

GERMANS TORPEDO FRENCH STEAMER

ONE BOAT STRUCK MINE IN ENGLISH CHANNEL AND ANOTHER WAS TORPEDOED.

ACTIVE IN NEW WAR ZONE

President Wilson and Cabinet Discuss Dangers to American Vessels Caused by New War Zone.

Washington.—President Wilson and his cabinet discussed at length dangers to American vessels and commerce growing out of the reiterated determination of the German government to wage a submarine and mine warfare on enemy's vessels and disclaiming responsibility for what may happen to neutral vessels venturing into the new sea war zones.

Struck By Mine.—The Norwegian tank steam ship Belridge, which sailed from New Orleans January 28 and Newport News February 5 for Amsterdam struck a mine off Dover. She was beached near here.

It was first reported she was only slightly damaged by the explosion, but later it was learned there had been fear of her going down. Her forepeak and her forehold are filled with water and her forelock is awash.

The pilot on board and 18 men of her crew have been landed.

French Steamer Torpedoed.—Dieppe, France, via Paris.—A German submarine torpedoed without warning the French steamer Dinorah from Havre for Dunkirk, at a point 16 miles off Dieppe.

The Dinorah did not sink but was towed into Dieppe. No mention is made of the loss of any of her crew.

A plate on the port side of the steamer below the waterline was stove in by the torpedo. She managed to keep afloat by hard pumping, word of the occurrence was taken into Dieppe by fishing boats and assistance for the Dinorah was promptly sent out. Her cargo will be discharged here.

The presence of a German submarine off Cape Ailly was reported four days ago. The daily steam traffic service between Dieppe and England has been suspended.

WILSON OPENS EXPOSITION.

President Touched Button and Set Monster Event in Motion.

San Francisco.—An electric spark of enormous potential, jumping across the continent, opened the Panama-Pacific International Exposition at noon, Pacific coast time. In the white house at Washington, President Wilson pressed a button and the serials of the great government radio station at Arlington in response sent a vibration to a commercial station on San Francisco bay. From there the message was relayed by wire to a receiving instrument on the exposition grounds.

As soon as the signal was received, the wheels began to turn, and the fountains to play; the gates swung open, and a procession of citizens, with the mayor at their head, marched into the grounds.

At the same time, President Charles C. Moore of the exposition, informed President Wilson over a telephone line that the wireless flash had been received and the exposition had opened. In return President Wilson sent his greetings and good wishes. Brief ceremonies of dedication and acceptance followed.

Argentine May Warn Ships to Leave. Buenos Ayres.—The Argentine government is considering warning the German steamer Holger and the auxiliary cruiser Ardona to leave this port within 24 hours or be disarmed and interned, it was announced. The Holger arrived here with crews of several merchant ships sunk by the German cruiser Kronprinz Wilhelm.

Medal for Sir John French. Paris.—The government decided to confer the military medal on Field Marshal Sir John French commander-in-chief of British forces in the field.

No Mail Lost. Washington.—Although United States mail is going directly or indirectly to every country in the world, so far not on bag has been lost through the activities of European war fleets. In fact, postoffice department officials said, no American mail has gone down with a merchantman destroyed by a warship within the past hundred years.

Postmaster General Burleson said he expected no interference with mail service to result from Germany's sea war zone proclamation.

Congress Rushing Through Bills. Washington.—Confronted with the necessity for appropriating an average of \$90,000,000 a day for the next few legislative days, Congress began hurrying through the measures which will supply the billion dollars needed to run the government during the next fiscal year. The senate passed the \$39,000,000 legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill and the house passed the pension bill, carrying \$124,000,000 and took up the diplomatic and consular measure appropriating \$4,500,000.

England Suspends Traffic. Washington.—All travel between England and the continent of Europe has been suspended by the British admiralty until further notice according to advices received at the state department. Some state department officials interpreted the suspension of "travel" as referring to passengers and as a measure adopted until there could be some rearrangement of ship schedules with protection of convoys; but other officials thought it might temporarily include all commercial intercourse across the English channel.

BRITAIN SUMMONS HUNGER AS AN ALLY

NAVAL WAR ZONE METHODS ARE NECESSARY FOR NATIONAL PRESERVATION.

THE GERMANS WANT FOOD

If United States Will Furnish Them and Refuse Allies Then All Will Be Well.

