

MASS MEETING OF CITIZENS PLEDGES VIGOROUS CAMPAIGN Two Hundred Dollars Subscribed Quickly Last Night to Secure Facts on How City Affairs Administered

CITIZENS BRAVE STORM TO ATTEND THE MEETING Every Department of The City Will Be Investigated By Experts, It Is Announced, Speakers Vigorously Arraign The Present Commissioners For The Way They Have Managed The Government. Want To Know Whether Commission Form Has So Far Been Success or Failure.

Two hundred dollars was pledged last night by the citizens mass meeting in Roney Hall to secure every possible item of information about the present administration of the affairs of the city of Raleigh and tell the people just what facts are found by expert accountants. Among those who called out their names as contributing to this fund were: N. A. Dunn, E. H. Barker, C. C. McDonald, J. N. Wynne, E. C. Smith, C. T. McDonald, S. J. Betts, Geo. Syme, C. B. Deason, E. P. Maynard, J. J. Crinkley, W. M. Jones, Ivan Procter, J. M. Broughton, Jr., E. S. Pearce, Wallace S. Dunn. Some of these gave twenty-five dollar checks, none gave less than five. At the conclusion of these pledges, which were given quickly and spiritedly, Chairman N. A. Dunn vigorously declared "I can take this crowd and wipe up the earth."

Not a worse night has been seen in Raleigh for many days from the weather end, yet there were over a hundred Raleigh business and professional men who braved the cold storm and came to the meeting. A few left after about an hour, but something like ninety per cent of them stayed. There were speeches, spirited speeches, couched in dignified words. Nobody took the temperature outside or in, but things were warm enough from the jump.

Notes Went to Protest. One of the big features came just before adjournment, when Mr. W. S. Lyon, Jr., gave out this statement: "Late today I found out the facts about the evaded question as to whether the credit of the city of Raleigh had been impaired by the present commissioners; whether any notes had gone to protest. A note for \$10,000, dated September 1, 1914, executed by the City of Raleigh to H. G. Lassiter, due in sixty days from date, was protested for non-payment October 31, 1914, before F. P. Haywood, Notary Public, and finally paid November 16, 1914. Another note, same as to all of the above, for \$2,500, was protested and paid at the same time. The notary certifies that he was informed by the mayor: 'Can't pay today. Can probably arrange Monday.'"

Mass Meeting. It was announced that another mass meeting would be called at an early date and that the two hundred dollars raised by public subscription would be increased to the amount needed to carry on the fight vigorously.

Are The Citizens Satisfied? Attorney Walter Watson, called the meeting to order and stated the purpose was to try and find out if the business men of Raleigh, the professional men, the men in every other vocation were satisfied with the administration of the present commissioners. "If you are satisfied, let's go home right now; if you are not satisfied, then every man of you get behind the movement for a better management of affairs, somebody who will give us satisfactory management. The city of Raleigh paid \$225,000 for a water plant. I am informed that since then they have spent \$275,000, or thereabouts for improvements to the same plant. Even now, a pitcher of water left overnight will show you how much solid matter your stomach must receive. The commissioners have been prolific with expenditure of your money, 1/2 half million dollars of it, and they have been pregnant with excess, but you must buy your own drinking water in the summer time. Take your streets: A bid of 39 cents per square yard, was made by Mr. Lassiter last fall, to be done under certain specifications. Since that time the contracts have been changed, until some of it has cost from \$1.25 to more than \$1.70. Are you satisfied with the police department? If you are, let's go home right now."

The meeting was then permanently organized by the election of Mr. N. A. Dunn as chairman and Mr. W. S. Lyon, Jr., secretary. Mr. Dunn speaks vigorously. On taking the chair, Mr. Dunn said: "I am glad to see so many of our best citizens here tonight. If you did not mean it you would not have come on such a night as this. One thing sure, this city will be properly governed when you take affairs in your hand. None of you have the right to leave the safety of your city. There have been times when I was proud of the way Raleigh

SET FIRE TO STORE DECLARES BENTLEY Merchant at Statesville Gives As Reason That Creditors Were Pushing Him \$1,000 INSURANCE ON \$686 According to Confession He Entered Store By Rear Door Sprinkled Kerosene Over Some Goods and Applied a Match; Case Worked Up by Insurance Department

(Special to The News and Observer.) Statesville, April 2.—W. C. Bentley, a merchant here, this afternoon confessed that he set fire to the stock in his store last Tuesday. He gave as the reason that he was being pushed by creditors and decided to burn the stock with hopes of collecting the insurance.

