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GASTONIA, N. C. MONDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 25, 1918.

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GERMANS ADVANCING CAPTURED THREE TOWNS YESTERDAY

Advancing Hordes of Germans, However, Are Mowed Down by Thousands by Machine Gun and Rifle Fire—Peronne, Ham and Chauny Taken Sunday, Together with Vast Supplies of Stores—Allied Forces Retire in Orderly Manner to Prepared Positions—No Pessimism Among British, French or Americans.

What is proving to be beyond a doubt the biggest battle of the entire war so far is still in progress on the Western front. So far the fortunes of war favor the Germans but the reports indicate that the British and French have retired in an orderly manner to prepared positions.

Dispatches in this morning's papers tell of yesterday's operations as follows:

The withdrawal of the British forces along the battle front in France was long ago planned in the event of the Germans attacking in great force. This announcement comes from the British front through the Associated Press correspondent, who describes the operation of the British army as a masterly withdrawal, made possible by gallant shock troops in the front lines, who checked the advance of the Germans, while artillery, machine gun and rifle fire worked appalling slaughter among the masses of German infantry as they were sent forward, this enabling the main body of the British to fall back deliberately and without confusion.

This army, it is declared, has been conserved, and up to the present very few counter-attacks have been made against the Germans. Where the British have stormed the German's newly acquired positions they have driven them back. But each mile of advance makes the bringing up of supplies to the German artillery and infantry more and more difficult, and unquestionably the British strategy, as demonstrated since the beginning of the great attack, is to let the enemy, so far as he may, wear himself out against a powerful defense.

Both British and French forces, where their lines meet south of St. Quentin, are watching events with optimistic eyes.

On the battle line in France the sanguinary struggle still is going on, with the British troops on most of the sectors apparently holding their own, but with the Germans at salient points still pressing forward.

The town of Chauny, southwest of St. Quentin, situated on the road to Compiègne, the gateway to Paris, has been occupied by the Germans and, according to the Berlin official communications, everywhere between the Somme and Oise rivers the Germans are pressing their advantage.

Throughout Sunday along the entire 50-mile battle front the fighting never ceased for a moment, and where Field Marshal Haig's men were unable to withstand the terrific onslaughts delivered by greatly superior forces, ground was given, but always in orderly fashion.

It now has been definitely ascertained that considerably more than a million Germans have been brought to the western front in an endeavor to crush the British army holding the line from the region of Arras to the south of St. Quentin, but it daily becomes increasingly evident that the enemy in this drive has met with opposition not counted upon and been unable to realize to the full his objectives.

In addition to Chauny, the Germans are claiming the capture of both Peronne and Ham, and have increased the number of prisoners taken to more than 30,000, in addition to 600 guns and large stores of war materials.

It is claimed also by the Germans that American and French regiments which were brought up to reinforce the British have been defeated, but no further information than this mere statement has been vouchsafed.

In their retreats, according to Berlin, the British are burning towns and villages behind them. This statement, however, seemingly, is capable of being received with reserve, as the Germans themselves, in their famous "strategic" retirement left little standing in the territory they evacuated, even denuding the country of trees.

Already the spirit of boastfulness which pervades the German army in times of success is being strongly manifested. Field Marshal von Hindenburg has complimented the German emperor on the "initial success" and the latest German official communication is loud in its plaudits of the German troops, declaring that the "attacking spirit of the infantry could not have been exceeded."

On the other battle fronts the fighting activity continues comparatively slight, except for reciprocal bombardments and trench raiding operations. Along the Aisne front and in Champagne the artillery duels between the French and the Germans have been somewhat violent. The Americans on their sectors, especially northwest of Toul, are daily keeping up their artillery practice, with visibly good results, against the German positions in front of them and now and then carrying out successful raids.

In the Italian theater the snow on the ground and the freshets in the valleys continue to hinder the operations on a large scale, but from the preparatory artillery activity and the skirmishes that are being carried out it becomes increasingly evident that this theater shortly is to be the

World's Greatest Battle Continues To Rage on Western Front Today

(By International News Service.)

