

DEADLOCK OF GREAT ARMIES.

Distinct Gains Being Recorded by Belligerents Only in Rumania as New Year Dawns. Much Talk of Peace But No Basis Found. War Map in Main Theatres Shows at Numerous Points Material Changes in the Lines as They Stood a Year Ago.

The following review of the war news for the closing day of the old year was published in yesterday's Columbia State:

The dawn of 1917 finds the belligerent armies, temporarily at least, virtually deadlocked everywhere except in Rumania. It finds also in the air a suggestion by the Teutonic allies that they are ready to discuss peace but no basis for the ending of hostilities has yet been advanced by them and the entente allies have signified their determination to continue fighting until their oft-repeated desires are complied with.

The war map in the main theatres of the war at the commencement of the New Year shows at numerous points material changes in the lines as they stood a year ago. On the front in France the Germans in the Somme region have been driven back by the French over fronts of considerable size hile the Germans in the Verdun sector made notable gains towards the fortress but later lost a part of the terrain through a French counter-offensive; the Italians have advanced their line on the east closer toward Trieste and the entente allies operating from Saloniki have placed the Servians on their native soil again and also have pushed forward their lines at various points in Macedonia.

A great drive begun in June by the Russian general Brusiloff from the Pinsk marshes to the Carpathians was successful in clearing the Volhynian fortress triangle of the Austro-Germans and in the capture of much terrain in Galicia and Bukowina.

Half of Rumania which entered the war in August on the side of entente now is in the hands of the Teutonic allies. The sweep of the Russians through the Caucasian region and Turkish Armenia has compelled the Turks to yield much territory while in the south the British in their advance to give up their strategic base at Kut-el-Amara and are being held to a virtual standstill by the Ottoman forces. Aside from Rumania there is little activity on any of the fronts except by the artillery. On the Moldavian Transylvania front of the Rumanian theatre, the Teutons, reinforced, still are making progress in their drive which apparently has as its object the effecting of a junction with their troops moving north into Moldavia. Additional points have been taken from the Russians and Rumanians on both sides of the Oituz valley and in the Putna and Zobala valleys.

Meanwhile Field Marshal von Mackensen's army continues pushing into the country from the mountains to the Danube. The eastern flank has thrown back the Russians from the Braila bridgehead while in Dobrudja the Teutonic line has been driven closer to Matchin, across the river from Braila. Here the rivers have been forced to give a point of support east of the town.

Advices from Athens say the French, British and Russian ministers have signed a note demanding the reduction of the Greek forces except in Peloponnesus to a size necessary only for police duty, the release of political prisoners and apologies to the allied ministers and flags.

Took A Whiskey Still.

On last Saturday, Deputy Collector J. P. Stell, and H. G. Gurley and Deputy Marshal George F. Moore and posseman B. Lf Jones went to the home of Mr. Dempsey Daughtry, about four miles South of Pine Level, where they captured a whiskey still. In the barn they found a thirty-five gallon copper still, complete with cap and worm, funnels, quart pots, doubling keg and four gallons of low wines. In the wash house were fermenters and mash sticks. About three hundred yards from the dwelling was the place where the still had been operated. Mr. Daughtry will have a hearing Wednesday before Dr. R. J. Noble, the United States Commissioner, at Selma.

The Uruguayan Congress is considering the establishment of a military aviation school.

GENERAL NEWS ITEMS.

American publishers are up in arms against what they allege to be the news print paper trust. This trust, they declare, is driving small weak publishers out of business and gouging richer ones for extortionate prices for paper. The publishers want the federal trade commission or some other branch of the government to take drastic and immediate steps to remedy the situation.

It has been confirmed that Lieutenant Harteaux, of France, brought down on the 26th of December his fifteenth enemy airplane. This happened over Vaux Wood. On the same day Sublieutenant Guynemer brought down at a point east of Misery his twenty-fourth German airplane, and on December 27 he vanquished his twenty-fifth air enemy a little to the south of Maisonette, in France.