Bentley's stock and fixtures inventoried \$555 and he had \$1,000 insurance. His confession this afternoon brought the end to the investigation which had been in progress. Deputy Insurance Commissioner Jordan and Sheriff Dalton had worked unceasingly on the case since the fire, which occurred early Tuesday morning, and linked up a strong chain of evidence against Bentley, but had not placed him under arrest. This afternoon Bentley went to the officers and told them that he wanted to tell the whole truth about the fire. The officers offered to take his confession in the form of an affidavit and Bentley agreed to this and the affidavit was immediately prepared and signed. Bentley was then taken into custody by Sheriff Dalton.

According to his own confession, Bentley entered his store by the rear door shortly after five o'clock Tuesday morning, sprinkled kerosene over some of the goods, applied a match and lit the store. Smoke which came from the store attracted early riders and the fire was "nipped in the bud" by the firemen. Had it gained any headway, a large business block would have been in danger.

SECRETARY DANIELS TO DEVELOP MORE AIRMEN Navy's Head Will Select Class of 20 To Be Organized in June

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, April 2.—Secretary Daniels is about to select a new class of ten naval aviation corps officers and twenty enlisted men to be organized in June for instruction in naval aviation at the Pensacola Naval station. The officers will spend six weeks at the plant of some airplane manufacturer before instruction in flying will begin at Pensacola. When the officers and men begin flying service they will receive 25 to 50 per cent respectively increase of pay, and enlisted men will receive a 50 per cent increase in pay.

There are already four airplanes at Pensacola; two have been ordered and two more will be bought soon. Eight student aviators of the class of officers formed last year are now at the station and one, Ensign C. K. Bronson, already has qualified for an air pilot certificate. Mr. Daniels has before him many applications for duty in the new class. SOUTHPORT GOES AHEAD. Expenditures For Improvements and New Enterprises Will Amount To \$100,000. (Special to The News and Observer.) Southport, April 2.—More than \$100,000 will be spent in making improvements at Southport during the coming few months. The improvements and new enterprises include \$40,000 for water and sewerage plant; \$25,000 for improvements at the quarantine station, which include building a wharf 40 wide and 200 feet long; \$2,000 for a shrimp factory; \$10,000 for a life saving station; improvements at Palmetto Island Island, and a number of residences. It seems that a good size "boom" is on. The Civic Club has planned a "clean up" week and included in the slogan: "Clean up and paint up." An effort will be made to get the town in apple pie order for the summer visitors. According to the reports sent out by the Cotton Census Department at Washington Brunswick produced 175 bales more cotton in 1914 than in 1913. Brunswick is not a great cotton growing county, although there are hundreds of acres that will make a bale to the acre. Only 345 bales were ginned this year. Dr. F. D. Owen, of the United States Department of Agriculture will be in Brunswick county April 3 and 9 to assist Farm Demonstrator E. T. Melvin in inoculating hogs for the hog cholera. The farmers of the county are giving the farm demonstration work cordial support. A Texas Oil company bus came in port yesterday. She had in tow two barges, but some time after mid night the barge of one broke and the barge loaded with oil is some where out on the ocean. The Coast Guard cut "Berminde" went looking for her today and the tug boat also is on a hunt for the stray barge.

DOGS NAMED FOR POSTMASTER Gudger's Man Recommended By Senator Overman For Office at Murphy WOMAN SUFFRAGE WORK

The Washington Headquarters Claim Gains Are Being Made in Tar Heel State and North Carolina Figures in Press Matter; Surgeon - General Blue Says Typhoid Is On Run (By W. E. YELVERTON.) Washington, D. C., April 2.—Senator Overman today recommended Robert F. Crooks be postmaster at Murphy. Crooks' name had already been recommended by former Representative Gudger prior to March 4, but in order for him to be appointed after March 4, it was necessary for Senator Overman to recommend him also. Charlie C. McClure has been appointed postmaster at Athens, a fourth class office. T. J. Finch, of Randolph county, who in addition to being a farmer, is interested in a chair factory in Randolph county, says there is no depression in the chair manufacturing business as far as the Davidson factory is concerned. He says the industry is having a profitable season.

