

FRENCH GUNS BATTER DOWN DOOR TO LAON

French Troops After Battering Down the Back Door to Laon in Six Miles of Stronghold. GERMANS MAKING STRONG ATTACKS ON FRENCH Situation in Hungary is the Outstanding Feature of Day's News Behind the Battle Line.

(By Associated Press.) French guns have battered down the back door to Laon and French troops are now within six miles of the German stronghold.

One formidable barrier lies between them and the goal—the Ailette river—but from captured heights the French guns look down over this stream. The Ailette runs east and west parallel with the French line. It is hardly worthy the name of river, but its bed is a deep gorge which makes it a grave obstacle. Laon will not be captured except with great sacrifice, but the French victory has brought capture much nearer.

The developments on the battle front are chiefly valuable for the possibilities they open up and the same may be said of the battles behind the line of fighting. In Germany there is much talk which would curtail the power of the Emperor and make the ministry responsible to the parliament.

The putting forward of these reforms tends to check the rising tide of popular discontent, but the extraordinary measures to prevent the outside world learning anything of the true situation makes adequate judgment impossible.

Startling reports come from Austria-Hungary regarding conditions in the Dual monarch, and apparently Count Tisza and his fellow-reservists have the upper hand and are determined to crush the party of the democracy with the same ruthlessness as has heretofore been the rule. There are rumors that martial law has been established in Bohemia and Hungary, but the suppression of the newspapers leaves no line for news to reach the outside world as to conditions in the Austrian Empire.

The Russian strangle remains unsolved but for the time being at least the provisional authorities seem to be safe. Reports of demoralization in the Russian army revealed the uncomfortable condition by a proclamation by General Gurko, commander on the west front, ordering the soldiers to stop fraternizing with the German troops. General Gurko declares such fraternizing has become a common practice and the lull on the Russian front has permitted the Germans to concentrate troops against the English and French.

In spite of the peaceable ending of May Day demonstrations in Sweden the international troubles in that country seem to be rising rather than ebbing. Riots and food demonstrations are reported from various points and from such partial reports as are received the authorities are confronting an ugly situation.

Bailcourt, directly on the Hindenburg line has been entered by British troops who this morning are fighting the Germans in the town for its possession, giving the Germans no time to bring up reserves from the hard pressed front where the French are driving for Laon by the back way to that stronghold.

