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## GERMANS HALT RETIREMENT.

Turn on British and French With Strong Counterattacks on Whole Front. Entente Advances Still Continuing. Allied Forces, Despite Resistance by Teutons, Keep Up Their Gains. Russians Report Further Successes Against the Turks.

(Saturday's War Summary.)

Temporarily, at least, the retirement of the German forces in France appears to have halted, as both the British and French communications report counterattacks and stubborn resistance along the front.

Notwithstanding this the British report progress southeast of Arras; and the French have moved forward between one and a quarter and two and one-half miles in the St. Quentin region.

The French also have gained on the heights overlooking the Oise valley northeast of Tergnier and have repulsed German attacks before Thil, northeast of Rheims.

Paris asserts the Germans are inundating the Oise region and that the city of La Fere, thought to have been one of the strong points in the German line, is under water.

South of the Oise the French continue to cross the Ailette river and north of Soissons, Paris says, considerable progress has been made toward Margival.

Stubborn German resistance is said to have marked the French successes between the Somme and the Oise, where much ground was gained.

From Beaurains, about two miles south of Arras, to Etrepillers, five miles west of St. Quentin, London reports encounters between British and German forces.

At Vraucourt and at two points in the center of the line German counterattacks are said to have been repulsed and the British positions maintained. Southeast of Arras, in the neighborhood of Ecoust and Croisilles, the British made further gains.

The latest official statement from Berlin says the French were repulsed in the attacks along the Somme-Croizat, canal, between the Somme and the Oise, and that 230 prisoners were taken by the Germans.

Except for French activity near Monastir, in Serbia, and Russian advances in Persia, there have been no important operations on the other battle fronts. North of Monastir, after a violent fight, Hill 1248 remained in the hands of the French.

Paris says the German and Bulgarian troops made repeated unsuccessful attacks to gain possession of the hill.

Berlin reports a "harassing fire" by the French near Monastir and says a partial attack took place between Lakes Ochrida and Presba.

Southwest of Kermanshah, Persia, the Russians have progressed to within 45 miles of the Mesopotamian border, according to Petrograd. This would bring the Russians to within 100 miles of the British force that has been advancing up the Diala river from Bagdad. In a 16 hour battle near Kerind, Petrograd asserts, the Turks were forced to retreat to Kerind. The Russians have attacked the Turks along the River Shirwan, a tributary of the Diala.

It is reported unofficially that Germany has notified Norway of the extension of the blockaded zone to the Arctic ocean. This extends the zone in which neutral vessels go at their own risk to include the waters accessible to the ports of northern Russia.

Seven Americans are believed to have been lost when the American steamer Healdton was torpedoed by a submarine Wednesday in the North sea off the coast of Holland. The Healdton is said to have been well inside the so called "safe channel" when she was attacked.

## MOSCOW MAY BE CAPITAL.

Transfer of Seat of Government to Ancient Capital Is Probable In Russia.

It is highly probable, it is believed in Entente circles in Washington, that the capital of Russia may be transferred from Petrograd to the ancient capital city of Moscow. It is reported that Petrograd is swarming with German spies and that the city is strongly under the pro-German influence. Such a change in the capital, it is said, will meet with the approval of the masses of the people.

## EMPEROR MAY GIVE UP CROWN

News From Paris Says That a Noted German Magistrate Predicts That Kaiser William Will Not Be Able to Hold on Much Longer. Emperor Feels That He Has Enemies at Home As Well as Abroad.

A dispatch from Paris published in Sunday's paper says that a former German magistrate, the author of the famous book, "J'Accuse," has given an interview to the French paper, "Oeuvre" in which he forecasts the German Emperor's abdication, as follows:

"The Kaiser is obsessed by the thought that he is responsible for the war, a thought which poisons his whole existence. He feels that he is menaced by three enemies at home without counting those abroad. First is the crown prince, the real author of the war; second is the junker pan-Germanist—you can not imagine the smoldering hatred of the emperor for those he believes to be maniacs who are driving him into an abyss—third are the people, not the Socialist party but the people who are starving and who he feels are growing in number and rising little by little against those who organized the war.