State Figures in Suffrage. In spite of the fact that the North Carolina Legislature sat on woman's suffrage, suffrage headquarters in Washington still claims the suffrage movement is gaining strength in North Carolina. The Tar Heel State is frequently mentioned in the press matter sent out from the Washington headquarters, and in an interview press-agent by Miss Alice Paul, head of the Congressional Union, the following reference is made to the movement in the South with North Carolina heading the list: "It is very significant that a growing sentiment for woman suffrage, especially the Federal amendment, exists in the Southern States as North Carolina, Tennessee, Louisiana and Texas. These are states rights states but they are becoming increasingly interested in our work. The old Susan B. Anthony type of woman suffrage friends in the South."

Typhoid On the Run. "We have typhoid fever on the run," says Surgeon General Rupert Blue, of the United States Public Health Service, in the report of the Board of government scientists in fighting preventable diseases. He predicts the final eradication of typhoid through the enforcement of sanitary regulations and the gradual raising of the standard in the avoidance of communicable diseases. Malaria has been greatly decreased in recent years by sanitation and drainage, and there is no reason why typhoid should be eliminated by proper precautions. Vaccine Greatest Preventative. The perfection of vaccine capable of rendering immunity to typhoid has been the greatest advance in the fight against typhoid, but advance in sanitation will make vaccination almost unnecessary. If precaution in traveling is observed, common carriers have been forced to provide individual drinking cups, and many communities have adopted the idea and have extended it to individual towels and other safeguards against infection. Many of the labors of the public health service have been performed in North Carolina, notably mosquito eradication and rural sanitation campaigns. The highest record of sanitation has been published widely and other counties are following the lead. Typhoid, malaria, pellagra and other diseases of less consequence can generally be traced easily to unsanitary surface privies and other insanitary conditions.

TO VOTE ON SCHOOL TAX Catawba County Grower Ships Car Load Potatoes To Kentucky

(Special to The News and Observer.) Hickory, April 2.—The people of West Hickory are voting on the increase in the school tax at the regular election for mayor and aldermen May 4. Should the new tax schedule carry the taxation will be increased \$100,000 on the \$100,000 valuation and 50 cents on the \$100,000 valuation and 50 cents on the poll. N. W. Probst, one of this county's largest farmers, recently shipped a solid car-load of the tubers to Louisville, Ky. The potatoes this year are of good quality and are commanding a fair price. The Gospel Mission Baptist church in West Hickory has been completed and the first service will be held in its Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock, preaching by Rev. D. W. Poole, of Elphinstown, a Confederate Soldier and one of Hickory's oldest citizens, died Tuesday night at the home of his son, J. K. Crouch. The funeral was here given in the afternoon, served with distinction by the civil war. He was a member of Company B, 11th N. C. Regiment. He was detained in prison at Point Lookout until three months after the war closed. Mr. Crouch is survived by three daughters and four sons, Mrs. L. C. Brooks, of Hickory; Mrs. A. D. Tilley, of Morganton; Mrs. H. Q. Blanton, Newton; Will Crouch, of Morganton; J. K. and M. G. Crouch, of Hickory, and Stanley J. Crouch, of Boynton, Va.

MRS. CARMAN BE TRIED AGAIN. Physicians Wife Charged With Murder of Mrs. Louise Bailey

(By the Associated Press.) Mineola, N. Y., Apr. 2.—Mrs. Florence Conklin Carman, wife of Dr. Edwin Carman, of Freeport, will go on trial again charged with the murder of Mrs. Louise Bailey, District Attorney Smith, of Nassau county, announced today that the case would be called May 10th. At a previous trial the jury disagreed.

