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WITHOUT WOOD OR COAL.

A leading man here estimated yesterday that there were probably as many as fifty families in Smithfield without wood or coal. Not only are many poor people without fuel but money does not get it now. The railroads have not brought the coal here, nor have the farmers hauled in the wood. Both were too busy with other work to bring fuel to town. Chief of police C. R. Turner says he finds many families of negroes huddled together at homes where fires can be run. The conditions show plainly the need of a municipal wood yard to meet an emergency like this very cold weather has brought.

News Letters Arrive Too Late.

Nearly all the news letters received by The Herald this week arrived yesterday afternoon late, last night and this morning. Not being able to set all these up on one machine and go to press on time, forces us to leave some over until Tuesday's paper. On account of the irregularities of the mails and the lateness of trains, unless letters are mailed earlier in the week, we will not be able to get them in time for the issue they are intended for.

THE EMERGENCY ON THE FARM.

When our country entered the war, President Wilson saw the necessity of having the farmers grow extra large crops, so that our allies could be supplied with such food as they might need, and our own people have plenty. He saw also that farm help might become scarce, and announced that the farm forces should be conserved as well as the fighting forces in the field. The farmers of the country responded to his appeal. The acreage of crops was increased. More potatoes were planted than ever before, and a larger acreage of grain crops.

When calls came for volunteers for the army, the response was immediate, and the adoption of the draft law made it sure that there would be plenty of men in the fighting line. But in accepting the volunteers and in arranging the draft, the theory of the president was overlooked or forgotten. The military men in charge of enlistments seemed to fancy the husky farm boys, and they have been accepted with little thought of the future of crop production.

There was talk of sending to the farms those unfit for duties in the fighting line; but it takes longer to train a man for efficient farm work than for army life. The farmer uses machinery of the most approved sort. He trains his boys from their early youth to do all kinds of farm work. He trains them in the use of all kinds of machinery, in the breeding, rearing and feeding of domestic animals. Those who have not had this training are not useful on the farm. Many of the young farmers, the trained young men, have volunteered, and many others have been called under the draft law. So that it is now evident that farm help will be scarcer next year than it has ever been before.

This matter is becoming understood and is being discussed by thinking people. Those who are ignorant of farm affairs suggest a remedy. They say: Let the farmer hire other men. But whom can the farmer hire? Certainly not men who know little of machinery and nothing of growing the various crops and taking care of the various farm stock. Few of such men can harness and handle a three-horse team; many of them know nothing of handling a two-horse team; nor can they husk corn fast enough to earn their pay.

I have inquired of several farmers what they will do with the farm when the boys they have trained go into the army, and the reply is: We will send down the land that can be cultivated.

People who have charge of army matters say: We can not classify in raising an army, and this seems to be the general conclusion that is being acted upon.

Iowa can increase the present yield from her fields, but not without efficient help, help that is trained for the work by farmers, who alone know how to train it. The government can enlist idle town men and send them to the farms, but they would not meet the needs. It would require more time to train them for the farm than for the army.

The president says: "Upon the farmers of the country in large measure rests the fate of the war and the fate of the nations." The farmers can not discharge their duty without help. We should draft farm boys and compel them to stay on the farms during the war. Munition and other factories, as well as the army, call men from the farms. Let these people get men from the towns. We must grow more food. I would require every farmer to stay on the farm during the war. If we are to win this war—and we must win it—let every man be put at the work he can do best to help win the war. If we continue the undermining of the farm, then we must expect less and less from the farm.—Hon. James Wilson, in Wallace's Farmer.

ALL HONOR TO THE COUNTRY NEWSPAPER.

There is one institution which we do not believe is generally estimated at its true value. It is the county newspaper, or as it is usually called, the country newspaper. Those who read the great dailies and the weekly and monthly magazines and thoughtlessly compare the country weekly with them are tempted to regard the latter with indifference or perhaps contempt. There should be no such comparison. They serve entirely different purposes and are equally useful in their several fields. It would be as just to compare the railway terminals of the great cities with the simple little station in the remote rural districts. It would be like comparing the white ways of the cities with the modest oil lamp which burns in the millions of humble homes.