LONDON, March 25, 10:45 a. m.—With the Kaiser personally directing the German armies and the Berlin war office claiming that American soldiers are taking part, the world's most stupendous battle continues to rage furiously today all along the 50-mile battle line in France.

Further advances have been made north and south of Peronne by the Germans but the British resistance by bombardments is stiffer. Fresh German reinforcements continue to arrive at the front. It is now estimated that there are between 90 and 100 divisions of Germans along the battle line. A mighty struggle in the region of Bapaume developed Sunday.

The Germans are suffering tremendous losses from artillery and machine gun fire.

An advance over a front of 25 miles is claimed by Berlin.

It is also reported from The Hague that upwards of 30,000 prisoners, 600 guns and enormous amounts of booty have been taken by the Germans. These figures represent the total captures of the last four days' fighting.

DR. FELLERS TO INSPECT FOOD AND MEAT

Saturday's Charlotte Observer says: Dr. C. R. Fellers, who has been food and meat inspector for Charlotte for the last three months, has resigned that position, as he has been transferred by the United States public health service, under which he was employed, to Gastonia, where he will be food and meat inspector. A successor has not yet been appointed. His resignation, severing his connections with the city health department, has been accepted by the city commissioners. It was announced yesterday.

Dr. Fellers was sent to Charlotte from Baltimore by the United States public health service, to become food and meat inspector, working in conjunction with the city health department. While he was employed by the public health service he was also in the employ of the city.

The establishment of the artillery range beyond Gastonia, and the subsequent stationing of a large number of soldiers there, made necessary the taking charge of health and sanitary conditions in that place by the United States public health service. Major B. W. Brown, in charge of sanitary conditions in the extra-cantonment zone surrounding Camp Greene, with headquarters in Charlotte, also is in charge of health and sanitary work in Gastonia.

As a result of the systematic work of Dr. Fellers, much has been done here toward making more sanitary the eating places of the city. Steps will be taken at once by the health officials to secure another competent inspector, in time to make the regular monthly inspection for April.

Left Money to Presbyterians.
Charlotte, March 23.—The will of John C. Burroughs was probated today. The estate is worth \$250,000. Thirty thousand dollars is left to a sister in New Jersey, \$10,000 to her daughters, and son-in-law, W. H. Dula; \$10,000 to the Presbyterian Orphanage at Barium Springs; \$20,000 for foreign missions. To Synod of North Carolina, \$30,000 for home missions; First Presbyterian church, of Charlotte, \$30,000; Crittenton Home, \$4,000; Y. W. C. A., \$30,000; to "friend and pastor," D. H. Roiston, deceased, \$3,000; \$20,000 to children of William Taylor Rhoads.

REPORT AFFECTED STOCK MARKET.

(By International News Service.)
NEW YORK, March 23.—The report circulated in Wall Street this morning that the Germans had broken through the British lines at one point caused prices to drop on nearly everything traded in.

All cheese now in storage must be marketed before June 15, unless special permission to hold is given by the Food Administration.

scene of a sanguinary encounter.

Berlin, March 24. (Via London, British Admiralty, per Wireless Press)—The Germans have captured Peronne and Ham and defeated British and American regiments brought up from the southwest for a counter attack on Chauny, according to the war office statement today.

The statement adds that more than 30,000 prisoners have been captured and 600 guns have been taken by the Germans. Victory in the battle which has been raging near Monchy, Cambrai, St. Quentin and La Fere is claimed by the Germans. The British third and fourth armies and parts of Franco-American reserves are declared to have been beaten, with the heaviest loss on the line from Bapaume to Bouchevaine and behind the Somme, between Peronne and Ham, as well as at Chauny.

NEWS OF THE COUNTY LATEST FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS

Lowell Locals.

Correspondence of The Gazette.

LOWELL, March 19.—Mrs. H. F. Gash left last week for Tampa, Fla., where she will spend some time.

Sgt. S. B. Hovis, of Camp Sevier, was in town last week, the guest of his brother, Mr. G. Frank Hovis.

Dr. Charlie Adams, of Gastonia, made an interesting talk Sunday at the Presbyterian church in behalf of the missionary campaign.

It was quite a spectacle to watch the members of the artillery as they moved from Camp Greene to the range near Gastonia. If the Kaiser could have seen this little, of which we have so much, it would surely make him prick up his ears.

