

The Mount Airy News.

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MOUNT AIRY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 1923.

\$1.50 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

PUTTING STOKES COUNTY ON THE MAP

State Will Build Hard-Surface Highway from Winston-Salem to Danbury.

Danbury Reporter.

Stokes county citizens are very much elated over the announcement of Commissioner A. S. Hanes, of this district, that the State Highway Commission will build a hard-surface road from Winston-Salem to Danbury as soon as possible, and that the last lap of the Danbury-Westfield road will also be built at an early date.

Commissioner Hanes, who had just returned to Winston-Salem from a meeting of the State Highway Commission in Raleigh last week, gave out this bit of interesting information Saturday, and no news will ever be more important to our people than this announcement.

It was stated by Mr. Hanes that while all hard-surface road building was being delayed by the shortage of cement and that none of the projects authorized could be completed at once, all the roads would be surveyed and graded and the bridges put in as quickly as possible so that the cement could be put down as soon as it was available.

Other road building authorized to be done in this district at last week's meeting of the highway commission, according to the announcement of Commissioner Hanes, includes hard surface from Pilot Mountain to Mount Airy, from Winston-Salem to Mocksville, from Lenoir to Hickory, from Wilkesboro to Mulberry Gap, Boone and Blowing Rock, five miles of hard-surface on the Boone trail from Wilkesboro to Winston-Salem, and from Sparta to Jefferson.

It is not thought that any of the road projects named above will likely be awarded to contract at the next letting on April 3, as some of them are not even surveyed yet, but they will no doubt be contracted as soon as they can be made ready by the highway commission.

It is safe to say that with the completion of the Danbury-Westfield road, which is soon to be built, and the finishing of the Danbury-Stuart, Va., road, which is now being built by the county, the traffic going into Winston-Salem over the road from here to that city will be fully as great or greater than that of any other highway reaching the Twin City, the Boone trail not excepted.

Danville Officers Chase Bootlegger; Get Big Car.

Danville, Va., March 20.—Four shots fired by two local officers at a speeding car freighted with tin cans containing more than 50 gallons of liquor resulted in the car and the liquor consignment being seized, the driver of the machine, however, escaping. The car entered the city from Schoolfield and was led by a pilot car, a race frequently resorted to in running expeditions. The officers saw the tin cans and took up pursuit of the car down West Main street. The bootlegger recognized quickly that he was being pursued and put on speed, passed the pilot car, which was left behind to harry the officers and to block pursuit. The chase continued through town, the bootlegger turning and racing back and heading for the open country south of here. The officers, unwilling to use firearms in the residential section, hung on and on reaching the outskirts opened fire. This had the effect of causing the car containing the liquor to stop, the driver leaping out and taking to the woods while the pilot car put on speed and disappeared. The officers have seized the car and the liquor and are now trying to trace the machine's ownership through its license plate.

England to Make First Payment on Its War Debt.

Washington, March 21.—The British government is preparing to make the full payment for this year under the recently negotiated refunding arrangement and, according to information reaching the treasury department, will not exercise its option to defer half of its first yearly installment.

It is understood to be the intention of Great Britain to make its first payment of \$69,000,000 on June 15. This amount is half of the yearly installment of interest provided for in the agreement, the balance falling due December 15, when payment of \$28,000,000 principal is expected also to be made.

TELLS FARM BOYS TO GO TO THE CITY

Secretary Wallace Says Farms Are Producing a Big Surplus.

Washington, March 21.—For the last twenty years the cry has been incessant and from the house top to young men to stay on the farm. At least 52 per cent of the population of the country are housed in the cities and the nation was told the fact portended famine.

Now here comes the secretary of agriculture with a blast on his dinner horn for the plow boy to stop his tractor and hurry to town in order to make farming worth while. Mr. Wallace says the country is now in danger of having too many farmers with too much wheat, too much cotton, too many potatoes, too many melons. The big problem now in agriculture is how to get the boys off the farm and started right in the cities. The secretary in his annual report says:

The greatly accelerated movement of farmers and especially farmers' sons from the farms to the cities and industrial centers is one of the hopeful signs.

The secretary has reached this conclusion, he says, because only 52 per cent of the people are required to produce the food that is needed by this country and that can be profitably sold to the outside world while 48 per cent of the people still remain on the farms. In this country three men can feed ten men now so efficient has become agriculture.

The reduction in the number of farmers means that all poor and unproductive lands must be eliminated and that farms furthest from market must be abandoned. Farmers then will be compelled to ship to market only well graded and desirable products. It is now estimated that 10 per cent of the cotton sold on the market is dirt and trash. Ten per cent of the best North Dakota wheat is dirt. All this foreign matter must be eliminated on the farms.