With the new year it is calculated that 400 passenger trains will disappear from the British railway time table, says a London dispatch. Many of the remaining trains will run more slowly and with a larger number of stops. Long distance non-stop expresses will be as rare as they were thirty years ago. The London Daily News says, so far as comfort and speed are concerned, the clock will be put back a quarter of a century.

A London dispatch says that at a meeting of the Rumanian consolidated oil fields, William W. Rutherford, member of parliament from Liverpool, said that probably the value of the oil fields destroyed by the allies in the Rumanian retreat amounted to \$150,000,000. It was a wholesale destruction, he remarked, carried on by a British military mission acting under the instructions of headquarters. This work, he added, rendered the property and stock utterly useless to the foe. The oil wells of German companies met a similar fate, he said.

Announcement is made in the Berlin newspapers that the Order of Merit has been conferred on Captain Valentiner, captain of a German submarine for sinking 128 ships of a total tonnage of 282,000. Included among the boats sunk are a French gunboat, a troop transport, four steamships loaded with war material and a French submarine conveying 14 coal steamers. Capt. Valentiner has had numerous engagements with armed hostile ships, capturing two on which guns were mounted. It was his submarine which shelled Funchal, Madeira Islands, early last month, and sank in the Funchal Harbor the French gunboat Surprise and the steamships Dacia and Kangaroo.

CAT SKINS VALUABLE.

Growing Scarcity of Furs Has Created Demand for Them.

Minneapolis Journal. Business seems deary a dark cloud gathering over the future of the black cat. Generations ago a black cat with nine white hairs in the end of her tail was in for a bad time, for she was believed to be a disguised witch.

But today, with or without the nine white hairs in her conclusion, the black cat is playing in hard luck, for the fur trade has found that her hide is worth \$2, and is prepared to give it. As the hide has to be untimely ripped from the cat the transaction is an unpleasant one from the point of view of the animal.

In fact, the growing scarcity of furs has brought into prominence and value the fur of all other colors of cats. Eastern fur dealers are advertising for cat skins and paying good prices. A common skin brings 15 cents, maltese hides bring \$1 and solid black skins are worth \$2. The skins are worked up into merchantable goods and few can tell them from the more costly furs. One New York merchant has bought in recent months 15,000 skins, and could use more. It is estimated that at least 15,000,000 cats in the country could be marketed with general benefit. For one thing, the birds would get a far better chance for their lives.

The cat is a quite general favorite, but there are times when, owing to her ideas on the matter of the placing of the voice, her popularity wanes considerably. Her life suffers then somewhat from the hazards of existence, and now the values placed on her outer covering are likely to increase these hazards considerably.

PEACE PROPOSAL IS REJECTED.

Entente Allies Will Not Consider the Proposition, Declaring It Empty and Devoid of Meaning. Reply Charges Germany and Austria With Starting the Trouble and Says There Can Be No Peace Without Reparation.

As was to be expected, the Entente Allies have rejected Germany's peace proposal. The following was sent out from Paris Saturday and published in Sunday's daily papers:

In reply to the proffer by Germany and her allies for a peace conference, the entente allies, in a collective note, declare that they "refuse to consider a proposal which is empty and insincere." The note was handed to the American ambassador, William Graves Sharp, today by Premier Briand, and was made public simultaneously in London and Paris.

The entente allied governments insist that no peace is possible as long as they have not secured reparation for violated rights and liberties and the free existence of small states and have not brought about a settlement of the future security of the world. The note declares that the proposal of the central powers is not an offer of peace, but a "war manoeuvre." It is declared to be founded on "calculated misinterpretation of the character of the struggle in the past, the present and the future."

The note does not specifically outline the definite war aims of any of the entente governments, except Belgium. Before the war, it is pointed out, Belgium asked for nothing but to live in harmony with her neighbors. Assailed in spite of the treaties guaranteeing her inviolability, Belgium the note says, has taken up arms to defend her independence and her neutrality violated by Germany.

