

# ARE MINING COAL IN CUMNOCK FIELD

"EGYPT" REGION IN LEE AND CHATHAM COUNTIES ARE BEING DEVELOPED.

## DISPATCHES FROM RALEIGH

Doings and Happenings That Mark the Progress of North Carolina People, Gathered Around the State Capital.

Raleigh.

The "Egypt" coal region lying chiefly in Lee and Chatham counties is being developed by two interests at present and it is gratifying to learn that the operators in both instances are getting satisfactory results. Both have mined coal of superior quality for steaming, heating and even grate and stove purposes.

If this development reaches the scale that the prospects seem to hold out in every respect, it will mean much for Wilmington, for the mines are on the Atlantic & Yadkin railroad (Coast Line and Southern Railway) which runs directly to the port of Wilmington. The coal region is only 130 miles from the Cape Fear ocean gateway. Coal seams which are six feet thick are yielding bituminous coal that government tests prove to be equal to the famous Pocahontas coal of the Virginia fields.

The older, or original development, is the Cumnock mine, once known as the Egypt mine, when it was first operated just prior to and during the civil war, and later operated on a small scale about 20 or 40 years ago when a disastrous mine explosion put the operating company out of commission. It is now being operated by the Norfolk Southern railroad, the main line of which also runs through this North Carolina coal field.

After years of abandonment, the Cumnock mine, 425 feet deep, filled with water, so the Norfolk Southern operators have been engaged since last summer in pumping out the shaft. That work was accomplished late in December and about two weeks ago the company began to mine coal and make experiments with it for supplying the locomotives of the railroad company. A couple of carloads of coal was used in a steaming test on Norfolk Southern locomotives with the most eminently satisfactory results. The company is proceeding with mining operations in a seam six feet thick, and from now on the railroad expects to handle its own coal proposition. It controls about 3,000 acres in the old Egypt coal tract.

The Cumnock mine is in Lee county, adjoining the Chatham county line. Just across the line, in Chatham, on the Norfolk Southern railroad, lies another coal tract of some 1,200 acres, which is being developed successfully by the Carolina Coal Company, incorporated and organized a few months ago by some enterprising home capitalists, including the famous North Carolinian, Bion H. Butler, who came from Pennsylvania years ago and domiciled as a state-wide citizen. The Carolina Coal Company is now doing business with an organization as follows: President, John R. McQueen, of Southern Pines; vice president, Bion H. Butler, of Southern Pines; superintendent, Howard M. Butler, of Southern Pines.

The Carolina Company has sunk an incline shaft to a depth of 150 feet, following the coal seam down at an angle of about 30 degrees, pitching east. The coal seam is six feet or more thick all the way down and the company proposes to go on and develop the mine on a commercial basis. People all over the country are begging this company for coal, but it cannot afford to make contracts till the developments reach a regular operating scale. It is hoped to be able to do that this summer and fall.

Meanwhile that company has taken out a couple of carloads of coal and has supplied the Southland hotel in Southern Pines during the winter. Mr. J. N. Powell, proprietor of the hotel as well as secretary of the coal company, has not had to worry about any coal supply for his hotel. He has been defying the aerie wave with good North Carolina coal. The Carolina Coal Company at present is working two hands and has driven two levels out from its main shaft, stripping a six foot coal seam in each direction. The long and short of it is that the Norfolk Southern's Cumnock shaft and the Carolina Coal Company's shaft disclose such vast quantities that when operations get down to the regular mining basis contemplated, coal will be plentiful.

### Commended by Daniels.

William B. Gray, of Avon, Dare county, ship's cook, U. S. N. R. F., has been commended by Secretary Daniels for bravery and skill in making a perilous trip over the ice of the North Carolina sounds and taking provisions from the ship to the lighthouse keeper of the Roanoke marshes lighthouse. The amendment for the government commendation and the navy department's announcement said, and Gray's trip, made in a ship's boat to which runners had been attached, was dangerous

### Saved State \$15,000,000.

War gardens in North Carolina last year saved North Carolina consumers \$12,000,000 to \$15,000,000 which otherwise would have been spent for food products imported into the state from other sections and, in the opinion of health experts, saved tens of thousands of dollars in doctors' bills by improving the general health of the people through the increased variety in their diet.

"More Gardens and Better Gardens" is the motto for this year, and with the forces of the food administration and the agricultural extension service behind the movement there should be a further increase of several million dollars in the aggregate value of garden products.

