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ALLIED ARMIES FALL BACK

French and British Troops Forced to Retire—Troops Withdrawn from Alsace.

The French and British troops opposing the invasion of the German army in Belgium have suffered a serious reverse, according to official announcement issued by the French war office. In the battle line, which extends from Mons to the Luxemburg frontier, several army corps, composed of both British and French, took the offensive on Sunday against the Germans, but their plan of attack failed, owing to "unforeseen difficulties," as described by the official statement, and the troops retired on the covering positions.

The losses on both sides are reported as extremely heavy and the French officials describe the Germans as being obliged to establish themselves in fresh positions in Lorraine. The French have abandoned those portions of Alsace and Lorraine which they previously had occupied and now look for heavy fighting in French territory.

The French commander-in-chief has withdrawn his forces from the territory recently occupied and is massing them along with their British allies, in a strong line between Maubeuge, on the north, and Donon, on the South, a distance of about 200 miles.

The allies, having abandoned the offensive, according to official announcement, will assume a purely defensive attitude, in the hope of checking the advance of the vast masses of German troops endeavoring to break through the line.

A combined French and British force is holding the front near Givet, along the river Meuse, about 30 miles below Namur, while French troops command the roads out of the great forest of Ardennes.

An official announcement made public at Berlin, by way of Nauen, Germany, says that the city of Namur and five of its ports have been captured by the Germans.

Japan Declares War on Germany.

Tokio, Aug. 23.—The emperor of Japan today declared war on Germany. This action was taken at the expiration of the time limit of Japan's ultimatum to Germany demanding the surrender of Kiaochow.

The Japanese government has ordered the beginning of operations on land and sea.

The Imperial rescript declaring war on Germany was issued this evening. It officially inaugurates hostilities in the far east as a result of Germany's failure to reply to the Japanese ultimatum.

The proclamation of the emperor sent a thrill through the country. Japan's entrance upon the fulfillment of her obligations to her ally, Great Britain, responds to the popular will from one end to the other. Cheering crowds assembled today before public buildings and tonight there were lantern processions through the streets. The popular manifestations, however, do not approach the enthusiasm which preceded the war with Russia.

Count Von Rex, the German ambassador, has been handed his passports. He probably will leave for America. George W. Guthrie, the American ambassador will represent Germany. The Diet has been convoked in special session for September 3.

Matters of Local Interest.

The members of the Ladies Library are requested to send in all assessments due so that various expenses may be met and an order for new books given at an early day for fall and winter reading.

A concert by a class of children from the Odd Fellows Orphan Home at Goldsboro will be given at the school building at Nealsville Friday night, August 28, at 8 o'clock. All are cordially invited to contribute to this worthy cause.

The Guild of St. John's Church held its regular meeting at the home of Mrs. Jennie Davis on Garden street last Thursday morning. Later Mrs. Davis and Miss Davis entertained all present at lunch served at small tables on the veranda.

A. M. Hensley, a well to do farmer residing on Tom's creek, was in town a few days ago and called on his old friend and former neighbor, Register of Deeds R. L. C. Gibson. He and Mr. Gibson have been close friends for many years and to show his generosity and appreciation for courtesies as a true neighbor and friend, he presented Mr. Gibson with a \$25 suit of clothes as a gift.

The death of Mrs. Meares, mother of Rev. Mr. A. DeR. Meares, former rector of St. John's church here, occurred at Wilmington, N. C., on last Sunday. Mrs. Meares was a woman widely known throughout the State for her interest in affairs of the D. A. R., being State president for some years. She was also actively interested in St. Mary's School, Raleigh, and a woman of high culture and intelligence and well known throughout the South.

Old Fort last week voted to issue bonds to the amount of \$15,000 to have a sewerage system. Out of a vote of 102, only one solitary ballot was cast against the proposition, which shows that the people of that progressive town are decidedly interested in public improvement. Old Fort recently voted bonds for a \$12,000 school building and the contract for the construction of the new building will be let next month.

