

ITALIANS OUTFIGHTING ENEMY; MAKE SHAMBLES OF COUNTRY BETWEEN PIAVE AND BRENTA RIVERS; FRENCH ADVANCE

Austro-Germans Reinforced by Franco-British Operating Offensively as Well as Defensively—Artillery Blows Huns' Guns Out of Emplacements—Teutonic Losses 50,000 in Fortnight—Danger Yet, But Armies of Allies in Fine Spirit—Hard Struggle Around Cambrai—Germans Attempting to Recover Lost Ground With Small Chance—Poilus Go Over Top and Chase Enemy Out of Trenches of Two Lines Over Wide Front

(By the United Press)

London, Nov. 26.—Foreign Minister Balfour on authority of the King today denied that a secret meeting of the privy council was held in July, 1913, which advocated war.

Italians Thrashing Invaders.

With the Italian Armies, Nov. 26.—The crucial battle across the 11-mile gap between the Brenta and Piave rivers is swinging in Italy's favor. The armies locked in a death grapple for days are fighting bitterly. The Italians not only are winning defensively but are fighting offensively. Their guns pour a ceaseless rain of shells on the German-Austrian lines. The enemy's estimated loss is 50,000 in two weeks.

Italian aviators have performed wonderful service, locating German and Austrian batteries by fluttering close over the enemy's lines. Italian troops advancing find the enemy's guns blasted out of their emplacements. The enemy's drive is still serious but the morale of Italy's army officers and men is the best during the war and most complete confidence is expressed in an ultimate victory.

French Drive Ahead Again.

London, Nov. 26.—Petain backs up Haig. While Germany was desperately combing her lines for reinforcements against the British advance on Cambrai today France struck a sharp, sudden blow out of Verdun. First and second lines of the enemy's defense positions and 800 prisoners were captured as the net result of this localized attack. Over more than two miles of front ground was taken. This is a highly important sector of the enemy's line. Between Samog-Neaux and North of Hill 344 strong fighting is in progress.

Along the British front, General Byng's war machine is forcing the fighting. Around Cambrai, spurred by Von Hindenburg's demands that all important ground around Bourlon be retaken at all costs, Crown Prince Rupprecht is violently counter-attacking the British advanced lines. Positions have been taken and retaken and held and lost half a dozen times, but the British grip on Bourlon Wood itself is unshaken.

Baking Commission of Cracker Men to Help Administration

Food Administrator Herbert Hoover in line with President Wilson's proclamation of November 7th, placing the baking industry under the direct jurisdiction of the Food Administration, effective December 10, has appointed a committee of the cracker industry to draft the regulations governing the control of the industry and to serve in an advisory capacity.

The committee has already held several meetings in Washington and formulated baking regulations concerning the conservation of wheat flour, sugar and shortening. When these vitally necessary first steps of conservation shall have been completed the committee will direct its attention to further constructive work in the production and shipping of the greatest quantity of cracker products, which by reason of their nutritive value in concentrated form and unusual keeping qualities give them a high place in war time and the industry a conspicuous position in war work.

BRAZIL WANTS GIVE NAVY SOMETHING TO DO AGAINST KAISER

Participation South American Fleets Discussed at Interallied Conference at Paris—Another Meeting at London

(By the United Press)

Paris, Nov. 26.—Cooperation of fleets from South American Allies was discussed today at the Inter-Allied conference.

Brazil is anxious to lend aid with its navy and merchant marine, it was announced at the meeting.

Allied representatives will meet at London soon to discuss the economic and industrial situation. Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Oscar T. Crosby will represent America.

Dementia and Death Result From Injury Received in Runaway

When a team of mules collided with his mule and cart at Queen and King streets late Saturday Dave Taylor, colored, was thrown violently to the ground. His feet became entangled in the reins, his team bolted and Taylor was dragged a distance of about half a block.

When people got to him after the runaway mule was stopped Taylor was violently insane. He raved on the way to the hospital and several men were required to hold him in the conveyance. He died Sunday. His dementia and death resulted from injury to his head.

