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CELEBRATION OF 66TH BIRTHDAY

Political Spotlight Again On Former President Wilson—Hold On Democratic Party Strength By Illness—Health Improved.

(Harry Hunt)

Washington, Dec. 28.—His sixty-sixth birthday anniversary today, finds Woodrow Wilson again in the edge of the political spotlight.

Whether that spotlight again will swing to put the former president in the center of its radiance is to many the most engaging question before America today.

There seems little doubt that Mr. Wilson today is physically better than at any time since his collapse in 1919.

Though his left side still is partly paralyzed, Mr. Wilson now is able to stand without his cane and he even walks a few steps in his garden without its aid. His color is better. He has taken on weight.

Al-vest of Affairs

And there are evidences that his stronger physical condition is permitting a more active following of national affairs.

Wilson has been writing letters on public questions—notably on this last election. Also his Armistice Day speech to congress gathered at his home revealed he does not concede defeat in the cause in which he sacrificed his health, and indicated his expectation that American participation in the world affairs would become the dominating issue in 1924.

Wilson unquestionably is the leader of the democratic party today. His hold on the minds and hearts of the rank and file of his party has been strengthened by his illness and by the difficulties in which the world has found itself in the last two years.

Will Guide 1924 Policies

It seems certain Mr. Wilson will lay down the lines on which the Democratic party will attempt its comeback in 1924 and that his influence on the choice of candidates will be most powerful.

"But for his remaining seated," said Georges Clemenceau after his recent call on the ex-president, "he was the same Wilson I knew in Paris. Slightly flattered, nothing else. He showed himself thoroughly abreast of affairs."

His creed of establishing world peace Clemenceau said:

"Yes, I mentioned them. And Wilson's face lit up. He was a firm believer in their ultimate triumph."

Woodrow Wilson is expected to spend the greater part of his sixty-sixth birthday tomorrow quietly in his "S" street home. Though it is understood he probably will receive a delegation in the afternoon.

The Woodrow Wilson foundation, it was announced tonight, will send a delegation to the residence of the former president at five o'clock to extend birthday greetings and inform him of progress in its efforts to raise a \$1,000,000 fund to advance ideas enunciated by him while president.

GERMAN EXPORTS FLOOD EGYPTIAN MARKETS

Germany is increasing her exports to Egypt, and it is generally felt that she has virtually recaptured the Egyptian market.

Orders which previously went to Japan are now secured by German firms. She exercises an almost unchallenged monopoly in synthetic dyes, toys and pianos, and has a predominating position in the field of pencils, paper, glass, china ware, cutlery, leather goods, small metal articles, cotton hosiery, small mirrors and hardware. All these articles have been dumped into the Egyptian market on a scale and at prices that defied competition. Statistics on foreign trade for the first seven months of 1922 show that Germany has advanced from sixth to fourth position, and that the United States stands fifth. The loss of considerable American trade this year is due to the heavy falling off in the importation of cereals.

Last year nearly \$15,000,000 worth of wheat and wheat flour alone were brought in from across the Atlantic, whereas, this year, up to the end of July, the amount was less than \$1,000,000 for the same period. Rumania's revival of business has contributed largely to this loss by the United States. Kerosene from America also dropped to a very low figure, the Rumanian product taking its place.

SERBIA VOTES \$15,000,000 FOR HER ARMAMENTS

A credit of 15,000,000 has been voted by the National Assembly, in secret session, to be used for armaments. In an official statement it is explained that the country must be prepared for any emergency.

MEET TO PUSH THE STATE R.R. PROJECT

Lenoir and Wilkesboro Wants Grandin Route Selected Across Mountains.

Lenoir, North Wilkesboro and Wilkesboro joined hands here Tuesday in a movement to bring before the lawmakers who will gather in Raleigh next week the advantage of a state-owned railroad. The meeting was at the Chamber of Commerce rooms and present from Wilkesboro were R. N. Hackett, J. E. Finley, J. D. Moore and F. B. Hendren. A good representation of Lenoir Business men attended the meeting. Mr. Finley was made chairman.

