

PROGRESS OF THE GREAT WAR.

Russo-Rumanians at Critical Point. Must Decide Now Whether to Make Stand Against Teutons or Retreat Into Moldavia and Bessarabia.

The Russian and Rumanian troops who have been in retreat before the Teutonic allies in Dobrudja seemingly now are at a point where they either must make a stand or cross the Danube into southwest Bessarabia or into Moldavia in the region of Galitz.

The latest official communication from Berlin says that in Dobrudja the Russians have retreated past their newly fortified positions in the north and that the Teutonic allies now are advancing toward the lower Danube.

Aside from the announcement of the capture of more than 1,000 Russians and Rumanians and the taking of numerous vehicles loaded with provisions, no mention is made by Berlin of the advance in Moldavia. In the Carpathians the Russians and Teutonic allied forces continue fighting but with no great victories falling to either side.

In all other theatres artillery engagements predominate, only small infantry actions having taken place anywhere. Berlin records attacks favorable to the Turks and Bulgarians in the Struma region of the Macedonian front.

On the right bank of the Meuse river in the Verdun sector, the French and the Germans throughout Tuesday fought spirited artillery duels, especially near Bezonsvaux, the Carrières wood and Chambrettes. The infantry of neither side left the trenches. Reciprocal bombardments took place along the British front in France and also along the line in Belgium.—Columbia State, 20th.

SANDERS CHAPEL.

Mr. Zedman Talton and family have moved into their newly bought home, the old C. B. Sanders place. It looks good to see business going on in such a charming location.

Mr. Winston Lawhon killed a fine wild gobbler last week. He might have had a small buck ague, but all the same, he collared that turkey, and that was a genuine case of "turkey in the straw."

Wedding cards are out, naming Mr. Robert Smith and a Miss Lamb, of Sweet Sampson, as the principal actors. They will be yoked the day after Christmas and soon thereafter be pastured in the old man Will Smith's back woods, where a shack is being erected for them. Happy day for them.

Preparations for a Christmas tree at Sanders Chapel church Saturday night, the 23rd of December. They expect Santa Claus to come from Goldsboro, and like Brer Rabbit, be loaded with goods, even have his galloves strung with bells and tin cups and pockets and bosom sticking out with nice things for good Sunday school children.

That German peace proposition reminds one of "Brer Rabbit" and the "Tar baby," and the boy in the pasture with a bridle behind him in one hand and a green wisp of grass holding out to his pony with the other. It may just be a "scrap of paper."

The fine frosty weather of the last few days has been utilized in pork slaughtering, and the smell of fried pancreases, melts and sausage and brown cracklings, as well as the odoriferous collard reminds one of the good old "hog killing" time. Much pork has been sold from 13 to 14 cents per pound. Stock law or no stock law, the boys have the "hogs."

We hear that the "box party" at Pomona was a great success, around \$75.00 being realized. The hash boxes sold well, and the vote on the prettiest girl to be presented with a box of chocolate candy, was especially lively, bringing around \$25.00. Her individual box brought four dollars. Some visitors from Smithfield, boosted everything. The Smithfield Music Man started every box at 50 cents and bought enough for a picnic. The "Witch of Endor" or "Gipsy of the Nile" performed to perfection and told fortunes "a gwine and a comin'". I trust some one will give a more lucid account of the party, as per request of the editor of The Herald, as this is all from hearsay. X. X. X.

Smithfield, Route No. 2, Dec. 20th.

Riley's Christmas Message.

Christmas means love. We cannot picture it without seeing the spangled Christmas tree girt with the faces of gleeful youngsters, glad parents and happy bodies returned home from town or far metropolis.

It sounds like bells and crackling logs and shouts of children, and even our old, round shouldered, sorrow ridden planet, with his eyes knocked out on his cheek, pauses to smile from sea to sea, and love is everywhere rejuvenated.—James Whitcomb Riley.

The thumb-print as a means of identification is used in a new England time-recording machine for workmen.

Christmas Time, by Shakespeare.

Some say that ever 'gainst that season comes Wherein our Saviour's birth is celebrated The bird of dawning singeth all night long, And then, they say, no spirit dare stir abroad; The nights are wholesome; then no planets strike, No fairy takes, nor witch hath power to charm, So hallowed and so gracious is the time.

—"Hamlet," Act 1, Scene 1.

Celebrates Her Fiftieth Birthday.

It was a great surprise on the morning of December 6th, when the children, relatives and friends began to gather at the home of Mrs. Joe T. Coats to celebrate and honor her fiftieth birthday, this being kept secretly and unknown to her.

Mrs. Coats had many suspicious ideas for a few days, but never expressed them until she found them true.

