THE CHATHAM RECORD

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IMPORTANT NEWS THE WORLD OVER

IMPORTANT HAPPENINGS OF THIS AND OTHER NATIONS FOR SEVEN DAYS GIVEN

THE NEWS OF THE SOUTH

What Is Taking Place In The Southland Will Be Found In Brief Paragraphs

European

Forty-six Jews have been killled at Pinsk, according to an announcement by the Zionist association in London. Forty persons were imprisoned and then brutally flogged.

Strong currents of opinion inside the German cabinet permit of the assertion that the ministry of Chancellor Scheldemann is fervently hoping to obtain a peace settlement at Versailles sufficiently tolerable to win the national assembly's ratification and thus obviate the danger of further internal ruptures, which, it is believed, would be bound to result from a plebiscite.

The German government's pronunciamentos in the past months have persistently underscored the nation's need for food and peace. The food situation is slowly being ameliorated and the government's chief remaining sorrow is its preliminary settlement with its former foes.

The peace congress at Versailles has formally begun its sessions. The eventful day which the world has awaited since the signing of the armistice on November 11, last year, has at last arrived. The German delegates have met the representatives of the allied and associated powers and, across the green blaze table, have carried out the first preliminary that probably will mean a return to actual peace in the not far distant future.

The main German peace delegation arrived at Vaucressen station, France, and went from there to Versailles by automobile. The Germans who had arrived previously were busily engaged in and between the three hotels they occupy. They passed freely through the streets without incident and with no police guards. Eighty-seven Germans were in the peace commission which arrived. Of these 30 were women.

While there will be few witnesses to the signature of peace treaty by the Germans in the hall of mirrors, the mayor of Versailles has asked that the public be admitted during the days following the event so that they may see the arrangement of the historic apartment.

Herbert H. Asquith, former premier, is likely to succeed the Earl of Reading as ambassador to the United States, it is stated in well-informed British circles.

Imre Kiralfy, famous as the organizer of agents and spectacular plays, died at Brighton, England. Kiralfy was born at Budapest in 1845 and made his first appearance as an actor there.

Washington

Three of the four battleships which helped to destroy the Spanish fleet off Santiago in 1898—the Indiana, the Massachusetts and the Iowa—are to be placed out of commission, it is announced by the navy department, but their names will be reassigned to new superdreadnaughts.

Members of the cabinet are the sole judges of what constitutes mail matter relating to the business of their departments which may be disturbed under the government franking privileges.

A large naval international police force will be necessary under the league of nations plan immediately after peace is declared, is the opinion of Secretary of the Navy Daniels, and one of the objects of his trip abroad is to discuss with the admiralties of England, France and Italy some details of this force, particularly the types of vessels desirable.

Two officers and fourteen men of the crew of the naval tug Gypsum Queen were drowned when that vessel struck a rock and sank near Armen light off the coast of France on April 28, while returning to Brest after assisting a fleet of mine sweepers in distress, three of which foundered in a severe storm. All members of the crew of mine sweepers and 17 officers and men of the Gypsum Queen were rescued.

An official report from the surgeon general issued by the war department gives the total number of deaths reported in the army during the war to date as 111,179. Of the deaths from disease about twelve thousand have occurred since hostilities ceased.

Control and operation of all American cable systems, taken over by the government last November reverted to their private owners at midnight, May 2.

Although the peace conference in plenary session failed to take up the question of responsibility for the war, officials in Washington are unanimous in their belief that the peace treaty as delivered to the German plenipotentiaries will call for the trial of the former emperor of Germany before a court of the associated powers.

The government is preparing to relinquish control of American cable lines and to restore the telegraph and telephone system to private ownership immediately after enactment by congress of laws necessary to safeguard properties.

Mexico was not represented in the conference of neutrals at Paris, and, as was expected, does not appear on the list of the league of nations. It is stated that provision is made in the covenant, however, for the admission to the league of any fully self-governing country which will give required guarantees upon, a two-thirds vote of the assembly, composed of representatives of the member nations.

Premier Orlando of Italy left Paris for Rome. He was accompanied by Salvatore Barzlai, General Diaz and two other members of the Italian mission.