Belgium's aim, which is declared to be the only aim of her king and government, is described as "the re-establishment of peace and justice. But they only desire peace which would assure to their country legitimate reparation, guarantees and safeguards for the future."

The note, which is the joint act of Belgium, France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Montenegro, Portugal, Rumania, Russia and Serbia, declares that the present strife was desired, provoked and declared by Germany and Austria-Hungary, and that Germany made no effort to bring about a pacific solution of the trouble between Serbia and Austria-Hungary, as did Great Britain, France and Russia.

A peace concluded upon the German idea would be only to the advantage of the central powers, says the note, while disasters caused by the war demand penalties, reparation and guarantees.

The German overtures are described as a calculated attempt to force the future course of the war and to end it by imposing a German peace. The overtures also are said to have been designed to have the effect of intimidating neutral public opinion as well as of stiffening opinion in the central powers "worn out by economic pressure and crushed by the supreme effort which has been imposed upon their inhabitants."

"Finally," it is asserted, "these overtures attempt to justify in advance in the eyes of the world, a new series of crimes—submarine warfare, deportations, forced labor and forced enlistment of the inhabitants against their own countries and violations of neutrality."

Board of Education Meets.

The County Board of Education met in regular session Monday, with all members present. The greatest work of the day was that of apportioning the school fund. The sum of \$29,380 was apportioned to white schools; and \$5,320 to the colored schools; \$3,160 was reserved for building purposes.

County Health Board Meets.

The County Board of Health met in regular session here yesterday and elected Dr. J. C. Grady and Dr. B. A. Hocutt to succeed themselves as members of the Board, their term of office having expired with the closing year. Next Monday, January 8th, is the regular time for electing a County Health Officer.

Finland is investigating conditions surrounding the employment of women and children in bobbin factories in Viborg and Lahtis.

YEAR TO BRING GREAT DEFICIT.

To Be Many Millions Short in June, 1918. Mr. McAdoo, Secretary of the Treasury Estimates That Congress Must Raise Sum of \$379,000,000.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Secretary McAdoo estimated tonight that under existing revenue laws the government's deficit on June 30, 1918, will be \$279,000,000 and that in order to meet this condition and give the treasury the necessary working balance of \$100,000,000 congress will have to raise \$379,000,000 additional revenue during the coming fiscal year.

The secretary takes it for granted that bonds will be issued for \$184,256,000 to reimburse the general fund for \$162,418,000, estimated expenditures for the Mexican border patrol up to June 30, 1917, and for \$21,838,000, estimated expenditures for the Alaskan railway to June 30, 1918. This would leave \$194,817,000 to be raised by taxation.

"The wealth and resources of the country are so great," Mr. McAdoo said, "that it will not be difficult to raise this amount (approximately \$200,000,000) by internal taxation, which can be distributed in such a way as not to bear heavily or unjustly upon anybody."

"Congress has already authorized the issue of bonds to provide the \$50,000,000 authorized for a merchant marine and the \$20,000,000 authorized for a nitrate plant. I presume that bonds will be authorized by the congress for the \$25,000,000 required for the purchase of the Danish West Indies."

"There is not included in the foregoing anything for an omnibus public buildings bill."

"I earnestly hope that even as to some of the items which are included in the estimates, material reductions and savings may be effected."

The secretary prefaced his comment with the statement that it was not for the treasury department to prepare revenue measures and that what he said merely expressed his personal views. He said he opposed bond issues to meet current expenditures but that it was proper to issue bonds for such permanent investments as the Alaska railroad and purchase of the Danish West Indies as well as for extraordinary expenditures due to national emergencies.

The Misses Bailey Entertain.

Kenly, N. C., Dec. 30.—The Kenly "Social Circle" was delightfully entertained Thursday evening by Misses Allie and Beulah Bailey, at a Leap Year Party. Each guest on arrival was served with punch by Misses Mildred Darden and Alma Lee Bailey. During the evening progressive conversation furnished entertainment as did also the impersonation by the young men of the mannerisms peculiar to the young ladies and vice versa. After bidding for their partners the young men were escorted into the dining room where delicious refreshments were served which consisted of fruit whips served in orange halves with fruit cake.

