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MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE READERS OF THE PATRIOT FAR AND NEAR.

Dates For Fairs.—The dates for holding the fairs in the Carolina circuit next fall were arranged at a meeting held here Saturday afternoon. The Greensboro fair will be held October 10-14.

Lost or Stolen.—D. R. Hackett, of Burlington, has reported to the police that a purse containing \$71 was either lost or stolen from him at the Southern passenger station in this city a few nights ago.

Severe Loss.—Mr. H. J. Edwards, of the Muir's chapel neighborhood, lost his residence and contents and smoke-house by fire last Tuesday. He was insured in the Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Association for \$375, which lacks a good deal of covering the loss. Mr. Edwards had just remodeled his residence.

Sells Furniture Store.—Mr. W. F. Medearis, who has been engaged in the furniture business here for a number of years, has sold the stock and good will of the Medearis Furniture Company to Mr. H. S. King and associates, who will continue the business under the name of the Greensboro Furniture Company.

Visiting Minister.—Rev. Carl B. Craig, co-pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Reidsville, occupied the pulpit of the Church of the Covenant yesterday in the absence of the pastor, Rev. R. Murphy Williams. Mr. Williams was at Wallace, Duplin county, attending the golden wedding anniversary of his parents.

Meets Tomorrow.—The Republican congressional convention of the fifth district will meet in Greensboro tomorrow to select a delegate and an alternate to the national convention in Chicago. The convention may also name a candidate to enter the state-wide primary June 3 for the nomination for Congress in this district.

Easter Comes Late.—Easter comes late this year, the day falling on April 23. It has not been so late for eleven years, the day having been observed on the fourth Sunday in April in 1905. The almanac experts say it will not be so late again until 1943 and that the next observance of the day at such a late date will not come until the year 2000.

Mrs. A. L. Toomes Dead.—Mrs. A. L. Toomes, a well known woman of southern Guilford, died at her home in Sumner township Friday afternoon. She was 71 years old and is survived by her husband, a daughter and five sons. The children are: Mrs. J. R. Osborne and Messrs. N. E. W. B., R. L., C. F. and A. E. Toomes. The funeral and interment took place at Burnett's chapel Saturday afternoon, the services being conducted by Rev. C. F. Sherrill, of Pleasant Garden.

Gideon Foust Dead.—Mr. Gideon Foust, an aged and well known citizen of the Alamance church community, died at his home shortly after midnight Saturday morning. He had been ill for quite a while and his death was expected. Mr. Foust was 84 years of age and is survived by his widow and several children. The funeral and interment took place at Alamance church yesterday morning at 11 o'clock, the services being conducted by Rev. Dr. E. C. Murray, the pastor.

Pine Home Sold.—Mr. E. D. Broadhurst has sold to Mr. W. D. Meyer his handsome home in Fisher park. The property has a frontage of 165 feet on North Park drive and the residence, which was built a few years ago, is one of the finest dwellings in Greensboro. The price paid for the property is understood to have been in excess of \$20,000. Mr. Broadhurst and his family will continue to occupy the home until next fall. Mr. Meyer having a lease on Mrs. R. C. Hod's residence that will not expire until that time.

Inspect Eating Places.—The city commissioners Saturday afternoon passed an ordinance requiring that every hotel, restaurant or other public eating place in Greensboro be rigidly inspected once a week. The inspections will be made by the city health department, in accordance with the regulations of the United States public health service. Every eating place will be required to post its score card in a conspicuous place. It is believed that this new regulation will result in greatly improving the sanitary conditions of Greensboro's public eating places.

Verdict For \$10,000.—The two-weeks' civil term of Superior court adjourned Saturday afternoon. The last case tried was a suit brought by Mrs. Mary J. Gurley, administratrix of Samuel Shropshire, against the Southern Power Company for the death of young Shropshire, who was drowned in a pool at the defendant company's station in High Point May 30, 1915. The plaintiff asked for damages to the amount of \$25,000 and was given a verdict for \$10,000. The case will be carried to the Supreme court on appeal. This case, which occupied the last two days of the court, was the most important tried during the term.

