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ITALIA: NAVAL VESSELS SINK AUSTRIAN WARSHIP

Twenty Thousand Ton Battleship in Polo Harbor Destroyed in Daring Raid—Artillery Action on Western Front Feature of War News Today--Some Raids

By the Associated Press.
London, May 16.—An Austrian battleship was torpedoed by Italian naval forces at Polo harbor early Tuesday morning, it was announced officially today.

The battleship was of the Viribus class (20,000 ton vessel). The Italian fleet worked its way into the harbor and sank the vessel by dodging the search lights and search lights of the Austrians.

While the naval operation was progressing an Italian seaplane force destroyed Austrian seaplanes above the harbor. Two Austrian planes were damaged and others damaged. The Italian machines all returned safely.

FRENCH STATEMENT

By the Associated Press.
Paris, May 16.—Artillery action continued last night on the French front west of Amiens in the Hautes Flandres, says today's war office statement.

West of Montdidier a German raiding party was driven off. The French took prisoners in patrol operations north of Ailette.

LONDON STATEMENT

By the Associated Press.
London, May 16.—The artillery action of the last night in the valleys of the Somme and Ancre rivers east of Arras and on the Flanders battle field, the war office announces. The following follows:

"Our troops raided the enemy's trenches last night in the neighborhood of Gavrelle (northeast of Arras) and captured a few prisoners.

"Beyond artillery activity on both sides at different points, particularly in the valleys of the Somme and Ancre rivers, east of Arras, and on the northern battle front there is nothing to report."

RUSSIANS WARN OPPRESSORS OF FIGHT

By the Associated Press.
Washington, May 16.—A copy of the protest made by the soviet government to the German minister of foreign affairs on April 28 against German oppression as made public by the state department today shows that the Russians gave notice of their intention to mobilize all necessary forces in order to secure the freedom and independence of the Russian republic, which is now menaced beyond the limits established by the Brest-Litovsk peace treaty.

OLD WHEAT COMING TO HICKORY MARKET

Hundreds of bushels of wheat in this section of the state are being carried to market and during the last six days at least 600 bushels have been brought by the Catawba Milling Company here. Manager Caldwell said that the mill had more flour in stock at present than at any time in recent months. Plenty of corn is coming in and the local price is down to \$1.65 a bushel, which is generally in excess of the Chicago market, May 15, closing yesterday at \$1.27 3/4.

With prospects for the greatest wheat crop on record—the government is hopeful of a billion bushels of spring and winter wheat—many farmers who have been in the habit of holding back for various causes have placed their grain on the market and, according to Mr. Jacob Johnson of Henry route 2, who brought in a load yesterday, there is plenty of wheat in this section. Most of all of this wheat will find the market before the new crop is threshed.

The price of wheat will not go lower than \$2.20, as the government has fixed the price, and farmers are sure to get good values. Many farmers will sell as soon as the grain is threshed in order to relieve the strain. While there is wheat enough for this section and a little to spare, there is a big demand for it all over the country.

The acreage in corn this spring will be larger than last year, it is thought, despite the call of the draft.

UKRAINE IS HOT AT GERMAN ROBBERY

By the Associated Press.
London, May 16.—Anti-German agitation in the Ukraine continues unchecked, says a Vienna dispatch to the Lokal Anzeiger at Berlin and transmitted from the Hague by the Exchange Telegraph.

Ukrainian newspapers attack Germany bitterly and accuse her of using Russian warships at Sebastopol for the purpose of seizing coal and Ukrainian merchantmen. It is reported that the Germans have mined the straits of Yankale, closing the passage to the sea of Azov. Serious trouble, it is added, has occurred at Nikolaiev, where the Germans have dismissed the city council.

NEBRASKA WOODMAN SPEAKS AT WILSON

(Extracts from speech of John L. Sundeen, native of Lincoln, Nebraska, later of Minneapolis, National Ritualistic Instructor of the Modern Woodmen of America at rally in Wilson, 250 candidates initiated May 14, 1918, as will appear in the Daily Times of Wilson.)

"When it was announced that I was going to North Carolina to take charge of the Modern Woodmen of America in this state, even men who travel much cautioned me not to expect the southern people to enthrone. The opinion in general in the north is slow and reluctant. And even southerners repeat the fable.

"Let us investigate and compare. 'What would be the relative status of the north today if it had to depend on the same class of labor, for instance, as the south? And what would be the position of the south if its enterprises were supported and sustained by the high class labor of the north?'

