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HICKORY, N. C. FRIDAY EVENING SEPTEMBER 15, 1916

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ENTENTE FORCES CLAIM IMPORTANT VICTORIES

British Capture Nearly Two Miles of German Trenches, French Close in on Combles, and Serbians Drive Bulgarians Back Twelve Miles—German Attacks Repulsed.

(By Associated Press.)
The British resumed the offensive with a powerful attack north of the Somme. According to London they have driven back the Germans from a mile and a quarter to a mile and three-quarters.

The line of attack extended from Comblanchien, northwest of Comblanchien to a point north of the road which runs from Pozières.

The British last night attacked and captured German trenches of more than half a mile southeast of Thiépval.

The combined assaults thus cover of actually the entire Somme front of the British. Apparently the Somme attack had not spent its force when the official bulletin was issued, for it was declared the attack was making progress.

The French drove into the south of the Somme again, which already was being hemmed in by the entente forces and report an advance as far as a village.

Heavy fighting also has taken place on the Verdun front, Par's report the two assaults there last night, both of which were repulsed.

Heavy strokes are being delivered by General Sarrail's forces on the Moselle front, with marked success, according to Paris today.

Victories have been won by the Serbians, French and British.

The official communication indicates that the most serious defeat was administered by the Serbians who drove the Bulgarians back twelve miles west of Lake Ostrovo, capturing many prisoners and guns.

The French and British drove in the Bulgarian center on the Vardar, the French taking positions east of the river and the British carrying positions west of the stream.

Consistent again reports the British active in Mesopotamia, following the line of the forces on the Tigris and below Cut-El-Aman on the Tigris. The Turkish war office reports to have repulsed the British, who lost 2,000 in dead.

THE WAR SITUATION

By the military expert of the New York Times.

From such reports as have reached us of the fighting north of the Somme and the region of Ginchy, it does not seem that there has been any point on the entire British front with the possible exception of Thiépval, where the German resistance was, in the first place so determined, nor, after the position was captured, where the German counterattacks were so frequent or so violent.

Ever since the Germans lost this village, they have been exerting every effort to recapture it. Attack after attack has been leveled against this new British line as if the Germans were determined to retake it at all costs. To justify such an expenditure for such an apparently unimportant object it must have some particularly great local advantage, either to the German defense or to the British in subsequent attacks or both.

It is worth while considering this point in order to ascertain just what the value of Ginchy is, viewed in all these various lights. It lies, as we know, north of Guillemont and was the point where the allied line turned south toward the river. It might, therefore, have been called the pivot point in this immediate sector of the German line. Before the great French attack, which resulted in the advance of their lines in the east as far as the environs of Comblanchien, this had a distinct meaning. The Germans holding Ginchy could use it as a point upon which to swing their line to the south as the pressure became severe. They really did do at the last French attack. Holding fast to Ginchy their line swung eastward to Comblanchien and the woods in Marrièrre.

But Ginchy had a still further meaning and a value of a different sort. First, it must be remembered that a major part of their defensive scheme in France the Germans have converted into the small villages into so many fortified points to be used on the same general principle as the Russians use their fortified quadrangles. The cellars of the houses constitute so many rifle pits for the infantry sharpshooters. The walls of the houses, in most cases destroyed, afford excellent cover from the fire of rifles and machine guns. The various eminences of the towns are excellent positions for the mounting of machine guns of their own. In any given area the villages have always proved the axis of the German defense.

Now it has been perfectly obvious that the first important step of the allied advance must be the capture of Comblanchien and of Peronne. Before the latter can be taken the first must fall. The French have indicated that their process of taking Comblanchien to be the same as that used in the case of so many other villages—that is, first surrounding the village by a series of attacks on either side, and then breaking the defense by a com-

gined attack on three fronts. They began this operation by a drive south east of the village as far as the woods of Marrièrre.

But the British hold the line north of Comblanchien, and in order for such a move to succeed the British advance must be equal to that of the French. That is, while the French create the southern half of the pocket, the British must create the northern half. This was impossible as long as Ginchy was held by the Germans. Ginchy simply had to be taken before any move to assist the French could be made. The French gain was thus neutralized as long as the Germans held on. The last British stroke, however, eliminated Ginchy from consideration and enclosed it in the British line.

