

The Watauga Democrat.

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NO. 24.

Collapse on the Way.

Writing in the New York Times Doctor Ladd, emeritus professor of philosophy at Yale University expresses the opinion that "Germany is not far from collapse." He advances what the New York Journal of Commerce, a mighty high authority in the financial and commercial world, says in an opinion founded on a "pretty solid basis." Doctor Ladd maintains that Germany is in a desperate condition, and is in fact "on the verge of a total collapse." He says it is not safe yet to predict when the war will end, but "if the Entente Allies stand firmly to duty, there are abundant signs that Germany's condition of desperation is so great that a peace acceptable to the Allies and dictated by them may be reasonably hoped for by the close of 1918." The Journal of Commerce makes intelligent review of the reasons Doctor Ladd has advanced for his contention of the waning strength of the German Government, beginning with the failure of its first thrust, when it was in full strength and those who it made enemies were utterly unprepared. Doctor Ladd maintains a fact which is of common knowledge among students of the war, that the strong and highly trained Army of four years ago has been greatly depleted and renewed with material of depreciating quality and subdued spirit. It has nothing like the vigor and confidence or reckless courage of August and September 1914. There are many indications of that, and that the ruling power has lost much of its ability to keep up equipment and supplies and take care of the people at home. The Government is loaded with debt and the people exhausted by taxation. All the means of production and distribution are very greatly impaired without capacity for renewal. During this process the outrages committed and the betrayal of every principle of honor or fairness or justice have destroyed all confidence, incurred utter distrust and intensified enmity. Still, the old methods of dealing are kept up and the same ambition is cherished in various form. The design for controlling Belgium, Holland and Northern France with a view to domination over the Atlantic was utterly defeated. Then the energy was directed to carrying out that of a Middle Europe power extending eastward to gain control and increase possession in southern Asia and in Africa. Notwithstanding much lack in the resistance, that line all hope of success seemed for the time to be abandoned. Then came another turn. One of the bars to domination was the Empire of Russia; but, largely through secret propaganda and subtle influence over discordant elements the power of that nation was undermined in order that the course of Teutonic expansion might take a northern course to a new destination. This appears to Doctor Ladd as "a sign of present desperation and the presage of colossal blunder in the future." Germany, he declares, "is not growing stronger and more to be feared as it loads itself to lower depths with this intolerable burden." But, "perhaps, the most immediate and threatening form of Germany's rapidly increasing spirit of desperation," he says, "concerns its obvious inferiority to its enemies in all manner of supplies necessary to the successful conduct of war." He finds "in food, in finance, in munitions of every kind and in numbers, morale of its fighting force,

An Ode To Health.

"Health of itself makes life a perpetual joy. Nothing daunts, nothing overawes or discourages and nothing overpowers the man and woman possessed of health. Health means not only vigor and energy of body but also clarity and strength of mind; purity and beauty of soul. The healthy person dominates life instead of allowing life to dominate him. He scarcely thinks of his body as consisting of parts or as performing separate functions. To him the body is but one harmonious whole. He is a unit, a being, a man; complete, vigorous perfect. To such a man work is a joy. He hardly knows what weariness is. He never experiences exhaustion. Merely to grasp his hand is a pleasure. To gaze into his eyes is a joy. To hear his voice is to feel a thrill pass over one. To peer into his mind serves as a stimulus to higher achievement. Health supplies the courage, the aggressiveness in life. Without health one is bankrupt regardless of what his financial capital may be. He becomes a cipher in the world of real men and women. If you have health, then, friends, cherish it, guard it, and treasure it as you treasure life, for out of it are the issues of life."

Bad Taste in Your Mouth.

When you have a bad taste in your mouth you may know that your digestion is faulty. A dose of Chamberlain's Tablets will usually correct the disorder. They also cause a gentle movement of the bowels. You will find this to be one of the best medicines you have ever become acquainted with. Adv.

"now distinctly inferior to the Entente allies," while the gap between them is widening with every day of the continuance of the war.

This much having been said, and said, as The Journal of Commerce holds, upon "a pretty solid basis" of fact, Doctor Ladd presents three three enemies who are to be dreaded more than our desperate foes in Germany. One is "a divided Government." That means our Congress which seems unable to shake off politics and which is being held to it under the leadership of Penrose and "The Old Guard," and a fact manifested in the persistent fight against giving the President full power to select men for the coordinated departments for the prosecution of the war, and who are doing much in encouragement of the enemy. A second element is the workmen who, shortsighted and selfish, are thinking more of their own gains than of bringing the war to an early and successful conclusion. A third is the "faint-hearted pacifists whether they belong to the bolshevist crowd or to other associations or even to some religious denominations who are advocating an unfinished work, just approaching completion, or above all, the bribed pro-German crowd who are doing that country's dirty work no less effectively than they formerly did by arson, bomb-throwing and bomb-placing and by diplomatic intrigue against us in foreign countries."

Doctor Ladd is correct in his estimation of these home elements of obstruction, and we believe he has made an approximately accurate forecast of what is about to happen in Germany. That the Kaiser will drop his sword "by the close of 1918," is a contention which, in recent days, has been drawing a troop of supporters.—Charlotte Observer.

More U-Boats Destroyed by Entente in December than Germany Was Able to Build.

