

SHORT ITEMS OF GENERAL NEWS

Some of the Outstanding Happenings of Past Week, Gathered From Everywhere, Condensed For The Busy Reader.

Captain Nathan O'Berry of Goldsboro, one of the state's best known citizens and long regarded as a leader in civic and business affairs, Friday accepted the appointment of Governor Gardner as state treasurer and on Saturday morning assumed the duties of the office, succeeding Benjamin R. Lacy, whose term would have expired January 1, 1930.

Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh has accepted his first official post with the government—technical adviser to the aeronautics branch of the commerce department. Secretary Whiting announced the appointment Thursday, and said Col. Lindbergh had agreed to hold himself in readiness to respond to any call from the assistant secretary in charge of aeronautics, to advise or personally assist the government in all phases of its regulation of civil aviation, the establishment of air ports and airways, research and prevention of accidents.

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 29.—The telephone operator at Duncan, Miss., told the Age-Herald that 20 persons were known to have been killed by a terrific wind storm that struck that town between 2 and 3 p. m. today. Half the houses in the town were levelled, the operator said, and parts were searching through the ruins for additional bodies. She said the death toll probably would mount as the wreckage was cleared away, at least 100 persons being injured. At Duncan, Miss., ten persons were killed in the collapse of one building, while five Chinese went to their death in another.

State Treasurer Benjamin Rice Lacy, the last survivor of the Aycock administration which came into power following the restoration of the Democratic party to power in the election of 1900, died Thursday morning at his home in Raleigh. He would have been 75 years old had he lived until June 19. Although Mr. Lacy had been ill for several days, he had survived so many other attacks when recovery seemed impossible, that his death came as a distinct shock, even to those who were fully aware of his condition. Funeral services were held Friday afternoon at the First Presbyterian church. The North Carolina Grand Lodge, of which Mr. Lacy was grand treasurer, had charge of the ceremony.

The Confederate dead of the Civil war, after sleeping for six decades as rebels, were given official recognition Monday as American soldiers when the senate passed a house bill conferring governmental honors upon them. The bill authorized the secretary of war to erect headstones over the "graves of soldiers who had served in the Confederate army, and who have been buried in national, city, town or village cemeteries or in any other places." The war department was also instructed to preserve in its records "the name, rank, company, regiment and date of death of the soldier and his state." The bill gave the Confederate dead the same honors given the Union dead with but a single exception: the former cannot yet sleep in Arlington.

After almost three years of inquiry, a recommendation that Senator-elect William S. Vare of Pennsylvania, be denied his seat was submitted to the United States senate Friday by its special campaign funds investigating committee. However, the committee left it to the senate to decide whether final action should be taken on the case while the Pennsylvania senator is ill and unable to take advantage of the senate's previous offer to him to appear and present his position. Elected in 1926, Vare has never occupied his seat. On the basis of the committee's first report, the Pennsylvania senator denied the oath when he presented himself in the senate in December, 1927. The committee's report attributed expenditures of \$785,934 to him in his primary fight against former Governor Pinchot and former Senator Pepper for the Republican senatorial nomination.

President-elect Hoover has ordered the special Brookhart senate committee to clean up its investigation into patronage corruption within a month after inauguration in order to have the old guard in the south weeded out before patronage is dispensed. The order gives definite recognition to the "new south" that turned four southern states Republican in November for the first time and throws into the discard most of the Republican machinery that has been built up steadily since Civil war reconstruction days. It is a sweeping decision to extricate the party from one of the worst patronage messes in history. It will end negro domination in some states. The senate will do the rest, turning into Texas, Georgia, South Carolina, Florida, Mississippi and Louisiana. Already the year-old senate committee which avoided annoying publicity until after the November election, has heard testimony of outright sale of appointments to the highest bidder in Georgia, South Carolina and Florida, and of protection to bootleggers in Texas.

THIS WEEK

By ARTHUR BRISBANE

A Brave Man Dead Inherited Generosity Human Sacrifices Useful Warnings

Those that pity themselves because their health is "not quite what it ought to be" may consider Baron von Huenefeldt, who died on the operating table, undergoing his 13th operation for an incurable disease of the stomach that had afflicted him for years.

Suffering hopelessly, knowing that he could not live long and must endure many operations, von Huenefeldt planned and carried out the German-Irish flight across the Atlantic Ocean.

Such courage and will power should make others ashamed to complain.

J. Pierpont Morgan gives New York hospital two buildings worth \$2,000,000. Giving seems to be inherited, as illustrated also in the case of the Rockefeller.

Mr. Morgan's father gave to New York one of its finest institutions, a great lying-in hospital.

