

# SENATOR OVERMAN WARMLY PRAISED

HIS ACHIEVEMENT IN PILOTING  
CO-ORDINATION MEASURE  
OF SIGNAL VALUE.

## DISPATCHES FROM RALEIGH

Doings and Happenings That Mark  
the Progress of North Carolina People,  
Gathered Around the State  
Capital.

Raleigh.

Special from Washington.—On all hands in Washington from people who know the vigorous opposition which the Overman bill received when it was first introduced, there is high praise and warm commendation of Senator Overman of North Carolina for the victorious leadership and the great ability he has shown in the five weeks' debate on this important measure.

When it was first introduced there was great hue and cry against it, a number of Democrats joining with Republicans in saying that it gave too much power to the President. Senator Overman in a very able and vigorous speech showed that in time of war it was necessary to vest in the chief executive large powers, and that one of the troubles of the Allies across the sea was that there was divided responsibility. He argued convincingly that America in its prosecution of the war should give all necessary power to the chief executive so that there would be no waste of energy and every facility of the government might operate in harmony.

It has been a long, hard fight, and Senator Overman's leadership has reflected great credit upon him, upon his State, and upon the country. He is recognized as one of the strong leaders of the senate, and during this session he has had the honor and distinction of introducing and securing the passage in the senate of four other war measures of the highest importance, namely, the espionage bill, two sabotage bills and the woman spy bill.

### The Need of Scrutiny.

The final settlement of the stock fraud case against Joel F. Armistead of the Empire Steel Company, brings squarely to the public attention the necessity for strict official scrutiny of the stock sale operations of domestic corporations proposing promotion, according to J. R. Young, state insurance commissioner. Mr. Young points to the efficacy of the Blue Sky law and argues a demand for a similar law which will give to some department—not necessarily the insurance department—the duty of controlling these operations.

In the case of the Empire Steel Company, before the stock sales in this state were undertaken by Armistead and his agent, a North Carolina charter was secured in addition to the Delaware charter, apparently for the purpose of getting around the North Carolina Blue Sky law. With no such law in Virginia, the promoters had already sold \$20,000 worth of stock on the basis of a non-resident corporation. In North Carolina their designs were blocked. As the result, two dummy local incorporators were secured, and without formality of actual organization the sale of stock was begun.

It was this course, according to the Insurance Commissioner, which greatly helped to establish the intent to defraud when these stock salesmen were confronted by the insurance commissioner. They were ready to admit that they were selling stock in a corporation that really had no official existence except that which could be based upon a clerically issued charter from the secretary of state under which no organization had been formed, and once they were caught disposition of them was not difficult.

### Democrats Chairman Re-elected.

Re-electing Thomas D. Warren, of New Bern, chairman for two more years, the Democratic state executive committee appointed a committee of three to confer with the Republican state committee to the end that an agreement may be reached whereby neither party will name delegates to the constitutional convention. If overtures to this end are not successful, the committee is clothed with authority to provide machinery for naming the delegates. While the committee gave no expression of its opinion, it was the generally expressed conviction that a constitutional convention at this time would be very unwise and moreover, that the convention will be voted down at the polls in the coming election.

### Forecasts Bag Shortage.

Heavy demands are being made on the bag industry of Calcutta, India, for jute sandbags to be used for lining trenches. One English order alone is for 150 million bags. This situation combined with shortage of vessels may result in a scarcity of grain bags in America, states Director B. W. Kilgore, of the Agricultural Extension Service.

To secure the importation of enough bags for the 1918 season, the Food Administration made agreements late in February with the bag makers.

### More Soybeans This Year.

From the results of a survey of the county agents of the state, there is every indication to believe that soybeans will be planted on a greatly increased acreage this year. In some counties, where the crop has not been grown to any extent in the past two or three years, will this year put in several thousands of acres.

