

The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Estab. April, 1850.

"Be Fast and Fear not—Do all the ends Thou Aims't at be thy Country's, Thy God's and Truth's."

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NUNS OUT MANOEUVRED.

THEY ARE FORCED TO CHANGE PLAN OF ATTACK.

Tactics of French Compel Them to Fight in the Open in a Difficult Position.

With the French Army in France, June 11 (By the Associated Press) (Noon)—The strongest effort made by the Germans in the course of last night and this morning in their new offensive was in the direction of the railroad connecting Estrees-St. Denis and Montdidier. The Germans met with such resistance that they renounced for the moment their attempts in this region. Negro troops, supported by entente allied tanks, which did great execution, delivered a brilliant counterattack in this vicinity and recaptured the forest running southwest of Marquiesle.

Late last night the allied infantry reentered the village of Mery which had formed a protective point for the German advance through the valley.

Seeing their progress hindered on this side the Germans turned toward the other flank and nearly reached Ribecourt to the north of which place the hottest encounters occurred in the woods of Dressincourt.

The enemy will be forced to debouch on the plain near the Oise river where he will find himself without the shelter of woods and will be subjected to a concentrated fire of allied artillery.

The Germans have found it necessary to bring forward more divisions to fill the gaps in their ranks caused by the terrific allied gun fire.

The enemy's possession of the height of Ecouvillon, below Thiescourt, enabled him to filter troops through the small valleys, making the position of the allies occupying the small hillocks perilous and forcing them to retire. The whole countryside hereabouts is dotted with the small hills which are called mountains forming a kind of bastions which when turned from one side or the other become absolute traps for the occupants. Most of the valleys between run towards the banks of the river Oise.

WAREHOUSE INSURANCE.

Bill Considered by State Sinking Fund Commission.

Columbia, June 10.—The State Sinking Fund Commission, at a meeting today considered the bill passed at the last session of the general assembly, providing for State insurance on State warehouses and their contents. This measure has not yet received executive approval. The chief objection to the bill is that it provides a maximum risk of \$100,000 on individual warehouses, while in some of the warehouses as much as \$700,000 worth of cotton is stored. W. A. McSwain, State insurance commissioner, and W. J. Smith, State warehouse commissioner, explained the provisions of the bill to the commission. No decisive action was taken on the measures.

OUTSTRIPPING U-BOAT.

Shipyards Turning Out Vessels Faster Than They are Sunk.

Washington, June 12.—Since German submarines began raids off the Atlantic coast on May 25th the output of ship yards building vessels for the Shipping Board has exceeded the sinkings of American vessels by more than one hundred thousand dead weight tons. The production was twenty-one vessels, totaling one hundred and thirty thousand, six hundred forty-two tons. Excluding the vessels salvaged the submarines destroyed a total of twenty-six thousand tons.

WILSON'S OPEN DIPLOMACY.

Statement Made to Senate to Remove Misunderstanding.

Washington, June 12.—President Wilson today gave an interpretation of his statement to congress last January in favor of "open diplomacy," to quiet the senate controversy over the proposal of Senator Borah for public consideration of treaties. President Wilson made it known that his advocacy of open diplomacy was not in reference to senate executive session discussion of treaties, in which he recommends no change, but he meant the publication of treaties after ratification.

Mr. George Rowland leaves this afternoon for Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Va., to attend a training camp for civilians.

NAVAL DRIVE NEXT.

REPORT FROM GERMANY SAYS FLEET IS COMING OUT TO FIGHT.

British and American Fleets Are Ready and Waiting for a Chance to Get at Von Tirpitz's Ships.

Washington, June 11.—Further evidence that Germany, in its effort to end the war this summer, is planning to support its land offensive by sending its high seas forces against the combined British and American grand fleet, is given in an official dispatch today from Switzerland.