Taylor was a farm tenant of good disposition. He was a middle aged man of family. He resided in the Sandy Bottom section.

War Briefs

Tatiana Romonoff, daughter of the deposed czar and a former grand duchess of Russia, is en route to America. She escaped through pulling off a mock marriage with a son of a former chamberlain.

Casimir Majewski, seaman, home at West Olive, Mich., was washed overboard from a destroyer in the war zone and drowned several days ago.

Bumper world crops of potatoes, corn, oats, rice and sugar beets are announced by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Three American sea flyers were picked up by a French patrol boat recently after having been lost 60 hours. Their plane was drifting.

Windjammer Thought He'd Add Sentiment; C. O. Did Add Some.

(Special to The Free Press)
Washington, Nov. 24.—As an American transport carrying U. S. Marines to Europe was leaving port, somewhere, sometime, the marine bugler aboard sounded "taps," which is the military way of saying "Good night." Now the commanding officer of the transport didn't think it was "good night" for his packet and saw no humor in the marine bugler's premature surrender to the "tin lizzies of the sea." Nor could the young sea-soldier see the point when he was given "three days bread and water" to ponder over his wheeze. It's serious business to joke at sea in times like these, and after his enforced Hooverizing, the bugler is convinced that that is so.

COTTON

About 40 bales were sold Monday. Prices ranged from 27 1-2 to 29 cents. Futures quotations were:

| | Open. | Close. |
|----------|-------|--------|
| January | 29.00 | 29.65 |
| March | 28.89 | 29.24 |
| May | 28.50 | 29.41 |
| July | 28.33 | 29.57 |
| December | 30.00 | 30.45 |

GERMANY TRIES TO BUY JAPANESE OFF SUPPLY FUEL WOOD FOR KINSTON'S POOR

(By the United Press)
Amsterdam, Nov. 25.—Germany has again attempted to detach Japan from the Allies and been refused, according to word received here. It is reported that Germany offered Japan Kiao-Chao and announced willingness to discuss the future of the occupied islands in the Pacific as the price of Japan's retirement from the war.

SEAL DRIVE MEETING WITH GREAT SUCCESS

Small Upstate Towns Have Sold More By Now Than They Did All of Last Season—Some Places Go Into Business for First Time—Raleigh Important Center.

Dr. L. B. McBrayer, executive secretary, State Red Cross Seal Commission, says that such reports as are being received indicate an unprecedented sale of seals this season. The doctor says: "No Red Cross Christmas seal has ever sold at Acme until this year. We have already received an order from Mrs. T. V. Moore, chairman, for three times as many as the first consignment, which has already been sold. At Clarkton, Mrs. F. A. Harrington, who came near winning the pennant in the United States for the largest per capita sale last year, sold 1,000 the first afternoon and has sent in for a second order. At Murphy last year the sale only amounted to 900 seals, but Miss Margaret Toland, chairman, has already sold 3,000 and made a second order. At Tryon the sale last year was only 400. The first consignment this year to Mrs. P. S. Kirschner, chairman, was 1,000. She arranged with the Boy Scouts to conduct the sale and they closed them out the first afternoon. Mrs. Kirschner has made a second and third order, each one being larger than the first, and we are expecting to hear from her again soon. At North Wilkesboro the sale last year amounted to 7,166, but Miss Frances Smoot, chairman, has already disposed of 10,000 and ordered as many more."

Those mentioned above are for the most part comparatively small places, but some of the larger places are doing as well. Raleigh last year sold 103,848. This year their first consignment amounted to 125,000 and for their second order, Mrs. W. A. Withers, chairman, asks for an additional 175,000, totaling 300,000, and serves notice that she may need more. The Woman's Club in Raleigh, which by the way is one of the finest organizations of women in the State, if not in the South, is sponsor for the seal sale and Mrs. Withers is appointed by the club. The receipts from last year's seal sale were used for the purpose of organizing a public health nursing service at Raleigh, which is perhaps the best nursing service in the State, and the receipts from the seal sale this season will be used to continue and enlarge it.

