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LOCAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Walking to Reunion.—An interesting visitor in Greensboro Tuesday was Mr. George W. Sheram, a Confederate veteran of Georgia, who was walking to Richmond, Va., to attend the reunion. Although bowed beneath the weight of 76 years, the old veteran appeared to be hale and hearty. He stated that he was making the trip to Richmond on foot "just for the fun of the thing" and expected to reach Richmond several days in advance of the reunion. He will have walked a distance of about 700 miles from his home when he reaches the former capital of the Confederacy.

Whiskey and Potatoes.—The latest scheme evolved by the blind tigers and the Virginia liquor houses in an effort to evade the anti-liquor law is to ship whiskey in barrels labeled and billed as potatoes. Three of these barrels were seized by the police officers at the express office yesterday and when opened were found to be well filled with whiskey, each barrel containing a layer of potatoes at the top. The barrels were shipped to two negro women and a foreigner with an unpronounceable name. The foreigner, who is an Abyssinian, was placed under arrest, but the negro women have not been located.

Returns to Baseball.—Mr. Charles Sisson, who was a member of the Greensboro baseball team in the pennant-winning days, has been made manager of the Charlotte team, which has been playing in mighty hard luck since the opening of the season. At the close of the last season Mr. Sisson purchased his release from Elmira, N. Y., and returned to Greensboro to engage in business with his father-in-law, Mr. G. S. Sergeant. The call of the diamond was strong, however, and he capitulated to the overtures of the Charlotte club owners. The Charlotte team has won only four of the 21 games played this season, and Sisson has a job on his hands in pulling the aggregation out of the league cellar.

BOND MEETING IN HIGH POINT

LEADING CITIZENS OF THAT CITY HEARTILY FAVOR THE PROPOSITION.

Messrs. W. C. Boren, John N. Wilson, R. R. King and Judge N. L. Eure were in High Point Monday night to attend a meeting of business men of that place for a discussion of the proposed \$250,000 court house bond issue. The meeting was held in the rooms of the Manufacturers' Club and was very satisfactory to the advocates of the bond issue.

Mr. John N. Wilson, who in his capacity of county attorney and legal adviser to the board of commissioners, is thoroughly familiar with all the details that have been worked out in connection with the proposed bond issue, briefly related the movement for a new court house, giving in some detail the history of the legal fight over the site of the building. He declared that there was an overwhelming sentiment for a new court house and produced argument to show that to erect a building for court purposes alone would require an outlay of \$150,000, and that the interest on this would have to be paid annually by the tax-payers, while by erecting an office and court building together, costing \$250,000, the revenue from offices would be sufficient to care for the interest, thereby giving the county a creditable court house at no interest cost.

Mr. Wilson gave figures showing that High Point and community had fared well at the hands of the county commissioners, despite contrary reports by the opponents of the bond issue. According to figures quoted by him, during the year the commissioners will have spent \$52,000 upon the roads of High Point township, all of which was expected to be completed by the fall. This included two miles of asphalt road to be constructed wherever High Point desired at a cost of \$10,000 per mile.

Mr. R. R. King warmly advocated the bond issue as a wise and safe business proposition. He showed how the interest on the \$250,000 of bonds, which are to draw 5 per cent, can be cared for by rentals from the tenants of the building.

Mr. W. C. Boren, chairman of the board of commissioners, clearly defined the position of himself and the other commissioners and explained why he believed the erection of a combined court house and commercial building would be of advantage to the tax-payers of the county.

Judge Eure also spoke briefly, adding his endorsement to the bond issue.

Several of the High Point business men present expressed themselves as heartily in favor of the bond issue, among them being Messrs. J. Ed. Kirkman, J. J. Farriss, J. M. Hedgecock, Homer Wheeler and County Commissioner Jones.

Messrs. Fred N. and A. E. Tate, W. P. Ragan and Capt. A. M. Rankin stated that they had not reached the point where they were prepared to declare themselves, but nothing was said to indicate that they would fight the bond issue.

The High Point Enterprise, in reporting the meeting, says the advocates of the bond issue made clear-cut arguments that won converts for their cause.

DIOCESAN CONVENTION HERE

EPISCOPAL CHURCH MEETING OF INTEREST IN SESSION IN GREENSBORO.

The ninety-ninth annual convention of the North Carolina Diocese of the Protestant Episcopal church convened in Holy Trinity church, on North Elm street, Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock with morning prayer and the roll call. The opening sermon of the convention was preached at 11 o'clock by Rev. Francis M. Osborne, of Charlotte, and was followed by the observance of the holy communion.

The first business session was given over largely to the consideration of a pension plan for ministers and the widows and dependent children of ministers. The convention voted unanimously to adopt the plan.

The movement for the adoption by the church of a pension plan was inaugurated three years ago and recommended by the General Convention of the Episcopal church of the United States, which appointed a joint commission to formulate plans for an adequate pension system for the clergy and their dependents. The system proposed was worked out by the best actuarial expert of the country and it has placed itself under the supervision of the insurance department of the state of New York, to be regularly checked up by experts. The maximum pension allowed is \$2,000, while the minimum is \$600. The age of retirement is fixed at 68.