Death of Aged Man.—Mr. M. W. Noah, Sr., died Thursday morning at the home of his son, Mr. A. W. Noah, at Guilford Battle Ground. He was 71 years of age and had been in feeble health for some time. The funeral was held from the residence of Mr. A. W. Noah Friday morning at 11 o'clock, followed by interment in Greene Hill cemetery, this city. The services were conducted by Rev. D. I. Offman. Mr. Noah is survived by a sister, Mrs. Mary Holt, who resides near Graham; a daughter, Mrs. E. N. Brown, of Greensboro, and five sons—L. R. and A. W. Noah, of Battle Ground, and Z. E., H. S. and M. W. Noah, of this city.

On Retailing Charge.—Clark Staley, of the Julian section, was given a hearing before United States Commissioner Collins Thursday on the charge of operating a blockade still and held for the next term of United States District court in this city under a bond of \$300. It is contended that the blockade still destroyed by revenue officers near Julian a short time ago was operated by Staley. Since the capture of the still the officers had been unable to locate Staley, who came to Greensboro voluntarily Thursday and surrendered. Staley asserts his innocence of the charge and has employed Judge W. P. Bynum to defend him.

SENT TO COUNTY ROADS FOR WHIPPING HIS SISTER.

In Municipal court Thursday Judge Brown imposed a sentence of two years on the county roads on Jim Davis, a worthless white youth of 19 years, the charge being that of simple assault and the victim the young sister of the defendant. The judge took advantage of a special statute of 1913 which extended the maximum term for simple assault upon a woman from 30 days to two years.

According to the evidence, Davis has been living on the earnings of his mother and sister, both of whom work in factories in the city. He was said to have whipped his sister severely when she refused to get out of bed at a late hour at night and go on an errand for him. He wanted ice cream, it was stated, and demanded that she go to a store and buy it for him with a quarter secured from his mother.

After the girl had been chastised to the heart's desire of her brute of a brother, she left the house and was afraid to return until police officers had arrived and placed her brother under arrest. In addition to whipping his sister, Davis threatened his mother and might have assaulted her also but for the timely arrival of the officers.

Davis is a familiar figure in police court circles. He has been in trouble several times and only recently had finished serving a term on the roads.

Death of Mrs. Sarah E. Harris.
Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth Harris died Friday morning at the home of her son, Mr. R. V. Harris, at Summerfield. She was 84 years of age and the widow of the late Rev. C. F. Harris, for many years a well known minister of the Methodist Protestant church. She is survived by three daughters and four sons, who are: Mrs. Joy Harris Glascock, of Greensboro; Mrs. W. E. Wilson and J. F. Harris, of Charlotte; W. B. Harris, of Garfield, Wash.; Mrs. H. G. Kime, of Miami, Fla.; and L. P. and R. V. Harris, of Summerfield. The funeral was held at the Summerfield Methodist church Saturday morning at 11 o'clock, the services being conducted by Rev. T. B. Johnson, the pastor, and Rev. C. A. Cecil, of High Point.

Mr. J. T. Stuart, a well known citizen of Friendship township, was among Saturday's callers at The Patriot office.

CONGRESS IN QUIETER MOOD

NOT EXPECTED TO TAKE ACTION THAT WOULD EMBARRASS THE ADMINISTRATION.

Congress seems to have settled down to await developments in the submarine controversy between the United States and Germany, with an overwhelming majority of both houses apparently very definitely determined to take no action which might embarrass the administration in the present stage of diplomatic negotiations. A few of the more ardent advocates of legislation to keep the Americans off armed ships continued their activities, and former Secretary Bryan's support for them was shown in the form of a telegram, but most of them admitted there was no prospect of immediate action.

