

# MARION PROGRESS

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## SUCCESS ON ALL FRONTS

Northern Belgium Being Cleared of Germans—15,000 Interned in Holland.

The allies are driving the enemy back on vital sections, the American and British tanks playing an important part.

According to Associated Press summary, victory crowns allied arms on every battlefield. Northern Belgium is being rapidly cleared of the enemy by British forces. Belgians have occupied Zeebrugge and Hays; and have crossed the Ghent-Bruges canal and on their left have reached the Dutch frontier, where 15,000 Germans, cut off from their retreat by the advance northward from Eecloo, are reported to have withdrawn into Holland, where they were interned.

Ghent, it is predicted from British headquarters, will fall at an early date and the French by a swift stroke along an extended line have put their forces within two miles of Tournai. Thiel is in the hands of the French, despite stubborn enemy resistance, as well as the high ground round about.

British troops have crossed the Selle river, have reconquered Solmes and have had hard fighting not only in the section around that town but at St. Python to the east. Here the British have captured more than 2,000 prisoners.

Since the beginning of the operations in Flanders the allies have made an advance of more than 30 miles over a 50-mile front, clearing all of western Flanders, as well as the coast of the enemy.

## Mr. Weaver Declines Mr. Britt's Challenge for Political Debates.

Asheville, Oct. 16.—Replying to James J. Britt's challenge to a joint debate Representative Zebulon Weaver tonight declined to become a "party to any agreement by which the people of this district may be distracted from the task of 'winning the war,' by a bitter partisan contest." Mr. Weaver says in his letter that he is surprised that Mr. Britt waited to make this proposal till this late day when a serious epidemic is raging throughout the 10th district and the health department is prohibiting all public meetings. Of the two issues proposed by his opponent for debate are the war matters and the disputed congressional election of 1916.

Mr. Weaver says his war record speaks for itself and that the issues of the last congressional election in the 10th have been decided against Mr. Britt in the courts. Mr. Weaver states that he would take much pleasure in meeting his adversary on the stump if he did not believe it his duty to devote his energies to patriotic causes.

## War Hits Germany Hard.

Three million Germans have died in the war zone. Sickness and disease due to hardships and food troubles have run the deaths among the civilian population to a million beyond the pre-war average, and lowered the births by three and a third million a year. In the ordinary course of events, Germany's population in 1919 would be seventy-two million souls; under war conditions it will be a full seven million less than that figure.

## United War Work Campaign.

Active steps will be taken at once in completing the organization for the First United War Work Campaign, set for the week of November 11-18. This is the greatest drive for funds ever asked any people in the history of the world and the same patriotic and self-denial spirit that has put over the top every war measure thus far is going to put across this tremendous drive.

President Wilson's farsightedness in combining the welfare organizations for one united drive is now being recognized more and more. It is for the boys in khaki and the boys in the navy blue, irrespective of beliefs, creeds; it is for them only that the Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A., Knights of Columbus, Jewish Welfare Board, War Camo Community Service, American Library Association and the Salvation Army are working. They are all, in helping the boys, making it easier and quicker for them to win this war.

There has never in the history of the world been an army like the American army of today. Without undue boasting it is the cleanest, morally and physically, army of them all and the best equipped and to top all its morale, or esprit d'corps, is not surpassed. The work of the welfare organizations is directly responsible for much of this splendid showing. In the camps "a man's a man for a' that" and he is welcome in any welfare building irrespective of his belief. The men have taken long strides ahead of the folks back home in this respect. In "Y" buildings at one camp on Sunday there would be first early Mass, then an Episcopal communion service, and then the regimental service by the chaplain. All these in the morning. In the afternoon a bible class by the "Y" man and a room where members of the Hebrew faith gathered for worship. In the evening a Y. M. C. A. service. All under one roof, on the same day, and all worshipping God.

And so just as the boys in the camps have broadened, this bringing together for one purpose, that of receiving funds to make it easier for the boys, cannot but help bring the American people into a closer spirit of brotherhood, of less of the self and more of the brother man, less of the world and more of a Christain.

## Baptist Drive Starts When Quarantine is Lifted.

Raleigh, Oct. 20.—The headquarters of the million dollar campaign for the Baptist schools in the state has been the scene of much activity during the past week. The managers of the movement have been taking advantage of the lull in activities on the outside occasioned by the influenza epidemic, to prepare posters, forms, and other needed campaign material.