But It's Well Known That Our Hogs Hang Around the 'Shineries

The North Carolina turkey is a bum choice. Especially if he happens to come from around Kinston, Wilson, or Winston-Salem. He has a bad habit. A New York "expert" has discovered that the turkeys in North Carolina and Virginia "chew tobacco."

The United Press supplied The Free Press with the following Monday afternoon: "New York, Nov. 26.—Market Expert Foy issues advice on how to pick Thanksgiving turkeys. He warns against Virginia and North Carolina birds, saying they chew tobacco, which makes the meat bitter." Now what do you know about that!

May Have Get More Red Cross Seals to Supply Local Needs

The sale of Christmas seals for the Red Cross is under way here with a vim. The woman's committee scoured the business district Monday for purchasers among the merchants and professional men. Mrs. John H. Griffith, chairman of the Red Cross Seal Committee, stated that early reports were "very encouraging." Mrs. Griffith thought it possible that the 30,000 stamps received would be quickly exhausted.

BULLETINS

PEACE PROPOSALS AT HAND.
Washington, Nov. 26.—Bolshevik proposals for an armistice and peace have been laid before President Wilson and will be carefully considered by the President and Secretary Lansing. Whether an answer will be sent has not been determined.

EASTERN CHAIRMAN.
New York, Nov. 26.—Elisha Lee will be chairman of the committee for directing the railroads East of Chicago under the new plan of operation.

SHOP NOW ONLY 25 DAYS LEFT
READ THE ADS

CITY TO PURCHASE LITTLE RED SCHOOL IS A NUISANCE AND MUST BE ABANDONED

Mayor Authorized Buy It—Action Approved by Fuel Commission and Others. Will Take Written Order Get It From Municipal Storage Place

The City Council at a special meeting Monday authorized the Mayor to purchase 500 cords of wood to be supplied to the poor of the City—only upon order of the Superintendent of the United Charities or recommendation of a clergyman. The wood will be stored at the municipal electric plant.

Fuel Administrator N. J. Rouse and representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, the fuel dealers, the fuel commission and other interests met with the aldermen and unanimously approved the action.

Consolidation Coming

Keeping Up Nearly Half Hundred Institutions of Assorted Sizes Too Much of a Burden to Tolerate Any Longer

The country school here, there and everywhere in Lenoir County seems to be a doomed institution. A special committee of the Board of Education Monday made public a report to the board condemning the "neighborhood" one or two teacher school as a troublesome institution and going on record as favoring consolidation of the many units of the county's system.

The report deals especially with a situation at the Maple Grove district. The committee, comprised by Joseph Kinsey, superintendent; G. V. Cowper, chairman of the board and P. A. Hodges, member of the board, states that while it does not believe it necessary, it will interpose no objection to the board contributing \$50 toward the removal of the Maple Grove School to another point since the contribution was agreed upon some time ago, but makes it plain that such matters in future should not be given consideration except where consolidation is proposed.

Regarding the "general situation" the report says: "It is a well-known fact that for the past six months there seems to have been a perfect epidemic within the county of demands for the establishment of new small schools, and the change of the location of those already established. The frequency and urgency of these petitions and demands from various sections of the county, have been in such proportions as to make it necessary for the board to make its position clear, emphatic and final. The demands upon the board for the ordinary purposes of general education, and these objects necessarily incidental to such purposes, are at this time so large that it seems almost certain that it will be necessary to face a deficit for the coming year, if the school terms required by the Constitution are to be provided for, and the provision of such school terms is the first and most sacred obligation of this board. If the demands for changes of locations and the building of new small school houses now pending before this board were all granted, it would hinder and retard the education of the children and greatly add to the present embarrassed financial condition of the board.