"The other day at the meeting of the parliamentary presidents and the ministers of the federal sovereigns at which the submarine war was decided upon, the struggle between the kaiser's party and that of von Tirpitz was most bitter. The majority against the emperor was so great, however, that he was obliged to submit and pretend he was convinced. Particularly he was personally opposed to a break with President Wilson but he was forced to consent. Documents will be published one day which will prove that secretly he did everything not to bring America down upon him and that he considers that the rupture was an irreparable mistake. The failure of the submarine war will soon show that he was right but it will be too late.

"The people he fears most are the anti-militarist, anti-Prussians, liberal Republicans who want the reichstag to be based on universal suffrage. That is why Wilhelm is so anxious to convince the nation that he did not want war. All his protestations are made to appease the liberals and his famished and ruined subjects whose murmurings are growing stronger. He wants to continue popular at any price and that is why he spoke the first word of peace. The people were grateful for it but the submarine war came and spoiled everything.

"It is hard to realize how this emperor who enjoyed a popularity unexampled in our epoch suffers in his pride. He alone perhaps in Germany knows the whole truth since he alone has in his possession the elements for forming a judgment on the situation as a whole. How can he resist morally and physically under such a strain? Certainly he hopes sometimes, but less and less, for the success of the unrestricted submarine war which he opposed. He sees the isolation of Germany become more and more complete. Once he tried to initiate peace negotiations and failed. To try again would be to admit and proclaim to the whole world, but above all to the German people, which he fears most, Germany's real situation. If the allies solemnly declared, as they did with Napoleon in 1815, that they would refuse to treat for peace with the Hohenzollerns, it would be a knockout blow. Our German people, who still believe in him, would abandon him, for peace at any price will soon be the unanimous and hidden thought of tortured Germany.

"What resources is left to him but a dramatic abdication in order to retain the sympathies of the German people and save the political future of Prussia. He will say: 'I sacrifice myself to make peace. Without me those only are responsible who desired a savage war and the complete isolation of Germany, those who took at the beginning my son as their party leader forced me to mobilize, a measure I hesitated to take.'

## To Build Coffin Factory.

A site has been selected at Fayetteville and plans are being made for the erection of a fifty thousand dollar coffin factory. It will be built and operated by negroes and will be the only one of its kind in the country. It will have in connection a school for embalmers.

## FORMER EMPEROR IN CUSTODY.

Interned in Tsarskoe Selo With His Consort. Children Still Sick With Measles. Deposed Czarina Therefore Not Allowed to Leave. Denied Use of Telephone.

On his arrival at Tsarskoe Selo Friday, in the custody of four members of the duma, Nicholas Romanoff, the deposed emperor, was turned over immediately to the Tsarskoe Selo commander and taken to the Alexandrovsky palace, where Former Empress Alexandra already was interned, says a dispatch from the Russian city. The special train carrying the former ruler arrived at 1:30 o'clock on the branch line outside Alexandrovsky park. On leaving the train Nicholas entered an automobile accompanied by his adjutant, Prince Dolgoroukoff, and by the four duma commissioners. They were driven to the palace. Nicholas was met at the door in the left wing of the palace by Count Benckendorff, who was his marshal of the court and now is under arrest. The former ruler held himself erect, looking calm and indifferent. A battalion of the First Rifle Guard regiment was at the depot. The commander at Tsarskoe Selo is Col. Kobuilinsky, formerly commander of the Petrogradsky regiment, stationed in peace time at Warsaw. To him the duma commissioners announced: "Our mission of handing over the emperor is finished. We now go to Petrograd to announce this fact to the duma."

