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MONROE MEN OPTIMISTIC CONCERNING RADIO CAMP

If Baker's Plan "Tote Fair," the Station is Almost a Certainty—Will Be Permanent Fixture and Cost Millions of Dollars—About 1000 People Including Officers Families Will Come With It.

Messrs. J. C. Sikes, G. B. Caldwell and E. C. Carpenter returned from Washington after conferring with Secretary of the Navy Daniels and the committee in charge of the work say that the largest radio station in the world, costing an enormous amount of money, will probably be located at Bakers, about four miles from Monroe.

Messrs. Sikes and Carpenter left Monroe Monday afternoon and arrived in Washington Tuesday morning. Immediately they called upon Congressman Lee Robinson. They explained to him that government representatives had stopped at Wadesboro, Monroe and other towns in the congressional district represented by him looking for a favorable site for a government plant. Congressman Robinson then agreed to recommend the site in his district thought to be most favorable by government representatives who had looked the sites over.

In company with Congressman Robinson the Monroe men then called upon Secretary of the Navy Daniels. The secretary received the committee very cordially and in reply to a question by Mr. Sikes read to him the report of the representatives, who visited the various towns, concerning the sites offered. He then stated that the site at Bakers was the most favorable one offered. In talking with the committee he stated that his department did not have the power to spend more than \$10,000 for real estate for a government station or plant and that a special act of congress would be necessary to secure an appropriation for money to be expended in buying real estate necessary for the station as it would necessarily cost more than \$10,000.

After the conference with Secretary Daniels the Monroe men were given a United States marine to direct them to the office of Capt. Todd, at the headquarters of the bureau of docks and yards, who would have charge of the work. When they arrived at this building they found that the engineers were even then drawing the plans for the radio plant. They stated that it would be the greatest radio plant in the world and that it would be the latest design in aerial communication. The question of available land and prices came up and Messrs. Sikes and Carpenter at once wired Mr. G. B. Caldwell, who showed the government representatives the land while they were here, to come to Washington to present this phase of the case to Capt. Todd.

As planned now the station will occupy 700 acres of ground when fully completed. This ground will be in the shape of a cross, the prongs of which are all the same length. The prongs will be one and one half miles long and 2000 feet wide. When completed there will be 20 wireless stations upon each prong of the cross. However, it is the intention of the government not to complete the plant at once. Stations will be built upon only two of the prongs at first. At present the government wishes to buy only sufficient land for two of the prongs of the cross and to secure options upon the other two.

It is the intention to build the stations first on prongs, one of which faces Europe and one facing South America, so as to be in direct communication with the two continents. Mr. Sikes was informed in Washington that each station on the prong when completed would cost approximately \$135,000.

The entire plant will be surrounded with a high wire fence and guards will patrol the outskirts of it to protect the property. The station will require a complement of between 200 and 350 operators, who receive very high salaries. Some of the best electrical engineers in the world will be located at the plant.

A radio plant is a station where messages are sent by means of wireless. The noise connected with the plant would be no more than that in the average Western Union Telegraph office. There will be no danger to either crops or man from it.

The largest radio plants in America today are located at New York city, Panama, Annapolis, Md., and at Pasadena, Cal. The plant to be established will be more powerful than either of these. Probably the most powerful station in the world today is located on the Eiffel tower in Paris, the highest building in the world. The plant to be established will be in direct communication with this one in Paris.

While in Washington men connected with the bureau of docks and yards explained to the Monroe men that the plant was to be established in this part of the country because of the fact that wireless or radio stations of small power were not numerous in this section of the country and as the new station would be out of their range of communication much confusion could thus be avoided.

In talking with the Monroe men concerning the site Secretary Daniels commented upon the fact that there was no stream through the grounds offered where water could be secured. But he was of the opinion that sufficient water could be secured from wells on the grounds. He was much pleased with the nearness of the power lines and the railroad.

If the plant is located here enormous amounts of money would be

spent with the local hardware companies. Some of those in charge of the station, in number about 300, would build homes near the plant while others would prefer to make their home in Monroe, journeying to and from the plant in automobiles. The operators with their families would number around a thousand.

