

The Watchman and Southron.

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RUSSIANS PLAN BIG MOVE.

HOPE BY OPERATIONS IN EAST TO RELIEVE GREAT PRESSURE AT VERDUN.

Italian General in Charge of Trentino Armies Removed Because of Failure to Hold Austrians in Check—German Aeroplanes Raid Greek Village—American Aviator in Fight with German Overcomes Adversary.

Geneva, May 30.—The Russians will soon begin vast operations on the east front so as to relieve Verdun and the pressure against the Italians, well informed diplomats say.

THAW SCORES VICTORY.

American Aviator in France Destroys German Machine in Air Battle.

Paris, May 26.—Lieut. William Thaw, an American member of the aviation corps, scored a brilliant aerial victory at Verdun, bringing down a Fokker machine after fighting a thrilling duel with the German high above the field. A French counter attack east of the Meuse recaptured the trench lost yesterday. After a cannonade of Dead Man's Hill the German infantry made an attack which was repulsed. The French gain Triaumont trench.

ITALIAN GENERAL REMOVED.

Commander of Trentino Army Defeated and Retired.

Rome, May 26.—General Brustli, commander of the Italian Trentino army has been removed. He was compelled to fall back before the Austrians and was retired. The Austrian-Italian deadlock continues with hard fighting along the entire front.

GREEK VILLAGE DESTROYED.

Bulgarian Bomber Ignores Allied Allies' Lines.

Saloniki, May 26.—German aeroplanes today bombarded the Allied base at Kilitir. It is a concentration camp. The Bulgarians shelled Istovo, a village which was destroyed.

PETER FOX IN ENGLISH PRISON FOR PARADES IN IRISH REVOLT.

London, May 26.—F. C. Rumley, an Irish member of parliament reveals that another American was arrested in Ireland when he asked Premier Asquith in parliament why Peter Fox, an American, arrested at Carrickmore, is now confined in Wandsworth detention barracks with no criminal charge against him.

TO CARE FOR GEORGIA PEACHES

Arrangements Made for Speedy Handling of Luscious Fruits in Passage to Eastern Markets.

Atlanta, Ga., May 26.—With the first car of Georgia peaches expected to move Saturday, the estimate of the crop for 1916 was placed at 3,500 cars, at a meeting of transportation and traffic officials of the Southern Railway, the Pennsylvania Railway and the Georgia Fruit Exchange today arrangements were perfected for handling the luscious Georgia product, to the markets of the east in special trains on first passenger schedules. Peaches from the various south Georgia orchard districts will be concentrated at Atlanta, received at Southern Inman yards and made into solid trains which will be rushed to New York and other eastern cities.

RESOURCES OF THE STATE.

Classified by Naval Reserve Board for Defence.

Columbia, May 25.—The State's resources were generally classified at a meeting of the South Carolina members of the naval reserve board, held in Columbia today. Fifty assistants, all civil engineers, will be appointed to assist the board in gathering all information possible as to the State industries and resources to be used for the national defence.

BOSTON HAS PARADE.

One Hundred Thousand Preparedness Advocates in Line.

Boston, May 27.—One hundred thousand took part in the parade today, demanding adequate preparedness.

Naval Officer Electrocuted.

Sag Harbor, N. Y., May 26.—Lieut. Clarence Richards of the navy was electrocuted at the city light plant last night. The watchman said he deliberately grasped the wires. He was commander of the U. S. S. Paning.

GERMANY TALKS OF PEACE.

WOULD WELCOME COL. HOUSE AS PEACE REPRESENTATIVE OF UNITED STATES.

Thinks Teutons' Position is So Good They Can Afford to Stop War—American Mediation Would Not be Resented Now.

Berlin, Tuesday, May 23 (via London, May 26).—Another visit by Col. E. M. House to Europe would come as no surprise to inflated quarters here. The American rumors to this effect are regarded as having a certain basis in fact, although the opinion prevails that the trip would naturally be postponed until after the national conventions. It is hoped here that should Col. House pay such a visit, he will come this time as a harbinger of peace, or at any rate, to prepare if possible the foundations for a peace proposal, difficult as this task is recognized to be.

