

ITALIANS FALLING BACK BEFORE A STIFF AUSTRIAN OFFENSIVE

Most Determined Assault Since Beginning of War Between the Two

AN ATTEMPT AT INVASION

Believed to Be Purpose—Heavy Losses—Teutons Claim Capture Position Near Roverto—Line Is 35 Miles Long

(By the United Press)

Amsterdam, May 18.—Three hundred thousand Austrian troops now concentrated on a 35 mile front are striking the Italian lines in the Tyrolean Alps in the most determined Austrian offensive against Italy since the war began.

Critics believe Austria is bent on an invasion of Northern Italy. The Italians have been driven Southward on a five mile front from Piazzola to the upper Astico valley. Vienna claims the capture of Zegnator to the South of Roverto, though Rome claims the repulse of the Austrians there. The losses in the past three days fighting will run into thousands.

ASSAILANT OF FOUR GIRLS TO THE CHAIR

(By the United Press)

Wise, Va., May 17.—Milton Malory, a negro, was sentenced to electrocution by a jury at a special term of Circuit Court here today for assaulting six young white girls, of Appalachia, Va., ranging in age from five to eleven years. He will be put to death July 7.

Mallory, a porter, at an Appalachia hotel, according to evidence introduced, gave the children drugged candy.

HORNE WON'T SIGN APPEAL; WOULD DIE

(By the United Press)

Wilmington, May 17.—Melvin Horne, formerly deputy sheriff, who was convicted in Superior Court yesterday for the second time of first degree murder for killing D. L. T. Capps on the street here some several months ago, today refused absolutely to sign appeal papers. He declared that he wanted to die.

AIRSHIP FOR MILITIA ON N. MEXICO BORDER

(By the United Press)

New York, May 17.—In response to a request by Colonel Cutting, of the New Mexico national guard, to the Aero Club of America for an aeroplane for the New Mexico guard now on Mexican border duty, the Aero club announced today it had decided to appropriate \$5,000 toward its purchase if Colonel Cutting would raise \$2,500.

NEW NAME FOR FORD PEACE PARTY TODAY

Stockholm, May 18.—(Via London) —What once was the Ford peace expedition has been formally reorganized as "the neutral conference for continuous mediation" with two delegates from six neutral countries—the United States, Switzerland, Holland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

AMERICANS ENTER SAN DOMINGO CITY

Washington, May 17.—Occupation of San Domingo city by American marines occurred today without casualties, Rear Admiral Caperton today advised the Navy Department.

CARELESSNESS THE CAUSE MANY FIRES IN COUNTY IN APRIL

Damage to Forests in Lenoir Was \$29,500, Board of Agriculture Estimates—"What Are We Going to Do About It?"

"The loss from forest fires each year in Eastern North Carolina is appalling," says County Farm Demonstrator McCrary, in a statement issued Wednesday night. "During the month of April, it is conservatively estimated by the County Board of Agriculture, 14,000 acres of forests were burned over in Lenoir county alone. The loss is estimated by the Board of Agriculture to be \$29,500. "Hundreds of dollars worth of cord wood were destroyed, and the loss from burned fences was a considerable item. There is no estimating the damage to young timber, and the value of the humus destroyed.

"The causes of these fires were carelessness, railroading, lumbering, burning grass in fields, sparks from locomotives, and incendiary. "What are we going to do about this matter? Lumber is getting scarcer all the time, and we cannot afford to have so many acres of our timber so wantonly destroyed. Lumbering should be carried on with more regard for the dangers of fire than it is at present. In some countries, people are required to plant two trees for every one they cut. We need to learn how to take care of our forests and woodlots.

"It is the duty of the State or county to have fire patrolmen in each township to see that fire is kept under control. The present system of letting fire burn without any effort to stop or control it is out of date, to say the least."

CITY'S INCOME WAS HEAVIEST LAST YEAR

Collections Totaled More Than \$110,000—Increase Nearly 20 Per Cent. Recorder's Court and Water Rentals Increase Contributed—Taxes Gave Biggest Share of Sum

There was almost 20 per cent. increase in the city's revenues in the fiscal year ending May 9, according to City Clerk Coleman. Collections in the last year were \$112,501.75, and in the previous year 93,953.57. The Recorder's Court was responsible for \$5,000 or \$6,000 of the increase. The factor outside of that contributing most to the increase was water rentals. About 250 water accounts are said to have been added in the year. Taxes were \$50,421.43; court, \$9,292.51; water and lights, \$40,418.16; miscellaneous, \$12,369.66.

TARHEEL IN AIR RAID OVER GERMAN LINES

Paris, May 17.—Corporal J. R. McConnell of Carthage, N. C., today took part in the first aerial expedition which the American aviators in the service of the French army have made over the German lines since the Franco-American flying corps was organized as a separate unit. Though McConnell flew at a height of twelve thousand feet the German shells were bursting all around him.