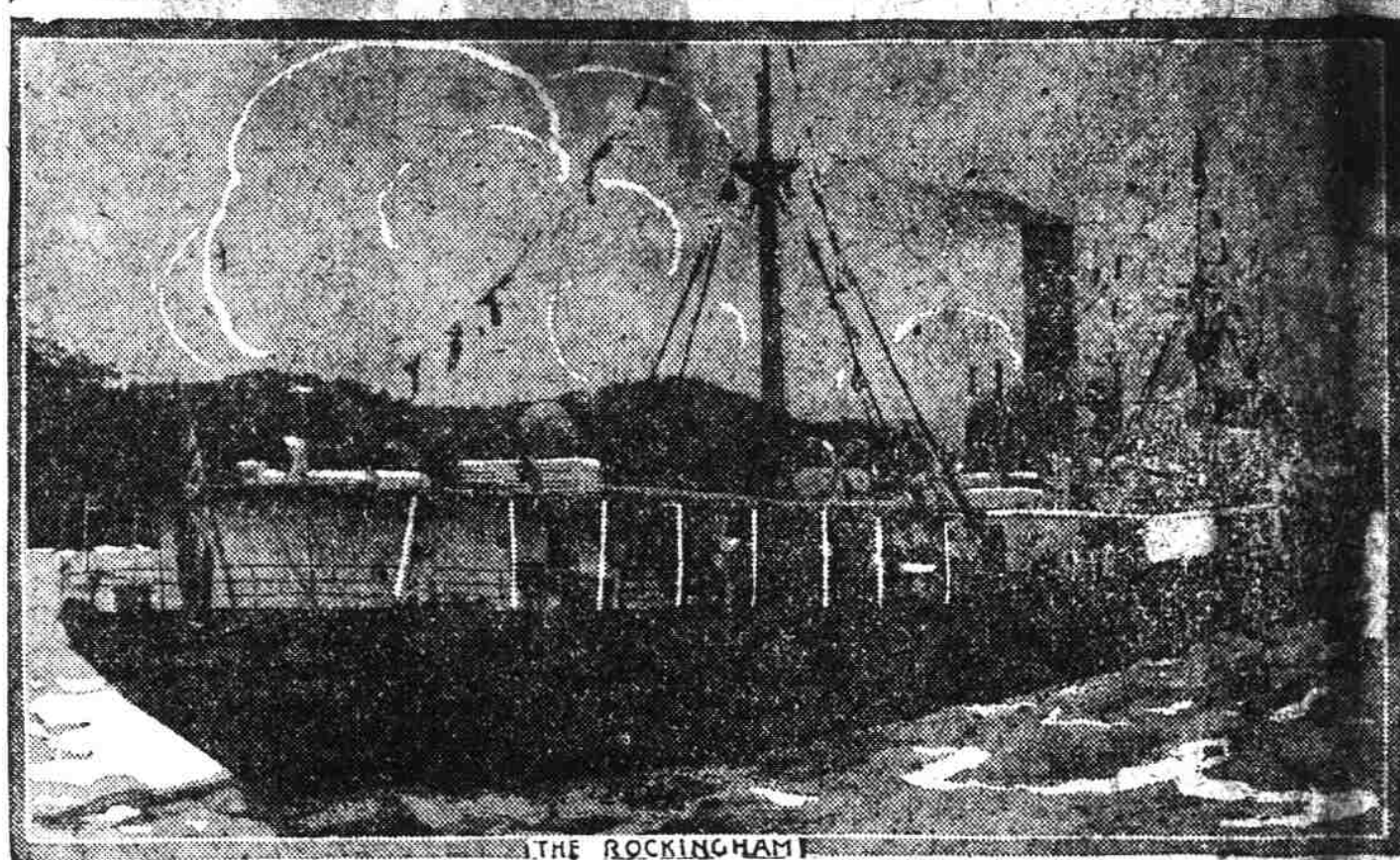
General Haig's troops began today to widen the breach they made in the Hindenburg line in Bailcourt region. Counter attacks of extreme violence, rapidly repeated, failed to make the British grip on the line here and have not prevented them from striking again when they were ready.

Bailcourt has been hemmed in on all sides except on the north and the British have worked well to the east of the village. Driving back toward it they fought their way into the place, pressing back the desperate resistance of the Germans.

On the French front northeast of Soissons the Germans have been forced to employ fresh troops in an effort to stem the French advance. Last night they drove masses of men against the line all along this front but were unable to shake General Neville's line hold upon valuable and hard won ground on the plateau overlooking the Ailette river. Everywhere the French hold is fast mowing down the Germans with their fire. German Positions are Maintained.

Berlin via London, May 7.—All German positions between Soissons and Lake Soissons road and Ailles and North of Laffaux have been maintained, says the official statement issued today by German army head-

ANOTHER AMERICAN SHIP SUNK BY GERMAN SUBMARINES.



THE ROCKINGHAM

The American ship Rockingham, formerly the Nebraskan, was sunk by a German submarine. It was the second attempt the Germans had

made on the vessel. Under the name Nebraskan she was torpedoed when off the Irish coast on her way to

England shortly after the Lusitania was sunk. She made port and was refitted and rebuilt.

EVIDENCE HAS ENDED IN VAVTER-HETH TRIAL

Debate Over Instruction to the Jury to be Next Feature in the Celebrated Virginia Case—May Go to the Jury by Thursday.

(By Associated Press.)

