

The Columbus Commercial.

VOL. XXII—No. 18.

COLUMBUS, MISS., SUNDAY MORNING, JUNE 25, 1916.

Semi-Weekly, \$2.00; Weekly, \$1.00 Per Year.

RIFLEMEN LEAVE FOR SEAT OF WAR

DEPARTED FOR JACKSON LAST NIGHT—THENCE TO BORDER.

CALEDONIANS GO WITH THE COMPANY

Command was Presented with Flag by Local Citizens on Wednesday Evening.

Answering the call to arms recently issued by President Wilson, the Columbus Riflemen left yesterday evening for Jackson where the state troops are to mobilize, and will later proceed to the Mexican border as a unit of the fighting force which Mississippi is to send there.

The company left here at 7:45 o'clock yesterday evening over the Southern Railway in Mississippi under command of Capt. W. S. Mullins, and within its ranks were about 40 members of the Caledonia Rifles. It was impossible for this company to secure 68 men, the number necessary to form an independent command, and Adjutant-General Eric Seales, of the Mississippi National Guard, issued an order providing that the Caledonians be included in the Columbus Riflemen. The order also provided that G. B. Egger, captain of the Caledonia Rifles, be commissioned as first lieutenant of the newly formed company, and this action reduced First Lieutenant John Lawley, of the Columbus Riflemen to the rank of second lieutenant and left Second Lieutenant Ed Miller without a commission. These two gentlemen and their friends did not much like the new arrangement, but decided to abide by General Seales' action.

Prior to their departure the Riflemen were presented with a handsome flag, the presentation having taken place at Lake Park last Wednesday evening, and having been witnessed by a large concourse of people.

The ceremonies included an address by Hon. J. I. Sturdivant, and the flag was presented to Capt. Mullins, who received it for the company, by Miss Jennie Sharp. Miss Sharp was assisted in bearing the flag, which was supported on a staff bearing a Confederate banner borne by Mr. Thomas Carr when he was killed at the battle of Gettysburg by a heavy of beautiful young girls including Misses Mary Hays, Hawley Senter Knox, Evelyn Caine, Carolyn Loeb, Frances Street, Katherine Beard, Louise Frierson, Jane Terry, Roberta Hays, Nina Stephenson, Rosalind Kaufman, Martha Ellison Weatherly, Eleanor Weatherly, Miriam Coburn, Anna Banks, Kennedy, Virginia Moore, Martha Harris, Virginia Wilkinson, Martha Leigh and Jaunita Gardner. Local Boy Scouts acted as guards of honor for these young ladies.

A committee of patriotic ladies and gentlemen managed the affair for the Riflemen, and the success which attended the occasion was largely due to their efforts. The general committee on arrangements consisted of Messrs. V. B. Ives, Carroll Hackleman and S. B. Street, Jr., while the ladies committee was made up of Mesdames Z. P. Landrum, Chas. Hays, Claude Ayres, and Mr. Irvin Kaufman who is in charge of the decorations. Mr. J. G. Weatherly, the efficient secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, and other patriotic ladies and gentlemen also rendered valuable assistance.

At 6 o'clock yesterday afternoon the company lined up in front of the city hall, and each member was presented with a Bible. These Bibles were presented to the soldiers by citizens of Columbus, and were secured through the activities of a committee headed by Rev. W. S. Slack, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal church, and Mr. T. W. Harris, a leading hardware dealer and member of the city council. Rev. Slack presented the Bibles to the soldiers, and delivered an earnest and appropriate address.

The ladies on the committee to raise funds for the purchasing of a flag for the Columbus Riflemen failed to find a number of people at their homes the past week, and they have made a request that if there are any ladies who desire to contribute to this fund they will please leave their money either at the Chamber of Commerce or with Mrs. Z. P. Landrum.

Miss Zina Witherspoon, of Birmingham, is visiting her cousin, Miss Eva Frierson.

HAPPENINGS OF INTEREST GATHERED HERE AND THERE

GIST OF NEWS FROM OVER THE COUNTRY GIVEN IN A BRIEF FORM.

Advised received in Washington from Mexico alleges that the German representatives there have encouraged General Carranza and the officers of the de facto government in their opposition to the United States troops remaining in that country. The form of the encouragement was said to have been moral rather than material.

A majority of the Berlin newspaper proprietors have decided to reduce the size of their publications from July 1, owing to the increasing cost of paper. Several of the newspapers have already determined to increase their subscription prices.

