

DR. SLOCUM ELECTED AS HEALTH OFFICER

Will Continue Private Practice of Surgery, However.

Recent Solicitation of Colleagues on Board of Health, He Accepts Supervision of Department For the Present.

At the urgent solicitation of his colleagues on the board of health, of which he has been a member for several years, Dr. R. B. Slocum, one of Wilmington's best known and most highly esteemed surgeons, yesterday consented to accept the position of health officer for New Hanover with the understanding that he is to serve as a "part time" man and is not to give up his private work as a surgeon.

In urging Dr. Slocum to become county health officer, members of the board explained the scarcity of skilled physicians at this time on account of the great demands because of the war and requested him to accept the office as a local patriotic measure. Because of his familiarity with the details of the department, the board felt that Dr. Slocum was the logical man for the place.

In accepting the office, Dr. Slocum did so with the understanding that he did not do so simply from a sense of duty and at a personal sacrifice and gave the board the privilege of putting in a new man whenever it is possible to find one.

Dr. Slocum will assume his new duties the first of the New Year, and Dr. Arnold Stovall, now serving as temporary county health officer, will continue in charge until that time, after which he will return to his regular position as physician. The salaries of the two officers will be fixed at the next meeting of the board of health. Dr. Stovall notified the board at its last meeting that he preferred to return to his former position.

Dr. Slocum came to Wilmington about ten years ago as superintendent of the James Walker Memorial hospital in which capacity he served very acceptably for several years, resigning this position to engage in the private practice of surgery, which is his specialty. However, his interest in the hospital has been continuous and for the last several years he has served as business manager of the institution, rendering most valuable service and practically all of it without charge.

He has been interested in public health work throughout his entire career and has rendered special service on the board of health and was also one of those directly responsible for establishing the Red Cross tuberculosis sanitarium. As a man and as a citizen he is highly esteemed and his ability as an executive is recognized as being of the best. That he will conduct the affairs of the health department in an efficient manner goes without saying and the members of the board of health feel that they are fortunate in securing his services at this time when it is exceedingly difficult to secure well qualified men for such positions.

Request of Board. After a conference yesterday, Dr. Slocum's colleagues on the board of health addressed the following communication to him:

"Wilmington, N. C., Dec. 15, 1917. "Dr. R. B. Slocum, City.

"Dear Sir—As a member of the board of health, you are thoroughly familiar with the needs and requirements. Likewise you are acquainted with the difficulties the board has experienced in securing the services of an efficient superintendent of health, who has the ability to fully comprehend the needs of the department, and who will exert his best efforts to carry the work forward in a fearless and satisfactory manner.

"We deem it unnecessary to go into details at this time, in view of your personal knowledge of the situation. After careful consideration, it is the unanimous sense of the board that you are the logical person for the position of superintendent of health, and it gives the board pleasure to hereby tender you the office, coupled with the urgent request that you accept same. This offer is supplemented by our appeal to you to accept because of the realization of the board of the urgent need at this time of a high degree of efficiency and the opportunity for you to render a local patriotic service, in view of the depletion in the ranks of men skilled in modern health work.

"We can say that your acceptance of this offer need not interfere with satisfactory arrangements being made by which you can continue your surgical work. We feel confident that your knowledge of affairs and the need will induce you to accept, even though it be at a personal sacrifice. Yours very truly, "W. A. MCGIRT, Chairman.

"J. C. WESSELL, "WASHINGTON CATLETT, "P. Q. MOORE.

Dr. Slocum Accepts. In reply to this letter, Dr. Slocum answered as follows: "Wilmington, N. C., Dec. 15, 1917. "Mr. W. A. McGirt, chairman, and members of the Board of Health, City: "Gentlemen—Answering your letter of this date, I am willing, as a war-time measure, to try to assume the duties of health officer. This is with the clear understanding that I am serving as a 'part-time' man and will not give up my private work. Of course, I have done no general practice for some years so the two should not conflict seriously.

"It is also understood that you have the privilege of putting in a new man at any time in fact, if my request that you shall do so as I am doing this simply from a sense of duty and at a personal sacrifice. Sincerely, "ROBERT B. SLOCUM."

BASKET BALL LAST NIGHT. Artillery Play Aviators and Cavalry Against Machine Gun Teams.

The interesting games by teams of the young men's basketball league were staged at the Y. M. C. A. gymnasium last night. The first game, between the Artillery team and the Aviators, was won by the former by a score of 26 to 9. King and Turrentine starred for the winners. The second game, between the Cavalry and the Machine Gun team, was captured by the Cavalry by a score of 23 to 11, with Gore starting for the winners and Ek for the Machine Gunners.

