

# The Mount Airy News.

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## ADMINISTRATION CLEARS WAY TO RAISE ARMY.

### Orders to Make Ready and Effectively Available All Man-Power Issued.

Washington, March 24.—Orders to make ready and effectively available all of the man-power of the nation in the event of a declaration of war between the United States and Germany were issued by the war department today. Under the personal direction of President Wilson, the military authorities cleared the way for the organization of an army of a million men immediately upon action by Congress when it meets in extraordinary war session a week from tomorrow. A sweeping general order, issued by Chief of Staff, Maj. Gen. Hugh L. Scott, reorganized the entire departmental framework throughout the country to "facilitate the centralization of commands." At the same time more than a dozen regiments of the state militia were called into the federal service under orders to guard and protect the vital points of the nation's life from attacks coming from without and from possible disloyalty within.

Under the reorganization plan ordered into operation today, the war department will be able to speedily enlist and mobilize an army of millions through the extension of the skeleton organization now in the service. No move will be made toward augmenting the military force, however until Congress has spoken in the international crisis. If the Congress declares the existence of a state of war, however, the war department will be ready to start enlistments at once. A call for volunteers, or legislation authorizing some form of compulsory military training, would bring to the newly organized headquarters throughout the country, the men needed to uphold the nation's honor at once.

Meantime the administration will rely upon the national guard for home defense, and throughout the country the militia under today's orders will be available for guarding bridges, waterways, arsenals and other government plants, and munitions factories which will be essential to the army in time of war. By the time Congress is ready to act, the war department proposes to have every preliminary step taken, and to be ready for immediate and aggressive military movements.

## PEOPLE OF THE SOUTH TALK GOV. BICKETT.

Raleigh, March 23.—"Planting day" grew even greater today when every county superintendent of schools, the bankers and all others who can forward the interest in the governor's proclamation received their notices.

Governor Bickett's office has been busy sending out these proclamations to be distributed by county superintendents to all the schools and by bankers especially to all their depositors. Many responses to the suggestion have come of the office and many more indicated by the papers which are chronicling the extraordinary activity of people along the railroads.

The carriers have given their lands lying along the rails to those who will till them and do their best to dispel want by planting patches which will be worked this year. Despite uniformly bad weather the digging and ploughing have been remarkable. When Governor Bickett made the proclamation it was generally pronounced a "bright idea," but since world events have been shaping themselves so much along the path of his prophecy the "bright idea" has become something of a prophetic wisdom.

Bickett's interest in the soil has brought to his office many evidences of satisfaction but perhaps the most pleasing thing that he has heard is something that he hasn't heard. That came to his office today in roundabout transmission. Last night when J. K. Doane, secretary of the southern section of the League to Enforce Peace, spoke following ex-President Taft in Greensboro, Mr. Doane declared that the south is talking Governor Bickett "almost as much as President Wilson," and that no southern governor had been given the opportunity in recent years to impress the states below so much as Governor Bickett is doing. His contact with life from so many angles has made him known to all.

The governor declared in his inaugural address that if he were the czar he would make it a crime to import food crops into North Carolina. As governor without any powers to count, he is about to talk the state into a policy which would have the same effect as the ukase.

## LINER ST. LOUIS RACED THROUGH BARRED ZONE.

### Passengers Stayed up With Life Belts Near; Life Boats Fully Provisioned.

London, Monday March 26.—From a Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press.—The St. Louis, the first passenger vessel carrying the American flag to cross the Atlantic since Germany's declaration of unrestricted submarine destruction, and the first armed American liner to enter a European port since the war began, arrived this morning. She carried only 33 passengers, but her holds were filled to capacity with non-contraband freight.

The St. Louis came through without interruption. No submarines were sighted, nor were there at any time any indication that German undersea boats were after the big liner.

