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SMITHFIELD A BUSY PLACE.

The past two weeks have been two of the busiest weeks in the history of the town of Smithfield. Large quantities of tobacco have been sold here daily at high prices—the average being around 30 cents a pound—and large sums of money have been turned loose in the community. Much of this money has found its way back to the banks, while the merchants and business men generally have received their full share of it. The banks have been busy early and late taking care of the immense volume of business that is their daily portion. Their deposits have been higher than ever before, the deposits for one day in the First National reaching one hundred and five thousand dollars. The Johnston County Bank and Trust Company has received its share of deposits and more money in on deposit in Smithfield than ever before.

The streets have been lined with carts, wagons, buggies and automobiles, people coming here for miles and miles away to visit the best little town in the State. The merchants with their large forces of clerks have been doing the business as never before. High prices are not considered when people have plenty of money, and the amount of business done in Smithfield indicates that the people now have money in plenty.

In addition to the tobacco that is coming here from far and near, the cotton is beginning to roll in. Watch Smithfield, the town that is marching "United and Onward."

The Cotton Situation.

News and Observer.
The situation as regards the cotton farmer is by no means encouraging. The price still shows a downward tendency. In view of what it has cost to produce the present crop, there is no profit for the grower at prevailing figures, especially when it is remembered that there is only a part of a crop.

It is likely that erroneous reports put out concerning the embargo on cotton had something to do with the decline in price. The embargo as a matter of fact, as has been pointed out by the Department of Agriculture, really limited the available markets only in a small degree and that not absolutely.

The Department says in its comment on these reports: "It is painful to observe that there are American citizens who for gain or in prejudice would distort the truth in regard to the regulation of cotton exports to neutrals."

This is cited to show the type of conditions that prevail at the expense of the cotton farmer. Erroneous and misleading reports are only a part of the machinery that is employed to force the price of cotton down at the very time when the farmer begins to put his product on the market.

There is no reason why cotton should not be bringing record prices. With three short crops in succession and with an unprecedented need for normal purposes and the additional need for war purposes, there certainly is nothing in the law of supply and demand to justify the present comparatively low prices—unless demand is so manipulated and controlled as to give the farmers the raw end of the deal.

The manufacturers could pay a higher price for cotton and still make big money for it is currently reported that their profits are fabulously high. But the question now is, what shall

the farmer do? His advisers generally do not like to take the responsibility of counseling him to hold his cotton for if it should continue to decline in price, they would be blamed for giving bad advice. But old hands at the game of trying to fathom the peculiarities of the cotton market counsel against selling on a declining market, and it is likely that farmers who can do so will proceed on this principle. Wherever practicable cotton will be held and money borrowed on it. After the crop is marketed, it is as certain as anything in the future can be that prices will go up.

The cotton farmers' big problem is to get in shape to hold his cotton if he thinks after acquainting himself with an existing situation it is the wise thing to do. He should certainly have a moderate profit on his toil when the manufacturer, according to report, gets a profit of from twenty-five to one hundred per cent.

To the Boys Who Were Drafted.

(By Hapsburg Liebe of the Vigilantes.)
The writer of this little message to you, boys, has himself been an American soldier, and he is very proud of that fact. He knows army life and he has seen red-hot fighting, and he knows the ways of officers.

I will put it like this: I will simply tell you what I would do if I were going into the army again. First, I would go into it with the rock-firm intention of whipping Germany. I would look at the matter just like that. Save that I would certainly not discount the importance of anybody else, I would believe, so far as it were possible, that it was up to me—to me, myself—to give Germany, the earth's pariah nation, the licking that is going to make all nations safe in a world democracy.

And at the moment I was sworn into the service, I would resolve that, no matter whether it suited me or not, I would obey orders very strictly and to the letter. That is the magic phrase—it is the religion of the army: obey orders. During my time in the army, no man who lived up to that as his motto could go through with a term of enlistment without having a chance of being made a corporal, or a sergeant, or even a sergeant-major. There are few commissioned officers who will overlook the enlisted man who never disobeyed an order, when promotion becomes necessary. And in this war, men from the ranks are going to win commissions, boys; remember that!

But every man of the company, or the troop, or the battery, or whatever it happens to be, can not be advanced, you say; and you are right. But every man can be a soldier. How much there is bound up in those three little words! You'll know yourself after a while. A real, dyed-in-the-wool American soldier, of course, is a gentleman too. * * * However, there is bound to be a chance for you to win your chevrons. I've never yet seen the man who tried hard for promotion, if he tried honorably, who came out of it a private. In spite of their bluff military manners, officers are just like you under the skin; they are quick to recognize, and they are most heartily glad to recognize the golden qualities of a soldier and a gentleman in an enlisted man. Remember that, too!

Also, remember this: You are in the service to fight for your country, and not to make soldiering a trade; you are going across the Atlantic for the purpose of whipping Germany, and for no other reason. So long, boys, and good luck to you; and may the good God of our fathers bring you back to us!

WILL FIGHT UNTIL GERMANY GIVES UP ALSACE-LORRAINE.

Paris, Sept. 18.—The French ministerial declaration was read by Prof. Paul Painleve, the new premier in the Chamber of Deputies this afternoon. It re-affirms the determination of France to continue the war until the disannexation of Alsace and Lorraine from Germany is assured, along with reparation for the damages caused by the Germans.

