

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

TODAY'S NEWS
TODAY

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

VOL XXIV, No. 117.

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, MONDAY EVENING, MAY 6, 1918.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

VON HINDENBURG'S WESTERN OFFENSIVE STILL IN ABEYANCE

Will Probably Be Renewed Simultaneously With Austria's Drive in Italy.

ALLIES CONTINUE TO IMPROVE POSITIONS

Counter Attacks Strengthen British and French Lines. Emperor Charles Goes to Italian Front.

Germany has not yet taken up the offensive in the west and probably another effort against the allied armies is held in abeyance to be made simultaneously with the heralded autumn drive against the allies.

In preparation for further enemy attacks on the Flanders battlefield, the British and French have been improving their positions in local operations.

The allied troops in an attack between Loos and Drœncourt have advanced about 500 yards on a front of 1,000 yards, gaining positions which strengthen the important section of the front between Scherpenberg and Mont Rouge. German counter attacks were repulsed with loss, reporting on the same fighting attempts to make out the attacks in large force. It says the British captured and that the British captured 200 prisoners.

The southern leg of the Lys salient is the one the Germans are attacking if they wish to connect the battlefield with the one in Picardy by wiping out the Arras salient. The Germans have made no further attempts to push back the British from their gains at Hinges, earlier efforts having failed. The artillery fire continues most intense on both legs of the Lys salient and south of it.

The coming of a strong push on the Italian front is heralded officially from Vienna, which announces that Emperor Charles and his military advisers are now on the front. In the Trentino and the Tyrol there have been large movements of enemy troops. Rome does not report any marked infantry fighting, nor does Vienna, but the Italian war office notes a great increase in the violence of the Austrian artillery fire, especially on the Trentino front, where the next attack probably will come in an effort to force the Italians from the Piave line. Aerial activity in Northern Italy is intense.

Emperor Charles leaves his capital for the fighting front at a time when Austria is seething with political unrest. In Bohemia and all parts of his domains the liberals are protesting against his action in dismissing parliament. It is announced in a German Berlin newspaper that the German food department has taken over control of most of Bohemia "in response to the demands of the German population."

Three members of the Austrian cabinet are reported to have resigned. American troops on both the Toul and Lunerville sectors have been more busy than usual with the Germans. Northwest of Toul a trench formerly held by the Americans and which was evacuated a month ago. The American artillery broke up the German effort, but further activity is not expected. East of Lunerville the Germans have been driven from their front line positions by the American gunfire. The patrol has penetrated 200 yards in the enemy lines. The Americans met a German party of seven. Three were killed and the others were taken prisoner.

MRS. POTTER PALMER DIED LAST NIGHT

Sarasota, Fla., May 6.—Mrs. Potter Palmer, known for many years as one of the social leaders of Chicago, died here last night at 9:15 o'clock, at her home. Mrs. Palmer owned nearly 100,000 acres of land in Manatee county, on which she had a great cattle ranch. She had been ill for several weeks. Death was due to pneumonia. The body will be taken to Chicago, where the burial will take place.

CASUALTY LIST TODAY CONTAINED 88 NAMES

Among the Names is Richard Henderson, of Laurens, S. C., Died of Disease.

Washington, May 6.—The casualty list today contained 88 names, divided as follows:
Killed in action—6.
Died of wounds—3.
Died of accident—2.
Died of disease—9.
Died of other causes—1.
Wounded severely—4.
Wounded slightly—48.
Missing in action—15.
Died of wounds: Lieutenant Joseph Queensbury, Las Cruces, N. M.; Died of Disease: Major Charles G. Baird, Richmond Hill, N. Y.; Died of accident: Lieutenant Robert P. Cross, Buntington, Mass.; Lieut. Chester A. Pudrith, Detroit, Mich.; Died of other causes: Lieutenant Joseph W. Wilson, Logansport, Fla.; Wounded severely: Lieutenant Clifford R. Livingston, Merrill, Mass.; Missing in Action: Lieutenant William L. Stagers, Benton, Ala.; Sergeant Harry G. Bruce, R. F. D. 2, Elkton, Va.; Corporal Gus Chretien, of Phillips, Okla.—killed in action.
Privates Richard Henderson, Laurens, S. C.; Canada Manie, Pine Bluff, Ark.; and Abraham Joseph, Cross Point, S. C., die of disease.