It is the country newspaper, poorly printed and unsightly as it often is, that carries the light to those who would otherwise sit in darkness. It is the country newspaper that picks up the scattered threads of the simple life of the people and knits them together into the fabric of community living. The great dailies record the deeds of the murderer, the burglar and the social bandit, and of the blasted and broken homes. But it is chiefly the country newspaper that tells of the births and deaths and innocent pleasures of those who make our country really great. It is the country newspaper that encourages and supports local enterprise and inspires the plain, ordinary man to strive for the confidence and esteem of his neighbors, and gives health and strength to the social, industrial and political unit of our civilization. After all it is what the neighbors say and not the law that makes men walk the straight and narrow path. Where there are no country newspapers there are few neighbors, although there may be a multitude of people, and society loses its greatest safeguard.

Country newspapers rarely receive the patronage they deserve. Their editors are, as a rule, poorly paid for rendering a great service. It should not be so. Their return should be commensurate with the service rendered, country life as the country news and nothing so broadens and elevates paper. If it is not as good as it should be, the fault is nearly always with the patrons and not with the newspaper. Almost without exception the paper gives more than it receives. And while as a general rule it is more blessed to give than to receive, a newspaper cannot be properly run on that principle, and if it is not properly run the community suffers the greater loss.

As The State Journal does not fall within the class of papers referred to, it feels that it can with propriety pay this merited tribute to a large, useful and deserving section of the press.—The State Journal.

Ample sugar for all our real needs will be available very shortly according to the Food Administration, but this is no reason why every individual should not reduce his consumption of sugar by substituting sorghum and other products in cooking, using less on the table, in cutting out soft drinks, and reducing his consumption of confections in which sugar is used.

Deputy and Acting Grand Master George Norfleet, of Winston-Salem, has named Hon. B. R. Lacy, state treasurer for the North Carolina Grand Lodge of Masons, to succeed Leo D. Heart, who died in Raleigh a few weeks ago. He will serve until the grand lodge meets about the middle of January when a permanent new treasurer will be chosen.

ZERO WEATHER IN SMITHFIELD.

Lowest Point Reached in Early Morning Hours Today. Highest Point the Thermometer Could Find Since Last Friday Was Thirty. Coldest Spell Known Here in Many Years. Neuse River Frozen Over.

The coldest weather Smithfield has experienced in many years has prevailed here this week, beginning last Saturday. A snow storm ushered in the bad spell and two other snows have fallen since Saturday—Tuesday and Wednesday. In all a total of five inches has fallen.

Chief Turner, Local Weather Observer, furnishes us with the following figures, beginning with Saturday, December 29, 1917:

Saturday—Lowest 20; highest 27.
Sunday—Lowest 1; highest 17.
Monday—Lowest 4; highest 22.
Tuesday—Lowest 5; highest 30.
Wednesday—Lowest 7; highest 30.
Thursday—Lowest 10; highest 22.

The lowest point reached last night was a fraction below zero and the Government thermometer registered only one above zero at eight o'clock this morning.

The month of December was the coldest we have had since the local weather observer has been making reports here. On two days during the month the thermometer reached 63, the 5th and the 9th. The lowest temperature for the month was registered on the 14th and 15th when the thermometer fell to 10 above zero.

Neuse River Frozen Over.

Neuse River is frozen over at Smithfield and thick ice covers the waters in all places where there is much depth to the water. Where the current is swiftest the stream is frozen over except a small place about eight to ten feet wide.

It has been many years since the Neuse has been frozen over here before. The river is falling on account of the freezing above here. In the past twenty-four hours the river has fallen nearly one foot.

COMMON SENSE MUST BE USED.

The Local Draft Boards Are Instructed to Show Sympathy in Deciding Upon the Question of Dependents.

Local draft boards have been instructed by Provost Marshal General Crowder to "use commonsense and sympathy in the facts of each individual case" in determining what would be adequate support for dependents of a man registered for war service, says a Washington City dispatch.

Many boards have indicated doubt as to what should be done when it appears that a soldier's pay and war risk allowances will provide support for dependents whose claims otherwise would entitle the registrant to deferred classification. In a message to the public, General Crowder said:

"Reasonably adequate support cannot be determined by a rule of thumb, but must be determined with commonsense and sympathy in the facts of each individual case. What would be adequate support in one locality or in one set of circumstances might not be adequate support in one locality or in one set of circumstances might not be determined by the boards after consideration of the interests of the dependent on the one hand and of the government on the other and with the thought always in mind that the present classification scheme is designed to raise our armies with a minimum of hardship and suffering to those who are to be left at home."

