

Mount Airy News.

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EUROPE YET FIGHTING

Sometimes we wonder if it is worth while to keep writing about the way Europe is doing. Why bother our readers with such doleful stuff is a question that comes up. And yet intelligent people want to know what is being done.

When the world war ended and our troops came home we all supposed that naturally business would adjust itself and everything gradually get back to normal times. Four years have now passed and normal times are about as far off as when the war ended. While the nations of Europe stopped fighting with guns and gas, they have not stopped fighting in an industrial way. They are doing each other just as much harm as they possibly can by unfair business methods. When France and Germany fought in 1874 Germany took from France the iron fields of Alsace and Lorraine. That gave Germany a monopoly of the iron business of Europe. In this country we have coal deposits here and there all about our country. It is not the case in Europe. Most of the coal is found in the beds of England and Germany. Italy has no coal and must get all her supply from other countries. For now many years Germany has had control of the great coal fields of that country and was able to control the iron industry as the result. Now all this has changed. France by the Versailles treaty got back her iron mines of Alsace and Lorraine and now she has seized the coal fields of Germany, and this gives her the whip hand in industry.

When Germany had to retreat from France she destroyed the coal mines of France so that they have not been worked since. Now the coal miners of Germany are refusing to work under the French rule and so the coal mines of Germany are producing almost no coal. And in the meantime Germany is importing iron ore from Canada and coal from England. She is doing this rather than make any kind of deal with France. The hatred is so intense between the two countries that the big business men of the two nations are as much at war in a business way as the military forces were at war before the treaty. The result of all this is that business is hampered to a degree that we of this country can hardly understand it.

France is determined to make Germany pay for the cost of the war, and Germany is just as determined to not pay. The big rich men of Germany are controlling the country and they are not allowing laws to be made that will assess taxes with which to run the country. They are paying labor and all others bills by printing paper money. Then they are selling their goods to other countries for good money and in turn investing this money in good property. In this way the very rich of Germany are becoming the richest people of the world and the poor are living a dog's life. Wheat is short in that country and much of the diet is made up of Irish potatoes in some form. One fourth of all their bread is potatoes. The men in power are wise enough to know that the end to all this foolishness is not far off and they are getting all their property in substantial form just as fast as they can. It is estimated that they have unloaded their worthless paper money on the people of this country to the amount of a thousand million of our good dollars, and in turn they have deposited our money in our own New York banks to their credit.

All this hatred may suddenly precipitate another world war at any day, and no man is wise enough to see the end. With the amount of hatred and spirit of rivalry in business that now exists in Europe it will be some job to get a business adjustment of any kind that will restore normal times.

GRAVE ROBBERS

Folks would throw up their hands in holy horror if they could hear of some vile wretch robbing a grave over at the community cemetery. But no one is found to object to the hunt for relics in the ancient tombs of Egypt. Just how much difference is there in robbing a grave here at home and robbing one in Egypt, is a question that no one seems to have raised. This thing of dragging mummies from their resting place and exhibiting them to curious crowds is something that is not above criticism.

AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS.

We see in the papers an account of where some learned professor has delivered a lecture on the cause of automobile accidents. The learned man has worked out a plan by which he would put an end to such accidents. The whole subject is so simple that it appears to us that every one should understand it. The country is wild about the automobile. We are in the midst of a craze very much like the country passed through some years ago when every one was putting in all day Sunday riding a bicycle.

It is a known fact that there are many people who are so low in intelligence that they are never trusted with a team of horses. Just plain common sense tells a man that he cannot afford to trust his team to that fellow. Every one has seen a horse and buggy plodding along the highway with the driver drunk and happy simply letting the horse take the road. All that was easy.

Now with the craze of automobile driving on us we have not yet come to our senses enough to find a way to eliminate the driver who simply cannot drive. There are many citizens who are so short on caution that they are a menace behind a wheel, and yet they think they are good drivers. There are plenty of men about every town who have so little caution that they turn fast-running automobiles over on themselves and their families and seem to think it is something to be proud of.

The faculty of the mind known as caution is highly developed in most people, but it takes but about one swallow of liquor to completely destroy this faculty of the mind. You have heard of the rabbit that spit in the bull dog's face after taking one drink of a certain kind of liquor. This is fable, but true to life.

The country must wake up to the fact that a man cannot safely drive an automobile with even one drink of liquor and that there are many men who should never be allowed to drive under any conditions.

THE TRUTH ABOUT RUSSIA

This country of ours is now sending shipments of food to Russia and caring for nearly two million children who get their one meal a day from our supplies. At the same time the Russians are selling wheat to Germany and shipping it out from the same ports through which American supplies come to their country. This is a fact, and now that it is known to be a fact our government will stop shipping supplies to them after the 15th of March. But food will continue to be given to the children, and later on in the year as many as 3,000,000 children will be fed on our supplies.

Now it seems to us that this story will appear to the average reader to be so strange as to be almost beyond belief. Yet it is the truth and represents the kind of government the Russians have and also the kind of people the Russians are.

Salem Congregation to Build.

