

# The Big Stone Gap Post.

VOL. XXV.

BIG STONE GAP, WISE COUNTY, VA., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1917.

No. 8

## GERMANS MOWED DOWN BY BRITISH

Artillery Sweeps Advancing Waves of Infantry.

## FRENCH RAID TRENCHES

Teutons Advance Upon British in Three Waves in Effort to Recapture Positions Taken From Them—Driven Back With Heavy Losses.

London, Feb. 19.—German trenches in the Bois Le Pretre, on the left bank of the River Moselle, near Pont-a-Mousson, were attacked by French troops who destroyed the works and the sheds. A number of the defenders were killed and some prisoners taken. Artillery bombardments took place on both sides of the Meuse, especially in the region of Hezenaux and Hill 304. The Germans attempted a surprise attack on the French lines near St. Mihiel, but the attack failed disastrously. On the remainder of the French front activity was confined to clashes between patrols.

The British captured twelve officers and 741 men in their latest operations on the Ancre in addition to a number of machine guns and trench mortars. The Germans attacked the new positions wrested from them, the infantry advancing in three waves with bodies of supporting troops in the rear. These troops came under the concentrated fire of the British artillery and were driven back with heavy losses. The British lines were not reached at any point and no casualties were suffered.

Germans dressed in white took the offensive against the Russians near Kocheva, southwest of Dvinsk, on the northern end of the eastern front, and broke into a front-line Russian trench. Russian reserves, says the official statement issued by the war department, immediately drove out the Teutons.

In the Carpathians, Russian detachments surprised and captured without firing a shot a strongly fortified Austro-German position southwest of Okna. Teuton counter attacks were repulsed.

Increased activity of our reconnoitering parties," says the official statement issued by the Italian war department, "led to small successful encounters at Cavento Adamello pass, near Forcellina di Montorio, at Val camorcia, in Vallarke, in the upper Bosna, at Aetico and at Felton in the Botte valley and in Frigidio valley. The enemy everywhere was driven off. Some prisoners were taken, in the upper Botte and on the Carso considerable artillery actions were reported."

## SHIP STOLEN WITH CARGO

Supposed to Have Been Loaded With War Supplies.

Galveston, Tex., Feb. 19.—Word was received here that the fifty-ton schooner Galatea has been stolen at Pensacola and has secretly departed into the gulf. Unconfirmed reports said she was filled with war supplies which, according to one rumor, were for Cuban revolutionists. Another report was that she is to get into communication with German submarines which are reported to have been sighted in gulf waters.

Broadcast orders have gone forth to United States vessels and land authorities to apprehend the boat.

## TO SEIZE UNWORKED MINES

Mexican Government Gives Notice Regarding Taking Over Properties.

City of Mexico, Feb. 19.—The Mexican government has given notice that mining properties which have not been operated for two months and the owners of which, because of unsettled conditions, have not made application for an extension of the time limit within which the mines must be operated, will be taken over by the government.

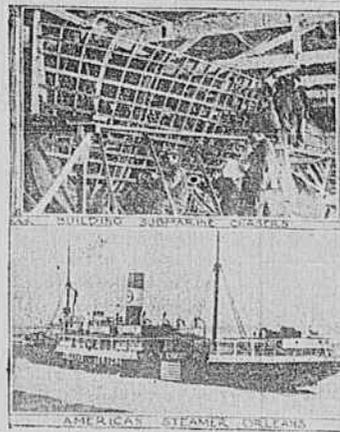
The time limit on unworked mines, as originally fixed, expired about Nov. 15, last, but the government extended it until the middle of February.

## Fletcher Reaches Queretaro.

Queretaro, Mexico, Feb. 19.—The American ambassador, Henry P. Fletcher, arrived here. He was met by Colonel Juan Barragan, chief of Carranza's staff, and Garza Perez, assistant secretary of foreign relations. The ambassador will continue his journey to the City of Mexico.

## New Food Rationing System.

Amsterdam (via London), Feb. 19.—Additional food rationing will begin in Holland today, the Handelsblad announces. Every ticket holder in Amsterdam for the week is entitled to 1,000 grams (a little more than two pounds) of potatoes, 800 grams of rice, 80 of fat and 100 of soap.



## News Snapshots Of the Week

Our affair with Germany continued in a most critical state. After Dr. Paul Ritter, Swiss minister, conveyed Germany's informal advances to our government and Secretary Lansing curtly refused to consider any more that didn't include the abandonment of the new submarine policy, Germany announced she hadn't made proposals. Carefully and with the fullest courtesy ex-Ambassador Von Bernstorff and his staff left for home. Activity in all branches of the army and navy marked the week. Admiral Benson put in hurry orders for fast motorboats or "submarine chasers." Wire nets were strung outside our harbors to keep out submarines. The first American ship to leave for the submarine zone was the Orleans. The Woman's League For Self Defense offered to assist in war. The naval militia continued to guard bridges in New York while enlistments continued.

