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\$1.50 PER YEAR CASH.

\$80,000 FIRE AT MARSHVILLE WEDNESDAY NIGHT

The Flames, Securing a Start in the Marsh-Lee Millinery Department, Swept Westward For Nearly a Block—All Firms Carried Insurance.

Marshville was the scene of a disastrous fire Wednesday night which totally destroyed the general store of Marsh-Lee Co., Harrell Bros., and McBride & Hallman. The total loss amounted to over \$80,000. All three firms carried insurance, but not enough to cover the loss.

The fire, of unknown origin, started in the Marsh-Lee millinery department. As the town does not possess fire-fighting apparatus, the flames spread over the entire building unchecked, and the big store went up in smoke and flames. Sweeping westward, the flames soon covered Harrell Bros.' store, and it shared the same fate of Marsh-Lee's store. The store of McBride & Hallman, next in the path of the flames, was burned next, and the adjoining buildings were saved by virtue of the fact that an alley separated them from the flames.

Marsh-Lee Co. were the heaviest losers. For years they have been conducting a first-class general store, and in that time they had accumulated a valuable line of dry goods, clothing, millinery, groceries and hardware. Their loss is estimated at \$50,000, partly covered by insurance. Harrell Bros.' loss will amount to about \$20,000. They carried a general line of groceries, clothing and shoes. Many articles, such as some flour, corn, and feed stuff were saved from the burning building, but were damaged in transport.

Volunteers carried out most of McBride & Hallman's stock before the flames had gained much headway. But like the goods saved from Harrell Bros.' store, they were damaged considerably.

Mrs. Irene Marsh owned the building occupied by Marsh-Lee Co., while Mrs. J. C. Little owned the adjoining building occupied by Harrell Bros. The store room occupied by McBride & Hallman was owned by Harrell Bros. All three buildings were of brick.

The Marsh-Lee firm is composed of H. B. Marsh, E. E. Marsh and J. H. Lee, of Monroe, and other stockholders. This establishment has grown up with the town, the late J. W. Marsh being at one time a big promoter in the firm. The Harrell Bros. firm was established a few years later and is composed of Frank L. W. O., Horace and James S. Harrell and John Long.

The McBride & Hallman Company has been in business only about two years but they had already built up a good business.

Results of the Waxhaw Municipal Election.

The municipal election passed off very quietly yesterday, there being only a slight fliver of interest when the retiring mayor placed his ticket, unannounced, at the polling place early in the day, says Wednesday's Waxhaw Enterprise. The result of the election showed Dr. G. H. Burgess elected mayor and Messrs. Edwin Niven, Richard Nisbet, Henry Clark, Carl Wolfe and W. R. Steele commissioners. It was not expected that there would be more than one ticket in the field until yesterday morning, when Squire Sistare placed his name at the head of a ticket with the same commissioners as headed by Dr. Burgess. Then began a little interest and some genuine old time scratching. As the election progressed it looked like nearly everybody was running for something. The official returns are as follows:

For Mayor—G. H. Burgess, 48; R. T. Sistare, 25.

For Commissioners—Edwin Niven, 76; Carl Wolfe 76; Richard Nisbet, 73; W. R. Steele, 65; Henry Clark, 53; J. E. McCain 11; R. W. Billue, 9; J. A. Gamble 7; W. H. Collins and Billie Wolfe 1 each.

Messrs. Niven, Nisbet and Clark are of the old board.

The Last Stand of John Barleycorn.

Capt. Fletcher has a man on his force who is the object of much pity on the part of passers-by who see the gang at work. He is a white man, a convicted blockader. Capt. Fletcher allows him to work a little apart from the negroes, which is a genuine act of kindness on his part. The old man shovels aimlessly; his actions are like those of a wild bird which has been caged for the first time in its life. He wears a dejected air; to him the whole thing is a mystery. He is not aware of having done any wrong. Making whiskey out of corn, planted and raised under the beneficent eye of a Divine Providence, is nothing wrong to him. To him the God that allows his corn to grow could not possibly look with disfavor upon the use to which it is put. Yet he does not take into consideration that man makes laws for the protection of each individual, and that he has broken one of those laws. He sees no reason why any man should interfere with his whiskey making, and he never will.

