

The Charlotte News.



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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Table with subscription rates for The Charlotte News (Daily and Sunday) and Times-Democrat.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1914.

WAR PREPAREDNESS INVESTIGATION.

The United States is spending something like two hundred and fifty million dollars annually on her army and her navy.

Just now there is an effort on foot to investigate our preparedness for war. President Wilson is not opposed to the investigation, and we do not suppose that any one is.

But the president is opposed, and not without good reason, to a noisy investigation at this time, mainly because while Europe is embroiled in war, the time seems not opportune for such investigation.

A quiet, earnest investigation would not, perhaps, be harmful but there are reasons to believe that the jingoes are planning to use this opportunity to push their ambitions.

We think the New York World sums the matter up sensibly in the following: "If the United States army, the United States navy and the United States coast defenses are all inadequate, the blame certainly does not rest upon President Wilson or the democratic party."

"It rests upon the republican party, which under McKinley, Roosevelt and Taft was in continuous control of the government for sixteen years up to March 4, 1913.

"In 1908, the last year of the Roosevelt administration, the appropriations for the army were \$78,634,582.75; the appropriations for the navy were \$38,958,507.50. In 1914 the appropriations for the army were \$94,266,145.41; the appropriations for the navy were \$140,718,434.33.

"We are spending over \$40,000,000 a year more on the navy than we spent when Roosevelt was president, and \$13,000,000 a year more on the army. Why, then, should the country be asked to believe that the president and congress are starving the army and navy to death, and leaving the United States at the mercy of any casual invader?"

"The World was disposed to favor Representative Gardner's resolution for an investigation of the preparedness of the United States for a defensive war, it seemed that the American people had a right to know whether they were getting a dollar's worth of military protection for every dollar they spend, and they spend nearly \$250,000,000 every year for the purpose. It seemed also that they had a right to know whether due heed was being paid by their military experts to the lessons of the war. It begins to look, however, as if the Gardner resolution was not the prelude to a sober, scientific inquiry, but the prelude to a new political jingo demonstration. In short, that it is more of a campaign against the United States Treasury than against any probable foe.

"No sooner does Mr. Wilson ask the representative from Massachusetts to discuss the question with him personally than Mr. Gardner rushes into print with a statement that 'I am very much afraid that the president means to lay the cold hand of death upon the whole movement.' Mr. Wilson does not happen to be the son-in-law of Henry Cabot Lodge, but we think he is quite as intelligent, quite as patriotic and quite as desirous of safeguarding the United States from attack as the gentleman from Massachusetts, whose resolution has been turned into a general assault upon the administration and war blatherskites of the country, reinforced by an army of republican politicians trying to manufacture a campaign issue.

"This question of preparedness, if it is to be discussed at all, ought to be discussed soberly, seriously, honestly, and by men who know what they are talking about. If the issue has been raised merely to cover partisan politics and pocketbook jingoism with a mask of patriotism, it is a manifestation of moral treason to the nation."

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"Store a little sunshine in your heart and the gray days will be easier," philosophizes the Columbia States. A square meal stored in the stomach will also brighten them up a bit, Bob.

The Winston-Salem Journal is conducting a "stocking fund." Spartanburg can't understand what they mean by "stocking fund."

As the Christmas period approaches we praise the memory of the man who invented the five and ten cent store.

It seems that the prevailing color in those Columbia blue law stories was yellow.

Quite naturally enough British suffragettes wanted to be male carriers. "Progressives will not disband," reads a headline. Disband what?

Is it a breach of neutrality or of digestion to eat German cheese?

Will some kind official declare the hookworm contraband of war?

"It's a long road to Tipperary," but don't sing about it.

Some fellows are spugs the entire year through.

Why not make it unneutral to talk war talk?

MARKET IN GREECE MIGHT BE OPENED TO AMERICANS

(BY GEORGE H. MANNING.)

Washington, Dec. 5.—"Any first-class article of American manufacture could be sold in Greece if properly brought to the attention of the buyers.