It was stated authoritatively that while any agitation of the issue just now was undesirable, there was no disposition on the part of the administration to oppose a vote on the pending armed ship resolutions if their sponsors tried to force one. Reports from the capitol were said to show conclusively that both the senate and the house would stand behind President Wilson in his refusal to permit any abridgement of the rights of American citizens on the seas, as outlined in his letter to Senator Stone.

The president reiterated his statements in that letter to Speaker Clark, Majority Leader Kitchin and Representative Flood, chairman of the house foreign affairs committee, when they called at the White House Friday. Mr. Wilson said plainly that his efforts to keep the country at peace were liable to be hindered by impressions sent abroad by Congress, and the congressmen were equally frank in giving notice that a strong sentiment existed at the capitol against risking the possibility of war by permitting Americans to travel on armed belligerent ships whatever might be their rights under international law.

While there probably will be many more conferences and possibly some speeches, the generally accepted opinion is that no further serious effort to bring about action will be made unless developments occur to make a rupture of relations with Germany imminent.

The cabinet discussed the matter at length and one of the secretaries said afterwards that the members stood behind the president "to a man."

There was no change in the diplomatic status of the situation, and the state department still is awaiting a response from Germany to its request for assurances that the announced policy of sinking armed merchantmen without warning will not affect previous pledges given regarding the conduct of submarine warfare.

Interest in the senate centered chiefly on the introduction by Senator Gore of his resolution to express the sense of Congress that Americans should forego their right to travel on armed belligerent vessels, and of another by Senator Jones, Republican, of Washington, to declare the sense of the senate that no ultimatum should be sent to a foreign power on an issue of national honor or severance of diplomatic relations be permitted by action of the executive without reference of the matter to Congress.

President Will Not Back Down.
The Washington correspondent of the Charlotte Observer sends his paper the following in regard to the situation:

The fate of the proposed resolution to warn Americans from taking passage on armed merchant vessels hangs on two conditions chiefly: Germany's attitude March 1 on the matter of sinking ships without warning and President Wilson's attitude on the right of American citizens to travel on vessels which are armed defensively. This appears to be the opinion which prevails among those members of Congress who have been in favor of adopting a resolution and who, out of their confidence in Mr. Wilson, wish to allow him ample opportunity to work out this problem himself without any act by Congress that would place him and the administration in an embarrassing position.

Hope is strong on every side that Germany will yield her right to attack such vessels without warning, in keeping with what the president has interpreted as pre-assurances on

this matter. Little hope is entertained that the president, after his letter to Senator Stone, will yield in his contention that Americans have the right to travel the seas, or in his feeling that past American policy would crumble if the present policy is given up.

A frank expression that is frequently uttered is that Germany, after hearing of the movement in Congress to prevent Americans from taking passage, will take courage and stand by her own declaration of warfare. In that event, congressmen who have favored a resolution will have cause for the same fear which prompted them to begin the agitation for its adoption. This fear was based on the interpretation that had been placed on the action which Mr. Wilson might follow, and on a repeated declaration of Ambassador Bernstorff.

Note of Conservatism.
A note of conservatism was evident among the North Carolina members. Senator Simmons said:

"From the president's letter, which I read with a great deal of interest, I understand that he is trying to bring about a solution of this situation and that in his opinion he will succeed. In this matter I do not think he should be embarrassed, and especially by any action that would prevent him, in his opinion, from bringing about an adjustment of the difficulty."

Senator Overman said: "The inclination in the senate is that nothing will be done to embarrass the president or to hamper him in any way. The general feeling is that the president will work out the matter correctly. There will be no split."

