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BAKER BRAVED THE BARRED ZONE; IS NOW IN FRANCE

Secretary of War Arrived in French Port Sunday — Optimism Prevails Among German Officers and Soldiers.

Newton D. Baker, the American secretary of war, has successfully passed through the submarine zone and reached a French port.

The continuation of the patrol attacks by the Germans all along the western front in France and Belgium indicates that their line having been heavily reinforced, the day is not far distant when the entente armies and the American forces will be asked to withstand thrusts of a more serious nature.

Gauged by the firmness of the British, French and Americans in meeting the enemy assaults in the last few weeks, and the feeling of optimism that prevails from headquarters staffs to the men in the trenches, a warm reception may be expected by the enemy when he launches his attack. In the past fortnight from Belgium to the Swiss frontier the Germans have essayed minor attacks, in nearly all of which they have been beaten before they reached the entente trenches. Where a footing luckily was obtained, the German tenure of the position generally was short-lived, for counter attacks expelled them.

Everything in the way of modern warfare—even all the cunning devices of "frightfulness" which the German mind has invented, not omitting liquid fire—has been tried against the Americans, but no where has the enemy been able to dent the front held by General Pershing's men. On the contrary, the Americans have answered all the German offensives with a spirit of greater bravery, and, although they have suffered some casualties, they have made the enemy feel the effects of their guns and rifle fire. One thing that has been apparent in all the affrays that have occurred in that strip of territory between the trenches known as No Man's Land, is that the Germans do not like coming into hand-to-hand encounter with the Americans and invariably give ground in the face of their vicious do-or-die attacks.

As in France and Belgium, the activity along the entire fighting front in northern Italy, is heightening, and here also the patrol engagements and the artillery duels seemingly indicate the approach of bitter fighting. Doubtless with the spring thaw the enemy will endeavor to force his way, from the mountain regions out upon the plains of Venetia and also to cross Piave river and form a junction with his northern armies. Here, however, the Italians having been heavily reinforced by the British and French, sanguinary encounters may be expected.

Although the breakdown in the Russian army in Asiatic Turkey was expected to release thousands of Turks who might be sent against the British operating in Mesopotamia and Palestine, the British commanders in these two regions apparently are unafraid. Both of them again have driven their lines forward, Lieutenant General Marshall having captured Hit, on the Euphrates river, 80 miles west of Bagdad, and General Allenby, in Palestine, having gone forward for an average depth of between two and three miles on a front of 13 miles northwest of Jerusalem.

Little additional information has come through concerning the situation in Russia, as regards either Great Russia, Little Russia or eastern Siberia. Reports from Sweden say that a force of German infantry and artillery has invaded Finland, landing at Abo from the Aland Islands. The Cassack leader, General Semenov, is endeavoring to put down the opposition to the Bolsheviks along the trans-Siberian railway in east Siberia. The Japanese foreign minister has declined in the diet to discuss the subject of Japan's intervention in Siberia.

British airmen have successfully bombed the great Daimler motor factory at Stuttgart, where for a long time the intensive manufacture of airplanes and airplane motors has been in progress. Munitions factories and the railway station also were bombed during the attack, which was carried out in broad daylight.

RUSSIA LED TO DOWNFALL BY MINISTER LEON TROTSKY

Man Who Resigned as Commissary for Foreign Affairs Had Short but Picturesque Career.

Petrograd, March 9.—Leon Trotsky, in an address at a meeting of the maximalist party, announced that he had resigned as commissary for foreign affairs.

As the Bolshevik foreign minister, Leon Trotsky, whose real name is Leber Braunstine, was the most important member of the revolutionary government formed after the overthrow of Kerensky last November. Although Nikolai Lenin, as premier, was the nominal head of the government, Trotsky virtually controlled Russia's destiny up to the second peace conference at Brest-Litovsk.

It was Trotsky who made public the text of secret documents exchanged between former Russian governments and foreign governments and it was he who proposed the armistice to the central powers early in December which eventually led to the abortive conference at Brest-Litovsk. The negotiations were disrupted in mid-February and hostilities were renewed. The Germans then submitted partial peace terms, but Trotsky took no part in the conferences.