State Food Administrator Henry A. Page calls upon the merchants of the cities and towns of North Carolina to adopt early in the season the policy of early afternoon closing and at least one half-holiday each week so as to enable all employees to cultivate gardens. A uniform policy of early closing and of a half-holiday one or two days during the week would not reduce the quantity of goods sold in any degree, and would result not only in an increased number of and production from gardens, but would result in better health and more efficient work by employees in such stores.

This policy was adopted in the city of Raleigh and some other cities and towns of the state last year with wonderful results and it is expected that it will become a uniform and a universally adopted practice throughout the state this summer. Mr. Page is particularly anxious that it should be adopted in the various towns early enough to enable all clerks and other employees to prepare their gardens and have them seeded as early as the weather will permit.

Garden bulletins and plans may be secured from the Agricultural Extension Service at Raleigh without cost.

### Was a North Carolinian.

This bit of lore will be of interest to North Carolina. Admiral Farragut's wife being born near Kinston in this State: (The name McIven referred to may be McIver.)

"Dr. C. Alfonso Smith, of the department of English at the Naval Academy at Annapolis, has given out the following information:

"On the blank leaf of an old Bible, still in the possession of Admiral Farragut's family, there is the following record transmitted by the Admiral to his son:

"My Son,—Your father, George Farragut, was born in the Island of Minorca, in the Mediterranean, in 1770, the 29th of September, in Ciudadella, and came away from that island and the second day of April, 1772, came to America in March, 1775. Your mother, Elizabeth Shine, was born in North Carolina, Dobbs county, near Kinston, on the Neuse river, in 1765, on the 7th of June. Her father, John Shine; mother, Ellenor McIven."

### Should Be All American.

Dr. J. Y. Joyner, State superintendent of public instruction, is calling the attention of public school trustees in the State to importance of making sure that the teachers of the schools are patriotically American. There have been a few instances brought to the attention of the department of teachers who were not thoroughly in accord with the efforts being made by the country to win the war, and the danger of poisoning the minds of the children in this matter has been fully recognized. That such cases in the State should prove exceedingly unusual was to be expected, but the trustees of the schools are being warned to be on the alert in seeing that the teachers engaged are American in the fullest sense of the word.

### Examination for Clerks.

Notices have been issued by the United States civil service commission announcing open competitive examinations for clerks, both men and women, on March 9, 1918. Vacancies in the departmental service, at Washington, will be filled from this examination. The usual entrance salary, the notice stated, is \$900 or \$1,000 a year, but the war department has decided to allow, during the continuance of the war, \$1,100 a year as the entrance rate of pay for clerks. Applications should be filed with the commission at Washington in time to arrange for the examination at the place selected by the applicant, said the notice.

### Control Short Lines.

There was great rejoicing when the senate adopted the Cummins amendment for the government control of the short line railroads. Senators Simmons and Overman spoke for the amendment. North Carolina has at least 40 of the roads affected. Former Representative Page went to Washington some time ago and took up the matter of the short line roads with Mr. McAdoo.

### Great Benefit to Farmers.

The farmers of North Carolina will be benefited to the extent of several hundred thousand dollars as a result of the order of the food administration forbidding the sale of wheat flour except in combination with an equal quantity of cereal substitutes in the opinion of the food administration officials. It is stated that North Carolina farmers are today receiving a higher price for corn than those probably of any other state in the Union.

## ASKS FOR RE-CLASSIFICATION

Young Raleigh Man Asks Board to Re-Classify Him—Only Case in the State.

Raleigh.—Married and placed in Class IV by the Wake exemption board, R. P. Michael, who registered in Wake county but is now living in Charlotte, has offered his services to the United States and asked the county board to reclassify him.

Since he was classified, Mr. Michael has written Dr. Caveness that his wife is not dependent now upon him for support and that the only hardship on her, if he is called would be his separation. The registrant's frank statement in regard to the change in his wife's dependency is the first of its kind the Wake exemption board has received and the young man's attitude has made a profound impression upon the members of the board.

His letter to Dr. Caveness is as follows:

"I am taking the liberty of writing you in regard to my classification. Since returning my questionnaire there has been a change in regard to my wife's dependency on my salary for her support, the change being such that she would be able with the allowance made by the government to support herself in a manner not exceeding that which she is receiving at the present. In fact it would not be up to the present standard but the difference entailed would not work any hardship on her with the exception of our separation.