"A telegram of an official nature," says the dispatch, "is being spread broadcast in Germany which says that the German admiralty is considering a big naval offensive. Orders are supposed to have been given to keep the whole fleet in readiness and a certain number of naval officers of high rank have been hurriedly recalled from Switzerland and other neutral countries, where they have been spending their leave."

The Keller Zeitung speaks of extraordinary activity in the ports and the Hamburger Post publishes an interview with von Tirpitz, who was asked if Germany was in a position to measure herself with the English fleet. The admiral naturally replied in the affirmative, saying that after their land forces have pushed the French and English back on the other side of Paris, it would be the turn of the kaiser's boats to drive the English off the high seas.

Both in Washington and in the allied capitals a German sea offensive on a grand scale long has been regarded as a possibility and the appearance of the Teutonic fleet in the North Sea at any time would not be unexpected. Rear Admiral Gleaves said in a public address not long ago that word had come to the British fleet that the Germans at last were ready for the supreme test.

If the battle does come American naval forces will play their part. American dreadnaughts under Rear Admiral Hugh Rodman joined the British fleet some time ago and Admiral Gleaves in his recent address said that when Admiral Peatty, commanding the British grand sea forces, heard that the Germans were coming, he assigned the American ships a prominent place in the line.

American naval officers are no less anxious for a finish fight with the enemy than are the British. And in all allied quarters there is supreme confidence of the outcome. Once the two fleets come together officials are certain the German will be decisively defeated.

ALIEN ENEMY CONVICTED.

Charleston, June 11.—Charles D. Boette, a sixteen-year-old boy of German extraction, who was tried on the charge of sabotage and found guilty, with a recommendation to mercy yesterday in the federal court, was sentenced to four years in the national training school at Washington. He was convicted of placing nails in a pneumatic drill at a plant engaged on government contracts.

Council of Defense Meeting.

An important meeting of the County Council of Defense will be held at Sumter on Tuesday, June 18th at 11 a. m. in the Chamber of Commerce. Every member is urged to be present as matters of great importance will come up for discussion, among them the proper celebration of Independence Day. The Woman's Section of the County Council of Defense has been invited to meet with us on this day.

The National Council of Defense says that "Each County Council of Defense is responsible for the observation of the Fourth of July in each of its communities." This year Sumter county wants to make this a day of days in the annals of our county. Therefore make your arrangements to be on hand so that we may do our duty and fulfill our obligations to our country. Faithfully yours,

A. C. Phelps, Chairman.

The wheat crop of Sumter county will come in at the right time to relieve the threatened shortage of flour in this section—provided the farmers who have made a surplus will put it on the market promptly at a fair price. If they insist on famine prices those who made no wheat and town people who cannot get western flour will have to make out on corn bread—which is a long ways better than no bread.

LEVER QUITS THE RACE.

WITHDRAWS FROM SENATORIAL CONTEST AND SEEKS RE-ELECTION TO HOUSE.

This Action Based Upon Suggestion of President Wilson That His Services Would be More Valuable in the House of Representatives.

Washington, June 13.—A. F. Lever has withdrawn from the senatorial race and has again announced for the house. When asked if he had any statement to make, Mr. Lever said:

"The correspondence between the president and me speaks very plainly and points very clearly to my duty, which I fulfill in seeking a re-nomination to the house.

"I express to those who have so loyally supported my candidacy for the senate my everlasting appreciation.

"I regret the embarrassment which this action causes to those who have announced themselves for congress from the district, and to me."

The letter from the president to Mr. Lever, follows:

The White House,

Washington, June 7, 1918.

"Dear Mr. Lever:

"I know that some time ago you submitted your name for nomination in the Democratic primary election in South Carolina as senator from that State and that the last day for the filing of papers is the 17th of this month. There now seems to be a very reasonable assurance that no one will succeed in securing the nomination in South Carolina whose entire record does not make it plain that he will support the nation and the government with unqualified loyalty in the vigorous prosecution of this war to a successful conclusion. I am writing to ask if this is not also your own view, and if it is, whether you would not be willing to reconsider your decision and to remain in the house where you would continue to serve as chairman of the very important committee on agriculture. It is clear to me that unless there are very compelling reasons to the contrary you should do this.

