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AMERICAN TROOPS ON THREE SECTORS

ARE PROVING THEMSELVES TO BE FIGHTERS OF THE HIGHEST CALIBER.

HARD TO HOLD IN RESTRAINT

Stories of Their Intrepidity Come From the Front—Is Their Desire to Be Up and at the Enemy.

American troops in France now are in battle on three sectors—on their own line east of St. Mihiel and with the French in Champagne and on one of the most famous battle fronts in the world, where ruined villages and the devastated country generally tell the tale of hard-fought battles when the Germans pushed forward their line and ultimately were driven back by the French.

And everywhere the Americans are proving themselves fighters of the highest caliber, winning encomiums from high French officers for their business-like methods of warfare and especially their skill in the use of artillery. Already the men are veterans, for nothing the Germans have in stock remains to be shown them except a great mass attack. Thus far everything has been tried by the enemy against them has been discounted, and in some instances doubly discounted.

Stories from the front by the Associated Press tell of the intrepidity of the men in trench raiding operations, of their coolness under fire and in returning fire, the accuracy of aim of the gunners and the intense watchfulness at observation posts to see that the enemy obtains no undue advantage in a surprise attack.

Hard to Restrain.
The only criticism thus far heard regarding the Americans is their desire to be up and at the enemy. Like their brothers of the north—the Canadians—they are hard to hold in restraint. As one distinguished French officer expressed it, "they are too anxious to get at grips with the enemy."

HUTCHESON IS GIVING THE ENEMY COMFORT

President Wilson has wired William L. Hutcheson, president of the Carpenters' and Joiners' Union how out on a strike, as follows:

"William L. Hutcheson, general president, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, New York: I have received your telegram of yesterday and am very glad to note the expression of your desire as a patriotic citizen to assist in carrying on the work by which we are trying to save America and men everywhere who work and are free. Taking advantage of that assurance, I feel it to be my duty to call your attention to the fact that the strike of carpenters in the shipyards is in marked and painful contrast to the action of labor in other trades and places. Ships are absolutely necessary for the winning of the war. No one can strike a deathblow at the safety of the nation and of its forces on the other side than by interfering with or obstructing the shipbuilding program.

"All the other unions engaged in this indispensable work have agreed to abide by the decisions of the shipbuilding wage adjustment board. That board has dealt fairly and liberally with all who have resorted to it. I must say to you frankly that it is your duty to leave to it the solution of your present difficulties with your employers and to advise the men whom you represent to return at once to work pending the decision.

"I do not see that anything will be gained by my seeing you personally until you have accepted and acted upon that principle. It is the duty of the government to see that the best possible conditions of labor are maintained, as it is also its duty to see to it that there is no lawless and conscienceless profiteering and that duty the government has accepted and will perform. Will you co-operate or will you obstruct?"

"WOODROW WILSON."

SEABOARD CLERKS GOT 20 PER CENT INCREASE

Washington.—Details of an arbitration agreement giving all Seaboard Air Line railway clerks 20 per cent increase in salaries and a basic eight-hour day were made public here. The agreement was signed here after negotiations since last September when the clerks went out on strike. They returned to work after being out three weeks pending the negotiations just completed through intervention of the department of labor.

The Meaning of W. S. S.

"W. S. S." means War Savings Stamps. These stamps are on sale at postoffice, banks and stores all over the United States. They are being sold by the government to help raise money to carry on the war. The stamp is the government's acknowledgment of debt to you. It shows that the government owes you money and how much. The government is simply borrowing money from you and gives you the stamps as its note with interest. The stamp is just as safe as the government itself and just as good as the money for the government. These stamps are being sold in small denominations—as low as 25c. They are in reach of even the poorest of us. They give the humblest peasant an opportunity of helping to run the war. Many could not buy a fifty dollar Liberty Bond but most anybody can buy a 25c stamp. Read what the postmaster has to say about these stamps below. Another advertisement of the stamps appears on the next page in further explanation. Read them carefully. We hope to give a great deal more information about the stamps next week. (Editor.)