Rev. J. A. Cook, pastor of Mount Airy Methodist circuit, is rapidly getting things in shape for erection of a splendid church building at Salem. The committee who has the matter in charge have practically agreed on plans and are now making a canvass of the membership and others for funds with which to do the work. They expect to build a brick structure which will contain eight class rooms and a large auditorium and when completed will cost about \$15,000. This is the oldest Methodist church in this section of the state having been organized more than 60 years ago. For many years the Methodists of Mount Airy belonged and attended services at old Salem as it was then the only Methodist church in their reach. It still has a membership of over 200, and much enthusiasm is being manifested in the anticipation of a splendid and adequate house of worship.

Work on Haymore Memorial Baptist Church Progressing.

Rev. J. H. Fulghum, pastor of the Second Baptist church, reports that the work of completing the Haymore Memorial Baptist church is progressing nicely. This week the steam heating plant was completed and tested out. It is a modern heating plant and alone cost about \$2,500. This structure is one of the nicest and best arranged ones in the state and when completed will cost about \$25,000. Already there has been subscribed and paid in on the work about \$15,000. The erection of this edifice has been a herculean task for the congregation and they are grateful to those who have helped out in this cause and will appreciate any contribution that any one might be moved to make.

Sheriff C. H. Haynes has moved into the office room in the First National Bank building on Moore street, where he will maintain his office for the present. J. E. Monday will assist him in his work.

HARDWARE STORE ENLARGED

W. E. Merritt Company Prepares for Larger Business

To take care of the rapidly increasing business of W. E. Merritt Hardware Company, W. E. Merritt has just completed a large addition to his building on Main street and it is now being used by the Hardware Company. The addition to the present store room is four stories high and gives the hardware business double the floor space previously used. The floors of the addition and the main building are connected together and an electric elevator is used to convey stocks to the upper floors. In building the addition Mr. Merritt arranged so that wagons and trucks could drive from Oak street into the basement and load or unload regardless of weather or any other condition. The first floor is also arranged so trucks can back into the building.

The basement will be used to store lime, cement, plaster and terra cotta. Here is found sufficient room to put in a stock of ten cars of this material which will enable the company to better supply the needs of their customers.

The first floor will be used for the general line of hardware. The office is being enlarged and moved into a better location. On the first floor of the annex a bin has been built to store tire iron. This is built up from the ground and is arranged to stand the iron on the end, and will hold two cars of tire iron or about 100,000 pounds. On the second floor will be stored a large stock of stoves, plows, fencing and farm machinery, and also the tobacco flue work shop.

The third floor will be devoted almost exclusively to a stock of building material. This company expects to add to their stock of building material a complete line of mantels, tile and grates. Bins have been erected in which to better store and display the windows, doors and frames.

With the erection of this annex the W. E. Merritt Company will have a floor space of 22,000 square feet an amount equal to about one-half acre which will greatly aid them in carrying larger stocks and greater selections. This business claims the distinction of being the oldest one in the city having been organized by W. E. Merritt in 1888, or 35 years ago. This was before Mount Airy had a railroad and Mr. Merritt hauled his goods on wagons through the country from Greensboro and Winston.

Mr. Merritt first came to this city as a clerk in the year 1887. He had cousin, W. M. Jones, who was then running a small hardware store here and he worked for him until 1888 when he purchased the business of his cousin, and for 35 years has successfully conducted a large hardware business in our city. Through his honest, straightforward and fair dealings with the people his business has increased yearly.

In 1916 Herbert M. Foy acquired an interest in the business and has been giving it his entire time as manager since that date. For several years prior to that time he was in the employ of the company and has proved himself a capable and efficient hardware man. For some time now Mr. Merritt has divided his attention between his store and farm, but still keeps in touch with the hardware business and is ever watchful that the policies that enabled him to build up the business are adhered to.

The personnel of the company and force are: W. E. Merritt and H. M. Foy, owners; Miss Nellie Saunders, bookkeeper; Haywood Merritt, Jr., Frank Hines, Weldon Parker, M. F. Childress, Gabe Towe, Perry Taylor and Arthur Thomas, salesmen.

Getting in Closer Touch With Europe.

In various and sundry ways the European nations and especially England are daily making efforts to get in closer relations with America and the American people. Just this week this was demonstrated when Dr. L. L. Williams received official notice that he had been elected a member of the Royal Institute of Public Health of England. In that country everything begins with His Majesty, the King, and before Dr. Williams was elected to membership in this particular society it was necessary that he be recommended by His Majesty, King George V. This was done about the first of the year and the certificate of membership sent to Dr. Williams.

The public health work is one line of business that the British nation is endeavoring to link up with in this country, and it is supposed that they have elected to membership in their societies a number of the doctors of this nation who have made a reputation in health work. This honor from the British Isles no doubt comes to Dr. Williams because of the splendid record he has made with the State Board of Health in the administration of his office and work.

BEFORE THE RECORDER.

"Monkey Bottom" Cleaned Up At Last.