Christiansburg, Va., May 7.—After having devoted practically all of Saturday afternoon to inspecting the home at Blacksburg of Chas. E. Vawter, on trial here for the murder of Stockton Heth, Jr., the jury today was prepared to hear closing evidence. Indications are that the taking of testimony will end late today or early tomorrow morning. Then will come debate over instructions. Marked difference of views are expected to develop over this phase of the trial and probably nearly all of Tuesday will be consumed in sapping instructions to be brought forth and presented to the jury. Argument in the case will not begin until some time Wednesday and it is not probable that the case will reach the jury before Thursday.

Tragic and sensational features of the case have ended so far as evidence is concerned. All that remains that my rouse public interest are the features of attorney's argument and the verdict.

Court in Picture Theatre. Because of the late arrival of a train on which Judge Moffett was reported to be returning from his home in Roanoke where he spent Sunday the trial of Prof. C. E. Vawter did not open until 11:30 o'clock this morning. Immediately after court met it was announced that the strain on the court house from the unusual crowds thronging it during the past week the structure had been weakened and the sessions were adjourned to a moving picture theatre.

quarters staff. The Germans, it is added, also were successful in the Ailles battle. The Germans have captured 726 men since Saturday. Fourteen British and French airplanes were brought down yesterday on the western front. German Counter Attack French Without Success.

Paris, May 7.—The German counter attack along the entire French front and everywhere has been repulsed, according to an official statement made today. The fighting is especially severe in the region of the Chemin-des-Deans and east of Soissons. The statement says that since April 16th French have taken 29,000 prisoners.

Eight hundred members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and 1,300 members of the church at Penn Argyl, Pa., have adopted resolutions for war prohibition.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Shoe and Mrs. J. F. Harris motored over from Concord this morning and returned home this afternoon.

THE BRITISH LOAN.

Washington, May 7.—The Government has decided to loan Great Britain one hundred million dollars to meet her needs during the month of May. A second installment of \$25,000,000 was transferred by the treasury department through the British embassy today.

HOSTILE AIRPLANE ATTACKS LONDON

Early Morning Attack on the British City Results in the Death of One Man and the Injury of Two Persons Small Damage is Done.

(By Associated Press.)

London, May 7.—A hostile airplane appeared over the outskirts of London early today and dropped four bombs. One man was killed and one man and one woman were injured. Hand to Hand Fighting With British. London, May 7.—The British have pushed their way well into the town of Bellecourt and hand to hand fighting has developed there. A number of prisoners have been taken according to an official statement.

Ships Sunk. London, May 7.—According to a Central News dispatch from Copenhagen the Norwegian foreign office announces the sinking by a German submarine of the steamship Capato and Natuna. The crews were rescued.

SALISBURIANS TO FORT OGLETHORPE.

Twelve Young Men From This City to Go Into Officers Training Camp at Georgia Fort—Others Anxious to Enlist.

An even dozen young Salisburians have applied for and stood the examination for enlistment in the war and will go to Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., to the officers training camp. These men are expecting to be ordered there within the next few days. They are J. W. Thomson, Chas. L. Coggin, Littleton Hambley, Donald Clement, Walter Carter, T. B. Marsh, Jr., Robert Nicolson, H. J. Snyder, M. F. Hatcher, M. L. Barker, L. H. Clement, Jr., and Herbert Worth. These men have all passed the examination and will now go into training for positions as officers. There are others who desire to go but it is learned today that the required number at this time has been secured and none will be considered now who are not college graduates and can stand a rigid examination. There were others from Salisbury who stood the examination but were turned down.

It is said that one hundred men were rejected at Greensboro Saturday. The Salisbury men who passed averaged 75 per cent higher than the average.

TWO MEMBERS OF 4TH CO. TO ATTEND FT. OGLETHORPE

Members Will Hand in Applications Tonight at the Armory—Captain Murph Will be There to Give Any Information Wanted.

Captain D. E. Murph received instructions this morning to recommend two men to go to the training school at Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga., and two men for alternatives in case either of the men fail on the physical examination. He also is to send to headquarters the military report of desirable men in case any other than those recommended are to be wanted. These, if necessary, will be chosen at headquarters. Captain Murph has decided to allow any member of the company who wants to go to the camp to hand in an application and they will be considered by him impartially and sent to headquarters. Captain Murph will be in the armory tonight to receive any application and discuss the matter to any member who wants any further information and receive the applications.