Mrs. G. F. Hovis and children spent the week-end with relatives near Bessemer City.

Dr. J. W. Reid left Saturday for New York City, where he will spend some time taking lectures at the Polyclinic and Post Graduate Hospital.

Mr. Tom Ford has accepted a position with the Foster Machine Co. and is spending this week in Greenville, S. C., where he is installing cotton mill machinery under the supervision of his brother, Mr. R. Q. Ford.

Mr. J. Linwood Robinson spent the week-end in Rutherfordton on business.

Those present at the last week's Red Cross meeting were: Mesdames T. P. Rankin, J. L. Thompson, W. H. Holmes, Frank Weir, Sara Reid, J. R. Titman and J. W. Kennedy; Misses Moena Hand, Elsie Wilson, Edith Robinson, Annie Ford, Mary Ford, Myrtle Titman and Mary Reid. Directress, Tuesday afternoon, Miss Mary Ford, and Friday afternoon, Miss Moena Hand.

The class has finished making the 2 by 2 wifes and has taken up the five-yard gauze rolls, and with only six workers Friday afternoon, 13 of these rolls were made.

NEWS OF RANLO.

Correspondence of The Gazette.

RANLO, March 21.—The Ranlo Home Demonstration Club met with Mrs. S. A. Lanier on March 15th. Much enthusiasm was shown over the making of new war breads. The club was fortunate in having with them Miss Thomas, from the Farm Life School. Miss Thomas gave an interesting and profitable talk. Light refreshments were served by the hostess. The next meeting will be held on March 28th with Mrs. C. H. Pugh.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne F. Rhyme left Monday night for Rome, Ga., on an extended visit to Mrs. Rhyme's parents.

Mr. Ralph Underwood, of Mt. Holly, spent the week-end with his uncle, Mr. C. A. Farrar.

Mr. and Mrs. O. G. Allen, of Gastonia, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Dilling Sunday.

Lieut. Honeycutt, of Camp Greene, was a Ranlo visitor Sunday.

Mrs. Forrest Allen, of Cherryville, is spending the week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Stroup.

The young people of Ranlo enjoyed a social given by Mrs. Henry Cox Saturday night.

"NOT GUILTY" VERDICT IN TRIAL OF PITTS BOYS.

Jury Takes Only an Hour to Acquit Them of Murder of Dr. Henneace.

Charlotte Observer.
Morganton, March 22.—After deliberating an hour the jury in the trial of Garfield and Aaron Pitts for killing Dr. Henneace rendered a verdict of not guilty at 6 o'clock this afternoon.

It has been generally believed the last day or so that the verdict would be "not guilty," but no one seemed to expect a verdict to be rendered so quickly in a case with so many complications.

COTTON TOOK A TUMBLE.

(By International News Service.)
NEW YORK, March 23.—Declines of from 15 to 31 points were recorded on the cotton market today on unfavorable war news. It soon rallied, however.

days. She has been in bad health for several years and died with tuberculosis. She was conscious till the last and told all her friends and relatives present that she was ready and willing to go. She was a member of the Bowling Green Presbyterian church and was loved and respected by all who knew her.

Surviving deceased are her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Carroll, five brothers and two sisters, namely: Wallace, Malcolm, Campbell, Giles and Paul Mrs. R. E. McCure, of York, route eight; and Mrs. R. B. Robinson, of Clover, route one.

As long as she was at all able she attended both church and Sunday school.

Many friends not only in her neighborhood, but elsewhere, are greatly bereaved because of her death.

Funeral services were held Saturday morning at 11 o'clock at Bowling Green Presbyterian church, conducted by the pastor, Rev. A. A. McLean and was attended by a very large gathering of friends and relatives. Interment was in the cemetery at that place.

GERMAN MONSTER GUN IN SOCIAL CIRCLES THROWS SHELLS 70 MILES ON PARIS LATEST EVENTS IN WOMAN'S WORLD

Toutons Spring Biggest Surprise of War in Gun Which Throws Shells Distance of 70 Miles—Bombarded Paris All Day Sunday—Parisians, However, Are Not Excited—Went About Activities as Usual.

