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UNITED STATES ARMY NOW FULLY EQUIPPED

Has Sufficient Men and Ammunition for Punitive Expedition into Mexico.

Washington, March 13.—"In my judgment," said Chairman Hays, of the house committee on military affairs today, "the United States army is fully equipped with both men and ammunition to conduct a punitive expedition into Mexico to capture the bandit Villa and his band, who were responsible for the recent murders at Columbus, New Mexico. I do not believe we would need more than 20,000 men for this purpose."

Mr. Hays was asked about conditions should it be deemed necessary to intervene in Mexico. "Then," he replied, "we would need at least 300,000 men and most of this force would have to be raised under the terms of the volunteer act passed in April 1914. This authorizes the president to call for volunteers only during the existence of war or while war is imminent. The president is empowered to issue a proclamation stating the number of men desired for service."

"We have in reserve at the present time 1,000,000 rifles and 200,000,000 rounds of ammunition, or 2,000 rounds per gun. We have 900 pieces of artillery, 1,077 machine guns, many of them weighing less than 25 pounds and none over 50 pounds. We have in addition 224 batteries each equipped with four guns. We have in reserve three-quarters of a million rounds of ammunition for the field artillery."

"It is estimated that at the Springfield and Rock Island arsenals, we can manufacture 213,000 rifles a year, while if three shifts are working at these institutions at least 500,000 rifles can be turned out in the same time."

Ecumenical Meeting of The Baptists of Harnett County.

At the invitation of Prof. J. A. Campbell, the churches composing the Little River Association, represented by delegates at Baptist Church of Lenoir, met at the residence of Mr. J. A. Campbell, Sunday, March 12th. Prof. Campbell declared that he had not in years seen so many Baptists together in a similar capacity. The object of the meeting was especially to discuss the matter of a simultaneous evangelist efforts in all the churches of the Association, and by unanimous consent the meetings were set to begin the first Sunday in August.

There were two sessions with a substantial dinner between, prepared by the ladies of the church and served in the large Sunday School room in the rear of the main auditorium. The morning session was taken up by Rev. C. J. Thompson of Raleigh who represents the F. O. C. Mission Board, of Richmond. His speech was an earnest presentation of the latest mission in formation and a succinct discussion of the Bible plan of financing the Kingdom of God, basing his talk on 1 Cor. 16:2: "On the first day of the week let each of you lay by in store as God has prospered him." "This plan carried out faithfully," said the speaker, "would furnish all the money needed for every enterprise that the churches need to carry on."

The afternoon session was given up to the informal discussion of the plan for launching the simultaneous campaign. By the time the session began a goodly number of belated messengers arrived from Dunn, Prof. Campbell explained the project stating that a daily issue of the Little River Record should be issued containing the news of the meetings day by day. Prof. Hays suggested that a large bill board be erected near each of the churches announcing the projected meetings. Once having decided to begin the meetings on August 6th, a call was made for an all-day meeting for prayer and counsel to be held in Lenoir on August 5th with the presence of all the pastors and workers to engage in the meetings.

Great interest and unanimity prevailed throughout the day. As an expression of appreciation to the ladies for the splendid dinner which they prepared, some one started a collection for the ladies' society, which resulted in about \$17. The ladies demonstrated their ability to rise to the occasion by preparing abundance of food for four times as many people as some expected. A similar feat is expected on August 5th and great results are hoped for from that day's gathering.—Harnett Reports.

The many friends of Mr. Tyrus Thornton were glad to see him on the streets again Tuesday. He has been confined to his room for more than six weeks, having had a severe attack of sickness.

RALEIGH NEWS LETTER

(Special Correspondence)

Raleigh, N. C., March 14.—If there is any anti-Wilson sentiment among the North Carolina Democratic State committee, it failed to manifest itself at the meeting of the State executive and advisory committees here. If any of the scores of prominent Democrats from all over the State who attended this meeting disagree with the President's foreign policy, none of them was minded to say so (even by a negative vote) on this occasion.

