

# THE MONROE JOURNAL

PUBLISHED TWICE EACH WEEK — TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

VOL. 24. No. 80.

MONROE, N. C., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1918.

\$1.50 PER YEAR CASH.

## REPORT THAT GERMANY ACCEPTED ARMISTICE TERMS FALSE

Country Delirious on Report Sent Out by United Press and Other News Agency—Rumor Officially Denied—Troops Still Advancing at 6:30 Last Evening.

Washington, D. C., November 7th.—Late tonight the American Government had not been advised of the outcome of the meeting between Marshal Foch and the German armistice envoys, arranged to take place within the French lines at five o'clock this afternoon, Paris time.

The State Department authorized from time to time during the evening reiterations of the official denials issued by Secretary Lansing at 2:15 p. m., of the false report of the signing of an armistice which has thrown Washington with other cities of the country into an uproarous premature peace celebration. Official dispatches added nothing to information received during the day announcing that the German representatives were approaching the western front.

Mr. Lansing's statement, supported by a similar one from Secretary Baker, and displayed on newspaper bulletin boards, failed to check the wildly enthusiastic demonstration which started when an afternoon paper appeared on the street with the false story spread across the first page in black type. The report spread over the city by word of mouth and telephone, and soon bells were ringing, whistles were blowing and the streets were thronged with people.

## EXCITEMENT HYSTERICAL

For a time, the citizens' committees which had planned demonstrations in anticipation of peace within a few days held their balance and announced their determination to await an official announcement. But excitement on the streets rose to hysteria, crowds assembled before the White House and Government Departments and soon the committee were as wild as anybody else, and the demonstration was underway. Floats and banners were paraded on Pennsylvania avenue, and other broad thoroughfares, bands played and banners were hoisted.

Before the White House, a cheering mob surged before the gates calling for "Wilson." The President left the lunch table to see what it was all about and his appearance on the veranda was the signal for an outburst that made the yelling of a minute before seem tame. In response to shouts the President waved his napkin and smiled, but he quickly disappeared within the White House doors, apparently realizing that his presence was lending weight to a report of a momentous happening of which the Government had no confirmation.

This was before Secretary Lansing's first statement had appeared. Nearly two hours before at eleven A. M.—Mr. Lansing, upon learning that the cable censors had received an unofficial dispatch saying the armistice was signed, had put a cablegram through on the State Department's special wire to Paris asking for a statement of the facts.

Just at 2:04 o'clock the reply came back that the report was untrue; that the Germans would not be received by Marshal Foch until six hours after the time the erroneous dispatch had given for the signing of the armistice. Nevertheless, all throughout the afternoon Washington continued to celebrate. The Government Departments joined in the panic, how nobody seems to know. Some chief clerk turned his face loose; they passed the word and soon thousands of young men and women war workers were in the streets. One Department still held in check had its equilibrium overthrown by a truckload of soldiers passing a window, and its force rushed out too. The clerks went with or without permission.

## CONTINUES CELEBRATION

Late in the afternoon the city quieted down, but as darkness came on the celebration was resumed with renewed vigor. The people apparently realized the truth, but were out to celebrate anyhow. They went on the theory that if the Germans had not surrendered to-day, they were certain to surrender to-morrow. Laughing, horn-blowing throngs passed up and down Pennsylvania avenue, creating a din seldom surpassed even by an inauguration crowd.

Upon the question of whether the German delegation is empowered to act without communication with Berlin regardless of what demands are made in the terms offered by Marshal Foch depends whether an immediate cessation of hostilities may be in sight.

Close upon the heels of General Pershing's "unreserved commendation of the Y. M. C. A. work for the army," embodying an appeal to the American people for "further financial support," comes an appeal from the camp secretary of the Y. M. C. A. for more men to be used in overseas and home services. There are almost four thousand secretaries overseas, but the need for more is imperative.

Card of Thanks. We wish to express our appreciation and thanks for the kindness and sympathy shown us during our recent bereavement. — Mr. and Mrs. L. N. Presson.