REFORMED CLASSIS BEGINS WEDNESDAY

The 87th Session of the Classis is to be Held in Faith Reformed Church This City, Beginning With the Wednesday Evening Session—Public is Invited.

The 87th session of the North Carolina Classis will begin in Faith Reformed church, this city, Wednesday, May 9th, at 8 o'clock in the evening. The opening sermon will be preached by the retiring president, Rev. L. A. Peeler, and the Holy Communion will be celebrated. This will be followed by the organization of the Classis for the year 1917. Business sessions will be held during the remainder of the week. Special services will be held each night and to all the public is most cordially invited. A full program will be given later.

NEW LONDON SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT IS ON

Commencement Address to Be Delivered by Congressman R. N. Page—Ball Game Between Rockwell and New London—Class Day Exercises Wednesday.

Albemarle, May 5.—R. M. Trexler, Superintendent of the High School of New London, has secured the promise of Hon. R. N. Page to deliver the commencement address at the closing exercises of that institution on Tuesday, May 10th at 10:30 a. m. Mr. Page is well known in this county and he will be heard by a large number of admirers and friends as well as the students and patrons of the New London High School. The finals of this institution will commence tomorrow, the 6th, when the commencement sermon will be preached by Rev. C. C. Wheeler, pastor of the First Baptist church of Lincoln.

On Monday, the 7th at 10:30 a. m. will take place the declamation contest and all game will be pulled off in the afternoon between Rockwell and New London.

At 8:30 p. m. on the same day the primary and intermediate departments will give their entertainment.

On Tuesday, the 8th at 8:30 p. m., the girls' contest will be given, and at 8:30 p. m., of the same day the musical concert will be given.

Class Day Exercises will be held at 10:30 on Wednesday, the 9th, with a ball game between Mt. Pleasant and New London at 3:30 in the afternoon. At 8:30 p. m., on the 9th, a play will be given, "A Daughter of the Desert."

THOMAS IS PARDONED.

Raleigh, May 7.—Thomas R. Thomas, former cashier of the Bank of Beaufort, who at the March term of Carrington Superior Court was sentenced to serve two years for irregularities in the conduct of the affairs of the bank, has been pardoned by Governor Bickett. The pardon was granted Saturday after hearing petitions in behalf of Thomas but was not made public until today.

THOUSANDS RAILROAD LABORERS BEING SOUGHT FOR ALLIES

First Contingent of Ten Thousand to Leave for France Next Week—Local Labor Market to be Called on for Men.

The United States government as a part of its program in the conduct of the war against Germany is planning all assistance possible to the allies, and especially to France, in building, maintaining and operating railroads, so essential in the movement of supplies, troops and all other things needed in the war. To this end the government, through its agents, is endeavoring to get laborers for work on railroads in the European countries warring with the United States against Germany, and these are being mobilized throughout the country. Every section is being called on to furnish this class of workmen.

Mr. A. H. Boyden has received the following telegram from Chas. L. Parmelee, of New York: "Government is sending 10,000 laborers to France for construction and maintenance of railroads, the first lot starting next week. Men enlist as privates for the term of the war. Pay \$30 and costs. All possible labor, black and white needed. Will you canvass your local labor supply and report to me by wire what can be secured in your locality."

INSURANCE COMPANY RECEIVER.

J. B. O'Neil, of Pittsburg, Pa., to Take Over Affairs of Pittsburg Life Trust Company.

Pittsburg, Pa., May 7.—J. D. O'Neil, insurance commissioner of Pennsylvania, was today appointed receiver for the Pittsburg Life Trust Company on petition of special counsel named by the Department of Justice to investigate the affairs of the corporation and estimate and prosecute all persons connected with the alleged misappropriation of \$1,900,000 of the company's fund.

JUDGE JUSTICE LOSES A SON.

Popular Young Attorney and Son of Present Judge of Rowan Superior Court Dies at His Home in Rutherfordton.