The route believed to be the most logical is that extending from North Wilkesboro to Elkville over the old line of the Watauga & Yadkin River from Elkville. The survey extends across to Boone through Cook's Gap and there is another survey from Boone to Butler, Tenn. Two connections or extensions leading out from this line, one from near Boone to Todd or Elkland, to connect with the Virginia-Carolina at Abingdon, Va., and another from Grandin to Lenoir to connect with the Carolina and Southwestern for points south, would make up the proposed system for opening a line across the mountains to open up the "Lost Provinces." The proposition was explained by R. N. Hackett, and this is the route which he believes will be the best as far as the entire state is concerned as well as for the counties on the west side of the Blue Ridge.

There is another proposed route, Mr. Hackett said. This is the one leading up Reddie's river and across to Jefferson and to connect with the Southern at Maymead, Tenn. A route from Saunders's Gap has also been proposed, and quite a bit of interest at Statesville. Elkin and Sparta has been centered on a route leading from Statesville to Elkin, and from that point to Sparta, and then to Boone.

The object of this road to make it beneficial to the state, Mr. Hackett said, would be to construct it so as to make it possible to be operated as a coal carrying road. Not only would it be of great benefit as a coal carrying road for the state of North Carolina, but it would afford the one outlet or inlet the state needs to overcome the disadvantages of having all shipments from the west routed to distribution centers in Virginia then to North Carolina.

F. H. Coffey asked if the road from Grandin to Lenoir was to be included in the State-owned system, or if it was to be just a short line. Mr. Hackett assured him that this connection was of as much importance as the eastern route; that it was needed as a southern outlet for shipments going from the coal fields and for other central and western states.

The Watauga and Yadkin River route, or the route from Elkville to Boone, is of much greater importance to Caldwell County, J. L. Nelson said, than the routes proposed by way of Elkin or up Reddie's river. It is the belief of Mr. Nelson that a more logical route across the mountains could not be selected than the one proposed by Mr. Hackett.—Lenoir News-Topic.

MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSES BRING IN LARGE AMOUNTS

Raleigh Dispatch.—During the period July 1, 1921 to June 30, 1922, a total of \$3,151,795.68 was paid into the treasury by the state department of North Carolina, from November 26, 1920 to June 30, 1922, 2,920 certificates for domestic co-operations were filed, bringing in \$942,411.58 in fees, according to the biennial report of Secretary of State J. Bryan Grimes, made public today.

The report also shows that for the fiscal year period July 1, 1922 to December 1, the state's revenue from motor vehicles amounted to \$2,826,075.26, over a half million dollars above the entire amount for 1921.

"For the registration year ending June 30, 1922, there was collected and paid into the state treasury from the automobile department, \$3,101,116.95, the entire amount being collected from automobile and gasoline taxes," reads the report. "The amount expended for operation during the year ending June 30, 1922, was \$81,112.65, which includes the cost of number plates, postage, clerical work, equipment, office supplies and upkeep of building in which the department is located, the expenditures approximately two and six tenths of the amount collected."

The report shows that for the seven months period December 1, 1920 to June 30, 1921 the state department paid a total of \$264,552.91 to the treasury department. This period is given due to a change in dates of the fiscal year.

In discussing the certificates for

AGRICULTURE BOARD FORMED

County Commissioners Appoint Board in Interest of Agricultural Development in Watauga—Agent Steele Pleased.

The county commissioners in their regular first Monday meeting formed a Board of Agriculture for Watauga County, to act in an advisory capacity with the County Agent and with any other agency working for the agricultural development of this section. This Board will represent this county in the same way that the State Board of Agriculture represents the state, and will work in any way that it deems wise to bring about a higher production of products and assist in working out some scheme by which these products can be marketed more successfully.

The men appointed on this Board are: B. E. Taylor, representing the apple growers; W. L. Winkler, representing the cattle and sheep raisers; D. D. Dougherty, farmer and educator; L. A. Greene, representing the Board of County Commissioners; and W. F. Sherwood, representing the Board of Education; and W. D. Earthing, representing the business men of the county.

These men are to receive no pay for their services. This may not look quite right on the face of it, and it is not right unless they are willing to give a little of their time to the development of their county. The only remuneration they will receive is from the satisfaction they get from working in a definite way to make Watauga's crops bring more money.

