

HICKORY DAILY RECORD

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ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORTS HICKORY, N. C. TUESDAY EVENING

MAY NEED THEM ALL

We saw a cartoon the other day that purported to represent the attitude of the United States towards the Carranza government. Uncle Sam had cheerfully granted the request of Carranza for permission to cross the border in search of American bandits who might take refuge in Texas or New Mexico after committing outrages in Mexico—the United States has done this, and then Uncle Sam carried a pistol in his left hand for Villa and a larger pistol in his right hand for Carranza, who was represented as covered by the weapon.

Recent leakings from the border indicate that General Funston has not underestimated the possibilities of danger. Carranza has made nearly everybody think that he is ready to turn on the American forces the minute occasion offers, or at least that he is not able to control his men. We are more than glad that Pershing has an army of at least 4,000 men, and we hope he is well supplied with machine guns. We are afraid he will be compelled to hack his way out of Mexico.

NEED BUSINESS MEN

The Record believes that Mr. J. D. Elliott will receive the nomination for state senator from this district without effort. Sentiment already has developed around his candidacy, and he would have the best chance, we are informed, of any other man in the county to represent the district in the general assembly. It would mean something to the district to have a man of Mr. Elliott's ability in Raleigh. We recall that Hugh G. Chatham of Winston-Salem easily took a leading role in the senate last term, because this is the day when men with sound business sense are called upon to lead in the legislature. Mr. Elliott would be the choice of a large element of Catawba and Lincoln people, irrespective of political affiliations in the legislature now. We believe, because there are too many need a few good business men in the senate.

Mr. W. T. Bost has a good story in his paper to the effect that our townsman, Mr. Self, is about to withdraw from the race for attorney-general. Despite rumor, Mr. Self has given no indication that he will not make the run, and until he issues a statement to the contrary his friends would do well to assume that he is very much in the race. Nobody's blaming Mr. Bost, however, for printing a political rumor.

"Sensible Villa" was the heading over and editorial in the Raleigh News and Observer about a year and a half ago. Why wouldn't that heading apply to the bandit now as he moves about like a fox?

Only one woman and five children were killed in the latest air raids over England, according to the London report, from which one would infer that the Zeppelin marksmen were slightly off.

If an ally submarine sank an Austrian hospital ship, as reported from Berlin, then the British or French too are at mighty poor business.

Thomas Taggart was named Senator from Indiana because he has been able to deliver the goods.

The Hickory-Lenoir automobile service is continuing to grow in favor, as it ought to.

COUNTY COMMENCEMENT

Plans for county commencement April 14 are getting shaped up. By Friday it is thought that additional features will be ready for announcement. The first Saturday in April the young ladies and gentlemen will appear in Newton to contest for places on the program in declamations and recitations. The principal speaker has not yet been definitely secured, but in no great while he will be announced.

SERBIAN RETREAT

American Describes Deaths in Balkan Campaign Rome, Italy, March 21.—Henry Haller, formerly of the Fifth United States cavalry, who was one of the few Americans in the Serbian retreat, declares that during the journey to Podgoritz in Montenegro in a four-days snow storm more than fifty thousand men died. "They died so fast," he said, "that they fell every few yards all along the road. The wagons and carts went right over the bodies. Nobody thought of trying to turn out of the way, but there were so many they could not but drive over them. The place was full of mudholes. At one place I saw no less than seventeen horses dying in one immense puddle, unable to pull themselves out.

"I saw hundreds and thousands of ragged men, with their feet swollen too much to wear shoes or walk on them, crawling around for miles on their hands and knees through the blinding snow, finally stopping and dying soon afterwards. They never made any appeal for help. It wouldn't have been any use. Besides, they were too far gone, to know what they were about, that they were dying. Their last efforts to keep going were merely a mechanical operation. Of course the great mortality all along the route was due to the barren nature of the country we were traversing, with no shelter for but a comparatively few of us. There were even no forests where we might have felled trees and built temporary quarters. Our fires for the most part were small with barely enough wood to heat water.

Haller, who was on a visit to Budapest when the war began, enlisted in the Austrian army and was serving as a bugler when, six months later, he was taken prisoner by the Serbs and then was finally marched with 75,000 other Austrian soldiers across the mountains into Albania and "there turned loose on the shores of the Adriatic to fight for life against cholera, fever and starvation."

