

# Mount Airy News.

J. E. JOHNSON, Editor and Publisher.

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## INFORMATION ABOUT THE ARMY DRAFT.

Under the new rules now in effect there appears to be much confusion in the minds of some people about what is to be the fate of men liable to military duty. To illustrate: We heard a citizen telling this week about the mental anguish that he passed thru after his son received his questionnaire. The young man was under the military age and was required to answer all the questions. The father, not knowing the facts, expected his son to be called any day and taken away to the army. And the anguish he suffered for days was something fearful to him. And yet that young man has a wife and children and is not likely to be called to the service in two or three years if ever. The father came here and was told of these facts and went away a much happier man.

As we understand it something like this will possibly clear up the views of many. This country is raising an army, but only men who can be spared from home will be called. It is not the purpose of the government now to take men who have dependent ones. Neither will men be taken who are too young to be classed as men, or too old to endure the hardships of a military life. The men in authority have decided that for the present men between the ages of 21 and 31 can best live the life of a soldier. Now men of this age who can be spared from home and who are of sound health are the ones who will become the fighting men of the nation.

An important point to consider is that the industries at home must be kept going if we are to keep an army in the field, but that does not mean that every man who is a carpenter, or blacksmith, is to continue at his calling. Many men who have trades are the very ones who will be the most valuable men in the army. The man who can make supplies for the army will be left at home to make them, as a rule. But to be classed as a man necessary to the support of the army he must be a man who produces enough to make his services amount to something. The man who produces corn or wheat in quantities to make his services to the country worth more on the farm than he would be worth in the army would be left on his farm. But the man who makes a living on his farm and is able to produce but little surplus would hardly be classed as a man of value at home because of what he produces.

With these facts in mind we asked the local board this week to make a fuller statement in every day language as to rules that are being applied. Mr. M. F. Butner member of the board gave us the following that should aid many in reaching a better understanding:

"To throw some light on the work of classification by the Local Board, might save a great many people in the county worry and expense, and for that reason the following information is given out for publication.

Registrant who has made no claim for deferred classification in his questionnaire except Industrial or Agricultural are placed in Class I by Local Board and their questionnaire together with all additional affidavits are sent to the District Board where they will be classified by that Board. The Local Board has no jurisdiction in Agricultural or Industrial claims.

As to what constitutes a "necessary" agricultural or industrial enterprise and who are "necessary" employees of such can best be explained by quoting the Selective Service Regulations Section 30, Rule XVII and XVIII.

Those who claim physical disability and have no other claim are placed in Class I for the reason that the Local Board is not now examining registrants, but those who have been classified will be called together with all others whose final classification is

Class I and be examined. Dr. Rows, the physician member of the Local Board, has been examining some who came from a distance and who are plainly permanently disqualified for military service, and where this condition can be positively established without having to strip the registrant, as, for instance, a man with arm or leg off, or any case that is clearly established. These registrants are placed in Class V when all members of the Board vote for such classification.

Rule 17. The word "necessary" as applied to any industrial or agricultural enterprise within the meaning of these regulations shall be taken to import that the discontinuance, the serious interruption, or the materially reduced production of such enterprise will result in substantial, material loss and detriment to the adequate and effective maintenance of the military establishment, the adequate and effective operation of the national interest during the emergency.

A particular agricultural or industrial enterprise shall be found to be "necessary" only when it is shown of such enterprise that it is a well-conducted and going concern, contributing substantially and materially to the maintenance of the Military Establishment, the effective operation of the military forces, or the maintenance of the national interest during the emergency, further, of a particular agricultural enterprise, that it is apparently producing an appreciable amount of agricultural produce over and above what is necessary for the maintenance of those living on the place.

Rule 18. The word "necessary" as applied to the relation of a registrant to an industrial agricultural enterprise within the meaning of any particular rule governing deferred classification in these regulations shall be taken to import:

- (1) That the registrant is actually and completely engaged in the enterprise in the capacity recited in any such rule and that he is competent and qualified in that capacity.
- (2) That the removal of the registrant would result in direct, substantial, material loss and detriment to the adequate and effective operation of the enterprise to a degree proportionate to the importance of the capacity recited in the rule.
- (3) That the available supply of persons, competent in the capacity recited in the rule is such that the registrant cannot be replaced in such capacity without direct, substantial, material loss and detriment to the adequate and effective operation of the enterprise to a degree proportionate to the importance of such capacity.