Determination of President Wilson, indicated in press advices from Paris, that no American troops shall continue on German soil for a longer period after the signing of the peace treaty than may be necessary to embark them for home, is borne out by present plans of the war department which contemplates the return of the entire American expeditionary forces by September.

An official announcement issued as to the accumulation of surplus clothing for the troops stated that the estimates were based on "troop withdrawal to be completed in September." The statement also says that "if an army of occupation is maintained after September, a portion of this surplus will be needed."

Further rebel activity in northern and southern Mexico is reported in dispatches from Mexico City, which also state that the Mexican government has undertaken to build block houses on several of the railway lines in the republic that have suffered particularly of late from attacks by the rebel bands. Eighty-six block houses are to be built on the oceanic line between Vera Cruz and Jalapa.

Discovery in New York of sixteen bombs, each put together by experts, has resulted in a general warning to government employees to be on the watch for what authorities here believe to be an anarchist plot to spread terror throughout the country.

Prediction of the department of agriculture for a wheat crop this year even larger than the record-breaking crop of 1914 was repeated by the United States chamber of commerce in a report based on statistics obtained from all sections of the country.

President Wilson says that in his opinion the labor program adopted as part of the treaty of peace constitutes one of the most important achievements in the interests of labor and should be systematically safeguarded and promoted.

A message from Nicaragua says that Costa Rican exiles met and defeated a force of Costa Rican frontier guards on the Rio Frio, near the southeastern shore of Lake Nicaragua. The frontier guards retired after the fight.

Domestic

New York newspapers have received reports from San Salvador which indicate that the earthquake which occurred there a few days ago may prove as disastrous as the great quake of 1917. No details have been received.

The world's most powerful battleship, the super-dreadnaught Tennessee, was successfully launched at the port of New York. Naval officers say the launching was one of the prettiest in the history of the navy.

With a loss estimated at one million dollars, the famous "Bowery" at Brighton Beach was wiped out in a fire which developed into the most spectacular blaze Coney Island has known in years.

Panic gripped Woodbury, N. J., for an hour when a lioness on exhibit in a circus side show killed her keeper before a small crowd of spectators, escaped from her cage and bounded into a small patch of woods adjoining the town. A posse of men and boys finally killed her.

Frank Holewinski, 35, a messenger for the Dime Savings Bank of Toledo, Ohio, was held up and robbed of a satchel containing twelve thousand dollars by two unmasked men, who got away.

Comparatively little bloodshed, it is generally stated, marked the celebrations of International Labor Day, May 1. One man as killed in Cleveland, Ohio, which is the only untoward event reported.

Following the explosion of an infernal machine addressed to former United States Senator Thomas W. Hardwick, which resulted in severe injuries to his wife, Mrs. Maude Hardwick, and their negro servant, Ethel Williams, when the latter opened it in the kitchen of their quarters at the Wynnton apartment, 789 Peachtree street, Atlanta, Ga., federal authorities linked the occurrence with a similar attempt upon the life of Mayor Ole Hanson of Seattle, Washington.

Postoffice inspectors have begun a thorough investigation of the attempt upon Senator Thomas W. Hardwick's life. The greater portion of the work will be conducted by the authorities of New York City, from which city the infernal box was sent which was meant to destroy his life and which seriously wounded his wife and a servant in the house.

Sixteen miners, two of them white men, were killed in an explosion at Majestic mines, near Birmingham, Ala. Eight men were probably fatally injured.

Falling from the roof of Delmonico's on Fifth avenue, the body of a waiter employed in the restaurant struck an elderly woman, believed to be Mrs. E. P. Whitehead, of 33 Bellevue place, Chicago, and killed her instantly. Both were watching the parade of the 165th infantry, which was passing on the streets of New York City. The waiter was removed to a hospital with a fractured skull.

A surcharge of 25 cents per 100 pounds on cotton shipped from Atlantic and gulf ports to Liverpool and London was established by the shipping board in lieu of demurrage, because of tedious delays in unloading at the English ports.

The giant troop ship Leviathan, with 12,000 soldier passengers, the last of six transports to arrive in New York, barely missed a mine by only 30 feet while off the Grand Banks of New Foundland, her officers reported when she docked.

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, was seriously injured in New York City when a taxicab in which he was riding was struck by a Broadway surface car and hurled 20 feet to the curb. Surgeons declared that there is no likelihood of the injuries proving fatal, although two of Mr. Gompers' ribs had been fractured, his right hip sprained and he suffered severe body contusions.