Serious routing in India is caused by a report that Mohammedans had snatched Hindu children and sacrificed them in connection with the construction of a new bridge. The report probably is not true.

Once important works were usually accompanied by human sacrifices. Somebody was killed and buried under the corner of a new building. A child or adult was often killed and buried in a shallow hole in a field newly planted. Knowing nothing about fertilizers they observed with "religious awe" that the grass grew greener where the corpse was buried.

Madame Bella Pollack died in Rumania, aged 118, leaving 21 children the oldest 85, and a fiancee who would have been her third husband. Madame Pollack ate two and one half pounds of black bread and a pound of sugar every day, and was never ill until her last illness.

Men often live long when the doctor tells them that they will soon die. A warning makes them careful. James Melrose, twice lord mayor of York, England, is dead, aged 100. Insurance company refused him as a bad risk 70 years ago.

The famous Luigi Cornaro became interested in his health when doctors told him at 43 that he must soon die. He ate only 12 ounces of solid food, drank 15 ounces of red wine daily, and died at one hundred and four.

Lindbergh, on his way from Miami to Panama, "hopped off" on his 27th birthday.

Only 27 and his name is known wherever men are civilized. Only 27 and already he has conquered the ocean, and what is more important, the respect of every man and woman.

The young American's history makes millions of others feel as Caesar did when he read the life of Alexander the Great and suddenly burst into tears, realizing that Alexander had conquered the world when he was younger than Caesar was then.

"Herbert Hoover may find important aviation work for Lindbergh." Nothing more probable. An engineer knows that somebody who knows how to do what you want done is valuable.

Mr. Hoover understands the engineering part of flying and all its importance, from mail carrying to national defense.

Colonel Lindbergh understands the flying part. A fine combination. Many hats would go up in the air if young Lindbergh were put by Mr. Hoover at the head of a separate department for national air defense.

Peking, China, Feb. 25.—American money for relief of starving millions in China is beginning to arrive and is being sent by the China international relief committee to spots where conditions are worst. According to the latest estimates of the committee, between 12,000,000 and 20,000,000 people are starving in the vast central district of China. The worst affected areas are Chah, beyond the Great Wall, Shensi, Kansu, and southwest and western Honan. In Shensi entire families have been driven to suicide, the children taking their lives first and the mother and father last. Hundreds whose homes have been burned have taken refuge in caves. In the Sienyang and Chinyang districts whole villages are facing starvation, and hundreds are dying daily in the streets. Tens of thousands are trying to keep alive on such food substitutes as mulberry leaves, cottonseed with the lint still adhering, wild grass ground to powder, and baked cottonseed cake.

Colored Rookie: I'd like to have a new pair of shoes, suh.

Sergeant: Are your shoes worn out?

Rookie: Worn out! Man, the bottoms of mah shoes are so thin ah can step on a dime and tell whether it's heads or tails."

SIX SOUTHERN COUNTY AGENTS WIN AWARDS

Six Southern county agricultural agents who have put into effect and are continuing an outstanding soil improvement program and who were rewarded with a tree trip to the annual meeting of the Association of Southern Agricultural Workers in Houston, Texas, have been named. These agents come from North Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Arkansas, and are being awarded the trips by the Southern Division, Soil Improvement Committee, the National Fertilizer Association.

First place was awarded to H. K. Sanders, Roxboro, Person county, North Carolina. The other five places are listed alphabetically, as no rankings were made of these five: W. L. Hall, Conway, Raukner county, Arkansas; H. C. Heath, Lafayette, Chambers county, Alabama; C. L. McNeil, Canton, Madison county, Mississippi; Earl W. Smith, Muskogee, Muskogee county, Oklahoma; and W. G. Yeager, Salisbury, Rowan county, N. C.

To Stimulate Interest

"These awards were made to stimulate interest in soil improvement programs, as recommended and approved by the various State experiment stations and agricultural extension services," according to J. C. Pridmore, director of the Soil Improvement Committee. "The six outstanding reports were selected by a committee of agricultural college workers in cooperation with the extension service of officials who have charge of county agent work in the various States. Winners were selected on the basis of a uniform score card which took into consideration accomplished results in soil improvement in the county, methods of putting the programs into effect, and plans for future soil improvement efforts based on an analysis of the situation as it exists in the county."

The winning county agents were given an opportunity of attending the Southern Agricultural Workers meeting, and also the agricultural extension workers' jubilee convention commemorating the establishment of the first agricultural extension office in the country at Houston 25 years ago.

The awards include gold medal fobs presented by the Soil Improvement Committee as permanent trophies of accomplishment, along with certificates that may become the property of the county represented by the winning agent.