## Armor Plant Hearing

The Armor Plant Board composed of Admiral Fletcher, Commander Clark and R. C. Backenhaus, Engineer, gave a hearing to the Committee of the Board of Trade of Big Stone Gap at Bristol on Monday.

Messrs. C. S. Carter, J. M. Goodloe, Jno. W. Chalkley, Horace Fox, H. L. Miller, John Fox, R. E. Taggart, R. T. Irvine and R. A. Ayers represented Big Stone Gap.

The Board gave a very earnest and attentive hearing and were greatly impressed with the showing made for Big Stone Gap as the location. Indeed the brief prepared by Gen'l R. A. Ayers, which was filed with the Board, was a clear exposition of the wonderful advantages to be derived from this location which is so strong and forceful that we reproduce it as follows:

### TO ARMOR PLANT BOARD, Washington, D. C.

The following table filled out is returned to the Board as requested.

MATERIAL	FREIGHT PER TON	REMARKS
Coal—Gas Producer	25c per ton	See A
Coal—Steam	25c per ton	See B
Pig Iron, Bessemer	.90 per ton	See C
Pig Iron, Local Market	.90 per ton	See D
Ferromanganese	36c per 100 lbs.	See E
Ferrosilicon	36c per 100 lbs.	See F
Nickel Ingots	45c per 100 lbs.	See G
Limestone	25c per ton	See H
Dolomite	.90 per ton	See I

For general remarks see M of sep.

### A Coal—Gas Producer.

Coal—gas producer, will be supplied from the Black Mountain Field which has no superior in the United States. The freight rate now in force and in daily use is twenty-five cents (25c) per ton. The following analysis was made a few days ago from a carload being shipped in regular course of business by one of our mining company's:

Moisture	1.16 per cent.
Volatile	34.19 per cent.
Ash	2.54 per cent.
Fixed Carbon	62.29 per cent.
Sulphur	.582 per cent.
Phosphorus	.002
B. T. U. per lb.	15,014
Fusing point ash	2387 Deg. Fahr.

### B Coal—Steam.

Coal—Steam, will be supplied by the Black Mountain Fields which is without a superior. The freight rate now in daily use is twenty-five cents (25c) per ton. The following analysis was recently made from car samples in regular course of business:

Moisture	Dry
Volatile	34.59 per cent.
Ash	5.17 per cent.
Fixed Carbon	60.33 per cent.
Sulphur	.75 per cent.

We also refer to J. K. & L. where will be found analysis and tests made by the government with both gas producer and steam coals from this field mined and shipped under its supervision.

### C

Pig Iron Bessemer will be supplied by the Furnaces here up to the following analysis:

Silicon	1.00 to 2.00
Sulphur under	.05
Phosphorus under	.10
Manganese	.50 to 1.00

### D

The Pig Iron from native ores will be supplied from the furnaces here. The following is the analysis:

(Continued on page 2)

## Second Virginia Boys

Are Greeted With Cheers in The Bristol Streets.

Two troop trains bearing the Second Virginia regiment, national guards, passed through Bristol yesterday. The first train arrived in the city early in the afternoon, and left shortly after.

The second section with the machine gun company, the hospital corps and several companies of infantry arrived at 7 o'clock in the evening. The train stopped over here for more than two hours while the boys fresh from the border marched through the streets to the accompaniment of the strains of "Dixie" played by their crack military band.

More than 600 men were included in the force. They left Brownsville, Tex., Monday morning and will arrive in Richmond today, where they will be mustered out. The regiment was in command of Colonel Robert Leedy.

Companies from Big Stone Gap, Roanoke and Richmond composed the regiment. The Big Stone Gap troop, under the command of Captain Bullitt, showed much improvement in drilling since they left for the border last summer. Many boys from this section of the state are members of the Big Stone Gap company.

A crowd of several hundred Bristolians greeted the train at the union station. As the long line of coaches rolled into the depot a rousing cheer was given. The soldiers happy at the thought of being back in "Old Virginia" once more, waved and shouted "Hurrah for Virginia!" Several Bristol boys were in the regiment.

Shortly after the train arrived at the station they were ordered to form for marching. Behind the band and Colonel Leedy and members of his staff, they marched west on State street, returning to their cars by way of Cumberland street. The sides of the streets were lined with interested spectators, who displayed the keenest enthusiasm.

After marching on the streets the men were permitted to walk about and meet friends. The officers assembled at a local restaurant for a "regular meal", the first in their home state for several months.

Practically every man in the regiment was in the best of condition. They were sun burned and hardened by arduous marches over the hot Texas sands and complained of the cold breeze. Their marching was executed with the same precision that marks the maneuvers of the regulars.

"We feel like new men since entering the Old Dominion," said an elongated corporal from Roanoke with a happy smile. "Every fellow in my company will be awake all night thinking of those he will meet tomorrow."

"I always thought Virginia was a good state," he continued, impulsively, "but she never looked so good to me before. Of

## AUSTRIA SEEKS TO AVERT BREAK

Will Back Germany's Policy to Limit.