Berlin, via London.—Germany's reply to the protest of the United States against designation of a naval war zone about the British Isles is couched in the most friendly terms, but firmly maintains the position of Germany as already announced.

The note, which has been transmitted to Washington through the American Embassy, explains that Germany's action was made necessary by Great Britain's policy of attempting to cut off the food supply of the German civil population by a method never recognized in international law.

England's course in ordering merchantmen to fly neutral flags, equipping them with artillery and ordering them to destroy submarines, Germany contends, renders nugatory the right of search and gives Germany the right to attack English shipping.

The reply closes with the expression of hope that the United States may prevail upon Great Britain "to return to the principles of international law recognized prior to the outbreak of the war" and in particular obtain observance of the Declaration of London. If this were done, the note explains, Germany would recognize in this, says the reply an invaluable service toward a more humane conduct of the war and would act in accordance with the new situation thus created.

FLEE BEFORE GERMANS.

Populous Towns in Eastern War Zone Emptied of People.

Petrograd, via London.—The German advance from East Prussia upon the towns of Kovno and Grodno appears designed to cut the railroad communications to Warsaw, rather than to an effort to take the Russian fortified positions in that territory.

Along the line from Ploek to Niemen, about 200 miles in length, there has been intermittent fighting. From all the towns in this district, the most populous of the empire, the civil population is fleeing, thronging the highways and railroads.

The German advance guards are reported to have proceeded from Augustowo towards the railroad between Grodno and Bialystok and to have reached within 12 miles of the former place, where they are said to have been checked by the Russians.

The Germans also are reported to be attempting to break through between Kovno and Grodno, taking advantage of the frozen Augustowo marshes and Niemen River, and facing the possibility of an early thaw which might leave them at the mercy of the Russians.

The line to the north of Warsaw of Blonck, Nowo-Gorgiewsk and Serock, is well defended.

Frank James is Dead. Excelsior Springs, Mo.—Frank James, of the notorious James gang, died on his farm near here, James, who was 74 years old, had been in ill-health several months and was stricken with apoplexy.

In the south between the German column advancing towards Mesolaborch and the force moving on Wyahkow, there are virtually no troops of either side. Around Mesolaborch the Russians are reported to be successfully holding their positions and at several points to have

New York Will Vote on Suffrage. Albany, N. Y.—Every legal step necessary to putting a suffrage amendment before New York voters this fall now has been taken. The last act, the signing of the resolution to permit balloting was performed by the secretary of state.

Washington Plate to White House. Washington.—Miss Mary Custis Lee, daughter of Robert E. Lee, has presented to Miss Margaret Wilson, for the White House collection of presidential china-ware, a plate of the George Washington dinner set. It is one of a set presented to General and Mrs. Washington by American officers of the Society of the Cincinnati, founded at Annapolis in 1783 by American and French officers who served in the Revolution. The plate, considered in many respects the most valuable piece in the collection.

Steal Safe From Train. Richmond, Va.—Two men boarded the first section of train No. 61 of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad Company, due here at 12:30 o'clock in the morning, and after overpowering the express messengers threw the safe from the doorway and escaped on a heavy grade running up to Franconia a short distance north of Fredericksburg. It is believed that the men boarded the train in Washington. While the train was nearing Franconia they entered the car and held up the messengers.