BRITISH LINE ADVANCED.

London, May 6.—The British line has been advanced on a considerable front between the Somme and Ancre rivers, west-southwest of Morlancourt, says the official statement from Field Marshal Haig's headquarters. The British positions in the neighborhood of Lacon and the Lave river, on the southern leg of the Lys salient in Flanders, have been improved as the result of local fighting.

COUNTY WENT OVER THE TOP; MARKETED FULL QUOTA BONDS

Announcement Was Made to This Effect by Central Committee Today.

RETURNS AS YET STILL INCOMPLETE

Per Capita Subscription to Bonds Throughout the County Was Unusually Large.

Wilmington and New Hanover county "went over the top" in liberty loan subscriptions. Incomplete returns early Monday afternoon showed that bonds in excess of \$1,700,000 had been subscribed for against the county's allotment of \$1,727,800 and members of the central committee were confident that complete returns from all agencies would boost the total figures even higher. It is not improbable that the two million mark will be approached, although such a total has not been at any time nor is expected now. When one considers the per capita subscription that New Hanover has made to third issue bonds one can appreciate what has been accomplished here in defense of right and democracy.

Saturday night it looked as though the county was to fall short of her quota—that New Hanover for once would fail to measure up to governmental expectations, but because New Hanover had given the best she had the central committee felt no humiliation because of the apparent fall down. In a statement given out by the chairman of the committee thanked all for the generous support that had been given bonds and for the tireless efforts of the committee members and liberty loan workers.

But this morning's returns put a very different appearance on the bond situation, that it was with a deal of pleasure that the chairman of the central committee announced this afternoon that the county had "gone over the top" and that the new grand total would probably be added to in a substantial manner.

METHODIST HAVE MET EVERY CALL FOR WAR SERVICE

Requests for Chaplains in Army and Navy Have Been Complied With.

GOOD REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS

Would Change Name of German Mission Conference. Against Use of Unbecoming Language.

Atlanta, Ga., May 6.—Southern Methodists have met every call for chaplains for the army and navy, according to the report of the department of home missions, made at today's session of the general conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, which started the second week of its deliberations here today. Bishop E. E. Ross, of Muskogee, Okla., presided and the morning devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. F. W. Brandon, Gadsden, Ala. The Rev. John M. Moore, presiding of the home mission report, stated that 200 applications from ministers for appointment as chaplains had been received and that the quota asked by the army and navy departments had been filled at every call. The Methodists of the country were allotted one-third of the Protestant chaplains, two-fifths of that number to be supplied by the southern church.

Mr. Moore showed the income for his department for 1917 to be the largest in its history. The assessment for the year yielded \$131,158 and the total amount raised for home and conference missions \$568,536. The department asks for \$5,050 and to be raised in the five years of the centenary celebration of the organization of the board of missions. Among the memorials presented was one requesting the change of the name of the German mission conference, and another asking for a law to reach clerical members of an annual conference guilty of language unbecoming a minister. A memorial was submitted from the Florida conference requesting that a new hymnal be compiled by the Rev. H. K. Carroll, of the Methodist Episcopal church, was introduced to the conference and addressed them briefly on the Asbury Memorial association and the Ecumenical Methodist commission.

BOLSHEVIK DEMANDS ARE GERMAN INSPIRED

America and France Asked to Recall Consuls at Vladivostok.

Moscow, April 23.—Bolshevik demands that the American and French consuls at Vladivostok be recalled have brought no official statement from Ambassador Francis and French Ambassador Noulens. The definite demands made by Foreign Minister Tchitcherine were co-incident with the arrival of Count von Mirbach, the German ambassador, in Moscow. Regardless of the strong pressure put on the entente embassies in the last few weeks to recognize the Soviet government, which is making full use of the Siberian incident, the position of the embassies remains unchanged.

The Bolshevik demands on Ambassador Francis were, first, the removal of John K. Caldwell, American consul at Vladivostok; second, investigation of his part in the alleged negotiations with the American legation at Peking, and third, the attitude of the American government toward the Soviet republic.

Ambassador Francis has sent a communication to the Bolshevik government regarding the alleged participation of American, French and British in a Siberian counter revolt plot in connection with which the Bolshevik put plainly the question of the recognition of their government. The American embassy, the note says, carefully scrutinized the documents submitted by the Russian government. In the American viewpoint, the documents failed to show any connection of American officials in these plots.

