

Kings Mountain Herald

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\$1.50 A YEAR IN ADVANCE

SECRETARY BAKER IS NOW IN FRANCE

HIS VISIT TO FRENCH SOIL IS PURELY MILITARY AND NOT DIPLOMATIC.

EAGER TO GO FOR SOME TIME

Thinks Trip Will Better Fit Him for Meeting the Many Needs of General Pershing.

Paris.—The American secretary of war, Newton D. Baker, has arrived at a French port.

Washington.—Upon hearing of Secretary Baker's safe arrival in France through the Associated Press dispatch from Paris, the war department announced that the secretary's visit is purely military and not diplomatic, and is for purposes of inspection and personal conferences with military officials. Mr. Baker is accompanied by Major General William M. Black, chief of engineers; Lieutenant Col. M. L. Brett and Ralph Hayes, his private secretary.

No official report on the secretary's arrival had been received. The department issued this statement:

Sailed February 27.

"A cable dispatch from Paris to the Associated Press announces the arrival at a French port of the secretary of war.

"For some time Secretary Baker has desired to visit the headquarters of the American expeditionary forces. He sailed from an American port about February 27.

"Secretary Baker has not determined the length of time he will remain in France but his stay will be long enough to enable him to make a thorough inspection of the American forces abroad and to hold important conferences with American military officials.

"It is expected that not only will Secretary Baker visit the American headquarters, but his inspection tour will cover construction projects, including docks, railroads and ordnance bases, now under way back of the American lines.

"The secretary's visit is military and not diplomatic. It is essentially for the purpose of inspection and personal conference with military officials.

Secretary Baker plans to spend a brief time in France, inspecting in person the concrete results already achieved in the efforts of his department to place in the field this year an army that will be a factor in the campaign. On the eve of his departure, Mr. Baker told members of the press who had been in the habit of seeing him every day that he did not expect to be away for any considerable length of time.

The secretary and his party left Washington without any other attempt to conceal their movements than a request that the press refrain from reporting his departure. The newspapers again worked in hearty co-operation to make the journey as safe as possible from German submarines for the party. No hint of the trip has been printed.

TORNADO TAKES TOLL OF LIVES—WRECKS HOMES

Lima, Ohio.—Five persons are known to be dead, several other are reported killed, scores are injured, scores of homes were completely or partly demolished and hundreds of barns and outbuildings were razed by the tornado which traveled across northwest Ohio. Estimates of property damage was one to five million dollars.

No serious damage was done in any of the larger cities, most of the destruction having been reported from country districts. The tornado began in Van Wert county, on the Ohio-Indiana state line, and traveled in a northeasterly direction, lessening in intensity until it died out east of Tiffin. Towns suffering the most were Van Wert, Middlepoint, Convoy, Lima, Deahler, Hamler, Continental, Ottawa, Findlay, Napoleon, Holgate, Miller City and Tiffin.

SAYS WE TALK TOO MUCH INSTEAD OF GETTING TO WORK.

Daytona, Fla.—America's reasons for entering the war were outlined by Vice President Thomas R. Marshall, in an address here before the community forum in which he criticized Americans for "talking too much instead of getting to work and winning the war. Don't talk about what you are going to do after the war," he said, "but talk about winning it. I believe I am about the only man who has kept silent."

LIST OF CASUALTIES NO LONGER ISSUED

INFORMATION COMMITTEE DISCONTINUES PRACTICE ON WAR DEPARTMENT ORDERS

REQUESTED BY GEN. PERSHING

Enemy Able Through This Source to Gain Valuable Information as to Units in France.

Washington.—Issuance of daily lists of casualties among the American expeditionary forces was discontinued by the public information committee as the result of an order of the war department under which the names of next of kin and the emergency addresses of soldiers whose names appear on the lists hereafter will be withheld. The official explanation is that the purpose of the order is to keep information of value from the enemy.

On being informed of the order the committee took the position that long lists of men killed or wounded would be worthless to the newspaper correspondents without the addresses and a notice was issued advising the press that in future all information regarding casualties must be obtained from the war department. At the adjutant general's office it was stated that the lists would continue to be sent to the committee and would be available there.

