

# The Mount Airy News.

ESTABLISHED 1880

MOUNT AIRY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, APRIL 20th, 1922.

\$1.50 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

## WOULD CUT FERTILIZER BILL HALF

### Kansas Senator Puts Senate Farm Bloc on Record for The Muscle Shoals Development.

Washington, April 13.—The senate farm bloc was recorded today by Senator Capper, of Kansas, its chairman, as favoring the development of the Muscle Shoals project.

In a brief reference to the power and nitrate projects on the Tennessee river, made in a speech on the floor, the senator declared his belief that the nation's fertilizer bill could be reduced "by one-half if we carry out the Muscle Shoals project."

"Another measure favored by the farm bloc which will contribute to a permanent and prosperous system of agriculture," Senator Capper said, "is the development of the Muscle Shoals project. We should resume work immediately on the Tennessee river. The nation's fertilizer bill is now about \$25,000,000 annually. I believe it is possible to reduce this one-half if we carry out the Muscle Shoals project."

The Kansas senator's declaration was made several hours after the senate agriculture committee, of which he is a member, had closed for the day its hearings on the Muscle Shoals properties. Major W. H. Burns, of the war department's ordnance bureau, had testified there on various phases of the power and nitrate developments at the shoals.

Major Burns reiterated his belief that the government was morally bound to execute in good faith the contracts between the war department, the Alabama Power company and the American Cynamid company, giving the latter companies exclusive purchase rights on the Gorgas steam plant and nitrate plan No. 2, at Muscle Shoals, in the event those units were ever disposed of to private enterprise. He declared that as long as Henry Ford included the two projects in his proposal, Congress could not very well accept it in view of the agreement made by the war department with the two companies.

The witness made it clear, however, that the acting judge advocate general of the army had given an opinion holding the contracts to be non-enforceable, null and void. Despite the ruling of the chief law officer of the war department, the major testified, it was the conviction of the ordnance bureau officials that the government should redeem its written promise made to the two concerns when they constructed the plants involved.

Chairman Kahn announced today that the house military committee would evolve probably within two days a rough draft from which it was hoped a report could be fashioned soon for presentation to the house. The inter-committee discussions which have been in progress every day this week, he said, were approaching a basis on which it might be possible to begin drafting the committee's recommendations for the house, covering the four private offers for development of the shoals property.

## Lawyers Are Told of Crime Schools

Joilet, Ill., April 13.—Segregation of hardened criminals from the first offenders is the best way to reduce crime, convicts in the state penitentiary here today declared at a hearing conducted by the law enforcement committee of the American Bar association to get the criminals' view of the cause of law breaking.

The committee members all agreed with the convicts.

The committee, made up of nationally known men, heard from seven witnesses stories of organized crime rings, particularly in Chicago, bribery of police officials and of "schools for crime."

One prisoner told of perfected crime organizations in Chicago which guaranteed to get a man out of any trouble through graft and bribes, and explained that had he been able to raise \$600 he could have bribed officials in the states attorney's office and would not now be in the penitentiary.

One convict said prohibition increased crime, while another termed the Cook county jail at Chicago the greatest "crime school" in the country. Several explained that the average young first offender is experienced and efficient in crime after serving a sentence with old timers who would put him through a course of instruction during the term.

## PARENTS OF SON KILLED REFUSE INSURANCE

### Carried \$5,000 Government Insurance But Parents Won't Accept Payments.

Washington, April 10.—The United States veterans bureau today called official attention to what it says is one of the most unusual cases ever handled by that bureau—the refusal of the parents of a North Carolina soldier killed in the war to accept government insurance because their religious beliefs oppose receiving the monthly checks due on the \$5,000 policy.

The insured man was Thomas Speaks and the bureau has even sent a special investigator to Jennings, N. C., to persuade acceptance of the insurance money. Today Director General Forbes made the following explanation of the strange case:

"Refusing to accept the government insurance carried by their son, who was killed in the world war, Mr. and Mrs. Speaks, of Jennings, N. C., explained to a special investigator of the (United States veterans bureau recently that their religious beliefs would not permit their receiving the monthly checks due them on a \$5,000 policy."