American aviators in the service of the French army will not be permitted to return home for service in the event of a war between the United States and Mexico. The Aero Club of America recently sent communications to the 20 or more American aviators now serving with the French army, asking if they can return home for military duty. The Americans will not be permitted to receive the inquiry or make any reply thereto. They are prevented from doing so by the fact that they are enlisted in the French army for the duration of the war, and are subject to army discipline.

Just at the moment when the members believed they were about to be called out for service in Mexico, the Clarksdale military company, Capt. Birdsong, commanding, was mustered out of service for inefficiency. Capt. Birdsong went to Jackson Thursday for a conference with Adjutant General Seales, and other military authorities. He made a very vigorous protest against what he regarded as an unjust action and gross discrimination against his command. Adjutant Seales was obdurate, saying that he had acted under orders from the war department, and had no discretionary power in the matter.

The finest catch of fish ever made in the waters about Gulfport was recorded Thursday, when a party of three brought in 1500 fish weighing a ton and a quarter.

THIRD FATALITY IN FAMOUS LAWLER CASE

SHERIFF PHILLIPS, BELIEVING HE IS UNDER SUSPICION, KILLS SELF.

Huntsville, Ala., June 23.—Sheriff Robert Phillips, of Madison county, shot and killed himself at the county jail here late today—the second suicide growing out of the recent murder of Probate Judge W. T. Lawler. The sheriff left a note saying that he had been suspected of the murder, asserting his innocence and declaring that he had been "fooled" and "could not stand the strain."

Sheriff Phillips had been known as a political friend of D. D. Overton, for whom a warrant has been issued in connection with the Lawler murder, and it was said by the sheriff's friends tonight that worry over criticism because he had not arrested Overton had caused the suicide. That the sheriff should have thought himself suspected of the Lawler murder, however, was said by his friends to be as great a surprise as that caused here Wednesday when Shelby S. Pleasants, a local attorney, was found shot to death in his office, leaving a note saying that he intended to kill himself because he was suspected of murdering Judge Lawler. Acting Solicitor Tate, in charge of a special grand jury investigation, declared no officials had suspected Pleasants.

Sheriff Phillips recently issued a statement replying to criticism because Overton had not been arrested, and saying that he was doing everything in his power to apprehend him. Later when a \$1,000 reward was offered for Overton the sheriff asserted that neither he nor his deputies would share in it if they made the arrest, which, he reiterated, they were making every effort to do.

Campaign Opens Tuesday.
New York, June 23.—The National Democratic Committee's headquarters here will be ready for the start of the active campaign for the re-election of President Wilson by next Tuesday, it was officially announced today.

SOLDIERS TO BE RUSHED TO FRONT

100,000 MEN TO BE PLACED AT DISPOSAL OF GEN. FUNSTON.

CONGRESS TAKES DRASTIC ACTION

President and Cabinet Discuss Crisis and Eagerly Await Further Reports.

Washington, June 24.—National guard organizations throughout the country were straining every nerve tonight to prepare for active service on the Mexican border. New orders flashed over the wires by Secretary Baker bore a call for haste. Red tape was cast aside and authorization given under which the state soldiers will be rushed to reinforce the border guards at the earliest possible moment. The entire army of 100,000 men summoned by President Wilson's call was placed directly at General Funston's disposal.

Congress also took vigorous action. A resolution adopted in the House by a vote of 332 to 2 declared that an emergency calling for the use of troops in addition to the regular army now exists and authorizes the President to draft immediately into the service of the United States all members of the national guard who subscribe to the new oath for that service. In effect, the measure gives legislative approval of President Wilson's call on state soldiers and provides for their use in or out of the United States.

The Senate probably will pass the resolution today.

Diplomatic aspects of the crisis virtually were unchanged. President Wilson could reach no final decision as to the action resulting from the attack by Mexican troops upon American cavalrymen at Carrizal or upon American bluejackets at Matatlan.

Only a preliminary report on the Carrizal fight came from Gen. Pershing during the day. It was based on the statement of stragglers and no word had come of officers of the shattered detachment. The last word on the Matatlan incident will follow a full report by Admiral Winslow, commanding the Pacific fleet, who has been ordered to the scene to make a report.

Only preliminary reports on each incident have been received from war and naval officials, transmitted as matters of information. When the record is complete, formal accounts will be submitted to Secretary Lansing and the action of the United States then will be determined.