Senator Gore's Resolution.
The resolution introduced by Senator Gore, to warn Americans against taking passage on armed vessels of belligerent powers, follows:

Whereas, a number of leading powers of the world are now engaged in a war of unexampled proportions,

and whereas, the United States is happily at peace with all of the belligerent nations, and

Whereas, it is equally the desire and the interest of the American people to remain at peace with all the nations, and

Whereas, the president has recently offered fresh and signal proofs of the superiority of diplomacy to butchery as a method of settling international disputes, and

Whereas, the right of American citizens to travel on unarmed belligerent vessels has recently received renewed guarantees of respect and inviolability, and

Whereas, the right of American citizens to travel on armed belligerent vessels rather than upon unarmed vessels is essential neither to their life, liberty or safety, nor to the independence, dignity or security of the United States, and

Whereas, Congress alone has been vested with the power to declare war, which involves the obligations to prevent war by all proper means consistent with the honor and vital interest of the nation, now,

Therefore, be it resolved, by the senate, the house of representatives concurring, that it is the sense of the Congress, vested as it is with the sole power to declare war, that all persons owing allegiance to the United States should, in behalf of their own safety and the vital interest of the United States, forebear to exercise the right to travel as passengers upon any armed vessel of any belligerent power whether such vessel be armed for offensive or defensive purposes, and it is the further sense of the Congress that no passport should be issued or renewed by the secretary of state or by any one acting under him to be used by any person owing allegiance to the United States for purpose of travel upon any such armed vessel of a belligerent power.

Entire Family Burned.
Roanoke, Va., Feb. 25.—James L. Taylor, a farmer near Newport, Giles county, Va., lost his life, together with his wife, two daughters and an aunt when their home was destroyed by fire yesterday morning between 4 and 5 o'clock. Cause of the blaze is not known. The fire was discovered by a neighbor a quarter of a mile away; but when persons reached the scene the building, which was composed of logs and weatherboarding, had been reduced to ashes. Two skulls were found in the ruins, which are thought to be all that is left of the family of five.

CRITICISES OUR NAVY SYSTEM

ADMIRAL WINSLOW TESTIFIES BEFORE HOUSE COMMITTEE AS TO WEAK POINTS.

Washington, Feb. 25.—The United States navy's whole system of government and operation, from education of officers to questions of ship and gun construction, was sharply criticised before the house naval committee today by Rear Admiral Cameron McR. Winslow, commander-in-chief of the Pacific fleet. Without radical changes, the admiral declared, a fully efficient fighting force comparable to the British navy could not be produced in 50 years.

The witness said the system of education at Annapolis Naval Academy was wrong and urged restoration of the old grade of midshipmen in the fleet. Boys should enter the service at from 14 to 16 years of age, he said, spend two years in preliminary schooling ashore, then go to sea to acquire the "sea habit" from actual contact with things of the sea before completing their educations ashore.

The polytechnic education now given midshipmen at the academy is utterly unsuited, the admiral declared, to the training of men to handle ships and combinations of ships at sea. He could see no value to be gained from making all navy officers experts in higher mathematics, and thought constructors, engineers, and ordnance experts should be trained as specialists and never be called upon to command ships.

From the day boys entered the academy, he said, a system of selection should be applied to govern promotions eliminating men unfitted for the daring, nerve-racking tasks that would be theirs in war. He added that fellow officers should determine these qualifications and that a plan of this sort was being worked out by the navy department.

With two opposing fleets sweeping toward each other over the sea for an action to be carried out at a speed of 20 knots or more, the admiral insisted, there would be no time for hesitation by any ship commander. He told of how he trained a squadron of four dreadnaughts he commanded two years ago until his orders were carried out within six seconds of the time he gave them, 60 maneuvers being carried out in a single afternoon.

Even this, he declared, represented "only encountering progress" on the road toward complete efficiency and application of such intensive methods to the fleet as a whole could never be accomplished until men were selected to command the ships because of fitness, not because of seniority.

Asked how many flag officers in the navy he thought were capable of development to complete fitness for high command, the witness said: "I don't think any of us in the upper grades have had sufficient experience to work up to our highest efficiency." He added that something might be accomplished if a number of captains or commanders were set aside and trained for flag officers, men best fitted to be selected for actual commands.