"Realizing the need the government has for men in this emergency, I believe it to be my duty to inform you of the exact conditions of my case. If the local board may, see fit to re-classify my questionnaire, I assure you there will be no objection on the part of my wife and myself.

"Assuring you of my hearty support and willingness to serve, I am,

"Yours very truly,

"R. P. MICHAEL."

### Writes From German Camp.

Stony Point.—Newspaper readers will remember that among the first Americans reported missing as a result of contact with the German lines in France was Sergeant Edgar M. Haliburton, of Stony Point, N. C. Later the national news services announced that he had been located in a German prison camp. His father, G. B. Haliburton, has received the following letter from him, which was, of course, censored by the German authorities:

"Dear Father: "Will write you a few lines. I am well and all right.

"Write the First National bank, of El Paso, Texas, and tell them to put my money on interest in savings deposits until they hear from me.

"I will see you after the war is over. Tell Jim and Mae to write me. Also Bub.

"Also tell the bank I am here and don't know when I will get back, but to put all deposits to my credit on savings and give them my address and tell them to send me a statement of balance.

"Well, I will close for this time, and will write you again soon.

"With love to all.

"Your son,

"EDGAR M. HALIBURTON,

"20th Company, 5th Battalion.

### Civil War Bomb Explodes.

Raleigh.—News reaches here of a peculiar accident that occurred at Fort Caswell, at the mouth of the Cape Fear river a few days ago, in which two of the soldier boys in training there were painfully injured. An old field range was being used as a temporary quarantine camp, the surface of the ground serving as the base of the stove firebox. Some of the inner adjustment fell in and the cook found an old cannon ball that had been out there in the weather for over forty years, having been thrown there by the federal fleet in the civil war bombardment of Fort Caswell. The cook used this as a support for the part of the stove that broke in. But, presently, there was a terrific explosion from the powder that the old ball, which was really a bomb, contained. The cooking quarters were demolished and the two soldiers injured.

### NORTH CAROLINA BRIEFS.

The Guilford county health department, according to Dr. Wm. M. Jones, the county health officer, is planning to employ a county dentist by the month to go about from place to place throughout the county and hold free dental clinics for school children. This is a part of the plan in connection with the state campaign for medical inspection of schools.

Three hundred and twenty-five men in Pitts county have been classed as delinquents by the local board.

Major William H. Bernard, founder of the Wilmington Star, and one of the ablest editors in the state, died at the home of his son in Wilmington at the age of 81 years.

The quarantine on Camp Greene has been lifted and soldiers are allowed to visit Charlotte and the theatres.

Earle Neville must die in the electric chair, "No Error" being the verdict rendered in the appeal to the supreme court.

Lumberton now has a curfew law and youths under seventeen must not be found on the streets after nine o'clock at night.

## ASK BIG ACREAGE OF SPRING WHEAT

Government Calls on Farmer to Increase Food Supply.

### SOUTH SHOULD FEED ITSELF

Agricultural Program for 1918 Urges Necessity for Producing Large Supply of Foods and Feedstuff to Feed America and Its Allies.

Washington, D. C.—The planting of an increased acreage to spring wheat and the production of an increased supply of other food products and of live stock, especially hogs, is recommended in a supplementary food production program issued by the United States department of agriculture.

This program re-emphasizes and amplifies the food-production program for 1918 issued by the department in August, 1917, and other suggestions made in the fall and the first of this year regarding increased pork production and increased production of foodstuffs in the South. Taken in connection with the recommendations previously made, it suggests in full the proposals which the department thinks it desirable to offer with a view to secure enough meat and dairy products, cereals, sugar and other staple and perishable foods, wool and cotton for the nation, its armies, and the allies. It gives suggestions for the approaching spring operations, based upon the latest available information as to the condition of the fall-planted crops of winter wheat and rye and as to the number of meat and dairy animals reported for 1917. They represent the best thought of the specialists of the department who have had the benefit of advice from agricultural leaders throughout the country.

