

THE KINSTON FREE PRESS

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News Item: News dispatches actually report one point in Mexico quiet and orderly.

In the meantime the "waits" for further reports from surviving officers of the Tenth Cavalry gives both sides an opportunity to make further preparations for the real hostilities which seem imminent.

The North Carolina pharmacists held their annual meeting at Wrightsville Beach this year and they go next time to Asheville. Their plan to alternate the dips and the mountain breezes is an attractive one.

Noting that the Morehead City folks anticipated a big patriotic celebration on July 4th with the North Carolina soldier boys, we desire to express the hope that all the battles that the boys are called upon to fight may be sham.

Editor Varner of the Lexington Dispatch is again at the head of the Good Roads Association of the State. The good roads people know a good thing when they have it, whether the folks of Mr. Varner's congressional district do or not.

A report sent out by the United Press Friday predicting that Raymond Robins, the Progressive convention keynote, will support Wilson is not hard to believe. When the roundup is made in November there is apt to be a goodly number of the independent Progressives in the Wilson band wagon.

Carranza is quoted as saying: "I don't want to fight," and from the indignities that he and his followers are piling up on the forces of Uncle Sam it would appear that he is under the impression that he won't fight. He is probably scheduled, however, for a disillusionment on that score and if he has not already provoked hostilities it will take very few additional straws to break the camel's back.

Over in Greensboro, prominently displayed on the principal street, near the depot, is a sign reading: "Free Typhoid Vaccine. Apply City Health Department and Protect Yourself" or words to that effect. Those who see that sign cannot help but be impressed that the authorities of Greensboro have a care for the responsibility of safeguarding the health of the people thereabouts.

If the threatened federation of Latin America is accomplished, Uncle Sam will probably despatch the Pennsylvania or one of his other dreadnaughts to Central American waters with instructions to cover each of the little everlasting squabbling countries with one of the shells from their mammoth guns and thus dispose of any heel-chewing or other inconvenience the "flee" might undertake.

The selection of Mr. E. G. Birdsong as its president by the State Pharmaceutical Association at the meeting, which has just adjourned at Wrightsville, was an honor well bestowed. Mr. Birdsong has long been a member of the association; he is president of one of the largest drug concerns in Raleigh, is a chemist of ability, and will grace the honor which has been given to him.

A peep from the car windows as one travels through Eastern North Carolina, is to see that the farmers whose lands lie contiguous to the track are realizing the importance of diversification. From the casual glance as the train speeds along, it is safe to say, we believe, that the corn acreage is ranking very favorably with the cotton and tobacco, and some of the corn, especially in Lenoir county, is very promising looking.

Vera Cruz and other Mexican ports are already becoming the haven for fleeing American refugees who have at last been aroused to the danger of longer remaining in Mexico. We apprehend, however, that some of these daredevils and hard-headed chaps will be caught even yet and there of course will be a big howl to send a relief expedition. They have had fair warning.

It is to be hoped that the Postoffice Department will not take any snap judgment in the controversy existing with the Norfolk Southern Railroad and deprive that railroad unnecessarily of its rightful and legitimate hauls because of the wrong conception of the company's attitude. We know nothing about the controversy except that it has been intimated from Government headquarters that the Norfolk Southern had threatened to throw up the hauls over its line and the railroad officials deny that any such threat has been made. Therefore, we believe it the part of fairness to all concerned and particularly so to the public, who would necessarily suffer from any interruption of mail service, that both sides should go slow before taking any drastic steps.

ARE THEY READY?

Much is being written and said about the boys who are now making ready to answer their country's call for service in case of war with Mexico. Their readiness is being discussed and commended. The physical and mental readiness is being considered more generally than the spiritual fitness. After all the real care for the boys, who shoulder arms for their country, should be for their spiritual preparedness to face the consequences of battle-death. There has been no hesitancy on the part of those who have been called to answer promptly; mentally they are ready; some of those who have shown their willingness may not be accepted when the physical tests are made. How about the spiritual? When the willingness to go is manifested and the physical test has been stood, can it be truly said that they are ready?

