THE COURIER

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THE MOST WONDERFUL YEAR IN HISTORY

Its Gloomy Beginning, and Its Triumphant Close With a New Europe Springing From The Wreck of Feudal Empires.

The year which has just gone is [illegible] ure of the tunnel. It is the first since 1914 which has not been a black year [illegible] was says the Springfield Republican. As 1918 went on we began to see faint streaks of daylight ahead, and murky and fitful as the gleam may be, we have come to the end of the tunnel. Grave problems still perplex the world, but the year ends with new hope; it is a year with no mate in history but the year of Waterloo. Yet its first half was the darkest period of the whole world war, and no year has seen such sudden, thrilling and dramatic changes. As in previous years the history of the world had by degrees become the history of the spreading war, so in the year now past the history of the war became the history of a single battle, "the battle of 1918." From the dawn of March 21 to 11 a. m. November 11 it raged, a battle of 235 days without intermission and only relative lulls. It began with the allies in desperate peril, and it did not end till a beaten Germany had capitulated. And most amazing of all, while the battle was in progress the great part of an American army of 2,000,000 men was ferried across 3000 miles of ocean to save the day for the allies; it is useless to look in history for even a remote parallel. In this country there has been no disposition [illegible] contribution of the United States, but as the year ends it is well to recall quite explicitly that without that contribution if there had been any dictation of peace terms the dictation would not have been by the entente.

War and Revolution

But while the battle of 1918, as the stupendous and culminating conflict of the war absorbed attention to a degree unequaled since the first battle of the Marne saved France, the war during the past year has not to the same extent as formerly summed up the current history of the world. A great part of the world on the contrary was weary of the war, and was turning away from it to pursue other aims quite incompatible with war, and to this fact rather than to military causes were due the astonishing fluctuations of fortune. If the allies a year ago were in dire straits, it was because the new drift had first affected Russia; if the end of the year gave them a triumph beyond all expectation it was because the new drift had passed the Russian border and affected the central empires. Looking backward we can more clearly see that these amazing changes had a common cause in the fact that the overstrained peoples of Europe were turning from war to revolution. These are the two strands of which the history of the year [illegible] has run out, but the other links the past with a future which, though lowering enough, is shot with gleams of hope such as the mere cessation of war could not give. Peace after war is a great blessing, but negative; revolution at least offers the possibility of great constructive reforms. Europe is in grave peril, but the decisive step has been taken without which it could not have [illegible] over to the side of democracy. Whether the years to come are good or bad will depend more on the fortunes of revolution than on any other one thing.

FERTILIZER MESSAGE AND PLANT FOOD POINTERS

(By D. S. Coltrane, County Agent)

To farm intelligently it is well to know what the soil is: that it consists of water, air, organic matter, bacteria and rock particles containing mineral and plant food, and it is well to know how to modify these to the advantage of the plant.

Water dissolves plant food, conveys it to the growing plants, and is a plant food itself.

Soil air supplies plant food, feeds soil bacteria and aids in germination.

Organic matter improves the tilth and aeration and increases the water holding capacity of the soil; serves as plant food and helps render some of the natural plant food in the soil available.

Soil plant food consists of nitrogen, phosphoric acid, potash, lime, sulphur, iron and magnesium.

Nitrogen promotes leaf and stem growth, increases the proportion of stalk to fruit and hastens the blooming period by hastening the plant's growth.

Phosphoric acid promotes root development, gives a vigorous early start to plants, hastens the maturity of crops.

Potash promotes starch development, improves the plant [illegible] and renders it more resistant to disease.

Acid phosphate is made by treating ground rock phosphate with sulphuric acid which makes the phosphorus available.

Mr. Peter Garner Dead

Mr. Peter Garner, a former citizen of Flint Springs neighborhood, died at the home of his son-in-law, Thomas Hobson of Franklinville Saturday. Mr. Garner had been living in Greensboro for fourteen years. He came to Franklinville on a visit and was stricken with paralysis. [illegible] buried [illegible] Flag Springs [illegible] daughter, Mrs. [illegible] Moore [illegible] Asheboro.

Corporal J. W. Ivey, of Ramseur

Corporal J. W. Ivey writes his father N. F. Ivey, of Ramseur, on "Daddy's Day" November 24, as follows:

I was in Danlcon, France, the day the armistice was signed. We spent [illegible] Aubange, Belgium, and spent two days there, and had a real bed to sleep [illegible] since I left home. I had 10 kids in room with us and I couldn't talk to them or they couldn't talk to us, but they seemed to enjoy themselves.