The system also provides pensions in case of disability and pensions for widows and orphans of deceased clergymen.

Bishop Joseph Blount Cheshire delivered his annual address to the convention Tuesday night and was heard with interest by a congregation that filled Holy Trinity church. He gave a very encouraging report of the work of the diocese during the past year and told of plans that are being worked out for the extension of all departments of church work.

Yesterday reports were made of the work of St. Mary's School, at Raleigh, and the Thompson Orphanage, at Charlotte, both of which are under the control of the church. The condition of both institutions was reported as very satisfactory.

The service last night was given over to the cause of missions and several stirring addresses were made by both ministers and laymen.

The convention will come to a close this afternoon.

SOME DENY EXISTENCE OF GUILFORD'S DOG TAX LAW.

The Patriot has been informed by two or three reliable men that a report is being circulated in certain sections of the county denying the existence of any law to tax dogs in Guilford. Just why any one should wish to circulate a false report of this nature is not apparent, since the law is a fact that speaks for itself.

As published in The Patriot of May 3, the law was passed by the legislature of 1913, but in some manner was overlooked and only came to light when discovered by Clerk of the Court Gant. Any person who desires to read the law may do so by turning to chapter 646 of the public local acts of the general assembly of 1913. The act specifies that an annual tax of \$1 on every male and \$2 on every female dog shall be paid.

Inasmuch as this is the month in which property is listed for taxation, it would be a safe plan for every owner of canines to either count or kill his dogs before calling on the list-taker.

If there are any doubting Thomases in the county who refuse to believe in the existence or effectiveness of the dog law, they will have all doubts removed when the solicitor and the grand jury get through with them, for it is a misdemeanor to fail to list Spot, or Ring, or Rover for taxation.

DELAY IN GERMANY'S REPLY

IS EXPECTED TO BE CONCILIATORY IN TONE AND MAKE CONCESSIONS.

Advices from Washington state that two important factors are working to delay for another week Germany's reply to President Wilson's note on the Lusitania disaster. They are:

First, the next few days are expected to show whether Germany will be confronted with a new military situation by the entrance of Italy into the war.

Second, interested diplomatists here believe the interim of delay will reveal whether the United States of its own initiative will send a general protest to the allies against alleged violations of international law by interfering with commerce between American ports and neutral European countries.

Officials here generally think the Austro-Italian situation may absorb the attention of the German government and delay final composition of the reply. It is realized that should Italy become a belligerent, Germany would lose all hope of obtaining foodstuffs or other supplies through the Mediterranean, and if Roumania followed Italy's lead, as predicted, the wheat supply from southeastern Europe would be cut off. In such circumstances, it was explained in diplomatic quarters, Germany would find the submarine even more invaluable as a weapon for reducing enemy supplies and commerce.

The idea that the United States will send a note to the allies seeking modification of the order-in-council has its origin in quarters where the conviction is held that such a move would demonstrate to Germany that the United States intends to be equally vigorous in insisting on the observance of neutral rights by Great Britain and her allies, making unnecessary an offer by Germany to return to the maritime rules of international law if the allies do likewise.

Although without definite information, there is a disposition in well-informed quarters to believe the president will withhold any representations to England until Germany's reply is received, because of a desire to obtain a frank understanding with Germany without complicating the situation as existing between the United States and the allies.

It is known that for several weeks there have been under preparation two notes eventually to be sent to Great Britain, one dealing with the general subject of contraband and the other embracing general representations on detentions of vessels plying between neutral ports carrying non-contraband American goods.

In diplomatic quarters friendly to Germany it is confidently believed that the German reply to the United States will be conciliatory and make broad concessions in principle, if it is certain that strong efforts will be made to induce the allies to abandon their commercial embargo. There is little fear now that any passenger ships will be torpedoed while the diplomatic discussions are in progress, for it was pointed out that since the suggestions of the Austrian and German embassies in Washington that the submarine program be suspended had reached Vienna and Berlin there had been no such attacks, although many opportunities apparently had presented themselves.

In the general speculation in official and diplomatic circles as to the possible severance of diplomatic relations between the United States and Germany, Brazil and Argentina are most frequently mentioned as the nations likely to take over the diplomatic interests of the United States in Germany and Austria, as well as those of countries whose affairs now are cared for by the American embassies and consulates.

MAY EMPLOY PHYSICIAN FOR HEALTH OFFICER.

The commissioners are giving serious consideration to a proposed reorganization of the city health department and the employment of a capable physician as health officer, working out the plan something after the order of that employed by the county board of health.