This is what Consul General Alexander W. Wendell, at Athens, Greece, says in his report to the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce, in regard to the opportunity of American supplying the Greeks with all kinds of manufactured articles and establishing a permanent trade with the European producers' export facilities are cut off. And Mr. Wendell's report is very similar to others being received daily from all over the world urging the American producers to run their factories night and day and take advantage of the inability of the European countries to supply their regular trade, and capture an open market which can be easily held if first class articles are supplied and proper business methods used.

"Greece is practically without industries," says Consul General Wendell, "and for this reason is largely dependent upon the outside world for all sorts of manufactured products, and in many lines of agriculture, notably cereals, the domestic production is insufficient for home consumption.

"Within the past few months the local sale of foreign products has radically changed. Until the outbreak of hostilities, Athens and other cities were well canvassed by representatives of foreign manufacturers and producers in various lines, but these have been recalled, either to join the colors or because their principals would be unable to fill orders it sent in."

The Greek government which bought two battleships from the United States for \$12,000,000 a few weeks before the outbreak of the European war evidently intends to put its army on a much better war footing also as Consul General Wendell says the government is in the market for aeroplanes and hydroplanes, ready-made khaki suits, swords for cavalry and artillery, automobiles, army trucks, ammunition wagons with two wheels, for horses; field telephones, Texas horses, horse feed, knapsacks, and belts for cartridges, woolen blankets, woolen khaki, cotton twills, army shoes of light weight and numerous other articles.

Rev. H. T. Moffitt, Asheboro, N. C., Dec. 5.—Rev. H. T. Moffitt died at his home at Moffitt's Mill this week, after a long illness. He was married twice, first to Miss Martha Ann Brooks, to which union ten children were born, five of whom survive: Thomas Moffitt, Mineral Wells, Texas; Hugh and Alpheus Moffitt, High Point; Mesdames Thomas Graves, Shiloh, and Ralph Cox, Greensboro.

After his first wife's death Mr. Moffitt married Miss Elbie Reynolds, of Montgomery county, who is still living. There are five living children from this union, viz: Misses Ethel, Beatrice, Mabel, Pauline and Mr. Robert Moffitt.

F. D. A.

Say Brother What's the USE... If you got no—fader—mater—bruder—sisy—kuzin—anty and no married kin what's a writin—

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F. D. THOS. L.

about it—They appreciate and protect

The Passing Show

By The Looker-On.

A Thought for Today.

Happiness consists of hoping and forgetting.

Good Business.

The coming of the North Carolina Teachers' Assembly to a city is of great value to that city in many ways some of which have been commented upon by the newspapers of Charlotte and other cities of the state, but one that has escaped the notice of the editorial writers as well as the reporter department is the most important from an educational viewpoint but from a selfish standpoint, the standpoint of a financial consideration, is the amount of "trading" that is done in the city where the assembly holds its annual session.

Mr. Charles C. Hook, president of the Greater Charlotte Club and one of the leading spirits in the entertainment of the teachers while they were in Charlotte Thanksgiving week, estimates that the teachers spent in the city of Charlotte not less than \$10,000 and he and others feel that this amount could be increased materially without doing violence to the facts in the case.

There were more than 1,200 teachers in attendance at the assembly in Charlotte and aside from the amount of money they spent for goods from the various stores, they spent not less than \$6,000 for entertainment during the three days they were here. Of course many of them were with friends but the great majority preferred to stop in the hotels and boarding houses and feel more free to come and go than they would have in private homes. And here it was that the estimated \$5,000 was spent.

And several thousands of dollars were spent in the mercantile establishments of the city of Charlotte by the teachers. For instance, one merchant told President Hook that on Friday following Thanksgiving day he sold \$1,000 more goods than he sold the corresponding day the year before when the teachers met elsewhere. Another told him that the increase in his place of business was more than \$500 and thus it was over the entire city. It is possible, that the big majority of the business houses of Charlotte did an increased business with or on account of the teachers being here.

That the teachers themselves, purchased these goods is made certain by the statement of merchants that the people who did the extra purchasing wore the badge of the teachers' assembly.

Of course this view of the benefit to the city is from the entire city. It is possible, that the big majority of the business houses of Charlotte did an increased business with or on account of the teachers being here.