The following letter from the Governor to local boards will show how a soldier should secure his pay in order to get the allowance made in case of dependents.

To all Local Exemption Boards: Complaints are constantly coming to me that indicate that dependents of soldiers do not fully understand what is necessary to be done in order to secure the allowance made by the Government to such dependents.

In the case of a wife or child the law compels an allotment of a portion of the soldier's wages and this is supplemented by a schedule of allowances with which you are familiar.

With respect to dependents other than wife or child it is necessary for the soldier himself to make a voluntary allotment of his pay and then request the additional allowance made by the Government; in other words the dependents must seek their relief through the soldier. I have no doubt that in many instances soldiers are collecting their entire wages and sending a portion of these to their dependents. This is a fatal mistake for it cuts the dependents out of receiving anything from the Government. If the soldier will go to the officer in camp and make an allotment of his wages and ask the additional allowance provided by the Government be sent to his dependents this will be done. Please give this the widest possible publicity and call this information to the attention to all dependents of soldiers in your county.

Very truly yours,  
T. W. BICKETT, Gov.

Now if a man is put in class I because of his age but is not physically fit he will not serve, of course. Only sound men will be called into the service.

It is the opinion now that married men will not have to go to the war, but it must not be forgotten that this applies to those only who were married before the war started. And yet it does not necessarily follow that a man cannot get his classification changed, if he should marry now that war has been declared. As we understand it the government has not yet decided

what shall be the fate of the man who takes unto himself a wife knowing that he is liable to military duty, but it appears that he will have a hard time getting free from the service on the grounds that he has married, knowing his liability to serve. It is believed by many that an army of such large proportions can be raised from the single men that it will never be necessary to call for the married men, any yet no one knows to what extent this country will yet be called upon to make sacrifices before this war is over. It is a known fact that this is the death struggle between the forces of freemen and the forces of kings and princes, and the kings and princes will sacrifice the last life and the last dollar if they can only keep the other part of the world subject to their rule. It now appears to be the final struggle of the nobility of Europe for their right to dictate to nations of free men. To what extent they will be able to carry the war, and to what extent they will be able to induce their subjects to make sacrifices no man can now tell.

### Dr. K. THOMPSON PASSES.

On last Friday January 11, 1918, Dr. K. Thompson died at his home in the western part of this county at the advanced age of about 93 years. Dr. Thompson had been sick only a few days and had enjoyed his usual good health almost up to the time of his death. The remains were laid to rest in his community where he spent the long years of his most useful life.

Dr. Thompson lived in what would be called the backwoods of the state. Until he was an old man he lived far back in the country fifty miles from a railroad, and in a section where the country was thinly settled. Under these conditions he practiced medicine and preached the gospel for half a century or more. For many years he was an active practitioner and visited many a home in the cove of the mountain on horseback to carry the benefit of his healing art. During all these years he could always find time to fill the pulpit for any minister who could not meet his appointment, and often he would hold regular services at some school house in a backwoods section where no minister was in the habit of visiting. He never accepted the care of churches as a pastor, and yet he spent much of his time doing the work of a minister. He was never too busy to attend the meetings of his association and would always be present even if the meeting was many miles away from his home.

Dr. Thompson was a good business man and owned large boundaries of mountain land. Being a man of means he gave his children the advantage of the best schools in the state and saw them grow up to be men and women of education and refinement. His home was one of culture and he was a liberal subscriber to the best literature and to any good cause. Much could be said of the most useful life that he lived, for he was always ready to lend a hand to aid his fellow men in their efforts to bring about better conditions. He gave much money to assist in the building of the Mountain Park School which is located in his section, though at that time he was past ninety years of age. But age did not cause him to lose interest in life, and even up to his last days he took active part in the affairs of men.

Dr. Thompson was a man of good judgement, sound morals, deep piety and strong religious convictions, and yet charitable and patient with the weakness and indifference of those about him.

If the fates had decreed that he should have lived in some other section where life had greater opportunities, he might have lived a much more conspicuous life and been classed among the prominent men of his age. But it would be hard to find a man who has lived a more useful and helpful life.

