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TELEGRAPH SERVICE

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## Shadowy Are The New Peace Proposals

### News From The State Capitol

"Halifax Day" Bigger And Most Enthusiastic In Fifty Years

### GENERAL CRY FOR FOOD CROPS

Raleigh, April 17.—The recruiting stations here and elsewhere in the State report an appreciable increase in the number of enlisted men for both the army and navy and it now seems that the 400 recruits from North Carolina for service in the navy, that the President and Secretary of the navy called for, will be enlisted by May 1st, "Dewey Day."

The recruits for the number greatly outnumber those who enlist in the navy—ten to one of late. One reason for the tardiness is believed to have been the current idea which so largely prevailed that recruits were not seriously needed. There is no lack of patriotism in North Carolina and now that the young men begin to realize the urgent need of their services the response to the "call to the colors" will be more prompt and general.

The "patriotic parade and mass meeting" in Raleigh on the night of "Halifax Day" was the biggest and the most enthusiastic event that has been pulled off here in fifty years. The big city auditorium, where the speaking and music took place, could not accommodate half of the crowd—although over 5,000 people gained entrance, including hundreds who secured only standing room.

With the exception of a few Knoxville, Tenn., visitors (who furnished several of the speakers) they were all Raleigh people and more than ten thousand lined the principal streets while the several thousands in the parade marched through them. Some 3,000 negroes were out in the cause and gave the lie to the sensational yellow newspaper stories reflecting on their loyalty.

But there is one way by which the farmers of North Carolina can serve their country, and especially our own immediate part of it, as well as more effectively in important results as by "joining the army". Besides, only a small percentage are needed in the war at present.

So the best and most patriotic way to serve the country and our own people is to heed the urgent appeal made from Washington and Raleigh to plant and grow food crops—to cut down the amount of cotton acreage. It is not only the patriotic thing to do this year but it will prove also to be the most profitable line of action for farmers to pursue. If they do not heed the call, there is likely to be suffering among the Southern people (farmers families included because of high prices of western grain and other food crops and the scarcity of such in the South. The South now buys six hundred million dollars worth of food supplies each year from the west and east, including meat, and we could raise it all at home. The west will be called on for more exports to France and England than ever out of this year's crops and most of the wheat corn and hay and meat not consumed there will go to Europe, and tremendous prices will be paid for it. The Southern farmer who grows much cotton this year will go broke—even if cotton reaches 25 cents, because two pounds of cotton next fall and winter will not buy as much provisions as one pound of cotton did last fall—or even now.

A direct appeal through a Proclamation by President Wilson to the farmers of the South is expected to be issued in a few days, along this line. The U. S. and State Agriculture departments have already done so.

#### Current News and Comment

Raleigh has a new newspaper—the Weekly Union Herald, a labor journal representative of union (or organized) labor, and endorsed by the Wake County Farmers Union. C. F. Koonce, present chief of police of Raleigh is at the head of the enterprise and F. L. Morris, Secretary treasurer, both union labor men of prominence and long standing. The new paper starts out well and will probably succeed.

President Riddick of the State College of Agriculture and Engineering, has just returned from a conference at St. Louis, called by Secretary of Agriculture Houston, on the agriculture situation. There were 32 states represented and important action and discussion followed. Dr. Riddick says N. C. farmers should decrease their tobacco acreage first, as tobacco growing will not be profitable this year on account of high cost of fertilizer and the special tax on tobacco. Put the land in food crops and grow more hay and raise more live stock. That while cotton acreage should not be increased a normal crop is necessary and more intensive methods should be used. But, above all grow more corn—for corn is going to soar among the highest stars in the financial market. Raise more of the staff of life, or you'll be sorry.

Raleigh is winding up its municipal campaign and the primary occurs next Monday. It looks like Mr. E. M. Uzzell will win the nomination for Commissioner of Public Safety, in the field of five aspirants. He will make one of the best officials the city has ever had and he will do some needed "cleaning up" around the city hall and give the city more efficiency in his department of government.

#### WEATHER REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 8TH.

Temperature, Highest, April 12th, -----79 degrees  
Temperature, lowest, April 10th, -----10 degrees  
Rainfall .20 on 13th.  
6 clear days for the week.  
Frosts, 10, 11, 14, and 15th.

### Nelson Case Set For Wednesday

Prisoner Faced Court Yesterday Showing Effects of Confinement

### 250 SPECIAL JURORS CALLED

Tarboro, April 17.—Nelson was called to the bar yesterday afternoon and the attorneys for the defence move to remove the case to another county for trial. This was denied by Judge Whedbee, and the judge immediately ordered the sheriff to summon a special venire of 250 jurors, and these were drawn from outside of No. 1 township.

The prisoner was remanded to jail until ten o'clock tomorrow, Wednesday morning, at which time the counsel will commence to select a jury. It is anticipated that it will take all of tomorrow to get the jury, which sheriff Hyatt and six deputies are scouring Edgecombe county to procure.

The accused is represented by Mr. F. S. Spruill, of Rocky Mount, Mr. Marvin Blount, of Greenville and G. T. M. Fountain and Son, of Tarboro. The case for the state will be handled by Solicitor R. G. Allsbrook, assisted by Mr. Walter Daniel, of Weldon and Mr. Don Gilliam of Tarboro.

There were a great many people in town yesterday, though the court room was not crowded, owing, probably to the fact that all who knew that the preliminaries would take up the early hours of the trial even if the case had gone to trial.