RUSSIANS CLAIM TO BE PRESSING GERMANS BACK Whole Front From Baltic Sea To Rumanian Border and in Caucasus On Offensive

(By the Associated Press.) London, April 2.—The Russians are on the offensive along their whole front from the Baltic Sea to the Rumanian border and in the Caucasus and according to the Stockholm dispatch they have concentrated an enormous number of soldiers on the Finnish coast to prevent the Germans landing there. The Russian advance according to Petrograd are proceeding with success. The official report claims that the Germans in North Poland are being pushed back to the East Prussian border and that in the Carpathians between the Lupkow and Usok passes the Russians have captured still another strongly fortified ridge, overrunning almost insurmountable obstacles, such as the scaling of steep ice-covered hills and penetrating cleverly arranged barbed wire and timber obstructions; Austria claims to have repulsed attacks in the Beskid Range of Mountains.

MASS CONVERSIONS AT WILMINGTON Simultaneous Revival Which Closed Last Night a Great Success VIOLATIONS OF FISH LAW

(Special to The News and Observer.) Wilmington, April 2.—With splendid services tonight the simultaneous revival conducted for the past two weeks by eight Wilmington churches came to an end. The meetings have been successful in every way. There have been several hundred conversions and there have been additions to all churches, the First Baptist receiving 50 new members as a result of the meeting. With one exception the pastors were assisted by visiting ministers. A feature of the meeting was a noonday service which was held each day at the Grand Theatre, in the heart of the business section. It was known as the union noonday service because it was participated in by all the churches of the city and different ministers had charge of the service each day. The Episcopal and Lutheran churches, which did not take part in the revival series, did take a prominent part in the noonday service at the Grand Theatre. This is the first time that Wilmington churches ever attempted a simultaneous revival and they are well pleased with the result.

Fish Law Violations. Mr. Jerry Hewlett, of Masonboro Sound, who is one of the most prominent fishermen in the county, gave out a statement today in which he says that the State fish law, passed at the last session of the Legislature, is being daily violated by the fishermen of this county. He says that the fishermen are using seines, the size of which are prohibited by law and that some of the nets, he said, are so small that they could not get his finger through the openings. He expressed the hope that as soon as the Fish Commission, provided for in the bill, is appointed by the Governor, that some steps will be taken to enforce the law. Mr. Hewlett is heartily in favor of the new law as are all the leading fishermen of this section and they want to see it enforced.

Truck Not Badly Damaged. It is not believed that truck was badly hurt by the snow that fell Wednesday and the heavy frost of yesterday morning. The continued cold weather of the last few weeks has acclimated the strawberry, lettuce and garden plants in the northern markets here. The effect of the frost much better than they otherwise would have done. Of course the continual cold will serve to make the crop still later. It is not likely that strawberries will be shipped to the northern markets before May 1st and lettuce will hardly be shipped before the 15th or 20th of this month.

Fertilizer Trade Rushed. Although delayed for two months the fertilizer season is now on in earnest and the six factories in Wilmington are running on full time in a strong effort to catch up with the heavy influx of recent orders. It is expected that the shipment from Wilmington for the season will be almost 75 per cent normal, which is considerably more than was at one time hoped for. The local factories are said to be well stocked with fertilizer and the German supply, but there will be a scarcity next year if the war continues that long. No Opposition to Mayor Moore. Although the primary is on April 26th and announcements must all be in by the 15th, the candidates for Mayor and Councilmen have been slow in announcing themselves. It now appears that Mayor Parker Quince Moore, who has been mayor for two years, will not have any opposition. There was talk some weeks ago that Former Mayor Wm. E. Springer would be a candidate. Before the end of the week all the candidates for Council are expected to announce themselves. The largest membership has ever been. The campaign began Wednesday and covered four days. After hearing the evidence against Thomas Burns, held as a suspect in connection with the postoffice robberies at West Durham, Hillsboro and Elon College, United States Commissioner D. H. Collins has ordered his release. Burns was suspected by reason of the fact that he was in each of the three places about the times the robberies took place. He follows the "umbrella" fixer about the largest membership has ever been. The campaign began Wednesday and covered four days.