JOE MARTINEZ PASSES.

Mr. Joe Martinez died here Friday after a few days' illness at the age of 81 years. The remains were buried in Mountain Rest cemetery Saturday afternoon, Rev. G. L. Kerr conducting the funeral. He was a member of the A. R. P. church at Bessemer City.

Mr. Martinez was of French extraction and was born in Kingston, Canada. At the age of ten years he went to Genoa, Italy, and served an apprenticeship in the painting trade. Graduating from there he took up travel and painted to pay expenses until he had covered a large portion of the Eastern Hemisphere and many islands of the sea. Before middle life he landed on the American continent and had traveled it will over before declining old age caused him to settle down to smaller compasses. For the past several years he lived at Kings Mountain and in Bessemer City. He is said to have been a good painter, which trade he followed down to his last days.

He was quaint and somewhat eccentric but harmless and exercised good will toward everybody. He was always reminiscent and took great delight in relating his experiences to any who would listen. He was four times married and is survived by his last wife, two daughters, one in Virginia, and one in Gastonia, and two step-sons at Rutherfordton, also survive.

The national board of officers of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics has revoked the charter of the Trinity Council 307, Trinity, N. C., and charges have been preferred against the Tar Heel council officers because of their activity in rebelling against the increased tax for the support of the National Home at Tiffin, Ohio.

The Piedmont and Northern inter-urban lines between Charlotte and Gastonia have been under government control since the railroads of the country were taken over some weeks ago, said Vice-President W. S. Lee, of the P. & N. lines. Press dispatches about the time the government took over the steam railroads stated that inter-urban lines probably would not be taken over. Hence it was not considered that the P. & N. lines were in the hands of the government, and it is expected that this announcement will occasion considerable surprise.

Bullet Holes Still There.

The old Buckman Tavern in Lexington has much the appearance it had when it was the rallying place of the Minute Men and the "shot heard round the world" was fired many years ago. One may to this day see in it bullet holes made by the British soldiers who were fired upon from this tavern.

He Didn't Know.

In a murder trial six experts were examined. Most of them had a national reputation. A hypothetical question of 20,000 words, which it required two hours to read, was asked of Doctor Jelley, a Boston expert on insanity. The learned doctor answered the question in three words: "I don't know." A frank answer, but rather perplexing to counsel.—Carved and Comment.

Monks Carved Church Seats.

Church seats carved by monks are to be seen within the walls of the ancient church at Clodock on the borders of Monmouthshire. The edifice was built some eight centuries ago and for many years it had interesting relations with Lanthony Abbey while it was the monks of the adjacent monastery that did much of the beautiful carving within its walls. The fine tower is now so dilapidated that it must be speedily restored if it is to be saved from ruin.

Explanation of Food Rules

Sam C. Lattimore, Food Administrator, Makes Plain Rules and Regulations Regarding the Hoarding of Food.

I went to Raleigh to attend the state food administrators' meeting, hoping to get some exceptions made to some of the new rulings but I found that Mr. Page was unmovable. The following are some of the new rules that must be carried out:

1. All flour must be returned in excess of one barrel, 200 pounds.

It does not make any difference when you bought the flour if you have in your possession more than one barrel you are guilty of hoarding.

You will be given until the 15th day of February to return this flour, or to sell to some one and tell what disposition you have made of it.

2. ALL MERCHANTS MUST SELL EQUAL AMOUNTS of some other cereal with wheat flour, this does not include potatoes, beans, meat, etc., as some merchants and grocers think, but it must be corn meal, oat meal, rice, grits, etc.

I granted a temporary exception to this ruling thinking it unjust to the farmers and hoping to get it amended but I found myself in the hopeless minority as they voted 85 strong against 5 of us.

3. ALL WHEAT mills and jobbers must take out license at once. It makes no difference how small the mill or business, they must have license. Write to the U. S. Food Administrator, License Division, Washington, D. C.

Now the question is often asked: "Must a farmer who has his own corn buy meal?"