But signs of war were not lacking and the last three days aboard were anxious ones for passengers and crew alike. On Friday and again on Saturday after the St. Louis entered the forbidden zone, driftwood was passed, apparently parts of destroyed lifeboats. Yesterday a great field of oil was encountered. Vague rumors of the sinking of ships either ahead of or near the St. Louis increased the nervous tension.

For three days and night the captain did not leave the bridge and never in her 22 years of existence has the American ship been driven so furiously as she was from the time she passed into the zone until she was picked up by a pilot.

The journey was virtually without incident until the war zone was reached. Unusual precautions were taken as soon as the liner passed the Ambros light and as she neared the danger point even the life and collapsible boats were made ready for immediate use. Reflectors were strung up fore and aft and carbide lights were tied along the rails for use in event the St. Louis became the victim of a torpedo or gunfire.

From the moment the St. Louis entered the danger zone until she reached comparatively safe waters the word in the engine room was to "give her all she can stand". For 48 hours the big vessel tore along at top speed. Meanwhile the passengers slept but little, remaining in the reading room with life belts ready. Long before daybreak yesterday, with the land still far below the horizon most of the passengers were on deck, watching just as anxiously as the men on the bridge for signs of hostile submarines. Then suddenly out of the haze shot British patrol vessels. Instructions were signalled. The St. Louis responded and continued on her journey, while the submarine hunters bore away on their ceaseless vigil.

For two days after the St. Louis left port there was a howling gale, accompanied with fog and frequent snow squalls, but the liner held steadily to its course. Every precaution was taken. Even on the first night out, deck lights were shielded and cabin port holes shaded, so that no glimmer of light showed. Lookouts swept the horizon frequently with their glasses. The passengers were taken in hand and drilled daily in donning life belts and assembling quickly at their appointed places at the life boats. Crews for the life boats were assigned to their stations and instructed as to their duties. The life boats were provisioned long before the prohibited zone was reached and were swung out partly lowered and lashed so that only a moment would be lost in dropping them into the water.

Until Friday the trip was without incident other than the encountering of floating ice, including one huge iceberg. Two whales followed the ship for some distance.

From the time the barred zone was entered until late last night while the big steamer was making her way over the last few hundred miles of the journey few passengers closed their eyes.

No ceremonies marked the arrival of the St. Louis. On the decks were the usual representatives of the American line, the port authorities, a small group of friends and relatives of passengers and a few newspaper men. As the liner was warped into her berth, workmen raised a cheer for "the good old U. S. A."

**Sign of Good Digestion.**  
When you see a cheerful and happy old lady you may know that she has good digestion. If your digestion is impaired or if you do not relish your meals take a dose of Chamberlain's Tablets. They strengthen the stomach, improve the digestion and cause a gentle movement of the bowels. Obtainable everywhere.

## RICH GERMAN-AMERICAN IS UNDER SURVEILLANCE.

### Powerful Wireless Plant Surrounds Washington Home of the Millionaire.

Washington, March 25.—Every channel of government activity tonight worked under pressure to provide "spy insurance" for the nation in the event of war with Germany. An army of secret service men and agents of the department of justice spreading a dragnet from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from Canada to the Mexican border, had under surveillance thousands of "spy suspects" and German sympathizers. A declaration of war between the United States and Germany, it was learned tonight will be followed immediately by wholesale arrests and internments.

Among the thousands under surveillance are a vast number of German reservists, caught in the United States at the outbreak of the European war and unable to get back to the German army. Every reservist has been listed by the secret service agents after a vast amount of labor, and a war declaration would be the signal for their immediate apprehension and internment. Plans are under way for several great internment camps in various parts of the country where the German aliens will be placed under guard.

In addition to these reservists, the secret service agents have under surveillance a vast number of naturalized Germans, whose activities during the recent crisis have brought them under suspicion.