## Taking of Sedan Great Military Achievement.

Washington, D. C., November 7th.—The taking of Sedan by American troops is a "great military achievement," Secretary Baker said to-day when informed that detachments of Lieutenant General Liggett's first army had entered the historic French city.

"The news of the taking of Sedan is very good news," said Mr. Baker. "It is a great military achievement. At our last report the Americans were at a distance, I believe, of five or six miles from Sedan, in the most difficult country along the western front, except the flooded territory in Flanders."

"The advance of Pershing's army from the 28th of September to the first of November, slow, difficult, in the face of tremendous opposition and against the strongest kind of positions, and its consequent very much more rapid advance, including the taking of Sedan, is a fine military achievement in a limited area that has taken place in the war at any time."

## REPUBLICANS GAIN CONTROL LOWER HOUSE OF CONGRESS

Claim Control of Senate—Will Mean Re-organization of Lower House and Probably Senate—All Democrats Elected in Senate.

The Democratic National Committee at Washington has conceded the loss of the House as a result of Tuesday's elections, but refuse to indicate how large a majority they believe the Republicans will have.

Republican leaders claim that they will control at least 230 of the 435 seats in the House, possibly 240. A membership of 230 for the Republicans would represent a gain of 18 seats for that party.

Who will control the Senate is as yet somewhat doubtful. The Republicans claim that they will control it by 4 seats, that they will have 50 seats and the Democrats 46. The Democrats claim a tie. In this case they will continue the control of it.

The gaining of control of the House by the Republicans means that they will organize the next session of Congress. The chairmanship of the important committees will change hands.

## Price of Cotton Will Not Be Fixed.

Washington, D. C., November 7th.—Fixing of prices on raw cotton is unnecessary and impracticable. President Wilson will be told by the cotton investigating committee of the war industries board. This announcement was made to-night by Dr. Thomas W. Page, chairman of the committee.

The committee's conclusion, Doctor Page said, was based on the fact that there is no prospective shortage of cotton and the belief that the cotton distribution committee can secure a proportionate marketing of the lower as well as the higher grades of cotton more effectively by other methods.

Continuance of the work of this committee is recommended.

Doctor Page's statement was said to embody the essential points of the report which the committee will present soon to the President. It said that there would be no way of enforcing a fixed price except through the "readiness of the Government to purchase" the entire crop.

## JOHN WRITES BRIEFLY OF EXPERIENCES IN FRANCE

Says the Fifty-Sixth Pioneer Infantry Is at Work Along Firing Line With Their Shovels—Has Traversed Part of the Old Hindenburg Line.

On August eighth ninety-six Union county boys left Monroe for Camp Wadsworth, among them being the editor of The Journal, John Beasley. Most of these boys, including Oscar Abernathy, John Futch and Olin McManus, were grouped with a number of Pennsylvania men who had been in service for months, into the 56th Pioneer Infantry. It was due to this fact that they made the trip to France in record breaking time—landing on French soil five weeks from the time they left Monroe. The Pioneer Infantry is comparatively a new organization, the duties of its men being to convey ammunition to the front, repair roads and bridges, bury the dead and numerous other "odd jobs." John promised to continue his column of sketches, but neither the paper nor the opportunity have thus far been available. However, the friends and relatives of the other boys with him may be interested in the following extracts from a recent letter:

Since leaving our port of embarkation the regiment has been constantly on the move—train journeys (in box cars), and foot marches, finally bringing us up to our present station near the front. During that time there was little paper procurable, and no leisure, consequently I have been inadvertently negligent.

Little did I dream of what the future had in store for me when I left home on the night of August 8. It is true that I knew the life of a soldier was accompanied by severe hardships, but when one is surrounded by the comforts and luxuries of home he discounts this condition. Now, as I go out each morning at 6 a. m. to do my daily "bit" with a shovel I marvel that I was gifted with a constitution strong enough to endure it. (Our company is at present engaged in (cut out by censor) to the front.) Though in (cut out by censor) branch of the service, ours is not a "bullet-proof" job. Whistling shells and bursting shrapnel sing us to sleep each night, and gas masks are carried always in expectation of a gas attack.