This old man is one of the last exponents of the doctrine of personal liberty. There were many more who clung to the same belief, but they gave it up after waging an unsuccessful fight at the ballot box. He will probably continue to make liquor as long as his hands possess the strength, unaware of any wrongdoing on his part. Yet the road is becoming exceedingly hard to travel, as John Barleycorn is dying fast. Liquor is doomed in this section. Perhaps some day the old man will realize it, but not soon.

Death of Mrs. M. P. McNeeley.

Mrs. M. P. McNeeley died at her home two miles west of Monroe Wednesday afternoon. The death of the young mother was coincident with the coming of a baby boy. To say that the death of a young mother before she has the inexpressible joy of clasping her first born to her arms is but the repetition of words, vain words, and the solemnity of silence is the most profound utterance.

Mrs. McNeeley was a native of Appomattox, Va., where she was born twenty-four years ago and where her parents now live. To the home of her childhood the body was taken for burial and to the home of her parents her baby was taken for such care as only they could give. Her maiden name was Miss Lobelia Dinkard, and she and Mr. McNeeley were married on the 24th of last May. They at once made their home in Monroe and began housekeeping in the pretty bungalow which Mr. Ney McNeeley had built just before he sailed upon the foreign trip in which he lost his life. Mrs. McNeeley was a young woman who made friends and she had, even in so short a time, drawn many cords of friendship about her among our people. She was a graduate of the State Normal College of Virginia and for two years before her marriage had been principal of a high school in her native state.

MAYOR AND ALDERMEN TOOK OATH OF OFFICE WEDNESDAY

They Re-Elect Most of the City Officers, But Postpone Action on the Police Question to a Later Day.

City Clerk George S. Lee, Jr., acting in his official capacity as a Magistrate, administered the oath of office to Mayor J. C. Sikes, Aldermen W. A. Henderson, T. C. Collins, W. E. Funderburk, J. D. McRae and G. B. Caldwell Wednesday afternoon. The new board at once proceeded to business. Its first act was to smash a precedent. Instead of making the committee appointment in the old way, which includes two committee members and one chairman, they decided to make one man responsible for the affairs of the particular department which is entrusted to his care. Acting on this plan, they placed the finance department in Alderman Collins' hands; Caldwell controls the streets; Henderson the water and lights; McRae the fire and police department, and Funderburk health and education.

The new board re-elected Mr. T. L. Crowell tax collector; Mr. G. S. Lee, Jr., was re-elected city clerk, and Mr. C. W. Lee, superintendent of water and lights, gets another term from the new Aldermen. There was no opposition to any of these appointments; not one solitary application. But when it came to making the street superintendent appointment, the Aldermen struck a snag. The office has been vacant for some time, which led six applicants to make a bid for the job. Capt. W. L. Howie was the successful one, and he started work yesterday morning, replacing Mr. R. N. Payne, who has had temporary charge of the street forces since the resignation of Mr. Paul Griffith. The others making a try for the street job were Messrs. I. A. Huneycutt, W. W. Hargett, W. B. Davis, C. B. Barden, M. S. Meacham and R. N. Payne.

Mr. Albert McCall was appointed to take charge of the town clock. This job pays \$60 a year, but the county pays half of this amount. Mr. Ray Kraus has been keeping the big clock oiled for the past few years.

There was no changes made in the salaries of the city officials, although it has been intimated that there will be some reductions and some increases made before long. Capt. Howie went to work yesterday morning not knowing how much he was earning, as the salary of street superintendent has not been definitely fixed. Tax Collector Crowell draws \$85 per month; City Clerk George Lee gets \$75, and Superintendent of Water and Lights C. W. Lee is paid \$1,250 each month.

