

THE MONROE JOURNAL

PUBLISHED TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS

VOL. 23. No. 75.

MONROE, N. C., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1917.

\$1.50 PER YEAR CASH.

FRENCH FORCES CONTINUE DRIVE IN AISNE REGION

Making Rapid Advance Over a Front of Six Miles — Numerous Enemy Positions Have Been Taken.

The French forces in the Aisne region continued to develop their success of Tuesday, when they made a rapid advance over a front of about six miles, capturing important German positions and thousands of prisoners.

Following up minor successes Wednesday, the French again attacked Thursday along the entire line, forcing the Germans to abandon Monkey mountain, east of Vauvallon, the village and forest of Pinon, the village of Pargny-Filain, on the extreme east of the line and numerous fortified farms and other points of vantage. The latest drive of the French brings General Petain's army within sight of the important railway junction of Laon, the objective sought for which now is a scant eight miles distant. Large quantities of war stores were abandoned by the enemy in their retreat, and additional guns and prisoners were captured. The number of prisoners taken since the drive began now exceeds 12,000, more than 800 of whom are officers. Two thousand of the prisoners were taken Thursday.

An indication of the rapidity with which the drive has been carried out is the total number of guns the Germans were forced to leave behind them. These number 120, among them several howitzers, not to mention several hundred small calibre pieces, such as Minenwerfer and machine guns.

On the 25-mile front running from Monte Romber to the Bainsizza plateau the battle between the Austro-German forces and the Italians apparently is growing in intensity, with the Austro-Germans the aggressors, but the Italians stubbornly resisting everywhere.

Although the German war office asserts that gains have been made at various points along the line, the Italian official communication does not concede any losses except on the east bank of the Isonzo south of Monte Romber. To the contrary, this communication asserts that on the Bainsizza plateau, where the Germans had announced successes, and on the west slope of Monte San Gabriele enemy attacks were repulsed and that the Italians even took several hundred prisoners.

New Regulations For Draft Complete

Washington, Oct. 25.—New regulations for applying the army draft where virtually completed tonight at the office of the provost marshal general and probably will be submitted to President Wilson tomorrow for final approval. The President already has approved the general plan, under which all registered men not yet called will be classified in five groups in accordance with their availability for military service.

Provost Marshal General Crowder tonight cleared up the question as to how the draft numbers now held by the nearly 9,000,000 uncalled registrants will be applied to the new classifications.

PROVOST GUARD SHOT SOLDIER

Private Frederick Von Bethoven Lies Dangerously Wounded—Was Wanted on Charge of Being Absent Without Leave, Having Broken Quarantine.

(From the Charlotte Observer.) Private Frederick von Bethoven, of the ammunition train, 116th company, truck 10, of Camp Greene, lies seriously and probably fatally wounded at the Charlotte sanatorium, the result of being shot by a provost guard on South Graham street, near Trade, Thursday afternoon about 2 o'clock, when he resisted arrest upon the charge of being absent without leave from the Forty-first division, at Camp Greene. Bethoven snatched at the guard's pistol, when informed that he was under arrest, and then ran. The provost guard ordered him to halt three times and then fired. Military regulations are that one shall be asked to halt three times, and should he then fail to obey the order, he will be fired upon.

Private Bethoven was shot in the back, the ball piercing his stomach, going through his body and through the palling of a fence nearby. The wounded man was taken to the Charlotte sanatorium, where immediate medical attention was given him. It was said last night that his condition was unchanged. It is thought he has a chance for recovery. It was officially stated last night

ONE LIEUTENANT AND NINE GERMAN SAILORS ESCAPED

Interned Huns Break Prison by Tunneling From Building at Ft. McPherson, and Bloodhounds Lost Trail.

Atlanta, Oct. 24.—Lieut. Hans Berg, who brought the prize ship Appam to Hampton Roads, was one of the ten German prisoners who escaped from the alien detention camp at Fort McPherson last night by tunneling from one of the buildings.

This became known here tonight when search for the men, members of the crew of the former German commerce raider Prinz Eitel Friedrich and the Appam turned to Atlanta, where, according to military authorities, the fugitives are believed to be hiding.