While the disagreement between the committee and the department probably will be straightened out soon so that the "expurgated" lists may be made available to all who desire them, the purpose of the department to withhold the addresses apparently is unalterable. Acting Secretary Crowell said the order was issued at the urgent recommendation of General Pershing and that it would be permanent. Both Mr. Crowell and Maj. General Barch, acting chief of staff, declared that the purpose was to close up a channel through which the enemy might obtain valuable information, and both disclaimed any intention of seeking to conceal heavy casualty reports.

"You may say for me," said General March, "that the war department has not and will not hold up a single name for an instant longer than it takes to get it out."

PLENTY OF "BRAINGLESS" DAYS SAYS SENATOR REED

Says We Will Soon Come to Bread Cards if We Leave it to Hoover.

Washington.—Strictures on government price-fixing and the activities of the food administration monopolized one day's session of the senate.

Led by Senator Reed, of Missouri, Democrat, a group of senators of both parties made the attack. Charges that a general policy of fixing prices for farm products, not authorized by the food control law, is being instituted, were made by Senators Reed and Borah, who said the licensing power of the law was being so used that its actual result is an unauthorized price-fixing program.

In a four-hour speech teeming with bitter criticism, Senator Reed also denounced the fuel administration, asserting that Administrator Garfield had not told the truth regarding results of the coalless days' order, which he described as a "lockout" of certain eastern industries.

Senator Wolcott, Democrat, of Delaware, said Mr. Hoover had denied adoption of a farm produce price-fixing plan, disclaiming authority, but he and other senators insisted that acts of the food administration, particularly under its wholesale and retail dealers' licensing power, was having that effect in actual practice.

"We would not have had so many meatless days if there had not been so many, many brainless days," Senator Reed declared. "A few more acts of the food administration, and we will have bread tickets. I believe the efficiency of the United States has been reduced 20 per cent . . . by ignorant interference with business methods."

RETAIL PRICE OF COAL 30 CENTS TON LOWER

Washington.—An average reduction of 30 cents a ton in the retail price of all anthracite coal sold for domestic use between April 1 and September 1, was announced by the fuel administration, together with regulations governing the retail distribution of all coal for the year beginning the first of next month. The rules are designed particularly to prevent hoarding and insure the filling of all domestic needs for next winter during the summer.

THE VOICE OF OLD KINGS MOUNTAIN HEARD

THE WORLD AROUND

Monument to American Liberty to Serve as Background for the Sammies in Their Preparation to Overthrow the Tyranny of the Hun—Leases Have All Been Closed and Signed and Guns Will Soon be Roaring in Their Answer to the Cries of Bleeding Europe.

Guns will soon be booming and the Sammies will be improving their marksmanship for European encounter on the hallowed grounds of Old Kings Mountain. In a short while, probably three or four weeks, showers of mortar shells will be pouring against the grand old pinnacle which has stood as a tower to American Liberty since the fateful day of October 7, 1780, when her rugged slopes were christened with the mingled blood of the British troops under the gallant Ferguson and the American colonists under their brave and successful commanders. The sight of this decisive conflict against political tyranny should prove an inspiration to the tens of thousands of America's choicest manhood who will mobilize around these sacred precincts to train themselves in the art of hitting the mark, and later to assist in the overthrow of the greatest political tyranny the world has ever known—Prussianism.

The trade is closed for the Kings Mountain Artillery Range. Just as rapidly as the work can be prosecuted the progress of building the camp will go forward. The camp proper will be situated on a forty-acre tract belonging to Charley Boyd just south of Gastonia and the artillery base will occupy a tract belonging to Alex Crawford on the Kings Mountain and Clover road about four miles from the town. The leases are made for one year with the privilege of four. The lease price ranges from \$2.50 per acre per year to \$10.00 per acre per year. The ten dollar contract is with Charley Boyd for the camp site near Gastonia. The aggregate territory leased for the range is about four miles by two miles and is the property of H. T. Fulton, Bridges, Plonk & Floyd, Bob Craig, W. A. Grier, Mrs. A. Flume, W. M. Hord, Alex Crawford and The Mountain Land belonging to Capt. F. Dilling and others. The lease is to be paid as follows: U. S. government one third, Chamber of Commerce of Gastonia one third, and the Chamber of Commerce of Charlotte one third.