When the resolution was introduced to give expression to the committee's implicit confidence in the judgment, wisdom and patriotism of the President in the discharge of his constitutional function pertaining to our foreign relations, it was not only adopted without a dissenting vote by the committee proper, but also unanimously by those present not members of the committee, when Chairman Warren invited them to vote on the resolution, which was taken by a rising vote. Everybody got on the Wilson bandwagon and the applause was hearty and vociferous.

The ready acceptance of the proposition to have the delegates to the State Convention (when the convention meets in Raleigh April 27th) from the counties composing the various Congressional Districts name the delegates to the St. Louis and the presidential electors for their respective districts (instead of holding district conventions or primaries) was largely due to the general acceptance of the opinion that there will be no opposition at St. Louis to the renomination of Wilson. As to the nomination for Vice President, no one seems to be very much interested in the subject.

What Democratic Leaders Say at the meeting of the committee was featured by the large attendance of "big guns," who accepted the chairman's invitation to attend from the present governor, Craig, and the next governor on down the line, Lieutenant Governor Daughtridge, and the recipients of many of the expressions of these it is now apparent that the race for the gubernatorial nomination is to be a spirited and close one—unless the rocky Mount candidate's growth in popularity should assume the proportions which some of those present predicted, and carries him well in the lead during the next three months. That opinion, of course, is at present more or less speculative, but those posted on the subject said there was no doubt of the growth of sentiment for the "farmer and business man's candidate." Nor did they lose sight of the activities of the attorney general who has been "building his fences" for some time.

Your correspondent heard some expressions of the chances of a few candidates who seek to succeed the present State officers, but they were chiefly from representatives of the immediate section of the aspirants. It was the consensus of opinion that there would be no opposition of consequence to State Auditor Wood, superintendent of instruction Joyner or Labor Commissioner Shipman, Mr. F. K. Mintz, the Mt. Olive editor, who thought of running for the latter position having decided not to do so. Mr. Shipman is serving only his second term and is unquestionably one of the most efficient officers in the service of the State. As everybody knows of his long years of faithful party service, it is not surprising that he should be retained in the office. Auditor Wood (whose first short term was to succeed the late Dr. Dixon) is also just completing his second term, and there was no division of sentiment among those I talked to, as to this old soldier's renomination.

As for Dr. Joyner, he will die in harness—let us hope. Nobody ever thinks of opposing the man who has made the best head of the educational department the State ever had and accomplished more than any other—a habit which continues to mark his activities.

Current News Notes. Senator Max Gardner, of Cleveland county, who appears to be a prime favorite for the Lieutenant Governorship, spent several days in Raleigh last week. He is still on circuit, following the railroad accident that nearly cost him his life, but is gradually and surely recovering his usual fine physical form. Everybody will be glad to learn of this.

The announcement of Congressman Page has opened the gate for congressional aspirants in the Seventh District, L. D. Robinson of Anson, and H. B. Varner of Davidson, being the first two to enter. Others are expected, "they say," including possibly ex-Congressman Dick Hackett

CAPTURE 22 GALLONS

Three Men Leaving Train Are Nabbed at Four Oaks.

Four Oaks, March 13.—Saturday night when the Shoo-fly arrived from the North, about 11 o'clock, Atlas and Altorio Massengill, white and Jim Carroll, colored, were noticed leaving the train—the three having a suit case in each hand. Policeman Stroup, chanced to be on the scene, and noticing the tremendous loads which the three men were carrying, decided to make some investigation with a view to perhaps relieving them of their burdens. The three were halted and informed by the officer that he wished to ascertain the contents of the numerous suit cases, and having asked the men to please pardon his curiosity, proceeded to investigate, whereupon was revealed "joy water" of many brands and varieties, put up in various size packages. There was apple brandy, peach brandy, corn whiskey, rye whiskey, and a few other varieties of booze amounting to seventeen gallons in all. In addition to this there was five gallons of alcohol making twenty-two gallons in all captured by the officer.

The mayor was called out of bed and the three given a hearing. All three succeeded in giving bond for their appearance before the court at a later date.