To clear up doubt existing on other points, General Crowder gave the following supplementary instructions:

"First, Subdivision A, Class 4, is the residuary class for registrants whose wives or children are mainly dependent on them for support and this applies to a widower whose own children are mainly dependent upon him for support.

"Second, if a registrant has both a wife and child, but there are such other sources of support available that the removal of the registrant will not deprive the dependents of reasonably adequate support, he is to be placed in Subdivision A, Class 2.

"Third, if a registrant has a wife but no children and there are such other sources of support available that the removal of the registrant will not deprive the wife of reasonably adequate support, he goes into Class One as not being included in another division of the schedule."

A conscientious but complaining girl was told that she had forgotten one duty. "What duty is that?" she asked. The answer was, "The duty of being pleasant."—Queens' Gardens.

WHAT THE TEACHERS CAN DO.

The Law Regards the Teacher An Important Agent in the Control of Contagious Diseases.

Nothing so destroys the efficiency of work at school as contagious diseases among the pupils. It is no wonder that teachers refer to outbreaks of measles, whooping cough, diphtheria, and other diseases in their schools as "abominations," for nothing else so cripples their work, handicaps their pupils, and makes teaching a burden as the continued presence of illness in school.

Children who remain at home on account of sickness several days or weeks not only lose so much time and instruction while away from school; they return to carry a double burden in attempting to catch up with back work, and to do this with a weakened body and a lessened vitality. It is under just such conditions that little bodies often break down, and an education becomes impossible. Furthermore, the whole class suffers. Oftentimes it is held back or turned back to accommodate those kept away on account of sickness. Teacher and pupil are both handicapped.

The teacher is now regarded in the light of the new State Quarantine Law as a necessary agent in the control of contagious diseases. While she is required by law to comply with several rules in the event of a case of a contagious disease in her school, these requirements are no more than the precautions she would otherwise want to take for the good of her school and the health of her pupils. By taking these precautions, suggested in the law, it is often possible for her to stop an epidemic at its source and save the school and the community much sickness and many deaths. It is furthermore possible by keeping the children under strict rules and observation, to keep the school open when without the observance of such rules, the school would close and several weeks would be lost for all the pupils.

What the Teacher Can Do.

In case of an outbreak of some contagious disease in school, the teacher can, in the first place, report the case to the county quarantine officer; she can teach the children as to the ways and methods of preventing the disease, and give them the free health literature treating that particular disease which is supplied by the quarantine officer; she can exclude children from school on being exposed to cases or having symptoms of illness according to the rules governing the various diseases; she can and should observe daily the pupils for disease symptoms such as colds and sore throats. This can be done by taking the child to the light, having him to open his mouth deep and wide, and noting if there is any undue redness or inflammation of the throat.

When a teacher observes these rules and precautions, she not only helps to keep down infection in her own school, but in the community, and in the State.

The cases of contagious diseases reported to me last month were:

Whooping Cough—Virginia May Woodard, Princeton; two children of Jerry Lee, children of John Lofton, children of James Raynor, children of Frances Williams, children of W. J. Lee, children of Thomas Williams, Bentonville, R. 2; children of F. E. Elliott, Bentonville, R. 1; children of W. M. Eldridge, Bentonville; four children of Sidney Johnson, Kenly, R. 4; Crawford Sellers, Arthur Sellers, Kenly, R. 2; Herbert Grizzard, Jr., Kenly.

Measles—Mrs. J. E. Underhill, Zebulon, R. 1; Vance Wells, Wendell, R. 1; A. M. Barnes, Jr., Wendell, R. 1; family of James Batten, Wendell, R. 1; Miss Elizabeth Hand, Selma; Hattie Fowler, Zebulon, R. 1; Mrs. Malcolm Sanders, Smithfield.

Small Pox—Alex Blaylock, Wendell, R. F. D.; M. J. Jernigan, Benson, R. 2; D. M. Coats, Smithfield.

Typhoid Fever—J. B. Wyatt, Selma, Julius Lawhon.

