

HICKORY DAILY RECORD

TELEPHONE 167

Published by the Clay Printing Co. Every Evening Except Sunday.

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PUBLICATION OFFICE: 1402 ELEVENTH AVENUE

Subscribers desiring the address of their paper changed, will please state in their communication both OLD and NEW addresses.

To insure efficient delivery, complaints should be made to the Subscription Department promptly. City subscribers should call 167 regarding complaints.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Table with 2 columns: Duration (One year, Six months, Three months, One month, One week) and Rate (\$4.00, \$2.00, \$1.00, .48, .10)

Entered as second class matter September 11, 1915, as the postoffice at Hickory, N. C., under the act of March 3, 1879.

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SATURDAY, NOV. 24, 1917

PUBLIC OPINION—THAT'S ALL

The Statesville Landmark does not believe Gaston Means will be convicted of the murder of Mrs. Maud A. King at Concord next week.

The Landmark says this with an open mind as to the guilt of innocence of the accused. It could qualify as a juror as far as having formed or expressed an opinion, but anybody who knows anything of judicial procedure in North Carolina can forecast the result without qualifying as a prophet.

Men of the prominence and social standing of Gaston Means are not easily convicted in this state. For generations the Means family has been prominent in Cabarrus county. Considering that fact, it will be comparatively easy for the array of lawyers engaged in this case to select a jury that will never convict. This is no reflection on Cabarrus jurors. The same thing would happen in any other county. It simply means that the man charged with murder, if he is prominent and influential and can command the services of smart lawyers, has a big chance to get out. The defense has 23 challengers and the state four. If the lawyers know the citizens of the county as the Cabarrus lawyers employed for Means know them, the defense can select the jury. In addition, in this case, the mainspring of the prosecution is in New York. The lawyers for the defense will raise the sectional issue, will charge that aliens are hounding an innocent man, and all that will have its effect; would have it in almost any case and in any county.

The state goes into the Means trial hopelessly handicapped. The trial of the case in Cabarrus gives the defense a big lead. If it was thought best to try in Cabarrus a jury should have been selected from another county. But the excellent law, passed some years ago, which authorizes the calling of jurors from another county when it is believed local feeling will have weight, has been ignored by our superior court judges.

As a matter of fact the state has four peremptory challenges and the state twelve, and not twenty-three, as the Landmark says. Of a special venire of 250, the defendant's lawyers will be allowed to stand aside only twelve without assigning a reason, and both the state and defense will be allowed to reject any number for cause.

The persecution stuff will be rung in and the mills of prejudice will grind during the whole trial, but if the state does not secure a conviction it will not be the fault of the law or of the court or jury system, but of the people of Cabarrus county. That's all there is to it, assuming that Means is guilty, a proposition we are not assuming, by the way. It is public opinion that enforces the laws, in the last analysis.

The Greensboro News is a great newspaper, and it should make it a point to verify as fully as possible every statement that comes to it in regard to matters about which there is so much public interest. The News representative probably was picked up a little in the Hot Springs-German story, but the paper had no desire to mislead the public.

Col. S. S. McClure, who was a sort of German defender after his visit to Germany, comes out with colors flying. We give him credit for all he professes, being confident that a man would not give his two sons to a cause he did not believe in with his heart. As far as we are concerned, Colonel McClure is all right.

The fuel situation is not yet serious in Hickory, but it may be, and then again it might be normal in a few weeks. For a time at least, we have little cause for worry.

ITALY STANDS TEST

When the history of the German campaign in Italy is written it will be a series of chapters comparable to the French victory at the Marne, not as important as that of course, but as gallant.

How the Italians, after two years of hard fighting surmounted obstacles that were considered impossible, and sent the Austrians reeling on the Tarso plains, were tricked and surprised by the Germans, who hurled a mass of fresh troops against them after a preliminary bombardment that was almost as great as any delivered during the war, is a story already familiar to the reading public. The Italians, far from their base of supplies, were short of ammunition when the attack came on their far-flung line, and General Cadorna began a retreat that did not end until the Piave line was reached.

Here for days and days the Austro-German forces have battered the Italians in vain. Another retreat seemed inevitable, but the defenders held their ground. Later reports indicate that the worst is over and that the Italians will not surrender Venice.

Italy, it seems, was too big a proposition for the Austro-Germans. It was not Belgium, Serbia or Rumania, but one of the larger powers. German ambition once more is balked.

The Saturday Evening Post believes that the war issue should not be brought into the elections. Voters elect a man on local issues nearly every time, although the country at large may be led to think that some phase of the war was the controlling factor.

If the farmers were getting the benefit of the increases in food, we should not worry, because for many years the man who produced received little or nothing above his bread.

Our municipal woodyard should be doing business in a few weeks.

GREAT VICTORY IN FRANCE

Columbia State. The great victory won by Field Marshal Haig and his brilliant lieutenant, General Byng, has already been declared by a number of critics to be the most important triumph of the war. It is entirely too soon for even the most competent of military authorities to form such a conclusion. The struggle is too vast for its details and results to be grasped immediately after the delivery of the first tremendous blow upon the enemy. We must wait until we can see the battle in just perspective and in true relation to other struggles that may increase or lessen its effects upon the war. Besides, the conflict that has resulted in the breaking of the famous "Hindenburg line" is still continuing, and it may continue for a week. There is no question that the triumph has been magnificent; it may prove to be epochal, the turning point in the path of ultimate victory. It is not yet a Marne, however, though it may open the road to the Rhine.