Dr. E. Della Dixon Carroll To Visit Dunn.

The regular meeting of the Education and Health departments of the Woman's Club will be held in the Opera House Friday afternoon at four o'clock. It gives the department pleasure to announce that Dr. E. Della Dixon Carroll, of Raleigh, will be with us and talk to the women, especially the mothers of our town at that hour and we trust every woman who is interested in the betterment of our town will avail herself of this opportunity and privilege of hearing Dr. Carroll, who ranks among North Carolina's first large, men, women and children are most cordially invited to hear her at the evening hour.

A collection will be taken, both at the afternoon and evening hour to further the club work and defray expenses. We feel sure Dr. Carroll will give us many helpful suggestions. Come out and hear her. MRS. R. L. GODWIN, Chairman.

MRS. JAS. R. BUTLER, Secretary.

Form Civic Club at Fuquay Fuquay Springs, March 13.—A civic club has been recently organized in Fuquay Springs with a membership composed of the leading ladies of the town and community. Mrs. R. B. Smith is its president; Mrs. Harrison, vice-president; Mrs. R. E. Kagdale, secretary and treasurer; and Mrs. A. G. Elliott is chairman of the advisory committee; Mrs. A. J. Fletcher of the finance committee; Mrs. J. W. Prince of program and publicity committee; Miss Millie Jones of streets, alleys and sidewalks, and Mrs. R. A. Sutton of committee on home improvements and public health.

The club has offered three prizes as follows: For best kept premises, greatest improvement in lot and one for prettiest flower yard.

Mr. L. J. Best has begun work on a residence in the western part of the city. He is building a six-room cottage and hopes to have it ready for occupancy by May first.

of Wilkes.

Congressman Pou's splendid activities of late have spiked the guns of opposition which were recently being put in training in the Fourth District. Mr. Pou will soon be nominated for his ninth consecutive term. It's a long time, but no district can expect its representative to cut much of a figure in Washington if he is changed every few years. The new Congressman (no matter how great his native ability) is a very small potato in the House. He has to stay there and grow before he can accomplish much. I served on newspapers and in the press gallery at Washington for eight years and watched the process. It may be added that some failed to "grow." Of course the class did not stay long.

All the State officers and other prominent men here today approve of the President's course in the latest Mexican development. General Funston will probably "get" Villa, something Carranza seems to have been unable to accomplish, and with the bandit leader out of the way, peace may yet make at least a temporary appearance among the great

FINANCES OF STATE IN POOR CONDITION

Net Indebtedness Greater Than That of One City; Privileges Each Have Indebtedness Greater Than State, After Considering Market Value of Stock Owned By State; State Expenses Millions Less Than Claimed By Butler, Little and Hicks.

Mr. Butler seems to have abandoned the controversy of his own choosing on the subject of "Taxes and Debt." There is, however, one other view of the State's indebtedness that I wish to present, not so much in a controversial way as to accentuate the real condition of health of the State's finances.

The total bonded indebtedness of the State at the present time is \$3,652,500. A large part of these bonds were issued years ago to secure construction of railway lines in the State to provide transportation facilities for the State's development and in return for the bonds issued, the State now owns \$3,000,200 of the total of \$4,000,000 of the capital stock of the North Carolina railroad, running from Goldsboro via Greensboro, to Charlotte and \$1,266,600 of the total of \$1,797,300 of the stock of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad, running from Goldsboro to Morehead City. The stock of these roads has a fixed issue and a fixed market value by reason of the fixed return under the long term lease of these properties. Under this fixed market, the State's holdings of stock is worth on the market, any day \$6,200,300 and it pays to the State annually \$1,266,600, a dividend of 4 per cent on \$3,000,200 worth of the State's bonds. This stock, therefore, clearly balances off that amount of the State's bonded debt and leaves a net bonded debt of only \$2,462,200. This is all of the bonded indebtedness of the State on which it has to raise revenue from taxes to pay interest.