Yes, but he has the privilege of selling his merchant corn or meal, and is hard to the farmer is intended to get much corn meal on the market.

None of the above rulings have anything to do with the farmer who has his wheat ground. You can have all the flour you want ground if you have your own wheat.

It is not my intention to make it hard on anyone, but the law must be enforced. Anyone who makes you believe that I will not enforce this law is deceiving you. I have taken an oath to enforce this law and I am going to enforce it without fear or favor.

Any man who has in his possession more than 200 pounds of bought flour had better return some at once to his merchant. And any merchant who sells flour without an equal amount of other cereals will wake up to find himself out of business and his name on the blacklist.

Merchants will also please bear in mind that they can only sell 100 pounds of flour to the man in the country and 48 pounds to the town man.

Hoping and trusting that the people of Cleveland county can be relied upon to do their patriotic duty as they have always done I remain,

SAM C. LATTIMORE,
Food Administrator.

DEMAND THAT MEN RETURN TO WORK

SHIPPING BOARD DESIRES THAT SHIPYARD WORKERS RETURN PENDING ADJUSTMENT.

LABOR LEADER IS DEFIANT

Local Draft Boards Begin Calling Striking Workers Who Would Return to Work But for Hutcheson's Refusal.

Washington.—A two-week demand that William L. Hutcheson, president of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, send striking shipyard workers in eastern plants back to work pending an adjustment of their grievances was made by Chairman Hurley, of the shipping board.

Earlier in the day Hutcheson had answered a previous appeal with a communication declaring it would be impossible for him to act until he had some definite proposition from the shipping board as to working conditions.

Hutcheson's virtual defiance of the shipping board presents a situation on which officials declined to comment. Mr. Hurley's request that the men be put back to work immediately carried no threat and shipping board officials would not say what steps they have in mind.

Reports that local exemption boards are preparing to call into the military service striking shipyard workers within the draft age prompted the shipping board to send telegrams urging that no such action be taken. Deferred classification for shipyard workers has been put by the provost marshal general's office in the charge of the industrial service section of the shipping board desires that all draft questions be decided in Washington.

President Wilson is known to be given personal attention to the labor situation and is following every move in the shipyard strikes.

In his communication to Hutcheson, Chairman Hurley points out that the heads of the carpenters' and joiners' union were the only ones who declined to leave adjustment of difficulties to the shipbuilding labor adjustment board. Even the carpenters' locals, despite this attitude, Mr. Hurley declares, have asked to be included in the agreement.

CENTRAL POWERS STILL AT WAR WITH RUSSIA.

Trotsky Declares, However, Russia's Withdrawal and Declares it Real.

Although reports of the conference at the imperial German headquarters between Emperor William and the military and political leaders have indicated the probability of further fighting between the Teutonic allies and the Russians, the bolshevik government's withdrawal from the war has been reiterated by Leon Trotsky, the foreign minister. A wireless communication from Petrograd says Trotsky informed the All-Russian Workers' and Soldiers' councils that Russia's withdrawal was a real one and that all agreements with her former allies had been vitiated. The councils approved Trotsky's policy.

At War Declares Kuehlmann.

Amsterdam.—That Germany and Austria were still at war with Russia was the belief expressed by Dr. Richard von Kuehlmann, the German foreign secretary, at the concluding session of the recent peace conference at Brest-Litovak after Leon Trotsky, the bolshevik foreign minister, had made his final statement that Russia was out of the war and her armies would be demobilized, but that she would desist from signing a formal peace treaty.

The acts of war, Doctor von Kuehlmann said, ended when Russia and the Teutonic allies signed the armistice, but when the armistice ended the warfare must be revived. He added that because one or two of the contracting parties had demobilized their armies, this fact would in no wise alter the situation.