According to information that has reached Washington, more submarines were destroyed by allied and American naval forces in December than Germany was able to build during that month. This fact developed from a statement made to parliament by Sir Eric C. Geddes, first lord of the British Admiralty that the submarines were being checked.

Although it is not known that succeeding months have shown a net loss in German submarines, it is believed 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.

American naval officials seem satisfied that the weapons are forthcoming with which they expect to crush finally the submarine menace. Some of the agencies upon which they count are increased numbers of patrol vessels of various types, appliances and devices to make them more effective against underwater attacks and the increased skill of navy personnel. It has required much time to produce the weapons, but they are becoming available now.

The advance guard of the American destroyer forces aided by the allied navies have held the enemy and are now destroying one out of every four or five German U-boats that put to sea.

America's real contribution to the naval warfare is about to be felt. With every passing week, the strength of the force will grow, for it is embodied in the most extensive construction program ever undertaken for the navy of any power.

There is no sudden falling off of tonnage losses expected for the reason that the new destroyers and other craft must be added gradually as they are completed. High British naval authorities have stated publicly that next August will show without a doubt that the U-boats have been overcome. There are officials here who are hopeful of decided results perhaps as early as May or June.

NOTICE.

North Carolina Watauga county. In the Superior court. C. G. Ragan vs. Pearl Ragan. The defendant above named will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the superior court of Watauga county to dissolve the bonds of matrimony; and the defendant will further take notice that she is required to appear at the term of the superior court of said county to be held on the third Monday after the first Monday in March 1918, at the court house in said county in Boone, North Carolina and answer or demur to the complaint in said action or the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in said complaint. This the 25th day of February 1918.

W. D. FARTHING, C. S. C.

NOTICE -- REWARD!

A Reward of \$50.00 will be given to any person or persons producing sufficient evidence to convict any person or persons for making or selling whiskey or other intoxicants in or around our operation.

Boone Fork Lumber Co.

T. W. HAMPTON, Superintendent.

Office of the Superintendent
February 28, 1918.

U. S. Troops to France Now Moving on Schedule Time.

From high authority it has been learned that Troops and supplies for General Pershing's forces are now moving to France on schedule time. 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.

A substantial American army already is in the trenches on the western front and Secretary Baker indicates that there may be at least a million American troops in France during 1918.

The railroad situation during the past few months has been such as should convince the farmers of the Southern States that they must this year produce sufficient food and breadstuffs for this section or our people will go without. The railroads of the country are laboring under a tremendous strain and with increasingly heavy burdens being imposed upon them by military operations, our people may not depend upon any other section for any food product which can be raised at home.

Try This For Sour Stomach.

Eat slowly, masticate your food thoroughly. Eat but little meat and none at all at supper. If you are still troubled with a sour stomach take one of Chamberlain's Tablets before going to bed. Adv.

A TOAST.

There were five sea captains chanced to meet, one Russian, one Turk, one Frenchman, one American and one Englishman. One of them proposed a champagne supper, each one to give a toast to his native country, or pay for the wine drunk after supper, and here is the result:

The Russian—Here's to the stars and bars of Russia that were never pulled down.

The Turk—Here's to the moons of Turkey whose wings were never clipped.

The Frenchman—Here's to the cock of France whose feathers were never picked.

The American—Here's to the stars and stripes of the United States of America, never failed.

The Englishman—Here's to the rampant, roaring lion of Great Britain that tore down the stars and bars of Russia, clipped the wings of Turkey, picked the feathers off the cock of France and ran like hell from the stars and stripes of the United States of America.

For a Bad Cold.

Take Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It has stood the test of time and can be depended upon.

Governor Bickett to Local Exemption Boards.

Governor Bickett, under date of March 6, sends out the following to the Local Exemption Boards throughout the State:

"I am glad to be able to announce after a careful investigation of the subject that, in my opinion, no farmers or farm laborers in the second draft will be sent to training camps before the 15th of July. I am giving out this opinion in order that the farmers and farm laborers may proceed to cultivate their crops upon the assurance that they will not be disturbed earlier than the 15th of July, by which time the crops will be laid by.

"This announcement, however, does not include the deferred percentage of the first quota made up of colored men. Colored men who were liable to call in the first draft, are now liable to be called at any time.

T. W. BICKETT,
Governor.

Commander Percy Foote, of one of Uncle Sam's war ships has made two trips across to Europe since he was at home in Wilkes last summer. Each time they transported five thousand soldiers and had a crew of seven hundred. This success is an honor to Commander Foote not a man having been lost.—Hustler.

Forgot What He Needed.

From the Republican, Mt. Gillet, Ohio. The editor had an interesting experience some time ago, when a young gentleman came to this office and asked for a copy of the Morrow County Republican. He scrutinized it carefully when a copy was handed him, and then said: "Now I know." "What is it you are looking for," we enquired. "My wife sent me after a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, and I forgot the name. I went to several stores and the clerks named everything in the line on the shelf except Chamberlain's. I'll try again, and I'll never go home without Chamberlain's Cough Remedy." The Republican would suggest to the proprietors of stores that they post their clerks, and never let them substitute. Customers lose faith in stores where substituting is permitted, to say nothing of the injustice to makers of good goods and the disappointment of customers. Adv.

Valuable Real Estate for Sale.

Six acres good, level farming land near station at Foscoe. A new six-room dwelling, good barn and other outbuildings. Price low. Terms easy. See George F. Blair, Shulls Mills, N. C.

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