I am in Lorentzweiler, Luxemburg, tonight and expect to spend a few days here. I have a good house to live in, water and electric lights, a good stove and plenty of wood. So you know I am enjoying myself, and seeing lots. I am seeing more of this country every day, and riding on trucks. We have 25 trucks, one Dodge and a motorcycle. I guess when you receive this letter I will be in Germany, expect to be on the Rhine within 10 days, don't have any idea how long we will spend there. Hope to go home from there, go right out the mouth of the Rhine. Guess there are about 800,000 ahead of me if they take them back like they came over. It looks now like I will get back home all O. K. and in good health. I haven't been sick since I landed over here.

We landed May 30, so I expect to get a service stripe the 30th of this month.

Well, father, I think we have done our part over here. We commenced to haul ammunition at the battle of Chateau Thierry [illegible] night in that battle and then moved over to the Verdun front and put the [illegible] hauling, have 16 loads taking to Germany with us. Hope I will receive the candy O. K. We just bought $6 worth of candy and that was about as much as three men could eat and was not as good as the United States candy.

Be sure to save one country ham and some eggs until I get back, fresh meat is $2 a pound and eggs 50c each, so you know am not having ham and eggs. Well, I must close, wishing you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, and that I will spend the next one at home.

Somewhere in France, Nov. 228.

Mr. L. J. Allen:

Will write you a letter to let you hear from me. I am well and having a very good time. Hope you are well and having a good time. I am in France, [illegible] miles from Le Mans. I first landed at Liverpool, England. I had a nice time crossing the ocean. I went from Liverpool to Winchester and from Winchester to South Hampton, and then took the ship for France. It sure was some ride. I hope you are having a good time, as it is Thanksgiving [illegible] little too rough to have much of a good time. I don't know whether I will get home by Christmas or not, but if I don't, I hope you will have a good time anyway. You need not be uneasy about me. [illegible] right. I will close for this time, hoping to get a letter from you before long. I will write again soon, with love and best wishes, I am as ever,

PRIVATE EL... ALLEN,
8th [illegible] O. A. R. D. Camp Hancock.
A. E. F.

Sergeant Charles [illegible] Cranford

Dear Mr. Hammer:

Have not written to you since we emerged from the battle of the Argonne Forest September 26. And I take this opportunity to thank you for your assistance in straightening out my allotment.

We were seven days in the Argonne Forest and [illegible] occurred except the battle of Chateau Thierry. Our division distinguished itself and was mentioned in general orders.

I went up with an advanced field hospital, known as an army corps triage. Came out all O. K., with the exception of being gassed. I went through the war without a wound and after the armistice was signed a shell blew up with me and filled my eyes with hot lead. And the other day I fell out of a truck and broke my finger, and now I have rheumatism.

Have seen nothing of the 30th division [illegible] British and are now on their way to the states. But we are less fortunate for it is generally understood that we will not return to the states for [illegible] six or eight months, and during that time [illegible]

The weather here is a fright, the temperature is moderate but it rains nearly all the time, and that makes it very disagreeable.

As the American E. F. will assemble at [illegible] for the purpose of partaking of —— beans, I will close.

I remain yours very truly,
SGT. WADE CRANFORD,
Field Hospital 140, 110 Sanitary Train, 35 Division A. E. F. [illegible]

Mechanic George Kivett

A letter received by Mrs. S. W. Kivett, from Mechanic George Kivett, of Company K, 120th Infantry:

Dear Mother:

I received your letter yesterday and am answering tonight. It has been raining here for about two weeks and no prospects of any fair weather. I would like to see the sun shine once [illegible] about [illegible] by

Corporal Clifton C. Presnell, Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Presnell, of Asheboro

Corporal Presnell is a member of the Chemical Warfare Service and delivers gas masks to the soldiers, taking them directly from the factories to the men. He left Randolph County November 2, 1917, and went to Camp Jackson, From there he was sent to Hoboken, from which place he sailed, arriving in France in March.

NORTH CAROLINIANS CASUALTY LIST

Died of wounds—Jurney L. Short, Fremont.

Died of disease—Walter Parker, Rocky Mount.

Wounded severely—Lodwick H. White, Colerane; James L. Cabe, Bryson City; ROBERT T. LLOYD, Randleman Route 3; William L. Pipkin, Washington; Oscar Quick, Gibson; Gerret Zuidan, Charlotte; William A. King, Westveld; D. C. Boyette, Lucama; Fred Brown, Reidsville.

Marine corps casualties:

Missing in action—Henry S. Rippy, Winston-Salem; James N. Roberson, Saxapahaw.

In hospital, previously reported missing in action—Private Graydon C. Ledford, Haysville.