It is expected that on the second Sunday after quarantine is lifted from the churches in the various sections the intensive drive will be put on, and put across in the shortest time possible.

Congressional leaders have agreed to adjourn Congress the 29th until November 12, after the elections.

## NO PEACE WITH AUSTRIA

President Wilson Rejects Offer for Armistice, There Having Been a Change in Conditions.

Washington.—On the eve, apparently, of the coming of the peace note from Germany, President Wilson has rejected the plea of Austria-Hungary for an armistice and peace negotiations and in doing so has made clear the conditions which the central powers must meet to end the war. In a note made public soon after it was well on the way to Vienna the President in effect says there can be no talk of peace with the Austro-Hungarian government except upon the basis of complete liberty for Czecho-Slovaks and other subject nationalities as free members of the family of nations. He refuses to entertain the Austro-Hungarian suggestion for this reason without discussing the military questions dealt with in the reply to Germany.

The Vienna government asked for negotiations on the basis of the president's announced program of peace, mentioning the speech of January 8, last, in which the President said the peoples of Austria-Hungary should be accorded the freest opportunity for autonomous development. The reply says this is impossible; that the Czecho-Slovak national council has been recognized as a de facto belligerent government, the justice of the nationalistic aspirations of the Jugo-Slavs has been recognized and mere autonomy no longer can be accepted. This declaration which may be far reaching in its effect upon Austria-Hungary, where long enslaved peoples apparently are nearly ready to sweep away the hated dual monarchy and the Hapsburg dynasty clears up what some critics of the President's policy have pointed to as a source of endless controversy in his program of peace. It comes one day after the proclamation of Emperor Karl federalizing the Austrian states in a desperate effort to save his government at home and at the same time prepare the way for peace.

## REPORTS ARE CURRENT THAT GERMANY HAS ALSO REPLIED

London.—According to unofficial reports reaching Amsterdam, the German reply to President Wilson has been delivered to the Swiss minister in Berlin, says an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Amsterdam.

In the note Germany consents to the evacuation of Belgium.

Germany protests against the charges of cruelty in the President's note and says she was forced into submarine warfare by the allied blockade.

The German government, it adds, denies responsibility for the loss of women and children on torpedoed passenger ships, but to advance peace Germany is prepared provisionally to stop unrestricted submarine warfare.

Finally, the note disputes the right of foreign powers to meddle with German internal affairs and declares Germany should enjoy the same right of self-determination as other nations.

## FIFTEEN THOUSAND GERMANS ARE INTERNED IN HOLLAND

Belgian forces have reached the Dutch frontier, where 15,000 Germans cut off from their retreat by the advance northward from Eecloo, are reported to have withdrawn into Holland, where they were interned.

The American forces operating in conjunction with the British north of Wassigny have advanced to the Sambre-Oise canal. They occupied Rejet, east of St. Souplet, at the point of the bayonet.

## TWENTY-FIVE MILLION PEOPLE PURCHASED LIBERTY BONDS

Washington.—Probably 25,000,000 or more individuals bought bonds of the fourth Liberty loan according to unofficial reports reaching Washington, showed a large proportion filed their subscriptions during the last few days of the campaign. Consequently it will be a task of many days to actually count the number of pledges and to compile reports from the entire country.

## Letter from Clinton Landis.

The following letter, dated October 8, was received during the week by Mrs. W. E. Landis from her son, Clinton Landis, who is somewhere in France:

"Dear Mamma: "It gives me pleasure to write you a letter tonight and to tell you that I am feeling fine. I am a contented soldier (if there is one) and like my work very well. Everything that I do seems satisfactory. It is indeed a pleasure to be able to carry out my work properly and fill in the small cog in this great machinery of modern warfare. Physically, I am in better condition than ever before. We are getting plenty to eat, have a good place to sleep and lots of excitement. I have had a few days of trench warfare and like it alright.

"Yesterday we had an entertainment given by three Americans (two gentlemen and one lady) from New York. They told us of the fourth Liberty Loan and how you (the American people) are backing the soldiers in the trenches. We soldiers feel like doing our utmost when we know the ones we are fighting for are interested in us and show it by their good deeds. The war seems to be going our way on all fronts.