"The past five years have been exceptionally fruitful of legislation of vast importance not only to agricultural and rural life and to the 50,000,000 of people living in the rural districts but also to the whole nation and the world as well. There is still, as you know, important and critical measures pressing for solution. The regular appropriation bill, not only providing for the highly important activities of the department of agriculture but also containing an unfortunate proposal to change the price of wheat fixed in a proclamation issued some time ago, is still pending. It is important that this measure be disposed of wisely at the earliest possible moment.

"The emergency food production bill with two unnecessary and objectionable riders, which has passed the house, has not yet been taken up by the senate, and will doubtless again require careful consideration by the house before it becomes a law. It is important that this measure be passed before June 30; otherwise, the department may have to discontinue activities essential to the winning of the war or be greatly embarrassed in its efforts to stimulate production and render assistance to the farmers in the solution of emergency problems.

"The water power bill, which is under consideration by the special committee of which you are a member, is another urgent and important measure which should be acted upon as promptly as possible. It is obvious that many other matters of vast consequence to the nation in the field of agriculture will continue to press for solution not only during the continuance of the war but also after the return of peace.

"In your long experience in the house as a member of the committee on agriculture and, for a number of years, as chairman, and the important part that you have been able to play in securing wise action on vital measures already enacted into law, clearly point to the desirability of your continuing in the house for the time being if possible. I hope, therefore, you will not feel that I am tak-

LAMBERT HEADS ASSOCIATION.

New York Doctor Defeats Surgeon General Braisted.

Chicago, June 12.—Dr. Alexander Lambert of New York, was today elected president of the American Medical Association over Admiral W. C. Braisted, Surgeon General of the Navy.

VICTORY ON MATZ.

FRENCH SUCCESS IS CHEERING NEWS TO ALLIES.

Germans Driven Back on Matz River and Checked on The Oise and Aronde Lines.

The Germans who succeeded in crossing the Matz river have been hurled back to the north bank of the river by the French, who checked the enemy advance toward Clegne. News from the scene of the tremendous battle shows that west of the Oise the Germans have come to a halt for the present at least. The enemy has not renewed the attacks on the Courcelles-Antheuil line and further west the Germans similarly have not continued their advance towards the Aronde river. The French successes in driving the enemy back across the Matz was cheering news for the allies.

ing an unwarranted liberty in suggesting that, if possible, you reconsider your decision and that you do not press your candidacy for senator further.

"Assuring you of my appreciation of your cooperation in matters of legislation, I am,

"Very sincerely yours,

"Woodrow Wilson.

"Hon. A. F. Lever, House of Representatives."

Mr. Lever's reply:

"Washington, D. C., June 8, 1918.

"President Woodrow Wilson,

The White House.

"My Dear Mr. President:

"I am in receipt of your letter of the 7th inst. in which you convey the impression that you desire me to continue as a member of the house of representatives.

"I entered the senatorial race in South Carolina only because of my belief that thereby I could best serve my State and country.

"You will pardon me for saying that this communication is a great and complete surprise to me, as I have been under the belief that I was performing the highest duty of a citizen in entering the race for the senate and also performing a sacrificial duty to the administration. At no time did I believe that I was serving my own ambition solely. The one thought actuating me in retiring from the house of representatives was that I believed that I was performing the highest duty to the people of my State, to the nation, to the administration and yourself. I had every cause and reason to believe this. You have conveyed to me now the belief that there is still a higher and greater duty to perform to the nation and to yourself.