THE DAY ON LOCAL COTTON EXCHANGE

Only two bales of cotton were sold here today. They brought around 12 cents. New York futures quotations were: Open 2:00 January .. 13.46 13.43 March .. 13.58 13.56 May .. 13.06 13.09 July .. 13.15 13.20 October .. 13.26 13.26 December .. 13.43 13.39

CASEMENT WILL GO ON TRIAL EARLY IN THE COMING MONTH

Confederate Bailey to Be Tried at the Same Time, Probably

GOVERNMENT WAS POSTED

Knew of the Revolt Several Days Before Outbreak—Great German Offensive Was Planned to Start at the Same Moment

(By the United Press)

London, May 18.—Caseiment will go on trial for treason early in June, it was stated today. Daniel Bailey also will be tried then.

Officials Had Advance Knowledge of Revolt.

The British Government knew several days in advance that Irish rebels planned an open revolt, but didn't disarm them fearing great bloodshed, according to an admission from Sir Matthew Nathan, who resigned as under secretary for Ireland following the rebellion, to the Royal Commission appointed to investigate the outbreak. He said that three days before the Dublin revolt began the government learned that the Irish leaders had been informed that the Germans would cooperate with them in a great land, sea and air offensive. He said the Irish constabulary were immediately warned, the coast patrolled day and night, and that it was undoubtedly due to these precautions that Caseiment was captured a few hours after he landed.

BURROWS AGAIN HEADS SOUTHERN BAPTISTS

Asheville, May 17.—The Rev. Dr. Lansing Burrows of Americus, Ga., was re-elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention at the opening of the sixty-first annual session of that body here late today. The opening session was taken up with election of officers and presentation of reports of the various boards controlled by the convention.

PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVENES

Orlando, Fla., May 17.—Three hundred commissioners comprising the governing body of the Southern Presbyterian church will meet here tomorrow for their 26th annual session. The first day's program including the sermon of the Rev. W. McF. Alexander of New Orleans, retiring moderator, and the election of his successor. The sessions will conclude May 26.

BULLETINS

(By the United Press)

FISHING BOAT SUNK. London, May 18.—The fishing smack Research has been sunk. One of the crew was killed, two injured and the rest landed.

PAST WEEK WAS GOOD ONE FOR COTTON CROP

Washington, May 17.—Cotton improved during the week just ended, according to the national weather and crop bulletin of the Weather Bureau issued today. It said: "The warmer weather that has prevailed in most of the cotton States during the week has had a very favorable effect, and there is a decided improvement, except where the dry weather continued. Planting is nearly finished in the northern part of the cotton area, but much replanting is necessary."

COOL WEATHER FOR THE VETS.' PARADE IN BIRMINGHAM TODAY

Suspension of Business in City for Big Spectacle of the Reunion

WASHINGTON NEXT YEAR

Harrison of Alabama New Commander—Texas Veterans Engage Alabama Militia in Sham Battle as Closing Feature

(By the United Press)

Birmingham, May 18.—The climax of the twenty-sixth annual reunion of Confederate Veterans came today when the remnants of the gray host paraded. Members of military organizations, sponsors and school children by the thousands preceded the bent old soldiers in a pageant lasting two hours under gray skies and cool weather.

Birmingham's half Northern, half Southern population joined in the suspension of business and turned out with the seventy thousand visitors, lining the streets. All paid homage to the heroes of the lost cause.

A sham battle this afternoon between two companies of Alabama militia and two hundred Texas veterans concluded the reunion, which will be led next year in Washington by the new Commander-General George P. Harrison of Alabama.

FIVE BIG CRUISERS BUT NO BATTLESHIPS TO BE AUTHORIZED

(By the United Press)

Washington, May 18.—The House Naval Committee today killed Daniels' five-year program. It authorized five battle cruisers, but no battleships. It also voted twenty submarines.

TOBACCO LICENSE PROPOSAL WITHDRAWN

London, May 17.—The board of trade announces that, owing to the increasing shortage of tonnage, the proposal to grant licenses for the importation of tobacco purchased before February 15 has been withdrawn but that licenses will be granted for the importation of tobacco between June 1 and May 13, 1917, not exceeding one-third the quantity imported in 1915.

BUILD BIG SCHOONERS AT WILMINGTON YARD

Wilmington, May 17.—A New York concern has just let a contract to the Wilmington Iron Works for the construction of two large schooners at its shipbuilding plant here. The schooners will be 225 feet long.