The station is not designed as a war time measure but as a permanent plant. In fact it is not the intention to fully complete it for some time. Mr. J. C. Sikes, in talking to a Journal representative yesterday morning, declared, "If the people of Bakers will 'tote fair' and let the government have the land at reasonable prices the chances for the station being located are most favorable."

At a meeting of those who own property near where it is proposed to locate the station and the business men of the city in the assembly rooms of the Chamber of Commerce yesterday afternoon it was decided that a map of the land should be drawn and carried to Washington at once. Messrs. G. B. Caldwell, Sam D. Helms and B. W. Crow were named to look after this.

It was further decided that it was necessary that a man should go to Washington and look after the interests of the county in securing the station.

The property owners along the west side of the railroad where it is proposed to locate the station are Monroe Insurance & Investment Co., R. F. Huneycutt of Wingate, B. Craig, L. C. Polk, Sam D. Helms, B. W. Crow, J. Frank Williams, G. F. Horn, V. T. Helms, J. H. Rogers, F. M. Sutton, N. R. Helms, W. J. McManus and W. J. Sutton. At the meeting all of these men went on record as being in favor of the station. All of the business men of the town present were very eager that the station should be secured for Monroe. Mr. R. A. Morrow expressed himself as being willing to give \$500 if it could be guaranteed that the station would come to Union county. Rev. John A. Wray said that such a station as the proposed one would put Union county on the map as nothing else would do.

After Mr. J. C. Sikes had explained that the authorities wanted a map of the land with a fair idea of what it could be purchased for the property owners decided that one should be prepared and carried to Washington by a man who should represent them early next week.

Canteen Notes.

The Canteen Hut has been a busy place for the past few days. Since September the first 312 men have registered, and since the opening of the Hut in May 600 names have been enrolled. One hundred and fifty-two trains, with 76,000 men, have been served.

If the people, who contribute so generously to the support of this work could see how much the men appreciate it, I am sure they would feel amply repaid for whatever efforts they put forth, and for whatever sacrifices they may be making.

An officer remarked Friday morning, "This is a great work you ladies are doing and the boys certainly do appreciate it. They look forward with pleasure to the next town with a canteen hut."

Another remarked, "How good this coffee is! It makes me think I'm at home. It certainly does cheer us along the way to have you people treat us so well." These men belonged to the Cyclone Division which is composed of men from several different States.

Among the dozen soldiers and sailors on number 5 Friday morning, was a very noticeable group. There were three brothers, each six feet tall, and very handsome. They were Smiths, and been across seven times.

Mrs. R. C. Griffin and Mrs. E. C. Snyder interested the Wingate ladies in the canteen work, and they sent 2300 cookies. It would have given these ladies great pleasure to see how the boys enjoyed this home cooking. A repetition of this generous deed would not be at all amiss.

This tribute to the Red Cross was handed to the commandant by a passing soldier.

TO THE RED CROSS.

Red Cross lady, you're the one we've learned much to adore, For everywhere we go, we find you there

With outstretched hand—and gifts to cheer; True—once too lightly we esteemed you, But now, we clasp your hand—for you,

Are one with us, wher'ere we go.— Jesse R. Bonds, Austin, Tex.—Canteen Reporter.

Financial Report of W. M. U.

The financial report of the W. M. U. of the Union Association for the quarter ending August 31, 1918, is as follows:

- Corinth, W. M. U., thank offering, \$7.91; Sunbeam, thank offering, \$1.90.
- Faulks, W. M. U., home missions (for last quarter) \$4.00; W. M. U., church building and loan, \$3.00.
- Hopewell, W. M. U., church building and loan \$4.61.
- Meadow Branch, W. M. U., church building and loan, \$9.20; Sunbeams, church building and loan, \$2.04.
- Marshville, W. M. U., church building and loan, \$87.60.
- Monroe, W. M. U., church building and loan, \$100.00; Expense fund \$7; Y. W. A., church building and loan, \$4.05; Sunbeams, church building and loan \$7.00.
- Shiloh, W. M. U., church building and loan, \$5.00; Expense fund \$2.00; Sunbeams, church building and loan, \$1.00. Total \$166.31.—Mrs. D. B. Snyder, Superintendent.