It is not more credit the farmer needs. All these new credit laws and the establishing of credit banks will not make him prosperous. What he does need is a profitable price for his products on the market. With the present plethora in the number of farmers, with overproduction, the cultivation in unproductive lands, and the expenses in transportation, farm products can not be sold at a profitable price.

The war has so increased the efficiency of the American farm that the over-efficient farmer is actually working himself out of a job. We sent four million men to the war and we took a million of the daughters of the farmers and put them in offices, factories and munition plants and in spite of all these facts we increased our farm products 20 per cent during the war. This increase has gone on since the war notwithstanding the fact that a great majority of the farm boys who went to the camps and trenches, did not return to the farm after the war and the cities have gone on growing by leaps and bounds. The war greatly increased the use of the tractor and other machinery on the farm. But most of all the farmers learned the art of rotating crops and producing profitable sidelines such as vegetables, fruits and poultry where such products were before unknown.

Take the Southern states where only 9,000,000 bales of cotton were produced last year because of the ravages of the boll weevil. Many farmers seem disposed to believe that because of the presence of the boll weevil they should turn their attention to grass growing and stock-raising but as Secretary Wallace analyzes the situation such farming on the part of the South will only bring the prices of grain and meat lower and will not improve conditions in the South.

The problem of producing enough and now a great surplus on the farm has been solved and what is now needed are enough customers to consume this great surplus. If Europe could buy our surplus farm products to the same extent it did before the war the prices would be better. We need Europe and we need fewer people on the farm, as Secretary Wallace sees it.

About 7000 people read The Mount Airy News and have been reading it for many years. You have it sent to your home the next time you come to town.

OLD BATTLESHIP IOWA GOES TO OCEAN GRAVE

Once Proud Man-o-War, Famed For Deed At Santiago, Is Sunk in Practice.

Aboard U. S. S. Maryland, Panama Bay, March 22.—Amid strains of the Star Spangled Banner and the firing of national salutes the old battleship Iowa sank here late today. After a shelling by the superdreadnaught Mississippi's 14-inch rifles, the battered hulk turned slowly over on its side and slipped beneath the waves.

Secretary Denby, members of the congressional party, naval officers and observing ship's companies stood at attention in silent tribute to the once gallant ship that won fame in the destruction of Cervera's fleet at Santiago.

With this dramatic climax the winter maneuvers of the United States fleet ended. For part of two days the Iowa withstood the battering from this Mississippi which was using thin walled shells but her end came within 17 minutes after the superdreadnaught opened up with service shells from a range of approximately nine miles.

Nine, five gun salvos were fired. The first went wide but the second carried the Iowa's death blow, one shell hitting at the water line, smashing through the thick armor and exploding inside. At least five other direct hits were scored, hastening the end. Before using service shells the Mississippi fired 120 rounds of special shells. Salvo after salvo struck the hulk, carrying away the forward smoke stack, riddling ventilators and the superstructure and tearing nearly a dozen holes in the hull from stem to stern.

It had been the intention to maneuver the Iowa by radio control during the firing but just before this started the apparatus became deranged and the ship wallowed helplessly in the sea as shells rained down upon her.

The second salvo of the first attack started up her boilers, smoke pouring out of the after funnel. Twice shells started fires on her deck but these were extinguished by columns of water thrown up by explosions of shells close by. Near the coal fuel oil ignited the smoke pouring from the hull.

Base A Big Lawsuit on Casual Conversation on Pullman

New York, March 20.—A casual conversation between passengers in a western Pullman car a year ago, which was overheard by a federal revenue agent, led to an investigation which resulted today in the filing in the federal district court of an equity invoice and excess profits tax suit for \$1,790,842.44, with interest, from 450 individuals and corporations in the United States and Canada.

The defendants were stockholders in the Warren Realty and Development company of Arizona, which Assistant Federal Attorney House said today, was sold in April, 1917, for \$2,202,000. The government claimed the properties, largely Arizona copper mine claims, were acquired for a little more than \$500,000 and that the company's 1917 tax return failed properly to show the profit resulting from the sale.

Discovery of the alleged tax fraud, the government attorney declared, was made by a field agent of the internal revenue service who, during the course of a conversation in a western Pullman car, overheard details of the sale of the Arizona company and made a report which formed the basis of the subsequent inquiry. The investigation led, Mr. House said to Arizona, Washington, and other states and cities.

The government's suit is brought against the stockholders on the theory that the amounts received by them were trust funds which the government may follow in order to recover the tax due it, Mr. House declared.

Administrator's Notice

Having been appointed Administrator of the estate of W. H. Blackburn deceased late of Surry county N. C. This is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to the undersigned, within twelve months from date of this notice or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will make immediate payment to me. 5-6 p This March 24th 1923. B. A. Booker, Adm.