During his last previous visit to Europe, Col. House made no effort and conducted no investigation in the direction of peace, in Berlin at any event, having perhaps found absolutely adverse conditions in capitals of nations hostile to Germany. Presumably, also he had previous information that American mediation would not be accepted as long as the United States continued to supply Germany's foes with cannon, shot, shell, cartridges, powder and a thousand and one other war requisites. Moreover, no intimation had been given at the time of this visit that irascibility in high quarters here on the munitions questions was in any way abated.

The situation, it may be said, now has changed. Apparently there is no harm, from either a political or a strategical standpoint, in saying that Germany would welcome peace. As Arthur von Gwiner, the managing director of the De. bank in Berlin, stated to the Associated Press correspondent recently, Germany is in the position of a poker player who has gathered in all the money on the table and naturally is willing to break off an all night session and retire with a profit. The German press is containing in hope of recouping some of their losses. The cards, however, to continue the simile are running strongly in the Germans' favor, it is pointed out, as shown in the renewed postponement of the long heralded Anglo-French offensive in the West, the steady though slow progress of the crown prince at Verdun, the victories of the Turks and finally the crushing results of the Austrian offensive in the Trentino.

Whether these events are enough to induce the entente allies to retire from what is looked upon here as a losing game and whether the changed tone of the utterances of Premier Asquith and Sir Edward Grey, and what is considered a disavowal of their intention to crush Germany as a nation and a commercial rival or dismember the empire, are indicative of receptivity toward reasonable peace proposals is an uncertain factor in the reckoning.

"The best posted neutral observers here are inclined to give an evasive answer to these questions and to hold that something else must take place to convince the entente allies that the expulsion of the German armies from occupied territory and the completion of the "on to Berlin" campaign are impossibilities. And one possible means of bringing about this receptive attitude in entente capitals, one of these neutral diplomats, who is not suspected of partiality for either side, recently suggested the presentation of evidence gathered by neutral, impartial agencies of Germany's ability to continue the struggle indefinitely.

Should the results of such neutral investigation of the number of men and the amounts of German munitions and provisions be brought informally to the attention of opposing governments, and should this showing convince of the improbability of breaking through the German line in a future appreciably near, a long step would have been taken, in the opinion of this advocate of peace, toward opening peace negotiations.

The plan in question may seem impractical and fanatic and it is mentioned only owing to the prominence of its originator, a diplomat of the practical school, who is the very antithesis of a dreamer. Germany's peace conditions are extremely moderate, in view of her military position, according to opinion here.

That Germany was open to reason regarding the lot of Belgium and the occupied regions of France and that arrangements for the restoration of the Belgium kingdom and the return to France of the provinces captured in this war were easily within the bounds of possibility was the belief

FRENCH GAIN AT VERDUN.

FIERCE ASSAULTS RESULT IN RECOVERY OF GROUND LOST TO GERMANS.

Austrians Continue Successes in Trentino Sector—Italian Steamer Sunk Without Warning, Says Report.

Paris, May 27.—Gen. Joseph Galleni, former minister of war and former military governor of Paris, died today at Versailles, after an operation for bladder trouble. Much credit was due him for checking the Germans at the Marne when their march to Paris was in high tide.

Greatly important gains were made by the French in a series of savage assaults northwest of Verdun. They penetrated the German positions at Cumieres, capturing a part of the village and getting a firm foothold. They also occupy the trenches northwest of the village and gain ground at Hill 304. All German attacks were repulsed on both sides of the Meuse. The Teutons were compelled to fall back to their former lines, leaving many dead and wounded on the field. German attack south of Desfontaines has broken down. The French west of the Meuse made an assault on a six mile line.

GERARD DISCUSSES PEACE.

Ambassador to Germany Quoted as Saying That United States is Now in Position to Mediate.

Berlin, May 27.—Ambassador Gerard is quoted by the Munich Gazette as saying that now that Germany and America are in accord over the submarine question, America occupies an absolutely free position in the event she is asked to mediate in behalf of peace. Early peace is as important to the neutrals as to belligerents. It is believed he is working on a peace plan.

