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The News and Observer

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VOL. CXIV. NO. 37.

TEN PAGES TODAY.

RALEIGH, N. C., SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 6, 1921.

TEN PAGES TODAY.

PRICE: FIVE CENTS

HEALTH OFFICERS DENY REPORTS OF FAMINE IN SOUTH

No Condition Approaching Plague in Southern States, Declares Statement

NO OCCASION EXISTS FOR ANY UNDUE ALARM

Urge Adequate Support For Federal, State and County Health Departments To Educate People All Over Country; Conference Is Animated; Sharp Exchanges of Opinion

The News and Observer Bureau, 603 District National Bank Building, By EDWARD E. BRITTON (By Special Leased Wire).

Washington, Aug. 5.—There is no condition approaching a famine or plague in the South. It is obvious that this is a clear case of misinterpretation of terms, an indirect analysis, and as a result statements have been made that are erroneous and misleading to the public.

That is one of the declarations in the report made public today by the conference of State health officers of the Southern states held here with representatives of the United States Public Health Service, the Red Cross, and the Department of Agriculture. And the report says as to the reports of "famine, plague and pellagra" in the South, which have recently been sent out by the Public Health Service and emphasized in a letter issued by President Harding:

"After making an investigation, using all information possible, we do not believe the situation warrants or should occasion any undue alarm."

Deplore Results of Famine

The health officials begin their report by saying that they deplore the fact that an impression has been created that famine conditions exist in the South, and as a result that pellagra has increased to an alarming extent. It agrees that "there will be an increase of pellagra this year in localities in certain states where the disease has been epidemic, but the data at hand shows in an unmistakable way that the number of cases and deaths from pellagra will be less than the annual average during the period 1914 to 1921. In other words, it is fully substantiated by facts in hand that pellagra has steadily decreased in the Southern states during previous years."

The statement agrees that there should be a scientific treatment and aggressive consideration and that "the solution of the pellagra problem depends upon sane educational methods," declaring that "the whole question is one that should be approached as a public health problem and dealt with by a well defined plan."

But the statement calls attention to other matters affecting the whole country, not the South alone, saying "there can be no doubt but that there will be an increase in the prevalence of tuberculosis, pellagra and other diseases during the next few years as a result of the economic depression throughout the entire country unless Federal, state and local health departments are given adequate financial support and cooperation in directing intensive public health education and in the establishment and maintenance of local health organizations which are fundamental in the prevention and control of all diseases and the promotion of the public health."

Resolutions adopted expressed appreciation to the President for his interest in public health matters, pledging support of the health authorities and the people of the South to a constructive program which would coordinate all Federal health and welfare activities in one department; expressed confidence in the "effective administration of the United States Public Health Service by General Cummings," calling upon Congress for immediate increase of facilities and the President to utilize all other Federal health agencies in carrying into the rural homes of the country the necessity for a better balanced diet, which should always include eggs, milk or milk products, and vegetables. Call is made upon the President and the Surgeon General and all others interested in public health work to aid in establishing "health departments in all counties or other units of government."

Conference Animated One

The conference was an animated one both yesterday and today. There was many a give and take in the debate on the report and resolution. "While I resent from the end of my toes to the top of my head charges that a veritable condition of famine exists in the South, health authorities should realize the seriousness of the situation," declared Dr. Olin West, of Tennessee. One clause in the original report which said "there is no occasion for extending charitable measures for the relief of conditions so far as any State is

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KINSTON SCHOOLS TO GIVE CREDIT FOR BIBLE STUDY.

Kinston, Aug. 5.—The giving of credits in the Kinston high school for students' work in the Bible schools of the city sets a precedent, at least in this part of the country. Ministers state that the idea was introduced at a State Sunday school convention and that its adoption here will be the final try-out so far as they know. The local plan differs in some respects from that proposed at the convention.

Students will be given one high school unit for four years' work in the Sunday schools. This will be based upon a minimum of study of 45 lessons of 45 minutes' duration, or an equivalent, the lessons to conform to the public schools' standard and to be graded as to time and content by the educational authorities.

