

REGULAR OLD DRIZZLE IS NOT TOO WET FOR DOKIE

Their Festivities and Ceremonial Here Last Night Abridged Somewhat by Elements, But There Was Plenty of Fun and Action. at Armory—Many Initiated

Frequent showers during the afternoon and a steady drizzle in the evening and a general sprinkling during the night, the spring ceremonial of the 400 visitors...

VIRGIN ISLANDS TO BE MADE AMERICAN

Washington, May 18.—The Americanization of the Virgin Islands, in a number of particulars is proposed in a report of a joint commission of congress...

Included in the recommendations proposed by the commission is the establishment of a code of laws based upon American principles and ideals to supersede the Danish laws.

The Virgin Islands were purchased by this government from Denmark for the sum of \$2,500,000, and possession was obtained March 3, 1917. Since that time the government of the islands has been conducted by the navy department...

The population of the Virgin Islands according to a census taken in 1917 was 26,951. The population of St. Croix, about 15,000; of St. Thomas, a little over 10,000 and of St. John about 1,000. There has been a progressive increase in population since 1875 when it was reported at 45,178.

As a strategic naval base the islands hold to be of great importance to the United States. It has been asserted by naval authorities that with a strong naval base at St. Thomas, where the harbor is exceptionally fine it will be possible to dominate the area from New York as far south as Puerto Rico.

The marital conditions on the island are anomalous and shocking. Probably not more than 15 per cent of the colored population are legally married. Unions by mutual consent are the rule. The chief cause for this unfortunate condition is the strong force of custom prevailing since the days of slavery in the islands.

The business of the islands is agriculture, particularly St. Croix, consisting of vessels and the manufacturing of rum on St. Thomas and St. John, and of the famous Santa Cruz rum on St. Croix.

Since the congressional commission returned to Washington on its recommendations steps have been taken to aid islanders along certain lines. The U. S. shipping board has agreed to send all ships it can to St. Thomas to be coaled. The department of agriculture is to establish an experimental station in the islands.

TO SAVE MOUNT VERNON HOPE OF LADIES IS POLICY OF BOARD

Washington, May 19.—Improvement of Mt. Vernon, Va., long the home of George Washington, and further restoration of the old estate is to be carried out by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association...

A meeting of the association that owns Mount Vernon never fails to revive the issue as to whether the United States government should not own the famous spot, never agreed upon by any other shrine in America, not excepting Faneuil Hall or Plymouth Rock...

Of tens of thousands of tourists who visit Mt. Vernon every year, many come and go with the very definite idea of how the place is managed, and the impression that it is publicly owned is very general. Yet it has never been out of private control, and since 1858 has been in the hands of the association which now holds the title.

Those who maintain that Mount Vernon should remain under its present management point out that when the famous estate was for sale more than sixty years ago the congress showed small interest in its preservation, and appeared willing to let the place be dismantled or fall into decay beyond repair.

The ladies' association includes a recent, now Miss Harriet C. Green, and one vice president from each state. Under their management estate. Under their management everything possible is done to impress the beauty of the home of Washington. As Washington never entertained on Sundays, to the grounds are never open to the public on that day of the week. No smoking is ever permitted, either in the house or on the grounds. The grounds are kept immaculate, and no picnic lunches may be eaten on the lawns or in the surrounding woods, though there are restaurants just outside the gate.

All of the guards around the place are grey veterans of the Civil War, possessed of a courtesy and patience that never tires no matter how many hundred visitors swarm through the place during the day, and how many foolish questions they ask. The expenses are met by a charge of 25 cents for admission.

Those in- and out of congress who maintain that the government should take over Mount Vernon usually argue on the assumption that no American should be compelled to pay a fee, though of George Washington, or to walk through the portals of his white colonial mansion overlooking the historic river. They also hold that as many tourists can get to Washington only on Sundays and grounds should be open on that day, so that people in New York, Baltimore and other cities more or less distant could come here over the Sunday holiday to see the place.

Much criticism also is caused by the fact that the pier at Mount Vernon is privately owned, and only the vessels of a certain excursion line may land there, all others being denied the right of going to the place by water, as there are no other landing places near. As a part of the government ownership plan it is proposed that appropriation be made for a proper motor highway all the way from the national capital to Mount Vernon.

Training Camp Near. Until a training camp was established near Mount Vernon during the war the greater part of the road to that place was a poor route for travel. A concrete highway to the camp partly remedied that evil, but the repair, and when the Prince of Wales was driven out there during his recent visit to America, his royal highness got a shaking up that must have been a novel experience to him.

The foregoing facts are told and retold every time the question of the ownership of Mount Vernon is broached in Washington, and it is becoming apparent that in time congress must decide the issue, when some very pointed debates are certain to develop in the course of the discussions in the house and senate.

REGULAR ROW IN FINANCIAL SITUATION IS EXPECTED TO IMPROVE

Movement to Cut Off Loans for Speculative Purposes May Bring Relief to Consumers—Many Cities Report Reductions in Merchandise—Dentists Cheaper

Washington, May 19.—Adoption by American bankers of the recommendation of Governor Harding, of the federal reserve board, to "liquidate frozen loans" was expected by board officials to alleviate the financial situation and to go far towards reducing the high cost of living.

Representative King, of Illinois, recently charged in the house that present methods of finance kept goods off the market with resultant increase in prices. Representative King said he had been reliably told that 700,000,000 pounds of condensed milk had been stored in New York against \$600,000,000 last year.