Paris, March 24.—The German "monster cannon" which has been bombarding Paris has been located in the forest of St. Gobain, west of Laon, and exactly 122 kilometers (approximately 76 miles) from the Paris city hall. The gun bombarded Paris during the greater part of Sunday.

The day was ushered by loud explosions from the 10-inch shells, and immediately the alarm to take cover was sounded. This occurred at 6:55 o'clock and many persons sought shelter, but greater numbers of them appeared in the streets on their way to the churches, which were almost as well filled as usual. The women who sell palm leaves on Palm Sundays, did their usual business.

At first shells began arriving at intervals of 20 minutes, and the detonations seemed louder than on Saturday. Their power to disturb the equanimity of the populace, however, seemed less, the people refusing to be distracted from their Sunday habits.

For the benefit of that portion of the populace which had been led to believe the Germans had broken through the line and were bombarding Paris from nearby positions, a semi-official note was issued during the day. They warned the people against believing pessimistic reports. "The French front is intact," said the note. "Any assertion to the contrary is a lie."

The bombardment of the capital ended around 1 o'clock.

Although during the earlier hours of the bombardments the shells arrived on 20-minute intervals, later in the day they began arriving every 15 minutes, and some of them even fell 12 minutes apart.

In military circles belief was expressed that the Germans were using two long distance guns. The Matin says the positions of one of the guns was established in the St. Gobain forest, which would place it further south than had been believed. This position would be about 70 miles from Paris.

During the early hours traffic in the streets of Paris was curtailed, but before noon both the subways and tramways began running. In the afternoon streets of the city showed great animation. During the day large numbers of persons unable to secure means of transport, walked. As is usual when aircraft warnings are sounded, large numbers of the populace sought shelter in subways and basements.

Le Journal, in its article, says the gun is 240 millimeters caliber and of Austrian manufacture. It is a very delicate piece of machinery, which must be handled by expert mathematicians and gunners, the newspaper adds, as the loading and pointing is a difficult task. It declares, each shot costs about \$4,000. "This is a new conception of our enemies," the newspaper comments.

Ordnance experts were not ready to commit themselves as to whether the shell was a sort of aerial torpedo driven by propellers; whether an inner projectile contained in the original shell is released by an explosive after the shell has traveled a certain distance, or whether the original projectile itself reaches its destination, propelled perhaps by an explosive of force hitherto unknown.

In Saturday's bombardment 24 shots in all were fired from 7:20 a. m. to 3 o'clock p. m., and presented all the characteristics of a bombardment by heavy artillery. There were regular intervals between the shots and the shells fell within a restricted area. Enemy aviators who flew high over the city regulated the firing.

A Famous Picture.

"The Birth of a Nation," D. W. Griffith's mighty masterpiece, will be shown one day only at the Ideal Theatre Thursday, April 4th. This will be the farewell tour of the Griffith spectacle. In every city where return engagements were played last season the attendance was always as large and often larger than the first time. Audiences that tested the capacity of the theatres were in evidence at every performance both North and South and East and West. Never before has such cheery been heard in a theatre. Ordinary applause was evidently not a sufficient outlet for the enthusiasm of the audiences during the big scenes.

Never before has America's greatest art been thus comprehensively put on stage, film, panoramas or canvases. It is the biggest patriotic entertainment ever devised and it incarnates the lesson of national solidarity with sledge hammer strokes. It is a powerful plea for patriotism. The fascination of the beautiful love romance, the excellent acting and perfect photography, the emotional appeal of the music and the cunning art of the mechanical effects combine to make an offering satisfyingly delightful to all classes of theatre-goers.

From June 5 to December 1, 1917, only 5,378 arrests were made or reported to the Department of Justice for failure to register under the selective-service act. Of these, 2,863 were released after having registered, and prosecutions were begun against 2,515, of which about 1,500 cases are still pending.

FOR BENEFIT OF LOCAL RED CROSS.