### Most Unusual Case.

"It is one of the most unusual cases ever handled by the bureau. The claims division, however has reported several cases wherein the beneficiary has refused the insurance money on the grounds that monthly checks would be tragic reminders of the one that is gone; also, cases wherein checks have been refused because the beneficiary is wealthy and states that insignificant monthly amounts are more bother than they are worth. But the case of Thomas Speaks, bugler in the 21st infantry, who was killed October 4, 1918, is peculiarly individual."

"Following the death of Thomas Speaks, the veterans bureau forwarded certain forms to his parents requesting that they be filled out and returned to the bureau. No response. Within a few weeks the bureau wrote the parents, enclosing additional copies of these forms. Still no response. This action, on the part of the bureau continued until June, 1921, when a special investigator called on Mr. and Mrs. Speaks relative to the case.

"In a personal interview he learned the following: That the boy had enlisted in the army a minor; that the parents had been dependant upon the boy; and that due to certain religious doctrines held, they, the parents, could not accept the monthly checks of \$28.75 without feeling they were a pain to their son's death. The investigator could not make them understand the protective side of government insurance—in fact, they were arbitrarily opposed to any sort of insurance—and he reported to the bureau that the parents would, under no conditions, accept the money."

### Put in Bill For Tombstone.

"Too, the investigator discovered that the parents had brought the body of Thomas Speaks from France. He informed them that the government was willing to reimburse them for certain burial expenses incurred, and asked that an itemized statement be submitted to the bureau. When the statement arrived at the Washington offices of the veterans bureau, it was found to cover the erection of a tomb, built by the boy's father at a cost of \$98.75. No mention of actual burial charges was made and since the government cannot, due to legal restriction, pay for mausoleums and tombs built by the deceased's family the Speaks family could not be reimbursed for the \$98.85 expended."

"The insurance money is accruing in the bureau, and since both parents claim dependency upon the son, but are unwilling to prove their contention, the \$30 additional per month has never been paid. What will be the final outcome of the case is hard to say, but it looks as though the insurance benefits will never reach the father and mother until they modify, to some extent, their present religious viewpoints."

## Once Famous and Wealthy, He Dies in Common Jail

Chicago, April 12.—Dr. J. C. Willis, formerly a famous surgeon and bank president and 10 years ago worth half a million dollars, died in the county jail today where he was awaiting trial on charges of passing \$123 worth of bogus checks.

Dr. Willis wrote many medical textbooks and was a recognized authority on certain nerve diseases. He lost his fortune through speculation.

## KENTUCKIAN OFFERS BIG TOBACCO LOAN

### Judge Bingham Would Lead Tri-State Growers \$300,000. Encourages Organization.

Raleigh, April 10.—Judge Robert W. Bingham, leader of the Burley Growers' Cooperative Association of Kentucky, pledged the organized tobacco growers of North Carolina his native State, all or any part of the \$300,000 needed by July 1st to finance the movement for the Cooperative marketing of tobacco, at meeting last Monday night which filled the Wake County Court House in Raleigh to overflowing.

Speaking of the half dozen warehousemen of the 130 in Kentucky who held out against the Burley Growers' Association, Judge Bingham said, "There are six warehouses out in Kentucky that are not worth sixty cents and there are 124 that will bring an honest price." And speaking of North Carolina, he said, "If the warehousemen know their business, they will accept the proposition."

Declaring that there is nothing strange or miraculous in the cooperative marketing movement, the leader of the successful Kentucky organization said, "The principle is the same that has made all industries successful—the railroads, Standard Oil and the great steel corporation." He declared that by carrying through the present movement to a successful finish, the farmers of the Carolinas and Virginia would as certainly draw profitable dividends from their organization as the shareholders in other highly successful industries.

The Directors of the Virginia-Carolina Tobacco Growers' Cooperative Association, the North Carolina Cotton Association and officers from the chambers of commerce of all large centers in the State heard how 47,000 burley growers of Kentucky had gained a \$10,000,000 credit with the War Finance Corporation and had received loans of \$4,600,000 from Kentucky banks before even a leaf of tobacco was in the hands of the Association.