Instances of this, as reported to Mr. C. B. Williams, Chief Division of Agronomy, are seen in the case of Wake county, where 2,500 acres are reported by County Agent Chamblee. One thousand acres in Nash as reported by County Agent Burroughs. Three thousand acres in Greene, as reported by County Agent Middleton. Five thousand acres in Edgecombe, as reported by County Agent Moore. Fifteen hundred acres in Cherokee, as reported by County Agent Hampton. Twenty-five hundred acres in Rutherford, as reported by County Agent Iffitt. Twelve hundred acres or more in Burke, as reported by County Agent Perkins. Twenty-five hundred acres in Halifax, as reported by County Agent Stevens. Fifteen hundred to two thousand acres in Union, as reported by County Agent Brook. One thousand acres in Clay, as reported by County Agent Dead. One thousand acres in Martin, as reported by County Agent Craven. Eighteen thousand acres in Sampson, as reported by County Agent Boyd.

### McLean Given Appointment.

Special from Washington, D. C.—The President has nominated A. W. McLean of Lumberton for a director of the war finance corporation board. Senator Simmons asked that Mr. McLean be appointed. The naming of Mr. McLean is the biggest thing that has gone the way of North Carolina since Mr. Daniels was appointed secretary of the navy.

Mr. McLean will receive \$12,000 a year and he gets one of the four-year terms. The entire North Carolina delegation in Congress is proud of the McLean appointment, for it is a recognition of the financial ability of a Tar Heel.

"Naturally I am very much elated over the nomination of Mr. McLean," said Senator Simmons. "It is a very excellent one."

From Senator Simmons' office the following facts about Mr. McLean were given out: He is one of the ablest young men in North Carolina. His success in business affairs has been phenomenal. At the age of 26 he organized the Lumberton National bank and became its president, a position he now holds. The bank is one of the strongest institutions of the kind in the state. Later, Mr. McLean organized a local railroad company to give his town and community competitive rates to the outside world. He is president of the road, which has succeeded beyond all expectation. Large cotton mill concerns were organized by Mr. McLean and he is their financial manager. Manufacturing plants built and set in motion by him have succeeded. A better man for the war finance corporation board could not have been found in the south. Mr. McLean was nominated for one of the four-year terms.

### Fitting the Horse Collar.

"Much trouble results on the average farm each year from sore shoulders on horses caused by the improper fitting of collars, and improper adjustment of hames," says a recent statement from J. S. Montgomery of the University of Minnesota.

"The collar should fit the shoulder so that in length there is just room for the flat of one's hand between the collar and the neck at bottom. In width the collar should fit snugly against the sides of the neck from a point three inches above the shoulder point, to a point about half-way up to the top of the neck. The upper one-third to one-half of the collar should be wide enough to allow one to pass the thick of the hand between the collar and the side of the neck. If the upper part of the neck is thick a "Quarter Sweeney" or "Half Sweeney" collar should be used, so as not to pinch the neck. A collar too wide at the top will produce a sore neck on account of side motion of the collar as the horse walks.

"Sweat pads should be avoided as they hold the heat and sweat and produce a tender shoulder, often causing a galled condition."