MASS MEETING STARTS RED CROSS CAMPAIGN

Will be Held This Afternoon at First Baptist Church

Division Leaders Have Their Teams Lined Up For Beginning Big Drive For Members This Week. Headquarters at Postoffice.

Featured by an address by Mr. Walter Kirkland Greene, a speaker and lecturer of wide reputation, a big mass meeting will be held at the First Baptist church this afternoon at 4 o'clock which will formally inaugurate the Red Cross Christmas campaign for 3,000 additional members for this organization.

The division leaders have practically completed the organization of their workers and will be ready bright and early Monday morning to begin the big drive. Tents will be pitched in front of the postoffice Monday morning at 8:30 o'clock and at 9 o'clock the workers can secure their supplies. Mrs. M. L. Stover will be in charge of the headquarters throughout the week. Reports will be received at noon and at 5 o'clock in the afternoon and reported conspicuously. Special features including solos by Miss Anna Graham Harris will be given at certain periods during the day.

Mass Meeting Today. The mass meeting this afternoon is in the nature of a big patriotic demonstration and it is hoped that an immense audience will be on hand to hear the chief speaker, who comes highly recommended as an orator. He is an educator of considerable note, who has been heard frequently on the platform. The singing of patriotic songs will be an additional feature.

Every member of the Red Cross are requested to assemble at the W. L. I. armory at 3:45 o'clock. They are expected to wear their uniforms and will march in a body to the church. Other organizations are asked to assemble if possible and occupy reserved places in the large church auditorium.

Every friend of labor is earnestly requested to attend the mass meetings. The labor organizations are asked to meet at 3:45 in the Odd Fellows' hall and to march in a body to the church.

Program of Exercises. Following is the program of the exercises as announced last night: Invocation—Rev. John Peter Hurt, D. D.

Song, "Am I a Soldier of the Cross?"—By audience.

Campaign announcements—Archdeacon Thos. P. Noe, campaign manager.

Introductory address, "Red Cross Spirit," by Rev. J. A. Sullivan.

Address by Mr. Walter Kirkland Greene.

Song, "America," by the audience.

Invocation by Rev. J. H. McCracken.

Colored People Meet. A mass meeting for the colored people of the city will be held this evening at 7:30 o'clock at St. Stephen's A. M. E. church, of which Rev. J. E. Jackson is pastor. Mr. Greene will be the principal speaker at this occasion. There will be a special program for the occasion.

Organization Completed. The organization of the campaign has been practically completed. The executive committee composed of: Thos. P. Noe, chairman; Maj. Jos. W. Little, Col. Walker Taylor, Mr. W. A. McGirt, Mrs. Cathbert Martin, with Mr. J. E. Huntington as secretary.

The committee on the booklet, which will be compiled as a souvenir of the campaign, is composed of the following: Dr. James Sprunt, Mrs. A. M. Waddell, Miss Jennie Wood, Mrs. Cathbert Martin and Mrs. M. L. Stover.

Other committees are as follows: Publicity—Rev. Dr. Wm. H. Milton, Mr. J. Allan Taylor, Mrs. Andrew J. Harris and Mrs. M. L. Stover.

Division leaders—Capt. E. A. Metts, Mr. W. J. McCaig, Mr. J. A. McNorton, Mr. H. E. Bonitz, Dr. C. P. Bolles, Mr. F. W. Dick, Mr. Thos. E. Cooper, Maj. W. N. Harris, Mr. Jos. H. Curtis, Mrs. V. Grainger, Mrs. Andrew Harris and Miss Kelly.

Decorations—Mrs. L. A. Blue. Four Minute Men—Judge George Rountree and Mr. L. J. Poisson.

Red Cross artist—Mr. Henry Haar.

FOR HALIFAX SUFFERERS. Several liberal donations were reported yesterday to Mr. J. Holmes Davis, cashier of the Peoples' Savings bank, who is acting as treasurer of the fund being raised for the relief of the Halifax sufferers, bringing the total for Wilmington up to \$838. This amount has been forwarded direct to Halifax. Following are the contributions: Previously acknowledged \$752 James Walker Hospital 10 J. A. Sprunt 10 Geo. E. Elliott 10 H. McKinnon, Clinton, N. C. 5 Mrs. J. W. Murchison 3 \$788

In addition to the above, the treasurer acknowledges a contribution from Messrs. Alex Sprunt & Son for the Halifax sufferers contributed through the National Special Aid society. Miss Jane D. Wood, vice-chairman, making a total of subscriptions to date of \$838.