"You have impliedly commanded me to remain in the house of representatives, and not to take the stump in South Carolina during the coming months. We are at war; you are the commander in chief of the army and navy; we have a selective service act, and it is the duty of every man to be placed where he can best serve his nation. If it is your belief, as I construe your letter to me, that my services can best be used in the house of representatives, and you will say so to me in unmistakable terms so that 'he who runs may read,' no matter what my own judgment may be, or the desires of my friends, I wish to say you that I am willing, and likewise my friends, most cheerfully to accede to your command.

"Respectfully yours,

"A. F. Lever."

Mr. Wilson's second letter:

The White House.

"Washington, June 10, 1918.

"My Dear Mr. Lever:

"I am in receipt of your letter of June 8. In reply, permit me to say that I wrote to you only after the most thoughtful consideration of what I deemed to be my duty in the case. I did not wonder that you thought yourself entitled by your long and distinguished service in the house to consideration as a candidate for the senate, but, as you yourself suggest in the last paragraph of your letter, we are at war and the selective service act is applicable in principle to all of us. It was this consideration that made me bold as the present head of the nation to ask you to remain in the house of representatives. It seems to me absolutely necessary that you should remain in Washington through the present consideration of the legislation to which I alluded in my letter to you of the 7th instant (legislation which we had hoped to be finished by this time).

"You see, I hope, the clear bases of my judgment in this important matter, which so nearly touches your

FRENCH STRIKE BLOW.

HUNS HURLED BACK ON NORTH BANK OF MATZ RIVER.

Drive Against Allied Lines Not Yet Completely Checked But Every Foot of the Ground is Being Hotly Contested—Americans in the Fighting.

Paris, June 13.—The French last night struck a heavy blow against the German forces which were advancing on the eastern wing near the front of attacks. The war office today announced that the French had hurled back the enemy to the north bank of the Matz river.

Violent combats continue between the Aisne and Villers Cotterate forest. The Germans made progress as far as the ravine east of Laversine and north of Cutry.

The Germans last night made a violent attack on American sector between Boursches and Belleau wood. The Americans broke up these attacks and inflicted serious loss on the enemy and held all the gains they had made.

After violent fighting the enemy obtained a foothold at Coevures and St. Pierre Aigle.

GAINS IN FLANDERS.

British and French Improve Positions on Northern Front.

London, June 13.—The British last night advanced their lines a short distance on Flanders front in the district southeast of Merris. The French on this front also improved their positions at Ridge Wood. Prisoners were taken in both operations.

own political career that I would not in ordinary circumstances have been at liberty to express a judgment about it at all. I am convinced that the interests of the nation make it in the highest degree desirable that you should remain as long as possible in direction of agricultural legislation in the house. I hope and believe that you will regard this conviction as a sufficient justification for the liberty I have taken.

"Cordially and sincerely yours,

"Woodrow Wilson.

"Hon. A. F. Lever, House of Representatives."

Washington, June 13, 1918.

"President Woodrow Wilson,

The White House.

"My Dear Mr. President:

"I am in receipt of your communication of June 10, in which you have in unmistakable terms expressed the desire that I should remain in the house of representatives.

"I am taking the liberty of making public our correspondence in order that the people of the district may know the reasons which have moved me to this action.

"Respectfully yours,

"A. F. Lever."

ENTRANCE OF LEVER BRINGS ADJUSTMENT.

St. Matthews Man Withdraws—McLeod and Timmerman Stand by Announcements.

Readjustments in the seventh congressional district contest materialized rapidly yesterday afternoon with the announcement by Mr. Lever that he had withdrawn from the United States senatorial race in deference to President Wilson's request that he stay in the house at the head of the committee on agriculture.

Ed. C. Mann of St. Matthews, who was a candidate for Mr. Lever's place, immediately withdrew, emphasizing that he did not feel justified in opposing Mr. Lever under the existing circumstances.

Thomas G. McLeod of Bishopville said the office belonged to the people of the Seventh District and not to Mr. Lever. The Bishopville man will remain in the race.