### Don't Rush New Crop.

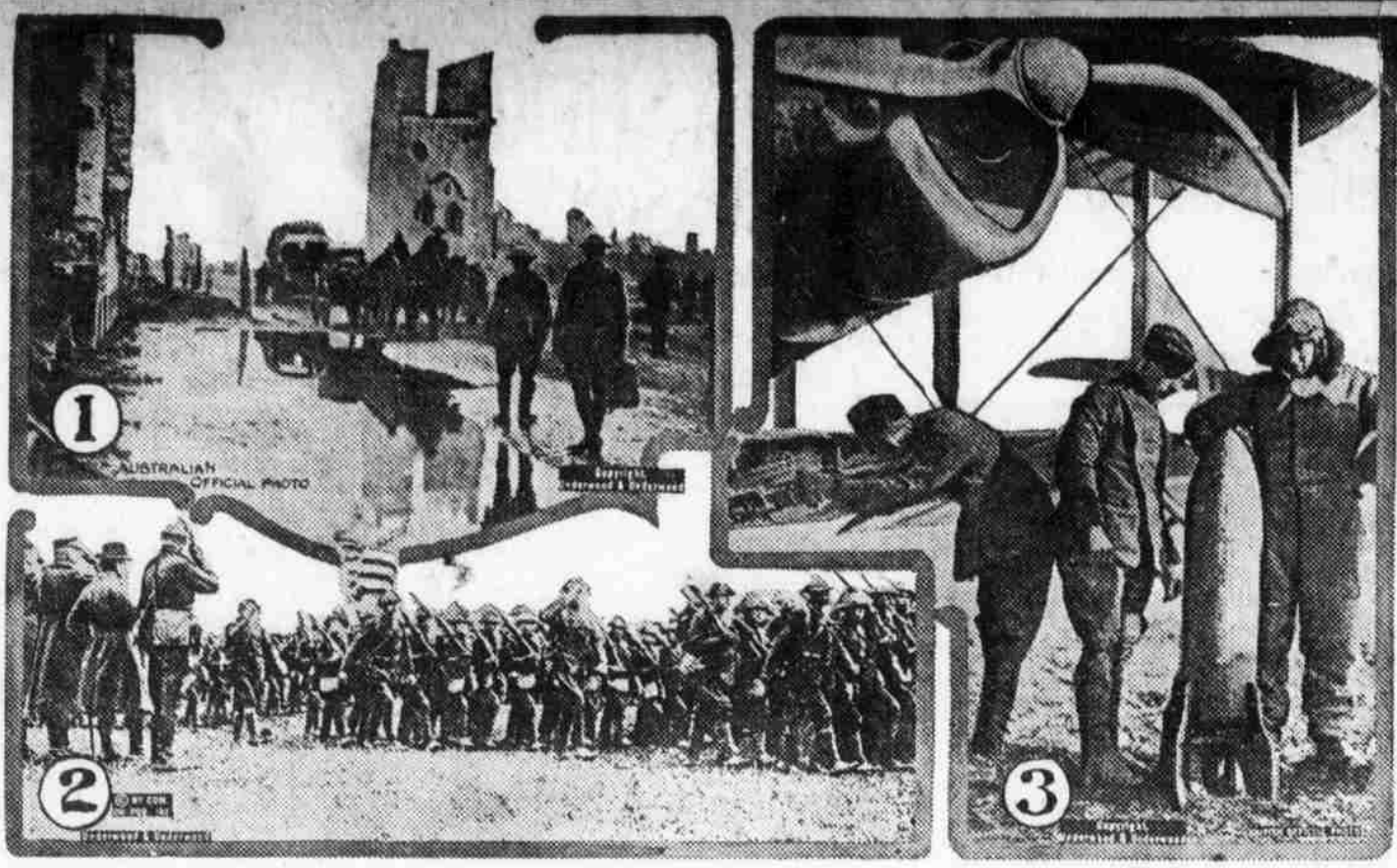
"Do not rush Irish potatoes to market," is the advice to growers from Mr. W. N. Hutt, state horticulturist, who declares that the early crop will likely come into the market before the heavy stock of last year's crop has been consumed, if the usual practice of "digging the crop prematurely and rushing it to secure an early market," is followed.

Waste and extravagance are Germany's silent Allies.

Use More Milk—U. S. Food Administration.

### Campaign for One Million.

The Baptists of North Carolina have launched their campaign for one million dollars for the denomination's colleges and secondary schools in the State, and the local drive will be started with special services in all the Raleigh Baptist churches. Among the speakers who will present the matter at the various church services are Dr. E. M. Potat, president of Furman university; Dr. W. L. Poyat, president of the Wake Forest college; Dr. C. J. Thompson, Dr. H. T. Vann, Dr. Livingston Johnson.



1—Recent view in ruined Ypres, objective of the Germans in Flanders. 2—General Pershing and his aides reviewing a body of American infantry at the front. 3—One of the huge bombs used by the British aviators of the bombing squadrons.

## NEWS REVIEW OF THE PAST WEEK

### Germans Defeated With Awful Slaughter in an Attack on Ypres Salient.

### PREPARING FOR NEW SMASH

#### Americans Gallantly Repulse Hun Assault Near Amiens—Teutonic "Peace Offensive" Developing—Third Liberty Loan Heavily Oversubscribed—Plans to Expand Our Army.