Trotsky's resignation is the second

among the Russian leaders forecast by Berlin. On February 25 Berlin reported that Ensign Krylenko, commander of the Russian armies, had been superseded. A dispatch received in London Thursday said Krylenko had resigned owing to differences with the council of people's commissaries. Trotsky's resignation was forecast by Berlin last Tuesday. The withdrawals of Trotsky and Krylenko leave Lenin as the survivor of the Bolshevik ruling triumvirate. Trotsky also is president of the Petrograd council of workmen's and soldiers' delegates and was appointed food director with unlimited authority on February 29.

Having escaped from Siberia, where he was sent for political offenses, Trotsky was an exile at the outbreak of the war. He was expelled from Europe for preaching peace and arrived in New York on January 14, 1917, but returned to Russia last April after the overthrow of the imperial government.

CHARLOTTE MAN PREDICTS END OF WAR IN 3 1-2 YEARS

R. O. Alexander, Well-Known Cotton Merchant, Further Predicted That The Battle of Armageddon Will be Fought in Mississippi.

Washington, March 10.—Before an audience of 20,000 people at Poli's theater today R. O. Alexander, of Charlotte, predicted that the battle of Armageddon would be fought in the valley of the Mississippi, three years and six months after March 2 last. He quoted from the Bible to show that the United States will be invaded by the combined armies of Europe, Asia, and Africa, but that those fighting for democracy will win.

"All the monarchies of the earth," said he, "will combine against the United States, the land of unwalled cities located in the middle of the world, but we shall win."

Mr. Alexander, a medium-sized man, of aggressive manner, came to Washington, hired a hall, advertised his meeting, and preached without hope of reward. He announced at the beginning of his discourse that the Lord had sent him to tell the people what they might expect. The speech of Mr. Alexander, who can jump further, and talk and quote more Scripture than Billy Sunday, was punctuated by outbreaks of applause.

"The Bible," said Mr. Alexander, "states plainly that God will be on our side, and give us victory over monarchy and the confederated kings of Europe."

"The United States is the restored Israel. It is Christian Israel. Our governors have come from amidst the people as the Lord predicted. President Wilson, whose father was a Presbyterian preacher, came from the people.

"We are now at the time of the end, and the millennial age is just ahead of us. The devil's reign will soon be over, and we will have 1000 years of a democratic theocracy. God hates monarchy."

Eighteen months ago, when Mr. Alexander first appeared here, he predicted that Russia would overthrow the czar and would turn against the allies.

"The Lord told me to tell you that and if it had not come true I would not have returned here today."

Mr. Alexander described himself as a Scotch-Irish Presbyterian, without a drop of German blood in his veins. Delegations from New York and Baltimore came here to invite Mr. Alexander to speak in those cities. He has the invitations under consideration. Mr. Alexander spoke for three hours. The crowd kept urging him on.

Dont's for Monroe Autolists.

The police department requests the publication of the following dont's for Monroe automobile drivers:

Don't park your car within 10 feet of any water hydrant.
Don't drive over 10 miles per hour in the business section.
Don't drive over 18 miles per hour in the residential section.
Don't turn corners over 5 miles per hour, and always signal with your hand which way you are turning.
Don't park your car within 20 feet of any street intersection.
Don't drive your car with glaring headlights.
Don't drive your car unless your brakes are in good condition.
Don't let any one under 16 years of age drive your car.
Don't disregard an officer's signal to stop when he holds up his hand.
Don't let your tail light go out.
Don't let your license numbers get dirty; keep them clean and see that they are fastened on securely on front and rear.
Don't drive your car unless you have State license on rear and front.
Don't drive your car with muffler cut out open anywhere in the city.
Don't drive in the center of the street, keep to the right.
Don't pass any moving vehicle on the right.
Don't leave your car unattended with your motor running.

The Kinston Free Press says that a postal card written at Dover, Craven county, March 26, 1901, was delivered to the Kinston man to whom it was addressed a few days ago—nearly 17 years after it was written. Dover is nine miles from Kinston and where the card was during the 17 years was not related. The man who wrote it is dead.