Continued Price Cutting. Chicago, May 19.—Reports of price-cutting in wearing apparel and miscellaneous merchandise continued to come in from all parts of the country today.

Owners of department stores in cities from New England to the Pacific coast and the Mexican border announce reductions ranging from 15 to 50 per cent. Reductions in shoes have been cut one-fifth, while a ready-to-wear announces large reductions.

Reduction to 20 per cent in prices of nearly all goods was announced by one of the largest department stores in Youngstown, O. There was little material reduction in Chicago, but a merchant here said the reduction was an effort to satisfy the waves of hysteria sweeping across the country.

Greenville, Ill., May 19.—After hiding in a wood five days and nights while posse hunted him on the charge of murdering his wife and two babies, Harley E. Beasley, 25 years old, went to the graves of his alleged victims today and committed suicide by shooting himself through his brains.

Chicago, May 19.—The United States railway labor board today flatly refused to hear petitions for increased wages presented by John Grunau, president of the Chicago workmen's association, and officers of the new railroad union.

Washington, May 19.—Favorable report was today ordered by the senate auditing committee on the Borah resolution calling for the expenditures by presidential candidates and contributions made in their behalf.

Kansas City, Mo., May 19.—"The bankers of the country are determined there shall be no more \$25 shoes and \$125 clothes," Richard S. Hawes of St. Louis, president of the American Bankers association, told the Missouri Bankers' association here today.

TOBACCO IS SAFE DEALERS ARE ADVISED

Washington, May 19.—Members of the tobacco merchants association, of the United States in convention here were assured today by President Charles J. Isenhour, of Philadelphia, that tobacco and liquor would not be buried in the same grave.

The speaker protested against further increase of taxation of tobacco products, which he held would not bring more revenues, since consumption would be reduced.

Washington, May 19.—President Wilson today signed the army and navy pay bill providing the temporary pay of officers and men pending the adoption of a permanent military and naval policy.

Chicago, May 19.—Approximately 300 Virginian railway shopmen walked out at 11 o'clock this morning over a difference with the master mechanic at the company's Princeton, Va., shop according to local officials. Practically all shops on the line are affected. Details were not given.

Paris, May 19.—Warning that France must in the midst of peace make preparations for future wars was uttered by Marshal Foch who presided at the annual meeting of the Polytechnic school for army engineers today.

Washington, May 19.—Republican leaders in the house agreed today to accept the peace resolution adopted by the senate and as a substitute for the house resolution and to call it up Friday for final action.

Asheville, May 19.—J. E. Duckworth, aged 93, once of the oldest men in western North Carolina and the father of 20 children, has just professed faith and has been baptized at Gateway creek in Transylvania county. By Rev. W. R. Branshaw, of Hickory. He is believed to be the oldest man who has ever been baptized in Transylvania and the ceremony was witnessed by a large number of people.

Mr. J. M. Allred, formerly a member of the board of commissioners of Caldwell county, and one of the most level-headed citizens in North Carolina, is a firm believer in revaluation and he loses no opportunity to press the justice of the measure on people who question its wisdom. Men come to him frequently with a long face and a tale of woe about their assessments. Mr. Allred knows something about property values in Caldwell and Catawba—very much about them, in fact.

Asheville, May 19.—Absolute denial by the surgeon general's office at Washington that United States Army Gen. Hospital No. 19, at Otten, near here, would close in six months, was made in a dispatch received in Asheville tonight from that department.

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FREIGHT CLERKS IN GEORGIA ON STRIKE

Atlanta, Ga., May 19.—Union clerks in the freight office of the Central of Georgia were out today in a half dozen cities of Georgia. Members of the union quit work in Atlanta, Macon, Savannah, Americus, and other points.

REPUBLICANS BUSY WITH SUGGESTIONS

Washington, May 19.—Revision of platform suggestions of the special group of party chiefs, including the national chairman, Will H. Hays, and the Republican leaders of the senate and house.

RELIEF FOR FARMERS PLANNED BY CONGRESS

Washington, May 19.—The house has adopted a resolution authorizing the treasury to buy federal land bank bonds, issued against loans approved before last March 1. Efforts to extend the measure to cover loans approved before last March was defeated, 148 to 121.

WOMEN DELEGATES LEAVE FOR CONFER

New York, May 20.—Headed by Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, 30 delegates, alternate and visitors, are sailing from New York today to attend the eighth congress of the international women's suffrage alliance at Geneva, Switzerland, June 8-12. Mrs. Josephus Daniels will be the official government representative.

Markets COTTON.

Open	Close
42.98	42.50
39.35	38.66
36.35	35.70
35.40	34.50
34.75	34.00

Weather

For North Carolina: Cloudy tonight and Thursday probably showers, gentle to moderate winds, mostly east.

MICHIGAN SENDS FREE DELEGATION

Grand Rapids, May 19.—Uninstructed delegates to the national convention were named by Democrats of the 13 conventions in caucuses held before the meeting of the state convention.

OFFICIALS SELL TICKETS. MACON, GA., MAY 19.—Officials of the Central of Georgia Railway today took the places of striking ticket sellers at the station here. They said business was being handled as usual. Clerks were shifted to the freight depot of the Central of Georgia to take the place of strikers and freight was being handled well, it was said.

SENATE RESOLUTION ACCEPTED BY HOUSE

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