**Our Best Efforts Required.** "Notwithstanding an increased production of staple crops in the United States in 1917, there is need for more food," the program states. "Taking into account our own needs, the needs of the nations associated with us in this war, and the needs of friendly neutral nations, our best efforts will be required to provide enough food in 1918. Whether the war continues or not, the demands on this country, because of the increasing population and the needs of Europe will be great. An especially strong demand will be made on this country for meats and live stock. In 1917, notwithstanding the many difficulties encountered, the farmers planted the largest acreages in the history of the nation, harvested record crops of most things except wheat, and succeeded in greatly increasing the number of live stock."

"The situation is such that chief emphasis should be given to the production of the great staple food products, with special stress on wheat and hogs, the leading war foods."

The South is urged to provide food for its own people and feed for its live stock and then to plant as much cotton as can well be cultivated and harvested. To raisers of hogs and beef animals the world need for meats and fats is made clear. Farmers are urged to join with the men on the ranges in providing sheep whose wool is needed to equip soldiers.

The program discusses the farm labor problem, points out the lines of effort for relief, and outlines the activities of the federal and state agencies to furnish assistance.

**Spring Wheat.** In dealing with the question of spring wheat, the program states: "The acreage of spring wheat should be increased in order to make certain that we shall have an adequate supply of wheat for our own uses and to meet the needs of the allies."

"While the area of winter wheat sown in 1917 was the largest on record, the condition of the crop, as reported on December 1, was the lowest ever recorded, indicating a probable production of only 540,000,000 bushels. Whether the actual production will be greater or less than the estimate will depend upon conditions prevailing between now and the time of harvest. If there were planted to spring wheat in the United States this year an acreage equal to the sum of the record planting in each spring wheat state within the last ten years, there would be sown approximately 23,300,000 acres. If there should be planted an acreage equal to the sum of the record planting for each state within the last five years there would be sown approximately 21,000,000 acres. The record planting for any year was 20,381,000, in 1911. The acreage for 1917 was 18,511,000.

"The department of agriculture has carefully studied all these records and other data in connection with the present war conditions and needs, and believes that it will be possible this year to secure an acreage in excess of the record acreage which was planted in 1911. It is believed that increased

acres can be secured in states and sections where spring wheat production is known to be reasonably promising, and that such increases can be made without upsetting farm plans.

It is hoped that many farmers, especially in the northern part of the corn belt, will find it possible to plant five to ten acres additional in wheat. In some cases they will plant more. In a number of states in the eastern and central portions of the country where spring wheat has not been grown in recent years, the crop is now being re-established and it is recommended that this movement be encouraged.

To a small extent the acreage in oats, if necessary, could be reduced in the interest of wheat. Likewise, a very small portion of the acreage which normally would be planted to corn in the northern part of the corn belt might be sown to spring wheat.

If the acreage of spring wheat indicated for some of the states cannot be planted, the barley acreage, which is known to grow better in some localities, might be increased. The use of barley for food is increasing in this country and it is a welcome food in Europe.

**Summary of Other Recommendations.** Following is a summary of other important recommendations regarding cereals, meat, poultry, and perishables.

**Hogs.** The number of hogs should be increased by at least 15 per cent during the year 1918.

**Sugar.** Effort should be made to maintain the acreage of sugar cane and sugar beets, and to increase these areas in so far as these crops are well established or are necessary to sound agricultural practice.

**Dairy Products.** The supply of dairy products should be maintained to meet the needs of this country and to help supply the increasing demands of the allies.

**Poultry.** Poultry production should be increased greatly, especially in back yards and on farms where waste material is available and the purchase of expensive grains and other material is not required.

**Corn.** An acreage of corn approximately equal to that of 1917 should be planted, with possible slight reductions in certain sections to free areas for spring wheat.

## CALL FOR 250,000 SHIPYARD HELPERS

Each State Asked to Contribute Volunteers to Speed Merchant Fleet.

### FORM RESERVE ORGANIZATION

Workers to Stand Ready When Called—Standard Scale of Wages and Good Housing Conditions Assured.

Two hundred and fifty thousand workmen are to be enrolled in a reserve organization of American mechanics, skilled workers in many lines, to bring to completion the gigantic shipbuilding program to win the war. The organization is known as the United States Shipyard Volunteers of the Public Reserve. Those who enroll will stand ready to respond when they are called to report at the shipyards for duty.

An appeal for volunteers has been made by the department of labor the council of national defense, the shipping board, the 20,000 four-miner men, governors of the various states, organized labor and business men. The aim is to fill all the present and future needs of the government's shipyards.