Evidence now in hand is believed to be sufficient to show that Carranza sympathizers or officials probably will be held responsible in both cases. Indications are that the Washington government will stand on the reports of its own officers and refute the assertions of the Mexican government officials presented here that the Americans were the aggressors, or that irresponsible individuals precipitated the clash. It was thought probable tonight that the President would demand that Carranza repudiate the acts and punish those responsible.

Mr. Wilson and his cabinet discussed the Mexican crisis fully today, but pending the reports of final reports on the occurrences at Carrizal and Matatlan.

Will Change Location This Week.
The location of the Southern Express Company, which has had headquarters on Main Street for many years past, will be changed the coming week, the company moving into the corner building in the Stone Arcade, formerly occupied by John R. Laws, druggist.

Mr. J. W. Joiner, the local express agent, states that he will have several hundred feet more floor space in the new building, and that by having a side entrance, that he will be better able to look after the business here.

Mr. R. M. Love, a local contractor, has for the past ten days been busily engaged in fixing up the new quarters, and they already present a very attractive appearance.

Mr. Roy Guyton, a Columbus boy who is now holding a responsible position in Kansas City, Mo., is enjoying a short vacation which he is spending in this city with relatives.

SENATORS WILL WORK FOR BANK

WILLIAMS AND VARDAMAN WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE.

THE LETTERS ARE MOST ENCOURAGING

No Other City in State Has Applied for Bank, and Local Prospects Are Good.

Secretary Weatherly, of the Chamber of Commerce, feels very much encouraged over two letters he has received from Senators John Sharp Williams and James K. Vardaman in regard to the matter of securing a farm loan bank for Columbus, as both gentlemen have agreed to enter enthusiastically into the undertaking and to do every thing possible to push the claims of this city and have one of the proposed banks located here.

The letter received from Senator Williams contained a carbon copy of a communication which was addressed by him to Hon. W. G. McAdoo, secretary of the treasury, and in which he urged that official to carefully consider the claims of Columbus when the time to take up the locations of the farm loan banks arrives. Senator Williams stated in his letter that should another Mississippi municipality apply for a bank he would necessarily be compelled to remain neutral, but so far he had received no other request for assistance, and should none be received would be glad to give his support to Columbus.

S Senator Vardaman stated in his letter that he considered nothing too good for Columbus, and that he was always ready to do anything possible for the city and her people. He assured Mr. Weatherly that the movement to secure a farm loan bank would have in him an earnest and enthusiastic advocate, and he would do everything in his power to further its success.

DIRECTORS URGE BETTER PATRONAGE

FANS MUST TURN OUT IN LARGE NUMBERS IF THEY WANT BASEBALL.

ABERDEEN GAMES EVENLY DIVIDED

Columbus Will Be Here Five Days this Week, Playing Tupelo and Aberdeen.

After having played two games in Aberdeen the Columbus baseball team returned to the city yesterday, and will be here all during the coming week, playing Tupelo Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and Aberdeen Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The Columbians played in Aberdeen Thursday and Friday, and broke even on the series, having lost the first game by the score of 3 to 1 and having won the second by a score of 4 to 2. Sargent pitched for Columbus in the second game, and allowed only three hits.

The local directors hope for good crowds at all of the games this week. The largest crowd that assembled at Lake Park during the series last week was on Monday afternoon, and then nearly half the spectators were West Point fans who came over in automobiles to witness the contest.

The expense of the team amounts to a considerable sum each week, and if Columbians are to continue to have baseball they must patronize the games more liberally.

Captain Sprague Buried.
Funeral services over the remains of Capt. E. B. Sprague were held from the residence of Mr. T. L. Lawrence Friday afternoon conducted by Rev. W. L. Duren, pastor of the First Methodist church, and interment took place at Friendship cemetery. Members of DeMolay Commandary, Knights Templar, attended the funeral in a body.

MACHINE GUNS ARE USED BY MEXICANS

AMERICAN SOLDIERS SURROUNDED ON THREE SIDES.

TWO OFFICERS ARE REPORTED KILLED

It is Said that Americans were Led Into Pitfall Concealed by Mexicans.

Washington, June 24.—An ultimatum demanding the immediate release of members of the Tenth cavalry captured in the treacherous attack on Capt. Boyd's detachment, has been sent to Mexico City. The demand says these men must be immediately released to General Pershing by the Mexicans.

