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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 27, 1918

PRICE FIVE CENIS

# THE ALLED FRONT REMAINS UNBROKEN

## GERMANY'S EFFORT IS NO NEARER GOAL THAN A WEEK AGO

German Armies Definitely Checked at Places and Slowed up at Others

#### AMERICAN TROOPS ARE NOW ENGAGED

Pershing's Men Assisting Allies — American Artillery Forces Enemy to Evacuate Richecourt

Germany's supreme effort to break the Allied front in the West apparently is no nearer accomplishment today than it was on the day the great drive started and she is estimated to have ost 400,000 men in the futile effort during less than a week's fighting. She has not given up the attempt, however, the advices from the front indicating that her forces are massed for a drive in the region of Roye and Novon in an effort to break through there as a preliminary to a rolling-up process either to the north or south

As against the chances of her accomplishing this purpose may be counted the factor of forewarning for the Allies. There seems no doubt now as to where the heaviest hammer stroke is to fall and the opportunity is offered of disposing the vast Allied reserve forces to meet it-an opportunity lacking in the earlier stages of

The Entente line, as it now runs with British, French and Americans standing together, presents an unbroken front throughout the battle

There has been a slowing down in Somme, except possibly in the vicingion and along the line of the Oise to the east, the French, by their valiant defense, have likewise compelled toresee what will result from it,"

which they relied to insure them the Waynesville; Wade H. Harris, semi-official news agency reports. Raleigh. avev, by the Bolsheviki.

so was reported as relying as a key ident Hale, are: oint on the direct route to the East, First, the problem of freight diseft control of affairs in the Ukraine boring States.

defense which grows stronger each land port of Fayetteville. In the North the enemy has

The British line from the Scarpe ping against enemy attacks. fiver Southwest, through Albert to the Somme, has held fast for 24 hours and the Germans have been repulsed n local attacks along this sector. The front here is now West of the old day say the newspapers in Germany Somme battlefield and West of the are preparing the people for a Fran-Ancre river, pust North of Albert, co-British offensive, forecasting the which is 18 miles Northeast of entry of a powerful army of reserves.

Amiens. South of the Somme, the Germans have advanced West of the old front before the beginning of the Franco- here that the inhabitants of Com-British offensive of 1916, but have not peigne between Paris and the battle yet gained it West of Roye. The most front were being removed are denied McAdoo, Food Administrator Hoover, The British official statement of yesbitter fighting has occurred on the by The Petit Journal. A large num- Fuel Administrator Garfield, Chairman terday said it had been established front South of the Somme and still ber of persons, it says, are leaving Hurley, of the Shipping Board; Secrethat more than 70 German divisions continues, but the enemy has been the town voluntarily to avoid violent tary Daniels, Chairman Barruch, of had been engaged in the battle. The thecked West of Roye-Noyon sector, bombardments by enemy airplanes, the War Industries Board, and Chair- usual estimate of the present strength

OPEN WARFARE.

London, March 27 .- The zone of open warfare is continued to enlarge as the Entente forces fall back fighting under the enormous weight of the German numbers, says Reuters correspondent at British headquarters in his dispatch today.

It is now clearly established, he adds, that the present offensive is the great main effort of the Germans and that it has not been as successful as they anticipated, the enemy being a long way behind his time table and having falled to break through and begin rolling up tactics. The Germans are now pushing against the British line with the full pressure of their masses. They have thrown in their reserves more rapidly than they intended, it is declared, and are therefore wearing themselves down although they are naturally tiring the defense in the process.

The general feeling, the correspondent reports, is that the days of trench warfare are definitely

## CAROLINA MEETING

Fayetteville the Scene of a Notable Gathering This Afternoon

(Special to The Dispatch.) the German pressure north of the Greater North Carolina Meeting call- tle plan, the ultimate object of which ed to assemble here today under the is the launching of a great counter auspices of the local Chamber of Com- offensive. The most probable place holding doggedly. In the Noyon remerce for the purpose of planning for such a movement, it is believed, remains unchanged." a larger use of waterway freight de- is from the flanking position the ports of Wilmington and Fayetteville, bank of the Oise river. the Teutons, weakened by their cease- and the endorsement of the effort to War Department officials today also less efforts and heavy losses, to re- complete the intro-coastal waterway, awaited confirmation from General lax the force of their pressure. Mean- was called to order this afternoon at Pershing of British official statements while it is clear that the Germans 12:40 o'clock by President F. T. Hale, that American troops were fighting themselves are being compelled to ad- of the Fayetteville Chamber of Commit that their success in driving back merce. The attendance is made up of British. Nothing to show American the Entente lines for such great distance on so wide a front is by no of the State, and there appears to be partment last night and General Permeans a decisive one. "Nobody can a great deal of interest in the purposes for which the meeting was call- fighting in the region of Nesle and General von Ludendorff declared in ed. Following the opening address Noyon previously reported in dis-Average Casualties to Kaiser's mean casualties in excess of 400,000 ed. Following the opening address Noyon previously reported in dis-Average Casualties to Kaiser's for the Germans in less than a week an interview in alluding to the victory by Mr. Hale, a committee on organ. patches to The Associated Press. ization was appointed, pending the re-Concurrently the Germans are apport of which the meeting recessed parently finding their position in the until 2 o'clock, when the actual bus-East, where they were supposed to iness will be gone into. The commithave insured peace with Russia and tee on organization was composed of the following: R. A. Parsley, of Wil-Odessa, the Black sea port, upon mington, chairman; S. A. Jones, of shipment of sorely needed grain from Charlotte; E. N. Farris, of Charlotte; tachments also have been training in the Ukraine by way of the Danube, J. P. Temple, of Selma; H. L. Skinner, England and it is pointed out that has been recaptured by the Bolshevik of Smithfield; T. G. McAlister, of and Ukrainian troops, the Russian Fayetteville, and A. J. Maxwell, of