This amount has been forwarded to the Bank of Nova Scotia at Halifax and the chairman of the relief committee at Halifax notified to this effect.

DOTS. Like many other lines of business the Christmas tree trade this season is handicapped by conditions, and one dealer, Mr. C. B. Bellois, will not handle trees, as he has in past holiday seasons.

It should have been stated in yesterday's Star in connection with the story of the finding of a seal on the coast, that Mr. C. D. Gilbert, a commission merchant, is now engaged in business under his own name and has no partner.

—Chas. B. Newcomb, Esq., left last night for a trip on professional business to Washington, D. C.

QUESTIONNAIRE IS MAILED TO FIRST 135

Local Board Will Mail 135 Each Day This Week

Schedule of Appointments for Helpers of Colored Registrants—Lawyers at Grand Jury Room for White Men.

The local selective draft board yesterday mailed out its first batch of questionnaire blanks to 135 registrants, sending them to registrants whose order numbers run from No. 1 to No. 135. The apparent discrepancy is due to the fact that some of these order numbers are held by men already in training, while others are being prosecuted for desertion and still others are in process of being sent to camp, but 135 blanks were mailed.

Every person who has not been called upon and including 138, will know from this, that he has been sent a questionnaire. No excuses are valid with the board if the blank should go astray, and every man must have a blank properly filled out within seven days. Should any man whose number falls within the list from No. 1 to 135 fail to get his blank, he should call on the board at No. 15, Masonic Temple.

The board will continue sending out 135 questionnaires daily until the more than 2,600 registrants who are called have all been supplied. In each and every case, the blank must be returned within seven days, under severe penalty.

As further aid to registrants in filling out the blanks, the board yesterday issued the following:

Information for Registrants. "I call upon all citizens, therefore, to assist local and district boards by offering such service and such material conveniences as they can offer and by appearing before the boards, either upon summons or upon their own initiative, to give such information as will be used in classifying registrants." (From the President's summons.)

1. The questionnaires and all affidavits must be sworn to. Where a registrant cannot write the person administering the oath must read the questions over to him and make his cross-mark for him and witness all papers so executed. State and federal officers authorized to administer oaths will render this service to registrants without cost.

2. None of the printed matter either in the questionnaire or affidavits which are integral parts of the questionnaire, must be erased or struck out, except that the word "affirm" shall be struck out by those who swear to the affidavits, and the word "swear" shall be struck out by those who affirm.

3. All affidavits other than those provided in the printed matter, must be written on one side of a white sheet of the approximate length, but no longer, than a page of the questionnaire.

4. Workers to assist colored registrants will hold daily meetings at from 9 a. m. to 1 p. m., and 3 p. m. to 6 p. m., at Boisseaux's Red Cross, between Fifth and Sixth streets, and R. S. Jervey, No. 412 South Seventh street, between Nun and Church streets.

5. The legal advisory board will sit two hours each day, from 11 a. m. to 1 p. m., at the directors' room of the Peoples' bank to examine questionnaires of colored registrants who are in doubt as to the correctness of their papers.

6. All registrants are enjoined to examine their questionnaires most carefully before returning them to the local board, and to avail themselves of the proffered services of others to assist them in properly preparing answers.

7. Questionnaires will be sent questionnaires. Those who have enlisted in the military or naval service of the country will be placed in Class 5 upon the return of their questionnaire duly executed.

8. The mailing of questionnaires began on the 15th, and committees of helpers will hold their first meetings on Monday the 17th. It will require at least twenty days to complete the mailing of questionnaires, and the sustained interest of all citizens is earnestly invoked.

J. A. TAYLOR, C. C. CHADBOURN, DR. R. B. SLOCUM, Local Board for Wilmington.

Lawyers at Court House. To assist white registrants, the members of the Wilmington bar will be at the grand jury room in the county court house daily from 9:30 to 1:30 and from 2:30 to 6:30, a number being detailed for each period every day until the questionnaire work is finished. Any citizen desiring help in making out his questionnaire may secure it without cost by applying at the grand jury room during the hours named.

The schedule for tomorrow will be as follows: Monday, December 17, 1917, from 9:30 a. m. to 1:30 p. m.—Geo. Rountree, Geo. B. Elliott, J. B. Hatchell, Edmund H. Rodgers, W. L. Smith, R. D. Dickson and Marsden Bellamy, and C. E. Saint-Amant.

Monday, December 17, 1917, from 2:30 p. m. to 6:30 p. m.—Iredell Meares, C. D. Weeks, Chas. B. Newcomb, W. F. Jones, J. C. King, L. J. Poisson and Carl H. Davis.

