

British Slaughtering Tens of Thousands of Huns In Great Battle That Is Spreading to The Southward And May Engulf The United States Forces Soon

Estimated That More Than Fifth of Million Men Have Fallen In 2 Days; French Now In Action

German Dead, Wounded and Captured Around 150,000—British Have Lost About Half as Many—Solid Waves of Teutons Swoop Down Upon Haig's Valiants—Greatest Struggle in All History Has Gained Little for Kaiser's Armies—English, Unruffled, Move Back a Little in Relatively Small Sector for More Convenient Defense—Belgians on North and Poilus to South of Main Fighting Area Bringing Guns to Play—Baker Close to Center of Things—Slaughter "Appalling"—"Every Available Gun" Being Brought to Bear Upon Masses That Kaiser Has Thrown Into Battle to Win—Or Be Sacrificed—Future of World at Stake This Moment

London, March 23.—News from France during the afternoon indicated that the confident Allies, having met the first shock of the German offensive, are "prepared to stake their lives on victory."

London, Mar. 23.—A French force to the right of the British lines is now engaged, dispatches from the British front declared today. The slaughter at Roisletin-court is appalling. Every available gun is concentrated against the solid masses of the enemy.

Murderer William Sends 150,000 Into Eternity, Hospitals and Prisons.

Washington, Mar. 23.—According to official estimates the casualties occurring thus far in the great West front battle total more than 200,000 men killed, wounded or captured in the two days' fighting.

British estimates place the German losses at 150,000 men. While nothing official has come from the front throwing definite light on the British losses, they are estimated at approximately half those of the Germans, between 75,000 and 100,000.

Changes in Allied War Plans Would Be Occasioned by Long Offensive.

Washington, Mar. 23.—A long-continued German offensive in the West would have a serious effect on the war plans of the United States, Britain and France. Members of the Senate Military Affairs Committee conveyed this impression today following a conference with the War Council.

Baker Sees Albert.

London, Mar. 23.—Secretary of War Baker visited the Belgian front Friday and had a long talk with King Albert. Considerable raiding and artillerying is in progress on the Belgian front in conjunction with the present drive on the British lines.

Hard Attacks by Enemy.

London, Mar. 23.—Gen. Haig reports that powerful attacks were made by the enemy West of St. Quentin yesterday afternoon. Heavy fighting continued on the whole battle front until a late hour last night.

"West of St. Quentin we are falling back in good order across the devastated area to prepared positions farther West. On the Northern portion of the battle front we hold our positions. Very heavy fighting with fresh hostile forces is progressing," Haig's report said.

Stiff Fighting Number Points.

With the British Army in France, Mar. 23.—Hard fighting is reported along the British front at numerous places. At Bullecourt, Roussey Vaucellet Farm, and Lagincourt, amongst other places, the fighting is hot.

PITTS BROTHERS FREED ON CHARGE OF MURDER.

Morgant, Mar. 23.—Garfield and Aaron Pitts, brothers, on trial here for several days on the charge of shooting to death Dr. H. A. Hennessee at Glen Alpine, were acquitted last night.

Paris Uses Ancient Catacombs as Bomb-Proofs for Public

By W. S. Forrest
(United Press Staff Correspondent)
Paris, Feb. 12 (By Mail)—Every measure is being taken in Paris to safeguard the inhabitants against the further incursions of the aerial boche.

Even the ancient catacombs, excavated by the Romans after Caesar's invasion of Gaul, are to offer their impregnable roofs in defense of human life.

A program of complete frankness, an appeal to the people together with a statement of "what is to be," just issued to the public by the authorities, is the talk of Paris. Nothing is hidden or attempted in the combined injunction against air-raid carelessness. It says:

"In general, the inhabitants of dwellings of more than four stories will find their cellars a safe refuge. In dwellings of less than four floors, the security being less, the inhabitants, if they judge themselves insufficiently protected, may find in their neighborhoods refuge in shelters prepared for the public.