GARRISON HAS NO PLANS TO MAKE U. S. ARMY "DRY"

Secretary Says at Present It "Would Be Like Taking a Bottle From a Baby." (By the Associated Press.) Washington, April 2.—When Secretary Garrison's views were sought today on the subject of prohibition in the army, he said he was so busy planning a reorganization of the country's military defenses that he had not even considered what he would "prohibit" when he had brought the army up to what he thought its proper size. To introduce a dry order into the army regulations at present, Mr. Garrison said, "would be like taking a bottle from a baby."

FRENCH SHOOT DOWN ANOTHER GERMAN AIRMAN Third Aviator to Be Brought in 24 Hours—Flying Squadron Drops Bombs

(By the Associated Press.) Paris, Apr. 2.—The official war office communication tonight said: "On the whole of the front there is nothing of importance to report. At 7 o'clock this morning east of Solsona, a German aviator was shot down inside our lines. This is the third aviator to be brought down in 24 hours. "Our flying squadron dropped 23 bombs on the barracks, aeroplane hangars and railway station at Vigonville in Woerthe. A great number of the projectiles fell on their targets. The aviators were subjected to a heavy fire at close range. Three returned with large holes in the wings of their machines and the canvas of other machines was pierced by shrapnel bullets. "None of the aviators were hit. All the machines returned to our lines."

RUSSIANS TAKE POSITION AT POINT OF BAYONET Forces of Czar Claim to Have Also Driven Cossacks Back Inflicting Heavy Losses

(By the Associated Press.) Petrograd, April 2.—via London.—The following Russian official statement regarding the fighting in the Caucasus: "The Russian forces have taken a strong position at the point of Bayonet. The forces of the Czar claim to have also driven the Cossacks back inflicting heavy losses."

PRINZ LITEL APPEARS READY FOR OCEAN DASH Whether German Raider Will Brave Danger of Watchful Warships Still a Mystery

(By the Associated Press.) Newport News, Va., April 2.—The German merchant raider Prinz Eitel Friedrich tonight is ready to go back to sea and to brave the danger of attack from a fleet of warships of the allies off the Virginia capes. Whether she will be sent into the fatal breach or her government submit to internment by the United States remained a mystery, however, as the last load of supplies sufficient for a voyage to Bremen was stowed away in her hold under supervision of the American navy. But if her orders are to break for the open sea the Eitel Friedrich is well prepared. Her bunkers are filled with coal; her stores have been replenished; her machinery has been repaired and keyed up to the maximum strength; her officers and crew are resigned to any fate and waiting for the word. "When I come back I will be glad to go to your home and dine," said Captain Max Thierichens, commander of the Eitel late today addressing a fellow countryman who had called to pay his respects. "And when I come, let's not have any banquet and crowds; just you and I and some noodle soup."

Party Calls on Commander. The German commander was addressing Henry Kim, of Norfolk county, Virginia, who had called with Senator T. S. Martin, of Virginia, Captain W. R. Mayo, Mayor of Norfolk, and a party of Virginians as guests of Customs Collector Norman H. Hamilton. Mr. Kim was born in Germany and left there as a young man to join the German navy. Captain Thierichens was delighted to see him and chatted with him in native tongue for half an hour. When the Eitel had finished taking on supplies originally had been scheduled for delivery Sunday, two U. S. tugs stood guard at her stern, one representing the navy from the Norfolk Navy Yard and the other representing the army from Fort Monroe. Coast artillery batteries pointed their guns and the elements were propitious for a dash through rain and darkness in an attempt to elude British and French battleships which lay in wait in the Virginia coast.

Situation Tense. Late in the day the situation in the vicinity of the Prinz Eitel was tense. Every officer and sailor was on board. Some were permitted to receive friends on the pier. That many of the German sailors were going to sea was evident from their reactions to their visitors. Just when they would be ordered to go, they claimed not to know, but all asserted that there was little time left for the vessel to remain in American waters. Another circumstance indicating the uncertainty of the situation was the presence on board the Eitel late in the day of two German youths who were seeking to enlist in the German navy. They were Quarts Beyer and Hans Roth, who came to Newport News from Germany a few months ago. They applied for enlistment a week ago and Captain Thierichens ordered them to report today. When asked about them Capt. Thierichens said he had not decided what to do because he was not certain what would be done about his ship. The boys, however, were on hand ready to risk their lives for the fatherland should Commander Thierichens say the word.