Receding Waters Of Quarry Now Yield Fruits Of Mystery

Automobile Cushion Comes Up, a Stone With Chain Tied Around It, a Box With Some Rotted Unrecognizable Thing, And Some Sticks of Dynamite; Solicitor Increases Rigidity of Guard

A cushion out of the seat of a Ford automobile, some dynamite, a stone with a piece of chain tied fast around it, a nailed up box filled with some charred, putrid thing, rotted past any possibility of determining what it might have been, came up out of the receding water of the Rock Quarry yesterday. Here and there about the surface, approximately in the location of automobiles thought to be at the quarry bottom, bubbles of air came up.

Sundown yesterday had seen the going of ten feet of the water that has stood between a curious citizenry and the answer to the one question that has been in its mind since the first drowned automobile was hooked on the bottom of the quarry nineteen days ago. Tomorrow noon will see another ten feet gone, and the bottom of the quarry, with most of its potential mysteries will be within sight of the sun.

Pumps Moved Down

Yesterday saw the digging out of another niche in the south wall of the quarry pit, and the five pumps followed five feet down after the receding water. This morning another hole will be blasted out of the wall, and the pumps lowered another five feet to enable their intake pipes to reach down into the water again. Some hours were required for the work yesterday morning and it will have to be done over again today.

Tomorrow the gates to the fenced-in area about the quarry will be thrown open to two hundred people at the time. They may go in for a few minutes and look down into the depths of the hole. The crowd will be allowed within its sections, around the upper rim of the

(Continued on page four.)

ADVANCE MONEY TO HOLD COTTON NOW

Head of Richmond Reserve Bank Says Credit Furnished On Stored Cotton

Washington, Aug. 5.—There is no warrant for the assumption that the circular letter of last July 23, issued by the Richmond Federal Reserve Bank is an indication that no loans will be made by that bank are being made on cotton already produced, Deputy Governor Charles A. Peble said in a letter received today by Representative Byrnes, Democrat, South Carolina.

Governor Peble said that a considerable portion of the \$16,000,000 already advanced for the member banks of North Carolina and South Carolina, consisted of advances made on cotton already gathered and in storage.

"Our policy in this respect," the letter said, "is, or ought to be well known throughout the whole district. It has been and is one of the greatest liberality. We are forbidden by law to rediscount paper, the proceeds of which have been or are to be used for investments of a purely speculative character, and we, therefore, could not take or offer to take paper secured by cotton being deliberately held for no other purpose than to force up the price or corner the market."

"On the other hand, we have the right, which we have exercised, fully and freely, to make advances for the purpose of enabling the producers of cotton to market it in an orderly manner and not to be forced to dump it on the market, particularly when there are no buyers."

Mr. Peble said that a considerable portion of the \$21,000,000 loaned by North Carolina banks and the \$25,000,000 to North Carolina banks represented money loaned to farmers for planting, fertilizing and cultivating the growing cotton crop. He added that the circular of July 23 was issued for the purpose of reassuring member banks of the cotton states of the Richmond district, and through them the cotton growers, that such further assistance as might be needed and could be represented by paper eligible under the regulations of the Federal Reserve Board, would be made regardless of previous advances and present debts, except, of course in such cases "in which produce would forbid."

BORAH SOUNDS WARNING TO REPUBLICAN LEADERS

Washington, Aug. 5.—A warning to Republican leaders against increasing taxes in revising the internal revenue bill was given in the Senate today by Senator Borah, Republican, of Idaho, who also proposed reductions in Army, and navy expenditures of nearly \$500,000,000. The Republican membership in Congress, he said, would be reduced if the public "clamor" for tax relief was not met.

The Idaho Senator introduced a resolution to reduce the army from 150,000 to 100,000 men which he said would effect a saving of about \$100,000,000, and asked the naval committee to report a resolution of Senator King, Democrat, of Utah, to stop work on six battleships of the Indiana type. Little has been done on the construction of these battleships, he explained, adding that by stopping this work \$240,000,000 could be saved. Another load of \$1,000,000 a month could be saved, he contended, by withdrawing American troops from Germany, in accordance with the "slogan pledge" of Republicans during the Presidential campaign.