Consolidation Cry of the Hour.
"Outside of and beyond this consideration (this board is earnestly looking forward to the consolidation of districts in this county, whereby the number of school buildings will be greatly reduced and each school building enlarged in size, and in number of teachers, so as to have a system of high schools in the county which will favorably compare with the graded schools in the city. The whole trend of modern educational thought is in line with this view. The granting of the present demands upon this board for the change of location in schools and buildings of new schoolhouses, would, in our opinion retard our progress towards consolidation for 10 years. In view of the foregoing consideration, and especially the uncertainty of conditions in the future due to the present world war, we believe it the duty of the patrons of the schools to suffer some slight inconvenience, rather than expend the sacred funds (for the purpose of educating the people) in a manner which in the end would retard general progress."

STATE NEWS

Mrs. Thomas Bickett, wife of the Governor, addressed Goldsboro women Monday on war work.

The State's teachers at their annual assembly this week will discuss conservation. The assembly will be held at Charlotte.

Will Taylor of Raleigh was fatally injured by a fall from an automobile Sunday.

WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST.
Issued by the U. S. Weather Bureau, Washington, D. C., for the week beginning Sunday, November 25, 1917:
For South Atlantic and East Gulf States: The weather will be fair and cold Sunday and Monday with freezing temperatures and frost as far South as central Florida; slowly rising temperature after Tuesday with generally fair weather.

RUSSIA NOW KNOWS STILL LESS ABOUT HOW SHE'S STANDING

Disatisfaction With Lenine and Trotsky and Their Ways Doing Business

DON'T REPRESENT PUBLIC

According to Cadets—Here is Fellow Who Might Accept Peace if Germany Will Hold Her Troops in Russia Just Same

(By the United Press)
Petrograd, Nov. 26.—Lenine's peace proposals appear to have started to break the structure of the Bolshevik government. The Bolshevik Soviet is dissatisfied with the Lenine-Trotsky offers.

Deputy Kamineff today suggested that there be no peace with Germany unless she promises not to withdraw troops from the Russian front for use against the Allies on other lines. Bitter criticism was voiced at the dictatorial methods assumed by such proclaimers of rule of the people as Trotsky and Lenine.

Germany's refusal to negotiate is expected to alienate other Bolshevik supporters. The cadet party desires that Trotsky's and Lenine's statements be not regarded as representing the people's will. Monarchists are arranging and leading a movement for restoring such a regime.

No More Titles.
Petrograd, Nov. 26.—The Bolshevik government has abolished nobility titles. In a proclamation today it announced confiscation of property of corporate nobles, merchants and burghesses.

Odd Doings.
Petrograd, Nov. 26.—Fraternalization of Russian and enemy troops North of Narotch Lake, near the villages of Skrobova and Obokhovschina, is announced. Fusillades and scouting operations have occurred on the Northern, Western, Southwestern and Rumanian fronts. Strong Turkish forces have been repulsed on the Caucasian front, Southwest of Gumikhama. No official statement of today's activities was issued.

Therefore earnestly recommend that the board adopt the following as its policy in reference to the matters above set forth, to-wit:
No New Schools.

"a. That no new schools will be built where there is a present school reasonably available to the pupils.
"b. That where the county owns a school lot and has already built a building thereon suitable for school purposes, it will not change the location, except upon the most urgent and absolutely necessary reasons, and in this connection the fact that the school is not in the exact center of the territory included in the district, and that the residences of the patrons at a particular time have become so located that the school building is not in the center of such residences, will not be considered sufficient reasons for change of location.
"c. Upon request, pupils will be transferred from one school to any other which may be more conveniently located, either from a point of distance or condition of travel.
"d. That where it becomes absolutely necessary on account of reasons falling within the purview of these recommendations either to build a new school or to change the location of one already built, such location will be placed as nearly as possible in the center of a territory included in the District as is practical, and the fact that at the particular time there are more residents living in one portion of the district than another will not be controlling since the school is located not for the conditions of the present, but of the future.

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