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**THE WAR AND FLOUR.**

For several years after the Civil War flour was not at all plentiful. Old people can remember when heads of families bought just a few pounds at a time and had biscuits only on Sundays or when company would come, and sometimes not so often as this. When we read in Webster's Blue Back Spelling Book that "Bread is the Staff of Life," we thought of it as large loaves of well-cooked corn bread. In those days a bushel of meal was a large part of a laborer's rations for a month. No flour was put in as part of the rations. Everybody ate corn bread then. But since then our customs have changed and the people of the South are biscuit eaters.

It seems that flour makes the war bread, and corn meal cannot be transported to, or used by, the army or the European people of the warring nations. The leaders of our Government saw the situation months ago, and urged us to conserve flour and plant wheat. Very few of the farmers of this section increased their wheat acreage much and but few have curtailed their use of flour. Many who could have planted wheat failed to do so. Many people have bought flour ahead of their immediate needs fearing that it might become scarce.

For sometime it has been seen that there would not be enough wheat to last until next summer's harvest. Some steps had to be taken to decrease the consumption of flour. The Government leaders could not sit still and see the flour eaten up in this country while our Allies starved. Therefore, stringent rules have been put in force so that now in order to get flour the buyer has to purchase an equal amount of corn meal, rice, hominy, rye flour or some other cereal.

To cut down the use of flour is very important. In fact, it must be done to save bread to win the war. The soldiers must have wheat bread or they cannot fight. The plan adopted by the Food Administration came as a distinct shock to the people. At first thought they are unable to see the necessity of such a drastic measure. It will work a great inconvenience, if not a hardship to many, and especially to the farmers and tenants who have plenty of corn and corn meal at home which they made themselves. The order of the Food Administration appears to be based on the assumption that everybody has to buy all eatables. There are many who have their own meat and bread and corn and have but little money, yet if they have any flour they must carry some of their corn to town and sell it in order that they may buy flour and meal when they have all the meal they need at home.

There are quite a few folks who think that a better plan would have been to allow the purchase of only so many pounds of flour per capita per month. The purchases could be made by heads of families and records could be kept of the purchases made. Perhaps a better plan would be that when a man made a purchase of his amount of flour per capita per month he be given a certificate that he had bought so much and that before he would be allowed to buy more he must show the certificate to the merchant from whom he buys the next flour. It is very generally hoped that a modification of the order at least be made at an early date.

The American people have in most cases been going ahead as if there was no war, but the flour ruling and other

recent orders have woke us up to a realization of the fact that we must take notice of war conditions. It will be hard to do so, but we can learn to eat corn bread again and live like our fathers and mothers did in the years following the Civil War. We can do without flour if we have to and many will do without it before they will buy what they do not want or need, as they see it. The people are loyal and though they may not like the ruling on the flour and meal situation they will abide by it and hope that after all there may be some modification which will make it more satisfactory and at the same time carry out the spirit of the order of the Food Administration.

**THE ORDER WILL BE OBEYED.**

The necessity for the recent ruling of the Food Administration on flour is very much regretted, yet the people as a rule are going to obey the order until it is modified, or until the necessity no longer exists. We must stand by the Government even if it hurts some of us. Some of our sons and brothers and friends have to give up their loved ones, their homes and their business to go in training to fight for our country. Others have already given their lives and many others will be sacrificed upon their country's altar before peace is declared, and we who are left behind should be willing to make sacrifices that our fighters may be well fed. We can live on corn bread and rice and grits and hominy. This is far better than many of the people living in the countries of our Allies are having. And when we are wont to complain, let us think of the hardships that life in the army or in the trenches brings to our soldier boys.

**Paying Cash for Fertilizers.**

Most of the fertilizers which have been sold in the South since the Civil War have been sold on fall time. At first they were sold mainly for a stated number of pounds of lint cotton per ton. Later they were sold on a money basis, but only in a few cases, comparatively speaking, has the cash been paid for them at the time they were purchased. Men held cotton and bought fertilizers on time. Men have held a supply of money and bought fertilizers on time. In some cases they have loaned out money and paid time prices on fertilizers. This practice has been changed and those who have tried the cash plan like it better. There never was a time when farmers were in better condition to pay cash than they are this year. Good prices last fall helped to put much money in the country. Farmers who can pay cash this year will save not only the cash discount allowed but will save the interest which would be charged after May 1st. Under the arrangements which have been made it looks like interest will be charged to all users of fertilizers who do not pay for them by May 1st. If you pay cash for your fertilizers it will mean that much debt out of the way next fall.