Pay of volunteers will be in accordance with the prevailing wage in the shipyards at the time they are called. Construction of houses for the workers is being pushed with energy, and the necessary homes will be ready when the men are called.

Cards are issued to all applicants, bearing statements of the purpose of the shipyard volunteers, classifying them according to trades and asking signers to respond when called. But tons will be given to volunteers bearing the inscription, "U. S. Shipyard Volunteers." In addition, the worker will receive a certificate signed by Chairman Hurley, which reads:

"This is to certify (name of volunteer) of (city, state), has enrolled in the United States Shipyard Volunteers of Public Service Reserve to aid the nation in its imperative needs for merchant ships with which to overcome the submarine menace and maintain our forces at the front."

**Shipyards to Win or Lose.** "The world war will be won or lost in the American shipyards. Every rivet driven is a blow at the Kaiser. Every ship turned out brings America nearer to victory."

"Those who give their strength and influence to the speedy construction of ships render service that is patriotic and highly essential to the successful termination of the war."

Plans for the organization of the Shipyard Volunteers were laid out the view to interfere as little as possible with the private industrial concerns and to cause the minimum of inconvenience to the workers themselves.

Under this system, when an acetone or electrical welder, blacksmith, boiler maker, carpenter or any other of the skilled workers or laborers is enrolled, he need not fear that he will be called upon to quit his present position without notice and go immediately to a shipyard. The government does not contemplate issuing calls to the volunteers until the yards are ready to receive them.

When a man is enrolled he may make his personal plans in accordance with the government's wishes and be ready when the call comes. He will then have awaiting him a definite job at a definite place, at a definite, generous rate of pay.

**Quota of Each State.** Each state has been assigned a quota, based upon the population and industries. The quota is as follows:

Maine	2,972	New Jersey	11,345
New Hamp.	3,694	Pennsylvania	32,771
Vermont	1,390	Ohio	15,922
Massachusetts	14,321	Indiana	16,517
Rhode Island	2,355	Illinois	23,623
Connecticut	4,736	Michigan	11,734
New York	35,335	Wisconsin	9,411
Minnesota	8,762	Alabama	5,794
Iowa	8,331	Mississippi	7,488
Missouri	11,812	Arkansas	6,922
North Dakota	2,584	Louisiana	7,984
South Dakota	2,383	Oklahoma	4,492
Nebraska	4,499	Texas	17,028
Kansas	8,330	Montana	1,500
Delaware	811	Idaho	1,500
Maryland	6,289	Wyoming	1,500
Dist. of Col.	1,390	Colorado	3,000
Virginia	8,483	New Mexico	1,500
West Virginia	5,327	Arizona	1,500
N. Carolina	9,284	Utah	1,500
S. Carolina	8,337	Nevada	1,500
Georgia	11,901	Washington	1,500
Florida	8,435	Oregon	1,500
Kentucky	8,289	California	1,500
Tennessee	7,982		

### Trades Needed in Shipbuilding.

The department of labor has provided the following list showing the kind of trades most needed in shipbuilding, and a special appeal is addressed to men in those occupations to enroll in the United States Shipyard volunteers:

Acetylene and electrical welders, asbestos workers, blacksmiths, angle-welders, drop-forgers, men, flange turners, armce men, boiler-makers, riveters, reamers, carpenters, ship carpenters, dock builders, chippers and calkers, electrical workers, electricians, wiremen, crane operators, foundry workers, laborers (all kinds), loftsman, template makers, machinists and machine hands (all sorts), helpers, painters, plumbers and pipe fitters, sheet metal workers, copper-smiths, shipfitters, structural iron workers, erectors, bolters up, cementers and crane men.

### Reached His Capacity.

The first floor of the home was reached at the rear by climbing a flight of stairs. One evening the family came from town with a good many parcels, which the father, mother and son, Eugene, proceeded to carry into the house, Eugene going up the steps first. As they neared the top step the father said, forgetting momentarily that the youngster's arms were full, too, "Open the screen door, son," to which the youngster replied: "I can't papa, I'm all used."

### True Gospel of Work.

Work is the glory and delight of life, and the only acceptable excuse for being in this world, and the object of all practical investigations of the principle of fatigue and recovery is to find out, not what is the least possible amount of work that a human being can get along on, but what is the greatest amount that he can do without decreasing his working capacity. Such is the gospel of work, which those who are not of the elect regard as hard doctrine.—Excheq.