The American embassy, the ambassador continues, interprets the documents to show only the persons planning a counter revolt contemplated asking the assistance of Consul Caldwell, Admiral Knight, and the representatives of the allies in Peking, including the American minister, but failed to show either the consummation of the hopes of the revolutionaries in this direction or that the Americans participated or promised aid in any way. It is deemed unfortunate in the present state of Russian international relations, that such flimsy charges should arise.

LUCK APPEARS TO BE GOING AGAINST THE HUN ARMIES

Prussian Commanders Working Hard to Reorganize Their Forces

SPIRIT OF THE ALLIES AT A HIGH PITCH

Enemy is Facing a Confident Force on Western Front. People at Home Want to See Peace.

With the British Army in France, Sunday, May 6.—Luck seems to be going against the Germans along the crucial northern battle front. Sunday still found the Prussian commanders working desperately to whip their organizations into shape for a renewal of the delayed offensive while the allied forces aided by the weather continued counter operations which are most disconcerting to an enemy playing against time.

It was quite apparent the Germans intended another assault in Flanders yesterday morning, but the arrangements were upset by a combination of events. There were the allied operations, and the heavy rain which converted the ground into mud flats over which it was difficult to move either infantry or artillery. There was also confusion arising from wholesale retreats and the arrival of strange troops in the German area. The allied artillery has been maintaining an incessant bombardment of enemy territory and Friday night, before the projected German attack, the French and British gunners played havoc with the German preparations. The allied troops also have been carrying out local operations which improved their lines and upset enemy schemes.

Yesterday, the allies occupied a large number of important positions at various points along the front of 4,000 yards west of Kimmel. The British also made an advance of 500 yards along the front of 1,000 yards northwest of Locon, thereby gaining a number of positions which had been contested many days. This morning the Germans tried to regain some of these positions, but were repulsed. An enemy attack yesterday morning in the Locon area under cover of a heavy barrage was likewise smashed.

On the southern battlefield, the British last night near Salliy-Le-See advanced their line in a minor operation without casualties. The German prisoners taken in all these operations engagements make a considerable total.

The spirit of the allied troops remains at the highest pitch. Interesting comments by German civilians have been furnished from an enemy mail bag captured by the British on a section of the Flanders front. Almost without exception references are made in the letters to the stoppage of leave and the parcel post from the front. The one is resigned rather than recalcitrant. One letter from Berlin dated April 25, said:

"Peace does not seem to be coming along as we fondly hoped. All this in the west is too wicked for anything. Four years of it now and no sign of the end. We hope every day it will come to a decision and that the British will be driven into the North Sea but they stand firm."
"We have such a scarcity of shoes in Ettlingen, it is impossible to get them. If there are any in Belgium please send me a pair," says a letter dated in Ettlingen, on April 26, "Are you not coming home on leave soon? How much longer is it going to last?" reads a third letter.

A note from Rumspringe, dated April 23, says:

"The mustering of the 1920 class took place here last Friday. Most of them were accepted."
Further details are now available from various sources regarding the new German tanks, several of which made such a poor showing at Villers-Bretonneux on April 24. The machine weighs 45 tons and is so unwieldy it is unable to negotiate broad trenches and cannot move over ground torn heavily by shells. The tank is pointed at the ends. It is approximately 23 feet long, 9 1/2 feet wide and 11 feet high. The armor is of a poor quality of steel and varies in thickness up to 30 millimetres. A direct artillery hit will put one out of action. The armament consists of a 2 1/2 inch gun forward, which fires high explosive, and case shot; six heavy machine guns, two on each side and two in the rear. It is equipped with two 100 horse power four cylinder engines with an electric starter and one man can control and drive it easily. Its top speed on good ground is 10 miles an hour. A crew of 19 is carried, consisting of one officer, three gunners for the forward gun, two drivers, two mechanics, 10 machine gunners and one signal man.

The drivers and mechanics are volunteers from motor transport units and the gunners are drawn from the artillery and infantry. These volunteers are promised double pay and rations.

(Continued on Page Seven).

FISCAL CONDITION OF THE NATION IS QUITE GRATIFYING

Senator Simmons Says Country's Finances Better Than Had Been Expected.