**War Savings Institute.**

There will be a War Savings Institute at Raleigh on the 12th and 13th of February. Trained experts will conduct the Institute. The Governor urges that the leaders in this work attend.

**Liquor in Labrador.**

Writing on the theme "Why I am Against Liquor," Dr. Wilfred T. Grenfell, nearly a decade ago, said: "During twenty years' experience on the sea and on the snow in winter, an experience coming after an upbringing in soft places, I have found that alcohol has been entirely unnecessary for myself. I have been doctoring sick men and women of every kind and I have found that I can use other drugs of which we know the exact action and which we can control absolutely with greater accuracy, in cases of necessity, for stimulating the heart. I contend we can get just as good results without it, and I always fear its power to create a desire for itself. It is not necessary for happiness, for I have known no set of men happier and enjoying their lives more than the crews of my own vessel, and the many, many fishermen who, like ourselves, neither touch, taste nor handle it."

**PORTRAIT GALLERY OF OUR SOLDIER BOYS**



**JOHN F. FOSTER.**

John F. Foster, son of Mr. J. W. Foster, of Selma township, is a fireman on the United States Battleship Olympia. He enlisted on January 27, 1915, and has been in the service of Uncle Sam's Navy for three years.



**GEORGE W. FOSTER.**

George W. Foster, son of Mr. J. W. Foster, and brother of John F. Foster, volunteered and entered the United States Army November 9, 1916, and is a member of Co. E, 55th Infantry, now stationed at Chickamauga Park, Georgia.



**JAMES H. EASON.**

James H. Eason, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rom Eason, of Benson, enlisted in the service of the United States on May 18, 1917. He is a member of the United States Marines and is now with the American Expeditionary Forces in France. He went to France with his command last Fall. See his letter below.

**Letter from Soldier Boy in France.**

We are permitted to make the following extracts from a letter received by Mrs. Rom Eason, of Benson, from her son, James H. Eason, a member of the 82nd Company, 6th Regiment U. S. Marines, now in France: "Somewhere in France, "Nov. 23, 1917. "Dear Mother: "I will write you a few lines to let you know I am well and getting along fine. We are in camp now. We have about as good quarters here as we had over there, and plenty to eat. We have about as good fare all the way round, as we had before if not better. This country is very beautiful, and the people are the friendliest people I ever saw. All of us are very well

satisfied so far. We received mail yesterday, but I have not heard from home. They say we should receive mail about every two weeks, but I guess it will take longer to get mail from over here, as our mail has to be passed by the censor. "Tell papa that what he heard about the wine is true. You can get it anywhere you go and as much as you want, or anything else. But the boys do not get drunk as bad over here as they did over there." Young Eason enlisted last May at the age of 20 and has been in France only a short while.

**Still Captured in Cleveland.**

Last Friday night Messrs George M. Moore, E. G. Richardson and R. L. Flowers captured a small whiskey still on the lands of Mr. James H. Tomlinson, of Cleveland township, on a branch across the road in front of his home. It is said that some beer was found at the still and some beer was found also in a barn belonging to Mr. Tomlinson.

**LITTLE ESSAYS**

By Professor M. B. Andrews

**A Puzzle to Unravel.**

Life is full of problems. One man says that it is utter folly for the student to leave college to go to the trenches. Another says that only a coward would even think of remaining in college while his nation is at war.

A great statesman says that our government should send at least five million men to France during the present year. A masterful student of the military situation in Europe declares that to send millions of hungry men to France any time soon would do infinitely more harm than good.

The president of one of our leading educational institutions says that all our efforts in the school-room should be so directed as to arouse interest in the problems of the war. Another scholar of equal prominence says that the chief function of the public school system is to teach children the fundamentals of education: reading, writing, arithmetic, and grammar. Some devotee of vocational training asserts that it is worth a great deal more to a boy to know how to raise pigs and corn than to be able to parse Latin verbs or to read Shakespeare with even marked intelligence.

