

The Smithfield Herald

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TO MEET HERE TUESDAY.

Farmers, Bankers and Merchants and All Other Patriotic Citizens Called Together in Conference to Consider Food Production and Conservation Problem. J. Paul Lucas to Address Meeting.

The North Carolina Food Commission held a meeting in Raleigh Tuesday and definite plans for a strenuous campaign were made. This campaign is to be kept up for the next four months throughout the State for the purpose of bringing about a larger food production.

A sub-committee, consisting of Governor Bickett, Mr. C. R. Hudson, State Farm Demonstration Agent, and Mr. J. Paul Lucas, President of the State Farmers Association, was appointed to have the campaign in charge. Mr. Lucas was made Secretary and will open offices in Raleigh this week and start the work of trying to make the people of North Carolina see the great importance of raising greater quantities of food supplies. Mr. Lucas was former editor of the Charlotte Chronicle and is a strong and vigorous young man who will give a good account of himself in a campaign the importance of which cannot be overestimated.

The people of Smithfield and Johnston County are planning to have a mass meeting of the farmers, bankers, merchants and all classes of our citizens to be held in the Court House in Smithfield next Tuesday, April 24, at one o'clock, for the purpose of thoroughly organizing the county in this great work. Mr. Lucas will be present at this meeting and deliver an address on the subject of production and conservation.

Mr. T. S. Ragsdale, one of Smithfield's wide-awake citizens, is a leader in this work. He has become aroused to the great importance of raising a greater amount of foodstuffs. Thinking that he might be of service he went to Raleigh and offered his services to Governor Bickett who suggested that he consult with Mr. J. Paul Lucas. He did so and the result is that Johnston is going to be one of the very first Counties in the State to try to organize for food conservation and production.

As we understand it, each county is to have a committee to prosecute this work, composed of the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, the County Superintendent of Schools, the Farm Demonstration Agent, the Home Demonstration Agent, the President of the Farmers Union, and two or three other citizens. The plan is to organize the County by school districts and get in touch with every farmer in the county. Not only is every farmer in the county invited to attend the meeting in the Court House here next Tuesday, but every banker and merchant and every other business man is urged to attend. This is a meeting of first importance. This is a time when every one who is patriotic can be of some service to his country and he should be willing to enlist in the great army who will not be expected to go to the trenches. Every one is not expected to bear arms, but every one is expected to do his duty.

AT THE CAPITAL OF BANNER.

Benson School Commencement Begins This Week. Annual Address Will Be Delivered Next Tuesday by Dr. W. C. Riddick, of Raleigh. Young Woman Dies of Pneumonia. Other Items of Interest.

Benson, April 19.—Miss Ola Harwood, of Robinsville, N. C., is here for a few days visiting her sister, Miss Lena Harwood, of the School Faculty.

Mr. Jake Greenhal returned today from a two weeks' vacation and visit to his parents in Baltimore, Md. Messrs. W. E. Barbour and John Stroup, of Four Oaks, are in the city today on business.

Mr. Joe Hardee, of Pleasant Grove township, was a visitor to Benson yesterday.

Mr. Alfred Parker returned yesterday from a two weeks' visit to West Virginia and Maryland.

Messrs. C. T. Johnson, R. T. Surlis, and J. M. Morgan and others were in Smithfield Tuesday attending the Recorder's Court.

Mr. Talmage Cole spent Monday here on a visit to relatives.

Mr. J. F. Lee and daughter, Miss Mary Lee, are spending the day in Dunn with relatives.

Mr. J. P. Lee was a visitor to Fayetteville Wednesday and Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Boon went up to Raleigh Wednesday afternoon, returning that night.

Mr. Edgar Johnson, of Oxford, was in the city Sunday visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Johnson.

Mr. J. M. Jones, of Godwin, was here this week on business matters.

Mr. and Mrs. M. T. Britt and son, Deleon, went down to Clinton Sunday returning Monday afternoon.

Mayor J. M. Britt is erecting a garage on the vacant lot near his repair shop.

Mr. C. W. Anderson will occupy the new Williams building when it is completed, and will move his market there.

The Benson School will close this week and the first of next week. It is understood that most of the teachers will return for the next school year, as they have given general satisfaction and rendered efficient services in the school work. The annual address will be delivered next Tuesday morning by Dr. W. C. Riddick, of Raleigh.

Miss Annie Creech, the 17-year-old daughter of Mr. J. Willis Creech, died last Wednesday afternoon and was buried at Hannah's Creek Thursday afternoon. She had been sick for only a few days with pneumonia and her death was a shock to her many friends. She was an exceptionally bright young woman and will be greatly missed in the community. The funeral services were conducted by her teachers, Profs. Fitzgerald and Lanier of the Benson School, which she was attending when taken sick.