The greatest surprise came when Mrs. Coats' aunts, Mrs. Katie Hicks, of Raleigh and Mrs. Joe T. Broughton, of Garner, accompanied by their son and daughter, Mr. Henry T. Hicks and Miss Helen Broughton, rode up in their automobile. They had not seen each other in several years, so they met with great pleasure. Mr. Hicks is a well known druggist of Raleigh, being the founder and manufacturer of Hicks' Capudine.

All who came brought nice gifts and presents. The Democratic officers of Johnston County gave a handsome gift, containing a silk dress of very fine quality, also a willow rocker. These were presented by Dr. Lacy D. Wharton and Mrs. J. D. Underwood, of Smithfield. These were given to show their appreciation of the sumptuous barbecue and oyster supper given some time ago by Mr. and Mrs. Coats in honor of the officers.

The good dinner, consisting of oysters, boiled ham, turkey, chicken and several kinds of cake, was prepared and carried by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Coats, Mr. and Mrs. Milton Coats, Mr. and Mrs. Bizzell Coats and Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Stephenson.

Just before the announcement for dinner, Mr. Coats invited all to the front porch where Mr. Walter Parrish had just stopped a 1917 model Ford automobile in front of the steps. This Mr. Coats presented to Mrs. Coats as his gift; and this she received with great pleasure.

Soon dinner was announced. The guests were ushered to the dining room and after all were seated around the table, thanks were returned by Mr. D. C. Smith.

After all had partaken of the good things to eat they gathered around the fire for an hour of pleasant conversation. Then the guests began to take their departure for their homes, all declaring it a most enjoyable occasion. X.

ROYALL SCHOOL NOTES.

Royall school is progressing fine, under the management of Mr. N. A. Randall, as principal, assisted by Misses Zula Austin and Emma Williams. The advanced students met Friday afternoon, December 15, and organized a Literary Society, which will meet every other Friday afternoon. Officers were elected as follows: Mr. Victor Johnson, President; Miss Corinna Hardee, Secretary; Mr. Fletcher Byrd, Treasurer; Mr. Clarence Johnson, Misses Alice Allen and Tida Tyner, Program Committee.

Miss Myrtle Johnson, of near Benson, spent Saturday night and Sunday with Miss Alice Allen. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hobbs spent Saturday night and Sunday with Mrs. Hobbs' parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Johnson. Mr. and Mrs. Lida Lee spent Sunday at the home of Mr. John Lee. Miss Carra Woodall spent Sunday with Miss Lenzie Allen. Miss Emma Williams spent Friday night in Smithfield. Rev. R. M. Von Miller filled his regular appointment at Bunnell Sunday afternoon.

Miss Kate Tyner spent last week in Benson at the home of Mr. W. L. Massengill. Miss Mabel Johnson spent Sunday night with Miss Gladys Barbor. Mr. William Creech attended the marriage of his sister, Miss Lula, December 13th. Mr. P. P. Allen and family took a flying trip to Br. D. G. Allen's Sunday afternoon, on their new Dodge car.

Misses Mamie and Callie Ryals spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Ryals. Miss Martha Strickland spent Sunday with Miss Claudia Johnson. Mr. Carl Johnson, of near Angier, spent Sunday with Mr. Albert Allen. Mr. W. L. Massengill spent a few hours in our burg Sunday. Mrs. Tom Johnson and little daughter, Margaret, were visitors at Mr. A. C. Johnson's Sunday. Elevation Township. TABBY.

OLDEST CHRISTMAS CUSTOM.

Decorating Houses, Churches and Streets With Evergreen Popular Since Dawn of History.

Perhaps the very oldest of all Christmas customs is that of decorating our houses, churches and streets with evergreens. At the very dawn of history began the worship of the trees, or forest worship, and the groves were man's first temples.

All our instincts, our passion about nature, are forest memories, for forest worship was universal.

In later times to each good some tree was dedicated: Apollo had the laurel, Jupiter the oak, and Greece for ages had its sacred groves.

The forest worshippers could not worship without giving, because to worship is to give, and these boughs and garlands were the oldest gifts of man. Before he had learned to shape offerings of his own rude skill he could bring to the sacred trees and hang up on them the first flowers and greenery of spring and the perfect fruits of autumn.

These gifts, remember, were never, as with us, decorations; they were sacrifices.

The Romans, with a fine eye for beauty, used to garland their temples and homes and gathering places and even the big Coliseum with boughs of green and ropes of flowers. This particular custom was received by the Christians, recalling, as it did, the fact that our Lord entered Jerusalem amid the strewn branches of the multitude.