Ex-Gov. Craig, who has been sick for a long time, continues quite feeble at his home in Asheville, his many friends will regret to learn.

NINETEEN \$1000 SALES OF W. S. S. MADE IN MONROE

Numbers are Joining the "Limit Club," and the Campaign Increases in Momentum Day by Day.

Interest in the War Savings Stamps campaign increases day by day, and the total amount of sales is reaching a staggering figure. Nineteen Monroe people and firms have joined the "Limit Club," of which to be eligible one has to agree to purchase \$1000 worth of stamps during the year. Those in this club are:

Bank of Union, Farmers & Merchants Bank, First National Bank, Savings, Loan & Trust Co., J. J. Crow, T. P. Dillon, Heath-Morrow Co., Monroe Hardware Co., J. M. Belk, Frank H. Fairley, Mrs. Frank H. Fairley, Frank H. Fairley, Jr., J. M. Fairley, Mrs. J. M. Fairley, John C. Sikes, Sikes Co., Mrs. Frances E. Griffin, Miss Faire Griffin.

During the week ending March 8, \$8,750 worth of War Savings Stamps and \$26.70 worth of Thrift Stamps were sold. This brings the total sales up to \$45,633.75.

Those buying stamps in amounts of \$100 or more during this week were: Beatrice Sikes, Preston Smith, Mollie Icceman, Lillian Icceman, Charles Icceman, Jr., Miss Bob Icceman, Miss Margaret Icceman, Mrs. R. B. Gaddy, Miss Alma Collins, all of Monroe; and Fater P. Deese, Monroe, R. F. D. 2; J. C. Carrae, Monroe, R. F. D. 8; and Miss Lessie Plyler, Mineral Springs, R. F. D. 1.

MAYOR SIKES AND POLICE WILL PUT IDLERS TO WORK

It Is Their Intention to Enforce Food Administration's Ruling Regardless of Color Line.

Chief Christenburg and his officers intend to enforce the vagrancy law to the letter. A man must either be at some kind of work, in the army or in the jail. And just because he is white will not keep him from being prosecuted for loafing. This "those who will not work shall go to jail" campaign was inaugurated last week and two negroes were rounded up and hauled before the recorder. As State Food Administrator Henry Page has called upon the officers and authorities throughout the state to co-operate with him in putting every able bodied man at some kind of work the Chief has redoubled his efforts to round up non-workers and no doubt fruits of his efforts will soon be forth coming. A white man will be sent to work for loafing as quick as a negro.

The Mayor is squarely behind the force in this work and the following letter to Chief Christenburg expresses his sentiments:

Dear Sir:—Please notify all your officers that it is my desire that the request of Food Administrator Henry A. Page, in regard to the prosecution of loafers be enforced to the letter. If I can be of any service to you in "rounding" them up let me know. I am determined that during this crisis that we are passing through that every able bodied man shall WORK.

Yours truly,
JOHN C. SIKES,
Mayor of the City of Monroe.

ESQ. LANEY MAY BE CANDIDATE

Buford Man Says He Is Considering Offering For Legislature.

Correspondence of The Journal.

Trinity, March 11.—Messrs. R. C. Laney, J. O. Baker, Will Starnes, and others, went down to Camp Sevier recently to see their sons and relatives. They found all the boys doing well, and in good heart—ready to go to France at any time. The Union county soldiers are a brave and resolute lot of men. May God preserve and protect them all through the trials and ordeals they will have to go through in these troublesome war times, and may they all return home safe and sound, but victorious.

Mr. John B. Baker is the happy father of twin girls.

Sweet potatoes in this section of the county have been all raked in, and we are casting about for seed for the next crop.

Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Dillon, and two daughters, came down to Buford Sunday to visit relatives. I had a special guard to look after them while in the great state of Buford. I hope he arrived back in Monroe safe and sound, as he is awfully afraid of us Bufordites.

Mrs. Ida Laney and children are are visiting at Mrs. Ida Laney's.

Farm work is some what behind. Labor is scarce and hard to get; small grain is looking fine; and gardening is progressing well.

