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IMPORTANT NEWS THE WORLD OVER

IMPORTANT HAPPENINGS OF THIS
AND OTHER NATIONS FOR
SEVEN DAYS GIVEN

THE NEWS OF THE SOUTH

What is Taking Place in The South-
land Will Be Found in
Brief Paragraphs

Domestic.
Eight American gunners were killed and seven injured more or less seriously near Benbrook, Texas, a few miles west of Fort Worth, when a 3-inch shell exploded. First reports that two trench mortars exploded were erroneous.
Legislation raising the draft age to 40 years has been discussed as a possibility by Provost Marshal General Crowder and the house military committee.

An appropriation of \$15,762,000 has been asked by Provost Marshal General Crowder for the draft for the next fiscal year.
Pettty profiteers who have been victimizing soldiers and sailors in war camp communities will be shown short whip by Uncle Sam. Many complaints have been made by the men in uniform, and the matter has about reached a climax. Some of the malefactors will probably go to the pen.

Joseph F. Rutherford, successor to Pastor Russell as head of the International Bible Students' Association, and five other leaders of that organization, were arrested in a raid by federal authorities in the headquarters at the Bible Students' Association in Brooklyn.

Fifteen persons were killed in a tornado at Calmar, Iowa, and three men were killed and one injured at Mason City, Iowa. Later reports increase the number of the killed.

At Franklin, Ill., two women were killed when the chimney of their home fell, as a result of a tornado.

Great damage was done by a tornado at Eldridge, Iowa, nine miles from the Mississippi river, near Davenport, Iowa, where a building was reported to have been blown down, when a score or more persons were in the ruins. Nurses and doctors were rushed to Davenport.

A farmer residing at Toulon, Ill., 50 miles northwest of Peoria, and his son were killed when their home was wrecked by a tornado.

A billion and a half dollars will be paid out this year to volunteer farm hands counted on to help the United States harvest one of her greatest crops.

Connecticut farmers are offering \$5 a day for hands to get in hay.
Stackers of hay are receiving \$7 a day in Nebraska.

An army of fifty thousand volunteers has been organized in Kansas to work and harvest the crops, and each member is to receive \$5 a day and board.

The average wage for volunteer workers this year, taking the country as a whole, will be at least \$3 a day with board.

Cotton pickers will get \$4 a day and board this year.
Fruit pickers in all parts of the country, mostly women and boys, will get from \$2.00 to \$2.50 a day.

Corn huskers will be paid \$2.50 a day and in some instances \$3 with board during harvest.

It has been definitely proved that members of the Bolshevik party in Russia were corresponding with the Industrial Workers of the World in Chicago in August, 1917, relative to activities in America.

Eight soldiers were killed and 26 more or less seriously injured when a wooden passenger coach, loaded with soldiers of the 321st infantry, jumped a trestle at Camp Jackson. The soldiers had just entrained for Camp Sevier at Greenville, and the train was pulling out of Columbia at a very low rate of speed. As it approached a trestle a big steel coach struck a spreading rail, and the coach was hurled down the embankment.

Washington.
An American patrol on the Toul sector in France fell victim to a silent enemy ambush some time at night recently. The Germans used bayonets and the butts of their rifles.
Their hydro-airplane drifted at sea and in danger of sinking from a leaking pontoon, Ensign Arthur Laverant, naval aviator, and C. C. Cotton, observer, were rescued by a coastwise steamship off Miami, Fla, and taken to an Atlantic port on the steamship. The men had been floating eighteen hours without food.

Senate action on a house equal suffrage amendment has been postponed indefinitely because a canvass showed that supporters of the resolution number less than two-thirds majority necessary for the adoption.

It is reported that Japanese bankers have lent Chinese bankers twenty million dollars on stock of the Tsing-Shantung railway, and there is reported much dissatisfaction among the Chinese over the loan.

Provost Marshal General Crowder has issued a requisition on all states except Arizona, Delaware and Vermont for 4,000 specially qualified registrars to go to camp May 20.

