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AMERICANS DRIVE OUT MANY SNIPERS

They Are Persistent and Require a Good Deal of Gun Attention

(By the Associated Press.)
With the American Army in France.—March 26.—"Frita" or "Billy Roche," as the American boys are beginning to call the Germans, is a persistent sniper on this sector. As fast as the Americans silence one nest, another starts the annoyance, and then the job has to be done all over again.

This forenoon a group of American snipers discovered an enemy nest close by and promptly opened fire on it. The Germans replied with their rifles and then fired about three dozen or so grenades. Apparently, the Germans had come to stay and did not intend to be chased out. One of the American 37-millimeter gun teams then got into action against the nest, and owing to its accurate fire no more Germans were seen at this particular point and there was no further annoyance.

A number of these same little guns obtained direct hits in enemy communicating trenches which men, possibly officers, were passing through them, and also fired effectively, as did snipers, on parties of Germans who were dressed in light and dark blue uniforms, the first time these uniforms were seen on this front. One of the American sharpshooters reported that he had spoiled a number of these new "spring suits," by knocking the wearers in to the mud with bullets from his Springfield.

Aerial Activities.

Normal aerial activity continued today, the weather being favorable until late in the afternoon, when clouds and light snow flurries passed over the line. One enemy plane flew low over one of the American positions doing photographic work. The American aircraft gunners had a number of chances during the day to show their skill and this they did. They drove off enemy airmen who attempted singly or in groups to pounce over the line. There were several aerial combats between planes carrying American observers at the guns, but these were without result, probably because the airmen were unable to get close enough to the Germans.

Overcasts, which had been discarded since last week, were found to be exceedingly comfortable again tonight as a frigid wind blew in from the northeast.

British, American and French Troops Fighting Shoulder To Shoulder

(Continued from Page One.)

With the slackening of the German pace there come indications that the Allies are ready to strike back somewhere along the front. Just where this blow will be launched will not be known until it is struck, but it may be expected that its impact will be terrific. It is known that the allied war council at Versailles created a great strategic reserve of men to be used in just the contingency which confronts the armies which have borne the brunt of the fighting since last Thursday morning.

Strategic Counter-Attack Coming.

This force probably will be launched when and where it is believed it will break the force of the German onslaught and send the enemy reeling back over the desert from which the British have slowly withdrawn.

Heavy German Losses.

It is officially reported that seventy German divisions, or 849,000 men, have taken part in the fighting and that troops have been moved from every part of the western battle front to reinforce the armies which have been forcing the British to fall back. Observers at the front say that the German losses have been frightful, and that the enemy has lost from 10 to 20 per cent of his men, by the most conservative estimates.

Repetition of 1914 Dash.

The situation as it stands seems to be a repetition of the dash of General Von Kluck on Paris in 1914, when the German artillery and transport could not keep up with the infantry, and the French were able to turn back the invaders at the Marne. Reports from various sectors in the last two days have indicated that the German infantry, relying on its mass attacks, has fought without the customary assistance of artillery. To bring up heavy guns requires time and the German advance will steadily become more painful and costly.

British Nearer Base of Supplies.

While the German line of communications has been growing longer, the British have constantly moved nearer their base of supplies. It is probable that the line where stern battle will be given is not far away from the present position of the Allied armies.

Italian Front Situation.

There has been continued activity on the Italian front, but no attacks of importance have been made by either side in this theatre of the war.

The American Lines in the Lanesville and Toul sectors have been bolstered once more, but no infantry fighting is reported there. North of the Somme battlefield there have been no engagements of significance.

The British troops in Palestine have captured the village of Es-Salt, on the hills to the east of the Jordan, and far in advance of the rest of the line running west to the Mediterranean.

The Russian Bolsheviks are reported to have recaptured the city of Kherson from the Germans.

SUSPECTS ROUNDED UP AND MADE TO KISS FLAG

Lima, Ohio, March 26.—Four more alleged pro-Germans of Delphos, near here, took the oath of allegiance tonight, saluted the Stars and Stripes, and kissed the banner, by order of the Delphos Vigilance Committee, organized to round up all suspected anti-Americans in this community.

BAPTIST WOMEN AT ASHEVILLE

Missionary Union of North Carolina Gathers for Four-Day Meeting

Asheville, March 26.—The twenty-eighth annual session of the Baptist Women's Missionary Union of North Carolina opened a four-day session at the First Baptist church here tonight. About three hundred delegates have already arrived and more are expected.