Lieut. C. E. Hines of Lake Charles, La., a flying instructor at Kelly Field, was killed in the fall of his airplane at San Antonio, Texas. Cadet Masse, flying with him, was but slightly injured.

MILLIONTH MAN TO EMBARK FOR HOME

THE HOMEWARD MOVEMENT OF TROOPS IS PROGRESSING IN SATISFACTORY MANNER.

ARMY IS IN FINE CONDITION

Secretary Baker Says Conditions at Brest Are Ideal, and Equally Good at Other Embarkation Ports.

New York.—The one millionth man of the American expeditionary force will embark for home next week, Secretary Baker said on his arrival here from France aboard the transport George Washington. The homeward movement of troops, Mr. Baker said, is progressing in a most satisfactory manner and he added that the 300,000 month wark, would be reached in June.

Secretary Baker left here April 7, accompanied by Warren Pershing, General Pershing's only son. He visited various points in France where American troops are quartered.

"The American army abroad is in splendid condition. The third army which I inspected on the German frontier is beyond doubt the best equipped army in the world. It is every thing that an army should be, in all its departments.

"The men are anxious to get home and we are moving them as rapidly as possible. I expect to see the 300,000 a month mark reached in June, and the one millionth man will embark for home next week.

Secretary Baker said he visited but one embarkation camp—that at Brest. "Its condition is simply ideal," he asserted, "and you can get the same expression from any doughboy on this ship. I did not see any of the others but am informed the good condition prevails at all."

RAILROAD, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE CASES ARGUED

Washington.—Authority of the director general of railroads and the postmaster general to increase intrastate railroad, telegraph and telephone rates throughout the country was argued in the supreme court in connection with appeals from proceedings originating in a number of States.

The solicitor general argued that in increasing telephone and telegraph rates the postmaster general was acting on behalf of the public, as the corporations which own the wires through government control had ceased to operate them, and acted solely as the government's agents.

"If the government didn't fix these rates, who would?" asked Justice McReynolds during the course of the solicitor general's argument.

"I suppose the states would," the solicitor general replied.

"Well, if the states fix the rate so that there should be a loss, who would pay it," the justice asked.

"The government would," Mr. King replied.

"That's what I have been trying to find out," Justice McReynolds said.

MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN INJURED IN GREAT FIRE

Columbus, O.—Fire in a downtown apartment building at midnight unquestionably has trapped many persons, police say. Men, women and children jumped from upper floors into life nets. One baby was thrown from the third floor and caught in the arms of a youth aiding the firemen. All fire apparatus had been summoned.

Scores of women who jumped from upper apartments of the seven-story building have been rushed to hospitals as seriously injured. Thirty minutes after the fire started police reported one known dead and estimated those trapped may run to 20 or 30. A dozen small children and babies in arms were tossed out of windows. The entire upper half of the building is a mass of flames and there is no way of knowing how many had all ways of escape cut off.

EMBARRASSMENTS OF THE CONFERENCE RELIEVED

Paris.—The announcement that Premier Orlando and Foreign Minister Sonnino, the leading Italian deelgates to the peace conference, had left Rome for Paris, and the further news that the Belgian crown council had given its assent to the signing of the peace treaty by the Belgian delegates regardless of the unsatisfactoriness to Belgium of the financial arrangements have resulted in relieving the embarrassments of the peace conferees.

HAWKER AND RAYNHAM HUNT NEW AIRDROME SITE

St. Johns, N. F.—Balked by continued adverse winds and weather, Harry Hawker and Captain Frederick Raynham, the British aviators seeking first honors for a trans Atlantic flight, joined forces in a hunt for a new airdrome site which will allow them to "hop off" with the wind in any quarter. At present only an easterly or westerly wind can be of service because of the narrow "two wind" fields they are using.

"BOMB" SENT TO GOVERNOR BILBO A PRACTICAL JOKE

Jackson, Miss.—Postoffice officials here declared packages received through the mails by Governor Bilbo, of Mississippi, Jackson's new mayor and a local newspaper editor, were mailed at Durant, Mississippi, that they were the inventions of persons seeking to make the three men subjects of practical jokes and that the packages addressed to the mayor and newspaper man are considered harmless.