We must not forget the welcome and lovely mistletoe and holly. Indeed, Christmas without them would not, with us, seem quite complete.

Mistletoe was for ages regarded as sacred by the old British pagans—the Druids—and was surrounded with great mystery and sentiment, little understood by us.

It was supposed to possess healing powers and that it could ward off evil spirits. The reverence paid to this little parasite seems to have been restricted to it, only, when it was found growing on the sacred oak trees in the Druids' groves.

Once every year the Druid high priest cut it with a golden sickle, blessed it and distributed the sprays among the people, praying aloud that each one who received it might receive divine blessings, of which it was the symbol. Having received the sprays, the people hung them above the doors to propitiate the gods during the year.

The only remaining significance attached today to the mistletoe is the idea that if a maiden is not kissed under it on Christmas day she will go unwed throughout the year. This idea goes so far back into the past that one cannot trace it.

It is because the mistletoe is rare and not easy to get that we found and brought the holly, which, though lovely, is used only as a substitute for the mistletoe.—New York World.

WHEAT TURNS DOWNWARD.

Poor Export Demand and Peace Move Cause Depression in Prices.

As in other speculative channels, peace proposals had a disquieting effect in the wheat markets and prices turned sharply downward again, following the recent rally. Strength was lacking almost from the beginning, largely because of disappointing export buying, and with the significant developments in the foreign situation on Tuesday quotations gave way with rapidity. Thus, declines of 10 cents or more occurred during a single session, with the December delivery at Chicago later dropping close to \$1.50 and May below \$1.64, against \$1.92 and \$1.96, respectively, touched on the November advance. From the early bottom level there was a good recovery, but renewed depression set in on Friday and the December option fell to \$1.42½, with May down to 153½. Prices continue much higher than a year ago, but a recession of 43 cents to 50 cents in about a month indicates a decided readjustment of the speculative position.

With wheat declining in spectacular fashion, it was not strange that conditions in flour should have been more or less demoralized. Wide differences not unnaturally appeared in quotations and so much confusion resulted that trading was extremely difficult. The net outcome was quite a substantial recession in prices to conform with the lower range of wheat. Production of flour diminished during the latest period, being 398,000 barrels at Minneapolis, Milwaukee and Duluth, against 411,000 in the previous week and 530,000 barrels last year, according to the Northwestern Miller.—Dun's Review.

Listen!

A large crowd attended the celebration at Banner's Chapel last Sunday, December 17, commencing at eleven o'clock. They adjourned at two-thirty. Although Banner's Chapel won the laurels of the day.

BLUÉ EYES.

BUSINESS BUILDERS

NOW IS THE TIME FOR BEST bargains at Austin-Stephenson Co.'s big sale at Smithfield, and get a draw for \$50.00 in Gold.

SOON WE'LL COME WITH NEW Year's Greeting; when we shall have settled for last year's eating; but not alone should we pay for our year's feeding—we should remember those who supplied us with reading—The Herald for instance.

RUBBER BOOTS \$2.19 AT AUSTIN-Stephenson Co.'s Big Sale.

SEE OUR WINDOW FILLED WITH 25-cent books. There are many choice titles in the lot. Herald Book Store.

YOU CAN GET GALVANIZED Roofing from us any length. Our price is right. Cotter Hardware Co.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR LADIES' Home Journal, The Youth's Companion, Pictorial Review and many other leading periodicals taken at The Herald Office, Smithfield, N. C.

THE SMITHFIELD BUILDING & Loan Association has helped a number of people to build homes. It will help others, and maybe you. New series of shares now open. See Mr. J. J. Broadhurst.

THREE MILK COWS FOR SALE—but the calves do not go with them. Prices \$35.00 and \$40.00 and \$50.00. For sale also one young Jersey bull. R. P. Oliver, Selma, N. C.

SANTA CLAUS WANTS ALL the children to meet him at Austin-Stephenson Company's Store, Saturday with letters telling him what they want for Xmas.

NOW IS AN IDEAL TIME TO paint and we have it—either Lead Oil or ready prepared. Cotter Hardware Company.

IF YOU WANT A BIG BOOK FOR your child, ask to see our 25-cent line. Herald Book Store.

CHILDREN'S READY MADE Dresses for less than factory cost. Austin-Stephenson Co.

FOURTH CAR OF YOUNG MULES unloaded to-day. Will R. Long, Smithfield, N. C.

PURE BRED BERKSHIRE PIGS now ready for sale. E. F. Boyett, Smithfield, N. C.

LITTLE DUTCH SULKY PLOWS \$35.00 for next two weeks. Austin-Stephenson Co., Smithfield, N. C.