This follows shortly upon the news of The delegates were welcomed to the recent recapture of two other Fayetteville by Mayor J. D. McNeill in CALIBRE OF BIG Black sea ports. Kherson and Nikol- a characteristic and graceful address. The purpose of the Greater North was upon Odessa that Germany Carolina Meeting as outlined by Pres-

the boasted of having secured in her crimination, which exists to the det- the shells that are being fired into scheme of penetration into the Ori- riment of the commercial interests Paris by the German long-range gun ent. Germany is reported to have of North Carolina in favor of neight is 8.8 inches and the length of the

while she was engaged in her great freight development for the relief of states. The shell weighs 200 pounds effort on the Western front, and ap- the over-burdened rail carriers as and contains less than 20 pounds of Parently they are making none too sought by Director General McAdoo explosives. and the Stipping Board by means of The shell is provided with a fuse emy forces pushed forward toward the home for old men and a comparative-Having regained nearly all the de- the fuller utilization by the commerce protected by a threated stopped, and place, but at last accounts the British ly small sum was bequeathed to Mrs. Vastated Somme region in their offen- of the State of its natural avenue, has a diaphragm inside which divides were holding them doggedly at this Maude King, the widow whose death sive, the German armies now find the Cape Fear river, through the deep the shell into two compartments of possible gateway to Amiens. themselves before Allied and water of Wilmington port and our in- unequal size. Two holes in the diaph. The conflict in the sector around there of Gaston Means for murder.

been definitely checked and in the for the completion of the intra-coast- cepted as an explanation of the two dications that the German higher com-South, where his latest and most im: al waterway system as a relief in turn explosions which, on occasion, have mand is attempting to split the Allied vision for the home for old men. portant gains have been made, he has for coastwise commerce and as a war followed in quick succession and front there and start a rolling-up prometer unable to push west of Roye and measure for the safety of our ship-which led to the belief that two guns cess either way.

A petition to establish the validity of the first will was filed recently by

> Expect to Counter Offensive. Washington, March 27.-Official French dispatches received here to-

Not Removing Inhabitants.

# IS NEAR AT HAND

Washington Watching French Front for Powerful Counter Thrust

#### NO REPORT ON PART PLAYED BY AMERICANS

Pershing Has Not Advised the War Department of His Troops Participating. Await Developments

Washington, March 27.—Belief that the turning point of the battle in France is near at hand pervaded Washington today and American military observers, who are closely folstruggle, centered their attention on the front held by the French in an-

Hints in the British press that some change in the situation may be exview here that the steady British Fayetteville, N. C., March 27.-The withdrawal is part of a defensive batvelopment, for the greater use of the French held last night, along the left

side by side with the French and shing's report offered only details of Until official word from General

Pershing is received none will make a playing. American heavy artillery is may have gone forward in replacement detachments sent to the front American infantry training in France may have been attached to the French forces.

#### **GUN IS 8.8 INCHES**

Paris, March 27.—The calibre argely in the hands of the Austrians Second, promotion of waterway Premier Clemenceau's newspaper, North, where such desparate resist-

> measure for the safety of our ship- which led to the belief that two guns cess either way. were firing.

#### PRESIDENT CONFERS

tive officials who are members of the Somme in 1916. At some places they War Council, to the White House for have not re-taken all the old ground, Paris, March 27.-Reports current a conference at 2:30 o'clock this but at other points they have overafternoon.

Among those called were Secretary

# ENEMY DRIVE EVERYWHERE

Paris, March 27.—Last night the German advance was held up everywhere, according to the official statement of the war office today. The enemy, weakened by heavy losses, it adds, has been obliged to slow up his efforts.

The statement follows: "Last evening and during the night, the Germans weakened by their heavy losses, were compelled to retard their efforts. The valiance of the troops defending the ground foot by

foot, is beyond all praise.