Decline To Discuss Status. Government officials who conferred with the German commander were told absolutely declined to discuss the status of the ship. Collector Hamilton said he had talked to the commander on official business. Colonel Ira F. Hayes, commander at Fort Monroe who also was aboard the vessel would not discuss his mission at all. The Colonel presented to Commander Thierichens Jacob M. Dickinson, former secretary of war.

TENNESSEE ACTS TO ABOLISH WHISKEY LOCKERS

(By the Associated Press.) Nashville, Tenn., April 2.—In both Houses of the Tennessee Legislature today bills designed to prevent social and fraternal clubs from storing and dispensing liquor were passed. Many of the bills were effective. Many clubs have operated "lockers." The House continued the prohibition program by passing a stringent bill regulating the sale of liquor by drug stores. It provides that sales can be made only on bona fide prescriptions given persons actually ill.

OCEAN FREIGHT RATES ON COTTON ON HIGHER LEVEL. Price \$1.00 Per Hundred to Liverpool and \$1.50 to Havre.

(By the Associated Press.) Galveston, Tex., April 2.—Recent gradual advances in ocean freight rates on cotton culminated today in quotations of \$1.00 per hundred to Liverpool and \$1.50 to Havre. A few weeks ago the rate was as low as \$1.15. Tonnage offerings are not abundant. Rates to Genoa remain at \$1.75 and to Barcelona at from \$1.25 to \$1.50, with only a few vessels offered.

ELKS PREPARING FOR CHARITY FAIR Committee Promises That Program of Greensboro Event Will Be Full of Good Things

(Special to The News and Observer.) Greensboro, April 2.—The Greensboro Lodge of Elks held one of the most enthusiastic meetings it has had in a long time this evening, when new officers were installed and plans discussed for the Charity Fair soon to be held here. Three candidates were initiated. The new officers are: J. C. Pierce, exalted ruler; Thomas J. Murphy, esteemed leading knight; W. B. Merriman, esteemed loyal knight; W. H. Vanstary, esteemed lecturer; Knight E. P. Ross, secretary; F. N. Taylor, treasurer. General Chairman C. M. Vanstary, for the committee, reported that the Charity Fair gave promise of being a most interesting event. Among the articles that have been given to the lodge for the fair is an Overland automobile, valued at nearly a thousand dollars. Several hundred dollars worth of other merchandise has been donated by various merchants. Chairman Roland G. Hill, of the entertainment committee, says that the program will be full of good things, including orchestras, music throughout the week, with two grand concerts.

Court House Matter. The county commissioners will be in session Monday and the court house matter will probably be up again for discussion. Nobody is willing to say what the commissioners are going to do. They have authorized the statement that a combined business building and court house, several stories in height, will be erected on the corner of the main square, but there are those who believe that such will not be the case. It is not altogether improbable that the commissioners will yet sell the property now occupied by the court house and build on a lot that can be purchased for less money. The present location can be sold for almost enough to buy a site and build a new court house. The matter is being discussed for many years to come.

Bowman-Troxler Wedding. Miss Blanche Troxler was married to Mr. W. F. Bowman, of Liberty, at the home of the bride's father, six miles east of the city, yesterday evening. The home was attractively decorated for the event. Mrs. Leslie Troxler was at the piano, and just before the ceremony Miss Long and Mr. E. N. Barbee sang "Look Down, Dear Eyes." Rev. E. C. Murray, pastor of the Alameda Presbyterian church, was the officiating minister. A reception followed the ceremony. The bride is a most attractive young woman and well known in the city. The bridegroom is a son of Rev. and Mrs. J. H. Bowman, of Liberty.

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RAIN AND DARK CLOUDS WAKE TIME PROPITIOUS Vessel Is Well-Prepared; Her Bunkers Are Filled With Coal, Her Storehouses Replenished, Her Machinery Repaired and Keyed Up To Maximum Strength; Her Officers and Crew Resigned To Any Fate and Waiting For The Word

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PIERCE EXALTED RULER County Commissioners Expected To Take Up Court House Matter; Trying To Obtain Stock For New Hotel; Y. M. C. A. Membership Campaign Comes To Close

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