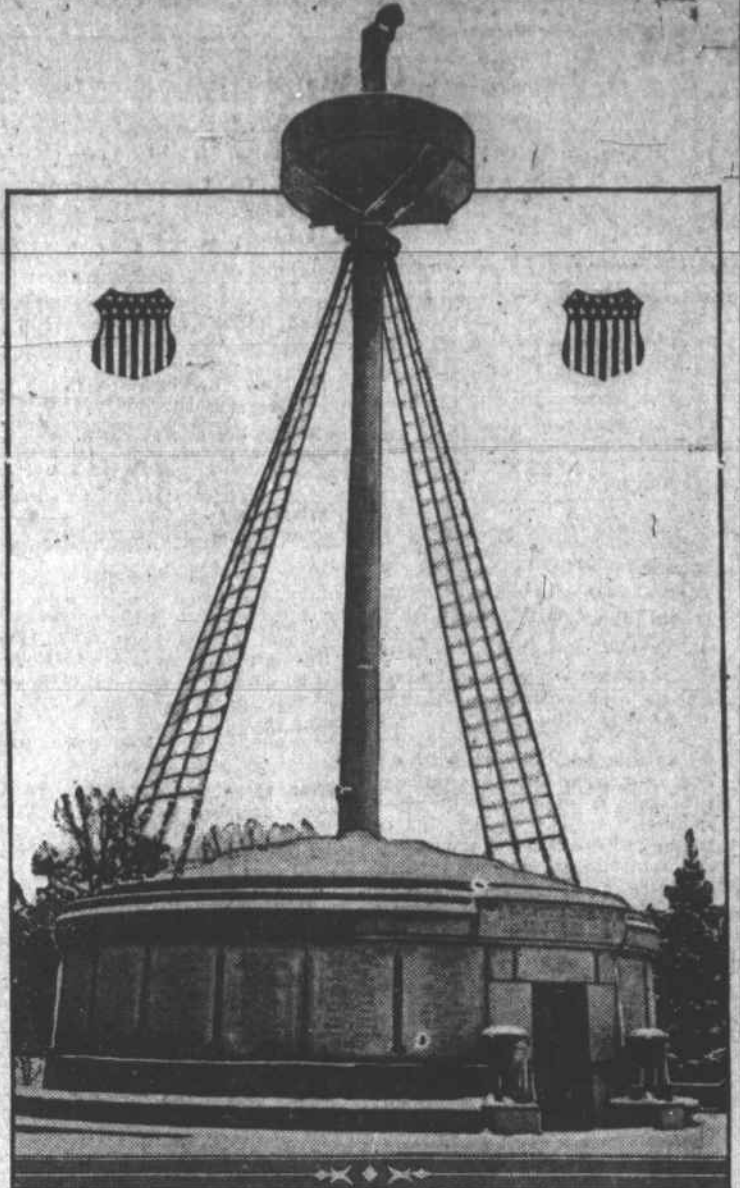
Prison Paper Makes Complaint. Quotes Mild Mannered Man in Indictment of Society's Treatment of the Unfortunate.

The Mild Mannered Man sat meditating on a bench, tunneling the embankment with his heel. "I've got a mad streak in me this afternoon," he said, when accented. "I was looking over a copy of a prison paper just before we came out. There was a little editorial announcement of an enter-

tainment to be given by the inmates, under the management of our able director, 3382, who assures us of his best efforts. Do you get that? 'Our able director, 3382.' Think of it! A man of recognized ability among his fellows whose identity is lost in a number! Look around you and judge for yourself of the difference it makes in the character and bearing of the men where numbers are dropped for names.

"See that boy over there—he isn't twenty. He was the kid member of

MAINE MEMORIAL AT ARLINGTON



Memorial to the officers and men who were lost with the battleship Maine in Havana harbor, erected in the National cemetery at Arlington and dedicated on February 15. It is in the form of a fighting mast and turret, and on the panels of the latter are engraved the names of the victims.

ATTRACTING ATTENTION CLAIMED STATE'S RIGHTS

THIS PHASE OF THE WAR OVERSHADOWS NEWS FROM THE BATTLE FRONTS.

Palmer Bill Passes House of Representatives by the Vote of 232 to 44.

Washington.—The Palmer bill to bar products of child labor from interstate commerce was passed by the house 232 to 44 after a lively debate and the issuance of a writ of arrest for absentees to suppress a filibuster.

Opposition to the bill, led by Representative Byrnes of South Carolina, was based on the contention that it interfered with the state's rights.

The measure declares it unlawful for producers, manufacturers or dealers to ship or deliver for transportation in interstate commerce the products of mine or quarry made wholly or in part by children under 16 years old, or products of mills, canneries, workshops, factories or manufacturing establishments made by children under 14 or those between 14 and 16 who work more than eight hours a day, or more than six days a week or after 7 o'clock at night.

Inspection by the Department of Labor would be authorized and fines of from \$100 to \$1,000 or imprisonment from one month to a year, or both imposed for violation. When Representative Palmer proposed suspension of the rules to pass the bill several Southern members protested and started a filibuster.

January Exports of Cotton. 300,000 Bales More Exported This Year Than During Last January.

Washington.—Cotton exports were beyond normal proportions during January. The quantity was more than 300,000 bales greater than last year, according to the monthly report of the census bureau.

Cotton used was less than the usual January total, as 500,000 fewer spindles were operated during the month. Manufacturing establishments held less cotton January 31 than they did a year ago but in independent warehouses, the quantity on hand was greater by 1,800,000 bales.