INVITATION GIVEN ITALY'S DELEGATES

NEGOTIATIONS MAY BE RESUMED AT POINT WHERE THEY WERE BROKEN OFF.

KING ALBERT MAY NOT SIGN

All of Munich Is Now in Hands of Government Troops Excepting One Section of the City.

The Italian delegates to the peace conference, who left Paris almost abruptly when the members of the council of four representing Great Britain, France and the United States, refused to grant Italy's full claims to Fiume and the Dalmation coastal region, have been invited to come back to Paris and resume their places in the peace conference.

Paris dispatches assert that by reason of this invitation it is believed the Italians will return to the French capital and that the negotiations over the disputed points will begin again where they were left off.

The invitation of the council of three, it is understood, has in view the elimination of the personal element in the controversy and the paving of the way for a territorial adjustment acceptable to Italy when the conferees are again together.

In Belgium the dissatisfaction over the awards to Belgium has resulted in a petition being presented to King Albert, asking him to decline to affix his signature to the peace treaty. A cabinet council recalled home the three Belgian delegates for a conference which is to decide whether the conditions offered Belgium are acceptable.

All of Munich, capital of Bavaria, is now in the hands of the government troops except one section of the city.

MUCH ACCOMPLISHED BY THE OMSK GOVERNMENT

Omsk.—The Omsk government has accomplished in months what other governments saddled with similar reconstruction work have taken years to achieve. When Admiral Kolchak took control of the administration there was virtually nothing in Siberia resembling a central government.

There were remnants of the old regime, badly disorganized, and various parts of Siberia were barely able to maintain local control without affiliation, one with the other.

Utilizing the available sections of the government military forces, Kolchak continued to gain strength and recognition until at present his authority extends beyond the Urals to the Pacific. This territory embraces 70,000,000 people but there are few elements which do not acknowledge Kolchak's authority. These elements, in the opinion of competent observers would have given this recognition except for foreign interference.

GERMANS DID NOT RAISE ANY QUESTIONS AS TO ITALIANS

Versailles.—The question of Italian representation at the peace negotiations, so far as can be ascertained, has not been raised by the German delegates. Certainly it was not touched upon at the meeting of the inter-allied and German credentials commission.

The Germans had this point in reserve and, according to indication, would probably have raised it had the inter-allied representatives at the meeting questioned their right to speak for Germany, with Bavaria in rebellion, or enjoying semi-independence. However, when M. Cambon, instead, proposed an exchange of credentials for verification, the Germans were so satisfied that they did not go out of their way to seek trouble.

The Germans planned a sightseeing excursion to Trianon and Little Trianon and had requested permission to visit the historic apartments of Madame Maintenon and Marie Antoinette. The necessary permits were not received, however, and the project had to be abandoned.

ANOTHER ATTEMPT IS MADE TO ASSASSINATE CLEMENCEAU

Paris.—Another attempt to assassinate Premier Clemenceau apparently has been frustrated by the arrest of a 19 year old youth, who was seized near the entrance of M. Clemenceau's home. The youth, whose name is Cornillon, was carrying a stiletto and had in his possession anarchist literature. He declared that he did not want to kill the premier, but desired only to make a "gesture." He hails from Venay.

MAY SEND PARCELS POST TO OUR MEN OVER THERE

Washington.—On the request of the war deparement, the postmaster general has rescinded the order whereby members of the American expeditionary forces had to make a formal request through military channels to have parcels sent them from the United States. Hereafter parcels not exceeding seven pounds in weight containing mailable articles, including books, may be sent to members of the American expeditionary forces.

INTERNAL REVENUE BUREAU TO ENFORCE TAX PROVISION

Washington.—Intention of the internal revenue bureau to enforce the child labor tax provision of the revenue law, despite the action of the North Carolina federal district court in declaring the measure unconstitutional, was indicated by announcement that 20 women agents have been employed to issue age certificates to children in communities where local age records are not adequate.

EARNEST ATTEMPTS TO FIND SOLUTION

PROBABLY ABORTIVE EFFORTS TO FIND SUITABLE PORT TO REPLACE THAT OF FIUME.