LULL IN TRENTINO.

Fighting on Italian Front Temporarily Subsided.

Rome, May 27.—The fighting on the Trentino front temporarily subsided. Thousands of refugees from the border are arriving and public contributions are being taken to aid them and relieve the burden on the government.

AUSTRIANS WIN VICTORY.

Capture Important Positions and Take Many Prisoners.

Vienna, May 27.—The Austrians have captured the mountain ridge of Cornocamppe from Verde to Maata in the Trentino sector, taking two thousand five hundred prisoners, four cannon, and four machine guns, it is officially announced.

ITALIAN STEAMER SUNK.

The Ship Was Torpedoed Without Warning.

Paris, May 27.—The Italian steamer Merravera, from New York to Genoa, was sunk in the Mediterranean Thursday without warning. Two French torpedo boats are bringing 30 members of the crew to port.

British Steamer Sunk.

London, May 27.—The British steamer Denewood is reported sunk by a submarine, the fifth destroyed in twenty-four hours.

DEMAND PROHIBITION PLANK.

Steering Committee Will Try to Force Old Parties to Declare for Prohibition.

Chicago, May 27.—The committee of sixty on national prohibition announces that it will attempt to force a prohibition plank in all three party platforms.

In many quarters here months ago. That belief still prevails in such quarters, even despite Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg's phrase about the impossibility of the restoration of the status quo, which may be interpretable in the sense of Belgium's political and military relations to the Western powers.

So, too, it is considered in these quarters, are arrangements possible on most of the territorial and financial questions involved in an ultimate settlement provided the entente allies give up the expectation of crushing the military power of Germany and exacting financial compensation for Belgium or—most important of all—taking from Germany Alsace and Lorraine. Nothing, it is declared, would force any section of the nation, even the most extreme of the peace advocates, to entertain the last mentioned possibility.

ORDER AGAINST RAGSDALE.

CITED TO SHOW CAUSE IN DISTRICT COURT AT WASHINGTON.

Representative Says it is Move of His Political Enemies to Injure Him With Public—Papers Were Stolen or Lost, He Says.

Washington, May 25.—The Washington Star today carried the following story:

"Justice McCoy of the District supreme court today cited J. Willard Ragsdale, representative in congress from South Carolina, to appear in court June 2 and show cause why he should not be required to surrender possession of certain promissory notes of the face value of \$1,657.50. The notes are said to have come into the custody of Mr. Ragsdale last November, after he had been retained as counsel to enforce their collection.

"The order of court is based on a petition for a mandatory injunction filed by the Free Sewing Machine company of Rockford, Ill., through Attorney H. Winship Wheatley.

"Several attempts have been made to procure the return of the notes, the court is told, and other counsel had to be employed to obtain a settlement with the indorsers on the notes. A settlement was effected, it is stated, and the plaintiff required to furnish a bond to protect the indorsers.

"It is stated that Mr. Ragsdale claims no right to hold the notes, and the company expresses its willingness to pay any claim he may have for services rendered. The notes are needed for evidence in enforcing their collection. It is asserted."

When seen by The State's correspondent and asked for a statement Mr. Ragsdale said: "This is a political move on the part of my enemies in South Carolina. Some time ago these notes were sent me for collection against certain parties in South Carolina, and they have either been lost or stolen. That is all there is to the matter."

DO NOT DISCUSS WITHDRAWAL.

Conditions in Mexico are Not Satisfactory and Details are Withheld.

Washington, May 27.—Secretary Baker announces that he has issued orders that Gen. Pershing is not to discuss the withdrawal of American troops when he enters a conference with Gen. Gavrira soon.

The Texas militia courtmartial will begin June 1, at Fort Sam Houston.

The State department has quit issuing any passports for Mexico City, because of the increased danger. Gen. Zapata has made another raid, but details are not given. He has been attacking passenger trains.