CO-OP TOBACCO CAN'T BE TAXED IN VIRGINIA

Attorney General Declares the Tobacco Still Belongs to the Farmers

Danville, Va., March 17.—The decision of the attorney general relative to the taxation of tobacco held by the Tobacco Growers Co-Operative Marketing association, holding that no state tax can be levied on such tobacco was made public here today by P. G. Ragland, commissioner of the revenue. Concurring in an opinion given by C. Lee Moore, state auditor, Attorney General Saunders holds that farmers who are members of the "pool" organization have not parted with their tobacco, that it is still their since they themselves form the association. The decision means a loss of many thousands of dollars to the state. In North Carolina such tobacco is taxable and during past months the marketing association has shipped many hundreds of hogsheads into Virginia—most of these to Danville to evade taxation and to be stored here.

Several months ago Mr. Ragland sought an expression on the subject by the attorney general realizing that some legal construction would be necessary before the time came to assess property. The opinion given to Mr. Ragland is contained in a copy of a letter which Mr. Moore wrote to Messrs. Cardwell and Cardwell, attorneys for the pool in Richmond. The attorney general indorses the opinion over his signature.

Mr. Ragland has written to Mr. Moore asserting that he will be guided by the decision. He expresses the opinion that the construction of the law will "cause a great deal of trouble in the future," claiming that in the future a great deal of tobacco will be difficult to reach for the purpose of making assessments.

Negro Falls 10 Stories to Death

Greensboro, March 23.—Douglas Towns, a negro laborer, died at St. Leo's hospital, this city, at 8 o'clock last night, 27 hours after he fell 10 stories at the Jefferson Standard building.

Towns was working on the 14th story of the big building now in process of erection when the timber upon which he stood was struck by an elevator. He fell back into an adjacent elevator shaft and plunged 10 stories, the scaffolding ending his fall at the fourth floor.

The piece of timber which gave the negro a standing place had been placed over an elevator shaft which was open but not being used. Another shaft, in use, adjoined and the timber projected part of the way over the used shaft. Suddenly a descending elevator hit the timber on which Towns was standing, whereupon he lost his footing and the fatal fall followed. In his fall the workman struck several pieces of scaffolding in the shaft, a fact which tended to check his downward progress. On the fourth floor the scaffolding makes virtually a complete floor and it was there that Towns landed.

It was found that the workman's right leg was broken at the ankle, while above the knee that leg also was broken. His head received a terrific blow, he was bruised in many places and suffered a number of internal injuries. The gravity of his condition was apparent at first; in fact, it appeared almost a miracle that life lasted more than a day after the accident, which occurred at 5 o'clock Tuesday afternoon.

Keen Interest in Poetry and Short Story Contest

Quite a number of Woman's Club members entered with zest into the local preliminary contest for honors in writing poetry and short stories.

Mesdames E. F. McKinney and W. M. Lewis and Miss Teter, the latter of the high school faculty acted as judges and awarded the prizes; to Mrs. Oscar Merritt for the best poem, the winning poem being entitled "A Spring Shower," and to Mrs. R. R. Jackson for the best short story which was entitled, "You Can't Lose Some Reputations."

The judges considered the contributions very creditable and found it hard to render a decision.

The winning numbers, together with one or more selection by each contributor, will be entered in the state contest for the Separk Poetry cup and the Joseph Pearson Caldwell and the O'Henry cups for short stories.

RUM-RUNNERS ARE WORRYING OFFICIALS

Six Vessels, Sailing From the Bahamas, Are Put on the "Suspicion List."

New York, March 22.—Reports that six more rum laden vessels had left the Bahamas for American waters and that three schooners belonging to be the advance guard of a spring rum fleet from St. Pierre, Miquelon, had dropped anchor off the Rhode Island coast, today added to the worries of prohibition enforcement authorities.

R. Q. Morrick, newly appointed zone enforcement chief, met the news with the statement that there was nothing he could do about it. The federal prohibition enforcement office has no fleet to send out to cope with the situation, he said, and was compelled to rely on the coast guard and customs service to break it up.

Captain Reed, coast guard commander for the New York division, said there were three coast guard vessels in his district—which has a coast line of about 200 miles—doing "occasional" work against the rum-runners. He pointed out that the coast guard had other duties to perform.

Custom authorities said they had the cutter Lexington on the trail of the rum-runners, but declared she was far from able to cope with the traffic.

Touching on the wireless message flashed last night from the rum-running yacht Ister to a man in a Times Square hotel and purporting to advise him that a small boat of liquor was drifting off the Highlands, Captain Reed declared he was proceeding on the theory that it was a code message.

The message as received by customs officers read: "Motorboat adrift. Headed for New Inlet. Yours for the salvage. Ister."

The man to whom the message was addressed sent two messages to the Ister, the first reading: "The agent will be out this afternoon," and the second, "Am sending three boats to different points."