"The French are holding a line running through L'Echelle, St. Aurin and Beuvraignes, north of Lassingy, in front of the MERCHANTS ASSO. TO southern part of Noyon and along the left bank of the Oise. During the night the French repulsed strong reconnoitering parties which attempted to approach their positions northwest of Noyon.

"In the remainder of the front, there was an intermittent bombardment."

#### On the British Front.

London, March 27.—A heavy attack was made early in the night against the new British line south of the Somme. It was repulsed after severe fighting, the war office announces.

In consequence of attacks' yesterday afternoon and evening astride the Somme, the British troops on both banks were forc- the Chamber of Commerce, and the ed a direct route by way of Russia to ed back a short distance in the neighborhood of Bray.

"As a result of the enemy's attack yesterday afternoon and Wrightsville Beach, he peer lowing developments in the terrific evening astride the Somme our troops on both banks were advices received by the Chambelland Other Cities Recapture of their attention on the contract of the chambelland of the Chambelland of the Chambelland of the Cities Recapture of the Cities Recapture of the Contract of the Cont forced back a short distance in the neighborhood of Bray. A lt has been known for some t. Moscow, Sunday. March 24.—Office heavy attack made early in the night against our new line turn here for their annual convention. south of the Somme was repulsed after severe fighting. At but little has been said of it because raiman cities, have been re-captured one point in the neighborhood of the river the enemy forced day, however, the Chamber of Com- and armed civilians. (The recapture pected soon has strengthened the his way into our positions but was thrown back by our counter merce was officially notified of the of Kherzon and Nikolayev was report-

"Further local fighting has taken place also north and north- and the beach a distinct compliment. zon organized and expelled the invadeast of Albert but the situation on this part of the battle front held at Wrightsville and the members is reported in connection with the

#### ESTIMATED LOSS BY THE GERMAN ARMY MORE THAN 400,000

Forces 50 Per Cent of Men Engaged

#### **GERMANS RECLAIM EVACUATED GROUND**

Have Advanced Back Where They Were at the Beginning of the Battle of Somme in 1916

British Army Headquarters in gion of Roye and Noyon, having slowed down in their patent attempt to shell is 20 inches, L'Homme Libre, cut through the British line further in 1901 and the later document in

about the town of Albert. Large en-

ragm afford communication between Roye and Noyon appears to be of He was acquitted. The second will Third, endorsement of the efforts the two pockets. These facts are ac- great importance from the many in- leaves the bulk of the \$3,000,000 es- JAPANESE SHIPPING

> the various German units as given by and is awaiting hearing. prisoners one arrives at the conclusion that the German Emperor has WITH WAR COUNCIL lost 50 per cent. of these men since he gave the signal for the advance. The Germans have now reclaimed Washington, March 27.—President virtually all the territory they held at Wilson summoned most of the execu- the beginning of the Battle of the

but no order to evacuate has been man McCormick, of the War, Trace of a German division is 12,000 men, so that a loss of 50 per cent. would

stepped it somewhat.

#### ANOTHER CHAPTER IN THE KING WILL CASE

to Set Aside the First

set aside the first will of the late tended by an unusually large number France, March 27.—The Germans James C. King has been filed in the of delegates. last night continued their furious on- Probate Court, it became known toslaught Southwestward from Ham day wherein Marcy C. Melvin seeks ADMINISTRATORS TO against the Allied defenses in the re- to gain probate of a second will which Gaston B. Means claims to have discovered. The first will was made 1905. Hearing of the petition has been deferred in May 16. An endow-Hard fighting continued last night ment of \$2,000,000 was provided in the first will for the James C. King near Concord, N. C., led to the trial of the first will was filed recently by

HAIG THANKS PRESIDENT. Washington, March 27.-Field Marshal Haig's reply to President Wilson's cablegram was received today at the White House. "Your message of generous ap-

preciation of the steadfastness and valor of our soldiers in the great battle now raging has greatly touched us all," cabled the Field Marshal. "Please accept our heartfelt thanks. One and all believe in the justice of our cause and are determined to fight on without counting the cost until the freedom of mankind is safe."

### FORCE OF RUSSIANS CAPTURES ODESSA AFTER HARD FIGHT

# ASSOCIATION SET

Will Be in Session at the Seashore Hotel on June 21 and 22

Sessions Will Be Held on June 17—Scores of Delegates Are Expected to Attend Meeting

at Wrightsville Beach June 17, with and Bessarabia to Odessa. headquarters at the Seashore Hotel, Semi-official announcement was according to advices received today by then made that Germany had obtaindate of the annual convention of the Persia and Afghanistan. Southern Textile Association which as fourth city of Prussia in size.