NO MORE LIBERTY LOANS UNTIL FALL

Will Be No Bond Issue for Several Months—No Further Tax Legislation for the Present.

(By Frank P. Morse.)
Washington, D. C., May 6.—In an interview here today Senator Simmons, of North Carolina, chairman of the senate committee on finance, asserted that the fiscal condition of the country is quite gratifying and the nation's finances are in better shape than was anticipated when the war revenue bill was passed.

Two things are chiefly responsible for this satisfactory financial condition, the North Carolina senator explained. One is the generous response to the liberty loan campaign; the other the unexpectedly large returns under the income and excess profits taxes.

Chairman Simmons does not believe that another liberty loan will be necessary until late in the fall, and he thinks there is certain to be no more taxation legislation at this session of congress. The country's finances are now in such shape, he said, as to make possible a safe prediction that there will be no further tax legislation for the present.

Although definite figures are not yet available, it is known here that the returns under the income and excess profits taxes have been far in excess of the expectations of the senate and house committees framing the war tax laws.

"I am gratified," said Senator Simmons, "by the showing we have made all along the line during the months which have elapsed since the passage of the war revenue act."
"There is every reason to be hopeful as well as grateful that conditions are as they are, and indicate they will so remain."

"The returns under the war revenue act are yet indefinite, but already it is apparent that the government will receive several hundred million more than was anticipated by the framers of the act. The commissioner of internal revenue is confident that both the income and excess profits tax will yield encouraging excesses of the amounts originally estimated for them."

"Another thing that contributes to our satisfactory financial condition—exclusive of the response to the liberty loan campaign—is the fact that we have not spent as much money as we expected during the current fiscal year. A little less than a year ago our estimates of expenditures for the first year of the war were placed at \$21,000,000,000, but with the fiscal year drawing to a close indications are that our expenditures will fall approximately five billions short of that figure."

Senator Simmons said the condition of the treasury which could be definitely stated as the tax returns come in probably will make unnecessary another liberty loan campaign for several months, possibly until next winter. There was also a prospect, he said, that additional tax legislation may not have to be considered before the close of the 65th congress next March, although this depends on future developments. However, the North Carolina senator was certain there will be no more tax bills at the session of congress now on.

"It can safely be said," Senator Simmons explained, "that there will be no tax legislation of any sort at the present session of congress. It will hardly become necessary, unless affairs undergo a material and unexpected change, to resort to tax legislation at the ensuing and concluding session of the 65th congress, which convenes next December. Gratifying tax returns make it unnecessary to begin even a preliminary consideration of further tax measures at this time. Our nation's finances altogether are most encouraging."

BORGLUM CHARGES TO BE INVESTIGATED

STARRETT RETURNS BRINGING REVISED PRINTS FOR YARDS

Blasting Operations Proceeding—Start Grading Within Two Days.

COWAN CONTINUES LISTING OF LABOR

Carpenters Are Expected to Be Put to Work in Large Numbers Within Next Few Days.

General Manager Ralph Starrett, of the Carolina Shipbuilding company, returned to the city Monday, bringing with him the revised prints of the plans for his company's yards where fabricated steel ships are to be constructed for trans-Atlantic service and it is understood that he is to remain on the job continuously in the future. A call was made for teams this morning and they were supplied through Industrial Agent, James H. Cowan. Actual grading of the site will be started within the next two days and a force of carpenters will be put to work within the coming seven days, it was learned.

Blasting was begun Saturday and with the removal of the troublesome stumps that dot the site the work of grading will be hurried to completion. Work on the buildings that will comprise the plant will be started the moment grading operations have progressed sufficiently far to permit dynamite shipments of which were received Saturday, is being used freely in the stump clearance operation.

Industrial Agent Cowan continues unusually busy, the bigger portion of his time being consumed in conversing with workmen, particularly skilled mechanics, who have left here because of their inability to secure employment and who are anxious to return. He is doing a regular land office business at the chamber of commerce, and when actual building operations are well underway and skilled labor is needed the heads of both the shipbuilding companies operating here will have lists of eligible workmen to pick from that will insure early launchings.

One gentleman who left here several months ago and who has since been engaged in ship construction at Newport News called on Mr. Cowan this morning and advised him that dozens of Wilmingtonians now located in Newport News had urged him to bring back all available information; that they were all anxious to return here and that they would pack their bags and travel the moment they were advised that employment was to be had in the city.