TWO CARS FINE FURNITURE just arrived at Cotter Underwood Company's Store. It will pay you to look before you buy.

REMEMBER YOU CAN GET Brogan Shoes at Austin-Stephenson Company's Big Sale at \$1.79 per pair.

SEND US TEN CENTS AND WE will send you a copy of Turner's North Carolina Almanac for 1917. Herald Office, Smithfield, N. C.

BUY YOUR FURNITURE AT THE Austin-Stephenson Co. Three cars on hand and prices to suit you. Get a chance at \$50.00 in gold Free.

SEE OUR LINE OF STOVES AND Ranges—we have them from \$10.00 up, with all the ware. Cotter Hardware Company.

DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST minute to get your Christmas cards. See our line. Herald Book Store.

RUBBER BOOTS \$2.19 AT AUSTIN-Stephenson Co.'s Big Sale.

CAR LOAD WIRE FENCING JUST received. See us for prices that are right. Cotter Hardware Co.

FOR FINE SILKS CALL ON—Cotter-Underwood Co.

CAR LOAD WIRE FENCING JUST received. See us for prices that are right. Cotter Hardware Co.

IF YOU HAVE A FARM YOU wish to sell, write Box 123, Smithfield, N. C.

SEE OUR LINE OF STOVES AND Ranges—we have them from \$10.00 up, with all the ware. Cotter Hardware Company.

IF YOU WANT A NICE BUGGY IT will pay you to see Cotter-Underwood Co.

YOU CAN GET GALVANIZED Roofing from us any length. Our price is right. Cotter Hardware Co.

IF YOU WANT FIRE WORKS including Balloons, call on A. B. Hollowell, Clayton, N. C.

IF YOU HAVE A FARM YOU wish to sell, write Box 123, Smithfield, N. C.

Union Meeting Program

THE JOHNSTON COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION WILL HOLD ITS FIFTH SUNDAY UNION MEETING WITH WILSON'S MILLS BAPTIST CHURCH, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30 AND 31, 1916.

Saturday.

- 10:30 A. M.—Devotional Exercises, conducted by the Moderator, Rev. J. M. Duncan.
11:00 A. M.—Organization and Enrollment of Delegates.
11:15 A. M.—What Is a Christian?—L. L. Creech
11:40 A. M.—Sermon—by Rev. A. A. Pippin
Recess.
1:45 P. M.—Best Methods of Conducting Revivals—R. H. Gower
2:10 P. M.—The Mid-Week Prayer Meeting—Rev. R. M. Von Miller
2:40 P. M.—Religion and Business—J. M. Turley
3:00 P. M.—Home Missions—C. W. Stallings
3:20 P. M.—Open Conference.
Adjournment.
7:00 P. M.—Song Service.
7:20 P. M.—Miscellaneous Business
7:40 P. M.—The Man That God Can Use—W. H. Wall
8:00 P. M.—Address—by E. L. Middleton

Sunday.

- 10:00 A. M.—Sunday School.
11:00 A. M.—Conference on Sunday School Work, led by E. L. Middleton.
11:30 A. M.—Sermon—by Rev. C. E. Stevens
Dinner.
1:45 P. M.—Address—by E. L. Middleton
2:30 P. M.—Christ Versus Soul Winning—R. M. Von Miller
3:00 P. M.—A Review of the Year and Some Suggestions for the New Year—J. M. Duncan
Adjournment.

WOMEN'S NERVES

Women, more than men, have excitable nerves, because tiring work and physical strain tax their more delicate nervous systems and bring premature age and chronic weakness—unless treated intelligently.

Drug-laden pills and alcoholic concoctions cannot build up a woman's strength, but the concentrated medicinal food properties in

SCOTT'S EMULSION

build strength from its very source and are helping thousands of women to gain control of their nerve power—overcome tiredness, nervousness, impatience and irritability.

SCOTT'S is a liquid-food—free from alcohol.

Scott & Bowne, Bloomfield, N. J.

Advertisement for Rayo Lamps. Includes an illustration of a man looking at a lamp in a display case. Text describes the benefits of Rayo lamps, such as steady light, low cost, and safety. It also lists the Standard Oil Company as the distributor.

Christmas Holiday Round Trip Excursion Fares

VIA SOUTHERN RAILWAY

The Southern Railway will sell low round trip Christmas Holiday Excursion tickets on December 20th, to 25th, inclusive, with final limit to reach original starting point not later than midnight of January 10th, 1917.

For information as to rates, schedules, sleeping car reservations, etc., ask Southern Railway agents, or address,

J. O. JONES, Traveling Passenger Agent, Raleigh, N. C.