In regard to the conditions under which Nicholas was being held in the palace, officers declared they knew nothing. Concerning Alexandra and other members of the family the following information was given:

"All the children are in bed with the measles, for which reason Alexandra has not been outside the palace walls for two days. She has been forbidden to use the telegraph and telephone or have any communication with the outside world."

## ITEMS FROM FOUR OAKS.

Mr. Joseph Coats Falls Dead in Field. Had Just Returned From Business Trip to Four Oaks. A New Grocery Store Is Started. Mr. W. H. Lee Moves His Cafe. Other Items.

Four Oaks, March 26.—Attorney J. B. Adams and Mr. W. H. Lee spent Monday in Greensboro on legal business.

Mr. W. J. Lewis made a business trip to Fayetteville Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Canaday spent Sunday in Benson with relatives.

Dr. J. H. Stanley made a business trip to Benson Wednesday.

Dr. McLemore, of Middle Creek section, was a business visitor here last week.

Mr. Emit Adams has opened a grocery on Main street and W. H. Lee has moved his cafe to Railroad street near the Bank.

Attorney and Mrs. Louis Levison, of Coats, N. C., spent Sunday here with Mrs. Levison's mother, Mrs. E. Creech.

Rev. Mr. Duncan filled the pulpit at the M. E. church here Sunday and delivered a very instructive sermon.

Mr. Joseph Coats, a respected farmer 60 years of age, whose home was just inside the town of Four Oaks, died suddenly in the field near his home Friday about 11 o'clock. Mr. Coats had just returned from Four Oaks where he had been looking after some business matters, went out into the field where he had some men at work, and fell, dying instantly. The deceased was a loyal member of Four Oaks Council No. 337, J. R. O. U. A. M., was a member of the W. O. W., and of the Four Oaks Methodist church. He leaves a wife and several children.

## American Killed in France.

Sergeant J. R. McConnell, the American aviator with the French army, was killed in an engagement with two German machines in France last week. McConnell was a native North Carolinian and lived at Carthage before the great war.

## Preaching Appointments.

Elder Jos. E. Adams has an appointment to preach at Old Union Primitive Baptist church on the second Sunday in April and Saturday before. He will preach at Bethany Monday, April 9th.

## PRESIDENT WRIGHT AT KENLY.

Delivered Last of Series of Community Lectures Sunday Afternoon. Delegates Elected to Attend Sunday School Meeting at Rocky Mount Next Week.

Kenly, March 26.—Doctor Robert H. Wright, President of East Carolina Teachers' Training School, delivered the last of the series of community lectures that have been held in the high school auditorium twice a month this year. Between three and four hundred people heard Doctor Wright deliver a most masterful address on "The New Age."

"You and I ourselves are living in an age far advanced upon that even of our forefathers; and when compared to the ancient civilization ours is as different almost as if it were in another world. Up until the time of Benjamin Franklin the most highly educated people thought that electricity was an instrument in the hands of an angry God; but to-day electricity is one of the chief factors of our marvelous civilization. Indeed, even as late as 1826 the civilized world doubted whether a woman's mind was capable of mastering even the rudiments of an education. But where is woman to-day? She is not only mastering the leading branches of literature, science, and philosophy, but, as many of us married men will testify, she is master of man himself! Now, though I am neither a prophet or the son of a prophet, I am absolutely sure of one thing: the civilization that is to follow the present world war will be different from the civilization before the war. Will it be better or will it be worse? That depends upon you and me—upon every citizen throughout the entire world. I hope that it will be a better civilization—surer, cleaner, more kindly, more Godly."

The music for the occasion was appropriate and beautiful. Several patriotic songs were sung, and the Kenly Quartette rendered two special selections, one of them being "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Mr. Andrews said that it was with a feeling of regret that he found it necessary, because of the forthcoming commencement exercises, to announce that Doctor Wright's was the last of the series of community lectures for this season. These lectures have meant a great deal for the Kenly School and for the entire community. The following men have appeared on the program: Col. Fred A. Olds, of Raleigh; Doctor W. L. Poteat, President of Wake Forest College; Superintendent M. B. Andrews; Doctor W. H. Wannamaker, head of the department of German at Trinity College; and Doctor Robert H. Wright, President of East Carolina Teachers' Training School.