An investigation early today revealed that the men had escaped by means of a tunnel about 100 feet long which they had dug from under one of the buildings used as sleeping quarters to a distance of about 20 feet beyond a sentry post on the outside of a wire fence which surrounds the prison camp. It was pointed out by the military authorities that the sailors must have been working on the tunnel since their arrival here about two weeks ago. They were brought here from Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga., where they had been previously interned. Soon after the escape bloodhounds followed a trail about a mile from the camp to a small stream in which the fugitives had evidently waded. Their socks had been left on the bank of the stream.

No other wearing apparel was found at the stream. Military officials said the men wore their uniforms last night.

Lieut. Berg, who before the war commanded a German merchant ship, was put in charge of the Appam after that vessel's capture on the west coast of Africa by the raider Moewe with a prize crew. He successfully brought the vessel with a large number of prisoners and rich cargo across the Atlantic and through the Virginia capes where he arrived February 1, 1916.

The prison camp authorities tonight made public a list of the names of the men who escaped, disclosing that besides Berg there are two other officers of the German navy among the fugitives. They are Arnold Henkel, 35, and Alfred Loescher, 39. The names of the other seven men, all of whom are listed at the prison barracks as seamen, follow: Paul Faig, 22; Maximilian Menzinger, 22; Paul Eisner, 29; Johann Adelhart, 24; Franz Beer, 22; Paul Sabel, 26; and Carl Schultze, 23.

FOOD ADMINISTRATOR HOOVER REVIEWS THE FOOD SITUATION

Feed Allies From This Continent and Win War—Ships, Wheat and Hogs Are Great Needs, He Says.

Washington, Oct. 25.—In a statement tonight reviewing the world food situation, Food Administrator Hoover said the fight against the submarine would be won if the United States and Canada could stimulate production and effect economies so as to feed the allies from this continent without sending a ship farther afield than the American Atlantic seaboard.

Ships, wheat and hogs are the great needs emphasized by Mr. Hoover. He said deepest concern had been caused by the fact that in spite of high prices this country's pork consumption had increased during the war until production had been outstripped; a situation that must be changed.

"If we discontinue exports," Mr. Hoover added, "we will move the German line from France to the Atlantic seaboard. Pork products have an influence in this present world situation wider than one would ordinarily attribute to them. The human body must have a certain amount of fat; we must increase production of hogs if we are to answer the world's craving."

"The production of fats is today a critical necessity for the preservation of these people (the allies) and the maintenance of their constancy in the war. Every pound of fat is as sure of service as every bullet, and every hog is of greater value to the winning of this war than a shell."

As to wheat the administrator said the allies' deficiency of production is 195,000,000 bushels, with imports of 577,700,000 bushels required to maintain normal consumption. He estimated the aggregate American, Canadian, Australian, Indian and Argentine export surplus at 770,000,000 bushels, but pointed out that lack of shipping made it necessary for this country and Canada to bear the burden of meeting the allies' deficit.

Placing the United States wheat export surplus from this year's crop at 80,000,000 bushels and Canada's at 150,000,000 bushels, Mr. Hoover urged domestic economies to increase this country's surplus to 150,000,000 bushels.

Mr. Hoover expressed the opinion that the fixed guarantee on wheat was unnecessary and that a reasonable profit guaranteed to the farmer would have been sufficient to stimulate production.

"However, the guaranty has been fixed," he added. "It is insurance against the submarine and any estimate of what it may cost we must leave to the future."

Turning to the meat situation, the administrator said pork products were more vitally needed by the allies than beef.

"In the matter of beef," he said, "the allies can support themselves without any consequential expansion of imports from the United States."

In view of the European situation and the American shortage in hogs, he pointed out that there would be a high average price for pork products, and therefore it would be to the vital advantage of every farmer to raise hogs, adding:

"We need a keep-a-pig movement in this country."

Mr. Everett L. Melton, who lives on Monroe, Route 4, leaves for Charlotte Monday, where he will work in a drug store.

DR. ALEXANDER IS REBUKED BY GOVERNOR T. W. BICKETT

Tells Him He Has Lost Chance to be of Service—Created Bitterness Between Farmers and Others.

Raleigh, Oct. 24.—Gov. Bickett Dr. H. Q. Alexander, president of the North Carolina Farmers' Union, that instead of his recent appointment of Dr. Alexander as a delegate to the National Farmers' Congress from this State being any sort of an endorsement of his public utterances as to the war and on economic issues generally, he (the governor), without questioning Dr. Alexander's sincerity, is convinced that he has "simply thrown away a great opportunity to be a constructive leader in the public thought and life of the State."