The people of the county should use this board, and thereby help them to help us all. If you have in mind some problem that you think needs attention in some public organized way bring it to the attention of one of these men; tell them what steps you think it would be wise for them to take. I am sure they will give it careful consideration. Don't knock them till after you have tried to help. The first meeting of the Watauga board of Agriculture is called for Saturday, January 6th, at two o'clock, in the court house. A full attendance is requested as they wish to organize and consider some very important and urgent matters.

Watauga is on the way toward better things.

NEGRO LITERALLY SCARED TO DEATH IN LIQUOR RAID

Frightened when a prohibition officer gave him a command, Ham Stokes, negro, aged forty-five, sat down in a chair Friday afternoon and toppled over dead. The county coroner, Dr. F. L. Mock, made an investigation and found no inquest necessary as there were several eye witnesses to the strange incident. A weak heart just simply collapsed under the stress of excitement.

Prohibition Agent, J. L. Randall, of this city, accompanied by Sam Billings, transfer driver, went Friday to the home of Jim Owens, a white man, living some distance this side of the Yadkin River near the Central Highway. The construction camp of Elliott Sons is not far away. Two negroes from the camp were at the Owens' home when the officers arrived but they started to leave. Officer Randall commanded them to come back and they did so. As Stokes sat down in a chair he toppled over dead.

Stokes was about forty-five years old and a native of South Carolina. The body was brought to an undertaking parlor here and when it was not claimed by relatives was interred in the cemetery near the county home.

Despite the unusual incident, officer Randall completed his search of Owens' premises. He reported that there were evidences of liquor containers had been broken before he arrived in the house, while other empty containers smelled of the fluid.—Lexington Dispatch.

SALE OF SHIPYARDS

Savannah, Ga., Dec. 28.—The plant of the Terry Shipbuilding Corporation at Port Wentworth today passed from the hands of the ship constructing concern to the Georgia Wool-stock Company, and the American Mills International Company, both of Atlanta. The details of the sale were completed in Washington. The plant is understood to have been sold for \$506,000.

domestic corporations filed during the period November 30, 1920 to June 30, 1922. Mr. Grimes said 458 of these were for dissolutions and 1562 for incorporations and amendments. Fifty-one banks were incorporated and four railroad companies filed articles of association or amendment during the same period, he said.

THE PROGRESS IN BAPTIST CHURCH

Boone and Blowing Rock Churches Show Remarkable Activity For Past Year

(By Rev. Huggins)

During the year 1922 that Baptist church of Boone has made splendid progress. There have been 90 additions, 35 by baptism, 45 by letter, 8 by watch care, and 2 by restoration. Our Sunday School has increased in efficiency, and attendance until now our plant is taxed to its capacity to meet our growing needs. There are 150 Baptist students in the Training School. Mr. E. S. Coffey teaches the Fidelis class of young ladies, and Prof. Greer Berea class of young men. The students of the Training School together with the young men and ladies of the community overflow these classes nearly every Sunday morning.

An Intermediate B. Y. P. U. has been organized during the year. This gives us three unions, as we already had the Senior and Junior unions.

The finances of the church are in fine shape, pastor's salary and incidental expenses being paid monthly, while the basement of the church has been prepared for Sunday School work. The church has ever paid her prorata part on pledge to the 75 million campaign.

Blowing Rock church is making preparation to erect a new building with modern social and Sunday School equipment, \$8,500 in subscriptions and building and loan have been raised.

The plan is for the work to begin in the spring and to be continued until finished. This church also meets her expenses monthly and has over paid on her campaign pledge.

During the year the pastor of these churches has delivered 177 sermons and addresses; held 3 revival meetings with 9 additions; organized one B. Y. P. U.; during April visited 22 churches in interest of the 75 million campaign; and served as Director of the 75 Million Reinforcement campaign during October and November.

The fifth Sunday meeting held at Union Baptist church Saturday and Sunday, notwithstanding the prevalent epidemic of influenza, the rough weather, and bad roads, was well attended. The program was carried out practically as published. The church abounded in her hospitality, providing an abundance of wholesome food and good cheer. Rev. A. J. Greese, whose home is in that community, served as chairman. An invitation was extended for the next meeting to go to Blowing Rock. A committee on place and program was appointed as follows: Clyde Eggers, Clyde Greene, and F. M. Huggins.