## MAY CONCEDE SOME POINTS

Situation Among Official Circles in Vienna Is Not Regarded as Hopeless—Believe They Can End War Before U. S. Can Get In.

Vienna, Feb. 19.—While some of the newspapers are taking a gloomy view of Austro-American relations and the situation brought about by the severing of relations between the United States and Germany, official circles in Vienna are inclined to believe that the situation is not entirely hopeless. This also is the view of Frederic C. Penfield, the American ambassador, who is doing everything possible to assist in reaching a friendly solution of the situation.

At present there are two indications, though possibly they are of little weight, which permit of the conclusion that Washington is not contemplating an immediate break with Austria-Hungary. One is the transfer to the embassy here of Joseph C. Grew, former secretary of the embassy in Berlin, who arrived here from Switzerland to assume the duties of counselor of the embassy, a post which is vacant at present owing to the illness of Ulysses Grant Smith, who is now in the United States.

The second indication arises from the fact that Secretary of State Lansing wired here on behalf of various Hebrew charity organizations the sum of \$250,000, the amount having been donated by American Hebrew societies.

At the foreign office no conjectures are indulged in regarding what the near future may bring. The fact that the two governments are unable to communicate their views more freely than the present conditions permit has made the exchange of opinions slow and unsatisfactory.

It is stated that the Austro-Hungarian government, as a result, remains in almost total ignorance of what measures are needed in order to meet the views of President Wilson and his cabinet. The impression here is that in Washington it is believed the dual monarchy will recede from the position taken jointly with Germany regarding submarine warfare. The feeling here, however, is that while the Austro-Hungarian government might consider small modifications of the new blockade regulations, as Germany has done in the case of Holland, there is not the slightest chance that it will yield in the least, so far as the principle involved is concerned.

There seem to be no doubt that official circles and the entire public have become thoroughly reconciled to the step the dual monarchy has taken jointly with Germany and that the Austro-Hungarian government has been ready to accept all responsibility for its attitude during the last two weeks.

With the exception of a few radical Germanists, nobody has shown much bitterness here against the American government, though what has been termed "the unfairness of Washington" has resulted in much disappointment. The public and the government alike take the stand that President Wilson has denied the central powers the right of self-defense in depriving them of the only effective weapon at their disposal.

## MILLIONS IN TRANSFER TAX

New York Court Will Collect More Than \$6,000,000 From Estate.

New York, Feb. 19.—Lemon V. Harkness, Standard Oil magnate, who died at Fairmead, Cal., two years ago leaving a fortune estimated at \$170,000,000, was a resident of this city, according to a decision rendered in the surrogate's court, and, therefore the estate is subject to a transfer tax here of more than \$6,000,000 if all the real and personal property are located in this state.

Just how large is the New York estate is yet to be determined. The Harkness executors sought to avoid paying the tax here by maintaining the decedent's residence was Kentucky, not New York.

Shipment of flesh pink batistes, nainsooks, suesinas and silk jersey cloth, last word in lingerie materials for spring at Goodloe Bros.

## Great Demand for Ford Cars.

The attention of the readers of this Post are called to the advertisement of the Mineral Motor Company, the distributors of Ford Cars, appearing elsewhere in this issue. It seems that the demand is so great this year for Ford Cars that the company has refused to sell agents except where they have a signed order from a customer. This means that Ford agents will not be allowed to buy more cars than they have actually sold. The capacity of the Ford plants is 750,000 cars per year, and this year already, since last August, 310,000 cars have been sold and delivered.

The greatest demand for cars is always in the spring and summer, so it looks like the Ford Company is going to fall far short of the demand for cars this year. If you have been thinking of buying this spring you had better place your order now, otherwise you may not be able to get one.

## Class Entertained.

Miss Margaret Barron, entertained the third year High School Class, of which she is a member, and a few other friends Saturday evening from eight to ten o'clock very enjoyably with tables of Rock.

Music was furnished during the evening by Miss Hattie Gilly on the piano, accompanied by Milford Gilly on the violin and by a victrola.

Miss Barron served hot chocolate, sandwiches, delicious home made candy and cakes at the close of the evening to the guests present who were: Misses Elizabeth Sprinkle, Nell Marrs, Frances Long, Nellie Horsley, Hattie Gilly, Lucile Dowell, Messrs. Wentz and Carl Gilly, Wilburn Floeror, Carl Youell, Milford Gilly, Fred Dowell, William Hilton.

## Engineers Moved to the Gap.

The engineers of the Stonega Coke & Coal Company that have heretofore been located at Stonega and Keokee have been moved to the Gap and will work out from this place to the various mines of the Company.

Those coming from Stonega are Straley Tate, Harry Meador, Andrew Reeder, Byron Rhoads, T. J. Cantrell and Frank Gilly. From Keokee, B. E. Polly, Creed Polly and Robert Phillips.

## CHICKENS FOR SALE.

Five young thorough bred Rhode Island Red Hens and one Cockerel for \$5.00.

Mrs. Pat H. Barron.