British casualties reported during April, starting with low figures in the first week, began to mount rapidly thereafter, so that the total for the month reached 52,475.

More than half a million American soldiers have been sent to France. As a result of a personal investigation of machine gun production, Secretary Baker announces that there is no present shortage of light or heavy types of these weapons either in the United States or France, and that there is no shortage in prospect.

Major General Eben Swift, National Guard has been put on the retired list. He ranked as a brigadier general in the regular army.

Although General Swift has been put on the retired list, it is probable that he will be retained on the active list during the duration of the war.

Secretary of War Baker announces that he has appointed Marlen E. Pew as his personal press representative. This appointment marks the beginning of the secretary's new policy of handling publicity.

Sensational sworn statements, letters and telegrams from the files of the army intelligence service were read into the senate record to show that Gutzon Borglum, while holding a personal commission from President Wilson to inquire into the government aviation program, was negotiating secretly for the formation of a private airplane company to take war contracts and capitalize his friendship with the president.

An agreement on the bill extending the selective draft law to youths attaining twenty-one years of age since June 5, 1917, has been reached by the senate and house conferees. They retained the amendment providing that additional registrants shall be placed at the bottom of present eligible lists. Theological and medical students are exempted.

Men already in the military service who have attained their majority since last June 5 will probably be required to register in order that they may be sent to any branch of the service regardless of what they are now in.

A billion dollar appropriation for aircraft production has been asked of congress by the war department.

Over five billion dollars—nearly six billion to be exact—has been asked of congress by the war department for the quartermaster branch of the service.

The war department wants nearly four billion dollars for the ordnance department.

The American artillery fired 60,000 shells into the German trenches before a recent attack, says a Paris dispatch.

Men raised under the selective service law can be sent anywhere in the world to fight for the United States, is the decision of the Supreme court. Representative Flood of Virginia, in seeking to prevent the return of Americans abroad without a passport, says there are hundreds of Americans in Europe who are not loyal.

The Overman bill, granting broad powers to the president to reorganize and co-ordinate government departments, was ordered favorably reported by the house judiciary committee by a vote of 15 to 1.

European.
Earl Curzon says: "The present is not a moment for prophecy. It is a moment for grappling with hard facts, because the military menace is greater than at any time during the last four years."

French Lieutenant Fonck brought down six German biplanes in the course of two patrols. He downed the first two in ten seconds, the third five minutes later and the other three in the course of the second patrol.

Field Marshal Haig expresses his deep appreciation of the services rendered by the British artillery in the recent battles of the river Somme and river Lys. The infantry was the first to admit the incalculable value of artillery support.

The military forces on the Anglo-French front engaged in local fighting in the Ypres and Somme sectors. The French made a notable advance at Grivesnes, where they took the park of the town, which had been in the Germans' hands for three weeks.

Scattering engagements have been reported at Aveluy wood, north of Albert in an effort by both sides to gain strategic ground.

Small operations in the Kemmel hill front, southwest of Ypres, are reported from Paris.

Only local engagements are reported on the Italian and Macedonian fronts.

It is believed that German submarine operations from the harbor of Ostend, Belgium, have been seriously hampered for a time, if not rendered impossible by a daring raid made on the harbor by the British. The Vindictive, which was used in the operations in Zeebrugge, was maneuvered into position, under heavy fire, and then sunk by bombs. There is some doubt that the entire channel is blocked, one report saying that the vessel lies at an angle and does not absolutely interrupt the use of the fairway.

The German official statement concerning the raid on Ostend says the attempt was a failure and that the bulk of the Vindictive lies entirely outside of the navigation channel.

If Ostend and Zeebrugge are removed as ports from which the German U-boats may be operated, the Germans apparently will be compelled to withdraw their submarines to their home ports.

Speaking to the Primrose League, Earl Curzon, leader in the house of lords and member of the British war council, said that grave times are ahead and that the British soldiers may be forced to give ground. Encouragement is to be found, however, in the unity of command, in America's effort and in the resolute indomitable spirit of the British people.