Marriage of Mr. Sutton and Miss Hamilton.

Mr. Lloyd Sutton and Miss Letha Hamilton were married at 10 o'clock Thursday morning at the home of the bride's father, Prof. O. C. Hamilton, at Unionville. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Seymour Taylor. Following the vows, Mr. and Mrs. Sutton left immediately on an automobile trip to the western part of the State. There were only a few near relatives of the bride and groom present. Mrs. Boyce Hamilton played the wedding march.

Mr. Sutton is a son of Mr. F. M. Sutton of west Monroe township, and is a young man of character and ability. He is a clerk in the Monroe postoffice. The bride is an accomplished young lady, being a graduate of Mitchell college. For the past few years she has been teaching at Weddington, where she won the hearts of both her patrons and pupils. She is attractive, and by her lovely disposition, she has won many friends throughout the county.

Selective Draft Bill Now Ready For Pres. Signature

House and Senate Place Conscription Age 21-30

Congress Will Give Its Approval of the Bill and It Will Then Be Ready to Be Placed Into Operation—Registration Expected to Begin Within Two Weeks.

Washington, May 10.—The long deadlock of senate and house conferees on the selective draft military bill was broken today with an agreement on a compromise measure under which a great war army would be raised by selective conscription of men from 21 to 30 years of age inclusive.

Authorization for recruiting Colonel Roosevelt's proposed volunteer division for service in France written into the bill by the senate finally was thrown out on the insistence of house conferees. In return, the house yielded to the senate's proposal for prohibition of military posts.

The conference report is expected to be approved by both senate and house in a few days and within two weeks after the President has affixed his signature, registration will be under way throughout the country. The war department has erected a vast and intricate war machine for assigning and organizing the conscripts. They will be assembled at training camps in September.

The compromise bill is understood to be generally satisfactory to the administration and the Army General Staff. The most important change made in congress was in the age limits, fixed by the staff at 19 and 25, inclusive. The senate made them 21 and 27 and the house 21 and 40. The ages named in the conference agreement makes the draft applicable to all male voters under 30.

With the Roosevelt proposal, the conferees also threw out a senate amendment under which three regiments of volunteers could have been enlisted for service on the Mexican border.

The section dealing with exemptions from draft was re-written in part by the conference committee and provisions was made for hearings in exemption applications before local civil tribunals with the right to appeal to a second tribunal and finally to the President.

Republicans in the senate who have favored giving Colonel Roosevelt authority to raise and take American troops to France declared tonight that an effort would be made on the retention of this feature. The general expectation, however, is that the conference decision will prevail.

The prohibition provision, as agreed to, excludes liquor, beer and wines from any military post, but does not forbid selling or giving these beverages to soldiers except when in uniform.

The conferees put into the bill an amendment giving the President power to organize and equip for each infantry and cavalry brigade three machine gun companies, and for each division of these services, four machine gun companies in addition to those comprised in each organization of these units. He also was given authority to organize one armored motor car machine gun company for each division.

Exemptions from the selective draft were left virtually as originally suggested by the General Staff. Those absolutely exempt include officers of the United States and State or Territory; ministers, students of recognized divinity or theological schools, and members of "any well recognized religious sect or organization at present organized" whose existing creed forbids participation in war. The last class are not exempt from non-combatant service.

In addition, the President is authorized to exclude or discharge from draft the following:

County and municipal officers, customs house clerks; postal employees, workmen in navy yards or arsenals or armories; others in the Federal government's employ whom the President may designate; pilots and mariners actually employed in sea service; "persons engaged in industries, including agriculture, found to be necessary to the maintenance of the military establishment or the effective operation of the military forces or the maintenance of national interest during the emergency," those having persons dependent upon them for support, and those found to be physically or morally deficient.

The section relating to tribunals to hear pleas for exemption provides that there be civil and not military hearings. Tribunals are to be established in each county of each state, or in cities, one for each thirty thousand inhabitants. There are to be three persons in each board appointed by the President. There will be an appeal tribunal in each Federal judicial district. The President would be the final court of appeal.

