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EXECUTIVE MANSION OF CALIFORNIA BLOWN UP.

One Wing of the Building Destroyed By Explosion; Governor and Family Sleeping in Another Wing, Uninjured; Believed That Bomb Was Placed With the Deliberate Intention of Taking Governor's Life.

Sacramento, Cal., Dec. 18.—What is believed to have been an attempt to kill Governor William D. Stephens by means of a powerful explosive bomb at midnight last night resulted in the wrecking of the executive mansion, the entire rear-end of the building being blown out. The Governor and Mrs. Stephens as well as the household servants, were asleep at the time and all escaped injury.

Two men were seen fleeing from the house immediately after the explosion.

The detonation of the explosion was heard all over the city and windows were broken by the force of it two or three blocks away. It was believed that from twenty to twenty-five sticks of dynamite were used.

Governor and Mrs. Stephens were asleep in the wing of the house adjoining the spot where the explosion occurred, but beyond a nervous shock they were unharmed.

The attempt occurred just as the guard was being changed. H. Clausen, one of the watchmen, was the first on the scene, having passed the spot but a few minutes before the explosion. Clausen said he was certain there was nothing unusual occurring on the grounds. He expressed the opinion that the explosion was thrown from an alley which runs along the rear of the house at a distance of about forty feet, from the porch under which the charge was set off.

A hole several feet deep was torn in the ground beneath a bay window at the rear of the structure and the entire wall up to the second story was blown away. The entire neighborhood was aroused and a crowd was on the scene a few minutes after the explosion. There was scarcely a house in the block which was not damaged.

A man was noticed lurking about the executive mansion, it was said, a week ago.

"According to my judgement," said Governor Stephens, "the bomb was thrown from the alleyway about forty feet to the rear of the mansion and did not light as far under the house as its owner had intended. I am strengthened in this statement by the fact that the back gates were both locked as usual and the watchman had visited the basement just a few minutes before the explosion occurred. He says that when he passed the steps he turned his flashlight on the placere where indications prove the bomb was placed and at that time there was nothing there."

The Governor was probably the calmest of the group that surveyed the wrecked mansion.

Detectives searched the downtown rooming houses without success for a man said to have been in the neighborhood of the mansion early in the evening.

William D. Stephens became Governor of California last spring when Governor Hiram Johnson assumed duties as United States Senator last week Governor Stephens made a series of patriotic addresses in southern California, dealing largely with the duties of Californians in supporting the national government during the war.

Farmers Union Elects Officers.

At the meeting of the County Farmers Union Thursday Mr. Harris declined to consider succeeding himself as President, and the following were elected officers for 1918:

John A. Boone, President.
G. W. Eaves, Vice President.
J. C. Jones, Secretary-Treasurer.
D. V. Cheeves, Conductor.
W. D. Bowden, Doorkeeper.
Executive Committee, J. O. Green, Rev. J. U. Teague and W. H. Gupion, Bonnie Bunn, Organizer, Lecturer.
The following resolution was adopted and the society was requested to send a copy each to the Franklin Times and the Progressive Farmer.

"Believing that we can do our best work when we have some definite object to accomplish, or some specific task to perform we make the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Franklin County

Farmers Union devote all its energies in the year 1918 to accomplishing the following objects: First, to arousing a greater interest of the farmers in the Farmers Union Tobacco-Warehouse so that we may obtain a fair share of his patronage.

Second, the organization of a cotton exchange through which the farmers may pool his cotton and cottonseed and obtain the highest market price for each.

Third, to induce our board of County Commissioners to make the necessary appropriation to secure a cotton grader for the county so that we may know that we are receiving the highest market price for each grade of our cotton.

Fourth, that we organize a branch of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

Sixth, that we encourage the organization of boys corn and pig clubs and girls canning clubs in the County.

Sixth, that we encourage the organization of Rural Credit Unions and a more active participation in the National Farm Loan Association.

Eleventh, that we endeavor to get a Traveling Library placed in every school district in the County, and that we encourage the organization of debating societies in the rural school districts and every other agency tending to promote a happier rural life among our farm folk.

Eighth, that we make special efforts to increase our membership and win the banner offered by the State Union to the County Union making the greatest gain in membership.

We want to do something this year and want you to help us.

One thing we did not have in our resolution but which I think will give the farmers greater pride is printed stationery, you might pay special attention to that also during the year.

Yours sincerely,
Joseph C. Jones.

FIRST RED CROSS CHRISTMAS.

Something has happened. A simple and thrilling thing that brings something of real greatness to our lives, humble as they may be.