"No matter what the nature of the dwelling, it is urgently requested of those who prefer to remain in their homes, to keep away from the windows and proximity of windows. It has been determined that in the last raid (December 30-31) that the major part of the unhappy victims were struck, either on public highways or while at windows. It is counselled also not to remain in the vicinity of staircases.

"As for shelters which are to be set at the service of the public in Paris and suburbs; these are of two kinds, public shelters and private ones. Persons surprised in the street must calmly direct themselves toward the nearest shelter or, unable to reach this, place themselves against a wall or in a niche of some character.

"The private shelters will be established wherever the authorities consider necessary, open day and night. In fact the government has decided that the military authority may requisition, in any quarter a number of cellars belonging to private houses.

"The identity of these shelters will be known by large printed posters and at night by blue lights placed in front of the houses, doors of which in case of alarm, will be opened.

"The government prescribes that a certain number of public shelters such as the catacombs, quarries, sewer chambers, crypts of certain monuments, etc., of which the lists will be widely published, shall be opened for those who do not feel secure at home, or those surprised in the street. In addition a certain number of underground railway stations and portions of neighboring tunnels will be available for refuge.

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highest of patriotic motives; let us support it in its efforts.

LITTLE LAD KILLED BY FALLING TREE; FATHER LOOKED ON

Deep Run Youngster Said He Was Going to His Mother, Who Was Dead, in Last Conscious Moments—Pathetic Accident

Standing by as his father, Rome Casper, and an older brother felled a tree near their home in the Deep Run section, little LaFayette Casper, seven or eight years of age, was struck by the tree and fatally injured about 11 a. m. Told by the others to run, the lad ran the wrong way and the heavy trunk came down upon him.

BULLETINS

(By the United Press)

SPANISH SHIPS SUNK.

Barcelona, Mar. 23.—The Spanish ships Jolel Joaquina and Grandalquivir have been sunk in the Atlantic, it was announced here today. No details were given.

IRISH MEMBER PARLIAMENT ARRESTED.

London, Mar. 23.—L. Ginnell, member of Parliament from West Meath, has been arrested at Kilkenny, Ireland, charged with inciting people to "enter lands."

SIX NEGROES BREAK JAIL SALISBURY; SHOOT JAILER.

(Special to The Free Press)
Salisbury, Mar. 23.—Jailer Dudley Click was shot in the breast with his own pistol by one of six negroes who overpowered him and escaped from the Rowan County jail yesterday. Some of the men have been recaptured. One was shot in the arm before being taken. Click was not seriously hurt. Baxter Cain, sentenced to death for murder, was eating a meal when the delivery occurred. He did not stop eating.

TABLOIDS.

London, Mar. 23.—Boys from 12 to 14 years old now serve as "white wings" in London. Handles of shovels and brooms are shortened for them and they dodge in and out among buses and other traffic cleaning the streets.

London, Mar. 23.—A young American officer from the Middle West, after three days of seasickness, while en route here produces this: "Don't talk to me about fighting for freedom on the seas. Anybody that wants the d— ocean is welcome to my part."

Income Tax Man Coming.

R. D. Spencer, representing the Internal Revenue Bureau, will be at the Courthouse here Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday to assist income tax payers in making out their returns. This will be the last expert assistance available here.

ON WHEATLESS DAYS

USE NO BEARD CRACKERS
BISKEY OR BREAKFAST
FOODS CONTAINING
WHEAT.

CONGRESS PREFERS NOT TO TALK ABOUT COLOMBIAN TREATY

"Willing Let Colombia Be Bought if She Wants to," Says One Member—President Probably Won't Get the Matter Up

(By the United Press)
Washington, Mar. 23.—Vigorous yet unobtrusive efforts are being made by the administration to revive the Colombian treaty in the Senate. A quiet poll has been taken of the members of the Foreign Relations Committee and of the Senate, but with discouraging results for those wishing the treaty ratified.