MAYO MAY BE NAMED TO HEAD THE FLEET

Washington, May 18.—Following a conference between Secretary Daniels and President Wilson it was learned today that the Atlantic fleet will be reorganized and a new command named to succeed Admiral Fletcher. Admiral Mayo will probably succeed Fletcher.

ODD FELLOWS TO MEET HIGH POINT NEXT YEAR

(Special to The Free Press) Wilson, May 18.—The State Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows in session here decided to hold the 1917 meeting in High Point.

LANGHORNE KILLED SIX AND CAPTURED SCORES OF BANDITS

Confirmation of Success of Expedition Against the Recent Raiders

TWO AMERICANS RESCUED

Jesse Deemer and Monroe Payne Liberated—Outlaws Completely Scattered—Force May Be Withdrawn

By CARL GROAT.

(United Press Staff Correspondent) Washington, May 18.—Official confirmation of Major Langhorne's capture of 75 of the Glenn Springs and Raquillas raiders, and the killing of six, was reported to the War Department today from Colonel Sibley through General Funston.

The dispatch also officially confirmed the rescue of Jesse Deemer and Monroe Payne.

The band was completely scattered, so the Langhorne expedition is expected to be withdrawn.

Bodies of Three Americans Found. Marathon, Tex., May 18.—The bodies of three American mining prospectors, missing since the Glenn Springs raid, have been found near San Vincent, in the Big Bend desert country, by a posse of cattlemen, according to William Sansom, a rancher, who arrived from the border today. The names of the missing men are Harris, Woodson and Bosworth.

GREENSBORO AND THE CAPITAL WANT NEXT YEAR'S MEETING ELKS

(Special to The Free Press) Washington, N. C., May 18.—Everyone of the 16 Elks' lodges in the State is represented at the annual convention here, Raleigh and Greensboro are bidding for next year's session. The delegates are to be taken for a trip down Pamlico river today.

PUT PEACE ON WAR FOOTING, HE ADVISES

Herbert Houston Tells Mohonk Conference Advocates Must Fight for White Dove's Cause if Necessary—Fighting Fire With Fire Doctrine of Chairman of Information Committee

(By the United Press)

Lake Mohonk, N. Y., May 18.—"Put peace on a war footing," was advice to the Lake Mohonk conference on international arbitration given at today's session by Herbert S. Houston, chairman of the committee on information. He said peace advocates must quit the forum for the field if need be, to fight, not to urge war but to establish peace.

CHARLOTTE FIXED UP FOR TWENTIETH MAY

Charlotte, May 17.—As the 20th draws near, interest and excitement increases. The city is gaily decorated, electric flags, an electric canopy over the square, and large pictures of President Wilson in windows and on buildings, making an inspiring effect.

SAYS YAQUIS WILL ATTACK AMERICANS

San Antonio, Texas, May 17.—S. F. Seifer, an American, who arrived at Eagle Pass today from Torreón, was credited in a special dispatch to the San Antonio Light as saying that 800 Yaqui troops started north three days ago with the avowed intention of "wiping out Col. Frederick Sibley's command."

COWPER HAS CHARGE OF CHAUTAUQUA FOR KINSTON THIS YEAR

Other Officers and Committees Who Will Help Put Through Big Festival Event Next Month—Junior Committee of Ladies

BISHOP DARST TO PRESIDE

Speakers From Several Dioceses—Women's Organizations to Meet Simultaneously—Social Service, Missions, Education

(By the United Press)

Following are the officers and committees of the local chautauqua organization, announced late Wednesday: President, G. V. Cowper; 1st Vice-President, Mrs. W. T. Hines; 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. H. Frank Brown; Treasurer, D. F. Wooten; secretary, Clarence Oettinger.

Committees. Advertising: William Hayes, chairman; E. V. Webb, W. B. Douglass, Harvey C. Hines, The Free Press, The Daily News, Miss Lottie Canady, Miss Virginia Copeland, Miss Suzanne Martin and Miss Ada Suggs.

Tickets—E. Y. Speed, chairman; W. Ed. Parrott, T. V. Moseley, R. E. Mewhorn; J. C. Hood, W. D. Hood, Miss Leah Oettinger, Miss Susie Perry, Miss Margaret Goodson and Miss Ann H. Harvey.

Reception: J. W. Goodson, chairman; Dr. J. M. Parrott and J. F. Taylor.

Hospitality: Mrs. E. B. Marston, chairman; Mrs. C. F. Harvey, Mrs. W. D. LaRoue, Mrs. J. M. Parrott, Miss Mary Dodson and Mrs. J. H. Griffith.

Knock to Have Charge of Parade. Parade—Dr. W. C. Knox.

Junior Chautauqua Directors: Misses Jennie Shaw, Scotia Hobgood, Anna Prigden, Carlotta Mewhorn, Lilla Daughety, Daisy Outlaw and Natalie Nunn.

