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## NEW BOARD ELECTS MR. T. M. CHRISTENBURY POLICE CHIEF

Politics Is Assigned as the Reason For Going Out of Town For a Man—Three Men Will Be on Police Force.

Determined to take the police department out of politics forever, the new Aldermanic board made its first step last Friday night by electing an out-of-town man, Mr. T. M. Christenbury, chief of police. The next step will be to give the new police head free reins in his department, and he will select his men on merit, and not on political pull. Then, as a final climax, Mayor John C. Sikes stated that any man in the employ of the city, whether he be on the police force or employed in any other capacity, will be discharged if he is caught delving in politics to the slightest extent. And, two years hence, if any of the city's force engages in politics, Mayor Sikes stated that he would make a personal request of his successor that that man be fired.

Retiring Chief C. H. Griffin was the only applicant besides Mr. Christenbury. It was the intention of the board, Mayor Sikes stated, to retain Mr. Griffin on the force at his present salary. If he had chosen to stay on the force, it is said, his salary in all probability would have been considerably raised. The salary of the new chief will be \$1,200 a year.

The selection of an outside man for chief of police created a stir on the streets Saturday. There was outspoken opposition to the choice, not on personal grounds, but on the principle of securing outside men when, to use the words of several, "there are plenty of tax-payers who would have been glad to get the job." The aldermen realized that there were plenty of "tax-payers" not above accepting a \$1,200 salary, but they did not seem to have much opinion of their suitability for the chieftainship.

Chief Christenbury comes to Monroe highly recommended. For six years he was chief of the Charlotte police department, and prior to that time he was tax collector. For the past two years he has been with Dupont people as special officer. There are three things that the new chief is "down on" according to his friends. No. 1, is whiskey; No. 2, gambling; and No. 3, prostitutes. He was so "down on" these three things in Charlotte, it is said, that he lost his job because he went so far as to almost eradicate them.

For many years the police situation in Monroe has been a determining factor in municipal elections. This year was no exception to the rule. Groups of men, it is said, who never had any occasion to require the services of policemen, voted against candidates because they feared such and such a candidate for chief of police, for whom he happened to harbor a particular dislike. There was a campaign waged by several for the job, but they were tipped off to the plans of the aldermen, and consequently they did not apply. This accounts for the fact that there were only two applicants. It was not a choice between Mr. Griffin and Mr. Christenbury. It was a choice between the system and a hoped-for remedy.

Mayor John C. Sikes stated to The Journal that there had been a dismal lack of co-operation on the Monroe police force, and that the new board had elected Mr. Christenbury in the hope that he might effect a change. The new chief, Mr. Sikes stated, will be given free rein. He will be given the power to employ and discharge his men at will if they refuse to co-operate. The policemen will also be required to wear uniforms, and they must also serve in the capacity of "public servants" as well as guardians of the public welfare. For instance, said Mayor Sikes, if a man from Rockingham stops at the square and wants to know the way to Charlotte, it will be the duty of the police to walk out to him, direct the way, and show him any courtesy in their power. They will also act as information bureaus, and must be courteous at all times.

Chief Christenbury will have three policemen on his force. One will act as day man to assist the chief, while the other two will patrol the town at night. The details of the new organization will be worked out later.

## ESQ. RICHARDSON DIED SUNDAY

One of the Most Prominent Citizens in the County, His Passing Away Causes Almost Universal Regret.

Following an illness of only two weeks, Esq. S. J. Richardson, one of the best-known and respected citizens of this county, died Sunday afternoon at 1:50 o'clock at his home two and one half miles southeast of Waxhaw. The funeral was held Monday afternoon, the services having been conducted by Rev. M. A. Osborne and Rev. M. H. Vestal. Interment was in the Bethlehem graveyard.

The deceased was a native of this county, being a son of the late Ely Richardson, who was a prominent personage in his day. He was born Oct. 21, 1840. He enlisted on the first call for volunteers, and served throughout the war, earning the reputation of being a courageous, and valiant soldier. At the conclusion of the war, he, like the rest of the soldiers of the lost cause, came home to help rebuild the fallen South. His part in those days cannot be overestimated. His home, his family, and his community are a standing testimonial to the good influence he had, and the respect he

who came in contact with him learned to not only respect, but love him. Only in last Tuesday's issue of the paper, "Scapegoat," said of Mr. Richardson: "I lived in two miles of Squire Joe Richardson all my life. We boys used to call him 'Old Man Joe,' but I long ago learned to have too much respect and liking for the good old fellow to call him that. No man in the county ever treated me with more kindness than he did."