Pastor Bernard P. Smith in his splendid address to the soldiers of Company D of the Second Regiment and the members of the Band, who assembled to hear him Sunday morning, emphasized most forcefully the need for spiritual preparation. He made a most practical suggestion for the encouragement of the boys, who are to leave this week for camp. "If the people of Kinston want to do something for the boys, why not give to each of them a copy of the New Testament, which they can carry in their pockets wherever they are called to go."

Yes! Why not? The time is short, but aside from any social attention that may be planned in honor of the soldiers, the gift of a Testament might be the means of leading more than one, who is not now spiritually prepared to recognize his unpreparedness and "Get Right."

DR. ANDERSON EXONERATED.

The investigation is ended and the charges brought against Dr. Albert Anderson's administration of the State Hospital have fallen flat. In fact, there was a thud so flat and windless were the sails of the prosecution. Without exception, no damaging testimony was introduced in the long array of a half hundred or more witnesses and the charges were shown to have emanated from disgruntled former employes, the majority of whom, if not all, had been permitted to resign because of unsatisfactory service and the lack of sympathy and co-operation with the reform movements in the administration of the institution's affairs inaugurated by Dr. Anderson.

There was considerable expense attached to the investigation, and undoubtedly some criticism will be directed against the expenditure of the public funds in such fashion. The Free Press believes, however, that the investigation has done good in that it has set at rest rumors which, if permitted to continue to float undenied, might do serious damage to those involved. It was due to Dr. Anderson that he have an investigation and that the charges be either sustained or his good name cleared. It is due every official, against whom charges of mismanagement or incompetency are brought, to have the facts known and irresponsible rumors nailed in their incipency.

The Free Press expected that the investigation would show conclusively that Dr. Anderson was guilty of no wrong-doing in his official administration, and it congratulates him and the State on the outcome of the inquiry.

DEMOCRATIC SUCCESS ASSURED.

A question very prominent in the minds of the people of this country now should be, and is, whether Mr. Wilson and the Democratic administration will be continued by the people for another four years.

If the thinking people think and vote as they think, there can be but one answer to the question. Democratic success is assured! There is very little difference in the platforms of the two parties when essentials are considered. The Democrats have achievements for the three years of their power, unprecedented in the history of the Nation, to support their party pledges and promises, whereas the Republicans only have promises to offer.

We believe that the people of America have learned full well that the Republican promises have in the past been generally forgotten after election, and there is no reason now to believe that they will be fulfilled, if power is restored to the plutocrats, who so long bossed the affairs of the Nation.

If the thinking people of America take time to consider even a part of the accomplishments of the Wilson Administration and to weigh carefully in the balance of comparison with former administrations the unprecedented attainments they will be false to themselves and their own convictions, except they give Woodrow Wilson an overwhelming endorsement in November.

Mr. Hughes is a good man. No one questions his integrity or ability. At the same time, Mr. Hughes, so far as presidential capacity is concerned, is an unknown quantity. Mr. Wilson has been tested and found equal to every emergency confronting the high office.

Yes! If the people of America think and vote as they think, Democratic success is assured.

A PLAN THAT SHOULD BE EXECUTED.

The Free Press is gratified that there is a growing sentiment in Washington among the legislators to make special provision for the dependent families, whose breadwinners have been called to the colors and whose inadequate and paltry compensation for their service to their country is not sufficient to pay the average household rent let alone to provide the larder.

It is well enough for the financially strong corporations and manufacturers to agree to make up the deficit in the pay of their employes, who are called, whether they do so from purely patriotic or publicity motives; but few, comparatively speaking, employers can stand such a drain. The average small company and employer must have returns for its payroll expense in actual results. Then it is an unequal tax to expect a few employers to pay salaries to those in the service of the country and the people at large.

The movement started in Washington to provide for the dependents of the militiamen by more pay from the public treasury is a good one, and should be pushed to the actual enactment of the necessary legislation.

FIVE SLEEP; TWENTY-THREE AROUSED.