The value the teachers were to the city in an advertising way is beyond computation. There is not a single one of the 1,200 who were here who left Charlotte in an unfriendly frame of mind toward the city and the superiority of the Queen City will be told over the state for the coming years. The knowledge of the superiority of the Charlotte school system is impressed upon many who heretofore scarcely knew we had a school system, and references to that fact will do the city a great deal of good.

All in all, the teachers' convention was perhaps the most successfully handled that ever was held here and the personnel of the assembly could not be improved.

A Good Idea.

"I want to give you an idea for the Looker-On column," said one of the best known residents of Charlotte yesterday as the newspaper man dropped into his office for a little visit. "I notice you are asking people for advice, and who are out of employment. I have a plan that is working most excellently and I pass it on for what it is worth to others.

"In my back yard at home I have a pile of wood. I have asked my wife to not have it cut all at one time by a man who wants pay for it, but to keep it there for the man who comes asking financial aid and who professes to be willing to work for it. "A man came yesterday telling me how badly he wanted some work to pay for a meal. He said he was hungry. I told him to go to my house, that there is wood and a good sharp axe waiting for him. He thanked me profusely and declared he would hurry to my home and get at the wood.

"But he has not showed up as yet. "As a matter of fact he wanted a bit of money and was not really looking for work. "My wife has had some similar experiences along this line. One man wanted to get his axe, but she told him she had a good, sharp axe waiting for him and that he could begin immediately. But he made some excuse and did not cut the wood."

And this man is right. There are many who really need assistance and in this way they can be weeded out from those who seek to prey upon the sympathies of the public. If those who have wood to be cut will give these fellows a chance at it, they may get the work done and at the same time furnish temporary employment, relieve a pressing need and avoid assisting a person who is not entitled to assistance.

Traveling Men of Greensboro To Enjoy Hospitality of Chamber of Commerce

Special to The News.

Greensboro, Dec. 5.—Scores of traveling salesmen who make Greensboro their headquarters are coming in today for the banquet to be tendered them by the Greensboro chamber of commerce this evening. The event will take place in the gymnasium of the Y. M. C. A. President Latham of the chamber, will be toastmaster. The speakers will include: Mayor T. J. Murphy, W. C. Caldwell, C. C. McLean, J. Elwood Cox, of High Point; C. L. Chandler, of the Southern Railway company; T. J. Gold, of High Point; E. H. Anderson, E. E. Mendenhall, J. W. Umstead, Jr., Dr. J. L. Mann, Carter Dalton, Caesar Cone, R. H. King, Jr., and Robert Brockett. A splendid menu will be served.

URGES NEED OF NEGRO FARM DEMONSTRATION AGENTS

Editor The News:

Some weeks ago, through our Southern papers, I made a suggestion that each Negro family raise one or more additional pigs this year in order to help bring about more prosperity in the South. I have been surprised to note how well the suggestion has been received, and how many are following it; one minister in Uniontown, Ala., went so far as to organize a Pig Club in his church.

Now, I want to make one other suggestion, that, in my opinion, is of still greater and more practical importance. For months the great cry has been all through the South to stop growing cotton or reduce the acreage. Chambers of Commerce, Business Leagues, State Legislatures, and other bodies have passed resolutions with one number urging that we in the South stop growing so much cotton. To stop growing cotton is very easy; in fact it is always easy to stop work, but merely to stop growing cotton is a mere negative proposition and will not, I fear, leave the South much better off than it is at present. If we destroy, or cripple a great industry, we should be very sure to have one, or a number equally good, to put in its place. In this connection it should be kept in mind as a matter of great importance, that if the labor once leaves the farm by reason of changing crops it will be very difficult to get the labor to return to the farm in after years.

The great cry is to grow food crops. That is well, but one must keep in mind that the great masses of Negroes who have actually grown the most of the cotton in the South for years, and who live upon the most valuable land in the South do not hear of the resolutions that are passed by these various bodies. These people have been trained to grow nothing but cotton and do not know how to grow anything else. In fact, in many cases, they have not been permitted to grow anything else!