BAY OF BUCCARI SUGGESTED

Other Possibilities Being Suggested In Endeavor to Find a Way Out of This Most Serious Situation.

Paris.—Earnest attempts are being made in various quarters to find a solution for the Adriatic problem which would give the Jugo-Slavs a port which could serve the main railway line into Croatia and at the same time leave Fiume to Italy.

The Temps has suggested that the port of Zena, about 30 miles south of Fiume, might be developed to meet the needs of the Jugo-Slavs. Zena, however, would require a very costly harbor works to be of any use and it is about 60 miles from the railway line.

The French Engineer Quellenec, in a letter to The Temps, suggests the bay of Buccari, which opens actually into the gulf of Fiume, and is touched by the railway from Fiume to Agram. The bay is a natural harbor, well protected, with five to six fathoms of water. The shores are suitable for the construction of quays. However, such a solution, which would place upon the shoulders of the young state the burden of developing a new port which could not be an effective substitute for Fiume for years, is unlikely to satisfy the Jugo-Slavs.

Other possibilities are being examined in order to find a way out of the difficulty which would not leave a standing ground of hostility between two neighboring nations. Suggestions like these, The Temps says, will show Italians that the spirit of good will is at work and honest attempts are being made to arrive at a just arrangement.

MAKING UP PARTIES OF REDS FOR DEPORTATION

San. Francisco.—Parties of alleged alien revolutionists are being made up in San Francisco, Seattle and other coast points for deportation as a result of the receipt of mailed bombs and other radical activities at these points, Edward White, commissioner of immigration, announced here.

The recent murder of Mrs. George D. Greenwood, Oakland society matron, by a bomb and the receipt here of infernal contrivances by District Attorney C. M. Fickert and his assistant, Edward A. Cunha, have caused the immigration authorities to redouble their efforts to round up all alien undesirables, White said.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OFFICIALS NOT ADVISED

Washington.—Officials of the department of justice were without information of the decision of Federal Judge Boyd at Greensboro, N. C., declaring the child labor section of the war revenue law unconstitutional and could not say what the next step in the case would be. It was stated, however, that the decision would not affect operation of the law unless upheld by the supreme court. As the case was brought by an employe against a cotton mill, the government having no direct part in the proceedings, it was said that the question of an appeal would have to be decided locally at Greensboro.

REGULATIONS ARE ISSUED FOR CAPITAL STOCK TAX

Washington.—Returns filed by corporations for the taxable period July 1, 1918, to June 30, 1919, under provisions ofthe law of 1916, will be used by the bureau of internal reveneu in assessing the new capital stock tax for which regulations were issued.

All corporations, joint stock companies and associations, foreign and domestic, engaged in business in this country are subject to the law unless specifically exempted.

ENEMY WARSHIP SNOT TO BE SUNK OR DESTROYED

Paris.—It is felt that the final disposition of the enemy ships is purely an inter-allied question and not one for inclusion in the treaty, which provides only for the surrender of the vessels. This action is regarded as indicating that the warships will not be sunk or destroyed.

After the enemy ships are divided among the allies each power will decide on the dispostion of its own quota.

COSTA RICAN FRONTIER GUARDS ARE DEFEATED

San Juan Del Sur, Nicaragua.—Costa Rican exiles met and defeated a force of Costa Rican frontier guards on the Rio Frio, near the southeastern shore of Lake Nicaragua, Thursday. The frontier guards retired later the fight.

According to reports reaching here a small schooner carrying revolutionists capsized in Lake Nicaragua after the skirmish on the Rio Frio. All on board, however, were rescued.

U. S. SUBMARINE CHASER BURNED AT CHARLESTON

Charleston, S .C.—United States submarine chaser No. 58 was practically destroyed by fire following an explosion of a gasoline tank. Ensign Martin, commander of the vessel, was slightly injured, as well as two seamen. Chief Behrens, of the local fire department, and 12 of his men were also injured.

The vessel was towed across the Cooper river and beached.

PERMANENT UNION COTTON GROWERS

TEMPORARY ORGANIZATION ACCOMPLISHED GREAT GOOD IN ALL SECTIONS OF SOUTH.

SAVED FARMERS $20 A BALE

Acreage in State Cut Twenty and One-Tenth Per Cent and Use of Fertilizers More Than Twenty-four.