You should see my little "home" in France. Perched high up on the side of a hill four of us—two lads from Pennsylvania and one from Reidsville have a small "pup-tail" tent—just large enough to permit us to crawl under our blankets. It is small protection against the elements, but everyone is glad of the opportunity to take advantage of its shelter when the evening shadows begin to fall.

There is quite a contrast between the French coast cities, made prosperous by the exodus of Americans, and the inland cities in the vicinity of the war zone. For four years they have been the target of Hun shells, and today most of them are nothing but masses of ruins. The fields, formerly cultivated by the gay French, are now barren—growing crops having been displaced by gaping shell holes. One can also see the suffering written on the faces of the people. They never smile, and it was only a short time ago after a number of allied successes, that they went into battle singing. It is not despair—it is grim determination to win the war that one discerns in their countenance. They are a brave and loyal people, and are deserving of the fruits of victory that is certain to come.

The other day a number of us went through a German trench—one of the innumerable strongholds that formerly made up the famous Hindenburg line which has been broken by the victorious Allies, and as I gazed at the dugouts of steel and cement, which were surrounded by barb-wire entanglements, I wondered that the beastly Hun's positions at last were found pregnable. And right there I had the satisfactory feeling of realizing that allied success must come swiftly and certain. For nearly four years the Germans held these trenches and during that time they were fortified with all the deadly weapons of war known to mankind. Then, when one takes into consideration that the Huns are now fighting from hastily improvised entrenchments, one rightly concludes that the allied advance will be accelerated.

Peace is in the air. The German agreement to Mr. Wilson's fourteen propositions caused quite a little excitement, but most of the fellows gave it as their opinion that it is only a German trick. "No one wants to go back home any worse than I do," remarked one doughboy, "but I'd rather stay a few months longer rather than do a half-way job." The boys want an unconditional surrender before they quit.

## Operated on Flat Feet.

Alexander D. Dunsmore, a nephew of Secretary of Labor William B. Wilson, could not add one cubic to his stature, but he did reduce his height one-half inch and thereby lowered the bars that had kept him out of the Marine Corps.

Dunsmore, whose home is at Curwensville, Pa., applied at Pittsburgh, Pa., for enlistment two months ago. He was told he was a half-inch over the height limit. Recently he returned and passed.

## FLEEING GERMAN ARMY POISONS BELGIAN CIVILIANS

Devastation Left in Trail of Retreating Enemy—Population Without Gas Masks—Hun Commits Outrages Even as He Is Asking For Armistice.

Washington, D. C., November 6th.—German forces in their retreat from Belgium are bombarding defenseless towns, using especially gas-shells, and devastating the countryside, according to an eye-witness account made public to-day by the Belgian legation.

"The Belgian Government has been informed," said the statement, by a reliable eye-witness who follows closely the operations at the Belgian front, that, at the very moment that the German government has announced her protest against inhumane acts and while Germany offers to stop aerial bombardments in the interest of the civil population of the occupied territory, the Germans have bombed the villages and towns which they were obliged to abandon during their retreat; they have used especially gas-shells for this purpose.

"Indescribably heartrending scenes have occurred, the unfortunate population having no gas-masks or means of protection against these death spreading fumes. A Belgian soldier entering Wyncemere, his home town, found his wife dying and his little daughter dead, victims of the poison gas and his home a heap of ruins. The country all around Ghent, the rich and beautiful cultivated fields and pastures, the picturesque villages of Hansbeke, Landeghem, Novelle, Lathem, Saint Martin, Troncheux, present a horrible sight of devastation and havoc. Not a church was spared from destruction."

"Amongst the civilian population hiding in the cellars, there have been a great many deaths from gas—27 in the village of Hansbeke alone. A portion of the population who had fled from their homes during the fighting and bombardment, found on their return mere ruins and debris—trees had been cut down, houses ransacked, furniture smashed to pieces, fields devastated."