The annual sermon was preached tonight by Dr. W. F. Powell of Asheville, a congregation which taxed the capacity of the church being present to hear the sermon which was preceded by a special musical program and a brief devotional service conducted by Rev. Benjamin Sarges.

While the first business session of the convention proper will not be held until tomorrow morning, two sessions of the executive committee and Associational Superintendents were held today. At the morning session the roll of county superintendents was called and twenty-six of the forty-nine in the State responded by giving a brief report of the work in her association. The reports showed much progress.

At the afternoon session the executive committee and associational leaders discussed plans of work for the coming year and adopted the plan recommended by the central committee. Another decision was in connection with the war activities of the members of the union. It being decided that no special line of work would be undertaken by the union except as members of other organizations, such as the Red Cross, etc. After discussing the advisability of changing the plan of entertainment of the delegates to the State meeting, to the Harvard plan, the members of the executive committee voted unanimously to stick to the old plan. This matter will also be voted upon by the delegates in attendance. The executive committee also voted to set \$85,000 as the aim for the State Union for the coming year, this amount being \$2,000 greater than last year's budget.

BIG FIRE FOLLOWS LOUD EXPLOSION

(Continued from Page One.)

Investigation was begun at once by federal, state and city authorities. The first of the terrific detonations, which occurred shortly after 3 o'clock shook windows in downtown Manhattan and caused considerable alarm. Burning cinders, which arose in the heavy cloud of black smoke, were carried by the wind across the North river and fell along the water front.

While the excitement was at its height the Erie ferry house, on the New York side of the river, was discovered to be on fire. A lighter close by loaded with several hundred bales of cotton also was blazing furiously and still further south the Hoboken ferry slip of the Lackawanna Railway was on fire.

The Erie ferry house was aflame from the second story of the roof. These fires were easily extinguished. Lined up in the Jarvis store house were between 40 and 50 men, but the prompt alarm is believed to have enabled all to escape. Scores of persons in the streets were cut by falling glass. Hundreds of windows, some of them a mile away, were blown out by the blast. Several small frame buildings were wrecked by the explosions.

Frightened women and children filled the streets in the congested section of Jersey City and Hoboken. The fire spread with such rapidity that the Jersey City firemen soon called for outside aid. Engines and other apparatus were sent from Hoboken, New York and other points. By desperate efforts the firemen confined the flames to an area covering about two acres.

The storage warehouse of the National Calcium Carbide Company and the Union Cold Storage Plant were saved by the firemen.

Ten employees of the Jarvis Company suffered burns. More than 200 employees, a number of them women, were at work in the Erie shops. All had time to escape before the flames reached the buildings. Not only were the shops badly damaged, but ten or twelve locomotives were destroyed. In addition a dozen loaded and empty freight cars were burned. A large pile of coal also was ignited and was still burning late tonight.

E. J. Jarvis, secretary and treasurer of the storage warehouse company, said he could not explain the explosions. The United States government had been using the warehouse, but only as a private patron. Mr. Jarvis said

EAT What You Like

Use Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets To Help Your Stomach and Do Not Worry.



"I love Me, I Enjoy My Meals to the Limit. No Fear of Consequences. Either, While I Have Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets to Fall Back Upon."

Dyspepsia, indigestion, weak stomach and similar names simply mean that the supply of digestive juices is inadequate. That is where Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets comes in—by supplying this deficiency.

If you will eat a Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablet after each meal and one just before you go to bed, you will learn that there is no harm in your meals. The reason is clearly plain. Your system lacks the proper digestive juices to make your meals easily digested. Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets give the stomach and other organs of the digestive apparatus the wherewithal to digest food. Get a 50c box from any drug store and try them.—Adv.

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20c LION BRAND COLLARS 15c

Lion Brand is one of the best 4-ply collars on the market. Full line of latest styles. Sell everywhere 20c, Our Cash Price 15c

35c TO 50c VALUE SILK TIES 25c

Big line Silk Ties in full length and bright colors. Special values priced 25c

Beautiful line Men's Silk Ties, special . . . 48c
Special values in Men's Silk Ties . . . 68c and 98c

Men's Caps 25c, 48c, 98c

Men's Underwear 25c, 38c, 48c

Men's Suspenders 10c, 15c, 25c, 48c

Shirts
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Ties
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Clothing
Hats
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Caps
FOR MEN AND BOYS

Hudson-Belk Co.