Exports included 585,534 bales to the United Kingdom; 217,982 bales to Italy; 99,913 bales to Germany, 70,901 to France and 397,845 bales to all the other countries. Total exports for the six months ending January 31 were 2,500,000 bales less than during that period last year.

Will Not Furnish England Shells. Pittsburgh, Pa.—For "humanitarian reasons", a large local steel company has declined to bid on a contract to furnish the British government a consignment of drop forge shells for which \$450,000 was offered.

Big Battling Mill Burned. Charlotte.—Fire of unknown origin, which broke out shortly after midnight in the plant of the Charlotte Cotton Fiber Company corner of West First street and the Southern Railroad completely destroyed that plant in Ward 3, including the main manufacturing building, several small out-houses and a portion of the warehouse adjoining in which was stored a quantity of waste cotton. The loss will be between \$50,000 and \$60,000, partly covered by insurance.

May Be Ship Trust Lobby. Washington.—Investigation of all charges of influences at work for or against the administration ship bill was ordered by the senate. Vice President Marshall appointed Senators Welsh, Simmons and Reed, Democrats, and Burton and Weeks, Republicans, to make the inquiry. There are only 35 working days left to the sixty-third congress, and some senators believe such an investigation, likely to be prolonged, makes improbable the passage of the bill before March 4.

Demand Upon Freedom of China. Peking.—If information from presumably well informed sources, both foreign and Chinese, is correct, the memorandum recently given by the Japanese legation to American, British, French and Russian diplomatic representatives respecting Japan's demands on China omits certain of the requirements originally presented to Peking. These negotiations, which began late in January had for their object determination of the future status of Japan's relations with China.

Get Much Coal From Manchuria. Japanese are producing more than 20,000,000 tons of coal a year from mines in Japan and South Manchuria.

ROBERT G. SPEER ADDRESSES LAYMEN

STIRS GREAT CONVENTION WITH APPEAL FOR VIGOROUS SUPPORT OF MISSIONS.

CHALLENGE TO CHRISTIANS

Souths Obligation Not Lightened One Feather's Weight on Account of Present Conditions.

Charlotte.—"If not another cotton boll should ever grow upon a Southern field, if not a dollar of income should ever be derived from any investment of ours, I charge you that our missionary obligation would not be lightened by a feather's weight."

Thus did Robert E. Speer "face the situation" in his address to the Fourth Annual Convention of the Laymen's Missionary Movement of the Southern Presbyterian church. He spoke to an audience that packed the city Auditorium to the limit of its capacity. In addition to 3,500 registered laymen, hundreds of women were present.

The responsibility is now America's, said Mr. Speer, to say whether or not the Gospel shall be carried to transcontinental Nations. With the crippling of the missionary activities of the countries involved in the war, the position of undisputed leadership in mission work is projected upon the United States.

"I dread this awful hour," said he, "lest, looking down on us from above as we sit here hugging our wealth, God will have to say, 'Them too I shall have to pass by.'"

Mr. Speer's ringing appeal for a financial rally in the present crisis that shall send missionary effort forward, instead of allowing it to collapse was delivered with a force that reached and touched his hearers, and yet left an impression that yet more power was held in reserve.

Furthermore, said Mr. Speer, he dares to believe that the period of 50 or 60 years ago was more critical than this. In the space of 20 years four great wars were fought, involving bigger issues than are now at stake. In addition to the European struggle, our own country was drenched with the blood of an internecine strife.

"The greatest single event in the history of evangelistic convention effort in the Southern Presbyterian Church" was the manner in which Dr. John R. Mott characterized the Charlotte convention of the Laymen's Missionary Movement, shortly prior to leaving for Havana, Cuba, where he had engagements of long standing for a series of conferences and addresses on topics relating to the great work that he has in hand.

Over 3,000 delegates were registered during the convention. Among the Laymen present were some of the leading missionaries of America.

SHIP BILL STRIKES SNAG.

Progressives And Seven Democratic Insurgents Bolt.

Washington.—Administration democrats got another setback in their fight for President Wilson's ship bill when they suddenly learned that the bill as it passed the house will not command the support of Senators Kenyon, Norris or LaFollette, progressive republicans on whom they counted, nor the support of any of the seven democratic insurgents.

