

Mount Airy News.

J. E. JOHNSON, Editor and Publisher.

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LIKE PRIEST, LIKE PEOPLE.

It you accept the old adage as coined wisdom then the above heading may have some weight in considering the present shortage of fuel and the causes and remedies. People follow their leaders. In the olden days if you could find out what kind of a priest a community had you could very well decide the kind of people were subject to his advice. Hence the adage, "Like Priest, Like People." Half the world follows the advice of those who are in authority, hence the many tangles that come about when men happen to get into responsible places and lead a people in the wrong direction.

This is introductory to what is to follow. The Times-Leader of this city, has been having something to say weekly about the supply of fuel in this city, and has criticised the town administration for not going into the wood business. Now a man at times becomes prominent because of the position he occupies. For a man to become editor of a newspaper and assume the duties and responsibilities of advising and leading a people naturally makes him prominent among those who are supposed to take his advice and follow his leadership.

In the early fall the Federal Government saw there was to be a fuel shortage in this land, and sounded the warning. People everywhere were advised to burn wood and thus help to save coal that it might be used in the great government plants and in the thousand war ships and in the countries where our allies are fighting. Most newspapers gave out this information in full, and have urged

Many of the larger towns have thought best to establish wood yards, no doubt because wood was so far away and hard to get. Here in Mount Airy the abundance of the supply right close to the people influenced the Town officials to not risk losing money raised by taxation by going into the wood business.

All these facts are, or should be, known to the Editor of the Times-Leader. The fact that he has repeatedly criticised the Commissioners for their conduct naturally causes one to turn the light on his conduct as well as his advice, for his conduct will naturally have its influence among a people who are under his influence. The fall months went by and the Editor of The Times-Leader failed to act on the advice of the Federal Government and lay in wood. But he advised others to do this, especially did he advise the Commissioners to get busy in the wood business. When the cold pinch did come it caught the Leader office without fuel, and the editor hastily came to the Town officials and put up such a plea about no fuel to warm the Times-Leader office that he was allowed to have 500 pounds out of the pile that had been laid by for widows and orphans and those who are not supposed to be able to care for themselves because of sickness or other unavoidable causes. And after getting the 500 pounds out of the charity pile the Times-Leader Editor yet declined to fall in line and follow the governments advice and put in wood, which he could have done any day during the cold weather, for there was plenty of wood at two yards and also for sale from wagons that stood daily on the streets.

Before his 500 pounds were gone the editor of The Times-Leader went to Mr. Claude Shelton the coal man and got another 500 pounds, which is the limit that is allowed here to any one citizen a week, since the supply is short and but little coming. The editor of The Times-Leader carried part of this 500 pounds to his office and part to his residence and thus he has coal—a little bit, at both office and residence.

Now if a man of education and leadership ability plays the game in

this way what are you to expect of those who are not educated and are supposed to follow rather than lead. Suppose every citizen in this town pursued the course the editor of The Times-Leader and refused to burn wood for the one reason that his stove is made for coal—that is the reason in the case of The Times-Leader editor, for the one reason that he has a coal stove that is not well suited to the burning of wood. The Government might well afford to buy some wood stoves to meet these conditions, and distribute them about among people who are willing to freeze rather than burn wood with their present equipment.

And these facts would not be so interesting if the editor of The Times-Leader was the only man in town who is in the same box. We suppose there are a hundred homes in town where the stoves and grates are for coal.

And pray just what good will it do for the Town Commissioners to go into the wood business if the men of intelligence are going to persist in burning coal rather than wood. Does the Editor of The Times-Leader think other men will be willing to go to the expense of buying new stoves that he may have coal? And does he think that the Commissioners cannot see the lack of consistency in his course of criticising them for not going into the wood business when he persistently refuses to burn wood, even to the extent of demanding that he be supplied coal out of the pile that was laid in for the unfortunate?

This country is at war and the man or men who buck up and refuse to play the game as other men are playing it, is certain to become a source of confusion to those about him. There never was a time when all men could agree, and no one expects this people to be a unit on the manners and customs that are to prevail during this world war, but if a man wants confusion a good way to get it is to refuse to line up and then proceed to lambast those who do.

The Income Tax.

This county to assist income taxpayer with their returns without cost to them, as follows:

- Pilot Mountain, Jan. 21 and 22.
- Mt. Airy, Jan. 23 to 26, Inclusive.
- Dobson, Jan. 28 to 30, Inclusive.
- Elkin, Feb. 4 to 8, Inclusive.

Returns of income for the year 1917 must be made on forms provided for the purpose before March 1, 1918. Because a good many people don't understand the law and won't know how to make out their returns, the government is sending this officer to do it for them. But the duty is on the taxpayer to make himself known to the government. If he doesn't make return as required before March 1, he may have to pay a penalty ranging from \$20 to \$1,000, pay a fine or go to jail. So if you don't want to take chances, you should call on the income tax man. If you are not sure about being subject to the tax, better ask him and make sure. Whether you see the income tax man or not, you must make return if subject to tax.

The Collector suggests that everybody start figuring up now his income and expenses so as to be ready with the figures when officer arrives. Expenses, however, don't mean family expenses, money used to pay off the principal of a debt, new machinery, buildings, or anything like that. They mean what you spend in making your money—interest, taxes paid, hired help, amount paid for goods, seed, stock bought for feeding, rent (except for your dwelling), etc. Income includes about every dollar you get.