WILL NOT BE USED UNTIL COMPLETE

ENTENTE ALLIES CONFIDENT OF THEIR ABILITY TO WITHSTAND ANY DRIVE FROM GERMANS

FIELD AS ALL AMERICAN FOE

Allies Saving Their Men While Germans are Draining Their Country Dry.

Ottawa.—So confident is the entente of its ability to withstand any drive the Germans can launch that it has been decided not to use the American army until it becomes a complete and powerful force, according to a cable summary of operations on the western front received here from the war committee of the British cabinet.

"The position now is," said the summary, "that the Germans, determined to concentrate every available unit on one enormous offensive, are draining their country dry to force a decision before it is too late, while the entente are so confident that having been given the choice of a small immediate American army for defense or waiting till they are reinforced by a complete, powerful, self-supporting American army, they have chosen the latter."

"To the sledge-hammer uses of masses of men by the enemy the allies are opposing the strategy of meeting the blow with the smallest force capable of standing up to the shock, while keeping the strongest reserve possible. Troops on the wings are permitted to give ground within limits whenever the enemy has been made to pay a greater price than the ground is worth, the whole aim being to exhaust the enemy to such a state of exhaustion that our reserve, at the right moment, can restore the situation."

What British Have Done.

"In the present operations, the British army has withstood many times its own weight of enemy masses. It has retired slowly, exacting the full price. Meanwhile, Foch holds the bulk of the French in reserve, sending units only to points hard pressed. This strategy has justified itself in that in three weeks it has seen the enemy brought to a standstill without a single strategic objective being fulfilled and with losses so immense that his reserve is in danger of proving inadequate to his policy."

"The German commander, seeing how nearly he is delivering himself to the allies' reserve, has been compelled to accept temporary failure and call a halt. His position is tactically exposed in two dangerous salients on waterlogged ground. His countrymen are dangerously dissatisfied at the immense price paid for his failure to terminate their sufferings. His allies are on the verge of quarrelling and daily exhibit their growing dislike and distrust of the task master who robs them of their lives and food."

"His reserves have nearly reached complete exhaustion. Those of the Franco-British are still in being, while the American preparations develop. The time draws closer when defeat is inevitable. Therefore, he must renew the offensive. His preparations proceed feverishly but it takes months properly to organize such an offensive. He must be satisfied with what he can do in weeks. We may, therefore, expect a renewed, furious onslaught before long. The enemy is so committed to his strategic plans that we may await his main blow on the Arras-Amiens front while necessity compels him to try to improve his position in the Lys sector."

"The allies may have complete confidence in the result. For the enemy the issue is a desperate endeavor to avoid defeat; for the allies the issue is only that of victory deferred. The coming battle may be a repetition of Verdun on a large scale and if both sides should be exhausted, the allies have vast powers of recuperation, while Germany has drafted her resources already."

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EIGHT SOLDIERS KILLED IN WRECK

THE DEAD AND INJURED MEN WERE MOSTLY FROM THE TWO CAROLINAS AND TENNESSEE.

CAUSED BY SPREADING RAIL

Troops From Jackson Had Just Started to Camp Sevier, Greenville.—Military Inquiry Is Started.

Columbia, S. C.—Eight soldiers were killed and 26 injured when a wooden passenger coach carrying members of the 321st infantry jumped a trestle at Camp Jackson. The soldiers had just entrained for Camp Sevier at Greenville and the train was pulling out of camp at a very low rate of speed.

As it approached a trestle a big steel coach struck a spreading rail. This hurled the wooden coaches immediately in front down the embankment.

A military inquiry into the cause of the wreck was begun by a board headed by Lieut. Col. Halstead of the 321st infantry, 81st division, to which all of the dead soldiers were attached. All of the dead were privates.

List of Casualties.

The official list of the dead and injured follows:

The dead are:
Private Edgar Simpkins, Co. K, 321st infantry; father, Wm. E. Simmons, Patmost, Arkansas.
Private Philletus C. Swann, Co. K, 321st infantry; mother, Mrs. Ninna Swann, 10-1-2 North Park square, Asheville, N. C.