Charges of the grossest of impropriety against James I. Blakely, fourth assistant postmaster general were made when he appeared before the senate postoffice committee to explain the letter he wrote accusing the committee of having surrendered to the railroads. Senators Hardwick, Vardaman and Martine slay him.

FORMER YALE HEAD DIES.

Rev. Timothy Dwight, Well Known Divine and Educator, Passes Away.

New York, May 26.—The Rev. Dr. Timothy Dwight, former president of Yale university, died at his home here today.

Dr. Dwight was born at Norwich November 16, 1828, was graduated from Yale in 1848 and was president of the university from 1886 to 1899, when he was succeeded by Dr. Arthur T. Hadley.

Dr. Dwight was inaugurated president of Yale college July 1, 1886, succeeding Noah Porter. One of his first acts was to propose that the corporation change the name to Yale university instead of Yale college, and that change was made in 1887.

From 1866 to 1874 he was associate editor of The New Englander and was a member of the American committee for the revision of the English version of the Bible. He received the degree of doctor of divinity from Chicago Theological seminary and from Yale and that of doctor of laws from Harvard and Princeton.

WOMAN CASHIER SHOT.

Unknown Man Murders Woman in Buffalo Drug Store.

Buffalo, May 27.—An unknown man shot and probably fatally injured Miss Dorothy Prefert, a drug store cashier today. She was on duty when the man rode up in automobile and spoke to her. She refused to answer and he left and returned immediately and shot her. He fled in an auto.

TEXAS MILITIAMEN FACE TRIAL

COURTMARTIAL FOR THOSE WHO FAILED TO REPORT FOR BORDER DUTY.

Secretary Baker Says That Under the Dick Law Men Are Bound to Respond Promptly to Call for Service.

Washington, May 23.—One hundred and sixteen Texas militiamen who failed to respond to the call for service on the Mexican border will be courtmartialled by order of President Wilson. They will be subject to fines or imprisonment, as the court may direct, with the approval of the president.

Secretary Baker announced today that the guardsmen would be tried promptly under the Dick law, reversing a previous decision to delay action in order to deal with the cases under the new Hay-Chamberlain army reorganization bill. The president himself will appoint the courtmartial and Maj. Gen. Funston has been instructed to recommend its members, a majority of whom must be officers of the Texas National Guard.

So far no steps have been taken toward prosecuting New Mexico and Arizona guardsmen who like the Texans have failed to "present themselves for muster." An additional report from Gen. Funston regarding them is awaited.

Secretary Baker tonight issued the following statement, explaining the action of the department:

"The Dick bill provides as an offense the failure on the part of the men of the National Guard to present themselves for muster when called upon by the president to do so. One hundred and sixteen members of the Texas National Guard are reported to have failed so to present themselves. Under the Dick bill they would be guilty of failure to present themselves for muster.

"When the pending legislation is approved and the militia of the States is reorganized and federalized thereunder, the obligation of the enlisted man of the National Guard will be to preserve the constitutions of the United States and their respective States and obey the lawful orders of the president and the governors of their respective State. Thereafter when the president issues a call to the National Guard the call will of its own force muster each member of the National Guard into the federal service and it will no longer be necessary for the men to 'present' themselves for muster.

"The offense denounced by the Dick bill, therefore, will be impossible, as it will not be required that the men should 'present' themselves for muster. The Dick bill not being repealed expressly remains in force. The 116 men in question have taken an oath to preserve the constitution of the United States and to obey the lawful orders of the governor of Texas and not having yet taken an oath to obey the president as commander-in-chief must still present themselves for muster. They are capable, therefore, of committing the offense in the Dick bill and are therefore liable to punishment.

"I have decided to have the courtmartial assembled by command of the president and have asked Gen. Funston to recommend the members thereof. While I shall not prescribe, I shall be inclined to recommend that the proceedings be abated in cases where the men are willing to take the oath."

NEW COUNTY QUESTION.

Judge Moore Holds Hearing at Lancaster Today.