El Paso, Texas, June 24.—All women and children have been ordered out of Juarez by Gen. Francisco Gonzalez, the garrison commander, in anticipation of a fight with General Bell's forces tonight. The movement has already started.

Many of the women have endeavored to cross to the American side, but only those who are known to the immigration authorities are being allowed to pass. The greatest exodus is in the direction of the hills in the rear of the Mexican town.

The Mexican government states that fully a million men have been ordered to take up arms in defense of their country since the crisis with Washington came to a head, according to a dispatch from Mexico City to the consulate here.

San Antonio, Texas, June 24.—The two troops of the Tenth cavalry under Capt. Charles T. Boyd practically were wiped out by the attack of Mexican forces under Gen. Felix Gomez at Carrizal June 21, according to indications given in a fragmentary report received by Gen. Funston from Gen. Pershing last night.

General Pershing stated that seven survivors in all, including those who arrived last night, have reached the main column, all were enlisted men, but the report did not say whether there were non-commissioned officers among them.

According to the stories of the survivors, as outlined by General Pershing's report, a mounted force of Mexicans made a mounted charge from the flank at the conclusion of a parley between Capt. Boyd and Gen. Gomez. At the same time a machine gun opened fire from the front as Gen. Gomez reached his lines.

Capt. Boyd had ordered his men to dismount as the machine gun opened fire, and the combined effect of the Mexican charge, the machine gun fire and the rifle fire from the Mexican garrison at Carrizal, which had almost surrounded the little American force under cover of the parley sought by Gen. Gomez to discuss whether Capt. Boyd should be allowed to pass through the town, stampeded the horses.

Without means of escape, ringed about on three sides with the fire of an overwhelming force, the fate of the little detachment is believed by officers here to have been sealed. It is feared that only the most stupendous luck, backed by desperate valor could have extricated Capt. Boyd's men from the trap.

The reports from Mexican sources have placed the number killed, including two officers, at from 12 to 40. It is reported 17 were taken captive into Chihuahua. The accepted percentage of wounded in modern warfare would place the wounded at from 35 to 40 at the lowest estimate. The strength of the two troops, C

Barelli Turci Grand Opera Duo at Princess Monday.

The special feature attraction at the Princess for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday is the well known Barelli Turci grand opera singers, who need no introduction to the people of this city, as they played a very successful engagement at the Princess the early part of last winter. These excellent singers are much above the average, and in addition to their operatic numbers offer some of the latest popular song hits.

The photo-play is a Triangle production, "The Green Stamp," a high class society drama in five reels, featuring the noted stars, Besie Barriscale and Bruce McRae. The admission is 5c and 15c.

ANOTHER VERDUN FORT FALLS BEFORE GERMAN UNSLAUGHTS

TEUTONS HOLD RUSSIANS IN GALACIA, BUT THEY GAIN IN BUKOWINA.

London, June 24.—The Russians have gained another victory in Bukowina, following the usual artillery bombardment and in the face of a violent fire from French guns, carried French first line trenches between Hills 321 and 329 and also the Thiamont fort. At the same time the Germans have held back the Russians from Drinsk to the Galician border.

Fierce fighting marked the advance toward Verdun, Paris declares in admitting the loss of the trenches and the Thiamont works. Further along the fighting line the Germans reached Flueury, about 2 1/2 miles northeast of Verdun, but Paris says they were repulsed there by a violent counter attack. Paris states the attacks on the woods of Vaux, Chapiere, Fumin and Cehois and on the Damloup battery were broken and repulsed.

The Russians have advanced further into Bukowina in pursuit of General Pflanzer's forces, but further north in East Galicia and in Volhynia their progress apparently has been arrested by the violent attacks and counter attacks of the Teutonic allies. Advances for the German and Austrian forces southwest of Lutsk in Volhynia and the repulse of Russian counter attacks on the Stokhod and Sty rivers in the same region and along the Galacian frontier in the vicinity of Brody are chronicled in the Berlin and Vienna communications.

French aeroplanes have bombed German stations and cantonments in the Verdun region and Austrian seaplanes have attacked Venice, dropping bombs on forts Nicolo and Alberino, the gas works and the arsenal.