Private Marion O. Hawkins, Co. K, 321st infantry; father, S. A. Hawkins, R. F. D. No. 2, Marion, N. C.
Private William E. Lowery, Co. K, 321st infantry; father, Samuel Lowery, Alta Pass, N. C.
Private Jess Reno, Co. I, 321st infantry. Father, Tom Reno, Soddy, Tenn.

Private Andrew Scoggins, supply company, 321st infantry; father, Arch Scoggins, R. F. D. 1, Ooltewah, Tenn.
Private James L. Leatherwood, Co. L, 321st infantry; brother, Thurman L. Leatherwood, Waynesville, N. C.

Private Benton Goolsby, Co. A, 321st infantry; father, John Goolsby, Pauls Valley, Tenn.

The injured are:
Thomas I. Fitzgerald, Trenton, Tenn.; L. P. Ramsey, Asheville, N. C.; Andrew Shoulders, Dierks, Ark.; E. M. Henry, Willets, N. C.; John W. Frost, Louisville, Miss.; George W. Stokson (Indian), Ella, N. C.; Franklin P. Poindexter, Mooresville, N. C.; Charles M. Deal, Hickory, N. C.; Jacob Klytt, East Spencer, N. C.; John W. Rook, Robersonville, N. C.; William A. Brown, Ramseur, N. C.; Robert C. Harris, Rocky Mount, N. C.; W. J. McKinnon, Henderson, Tenn.; Dewey Kilpatrick, Asheville, N. C.; Richard Grey, Shallotte, N. C.; Chester Sircy, Todd, N. C.; W. C. Bryson, Candler, N. C.; Hugh Aldridge, Baldwin, Miss.; Robert A. Moore, Clio, S. C.; Roscoe Braswell, Montezuma, N. C.; William South, Ashland City, Tenn.; Eddie High, Whitesville, N. C.; John E. Hyatt, Weaverville, N. C.; William Ledford, Almond, N. C.

SAYS ATTEMPT TO BLOCK OSTEND WAS A FAILURE

London.—The German submarine base of Ostend on the Belgian coast had been blocked as a result of a new bid by the British naval forces, the admiralty announces. The obsolete cruiser Vindictive, filled with concrete, has been sunk across the entrance to the harbor.

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CRISIS AVERTED BY VINDICATION

OF PRIME MINISTER LLOYD-GEORGE OF SENSATIONAL CHARGES BY ASQUITH.

GERMAN ATTACK REPULSED

British Improve Their Positions Along Somme Front, Despite the Artillery Fire.

The Lloyd George ministry has won vindication in the British parliament at a time when defeat would have meant a government crisis. A motion by former President Asquith asking for the appointment of a special committee to investigate sensational charges made by Major General Frederick B. Maurice, published earlier in the week, was defeated by a vote of 293 to 106.

While Mr. Asquith disavowed any intent to put the present government to a crucial test, it was felt that with an adverse vote the Lloyd George cabinet would have resigned. The Maurice incident, involving charges of misrepresentation by the premier in his reports to the house of commons, has stirred all England, and the section of the press hostile to Mr. Lloyd George did not hesitate to say that if the present government fell there would be an alternative cabinet ready to step into office.

Germans Made Attack.
The allied defense on the Flanders front to the southwest of Ypres has again been tested by the Germans and has been found adequate. Two divisions of Teuton troops were employed on a relatively short front and were sent into the fight under cover of a terrific artillery fire. The front chosen for the attack extended from the village of LaClytte to Voormezele, but the center of the assault seems to have been at Vierstraat, a hamlet northeast of Kemmel hill.

The flank of the German attacking line were stopped short by fire from the French and British artillery posted on high ground and which was able to enfilade the German regiments as they tried to advance.

In the center, however, the Germans made quite a serious dent in the allied line. Wednesday night, however, the allies drove forward in a counter-attack and the latest reports from Field Marshal Haig are to the effect that the line has been re-established. The Germans are reported to have lost very heavily during the fighting.