The true significance of the victory along the Cambrai front is, manifestly, its menace to the German hold of the Belgium coast. The wresting of this coast from the Germans, which would mean, of course, the destruction of their submarine and torpedo boat stations and a partial freeing of the seas from the ravages of the under-sea craft, is and has been for many months the real object of the British attacks in Northern France. Cambrai is some distance from Ostend and even from Ghent, but a glance at a map of the battle lines will reveal that the thrust now making by Haig, aided by the

French on his right, is directed toward Brussels. If the German defense can not hold its lines beyond Cambrai, then the collapse of the entire hostile front must follow and a retreat or a rout will free the Belgian coast of the Hun and his frightfulness.

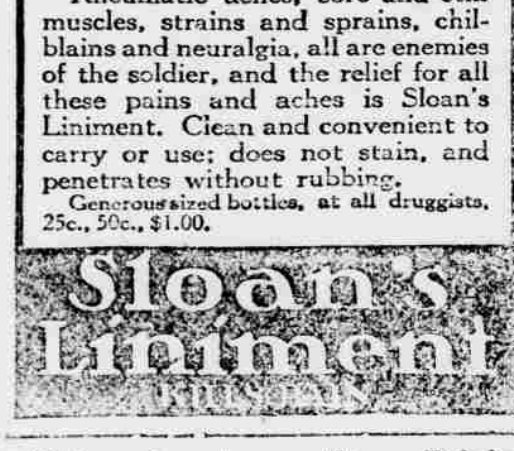
The Germans know this fully as well as the allies, and whenever the British announce, as they invariably do, that their "objectives were attained," Berlin at once relies that their real objectives "are remote, not near." A direct blow at the Belgian coast might more easily result in driving the Germans from those shores; but it would not be nearly so effective as a thrust toward Brussels that, by cutting the main lines at a point between the coast forces and the German border, would menace their line of retreat, which they ever hold in view. If success is achieved in this direction not only would it result in the immediate abandonment of the entire Belgian coast and the loss of the boat and torpedo bases, but it might very probably cause a rout of the Germans, with the destruction of capture of large numbers of men and the loss of a vast quantity of war material and supplies. It is plainly for these reasons that Haig and his French ally are striving to pierce the German line in the center, instead of striking it at its northernmost end, where a small triumph could, doubtless, be scored at any time.

It has been pointed out that when the British and French reach Cambrai they will be as near Brussels as the Germans who are now holding the coast of Belgium. There is, therefore, a prospect of a desperate race, in the near future or next spring, between the attacking allies and the fleeing Germans for Brussels, which is on the route that the Teutons must follow in their retreat. A few more such strokes of the allies hammer on the German lines in this region, and Germany must begin the perilous

withdrawal from the Belgian coast or risk everything upon a decisive battle. And since their bitter disaster at the Marne the German high command has been definitely opposed to such a venture. The latest reports from the French front make the victory even more sweeping than it appeared from the dispatches of yesterday. The haul of prisoners has exceeded 9,000 and is probably more than 10,000, with a proportionate number of officers and big guns. The breach in the German line has been extended to a depth of six and half miles on a (Continued on page three)



Men in Training Fighting isn't the only duty of a soldier, and exposure to bullets is not as serious as exposure to all kinds of weather and dampness. Rheumatic aches, sore and stiff muscles, strains and sprains, chilblains and neuralgia, all are enemies of the soldier, and the relief for all these pains and aches is Sloan's Liniment. Clean and convenient to carry or use; does not stain, and penetrates without rubbing. Generous sized bottles, at all druggists, 25c, 50c, \$1.00.



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Fraternal Directory

Hickory Lodge No. 343 A. F. & A. M. Regular communication First and third Monday nights. Fraternal cordially invited to be present. F. L. MOOSE, W. M. D. L. MILLER, Sec'y.

Piedmont Council No. 43, Jr. O. U. A. M. Meets every Monday evening at 7:30 P. M. All visiting brothers cordially invited. D. D. TAYLOR, Councilor. W. I. Caldwell, Rec. Sec.

Catawba Lodge No. 54 K. of P. Meets every Thursday night. Visiting brethren invited. HUGH D'ANNA, C. C. R. L. HEFNER, K. R. and S.

TERRIBLY SWOLLEN

Suffering Described As Torture Relieved by Black-Draught.

Rossville, Ga.—Mrs. Kate Lee Able, of this place, writes: "My husband is an engineer, and once while lifting, he injured himself with a piece of heavy machinery, across the abdomen. He was so sore he could not bear to press on himself at all, on chest or abdomen. He weighed 165 lbs., and fell off until he weighed 110 lbs., in two weeks. He became constipated and it looked like he would die. We had three different doctors, yet with all their medicine, his bowels failed to act. He would turn up a ten-cent bottle of castor oil, and drink it two or three days in succession. He did this yet without result. We became desperate, he suffered so. He was swollen terribly. He told me his suffering could only be described as torture. I sent and bought Theford's Black-Draught. I made him take a big dose, and when it began to act he fainted, he was in such misery, but he got relief and began to mend at once. He got well, and we both feel he owes his life to Theford's Black-Draught."

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