Public roads are being worked up now to the satisfaction of all. That is right, overseers. Do the best you can under the present conditions.

Mr. R. W. Elliott had a dwelling house on his place destroyed by fire last week. The loss was about \$500. The occupant, Mr. Griffin, lost all of his household effects. There was no insurance either on the house or the furniture.

Mr. Henry Gribble has bought an automobile, and we may expect some fine riding.

There is little political talk going the rounds. In fact, it is rather soon. But when we come to think that the primaries will come off about the first of June, it is time to cast about and see who will be our candidates for the various offices. I may possibly run for the office suggested in the papers.—Bill Arp.

MURDEROUS ACTIVITIES OF GERMAN AVIATOR RELATED

Babies Killed in Mothers' Arms in London When the Great Explosion Comes—Folks Buried Alive.

London, March 5.—The murderous work of a German airplane raider by whose bombs many women and children were crushed or burned to death in a recent raid on London is vividly described in an interview by one of the victims in the Daily Chronicle. It is such stories as this that have roused the Briton to great wrath and the demand for vengeance. The narrator, a man, had taken refuge in a shelter with many others, including a number of women and children.

"He had scarcely got the last of the people in when the bomb fell," said the man. "All of them had been as calm and cheerful as you could wish up to then. The children particularly were fine. They were using The Bull Dog Brand, and Way Down in Tennessee, and the younger kiddies were yelling until most of them tumbled in their mother's arms or the piles of paper strewn about the place."

"Then came the explosion. There was a short, sharp hissing sound, which I suppose it made in its descent, which even in the basement we could hear quite distinctly, and then came the crash, worse than anything I had ever heard. I think most of us down there were stunned for a moment or two, and the air seemed full of flying pieces of concrete. Fortunately I was just outside two big iron doors at the time, so I escaped the worst of it, but I think it must have been at that time my hand was injured."

"Fragments were blocking up the exit, and we had to fight through to clear a way out. It was pitiful to hear the women, some calling out distractedly for their children, and others screaming that their babies had been killed in their arms. Some of the children we brought out were dead."

"Our firemen were at work as quickly as possible, but in a few minutes the whole place was like a furnace. The bomb had fallen and exploded, yet not more than 10 feet away I came across two little children standing absolutely untouched. They were crying with fright, and I got hold of them and managed to get them out. That was about the last I remember of it, for almost immediately I fainted—I suppose with the pain of my hand and arm, of which only then did I seem conscious."

"One great mass of concrete, weighing, I should think, about half a ton, had fallen down right on a group of four women. Three of them were killed outright I think, but the fourth was only pinned down and screaming to be released. Four of us tried to get her out, but we couldn't make the stonework budge an inch although we tried to lever it with all kinds of things."

"All the time the flames were getting fiercer and fiercer and coming nearer and nearer, and at length one great burst of flame and smoke drove us right away, setting light to our clothes, and we could not get near the woman again. One of the men was alight from head to foot, and we had to roll him in the water, which was ankle deep, before we could put out the flames."

"It's simply horrible inside there, a fireman told me. Masses of stuff had fallen down, making escape impossible for some of the people, and we found them crouching down in all sorts of corners, all dead, where they had obviously tried to get away from the flame and smoke. One woman was kneeling down with two little nites huddled up to her."

WOULD ABOLISH CHAIN GANG; ADOPT COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM

By Doing So, Says Mr. Henderson, This County Could Secure Much Federal Aid Money.

Mr. F. G. Henderson, member of board of Charlotte - to - Wilmington highway road trustees, would build a system of good roads in this county without issuing bonds, or increasing the road tax rate. He would accomplish this by abolishing the chain gang, and adopting the county system of road building. By doing this, Union county could secure an enormous amount of Federal road money in the next four years, and would not only get good roads, but would have the Government to keep them up for years to come.

The first step would be to abolish the chain gang. If our roads were to be built under the government plan the road force would be a heavy and unnecessary expense, and to get the good will of the other townships in the county, Monroe township would have to do away with the gang in order to prove its good faith. This done, a bill would have to be introduced and passed in the Legislature allowing Union county to work its roads by the county system, instead of by the township plan, says Mr. Henderson.