Convinced that the temporary organization of the North Carolina Cotton Association has effected a great saving to cotton farmers already, in bringing co-operation that has improved the cotton prices and in getting reduced cotton acreage, representatives of the organization, gathered here from many of the cotton growing counties, resolved to make the temporary organization permanent, the officers being: C. J. Orrell, Chatham county, president; J. O. O'Connell, secretary, and Dr. B. W. Kilgore, treasurer.

The meeting endorsed in strong resolutions the proposed finance and exporting corporation for the cotton industry of the South, and appealed that cotton farmers invest liberally in the cotton warehousing corporation, using Liberty bonds for the purpose, if necessary. Organized here when the cotton market crisis came, while the legislature was in session as temporary expedient, the cotton association, President Orrell declared, has saved the farmers probably $20 per bale and accomplished other needed co-operative benefits. The report of Secretary O'Connell showed $9,145 raised by the association had been expended except about $27 balance in bank. Over $7,000 of this was invested in advertising, to bring about cotton holding and reduced acreage.

There was a report that acreage in this state has been cut about 20 1-10 per cent; fertilizer was reduced about 24 1-4 per cent and about 150,000 bales of cotton were held off the market for higher prices, in consequence of the campaign of the association.

Among those attending the session was W. B. Cooper, of Wilmington, author of the original cotton storage warehouse bill in the recent legislature.

Victory Loan Slogan.

"Match the navy," this is the slogan to be used in the Victory Loan campaign on May 7. Secretary Glass has designated that as "Navy day." All Victory Loan activities will then be directed to emphasize the important part taken by the navy. The navy is not only attempting to break records for subscriptions in the service but is exercising every effort to put the national campaign over the top. The officers and men of the navy service, many of whom have risked their lives, are now ready to give their dollars, and say to all, "match the navy." It had been hoped that the campaign would be over in this state by that time, but if it is not the challenge of the bluejackets is expected to be answered.

Legal Question Raised.

The question of whether or not the new machinery act does not put all sheriffs in the state back on commission basis instead of salaries, except the Buncombe county sheriff, was brought sharply to the front by the refusal of Auditor Holding, of Wake county, to pay the salaries of Sheriff Sears and his deputies for April. The "kink" is in section 101 of the machinery act, however, state officials who were in close touch with the purpose of the legislative committee in drafting the new machinery act insisted that no such result can come from the changes from the old machinery act and that all that the new law does is to allow the sheriffs in the state, whether on salary or commission, a fixed additional compensation of five per cent on all special license and privilege taxes collected for the state.

New Horticultural Worker.

Mr. L. H. Nelson, a graduate of the Kentucky Agricultural College, class of '16, has been secured by the Agricultural Experiment Station as Assistant in the Division of Horticulture. Mr. Nelson will have charge of the investigation work in connection with truck crops, and will spend considerable of his time in the near future at work with the sweet potato. He comes to the Experiment Station after a service of over a year in the army. Previously he worked at the eKntucky Experiment Station.

General Pershing Hotel.

General Pershing is the name of a hotel company chartered by the Secretary of State for Laurel Hill, Rutherford county. The incorporators are C. L. Miller, W. A. Harrel of Rutherfordton, and W. A. W. LeGette, of Caroleen.

Another corporation chartered was the Inland Navigation Company of New Bern, with $300,000 authorized capital and $14,000 subscribed. The incorporators are Fred D. Doty and Frank J. Hill, of Norfolk, and W. B. Rodman Guion, of New Bern.

Divorces Are Increasing.

Divorces are on the increase in the United States. North Carolina has fewer to her population than most other States, but the rate there is going up. In 1916 North Carolina had 2,172,952 people within her borders. That year she had 21,337 marriages, and 668 divorces, that was 31 per 100,000 population. In 1906 the rate of divorces per 100,000 was 18, in 1900 it was 24, and 1890 but 12.

Buncombe county head the North Carolina list in 1916 with 43 divorces.

Merchants Mutual Organizes.

The organization meeting of the Merchants Mutual Fire Insurance Co. of North Carolina promoted by the State Merchants' Association, was held at the Yarborough hotel. Mr. R. B. Peters, of Tarboro, was chairman of the meeting and J. Paul Leonard, of Statesville, served as secretary.

