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PRICE TWO CENTS

GERMANS PLAN BIG EFFORT AGAINST BRITISH IN FRANCE

Information Gleaned From Prisoners and Other Sources Indicate Great Battles—Allies Are Prepared For Shock—Emperor's Biggest Gamble of War

By the Associated Press.
British Army Headquarters in France, Feb. 19.—The great German offensive on the western front may be expected to begin at any moment now and as far as the British front is concerned, the main thrust may be made between Arras and St. Quentin.

Tanks and "a new mysterious gas" will be employed to break through the allied lines. Other attacks will be delivered farther south. These facts have become known through captured German prisoners and from other information gleaned in other ways.

The plans of the German higher command are complete and after many weeks of intensive training of assaulting troops they are ready to make the supreme and final effort which has for its object the destruction of the allied armies.

The coming battles will perhaps be the most sanguinary of the war and they will be the most intensive yet seen. But they will mark the beginning of the end, for if the Germans do not break clear through the allied lines—and they cannot—they virtually will be finished. The emperor is putting every ounce of strength into this great gamble and if it fails in the early stages it means the collapse of the German military powers.

The allies have a superiority in numbers both in men and guns and no doubt exists as to their ability to hold the Germans.

NEWTON SOCIAL NEWS

Newton, Feb. 19.—The regular meeting of the Woman's Club will be held at the court house Friday afternoon at 3 o'clock. At three-thirty there will be a food conservation meeting. Mr. Killian, food commissioner, and other speakers will make interesting talks. The public is cordially invited.

Mrs. Flossie Flazier of the Lenoir College faculty spent Sunday and yesterday in the city as guest of Mrs. M. M. Rowe.

Mr. Brady Entertains
Mrs. Charles A. Brady was hostess to the Virginia Dare Book Club Friday afternoon. After all books were exchanged, lovely score cards were passed and all were soon engaged themselves playing rook with a number of invited guests. At the close of the game it was found that Mrs. Grover Murray and Mrs. Loy Sumner had tied for the prize in cutting the prize went to Mrs. Murray, a lovely bottle of toilet water. The hostess, assisted by her sister Miss Annie Killian, served delightful refreshments.

The special guests were: Mrs. T. H. Olive, Mrs. Sid Smyre, Mrs. Sid Best, Mrs. W. A. Rhyne, Mrs. Grover Murray, Mrs. Wilfong Young, Mrs. Zeb M. Young, Mrs. Chas. Thurmond, Mrs. Lee Sherrill, Mrs. J. C. Yount, Mrs. C. W. Sherrill, Miss Annie Killian and Willie Mae Rhyne.

Mrs. Warlick Hostess
The regular meeting of the Thursday Book Club was held at the beautiful home of Mrs. G. A. Warlick on Main street Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Fourteen members responded to the roll call with appropriate quotations. Vivaldi interesting currents followed each member giving some phase of thought of work now uppermost the thought of the world today. The subject of the study was Argentina and two very interesting papers were read by Mrs. W. D. Cochran and Mrs. C. M. McGorkle. Following the literary program the needs of the Y. M. C. A. were discussed and the work of it at the camps, and it was voted for each member to make a voluntary contribution to this worthy object. The special guests were Mrs. Belle Wilfong, Mrs. Clyde Rowe and Mrs. Frank Warlick. The club meets with Mrs. W. C. Feimster on the 28th.—Catawba County News.

MR. STIREWALT WILL REMAIN AT CONCORD

Concord, Feb. 19.—Rev. M. L. Stirewalt pastor of St. James Evangelical Lutheran church, announced to his congregation last night that he would not accept the call tendered him recently by the congregation of Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran church at Hickory. He had received a unanimous call, but as he is doing good work here, where he has 400 members, he believes that he could render better service in Concord. Mr. Stirewalt formerly was connected with Lenoir College, and was very popular among the membership.

LENOIR CITIZENS PROTEST TO BICKETT

Lenoir, Feb. 19.—A copy of the following letter has been sent to Gov. Thomas W. Bickett, expressing the sentiment of the best people of the county, regarding their position relative to the commutation of the death sentence passed on two Caldwell county criminals, after a fair trial in this county, both cases having been disposed of by the superior court in less than 18 months. The open letter follows:

Lenoir, N. C., Feb. 14, 1918. His Excellency, Thomas W. Bickett, Governor of North Carolina. Honored Sir:

During recent months, you the people's guardian of law and sworn custodian of the commonwealth, have had the final decision in two flagrant murders which stained the good name of Caldwell county.