"Although this loan of \$4,600,000 was made for ninety days, Judge Bingham declared it was entirely paid off by the Association within less than half that time. President Stone of the organized burley growers declared that last year the Association handled 120,000,000 pounds of tobacco at a total expense of 40 cents per cwt. Half of the fee heretofore paid by the farmers for the privilege of selling in a warehouse.

Oliver J. Sands, Manager and G. A. Norwood, President of the Tobacco Growers' Cooperative Association, were other speakers at the Smoker given to the leaders of the two great Associations of tobacco growers who represent organized tobacco farmers of areas raising 900,000,000 pounds out of the 1,400,000,000 pound crop of the United States.

Dr. J. Y. Joyner, Chairman of the Committee on Warehouses, which has successfully completed the sign-up of more than 150 warehouses in the Carolinas and Virginia said, "Before July 1st, 1922 we promise to have signed up, 80 per cent of the tobacco growers in three States, so help us God: for back of this movement is the eternal principle of justice and back of that is a God of Justice, and a handful of selfish men cannot stop us."

## Babylon the Deadest of All Dead Things

The ruins of Babylon are the deadest of all dead things in the wastes of Mesopotamia. They are located about 100 miles south of Bagdad, and scattered over a wide stretch of territory. The greater part of the city which has recently been brought to light belongs to the comparatively modern period of Nebuchadnezzar, about 600 B. C., but traces of the first Babylonian Kings (2,500 B. C.) are left in the ruins, and successive strata reveal the streets and houses built by succeeding dynasties of the Assyrian, Neo-Babylonians, Persian and Greco-Parthian periods.

Also there are relics to prove a pre-historic Babylon, but, as in the case of Ninevah, it is impossible to carry the excavations deep enough, owing to the rise of the water level.

The city when built by Nebuchadnezzar, formed one of the greatest and most significant of the world has ever seen. Ancient historians can find no words to describe the grandeur of the palaces, the splendid edifices, large gardens and pleasure grounds, especially the hanging gardens.—Pearson's Weekly.

## FIFTY-FIVE CARS ARE CONFISCATED

### Eight Captured Near Reidsville In Past Few Days; Much Liquor Seized.

Reidsville, April 11.—Exactly fifty-five confiscated automobiles are now in "cold storage" in Reidsville under the watchful eye of the county's sheriff and his deputies. Since last Thursday night Sheriff Sands and his assistants have brought in eight automobiles, including four Ford touring cars and an Overland roadster, the captures all resulting from raids in the western part of the county. The Sheriff's dispensary, as a result, was replenished with more than 600 gallons of moonshine. Several arrests were made.

S. T. Price was given a hearing before Squire Robert Mitchell here Sat. on a charge of transporting whiskey. Price was caught with others and six automobiles in the western part of the county a few weeks ago. J. M. Riddle, a member of the transporting crew, turned State's evidence. His testimony in effect was that Price was the ringleader of the gang, owned the cars, and in fact was the man wanted. Squire Mitchell bound over Price to the next term of Superior court in a bond of \$2,000. Price has been making his headquarters in Greensboro for some time past.

## Husband Kills Wife Hunting For Burglar

Charlotte, April 10.—Sam Crump 50 years old, shot and killed his wife at his home just over the Mecklenburg-Union line Sunday night at 10 o'clock. The husband is said to have mistaken his wife for a burglar and fired, killing her almost instantly.

The tragedy occurred three miles from Mint Hill, where the Helms family were murdered Sunday. Mr. Crump heard a noise at a window and thinking it a burglar, he said, got his shot gun and went out. Mrs. Crump also got up and went out, unknown to her husband. In a few seconds the wife came into view around the corner of the house, and in the semi-darkness the husband fired.

## Baby Is Drowned in Bucket.

Rutherfordton, April 12.—Three miles west of here yesterday the 15 months old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Miller fell in a slop pail in the kitchen and drowned while the mother was in the living room cleaning the house. When she sent her son for the baby it was dead in the pail.