To illustrate the significance of this indebtedness, the Great State Fair, held in Charlotte, last year, raised \$1,000,000 to pay the interest on its bonded indebtedness than does the State of North Carolina.

The city of Charlotte has a bonded indebtedness of \$2,642,000, or \$180,800 more than the net bonded indebtedness of the State, and an indebtedness in addition to this, not covered by long term bonds, of \$180,371, and has to raise by taxation the annual interest on that much more indebtedness than does the State of North Carolina.

The State also has a loan fund to the counties for building public school houses, which is returned to the State in annual payments with interest, which for the year ending November, 1914, amounted to \$480,098. If this should be deducted as an asset, there are five counties in the State, each of which separately has a bonded indebtedness equal to or larger than the net indebtedness of the State, as follows: Buncombe, including Asheville; Forsyth, including Winston-Salem; Mecklenburg, including Charlotte; New Hanover, including Wilmington, and Wake, including Raleigh.

And yet Mr. Butler sits back in his stock and bond office in Washington (Carpet bag bonds a specialty) and sheds political tears over the burden of bonded indebtedness that a Democratic administration is piling upon the people of the State.

And it should be said that the bonded indebtedness of the city of Charlotte is not unusual or excessive as compare with that of many other progressive cities of like size and progressive spirit in other States, and the same can, of course, be said with respect to the counties and other cities mentioned.

There is one other misrepresentation going the rounds that should be corrected—that the expense of the State government in 1914 was five million dollars. This statement was recently repeated in the Greensboro News by Mr. T. T. Hicks, of Henderson, as follows:

"Butler has shown by the books and Mr. Little has confirmed it that in 1896 and 1898 the Republicans spent for the government of the State yearly one million eight hundred thousand dollars, while in 1914 the Democratic State government cost five million dollars." That statement is inaccurate to the extent of nearly two million dollars. If Mr. Hicks will turn to pages 12, 13 and 14 of the Report of the State Treasurer for 1914 he will see that the statement of total disbursements for 1914 is not a statement of the cost of State government at all, but a statement of every dollar that for any purpose passed through the State Treasurer's office during the year and remains at least the

HEALTH AND ALCOHOL

Health Authorities View the Liquor Problem as a Health Problem.

Old John Barleycorn continues to get his knocks. This time it is the Health Department of no less a place than "Little Old West New York." According to a bulletin just issued by that department, the part played by alcohol as the cause of sickness and death justified the entrance of the Department of Health into a field previously occupied by moralists rather than physicians. Continuing, the "discontinuance of the use of alcohol will mark a greater advance in public health protection than anything since the application of our knowledge of the bacterial origin of disease."

While it is indeed interesting and even gratifying to see scientific, as well as social and welfare organizations taking such action, it will be recalled that as early as 1912 our own State Board of Health devoted nearly an entire issue of the Health Bulletin to the liquor problem and public health, and that in 1914 the North Carolina State Medical Society went on record as opposed to the unnecessary prescribing of whiskey, because it violated one of the principles of the profession, and also took the ground that "alcohol as a drug can be eliminated from any degree crippling the efficiency of the doctor's armamentarium."

Mr. P. S. Cooper Improving.

Tampa, March 14.—Mr. P. S. Cooper, a prominent banker of Dunn, N. C., who has been seriously ill here, is gradually improving and hopes to regain his health permanently.

Following items that are not properly chargeable as expenses of the State institutions.

Bonds, 4 per cent, paid.....	6,500
Elkin & Alleghany railroad stock	35,000
Lease unpaid	481,811
Expenses for	
Oil inspection fees	
Appropriation for public schools, disbursed to counties	248,146
Appropriation for schools, disbursed to counties	401,010
Appropriation for county high schools	75,450
State's Prison earnings	196,914
Interest on bonds paid from dividends on stock	248,012
Total	\$1,769,253
Deduction of above items leaves total expense of 1914 of 3,063,008.	

There are some other items in the list properly deductible to arrive at proper running expenses of the State, but this total will be nearly accurate.