Monday of last week was a bitter day for the Hun—the day of his worst defeat since the great spring drive began. Under orders from General von Arnim to take Scherpenberg, Mont Rouge, Mont Noir and all the high ground back of Kemmel, the Germans hurled themselves time after time against the stone wall of British and French defenders, only to fall back in disorder, leaving thousands of their men dead and wounded on the field. The enemy employed about thirty fresh battalions, in addition to the numerous divisions already in position on that front, and his onslaughts were so frequent as to be almost continuous throughout the day.

When the morning of Tuesday came the great numbers of gray-uniformed dead in front of the defending positions showed the awful price the Hun had paid. Moreover, he had nothing to show for this expenditure of life, for the allied lines were virtually intact at all points, and the British late in the afternoon counter-attacked north of Kemmel and regained considerable ground previously lost. Just to the west of this position, about Loere and at the cross roads between Scherpenberg and Mont Rouge, the French met the fiercest assaults of the day. Changing hands several times, Loere was held by the Germans at nightfall, and they had pushed ahead until the situation was most critical for the defenders, but the French came back with such irresistible dash that the advance was stopped, and after dark they pushed the Germans out of Loere and back from the positions they had won between the two hills.

In this, the most pretentious attack on the Ypres salient, the British and French, largely outnumbered, fought with equal gallantry and determination. At the same time the brave Belgians, farther north, repulsed another attack, not yielding a foot of ground. The Kaiser had just visited the German lines and exhorted his troops to push the British back to the channel, "where they belonged," but the stubborn Tommies didn't wish to be pushed, and they were not. The big attack probably had the double purpose of capturing Ypres and diverting large numbers of allied troops from the Amiens salient so the Germans could make another drive there, but neither object was attained. The artillery fire from both sides was continuous and very heavy, and the Germans, despite the excellent work of the airmen, improved their transport and brought up many of their large guns. The British batteries west of Kemmel devoted much of their efforts during the week to deluging the top of that hill with shells, so that the Huns were unable to obtain any benefit from its capture.

The intense activity observed behind the German lines indicated that Von Arnim was preparing to resume the attack on the Ypres salient immediately. Except for Kemmel hill, his troops are occupying lower ground than that held by the allies, and they cannot continue there long under the smothering fire of the British and French artillery. If they cannot gain the line of heights they seemingly may soon retire.

Following their disastrous repulse in Flanders, the enemy made two attacks in the Amiens region. The first was directed especially at the American troops, now revealed as holding positions in the vicinity of Villers-

Bretonneux, east of Amiens. After an intense preliminary bombardment lasting two hours, the Germans advanced, three battalions strong, and hand-to-hand fighting ensued all along the line. The Americans put up a defense that won the warm praise of the French commanders on their flanks, and the Huns, after considerable time, were driven back with heavy losses. The losses of the Americans were said to be rather severe.

The second attack was made Wednesday night in the Thennes sector, southeast of Amiens, and was as complete a failure as the other.

Already, the expected Teutonic "peace offensive" is beginning to develop, as it always does after the Kaiser has won some successes and then has been brought to a halt. Charles of Austria is said to have made peace offers to Italy, the real purpose of which is evidently to create discord in Italy and at the same time to quiet the discord among his own subjects. The pope, it is understood, will put forth peace proposals on Whitsuntide, May 19, making concrete offers of mediation by the holy see. Germany's own offers are expected after another great effort has been made to smash the allied armies in France.

This peace offensive will be no less offensive to the allies than its predecessors. They will not be deceived by offers to restore Belgium and to cede Lorraine. Nothing less than the utter defeat of the central powers will satisfy them, unless there is an unbelievable change in the state of mind of the governments and the peoples. This is no less true in America than in England and France. The American casualty lists, though still comparatively short, are scattering all over the country's map little black dots of mourning, each of which becomes the center of a strengthened determination to see the war through to complete victory.

The Austrian emperor is truly having a hard time keeping his subjects to their allegiance. From Serbian sources comes the news that the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes in the dual monarchy are holding a plebiscite on the plan to join with Serbia and Montenegro in one national independent state, with Peter of Serbia as the king. This movement is led by the prime archbishop of Carniola. Meanwhile the Austro-Hungarian military commanders have been greatly exercised by the fact, just announced, that large numbers of Bohemian troops are joining the Italian army and are now on the Italian front in Italian uniforms. They belong to the Czecho-Slovak army which is being formed at many points within Austria-Hungary.