On Dec. 13, 1866, Mr. Richardson and Miss Jane D. Richardson were married, and they lived happily up until about five years ago, when Mrs. Richardson passed away. Five sons and one daughter survive this union. They are: Mr. C. J. Richardson, Rev. F. E. Richardson, Mr. J. H. Richardson, Mr. M. L. Richardson, Mr. L. E. Richardson, and Miss Emma Richardson.

About two years ago the deceased suffered a slight paralytic stroke, which together with his 76 years of age, weakened his strong constitution so much that death was hastened. He bore his affliction bravely, and was cheerful to the last.

Mr. Richardson was a member of the New Hope Methodist church, and was ever a constant and faithful member. A brave soldier in the war, he led the life of a brave, consecrated Christian the rest of his life. Scrupulously honest, fair in his dealings, he never intentionally harmed an individual in his life. A Magistrate for years, he was linked up with the life in his community in all manners. In short, he was an ideal citizen, and in the words of Shakespeare:

"He was a man, take him all in all, 'I shall never look upon his like again.'"

## Tom Sikes Has a Chain Gang Record That's Hard to Beat.

Bill Worsley, a Rocky Mount darkey, completed his thirty-sixth chain gang sentence recently, and it is said that he has the whole world beat in this particular line. However, Tom Sikes, a Monroe darkey, comes pretty close to Bill's record. He recently completed his twenty-second sentence on the Union county chain gang, and he isn't an old darkey yet by any means. The Union county force was authorized by the legislature in 1894, and Tom, along with Ode Austin and John Hough, were the charter members.

Tom was only about nineteen years old when he received his first sentence for crap shooting in Chief Justice Flow's court. Every since then he has been making thirty, sixty and ninety days visits to the gang; most of the sentences being for crap shooting, which seems to be Tom's greatest failing. A few trips were made for selling whiskey.

Judge Robinson, a number of years ago, shocked Tom's nervous system by giving him a two-year sentence for gambling. This unnerved the reprobate for a time, but it wasn't long after his release before he commenced his old practices. Ode Austin was sent up for stealing in 1894. He robbed a white man on the Lee's Mill road. John Hough, his star partner, went on the force at the same time on the charge of stealing eggs.

Being the charter members, Tom, Ode and John felt that it was their solemn duty to keep the force up to its minimum strength. In all, Ode and John have served about sixteen years on the gang, while Tom's sentences will aggregate about ten years. John Hough left this section about four years ago, and hasn't been back, it is said. He is now at Wadesboro, it is believed. Tom and Ode still hang on, although Ode hasn't made a visit to the force in several years. He says he has reformed.

## Monroe Boys Leave For Oglethorpe—Others Join the Army.

After bidding a large number of friends, who had assembled at the station, good-bye, the Monroe contingent for Fort Oglethorpe, composed of Messrs. R. S. Houston, Andrew Monroe, Sam Parker, Gilliam Craig and S. S. Wolfe left for the Georgia training camp Sunday morning at 10:30 o'clock. They expected to arrive in Chattanooga Monday morning at 9 o'clock, but as yet no word has been received from them. They will be in training for three months, after which, if they pass a successful examination, they will either be given a commission in the regular army, or assigned to the Officers Reserve Corps. Two other young Monroe men, who had been accepted in Charlotte by Lieut. Dennis, failed to receive orders from the War Department to report to Ft. Oglethorpe. It is believed that another camp will be started soon to care for this overflow of men.

Messrs. A. A. Edgeworth and J. C. Rollins, both Monroe men, joined the army at Charlotte last Wednesday. They were assigned to the aviation manufacturing department, and were ordered to report for duty at Ft. Thomas, Ky., which they did last Friday. Mr. Edgeworth has been working for the Gordon Insurance & Investment Company for several years. Mr. Rollins is a son of Mr. J. C. Rollins of Lanes Creek township. He has been working for Bivens Brothers.

## Six Were Killed When Airplane Fell.

Petrograd, May 13, via London.—British Admiralty per Wireless Press.—Five Russian officers and one private lost their lives yesterday when a big Russian biplane in which they were flying fell to the ground at Monaster Zhytska, northeast of Stanislaw, in Galicia, from a height of 900 feet, says the official statement issued to the press by the Russian War Department.

## THE WAR SITUATION.

Russia Still the Center of Interest. While an Almost Truce Exists on the Eastern Front—Zeppelin Raid.

Russia still looms in the eyes of the world as a portentous obstacle to an early successful issue of the war for the Entente Nations and the United States over Germany and her Allies.