If Mr. Hicks will look at statement of receipts by State Treasurer, pages 9, 10 and 11, he will see that the State's Prison is credited with paying in exactly the amount paid out, \$198,914.00, and the same statement will apply to the oil inspection funds, etc.

Recapitulation.

A brief summary of the field over which Mr. Butler has charged and counter-charged shows the following facts established beyond possible controversy:

Our taxes, per capita, are less than any other State.

Our taxes are substantially less than the average of other States in proportion to average wealth.

The increase in assessed value of property in 1915, after equalization by State Tax Commission, is only ten and one-half per cent, and but little over half the percentage of increase made in former quadrennial assessment years since 1899.

The increase in actual value of property is shown by census report to be seventeen per cent; greater than increase in tax valuation.

The average tax rate is less in the Democratic counties of the State than the average in the Republican counties of the State.

The Democratic State government is administered on a tax rate four cents on each hundred dollars worth of property less than that levied by Mr. Butler's crowd in 1897.

Wherever there has been increase in taxes it has been for schools, pensions or public improvements demanded by the people, and Mr. Butler has not shown a single instance of extravagance or unfaithful performance of public duty in levying or expending of such taxes.

And finally the increase in bonded debt has not exceeded increase in population, and has been for permanent improvements in every instance. The payment of Mr. Butler's bond suit and his penitentiary default.—A. J. Maxwell, in News and Observer, 1916.

DUKE NEWS

Duke, March 14.—The singing class from the Oxford Orphanage and under the direction of Mr. Alderman gave a concert here Thursday night in the auditorium. Many expressed the opinion that it was the best concert the class has yet given here. Moreover Mr. Alderman stated that this was the second stop since they left Oxford. The concert was given under the auspices of the Masonic lodge here, and the proceeds which amounted to about eighty dollars was turned over to the orphanage. Fourteen children were in the class and they were well trained and gave a most excellent and creditable concert.

Monday night the Boy Scouts of Duke held a debate in the Parish House of the Episcopal church using for a subject: Should the United States prepare to the extent as proposed by President Wilson? Joseph Core, Wade Lucas and Walter Norris handled the affirmative, while Suart McKay and John Chapman upheld the negative. The judges were Rev. W. L. Maness, Dr. H. L. Williamson, and E. S. Yarbrough. The boys did fine debating on both sides and had a lively discussion. The judges rendered the decision in favor of the affirmative.

T. H. Webb spent Saturday and Sunday with his mother in Hillsboro. Mr. W. L. Burns, formerly with the Bank of Harnett, but now located in the banking business at Benson was in town Sunday.

Miss Eunice Elliott, of Linden, is visiting her sister, Mrs. E. S. Yarbrough.

Mr. F. Smith Jr. of Duke and his brother, Edwin Smith, of Reelford, left Monday for Hot Springs for treatment. It will require twenty one days for the treatment of Rheumatism and after the treatment Mr. Ed. Smith will return to Duke.

Godwin Predicts Harnett County Will be Redeemed.

Washington, March 8.—"Harnett county will be redeemed this year, you can be sure of that," said Representative L. Godwin before Congress meets Monday.

Born When Washington Was President.

Kansas City, Mo., March 13.—Louis Merriman, a negro who was born when George Washington was President, died in Kansas City, last night. Merriman was the oldest man on the United States pension rolls and claimed to have substantiated the fact that he was born 121 years ago on the "Sopher" plantation in Virginia in 1795.

"The Campbells are Coming," featuring Grace Cunard and Francis Ford at the Bijou Saturday matinee and night.

THE BIRTH OF A NATION

At the LaFayette Theatre, Fayetteville, on April 17, 18 and 19.