"The battle fields of the civil war were in the south. The havoc and devastation that was wrought by moving columns and clashing battalions visited itself upon the south. The adjustment to a new order of things in the field of labor was the handicap of the south. The curses of carpetbagging and the delay in normal conditions were hardships imposed upon the south. Favorable conditions and circumstances gave the north, by comparison a lead, an advantage of at least 30 years. Fifty years ago the north was at least 20 years ahead of the south. Who will say it is 30 years ahead today?'

"The south is catching up with the north, and that's because the south is more progressive, it is making greater speed! 'The opportunity of America is in the south. The paradise of this continent will be below the Mason and Dixon line. Science and sanitation have conquered the conditions which gave rise to just fear of epidemics. Nature grants the south a mature growing season and waters bounteously the southern fields. Fables have discovered the economic advantage of the south, and soon to these fertile hills and plains will come the modern intensive agricultural, the practical dairyman and fortune-building stock farmer.

"The south some day will deny the legends of a characteristic inertia, it will proclaim its great progressive spirit and attract to its undeveloped earth the sturdiest and the best of the times, the ambitious, the active character of southern folk. 'And the north and west want the south to prosper. The old unfriendly rivalry has disappeared. It is no, now it was when I was a boy.

"I am a native of Lincoln, Nebraska. There used to be a few party Democrats in Nebraska. In the 80's they were very scarce and in such disfavor that we boys attracted by the spirit of the times, considered it our patriotic duty to whip any lad who echoed the creed of his Democratic father.

"Before a certain man came to Nebraska, whom I shall presently name, any justice of the peace could fill the bill of campaign orator. All he had to do was to pass a few compliments on the candidates, describe a battle or two of the civil war and conclude with the invincible slogan of that era.

"Will you vote the way you shot?'" "A wonderful fellow came to Nebraska. He was a young man, but a clear, true thinker, a statesman, and an orator. And he was a Democrat. He singled out the foremost Republicans and challenged them to meet him in joint debate, and confining in the conditions of the debate was the accepted. Every match was fatal to them. Debates fell into disfavor among them and local spellbinders were soon superseded by Forakers, McKinleys and the biggest guns of the party. And William Jennings Bryan had driven the 'bloody shirt' into disrepute. In many a state they ceased to fight the civil war over again at their annual elections. Prejudice against the south

(Continued on page three)

HAVE 1,500,000 FIGHTING MEN IN FRANCE

By the Associated Press.
Paris, May 16.—The United States has promised to have 1,500,000 fighting men in France by the end of 1918, says L'Homme Libre, Premier Clemenceau's newspaper. These troops must have their own organization and service, which means 2,000,000 workers in the quartermaster and other departments.

FRANK N. PARKER RESIGNS AS BISHOP

By the Associated Press.
Atlanta, Ga., May 16.—The Rev. James Cannon, Jr., of the Virginia conference was elected bishop today in the general conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, South, after Rev. J. N. Parker of the Louisiana conference declined to accept the honor after protracted consideration for 24 hours.

Atlanta, Ga., May 16.—Declaring he was not persuaded that he was "called by the will of the Lord Jesus Christ to the office," Bishop-elect Frank N. Parker today declined the election to one of the highest offices in the Southern Methodist church. Dr. Parker told the Methodist general conference sitting here that after 24 hours of prayer, he had decided not to accept the honor.

Dr. John O. Willson of South Carolina moved the acceptance of Dr. Parker's action, but was moved out of order because of another motion before the conference.

Announcement was made that the Rev. H. A. Boaz of the central Texas conference was elected secretary of church extension by a majority of two votes. He succeeds Bishop-Elect McMurray.

INTEREST GROWS IN REVIVAL SERVICE

Interest in the evangelistic services at the First Methodist church, conducted by Rev. R. M. Courtney, is deepening from meeting to meeting, and large congregations are present both morning and evening, and at the service last night and a large congregation joined in the meeting. Continuing his discussion of the subject, "Sin," Mr. Courtney asked, "What is sin? What does sin do when given a place in the life? How can we get rid of sin?" The first two questions required no answer, for every person knows the wages of sin, but to rid the community of sin is a greater question and one that calls for the prayers, efforts and labors of Christ-loving people.

The sermon this morning was on the mission of Jesus. It was heard by another large audience. Two conversions were reported.

Services are held daily at 8 a. m. and 8 p. m.

ATTENTION, PYTHIANS

The Knights of Pythias will meet tonight for degree work. All Pythians are urged to be present.

DEATH RATE LOW IN AMERICAN CAMPS

By the Associated Press.
Washington, May 16.—The death rate of national army and national guard camps last week was the lowest since last November, the surgeon general or the army announced today.

The total number of deaths was 162 against 168 the week before. There was an increase in pneumonia and scarlet fever cases.

In the week ending May 10 eight sick and wounded soldiers from the expeditionary forces in France were landed at American ports, with one receiving station not reporting. The week before 148 were landed at American ports.