At their meeting Tuesday afternoon the commissioners heard with interest and apparent favor suggestions made by Dr. J. T. J. Battle that a physician be employed to devote his full time to the public health of the municipality. Dr. Battle stated that he believed a man with an automobile could inspect the meat for the city market, test the milk, inspect the dairies, conduct the mosquito campaign, examine the school children, vaccinate them and perform the other duties of the city health officer. There was some difference of opinion as to whether these things could all be done by one person, but Dr. Battle thought they could, and he stated that such an officer as he suggested should not cost the city much more than is now being paid for part of the service.

Mayor Murphy expressed the opinion that a health officer should be secured to give his full time to the work. The other commissioners did not appear averse to the idea, and it is probable that the new plan will be adopted and put into execution soon.

Dr. Battle said that the recent rains and other circumstances have intensified the difficulties in the anti-mosquito campaign, and he feels that this year the problem of keeping down the pest is to be harder of solution than it was last year.

TRANSFERS OF REAL ESTATE.

Deeds have been filed in the office of the register of deeds this week recording transfers of real estate as follows:

Calvin C. Clapp to J. M. Stewart, four acres of land in Morehead township, \$300.

Robert Morrison to D. L. Kivette, a lot on the corner of Bragg and Spring streets, 60 by 141 feet, Morehead township, \$1,350.

R. W. Stone to Cora E. Inman, a lot on Lexington avenue, Morehead township, \$250.

James Mundy to George Motley, a lot on High street, Gilmer township, 45 by 165 feet, \$10 and other considerations.

George Motley to James Mundy, a lot on High street, Gilmer township, \$10 and other considerations.

E. L. Ragan and R. R. Ragan to Jessie Burns, a lot in High Point, \$300.

Albert Griffin to Boss Inman, a tract of land in Friendship township, six acres, \$700.

Mary J. Wharton to Miss Nellie Elliot, a lot at the intersection of Olive street and Bessemer avenue, 50 by 150 feet, \$10 and other considerations.

OUR NAVY AS GOOD AS ANY.

We are not contemplating war, but as a reasonable degree of preparation is generally regarded as desirable, it is reassuring to learn from Admiral Dewey, who may be supposed to know something about it, that our navy is as good as any navy in the world in ships, guns and officers, and better in men. He would like to have the navy larger, but sees no other respect in which it could be improved. Its efficiency, he says, has been improving in the last 15 years. This ought to silence the gardeners of every sort who are in a state of panic over our defenselessness. We shall go on building a moderate number of battleships, but the value of the battleship is still a matter of dispute, and the result of the war's teachings may be that we shall discontinue the big ships and build only submarines.

LONG TRIP TO SOOTHE MA.

Atlantic City, May 18.—For no other reason than to convince his mother that he had not been injured in an automobile mishap in which he figured recently, Gilbert Collins, son of Mr. and Mrs. N. Collins, owners of the Hotel Gladstone, in Chelsea, crossed the continent from the state of Washington, arriving here yesterday. The chauffeur of an automobile in which Collins was riding was stricken with epilepsy, a collision occurred and he was killed.

When the news was imparted to Mrs. Collins she became obsessed with the idea that her son was also badly hurt, and to allay her fears he made the trip from the Pacific coast.

MELONS IN PLENTY.

If the season continues favorable, there should be no scarcity of melons in North Carolina this year. The truck crop specialist of the department of agriculture estimates that there are 5,100 acres in watermelons and 2,250 acres in cantaloupes in the state this year.

HUBBY'S SNAKES WON DIVORCE FOR WIFE.

Testimony that a box containing about forty live, squirming, twisting, wriggling snakes was placed in the sitting room of the home of Mrs. Grace George, of Indianapolis, by a sister of her husband, Fern George, now said to be in Chicago, obtained a divorce for her in Superior court. Mrs. George alleged her husband was guilty of cruel treatment.

Mrs. George, in her testimony, did not mention the snakes, but her mother did not hesitate to tell about them. Her son-in-law, she said, told her that his sister had arrived at his house to spend the winter, accompanied by her pet snakes. There were about forty of the reptiles.

Judge Clifford said that snakes might constitute an element of cruelty if kept about the house, and he thought that with the other testimony to the effect that George had struck his wife and had a habit of breaking the dishes, constituted sufficient grounds for a divorce.

AMERICANS REPORTED SAFE.

Immediate fears for the safety of 65 or more American settlers in the Yaqui Valley, Mexico, where Yaqui Indians are on the warpath, have been relieved by advices to the state and navy departments at Washington. The Americans, the reports said, had concentrated at Yaqui Pueblo, on the railway within reach of the coast, but for the present they were waiting and hoping for restoration of order.

SHRINERS' MEETING.

The decorations for the big meeting of Shriners here next week are going up rapidly. And the business part of the city will have a most festive appearance in a day or two. The Shriners will arrive here next Tuesday and Wednesday. Members of Oasis Temple, of Charlotte, will be quartered at the Marlborough hotel, and those of Khedive Temple, of Norfolk, will have quarters at the McAdoo hotel. It is estimated that there will be between 1,000 and 1,200 Shriners from North Carolina and Virginia here for the meeting. The local Shriners are making extensive preparations for the entertainment of the visitors.