The Big Busy Cash Store

Buying For Seventeen Big Department Stores Direct From The Manufacturer, Buying For Cash And Selling For Cash Make Selling For Less Easy

SHIRTS 48c, 98c, \$1.25 UP

Men's Dress Shirts 48c

Men's fine Sunday Shirts with either stiff or soft cuff, special 98c

Fancy patterns in soft cuff Shirts, priced 98c

Fine quality soft cuff Shirts, \$1.50 value, priced \$1.25

Men's Lion Brand Shirts in big range of patterns at . . \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50

Men's fine Shirts with soft cuff, newest patterns. Special \$1.98, \$2.48.

Big values Men's Silk Shirts.

Men's Handkerchiefs 5c, 10c, 25c

Men's Hats 98c, \$1.48, \$1.98.

North Carolina Has Rate Basing Point Once More

(Continued from Page One.)

readjustment of rates in the territory named.

News of the decision came yesterday in a telegram to Secretary M. R. Beaman of the Raleigh Chamber of Commerce, who instituted the proceedings while secretary of the Goldsboro Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Beaman prepared the case and spent about six months in getting the facts together for presentation. The brief of the complainants showed that the shippers of eastern North Carolina, by reason of the bottling up of the ports of Wilmington and New Bern, were being levied upon for an enormous tribute each year by the several railroads operating in the territory. The case was won before Chief Examiner Watkins of the Commission, whose decision was rendered in November, 1916, after a long series of hearings. The railroads appealed to the Interstate Commerce Commission, where it was argued in January, 1917. After more than a year that body holds with its commissioner in his decision against the position which the railroads attempted to maintain.

Must Give Through Rates.

While the full text of the decision has not yet been received here, telegraphic information from Washington is to the effect that the railroads must grant through bills of lading from cities of the eastern group, New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore, through New Bern and Wilmington, and the commission further holds that it has power to establish joint through rates. The carriers interested are given thirty days in which to agree upon joint through rates, failing to agree the commission stating that it will proceed to fix such rates itself.

The proceedings in this case are one of the most interesting chapters in the history of the State's long effort to secure an adequate adjustment of the admitted unfair freight rates that have discriminated against merchants and manufacturers here. They were instituted by the Chamber of Commerce of Goldsboro primarily, through the efforts of Mr. Beaman, with the Baltimore and Carolina Steamship Company appearing as the principal complainant. Joining in the petition were the Chambers of Commerce of Fayetteville and Kinston, while the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company, the Seaboard, the Southern and the Norfolk Southern Railroads all united in contesting. Intervening with the railroads was Mr. J. Allan Taylor, in behalf of the shippers of Wilmington, and the New Bern Chamber of Commerce. When the facts in the case began to be developed the New Bern business organization withdrew in favor of the complainants.

The whole point at issue was whether or not the railroads would accept through bills of lading from a steamship company coming into the two ports at a through joint rate based on the long water haul and the short rail haul into interior Eastern North Carolina towns and cities instead of based on the Norfolk rates as now in force, and whether the railroads at the two water points would afford warpage space to the steamship company operating into those points.

THE WAR AS VIEWED FROM WASHINGTON

(Continued from Page One.)

come up with French reinforcements. They would be certain to operate with the French as their equipment is largely French and they must be supplied with ammunition and replacements from the French communication lines.

With French Units?

Should this prove to be the case, it is possible, officers here believe, that American troops will be with French units in an effort to score heavily against the Germans when the moment for attack arrives.

If any American officers were more confident tonight than at any previous time of the outcome of the drive.

There has been some talk during the last day or two of the Allied strategic reserves. These forces have not been employed as yet so far as known, and if they can be kept out of action until the German effort has worn itself out, they should play a major role in the counter-offensive to follow.

to vacate. An almost identical experience was encountered at New Bern, where a packet service was started, and the steamship company was forced out of both of these ports.

It was in evidence that the two railroads, the Sprunts, who are large stockholders in the Coast Line Railroad control about ninety three per cent of all the water front at Wilmington, and that the Norfolk and Southern Railroad controls the greater part of the available water front at New Bern. The petition, therefore, asked that not only should the railroads be required to accept through shipments at a just rate, but that they should be compelled to afford docking facilities for the transfer of shipments.

All the freight rates now in effect in this section of the State are based upon Norfolk, with a short water haul from the cities of the eastern group and a long rail haul. The petitioning steamship company in this case submitted its rates by water from these points of origin to Wilmington and New Bern based on the cheapness of the long water haul, and asked that the railroads be forced to accept such shipments for transshipping to interior points over a short haul at the low intrastate rate.

The only two steamship companies maintaining a service to Southern ports now are the Clyde Line into Wilmington and Charleston, and the Merchants and Miners into Savannah, both of whom are owned or controlled by the railroads.