The Governor writes Dr. Alexander that he is fundamentally, and, it appears, hopelessly wrong. "Your views on economic questions are as unsound and almost as hurtful as your views on the war. Instead of devoting your splendid energies to constructive policies tending to improve living conditions among our population, the net result of your speeches is to create bitterness and strife instead of a sort of mutual sympathy and helpfulness between farmers and other citizens of the State. Indeed, you seem to have fallen completely under the influence of those two arch fanatics, Tom Watson and LaFollette, and in this way have destroyed your power to effectively help the people whose interest you have at heart."

The Underpass and Sanitary Condition of the Depot.

To the Editor of The Journal:—I hand you copy of letter that is self-explanatory.—Yours truly, John C. Sikes.

Monroe, N. C., Oct. 19, 1917.

The Corporation Commission, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Gentlemen:—First, as a citizen and later as Mayor of the city of Monroe, I have endeavored to get the Seaboard Air Line Railway Co. to change two under passes within the corporate limits of the city of Monroe and on the main roads leading out from the city, to-wit: The road leading to Charlotte, N. C., and to Concord, N. C. These underpasses were built a number of years ago, and besides being very dangerous, they are divided in the center with posts and the entrance to them is very bad indeed and one can not tell whether anybody is coming through them in an opposite direction until you are right at the underpass, and besides it is down grade to it. Several accidents have happened there.

In addition to this, they are so low that a person cannot go under them with a load of hay or anything of any height. In fact, you can stand in the underpass and almost reach to the top. A furniture man here tells me that he has sold several bedsteads to farmers and they have started home and got them torn up going through this underpass. One man telephoned me this week that three wagons hung up in it the same day and an automobile with the top up just will go under it. The citizens have held meetings and signed petitions to the Board of Aldermen to have it remedied. The County Commissioners have offered to straighten out the road and do their part. The city is ready to do its part, but the railway company will do nothing.

I have had this matter up with Mr. Walton, Supt., for sometime. He has had men here to see it and they are thoroughly acquainted with the situation and realize the necessity of improving it, but to this good hour, nothing has been done.

Then again, there is a very dangerous crossing between the city of Monroe and West Monroe. In West Monroe, which is just beyond the corporate limits of Monroe, is situated the Icemorlee Cotton Mill. This crossing is at a cut and it is almost impossible to see a train until you are right on the track. Several people have been killed at this point, but the railway company has not tried to remedy the situation.

I was called by the Chief of Police on day before yesterday to inspect conditions at the Seaboard passenger station and I found the ladies toilet for white people in fairly good condition, except one commode only was in operation, the other being out of operation and filled up with plunder. In the men's toilet for white people, I found that the floor was lower around the commodes than on any other place and that water stood around there all the time. These were in a very unsanitary condition and I am informed by a number of people that they stay this way all the time.

In the colored waiting room I find the toilet for colored men would not flush and I sent for the janitor who told me it had been that way all the time that they had to get water and pour it in to flush it. The odor in the room was almost unbearable. I examined the toilet myself and know there is much room for complaint, and the janitor informed me that it had been this way for a long time.

These are some of the conditions here. The newspapers have been writing articles and editorials about the condition. The public has awoke to the situation. We have taken it up with the railway company and told them that if they were not going to do anything that I was going to appeal to you. Private citizens and the city of Monroe are ready now, as well as the county of Union, I believe, to employ counsel, if necessary, but my idea about it is, since I cannot get the railway company to do anything, is to write you and ask you to arrange to come down and

French Forces Holding Gains.

General Petain's troops, who made a brilliant dash against the German lines northeast of Soissons Tuesday morning, at last accounts were holding all their gains and were meeting with no resistance from the forces of the German Crown Prince, except by means of bombardment. In addition to the great gains in terrain, more than 8,000 prisoners and numerous guns were taken by the French.

Likewise the British and French armies in Flanders are maintaining all the positions won northeast of Ypres Monday. Here the Germans have delivered several counterattacks in the region south of the Houtholst forest, but have been unable to recover any of their losses.

Extremely heavy bombardments continue in the Verdun sector and in the region of Hill 344 the army of the German Crown Prince delivered a violent attack against the French. The enemy succeeded in capturing a French advanced position, but later a counter-attack forced him to relinquish it.

In the Austro-Italian theatre large German forces have reinforced the Austrian line and apparently a big battle is imminent over the 23-mile front from Monte Rombon southeastward through Filch and Tolmino and thence southward to the Bainsizza plateau, which lies about ten miles northeast of Gorizia.