Killed in action—Charles S. Cratt, Rosemary; Fred J. Smith, Statesville; Joseph H. Johnson, Chapel Hill; Dennis S. Twilford, Eastlake.

Died of accident or other cause—James E. Holloway, West Raleigh.

Wounded severely—John C. Morgan, Flats; Arthur B. Wicker, Sanford; Scott Alford, Fairbluff; Eddie Birchmore, [illegible] Ellis, [illegible] level; Melvin Mathis, Willa de Gillie [illegible] Eugene Price, Oak City.

Wounded, degree undetermined—[illegible] Pittman, Enville Falls; C. L. Gambill, North Wilkesboro.

Missing in action—Howard P. Webster [illegible]

asking the company. We don't find out much here. You spoke about seeing [illegible] until the night before [illegible] went over the top [illegible] did not know [illegible] killed until the next day. [illegible] went over and found him and [illegible] others [illegible] Carl and some of the others [illegible] the field [illegible] to the [illegible] men. We all [illegible] to the 120th Infantry. [illegible] from me. Don't worry about him as he was well cared for and has gone to a better world.

Well, Lieutenants Walker and Lovett and Carl are over looking for the graves of those lost in our company. They have been gone about ten days, so we are expecting them back. We are all homesick and can't find out when we will get to come but I am now ready as we are still in the back woods.

Tell Arch Winslow's mother he is all right and back with the company. Most of the boys are back from the hospitals.

I haven't received my Christmas package yet but as soon as I do I will write you. I will be so glad to get the watch and other things as I am using one of Jerry's watches. It is a good time keeper and came from the famous [illegible] about.

I have been in the transport company since we left Belgium and I've been drawing pay as a wheelright. We do all the hauling for the 3rd battalion and when the company was in the trenches we hauled the hash up to them. We had some hot times, believe me, although we did not get closer than three miles in the day time, but that was close enough for such a number of horses and wagons and men. At night was when we carried the food to the men.

I could write much more but will write again soon.

With love to all,
Good night,
GEORGE.

Zimmie F. Caveness

Dear Father and Mother:

I am still living and feeling very good. Yes, the war is over and I am sure glad, for it was an awful thing to experience.

I didn't get a scratch except I got my big toe mashed in Belgium. It is still black as your old hat, but I don't guess I will get a wound stripe for that, and I don't want one.

I can't tell when we will sail for the U. S. A. Hope it will not be so long. Dad, I will get a German pistol for you for a souvenir. I didn't spend much time collecting souvenirs when we were at the front.

I saw some Company K boys the other day. Some of them had a hard day, as so many have had. [illegible] sleep on a stone floor, and the stones are not all flat, but I consider it lucky at that; it beats a muddy dugout with shells falling around you.

I have seen lots of things since I've been over here, some I wish I could forget. I will tell you something when I see you, and I hope to see you soon.

With much love, as ever,
Your Boy,
ZIM.

TIMBER RESOURCES MONTGOMERY COUNTY

North Carolina Geological and Economic Survey has issued a press bulletin dated November 30, 1918, giving the timber resources of Montgomery county. It contains much valuable information about timber of the county which is making rapid strides in improvement.

Montgomery county lies in the south central part of the State and is one of the extreme southeastern counties of the Piedmont region. In size it is very near the average North Carolina county, having an area, according to the United States Census of 1910, of 318,720 acres. The surface varies from gently rolling or almost level in the Sandhill region of the extreme southeast to hilly and broken along the western side where the Uwharrie mountains, a range of rough hills, runs nearly north and south along the east side of the Uwharrie and Pee Dee rivers. The larger part of the county is drained towards the south by Little river and by other smaller tributaries of the Pee Dee; and towards the west by that river itself and the lower reaches of the Uwharrie river which flows into it. The Sandhill section is drained by Drowning and Naked creeks which flow southwestward into Lumber river. With the exception of the large dam at Badin which backs up the waters of the Yadkin or Pee Dee river over parts of both Stanly and Montgomery counties, there are no important water power developments. There is large undeveloped, but probably already pre-empted power on the river below Badin and some small powers on the creeks.

The soils are chiefly residual from the slates and sandstones common to this region. In the western belt much of the soil is the heavy red clay resulting from the decomposition of the granite rocks of the Uwharrie mountain belt. On the rolling lands between the mountains many fertile farms are found but the steep stony hills are all uncleared. Through the central district the soils are chiefly clay loams and sandy loams residual from the slates, shales and sandstones common to this region. Some of these which were extensively cultivated in the slave days have been so seriously eroded by subsequent neglect that their present value is greatly reduced. The Sandhill region is covered with several feet of sedimentary sand. Where this layer of sand is comparatively thin good crops are produced, but recent development is mostly along the improved sand clay roads.