No Favoritism in Registration.

Washington, May 10.—To dispose of any fear that county and city registration boards will exercise favoritism in enrolling soldiers under the selective draft act, Provost Marshal General Crowder issued a statement tonight declaring such practices would be virtually impossible because of the explicit terms in which the act is drawn. He warned registration officials that favoritism easily

could be detected, and would be punished with heavy penalties.

"Every precaution," said the statement, "will be taken to make it certain that the registration will be conducted with exact justice."

The law is specific, and allows no latitude to the boards, either in the matter of registration or in the later matter of exemption from service. In fact, the law is self-executing. Every man within the age limits fixed by the selective service act must register, and the penalty of the law for evasion of registration will fall, not only on the man who fails to appear, but on any member of the registration board who may be shown to be in collusion with the person who attempts to escape his duty.

Further from this, the registration boards will never act as exemption boards except in certain specific cases, such as where a young man who has registered shall claim to be employed in a Federal, State or local office, and thereby does come within the exception clause of the statute. In cases like this, the facts must be entered officially and attested.

"So far as other reasons for exemptions under the law are concerned exemptions for men engaged in pursuits in which their work is more valuable at home than in the service, the authority will lie with a board of higher jurisdiction.

The law provides the penalty of imprisonment, with no alternative for a fine, for any official or any registered man who shall make a false return or connive at such a practice. The safeguards against favoritism or evasion are ample."

Big Battle Still Rages.

The sanguinary battle between the British and Germans for possession of the village of Fresnoy goes on apparently without abatement. It is a battle of desperation on the part of the Germans who see in the loss of the village a double menace, the placing in jeopardy of their entire line north, especially the town of Lens and its adjacent coal fields, and a deeply projecting salient into their lines which would virtually put the British at the threshold of Cambrai.

The exact situation in the little village, which was recaptured by the Germans Tuesday after a stubborn defense on the part of the Canadians is somewhat obscure. The British war office asserts that Prince Rupprecht, of Bavaria's men, met with reverses west of the village Tuesday night during a counter-attack, while unofficial advisers are to the effect that they have been expelled from a greater portion of the village, but are still holding out, although barely able to maintain themselves against the stubborn onslaughts of the Canadians.

On the other hand, the German official communication says the Germans have held the village against fresh British attacks and in addition have taken 100 more prisoners. In making this claim, however, the usual sanguinary losses inflicted are lacking in the statement of the German war office.

Wednesday saw a return of unfavorable weather along the Anglo-German front, and except around Fresnoy, the fighting was mainly by means of the artillery.

The French meantime have been busy consolidating the positions captured from the Germans in Tuesday's fighting near Chevreux, repulsing counter-attacks and engaging in artillery duels with the Germans. Northwest of Rheims, in the single instances where the infantry left the trenches, the French attacked and captured German positions on a front of more than four hundred yards and brought back 100 prisoners.

U. S. Gunners Fire on U-Boat.

New York, May 9.—An armed American Line steamship which arrived here tonight from a European port reported that her gun crew fired six shots at a German submarine off the coast of Ireland on May 2. The undersea boat immediately submerged and it was impossible to determine whether any of the shots took effect.

The periscope of the submarine was sighted about 6 o'clock that afternoon and the American vessel immediately swung around to afford the gunners an opportunity for accurate aim. The undersea craft disappeared simultaneously with the firing of the first shot, it was said, and did not reappear. The American ship then put on full speed and proceeded on her way.

A soft answer may turn away wrath, but it doesn't pay debts.



Mrs. Bickett Answers "Farmer's Wife."

Raleigh, May 9.—Deeply impressed by the letter from "A Farmer's Wife" to Governor Bickett, that was published recently in the press of the State, Mrs. Bickett, wife of the Governor, has written a letter to the president of the State Federation of Women's Clubs, that is to reach the club women throughout the State, declaring her deep interest in the economic and self-denials that are being urged as befitting this time of war stress.