Optical experts responsible for the perfect results of "The Birth of a Nation" projection at the Liberty Theatre, New York, arrived in Fayetteville Saturday and started work at the LaFayette Theatre. The same scientific methods will be used in "The Birth of a Nation" engagement here. To the rear of the orchestra stalls masons have laid a concrete base, above which steel workers have built a framework for the picture booth, thus assuring the picture machines' perfect rigidity and steadiness. The experts have measured to fractions of an inch the exact distance required for perfect focusing. They have likewise selected by means of eye-tests those locations in the house which will afford an optically perfect view of the film spectacle. Such seats are in the center and rear, of the ground floor and command \$2 prices. Never before in the history of the theatre has minute scientific adjustment of this sort been attempted. Its complete success in New York shows the marvelous progress of picturized drama from the status of a toy to the eminence of an art.

Mr. John P. Johnson returned Sunday morning from Baltimore and New York where he purchased a large stock of spring and summer goods for Johnson Brothers.

EVERYBODY IS FOR THE PRESIDENT SAYS GODWIN

Returns to Washington From a Brief Visit Home.—Democrats May Redeem Harnett.

Washington, March 14.—Mr. Godwin returned this morning from a brief visit home. He stated that the people were a unit for the President, and that he would be re-elected by the largest majority ever received by a President of the United States. He talked with a large number of farmers and business men who expressed their endorsement of the President's course and their intention to support him. He found a strong sentiment in Harnett county among the Democrats to redeem the county and place it back in the Democratic column. The Democrats are determined to do this at the next election. The county went Republican on account of the dissatisfaction caused by the stock law and the effort to create Jarvis county. These difficulties have all been allayed and the Democrats will unite in a strong determination to redeem the county this fall.

IS MADE SOLICITOR TO SUCCEED NARRON

Raleigh, March 14.—The appointment of Albert M. Noble as solicitor of the Recorder's Court of Johnston county, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of J. A. Narron, was announced today by Governor.

The King of the Corn and His Reign of Mercy.

Believe in the divine right of kings I never shall, except in the divine right to be kingly men, which all men share; but truly a divine right lies for any man in the ownership of a comfortable barn in winter. It is the feudal castle of the farm to the lower animals, who dwell in the Dark Ages of their kind—dwell on and on in affection, submission and trust, while their lord demands of them their labor, their sustenance or their life.

Of a winter's day, when these poor, low-cowled, shivering creatures will vote this fall and they will see to it that Harnett goes back into the Democratic column."

Mr. Godwin said he was greatly pleased with the result of Tuesday's vote on the McLemore resolution. "It was an overwhelming victory for President Wilson," he said. Mr. Godwin will return to Washington Sunday in time to be on hand when Congress meets Monday.

What a joy at nightfall to gather them home to food and warmth and rest! If there is ever a time when I feel myself a mediocres lord to trusty vassals, it is then. Of a truck I pass entirely over the Middle Ages, joining my life to the most ancient dwellers of the plains and becoming a simple father of flocks and herds. When they have been duly stabled according to their kind, I climb to the cribs in the barn and create a great landslide of fat ears that is like laughter; and then from every stall what a hoary, healthy chorus of cries and petitions responds to that laughter of the corn! What squeals and grunts persuasive beyond the realms of rhetoric! What a blowing of mellow horns from the cow! And the quick nostril trumpet-call of the horse, how dependent, yet how commanding! As I mount to the top of the pile, if I ever felt myself a royal personage it is then; I ascend my throne; I am king of the corn; and there is not a brute peasant; in my domain that does not worship me as ruler of heaven and earth.

Or I love to catch up the bundles of oats as they are thrown down from the loft and send them whirling through the cutting box so fast that they pour, into the big baskets like streams of melted gold; or, grasping my pitchfork, I stuff the ricks over the mangers with the rich aromatic hay until I am as warm as when I loaded the wagons with it at midsummer noon.

With what wondrous sounds and odors now the whole barn is filled! How robust, clean, well-meaning are my thoughts! In what comfort of mind I can turn to my own roof and store.

—James Lane Allen, in "Aftermath"

Mrs. Charles Highsmith and daughter, Elizabeth, have returned from a visit to relatives at Fayetteville.

See the first episode of "The Broken Coin" at the Bijou Thursday matinee and night. An excellent feature you will like, featuring Grace Cunard and Francis Ford.