Representative Oliver said he had gained the impression from the admiral's remarks that he considered himself possessed in a high degree of efficiency other officers did not possess.

"I probably have had greater experience with ships and combinations of ships than any other officer of the navy," Admiral Winslow replied, "but I don't for one moment want to say that I am any better than other officers. I have realized that in order to equip myself for what the country paid me for, it was necessary for me to go to sea with ships and to study the war college game aboard."

The admiral indicated he believed that while Americans were steadily improving in design it was doubtful whether they now equalled ships abroad.

"I have never said," he continued, "that our fleet could not fight. It could fight. It would fight." He added that it was the whole system he attacked, believing it could never produce efficiency of the fighting forces in men or ships.

Mr. T. L. Neece, of Richland, Iowa, who has been spending several weeks in the county on a visit to relatives, will return home this week.

DR. CLARK PREACHES ON THE DANCING CHRISTIAN.

Rev. Dr. Melton Clark, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, yesterday morning preached a sermon on the sin of dancing, his subject being "The Dancing Christian." The sermon was prompted by the recent pronounced revival of interest in dancing in Greensboro and the number of church members who have yielded to its fascination.

Dr. Clark read resolutions of the Southern Presbyterian plenary court condemning dancing as worldly and he quoted passages from statements of other denominations to the same effect, showing that the churches of Christ stand united in viewing the pastime as morally dangerous. The preacher's scriptural reading was from Paul's writings on abstinence from meat and drink which, hurting not the one partaking, yet caused offense to others. He chose as his text: "Ye are the light of the world," and warned Christians that they have been called to be a "peculiar people" to take their stand apart, and this call is from God.

"If it is right for your daughter to dance," said Dr. Clark, "it is right for me, your pastor, to dance. What would happen if I showed up at the Leap Year ball which is to be given this week? Suppose I had attended the subscription dance held last week? Would the dying send for me? Would the distressed want me to come to them in the hour of trial? No. They might say, 'He may be a good fellow, but we don't want him now.'"

Here are some reasons given against dancing by Dr. Clark: "The most difficult person to reach with the gospel of Jesus Christ is the boy or girl who dances."

"The youth who breaks the moral laws most flagrantly, the man deep in the path of intemperance, is easier to bring back to God than the one who dances."

"You cannot testify for Jesus in the ballroom. I challenge you who are going to the Leap Year ball to speak there for Jesus. If you should attempt it you would either have to shut up or get out. And I'll tell you why. It's because that if the crowd listened it would break up the dance."

He said that the basic reason for dancing is the lower passions of men. As proof of this, he pointed out that there is never a dance held except with a mixed assemblage. Women do not hold dances for the sex exclusively; neither do men get together alone for the fascinating sport.

The sermon was heard by a congregation that taxed the seating capacity of the church. Many dancing people were present, and Dr. Clark's discourse has aroused considerable comment in the city. What effect it will have in keeping church members away from the ball room remains to be seen.

CITY PREPARING TO BUILD ADDITIONAL SEWER LINES.

The city commissioners are preparing to begin work on the extension of Greensboro's sewerage system, for which purpose a bond issue of \$75,000 has been authorized. Only a third of the bonds have been sold, the commissioners reserving the remainder until the money may be needed. It is announced that the city will do the work with convict labor, utilizing the 40 or 50 men usually under sentence from the Municipal court. By following this plan it is believed the money can be made to go much further than if the work were done by contract.

During the approaching spring and summer it is planned to construct two main lines for sewerage disposal—one in the southwestern and one in the southeastern section of the city. These two main lines and as many lateral lines as possible will be constructed and put into use this year. Later more of the bonds will be sold and other lines built in sections of the city now without sewerage.

Dairy School at Brightwood.
A dairy school will be conducted at Brightwood, five miles north of the city, Wednesday. The program is advertised to begin promptly at 10 o'clock and continue through the day. This is one of a series of schools being conducted from the office of dairy field work at Raleigh, in co-operation with farm demonstration agents.