MONROE BOY WRITES AN APPEAL FOR RED CROSS

Stationed in the Rainbow Division This Young Man is in a Position to Have Seen the Red Cross Organization in Actual Operation—Praises the American Soldiers.

One of the many boys from Monroe now serving their country in France has written in a letter to his mother one of the strongest appeals for Red Cross work and funds we have yet read. He has been with the Rainbow Division for some months and has had several hospital experiences and is therefore in a position to know the full worth of the Red Cross work. In addition he praises the American Boys, saying "We have the best soldiers in the world," and tells something of the German morale. Excerpts from this letter are given here:

"The Red Cross work in this big drive cannot be sufficiently told. It has been wonderful. Where the big Q. M. C. ambulances could not go the Fords took a hand, and when they were forced to stop mule drawn ambulances took charge. The latter service was extended as far as the front line and was under a sweeping shell fire at all times. It never let up and when an ambulance was blown to pieces not a trip was missed for usually those occupying the unlucky ambulances needed no further aid and the next ambulance near by reported it so that a new one was put on. Every phase of the Red Cross organization worked up to the highest expectations—from giving worn out men hot coffee on up to the worst wounded cases. Many men will bless that service if they ever live to say another word and those in the States, who, because they are safe, failed to answer the call for Red Cross funds are worse than murderers, for every bit given may save a life, and who knows but what it may be a life dear to them—if a person of that sort can hold anything dear. The men wait patiently for a Red Cross Brassard, which will eventually appear to render first aid to them. But to be of best service the Red Cross worker must have lets back of him and its up to every American to stand behind him."

In regard to the Sammies this Monroe boy says: "Believe me, we have the finest soldiers in the world. The more I see of them the prouder I become. They seemed as unconcerned as though the greatest battle of the war was not going on. They oftentimes have the man walking beside them blown to pieces and they go on as if nothing had happened. Is it any wonder the French become happy when they find who we are and call us 'The Yellow Devils,' or that the Boche call us 'The Wild Men' when we walk square into their artillery and machine gun fire? There is not, for the boys are like so many wild men—and the Boche has come to know it much to his expense."

"The German morale and manpower is getting low. When an army has to chain its rear guard to their machine guns and has to employ women to cover a retreat—they are in a bad fix. This is not hearsay, but actually happened right before me. When we took one machine gun position we found three guns—a man chained to each of the outside ones and a woman to the center one. All three dead, of course. We have been saving them as souvenirs for those who doubt our word on it. When a person says they don't believe it we simply take them to the spot and they are easily convinced."

GERMANS USE FRENCH LACE

Americans Find Evidence of Shortage of Dressings.

(By The Associated Press.) With the American Army in France Tuesday, September third.—Just beyond Juvigny during their advance the Americans captured a German dressing station and several wounded Germans, and rescued two wounded Americans. The rescued Americans had little food for two days and virtually no attention. The Americans did not complain, however, as the German wounded were not given much attention either. This was due to the confusion of the retreat and the great numbers of wounded Germans who poured into the station as the Americans advanced.

In this dressing station were found quantities of French lace curtains, which had been cut into strips for bandages and also crepe paper used for the same purpose. The lace had been taken by the Germans from French homes in various sections, sterilized and medicated, cut into strips and rolled the same the regulation bandages. French officers who examined the lace said it was unquestionably of French make. The Germans had evidently been obliged to use bandages of this type because of the shortage of material in Germany.

Market Quotations.

- Good white cotton 33.65
- Hens 60 to 75
- Young chickens 40 to 60
- Candled eggs 40
- Country hams 35
- Butter 35
- Sweet potatoes 1.75
- Irish potatoes 1.50

"I dreamed of hebbin last night," said one colored epicurian to another. "An' what wuz it like?" asked the other with much interest. "It wuz er great big chicken roost stuck up in de middle ob er watermelon patch," was the reply.