It is the observance of our first Red Cross Christmas. One cannot have even the thought of its appropriateness and its significance in this world of anguish without having touched the highest thoughts of all the world—that which was given on the birth of Christ—we are celebrating—"Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people;" and that which was expressed in the Red Cross Treaty made by nations, which established that in warfare the sick and wounded of the enemy should be sacred to the Red Cross.

This is a Christmas when we cannot see our new young soldiers, strong and straight of back, without visioning those others whom war has made helpless. We cannot see the happiness of our children without thinking of those little ones in Europe who have starved to death. We cannot deck our children's Christmas trees without remembering that He in whose honor they are was a "man of sorrows and acquainted with grief."

In the Red Cross campaign for 10,000,000 new members during the week preceding Christmas there is scope for all our tenderness, all our richest imaginings, all our new-born power of simplicity of heart, all our possibilities of service.

The Red Cross Chapters have asked all members of the American Red Cross to take part in a simple ceremony on Christmas Eve—the placing through a Red Cross service flag on the widow pane. This flag is a piece of white transparent paper, blue-bordered, with the sign of the Red Cross five inches square in the center, a smaller cross to be added for each of the household who is a member of the Red Cross. It is an expansion of the service in this unexampled time—a symbol so instinctive that the Red Cross will glow from the eaves of our homes over the length and breadth of the land, sending out the Christmas message to the world, and telling not only the passer-by, but one who is that just as our boys and men are finding new strength in their new sacrifices, so may we through our new vice.

Mrs. G. L. Aycock leaves today for Norfolk where she will spend the holidays.

INACTIVITY CONTINUES IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM

German Naval Forces Again Make a Foray Into North Sea and Surprise Convoy of Merchant Ships, Sinking One British and Five Neutral Vessels and 4 Mine Sweepers.

Rome, Dec. 17.—Austro-German forces which attacked the Italian lines on the northern front from the direction of San Marino were driven back in disorder the war office announced today.

In the Caprille region the Italians attacked and then were counter-attacked. Finally the enemy had to withdraw to the positions from which he started.

The period of virtual inactivity continues in France and Belgium except for reciprocal bombardments in various sectors and here and there small operations by reconnoitering parties. Only on the northern Italian front have there been sanguinary encounters between the opposing infantry and in these the Austro-German forces again were defeated in attempts to advance toward the Venetian plains.

Caprille Hill, at the head of the San Lorenzo Valley, where last week the Italians were forced to cede ground, again has been attacked by the enemy but the operations brought him nothing but heavy casualties as he was driven back to his former line.

German naval forces again have made a foray into the North Sea and surprised a convoy of merchant ships, sinking one British and five neutral vessels and four mine sweepers.

Of two British destroyers escorting the vessels one was sunk and the other damaged. The German forces, so far as is known, consisted of four destroyers. Whether any of their vessels were hit has not been made known.

That German war craft recently have been operating close to the English coast has been made known officially in the House of Commons by announcement that on December 12 two neutral merchantmen and a trawler were sunk off the mouth of the Tyne river.

The official text of the armistice between the Russians and the Teutonic allies confirm the unofficial reports that it is to run from December 17 until January 14. The compact embraces all the fighting fronts where Russian troops have been engaged and also extends to the naval forces of the contracting parties.

MEN SUBJECT TO DRAFT CAN STILL VOLUNTEER.

Can Get Into Service, However, Only Through Local Boards.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Provost Marshal General Crowder today issued to Governors new rules under which men of draft age may join the colors of their own request. White men only will be accepted and they may enlist only in the infantry, signal corps, medical corps and quartermaster's department. Supply conditions are such, General Crowder said, that no men can be accepted in the coast artillery, field artillery, cavalry or engineers corps.

Volunteer enlistments in the regular army by men of draft age ended at noon last Saturday and they may be inducted into service now only through their local boards.

All those going into the infantry will be sent to Camp Greene, Charlotte, N. C., except men from Pacific coast states.

Transportation and subsistence expense to the camps are to be furnished volunteers by the local boards.

Central Committee Appointed.

County Chairman, W. H. Yarborough has named the following as members of the Central Committee for Franklin County in the Campaign for the War Savings Stamp Campaign who will with himself conduct the campaign in this County: W. H. Yarborough, Chairman, E. L. Best, County Superintendent of Education, Mrs. J. A. Turner, Chairman Women's National Defense Council, Miss Pauline Smith, Home Demonstration Agent, A. F. Johnson, C. P. Harris, M. S. Clifton, E. H. Malone, Mrs. J. M. Allen, Mrs. F. B. McKinne.

A meeting of this Committee has been called for this evening at 4 o'clock for the purpose of organizing the County. The meeting will be held in the offices of White & Malone and every member is urged to be present.

HOW ITALIANS BLEW UP AUSTRIAN WARSHIPS.