"Tell dear old dad I love him and would like to have him over here to help me fight the Germans. Won't we all have a happy time when I return home. Then I will tell you of my experiences and wonderful adventures over here. Give my regards to Mr. Story and tell him to pray for all of the soldiers fighting over here. The men over here are much better morally than reported. We all have our pocket testament and read from it every day. The men in this army are real men, not 'rough-necks', liars and sinners, as reported.

"Write me as often as you can. "Your devoted son, "CLINTON B. LANDIS."

The above letter was censored by Lieut. Winfield K. Keeter, who adds the following postscript: "I was assigned to the company in which Clinton is in yesterday. He is under my command and I am glad to have him. I will do all possible for him as I feel sure he is going to do the same for me."

## How Draft Men Will Be Called.

Draft calls for men who have passed their thirty-seventh birthday are expected to begin about March 1. Plans for bringing the older class of new registrants into camp have not been completed, but the approximate date of the first call was disclosed by publication of testimony by Provost Marshal General Crowder before the House military committee.

In all, General Crowder told the committee 2,339,000 newly registered men between 18 and 45 will be called before July 1 and of that number more than 2,000,000 will be physically fit fighting men. The calls for general service will be divided as follows:

October 345,000; November 204,000; December, 197,000; January, 147,500; February, 244,000; March April, May and June, 344,000 each month. These men will supply both the army and navy and Marine corps.

In addition 20,000 men for limited service will be called each month. General Crowder said the work of classifying new registrants should be completed by January 1.

Questionnaires for men of the 37 to 46, and 18 year age classes under the draft are ordered released by Provost Marshal General Crowder, in all local board districts where the classification of the other groups have been completed. This will effect more than half of all the territory in the United States, progress having been more rapid than was expected in classification work.

Local boards sending out questionnaires must release 10 per cent a day.

## STATE NEWS OF THE WEEK

Items Concerning Events of Interest and Importance Throughout the State.

War Savings Stamps sales in the State for September amounted to \$2,519,414, the total sales up to October being \$17,021,401, or a per capita sale of \$7.08. Total amount of sales and pledges is \$36,998,232, three-fourths of the State's quota.

An emergency hospital was opened in the high school building in Asheville last Saturday. The hospital is equipped with 50 beds and has room for 25 or 50 more. There are separate wards for influenza and pneumonia cases, and those unable to pay for treatment will be cared for free.

Reports to State chairman Joseph G. Brown indicate that North Carolina has exceeded its allotment of the Fourth Liberty loan by more than a million dollars. North Carolina's allotment was \$39,900,000 and reports are that the state has subscribed \$41,000,000 with indications that it may be greatly increased with later reports.

D. R. Noland, of Waynesville, and E. J. Howell, of Jackson county, won splendid prizes at the Southeastern fair in Atlanta. In the country exhibits, Mr. Noland won the second prize of \$400 with his "Land of the Sky" exhibition. The fourth prize of \$200 went to Mr. Howell. In the individual farm exhibits, Mr. Noland took first prize of \$300 and Mr. Howell was the winner of the second prize of \$200.

What will probably be the largest and most important radio station in the world is to be established in Union County by the Navy Department. It will cover 640 acres of land situated four miles from Monroe and will communicate with Europe and South America. Secretary Daniels has affixed his signature to the necessary papers for the establishment of the station, and construction only awaits the appropriation by Congress of the funds.

## Mispronounced Words.

Editor Marion Progress: Please call attention to the fact that in speaking of the people of Belgium we should say "Belgians"—not "Belgians", as it was even printed in big letters over our local Red Cross room recently. Another word that is mis spoken is "preventative" for "preventive". There is no such word in the English language as "preventative". Just lots of "well informed" people mispronounce these words, and at this time they might be "made wise." CITIZEN.

## Nutshells for Our Boys in France.

The The Marion Red Cross chapter is urgently requested by the government to ask the people to save all platinum, nutshells and pits for gas masks to save the lives of our boys in France. This is asking mighty little and I know that everybody will take pleasure in doing this bit of service. As soon as a collection is made notify me and I will see that they are collected and put in the proper hands.

J. Q. GILKEY, Chrm.