Schedule for Colored Helpers. The schedule for the colored helpers will be as follows: Monday, Group 1, Booth at R. O. Boisseaux's on Red Cross, between Fifth and Sixth streets.—Morning, Rev. J. E. Jackson, Rev. B. D. Mdonoda, R. O. Boisseaux, T. H. Sneed.

Afternoon—Rev. J. A. Bonner, Eliza A. Nixon, Hannah E. Kelly, Dorothy W. Hill.

Monday, Group 2, Booth at R. S. Jarvey's, at 412 South Seventh street. Morning—Rev. M. L. Dawson, Rev. A. F. Elmes, J. H. Shaw, J. A. McDonald, M. E. Story, Matilda E. Story, B. B. Leonard, Carrie J. Moore.

Tuesday, Group 3, Booth at R. O. Boisseaux's.—Morning—Rev. J. A. Moore, J. E. Taylor, Dr. Foster Burnett, E. G. Story.

Afternoon—Mabel B. Jackson, E. Lillian Shober, Carrie E. Taylor, F. Mabel Sadgwar, Z. J. Chesnut.

Tuesday, Group 4, Booth at R. S. Jarvey's.—Morning—R. S. Jarvey, Geo. F. King, Rev. A. L. Price, R. D. Diew.

Afternoon—L. E. Greene, Pearl C. Thurber, Carrie G. Hargrave, Cornelia D. Harris, C. Fannie Blount.

Wednesday, Group 5, Booth at R. O. Boisseaux's.—Morning—Rev. A. J. Wilson, W. Henry Capeheart, Bessie B. Burnett, Jane L. Crawley, W. H. Blount.

Afternoon—A. Leonard Williams, E. P. Weston, Hattie E. Story, Sarah A. Sullivan, Carrie H. Lane.

Wednesday, Group 6, Booth at R. S. (Continued on Page Six).

COUNCIL IS UNABLE TO GRANT APPROPRIATION

Approve, However, of Having Representative at Washington

Proposition Made by Business Men Thoroughly Considered At Conference—No Election of City Engineer Agreed Upon.

While fully approving of the proposition to have a representative of the commercial and industrial interests of Wilmington at Washington city council will not grant the appropriation of \$1,000, asked for by business men to aid in paying his expenses, because of a lack of money and the necessity of the most rigid economy.

The proposition to keep a man at Washington next year was advanced by President M. W. Jacob, of the Chamber of Commerce, and a delegation of business men, at the regular weekly meeting of council on Wednesday. Twenty business men have agreed to contribute \$100 each for the fund, making a total of \$2,000, which with an appropriation from the city of \$1,000, would make a total fund of \$3,000. The business men have arranged to secure the services of a man at a salary of \$150 a month with \$100 a month for expenses.

Mr. Jas. H. Cowan, a local newspaper man, has been in Washington for the last four months, having been sent there by private interests, and has accomplished splendid work in bringing to the attention of the government and others the advantages of Wilmington in a commercial and industrial way. It is hoped that arrangements can be made by which he can be retained for another year.

The report of a conference of council yesterday afternoon at 1 o'clock, which was attended by all the members except Councilmen Merritt and Hall, was embodied in a memorandum as follows: "The council, sitting as a committee of the whole, has carefully considered the request of the Chamber of Commerce for an appropriation of \$1,000 for the employment of a special agent to represent the interests of this community in Washington and elsewhere, the sum named being one-third of the total cost of such representation for one year, the balance to be paid by private citizens."

"While fully approving of the proposition to have such a representative, and appreciating the potential value of the same, the committee regrets that a careful inspection of the budget fixed for the year does not indicate how it would be possible for the city to reduce any item or group of items in the same to enable such appropriation. "The present budget was based on an income realized for the previous fiscal year, and already the committee is led to believe that the income for the present year will fall short of the calculations. It may be mentioned as an instance of probable loss that there will be a decrease, owing to conditions fully patent, of at least \$1,500 in our poll tax collection. "Council will be compelled to exercise the most rigid economy to keep within the appropriations already made, as required by law, and feels that the finances of the city will not permit of its concurrence in the request made."

The election of a city engineer was discussed but no action was taken. At the present time there is little engineering work for the city to be done and this is being taken care of by Mr. A. L. Howard, who has served as assistant in the engineering department for several years. Council has the names of several men under consideration and will doubtless take some action at an early date.