The plan to move to concur with the house amendments was wrecked by the discovery that the leaders could not muster enough votes. Administration leaders made no attempt to conceal their embarrassment, and planned to send the bill to conference with the hope of putting on some amendments to command support.

Talaat Bey Expresses Himself. Constantinople, via London.—"Turkey declared war without being urged by Germany or impelled by any other influences save those of the empire," said Talaat Bey today in a statement to the Associated Press.

British Steamers Destroyed. Buenos Aires, Argentina.—It is reported from credible sources that the German steamer Holger was sighted heading for Buenos Aires and having on board the crews of several steamers sent to the bottom by some German warship, probably off the coast of Brazil.

The Holger for some time has been identified with German activities in the South Atlantic. She left Pernambuco secretly early in January, presumably with supplies for German warships.

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WEATHER FORECAST.

Movements Due and Their Local Effects for the Cotton States Feb. 21 to 28. Carothers Observatory Forecast. Sunday, February 21; Monday, Feb. 22.—The week will open with warm weather in the South; minima ranging from 40 degrees along the Mason & Dixon line to 60 degrees on the Coast, with maxima generally in the 70s. It will be generally unsettled.

Tuesday, Feb. 23; Wednesday, Feb. 24; Thursday, Feb. 25.—A cool wave will develop in the South Tuesday, bringing minimum temperatures around 40 degrees, but actual frosts are only expected in Eastern Cotton Belt Wednesday or Thursday.

Friday, Feb. 26; Saturday, Feb. 27; Sunday, Feb. 28.—General rains will immediately set in, with probably tornadoic storms in parts of the South. A cool wave will overspread Western Cotton Belt Friday and the remainder of the South Saturday, with clearing weather and light frosts over the cotton belt, except on the immediate Coast.

CAPE LOOKOUT CONTRACT LET

Harbor of Refuge Largest Government Project Ever Undertaken in State.

Wilmington.—Maj. H. W. Stickle, United States Engineer in charge of the Wilmington district, has announced that D. L. Taylor & Co. of Medina, N. Y., have been awarded the contract for building the first section of the biggest government project ever attempted in North Carolina, the same being the breakwater which is to form the harbor of refuge at Cape Lookout.

There is \$1,500,000 now available for this work, and it is mutually agreed between Taylor & Co. and the government that the firm will be awarded the contract for the entire project, as the appropriations are made by the government, the whole amounting to \$3,170,000.

The contractor must begin the work within six months. It is probable that he will begin within three months. The agreement makes it mandatory that at least 27,000 tons of rock be placed each month. Using this as a basis it is estimated that the work will be finished—that part of it included in the present contract—within two years from the time the work is begun. The contractor, it is understood, expects to place the rock at the rate of 50,000 tons monthly, which would bring the time of completion to slightly more than one year from the beginning of the work.

The rock will be obtained from a quarry near Havre de Grace, Md., and water transportation will be had direct from the quarry to the scene of operations. The inland waterway will be used to great advantage. Thirty barges, towed by six tugs, will be used by the contractor in transporting the material.

President Hobbs Resigns. Greensboro.—Pres. L. L. Hobbs has resigned as head of Guilford College and will be succeeded at the end of the school year by Dr. Thomas Newlin, now president of Whittier College, Pasadena, Ca., formerly dean of Guilford. Dr. Hobbs has been president of Guilford thirty years, and is one of the state's prominent educators. His successor is a splendidly equipped man.

MARKET REPORTS.

Cotton, Cotton Seed and Meal Prices in the Markets of North Carolina For the Past Week.

As reported to the Division of Markets, North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station and Department of Agriculture, Raleigh.

Table with columns: Town, Price of middling cotton, Price of upland cotton, Price of seed cotton, Price of meal, Price of flour. Lists prices for various towns like Farmville, Jacksonville, Kelford, etc.

North Carolina Cattle Growing.

Washington.—The latest "Agricultural Outlook" indicates that the herd of milk cows in North Carolina is still growing. It says that the estimated number of cows on the farms, and their value January 1 were: 318,000 head, with a value of \$11,495,000. In other words, the milk cows of North Carolina were worth \$62,000 more on January 1, 1915, than they were January 1, 1914.

In 1910 a North Carolina sow was worth \$25.50 and in 1915, \$36.50, and 1914, \$35.10.

The value of North Carolina hogs has increased \$3,462,000 during the last five years.