Many of these are wealthy and influential men in communities throughout the country. As an example of this class of suspects, it was learned tonight that a secret service guard has been installed about the home, and business establishment of a millionaire German-American in Washington. While the secret agents tonight declared to make any announcement as to what charge they were prepared to make against the millionaire, it was learned that a powerful wireless plant surrounding the millionaire's place of business, had aroused suspicion, and that for months, a secret service man had been in the millionaire's employ. Tonight there were reports that military maps, messages outlining United States defense movements and plans, and military supplies had been discovered on the premises. The secret service men, however, declined to make any statement beyond the admission that the surveillance had been established. It was stated that scores of similar cases are under observation throughout the country.

Wireless plants throughout the country have been made the chief objective of the secret service agents, and scores of so-called "amateur" plants, have been dismantled in national capital itself.

The President and his advisers have decided on a vigorous campaign to eliminate all disloyalty from the army, the navy and the executive branches of the government and secret service agents have been ordered to investigate the sympathies of all responsible officials. Congress will probably be asked to enact naval service, all but real American citizens. Representative Griffin, of New York, has already begun a movement looking toward this end.

## Fortification Guard is Killed.

Portland, Me., March 23.—Private John Poor, of the third company, coast artillery corps, died tonight from a bullet wound received when he tried to halt two strangers detected near the 12-inch gun batteries at Fort Williams today. Poore, who was 22 years old, enlisted a year ago. He was the son of Robert O. Poor, of Clarkesdale, Ill.

Although the batteries, which are on Cape Elizabeth near Portland headlight, have been heavily guarded since another sentry was fired on last Wednesday night, two prowlers succeeded early today in penetrating the lines to a point near the big guns. Poor saw them in the darkness and promptly sent a warning shot over their heads with an order to halt.

One of the prowlers returned the fire, bringing down the sentry with a revolver bullet through the thigh. Before other guards could arrive the strangers escaped.

Renewed precautions were taken tonight to guard all of the fortifications. Lieut. James O. Porter, a naval recruiting officer, at Rockland, Wednesday night declared that German submarines were known to be not far off the coast and that an attack on the Maine coast was by no means unlikely.

## NO LONGER DEPEND ON PROMISES OF GERMANS.

### Washington Does not Feel Warranted in Leaving Minister Whitlock in Belgium.

Washington, March 24.—Grave concern as to the safety of Minister Brand Whitlock and his fellow Americans in Belgium was apparent here tonight. Following the announcement of the state department that Germany's attitude no longer warranted Americans remaining in German occupied territory, and the statement that Whitlock and the relief workers had been ordered out of Belgium by President Wilson it was stated tonight that every effort would be made to hasten the transportation of these Americans to neutral soil. They will probably leave Belgium by way of Holland, leaving to the Dutch the administration of the relief work among the 10,000,000 destitute Belgians.

The state department announcement of the withdrawal of the Americans was couched in the most vigorous language the administration has used during the international crisis. It declared that in order to feed the Belgians, the Americans involved "have submitted to restrictions imposed upon them by the German authorities, which under ordinary conditions, would never have been tolerated."

The Germans, according to the statement, deprived Minister Whitlock of all diplomatic privileges as soon as relations between the United States and Germany were broken. Of late, it said he has not even been allowed to communicate in plain language with the state department.

"Now, however," continued the statement, "a more serious difficulty has arisen. In the course of the past ten days, several of the commission ships have been attacked without warning by German submarines in flagrant violation of the solemn engagements of the German government. Protests addressed by this government have not been answered. The German government's disregard of its written undertakings, causes grave concern as to the future of the relief work."

"In any event, it is felt that the American staff of the commission can no longer serve with advantage in Belgium. Although a verbal promise has been made that the members of the commission would be permitted to leave if they so desired, the German government's observance of its other undertakings has not been such that the department would feel warranted in accepting responsibility for leaving these American citizens in German-occupied territory."

## RUSSIAN MINISTER WAS BURNED ALIVE BY MOB.

### Reports Reaching Copenhagen Tell of Bloody Clashes During Russian Revolution.

Copenhagen, March 18.—Via Berlin and Tuckerton Wireless, March 22.—Reports filtering into Copenhagen from Russia indicate that the revolution had bloody clashes. It is reported that more than 4,000 were killed or wounded. Thousands were arrested.