Wade Hampton Cobb of Columbia was unprepared to make any statement last night, and could give no intimation as to his plans.

George Bell Timmerman of Lexington will also remain in the race. He entered the contest upon Mr. Lever's announced candidacy for the United States senate, he said, and did not see how he could withdraw.

Unsuccessful efforts were made to communicate with Thomas F. Brantley of Orangeburg.

In his statement Mr. Mann said: "Mr. Lever has made a very active and able representative for the Seventh District 16 years. He has labored industriously for his constituents and has stood unquestionably by the national administration in its program for war legislation. Since President Wilson has asked that he

AUSTRIAN WARSHIP TORPEDOED

TWO LITTLE TORPEDO BOATS ACCOMPLISH REMARKABLE FEAT.

Vienna Officially Announces the Loss of the Battleship Szent Istvan.

Venice, Tuesday, June 11.—One Austrian dreadnaught was destroyed and a second one damaged in the torpedo attacks made by Italian torpedo boats upon an Austrian naval division near the Dalmatian islands on Monday, it was officially stated tonight in a communication by the chief of staff of the Italian navy.

The attack, made by Commanders Rizzo and Luigi De Milazzo, with two small Italian torpedo boats, was delivered at dawn on Monday.

All Italy was thrilled by the news of this feat which is considered probably the most remarkable performed by any navy during the war, inasmuch as it was effected by such small means.

The Italian admiralty statement which first reported this attack, issued in Rome yesterday, stated that the naval division attacked consisted of two large battleships of Viribus Unitis class, 20,000-ton vessels, escorted by ten destroyers, and that the leading battleship was hit by two torpedoes, and the other by one. The Italian craft returned to their base undamaged, it was added, and one of the destroyers which pursued them was seriously damaged.

Announced by Vienna.

Paris, June 12.—The loss of the Austrian battleship Szent Istvan—torpedoed in the Adriatic—is officially announced in Vienna, according to a Havas dispatch from Basel, Switzerland.

Commander Rizzo sent two torpedoes in the leading dreadnaught, while the second dreadnaught was struck once by a torpedo from the other Italian craft. Commander Rizzo said to the Associated Press correspondent:

"I am proud to do this work because of the Allies, of freedom and of humanity. My best wishes to America."

COTTON CROP CONDITION.

Recent Weather Conditions Almost Ideal—Boll Weevil Reappears.

(Memphis Commercial-Appeal.)

Almost without exception correspondents report that the cotton crop has made satisfactory progress during the past two weeks. No important deterioration due to labor shortage, insect enemies or weather conditions has been reported.

The crop is from 10 days early to two or three weeks late, but late plantings were reported to be growing very rapidly. Squares and blooms are plentiful. Chopping has been completed in some sections and has become general. Dry weather has permitted good cultivation and growth has been promoted by plenty of sunshine.

Boll weevil has appeared in nearly every section in which he was known before, but in no great numbers. One or two complaints of a new insect or worm were received, and ants were said to be doing damage to young plants in North Alabama. Floods in portions of Arkansas overflowed some bottom lands, but the total area was not large.

The one thing which farmers are fearing most is a wet June. Beneficial rains fell during the early part of the past week but continuation, especially in the eastern belt, has given rise to some pessimism. However, clean workings have prepared the crop to withstand a wet spell of some duration.

All along it has been insisted that the labor supply would be insufficient in the event of enforced idleness for a long enough time to require extraordinary effort to get the crop out of the grass. Until the last three or four days weather conditions have been almost ideal. The general condition of the crop is as good or slightly better than it was two weeks ago.

stay in the house, I certainly shall not oppose Mr. Lever's reelection to congress."

"The office belongs to the people of the Seventh District and not Mr. Lever, and I shall make the race if I'm living," Mr. McLeod said. "I can take a licking in good grace, but don't know how to back down and am too old to learn. When Mr. Lever entered the senatorial race he vacated the office and I expect to stay in the race for congress."