The chief crops of the county are corn, cotton, and small grain, supplemented in places with the various legumes. Fruit is grown successfully especially in the eastern part. The sawmill business of the past fifty years which is now beginning to decline [illegible]

Transportation facilities have been much improved in recent years. The greater part of Montgomery is now within [illegible] of the Norfolk Southern Railway [illegible] the county [illegible] is from north to south [illegible] west corner, including Eldorado township, is, however, still somewhat remote [illegible] the Badin dam [illegible] the railroad [illegible] of the lake [illegible] feet to Badin [illegible] township within [illegible] et. A good beginning has been made in the construction of improved roads, but the township system of construction and the lack of some adequate system of maintenance is greatly retarding the work. Montgomery is not alone in its lack of sign boards, though this is especially noticeable. Barely half a dozen legible guide boards were seen, one of which read as follows, "To Jackson Springs, Currie's Farm, Hoffman, Panama, Cape Horn and all points south."

The land is mostly held in small farms by the resident owners, although too many owners live in the neighboring towns. Approximately 30 per cent of the area of the county is a total of about sixty holdings exceed 500 acres each in extent. The sale value of land varies from $10 to $35 an acre or more, the higher values appearing favorably situated and more than ordinarily productive farms. The tax valuation ranges from $3 to [illegible] per acre, or an average for the county of about $6 per acre.

Gold mining has been one of the important industries of Montgomery, but at the present time (September, 1917), only one mine is in operation. This is the Coggins mine in Eldorado township, well known in the mining history of the State. Prospecting for coal is now proceeding near Harrisville and it is said that a coal bed of encouraging discription has been found.

A mixed hardwood and pine forest once covered all but the southeast corner of Montgomery. Longleaf pine occurred on the flat ridges through the central district, but shortleaf predominated on the slopes and hills and throughout the western belt. Most of the timber, which until recently was abundant on both the original forest areas and the old fields which have been abandoned and have grown up to pine since the Civil War, has been cut within the past fifteen years. At the present time about 70 per cent of the area of the county is forested, though nearly all of this has been more or less cut over.

The forest types correspond quite closely with the three chief drainage areas. The western belt, drained by the Uwharrie and Pee Dee rivers, supports the hardwood and pine forest of the Piedmont. Practically all the pine is shortleaf, though some loblolly has come in at its southern end and a little scrub pine is found in the rougher hills. Some longleaf trees are found in a few places up to within two or three miles of the Pee Dee. The various species of oak, chiefly white, post, chestnut, scarlet, spanish, red and black oaks, comprise the principal part of the merchantable hardwood throughout the county, though some little sweet-gum and an occasional poplar, red maple, hickory, ash, etc. is seen.

The large central and northern district, drained by the waters of Little river, is a region of longleaf and shortleaf hills. Longleaf pine occurred in almost pure stands on most of the level and gently rolling ridges, while shortleaf was the common pine on the slopes and rougher hills. Within comparatively recent years loblolly has come in to such an extent that it now comprises from 20 to 30 per cent of the pine timber throughout the southern half of the area, while in the northern part of it from 1 to 60 per cent is of this species. At the present time perhaps 5 per cent of the pine in this district is longleaf, chiefly old and cull trees. In the south central part near Little river are some level, poorly drained areas of black land which now support and possibly have supported pure stands of loblolly pine. [illegible] over two or three [illegible] and could be cut on periodically [illegible] proper precautions were taken [illegible] seeding and prevent fire.

Taking these two districts together which comprise [illegible] per cent of the total area of the county [illegible] forest is now [illegible] "old field" and [illegible] forest [illegible]

[illegible]

1,000 feet per acre in the central district.

The Sandhill region, drained chiefly by the waters of Lumber river, occupies about one-seventh of the area of the county. This is a region of pure longleaf pine forest [illegible] been thoroughly cut over until there is barely 5 million feet of cull timber on the whole type. The second growth consists of scrub oak, with an inadequate stand of young longleaf pine in places.

The total estimated stand of timber for the county, including the denuded sandhills is second-growth pine 174,000 M.; oak 40,000 M.; old-growth pine, of which about half is shortleaf and half longleaf, 12,000 M. There is also a very small amount of poplar and sweet gum, with here and there a small hickory tree. The pine is chiefly of small size and the oak of inferior quality, suitable chiefly for ties. There was formerly some dogwood and red cedar, but little or none of this is now left.