Rock Hill, May 25.—The hearing on the unconstitutionality of the ill shaped county act in connection with the new county of Catawba will be had before Judge Ernest Moore at Lancaster on Friday, May 26. This question was referred to Judge Moore by Chief Justice Gary last week.

The opponents of the new county will be represented by W. W. Lewis of York, A. L. Gaston and J. H. Marion of Chester and J. E. McDonald of Winnsboro; while the commission, whose action it is sought to enjoin, will be represented by R. H. Welch of Columbia.

Automobile Accident.

County Demonstrator J. R. Clark came to grief in his little Henry, Monday. Mr. Clark and Mr. Edwin Johnson were on the way to Brewington, fish-bent, and had come to the slope in front of Mrs. L. M. Barfield's when a radius pin gave way and the car headed straight to the ditch, turning turtle, breaking the wind shield into its bits and pinning the fish-lovers. Fortunately neither was hurt badly.—Manning Herald.

MEN FACE MURDER CHARGE.

CRIME COMMITTED IN FLORENCE IN 1914.

David Ulrich, Garfield Matthews, Rhett Matthews, and Walker Anderson Placed in Jail for Killing of Wash Rogers.

Florence, May 25.—Four men of the Coward section of the county were brought to Florence Wednesday for commitment on the charge of murder committed in 1914. The men were David Ulrich, Garfield Matthews, Rhett Matthews and Walker Anderson. They are aged 20, 40, 50 and 25 years.

The murder which they are accused of committed November, 1914, at which time the body of Wash Rogers was found by the railroad track with a wound in the side of his head, and apparently had been the victim of a blow from a railroad train. The coroner was suspicious, however, and the sheriff has had the case followed since that time.

All these men except one took his body and with little concern at one broke down, but he confessed nothing. The warrant was made out by W. B. DuBose, rural policeman, on information and belief.

All of these parties are white and are well known in the neighborhood. The body of Wash Rogers was found on the railroad near New Hope. There has always been a suspicion that the bottom of the case had not been touched by the coroner's jury.

WASHINGTON NEWS BRIEFS.

The Riggs Bank Trial—Ex-President Taft Delivers Address.

Washington, May 26.—The government on a technicality withdraws the joint perjury indictment against the Riggs bank officials. Three separate indictments against all three officials are still pending. The court overruled the motion to instruct the jury to return a verdict of not guilty. Former President Taft addressed the Senate today.

He defended the plan for the establishment of a permanent court to decide all adjustable questions between nations. He takes issue with Bryan who last year declared if American forces back up plan of enforcing peace then the power of congress will be usurped because congress is the only body that can declare war. He says that the power of congress would not be infringed upon as congress would still have to put the army and navy at the disposal of the president when needed. He says the League to Enforce Peace is necessary now because war is so expensive.

SKIRMISH IN MEXICO.

One of Villa's Lieutenants Killed by Americans.

Field Headquarters, Near Namiqualpa, May 26.—Candelario Cervantes, one of Villa's most trusted lieutenants who took part in the Columbus massacre, has been killed by American scouts south of Cruces, according to an official report.

A short sharp battle between a force of American army engineers and a gang of Mexican bandits under Cervantes today resulted in Cervantes and another bandit being killed and several wounded. Three Americans were wounded, one dying shortly afterward. The official announcement says the bandits were scattered.

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES BUSY.

There Seems to Be a Scramble for Republican Nomination.

Chicago, May 26.—Five presidential camps have been opened here. Fairbanks is claiming one hundred and fifty delegates; Root is claiming one hundred and thirty; Burton is claiming one hundred and forty; Sherman is claiming ninety, and Weeks is claiming two hundred.

AIDING COTTON GROWERS.

Wilson Tells Texans Government is Alive to Situation.

Washington, May 25.—President Wilson today told Senator Sheppard and R. D. Bowen, of Paris, Texas, representing the Farmers' Union of that State, that the American government was doing everything possible to protect the rights of American growers of cotton and other commodities wanted in Europe and would continue to seek the freedom of American trade from interference by Great Britain and other belligerents. Mr. Bowen complained that the farmers of the United States had lost \$500,000,000 in 1914 alone.