In both instances you have yielded to the appeal for executive clemency, and among the reasons cited in the latter, namely: the Coffey case, you stated that there was no counter petition; the inference being that no one was interested in the execution of the verdict. We feel it incumbent to inform you and the public that this inference is erroneous. One of our attorneys representing the state advised you that we would offer no counter petition but that the matter was left with you with the record of the superior and the supreme courts therein; and then, in the former case, that of Charlie Walker, we let you know in no uncertain terms that the overwhelming desire of our people was that the verdict of the jury be allowed to stand; but to our utter chagrin and disgust you not only intervened but saw fit to pen an apology in melodramatic style in which this poor, uncouth, love-sick, despicable, depraved wretch who shot a frightened fleeing innocent girl in the back, was painted a hero.

Coupled with the fact that in this, the Coffey case, you had given written utterances to "take great pleasure in acting upon it," (which we could interpret none otherwise than that you would grant his request for clemency), left us no recourse. We wish you to know, however, that a large percentage of our law-abiding citizens did wish the jury's verdict to stand and the sentence executed in this case in the former case. If a man who fills himself with liquor, arms himself, strides to town avenging vengeance, and attempts to ascertain the whereabouts of his intended victim, walks two miles to a ball field and then shoots an unarmed man playing base-ball in the back does not constitute every element of murder—malice, premeditation, and cowardice, we are ignorant of the definition of these words.

We shall continue our contention for a law-abiding citizenship, but in view of your action in these two cases, we cannot but feel sympathy with the non-execution of the law; and in all sincerity we think that is due you, the chief magistrate of the State of North Carolina, to know that respect for the majesty of the law is torn to shreds in our community.

A probable first-fruit of this contempt for the law is evidenced in our murder of Dr. Hennessee in our neighboring county, and should our people here decide upon the primitive and less costly execution of their will, commonly known as "lynch law," (and it was with some difficulty that violence was prevented in the Walker case, and it was only the assurance that the law would deal swiftly and surely that held back the gathering mob), you may congratulate yourself that you are more responsible than any other.

Just one more paragraph and we are through. If the past is a true index to the future or your successor will be imperturbed to these criminals, and upon that same basis of prediction our county will be cursed and its peace jeopardized in a few years by the presence of those who before the courts of law, were condemned to pay the penalty their crimes so richly deserved.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed)
C. T. Squires, pastor Presbyterian Church of Lenoir; E. N. Joyner, Rector, St. James Episcopal church of Lenoir; W. J. Wolf, pastor Lutheran church of Lenoir; A. S. Peeler, pastor Reformed church of Lenoir; W. B. Lenoir, mayor of Lenoir; W. J. Watson, chairman school board; Horace Sisk, superintendent public schools; F. H. Coffey, chairman board of county commissioners; J. A. Triplett, sheriff of Caldwell county; W. C. Moore, Jr., clerk of the superior court; J. C. Seagle, Chairman Demo-

RUSSIA TO SIGN PEACE WITH GERMANY

By the Associated Press.
London, Feb. 19.—Russia is now forced to sign peace upon the conditions proposed by Germany, says an official Russian statement received here today.

BOLSHEVIK APPEAL TO AUSTRIAN COUNT

By the Associated Press.
Bern, Feb. 19.—According to Vienna dispatches, the bolshevik foreign minister has forwarded a wireless message to Count Czernin as follows:
"The German government having reestablished a state of war with Russia, without even having given the seven days notice. I have the honor to ask you whether the Austrian government considers itself in a state of war with Russia, or whether it is willing to agree to the articles drawn up at Brest-Litovsk?"

HELP CAMPAIGN AGAINST BAD RUMORS

By the Associated Press.
Washington, Feb. 19.—Surgeon General Gorgas today started an active campaign against rumor mongers by inviting the efforts of every citizen to repudiate slanders regarding the health conditions and living of soldiers. The report that 16 soldiers had frozen to death at Camp McClellan at Anniston, Ala., is the latest to come to the attention of the surgeon general. This story was traced to three privates on leave.

SAVANNAH WORKMEN WILL NOT STRIKE

By the Associated Press.
Savannah, Ga., Feb. 19.—At a very largely attended meeting of the men employed on strike ship building it was voted not to order any further strikes on government work. The committee returned from Washington last night with the announcement of increased wages. The Terry Shipbuilding Company and the Foundation Shipbuilding Company have plants here.

RURAL CARRIERS ARE LEADING IN SALES

Rural mail carriers have taken the lead so far this month in the sale of thrift and war savings stamps and his fair to keep up the pace. Messrs. James H. Fry and "Doc" Fry of routes 3 and 4 are the head men in the rural sales, with "Doc" having a slight advance over the other.

In the city Mr. J. Lewis Bolick is ahead in the sales, but Mr. H. H. Bowman says that when he begins the delivery of mail at Kenworth later in the week he will improve his average. Then look out, fellows, he says.

All the carriers, both city and rural, are doing some good work, and every day brings results.