"We were supposed to have started on that retreat," said Haller, "with a Serb army of over two thousand men and about seventy-five Austrian prisoners. Not many more than a hundred and fifty thousand of the whole lot got over the mountain. It was not because the Austrians or the Belgians pursued us, however, with such activity. We died merely because of disease, hunger and exhaustion. "The worst part of the journey began at the Albanian frontier. The Albanians have in times past been badly treated by the Serbs, and they took this chance to square old scores. They shot, killed, robbed, and murdered us at every step of the way. For instance, at Linn, some Serb officers and a company of stragglers on horseback were met in the middle of the road by a few peasants and ordered to give up their horses and their money. It was plain highway robbery and they refused. The peasants ran away and within a couple of minutes more than a thousand shots were fired out of the bushy hillsides, killing most of the Serbs.

"The food problem was terrific even in Albania. A half pound of bread was sold at ten dinars, about one dollar. As I had a little money at Sturza I bought five pounds of oka beans. Had I not been able to get these beans, I would today be a dead man. I had just said to myself: 'I can't go any further,' when I persuaded a peasant woman to sell me the beans. I ate beans twice a day, making a sort of soup out of them, putting in a little salt. At that I was far luckier than the fellows who had to boil harness leather for food, or six hours in order to make the hot water taste like soup. I saw men eat like savages, eating pieces of brown paper.

"There were perhaps not more than two thousand women among the retreating horde with us and it is a fact worth recording that they were kindly treated and given whatever comforts were available by soldiers who were otherwise dead to every feeling. I have seen such men, gaunt, staggering along, half-naked, with a few pieces of cloth for shoes, unable to speak, with barely strength left to stop near a dying horse and cut a stringy streak from its flank, straighten us for a moment near one of the women's carts and smilingly tender their last mouthful of food to some of the women.

"The treatment of the women on this dreadful retreat was to me the most wonderful, the most moving, the most heroic part of the whole retreat. These poor women in their flight from their homes had in many cases been unable to bring enough clothes to cover them. Often they were without stockings or undershirts, or hats or shawls or cloaks. I have seen time and time again some freezing soldier take off his overcoat and force it upon some one of these women, and seem almost ashamed to look upon her shivering body as he made the offer. Then he would search along the road for hours until he was able to strip some dead man of his clothes to replace that which he had so freely given."

What Haller regarded as his most remarkable experience was the sight of a mad soldier dying from starvation. "Clothed only in a ragged undershirt he was running barefoot

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down a snow-covered Albanian road straight as an arrow, bellowing as he ran," he said. "He ran on and on down that road, seeing nothing yet wonderfully avoiding stumbling over the bodies of other dead and dying soldiers and the meat-stripped carcasses of the army horses which blocked the way. Suffering intensely as I myself was, I turned and watched this strange figure. At last a half mile down the road he pitched forward and as I passed him later I saw he was stone dead."

"Other than that incident there is one other that will stick in my memory so long as I live," said Haller. "This was the hanging of a Serb mother by the Austrian troops before I was made a prisoner. We were marching across a rough country near Lechnitzer when we stopped near a wayside hut at its spring to get a drink. Colonel Heill of our regiment also went to get a drink. As he arose from the spring a shot came from the hut. That shot was fired by a woman. She stood at the door, an old shotgun in one hand, a baby in the other.

"One of the captains ordered her hung. There was nothing else to do but to execute her. As a rope was placed about her neck to the nearest tree and she said was this in a hard, cold voice: 'My husband is a soldier, I too die for Serbia.' She made no appeal. She did not cry. We left her body hanging there in the wind. The baby was picked up and sent to the nearest prison camp, to be cared for."

Through the efforts of Robert Haerick, representing the United States among the Austrian prisoners, Haller was rescued from starvation at Durazzo and later Ambassador Page in Rome interested himself in the case. "I am going back home the best American citizen you ever saw," declared Haller. "I wish I had words to express my feeling for the kind of people that are grown in the United States."

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Piedmont Council No. 43, Jr. O. U. A. M. Meets every Monday evening at 7:30 P. M. All visiting brothers cordially invited. G. L. HUFFMAN Councilor M. G. CROUCH, Rec. Sec'y.

Hickory Camp No. 80 W. O. W. Meets every Friday night at 7:30. All members requested to attend. Visiting Sovereigns Invited. B. A. MILLER, Clerk

CAROLINA & NORTH-WESTERN

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Table with columns: Southbound, No. 9, No. 7, Pass Daily, Ex Sun. Rows: Edgemont, Mortimer, Lenoir, Hickory, Newton, Lincolnton, Gastonia, York, Chester.

Where to Register

The registration books for the special and primary elections may be found every day at the office of the Mutual Building & Loan Association, A. C. Henderson in charge, and on Saturday night from 7:30 to 9:30. A new registration is required to vote in the school and water extension elections.

Professional Cards

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