Diphtheria—Baby of Barton Batten, Kenly, R. 3.

Scarlet Fever—Boy of D. A. Lee, of Benson.

Cerebra-Spinal Meningitis—Boy of D. A. Lee, Benson.

MRS. THEL HOOKS,
County Quarantine Officer,
Smithfield, N. C.

One of the largest government tubercular camps in the United States is to be built at Azales, six miles from Asheville, if the war department accepts the recommendations of Major E. H. Burns, of the surgeon-general's office, who has been to Asheville on an inspection trip. Announcement of such recommendation is usually not made until the officer has had time to report to Washington, but in this instance, Major Burns waived precedent, and consented to give out the details of the camp.

The food problem is an individual one. You and all others have in it a personal responsibility.—Food Administrator.

THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

By Cy Johnson.

Leaders are what we need—Some one to be our spokesman in these times of trouble. No matter how much we may know we unconsciously follow the lead of some person in our community, county, state or nation. Some person with firmness, modesty and character must meet the issues for us; weaklings are never tolerated when men's eyes flash fire.

Somewhere in our midst lies dormant the qualities of Julius Caesar, of Lincoln, of Patrick Henry who came forth when necessity demanded them. Why not? We are the blood descendants of these leaders of men. Such men must be found and pushed forward and backed up by the masses if we are to have justice. Leaders, gird on your armour and come forth.

Every community and township in Johnston County needs a leader right now, not next year, this year. There should be one on every Township Board of Agriculture that is now being elected over the county. We will make a beaten path to the man's door who can do the thing at issue better than any one else. Such men are rare, yes, but we are still looking for rare things. The signs of the times are that the cause with the best leader is the one that will win out. That's history, not fiction.

Federal Explosives Regulation Act.

Washington, Jan. 1.—Van. H. Manning, Director of the Bureau of Mines, Department of the Interior, has appointed the following persons as licensing officers in North Carolina in connection with the enforcement of the new Federal Explosives Regulation Act: W. S. Stevens, Clerk Superior Court, Johnston County, Smithfield, N. C.; J. N. Sills, Clerk Superior Court, Nash County, Nashville, North Carolina, and many others.

Francis S. Peabody, Chicago Coal Operator, has been appointed assistant to the Director of the Bureau of Mines to have immediate charge of the enforcement of the explosives regulation act.

The law which went into effect November 15th, provides that all persons having use for explosives must first obtain from the licensing officer in his county a license stating the manner in which the explosives are to be used and assuring the officer that the explosives will be properly accounted for.

It is hoped in this manner to account strictly for the disposition of all explosives and to prevent them from falling into the hands of evilly-disposed persons. The entire police force of the country has been asked to aid in the enforcement of this law. The penalty for the violation of the law is a fine of \$5,000.00 or a year in penitentiary or both.

Sugar exports from the United States last October showed an increase of nearly 10,000,000 pounds over the same month last year. France and England received the bulk of the shipments of 113,241,000 pounds, the former getting 73,000,000 pounds to relieve a virtual famine there and the latter 22,000,000 pounds. Six million pounds went to the Netherlands, five million to Argentina and almost as large a quantity to Mexico.

FOR A BIG FAMILY BIBLE, CALL at The Herald Office, where you can get a nice one for \$3.50. Big type so that old people can read.

NEW TESTAMENTS AND BIBLES for sale at The Herald Office.

I HAVE FOR SALE EIGHT TO TEN pigs weighing forty to fifty pounds each. A. G. Powell, Smithfield, N. C. R. F. D. No. 2.

JOHNSTON COUNTY REALTY & Auction Co., of Smithfield, will sell your farm for the High Dollar.

WANTED: ONE FIRST-CLASS JOB compositor, either Union, or capable of holding union job. Also one apprentice compositor, with ability to advance rapidly. Write, giving full particulars to Barbour Printing Company, Winston-Salem, N. C.

DISTRIBUTION OF CHRISTMAS MONEY BY JOHNSTON COUNTY BANK & TRUST COMPANY.

Nearly 100 Depositors in our Pin Money Savings Club have received substantial checks on Dec. 15th, as a return of the Pin Money Deposits made by them during 1917, including interest at four per cent on amount deposited. These checks issued range from \$5.00 to \$52.00.