The minister of agriculture, M. Rittig, it is reported, was burned alive by a hungry mob.

Even persons of means have the greatest difficulty in obtaining food. A hungry people is looking with great expectation toward the provisional government, which is confronted with almost insurmountable problems requiring a quick solution.

Travelers arriving here from Haparanda declare that the political amnesty is not applying to Finland and that the Fins are assuming an attitude of extreme reserve toward the revolutionary government.

The whereabouts of the former czar continues to be a mystery.

The premature announcement by Bonar Law in the house of commons to the effect that Grand Duke Michael had assumed the regency is looked upon in diplomatic and other quarters here as a confirmation of the Downing street trademark of the Russian revolution and as proof that the revolutionists were unable to keep up the speed that London relied upon.

In his pathetic proclamation, made by him, or forced from him, the ex-czar virtually admits his inability to lead the war through to a successful conclusion and abdicates in favor of his brother. In short, Nicholas forcibly or voluntarily is leaving others to solve the gigantic problems that confront the nation.

Meager information reaching here points strongly to a dictatorship by Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholasievitch.

## LET'S HAVE EASILY PREPARED SUPPERS.

### The Fireless Cooker and Planning Make Summer Work Less Arduous.

"I do like a good supper, the minute I get in from the field," said the man, who was "carrying us over" the other night. However, he added slowly, "Sarah is generally too tired to cook it so we have the left-overs from dinner." He regarded the horse a minute or two, then continued, "It's like that in all homes, I suppose, unless a fellow is rich enough to keep a cook."

The little lady to whose home we were on our way started to answer, but seemed to change her mind. "That man's wife needs an object lesson," she whispered to me. "Since I cannot give it to her, perhaps I can educate him."

A mile or two farther and we reached the farm. We washed our hands quickly in the cold water from the tap and were asked to be seated at a table on the wide screened porch that joined the kitchen. The farmer friend who had driven us over looked wonderingly at the table empty of all save dishes, but his astonishment increased as he saw his hostess roll the serving tray on which were three empty vegetable dishes and one empty platter, over to the fireless cooker. She opened one compartment and took out a big, old hen, which she put on the platter, then from the other compartment emptied three vessels containing hominy, snaps and beans, all hot and tender. The wheeled tray was rolled past the iceless refrigerator from which were taken a plate containing butter, a jug of cool milk, a pitcher of cream and a small covered dish of curd cheese. Everything was set on the table within five minutes' time. The removal of a turned-over bowl revealed a large plate of light bread and another a dish of pickle.

"Why, you've been to the meeting all day. How did you do it?" burst from the astonished man's lips.

"Oh, I got it all ready last night and this morning. What was to be cooked I put in the fireless cooker, and what was to be kept cool I put in the iceless refrigerator. The bread, pickles, jam, etc., I just turned a big bowl over. I knew I'd be tired when we got in and you all would be hungry."

Meanwhile, water had been put on the oil stove and just then it boiled up. She poured it on the tea in the little earthen pot and, behold there was a hot drink for those who preferred it to milk.

That happened last summer, and I have wondered since if that man's home now has a fireless cooker, an iceless refrigerator and a wheeled serving tray.

Organize a Home Demonstration Club in your community and learn to make and use these conveniences mentioned in the above story. There are other good things in store for Surry County club members this year besides these. We are going to have some lectures and demonstrations on Home Nursing by a graduate nurse, and some lectures by a physician we hope. Our program includes some most helpful work along a number of subjects that are vital to all home makers and homes. The County Home Demonstration Agent will be glad to help any community to organize a club and will meet with them once a month to carry out our programs.

## Sun Now Never Sets On The United States Flag.

Great Britain is no longer the only nation that can say that the sun never sets on its territory. Since the United States acquired the Danish West Indies it can make the same boast, says the Youth's Companion.