WEATHER FORECAST

For North Carolina: Cloudy tonight, Friday fair and warmer in the interior, gentle to moderate northeast to east winds.

SIX GERMANS TO YARD IN ONE SECTOR

By the Associated Press.
Paris, May 16.—There are six Germans to the yard on the greater part of the Franco-Belgian front from the North sea to the Aise, according to the Gaulois, which bases the statement on the information it reports having reached the general staff that 150 German divisions are situated in this area.

Ten of these divisions, it is said, are in the region near Ypres, 40 between Ypres and LaBassie canal and 10 divisions from LaBasse canal to the Oise.

On this basis it is estimated, says the newspaper, that the German strength from Ypres to the Oise is more than six men to the yard except on the north of the front, where the estimate is a third of that number.

CATAWBA FARMERS TO SPEAK TONIGHT

Catawba county farmers are scheduled to instruct Hickory people in the Academy of Music tonight on their duties in this great world crisis. It was expected that a large crowd would be present, for town people want to find out where they have seemed to be short, and the attendance will be good, despite rival attraction. The hour of speaking is 8:30.

Mrs. Gordon Wilfong and Mrs. J. W. Robinson will present the country women's viewpoint on what the women can do to win the war, and Messrs. Colon Yoder, Henry Lutz, John W. Robinson and they will give the farmers' idea of what city folks should do that they have not been doing on the line of patriotic service. City speakers generally have good sized audiences when they visit the country districts, and Hickory will no doubt respond in kind.

NEW YORK COTTON

By the Associated Press.
New York, May 16.—The cotton market showed a steeper tone early today. First prices were steady at an advance of 12 to 25 points and after some irregularity due to the presence of overnight selling orders, active months worked to about 21 to 33 points higher before the end of the first hour.

	Open	Close
May	25.30	25.80
July	24.40	24.64
October	24.24	24.40
December	24.17	24.35
January		

HICKORY MARKETS

Wheat	\$2.20
Cotton	27c
Corn	\$1.65

COMPLETING JURY IN JOHNSON CASE

By the Associated Press.
Richmond, Va., May 16.—A third venire of 20 men, making 60 in all, was summoned this afternoon in order to complete the jury to hear the case of Dr. Lemuel Johnson on the charge of murdering his bride, Mrs. Alice-Knight Johnson. It is expected that the case will be under way tomorrow.

EIGHTEEN CONCRETE SHIPS ARE ORDERED

By the Associated Press.
Washington, May 16.—Immediate construction of 18 concrete tank steamers for the fuel oil trade with a total capacity of 12,500 tons was decided on today by the shipping board.

The new vessels will be in addition to 18 concrete ships totaling 117,500 tons, for which the contracts already have been let. Eight of the new ships will be built on the Pacific coast and the remainder of the Atlantic coast.

THREE TAR HEELS IN CASUALTY LIST

By the Associated Press.
Washington, May 16.—The casualty list today contains 91 names, divided as follows:
Killed in action, 8; died of wounds, 4; died of accident, 1; died of disease, 4; died of other causes, 1; wounded severely, 1; wounded slightly, 55. Missing in action, 34. The list includes: Died of wounds, Private Clyde W. Bollinger, of Winston-Salem, N. C.
Wounded slightly: Sergeant Claude N. Logan of Mooresville, N. C., and Private Manning McCraw, route 1, Flat Rock, N. C.

ONLY GUNS ARE ACTIVE ON WEST BATTLE FRONT

Fighting Has Died Down, But Artillery Continues To Pound Away—Aerial Activity Also Notable--German Raiders Turned Back at Paris

WOMEN TAKING PART IN BIG MEETING

By the Associated Press.
Hot Springs, Ark., May 16.—For the first time in the history of the church women members of the denomination are participating in the deliberations of the Southern Baptist convention. Action of the convention yesterday in giving women rights accorded to men was taken to mean that women were given that privilege immediately.

According to the official records of the convention Mrs. A. H. Bedoe of Dallas, Texas, was the first woman to receive her credentials and appointment.

More than 1,700 delegates are attending the convention which opened yesterday and an almost equal number of women are attending the sessions of the Woman's Missionary convention.

Hot Springs, Ark., May 15.—Women of the Southern Baptist churches today were granted full and equal rights with men in the convention of the churches, by an overwhelming vote at the sixty-third session of the Southern Baptist convention. By this action which consisted of an amendment to the convention constitution, women now are entitled not only to represent their churches in the conventions, but also to hold any office in the convention which is the highest administrative organization in the denomination.

The vote was taken after three hours of debate. After the vote was announced, a division of roll call was demanded by some of the opponents to the amendment, but was withdrawn and the constitution was declared officially to have been amended.