The Ister, it was said, is loaded with Scotch whiskey taken on at Glasgow, from which port the British fleet was expected to operate.

New Row of Teeth in Anti-Weapon Law.

Raleigh, March 23.—Hid away among the eleven measures enacted by the recent general assembly is a row of teeth for the anti-weapon law, aimed directly at the pistol-carrying population, which, despite a law against the purchase of weapons without a permit from the clerk of court, has succeeded in getting around the provision thru the assistance of mail order houses.

The teeth, contained in an amendment to the original anti-weapon measure, merely makes it a misdemeanor punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, to receive a pistol, pump gun, bowie knife, dirk, dagger or metallic knucks from a postmaster, postal clerk, employe in parcels post department, rural mail carrier, express agent or employe, without possessing a permit signed by the clerk of court and without exhibiting the permit to the person making delivery.

The first anti-weapon law contained in Section 5106 F, the consolidated statutes, was enacted some sessions ago and made it a misdemeanor to buy a gun in the state without procuring a permit from the clerk of court specifying that the weapon was to be used only for the protection of the home. The same law forbade a dealer from making the sale until the purchaser had exhibited the permit.

NOTICE.

By virtue of an order made in the matter of W. W. Atkins, administrator of Harriet Atkins against John Atkins and others therein appointing me commissioner for the purpose, I will sell, for cash, to the highest bidder on the premises the following described tract or parcel of land:

Lying and being in Surry County, N. C., Westfield township, adjoining the lands of W. W. Atkins, Tommie Atkins and others, containing 25 1-4 acres, more or less.

Sale to be made on Tuesday, April 3, 1923, 1 O'Clock P. M.

Sale made to raise assets to pay debts and cost of administration. A deposit of 10 per cent of the amount bid will be required on day of sale. This March 2nd, 1923. J. H. Polger, Atty. W. W. Atkins, Adm. and Com.

REPUBLICAN RECORD TO BE CHIEF ISSUE

Harding Administration Has Been "Most Conspicuous Failure" in History

Washington, March 21.—The following statement was issued here Monday by Cordell Hull, chairman of the Democratic National Executive committee:

"The semi-official announcement by Attorney General Daugherty that President Harding will be a candidate for renomination is of small interest as news compared with the reasons for making the announcement at this time.

"If President Harding had only risen to the level of an ordinary President it would have been taken for granted that the party would renominate him. The doubt concerning his renomination has been raised by the fact that his administration to date has been the most conspicuous failure of any in the twenty-nine national administrations. With this fact confronting them, the progressive element in the Republican party as well as conservatives of sound political judgment, long ago realized that Mr. Harding could not be re-elected, and began to look for another candidate. The failure of the Harding administration was demonstrated and emphasized by the repudiation given it at the polls last November.

"The reactionary supporters of the President, largely confined to the office-holding, and office-seeking classes, evidently realized that, if Mr. Harding was to be re-nominated something would have to be done to revive interest in him which was fast waning and also to suppress those party leaders who are rapidly deserting the Harding cause in search of another candidate. Hence the announcement of the Harding candidacy by the President's closest personal friend and most influential political adviser, Attorney General Daugherty. Hence, too, the President's announced purpose of making a speech-making tour of the country.

"The announcement of Attorney General Daugherty will have little or no effect upon the national political situation in either party. One of the outstanding issues in the 1924 campaign will be the record of omission and commission of the Harding administration, whether Mr. Harding heads the ticket or not. On this issue the Democratic party is ready now to go to bat."

OLD LIQUOR STATUTE IS UPHELD BY COURT.

Supreme Court Holds State Can Convict Under Earlier Laws Despite New Act.

Raleigh, March 21.—The state can convict under the old prohibition law notwithstanding the Turlington act, the Supreme court held today in its decision on the appeal of Eugene Foster, Franklin county.

The defendant was convicted of having liquor in his possession for the purpose of sale and also for receiving more than one quart at a time.

"The defendant was not affected in this trial by the new act which did not go into effect until March, the opinion reads in part, "and he could not plead, and in fact there was no evidence, if so pleaded, that he had liquor in his home for his own purposes, for his own testimony was that he did not have any at all."

The declaration also says that the new act prohibits the receiving of any intoxicating liquor while under the former act it was lawful to receive as much as a quart and even more than a quart if received at different times, but as the new act did not take effect until March 1, the defendant was not tried under it and cannot complain that the prospective change was made prohibiting any to be received after March 1, as already stated.

Continuing, the decision asserts that under the old law possession of more than a gallon of liquor was prima facie evidence of possession, for the purpose of sale, while under the new law the possession of any quantity of liquor is prima facie evidence of possession for sale, provided not in a private dwelling of the accused. The same observation applies to this also.

In conclusion the decision states "we cannot see that the defendant has any complaint. He was tried under the old law and duly convicted."