Those enjoying the Misses Bailey's hospitality were Mr. Larry Barnes with Miss Marie Kirby; Mr. Marvin Revel with Miss Gladys Kirby; Mr. Howard Edgerton with Miss Faye Barnes; Mr. Rudolph Kirby with Miss Inez Edgerton; Mr. Yates Edgerton with Miss Gladys Jerome; Mr. Claud Edgerton with Miss Eunice Jerome; Mr. Ben Wellons, of Smithfield, with Miss Lillian Edgerton; Mr. Jesse Sauls with Miss Grace Jerome; Mr. Tyra Bailey with Miss Brownie Ezell, of Dunn; Mr. Bud Bailey with Miss Frances Hales; Mr. Roney High with Miss Irene Parker, of Rocky Mount; Mr. Dobbin Bailey with Miss Agnes Hales; Mr. Addie Flowers, Mr. Howard Grady and Mr. Ralph Hales.

Killed Some Fine Porkers.

Mr. W. E. Parker, of Oneals township, killed two pigs a few days ago, out of a three-acre lot—never penned at all—which weighed 370 and 430 pounds respectively. These pigs were not thorough-breds at all. They were bought for ten cents per pound on foot and were 14½ months old when killed. Mr. Parker says that if the Duroc Jerseys will beat these he is ready to give 12½ cents a pound for two to put in the same lot.

Of the 43,000 persons employed in the Swiss hotels, it seems strange that only 30,000 are Swiss.

MUCH MORE WHEAT PLANTED.

Big Increase in Acreage in Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi and Other Southern States.

Commenting on the report of the United States Agricultural Department on the area of winter wheat sown this year in comparison with last year, says a Washington dispatch, President Harrison, of the Southern Railway Company, said:

"The figures show a gratifying tendency in the direction of crop diversification. In every Southern State traversed by Southern Railway lines, except Kentucky and Tennessee, the acreage reported this year shows a substantial increase over last year. Kentucky shows a decrease and the acreage in Tennessee is the same as last year. The largest increases are shown in Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi—States into which the cotton boll weevil has spread. Georgia and Alabama show increases of 13 per cent over last year, while Mississippi, which has heretofore grown little wheat, shows an increase of 157 per cent."

"These increases in wheat acreage are in line with increases in other crops and with increasing the number and improving the quality of farm animals in the South and show that Southern farmers are making real progress in the way of producing, as far as possible, everything consumed on the farm and of having other things besides cotton and tobacco for sale."

HOW UNCLE SAM GOT HIS NAME

Nearly Every Nation Has Been Given Some Familiar Designation.

(Kansas City Star.)

A nickname is not always applied to a person, but sometimes to nations. In fact, nearly every nation has some sort of nickname. Two of the most important ones are England and the United States.

For many generations England has been nicknamed John Bull. John Bull means beefy, brawny and obstinate. It is a popular personification of the English people. He is represented as a bluff, corpulent, irascible old fellow, clad in leather breeches and top boots, and carrying a stout oaken cudgel. The nickname is derived from Dr. Arbuthnot's satire, entitled The History of John Bull, a political skit on the subject of the Spanish succession, first published in 1712, and afterwards reprinted complete in Pope's Miscellany in 1728.

Arbuthnot thus describes John Bull. "In the main he was an honest, plain-dealing fellow, choleric, bold and of very inconstant temper. Very apt to quarrel with his best friends, especially if they pretended to govern him. If you flattered him you might lead him as a child."