Because of the length of debate on that amendment, other convention business was restricted and the day's session closed with the reports of the home and foreign mission boards and the Sunday school board.

Work in Army Camps
B. D. Gray, corresponding secretary of the home mission board, in making his report requested a contribution of apportionment by the churches of \$1,000,000 to advance the work of the church next year among the army cantonments.

The report of the foreign mission board showed that the churches for the first time in their history had contributed more than a million dollars for foreign mission. The exact amount was given as \$1,006,189. It was reported that for the first time in the history of the work a state had contributed more than \$100,000, both Texas and Virginia having that honor.

As a result of the year's work it was said there were 5,577 additions to the churches by baptism in foreign lands. Statistics showed that there now are 464 churches established abroad by the denomination.

The night session of the convention was given over to devotional exercises the convention sermon being preached by W. H. Geistwein, of St. Louis.

Reports of Boards
How war activities have directly affected the work of the church was emphasized in the report which the Board of Home Missions made.

The report called attention to the fact that last year the convention pledged the property, lives and sacred honor of the Baptists of the south to the president of the United States in the prosecution of the war with Germany and said that despite large sums given the Red Cross and army Y. M. C. A. and the purchase of Liberty Bonds, the Baptists of the south have done the largest church work in their history in the past year. A total of \$600,000 was given for this work, an increase of more than \$200,000 over the preceding year.

Texas Baptists gave the most. Georgia was second and South Carolina third. The report added:

"The war has altered many conditions. There is little need for work among immigrants as few are coming into our country. Other centers however have arisen that demand attention. The army camps, the ship building enterprises scattered from Baltimore to Galveston and employing thousands of workmen, the munition factories in Alabama and Tennessee, some of them doubling the population of the places where they are located, present opportunities that cannot be overlooked."

The report stated that in the army camps, in conjunction with the state mission secretaries and the Northern Baptist convention, much work has been undertaken. One camp pastor has been sent to every cantonment in the south to work in harmony with the Y. M. C. A. men and the chaplains or camp pastors."

By the Associated Press.
Fighting has died down again in Flanders and Picardy and only the guns are busy. The artillery fire continues strong all along these fronts, as well as on the Arras front, and is more violent north of Kemmel and in this region.

These sectors have been the scene of all the recent fighting and they probably will see the greatest efforts of the Germans when the battle is resumed.

In Flanders the Germans have been disappointed in all attempts to gain Hill 44 as the French not only drove them from the high ground, but also penetrated the enemy positions.

In Picardy the enemy has not recovered his counter attacks to drive the French from a wood near Halles. The enemy bombardment of French lines has been most intense for the past few days, but the Germans have made no attacks except to teach French gains.

General Pershing has issued his first official statement on American operations since his troops took over sectors on the fighting front and will continue to issue communications as long as the Americans are in the majority. The Germans put down a heavy barrage on the American lines northwest of Toul Wednesday, but no infantry attack followed.

In aerial fighting in this sector two American aviators have accounted for three German machines.

As on the western front, the lull in Italy remains unbroken, but with indications that it will be resumed shortly.

An attempt by enemy aircraft to raid Paris Wednesday night was frustrated by the aerial defenses and machines.

Aerial activity in the battle lines continue at high pitch with French and British airmen dropping many bombs on German railway stations and important centers.

ITALIANS WANT AMERICAN FLAG

By the Associated Press.
Washington, May 16.—Italy in an informal way has made known to the United States that the presence of American troops on the Italian front is to be desired, it became known today. A few thousand men under the American flag, Italian officials say, would greatly encourage the Italian people.

DR. RAPER SPEAKS TO HIGH GRADUATES

With the literary address before the graduating class of the Hickory high school tonight by Dr. Charles Lee Raper, the exercises tomorrow morning by the seventh grade pupils and senior class day exercises tomorrow night, commencement week in the local schools will be brought to a close. Superintendent McIntosh retires this year and Mr. R. W. Carver, principal of the North school succeeds him.

Dr. Raper will speak at 8:30 tonight at the high school auditorium. He is dean of the graduate school of the University of North Carolina and an authority on taxation matters and a close student. His address will be of public interest.

The graduating exercises of the seventh grade children will be held in the high school at 10:30 tomorrow and the class day exercises of the high school will be held tomorrow night.

The public is cordially invited to attend all exercises:

lains. Rev. George Green, who was a captain in the Spanish-American war, has been put in charge of this work.

"Baptists have responded in large numbers to the call of their country," said the report. "Many preachers are fighting as privates in the trenches, while others are doing Y. M. C. A. work or serving as chaplains or camp pastors."