Members of the local bar and other friends here of Judge M. H. Justice, who is this week presiding over the May term of Rowan Superior court, are grieved to learn that his son, Butler A. Justice, a prominent young attorney of Rutherfordton, died at his home in that town Friday. The deceased was 46 years old and had been ill only a short time. He is survived by a wife and three children. A brother, M. D. Justice, is a Deputy United States Marshal in the office of Marshal Chas. A. Webb, in Asheville. The funeral service was held in Rutherfordton Sunday and the burial was at that place.

LOST BIG DAMAGE SUIT.

New York Parties Fail to Secure Damages Against North German Lloyd Steamship Now at Boston.

Washington, May 7.—New York parties today lost in the litigation in the Supreme court against the North German Lloyd Kron Prinzessin Cecilia at Boston in which they claimed \$2,240,000 damages for failure of the vessel to deliver gold bullion worth \$11,000,000, shipped to England and France just after the outbreak of the war.

COMPANY CHARTERED.

East Spencer Mercantile Company Get Authority From the State to Do a General Mercantile Business.

Raleigh, May 7.—The East Spencer Trading Company, East Spencer, has been chartered today by the Secretary of State. The concern proposes to conduct a general mercantile business and is chartered for \$50,000.

IDLE LANDS WANTED.

The Brotherhood Boys Want Lands for the Purpose of Working During the Summer.

The Employed Brotherhood is desirous of getting idle land for cultivation and any one who has an idle acre they will let the young men cultivate will do a good thing to confer with them. Any one interested in this matter will see Mr. W. S. Benton. Already a number of plots have been secured and the boys will work all that is offered them.

The Archduchess Fredericka of Austria invested nearly \$2,500,000 in a candle-making factory near Budapest.

HE WILL DEFEND NEW YORK.



General Franklin Bell has arrived at Governors Island, New York, to take charge of the Eastern Department, which means that in the war with Germany he will be called on to defend New York, and to help raise and train troops from that section of the country.

ROWAN SUPERIOR COURT OPENS WITH JUDGE JUSTICE PRESIDING

Grand Jury Chosen and Charge Delivered at the Morning Session and Criminal Docket Taken Up Immediately—This Docket a Light One.

The May Term of Rowan Superior Court convened at 11:30 o'clock this morning immediately upon the arrival of Judge M. H. Justice from his home in Rutherfordton. The selection of the grand jury was some time at once and Judge Justice then delivered his charge to this body, and it was one of his Honor's plain and practical presentations of law and the duties of these men. At the conclusion of the address the criminal docket was taken up and as it is a light one will probably be completed tomorrow afternoon. One case was disposed of before an adjournment was taken for dinner, that of Burton Charles charged with retailing. The defendant pleaded guilty and a fine of \$25 and costs was imposed.

The civil docket will follow the disposition of the criminal docket, and the court will be in session again next week.

Grand Jury.

The following compose the grand jury:

J. F. McKnight, foreman; Peter Garver, M. O. Bridger, D. A. Hodges, J. B. Goodnight, C. P. Jacobs, C. E. Lippard, W. L. Harris, G. W. Hill, C. F. Brown, Lewis O. Brown, C. M. Brown, J. L. Agner, W. J. Steele, W. C. Ketchie, Carmi Felker, J. B. Yost, R. B. Glover.

OFFICERS NEW STATE BOARD.

R. F. Dalton Heads the Building Board of the State As President and J. H. Bridgers is Secretary.

Raleigh, May 7.—R. F. Dalton, of Greensboro, was elected president and J. H. Bridgers, of Henderson, secretary of the newly created State Building Commission at an organization meeting of the new body here today.

Mr. Bridgers was appointed a member of the board by Governor Bickett when Hugh McRae, of Wilmington, declined to accept a place on the commission.

It was announced that the first business meeting of the commission would be held in Raleigh May 16th and that all State institutions which contemplate the erection of buildings be requested to present plans to the board at that time.

"Smallest" Railroad Tied Up By Strike.