The pinnacle of Kings Mountain is about six miles north-east of the old battlefield and monument, and three miles from the town of Kings Mountain. It has an elevation of 1652 feet above the sea level and 550 feet above the level of the town of Kings Mountain. It will serve as a most magnificent background and will be shot by thousands of soldiers from the various army camps of the South. These young Americans, descendants of those heroes who brought the stalwart Ferguson from his envied position from whence he said, "All hell would not move me," will evince the same fighting spirit as their forbears and with the practice and inspiration gathered here will break the wonderful Hindenberg line into smithereens and will snatch that human vulture, the kaiser, from his fancy of partnership with "Got."

OVER THE LAND OF THE LONG LEAF PINE

SHORT NOTES OF INTEREST TO CAROLINIANS.

Max Levin, of Raleigh, former traveling passenger agent of the Seaboard, is now in France.

Hon. B. R. Tillman, senator from South Carolina for 23 years, has offered for re-election.

President Wilson has presented Yates Webb with the pen he signed the sailors' and soldiers' civil rights bill with.

It took a postcard mailed at Dover, nine miles from Kingston nearly seventeen years to reach Mr. Lovit Hines to whom it was addressed.

The Democratic State Convention will be held in Raleigh this year on April 10, according to a decision of the Democratic State Executive Committee in session in that city.

Five members of the same immediate family bought \$1,000 worth of savings stamps each. They were F. H. Fairley, Mrs. F. H. Fairley, F. H. Fairley, Jr., J. M. Fairley and Mrs. Fairley, all of Monroe.

Fully 1,000 people attended the funeral of "Uncle" Calvin Allen at his home near Hokerton recently. He was one of the best known negroes in Greene county. The old colored man was well-to-do as a result of his industrious nature.

The jury in the case of Mrs. George M. Spittle, administratrix, against the

Southern Public Utilities Company awarded the plaintiff \$11,500 damages. Mrs. Spittle was suing the company for \$40,000 damages, for the death of her husband.

Harry Smith Morrow, noted as a hydraulic engineer, died at his home in New York, aged 44 years. He had charge of building the Whitney (N. C.) dam and waterworks, considered a feat in hydraulic engineering.

More than thirty thousand dollars was subscribed for war savings stamps at Asheboro when a Limit Club was organized with fourteen members. The largest single subscription was Dr. Caviness, five thousand dollars for himself and three daughters.

The Hoover chair factory, at Thomasville, has been burned to the ground, the fire being caused by a hot belt throwing sparks into the shavings in different parts of the room where all the machinery was in full operation at the time.

Hon. John Burke, styled as "Treasurer of the United States," will complete the first week of the second tour of the Liberty Loan speakers at Raleigh, N. C., the date being March 23. The touring party will visit both Raleigh and Durham on that date.

Preparations are being rapidly completed for the meeting of the Baptist Woman's Missionary Union which will be held at the First Baptist church Raleigh, four days, beginning Tuesday March 26. More than 500 delegates are expected at the meeting, this number having attended the Goldsboro meeting a year ago.

A whole keg, containing about 10 gallons of ink, was received at Camp Greene, Charlotte, by the Y. M. C. A. to be used by the soldiers.

MEN AND SUPPLIES MOVING ON TIME

TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS OF THE ARMY RUNNING ON SCHEDULE.

TALK OF OFFENSIVE DWINDLES

Great Battles May Not Materialize in West This Month—Generally in April.

Washington.—Troops and supplies for General Pershing's forces now are moving to France on schedule time, it was learned on high authority. While figures may not be published it was stated positively that transportation requirements of the army are being met by the shipping board, and the immediate situation as to ships was described as satisfactory.

In view of this assurance that the United States will be able to maintain its place as a fighting unit on the battle front, reports from the western front are being scanned more eagerly than ever by officers here for the first signs of the 1918 campaign. It is felt strongly that the opening of major operations in what President Wilson has predicted will prove the decisive year of the great war will not be much longer delayed.

Mud has been the determining factor of many previous western front operations. So long as the ground is soft with the winter's rains, it is impossible to move forward great guns and necessary transport trains to support an advancing line. Even in Flanders, however, indications this year are that the ground will harden early in spring, permitting either side to undertake the enterprises planned.

In April Heretofore.

In previous years, April has seen offensive operations set in motion by the allies. For that reason many officers here seem to anticipate raiding and minor assaults before the middle of next month will show in themselves that the ground is being mapped. Information obtained and local strategic advantages established by one side or the other in preparation for a great effort.

To others it appears probable that no offensive will be undertaken on any considerable scale before May 1. They form that view on reports that the French offensive in 1916, started in April, proved to be at least two weeks early. The guns and transports could not be brought forward to consolidate all the ground the troops were able to wrest from German control.