We must also bear in mind that the largest land owners seldom visit their plantations—some not more than once or twice a year, and hence can be of little service in teaching these Negro tenants how to change all at once from a cotton-producing crop to a food producing crop.

If permanent results are to be secured, the Negro who actually cultivates the land must be reached and trained into growing a food-producing crop. How can this be done? My answer would be, by sending Negro Farm Demonstration Agents into every county of the South where there is any considerable number of Negro farmers. This Negro Demonstration Agent should be a man of good common sense. He should be a man who knows the characteristics of the colored people, who knows how to reach them in and through their societies, their churches and their various organizations of one kind and another. He should be a man required to travel from one farm to another throughout the country training the Negro farmer how to produce a food crop. Wherever these Demonstration Agents have already been at work in the South, they have done work which has been most helpful and commendable.

If this important work is to be done, no time should be lost in selecting these demonstration agents. The cost should not be very large. Either through county appropriations or from some part of the state funds appropriated for agricultural purposes, a portion of the money for the salary perhaps could be provided. Appropriations are also being made by the United States government to encourage and promote various kinds of agricultural work. Some part of this money, I feel sure, might be secured from the Smith-Lever Fund or from the United States Demonstration Fund administered through Dr. Bradford Knapp. While I am not in position to suggest just where the money may be secured, I think that if an earnest effort is made, some portion of it can be secured from some of the funds of agencies here mentioned.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON, Tuskegee Institute, Ala., Dec. 2, 1914.

Community Christmas Tree is Planned By Ladies of Shelby

Special to The News.

Shelby, Dec. 4.—Wednesday afternoon at a mass meeting of all the Women's Clubs and Ladies' Prayer Meeting Circles it was decided to have a community Christmas tree in the court square. One of the big cedar trees which stand in the square will be decorated. The exercises will be held in the court house. There will be no presents on the tree, but arrangements are being made that the empty stockings shall be filled, many of the ladies agreeing that instead of "exchanging" Christmas presents this year to contribute the gift money to this empty stocking fund. Mrs. Clyde R. Hoey is chairman of the association.

Asheville To Send Large Delegation To Shrine Ceremonial

Special to The News.

Asheville, Dec. 5.—A large delegation of Asheville and western Carolina Shriners will accompany Potentate Dr. Chase P. Ambler, of this city, to the ceremonial session of Oasis Temple, Ancient Order of Arabic Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, which will be held in Charlotte on Wednesday, December 9.

Coroner's Jury Fixes Homicide On One of Two Departed Negroes

Special to The News.

Salisbury, Dec. 4.—Either George Robertson or Boney Cook killed Ganswell Jeffries, according to the verdict of a coroner's jury investigating the death by gun shot wounds of Jeffries. Both suspected negroes are gone, but Cook's brother is being held as a witness.

Men's and Boys' Rain and Overcoats At Special Prices.

Table listing various clothing items and prices, including Men's Guaranteed Rain Coats, Boys' Norfolk Suits, Men's Overcoats, Men's Suits, and Boys' Rain Coats.

BELK BROTHERS

A Very Beautiful Piano

Says Mme. Evelyn Scotney, Prima Donna Soprano of Boston Opera Co. Read what these artists say about the

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Used 3rd inst. for the concert at the College Street School Auditorium, Charlotte, N. C., Dec. 4, 1914.

Mr. Chas. M. Stieff, Charlotte, N. C. Dear Sir: The instrument used at our concert last night I consider a very beautiful piano—especially to sing with.

Yours sincerely, MADAME EVELYN SCOTNEY, Charlotte, N. C., Dec. 4, 1914.

Mr. Chas. M. Stieff, Charlotte, N. C. Dear Sir: Allow me to congratulate you upon the excellent Stieff Grand Piano you supplied me with at the Mme. Scotney concert.

The action was smooth and the tone an inspiration for artistic work. Very Sincerely yours, HERBERT C. SEILER, Accompanist to Mme. Scotney, Boston Opera, Statesville, N. C. This style grand was recently installed in the graded school, Statesville, N. C. Come in—see this wonderful instrument—glad to show you.

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