

GIGANTIC BATTLE BEGINS AT LAFERE IN FRANCE

Wilson Declines Suggestion of Mediation in Interest of Germany

OFFICIALS WON'T LISTEN TO MEDIATION PROPOSAL

Will Not be Caught in German Trap to Let Any European Nation Know That United States Will Not Yield Position.

MARK POTATOES PLAINLY FOR SHIPPING

Mr. Enloe Yoder desires to call attention to the fact that the federal law covering the branding of packages is being enforced and that members of the Catawba Sweet Potato Growers' Association, who are directly concerned, become familiar with the provisions of the regulation. Each crate of potatoes must be described accurately—that is, it should have the name of the shipper and the number of pounds in the crate. Mr. Yoder will publish the law as soon as it is available.

WILL NOT BE CAUGHT IN GERMAN TRAP TO LET ANY EUROPEAN NATION KNOW THAT UNITED STATES WILL NOT YIELD POSITION.

Officials today would not be caught in German trap to let any European nation know that United States will not yield position.

THREE WHITE MEN ESCAPE IN RALEIGH

Raleigh, March 22.—Three prisoners, all white, escaped from the state prison here early today and up to an early hour this afternoon had not been captured.

WELL KNOWN DOCTOR DEAD

Baton Rouge, La., March 23.—J. W. Nicholson, dean of the medical department of the Louisiana State University, died here early today.

NAVY NOW SHORT ONLY 13,514 MEN

(By Associated Press) Washington, March 22.—The navy is short 13,514 men of its present authorized enlistment strength of 74,500, and efforts to speed up recruiting has been redoubled. This month has been the largest recruiting month on record with 1,947. Since congress increased the strength in September to 74,500, a total of 5,500 have been added to the navy's personnel. It was stated today that the authorized strength is sufficient to put the entire navy in service.

BROOKFORD MILLS IS GIVEN WRITE UP

"Juilliard and Brookford" is the title of an illustrated article in the Southern Textile Bulletin of Charlotte descriptive of the mill town two miles from Hickory. The article relates the history of the manufacturing business at Brookford and then describes the village.

DAIRY CATTLE MAN AT CREAMERY SATURDAY

Mr. Alvin J. Reed of the North Carolina department of agriculture will be at the Catawba Cooperative Creamery Saturday for the purpose of meeting farmers in this section who may desire to purchase Jersey cattle from Ohio stock farms.

RUSSIAN DYNASTY IS BACKING GOVERNMENT

(By Associated Press) London, March 22.—All the members of the former Russian dynasty have placed themselves at the disposition of the Russian government, according to a Reuters dispatch from Petrograd. Grand Duke Cyril has resigned his command of the naval guards.

LARGE CROWD HEARS MUSICIANS AT HUB

The Doering Quintette appeared at the Hub last night under the auspices of the members of the company was especially good, but the entertainment was of a kind to please.

PARTIES CAUCUS THINKS GUNNERS MIGHT FIRE TOO SOON

(By Associated Press) Washington, March 22.—A caucus of Republican representatives in congress Saturday night, March 31, was called by leaders today. A Democratic caucus has been called for Friday March 30.

FRENCH REGAIN 833 SQUARE MILES

(By Associated Press) Paris, March 22.—The total amount of French territory liberated from the Germans since the battle of the Somme began up to March 21 is 833 square miles. It includes 356 towns and villages, the homes of 181,335 Frenchmen. The Germans are still in possession of 7,126 square miles of French territory.

IT'S OUR WAR NOW

Columbia State. Whatever sympathy one may have had for the gallantry and skill with which the German armies have made head against greater numbers, for Americans there must now be only the feeling of hope that preponderance of skill is no longer on the German side.

MARKETS

COTTON FUTURES (By Associated Press) New York, March 22.—The cotton market opened steady at a decline of 15 points on March on overnight buying orders. The market soon steadied.

CHICAGO WHEAT

(By Associated Press) Chicago, March 22.—Favorable crop reports from the southwest tended to handicap the bulls. Opening prices, with May at 1.83 3-4 to 1.84 1-8 and July at 1.54, were followed by a further setback.

THE WEATHER

For North Carolina. Fair tonight, warmer in north portion. Friday partly cloudy, probably local rains in west portion, warmer in east portion, moderate northeast to southeast.

GREAT BATTLE DEVELOPS ON FRENCH TERRITORY

French in Contact with Main German Armies at LaFere and One of World's Greatest Encounters Has Begun—Russians Push on After Turks.

HEALTH TALK IS FEATURE OF MEETING

At the last meeting of the Parent-Teacher Association of the South school, Miss Morrell, teacher of domestic science at Lenoir College, addressed the members on "Food and the Uses of Food."

GENERAL FOOD LAW NOT YET AVAILABLE

Attention is called to the fact that the state general food law, under which counties may call an election for bonds for road improvements, does not specify any time for calling an election, as has been reported in the county. The confusion is due to the Clark road law, which permits counties to vote bonds to be taken care of by the state.

FIRST BALL GAME PLAYED TOMORROW

The opening game of the season will be played on Lenoir College diamond tomorrow, with the N. C. D. and D. school of Morganton. Every effort has been made to develop a strong line-up, and Coach Carver feels confident that Lenoir will have a winning aggregation this year.

SPAIN WILL INSURE OCEAN COMMERCE

(By Associated Press) Madrid, Spain, via London, March 22.—King Alfonso on Friday will sign a decree for the insuring of the safety of Spanish maritime commerce. This measure adopted will be in accordance with the procedure followed by other neutral nations.

GERMAN HIKERS ARE UNDER OBSERVATION

(By Associated Press) Atlanta, March 22.—Examination of the effects of V. J. Pieczynski, a German youth arrested here last night, today led government officers to investigate whether there has been anything sinister in the movement of several German hikers walking over the United States in the past two years and a half.

NATION DOES HONOR TO WORTHY WRITER

(By Associated Press) New York, March 22.—William Dean Howells celebrated his 80th birthday yesterday at Tryon, N. C., where he had been spending the winter and was not present last night at the National Arts Clubs, where the representatives of nearly all the literary societies of the country met to do him honor.

UNVEIL MONUMENT AT SHILOH MAY 17

(By Associated Press) Nashville, Tenn., March 22.—It was announced here today that \$55,000 Confederate monument erected on Shiloh by the Daughters of the Confederacy will be unveiled May 17.

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