BROKERAGE CASE WILL GO TO JURY AFTER ALL

Court of Appeals Reversed Decision of Judge Henry Connor in Freeman vs. Kinston Mfg. Co., et al.—Another Trial.

The United States Circuit Court of Appeals in session at Richmond reversed Judge Henry G. Connor in his decision in the case of Freeman vs. Kinston Manufacturing Co. and Bryant and Ellington. Judge Connor directed the jury to bring in a verdict for the defendant, holding that the evidence of the plaintiff was not sufficient to warrant a finding in his favor. The Court of Appeals holds that the evidence is of sufficient importance to be considered by a jury and so remands the case for another trial before Judge Connor.

The case involved brokerage fees in the transfer of timber property. Plaintiff Freeman was suing for \$40,000 as commission for his part in negotiating certain deals.

The case was watched with much local interest because of the amount involved and because one of the defendants was a local concern. Mr. G. V. Cowper of the Deal bar was counsel for the defendants.

BRIEFS IN THE NEWS OF NEIGHBORING TOWNS

Guy Weaver of Asheville was elected Grand Master of the Odd Fellows of the State at Wilson Wednesday.

W. B. Sasser, colored, at New Bern, claims \$2,000 damages through alleged failure of the Postal Telegraph Company to deliver a message telling of the death of his father.

New Bern is preparing to hold a preparedness parade on the Fourth of July.

MANY EPISCOPALIANS COME FROM 2 CITIES

New Bern and Wilmington each will send about 25 delegates to the annual council of the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina, beginning here Saturday night.

EPISCOPALIANS OF EAST CAROLINA WILL MEET HERE SAT'DAY

Council Convention to Last Through Tuesday; Big Attendance

BISHOP DARST TO PRESIDE

Speakers From Several Dioceses—Women's Organizations to Meet Simultaneously—Social Service, Missions, Education

(By the United Press)

The annual council meeting of the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina will be held in St. Mary's church here beginning Saturday night at 9 o'clock. The closing service will be on Tuesday evening. The Rt. Rev. T. C. Darst, D. D., Bishop of the diocese, will preside.

Prominent Speakers. Rev. Dr. S. Harrington Littell of Hankow, China, will speak Sunday night on "Missions."

Prof. Charles H. Herty of the University of North Carolina will on Monday speak for the "Five Million Church Pension Fund" (\$2,000,000 of which has been raised).

Dr. James Hardy Dillard of Charlottesville, Va., will on Sunday afternoon at four-thirty o'clock, in the Grand Theater, speak on "The Spirit of Social Service."

Conciliar Sermon by Fayetteville Clergyman.

The conciliar sermon will be preached by Rev. Archer Boogher of Fayetteville on Sunday morning.

Rev. Dr. H. L. Burselson, editorial secretary of the Church Missions House, New York City, will address the Woman's Auxiliary on Monday.

Monday night the service will be in the interest of diocesan missions. The speakers will be announced later.

The Rev. Lester Bradner, Ph. D., of New York, will on Tuesday evening speak on the work of the General Board of Religious Education.

Women's Organizations of the Diocese.

Miss Claudia Hunter of Henderson, N. C., will be one of the special speakers before the auxiliary on Monday or Tuesday.

Mrs. James Grist Staton of Williamston is president of the Woman's Auxiliary and Parochial Society. Mrs. George H. Roberts of New Bern is first vice-president; Mrs. T. G. Skinner of Elizabeth City, second vice-president; Mrs. T. P. Noe of Wilmington, president of the Girls' Friendly Society; Mrs. N. N. Davis of Wilmington, traveling secretary; Mrs. F. R. Rose of Fayetteville, junior branch secretary; Mrs. John B. Cranmer of Wilmington, secretary of the Little Helpers; Miss Minnie Albertson of Elizabeth City and Miss Lucile Murchison of Wilmington, educational secretaries of the Edenton and Wilmington convocations, respectively; Miss Mary C. Roberts of New Bern, correspondent for the Church Periodical Club.

Big Attendance Expected. Two hundred and fifty delegates may attend. The diocese comprises all that portion of the State strictly known as Eastern Carolina, with a square mileage of 17,470.

DR. SPILMAN SPEAKER AT BIG ASSEMBLY OF BAPTISTS NEXT MONTH

(Special to The Free Press)

Raleigh, May 18.—Dr. B. W. Spilman of Kinston will be a speaker at the annual convention of the B. Y. P. U. to be held next month.

The Baptist Seaside Assembly will be held at Wrightsville from June 26 to July 2. Bible study, teacher training, a Biblical chautauqua and other features will make the convention interesting for the delegates.

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