COMPROMISE ON TIME LIMIT IS OUTCOME

Atlanta, Ga.—With the disposal of the question of the time limit on ministers by the general conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, indications were that the next big issue to reach the debate stage would be the demands of the woman for laity rights, already favorably acted upon by the committee on revisions.

The conference after a two-day parliamentary wrangle, adopted the minority report on the time limit proposal, which inserts in the discipline a paragraph permitting bishops to appoint ministers indefinitely, on recommendation of quarterly conference, together with the vote of the majority of the presiding elders of the bishop's cabinet. The status of the presiding elders was allowed to remain unchanged and they will continue to be forced to move at the end of four years. A movement to restrict the eldership exclusively to four years was defeated.

Change in Creed Demanded.
Showing the unanimity of the demand for a change in the creed and other portions of the ritual where the words "holy Catholic church" appear, the conference without debate and by a vote of 172 to 76, adopted the committee report recommending the substitution of the words "Church of Christ." The movement for this change has been before the church for eight years.

PERSHING ISSUES MOTHERS' DAY ORDER

Gen. John J. Pershing has issued the following order:
"May 8. To all commanding officers: I wish every officer and soldier in the American expeditionary forces would write a letter home on Mothers' day. This is a little thing for each one to do, but these letters will carry back our courage and our affection to the patriotic women whose love and prayers inspire us and cheer us on to victory."
(Signed) "PERSHING."

HAMSTEAD MERCHANT GETS YEAR IN PRISON

Wilmington.—For advising registrants held in the federal jail on charges of disloyalty and pro-Germanism that they could not be made to serve in France and promising to supply them with provisions if they would "hide out" and for utterances against the government and favoring the Kaiser, J. L. Bowers, 59, merchant from Hamstead, N. C., was sentenced to a year and a day in the federal prison in Atlanta by Judge H. G. Connor, of the federal court.

MORE THAN HALF MILLION IN FRANCE

SECRETARY BAKER SAYS FORECASTS MADE BY HIM HAVE BEEN SURPASSED.

NO MACHINE GUN SHORTAGE

First Official Utterance Indicating Even Indirectly Number of Men Sent Out.

Washington.—More than half a million American soldiers have been sent to France. Secretary Baker authorized the statement that his forecast to Congress in January that 500,000 troops would be dispatched to France early in the present year had now been surpassed.

Mr. Baker dictated the following statement:
"In January I told the senate committee that there was strong likelihood that early in the present year 500,000 American troops would be dispatched to France. I cannot either now or perhaps later discuss the number of American troops in France, but I am glad to be able to say that the forecast I made in January has been surpassed."

No Machine Gun Shortage.
As a result of a personal investigation of machine gun production during the past few days, the secretary announced that there is no present shortage of light or heavy types of these weapons either in France or in America and no shortage is in prospect.

Mr. Baker said there had been no question as to the supplies of light type Browning guns, which were coming forward in quantities. He would not say whether shipment of these guns to France had been started. As to the heavy Brownings, he said some have been produced and there is every indication of forthcoming production in increasing and substantial numbers.

The secretary chose his words about the troops in France with utmost care. He would not amplify the statement in any way and specifically asked that the press refrain from speculation as to what precise figures his guarded remarks covered or as to what possibilities of early further increase in the force there might be.

There has been repeated official announcements, however, that the government is bending every energy to rushing men across to back up the allied lines in France, and officers directly in charge of the transportation have expressed satisfaction with the progress being made. There is no doubt that the present force of American troops there represents only a small part of the total strength that will be available before the summer fighting ends.

TALK OF RAISING DRAFT AGE TO FORTY YEARS

Washington.—Legislation raising the draft age to 40 years was discussed as a possibility within a few months at a meeting of Provost Marshal General Crowder and the house military committee. Although General Crowder made no specific recommendations members of the committee said afterwards that the war department was considering a plan for changes.

An appropriation of \$15,762,000 was asked by General Crowder for expenses of the draft for the next fiscal year. Registration of men reaching the age of 21 will require the examination, he said, of half a million more men than originally provided for. Class 1, the general said, now has a total of about 2,265,000 men, of whom two million are effectives.