Who is right? The answer is simple: all are right, and all are wrong. In other words, the ideal for one is not the ideal for another. Wherever men and conditions differ, opinions differ. Clearly, therefore, it is not supremely good for a person blindly to follow anyone.

There is no better advice than this: Prove all things; then hold fast to that which is good—for you. Wisdom says, be a man—not a machine.

In this hour of supreme trial, let every person think for himself, and then let each do with his whole heart that which he concludes is best. 26 January, 1918.

**Note of Thanks.**

We wish to thank our relatives and neighbors for their faithfulness and kindness during the sickness of our baby. May God bless you all. MR. AND MRS. J. J. BARBOUR.

**Importance of Being Polite.**

Once upon a time two small boys, both under nine, went to a public place to transact some business which they could attend to. There was one detail which they failed to have fixed and they were asked to return and get the matter straight. But they did not want to go and when insisted upon to go back they raised a protest and one began to cry. When asked why by the person who sent them, they said they did not like the way the man in charge talked to them. He was so gruff in his manner toward the little fellows that they did not want to see him again. A little kindness and politeness on his part would have made friends of the boys. It pays to be kind and polite.

**MORTGAGEE'S SALE.**

Under the power of sale contained in certain mortgage deed from John Canaday and wife, Olive Canaday, to the undersigned, the conditions of the said mortgage having been broken, I will offer for sale to the highest bidder for Cash on Saturday, March 9th, 1918, at the Court House door in Smithfield, N. C., the following real estate: Beginning at a stake in the Goldsboro and Smithfield road in the line between the lots of Mary Hodges, deceased, and John Canaday runs with said line N 1 1-2 E 70 yards; thence westwardly parallel with said road 70 yards; thence S 1 1-2 W 70 yards to the said road; thence along said road eastwardly 70 yards to the beginning, containing one acre, more or less. Time: March 9, 1918, at 12 o'clock, Noon. Terms: Cash. LEON G. STEVENS, Mortgagee.

**Recommendations —**

**Do You**

want a better position than you now hold? What have you done to deserve it? The shrewd employer of today will want to know what you have done for yourself. Your savings account book is your best recommendation.

**Can You Qualify?**

**JOHNSTON COUNTY BANK & TRUST CO.**  
SMITHFIELD, N. C.  
CAPITAL STOCK \$25,000.00

**BOOKS**

Look over the list of Books below, and come and get your selection before they are picked over. We have lots of good books not in this list to select from.

**BOOKS OF POETRY.**

- Robert Burns' Complete Poems, \$1.00.
- Mrs. Browning's Poems, 75c.
- Shakespeare's Works in one volume, \$1.75.
- William Cullen Bryant's Poems, \$1.50.
- Keats' Poems, Padded Edition, \$1.25.
- Mrs. Browning's Poems, Padded Edition, \$1.25.
- Robert Browning, Limp Leather, \$1.75.
- Robert Burns, Limp Leather, \$1.75.

**BOOKS AT SIXTY CENTS EACH.**

We have in stock a choice lot of novels which we are selling at 60 cents each; by mail, 65 cents. Here are some of them:

- The Shepherd of the Hills.
- The Winning of Barbara Worth.
- The Eyes of the World.
- The Calling of Dan Matthews.
- By Harold Bell Wright.

- The Traitor.
- The Clansman.
- The Leopard's Spots.
- The Sins of the Father.
- The One Woman.
- By Thomas Dixon.

- Freckles.
- The Harvester.
- Laddie.
- At the Foot of the Rainbow.
- By Gene Stratton Porter.

- Richard Carvel.
- A Far Country.
- By Winston Churchill.

- The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come.
- Red Pepper Burns.
- Empty Pockets.
- The Heart of the Hills.
- The Southerner.
- White Fang.
- Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm.
- Eben Holden.
- David Harum.
- Overland Red.
- My Strange Life.
- Heart Throbs.
- More Heart Throbs.
- The Way of the Strong.
- The Four Million.
- And Many Others.
- By Well Known Writers.

**Herald Book Store**

SMITHFIELD, North Carolina