Their last annual convention was ers. A heavy artillery bombardment in attendance were loath to return capture of Nikolayev. home after their convention had been delegates attending the annual meetings. Their convention of last year mean casualties in excess of 400,000 of the opinion that the environs had

was one of the most successful held at the beach and many delegates were much to do with the success of the Mr. J. M. Davis, of Newberry, S. C.,

is president of the association, and ing eastward through Kiev. Bread-Mr. A. B. Carter, of Greenville, S. C.,

Decision of the Merchants' Association to meet in annual session at Wrightsville has just been arrived at and the Chamber was promptly notified by Mr. J. Paul Leonard, of Statesville. Mr. J. Frank Morris, of Win-Motion Made in Chicago Court ston-Salem, is president of the organization, the membership of which includes the foremost merchants of the State. While the session will be only of one day's duration, a lot of work will be jammed into that period Berlin Also Claims Bringing and the meeting is expected to be at

#### SEIZE HOARDED WHEAT

Washington, March 27.-State food administrators will be encouraged by the Food Administration to requisi- heights to the north of Noyon. tion summarily any stocks of wheat actually being hoarded. A general order to this effect has not yet been promulgated, but State administrators have been advised that they have authority to act.

#### FOR UNITED STATES

From the average of casualties in Attorney General of State Brundage tions for the transfer of 150,000 tons traffic behind the front are working of Japanese shipping to the United ceaselessly on the reconstruction of States have been completed on the destroyed railways. basis of two tons of steel plates for one ton of deadweight ship capacity. 93 enemy airplanes and six captive

> North Carolina Postmaster. (Special to The Dispatch.)
> Washington, D. C., March 27.—The were today nominated by the Presi- on the Lorraine front to great dent: Harry R. Hastings, Sylva; Ben- strength.

liam H. Griffin, Pittsboro.

understanding.

Ausrtians Are Being Forced From Southern Ukraine Cities

#### RUSSIAN SITUATION ATTRACTS ATTENTION

Jkrainians, Bolsheviki and Other Factions Are Showing Signs of Kicking Over the Traces

London, March 27.-Odessa has been recaptured by the Soviet and Ukrainian troops after a bloody bat-MEET ON THE BEACH tle in which naval forces took part, according to a Moscow dispatch from the semi-official Russian news agency.

The German war office on March 13 announced that Odessa entered by German troops. The preliminary peace treaty between Rumania and the Central Powers contained a provision engaging Rumania The North Carolina Merchants' As- to support the transport of troops of sociation will meet in annual session the Central Powers through Moldavis

> Odessa is the most important seaand port of Southern Russia and the

Other Cities Recaptured. of the non-arrangement of dates. To- from the Austrians by Red Guards dates. In returning to Wilmington ed in press dispatches yesterday from the textile people are paying the city Petrograd). The population of Kher-

Demands not set forth by the Gerofficially closed. In fact, many mem- mans in the peace treaty with Ukbers remained for several days, en- raine are creating disorder there. The joying The Seashore's excellent table latest of these demands is that Ukand the delightful breezes that are raine surrender 85 per cent. of its wafted in from the ocean. The Tex- grain and its sugar from 114 refinertile Association is one of the largest les except that needed for local conorganizations in the country, over 200 sumption. The Ukrainian Rada has protested that this is not in the terms

of the peace treaty. The German commander at Kiev requested the bankers there to float a loan of 10,000,000 rubles on security provided by German financial institutions. The bankers declined to do so. German troops are constantly mov-

(Continued on Page Eight).

#### GERMANS CAPTURED 936 GUNS, 100 TANKS

Down 93 Allied Airplanes in Battle

Berlin, via London, Tuesday, March 2...- "French divisions, brought us from Noyon, were defeated at Freniches and Bathancourt. Bussy was captured and we are standing on the

"Our dispatch service has taken i prominent share in the successes we have achieved. Laboring untiringly, they have rendered possible co-operation between units fighting next to one another and gave the leaders assurance of being able to guide the battle into the desired channels. Railway troops which carried out a tremendous advance from the beginning of the fighting without any friction. Washington, March 27.-Negotia. and which are now coping with the

"Since the beginning of the battle The agreement is understood to be balloons have been brought down. Cavin the nature of a preliminary one in- alry Baron von Ritchofen has achieved tended to bridge over the period of his 67th and 68th aerial victories. negotiations now being conducted by Lieutenant Bongartz, his 32nd; First American Ambassador Morris, at To- Lieutenant Loerzer his 24th; Corporal kio, for a wider and more permanent Baumer his 23rd; Lieutenant Kroll his 22nd and Lieutenant Thuy his 20th. "The booty in guns has increased to

963, and over 100 tanks are lying in the captured positions. "On the rest of the Western front following North Carolina postmasters artillery battles continue, increasing

jamin J. Skinner, Farmville; and Wil- "From other theatres there is nother

(Continued on Page Eight)