With a far from satisfactory state of affairs existing between the Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Deputies and high Russian government officials, which in the last few days has resulted in the resignations of the commander of the forces in Petrograd and the Minister of War and Marine, comes a renewal of the rumor that Turkey is following in the footsteps of Germany and Austria-Hungary and endeavoring to effect a separate peace with Russia.

The compensation said to have been offered by Turkey embraces a thing that has been the life dream of the Dardanelles to Russian ships, both merchantmen and men of war. Turkey also would be agreeable, if Russia would consent to lay down arms, to consider a satisfactory settlement of the Armenian question, long a thorn in the side of mankind, and likewise deal with her various subjects on the principle of Nationality.

While there have been rumors that the Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Deputies has called for an armistice, official denial of this is made by the Council. On the contrary, it is stated by the Council that an appeal to the soldiers is being drawn up declaring against a separate peace.

The Russians and Teutons continue almost inactive in their trenches, only sporadic exchange of rifle fire being reported. On both the Caucasus and Mesopotamian fronts, the Turks have inflicted reverses on the Russians, according to Petrograd.

South of Erzincan the Kurds have repulsed Russian forces after a stubborn fight, while in Mesopotamia the Russians have been forced to retreat across the Djalala River in the face of superior forces.

A significant statement as to the desirability of Great Britain accepting a separate peace with Austria-Hungary has been made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the House of Commons. There never has been a question of making a separate peace said the Chancellor, but as Germany was always trying to detach some of the Allies, it might be "that no blow would seem so fatal to Germany as if one of her own Allies were detached from the fight."

On the front of France, the British, after days of fierce fighting, have taken in its entirety from the Germans the village of Roex to the east of Arras and north of Gavrelle have pushed their line forward. French and German artillery are still roaring in the great duels which always are the forerunners of attack.

The sixth Zeppelin to meet with destruction by the British and French since the war began, has been accounted for by British naval forces in the North Sea. It was the L-22, and was completely destroyed and it is believed most of its crew perished.

That Great Britain is immediately to adopt a more aggressive attitude in the war with her navy is shown by the appointment of a Naval Staff headed by Admiral Jellicoe. The staff also will have charge of speeding up shipbuilding and carrying out other details necessary to the naval conduct of the war.

## Senate Adopts Amendment Forbidding Use of Cereals in Manufacture of Liquor.

Washington, May 12.—The first legislative step toward conservation of the nation's food resources and a long advance toward an absolutely dry United States, was taken tonight by the senate in approving, 38 to 32, an amendment to the administration espionage bill, forbidding during the war the use of cereals or grain in the manufacture of intoxicating liquor.

By a majority of one vote the senate also threw out of the bill the administration's press censorship section and then voted overwhelmingly not to put in a modified section as was done in the house. This action is expected to throw the censorship fight into conference, where the influence of the administration can be brought to bear more directly. What will be the outcome, no senator would predict with confidence tonight.

The prohibition amendment was adopted under a rule limiting debate sharply, and there were only brief speeches on each side. Just before the senate had voted down, 47 to 25, a proposal to forbid the sale of intoxicants during the war.

Effective September 1, the amendment is calculated to confine sale and consumption to whiskey and other grain liquors already in stock and to wines, brandies or other drinks that depend upon other materials for their main constituents. Another opportunity to vote upon it will be offered when the senate takes the bill with the amendment from the committee of the whole, but opponents of the prohibitory provision are not confident that they will be able to overturn today's action.

## Mr. Taft's Son Enlists.

Washington, D. C., May 12.—Chas. P. Taft, the 19-year-old son of William H. Taft, has enlisted as a private in the artillery. Taft is under legal age and it was necessary for him to obtain consent of his parents. Robert Taft, another son of Mr. Taft, failed to obtain admission to the

## RUSSIAN IS ON BRINK OF RUIN

Minister of Justice's Diagnosis of Internal Crisis Most Alarming That Has Come From Any Official.

Petrograd, May 13, via London, May 15.—(Delayed)—In an impassioned appeal to delegates from the front at a meeting in Petrograd today, A. F. Kerensky, Minister of Justice, made the most alarming diagnosis of Russia's internal crisis that has come from any official person since the revolution. The Minister of Justice, who heretofore has made only the most optimistic and reassuring declarations, confessed that his confidence has left him and that he feared disaster.

"I come to you," said M. Kerensky, "because my strength is at an end. I no longer feel my former courage, nor have I my former conviction that we are conscientious citizens, not slaves in revolt. I am sorry I did not die two months ago when the dream of a new life was glowing in the hearts of the Russian people, when I was sure the country could govern itself without the whip."