For some time lumbering has been the chief industry. During the year 1917, approximately 42,000 M. feet of lumber was cut by seventy sawmills. Of this amount about 85 per cent was second-growth pine, probably about half loblolly and half shortleaf, 3 per cent old-growth shortleaf, 5 per cent old-growth longleaf and 7 per cent oak. A few thousand feet of poplar was also cut. The oak is cut into ties, though a little is used for car flooring and furniture stock. Sawmilling is carried on here in much the same way as in the neighboring counties. Portable mills employing from four to ten men at the mill and as many in the woods and cutting from 2 M. feet a day up are worked either all the year round or else during the part of the year when farm work is slackest, i. e., from harvest to wheat sowing time and from then on through the winter. This latter is the most common. Many mill men cut by contract at from $5.50 to $6.50 per M. feet for cutting, logging, sawing and piling the lumber. Prices of standing timber vary from $2 to $10 per M. according to kind, quality and distance from market, the latter figure having been quoted for longleaf pine. Hauling the lumber to the railroad is also done by contract and costs from fifty to seventy cents [illegible] M. feet per mile of haul. [illegible] a large number of crossties [illegible] are produced [illegible] these are white oak ties which [illegible] 1917, 68 [illegible] each for first-class [illegible] cents for second [illegible] were [illegible] 12 cents and [illegible] class [illegible] were [illegible] the [illegible] $2.00 to $5 [illegible] a small [illegible] wood [illegible] Most of the [illegible] was [illegible] seven [illegible] six of [illegible] 26,000 M. feet in 1917 [illegible] Most [illegible] flooring [illegible] building material [illegible] tele[illegible] logs [illegible] straight [illegible] used for this purpose.

From the estimates made, it appears that at the present rate of cutting the timber which is now merchantable would last for five or six years more. However, the present stand is in many cases so scattered that much of the timber will not pay to go after. The industry is already declining and there is not enough young growth in sight to maintain it at its present importance. However, the development of agriculture needs the energy and labor which has heretofore gone into lumbering and the county will no doubt benefit by the enforced reorganization of the lumber business. The forests hereafter must be managed as part of the farm and be carried along with the farm.

More damage from fire was seen [illegible] of in Montgomery than [illegible] nearby county. Both north and south from Troy, in the Uwharrie mountains, and all over the Sandhill region the sad evidence of destructive fire was seen. On all sides one heard of sawmill fires, railroad fires, cigarette fires, farming fires and incendiary fires, but nothing was heard of anyone having been prosecuted for setting them, although the landowners must realize the damage they do. Not until the forest land is recognized as a part of the farm which must yield as large a crop as posible and hence be given rational treatment, will the present wholesale destruction of future revenue cease. Opportunity must be given cut-over areas which are not needed for farming to reseed with pine; loblolly where it will grow, longleaf or shortleaf in the parts where loblolly does not thrive. Fire must be kept down, for young shortleaf and loblolly pines are easily killed even by a light fire, and these are the most valuable trees for the landowner to grow.

INFLUENZA RAGING IN ASHEBORO ATTACKS COURIER FORCE

During the past few days many of the people of the town have been stricken with influenza, few homes having every person confined to bed.

The disease seems in lighter form than it did during the first Epidemic which was visited upon the town during the first of November. The Courier force has been so afflicted, having three members out, that we are unable to appear in usual form. We feel sure our readers will understand the unfortunate sitution. It is under difficulties that we appear at all. We hope by next week to make our usual appearance.

DESSERTS

Chocolate and Bread Pudding

1 cup of bread crumbs,
2 cups scalded milk,
2 squares chocolate,
1-4 cup boiling water,
1-2 cup sugar or
1-2 cup syrup and sugar.
1 egg.
1 teaspoon vanilla,
Pinch of salt,

Add the bread crumbs to the scalded milk and allow them to soak until soft; melt the chocolate and add the boiling water to it, stirring until a smooth paste is formed, add this to the bread mixture; beat the egg (whole) with the sugar and salt, combine the mixtures, add the vanilla, pour into an oiled baking dish and bake in very moderate oven about 20 minutes. Too hot oven will cause it to separate. Serve with plain, whipped cream and lemon sauce.

Bread Pudding With Prunes

1 cup prunes,
1-3 cup sugar,
4 slices of bread (buttered),
1 cup milk,
1 egg,
Salt to taste.

Use cooked prunes and remove the stones. Break the buttered bread (toast may be used and put in baking dish alternate layers of prunes and bread crumbs. Beat the egg yolk, add sugar or syrup and milk, and when smooth pour over the bread, place in moderate oven and bake until custard is stiff. Cover for the first [illegible] minutes, serve with a lemon sauce.