Alluding to the efforts made by the Germans to weaken the moral forces of the country, the declaration says that in cases already under investigation and those that may hereafter require inquiry justice will follow its course without hesitation or weakness and without taking any account whatever of the personalities involved.

Teachers To Be Entertained.

The Smithfield Woman's Club will entertain the teachers and patrons of the school at the Club Rooms on Second street to-night from 8:30 until 10 o'clock. Every patron of the school is cordially invited to be present.

Vocal Union To Be Held.

The next session of the Lower Johnston Vocal Union will be held with Selah Christian church in Wayne County, the fifth Sunday in September. J. B. BEASLEY, President.

GOV. BICKETT NO SLACKER.

Quells Mob of Infuriated Citizens in Raleigh Who Were Thirsting For Blood of Negro Brute Who Had Assaulted White Woman.

A mob of 200 men, which dwindled to a determined 50 in a half hour's attack on Wake County jail early this morning for the purpose of lynching the negro, Earle Neville, alleged rapist, was dispersed by Governor T. W. Bickett who, in a fervid address to the crowd, promised that he would order a special term of court today for the trial of the prisoner.

Governor Bickett, called from his sleep by The News and Observer when the demonstration assumed serious proportions, without hesitation advanced on the crowd then engaged in storming the south door of the jail. Standing 25 yards from them, he began his speech. He told them that he stood for justice, that he was elected by them to stand for justice and that they were about to do a deed which they would regret all the days of their lives and a deed which would bring shame and disgrace to the name of North Carolina. He promised them then that he would call a special term of court for the immediate trial of the negro, and that if he is guilty, electrocution will be the penalty.

During all this time, the crowd, already dense about the corners of the jail, and in the streets from both sides, had been getting closer. Leaders of the crowd warned the Governor to stand back. He, too, as he spoke had been moved up.

"Why, I'm not afraid of you. Are you afraid of me?" Governor Bickett called.

"No, we ain't afraid of you. Get those cops back and we don't care how close you come," was the answer.

Immediately the policemen were asked to stand back. The crowd stood back also, and the Governor went up close, mounted the steps of the south jail entrance and there addressed the crowd. He made them the same statement of his purpose that he had made before, and after half an hour of cross-fire, questions and answers, they intimated their willingness to disperse provided that he, as Governor, would give them his word that no action would be taken against them for their attack on the jail. This he promised. The crowd fled by him, shaking his hand and slapping him on the back.

At the street as they got in automobiles in which they came to the jail, a volley of pistol shots was fired into the air and the crowd moved off yelling.—To-day's News and Observer.

Oklahoma's Broom Corn Crop.

Oklahoma will raise 60,000 tons of broom corn this year, which is as much as was produced in the entire United States in 1916.

Oklahoma is the greatest broom corn-producing State in the Union. In 1916 this State produced 37,000 tons out of a total production of 60,000 tons in the United States. Commission men estimate that this year the production in Oklahoma will equal that of the entire country in 1916 and that the total yield in the United States will be increased to 100,000 tons. If these figures bear out, Oklahoma will harvest 60 per cent of the entire broom corn crop of the United States this year.

The estimated value of the broom corn of Oklahoma for 1917 will be \$12,000,000. Accurate figures cannot be given at this time owing to possibilities of fluctuation of price, but on a basis of 60,000 tons estimated yield, bilities of fluctuation of price, but on throughout the season, this figure will be reached.—Christian Science Monitor.

Fishing Industry of Portugal.

Statistics of the fishing industry of Portugal issued by the Government show a total value in 1915 of 9,307,071 escudos, compared with 6,772,981 escudos in 1914 and 7,279,283 escudos in 1913. The escudo is equal to about \$1 United States currency at normal exchange, but is now worth only about \$0.62. Sardines form the most important part of the catch, their total value for the three years being 4,575,256, 6,772,981, and 7,279,283 escudos, respectively. Other varieties of fish of a high commercial value are whiting, stieff-backs, shad, and codfish. The salmon caught in the Minho River—said to be the farthest south that these fish are found—numbered 85 in 1915 and 162 in 1914. These retail in Lisbon at 4.50 and 5 escudos a kilo (2.2 pounds).

In 1915 there were 46,957 persons engaged in the fishing industry and the value of material employed, including ships, boats, nets, etc., was 5,825,257 escudos. A large quantity of supplies are imported from the United States. Thirty-eight ships were sent to the Newfoundland banks for codfish, and the value of their catch was 464,642 escudos, compared with 243,759 escudos in 1914.—Consul General W. L. Lowrie, at Lisbon.

THE SMITHFIELD MARKET.

Cotton	21
Cotton Seed	1.00
Wool	20 to 30
Fat Cattle	5 to 6 1/2
Eggs	30 to 35
Fat cattle, dressed	11 to 12 1/2
Granulated Sugar	10 to 10 1/2
Corn per bushel	1.50 to 1.75
C. R. Sides	26 to 27 1/2
Feed Oats	1.00 to 1.10
Fresh Pork	12 1/2 to 15
Hams, per pound	29 to 31
Lard	22 1/2 to 27 1/2
Timothy Hay	1.40 to 1.50
Cheese per pound	35
Butter, per pound	35 to 40
Meal	4.75 to 5.00
Flour per sack	6.00 to 6.25
Coffee per pound	15 to 20
Cotton seed meal	2.25 to 2.50
Cotton seed hulls	1.00
Shipstuff	3.00
Molasses Feed	3.00
Hides, green	10 to 12 1/2

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