Though they have slowed up a bit in Russia proper, the Germans are going ahead steadily with their penetration of Ukraine, and now have established military rule in Kiev, its capital, on the ground that the government has proved too weak to maintain law and order. A number of the members of the Ukrainian government have been arrested. Of course, the prevailing disorder there is mainly due to the presence of the German troops and their oppression of the people, but a little discrepancy like that does not bother the Kaiser. Recently General von Eichhorn, the German commander there, ordered the peasantry to return all property and effects taken from the landholders and to begin at once the cultivation of the estates. This order, designed to protect the interests of the landholders, was vigorously opposed by the rada, which declared it would not permit interference by German or Austro-Hungarian commanders in the internal affairs of the country. The minister of agriculture was instructed to tell the peasants not to obey von Eichhorn's order.

Berlin announced on Thursday that Sevastopol had been occupied by the German forces.

For a day or two last week the world was startled by a report that there had been a counter-revolution in Russia, and that the former czar's little son had been proclaimed emperor, with his uncle, Grand Duke Michael, as regent. The story came from Scandinavia, and soon was recognized as

German propaganda, though there was doubt as to its motive. It was not confirmed from any Russian source. Possibly the Germans meant to use the alleged revolt as an excuse for seizing Petrograd, a move they already have threatened to make unless the Russians agree to their outrageously unfair plan for the exchange of prisoners. According to this plan, which Russia rejects, all German prisoners in good health are to be returned, the unfit being kept in Russia; and all unfit Russian prisoners will be returned, the fit being retained in Germany.

Another bit of characteristic German insolence cropped up last week, when Berlin formally protested against the action of the allies in giving aid to the Red guard of Finland, because it interfered with the internal life of Finland, though the Germans themselves are helping the White guard of the country with land and sea forces. This combination has now occupied Viborg after severe fighting.

The Russian bolshevik government is really preparing to re-enter the war against the central powers, whose aggressions have become intolerable. The pan-executive council at Moscow has adopted Trotsky's plan for universal military training for all men between the ages of eighteen and forty and the conscription of all workers and peasants. The best military experts have been recalled to the service and the government expects to have a large and effective army within ten months.

War work in America is progressing with unprecedented speed these days. The third Liberty Loan campaign closed on Saturday with the \$3,000,000,000 of bonds heavily oversubscribed. The most satisfactory features of this loan are the large numbers of individual subscribers and the fact that the country districts took a portion of the loan relatively much larger than they did of the previous issues. As the campaign neared its end the enthusiasm became really tremendous. All classes of the population joined in the work of selling the bonds, and most substantial aid was rendered by 50 wounded American soldiers and a group of French "Blue Devils" who came over from France for the purpose.

The war department permitted it to be known that it now plans to have 1,000,000 men in France by July 1, and that considerably more than 500,000 are already there. Secretary Baker says the army will be expanded to 3,000,000 men and then will be made as much larger as is considered necessary. The movement of troops across the Atlantic is so swift that the training camps are being emptied, and therefore the draft registrants are being called in increasing numbers. Secretary Daniels is enthusiastic for an army of unlimited size, and says if there are not enough young men to whip Germany the age limit will be changed and the older ones will go. The brigading of the Americans with the British and French has greatly expedited the placing of the men on the firing line, for now only 30 days of training in France is considered necessary.

The senate grew impatient all of a sudden last Tuesday and three bills were introduced for expanding the army. In the house Chairman Dent of the military affairs committee also introduced such a bill, but he would limit the size of the army to 4,000,000 men. As usual, he is not in accord with the spirit of the nation.

On Thursday Secretary Baker presented the administration's program to the house committee. It includes expenditures on the army aggregating \$13,000,000,000 in the next fiscal year; manufacture of artillery on a stupendous scale; drafting of at least 1,000,000 additional registrants and as many more as can be equipped and transported to France.

The Overman co-ordination bill was passed by the senate Monday by a vote of 63 to 13, and when it gets through the house there will be little in any way connected with the war which the president will not be empowered to do. The measure gives him dictatorial powers to reorganize bureaus and departments of the government and to transfer government functions at will.