Are You a Member Of The Red Cross? President Wilson wants every American Citizen to be a member of the American Red Cross Society. The campaign for members is now on. Place your name on the Roll of Honor today. You can join at this Bank. THE PEOPLES SAVINGS BANK CORNER FRONT AND PRINCESS STREETS

THE WOMAN'S ACCOUNT is highly valued by this company. As a rule, a woman regards her bank with the utmost confidence and friendship, and she is frequently instrumental in bringing to it business even more important than her own. She speaks well of her bank to her friends and neighbors, and this repays many-fold the courtesy and attention extended to her. This Company maintains a special Ladies' Department, including writing and rest room with free telephone service. Personal accounts, accounts for funds awaiting investment, accounts of Society Treasurers, subscription organizations and other accounts for special purposes are welcomed here. The Wilmington Savings & Trust Company Oldest and Largest North Carolina Savings Bank 1887 WAR STAMPS AND CERTIFICATES FOR SALE HERE. 1917

40-YEAR RECORD SMASHED Wilmington Still in Grip of Worst December Cold Wave Since '76 With No Prospects of Relief. Apropos the sustained cold weather for an entire week and the fuel shortage, the "Oldest Inhabitant" has collaborated with Observer Geo. W. Felger, of the weather bureau and brought forth statistics to the effect that the first 15 days in December this year have broken all records for continued severe cold since December 1876—a little matter of only 41 years. No one who has experienced the weather in semi-tropical Wilmington will be disposed at all to doubt the figures. Yesterday morning the mercury was flitting with the bottom of the thermometer down at the 21 degree range and unless all signs fail about the same temperature will be registered this morning, the seventh day of the continued cold. However, the first half of December, 1876, had the present first lap of the month beaten by a few degrees, but the cold was scattered over a little longer period. For instance, the first five days in the month this year showed minimums only along in the forties and fifties but way back in the '76 period the lower temperatures continued all during the first two weeks of the month. The mean for the first 15 days in December 1876 was 39.2 while the first 15 days in December, 1917, the mean temperature was 40.3. Yesterday morning was the coldest except last Tuesday morning since the present cold "spell" came on. Tuesday the lowest was 19 degrees; yesterday morning the reading was 21 degrees. But Wilmington, even with little coal and wood, fared much better than other points in the state. Raleigh having registered a minimum of 12 degrees, Charlotte 14 and Asheville 10 degrees. Even Jacksonville, Fla., was but two degrees above freezing yesterday morning. And the weather man says there is for the present no relief in sight! ASKED TO HELP STARVING. Sundry Schools Asked to Take Collections for Children in Armenia. Thirty million dollars are needed to care for starving children in Armenia, Syria and other Blic lands, and it is desired by the American committee for Armenian and Syrian relief, 1 Madison avenue, New York city, that at least a million dollars shall be raised by American Sunday schools. Seventeen cents will sustain a life for one day and \$5 for a month. America's boys and girls are asked to help in saving these lives by giving a part of the money ordinarily given for candy to provide food for the Armenian children. SAUER'S PURE FLAVORING EXTRACTS 16 HIGHEST AWARDS GRAND PRIX PANAMA EXPO

Only One Week in Which to Shop Before the Holidays Are You Ready, or Are You Waiting For The Last Day? Numbers of the most popular gift articles are already sold out, and hundreds of others will go during the next few days. Please be advised, and get through your Christmas buying as soon as you possibly can; it will be to your advantage, and we shall appreciate your doing it. We have about a quarter of a hundred of extra salespeople added to our force, and we are giving you the very best service possible. At the same time, your co-operation in shopping early will help matters mightily. Special Junior Coats for This Week Just received last Saturday. In the very latest styles, and of popular plain colored materials. In value they run from \$15.00 to \$20.00, but they go on sale Monday at only \$12.50 and \$14.95 Sizes 15, 17, and 19. Valuable Suggestions for "Gifting" New Guaranteed Kid Gloves, in tan and Brown, at \$2.50 Leather Hand Bags for Ladies and Gentlemen, at from \$5.00 to \$15.00 Bed Room Slippers for Men, Women and Children, at from 65c to \$2.00 Ladies' and Gentlemen's Bath Robes \$3.98 to \$7.50 PLEASE READ THIS ABOUT DELIVERIES The delivery problem is a big one, but you can help us a great deal. We have our cars running right along, and we are doing big things in the delivery line, but if everyone waits until the last minute, we shall be swamped, and you may be disappointed. Nor will we be entirely to blame if such should be the case. Carry your small bundles if you can. Uncle Sam, himself, has requested this. Now this is important: If you have had us lay aside something for you, advise us to deliver it in the very beginning of the week, as we cannot guarantee delivery for the "last minute" days. Please note this and act immediately. We shall render you our best service, assuredly, but your help will be material. N. B. THE BIG GIFT STORE BELK-WILLIAMS CO. BUY IT NOW