Fight German People as Well as Kaiser Says Taft

Boston, Dec. 19.—The United States is not only fighting the kaiser and the Prussian military system, but the German people, said former President Taft, in addressing a gathering of Manufacturers here tonight. "And the only way we can win," he added, "is by hitting the German people on the head with a club."

Mr. Taft thought that to accomplish the defeat of the Germans the United States must send from five to seven millions of American soldiers to France.

PREPARATIONS OF NAVY FOR WAR ARE RECITED.

Daniels Tells Committee How Fleet Was Increased; Depreciates "Mess Gossip"

Washington, Dec. 19.—A recital by Secretary Daniels of how the navy prepared for war by adding several hundred ships to the fleet and letting contracts for hundreds of others, including dreadnaughts, battle cruisers, destroyers and auxiliaries and an explanation of the operation of the navy supply department by Rear Admiral McGowan, paymaster general, marked the opening day of the inquiry by a house sub-committee into the navy's war activities.

The sub-committee adjourned tonight without fixing any time for resuming the hearing and probably will not meet again until after Christmas.

Representative Britten, of Illinois, asked Secretary Daniels whether the department had received any complaints from vice-Admiral Sims, commanding American naval forces in the war zone. The secretary said the question was improper and that "mess gossip" should not be banded but he added Admiral Sims had been given everything possible that the navy could give.

Later when Admiral McGowan was called to the stand he submitted an order issued by him some months ago directing that Admiral Sims' requests for supplies be acted upon on the same day they were received.

"We have 424 ships in course of construction," Secretary Daniels told the committee. "That does not include submarine chasers, of which we are building 350, and not include the small craft. The chasers will be in service by early spring." Included in the 424 ships, he said, were battle cruisers, battle ships, scout cruisers, destroyers, fuel ships, gun boats, hospital ships, ammunition and submarines.

The navy at the beginning of its participation in the war, the witness continued, had at its disposal the money needed for most of the expansion immediately required and in the last few days the navy has had to ask for \$86,000,000 in addition to the regular estimates amounting to \$1,039,000,000 for the next fiscal year, now before the house naval committee.

Secretary Daniels said the navy now had more than 1,000 ships in commission as against 300 two years ago and an enlisted personnel of 280,000 officers and men, compared with 64,680 men and 4,376 officers when America declared war.

"Has the navy measured up? he asked. "It is my firm belief at the close of the investigation your answer will be, it has and the country has every reason to repose confidence in the navy."

Christians at Jerusalem Mistreated by the Turks.

Washington, Dec. 19.—An official dispatch received here today from France says that the Turks before surrendering Jerusalem to the British brutally mistreated Christian priests, carried off the famous treasure of the church of the Holy Sepulchre, to Berlin the church celebrated ostentatiously of brilliant.

Monseigneur Camessei, the patriarch of Jerusalem is said to have been deposed from his office, and Father Piccardo, an Italian priest, to have died from the effects of Turkish brutalities.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre had remained unmolested heretofore during all the centuries of Moslem occupation of Jerusalem.

The same dispatch told of indignation among Musselmene of Asia Minor over the action of a German general in establishing staff headquarters in the great Mosque of the City of Aleppo near the Syrian border.

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J. D. MINICK.
 Mt. Airy, N. C., Aug. 26, 1915.

Americans in France to Eat Turkey Christmas Day

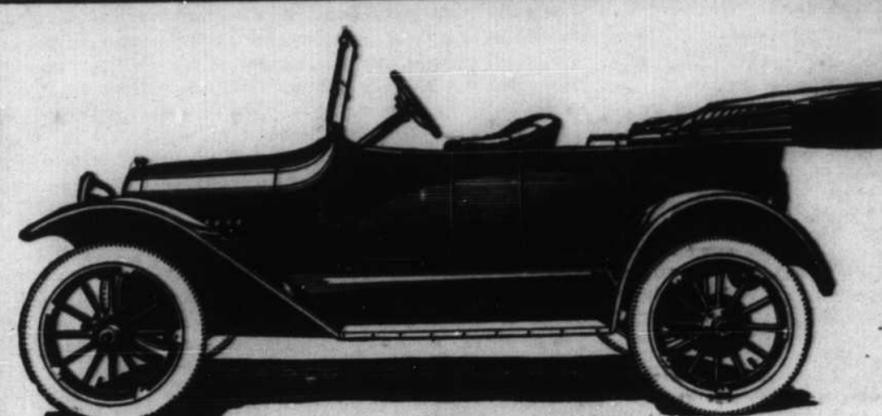
With the American Army in France Dec. 17.—(By the Associated Press.)—The American soldiers in France again will be served with a turkey dinner Christmas day. For the second time within a month army officers have toured the country buying up thousands of pounds of turkeys to supply each American unit in France. A large consignment of mince meat, which arrived too late for Thanksgiving day, will be used in making pies for Christmas.

The Christmas menu, which is to be the most elaborate the troops thus far have had, will include soup, turkey and stuffing, cranberry sauce, two or three kinds of vegetables, apple and mince pie, fresh fruit and nuts.

Farm For Sale!

631 Acres of fine Tobacco land for sale, located on two Sand clay roads in 6 miles of three Railroad stations, in two miles of a Farm Life School. 200 acres cleared, two extra good dwellings, two wells, two feed barns, sold for \$7,500. Priced to sell \$35.00 per acre. Also pack houses, wire fence pasture, some saw stock, lies well and a healthy community. The 1917 Tobacco crop five tenant dwellings, 9 good tobacco barns, two large other Farms of sale.

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