There is still another point. There is no village, no point d'appui from which the Germans can thrust out east of Ginchy for over two miles, Morval, northeast of the woods of Boulloux, is the first village met with. The country between Ginchy and Morval, over two miles distant, is level, and offers no defensive advantages. Therefore, until Morval is reached the Germans are in the open, from which, as soon as the counterattacks have ceased, the British can blast them out. Comblanchien will be in the familiar no-man's-land, and subject to the usual attack.

In this connection one thing is particularly noticeable and has been emphasized in the more recent of the French and British attacks. That is the comparative inability of the Germans to resist the blows when they come. The depth of advance on the occasion of the last two French attacks, for example, has been much greater than on any other occasion since the first attack was delivered. Succeeding the first attack there was the steady creeping forward of the French line, it is true, but the individual gains were small, and although at times they did extend over a considerable front, they were shallow.

On the British front this is not the case. With one exception, the British attacks have never penetrated to any great depth, and the last attack against Ginchy, while delivered with great force, succeeded only in driving past the town. No better illustration could be had of the ability of the French to drive through to a considerable depth than the blow the French struck yesterday from Comblanchien to their river. Starting from the south, they went straight to the Peronne-Bapaume highway, which they reached a few hundred yards south of Boulloux. Continuing up the road, they enveloped the remainder of Marrièrre woods still held by the Germans, took in Hill 145, near the highway, and directly east of Leforêt, until they reached the southern edge of Rancourt. This is the largest gain they have yet made, and the most dangerous one to the present German lines.

The first of the important north and south communications of the Germans has been cut. All direct routes between Peronne and Bapaume are closed. More than that, only Comblanchien and Peronne are left threatened. The French line established along the Bapaume road has but to strike south and the rectangle included between the bend in the Somme near Clerly and the bend in the Cologne west of Peronne is at once threatened. Pinned in between two rivers, so that their position is enclosed on three sides, the Germans will have to get out. To remain and try to hold their positions would be to court sure capture or destruction should the French succeed in making even small headway.

On the north the situation without Comblanchien is equally threatening. Without waiting for the British to come up, the French have begun an encircling movement of their own which has already placed the town under fire from two sides. This, however, was purely incidental to the movement in the south and not of itself primary. It is doubtful if any move made against Comblanchien until the situation in the rectangle I have mentioned is cleared up.

The situation is full of possibilities. The French hold practically all of the west bank of the River Somme, which forms part of this rectangle and have held it for weeks, so that their artillery is already placed. The gain of yesterday brings them in rear of this position, so that the entire area is under fire both from the front and rear as well as on the flank. It is already practically untenable.

NAVY DEPARTMENT TO CHOOSE LOCATION

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Sept. 15.—The navy department today faced the task of choosing from among the 125 cities and rural districts offered as sites for the \$11,000,000 armor plant one which will best serve the navy's needs and will be safe from attack.

Officials went to work comparing plans for various locations submitted. It was assumed that a new plant would be built.

This section was visited by a fine rain last night, and the crops undoubtedly were benefited.

TEACHERS MEET ON SATURDAY MORNING

There will be a meeting Saturday morning at 10:30 o'clock of the white teachers at the North school preparatory to the opening of the fall session Monday morning. Everything is in readiness for the new term, most of these children apparently have secured their school supplies and teachers and pupils are waiting only for Monday to begin another year's work.

Superintendent McIntosh and City Manager Ballew, with the approval of city council, have made a number of innovations at the various schools and at Claremont College, where the overflow grades will be taught this year.

The work on the playgrounds has progressed satisfactorily, and in another week the apparatus is expected to be ready for the children. The Boy Scouts are collecting the subscriptions and the money is being turned over to the treasurer, Miss Mabel Hight.

Mr. Wilson expects to make clear that he will not be satisfied until congress enacts the rest of the legislation he recommended. The president has begun an investigation on the men he will appoint on the commission.

He will seek, it was said today, to appoint a board which will have the full confidence of the railways, employees and the public.

HESSIAN PRINCE KILLED IN BATTLE

(By Associated Press.)
Berlin, via London, Sept. 15.—Prince Frederick William of Hess has been killed at Czara Omaran, it was officially announced by the war office today in its report on operations on the Balkan front.

MERCHANTS TO MEET ON THURSDAY NIGHT

Plans are being made for the annual meeting of the Merchants Association on next Thursday night and since the question of Dollar Day will come up for discussion and action, President Bisanar is hopeful of an unusually large attendance. During the summer and spring there have not been any large meetings, but the first meeting of the fall is expected to prove a hummer. It is remembered that the best meeting in years was held last September.