"From these facts, one may appreciate how hypocritical are the humanitarian propositions and protestations of the German government."

## GERMANY MUST PAY ENORMOUS INDEMNITY TO ALLIES

For Wanton Destruction on Land, Sea and Air—Foch Authorized to Receive Representatives of the German Government.

Washington, D. C., November 6th.—Germany can have peace on the terms and principles enunciated by President Wilson, but must pay an enormous indemnity for the wanton destruction wrought by its forces on land, on sea and in the air.

The German government is so informed in a note from Secretary Lansing now on its way to Berlin, and which also announces that Marshal Foch, has been authorized by the Governments of the United States and the Allies to "receive properly accredited representatives of the German government and submit them the terms of armistice," under which hostilities can be brought to an end.

Terms of the armistice may not be made public until their acceptance or rejection by Germany.

Germany's spokesmen already have acquiesced in the terms and principles as laid down by President Wilson. By accepting the armistice they agree in advance to the qualifications made by the Allies and consequently, much of the real work of the peace conference will have been completed in advance.

## REFERRED TO FOCH.

transmitted his correspondence with the German authorities to the governments with which the Government of the United States is associated as a belligerent, with the suggestion that if those governments were disposed to accept peace upon the terms and principles indicated, their military advisers and the military advisers of the United States be asked to submit to the governments associated against Germany the necessary terms of such an armistice as would fully protect the interests of the peoples involved and insure to the associated governments the unrestricted power to safeguard and enforce the details of the peace to which the German government had agreed, provided they deem such an armistice possible from the military point of view.

"The President is now in receipt of a memorandum of observation by the Allied Governments on the correspondence, which is as follows: "The Allied Governments have given careful consideration to the correspondence which has passed between the President of the United States and the German government. Subject to the qualifications which follow, they declare their willingness to make peace with the government of Germany on the terms of peace laid down in the President's address to Congress of January, 1918, and the principles of settlement enunciated in his subsequent addresses. They must point out, however, that clause two to what is usually described as the freedom of the seas is open to various interpretations, some of which they could not accept. They must, therefore, reserve to themselves complete freedom on this subject when they enter the peace conference."

"Further, in the conditions of peace laid down in his address to Congress of January eighth, 1918, the President declared that invaded territories must be restored as well as evacuated and freed, the Allied Governments feel that no doubt ought to be allowed to exist as to what this provision implies. By it they understand that compensation will be made by Germany for all damage done to the civilian population of the Allies and their property by the aggression of Germany to land, by sea and from the air."

"I am instructed by the President to say that he is in agreement with the interpretation set forth in the last paragraph of the memorandum above quoted. I am further instructed by the President to request you to notify the German government that Marshal Foch has been authorized by the government of the United States and the Allied Governments to receive properly accredited representatives of the German government and to communicate to them the terms of an armistice."

"Accept, sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration. (Signed) "ROBERT LANSING."

## Will Not Come at Once.

(The Statesville Landmark.) While the war is apparently about to end, we may not expect Johnny to come marching home by Christmas. An American army, and a sizable one, will be kept abroad for some time, maybe several years, for police duty. General T. Coleman DuPont, just returned from the west front, says it will take two years after peace is declared to demobilize the American forces in France; that this assertion is the reflection of allied official opinion. One of the generals is quoted as saying that "our boys have a year's work ahead of them removing the barbed wire the Huns have strung across France."

We have some troops in Russia and we will probably have more there before bolshevism and the reign of terror ceases in that country. A large force may be required to deal with similar conditions in Austria-Hungary and Germany. Even under the most favorable conditions, it will be a few years before all the two million Americans sent over will all come home.

Of course calls to training camps will stop and many men in all branches of the service will be released. Some of the boys over there might get home in a few months, but the great bulk of them will be there for a time, war or no war.

But there will be so many things to be thankful for, we need not worry about that.