If Friday morning could be taken as an average the Southern Railroad Company would have no further excuse for stopping the Pullman from Winston-Salem at Raleigh at 4:30 in the morning for the accommodation of patrons there, and to the discomfort of others traveling further east. Or, at least, if the Raleigh travel was so accommodated there would be no reason for additional sleeper facilities being denied for the convenience of the people of this section. In the car leaving Greensboro a little after midnight Thursday there were twenty-eight passengers, five of them stopped in Raleigh with the car, and were accorded the sweet privilege of occupying their berths until 7 o'clock; twenty-three were "rudely" jostled from their slumbers at 4 a. m. six of the twenty-three came on, on the same train, descending from their berths to the day coach while sixteen of the remaining seventeen unloaded to take the Norfolk Southern for Wilson. These Wilson passengers could have as easily continued their journey to Goldsboro if the service had been extended that far, making close connection for their destination.

Among the railroad men with whom the matter was discussed informally, it seems to be the opinion that the double service, which is to be inaugurated on Sunday, whereby an additional sleeper will be put on for the summer months, plying between Winston-Salem and Leaufort, will demonstrate the advisability of making this service permanent at least as far as Goldsboro, and we believe that the people of this section should bestir themselves in the interest of such service, for it will unquestionably add to the comfort and convenience of traveling eastward.

"THIS IS KINSTON—YOU ARE WELCOME!"

When traveling about over the country it is not an uncommon sight, as the through train speeds by the enterprising towns or the local train stops, for the passengers to see an attractive sign telling them the name of the place, its population, chief assets and points of interest. In fact, most of the progressive towns and small cities have found such a sign an advantage.

Kinston has much to be proud of, much in the way of information as to its resources, which would adorn attractive signs along the railroads and public highways leading to it. If nothing else was gained the majority of those passing through would know that it was Kinston. The name would be impressed upon them and would probably stick in the mind of many whereas now no doubt, the majority of people who pass through and who are not already familiar with the territory, know not their whereabouts. The signs on the depots are certainly not of sufficient proportions to attract the attention of any but those who may be specifically searching to ascertain their location.

The Chamber of Commerce would do well to give this matter some thought.

MR. DUNN HONORED.

Eastern Carolina seems to have carried off all the official honors bestowed by the North Carolina Cotton-Seed Crushers' Association in its annual session, held in Raleigh this week. Kinston is honored in the official roster in the person of Mr. F. Clyde Dunn, president of the Lenoir Oil & Ice Co., who was selected as vice-president of the association. During the past year Mr. Dunn served as treasurer. The other principal officers are Mr. Jonathan Havens of Washington, president, and Mr. H. A. White of Greenville, secretary-treasurer. That the Eastern Carolinians will prove that the honors bestowed on them were worthily given goes without saying, for such is characteristic of the men of this section, and of the State, for that matter, who are chosen for such leadership. Incidentally, we congratulate Mr. Dunn and Kinston because we are always glad to have Kinston represented in the official families of worthy State organizations.

HALF HOLIDAY THURSDAY.

It is being suggested that the merchants of Kinston close their stores Thursday afternoon about twelve-thirty in order that their employes may take in the race meet at the Fair grounds. The Free Press hopes that the suggestion will be favorably received and that the merchants will join in the movement. By so doing they will not only help to make the undertaking of the promoters a success and insure other such attractions, but they will afford to their salesforces an opportunity to get a little sunshine and fresh air amid pleasant environment.

It is not an uncommon thing for the business houses of a city to close for such occasions. Only last week Raleigh celebrated a game of ball between its own team and one of its chief rivals by closing up shop for the afternoon. A half holiday for Thursday. Let's have it!

CARING FOR SOLDIERS' FAMILIES.

The Free Press feels that it is a most worthy sentiment which is prompting individuals and the citizens generally of Kinston in extending social courtesies to the brave fellows, who have answered their country's call and who will represent Kinston on the battle field. It is indeed befitting that the appreciation of the community be manifest to the soldier boys before they take their departure.