BRITISH TROOPS ENTER TURKISH TOWN OF KERKUK

London.—British troops have entered the Turkish town of Kerkuk, 80 miles southeast of Mosul, in Mesopotamia, the British war office announced. The British met with no opposition. The Turks on retiring left 600 men in the Kerkuk hospital.

GOOD DOCTOR FELT THE CALL.
Charlotte.—Dr. Benjamin K. Hays, of Oxford, who has been on the state board of medical examiners, and who has been secretary of the state medical society for three years and re-elected at their recent meeting, has resigned and turned over the office to Dr. L. B. McBrayer and has entered the service. He felt the call of country so strong that after consideration he felt it his duty to give up his practice and join his comrades in the profession on the other side.

WOMAN LAWYER LOSES CASE.
Raleigh.—Out-of-State witness other than experts in the Gaston B. Means murder case receive no expense money from North Carolina for their presence at the trial of the prosecution; Miss Julia Alexander, the first woman lawyer to appear before the Supreme court, misses a victory before the tribunal on account of precedent, and the court refuses to grant a new trial in the appeal of the Charlotte Electric Railway company from a judgment against it in favor of Grace M. Spittle for \$11,500.

PROSECUTES PROSECUTING ATTORNEY.
Wilmington.—Standing on their so-called constitutional rights Solicitor Edwin T. Burton, Secretary J. B. Huntington, of the Y. M. C. A., Patrolman L. J. Williams and G. W. Branch, against whom suits have been started in Superior court by Miss Jacobi Weyers, refused to answer any question when they appeared before commissioner Rogers, contending that anything they said might tend to incriminate themselves. Their refusal to answer questions when called for the examination of the plaintiff prior to the filing of complaint, as provided for in the revival, will be certified down to Judge Lyon, whose opinion will then be given.

SERIOUS DISTURBANCES IN THE AUSTRIAN FLEET

Washington.—Serious disturbances in the Austrian-Hungarian fleet have caused changes in the high command, a dispatch from Switzerland said. The crews, composed largely of Slavs and men of Italian descent, have made a great deal of trouble and the disturbances were put down with difficulty. The dispatch said that measures have been taken to establish a naval school at Trieste to increase the number of Germans in the navy.

PRISONERS HELD FOR DISLOYALTY MUTINY

Muskogee, Okla.—Twenty-six prisoners held in the federal jail on charges of disloyalty and pro-Germanism mutinied and a riot in which a guard and several prisoners were slightly injured followed. Loyal prisoners who were in the minority were roughly handled and only the arrival of police who herded the rioters into their cells brought an end to the trouble.

BASE DRAFT QUOTA ON MEN IN CLASS 1

HOUSE ADOPTS CONFERENCE REPORT ELIMINATING CREDITS FOR VOLUNTEERS.

INCLUDES DIVINITY STUDENTS

Also Medical Students and Bill Goes Back to Conference on That Section.

Special from Washington.—The house adopted the conference report on the bill to base draft quotas on the number of men in Class 1, accepting the elimination of its amendment authorizing credits on quotas for volunteers. The report awaits action in the senate.

Because of a senate amendment exempting ministerial and medical students, the house sent back to the conferees the conference report on the bill providing for the registration of youths attaining the age of 21 years since the registration last June 5.

The vote on the rejection of the senate amendment was 182 to 118. Representative McKenzie, of Illinois, supporting the house action, declared that opposition of the drafting of divinity students comes from men who have money invested in theological seminaries. Supporters of the amendment said the President has authority under the draft law to exempt such students from the draft, so that adoption or rejection of the proposal by the house was immaterial.

Representative Cannon, of Illinois, vigorously opposed the rejection of the amendment giving States credit for voluntary enlistments and was supported by Representative Mondall, of Wyoming, and Schallenberger, of Nebraska, author of the amendment.

Chairman Dent, of the military committee, said he had not changed his mind regarding the credits plan, but since President Wilson, Secretary Baker and Provost Marshal Crowder had opposed it he would subordinate his own desires.

Ice Plant for Camp.
Charlotte