Sunday morning the organized classes of the Methodist Sunday School announced the delegates who have been elected to represent the school at the Wesley Bible Class Federation, which is to be held at Rocky Mount, April 3-5. The Baraca Class elected Mr. H. F. Edgerton, and Mr. L. Z. Woodard; the Annie Benson Wesley Class elected Mrs. A. J. Broughton, and the Junior Wesley Philathea Class elected Miss Ina Morris.

The Baraca Class of the Sunday school, which, since the first of January, has been conducting a membership campaign, has decided to terminate the campaign with a picnic—an old fashion fish fry and Easter egg hunt—and invite the entire Sunday school to attend. This picnic will be held at Lowell, near Kenly, on Easter Monday. During the campaign the class was organized into two sections, "Reds" and "Blues," with Mr. H. F. Edgerton, captain of the "Reds," and Mr. J. W. Darden, captain of the "Blues." Twelve members have been added to the class enrollment during the campaign! The "Blues," directed by Mr. Darden, were victorious. Supt. M. B. Andrews is teacher of the class.

The Bright Jewel Band of the Methodist church held their regular meeting Sunday afternoon, at two thirty o'clock, at which time the mite boxes were opened. The amount realized from the mite boxes was \$2.14. Mrs. C. P. Jerome made a short talk to the children, which was quite helpful, and enjoyed by all. A special feature of the meeting was a solo sung by little Miss Sarah Mae Woodard, who is a member of the "Cradle Roll," and not quite two years old. She very beautifully rendered "Shine."

The Junior Wesley Philathea Class of the Methodist church held a social

## WHITLOCK TO LEAVE BRUSSELS

American Minister Withdrawn Because of Germany's Disregard of Written Understandings. Stall off Belgian Relief Commission Advised To Quit Territory Occupied by Germans.

An Associated Press dispatch sent out from Washington says that because of "the German Government's disregard of its written understandings" for the protection of Americans and American relief work in Belgium, the State Department announced Sunday that American Minister Brand Whitlock had been withdrawn from Brussels, and the staff of the American Commission for Relief in Belgium advised that they should not remain longer in German occupied territory.

Minister Whitlock, who has been kept on Belgian territory chiefly to aid the relief work, will go to Havre, the temporary Capital of the Belgian Government. The places of the withdrawn workers will be taken by Dutch citizens, and the commission through that means will continue from outside bases as best it can the work of caring for ten million dependent Belgians.

The Department's announcement, one of the most severe indictments of Germany yet drawn by the United States, recites that restrictions have been imposed on the Americans "which, under ordinary conditions, would never have been tolerated," and that Minister Whitlock has been denied diplomatic privileges and courtesy. It says that the most serious development, however, has come within the past ten days, when several of the commission relief ships have been "attacked without warning by German submarines in flagrant violation of the solemn engagements of the German Government."

Whether Germany will continue to make the relief work difficult for other administrators is not known here. The general American executives, headed by Chairman Herbert C. Hoover, will continue their efforts for Belgium and northern France outside German jurisdiction.

## STORM BRINGS DEATH TO MANY

Tornado Sweeps Indiana Town Demolishing Residences and Industrial Plants.

Between 25 and 50 persons were killed and probably 100 or more were injured in a storm which late Friday swept over New Albany, demolishing scores of residences and several industrial plants, says an Associated Press dispatch.

Twenty-five bodies are known to have been recovered and it is expected this number will be materially increased when debris of wrecked buildings is cleared away.

The lighting system for the residence section was put out of commission.

In addition to the bodies taken to undertaking establishments there were reports of others that were taken to private homes.

A baby, about six months old, was found floating in a small stream into which it had been borne by the wind. The child was alive and clinging to a dog which apparently had been killed by the storm. It died in the arms of its rescuer. Later an aunt identified the baby and reported that both the father and mother had been killed.