Big Saving For Merchants.

Mr. Beaman in discussing the case yesterday stated that on a basis of the shipments received in the city of Goldsboro, averaged for a period of ten years, that the savings to the merchants of that city alone on incoming freight would be \$17,000 each year. The decision affects a territory included in which is Raleigh and Charlotte, and the entire section of the State east of those two cities, and it can be easily seen that it means a tremendous savings to the eastern half of the State.

Mr. Beaman stated yesterday that the Baltimore and Carolina Steamship Company has continued its service into Charleston, and that it is as ships available to put into service between Baltimore and New Bern and Wilmington. In case the matter is not carried to the United States Supreme Court by the railroads there is reason to believe that the carriers interested will within the next month reach an agreement through joint rates, and that again ship service will be established into the State on a basis that existed about fifty years ago, before the shipping interests were taken over by the railroads and forced out on business in this State in order that the railroads might profit by making Norfolk the rate basing point for North Carolina.

THE WAR AS VIEWED FROM WASHINGTON

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OASTORIA For Infants and Children, In Use For Over 30 Years

Bears the Signature of *Chas. H. Plittine*

the loss to his concern and his patrons probably would reach \$1,000,000. Immediately after the explosion a large force of soldiers from Hoboken and a company of coast guards from New York were hurried to the scene and they aided in fighting the fire.

U. S. TROOPS HAVE BRUSHES WITH ENEMY

Two Who Met 15 Germans Killed Three of Teutons and Got Away With The Trick

With the American Army in France, March 26.—(By The Associated Press.)—Two men of an American patrol while inspecting enemy trenches in the Toul sector early this morning encountered fifteen of the enemy, and immediately opened fire with their rifles. They also used grenades, and after a few minutes, managed to get away safely, taking turns at covering each other's retreat. They got back to the American lines without a scratch, but it is known that three Germans were killed and others were wounded.

Two encounters are reported between American reconnoitering patrols and new listening posts.

BLOCKADERS PUT UP FIGHT.

Washington, N. C., March 26.—This morning about 1:30 o'clock Officers Proctor, Mayo, Harris, Leggett and Stubbs made a raid on a blockade still about twelve miles from here, near the Pitt county line. The blockaders opened fire on the officers and Mr. Stubbs was lightly wounded. The officers returned the fire. Arden Boyd with eight or ten gallons of rum was captured, while two men by the name of Lewis, it is said, escaped. Boyd asserts that the Lewis pair had hired him to haul the stuff with his horse and cart. Boyd is in jail.

Second thoughts are always best. They are not so apt to be censured.

TROUBLED-CRAZED FATHER WHO ATTEMPTED SUICIDE RELEASED FROM CUSTODY

Kinston, March 26.—Rome Casper, a prosperous Deep Run planter, has been released from custody by the sheriff here upon promise by Casper to the sheriff and a physician that he would not repeat an attempt to take his life made Sunday. An eight-year-old son of Casper was fatally injured Saturday by a tree cut down by the planter and another son. There occurred a pathetic parting between the dying boy and the father. Shortly before the hour for the funeral Sunday, Casper, who, some months ago lost his wife by death and was lately affected by that as well as the recent tragedy, took carbolic acid. A doctor arrived in time to save his life. Casper was brought here and confined in jail. He is a middle-aged,

pleasant-faced man, and is called an excellent citizen by his neighbors. He has a large family. He has accumulated considerable property.

"The Finished Mystery" is not quite finished yet.

THROAT AND LUNG AFFECTIONS

and stubborn coughs and colds, that often lead to such distressing chronic disability, are often banished by using **ECKMAN'S ALTERNATIVE**. This Calcium preparation often arrests development of the affection and aids in recovery by rebuilding depleted tissue and renewing strength. Contains no Alcohol, Narcotic or Habit-Forming Drug. \$2 size, new \$1.50. \$1 size, new 80c. Sold by all leading druggists. Eckman Laboratory, Philadelphia.

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Shine Your Shoes With
SHINOLA
Learn to be neat and thrifty.
SHINOLA gives the quick dressy shine and makes your shoes wear longer. Ask your mother to get you a
SHINOLA HOME SET
The genuine bristle dauber and lamb's wool polisher make shoe shining easy
Ask Nearest Store
BLACK - TAN - WHITE - RED
HOME SET

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Cross & Linehan Co.

"The Clothiers"

Announce the Exhibition of the
Newest Fabrics, Designs and
Styles of
Schloss Bros. & Co.

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Today
Thursday
Friday
Saturday