In this letter Mrs. Bickett says: "I, personally, am deeply interested in the work of Mr. Bickett's administration in endeavoring to improve in every way rural conditions, and in doing all possible for the comfort, health and happiness of those on the farms. I honor sincerely the great service being done by both men and women in the country in food production and conservation, and feel sure that I voice the spirit of the women of the State in saying that we desire in every way possible to co-operate with them in their noble service. We honor the industry, ability and patriotism that is taking advantage of this larger service for our country and accept gracefully the suggestions of our sister to lend our aid."

"We do not feel, however, that we have been lacking in patriotism and a real effort to serve. We are buying at high prices the farm and garden products; we are utilizing our own small plots and corners; we are training our children and those about us to conserve space and material, and each one is doing her bit in the noble work of the Red Cross. I am sure we will be glad to add another excellent way of service by omitting, as suggested by our sister, the elaborate refreshments so often served at our entertainments, food that does not, indeed, feed a single hungry person, but is usually served to those who would be better off without it. Surely this is a most excellent time to break away from a custom that would be most honored in the breach rather than in observance, and use the funds that would be thus expended, to help in the great work before us."

"Mr. Bickett and I will gladly do this, using foresight and economy in every way possible, during these dark days when our hearts are aching with throbbing sympathy for those suffering and bereaved across the sea and with fear and foreboding for our loved ones at home. It is a privilege to aid, in our small way, our sisters of the farm and town in producing and conserving such a crop of food that our own may not go hungry, and succor those sadly needing our help."

U. S. Troops to France in 30 Days.

The first United States soldiers for service in France will depart from this country within the next thirty days, writes Wade Harris to the Charlotte Observer from Washington. However, it could not well be called an expeditionary force, as it will consist of only ten thousand troops. They will be put in training behind the lines by French officers. When trained, part of them, the more efficient, will be returned to the United States to train troops on home soil. The others with the flag will be sent to the French battle line.

Meantime, preparations will not have been interrupted for the mobilization of the first real expeditionary force, which will consist of one hundred thousand men, to follow as closely on the heels of the first ten thousand as possible. This is what might be called the Joffre plan, and is being given endorsement by the military authorities here. The Observer believes this is a correct outline of how and when our soldiers are going to France.

Many Personals From Vance.

Stouts, May 10.—Rather cool this morning after a few days of rain. Nevertheless we are glad to see the sun shine again. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Privett and little daughter, Velma, spent Sunday in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Auberry. Mr. Clayton Yandle visited his friend, Mr. Clegg Conder Saturday night. Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Sutton had as their guests Saturday night their little granddaughters, Misses Ora Hargett of Stouts, Verla Sutton of Charlotte, and Elizabeth and Goldie Sikes of Gadsden, Alabama. Little Miss Verla returned to her home Sunday, and Elizabeth and Goldie will remain with them several days.

Miss Kate Conder was the guest of Miss Bliss Conder of Indian Trail Tuesday night. The friends of Mrs. Will McRorie will be sorry to learn that she is very sick this week.

Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Rushing spent Tuesday night with the family of Mr. F. J. Conder. Little Miss Elizabeth Sutton spent Wednesday night with her cousin, Miss Ora Hargett.

Born, Thursday, 3rd, to Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Auberry, a daughter, Miss Etta Narkett spent Saturday night with Miss Mary Radden.

Mrs. T. G. Keziah pent Tuesday with Mrs. Rosa Haywood. Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Haywood of Marshville were visitors in the village Sunday.

Mrs. Carnes, mother of Mr. Walter Carnes, who has been seriously ill, is greatly improved, we are glad to report. Miss Amelia Hawfield and brother, Master Frank, of Wesley Chapel spent Wednesday in the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Conder.—School Girl.

SHERIFF GRIFFITH RECEIVES A BUNCH OF DRAFT BLANKS

When the President Makes His Proclamation, the Registration of Union County Men Liable For Military Service Will Begin.