"As affairs are going now, it will be impossible to save the country. Perhaps the time is near when we will have to tell you that we can no longer give you the amount of bread you expect and other supplies on which you have a right to count. The process of the change from slavery to freedom is not going on properly. We have tasted freedom and are slightly intoxicated, but what we need is sobriety and discipline."

"You could suffer and be silent for ten years, and obey the orders of a hated government. You could even fire upon your own people when commanded to do so. Can you now suffer no longer?"

M. Kerensky's declaration, though a trifle more outspoken in its pessimism than the utterances of other officials, is not unrepresentative of public opinion in Petrograd at the present time. Unless there is a quick infusion of a new spirit in the army, a new understanding of freedom among the masses, and unless the energy which now is used to bring about peace is transformed into energy working for the defense of the country, it is generally felt that Russia will not long be able to go on with the war.

## First Contracts for New Ships.

Washington, May 13.—Signing of the first contract for ship construction under the Administration's billion dollar program was announced tonight by the Federal Shipping Board. The contract went to the Los Angeles Shipbuilding and Drydock Co., and called for delivery in 1918 of eight steel vessels each to carry 3,800 tons of cargo.

It also was announced the board was bargaining for 350,000 tons additional steel and wood tonnage, for delivery as early as possible. Some of the wooden ships already are under construction, their builders proceeding without awaiting formal contracts.

The Shipping Board plans to have built within the next eighteen months at least 1,000 ships, steel and wood, of more than 3,000,000 aggregate tonnage to combat the German submarine campaign. Bills to be introduced in Congress this week call for an additional appropriation of \$400,000,000. Later an additional \$340,000,000 will be asked, and if this is not enough still more will be sought.

"The Government," said Chairman Denham, of the Shipping Board today, "is convinced that ship construction is vital to American success in the war. A billion dollars is a cheap price to pay if it turns the balance between victory and defeat. If a billion dollars is insufficient, more money must be spent."

"Under the bills to be introduced, the Government would be empowered to requisition shipyards, if necessary to hasten construction, and in an emergency could take over the country's steel mills' output and put it into shipbuilding."

## German Royal Family Has American Dentist

Copenhagen, via London, May 13.—Emperor William recognizes no state of war with the United States so far as his personal comfort is concerned. This is shown by the fact that he has summoned his American dentist, Arthur Newton Davis, of Piqua, Ohio, to visit him at Great Headquarters this week and attend to the necessary repairs of the Imperial teeth.

The war in general has proved toothache to be no respecter of international relations and throughout the long months of tension between Germany and the United States the Imperial and Royal family and the highest officials of the State have continued to patronize their respective American dentists. Each new crisis was marked by an almost ludicrous rush of members of the royal families, foreign office officials and other dignitaries to get their teeth attended to before the possible departure of the American dentists. Some of the most rabid vituperators of the United States have been mild doves in American dental chairs.

The Emperor's personal view of the relations with the United States apparently is the official interpretation of his Government, which in a communication regarding the continuance of the Belgian relief work, speaks not of war, but of the "abandonment of neutrality" by the United States. Along the same line is a declaration in the Reichstag committee by Major General Friedrich, who said there was no intention to intern

## Congress Now on Sixth Week of the War.

Washington, May 13.—Congress begins the sixth week of war tomorrow with the calendars of both houses still filled with legislation which the administration feels is essential to the successful conduct of the conflict with Germany.

The senate, after two weeks debate on the espionage bill drawn by the Department of Justice, is expected to pass that measure today.

The house probably will conclude discussion of the \$1,800,000,000 war revenue bill early in the week and send it to the senate, where two days of committee hearings have indicated that many changes are to be made in its structure before it goes to the White House for the President's signature.

The espionage bill has been stripped of the press censorship section which caused much of the opposition to its passage. The injection of an amendment last night prohibiting the use of cereals or grains in the manufacture of intoxicants during the war, although a bitter pill to the foes of prohibition, probably will not greatly delay ultimate passage of the entire measure.

Plans of leaders in the senate are not clear as to what measure of the several important ones shall be taken up after the espionage bill, but it is probable it will be the food control bill, a subject looked upon by administration leaders as of vital and pressing importance.

Conferees on the war army bill called to meet again tomorrow because the House, after once rejecting the so-called Roosevelt amendment, now wants to put it in, are not expected to take long at their task, and tomorrow the bill may reach the Senate floor.

Since the Roosevelt amendment originated in that body, it is possible that the army measure can be disposed of without much debate and early in the week sent to the President.

## FOOD SPECULATORS DENOUNCED

### Overwhelming Sentiment Developed

For Food Control Legislation—Senator Gore Introduces Resolution Calling For Appointment by the President of Controller-General of Supplies, Who Would Also Deal With Allies.