Fifteen Sports Submit.

Asheville.—Just as Asheville was beginning to forget about the big cockfight held by the sports of the three states near here more than a week ago, fifteen who participated in the game submitted to a local magistrate and paid fines of twenty-five cents and costs each for their part in the fun.

Invention Will Protect Battleship.

Davidson.—Mr. Albert Cathey, recognized in the community as a man of marked ingenuity and as unquestionably possessing inventive talent is convinced that he has discovered a mechanism by which to make it impossible to torpedo successfully a battleship. So convinced is he of the merit of his discovery that he has written a letter to Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy, proposing to lay his discovery before him if he will properly protect him in his proprietary rights.

New York Trip Planned.

Wilmington.—Bankers and their friends all over North Carolina will be interested to learn that plans are being made for a trip in a body to New York City by steamer immediately following the annual convention of the North Carolina Bankers' Association, which will be held at Wrightsville Beach the latter part of June. President Thomas E. Cooper of the Bankers' Association has the matter up with C. J. Becker, local agent of the Clyde Steamship Company and will report soon.

Yadkin to Vote \$200,000 Bonds.

Yadkinville.—That Yadkin county intends to take a step further is evidenced by the action of the board of county commissioners in session here. The board of commissioners ordered an election to be held in this county on March 25 for the purpose of voting on the good roads question. A bill has been passed by the general assembly, allowing the people of this county to vote on the question of issuing \$200,000 in bonds for the improvements of the public roads, bridges, etc. in this county.

80TH ANNIVERSARY JOYOUS OCCASION

WAKE FOREST COLLEGE LITERARY SOCIETIES HOLD BIG ANNUAL EVENT.

SHIP SUBSIDY IS DEBATED

J. P. Mull, of Cleveland, and K. A. Pittman, of Franklin County, Affirmative, Wins Decision.

Wake Forest.—The eightieth annual anniversary celebration of the Eusebian and Philomathesian Literary Societies was an interesting event. A general holiday was observed in college, and the many fair visitors mingling with the students formed one of the largest and most enthusiastic audiences that ever attended the annual anniversary celebration. A spirited and interesting debate in the evening was the first number on the program for the day. Acting as judges, Chief Justice Walter Clark, Dr. T. W. O'Kelly, Dr. R. T. Vann, M. L. Kesler and Rev. Baylers Cade rendered their decision in favor of the affirmative side which was upheld by J. P. Mull and K. A. Pittman.

Two senior orations in the evening followed by the annual reception in the society hall completed the program for the day. Music was furnished throughout all the exercises by the Third Regiment Orchestra of Raleigh. The high standard of all the speeches, the enthusiastic audiences, and the brilliancy of the reception, marks it as one of the greatest anniversary ever celebrated by the two societies.

Many out-of-town visitors came in early in order to witness the basketball game; more arrived later and it was an audience that taxed Wingate Memorial Hall to its capacity when Mr. H. D. Pegg, president of the debate of the Eusebian Society, called on Mr. V. E. Duncan, secretary of the debate of the Philomathesian Society, to announce the query for debate. The query announced read: Resolved, That the United States should adopt the policy of subsidizing its merchant marine engaged in foreign trade. John P. Mull, Esq. of Cleveland county and Kenneth A. Pittman, Phil. of Wayne county, and J. Baird Edwards, Esq. of Madison county, upheld the negative. The debate was warmly contested and the rejoinders were especially fiery.

Concord Lady Wins Prize. Concord.—It will be interesting to North Carolina women of fashion to know that a Southern woman, Miss Nannie Alexander of Concord, has been awarded the second prize and also a certificate of award in a New York contest for original design in ribbon trimmed hats, this being a national contest of American designing in greater that America may soon rival European markets in this art.

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RETAIL PRICES OF CORN FOR THE PAST WEEK.

Table with columns: Town, No. 2 White, No. 2 Yellow or Mixed. Lists prices for Charlotte, Elmore, Mooreboro, etc.

TAR HEEL BREVITIES.

Lacy F. Clark has been appointed postmaster at Raeford.

Paul Peeler, a Confederate veteran, aged 82, died at his home in Salisbury recently.

Members of Troop A at Lincoln, have equipped a gymnasium in the armory.

A big colonization project is rumored in Eastern North Carolina near Newbern.

Hog cholera is reported prevalent throughout Halifax county.