Members of the judging committee were O. S. Fisher, extension agronomist United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.; W. B. Mercer, director of extension, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge; T. O. Schaub, dean of agriculture and director of extension in North Carolina State College, Raleigh; T. S. Buja, head of the department of agronomy, Clemson College, S. C.; and J. R. Rickle, director of the experiment station, A. and M. College, Mississippi.

The Democratic proposal for a \$24,000,000 prohibition enforcement appropriation in addition to the regular budget funds was made again in the house Saturday and immediately defeated by a vote of 134 to 71. The house then adopted the Wood amendment for an addition of \$1,719,854 for prohibition enforcement as a rider to the second deficiency appropriation bill. Representative Bankhead, Democrat, of Alabama, offered the \$24,000,000 amendment to the bill, which was introduced to take the place of the sidetracked first deficiency measure. The first bill was lost in conference after house leaders refused to agree to such an appropriation, as voted by the senate in the form of an amendment.

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STRESSES YIELD PER ACRE AND LOW PRODUCTION COST

The average yields of crops in the South, taking the region as a whole, are not more than one-third to one-half of what they should be, according to Dr. H. W. Barre, director of the experiment station, Clemson College, S. C.

Dr. Barre, at the 29th annual convention of the Association of Southern Agricultural Workers, of which he was president, pointed out in his presidential address that yield per acre and production per unit of labor are of outstanding importance in a consideration of cost of production. Proceedings of this convention have just been published.

Profit or Loss

"In the case of cotton, cost studies made in South Carolina show that, for each increase of 100 pounds in yield per acre of lint cotton above the average, the cost decreases 3 cents per pound," Dr. Barre said. "This difference in cost of production frequently makes the difference between profit and loss. Our average yields, taking the South as a whole, are not more than one-third to one-half of what they should be, and there are certain factors that we know are of prime importance in increased yields. Among these we might mention stalks to the acre, probably 20,000 stalks to an acre, more intelligent use of fertilizer, better cultural practices, and more intelligent fight against the weevil. With corn, some studies indicate that it costs \$1.40 per bushel to make 15 bushels per acre, about \$1.00 per bushel to raise 25 bushels per acre, and 75 cents per bushel to produce 35 bushels per acre. The difference in yield is largely due to the amount of available plant food which has been applied as commercial fertilizer or by soil improving crops or barnyard manures. The cost of producing practically all of our staple crops is just about as closely correlated with yields per acre as I have mentioned in the cost of corn and cotton. And if we are to meet competition in the future it is absolutely imperative that we increase the fertility of our soils to where we can get profitable yields."

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PLANT MORE CORN AND FEED MORE HOGS

The person who studied the holdings of pork and pork products now in cold storage without also studying the present swine population of the United States might be discouraged about the outlook for swine this year, says W. W. Shay, swine extension specialist at State College.

"Yet while the cold storage holdings are some greater, the number of hogs on the farms of the country is now nine per cent less than last year," says Mr. Shay. "Over six million more hogs were slaughtered under federal inspection last year than the year before and under such conditions; North Carolina farmers who averaged as much as 30 bushels of corn per acre made a 500 per cent profit by selling it as pork. Those who continue to feed hogs this year, will also get a good return for their corn crop regardless of the market price of corn. It is even possible that, should there be a bumper crop of corn, those who systematically convert their corn into pork will increase their profits from the crop as much as from 500 to 1000 per cent as compared with the profit from selling the corn as grain."

Mr. Shay says that there was a decrease in receipts of hogs at the large markets in January. Then, too, there is a decrease of 25.8 per cent in the volume of stocker and feeder shipments as compared with January one year ago. Furthermore, over fifty million less pigs were saved during the spring and fall of 1928 as compared with the year 1927. In the intentions report, it is found that there will be a decrease of from four to seven per cent in the number of sows farrowing this spring. All this looks like a good year for North Carolina farmers to so breed and feed their hogs for sale on the high markets of April and September with assurance of a profit over feed costs.

Theft of Beans Brings Life Term Caro, Mich., Feb. 25.—Frank Bowler of King's Mill, was sentenced to life under Michigan's habitual criminal law for the theft of thirty bags of beans. This was his fourth felony.

My Bonnie

My Bonnie leaned over the gas tank The height of the contents to see; She lighted a match to assist her—Oh bring back my Bonnie to me.

Valadolid, Spain, Feb. 22.—Sofia Hernandez gave birth to five children at the city hospital yesterday, all of which died shortly after birth. The woman has been married seven years, during which she has borne twins and five other children. Officials said the birth, the first ever recorded in Spain, would occur about once in 40,000,000 times.

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