EMPEROR CHARLES MAKES EXPECTED "PEACE OFFENSIVE"

Issues Plea For "A Confidential and Non-Binding Discussion of Peace"—American and Allied Aims Already Made Clear.

Overshadowing in interest even Marshal Foch's hammer blows against the harried Germans, is the Teutonic bid for peace made through the imperial government of Austria-Hungary. The formal plea of Emperor Charles to the belligerents for "a confidential and non-binding discussion on the basic principles for the conclusion of peace" comes as the first sensational move in the "peace offensive" which has been expected since the German arms began to stagger back from the fierce thrusts of the British, French and Americans.

Washington and the allied capitals hailed the call for a conference on neutral soil as another German ruse to get better terms than they might expect when the war has been carried to the Rhine. They were convinced that Austria, whose people have long been war-weary, had been called upon to bear the onus of making peace overtures and thus save the face of Germany.

FOUND COLD COMFORT.

Not only in Washington but in London and Paris, pacifists found cold comfort. None of the governments involved was inclined to take seriously the request that delegates be sent to such a conference as that proposed by the Austrian ruler. It was pointed out that the United States and entente allies have made their peace aims so clear that there can be no mistaking them.

The assertion that the "central powers leave it in no doubt that they are leaving a war of defense for the integrity and security of their territories" was greeted with added skepticism in the face of the Washington disclosures unmasking completely the intrigue which has wrecked Russia. Publication of documents proving beyond all question that Germany had waited only for a plausible pretext to plunge the world into war, cast a sinister shadow over the benevolent protestations of Emperor William's closest ally.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN PERISH

It was accompanied also by the announcement that a German submarine had sunk the British steamship Galway Castle with the loss of 189 lives. Ninety of those who perished were women and children. At the same time U-boats renewed their attacks upon shipping on this side of the Atlantic, shelling only eight miles off the coast a transport carrying Canadian sick and wounded.

Grim meaning was given the overtures by the announcement from Paris that Austrian troops which tried to block the way of the Americans were utterly demoralized and surrendered to a man while the peace kite was in flight. British, French and American troops continued their relentless pressure against the Germans. Pershing's men advanced from two to three miles on a 33-mile front. Haig's forces advanced northwest of St. Quentin while French forces made progress south of the same city. Mangin's army simultaneously struck a new blow at the German salient north of Soissons. Wherever the allied troops attacked the German lines moved back.

Washington, Sept. 16.—Within half hour after Mr. Lansing received the Austrian proposal for a discussion of peace terms on neutral soil the following statement was given out by the Secretary:

"I am authorized by the President to state that the following will be the reply of this government to the Austro-Hungarian note proposing an unofficial conference of belligerents:

"The government of the United States feels that there is only one reply which it can make to the suggestion of the imperial Austro-Hungarian government. It has repeatedly and with entire candor stated the terms upon which the United States would consider peace and can and will entertain no proposal for a conference upon a matter concerning which it has made its position and purpose so plain."

There is some reason to believe that the secretary acted with this unprecedented promptness in a matter of such great import with the design not only to indicate clearly the position of the United States government, but perhaps to anticipate and prevent as far as possible, newspaper discussions of the Austrian propositions, which might convey to the enemy a misleading impression that there was any considerable element in the United States willing to consider a negotiated peace, such as the "non-binding" discussions, proposed by Austria, might develop.

Also it is understood there was a purpose to sound the note which the entente powers might repeat in making their own answers. All these powers had gone on record formally as accepting the conditions of peace laid down by President Wilson as their own.

The administration and the general staff has given every assurance that the war is proceeding to a reasonably early and complete victory which will involve the acceptance by the central powers of the only possible terms of peace—namely, those laid down by President Wilson.

These terms, referred to in the reply dictated today to the Austrian note, were clearly set out in President Wilson's Fourth of July speech at Mount Vernon as follows:

WILSON'S TERMS

"1. The destruction of every arbitrary power anywhere that can sepa-

ately, secretly and of its own choice disturb the peace of the world, or, if it cannot be presently destroyed, at least its reduction to virtual impotence.