COMPANION SLAYS WHISKY RUNNER

Charlotte Man Killed In Lincoln County By Unknown Companion—Solicitor Hoffman Attempts To Solve Mystery.

Another homicide was added to bootleg liquor's long list when Fred Allison was shot to death in the northwest part of Lincoln County early Sunday night. The body was found in an Essex automobile which he was driving with two companions after a battle between occupants of the car and Lincoln deputies in which 10 or 40 shots were fired. Allison was shot through the head and was rushed to the Lincoln hospital, where he died in a few minutes. The car was abandoned by the two unknown occupants who escaped. It contained ten five-gallon tin cans of whiskey, of approved type used by whisky runners. Some one in the car began the shooting it was testified.

Allison while at the hospital said that "James Graig," of Charlotte, shot him, but a little later said a negro hit him in the head with a blackjack. James Graig and Ed Owens alleged to have been in the death car were arrested by Charlotte police later but released when the sheriff of Lincoln said there was insufficient evidence to hold them. Allison was killed by a 38-caliber bullet, while one of the two deputies shooting used a 41-caliber and the other a 32-caliber. Both shot from the left side of the car, it was testified at the coroner's inquest, while doctor testified the bullet entered Allison's head from the right side. His car is said to have been following two Cadillacs believed to have been loaded with whiskey. It ran about a hundred yards or more before it stopped. A rumor in Charlotte is to the effect that the slain man had about \$1,000 with him, but only \$9.00 was found in his pockets. He had an automatic pistol fully loaded. A 38-cal-

MR. LOIZEAUX TO ADDRESS COMMERCIAL CLUB

Mr. J. D. Loizeaux, of Plainsfield, N. Y. will address the Commercial Club in the lobby of the Critcher Hotel on next Saturday evening at 7:30 o'clock. He is being president of the Plainsfield Building and Loan Assn., he will tell us what a real live Building and Loan Assn. means to a progressive town. Let us have a big crowd and a rousing good meeting as we have many things of importance to discuss.

BOONE HOLDS RAILROAD MEETING

Citizens of Boone and Vicinity Discuss Railroad Project for Mountain Counties—Committee Appointed.

On the evening of December 30th a large and enthusiastic body of the citizens of Boone and surrounding country met at the Critcher Hotel in the interest of a railroad from some point in the state into the "Lost Provinces" and particularly into Boone and Watauga County. It was the unanimous vote that the state's interests could not better be served than by the building of such a road. The meeting was well pleased with the interest our sister towns are taking to help us become linked up with the central and eastern part of the state.

The discussion went freely on as to our vast resources, such as millions of feet of lumber, numerous acres of unimproved grazing land, agricultural lands as rich and productive as can be found anywhere. The point was emphasized that the mountain counties have more land owners according to population than any other section of the state, more cattle of the finest grade, more sheep, hogs, poultry, and other live stock than can be found anywhere within the same area. Furthermore, the cheese, dairying, and fruit growing industries have assumed such vast proportions as to make it imperative that we have an outlet to a good market. What shall we do for a market for our potatoes, cabbage, apples, beans, tomatoes, corn, hay, and other farm products? Who will help us?

It was the opinion of all present that the state of North Carolina can help us in this extremity as no one else. The state will be benefited by receiving our products, and opening up a short and competitive haul direct from the coal fields to the south.

Messrs. R. R. Gragg, I. G. Greer and E. N. Hahn were appointed a committee to tell the folks our needs and to get our points and our interests before the people of North Carolina.

ESTABLISHMENT OF FISHERIES EXPECTED

Factor's action is expected by the next general assembly of North Carolina during the January session in regard to establishment in Western North Carolina of several fish hatcheries, according to word received from Colonel Joseph Hyde Pratt, director of the North Carolina Geological and Economic Survey, with headquarters in Chapel Hill and offices in Asheville.

When the matter is presented the state legislature the economic importance of such action will be emphasized. Colonel Pratt believes that the result accomplished by hatcheries more than compensates the cost of operating such institutions.

With the operation of such hatcheries Colonel Pratt believes there should be little difficulty in maintaining an adequate supply of brook trout, rainbow trout, bass, perch, pickerel and other fish.

