

THE COMMONWEALTH.

AFTERNOON DAILY

SLOGAN: "EVERY ONE FOR EACH OTHER AND ALL TOGETHER FOR SCOTLAND NECK."

VOLUME FOUR.

AFTERNOON DAILY

SCOTLAND NECK, N. C. FRIDAY MARCH 29, 1919.

TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

NUMBER 10

GREAT BATTLE EXTENDING OVER WIDE AREA.

ENEMY LOSSES BECOMING FRIGHTFUL

DESPITE GALE AND RAIN SWEEPING BATTLE FIELD, BRITISH HOLD TENACIOUSLY AGAINST MASSES OF ENEMY IN CLOSE FORMATION

FALL BACK BUT LINE STILL UNBROKEN

(By United Press)

With the British armies in France, Mar. 29.—"Our positions were maintained against strong attacks north of the Somme yesterday afternoon and evening, and we gained ground by successful counter attacks", state General Haig in a cable received today, and further states:

"Heavy contact fighting continued south of the Somme until late in the evening. We maintained our line throughout the day in face repeated assaults by superior enemy forces. We have withdrawn a short distance from advanced points."

London, Mar. 29.—The British forces took a number of prisoners and machine guns north of the Somme, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy according to a dispatch from Field Marshal Haig.

The enemy frequently attacked with great determination throughout the day (Thursday) and only gained our outpost lines after severe hand to hand fighting.

His reserves were sent forward against the battle positions and spreading southward around Noyon where with losses.

Our machine guns, artillery and rifles did much execution.

With the British armies in France, Mar. 29.—The tide of battle is rising. A great struggle is existing northward and southward with sudden new thrust westward and north-westward against Arras and a gradual spreading southward around Noyon.

The new battle line is more than seventy miles measuring around the westward bulge.

The sector from Ailon, one mile south of Lens, three miles north of Arleux, to below the Scarpe, which crosses the battle line directly east of Arras, six miles south of Ailon, was the scene of hurricane bombardment by explosive gas shells and shrapnel.

Infantry action followed conditions identical with the initial kick of a week ago yesterday. Fierce fighting developed, the enemy making headway south of

(Continued on back page)

FIRE AT COTTON OIL CO. PLANT

Blasts of the power plant at midnight last night awoke the town to the fact of fire, and the four distinct blows after the alarm made every one interested in the factory section spring out of bed and hurry to the scene to find that the fire fighting force of the town were handling the blaze in a masterly manner and had practically gotten the flames under control before many of the townfolks arrived.

The fire occurred in the elevator of the seed house from causes unknown, unless we attribute it to rats and matches, and but for the force of water from the city mains it is probably the entire plant would have been a mass of ruins today, however only a few hundred dollars was the damage as at present estimated, though this may be augmented when the seed has been examined.

The saving of this one property alone is sufficient to warrant the expenditure for the city water plant, for as Mr. Smith, the manager of the plant says, there was \$100,000. in jeopardy.

Letter of Commendation
Editor The Commonwealth,
Dear Sir:

Kindly allow us to express through columns of your paper our hearty appreciation of the ready and effective response made by the Scotland Neck Fire Company to the fire which occurred at our plant last night.

This was a very dangerous fire, there being fully \$100,000.00 of property endangered. That the actual damage is apparently only a few hundred dollars is certainly creditable to our Fire Department, and we are very proud of them.

We also realize the value of Town Water Works as fire protection. This blaze, being 30ft. above the ground could never have been extinguished by pails of water and we feel that we owe the saving of our plant to the fact that we have an ample supply and pressure of Town water.

TURKISH ARMY CUT TO PIECES

(By United Press)

Washington, Mar. 29.—Turkish forces at Khan Babbadi on the Euphrates were annihilated by the British Mesopotamian troops, officially dispatches was also announced. The capture of three thousand prisoners was also announced in the divisional commanders cablegram.

FRENCH HOLD TERRITORY TAKEN

(By United Press)

Paris, Mar. 29.—The French army is holding the territory recaptured from the enemy yesterday at Monte Didier, the cable declaring that in the Mont Didier region, despite counter attacks, the French army is holding the village recaptured yesterday.

Paris, Mar. 29.—"We stormed and captured Lenotchel and repulsed counter attacks against Plessideno, north of Mt. Diddier," states a late cable, and that the French forces are holding the enemy at Aere river.

RUSSIAN PEACE RAISES COMMENT

(By United Press)

Washington, Mar. 29.—Translations of editorial comment in the German press, made public by the Committee on Public Information, include the following from the Berliner Tageblatt:

"The terms of the ultimatum to Russia will please even the most unrelenting advocates of violence. It would be interesting to hear Hertling, who accepted Wilson's second principle that people are not to be bartered about from sovereign to sovereign explain just what differences exist between the political methods of the past and those of today. It may be conceded that today the German Reichstag is informed of coming changes, but not until the matter has been settled without it. We all hope this policy will bring peace and prosperity, but we can not conceal our anxiety at the birth of these new States."