Progress on the building of the new cotton mill of the Clinchfield Manufacturing Company is progressing nicely. It is a possibility that the roof on the mill will be completed by November 1st to 10th. It is expected that machinery, shafting, engine and boilers will begin to arrive about the middle of November. About forty houses have been framed and closed in and it is probable that around seventy-five will be completed by the first of December.

The residence of C. D. Elliott on Garden street was destroyed by fire at 3:30 o'clock last Saturday morning. The building was an old frame structure and was enveloped in flames when the alarm was given by neighbors. The building was occupied by Mr. Elliott but he was away when the fire started. It appears that he was called to the home of his daughter during the night and left a lamp burning in his room which is supposed to have caused the fire. There was \$500 insurance on the property.

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Linen Shower for Miss Blanton.

On Friday afternoon at five o'clock Mrs. Pescud Craig entertained at her hospitable home on Morgan street in honor of Miss Lucile Blanton. This handsome social function was in the nature of a "linen shower" for Miss Blanton, whose coming wedding was recently announced for the month of October. Forty ladies were guests for the afternoon and each added something handsome for personal use or household linen, making an imposing array of exquisite needle work, bespeaking the popularity of Miss Blanton, the guest of honor. After a delightful social hour tea was served at small tables scattered through the parlors, hall and library, the rooms being effectively decorated in roses and potted ferns. Artistic place cards and favors marked the seat for each guest.

After tea a large, handsome package tied in broad white satin ribbons surmounted by Cupids and orange blossoms was presented to Miss Blanton, who opened the many contents amid much merriment and graciously accepted the joyous spirit of the occasion.

Mrs. Craig was assisted by Mrs. Blanton, Miss Barnard and Miss Ethel Crawford, and the entire affair was one of the largest and most brilliant of the mid-summer season.

Miss Kate Mae Streetman delightfully entertained a number of her friends at her home on Garden street last Friday evening. Auction Bridge and Rook were the progressive games of the evening, after which punch and ice cream were served by Mrs. J. W. Streetman, assisted by Misses Julia Burton and Martha Decker. The out-of-town guests were Misses Shelton Zoeller of Elizabeth City, Clara Armstrong and Maude Rankin of Gastonia.

On Monday evening of last week Miss Jessie Ratliff entertained a few friends complimentary to her cousin, Miss Annie Wharton, of Greensboro. After an interesting game of Forty-two dainty refreshments were served.

Miss Gladys Goodson was hostess to a few of her friends Monday evening at a "grape feast" in honor of her guest, Miss Belle Lupton, of Belhaven, N. C., and a very pleasant evening was spent by all present.

Miss Joyce Decker entertained a number of friends Wednesday afternoon in honor of her hostess guests, Misses Boyles and Phifer, of Charlotte.

Concert at Grand Tonight.

At the Grand Theatre tonight (Thursday) the singing class from Odd Fellows Orphan Home at Goldsboro will give a concert, in connection with moving picture show, the program including the Adventures of Kathlyn. A committee from Marion Lodge No. 47, L. O. O. F., are working energetically to insure a large crowd for the class. These concerts have been given here annually for some time and always prove entertaining and pleasing. The admission is 15 and 25 cents.

W. F. Savage of Charlotte Accused of Violating White Slave Act.

On last Saturday afternoon a case of sensational nature was heard before U. S. Commissioner James Morris, in which Wm. F. Savage, a young man of Charlotte, was charged in a Federal warrant with having transported Miss Millie Hartsell, a 16-year-old girl of Mecklenburg county, from Charlotte, N. C., to Danville, Va., for immoral purposes, and thereby in violation of the Mann White Slave act of 1910. The case was called at 1 o'clock and evidence of a thrilling nature was given from the lips of the girl. Her testimony along with other witnesses revealed the facts to be substantially as follows:

That she and the defendant were engaged to be married on March 5, 1914; that on the afternoon of the 7th of February the defendant came from Charlotte to her home in an automobile and persuaded her father and mother to permit her to go with him to a party at his home in Charlotte, to which persuasion they yielded. When she arrived at his home there was no party, and the defendant then began to beg her to marry him at once, and finally persuaded her to leave Charlotte with him for that purpose. Early the next morning the defendant procured tickets for both of them presumably to go to some point in Ohio, but instead they went to Danville, Va., and after they arrived in Danville the defendant postponed the marriage for a few days and took the girl to a boarding house where he introduced her to the landlady as his wife, to which the girl protested. The defendant, Miss Hartsell stated, threatened her life if she revealed the truth and that he by threat forced her to live with him as man and wife from then until June, at which time Savage left Danville to take employment in building the cotton mill at Marion, while she remained in Danville until July 1st.

The defendant, through his counsel, announced at the conclusion of the evidence for the Government that they would offer no testimony. The Commissioner announced that he would bind the defendant to the Federal court at Charlotte under a bond of \$500.

The attorneys for the defense presented letters to the girl while she was on the witness stand which they claim would show an entirely different state of facts, but she denied having written them and refused to write her name for comparison with the handwriting of the letters shown here. The defense claims that though the girl has recently married another man, she has written affectionate letters to the defendant asking for money.

The defense further contends that when the whole case is developed at the trial an entirely different aspect will be shown.

J. L. C. Bird, of the Marion Bar, represented the prosecution, and J. F. Flowers, of the firm of Flowers & Jones of Charlotte, and J. W. Winborne, of the firm of Pless & Winborne of Marion, represented the defendant.

Services at St. John's Episcopal church next Sunday night at 8 o'clock. Week-day Bible class on every Wednesday night at 8 o'clock.

STATE NEWS OF THE WEEK

Items Concerning Events of Interest and Importance Throughout the State.

Col. A. H. Boyden of Salisbury will speak at the Confederate veterans' reunion in Newton this year.

W. E. White of Alexander county tells the Taylorsville Scout he made 58 bushels of oats on one acre.

Congressman Webb has introduced a bill for a Federal building at Morganton, to cost \$100,000, and has asked for city delivery of mails at Morganton.

The Republican convention of the ninth congressional district is called to meet at Newton September 10 and all anti-Democrats are invited to participate.

Chairman Warren of the Democratic State committee has rented rooms in the Yarrowborough House in Raleigh for headquarters. He says the outlook for the Democrats in the State was never better.

At a conference at Greensboro last week, of Progressive and Republicans, Charles H. Cowles of Wilkesboro, was nominated for United States Senator, and resolutions adopted endorsing the policies of Col. Roosevelt, declaring for a state primary for all candidates for all parties and for a protective tariff.

The Goldsboro Record charged that Judge Peebles drank too much and did other unbecoming things while holding court at Goldsboro. The editors and publishers of the paper, Geo. W. and Chas. A. Brown, were cited before his honor for contempt, the hearing being at Judge Peebles' home at Jackson last Saturday. Judge Robinson, counsel for the Browns, sprung a law point on Peebles that halted him and the case was continued until September 28.

Rev. C. M. Erwin, a Baptist minister of Hickory, was killed and George Bridges and a small son were seriously injured Sunday afternoon at Bostic, Rutherford county, when a mule which they were driving to a buggy became frightened by the breaking of the harness in going down a hill and ran, striking a post and throwing the three to the ground. Mr. Bridges appears to have lost an eye. His son's skull is fractured.

Senator Hoke Smith was nominated to succeed himself for long term U. S. Senator in the Georgia primaries Wednesday by a majority of 323 convention votes over former Governor Joseph M. Brown. For the short term race, Slaton and Hardwick will have a second primary. Judge N. E. Harris won the governorship.

President Wilson has been asked by representatives of the Christian Brothers, a Catholic organization which maintains 18 educational institutions in Mexico, to use his good offices to persuade the new government of Mexico to allow the order to resume its regular school work this fall. The activities of the organization were interrupted by the revolution.

The German general has imposed a war tax of \$40,000,000 on the city of Brussels.