

MARION PROGRESS

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE BEST INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE OF McDOWELL COUNTY.

ESTABLISHED 1896.

MARION, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1918.

VOL. XXII—NO. 23

BAKER ANSWERS CRITICS

Secretary Answers Chamberlain's Charges—Million Men Under Arms in U. S.

Washington, Jan. 28.—Secretary Baker, in a strong personal statement today before the senate military committee, replied to Senator Chamberlain's charges that the war department was inefficient and had broken down.

Without prepared manuscript and in a frank confidential manner, the secretary told the senators he came to defend no mistakes or shortcomings but to insist most emphatically that deficiencies where disclosed have been remedied, that they were the exceptions rather than the rule and that the magnitude of America's preparations made errors of judgment and mistakes likely.

Mr. Baker in defending the war department from lack of inefficiency when war was declared, gave some confidential information on what had been done.

France and Great Britain, he said, are supplying artillery to the American forces, as they had an excess on hand and because they needed ships.

Thirty-two divisions of national guard and national army troops in camps in the United States—more than a million—are considered ready to go over seas when they are needed.

Every American who uses a rifle, Secretary Baker told the senators, already had been supplied with one and the manufacture of rifles is increasing rapidly.

Great Britain and France, he said, are prepared to furnish machine guns until the American supply is delivered.

Will Double Size of The Camps at Azalea.

Asheville, Jan. 26.—With the arrival here yesterday of Maj. E. H. Bruns, United States medical corps, and a corps of assistants it became known that the government has already decided to double the size of the camps for tubercular soldiers at Azalea, and that work on a camp for 1,000 men would be started at once. The original plans for the hospital called for a camp for 500 patients.

Cowan, Chiles and company, a newly organized corporation, is to act as holding company for the government until such time as Uncle Sam sees fit to take over the property in its entirety. They will have charge of the construction work and will own the land on which the hospitals are placed, for the present.

It is probable that the first patients will be sent to Azalea this summer.

Italian Forces Capture Strong Teton Positions.

Notwithstanding the fact that deep snows still cover the ground, the Italians have carried out successfully a spectacular drive against the Austro-German lines in the mountain region of northern Italy and captured strong positions and more than 1,500 men.

Large quantities of mistletoe are converted into wine every year by the country people in certain sections of England.

Registrants Who Have Failed to Answer Call.

The local exemption board reports the following list of registrants who have not been located:

George Anderson, colored, Marion; Julius Mills, colored, Marion; Dallas Erick Ray, col., Canton; Latt Middleton, col., S. C.; Stanley Hyatt, Asheville; Odell Kirby and Charlie Brown, col., Marion; Dude Conyers, Old Fort; Sam Hemphill, col., Construction; Jesse Small, col., Roleger, Ala.; J. Y. Corpening, Toppin, Wash.; Lewis Swann, Icata, S. C.; Harvey Edgar Coffey, Old Fort; Elijah Edwards, Old Fort; Harvey Freeman, Raleigh; Abe Butler, Construction; Mars Fields, Marion; Son Conley, Construction; Jonas Hogan, Construction; Robt. Lynch, col., Old Fort; Charlie Sims, col., Le Grange, Ga.; Frank L. Spence, Construction; James Stubbs, Sunny South, Ala.; Frank Burnett (Bennett), col., Old Fort; John Trnett, col., Gaston, Ala.; Arthur Blackstock and Ernest Johnson, col., Marion; Byron L. Johnson, Newport News, Va.; James Young, col., Marion; Lucius Jones, col., Construction; Frank Swenson, col., Marion; Ed Saunders, Marion; Raymond V. Davis, Tennessee; Harrison Wright and John Hollen, col., Construction; Charlie Lytle, col., Asheville; Carl Caven-der, Construction; Obid Brown, Old Fort; Ed Alston, Construction; Gilreath Smith, Old Fort; Amos Flynn, Marion; Lyda Gorman, Charlotte; Harold Brown, col., Glen Springs, S. C.; Abe Butler, Construction.