FRANCE AGREES TO DATE FOR DISARMAMENT MEETING

Paris, Aug. 5.—(By the Associated Press.)—France, replying today to an inquiry made by the State Department at Washington, agreed to November 11, as the date of the conference in Washington on disarmament and far Eastern questions.

AIMED SOLELY TO PRESERVE BANKS, HARDING STATES

Governor of Federal Reserve Denies Any Effort Made To Influence Prices

SIMPLY PREPARED TO MEET BREAK IN PRICES

Washington, Aug. 5.—Reserve Bank policies of 1919 and 1920 were formulated solely to prevent the country's banking system from collapse, and were successful in their object, Governor Harding, of the Reserve Board declared today in closing a two-day appearance before a joint congressional commission. To questions he repeated time and again a declaration that the Board had not sought to influence prices, either up or down, but had prepared to meet a price break that was world-wide, and yet to maintain and expand credit lines.

There was a rare possibility, he said, that in 1919 the reserve board had raised national discount rates, "but the checks in prices might have been better," but he mentioned needs of the government financing as influential in determining the course actually taken. Representative Sumner, Democrat, Texas, suggested that "the world might have gone out" from the board's bank rates to be "fearful of price," but Governor Harding said that nothing had been done inconsistent with his statement.

Can Extend Farm Loan Banks

He made a suggestion that the commission might consider the utility of the farm loan boards as a measure of extending short term credits to farmers, for 9 and 12 months periods, but said he would make no detailed recommendation.

"All over the country we find that agricultural and livestock interests feel they need more credit facilities," he said, "and want something to make themselves independent of banks. The farmers' credit horizon is necessarily limited and local. Any man hesitates about getting the government in business and we can't use the reserve system for that, because its funds are essentially reserve funds, but I consider there is a possibility that the farm loan banks might be extended to meet the need. The question needs study."

Denies Deflation Charge

Governor Harding denied that his administration of reserve bank policies had deflated cotton prices, with a dependent upon the good graces of the lessor of the land. It is stated, have often felt that the Norfolk Southern was too greatly interested in the patronage and development of the Virginia resorts to bestow proper regard and attention to Morehead City and Beaufort. The present unenviable condition of the large and commodious Atlantic Hotel, say the Morehead people, stands as a monument of Morehead City's past glory, and as a constant reminder of the present apparent apathetic attitude of the Norfolk Southern in this section as a summer resort.

New Hopes Created

While the citizenship of Morehead City paid no great amount of attention to the proceedings of the stockholders and the new directors there do arise, as always in recent years, new hopes and aspirations whenever any appreciable change is made in the direction of the Atlantic and North Carolina. Morehead City is largely dependent upon the good graces of the lessor of the land. It is stated, have often felt that the Norfolk Southern was too greatly interested in the patronage and development of the Virginia resorts to bestow proper regard and attention to Morehead City and Beaufort. The present unenviable condition of the large and commodious Atlantic Hotel, say the Morehead people, stands as a monument of Morehead City's past glory, and as a constant reminder of the present apparent apathetic attitude of the Norfolk Southern in this section as a summer resort.

DURHAM WOMAN INJURED BY CAR OVERTURNING

Richmond, Va., Aug. 5.—It was said at Stuart Circle Hospital tonight that injuries suffered by Mrs. R. L. Flowers, of Trinity College, Durham, N. C., was in an automobile in which she was coming to Richmond overturned near McKenney, Va., late yesterday, were not so serious as was feared at first. A broken collar bone and a sprained arm are her principal hurts, it was said. Other occupants of the car including her two children and her mother and also the chauffeur escaped with slight injuries. Mrs. Flowers' husband is a professor at Trinity. She was en route here to visit Mrs. S. T. Morgan, widow of a former president of the Virginia Carolina Chemical Company.