KALEDINE TAKES LIFE WITH PISTOL

By the Associated Press.
Petrograd, Friday, Feb. 15.—General Kaledine, hetman of the Don Cossacks, committed suicide at Novo Tcherkask, headquarters of the Don Cossacks, during a session of the Novo Tcherkask which he attended. The government decided to resign and transfer its power to the local workmen's and soldiers' council, and General Kaledine retired and blew his brains out.

General Nazarov, who succeeded General Kaledine as leader of the Don Cossacks ordered the immediate mobilization of all Cossacks to fight the bolshevik troops advancing on Novo Tcheekask.

As leader of the Don Cossacks General Kaledine was opposed to the bolshevik and he was the leader of the counter revolt against the bolshevik early last December. On January 1 the republic of the Don was declared with General Kaledine as hetman.

PUT CHAMBERLAIN UNDER KNIFE NOW

By the Associated Press.
Washington, Feb. 19.—Senator Chamberlain of Oregon, chairman of the military committee, is to be operated on at once for appendicitis. The senator apparently was improved this morning after a recurrence of an attack suffered last fall, but after an examination later in the day, his physicians decided to operate on him.

EARL REDDING SIGNS ARMY DRAFT TREATY

By the Associated Press.
Washington, Feb. 19.—Signing of the army draft treaty between Great Britain and the United States was announced today. The new British ambassador, Earl Redding, affixed his signature as his first official act.

ANNUAL ROAD INSTITUTE WILL BE HELD THIS WEEK

Chapel Hill, Feb. 19.—The fifth annual road institute of North Carolina will be held in Chapel Hill this week, beginning today at 9 o'clock and closing Friday afternoon. This road institute will be conducted by the University of North Carolina, the state highway commission and the North Carolina geological and economic survey.

Among the speakers will be A. D. Williams, state highway engineer of West Virginia; Edwin A. Duffey, state highway commissioner of New York; D. H. Winslow, maintenance engineer of the state highway commission; W. L. Spoon, senior engineer of the United States office on public roads, and J. N. Ambler, civil engineer of Winston-Salem.

W. S. Falls, state highway engineer, will act as director of the institute.

BILL FAVORABLY REPORTED FOR \$2.50 WHEAT

By the Associated Press.
Washington, Feb. 19.—A favorable report on the Gore bill to increase the minimum price of the 1918 crop of wheat from \$2 to \$2.50 per bushel was made today by the senate agricultural committee.

GERMAN TROOPS ARE CONQUERING RUSSIA

By the Associated Press.
Berlin, via London, Feb. 19.—German forces have entered Dvinsk, it was officially announced today by the German war office. The Russians unsuccessfully attempted to blow up the bridge across the Dvina.

ANOTHER CAPTURED

By the Associated Press.
Vienna, via London, Feb. 19.—The German army group under command of General Linsintin, according to an official statement issued by the Austrian war office, has occupied the Russian town of Lutck in Volhynia without fighting.

BOLSHEVIKI ARE OVERTHROWN, REPORT

By the Associated Press.
London, Feb. 19.—Rumors are current in Basil that the bolshevik government in Petrograd has been overthrown by the social Revolutionists headed by Tchernoff, according to the correspondent there of the Politiken of Copenhagen, says a dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph.

YET ANOTHER IDLE RUMOR IS NAILED

By the Associated Press.
Washington, Feb. 19.—Rumors that a large number of men had been poisoned at the Norfolk training station was cleared up today by a report from Captain Payton that 35 of his men were made slightly ill recently by eating corn beef hash. He said there were no serious results and that the men had returned to work.

GOVERNOR URGES CUTTING OUT POLITICS

By the Associated Press.
Goldsboro, N. C., Feb. 19.—"I earnestly hope that this year all over North Carolina partisanship will be buried in patriotism and just and fair ways may be found to give each party its fair strength of the offices and that each party will nominate its strongest men who have shown the greatest willingness to win the war, and then instead of scrambling over the bodies of dead soldiers, will forego a partisan contest.

"Let's unite to roll up the \$48,000,000," said Governor Bickett speaking to the war savings committee here today.

GERMANY RESUMES WAR ON RUSSIAN BOLSHEVIKI

Teutonic Army Has Crossed Divina to Aid Ukraine—What Russians Will Do is Not Known. Much Aerial and Artillery Activity on Western Front.

By the Associated Press.
Germany has returned to attack the Russian front and the bolshevik government must face its greatest test—the power of German militarism. Invading forces have crossed the Dvina and are advancing eastward from Kovel, Volhynia, to aid the hard pressed Ukrainians and protect the food supplies in the new republic. This is the first military activity on these fronts since late last December.