Charlotte Man Threatened Life of the President.

(From the Charlotte Observer.)

Charged with saying that he could shoot President Wilson without showing him any mercy, Frank E. Spear, of 908 West Fifth street, was given a preliminary hearing before United States Commissioner J. W. Cobb yesterday morning and committed to jail in default of a \$5,000 bond to await trial before United States district court, which convenes in Charlotte the first Monday in April, 1918. A warrant was sworn out against Spear yesterday morning by John B. Sturgill, secret service agent, charging him with "unlawfully, maliciously and knowingly uttering language against the life of the President of the United States."

He was arrested yesterday morning by United States Deputy Marshal E. S. Williams. Spear is employed as a pressman at the Charlotte Leather Belting company.

Snowstorm Visits County of Watauga

Boone, Oct. 25.—The first snowstorm of the season began Tuesday and on Wednesday was still raging over the country with a fury truly wintery. Within a few hours the mercury fell from almost spring-like weather to winter temperature. It went as low as 18 to 20. This is unusually early for so cold weather.

LOUISIANA CANE SUGAR TO BE PUT ON THE MARKET

Two Hundred Million Pounds Will be Placed on Sale, Which May Have Tendency to Relieve the Shortage.

Washington, Oct. 24.—Two hundred million pounds of Louisiana cane sugar was contracted for here today by the American Sugar Refining Co., and will begin moving northward next week to relieve the serious shortage of the Eastern states.

If the eastern consumer had been compelled to await the coming of this year's supply from Western beet and Cuban cane fields, there would have been no relief for existing near-famine conditions until late in November.

\$13,000,000 FOR THE LOT

For the 200,000,000 pounds the refiners paid about \$13,000,000, or approximately 6½ cents a pound. After adding the cost of transporting and refining, it is estimated they will be able to sell to the wholesaler at steadily reducing prices, beginning at 8.35 Eastern seaboard and dropping to 7.25 by the end of the year. The latter figure is the seaboard price previously fixed by agreement for Cuban, Hawaiian and Western beet sugar and the price the Food Administration expects to maintain.

NINE CENTS TO CONSUMER

With the refiners' price at 8.35, the Food Administration announced tonight, wholesalers in the Northeast should sell at about 8.60 with the price decreasing proportionately with reduction by the refiners. This, it was said, should mean a price of 9 cents to the consumer at once and of not more than 8 cents by the end of the year.

The big deal was announced tonight at the Food Administration after a two-day conference there among the producers, headed by John M. Parker, Federal food administrator for Louisiana; Earl D. Babst, president of the American Sugar Refining Company, and officials of the administration.

FIRST SHIPMENT NEXT WEEK

In anticipation of the sale the transportation division of the Food Administration already has arranged for sufficient shipping to transport 100,000,000 pounds of the sugar to the Philadelphia, Boston and New York refineries. The first cargoes, leaving next week, will go to New York.

With the wholesale market virtually out of the way, the administration now is turning its attention to retailers and is prepared to cut off the supplies of those who insist upon taking war profits. Prices from the manufacturer have been fixed, all wholesalers will come under license on November 1 and the retailer now presents the only real problem.

Both refiners and distributors are instructed to withhold supplies from any retailer who adds an exorbitant profit. To supplement this move, organizations are being perfected through which wholesale prices in all sections of each state will be furnished to the Federal food administrator who will make them public locally and report to Washington the names of any exorbitant profit-taking retailers.

Disturbance in Junior Order.

Mr. W. T. Bost, Raleigh correspondent of the Greensboro News, sends his paper the following that will be of interest to Juniors and their friends here:

Insurance Commissioner James R. Young is investigating the insurance rates and benefits of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics, but what are his conclusions in the inquiry which affects more than 40,000 North Carolina members nobody in the office during his absence seems to know.

Juniors are amazed that the newspapers have been so innocent of any troubles that beset that great order. Some of the Juniors have been here recently discussing the affairs of the fraternity and are authority for the declaration that things have reached a critical stage. The troubles have been acute since the August council meeting and just how 40,000 people have kept quiet enough to protect their order from the public prints, nobody knows.