Work Done by Two Torpedo Boats Which Entered Harbor of Trieste.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Two Italian torpedo boats under Lieutenant Commander Rizzo composed the force which made the daring raid into the inner harbor at Trieste Sunday night, December 9, and torpedoed two Austrian battleships, one of which was seen to sink. Details of the explosion were given in dispatches received today by the Italian embassy.

The raid was planned when it was learned that the Austrians were preparing to send from Trieste two ships of the Monarch type, with their 240 millimeter guns, to bombard the Italian coastal positions. Lieutenant Commander Rizzo, with two boats, dashed into the harbor, while the remainder of the torpedo boat division kept outside in support.

Through a heavy fog the little craft reached the extremity of the Muggia Pier. Mine fields and other obstructions were located, and eight large wire cables stretched across the passage were cut. Other obstructions were weighted and sunk sufficiently for the boats to pass over.

Austrian searchlights were being played on the waters, but the torpedo boats succeeded in entering the inner port without being sighted.

Two Austrian battleships were anchored at the farther end of the harbor near Point Sabba. The Italian vessels approached cautiously and at 2:30 a. m. Monday the two torpedo boats simultaneously launched four torpedoes at the battleships. All four exploded. Rizzo reported that the battleship Wein, nearest the attacking vessels, was observed to sink in five minutes, while the other battleship certainly was struck, though it was impossible to discover the damage.

Austrian batteries opened fire and searchlights swept over the waters. The lights located the attacking vessels and the Austrian guns and torpedoes were fired, but the Italians returned safely.

Christmas Savings Clubs A Success.

As will be seen from their advertisement in another column, and to which your attention is directed, the Christmas Savings Club for 1917 of the First National Bank was a big success. The total number of members was 400 and the amount saved totaled \$6,022. This represents a big saving when it is remembered that the amounts deposited each week were small and only represented small change that would otherwise be spent for something of no value. The system, which will be continued, is a splendid one as aside from the advantage it offers to save the small change it is an education within itself of habitual saving which is so much needed among our people. If you have not been a member heretofore join the new club for 1918 and you will learn to appreciate it more every week as the club advances.

Returns to Louisville.

The members of his congregation and many others in Louisville are proud of the fact that Rev. N. H. D. Wilson has returned to Louisville as pastor of the Methodist Church. During his stay here the past year he has endeared himself to our people through his thorough consciousness of doing his work on an especially high level of efficiency and has impressed us with his earnestness in his work for the cause of Christ. We are glad to know that he and his good wife will remain with us for at least another year.

Mr. Watson Resigns As Assistant Cashier First National Bank.

Mr. T. W. Watson, who for the past six years has been the popular and efficient Assistant Cashier of the First National Bank of this place, and who has served the past seventeen years in the banking business in Louisville and Sumter, S. C., has resigned his position with the bank here and will give his full time to his insurance business and also conduct a wholesale brokerage business. His resignation takes effect December 31st.

Mr. Watson is one of the best insurance men in this section as is evidenced by the large amount of business he does, and his long business experience will assure his success in the wholesale business. He will maintain

his offices for the present over the First National Bank.

Red Cross Seals.

The following paragraph by Gov. T. W. Bickett will be read with much interest:

"This year a substantial portion of the proceeds of Red Cross Seals is to be devoted to the cure of our tuberculous soldiers. This simple statement should reach the heart of every patriot and every lover of his fellowman. I know our people will yield to the promptness of their better angels and with their joyous generosity throw themselves into the campaign of the Red Cross Seal against the White Plague.

(Signed) T. W. Bickett, Governor."

The Red Cross Seals are on sale at all the drug stores and are being sold by the Boy Scouts of Louisville who are rendering the ladies much valuable aid. Get your supply before the holidays.

Franklin County Union.

The Franklin County Union meeting will be held with the Cedar Rock Baptist church Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 29, 30. The following is the suggested program:

Saturday.
10: A. M. Devotional W. J. Dennis.
10:20 A. M. How can we raise the Spiritual Tone of our churches? John Bunn, W. H. Hartsell, Geo. M. Duke.

11:00 How can we finance successfully the enterprises of our Denomination? M. Stamps, John F. Mitchiner, B. E. Morris.

1:30 Devotional and business meeting.

2:00 What are some of the more acute problems growing out of the war, and how can we solve them? W. B. Morton, E. B. Cox, Ivey Allen, T. H. Sledge.

2:25 What about the Lord's second coming? J. U. Teague, W. M. Gilmore Sunday.

10: A. M. Sunday School mass meeting.
11:00 Sermon, B. E. Morris.

Banks to Close.

The banks in Louisville will close on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week to observe the Christmas holidays.

MEXICAN SOLDIERS FIRE U. S. CAVALRY PATROL.