What opposition the bolshevik can or will offer the Germans is problematical. Although the Russian army has been much weakened by the demobilization and strife in the ranks, the bolshevik red guards have been successful against the Ukrainians and other opposing forces in southern Russia. A week ago delayed dispatches from Petrograd said the bolshevik leaders were confident the Germans would not attack them.

The food shortage in Great Russia has become desperate. The situation in the Ukraine is serious, which may account for Germany's decision to act.

On the western front there have been no decisive movements. In the Champagne the Germans persist in their attempts against the French positions near the Butte du Mesnil. Twice Tuesday the French, who are aided by American artillery, repulsed enemy efforts, the Germans being unable to reach the first line.

Aerial activity is the predominant factor on the British and American fronts. In the north British airmen have accounted for 16 German airplanes and have dropped hundreds of bombs on railways and airfields. French and British bombing squadrons also have attacked important points in Lorraine.

On the American sector the enemy machines have been busy over and behind the American lines. The American gunners kept the Germans high in the air and one of the enemy was brought down by the American aviator. Nine Americans have been wounded by German shells. There has been considerable artillery activity on the Italian front.

For the third time in as many days German airmen raided southeast England Monday night. None of the raiders were able to penetrate the defense of London.

Premier Lloyd George is expected to appear in the house of commons today to defend the government action with respect to General Robertson, chief of the imperial staff, which has caused a storm of criticism in the British press.

Dr. von Kuehlmann, the German foreign minister, it is reported, will address the reichstag today on the Ukrainian pact.

MR. PAGE NAILS ANOTHER BIG YARN

Raleigh, Feb. 19.—State Food Administrator Henry A. Page is indignant at reports that have been circulated in some parts of North Carolina to the effect that the food administration, the department of agriculture or some other branch of the government had issued an order limiting the acreage that may be planted in tobacco, or other crops per horse or mule. These reports are not only absolutely groundless, but Mr. Page states that there is absolutely no authority in any existing laws for any department of the federal government to issue such an order.

This is the first instance that we have had in North Carolina of what appears to be definite and injurious propaganda instigated by German agents or pro-Germans with the deliberate idea of confusing, harassing or discouraging North Carolina farmers," declared Mr. Page. "I shall appreciate any information which will throw any light on the origin of such reports. Incidentally I do not hesitate to express my utmost confidence in such a degree of patriotism upon the part of North Carolina farmers as will result during the coming season in the largest harvest of every food crop in the history of our state.

"The attitude of the food administration toward the farmer may be very simply stated. Our country and a starving world demand the utmost pound of production of all food crops by every farmer in America. This increased production must come very largely through the increased yield per acre which may be brought about by proper soil preparation and crop cultivation and by the increased use of manures, forest leaves, wood mold and commercial fertilizer. A smaller acreage in tobacco would be desirable, but beyond this suggestion the food administration is not going to urge any reduction.

"I do not think any reduction in the cotton acreage is at all desirable, but rather that a greater production should be secured upon the acreage which we normally plant. Because of the scarcity and the large content of wholesome edible oil in cottonseed, cotton may be rightly considered as a food crop, to say nothing of the demand for the staple for clothing and ammunition.

"A greater production of corn, soy beans, peas, Irish and sweet potatoes, sorghum for syrup, and all hay and feed crops is extremely desirable and urgent. No family in North Carolina that has an opportunity to cultivate a garden should neglect to do so.

"Any individual in North Carolina or America who neglects or fails to do his utmost in crop production or to make every square foot of his soil and every hour of his time count during the coming season is a slacker and is unworthy of citizenship in this state and nation. I am sure, however, that we have few such citizens in North Carolina."

EIGHT ARE INJURED ON CRUISER MONTANO

By the Associated Press.
Washington, Feb. 19.—Eight men have been injured in an explosion of a cartridge case during target practice on the cruiser Montano. A brief report to the navy department today gave no details of the accident and did not give the names of the men hurt.

There will be a meeting on Saturday, February 23, 1918, at 1 o'clock, p. m., in the courthouse at Newton for the purpose of organizing a county-wide telephone association.

Everybody come prepared to take stock; both town and country people are urged to come. All committees that were appointed by Mr. Mask are requested to make a thorough canvass of their district and come prepared to make report on stock that has been subscribed on said county-wide telephone system.

D. E. SIGMON, Pres.
HOMER H. B. MASK, Sec.

HICKORY MARKETS

Cotton	-----	\$2.40
Wheat	-----	30.00
Good milling corn	-----	\$1.75

WEATHER FORECAST

For North Carolina: Probably rain tonight and Wednesday; warmer to night in interior. Colder in west portion Wednesday; increasing south winds.

COMPARATIVE WEATHER

High	-----	1918	1917
Low	-----	44	60
Today	-----	28	44