Our Pin Money Savings Club for 1918 will begin January 1st, 1918. We invite you to join our Savings Club and be one of the fortunate depositors for Christmas 1918.

With best wishes to all for a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year, Johnston County Bank & Trust Co.

BUSINESS LOCALS

I HAVE A ROSIN BED FOR SALE. Apply at once if you want it. J. A. Alford, Smithfield, N. C., R. No. 1.

IF YOU HAVE A FARM, LARGE OR small, or town lots you wish to sell, call, or write, or phone, Johnston County Realty & Auction Company, Smithfield, N. C.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS Desiring Peloubet's Notes on the Lessons for 1918 can get same from The Herald Office, by applying early. Our second supply will be in a few days. Price \$1.25, by mail, \$1.35.

SEED BEANS FOR SALE. Johnston County Grown Navy Beans. Raised by E. F. Boyette, Smithfield, N. C. For sale by Peedin & Peterson and L. E. Watson, Smithfield, N. C.

STILL ON HAND A FEW COPIES of Arnold's Practical Commentary on the Sunday School Lessons for 1918. Price sixty cents. By mail, 66 cents. Herald Office, Smithfield, N. C.

MONEY TO LOAN ON IMPROVED farm land at 5 per cent interest. Five, seven and ten years time. Amount unlimited. A. M. Noble, Attorney-at-law, Smithfield, N. C.

WANTED 100 CORDS WOOD CUT one mile from Smithfield. B. W. Lee, Smithfield N. C.

JOHNSTON COUNTY REALTY & Auction Company, of Smithfield, conduct Auction Sales of farm lands and town lots for the High Dollar.

FOR SALE—BUILDERS LIME Agricultural Burnt Unslacked, Slacked and Oyster Shell Lime in bulk or bags, car or cargo shipments. Clyde MacCallum State Agent, Hertford, N. C., for Limestone Products Corp, and Chesapeake Shell & Lime Company.

SEE S. T. HONEYCUTT, H. G. GRAY, J. H. ABELL, of the Johnston County Realty and Auction Company, Smithfield, N. C., if you have farm lands or town lots to sell for the High Dollar.

FRESH JERSEY MILK COWS FOR sale. See E. F. Boyett, Smithfield, N. C.

ONE FULL BLOOD JERSEY MILK Cow for sale. J. C. Snipes, Wilson's Mills, Route No. 1.

STALK CUTTERS — WE HAVE several Stalk Cutters bought before the advance. See us before you buy and we will save you money. Farmers Merchandise Co., Selma, N. C.

IF YOU HAVE TOWN LOTS OR farm land you wish to sell for the High Dollar, let the Johnston County Realty & Auction Co., of Smithfield sell it.

"MY FOUR YEARS IN GERMANY," by James W. Gerrard, former Ambassador to Germany. This is one of the important books of the year. Price \$2.00. At Herald Book Store.

CALL AT THE HERALD OFFICE and get your 1918 Turner's North Carolina Almanac. At 10 Cents each. By mail 12 Cents.

THE JOHNSTON COUNTY BANK & Trust Co., invites you to join their Pin Money Savings Club for 1918. You can save amounts of \$5.00, \$12.50, \$50.00 or \$100.00 during year commencing January 1, 1918, which will draw 4 per cent. Books are open and Deposits are being received for 1918. Start right for the New Year by depositing your Surplus Monies in our Pin Money Savings Club. Johnston County Bank

WE HAVE IN STOCK A GOOD LOT of second sheets at a bargain. Give us your order at once, as we can save you MONEY now. Beaty & Lassiter.

I HAVE 7 BERKSHIRE SHOATS three months old for sale—full blood. J. C. Hockaday, Four Oaks, N. C., R. F. D. No. 2.

THE SMITHFIELD BUILDING & Loan Association has helped a number of people to build homes. It will help others, and maybe you. New series of shares now open. See Mr. J. J. Broadhurst.

FOR RENT: SEVEN-ROOM HOUSE on Bridge Street near the Myatt House. Apply to Mrs. W. G. Yelvington, Smithfield, N. C.

IF YOU WANT TO BORROW MONEY on your farm at only 5 per cent interest, see A. M. Noble, attorney-at-law, Smithfield, N. C.