Campaign Against Moonshine Stills

Washington, Jan. 28.—The necessity of arousing state and county officials to their responsibilities in assisting the government to break up the manufacture of moonshine whiskey is urged upon the governors of prohibition states today in a letter from Internal Revenue Commissioner Roper.

The letter was made public as part of a nation-wide campaign against illicit distilling recently announced by Commissioner Roper when it was discovered that the manufacture of "moonshine" was rapidly increasing in bone dry states and whiskey was being sold illegally to soldiers in southern training camps.

The campaign already has resulted in arrests in many states but the commissioner points out the records show the main effort to keep moonshining in check continues to come under Federal direction.

In this connection the destruction of 411 stills and 697 distilleries in North Carolina and 121 stills and 206 distilleries in South Carolina by Federal agents during 1917 is cited. Evidence gathered by Federal agents shows that raw corn liquor has been sold about army camps at \$8 to \$12 a quart. In his letter today, the commissioner informs the dry state governors that Federal collectors hereafter will promptly inform county officials as well as the revenue bureau of cases reported, so that all agencies may operate to suppress operations.

A. L. Page has sold his interest in the restaurant to Ed. Williams.

NEWS FROM THE COUNTY

Brief Mention of Some of the Happenings in McDowell County—Items About Home People.

NEBO

Nebo, Jan. 29.—Prof. G. H. Weaver has moved his family to Raeford, where he will teach.

Miss Lillie Landis spent the week-end with relatives in Marion.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. R. V. Wilson, Jan. 21, a daughter.

Rev. and Mrs. A. P. Sorrels of Union Mills spent Saturday and Sunday here with relatives.

W. J. Bowman moved his family to Hickory last week.

Rev. T. A. Drake filled his regular appointment here Sunday. There was a large crowd present considering the muddy weather.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. M. V. Snipes, Jan. 21, a daughter.

CHAPEL HILL

Chapel Hill, Jan. 29.—John Yount has returned to his work in Wisconsin after spending a week with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Yount.

The infant of Mr. and Mrs. John Parker died Monday. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the bereaved family.

Edgar Hicks and Frank Kaylor, of Camp Sevier, visited friends and relatives here last week.

Charles and Henry Poteet have returned home from Greenville, S. C.

Miss Lona Goforth spent the week-end with her uncle at Union Mills.

Following is the school honor roll: Third grade, Thelma Holland; fourth grade, Florence Corpening, Bertha Huffman and Nancy England.

American Forces Six Times as Large as in Spanish-American War.

There were 1,428,650 men and 110,865 officers in the United States Army at the opening of 1918, more than one and a half times as large as any force ever before mobilized by this Nation, according to a statement by Secretary of War Baker.

During the war with Spain the army of the United States at its maximum strength aggregated 272,000 men and officers. The Army in the field and in training now is practically six times as great as the maximum number under arms in the Spanish-American War.

About 45,000 officers were commissioned from civil life in the two series of training camps, nearly eight times as many as the number of officers in the Regular Army April 1, 1917.

Airplane Raid on London.

Monday night's airplane raid, the first of the year, on London and adjacent territory, resulted in the largest casualty list of any air raid since that of June 13 last. The total casualties were forty-seven killed and 169 injured. Forty-six of the fatalities occurred in London where 162 persons were injured. Bombs were dropped by the invading enemy in Kent and Essex, but slight material damage was done. One of the airplanes, a three-seated machine, was brought down in flames from a height of ten thousand feet and all three of its occupants were burned to death.

All the New York morning and evening papers, which have been sold for a cent a copy, have advanced their price to 2 cents. The high cost of paper and the increased cost of doing business forced the increase.

Submarines Are Expected to Aid in German Attack.

That the Teutonic allies in their expected offensive on the western battle front are not to be satisfied merely with infantry operations, but will employ their submarines in the most intensive manner they yet have adopted to aid them, is an announcement that has just been made by Secretary of War Baker.