The meeting Thursday night will be preceded Wednesday by a meeting of the directors.

The refreshment committee will be busy and the merchants will have a social gathering after the business session.

MAIL ORDER BLINDNESS ASHEVILLE CITIZEN

There is rare ground for reflection in the recent statement that a great Chicago mail order house recently declared a dividend of six million dollars, and the first question that naturally arises in the mind of the average person who tries to grasp the enormity of these figures is: "Where did they get it?" Most of it came from the rural districts of the United States; the bulk of it was taken out of individual communities, out of the circulation in those communities. By far the greater part of the vast sum was raised by the wife of the farmer when she sold her butter, eggs and other produce. Without stopping to reflect on what she was doing, this good woman sent off her market receipts to the mail order house for notions and other things of like character, paying cash therefor, while her husband bought meat, bread and other necessities of life from the home merchant on long time credit. And in turn he merchant had to borrow money at a high rate of interest to enable him to carry the debt of the farmer whose wife sent her market money to the big catalogue houses under the wild delusion that she was getting a bargain.

There would be less criticism of the mail order houses, perhaps, were it established beyond doubt that the farmer's wife and everybody else's wife really get the bargains which are glowingly described in the catalogue, for the printing of which the purchaser invariably pays, but extensive tests conducted at various times have established the fact that the mail order customer, by the time he has paid expressage, or freight, postage and other incidental expenses, pays far more for his goods than he would pay at home were he to patronize the home merchant who makes it possible for the patron of the catalogue house to make his living in the community. Beyond the cities wherein they are located, no mail order house has ever been known to turn back the millions rawn annually from all sections of the United States. The Asheville dollar that goes to the Chicago mail order concerns never comes back to Asheville—it is gone forever and ever.

INCREASE IN CASES, DECREASE IN DEATHS

New York, Sept. 15.—There were 24 new cases of infantile paralysis today, six more than yesterday and ten deaths, a drop of one.

WILL CHALLENGE STATEMENTS BY HUGHES

(By Associated Press.)
Long Branch, N. J., Sept. 15.—President Wilson decided today to challenge at the earliest opportunity the statement of Chas. E. Hughes that the basis on which the railroad strike was averted was increase in pay.

The president, his political advisers said today, considered the eight-hour day the basis of the settlement, and the president will seek to show that while the railroad settlement passed by congress will give the railroad employees temporary increase in pay, it will establish the eight-hour day as a basis of work for railroad workmen. The president will make an address from his porch at Shaow Lawn.

Mr. Wilson expects to make clear that he will not be satisfied until congress enacts the rest of the legislation he recommended. The president has begun an investigation on the men he will appoint on the commission.

He will seek, it was said today, to appoint a board which will have the full confidence of the railways, employees and the public.

BRITISH REPORT SOME BIG GAINS

(By Associated Press.)
London, Sept. 15.—The British in their offensive along the Somme have broken the German third line of defense and have taken the village of Fleury and the village of Ginchy, according to reports received by Reuters Telegram Company today. British forces are also reported to have gained the outskirts of Marpinpuich, a mile and a half east of Pozières, the report adds.

ARGUMENT BEGUN ON ALLEGED ASSAULT CASE

(By Associated Press.)
Raleigh, Sept. 15.—Argument in the trial of E. S. Thomas, charged with having attempted to criminally assault a young woman in a Pullman car at the union station here, was expected to begin in the Wake superior court this afternoon. The morning session of the trial, which began today, was devoted to hearing the evidence of the young woman, who alleged the attack.

The defense offered no testimony.

ELEPHANT HANGED

"Murderous Mary," the largest elephant of the five elephants with Sparks shows, was hanged at Erwin, Tennessee, Thursday by order of the state authorities. Mary had killed ten men in her lifetime, and the Tennessee officials declared that it was time to put her out of the way. Lacking the necessary drugs, the showmen hanged the animal, using a big derrick to hoist her.

MARKETS

COTTON FUTURES

(By Associated Press.)
New York, Sept. 15.—The cotton market opened at a decline of six to ten points today in response to lower Liverpool cables. Active months sold seven to ten points net lower right after the call, but at this level prices steadied.

The market closed steady.

