

—Mr. E. Odum, who lives near Buie, was a Lumberton visitor Saturday and brought the editor a fine pear from one of two trees at his place that are loaded down with delicious fruit.

—Mrs. L. R. Varner returned Saturday night from Charlotte, where she spent several weeks in a hospital under the care of a specialist. Her condition is very much improved.

—Lucy J. Sampson, Indian who lives on R. 6 from Lumberton, says she had green peas from her garden for dinner Tuesday of last week. She says she can get another mess in a few days.

—Mrs. W. P. Barker is critically ill at her home, North Elm street. —Chief of Police Alf H. McLeod left Thursday evening for Baltimore, Md., where he will take treatment under a specialist.

—Mr. J. A. Barker has been advised by wire that his daughter, Mrs. G. R. Hennigar of Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, recently underwent an operation for appendicitis. Her condition was as favorable as could be expected.

—Mr. S. F. Caldwell returned Saturday from Baltimore, Md., where he spent Friday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Caldwell, who are undergoing treatment at Johns Hopkins hospital. Both are getting along well and are improving in health.

—Mr. Shepard K. Nash, son of Mrs. A. Nash of Lumberton, has been transferred back to France, where he was last fall, from Italy, where he was in training for some time for fighting in the air. He was at Lyon's, in the southeastern part of France, when last heard from.

—Messrs. G. W. Knott and C. J. Smith, of Henderson, proprietors of the Farmers' tobacco sales warehouse of Lumberton, arrived here last evening and will spend the time from now until the opening of the selling season getting acquainted with the farmers and making ready for the opening.

—License has been issued for the marriage of Kelton Powers and Nanette Townsend; Clarence Lovett and Bodie Lovett; Henry Martin and Nanette Tatum; Travis Brissos and Alma Starling; G. Darden Smith and Bera Tedder; J. Marvin Adams and Mary Edens; W. Pink Floyd and Sallie Connelley.

—An automobile driven by Proctor Stephens, colored, of Proctorville, and a bicycle ridden by a colored boy, whose name could not be learned, collided on Elm street in front of Mr. A. Weinstein's store about 8 o'clock last evening. The bicycle was torn up and the front wheel of the auto passed over the colored boy riding the bicycle. He was taken to the Thompson hospital, where it was found that he was not hurt.

—Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Petty, of Greenville, S. C., whose infant son died last Wednesday night at the home of Mrs. Petty's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Thompson, where they were visiting, and Mrs. Petty's sister Miss Ruby Thompson, left Saturday morning for Norfolk, Va. Miss Stein, a nurse who had been with Mrs. Petty, left Saturday morning for Charlotte. Mr. Petty is accounting representative of South Carolina for the United States railroad administration.

—Dorothy, aged two and a half years, was the proud possessor of a dog. That is, she thought, before her father bought a big dog for her, that she would love it better than anything at all, if she had one; but after she got the dog she seemed unable to decide whether she owned the dog or the dog owned her. She cringed and audibly sucked her breath when the dog started toward her. "What's the matter, Dorothy?" asked her mother, "Are you afraid of the dog?" "No'm", bravely maintained Dorothy, "Dog's' afraid of me."

Ordered to Reclassify Registrants

The local army exemption board has been directed by the War Department to reclassify and place in Class 1 all men of draft age who have married since May 18, 1918, and before that time, except in cases where the wives of such registrants gave birth to a child prior to June 9, 1918. These will be placed in Class 2.

since June 5, 1917, who has contracted marriage since May 18, 1917, claims deferred classification on the ground of dependency resulting from marriage the fact of dependency resulting from his marriage will be disregarded as a ground for deferred classification unless the dependent is a child of the marriage, born or unborn on or before June 9, 1918, in which case a registrant upon satisfactory proof being made shall be placed in Class 2.

"D. Nothing contained in this amendment to rule 5 shall be construed as requiring the transfer to Class 2 of any registrant who has been finally classified in Class 1 on the affirmative finding that his marriage since May 18, 1917, was made with the primary view of evading military service.

"Instruct all local boards forthwith to re-classify all cases involving marriages since May 18, 1917, in accordance with the above."