HUSBAND HELD FOR DEATH OF BRIDE

Roanoke, Va., May 6.—Cecil Surratt, of Wytheville, whose bride of six weeks was killed by a pistol wound, in their home Saturday night, was held today without bail for the action of the grand jury. The verdict of the coroner's jury was that Mrs. Surratt came to her death as the result of a pistol wound, the weapon being in the hands of her husband. Surratt claims the fatal shot was fired accidentally as the two were struggling for the possession of the pistol.

MASS MEETING TOMORROW.

Wilmington is going forward and every push that will send the city towards the big goal of success should and will be really given. The response of the citizens of Wilmington in helping and co-operating with the United States government has already brought rich reward and called forth the admiration of the outside world. Just at this hour additional impetus is needed, so there will be no slowing down of the pace. To give this, in order to meet new conditions—an imperative need—a mass meeting of the citizens of Wilmington is called for tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock at the court house.

The call is urgent, the need vital and action must be quick. It is nothing the people of Wilmington cannot solve, but the solution can only come through a thorough understanding and by close co-operation at this time. It is your duty as a citizen of Greater Wilmington, to be present tomorrow morning at the hour specified.

C. C. CHADBOURN,
Chairman Executive Committee.
E. T. TAYLOR,
Chairman Labor Committee.
S. M. BOATWRIGHT,
Chairman City Beautiful Committee.
P. Q. MOORE,
Chairman Reception Committee.
J. HAUGHTON, JAMES,
Chairman of Investment Committee.
W. H. STRUTHERS, JR.,
Chairman Building Committee.
K. R. TAYLOR,
Chairman of Favorable Public Sentiment.
M. ARSDEN BELLAMY,
Chairman Committee on Housing and Rents.
H. B. BRANCH,
Chairman Committee on Public Information.

President Orders the Department of Justice to Make the Probab.

HOWARD COFFIN ASKS FOR INVESTIGATION

Seriousness of the Charges Aroused Congress and the Country, Leading to a Demand for a Sifting.

Washington, May 6.—A department of justice investigation of the charges of graft in aircraft production made by Gutzon Borglum, the sculptor, was ordered today by President Wilson.

Borglum's charges of pro-German influence also will be investigated. Demand for a criminal investigation was made in the senate recently.

The investigation was requested of the president by Edward H. Coffin, formerly chairman of the aircraft board who declared he requested it that the reputation of innocent men might not be ruined by charges that have been made.

At the same time the order for investigation was announced President Wilson's correspondence with Gutzon Borglum, the sculptor, who made an investigation of the aircraft production situation, was given out at the White House. It disclosed that the president last month advised Borglum he never considered him an official investigator and practically disposed of his services.

The president's correspondence with Borglum began last December, when the sculptor after having first called on Secretary Tumulty, who made a report to President Wilson, received a letter from the White House saying the president was much disturbed by his views of the aircraft situation and asked him to be more specific in his criticisms. In January the president, after conferring with Secretary Baker, invited Borglum to lay the whole matter before the war department and gave him the advantage of having a member of secretary's staff detailed to assist him in looking up facts. "Every facility of inquiry will be placed at your disposal," the president wrote the sculptor, adding that if differences of judgment remained he would be glad to have a report from Borglum.

In February the correspondence shows Borglum had made a preliminary report and the president transmitted it to Secretary Baker.

By March Borglum evidently had inquired about the fate of his report for the president wrote him saying the whole aircraft situation was "undergoing thorough review" and that Borglum's report had been placed before the investigators.

In April evidently there were letters from Borglum to the president not given out at the White House, for on April 15 the president wrote the sculptor declaring he was "under a serious misapprehension."
Borglum evidently had complained he was not supplied with expert assistance necessary to an investigation. "I never at any time constituted you an official investigator," wrote the president. "I merely gave you the right to look into the matter of your own motion and I am sure that the letter which the secretary of war provided you with he gave you with the same purpose and idea. We have wished at every point to assist you and to make possible for what you wish to do, but we have at no time regarded you as the official representative of the administration in making the investigation. If I had so regarded you I would, of course, have supplied you with such assistance as you feel you have lacked."