But with less distinction is Uncle Sam the type of an American and the tutelary genius of the United States. The phrase Uncle Sam arose during the War of 1812. An army contractor named Elbert Anderson had a store yard at a small town on the Hudson. A government inspector named Samuel Wilson, who was always called Uncle Sam, superintended the examination of the supplies, and when they were passed each cask, box or package was marked "E. A.—U. S.," the initials of the contractor and of the United States. The man whose duty it was to mark the casks, being asked what the letters meant, replied that they stood for Elbert Anderson and Uncle Sam. The story was retold, printed and spread throughout the Army and the country.

Death Near Smithfield.

Mrs. John R. Jones died last Saturday morning at her home at the Eldridge place near Smithfield. Her death was unexpected. She was buried Sunday afternoon at the Gay graveyard near Bethesda church. The funeral was preached by Rev. John E. Lanir. She leaves her husband and several children. She was the mother of thirteen children, the youngest being only a few hours old. We extend sympathies to the family and friends.

A Danish nerve specialist places convalescent patients on top of a piano so that they may be benefited by its vibration as it is played.

JUSTICE WILLIAM JOHNSON.

Famous South Carolina Judge Who Was Appointed Justice of the United States Supreme Court by President Jefferson at the Age of 33.

(Washington Post.)

William Johnson, the first justice of the Supreme Court of the United States to oppose the practice of permitting the Chief Justice to act as the organ of the court, was born in Charleston, S. C., December 27, 1771, and died in Brooklyn, N. Y., August 11, 1834.

In the early decades of the government of the United States conflicts between the executive and judicial departments were somewhat frequent and were attended by the expression of intense feeling. Thomas Jefferson, third President of the United States, had many quarrels with the Supreme Court and denounced that body as an instrument of tyranny on certain occasions.

He had a very bitter difference with Chief Justice Marshall, which was not so strange in view of the wide difference of political sentiment between the two gentlemen, but on another occasion the action of a justice of the court was so displeasing to the President that the matter became the subject of a controversy in which the justice replied with great heat to the charges that were made against him in the name of the administration by Caesar A. Rodney, then United States Attorney General.

This justice was William Johnson, of South Carolina, who had been appointed to the Supreme Court near the close of President Jefferson's first administration, and who served through the administrations of Presidents Madison, Monroe and John Quincy Adams and the first administration of President Jackson.

Justice Johnson in his views was a very mild federalist, but he rarely approved of the strong national ideas of constitutional interpretation of Chief Justice Marshall, and shrank from the extreme views of Justice Story.

Justice Johnson's father, William, removed from New York to Charleston, S. C., and is said to have been the first who "set the ball of revolution rolling" in that State. The son, William, after graduating at Princeton with the highest honors of his class, studied law, was admitted to the bar, was elected to represent Charleston in the State legislature and was chosen speaker of the House.

He became judge of the court of common pleas and at the age of 33 was appointed by President Jefferson an associate justice of the United States Supreme Court. Four years later an incident occurred which brought him into antagonism with the President. The collector of the port of Charleston, acting under the authority of the embargo act and the instructions of the President of the United States through the Secretary of the Treasury, which prohibited vessels from carrying goods from American ports, refused clearance to the five ships.

Some doubt arose as to the right of President to give such an order, and it was agreed to submit the matter to Justice Johnson, on a motion for a mandamus to the collector directing him to issue such clearances. To the surprise of the administration Justice Johnson decided that the mandamus should issue, declaring that the President's order was without warrant in law.

President Jefferson thereupon referred all the proceedings in the mandamus to the Attorney General, Caesar A. Rodney, who prepared an elaborate statement attacking Justice Johnson, and insisting that the executive department must of necessity be independent of the judicial. Justice Johnson replied vigorously, and the controversy was continued in the press.

Years afterward, when the nullification agitation arose in South Carolina, Justice Johnson, finding himself opposed to the views of the majority in his own State, sought to insure neutrality of his position by removing to Pennsylvania.

For many years Chief Justice Marshall voiced the decisions of the court, but Justice Johnson was the first to break in upon this practice and to restore the ancient habit of seriatim opinions, wherever there was any marked difference of opinion.

A movement is on foot to build a cotton mill in Zebulon.