Under the provisions of the Federal road aid act, states Mr. Henderson, no more Government money than the tax returns of the township or the county can be secured. For instance, Monroe township can get about \$11,000 of this money this year because that is the amount of the road tax fund. Other townships cannot get as much because their tax returns are smaller.

The amount available for this

county this year is \$18,700. Monroe township can get 11,000 of this; Marshville, \$5,000, and Vance the balance. All of this, if allowed, will be spent on the Charlotte-to-Wilmington highway.

Now the Federal aid law extends for a period of five years, said Mr. Henderson. One year has passed, and there are four more years in which Union county can get the benefit of this aid. If we take the amount allotted this year, we will be in a position to get more next year. The amount for that year will probably aggregate \$35,000, but we can't get it all because we work our roads under the township plan, which doesn't provide the necessary tax returns. If the roads were under the county system, we could secure unlimited amounts because the tax returns would equal any amount that the Government might allot us.

The fourth year, Mr. Henderson continued, the amount would be some where in the neighborhood of \$50,000, and \$70,000 the fifth year. To get it, after adopting the county road plan, the commissioners would have to grant a like amount each year, which would afford us enough money in the four years to build a fairly good system of roads. The Government requires that this money be spent on rural mail routes. There would be no discrimination in favor of any town or community, as the county could go after the Federal money with the intention of improving all the mail routes in the county.

Monroe, Marshville and Vance townships can get all the money allotted by the Federal government this year, but will be unable to get the full amount for the next year. Under the county plan the tax returns would be so large that they could balance any sum allowed, and this is why Mr. Henderson favors a change in our road law.

The good feature about government roads is that they are kept up by Federal engineers. In some sections patrolmen for every five miles of roadway will be allowed, and it will be their duty to go over their part of the road each day, rain or shine, and see that it is in good condition.

OTHER TOWNSHIPS CLAMORIN FOR WILMINGTON HIGHWAY

Meeting of Road Commissioners Saturday, But Nothing Definite Accomplished.

Road commissioners of Marshville, Vance, Monroe and other townships met here Saturday in the Chamber of Commerce rooms, but nothing definite was done owing to the absence of the State highway engineer, who was to have been present to make cost estimates of the road through the various townships.

Vance township hasn't stated definitely that it doesn't want the highway, but it is understood that there is a good deal of opposition to spending so much money on a road that serves less than one-third of the territory. Advocates of the road in that township, however, believe it would pay the commissioners to expend the required amount, because they would be relieved of the cost of keeping it up in the years to come.

Interested parties state that Vance can get the road at a good deal less than it was first estimated. Monroe and Marshville townships are in a position to take all the Federal aid money allowed this year with the exception of about \$2,700. If Vance cannot take all of this, it is thought that whatever the commissioners might allow would be supplemented by private subscriptions, both in Vance and in Monroe.

There is only about four miles of the proposed highway running in Vance. There is some sand along the route, and with gravel and top soil that citizens might contribute along the route, it is believed the road through Vance could be built at a cost of \$1000 per mile. That, however, is for the Government engineer to decide.

Goose Creek and Sandy Ridge townships both want the road in case Vance township gives it up. The commissioners of both of these townships have informed Mr. T. L. Riddle, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, in this effect. Three men from Goose Creek township, it is understood, are willing to contribute \$500 each toward the road if it comes through their township. A number of Sandy Ridge men have also written Mr. Riddle, urging that the road be built through their township in case Vance doesn't want it. They offer private aid, just like the Goose Creek citizens.

Good road enthusiasts are determined not to let the Wilmington-Charlotte highway through this county fall through. If the necessary amount is not forthcoming from the road commissioners, steps will probably be made to get the money by private subscription.

30 Mexican Bandits In Raid; Five Killed.

Corpus Christi, Texas, March 8.—Five of 30 Mexican bandits who raided the Tom East ranch, south of Hebronville, last night, have been killed by posse headed by Texas rangers and 13 others of the band have been located and will be "accounted for before daylight," according to a message late tonight from Hebronville. None of the possessors were injured.