Many miles of mountain streams in Western North Carolina could easily be converted into an angler's paradise by the establishments of fish hatcheries in this section, the state geologist points out. Such fishing possibilities in this region would undoubtedly bring many more thousands of tourists here annually, Col. Pratt believes.—Asheville Dispatch.

DIES AT COUNTY HOME

Mrs. Turnmire, for many years an inmate of the County home, died there on Saturday, and, the following day remains were laid to rest in the burying ground on the county farm. Let us hope that the change for her is a happy one from public charities to a home of great riches, in that house not made with hands.

ber revolver with cartridges empty was found in the car, the officers testified. The coroner's jury found that Allison was slain by a companion.

COMMERCIAL CLUB RE-ORGANIZED

New Officers Appointed For The Ensuing Year—Much Enthusiasm—Meeting Saturday Night.

In the lobby of the Critcher Hotel, on last Saturday night, the Boone Commercial Club, that has been inactive for some time, was re-organized, the following officers being elected for the ensuing year: W. H. Gragg, President; G. K. Moose, V. P.; Russel Hodges, Sec. and G. P. Hngaman, Treas. The books were opened for membership and the larger per cent of the business and professional men of the town joined and were most enthusiastic over the good that may be done by the Club during the year 1923. The first meeting of the new organization will be held next Saturday evening at 7:30, and it is hoped that every member and prospective member will be present. The officers are made up of our best men, and if the people will get squarely behind them, there is no telling the good that may be accomplished for our town and surrounding community during the present year. There is no better factor in any town than a real live, hard-working Commercial Club, and it seems we are to have one of this kind. If you are not a member, join us over; if you are a member, talk it to your friends who have not yet joined.

BOOTLEGGERS IN NATIONAL CAPITOL AT WASHINGTON

A bootleg scandal is brewing in Washington, H. E. Bryant, writing to the Charlotte Observer, Senator Curtis, Republican whip of the Senate, has instructed the captain of the capitol police to drive from the Senate and House office buildings and the inside of the capitol building the bootleggers. It has become a notorious fact that the best liquor to be had in those parts is that carried to the offices of congressmen by walking blind tigers.

A year ago this correspondent wrote on this subject, and threw out a few hints. Conditions have grown worse instead of better, and now a investigation may result. President Harding started the ball rolling when he said that something had to be done to stop the illicit traffic in booze or it would menace the morality of the nation.

Representative Upshaw of Atlanta is threatening to call the roll of the dregs who use bootleg hooch. That would make an interesting chapter in the prohibition history of the country. If Mr. Upshaw actually has an accurate list it would furnish reading matter for lots of eager papers. The fraud of prohibition is becoming more apparent to many people in Washington. The enemies of the dry laws are not the ones who are making a farce of them, but those recorded far it. If Mr. Upshaw or anybody else can get a show-down there will be a great scattering of statesmen.

A real sensation is due if an honest inquiry is made. North Carolina congressmen are not involved, for most of them are total abstainers. This does not apply to all North Carolinians who go to Washington, says the correspondent.

FORD MOTOR CO. PAYS TEN MILLION FOR KY. COAL LANDS

The Ford Motor Company today acquired the coal lands, mining plant and equipment of the Pond Creek Coal Company, in Pike County, Kentucky in a transaction involving approximately \$10,000,000. Announcement of the sale was made tonight at the close of an all day conference between W. H. Smith, representing the Ford interest, Thomas B. Davis, president of the Pond Creek Company, and members of the Board of Directors of the latter company.

The Pond Creek Coal Company's properties are situated in the eastern part of the state of Kentucky, adjoining the state of Virginia and West Virginia. For the past two years the Ford Company has purchased coal from this company and had it transported to the Ford plant in Detroit.

While the purchase price was not announced, President Davis of the coal company announced at the conclusion of the conference, which was conducted in a hotel here, that upon final liquidation the net worth of each share of the company's stock would amount to \$45. There are 212,920 shares of common stock.

RAILWAY CAR ORDERS BREAK ALL RECORDS

Chicago.—Railways of the United States this year broke all previous records in ordering freight and passenger cars and locomotives to cope with the greatest car shortage in their history, the Railway Age declared today.