With the passing of Penn Bowman the famous resort of liquor dealers, "Monkey Bottom," is done away with. For years there have congregated in a section between this city and the quarry families who had the reputation of conducting blind tigers. Hardly a week has passed by within the past two years without the officers making a search in that section. For some reason, we do not know the why or wherefore, this place became known as "Monkey Bottom" and old man Penn Bowman was styled its "mayor." For the past two months the police have been making a search of his premises at least every other day and so hot and close did they keep after these offenders that they have been unable to conduct their business of retailing. In one search last week they found liquor and locked up old man Penn and he was given a hearing Monday. Judge Lewellyn made him pay a fine of \$50, and gave a suspended sentence of six months on the roads, not to take effect if he stays out of the county for 12 months. So old man Bowman and his family have left for Winston-Salem.

Growing out of the Bowman family leaving, Hugh Bowman and Will Crews have been arrested for the destruction of property. Conditions were getting so bad in "Monkey Bottom" that the owners of the houses two weeks ago ordered Bowman and Crews to move out. Before leaving it is charged that Crews and Hugh Bowman proceeded to tear up things general and now they must explain to Judge Lewellyn their reasons for such conduct.

Fonzo Riddle was caught in a gambling game in his room over Barker & Stone's store and paid a fine of \$50 and the cost. He was acquitted of a charge of being drunk and disorderly. Raymond Allred paid \$5 and the cost for being drunk and disorderly.

Sam Sprinkle was again before the court. Sam runs a little cafe on South street and has been before the court a number of times for creating disturbances in his neighborhood. This time the state failed to make out a case against him.

L. B. Jones and C. C. Heath paid \$23.55 each for being drunk. They paid more than is usually required because they had such a glorious time during their little spree.

In the court last week Floyd Cook paid a fine of \$200 and the cost and

AGENCY

Van Lindley's Cut Flowers

Bride's Bouquets and Funeral Designs

W. S. Wolfe Drug Co.

Next to Post Office

must refrain from drinking or disturbing the peace for 12 months else he will have to serve six months on the roads. This young man proved to be a hard working person but he has been in the habit of getting tanked up on Sundays and starting out creating a disturbance many times. On the last occasion he went to a neighbor's house where there was sickness in the home and caused quite a commotion causing the sick person to try to leave the house in a weakened condition. The Judge was about to put the young man on the roads but the powerful plea of his attorney, J. H. Folger, caused him to save him from the stripes this time.

Albert Peters and Benton Witt, two well known young men of this city, were convicted of selling liquor and must serve six months on the roads. The Judge hated to see these boys put on the roads but their conduct was such that he could see no other salvation for them.

Mr. Quesinberry Leaves For Maryland.

Arnold Quesinberry and family left this city for White Hall, Md., where they will make their future home after residing in Mount Airy for several years. The first of the year Mr. Quesinberry sold his hardware business and goes to Maryland where he has purchased a farm and will conduct a general store also. While in Mount Airy Mr. Quesinberry built up a good business and the people of the city and country regret to lose him as a citizen and business man.

Mr. and Mrs. Hardbarger, of Henderson, have secured rooms for light housekeeping in the home of Dr. and Mrs. J. L. Woltz. Mr. Hardbarger is with the Mantel and Table company.

FREE TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC

Will Be Held at Pilot Mountain, Mar. 6 and 7, Mount Airy, Mar. 8, 9 and 10, Elkin, Mar. 12 and 13, Dobson, Mar. 14, 15 and 16th.

Every person in Surry County is again given an opportunity to be examined by a specialist who comes to us from the State Sanatorium through the North Carolina Tuberculosis Association. Dr. J. L. Spruill, who was with us two years ago.

Do not wait until you are so ill with the disease that the layman can diagnose your trouble as it will then be too late for you to become well again. If you have it, it is your duty to know it.

It has well been said the next step in the fight against tuberculosis is FINDING IT. It is easily cured if found in time. In its beginning. If you have any of the symptoms be sure to take advantage of this opportunity and be examined free by a specialist.

Be sure to write your health department for date, so you will not have to wait.

DR. L. L. WILLIAMS,
 County Health Officer.

Dollar Day a Success.

The merchants of Mount Airy held their first Dollar Day sale Tuesday of this week and all agree that it was a big success. Large numbers of people thronged the stores all day and the clerks were kept constantly at work waiting on the crowds. The merchants had made many attractive offers and the people were quick to take advantage of the saving offered them. So great was the success of the Dollar Day sale it is now being talked among the merchants to stage such an event several times a year.

CLOTHES THAT SATISFY

SMITH'S

CLOTHES THAT SATISFY

Spring Time Will Soon Be Here

Anticipating an early spring we have bought our stock of Spring goods earlier than usual and they are now arriving.

Clothing for Men and Boys

We have the prettiest line of Men's and Boys' Clothing we have ever been able to purchase. Come in and let us show you what we have. All the latest shades and fabrics at reasonable prices.

Shoes and Oxfords

We handle the well known line of Florsheim Shoes and Oxfords and have a wide selection of styles and sizes.

On The Corner

J. D. Smith

On The Corner