Two of the bandits were killed in the brush during the day, the message said, and three others were shot tonight when rangers encountered 16 of the Mexicans 50 miles southwest of Hebronville, while they were making a dash for the Rio Grande.

CONFEDERATE VET DROPS DEAD IN HIS SON'S YARD

Mr. Clark Helms, Aged Citizen, Fell To the Ground and Expired Early Thursday Morning.

While walking in the yard around the home of his son, Mr. Sam D. Helms, of the Wesley Chapel neighborhood, Mr. Clark Helms, an aged citizen, dropped dead early Thursday morning. So far as could be ascertained, he was enjoying good health for one of his age, and it is supposed that he died of heart failure.

The funeral services were held today, and interment was in the Lucy Helms cemetery. A large number of friends gathered to pay their last respects to the dead, and he was laid to rest by the side of his wife, who died about two years ago.

The deceased was about 70 years of age. He was born in this county, and lived here all his life with the exception of the years spent in the service of the Confederacy, he having volunteered in this war at an early age.

Since the death of Mrs. Helms, he has made his home with his two sons, Messrs. Sam D. Helms and Brady Helms. They are no survivors other than these two sons, who are prominent and well-known citizens.

Mr. Helms was a good, honest citizen. In the war he earned the reputation of being a courageous soldier, and his comrades remember him to this day as being one who fulfilled every duty with no complaint. In his youth he joined the Methodist church, but later became converted to the Baptist faith. As he had lived, he died in the Christian faith.

GOVERNMENT UNABLE TO DELIVER SODA IN MARCH

Owing to Shortage of Ships, Complete Deliveries of Nitrate Impossible in March and April.

Union county farmers will not receive complete deliveries of nitrate of soda during March and April, as had been planned. Broken lots, however, will come in, and arrangements to meet this unexpected condition have been devised. This information was contained in the following telegram to Mr. T. J. W. Broom, county demonstrator:

"Owing to war conditions, has not been possible to obtain ships to transport nitrate from Chile to this country to make farmers complete delivery during March and April of nitrate needed in those months. Shipping arrangements indicate ability to fill later needs. Wish to deliver in the fairest and most suitable manner quantity immediately available. In order to save time that would be consumed in sending money to Washington, and to save farmers cost of keeping money on deposit for long period, and to make delivery as quickly as possible after arrival, and to make best possible use of car space this department contemplates appointing for counties where conditions require, a special distributor, to whom shipments for the county will be made upon sight draft with bill of lading attached through bank already designated, and who will collect money directly from the farmer applicants at or before delivery of nitrate to them. Department will make reasonable allowance to distributors to cover expense and services. Fifty cents per ton would seem reasonable except in unusual cases where expenses are great. No increase to farmers. Please consult designated bank and members local committee and recommend suitable reliable person willing to serve as distributor for your county, and state rate per ton at which he will serve."

In explanation of the above order, Mr. Broom stated: "It will be seen from the above telegram that it is impossible to make shipments in car lots to the various shipping points in the county, especially during March and April. The committee will name a man, or firm, in Monroe to whom shipments will be made and the nitrate distributed from this point. Where farmers desire, local shipments can be made from Monroe to the various points in the county, the farmers paying the freight from Monroe to their station. Later we hope to be able to get shipments in car lots to points where there is sufficient nitrate applied for to make a car."

11 Killed in London Air Raid.

London, March 8.—Eleven persons were killed and 46 others injured in last night's airplane raid on London, according to the latest police reports. It is feared that an additional six bodies are in the ruins of houses wrecked.

Another raid dropped bombs in the northern district of London, demolishing several houses. The following official announcement was made: "Last night's raid was carried out by seven or eight airplanes. One reached London and dropped bombs in the northwest and southwest districts. Another raider, after dropping bombs to the north of London proceeded southward and dropped bombs in the northern district. Several houses were demolished.

"The raid demonstrated that German aviators no longer depend upon moonlight. It was the first time the enemy had attempted a night raid over London when there was no moon. The stars were out, however, and there was little wind."

North Carolina's subscription to the second Liberty loan, announced by the Treasury Department, was \$27,531,200.