Trusting that will help to arouse the people of the town to the value of Water Works and trained fire companies so that both may be encouraged in every possible manner.

Very truly yours
W. E. SMITH, Manager.

WOULD JUSTIFY HUNS IN FINLAND

(By United Press)

Petrograd, Mar. 29.—German foreign minister Kuerlmann declares that Germany is justified in sending an army of force into Finland on the grounds of American ambassador Francis' statement regarding Russia's readiness to assist in a statu quo.

Anti-Germanism throughout Russia is more intense than at any time since the beginning of the war.

REGISTRATION JUNE FIFTH

(By United Press)

Washington, Mar. 29.—The Provost Marshal General is planning to hold a second draft registration for men who have become twenty-one years of age since last year, on June 5, the first anniversary of the first registration. As long as the war lasts similar registrations will be held on that date.

It is believed that five hundred thousand of class one, physically fit men, can be added to the American defense columns annually by his program.

Congress is expected to complete the necessary legislation for this registration long before June fifth.

DAWSON MEETING VERY ENTHUSIASTIC

Dawson held an important meeting Wednesday afternoon when perhaps two hundred of the leading and most influential people of the said school district met at Dawson church to listen to Prof. Akers on formulate ways and means of consolidating Dawson's, Whites, Crowells and Whitakers Chapel school.

Prof. Akers was greatly in favor of our movement for better schools and we are encouraged to go right forward with our work. Never before have the people in this community been so eager and enthusiastic over one venture as they are for better schools.

Prof. Akers made a good address. He spoke in fine terms of our splendid neighborhood and fine location for the desired school.

At an early date we have agreed to vote for special school tax.

COTTON MARKET

No market today, exchange closed on account of holiday.

AMERICAN TROOPS INTO PRESENT BATTLE

GENERAL PERSHING IN HIS OWN AND HIS COUNTRY'S NAME OFFERS ENTIRE AMERICAN FORCES TO PARTICIPATE IN COFLICT

ARMY AT THE DISPOSAL OF FRANCE

(By United Press)

SEN HARDING HERE TUESDAY

Senator F. C. Harding, of Greenville, one of the best orators in North Carolina, will be here Tuesday night to awake the people to a realization of this war, and his address will probably be made from the stage of the Dixie Theatre.

It had been the purpose of Senator Harding to be with us on Monday night, but as there is a big picture at the Palace theatre, and one at the Dixie, Chairman Ashby W. Dunn got in telephone communication with the senator and he generously agreed to postpone his visit one day.

Senator Harding is so imbued with the spirit of patriotism that he feels it his duty to use his great ability in the interest of the government and has tendered his services to Colonel Frank H. Fries, chairman of the War Savings Committee without pay and is even meeting his own expenses. therefore should instill in all of us more of the enthusiastic patriotic spirit, without which we can hope to do little. Let everyone put other things aside and come to this meeting. One thousand people of Scotland Neck would not be too much audience to greet this illustrious man.

EAT POTATOES INSTEAD BREAD

Raleigh, March 2.—Irish potatoes should be reaching the consumer at approximately 40c. a peck or \$1.25 per bushel, according to the Food Administration which has received complaint during the past few days that some retailers who are securing Irish potatoes at \$1.00 to \$1.25 a bushel are still charging 50c. to 60c. a peck. In the face of a 50c. shortage in wheat flour, Irish potatoes should be used to a very marked degree in the place of bread and the Food Administration is determined that no system of profiteering on the part of dealers shall hinder such a practice.

Paris, Mar. 29.—General Pershing in conference with French officials at the front yesterday asked in his own country's name that the entire American forces in France be engaged in the present battle, the French war office announces today.

Pershing stated that the American army was entirely at the disposition of the French.

U. S. OFFICERS PREDICT DRIVE

(By United Press)

Washington, Mar. 29.—A great allied counter drive against the German onset in Picardy is now developing, some high American army officials declared today.

It may take a day or two more for the full movement to reveal itself, but the disposition of the troops has been made, and the great army of maneuver is taking up the all important task.

FORM ADDRESS OVERSEAS MAIL

(By United Press)

Washington, Mar. 29.—Persons who send mail to members of the Expeditionary Forces are particularly requested in a statement issued by the Post Office Department to use ink only in writing the addresses. Every piece of mail matter should also bear the name and address of the sender.

Heavy paper, canvas, or cloth should be used for wrapping packages. When canvas or cloth is used the address should be written on a shipping tag, with the name and address of the sender on the reverse side.

Given names should be written in full, instead of initials. The title of the addressee and the full name of the unit or organization to which he is assigned should be added, it being sufficient in the way of further address to use the words "American Expeditionary Forces."