The payment of \$25,000,000 to Colombia together with an apology from the United States is standing pat. "We are willing to let Colombia be bought if she wants to be bought," an opponent of the treaty stated today.

With Kinstonians Serving the Flag; Matters for Pride

(Every soldier or sailor from Lenoir County or who has lived here is invited to write as often as he pleases to his friends through these columns. The Free Press welcomes letters of any length up to 250 or 300 words, or even longer if the writer feels like it, from any man at the camps or afloat.)

Alban Barrus writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. S. Barrus, that the Kinston men of Ambulance Company 317 were delighted to have a visit from Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Harvey a few days ago. The company, stationed at Camp Lee, is having a pretty good time of it, he states.

Oscar Palmer, who led the selectmen away to Camp Jackson Saturday morning, is a veteran of the old national guard. He served two or three "hitches." He was an excellent army cook in the border expedition, and as bass drummer in the Second Infantry band was said by the bandmen to be one of only three men alive who could beat a big drum just exactly right. The others were Calvin Tyndall, in the same band, and John Philip Sousa. Palmer is a well set-up fellow, and prefers the "doughboy" or "walking" or infantry branch.

The colonel of a regiment in which some Kinston men are serving is "loved" by the entire outfit. But he is a stickler for the regulations. His regular every-day orderly asked him if he might speak with him. "No," said the colonel, "but you may go over and ask your first sergeant to let you speak to your company commander, who, if he deems it necessary, will arrange for an interview for you with the commanding officer"—it's third person always—"through the regimental adjutant." It wasn't "officialness," but to show the boy how. The same colonel, it is said, will spend hours worrying over an alleged petty grievance of an enlisted man.

Little Misses Mary, Hulda and Martha Hardy and Marjorie Hunter, who were solicitors who helped to raise a fund for a grafonola for Ambulance Company 317, are in receipt of a letter from "Men" of the company in which they extend their thanks. The grafonola "is the means of passing many a lonesome hour," they say. "In appreciation we will give you our best work for the cause which we have assumed," is the chivalrous closing statement.

NEW WHEAT PRICE ADMINISTRATION TO TRY KILL SENATE'S

President, Hoover and Department of Agriculture Get Busy With House

\$2.50 THOUGHT TOO HIGH

Views of White House to Be Made Clear in Letter to Members of House Agriculture Committee—Big Fight Expected

(By the United Press)
Washington, Mar. 23.—President Wilson together with Herbert Hoover and the Agriculture Department are preparing for a battle royal with Congress on the President's wheat prices.

Following the Senate action in boosting the minimum price of wheat to \$2.50, administration leaders in the House today are busy lining up their followers to strike this from the Senate agriculture bill. The President is expected to make his views on the Senate action clear immediately in a letter to the House Agriculture Committee members.

A bitter fight in the House on the price fixed by the Senate in opposition to President Wilson is planned. Chairman Lever of the House Agriculture Committee will fire the opening gun for the administration early in next week, when he will move to take the bill from the Speaker's table and send it to conference.

REALTY PEOPLE ARE DENIED USE MAILS

(By the United Press)
Washington, Mar. 23.—The McAlister Real Estate Exchange of Cincinnati and Leflore and McAlester of Oklahoma were barred from the mails today by the Postoffice Department for alleged fraudulent real estate operations in Indian lands totaling several hundred thousand dollars.

Last White Selectmen Save One Leave Here for Camp at Columbia

Twelve selectmen left for Camp Jackson Saturday morning about 7:30 o'clock. The train which carried them as far as Goldsboro was late.

These men made 58 to be sent from here this week. Only one is needed to fill out Lenoir County's quota of whites of the first draft. He is Emmett King, who failed to report. Oscar J. Palmer was in charge of the men leaving Saturday. There was no ceremony about the departure.

COTTON

Receipts Saturday were 12 or 14 bales. The highest price was \$2.80. Futures quotations were:

	Open.	Close.
May	33.00	32.90
July	31.88	32.07
October	30.82	30.85
December	30.65	30.57