There is at the same time an opportunity afforded for a more substantial service to be rendered by the citizens, and that is to make provision for the necessities of families, whose breadwinners are leaving, and for those whose the meager allowance of the privates is not enough. The Free Press is informed that there are several families which are in straightened circumstances because of the sudden call, and the good people of Kinston must not overlook such cases. No more graceful or worthy action could be taken than to provide for such families before the soldiers leave, that they may have comfort in the knowledge that their loved ones are to be cared for.

Information can be gotten from Captain Hill or from The Free Press about these families, which are in need.

The Free Press will be glad to receive money or other contributions to be distributed by a committee, which may be decided upon. The matter should have prompt attention. It is one that cannot be deferred.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

PLENTY OF PEACHES, TOO.

Raleigh News and Observer: "The Kinston Free Press says that 'Kinston is a city of gardens.' We trust that there are peaches in every blessed one of them."

CRITICS PUT TO WITS' END.

Columbia State: "It isn't very hard to find some excuse for criticizing the administration if you are a fairly earnest criticizer, and we see in a New York paper that a gentleman has managed to work himself up to a point of the most intense indignation because Mr. Lansing inadvertently addressed the Carranza envoy as Sir, instead of Your Excellency."

ALAS! NO DIP OR EXHILARATING MOUNTAIN BREEZES.

Roanoke-Chowan Times: "The executive committee having the matter in charge decided to hold the next session of the North Carolina Press Association in Durham July 12th and 13th. We note that a number of the members are expressing surprise that the meeting should be held in Durham in the hot month of July. Let us hope that pleasant surprises are in store for us, and that the result of the meeting will prove that the committee acted wisely in deciding to hold the meeting in Durham."

REASON ONLY REQUISITE TO SUCCESS.

Wilmington Star: "If every voter in America had read the speeches delivered at the Democratic National Convention by ex-Governor Martin H. Glynn and Senator Ollie James, the re-election of Wilson would be a cinch—not that reading a speech would change the politics of the average voter, but the facts so irrefutably set forth with such force and power by these men would cause men everywhere to think seriously and reason the matter out for themselves. Reason would prevail and that is all that is necessary to guarantee Democratic success at the polls in November."

PRIMARY THE THING.

Raleigh News and Observer: "Says the Jacksonville Times-Union: 'The Tar Heels are pleased with the primary, which is a new toy to them, but the first thing they know, it will do something that will make them sick.' It won't be the primary that will make us sick, but its manipulation and perversion by politicians would. However, the penitentiary could be effectively used to protect the primary from corruptionists and all men who attempt to set at naught the will of the people. It is quite possible for the primary to fall among an incompetent, and corruptible people, but for the same reason government itself will fail."—Wilmington-Star.

THE PAPER TRUST.

Greensboro Record: "And all of a sudden it is just dawn on publishers that they are daily victimized by people who sell goods such as they use. Type metal, linotype metal, paper, ink—the whole bloomin' business is just now in a very peculiar condition. The metal men will quote you prices that would make a nervous man jump out of his skin and if you order the next day along comes a representative of another concern, ascertains that you have just placed an order for say 13 cents, and he deliberately and smilingly quotes you at eleven. He wants to make you feel ill. One big paper house wires us that it can sell paper at 3:30 delivered, and along comes another concern and when you tell it you bought a carload at 3:30 you are quoted paper at 2:36—and that is to make you have a nervous chill. We tried it out. But when the fellow said 2:36 we took a car and all the paper men on the road offered to get five dollars it would never be delivered—but today it is in a warehouse in this town. Therefore it is as plain as the nose on your face, even if you are not a bibulous man, that there is either a trust or an understanding that this is the year the newspaper man is to be trimmed—and they are trimming him for fair."

DEMOCRATIC CAMPAIGN FUND.

Wilmington Star: "The Democratic National committee announces that it will need something like \$1,700,000 to pay campaign expenses, and Treasurer W. W. Mash, of the committee, urges all Democrats to share in the fund to be raised for defraying expenses of the thorough campaign that is to be waged in every state from now till the 7th of November. He says: 'Every member of the party will be expected to contribute something and no sum will be too small.'"