## ANOTHER CONCORD SENSATION

Grows Out of Arrest, Trial and Acquittal of Gaston B. Means for Murder.

Concord, N. C.—As a sequel to the famous case growing out of the killing of Mrs. Maud A. King, widow of the late James C. King, Chicago millionaire, near here last August 29, and the subsequent notable trial last December of Gaston B. Means, her financial agent, who was acquitted of the charge of having murdered her, a sensation was sprung here when it developed that a state warrant had been issued by Justice of the Peace C. A. Pitts, for the arrest of C. B. Ambrose, who was prominently identified with the development of the case against Means last fall.

Ambrose is charged with misrepresenting himself as being in the service of the United States Department of Justice during the months of August, September and October, 1917. It is understood that the warrant was issued at the instance of parties representing Means.

In connection with the action against Ambrose it developed that persons close to Means are advancing the theory that Mrs. King was killed by a German spy, who is alleged to have shadowed Means during several weeks prior to the death of Mrs. King, and it is asserted that a warrant will very probably be issued early the coming week for the arrest of a "mysterious" German who was in Concord for several weeks prior to the killing of Mrs. King and visited Misenheimer Spring, the scene of the tragedy, a day or two prior to her death. From the same source comes the statement today that the bullet which killed Mrs. King is now believed on the strength of investigations made since the Means trial to have been intended for Gaston Means, the only person with the woman at the time she was shot.

### Army Deserter Shot.

Asheville.—In a pitched battle between a United States deputy marshal, his posse and a band of deserters from the army fought at an early hour in the Barker's Creek section of Jackson county, one of the alleged deserters, James Messer, was shot by the officers and is now in a hospital at Waynesville expected to live only a few hours. A brother, Hastings Messer, is under arrest charged with desertion and resisting an officer.

For the past several months there has been much indignation on the part of the residents of Jackson county in that the Barker's Creek section of the county, which is rather wild and inaccessible, was the rendezvous of two bands of deserters from the army, armed with government rifles and ammunition, who defied arrest. Much indignation has been made of the sheriff of the county, it being charged that he was afraid to make arrests, and as a final resort a large number of requests came to the office of United States Marshal Charles A. Webb, of Asheville, for the appointment of a special deputy to assist the local officers.

A few days ago Charles C. Mason, of Dillsboro, was appointed deputy marshal and instructed to gather a posse and go after the men, and on Saturday night Mr. Mason, together with C. T. Roan, of Boone City, and a posse of seven men, went to the home of the Messer boys, where Hastings Messer was arrested and in a battle between James Messer and the officer James was seriously wounded.

### Jailed for Pro-German Talk.

Greenville, N. C.—No little excitement was occasioned on the streets here when news became current that J. H. Ketchum, of alleged German descent and a resident of the city had been placed under arrest by government officials for pro-German utterances the warrant charged him with violation of the espionage act, section three, which forbids, among other things, unpatriotic remarks.

### Durham: Economic and Social.

Chapel Hill.—Durham County: Economic and Social is the title of a new one hundred-page illustrated bulletin that has just come from the press. It is the second study of county economic and social problems to appear in North Carolina, the first being Sampson county: Economic and Social, issued in late 1917.

### NORTH CAROLINA BRIEFS.

It is learned that a large per cent of blackberry vines were destroyed by the extreme cold weather the past winter. In some localities the entire growth is said to be killed.

Transylvania county is putting partisanship out of business for the time being by the appointment of a committee to draft a proposition to be submitted to both parties. Perhaps Governor Bickett's proposal is practical wherever it is approached in the spirit in which it was made.

Monroe people are very much interested in the proposed cement highway to Wilmington and are willing to lend this movement their support. T. L. Riddle, secretary of the Monroe chamber of commerce, has written a letter to the Charlotte chamber of commerce pleading the aid of the Monroe organization in the movement.

Statesville can now boast a population of between 7,500 and 8,000, a considerable bit of territory being taken in as a result of an election last fall. If that part added is as good as that to which it was added, everybody ought to be proud.