While the armies of the enemy, reinforced to a great extent by men withdrawn from the Russian front, are attacking on land, underwater boats, refitted and generally prepared are to seek the lanes of commerce, especially those between the United States and France, there to attempt to ravish commerce and to cut off, if possible, men of the American army and food and ammunition supplies that are being hastened Europe-ward by the United States.

Since the debacle on the Russian front, the fact has been well established that the high command of the German army purposed at as early a date as was practicable a general military attack against the entente front from the North Sea to the Adriatic, in the hope of gaining victories at various points through the bending back of the entente's line, which would give new heart to the people at home, whose hopes for ultimate victory are at low ebb.

Doubtless, however, the American, British, French, and Italian navies will not be taken unawares by the submarine menace, which recently has fallen off in a great degree when the number of merchantmen sunk by the underwater boats is compared with that of previous months. Depth charges, bombs dropped from seaplanes and many other methods have been adopted by the American and associated naval forces to overcome the U-boat attacks, and most successfully and the assumption is that, forewarned, these efforts will be greatly multiplied in an endeavor to protect shipping plying the trade routes.

Cut Off Political Agents and Passes

Railroads are ordered by Director General McAdoo to dispen- with the services of legislative and political agents and all attorneys not engaged in the performance of necessary legal work, and to observe strictly the law regulating free passes.

This, the first economy order under government operation of the railroads, will cut off large and well paid staffs maintained by many companies and eliminate from payroll hundreds of lawyers throughout the country who draw annual retainer fees. If it is complied with to the letter, as the director general's office intends to see that it is, thousands of free passes now held by State, county and municipal officials and others will be cancelled.

Collector A. D. Watts has divided the fifth district into ten divisions and appointed deputies in each division. Byron Conley of this place has been assigned to the eighth division, which includes Cleveland, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford and Yancey counties, with headquarters at Marion.

STATE NEWS OF THE WEEK

Items Concerning Events of Interest and Importance Throughout the State.

Rowan county board of health has ordered a quarantine against Charlotte and Camp Greene, until February 7, on account of cases of meningitis existing in Charlotte and the camp.

Ice gorges which had formed in the upper Holston and French Broad rivers, in Tennessee, broke Sunday night, following the thaw and warm rain, and there was considerable damage on account of the overflow.

The Seaboard Air Line railway's coal chute at Norlina—the station on the North Carolina-Virginia line—was burned last week with 150 tons of coal, causing a loss of \$20,000. The fire is said to have originated in a spark from a smoke-stack.

According to press dispatches from San Francisco, 454 interned Germans who have been detained at Angel Island, on the Pacific coast, left Thursday for Hot Springs for permanent internment. The party included 16 women and 13 children.

Thirteen road sentences, most of them in retailing cases, the sentences ranging from three to five months, were imposed by Judge Clipe at the recent term of Burke court. Frank Cook, a former member of the board of commissioners of Burke, a citizen of some prominence, was sentenced to nine months. He appealed and gave bond.

A case of spinal meningitis having developed at the Hubbard house at Murphy the occupants, consisting of thirty-odd people, have been quarantined as a further precaution, and the mayor of the town has issued an order closing the schools, moving picture houses, churches, lodges and all public gathering places for a period of two weeks.

Judge Ferguson to Retire.

Judge Garland S. Ferguson of Waynesville gives notice through his home paper, the Mountaineer, that he will not be a candidate for renomination as Superior Court judge of the twentieth district. In his public announcement Judge Ferguson says:

"I have spent 36 years of my life in the public service, four years of that time in the Confederate army and 32 years as clerk of the Superior Court, State Senator, solicitor and judge. My best interests demand that I should look after my personal affairs now."

The Mountaineer says that Capt. W. J. Hannah of Waynesville and Messrs. Frye and Bryson of Swain county will contest for the nomination.

Card of Appreciation.

We wish to express our appreciation to the ladies of the McDowell Chapter of the Red Cross for the interest they have taken in our welfare, in the way of sending us sweaters and nice Christmas boxes.

McDowell County Boys at Camp Sevier.

The last chapter of The Neglected Wife, will be shown at the Grand Theatre (Thursday) tonight. Don't fail to see the climax of this interesting serial.