The friends here of Mr. Ward Blair Hines will be glad to know that he has been selected from the ranks at Camp Jackson as a young man suitable for higher position, and he has been sent to the training camp for officers where he will later be given a commission if he makes good in the training, which he will no doubt do.

## GREAT PATRIOTIC AND PROHIBITION RALLY.

The big prohibition and patriotic rally held at the High School auditorium on Monday night, was a decided success, despite the bad weather. Ex. Gov. Malcolm R. Patterson of Tennessee, who was formerly considered the ablest apologist the liquor people had, but who is now devoting all his time to the fight for dry America, delivered a great address. The auditorium was comfortably filled with representative citizens, and notwithstanding the fact that the former governor was worn out from long speaking tour, he created great enthusiasm. Lawyers and preachers and many others united in declaring it to be the best speech on the subject they had ever heard. He divided his time between the rum traffic and the Kaiser. He impaled them upon the rapier of ridicule, scorched them with sarcasm, attacked them with logic, and heaped scorn and denunciation upon them in merciless fashion. He characterized "the murderous and unspeakable Hun" as the greatest bar to the progress of the world, and the liquor traffic as "the Hun of our American civilization." He declared that the two great problems for America is to make the world safe for democracy and to make it sober. He drew a picture of America before the war: Rich, pleasure loving, at ease, thinking more of the picture show than of Shakespeare or the Bible, almost apotheosizing Charlie Chaplin, while Lloyd-George and England's great sons were unknown. Laying a great philosophical foundation for the address, the ex-chief executive soared to sublime heights of eloquence, predicting that in this war America would find her soul, and hereafter spend more time in producing men than material wealth. He declared that long years of beer drinking was in part responsible for German brutality and quoted German scientists to prove it. The address was well received as was evidenced by frequent outbursts of applause. A subscription was taken for the work of the Anti-Saloon League which amounted to several hundred dollars.

The former governor, accompanied by Hon. L. R. Horton, of Spokane, Wash., was met at the station Monday noon by a committee of representative citizens with three automobiles and escorted to the Jenkins Hotel where he slept most of the afternoon. The reception committee, the Mount Airy bar and the ministers of the city sat on the platform. The audience sang America, after which Rev. Geo. D. Herman led in prayer. Rev. Tom P. Jimison, an old acquaintance and friend of the ex-governor, introduced him in a few well chosen words in which he likened the conversion of the Tennessee governor to that of Saul of Tarsus, and in glowing terms, pronounced him a scholar and statesman, Christian gentleman and patriot.

Mr. Patterson expressed much pleasure at the way he had been received in the Granite City, enquired much about the city and surrounding country, and expressed the hope to visit here in the summer. He left Tuesday morning for North Wilkesboro, returning to Exton on Wednesday, and expects to complete his tour of Tar Heeldom by the first of February.

### Working For Lower Insurance.

At the last meeting of the Town Commissioners, Mr. A. G. Webb, chief of the fire department, was asked to investigate the conditions here with a view to securing a lower insurance rate. As a result Mr. Webb took the matter up with the insurance companies and a man is here who is now investigating our equipment for fighting fire, water supply, pipe lines, electric lines, etc. He will make a report after he is through with his investigation and tell us what is required to get a lower rate. This town is now in the third class, and an effort will be made to be rated in the second class, which would mean a lower insurance rate, possibly as much as twenty per cent less than is now being paid for the same service.

Prof. J. H. Ailen, of Elkin, is a business visitor in the city.

### Prominent Physician Passes.

Dr. J. J. Leake died at Salem, Va., where he had gone to be in a sanitarium, Saturday, January 12, and the remains were brought here Sunday and from here carried to his home at Asbury Stokes county where the funeral services were conducted Monday by Rev. T. H. King of this city. Dr. Leake had been in failing health for three or four years. He was one of the most prominent citizens in this section and stood high as a citizen and as a professional man. He enjoyed a large practice before his health failed and accumulated a nice estate. His home and farm was one of the nicest in the section where he lived.

### Ten Mexican Officers Executed

Mexico City, Jan. 14.—Ten army officers including General Leocadi Parra, out of 45 arrested in connection with a plot to kill General Alfredo Novo, commander of the military district in the state of Mexico, and Augustin Millan, governor of that state, were executed today at Toluca, the state capital, about 40 miles from this city.

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