BOLO WILL APPEAL FROM DEATH SENTENCE

Paris.—Bolo Pasha, who was convicted by a courtmartial of treason and sentenced to death, has appealed. Bolo, much to his surprise, was dressed in prison garb and taken to the death cell on his return to Sante prison. He passed a restless night, but was apparently hopeful that the decision may be reversed on appeal. He said to the guards: "I am perfectly tranquil. I have a thousand grounds for appeal."

PRESIDENT ORDERS AN INVESTIGATION

PROBE INTO SHIPBUILDING MAY LEAD TO A CRIMINAL PROSECUTION.

SERIOUS FACTS DISCLOSED

American International's Contracts for Building May be Canceled by the Government.

Washington.—Investigation by the department of justice of the American International Corporation's construction of the government's big fabricating steel shipyard at Hog Island, Pennsylvania, was ordered by President Wilson with a view to criminal prosecutions if the facts develop more than reckless expenditure of government money.

At the same time Chairman Hurley of the shipping board, who had requested the move, indicated that the yard and ships involving many corporations' contracts for building millions of dollars might be cancelled, which was taken to mean that the government might take over the yard, complete its construction and build the ships itself. This step has been urged by members of the senate committee investigating shipbuilding.

The president asked for the investigation in the following letter to Attorney General Gregory:

"Mr. Hurley, of the shipping board, has called my attention to some very serious facts which have recently been developed with regard to contracts made in connection with the shipbuilding program with the company operating at Hog Island.

"They are so serious indeed that I do not think we can let them be taken care of merely by public disclosure and discussion. I would be very much obliged if you would have some trustworthy person in your department get into consultation with Mr. Hurley about the whole matter with a view to instituting criminal process in case the facts justify it."

Charges of mismanagement and a reckless spending of government funds at Hog Island have been made freely before the senate committee. Witnesses have testified that the yard for which the shipping board is putting up all the money, may cost twice the sum of \$21,000,000 carried in the original estimates. The slow progress made in construction of the yard and reports of the loose management prompted Chairman Hurley three weeks ago to put in full charge of the work former Rear Admiral F. A. Bowles, assistant general manager of the emergency fleet corporation, who is now on the ground.

PAUL BOLO PASHA MUST FACE FIRING SQUAD

Paul Bolo Pasha must face the firing squad.

The first man of the coterie of French and other propagandists favorable to Germany, who by their machinations sought to disrupt the soldiers and populace of France and bring about a separate peace between the republic and the Teutonic allies, has been sentenced to death by a French court-martial.

Thorough lavish expenditure of German money, Bolo aided in a conspiracy, which in some instances met with success to corrupt French statesmen and political leaders and to subsidize the French press into expression of the idea that Germany was invincible at arms and that France should take time by the forelock and cease her military activities against her enemies in order to save herself from ultimate vanquishment.

The tentacles of the conspiracy reached even the United States. Here money was transferred to Bolo through the intermediary of Count von Bernstorff, then German ambassador to this country, and it was mainly upon evidence of the operations of Bolo and several of his followers in the United States that Bolo was convicted.

\$277,732,000 APPROPRIATED FOR AEROPLANE BOMBS

Washington.—Principal items for the army in the billion dollar urgent deficiency appropriation bill favorably reported to the house include \$277,732,000 for bombs for airplanes, \$100,000,000 for quartermaster storage plants on the sea-coast and at interior points, and \$51,000,000 for mountain, field, siege and other artillery in addition to the billion dollars already spent for ordnance and contract authorizations for \$779,000,000 additional.

Our Government Requests:

That some of us shall go into actual service—leave our homes, our work and our dear ones—to go across the water and offer our bodies in the supreme sacrifice. To others of us it asks that we SAVE and lend our money in War Savings and Thrift Stamps—giving us the best of security and paying us 4 per cent. interest.

Which Is The Greater?

Our boys leave with a smile and a display of eagerness for battle. They must be supplied with guns, food and clothing. War Savings Stamps will furnish these things. The boys are "over there and at it"—waiting. Shall we be found wanting? Thrift and War Savings Stamp* for sale at all banks, the postoffice and stores.

Space donated by A. HUNTER PATTERSON, Postmaster.