## 20 THOUSAND POUNDS OF POWDER EXPLODES.

### One Man Blown to Bits and 50 Box Cars Damaged At Charleston.

Charleston, S. C., April 13.—J. Hill, white, foreman for the Columbia Salvage corporation was blown into bits at 11:30 o'clock this morning when an explosion of 20,000 pounds of black powder occurred in an ammunition magazine near the ordnance department, North Charleston. More than 50 box cars were damaged and trackage wrecked. It will never be known what caused the terrific blast.

Fragments of Hill's body were collected over a considerable area and placed in a coffin for interment. His cap was found about 200 yards from the magazine, the walls of which were made with boxes filled with sand with a canvass roof. Hill and three negro laborers were seen about the magazine before the explosion. It is said the negroes were practically unhurt.

For many miles around the explosion was felt. Glass was shattered in plants in the suburbs of Charleston. It is believed that one or two kegs of powder were first detonated and that almost immediately all the rest of the 800 kegs went off with terrific force. A burning brand fell a short distance away from a pile of T. N. T. shells and among those who appreciated the peril there was consternation. At the imminent risk of their lives Chief Thompson of the government's port terminals fire department and Lieutenant A. L. Viloancy of the quartermaster corps extinguished the fire with chemicals.

While it is not known how the explosion occurred, it is reported that Foreman Hill had borrowed a steel coal chisel and it is believed that he was working with this on the steel powder kegs, sparks causing the explosion. The regulations require that a brass implement be used, thus preventing sparks.

## RACE SEGREGATION PROBLEM IS SOLVED

### Winston-Salem Purchases 25 Acres of Land for Negroes.

Winston-Salem, April 10.—As a result of conferences held between representative white and colored citizens, it is believed that the problem of segregation for the two races has been amicably solved. Mayor James G. Hanes is leader of the movement. The city has purchased about 25 acres of land on East Fourteenth street on which is located a modern school building and playgrounds for the colored people. Lots will also be laid off and sold to members of the race for residences, every purchaser being required to erect thereon a modern home.

W. N. Reynolds, president of the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, more than a year ago gave the colored people what was known in the days of the Carolina baseball league as Prince Albert park as a playground site. Since the new development on Fourteenth street and the segregation movement, Mr. Reynolds joined with the city in making the purchase of the 25 acres, the head of the great tobacco concern agreeing to invest the value of the base ball park in the land purchased from R. W. Hedgecock.

## Trinity Man is Blind But Has Great Vision.

Durham, April 12.—The blind shall not lead the blind, else they will fall in the ditch, but the story of F. L. Kiker of the freshman class at Trinity college should pull anyone out of the ditch of depression.

Kiker can hardly see the noon-day sun, yet he is making good at Trinity college and asking no odds from anyone.

"Just because a fellow lacks eyes shouldn't keep him out of college," says Kiker; "what he needs is vision, a purpose, an ambition, or a conviction that keeps him going forward."

This force in Kiker's life is the conviction that he has been called to enter the ministry. For five years now this conviction has been the gasoline in his motor car of being that has kept him taking every hill on high in an effort to gain an education.

"I just felt that I had to preach and I knew that I ought to have an education, so I came over here," said Kiker, as he let his sensitive fingers trace the brailled words on a note book page. "I didn't know how I was going to get along, but my father said he would help me. I haven't known one month how things were going to be the next, but school is almost out now and I am still here and expect to be here next year."

Kiker says that the first two weeks at Trinity were the hardest. "People didn't know that I could not see and every office I went to they just gave me a little old card and told me to fill it out," he remarked. Now it is different, he says. Expressions of doubt as to his ability to keep up with his work were frequently heard when it first became known that a blind man was among the members of the freshman class. Now he keeps every member of the class on a hump to keep up with his accomplishments in the class room.

In Latin and Bible classes Kiker leads. In the fall term he secured an average of 96 on his Latin and 92 on Bible. The texts he uses in these courses are printed in the "blind language." A person going into Kiker's room and finding the texts without knowing what they were might imagine that the Standard Oil company had stored its ledgers there, such a volume of space do they occupy.