	Open	Close
October	15.44	15.47
December	15.42	15.65
January	15.68	15.71
March	15.85	15.88
May	16.01	16.08

HICKORY MARKETS

Cotton	15.50
Wheat	15.15

CHICAGO WHEAT

(By Associated Press.)
Chicago, Sept. 15.—Evidence that yesterday's late depression in the wheat market was without adequate reason led to a rally today. Opening prices, which ranged from 1-2 off to 3-8 up, with December at \$1.48 and May at \$1.49 1/2, were followed by a moderate reaction.

THE WEATHER

For North Carolina: Fair cooler to night and Saturday; moderate north and northwest winds.

WHITE SOX MOVE CLOSE TO LEADERS

(By Associated Press.)
Chicago, Sept. 15.—The Chicago White Sox are in the lists today as real contenders for the American league pennant. They moved up to within a half game behind Boston and Detroit, the leaders, with Washington near the tail end of the percentage column as their opponents today. Boston has won two less games than has Chicago, but Boston has however, played two games less than either, and this makes the percentage column read:

Boston, 574.
Detroit, 574.
Chicago, 568.

In the National League pennant race Brooklyn was one half game ahead of Philadelphia and Boston two and a half games behind. A table showing all the games to be played in the American League follows:

Boston, 18; Detroit, 14; and Chicago, 12.

In the National League Brooklyn had 21 games, Philadelphia, 21 and Boston, 22.

SEVERE WEATHER IN CAUCASUS REPORTED

(By Associated Press.)
Petrograd, via London, Sept. 15.—Unchanged conditions along the front in Russia and Galicia were reported by the war office today. Cold weather has begun to interfere with operations in the Caucasus.

CANDIDATE LINNEY WILL SPEAK HERE

Mr. Frank A. Linney of Boone, Republican candidate for governor, will make a speech in the Academy of Music tomorrow night to the Republican of this section on the issues of the campaign. Mr. Linney is one of the ablest men in the Republican party, is a good speaker, a fine young man and will be heard by a large crowd. He devotes most of his speech to state issues, while his opponent discusses national problems almost exclusively. Mr. Linney made what was regarded as his best address at Asheville some time ago, although he had been speaking for several weeks prior to his Randolph effort.

Mr. Chas. E. Green of Bakersville, candidate for congress, also will speak. Ladies are especially invited.

LARGEST VESSEL IN PACIFIC FLEET

San Francisco, Sept. 15.—The Congress, the largest vessel in the fleet of the Pacific Coast steamship company, left for Seattle with 216 first class passengers and 37 in the steerage. Of the passengers 112 were from Southern California ports, Capt. N. E. Ousness is in command of the Congress and the steamer carries a crew of about 170.

All the passengers of the Congress have been saved but the ship, which will be a total loss, according to a message received here at the office of the Pacific Steamship Company.

The Congress, which was built in 1913, at Camden, N. J., at a cost of \$1,250,000 is a steel steamer of 7,985 tons, 244 feet long and 55 feet broad. She is the finest vessel on the run between San Francisco and Seattle.

E. C. Ward, vice president of the Pacific Steamship Company, and H. Brandt, representing the passenger department, left Seattle on a special train for Marshfield for the purpose of rendering all possible aid to the passengers of the Congress.

PASCHAL'S DOUBLE IN 11th WON FOR HORNETS

Charlotte, Sept. 15.—Winning in the 11th with a base on balls and Paschal's double after two were out, Charlotte last afternoon evened up the series with Nashville, taking the second game 3 to 2. The locals led the score in the ninth after two were out, when Singleton's single by first scored. Nicholson from second, Redding retired from the mound in the tenth with an injured finger after pitching beautiful ball against the Southern association pennant winner. Marshall's hitting was a factor in the Nashville offensive with two triples and a double.

Score: R. H. E.
Charlotte 100 000 001—3 8 2
Nashville 000 011 000 00—2 10 0
Ellis and Street; Redding, Ery and Manchester.

Mr. E. C. Davis, an employe of the Hickory Chair Company, was slightly injured this morning when a part of his finger was nipped off in a piece of machinery. The wound was dressed by Dr. T. C. Blackburn.

Born to President and Mrs. R. L. Fritz, a daughter. This makes the tenth addition to this good family, there being five boys and five girls.

ALL PASSENGERS RESCUED FROM BURNED STEAMER

Only Blasted Hull of Once Beautiful Vessel Rearranged Oregon Port After Destructive Fire—Was Finest in Pacific Coast Service—Loss Over Million.