The streets in the path of the storm were a mass of wreckage and it was quickly found that outside assistance was needed. An appeal was made to the city authorities of Louisville, who sent policemen to the scene.

## His Grave Dug and Coffin Ready.

Fair Bluff, N. C., March 25.—Mr. John Parker, living a few miles out of town, although very much alive, has made arrangements for his burial. He has his grave dug, cemented and protected from rain and dampness. In addition to this, he has purchased an elaborate silvered coffin of the latest type and has it stored away to be used when he dies. Mr. Parker expects to live many more years yet, but he evidently is an ardent believer in "preparedness."—Wilmington Star.

meeting last Friday evening, in the Edgerton Hotel, Miss Pearl Pope entertaining. Some twenty of the young people were present, and a most delightful time was enjoyed by all. Delicious punch was served by the hostess.

## KAISER'S WEALTH IN AMERICA.

Ten Million Dollars of United States Stocks Owned by Him. One of the Greatest of American Property Owners. Wealth May Be Confiscated by This Government if War War Should Come for Sure.

Ten million dollars worth of United States stocks are owned by the Kaiser and members of his family and may be confiscated by the United States Government in case of war.

Facts just made public indicate Wilhelm's concern over reaffirmation of treaties guaranteeing Germans' personal property against seizure may have been caused by personal rather than national reasons.

The Kaiser is one of the greatest of American property owners. He had a fancy for railway securities. When the war began he is said to have possessed \$4,000,000 in stocks and bonds of the Santa Fe, Union and Southern Pacific, and other Western lines.

These shares were held in the name of dummies or German brokerage houses in New York.

The Kaiserin herself holds half a million in American securities. Prince Henry while in this country is said to have made investments for himself totalling several millions.

There is evidence that agents of the Kaiser have made stock market cleanups on strength of advance information from Berlin.

The Kaiser is said to have large land holdings in America, much more valuable now than when bought 20 years ago.

He is part owner of the North German Lloyd and Hamburg-American Lines, which have \$20,000,000 in ships tied up in American ports. Without these ships, re-establishment of German commerce after the war would be hampered.

The Kaiser is the majority owner of a silk mill in Patterson, N. J., which by the way, was shown by the commission on industrial relations to pay the lowest wages and compel the worst working conditions in that district.

As a stockholder in a Chicago packing company, the Kaiser is reputed to have piled up wealth at the expense of the Allies and the American public.

It is rumored the Federal Government is investigating the extent of Wilhelm's holdings, with the idea that if the Government should not confiscate property of individual German citizens, exception should be made in the Kaiser's case, on the ground that his autocratic relations to the Government make his holdings, in effect, the property of the German State.

This property, if confiscated, would be converted into the United States Federal treasury.—Washington Dispatch.

## FOURTEEN REGIMENTS CALLED

Members of National Guard Are to Serve for Police Protection Purposes. North Carolina Regiments Not In List.

Calling into the federal service of 14 regiments of the National Guard for police protection purposes was announced Sunday by the war department. The Second Virginia regiment was included in the call, and A and B companies of the First Georgia regiment will not be mustered out.

The department issues this statement:

"Many States have deemed it advisable to call out the National Guard for police purposes or protection. As the necessity for such steps arises from issues which are more national than local, it has been deemed advisable by the President to call into federal service for the above mentioned purposes the following organizations of the National Guards: Massachusetts Second and Ninth regiments; Pennsylvania, First and Third regiments; Maryland, Fourth regiment; District of Columbia, First separate battalion; Virginia, Second regiment; Vermont, Company B, First regiment; Connecticut, First regiment; New York, Second and Seventy-first regiments; New Jersey, First and Fifth regiments; Delaware, First battalion, First regiment.

"The following organizations which are now in the federal service will not be mustered out: 13th Pennsylvania; A. & B. companies of the First Georgia."