STATE BANKS IN NEW SYSTEM.

Aim of Legislation Reported by Senate Committee. Part of Program to Further Mobilize the Financial Resources of the Nation.

A renewal of effort, on a nationwide scale, to bring State banks into the Federal Reserve system is to be made shortly a part of the comprehensive program of the country's financial resources, says a Washington dispatch.

Legislation looking to this end has been favorably reported to the Senate by Chairman Owen, of the Banking and Currency Committee. The committee not only favors the enactment of amendments to the reserve act which failed at the last session of Congress, but proposes new ones which, it believes, if enacted, would result in removing one of the chief objections of State banks to coming into the system, the restriction against interlocking directorates.

Amendments reported, by their failure specifically to mention interlocking directorates on the part of State and National banks, will permit, in the opinion of Senator Owen, the entry into the system of State institutions whose directorates also may be directors of National banks.

The proposed amendments also would allow State banks to exercise the privileges now accorded them under State laws, and would impose upon them a minimum of restrictions. Another feature of the amendments would permit State banks to withdraw from the system should they for any reason desire to do so.

BIG WAR BILL PASSES SENATE.

After Seven Hours' Discussion and With But Few Changes the Largest Single War Budget in the Nation's History is Passed. Amendments May Necessitate a Conference. Only Borah and Cummins Declared Opposition to the Allied Loan.

(Washington Dispatch, 17th.)

The war finance bill, providing for issuance of \$7,000,000,000 in securities—the largest single war budget in any nation's history—was passed unanimously tonight by the senate.

After seven hours of discussion, the administration measure, which was passed by the house last Saturday, and which provides for a loan to the allies of \$3,000,000,000, was approved by the senate with few changes, in record time. The amendments may necessitate a conference, or the senate changes may be accepted by the house.

In either event the executive branch of the government conducting the war with Germany will, within a few hours, have authorization for the great war chest at its disposition. To expedite action the senate tonight appointed conferees to act if the house should not, contrary to expectations, accept the senate changes.

Of the 84 senators present tonight, everyone, including all those who voted against war except Senator Lane, of Oregon, who was absent because of illness, recorded themselves in favor of providing the funds to prosecute hostilities. Nearly all of the 12 absentees were ill.

That, in the inability of the nation to supply men at once for the fighting line, money would be America's immediate contribution to her allies, was the dominant thought expressed during the debate. Few senators participated in the discussion, which was totally devoid of partisan expression. Every senator speaking announced staunch intention to aid the government in prosecuting the war to a speedy conclusion. Only two, Senators Borah and Cummins, declared opposition to the proposed allied loan. A few favored raising a larger proportion by taxation of the present generation and less upon bonds.

SOME VERY SOUND ADVICE.

The enterprising firm of Ashley Horne & Son, of Clayton has sent out a letter to its customers and friends, filled with words of advice and wisdom. Since every one ought to know what this firm has to say at a crisis like this, we are making some extracts:

"At this time the United States Government is raising two vast armies. One to protect our international rights upon the high seas; the other, a much larger army, to engage in farming, mining, manufacturing, etc. In the President's Proclamation issued on the fifteenth he tells the farmers of the South that they should not let the high price of cotton keep them from putting forth every effort to grow foodstuffs of all kinds.

"The President tells us further that 'We must supply abundant food for ourselves and for our armies and our seamen, not only, but also for a large part of the nations with whom we have now made common cause, in whose support and by whose side we shall be fighting.'

"It will be some time before these crops are ready for harvesting, and unless we regulate our immediate needs and practice economy—refraining from wastefulness and extravagance, the food supply will become very short and the prices very high."

Then follows a paragraph some words of which should surely be heeded at this time. The firm says: "We would suggest that they (the people) buy sparingly and waste nothing." What fine advice. Will the people heed it? Or will we, after these years of good prices and extravagance, continue on the course we have been pursuing, in spite of all the warnings given us? Listen again to what they say:

"We assure you that if you will buy only for your normal needs, and grow plenty of foodstuffs and not be wasteful that next fall you will be much better off financially.

"Join the army of the soil. There can be just as much patriotism shown in the Furrows as in the Trenches."

STANDING BY THE PRESIDENT.

Ringed Resolutions Adopted at the Town Meeting Held Monday Night Pledging Support and Loyalty in This Great Crisis. Express Great Confidence in Mr. Wilson's Ability to Lead in Prosecuting War to A Successful Termination.