LAUNCH CONCRETE SHIP IN WILMINGTON TODAY

Wilmington, Aug. 5.—Two concrete ships, a six hundred-ton concrete river steamer and a thirty five hundred ton concrete tanker, will be launched at the local yard of the Newport Shipbuilding corporation this month, according to an announcement by Plant Manager Kirby Smith today. The six hundred-ton river steamer, The General Morgan Lewis, will be launched tomorrow morning at 11:30 o'clock, with Miss Eliza Davis, of this city, a granddaughter of the late George H. Davis, of the Southern Confederacy supreme court, acting as sponsor. The tanker will be launched on August 29th.

ORDER CONTINUED FOR RESTRAINING PROPERTY

Clinton, Aug. 5.—Judge Allen here today continued the restraining order forbidding the disposal of any property of James H. Pugh, recently declared mentally incompetent to attend to his affairs, and appointed R. M. Pugh, of Clinton, receiver, until the court has finally determined the mental status of Pugh on the appeal taken from decision of jury in the hearing two weeks ago before Clerk of Court Sessions.

ARMY AIRMEN TO HAVE ANOTHER TRY AT SINKING SHIP

Navy Department To Turn Over Dismantled Battleship Alabama For Tests

WILL SIMULATE ACTUAL WARFARE IS POSSIBLE

Attack Will Be Conducted Entirely By Army Fliers and Several New Projects of Chemical Warfare Service Will Be Employed; To Use Torpedo Planes Also

Washington, Aug. 5.—(By the Associated Press.)—An independent bombing enterprise against Naval craft is being planned by the Army air service. With the old battleship Alabama as a target and using missiles up to four thousand pounds in weight, the Army fliers hope to add a new chapter to the inter-service controversy which recently resulted in destruction from the air of a number of former German war vessels.

Army Air Force

With the event exclusively an Army affair, it was said today at air service headquarters reports made to simulate actual battle conditions when the Alabama comes under fire. Far that purpose the Army asked that the ship be turned over in sea going shape, absolutely watertight, bulkheads sound, steam in her boilers, and ventilating and communicating systems in working order. Request also was made that her magazines be filled with full loads of powder and that in all respects save her actual offensive armament, which is being salvaged, she be ready for action.

Plan All Phases of Attack

Army plans call for all phases of air attacks at sea. Everything from the 300 pound bombs, similar to those first rained on the German dreadnaught Ostfriesland to missiles double the size of the 2000 pounders which sent her in addition new smoke and gas bombs will be hurled at her decks from above. Several new projects of the chemical warfare service are to be tested out against the Alabama and penetrative qualities of the gases will be measured by means of the ventilation system on the ship.

The Alabama is a much older ship than was the Ostfriesland but protected by armor varying from 16 1/2 to 9 1/2 inches in thickness as against 11 3/4 to 6 3/4 on the German craft. The protective decks are about the same.

COMMUNITY HOSPITAL NOW BECOMES CERTAINTY

Elizabeth City, Aug. 5.—The opening of the Elizabeth City Municipal Hospital now seems an assured fact. Secretary Job reports that over \$10,000 to stock had already been subscribed, and that several committees were still to be heard from. He stated that if all the subscriptions had been turned in, to date, he believed that the 15,000 goal. A number of organizations have already subscribed their quotas, and the general committee is now awaiting reports from the fraternal organizations of the city.

REV. H. W. BAUCOM GOES TO SALEM SEPTEMBER 1

Winston-Salem, Aug. 5.—Rev. H. W. Baucum, pastor of the Baptist church at Smithfield, has accepted a call to the pastorate of Salem Baptist church here. He will enter upon his work here September 1.

WELL KNOWN ROBESON MAN DIES AT LUMBERTON HOME

Lumberton, Aug. 5.—Franklin P. Humphrey, well known Robeson citizen, died at his home here late this afternoon, following an extended illness. His widow and several children survive.

Senator Ladd To Speak

Washington, Aug. 5.—United States Senator Ladd, of North Dakota, and Gov. Thomas Campbell of Arizona, will be among the speakers at the Southern Tariff Congress to be held in Greensboro, N. C., August 15 and 16, it was announced today by the headquarters of the Southern Tariff Association.