"2. The settlement of every question, whether of territory, of sovereignty, of economic arrangement, or political relationship, upon the basis of the material interest or advantage of any other nation or people which may desire a different settlement for the sake of its own exterior influence or mastery.

"3. The consent of all nations to be governed in their conduct toward each other by the same principles of honor and of respect for the common law of civilized society that govern the individual citizens of all modern states in their relations with one another; to the end that all promises and covenants may be sacredly observed, no private plots or conspiracy hatched, no selfish injuries wrought, with impunity, and a mutual trust established upon the handsome foundation of a mutual respect for right.

"4. The establishment of an organization of peace which shall make it certain that the combined power of free nations will check every invasion of right and serve to make peace and justice the more secure by affording a definite tribunal of opinion to which all must submit and by which every international readjustment that cannot be amicably agreed upon by the peoples directly concerned shall be sanctioned."

There was some speculation in official circles as to what will be the next step in what is recognized as the great Germanic peace offensive. Generally, it is believed that the German and Austrian military leaders will point to the American reply as an evidence that they have done everything possible to bring about peace and thus try to strengthen their people for another winter campaign. But another view is that owing to the intolerable conditions in Austria-Hungary there is more than a possibility of a breaking up of the quadruple alliance; that Austria, having gone through the form of making a peace proposal, which was promptly rejected, has thus cleared the way for her next step, an unconditional surrender on the terms laid down by President Wilson.

MORALE OF GERMAN TROOPS NOW BECOMING LOWER.

Captured Documents Prove a Bad Condition of Affairs in the Kaiser's Domain—One Soldier Writes Another to Take Leave When He Pleases.

(Perry Robinson in Greensboro News)

British Headquarters, Sept. 9.—(4 P. M.)—One hesitates always to lay too much stress on proofs of German disorganization and shaken morale, but there can be no possible doubt that conditions today are much worse and that dissatisfaction is more widespread than ever before. Here is some evidence drawn from a number of recent documents. A man in one division sends a letter of advice to younger soldiers on leave as follows: "If you don't get your leave within three months, take it yourself and get away. He did that. He got as far as Hagenau, where he was stopped and sent back to his unit. When he arrived there he got 14 days leave at once without any punishment and nothing else. I mean to do the same thing." Other men in letters openly wish that they were prisoners. One writes:

"We have heard here that the Bavarians and Saxons no longer wish to fight. How is it going to end? One tells how certain Alsations stayed behind in the retreat and deserted, and adds that if they had told their comrades what they were going to do a lot more would have stayed with them. Released prisoners from Russia are brought to this front with the promise of employment behind the lines of communication. They are being thrust into the fighting line and bitterly resent it. Men going on leave are said to gather all the food they can lay their hands on before starting, taking it back to their families.

A divisional order of the 40th division is very emphatic against the practice of the troops falling to hold the front line positions when ordered. Apparently the German troops take advantage of the Ludendorff theory of observation and outpost zones in front of the real line of resistance and when they desert the front lines which they have been told to hold they report, "evacuation of the outpost zone."

We hear of a shortage of artillery ammunition and of allotments of ammunition to batteries so inadequate that battery commanders use more than they are allotted and explain the shortage by saying the dumps were exploded by British shells. Inspectors are being appointed to keep an eye on all dumps and stores.

There is a report of the 21st division which shows the findings of a court martial in 28 cases where the convictions were judged under seven heads as follows: One for desertion active service, two for conspiracy to desert, three for cowardice, four for unauthorized absence from fear of personal danger, five for express disobedience to orders, six for attempted self mutilation, seven for looting during retreat. Punishments inflicted in all 28 cases range between five and seven years imprisonment.

However cautions may be about attaching too much importance to things like these, it is impossible not to recognize that all these symptoms together point to grave conditions in the German army.

—Come to Monroe Saturday.

Seen and Heard Around the Streets of Monroe.

By HENRY BELK

We are of the opinion that when the Kaiser looks at the figures representing the number of Germans captured by Pershing's boys in the past few days he is not a little worried concerning the number of fathers remaining in the fatherland.