We also have an idea that no sum will be too large, in cases where Democrats can afford to be liberal in order to get four more years of Democratic constructiveness. The response to Treasurer Mash's appeal should be prompt, as the party will have to depend upon voluntary contributions. The Republicans will rely upon Big Business, as usual, to furnish the money to elect Hughes and Fairbanks, and already some of the great corporations have signified their intention of standing by the Republican committee.

The Democratic committee will look principally to the people for the funds necessary to conduct the campaign of the party of the people, while the Republican committee will depend mostly upon the special interests, as usual, to furnish the money to put the party of the special interest back in power.

Democratic contributions are needed now, and The Star will receive and forward all checks and amounts left with it for the National committee.

We don't know whether the report of Captain Morey, to the effect that the American troops attacked by the Mexicans at Carrizal were in battle formation when the Mexicans fired on them, will be construed as a violation of orders or not, but if there was such evidence of hostile attitude of the Mexicans as to cause the commanding officer of the American troops to take such precaution the Administration will probably justify the action and insist upon reparation on the part of the Mexican authorities.

IT'D BE DIFFERENT IF THERE WAS REAL BLOOD-RED WAR ON

Then It Would Be "Mr. Atkins to the Front"—But Don't You Take Tommy for a "Blooming Fool." Mr. Civilian

They are soliciting no laurel wreaths. They're just—

"Human as you are, You treat 'em as sich."

The local militiamen are more than making good already, if one takes the trouble to notice it. They are wearing their uniforms, because the regulations demand it. They are also drawing pay, and the regulations do not prescribe that they shall parade about in "cits," while drawing that pay.

These boys grow a few more numerous daily. They are a neat-looking lot; a clean-looking lot, and they drill—compare them for yourself—with the same easy, straight-shouldered, knee-easy precision that the regulars have. In a few weeks' time, especially after they have been brigaded with the regulars, it won't be possible to notice much difference.

There wasn't enough clothing in the armory here to fit out two organizations on war strength. Some of the men's clothes are not exact fits; that will be remedied when they get next to inexhaustible quartermaster supplies.

But what's being talked about is that they don't swagger—not a mother's son of them. They regard themselves as soldiers. They are quiet, to a man, and unassuming. They don't take up the sidewalk when you pass them on the street; they are a little inclined to give the civilian the right of way. They are all cheerful; many of them are having the delight of their lives. They long for the time when they shall get out of the State and find themselves lined up where there is a chance for the excitement they crave.

Kinston should be proud of the lot of them. They're all part of the community. When the general call is sounded and they pack off for mobilization there will with phantom elasticity be reeled off behind them innumerable heartstrings. The heartstrings will link them with home from another clime ere many weeks.

And it isn't worth while to say that Kinston doesn't care a darn. There are hundreds of persons who will feel a direct, personal interest in these lads. Maybe there are a few who have no relatives; that's the more reason why they should get a glad hand. They should be given it before they get out of here. Possibly some of them won't come back. It's a possibility, no matter how remote.

Something should be done, said a gentleman Friday night, to make the fellows feel that Kinston does care. It doesn't make any difference whether presents of tobacco, chocolate, solidified alcohol stoves or embroidered pocket handkerchiefs are given or not. They are not after such things. But—they haven't asked for it, mind you—what they would like very much is to be spoken to when they are passed, on the streets. And a handshake wouldn't be refused—no, sir!

Don't pass these lads like you are afraid to brush against them, if you're a woman, and if you're a man don't elevate your nose when you pass one of them. That's not a fair deal. You're making no impression on the soldier; he thinks he's every whit as dod-gasted good as you are, and he is. But if you're a woman or a man either, see if it don't make you feel better to stop a few of these fellows on the street, speak to them and tell them you wish them well. If you're unacquainted tell them your name. And that'll be another kindly thought to think in the night watches when soldiers' thoughts wander back through space to familiar haunts and associations.