MEXICAN AFFAIR DIFFICULT TO HANDLE

(By Associated Press.)
New London, Conn., Sept. 15.—Practical obstacles have arisen in the consideration of the American Mexican joint commission on numerous suggestions for the pacification of the border which make it seem improbable that any agreement can be formulated without prolonged discussion.

Major General Bliss was before the commission today to point out objections that can be raised to many of the proposals, including that of an international constabulary.

The commission held only a brief session, the Mexican party planning to leave for New York today to attend the Mexican independence celebration tomorrow.

THE RESULT IN MAINE

New York Times.
If the State election in Maine were really a barometer, showing how the presidential election was going, history would be different. Hayes would have been elected by a landslide in 1876 instead of by a dispute vote. Hancock would have become president instead of Garfield in 1880, Blaine and not Cleveland would have been elected in 1884, and Bryan would have defeated Taft overwhelmingly in 1908. Men in Maine vote for governors on State, not national issues, just as they do in New York. Nevertheless in many elections Maine has supplied an indication of the later result. Generally there have been landslide years, such as the years of the two McKinley elections, when an abnormal majority in Maine foreshadowed a great popular revulsion from Bryanism.

As a rule, a majority of from 15,000 to 20,000 in Maine has been considered favorable to the Republican chances in the national. In recent elections the Republican party has been so short to expect, not national vote in Maine is not a sure sign that an abnormal majority was not to be expected, and the Republicans are entitled to all the satisfaction they will take from a majority which, if much less than they have received in other years, is more than they counted upon.

It is plain that Roosevelt carried most of the Progressives with him into the Republican camp. It appears probable, too, that more of the new voters supported the Republican than the Democratic candidates. It is further evident that the Republicans of this solidarity voted solidly and did not scratch their tickets much. This is apparent from the fact that the weakest candidate on the Republican ticket, Col. Hale, did not run very greatly behind his fellow candidate for senator, ex-Gov. Fernald.

The Republican vote in Maine, it is estimated, was 50,000. The vote in 1876, 1880, 1884 and 1908, Maine has merely shown that she was out of step with the nation.

The vote in Maine does not decide presidential elections, and, save in landslide years, is no great indication of their decision. Even in landslide years, as was demonstrated in 1908, it is no safe barometer. Such comfort as this election does give, however, is Republican comfort. It remains to be seen whether in other states the Progressives will return as generally as they did in Maine, or whether, as in 1876, 1880, 1884 and 1908, Maine has merely shown that she was out of step with the nation.

HORSES KEEN HEARING

Nomad in Boston Transcript.
The ordinary immunity of horses from deafness is a great advantage to the human race, for the value of a horse who could not hear the command to go on or stop, and who could not be quieted, controlled and encouraged by the human voice when frightened or in difficulties, would be greatly lessened. The horse is really one of the best listeners in the world. He is always on the alert for sounds which concern or interest him. When he looks at anything he turns his ears towards it, to observe the better whether any sound comes from it. If a horse is particularly interested in your driving of him, he always turns his ears back toward you, but if he has no concern about subject, or if he sees anything ahead that interests him, he keeps his ears pricked forward. A horse hears the whinny of another horse at a greater distance than the average man can hear it.

This comparative immunity is the remarkable fact that horses are often blind, or have defective eyesight. We see blind horses every day. And always sympathize with them, but it is certainly wonderful how they get along so well. The guidance by the reins of course helps them greatly, but if he sees anything ahead that interests him, he keeps his ears pricked forward. A horse hears the whinny of another horse at a greater distance than the average man can hear it.

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CONCORD LINEMAN WAS ELECTROCUTED

(By Associated Press.)
Concord, N. C., Sept. 15.—Fred K. Sineath, a Western Union lineman, was electrocuted here yesterday by coming in contact with a live wire while climbing a telephone pole. Fruitless efforts have been made to find relatives.

The protracted meeting at Brookfield will close Sunday. Rev. J. C. Peeler is doing the preaching. The rite of holy communion will be administered Sunday.

There was an informal meeting of the directors of the Chamber of Commerce Thursday evening, but only routine matters were transacted.

Mr. Geo. R. Wootton has returned from Wilson where he was called by the illness and death of his father.

Yuba City, Cal., has had nobody in its jail for six months, not a marriage or a year, all the undertakers have moved, and the city marshal's only duty in a year was to kill a dog.