Chicago, May 5.—A strike today tied up the smallest railroad in the Middle West. All five employees of the Chicago, West Pullman and Southern Railroad walked out, demanding 3 cents an hour increase in wages. The line is eight city blocks long.

GERMAN SHIPS ARE NOT TO BE SEIZED.

Washington, May 7.—It was revealed in the House today that an unpublished provision in the agreement with Denmark by which the Danish West Indies were acquired by the United States was that German or other war bound ships in the islands are not to be seized or confiscated.

THE STATE BILL FOR FEED LAST YEAR

Secretary Lucas Gives Some Figures That Ought to Be Read With Great Interest.

COTTON AND THE FEEDING OF PEOPLE AND CATTLE

The People are Beginning to Realize That the South Must Grow Its Feed.

Raleigh, May 7.—North Carolina's bill for food and feedstuffs last year exceeded the value of its cotton crop by \$20,000,000, according to an estimate by Secretary Lucas of the State Food Conservation Commission. Figuring cotton at \$100 per bale 900,000 bales would have been required to pay the West and other sections for the meat, breadstuffs and feedstuffs the State imported. The crop production in the State was under 700,000 bales. "At present prices of food and feedstuffs," declared Mr. Lucas, "the same amount of food and feedstuffs would cost us approximately \$200,000,000, or 2,000,000 bales of cotton. If North Carolina should, by a miracle, produce this amount of cotton and the South in proportion the staple would sell at five or six cents a pound and we would be worse off than ever if we would at the same time neglect to raise our own food and feed. It is a certainty, however, that regardless of the price and quantity of cotton we raise we will not be able to get the vast amounts of food and feed we have heretofore imported because they will be requisitioned by the government."

Mr. Lucas states that, while a tremendous amount of work is yet to be done, the people of the State are beginning to realize that real necessity and not hysteria is behind the government's plea for greater acreage and production of food and feedstuffs. The business men and live farmers of the State are working shoulder to shoulder in the campaign and the cooperation of the business man and banker is going to prove a very considerable factor in the campaign.

Mr. W. E. Borden, a banker at Goldsboro has issued a rather striking letter to his customers and other farmers in Wayne and adjoining counties showing that cotton, even at 20 cents a pound, is relatively the cheapest farm product upon the market today and is lower in price, considering the prices of other commodities, than it was at a normal price of 12 cents a pound. The following shows the contrast, which is even greater now than it was when the letter was issued:

In an average year with 12c cotton, a \$60 bale can buy: 89 bushels potatoes at 70c, or 750 pounds lard at 8c, or 22 barrels flour at \$4.50, or 375 pounds bacon at 16c, or 100 bushels corn at \$2.00, or 30 pairs shoes at \$2.00, or 720 yards cotton goods, at 8 1/2-2c. This year with 20c cotton, a \$100 bale can only buy: 50 bushels potatoes at \$2.25, or 500 pounds lard at 20c, or 833 barrels flour at \$13, or 74 bushels corn at \$1.50, or 20 pairs shoes at \$5.00, or 666 yards cotton goods at 15c.

"Enlarge your food crops and intensify their cultivation," urges Mr. Borden. "It will not only pay you better in dollars and cents, but in no other way can you serve the 'Stars and Stripes' and the whole of humanity so well."

Many merchants in every section of the State have refused to advance supplies and fertilizers to farmers who persisted in planting too large a proportion of cotton or tobacco as compared with food and feed crops. In many instances bankers have followed the same course, lending ready assistance to the farmer who is planting the usual acreage or more of cotton and tobacco. In almost every community in the State the banks are lending money in small and large amounts for the purchase of seed and fertilizer for food and feed crops.

EVERY GAIN SCORED BY THE FRENCH AT SOISSONS HELD.

Paris, May 6.—Every gain scored by the French in yesterday's brilliant advance northeast of Soissons was maintained against numerous heavy counter attacks last night, the war office announced today. Consolidation of this ground has made them masters of most of the ridge crowned by the Chemin des Dames along a front of more than 18 miles.

The prisoners taken have reached a total of 5,800 and seven cannon have been captured.