Americans Returned Fire and One Mexican Was Seen To Fall From Horse.

El Paso, Texas, Dec. 17.—Mexican Federal soldiers fired on an American cavalry patrol which accidentally crossed the border on the "Island," near Fabens, Texas, late yesterday, killing one cavalry horse and wounding another. The American soldiers returned the fire and one Mexican soldier was seen to fall from his horse. No Americans were hit.

The firing was reported to division headquarters here today and an investigation ordered. Fabens is 32 miles southeast of El Paso on the "Island" is a large tract of land formed by a bend in the river on which the boundary line is not clearly defined.

Christmas Box of Knitting.

Last week the Red Cross Chapter shipped its fifth box of knitted garments to headquarters. The number sent far exceeded the anticipations for this box. Twenty sets of sweaters, wristlets and socks were sent.

An Appeal for Sweaters From Camp Jackson.

Mrs. G. W. McIver, wife of General G. W. McIver, (in charge of 161st brigade at Camp Jackson), is asking the women of Louisville to help furnish sweaters for the twenty boys in her husband's brigade from Franklin County, whose names appear below:

The Red Cross Knitters using "Red Cross Wool" must send their garments to headquarters. This is a personal appeal to the people of our town. The wool is expensive. If we can get contributions we can find knitters.
H. J. Brewer, C. F. Collier, H. Goswick, J. W. Holloway, R. L. Hicks, W. H. King, H. C. Layton, W. G. Macco, A. B. Pearce, O. M. Pearce, W. E. Pearce, W. O. Pruitt, C. Riddie, Wm. J. Smith, J. L. White, L. L. Wilder, F. W. West, D. H. Evans, J. R. Frazier, T. Frazier.

NEW REGULATIONS ISSUED.

By Food Administration Prohibiting Laying Aside Big Quantities of Supplies.

I am just in receipt of a letter from the State Food Administrator requesting me to pay special attention to the price of sugar as he has had several complaints of exorbitant charges being made for sugar.

One paragraph of section 25 of the Food Control Laws reads as follows: "Whoever shall, with the knowledge that the prices of such commodity have been fixed as herein provided, ask, demand, or secure a higher price, or whoever shall, with the knowledge that the regulations have been prescribed as herein provided, violate or refuse to conform to any of the same, shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$5,000 or by imprisonment for not more than two years, or both.

Each separate transaction shall constitute a separate offense."

While I have had several merchants reported to me I am glad to say that all who were reported have lowered their prices on sugar to 11 cents, or lower, as the law requires.

This regulation applies to any exorbitant charges that may be made upon any foodstuffs by merchants, wholesalers or jobbers.

The Food Administrator also advised me that he has been informed that a number of people have purchased flour enough to last them until the next harvest, and in regard to this he says "The Food Control Law is designed to prevent, and does forbid, hoarding by consumers and individuals as much as by dealers, and this office desires any definite information it can secure regarding this practice.

Part of section 6 of the Food Control Law reads as follows: "That any person who wilfully hoards any necessities shall upon conviction thereof be fined not exceeding \$5,000 or be imprisoned not more than two years or both.

Necessaries shall be deemed to be hoarded within the meaning of this act when held, contracted for, or arranged for by any person in a quantity in excess of his reasonable requirements for use or consumption by himself and depends for a reasonable time."

The actual producer, the farmer who raises the wheat, corn, meat, etc. is exempted insofar as those products raised by himself are concerned.

That is if a man raises more wheat, corn, meat, or any other food, than he needs he may keep it as long as he pleases, but if he buys these articles of food it is unlawful for him to buy more than enough for his reasonable requirements for a reasonable length of time, for if he does buy more than this is liable to confiscation and he is liable to a fine of \$5,000 and two years in prison.

These regulations may sound severe but it must be remembered that we are at war and our Government requires this of us in order that we may not be beaten.

I sincerely trust that we are all patriotic enough to comply with all that our Government asks of us, even if it does work some hardships upon us.

JOSEPH C. JONES.

Space for the Food Administration.

This space has kindly been donated for the use of the County Food Administration and will publish in here each week letters from some of the outstanding leading men and women telling why this work is so imperative and what is expected of each person in the County.

The food situation is much more serious than many of us think and unless we comply with the requests of the Food Administration we are threatened with a grave danger.

Every family, hotel and restaurant is asked to observe meatless Tuesdays and wheatless Wednesdays. That is that on Tuesdays no pork or beef will be eaten, and on Wednesdays no flour shall be eaten.

These days have already been observed so generously since November that in December for the first time since we entered the war the United States has been able to send to our allies the quantity of meat they have asked of us for any one month.

I sincerely trust that all will read these letters carefully.
J. C. Jones, Administrator.