The "M. M. S." Club will present the Spinners' Club and Tom Thamb's Wedding at the Central school auditorium tomorrow night for the benefit of the local Red Cross Society. An evening of delightful entertainment is in store for the people of the town and it is hoped that a large crowd will be in attendance. The general admission fee is 25 cents and tickets are on sale at Kennedy's and Torrence's. Tickets are also being sold by the school children, each child being given a free ticket when he has sold ten tickets. The members of the M. M. S. Club have been rehearsing for some time on this play and that they will give an entertainment well worth the money is unquestioned.

77th ARTILLERY BAND TO GIVE CONCERT.

Much interest is being taken in the band concert to be given at the Central school auditorium on Wednesday evening of this week by the 77th Artillery Band, assisted by Lieut. M. Henry Meeks, tenor soloist, for the benefit of the war relief fund of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Lieut. Meeks, who is stationed at Camp Chronicle, where a part of the 77th Artillery is assigned to practice on the range, appeared in a similar concert in Charlotte last week, and his singing was greatly enjoyed by the Charlotte audience.

Miss Mary Ramsey, organist of the First Presbyterian church, will accompany Lieut. Meeks in several of the numbers he is to sing.

The members of the band will arrive in the city at 5 o'clock Wednesday afternoon on the P. & N., and all who are willing to furnish cars for the purpose of giving the musicians an auto ride over the city are requested to notify Mrs. P. R. Falls and have their cars at the Central school at 5 o'clock.

Tickets for the concert were placed on sale at Kennedy's this morning, and will also be sold by six high school girls, beginning this afternoon. In Charlotte the tickets sold at \$1, but the local committee wishes to make the affair here a largely attended one, and tickets will be sold at 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children. Seats may be reserved at Kennedy's without extra charge.

Several of the churches have called in the Wednesday night prayer meeting on account of the military concert, and at other the service will be made short, so as to give the people opportunity to go direct to the concert.

At the conclusion of the concert, sandwiches and coffee will be served to the visiting musicians by the ladies of the William Gaston Chapter in the domestic science room.

As an indication of what a musical treat is in store for the people of Gastonia it is stated that immediately after the concert given by this band in Statesville last week, a guarantee fund was raised with great ease to secure a return engagement at an early date. The 77th Artillery Band has in Oscar M. Hawley one of the best band leaders in the United States. Under his training the band of 38 or 40 members renders music which is far beyond the ordinary military band, and is in a class with the best professional bands in the country. No musical entertainment of equal class has ever been given in the city at the popular prices which have been announced for this occasion.

During one of the intermissions of the concert one of the staff officers of the 77th will present medals for the Treasury Department of the Government to 12 Boy Scouts of Local Troop No. 3 as rewards for their service to the Department in connection with the sale of Liberty Bonds in the second campaign. The Scouts honored with medals are: Lawton Spencer, Ralph Falls, Ralph Morris, Giles Beal, William Spencer, Tom Quickle, Lamar Smith, Alfred Robinson, Frank Kincaid, Rhea Ferguson, Murray Grier proxy for R. B. Babington, Jr., George Poston and Scoutmaster R. K. Babington.

SMITHFIELD GOES "OVER THE TOP."

Raises Over Its Quota of War Savings Stamps in Cash and Pledges—Will Double Quota by December 31st.

WINSTON-SALEM, March 23.—One town and township in North Carolina has gone "over the top" in the War Savings Campaign, this being Smithfield, according to a telegram from T. H. Ragdale, county chairman of Johnson county to State headquarters here yesterday. Mr. Ragdale's message reads: "With sale of stamps and pledges worth a hundred cents in the dollar, Smithfield, my home town, has gone over the top by a thousand dollars, and pledges still coming in. Will double quota by December 31st." This is the first report that has been made to State headquarters of any town or township in the State having raised its quota either in cash or pledges.

CASUALTY LIST LARGE.

(By International News Service.)
WASHINGTON, March 22.—An estimate of the casualties in the battle now in progress reached the British Embassy today, covering the period up to last evening. It is estimated that the German losses total 150,000, the British less than 100,000.

From June 5 to December 1, 1917, only 5,378 arrests were made or reported to the Department of Justice for failure to register under the selective-service act. Of these, 2,863 were released after having registered, and prosecutions were begun against 2,515, of which about 1,500 cases are still pending.