Geometry also comes easy to Kiker. Of course he cannot see the lines, angles, etc., but he can carry them in his brain. In the oral examination given him on this subject, he outstripped many members of the class who have perfectly good eyes.

None of the blonde stenographers, or brunettes, either, for that matter, have anything on the blind student when it comes to operating a typewriter. His work in English is all typed and in its neatness and perfection equals that of the best stenographer.

Class room work does not occupy all his time. He is a member of the Columbia Literary society and has taken an active part in the work of the society. His first appearance on the society floor made quite an impression on the members.

Kiker was born near Polkton 27 years ago. A trouble which defies specialists affected his eyes from birth

and has gradually grown worse with age. At the age of 22 he decided upon the ministry as a calling and went to Raleigh to enter the State School for the blind where he was graduated last year, coming to Trinity in Sept.

## TOBACCO ACTIVITY

### Burley Association Is Making Great Progress in Kentucky.

Lexington, Ky., April 12.—Within the past month 842 new contracts, representing 1,804 acres or about 2,000,000 pounds of tobacco, have been received at the offices of the field service division of the Burley Tobacco Growers' Cooperative association, Assistant Chief William Collins states.

These contracts come from practically every county in the burley district in Kentucky and from counties in Ohio and West Virginia and Indiana, as well.

Tobacco belonging to the members of the Burley Tobacco Growers' Cooperative association will be delivered to the warehouses by April 14. Director Barker said Friday. The Lexington warehouse manager, Robert E. Beatty, announces that the Fayette No. 1 warehouse will be open Thursday and Friday, April 13 and 14 for the delivery of tobacco which growers may desire to bring to Lexington, and the officials of the association hope that every member grower will have delivered his crop by April 14, next Friday.

Secretary H. L. Eearley and his office staff are at work on the second distribution of funds to the growers, but because of the volume of book-keeping involved in the distribution, Secretary Eearley said he could not definitely fix the time of the distribution. He said the growers could depend on it that the second distribution would be made at the earliest possible moment.

## Durham Ready To Support the "Co-ops"

Durham, April 10.—A majority of the local tobacco warehousemen have agreed to turn over their warehouses to the Cooperative Marketing Association, provided adequate arrangements can be made in regard to leases it was announced today.

One warehouse, the Star Erick, will not be turned over to the association, however, according to announcement by the proprietors. The management of the warehouse sets forth, however, that there is to be no effort to fight the cooperative association.

## D'ANNUNZIO LEADS SIMPLE LIFE NOW

### Italy's Soldier Poet, Who Caused So Much Trouble At Fiume, Has Retired.

Rome, April 12.—Gabriele D'Annunzio, Italian soldier-poet, whose operations in Fiume threatened to bring about serious difficulties for the Italian government, has settled down to the "simple life" in his beautiful villa at Gardone. The general public finds it difficult to believe that "the Stormy Petrel of the Adriatic" will be content to retire to private life after holding positions of authority, and there is an impression that he still longs for a political career.

An intimate friend of the poet describes, in an article printed by La Epoca, the life D'Annunzio is living, and his enthusiastic return to literary pursuits. His last published work, "Nocturno," has reached a circulation of 50,000, which is exceptionally large for Italy. He is now finishing a comedy entitled "Amaranta," which will be entirely different from his former works, being eminently modern and ironic. It is written in simple limpid style.

D'Annunzio has also renewed his occupation as a journalist and has entered into contracts with American papers to write on serious literary and political subjects. For the former he will receive 25,000 lire, representing \$1390 at the present rate of exchange, and for the latter 20,000 lire, or about \$1000. This is high remuneration for such work.

The poet has also been amusing himself in designing decorations for women's gowns and in conversation with friends recently said in a jocular spirit: "The fire of D'Annunzio is prepared to supply the world with varied goods—fat beasts, poetry, wise speeches, woven linen, political advice, hats, novels, sermons, vegetables and also Latin mottoes."