At the mass meeting of the citizens of the town held Monday night to nominate a candidate for mayor, the following resolutions presented by Solicitor A. M. Noble were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, the Imperial German Government obsessed with the idea of world domination, has fostered and maintained upon the continent of Europe a Militarism ever threatening peace and security of all nations, and having as its ultimate aim the destruction of democracy and the establishment of a Hohenzollern autocracy throughout the world;

And whereas, in pursuance of its policy of world domination, has been waging for more than two and a half years the most unjust, illegal, and cruel war in the annals of history, in defiance of international law and the laws of humanity; in which the neutrality of Belgium has been violated, and her men, women and children murdered, outraged and forced into slavery; vessels of neutral nations, both passenger and cargo, including those of the United States, have been ruthlessly torpedoed without warning on the high seas, resulting in the destruction of property and the wholesale murder of innocent men, women and children; and hospital ships conveying sick and wounded soldiers and relief ships with supplies for suffering and starving Belgians have been wantonly destroyed;

And whereas, during all this time, and while the Imperial German Government and the United States were at peace, the Imperial German Government did maintain a system of espionage in our country; did instigate plots against the security of the property and lives of our citizens; did, by and through its accredited representatives to the United States, blow up and attempt to destroy our industrial plants, bridges and canals, and endeavored to bring our country into war with Mexico and Japan;

And whereas, our great, peace-loving President, after two and a half years of untiring efforts to keep our country at peace, has been forced by the Imperial German Government, in order to protect our country's honor and to secure our future peace and democracy throughout the world, to ask Congress to declare a state of war existing between the United States and the Imperial German Government, which declaration Congress has made;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, That we, the citizens of Smithfield, North Carolina, in meeting assembled, do hereby endorse the action of our President and Congress, and do pledge our hearty co-operation, our loyalty and our support to our President, in whose ability to lead we have the greatest confidence, in his prosecution of the war to a successful termination.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the President of the United States and to our Representative in Congress.

BRYAN AGAIN OFFERS SERVICE.

Prepared to Enlist as a Private, He Tells the President.

(Washington Post, 18th.)

William Jennings Bryan again yesterday offered his services to the government either as a private in the ranks or as a "soldier in the commissary." He called at the White House and for 30 minutes talked with President Wilson. After leaving he said he stood behind the government in anything it might determine upon to do.

Mr. Bryan is about to begin a series of lectures—which he says will be devoted to pointing out to the citizens of the country what they may do in the present crisis to help the government. He would not discuss conscription or any other of the bills now pending in Congress.

"Whatever the government does," he said, "is right. And I will support it."

The Brazilian government has decided to arm her merchant vessels against the German submarine men-

RECOMMENDS FLEET BASE SITE

Congress Is Asked for an Appropriation of \$3,000,000 to Purchase Jamestown Exposition Site and Adjacent Property for Fleet Base in Hampton Roads.

An appropriation of \$3,000,000 for the acquisition of land and equipment for a fleet operating base at Hampton Roads, has been recommended to Congress by Secretary Daniels.

"The \$3,000,000," Secretary Daniels stated, "is urgently and immediately necessary for the acquisition of the Jamestown Exposition site, on Hampton Roads, Va., and certain tracts adjacent, to be developed and equipped as a fleet operating base, and to include a training station, submarine base, aviation operating base, oil fuel storage, fleet storehouses, mine and net storehouses, torpedo storehouses, medical storehouse, fleet drill grounds, etc. The land can be purchased for \$1,400,000 and the immediate necessities are the training station, one pier and the initial development, estimated to cost \$1,600,000."

THE NEWS IN CLAYTON.

Clayton, April 18.—Mrs. Jim Hinant, of Wendell, spent a few days this week here with friends.

Mrs. L. F. Austin spent last week-end with friends and relatives at Durham.

Mrs. E. R. Gulley and daughter, Miss Barbara, spent Wednesday afternoon in Raleigh.

Dr. Bass and Mr. Perrin Gower, of Raleigh, were here Tuesday night to attend the play at school building.

Mrs. Pope, of Dunn, is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Herbert Stallings, this week.

Mr. C. W. Lindsay, of Lillington, arrived last Saturday to spend this week here.

Mrs. E. R. Gulley and Mrs. M. G. Gulley spent last week-end with relatives at Wake Forest.

The play given in the auditorium of the school building on Tuesday night of this week was quite a success. It was given by several of the teachers along with some girls and boys of the town, entitled: "Under the Blue Skies." A large crowd attended and every one was well pleased. The proceeds go to help improve the school grounds.

Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Creech and Mr. E. R. Gulley spent last Sunday in Wake Forest.

Mr. M. E. Gattis, of Four Oaks, was in town Sunday.