KUKLUX KLAN NOT DISBANDED, STATES KING KLEAGLE HERE

MORRISON NEVER MEMBER OF KLAN

Governor Denounces Author of Any Such Report as 'Liar' In His Statement

Asheville, Aug. 5.—"I have paid no attention since I have been Governor to dozens of falsehoods put in circulation about me, but whenever informed Mr. Bruce Craven that I made application for membership in the Ku Klux Klan is a liar," declared Governor Cameron Morrison at the summer capital here tonight.

The Governor made this statement when interviewed concerning the statement given the Greensboro Daily News Friday morning by Bruce Craven, alleged grand dragon of the Klan in North Carolina, to the effect that the Governor was admitted on probation. Mr. Craven stated that he had been informed to that effect but intimated he did not believe it.

Never Had Any Sympathy With Organization of This Klan in North Carolina, Said the Governor

"I never had any sympathy with the organization of this Klan in North Carolina," said the Governor. "And this fact is well known. I do not believe in secret political or governmental organizations of any character. Purely fraternal secret organizations have accomplished great good in this republic, but secret political law enforcement or governmental organizations do not meet with my approval."

SIMMONS AND OVERMAN NEVER SOUGHT ADMISSION

Washington, Aug. 5.—"Never heard of any such thing," was the declaration of Senator Overman tonight on learning of an article by Bruce Craven, published today that he had twice applied for admission to the "Ku Klux Klan" of the North Carolina branch, of which Mr. Craven says he was the "suzerain." Senator Overman said that he had no information of the organization, had never applied for admission to it, and was at a loss to account for any such statement as that credited to Mr. Craven.

Doesn't Belong to Order

In answer to this the King Kleagle said: "The statement by Bruce Craven declaring the Ku Klux Klan in North Carolina disbanded is without authority and is a gross misstatement of facts. The order is not disbanded and never will be without authority of the Imperial Wizard, Col. William J. Simmons, of Atlanta, Ga."

FAYETTEVILLE NEGRO IS HELD FOR ATTACK ON GIRL

Fayetteville, Aug. 5.—Walter Sutherland, negro, is being held under \$2,000 bond for trial at the August term of superior court for an attack on Bessie Palmer, 13-year-old white girl of this city. Sutherland, who also goes by the names of Salter and Sauls, sought to prove an alibi, producing two witnesses to testify that he did not leave home until after the hour of the attack Tuesday morning, but Judge James C. MacKay, of the recorder's court, said that probable cause existed and the negro was sent back to jail in default of bond. Sutherland's attorney, A. M. Moore, withdrew from the case when Judge MacKay refused to continue the preliminary hearing.

Seeks To Establish Alibi at Trial But Girl Identifies Him As Man

Miss Palmer was the principal witness against Sutherland, telling a clear story of the attack, which occurred on the Ray avenue bridge. The negro after walking ahead of her for a short distance, glancing at her pocketbook she declared, saw her and choked her until his finger prints were left on her throat and started dragging her along with him, attempting to stop her screams by placing his hand over her mouth. She succeeded in screaming several times, however, and frightened him away. The negro was later arrested on an adjoining street when pointed out by the girl.

King Interested in Prohibition

Richmond, Va., Aug. 5.—That King George V. questioned them about prohibition of America while they were in London to present a copy of Houdon's statue of George Washington as a gift from Virginia to England, was related today by members of the commission who were appointed to make the presentation and who arrived home last night.

STOKES COUNTY FARMER CLAIMS CHAMPIONSHIP FOR DRINKING COFFEE

Winston-Salem, Aug. 5.—Lem Bennett, Stokes county farmer, claims to be the world's champion coffee drinker. According to his statement, he drinks the beverage three times a day, six cups to the meal, besides frequently getting up during the night and indulging in one or two cups.

VALUABLE JEWEL LOST OR STOLEN AT RESORT

Henderson, Aug. 5.—A diamond brooch, a prized heirloom, said to be worth easily \$4,000 and several hundred dollars in cash, were either lost or stolen from Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Zollcoffer, who are spending a month in Hendersonville, according to a message received today by their son, J. P. Zollcoffer. No particulars were given in the message. The brooch was given to Mrs. Zollcoffer by her husband many years ago.