In Mesopotamia, Constantinople claims to have checked the Russian advance toward the Mesopotamian plains and to have driven the Russians out of Paitak pass, on the Persian frontier, through which they attempted to reach Mesopotamia.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS LAUD THE COLUMBUS RIFLEMEN

RESOLUTIONS ATTESTING BRAVERY AND GALLANTRY UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

Several members of the Columbus Riflemen are Pythians, and at a recent meeting of the Tombigbee Lodge No. 12, K. of P., a committee consisting of Major B. A. Lincoln, Messrs. Arthur Stansel and George O. Senter was appointed to frame suitable resolutions to present to the company on the eve of their departure for Jackson, from when they go to the Mexican border to participate in the fighting which is now in progress there. The resolutions follow:

Whereas, the National Guard of Mississippi has been called to the colors by the President of these United States for service on the Mexican border, and

Whereas, there are several members of this lodge members of the Columbus Riflemen, which organization is a part of the Mississippi National Guard, and

Whereas, these brothers and the members generally of the gallant command may see hard and dangerous service, and realizing the seriousness of the situation, they have unflinchingly offered their lives in need as a sacrifice upon our country's altar, defending the honor of this nation,

Therefore, be it resolved by Tombigbee Lodge, No. 12, Knights of Pythias, that, as the brothers of this Lodge, who are members, and the members of this company generally leave for service on the Mexican border, we bid them Godspeed with the sincere hope and prayer that after a duty well performed they may return to their homes with all the honors of heroes.

Be it further resolved, that this Lodge knows that the honor of the standard of this country is safe in the hands of the boys of this company, and that no member of this company will be recreant to his duty in defending it.

Be it further resolved, that the best wishes of this Lodge goes with these boys and that honor and glory

GOVERNMENT DOES NOT LACK SUPPLIES

UNCLE SAM HAS AMPLE QUANTITIES OF AMMUNITION AND FOOD.

HEAVY TRUCKS TO BE USED BY ARMY

Many Vehicles Already Sent To Border and Number will Soon be Increased.

San Antonio, Texas, June 24.—A high army officer in authority for the statement that operations in Mexico will not be delayed by the lack of the "sinews of war." Furthermore, he declared, factories are in a position to keep supplies coming as fast as they are needed. He pointed out that the government had taken the precaution to make large preliminary purchases, as well as increase the output of its arsenal. Vast quantities of ammunition and supplies are already in storage in Mexico and at points along the border. These are considered sufficient to start the regular army and the organized militia in a general campaign and sources for replenishment of the supply are open.

During the three months American troops have been in Mexico such improvement has been made in the army's reorganization and equipment that officers here admitted today that it is far better prepared for war at the present time than if the break with Mexico had come immediately after the Villa raid.

The greatest forward step has been made in the transportation department, the army expert declared. When General Pershing started his pursuit of Villa in the middle of March the quartermaster's corps did not have a single motor truck as a part of the supply system; now there are upward of 500 machines in the service.

The trucks are of a heavy build, capable of carrying loads varying from one and a half tons to three tons. All of them are in use along the border and in Mexico at the present, and arrangements have been made with factories for an additional supply.

Not only have trucks been used for the transportation of supplies but they are being employed to rush troops from place to place. Experiments have proven that entire regiments can be moved in trucks much more rapidly than cavalry, the fast arm of the service, can operate.

In addition to the supply train system, motor transportation has been extended to other branches within the last three months. Automobile ambulances have been adopted, big water tanks for the supply of troops moving through barren country have been mounted on trucks and General Funston has even gone so far as to secure armored motor cars on which machine guns are mounted. All of this equipment is either already in use or available for instant service.

A large increase has been made in the number of motorcycles in use by the army. These motorcycles are of special construction with machine gun attachments.

The beginning of the campaign in Mexico showed the need of high-powered aeroplanes, and those of the old type have been discarded for powerful planes of the latest design. These machines are now at Columbus and will be sent into Mexico as soon as new propellers have been provided.

The long stretches of territory to be covered in Mexico have led to marked betterments in the field wireless equipments and "buzzer" telegraph lines.

The latest acquisition is the con-signment of strong searchlights to aid in locating the foe in night engagements. The thick brush in Mexico makes it easy for men to escape in the night, but officers believe that by the use of the searchlights they can be detected.

Mr. Vernon Tolleson is spending several weeks in Winona with relatives.

Mr. Carroll Hackleman spent Thursday afternoon in Aberdeen.

Be it reflected by them.
Be it further resolved, that these resolutions be printed in the city papers, and a copy be given to the company.

B. A. LINCOLN,
ARTHUR STANSEL,
GEO. O. SENTER,
Committee.