The object of the meeting was explained by Mr. J. F. Morris, of Winston-Salem, while Mr. J. R. Young, State Insurance Commissioner, was presented to help the gathering over any difficulties.

Between twenty-five and thirty merchants of the State were present for the adoption of the constitution and by-laws of the company and the election of directors.

The company starts off with a guarantee fund of $25,000 and will have its home office in Statesville with the headquarters of the North Carolina Merchants Association.

Governor Approves Sentence.

The first court martial sentence in the history of the North Carolina Reserve Militia, the State military organization generally known in respective locations as the home guards, has been approved by Governor Bickett. Private Henry Link of Lexington was the offender and he was fined $20 and ordered to apologize and submit to reprimand in the presence of the officers and men of the 39th company, N. C., R. M.

The court martial was held in Lexington, Capt. C. C. Rush of the 20th company sitting as president and Captain George Maurice of the 39th company as judge advocate. Private Link was charged with failure to report at a fixed time for drill and with disobeying the command of his superior officer, Second Lieutenant J. E. Foy. He plead guilty to both counts and the judgment of the court was that he pay a fine of $20, be reprimanded in the presence of the company and make a full apology to the men and officers of the outfit.

The finding was sent to Governor Bickett and approved by him and by command of Adjutant General Royster, commander of the court martial, will be imposed.

Postoffice Classes Raised.

Ten North Carolina postoffices are entitled to an advanced classification after July 1, 1919—that is, they will be accorded a second-class instead of a third-class rating. The Tar Heel towns sharing the fortunes of increased prosperity and the resultant effect of a higher class rating from the United States Postoffice Department are West Raleigh, Wake county; Canton, Haywood county; Smithfield, Johnston county; Southport, Brunswick county; Biltmore, Buncombe county; Clinton, Sampson county; Pinehurst, Moore county; Warrenton, Warren county; Weldon, Halifax county; Williamston, Martin county.

The advancement is not only a boost to civic pride, but the pay envelope of the postmaster is enhanced—his salary being $2,000 and allowance for clerical assistance commensurate with the needs of the office.

"Kirmess" to Be Presented.

Under the auspices of the Raleigh Woman's Club the Kirmess with a cast of about 400 will be presented here May 7, 8 and 9, with a matinee on the later date. It will be the most brilliant social event of the season and perhaps the most elaborate performance the club has ever undertaken. Practically every member of Raleigh's younger social set will take part from the tiny tots on up to the prettiest debutantes.

The Kirmess, a brilliant presentation of the singing, dancing and merry-making of the most picturesque and poetical nations of the world, will be divided into scenes, each one separate and distinct. It has been presented in practically every large city in the United States and Canada. The fact that several hundred people take part gives some idea of the magnitude. In the spectacular opening scene which will include the crowning of the king and queen, every member of the Kirmess takes part, the stage setting to be most elaborate. The choruses are catchy and tuneful. The drills, dances and marches light and graceful. Over a hundred young people take part in the scene. "A Night in Koko's Garden," in which all the principal scenes and characters of the famous opera, "The Mikado," will be used in all their Oriental splendor.

Bond Issue Validated.

The Supreme Court validated a $225,000 bond issue of the Central Highway Commission of Person county, issued under an act of the 1917 session of the General Assembly and amended in 1919, the amendment not having been passed under the prescribed form of the Constitution requiring three separate readings. The court held that where the amendment does not increase the amount of the issue or the burden of taxation, failure to follow the constitutional form will not invalidate bonds.

To Launch First Ship.

"We expect to launch our first ship about September 1, and on that occasion we feel like we will be entitled to the presence of Secretary Daniels, Senator Simmons and probably some other prominent North Carolinians," said Frederick E. Engstrum, of New Bern. Mr. Engstrum is one of the officials of the Newport Shipbuilding Company, which is building nine concrete ships at New Bern. Keels for the ships are being laid now. The last one will be launched about the first of next March.

Scott Starts Investigation.

To investigate fires in Reidsville which, within twenty-four hours have resulted in the death of eight persons including Mrs. Alfred Galloway and her three children, Capt. W. A. Scott of the fire and accident prevention bureau of the State Insurance Department, has been ordered to Reidsville by Insurance Commissioner Young. In addition, Mrs. John R. Cunningham, a worker in the department, has been directed to go to Reidsville and through an organization of the women to start a crusade of precautions

OVER THE LAND OF THE LONG LEAF PINE

SHORT NOTES OF INTEREST TO CAROLINIANS.