Meanwhile, there has been less discussion of a German offensive on the western front. There are observers who have never been convinced that the Germans actually intended to attempt another drive at the channel ports or at Paris. To these officers, the admitted concentration of German forces has seemed a defensive rather than an offensive step. They believe that the German general staff foresaw a great allied effort this year and were moving to offset it.

MORE U-BOATS DESTROYED THAN GERMANY BUILT

In December, Is Statement Given Out at Washington.

Washington.—More submarines were destroyed by the allied and American naval forces in December than Germany was able to build during that month, according to information that reached Washington. This fact developed in discussions of the statement made to parliament by Sir Eric C. Geddes, first lord of the British admiralty, that the submarines were being checked.

Whether succeeding months have shown a net loss in German submarines is not known here. It is believed, however, that the anti-submarine campaign has proved so effective that increased efforts this spring will see a steady decrease in the number of U-boats available to prey on allied and American shipping.

TO STOP SPREAD OF "KULTUR" IN THIS COUNTRY

Washington.—Legislation enabling the government to place in American hands permanently great German commercial and industrial concerns in this country which have been instruments in spreading the grip of German kultur was favorably reported to the senate by the appropriations committee. It is in the form of an amendment to the pending urgent deficiency bill, empowering the alien custodian to sell any enemy property.

IS NOT PLANNING MORE DIVISIONS

THOUGH MANY MEN WILL BE CALLED OUT DURING THE YEAR.

NEXT DRAFT IS DELAYED

Announcement Expected to Outline Manner of Filling Present Organization to Full Strength.

Washington.—While a large number of men will be called out during the present year to fill up the army and complete its organization, it was learned that war department plans do not call for the creation of any additional divisions in 1918. The announcement concerning the second draft expected soon from Provost Marshal General Crowder may outline the manner in which less than 1,000,000 men—probably not much in excess of 800,000—are to be summoned gradually during the year to complete the existing organizations.

Delay in the announcement as to the next draft is understood to be due to uncertainty as to which method of allotting quotas to the states is to be followed. The senate already has passed and the house military committee has favorably reported an amendment to the law to base the quota on the number of men in class 1, instead of upon the total registration of a state. This change is regarded as certain to be made, but to avoid further delay schedules of allotments under both systems have been prepared at Provost Marshal General's office ready to go out as soon as final action is taken.

As to the date of the second draft, members of Congress from agricultural sections have been practically assured that no withdrawal of men from civil life was contemplated which would embarrass harvesting. It has been indicated, however, that a relatively small number of men must be called to the colors prior to June 1 and the process may start in April, when equipment, clothing and quarters will be available. The men are needed to fill up to full strength divisions slated for early departure to Europe and also for field army and corps troops at attached to divisions. The replacement detachment also must go forward at an accelerating rate since American troops are now actually holding a sector of the French front and men are being killed or wounded in action every day.

The completion of the full program of the war department without creating any additional divisions probably will absorb in the neighborhood of 600,000 men. The extent to which it has been necessary to increase artillery quotas throughout the army and to add special units of all sorts has surprised every officer and accounts for the existing shortages to a large extent.

WASHINGTON-ATLANTA AIRPLANE SERVICE

Washington.—The postoffice department has under consideration a project proposed by Representative Bell, of Georgia, to establish an airplane postal service between Washington and Atlanta, to connect Camp Greene, Wadsworth, Sevier, Lee and Gordon with Washington and the southern city. Mr. Bell, who is a member of the house postoffice committee, says the purpose is to link these southern camps with the postoffice department's aerial mail service that is to be established soon between Washington and New York city.

FIVE MILE DRY ZONES ORDERED BY DANIELS

Washington.—Five-mile dry zones around the seven permanent naval training stations and camps, irrespective of whether there is an incorporated city or town within those limits, was ordered by Secretary Daniels. Other orders may be issued later.

BOLSHEVIKI MAY NOT RATIFY PEACE CONTRACT

Late reports from Russia indicate that the bolshevik government probably will not keep its engagement with the German to ratify the peace compact agreed upon at Brest-Litovsk. The evacuation of Petrograd by the bolshevik government and the populace already has been begun and Trotsky, the foreign minister, has announced that the leaders of the revolution are prepared to fall back even to the Ural mountains.