Mr. Waldo Gower, of Grifton, visited parents here Sunday.

Mrs. Herbert L. Jones, of Hopewell, Va., is visiting her parents here now.

Mrs. Ashley Horne and daughter, Mrs. Walter Priddy left last week for a trip to Norfolk, Richmond, New York and other places. They are making the trip on Mrs. Horne's car and expected to join Mr. Priddy some place in Virginia.

Mrs. J. D. Gulley spent Monday in Selma with her daughter, Mrs. W. R. Smith.

Mr. Wade Brown, of Selma, was in town Tuesday of this week.

GERMAN CASUALTY REPORT.

During March, Nearly 55,000 Were Killed, Died of Wounds or Sickness and Were Made Prisoner.

German casualties as reported in the German official casualty lists during the month of March show that 54,803 men were killed, died of wounds or sickness or were made prisoner or are missing, according to a statement made public at London Monday. The tabulated statement follows:

Killed or died of wounds, 10,863.
Died of sickness, 2,679.
Prisoners or missing, 6,247.
Wounded, 35,014.

The statement says that the foregoing casualties, added to those reported previously, brings the total given in the German official lists since the beginning of the war total 4,180,966, as follows:

Killed or died of wounds, 960,760.
Died of sickness, 63,920.
Prisoners or missing, 512,858.
Wounded, 2,643,428.

The commissioners of the town of Hamlet have let contracts for street improvement work, costing about \$40,000. This cost is exclusive of the sidewalk paving.

FRENCH GETTING FOOT HOLD.

Capture a Number of New Vantage Points. Violent Counter Attack of Germans Overcome With Heavy Casualties. 17,000 Prisoners in 3 Days' Fighting. Caught in Enveloping Movement Thirteen Hundred Germans Throw Down Their Arms and Surrender in Addition 180 Machine Guns and Other Material Taken.

The great offensive of the French army against the Germans from the bend in the line in France from Soissons eastward into the Champagne continues unabated. Numerous new points of vantage have been taken, prisoners and guns captured and violent counterattacks put down with heavy casualties. In three days of fighting more than 17,000 unwounded prisoners have fallen into the hands of the French, together with 75 cannon.

In Wednesday's battle in the forest of Ville-Au-Bois an enveloping movement was carried out against the Germans and 1,300 of them threw down their arms and surrendered. In addition, 180 machine guns were captured there.

Between Soissons and Rheims the villages of Ostel and Braye-en-Laonnois were captured, together with territory about them, the Germans in the latter region retreating in disorder and losing to one French regiment alone 300 prisoners, belonging to seven different regiments. In their flight the Germans left behind much war material. Here the French captured nineteen cannon.

Between Juvincourt and the Aisne the Germans threw a counter-attack against the French line with about 40,000 men, but according to Paris the artillery of Gen. Nivelle's men repulsed the attack with sanguinary losses.

South of St. Quentin during Wednesday the Germans also made an attack against the French east of Gauchy. This attack, which failed, was followed by another, in which the Germans penetrated advanced French positions. In a counter-attack the French killed or made prisoner of the Germans and regained their lost trenches.

The British war office reports that the forces of Field Marshal Haig have gained additional ground along the river Scarpe, to the east of Fampoux, and also captured the village of Villers-Gaislain, north of St. Quentin. To the north in the region of Loos, a system of German front line trenches also was taken.

The towns of Braila and Foksani, in Russia, are reported to have been burned by the Germans. Only minor engagements have taken place in Russia and Galicia.

Berlin reports the capture from the French in Macedonia of a position extending over two-thirds of a mile along the Crvena Stena.

Another Spanish steamer, the Tom, has been sunk without warning by a submarine. Eighteen persons perished in the disaster. The expectation in Madrid is that public opinion against the Teutonic allies will be further inflamed by the torpedoing of this steamer.

Unofficial advices say that Count Tisza, the Hungarian Premier and two members of the Austrian cabinet, have resigned. Other reports are to the effect that the resignation of the Greek cabinet is impending.

The new government in Russia will not negotiate a separate peace for Russia as a result of the overtures that have been made by Germans and Austrian Socialist representatives, according to information reaching Washington.—Associated Press War Summary, in News and Observer, 19th.

S. J. Lentz, Stanly County's farm demonstrator, has inaugurated a movement to enlist the farmers, their wives, their sons and daughters in an organized effort to grow more food products this year and to preserve the same after being produced. He has appointed about 20 meetings at school houses in the various parts of the county and has secured the services of the best speakers in the county to fill these appointments, arouse enthusiasm among the farmers and assist in organizing corn clubs, pig clubs and girls' canning clubs.