Greensboro.—Judge Boyd, in federal court here heard argument in the Johnson vs. Atherton Cotton Mills, of Charlotte, a case brought to test the child labor tax provision in the federal revenue act.

Hickory.—City council has purchased $7,500 of Victory Liberty bonds for the sinking fund.

Allen.—Mrs. Isabel J. Robinson, aged 82 years, was found dead in bed at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Matilda Walters. The deceased had been in ill health for several months.

Raleigh.—William B. McCain, wire chief at the local plant of the Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, is in Rex Hospital with serious injuries as a result of being thrown while riding a pony.

Henderson.—With only a quota of $351,400, subscriptions to the amount of $376,950 were announced as having been obtained in Vance for the Victory Loan, and the Boy Scouts and others were still busy soliciting.

Kinston.—Prospects for the 1919 tobacco crop in the eastern belt are excellent, according to experts here. There will be little change in the acreage from last year. Tobacconists predict that the price will remain high for weed of better grades. Plants are generally plentiful, and escaped appreciable damage from the recent frosts.

Hickory.—The Hickory Electric Co. owner of the local telephone franchise, announced that it was to begin erection as soon as plans could be drawn of a modern exchange building on the corner of 11th avenue and 14th streets, of two stories and a basement. Work expected to begin within 30 days.

Kinston.—Henry Page, who headed the food administration in North Carolina during the war and earned nation-wide fame by the efficiency of his organization, will make the Memorial Day address here May 10.

Wilmington.—Only slight damage to the truck crop from frost was reported. Strawberries were slightly damaged but it is pointed out that new blooms will come for nearly every one killed.

Asheville—The remains of an unknown man, apparently a tramp, were found on the tracks of the Southern railroad this morning about three miles east of Old Fort. The body was horribly mangled and has not yet been identified. A bottle of whiskey and $10 were found on the body.

Rocky Mount.—Lee Miller, former captain in the army military police service at Camp Travis, Texas, has arrived in the city to begin duties as assistant postmaster. Mr. Miller received his honorable discharge from the service several weeks ago.

The first form of entertainment for soldiers of Company B, 120th Infantry, Company A, 105th Supply Train and Headquarters Company 60th Brigade—three Raleigh infantry organizations of the 30th Division—will be a dinner.

Elizabeth City.—Potatoes and other truck crops in the North Carolina coastal section were extensively damaged by a heavy frost.

Henderson.—The local Victory loan committee announced that Vance county had oversubscribed its quota of $351,400, making it the first county in North Carolina to go "over the top."

New Bern.—New Bern and Craven county and the four adjoining counties of Onslow, Carteret, Jones and Pamlico, united in giving the returned soldiers and sailors a "welcome home" celebration, and it was a great success from every standpoint.

Fayetteville.—An active recruiting campaign to secure additional personnel of the 276th aero squadron, the organization manning Pope Field, the aeronautical station attached to Camp Bragg, is being planned.

Chapel Hill.—"Junior Week" activities at the State University were fittingly brought to a close with elaborate smokers in the two literary society halls, thus ending the three holidays which were crammed full of varied and interesting events, including dances, stunts and athletic games.

Wadesboro.—Convicted of murder in the first degree for the killing last fall of a white man named Will Honeycutt, Doll Little, colored, was sentenced by Judge T. J. Shaw to suffer death by electrocution.

Spencer.—Spencer celebrated Victory Loan day with a big demonstration and with a strong speech by Hon. Cameron Morrison, of Charlotte. He was heard by several thousand railroad men. A battle-scarred tank from France was a feature of the parade, and Victory Bonds sold briskly.

Reidsville.—Mrs. Alfred Scales Galloway, prominent in social life of the town and state, and her three children were burned to death in a fire which gutted their home on Main street.

Fayetteville.—Tom Osborne, negro night watchman at Dr. Frank N. Evans' veterinary hospital, who was found asphyxiated in Dr. Evans' office, regained consciousness in the Cumberland General hospital twelve hours after he was discovered in an unconscious condition.