Hitherto the little island of Culebra which is virtually a part of Porto Rico, has been our most easterly point of land, and the island of Balabac in the Philippines our most westerly point. The distance between them is just a little less than 180 degrees, or half the circumference of the earth. St. Croix, in the Danish West Indies, is 28 miles farther east than Culebra—enough to bridge the gap. Just as the sun is rising in St. Croix it is setting on Balabac.

## Hardships of the Poor.

Seeing a tramp hurrying away from a large house, a fellow-professional asked him what luck he had had. "It ain't no use askin' there," was the reply. "I just had a peep through the window. It's a povertystricken house. There was actually two ladies playin' on one pionner."

## GERMAN DEVASTATION POLITICAL MOVEMENT.

### Threat to France of Desolation of All Land Held Unless Agreement is Reached.

London, March 22.—Germany in her work of devastation which is turning the abandoned territory in northern France into a desert may have a political motive in the direction of a threat thus to treat all occupied territory unless France enters into peace negotiations, was the theory advanced by Maj. Gen. F. B. Maurice, chief director of military operations at the war office, in his weekly talk to the Associated Press today.

"The extent of the German retirement was no surprise to us," he said, "and you may feel that I prepared you for it. Just where the new line will be formed it is impossible to say. It is by no means certain that the Germans will again offer battle on the Cambrai-loan line.

"Theories as to an ultimate withdrawal are purely speculative as, for instance, pivoting on Lille the Germans may extend their defense from Cambrai. On the other hand, while using the same pivot, they may form a line along the lower slopes of the Ardennes."

General Maurice then showed a number of photographs of ruined and burning villages taken before they were actually abandoned by the Germans, showing an almost total destruction. With reference to these villages, he said:

"Some were never under our artillery fire. Of course, destruction dictated by military necessity is permissible, but the Germans have turned the abandoned country into a desert. Every cross-roads is marked by a brown mine crater. Other measures of this sort were adopted as a military necessity to retard our advance, but the wanton destruction of buildings, homes and splendid chateau cannot be defended on this ground.

"When a military motive is lacking we must look for a political unless the Germans are animated by a pure love of savagery. This political motive may be a threat to France that unless peace negotiations are entered into the remainder of the occupied territory will be turned into the same sort of a desert now marking the German retreat. Of course, the primary object of the destruction is a desire to avoid battle at any cost until the enemy is securely fixed in another line where he can resume the initiative after compelling us to make new preparations on the devastated terrain.

"Unofficial reports of fires and explosions north of Arras have been verified and may mean a retirement in that direction as similar actions marked the preliminaries of the present retreat.

"Stronger resistance by the enemy on both flanks of the German withdrawal is quite natural. At these points the Germans have the support of their guns and do not show the same disposition to avoid battle.

"The lack of reports of provisions taken or of the capture of material is not surprising in view of the fact that our advanced troops are too busy with more important operations to send back detailed reports covering anything except the most vital movements."

## Paddison-Rapp.

Bagnti, Philippine Islands.—Osborne Howard Paddison, chief engineer of the coast and geodetic survey steamer Fathomer, and Miss Ruby Rapp, formerly a nurse in the Department Hospital, were married at eight o'clock Wednesday evening by the Reverend Bruce S. Wright, pastor of the Union Church, at the Manse on Calle Arquiza.

Many of the intimate friends of both bride and bridegroom were present at the ceremony, following which they adjourned to the Army Nurses' Quarters on Calle Concepcion, where a reception was held in honor of the contracting parties.

Mr. and Mrs. Paddison left for Baguio to spend a week or more on their honeymoon. Upon return they will be at home to their friends at 212 Calle Divisoria.

## Four Persons Drown in Catawba Near Morganton.

Charlotte, March 25.—Dock Smith, white, and three negroes, a woman, boy and girl, were drowned in the Catawba river, near Morganton, this afternoon, when a small row boat capsized from being overloaded. A negro man in the boat was saved, managing to reach a small island in mid-stream. None of the bodies has been recovered.