Sheriff J. V. Griffith has received a batch of blank draft cards from the War Department to be used five days after President Wilson makes his war proclamation under the selective draft system, which recently passed both houses in congress. There is a card for every male citizen in Union county between the prescribed ages of 21 and 35, or 19 and 35, whichever may be the case. He will answer such questions as age, place of birth, nationality, occupation, previous military training, etc. He will also be asked if he claims exemption or not, and if so, on what grounds. Probably ground for exemption is marriage or dependents.

Whites and blacks, physically fit and unfit will be required under heavy penalty to sign these cards. The age limit is expected to be from 21 to 35 but it may vary in the last analysis. Should any one between these ages fail or refuse to sign, the officers of the law will call on him. It is understood from the bill that after these cards are all filled out the names will be put in a jury box and drawn out. Then if names of parties drawn out are exempted for any reason the exemption will be made by a jury or others in authority. Parties who think they are exempt cannot excuse themselves or refuse to sign the cards. This matter will be left to men in authority. The lame, the halt and the blind who come within the age limits must sign, but their registration does not mean, however, that they will have to perform military services. On the first and second calls for troops, it is the general opinion that all parties will dependents or who are physically or otherwise unfit will be exempted, but there may come a time when some grounds for exemption might be waived.

After one has registered, he will be issued another card showing that he has properly registered. He must keep this as evidence that he has filled the requirements made of all citizens within the age limits.

Sheriff Griffith has instructions to guard these cards carefully. He is not allowed to distribute them, or give out for publication anything concerning the orders he has received from the War Department. Similar cards have gone to every sheriff in each county in the nation.

Much speculation is aroused among many as to just how the negroes will take the selective draft system under they are called to the colors when their workings. There is no doubt of their loyalty, or their ability to fight. It is just a curiosity on the part of many to dwell on how the darkey will understand the matter, and what remarks some will make. The Journal overheard one darkey say he "was ready to fight if de white folks were." Similar expressions have been heard from many others.

Mrs. Parks Died in Charlotte Hospital Wednesday.

Mrs. Charles E. Parks of Sandy Ridge township, died Wednesday in a Charlotte hospital. The body was brought home that afternoon, and the funeral was held yesterday at the Banks church. The remains were laid to rest in the cemetery there.

The deceased was the daughter of Mr. George W. Howey of Sandy Ridge township, and was about thirty years of age. She was a good woman, being gentle, kind and cultured. She was essentially a woman of the home, but she did not neglect her church and community welfare work, which is expected of every true man and woman. In her home she administered to the sick, and in her death, that home loses its brightest, most sterling member. She was a great influence for good in the community, and a lady of such sterling character that her presence will be missed for years to come. She married Mr. Parks about four years ago.

Besides her husband, father and mother, Mrs. Parks is survived by two brothers, Dr. E. W. Howey of Waxhaw and Mr. Stitt Howey of Marvin, and a sister, Mrs. Thomas Hudson.

First Body Under American Colors Leaves For Front.

Paris, May 9.—The Stars and Stripes appeared on the streets of Paris as the battle flag of an armed force this morning when the flag and fifty men of the American Field Service under it, on their way to the railroad station for the front, were acclaimed enthusiastically by early risers all along the route.

The contingent had just been reviewed by Colonel Girard, head of the automobile section of the French army, in the presence of other French officers and Professor A. Platt Andrew, head of the American Field Service. The parade ground, near the headquarters of the medical section of the Field Service, was surrounded at an early hour by a large and enthusiastic crowd eager to see the Americans carrying arms in the service for France under the "Drapeau Etrole," the favorite name in France for the American colors.

Thirty-one members of the contingent are from Cornell University, and a graduate of Cornell, Edward Tinkhaf, of Montclair, N. J., is in command, with R. T. Scully, a Princeton man from Pittsburg, as his assistant.

This is the first detachment of the American Field Service to bear arms and detailed for the transportation of munitions to the front.