Speaking at the Krupp munition plant a few days ago the Kaiser is quoted as using the phrase "civilized European nations." Just between us and the gate post we don't believe that he would have used this phrase if he had thought just a little; for upon a moment's sober reflection he would have realized that Germany could not be included in the list of civilized European nations.

About fifteen years ago a crowd of men from Union county boarded the train for a trip to Wilmington, the city by the sea, where they intended to have a rip-roaring good time. In the crowd were Messrs. J. B. Williams, Fate Belk, who works Mr. Will Flow's place west of town, "Bill" Eubanks, Charley Austin and Dr. Robert May. In those days of its infancy the Seaboard was even then building that "Seaboard Airline, always behind reputation." The train crept on "as infinitum" until at last as the conductor passed by Dr. May looked up and enquired, "Can't you get along any faster than this?" "Yes," replied the conductor, "but I am not allowed to leave my train." Fianly the train did arrive in Wilmington and the Unionites went down to look at the deep blue sea. Having been slapped in the face by the surf and seen the sights generally the bunch concluded they would take a launch and go for a trip over the sound. Gliding over the waters of the sound the launch approached a mass of floating seaweed. As far as the eye could reach extended this mass of the green wandering plant of the sea, resembling nothing so much as a verdant meadow. As his eyes took in the grand sight Mr. Charley Austin exclaimed in ecstasy, his agricultural sense getting the better of him, "Oh, if I just had my McCormick mowing machine down here, couldn't I get some hay." Gradually the land receded from view and became as a dark line upon the horizon. The launch glided smoothly over the water further and further away from shore. Now, to appreciate the following it must be remembered that Mr. "Bill" Eubanks is an exceedingly tall man, about six feet and a half, we think. Mr. Fate Belk, gazing at the fast disappearing land, became alarmed and suddenly addressed the man who was running the boat thus, "Cap'n, say cap'n; hold on a minute and let Bill Eubanks get out and go in front of the boat to see how deep the water is?" History does not record what happened next.

We were seated in a certain grocery store in the city Saturday when a young lady of the town came in and enquired if the grocer had any iced wafers on hand. "No," he replied; "and you will not find any in the town. Soldiers from a passing troop train bought all the wafers, cakes and crackers in the town." Although the young lady may have wanted the delicacies for a special occasion she was glad of the fact that they had been able to purchase what they desired. "Let the soldiers have them," she said. Her spirit thus expressed is the spirit of the entire American nation. Nothing we have is too good for the soldiers who go to fight our battles for us.

Mr. Sam Lathan of Buford township is not engaged in the farming business either for his health or the exercise to be obtained in it. One of the attractive things about farming to him is the money to be made in it. As this is the case Mr. Lathan has long since realized that one of the essentials on the farm is the raising of the feed consumed by the stock. In his barns now is sufficient feed, and the most of this year's crop is still in the field, to furnish his stock through the winter. A few days ago Mr. T. J. W. Broom, county farm demonstrator, was looking over Mr. Lathan's farm, and he reports that it is one of the finest in the county. He tells of the owner taking him to a small patch of clover and calling his attention to the size and to the fact that it had been planted in a half day, when he said, "and I will get more hay off that little patch than I could buy and haul from Monroe in two days." Mr. Lathan also goes in for raising registered cattle.

Mr. Flow's Crop Report.

Monroe, N. C., Sept. 16, 1918.

The Commercial Appeal, Memphis, Tenn.

Dear Sirs—

Rains during the first of the month were largely neutralized by the unusual temperatures which followed them. These temperatures had a debilitating effect upon the cotton plant, producing a deterioration slightly in excess of the usual for this date in September. Rust and continued ravages by the red spider are also supplementary deteriorating factors. There will be little or no top crop. In the rust stricken areas, bolls are opening prematurely. It is estimated that 20 per cent of the crop will be ginned by October 1. Picking is in progress, but many farmers fear that the scarcity of labor may be serious handicap later. Condition 60 per cent. Very truly yours,

GEO. E. FLOW.