## "HOLD FAST!"

Von Hindenburg Commands His Troops Not to Relax Their Vigilance—According to Captured German Documents.

"Hold fast, an armistice has not yet been concluded," is the word sent to the German troops by Field Marshal Von Hindenburg, according to a captured document in American hands. The Associated Press gives the appeal as follows: "German soldiers, be vigilant. The word 'armistice' is current in the trenches and camps, but we have not yet reached that point. To some the word represents a certainty; to others it is even a synonym of the peace so long desired. They believe that events no longer depend upon them. Their vigilance is relaxed; their courage and their endurance, as well as their spirit of defiance toward the enemy, are diminished."

"We have not yet reached our aim. The armistice has not been concluded. The war is still on—the same war as ever."

## GERMAN EMISSARIES SENT TO RECEIVE ARMISTICE TERMS

Now on Way From Berlin to Front—Time of Acceptance or Rejection Depends Largely on Amount of Power Given These Representatives

Washington, D. C., November 6th.—Armistice terms prepared for Germany by the supreme war council soon will be in the hands of German emissaries now on their way from Berlin to the Western front, but the time that must elapse before there is a decision as to their acceptance or rejection probably will depend largely upon the powers with which the German delegation has been clothed.

There is nothing here to indicate just what authority has been conferred upon these representatives of the German government. The official announcement from Berlin, via London, to-day said:

"A German delegation to conclude an armistice and take up peace negotiations has left for the western front," but the language employed may be not be significant.

Officials here have assumed that the German representatives, after securing the terms from Marshal Foch, will transmit them by telegraph or convey them personally to the German high command in the field, for it is understood to be the purpose in the present case, as was done with Austria, Bulgaria and Turkey, to deal with the armistice as purely a military measure between the military commands.

Should this procedure be followed, it is regarded here as probable that several days may elapse while the German general staff, now nominally, at least, subordinate to the civil government, can consider the conditions laid down and reach a decision. There can be no arguments as to the terms no matter how harsh they may appear to the Germans. The only course left to Germany is to accept or reject them. Meantime, Marshal Foch is expected to continue the pressure on the Teutonic armies which now threaten their safety along a two hundred-mile front.

## GOVERNOR MAKES APPEAL FOR BIG WAR WORK DRIVE

North Carolina Asked to Contribute One Million Dollars for the Seven Strong Arms—Drive Begins Monday and Lasts One Week.

Carolina is asked to contribute to the United War Work Fund Union's quota is \$7,500. There are seven strong arms supporting the morale of the American boys in France and the aim of the War Work Campaign is to furnish each of these arms the funds to carry on its specific work. If peace were declared tomorrow the needs would be even greater, for an army drunk with success calls for a steady hand. Every man, woman and child should give cheerfully and liberally for through these organizations you provide our boys with a church, a theatre, a cheerful home, a store, a club and athletic field.

Governor Bickett has issued the following proclamation: Just before Hector went forth to die in a duel with Achilles he took his little son in his arms and prayed to his gods: 'Oh Zeus, and all ye gods, grant that this my son may grow in wisdom and in grace, and may the time come when the people shall say of him, "far greater is he than his father was, and his mother's heart be glad."

"This is the universal prayer of fatherhood, and the men and women of the United War Workers are offering their very lives to make this prayer come true.

"The most fearful strain upon the moral and spiritual life of the boys will come when the big fight is over and the victory won. The reaction will be like the breaking up of the snows in springtime when the south winds blow and the rivers are full. Every agency will be taxed to save the boys from the damnation of drink, and the fascinations of those "whose feet go down to death, and whose steps take hold on hell."

"The United War Workers constitute the first-line of defense against these enemies more deadly than the Hun, for they have power to destroy both body and soul.

"Let us stand behind these consecrated men and women, even as they stand before our boys, and work and pray and laugh and sing to woo the boys from haunts of sin and send them back to mother and sweetheart and wife with bodies unblemished and souls unstained.