According to the rules, every active member of the order carries life insurance in the sum of \$500. Each local council pays the insurance premiums from the membership dues and these are required by the national society. The question before the commissioners is a delicate one. According to members the trouble comes from the requirement that the North Carolina Juniors contribute \$25,000 to the Orphan's Home at Tiffin, Ohio. Failure to comply with this mandate automatically cancels insurance and every member who refuses to do so loses his policy even though he has paid the premiums. The issue before the commissioner, therefore, is whether life insurance can be cancelled when the premiums have been paid. It is contended that the Tiffin appropriation is separate and entirely apart from the insurance premiums.

Smart Chesterfield Farmer.

(From the Chesterfield Advertiser.) Nelse Bennett is hard to beat. Yes, sir, thankee sir, boss. He says he planted cotton on the 26th day of June and was picking from it on the 10th of October. During the dry spell Nelse used a secret formula containing "lamp oil" to hold the moisture in the ground. Thos. A. Edison had better look to his laurels.

PRESIDENT WILSON GIVES ENDORSEMENT TO SUFFRAGE

Declares It One of Fundamental Questions of Democracy, and Time Is Now to Take Action.

Washington, Oct. 25.—President Wilson today gave full indorsement to woman suffrage as an immediate issue in every state.

Addressing a delegation of 100 leaders of the New York state woman suffrage party who called at the White House to obtain an expression in support of the campaign in that state, the President in emphatic terms declared that woman suffrage is one of the fundamental questions of democracy whose proper settlement is demanded by the issues of the war. He praised the spirit, capacity and vision of American women in the war.

"I believe," he said, "that just because we are quickened by the questions of this war we ought to be quickened to give this question of woman suffrage our immediate consideration."

Speaking as "one of the spokesmen of a great party," the President pledged his hearty support and added:

"I want to speak for myself and say that it seems to me that this is the time for the states of this union to take this action."

Explaining his leaning toward suffrage as a state rather than national issue, he said: "I perhaps may be touched a little too much by the traditions of our politics, traditions which lay such questions almost entirely upon the states, but I want to see communities declare themselves quickened at this time and show the consequences of the quickening."

The addresses were delivered in east room of the white house, in response to remarks by Mrs. Norman de R. Whitehouse.

The suffrage delegation returned to New York tonight confident that the President's enthusiastic indorsement would have its effect at the election November 6.

Special significance was placed by many of the New York delegation on the fact that the President's advocacy of suffrage had not been affected by the tactics of militant suffragists of the woman's party. The recent defeat of suffrage in Maine was ascribed by some workers as due to unfavorable impression created by the so-called pickets.

Officials of the National American Woman Suffrage Association declared tonight their future plans will be determined largely by the New York results. If suffrage carries, they said, suffrage campaign would be started within the next year in many states. If New York and Ohio, where there also is to be a vote next month, defeat suffrage, efforts may be centered on the federal amendment, pending before congress. A program will be determined at the convention here December 1.

Mayor Was Afraid to Come Outside.

East St. Louis, Ill., Oct. 24.—Col. Stephen O. Tripp, of the adjutant general's office of the Illinois national guard, testified today at the congressional inquiry into the East St. Louis riots that on the day of the worst rioting that Mayor Mollman of East St. Louis practically turned the functions of his office to City Attorney Fekette.

Colonel Tripp testified that he arrived in St. Louis early on July 2 and went at once to the city hall to see the mayor in the hope of enlisting the aid of the civil authorities in the maintenance of order.

Col. Tripp testified that the mayor said: "I'm not feeling well. I have been advised not to go out on the street as I might get hurt. I will get City Attorney Fekette to represent me."

Colonel Tripp said he returned to the city hall about noon and asked the mayor to accompany him on an automobile tour of the city to find the best places to station troops. Colonel Tripp stated the mayor replied: "No, I can't do it. You'll either have to get along with Fekette's assistance or figure it out on the may yourselves."

Five Persons Convicted of Burning Hotel.

Raleigh, Oct. 25.—Commissioner of Insurance James R. Young announces the conviction of five persons at Elk Park on the charge of burning a hotel there to receive fire insurance thereon. They are Ed, Champ, Wash, and Anee Young and Mrs. Jane Harvey, a sister of the four Youngs. She owned and operated the hotel. Another brother, Nat Young, confessed to part in the burning and was used as a state's witness. He has been permitted to return to army service. The four men convicted were given three years each in the penitentiary and Mrs. Harvey paid costs in her case and was deprived of collecting any part of the insurance policy she held on the hotel.