Tomorrow and all the days during the trial of the case the town will be crowded with out of town people who are curiously interested in the case.

### British Forces Make Further Advances

(BY UNITED PRESS)

London, April 17.—General Haig's forces on the western front jammed a mile closer to Lacatelet and the main line of German communications between Cambrai and St. Quentin.

### Cuba to be Represented at Conference Tomorrow

(BY UNITED PRESS)

Washington, April 17.—Cuba will send a commission here to confer with the English, French and American commissioners, who are in this city today, and will be received at the White House tomorrow with considerable ceremony.

### French Have Consolidated Their New Positions

(BY UNITED PRESS)

Paris, April 17.—The French are still driving ahead on their gained positions and have organized their forces on the newly acquired ground. They have also conquered in the first smash of offensive it is officially asserted.

Strong counter attacks between Soissons and Rheims were repulsed, the Germans suffering heavy losses.

### Torpedo Fired by Enemy at American Destroyer

(BY UNITED PRESS)

Boston, April 17.—German torpedo was launched at an American war vessel from a submarine at 12:20 p. m. today. This is the first engagement in the war according to a wireless received from the Charleston navy yard. The torpedo missed and the submarine disappeared. The United States destroyer Smith at which the torpedo was fired is undamaged but unable to trace the enemy submarine.

This is the first appearance of the belligerent submarine in American waters since the United States entered the war.

The wireless came from Fire Island of Eastern Long Island coast and relayed to the navy yard here by scout cruiser Chester giving positions latitude forty and longitude 73.

The torpedo was fired this morning about three thirty by a submarine lurking off the coast at Fire Island. The destroyer Smith by clever maneuvering managed to evade the torpedo and the submarine disappeared and escaped.

### Diplomacy at Work on Neutral Nations

No Credence Given to the Plans by Nations who Know German Tactics

### BENSTORFF AT SWEDISH COURT

(By William G. Shepperd, Special Correspondent)

Christiana, April 17.—Germany will shortly issue to neutrals a statement of their terms on which she will consider peace negotiations. This rumor emanates from diplomatic circles.

The report comes from sources known to be closely identified with German officials, though the plan of the German proposals has not become known. It is not believed that there will be many concessions from the plan outlined in the previous suggestions of peace which were given to Washington in December.

American diplomatic officials are formally advised that Germany is behind the Pseudo-Socialist movement for peace.

The appointment of Count Benstorff as ambassador to Sweden is considered in line with the attempt to secure a separate peace with Russia.

(BY UNITED PRESS)

London, April 17.—Five key points to the Hindenburg line are being struck at so savagely by the Franco-British drive today that their continuation in the hands of the Germans much longer seems impossible. Lens, Lahore, St. Quentin may fall at any hour. Cambrai and Laon are closely enveloped, but are menaced by the drive none the less potent.

General Haig told of another thrust south of Cambrai.

(BY UNITED PRESS)

Paris, April 17.—The statement of the French more than confirms the most sanguine hopes of success in the joint offensive.

General Nivelle reported desperate German attempt to stem the rush at Laon by a counter attack which was repulsed by his men who also withstood powerful German counter attack at Courcy, and it is at these two sections the French wedge has been thrust furthest.

Soissons to Threims front selected by the French to strike, it being ideal for an offensive movement, the rolling country being sufficiently clean to enable the best of maneuvers.

(BY UNITED PRESS)

Washington, April 17.—It has been determined to wear all Indian wards. All competent Indians will be given full control of their property and certificates showing competency will be issued to those able to qualify.

(BY UNITED PRESS)

Hague, April 17.—Dutch socialists lead by Troelstra have left for Stockholm to participate in a socialist conference on peace.

(BY UNITED PRESS)

Zurich, April 17.—It is reported that Turkey and Bulgaria have broken relations with America.

### BAND OF GYPSIES ARE CHARGED WITH FORTUNE TELLING

A band of gypsies, who call themselves Brazillians, camped outside Hobgood, on the Palmyra road, and created the suspicion of Mr. Tom Fenner as being horse traders and fortune tellers, travelling through the country without a license in direct violation of the law of the State.

Notifying Sheriff House, at Halifax, and investigation was ordered and deputy sheriff Gray, together with chief of police Johnson, of Scotland Neck, and C. J. Davenport, of Hobgood, the camp visited on Friday last. They found the men away but there were apparently four families of them.

The officers tried to trade horses with them, and also get the women to tell their fortunes, but were unsuccessful on the first visit. Returning to Hobgood Mr. Davenport dressed up as a tramp, with old clothes, face blackened, and with a bandanna handkerchief bundle with stick stuck through over his shoulder.

He lounged along the railroad to the camp and finally after much argument one of the women agreed to tell his fortune for twenty five cents. This was all the evidence needed by the officers who all returned and took possession of five horses which were taken to Hobgood and later to Scotland Neck.

All day yesterday and this morning the men were hanging around the town arguing that they had transgressed no law; that their profession was that of phrenologist, not fortune tellers, and they produced letters to show that they were law-abiding people. Mr. Ashby Dunn, their attorney obtained the signature of a number of business men in Hobgood endorsing this view.

Sheriff House however felt that they had violated the law by not obtaining a license and he held their horses in lieu of the State and license tax of \$400 which is charged travelling bands of gypsies who travel in bands, trading horses, or pretend to tell fortunes.

Should these men pay the license money, and recover their horses, they can bring suit to recover them, and, if it is proven that they do not come within the law, their money is returned, but it will take fully three months for the matter to be determined, and they will be out of this money during that time.