Washington, May 14.—Speculation in food supplies was vehemently denounced today on the floor of the senate and in a remarkable debate there was shown plainly an overwhelming sentiment for putting a stop to gambling in the necessities of life.

An amendment to the espionage bill, proposed by Senator Thomas of Colorado, to suspend during the war all exchanges, boards of trade and chambers of commerce that permit speculation in food stuffs, was beaten only because it was thought the provision had no place in the bill and that it should be offered in connection with food control legislation pending in congress.

Senator after Senator scored the men who have manipulated grain prices, and the terms "pirates" and "robbers" were freely used. Those who opposed the Thomas amendment as irrelevant to the legislation before the Senate joined with their colleagues in declaring speculation must be ended. A few objected, however, on the ground that legitimate commerce might be choked by stopping all dealings in futures.

Rise in grain prices on the Chicago exchange started by the Agriculture Department's forecast of an unusually light winter wheat yield has caused the administration to redouble its efforts in behalf of food control legislation, already introduced in both houses of congress.

The measures pending were supplemented today by a resolution introduced by Senator Gore, chairman of the Agriculture Committee, calling for appointment by the President of a Controller-General of supplies. There have been increasing indications since the return of Herbert C. Hoover with food reports from abroad that the Administration intends to centralize control of the food situation in one man. Appointment of a food controller would be made possible by passage of the food bills already before congress, but the Gore resolution would make his duties more specific and would grant him wider powers.

Conferring on a food controller powers to deal directly with the Allies in the exchange of supplies, proposed in the Gore resolution, fits directly into the government's plan for a centralized buying arrangement under an international Commission.

Maximum price fixing plans, as explained today by Secretary Houston, do not contemplate a maximum price on staples generally, but application of the principle only when it appears a food corner is in sight. In this way the Agriculture Department believes price manipulation could be controlled in an effectual manner.

## Espionage Bill Passed, But Modified, By Senate.

Washington, May 14.—After nearly three weeks of debate, the senate, by a vote of 77 to 6, tonight passed the administration espionage bill, pronounced one of the most drastic and all-inclusive measure in American congressional history.

A similar bill has passed the house and virtual redrafting of many of the most important provisions is expected in the forthcoming conference.

During today's final consideration, the senate stripped the measure of

## GOVERNOR BICKETT WANTS THE BASEBALL LEAGUES DISBANDED

Nobody Likes to See a Good Game Better Than He Does, But He Wants the Players to Either Join the Army or Grab a Hoe

"I love a game of baseball, but it seems to me that the summer of 1917 is no time for professional baseball and I think all professional leagues should be disbanded," declared Governor Bickett Sunday afternoon, according to Tom Bost in the Greensboro News.

It has been remarked following the governor's statement that some of the alleged leagues are not playing the game to hurt, but the chief executive would have them all quit the lots, go to the trenches or grab a hoe. He would relish seeing the fans and families recompensed and recreated in a cornfield where Bickett himself picked up much wisdom.

He would abolish the joy ride. That would eliminate half the gasoline bill and save riches to all the people. "I am advised," he whispered to the public, "that Mr. Rockefeller could, in the face of this economy on the part of the people, still manage to get along." He has made acquaintance of famine and urges planting now against evil that comes at the close of the year. Unless that is done, Governor Bickett declares that the world will be scarcer of food at Christmas than it has been in a thousand years.

"Beginning and ending at Jerusalem" is the title of the appeal which is presented thus:

"To all the people of North Carolina: The world war is on and we are face to face with famine. Millions of men whose business in time of peace it was to produce are now called upon to destroy. Unless drastic and revolutionary efforts are made to increase our food supply per capita amount on hand next Christmas will be less than it has been for a thousand years."

"The great northwest advises us officially that it cannot next year furnish us the food we have heretofore bought from it, but that its surplus must be sent to feed the men who fight. In the emergency we are not called upon to feed other nations, but simply to take care of ourselves. We are not required to go into all the earth, but our work is both to begin and to end at Jerusalem."

"Much time has been lost, but there is still time to provide against the coming day of want. We still have six months of sunshine. We have abundant vacant lands. And we have the people to cultivate these lands if they have a mind to work."

"I think the farmers are doing what they can. The duty rests upon the people in the towns and cities to utilize their idle hours and idle men in making food for themselves. Let the cities and towns take steps to have vacant lots plowed and turned over free of rent to people who will cultivate them. The teams and labor in control of the cities might well be taken from their present work during the month of May and used in preparing vacant lands for immediate cultivation. The towns should also arrange for the purchase by wholesale of containers for the use of canning clubs and of fertilizers and distribute these to the people at prime cost. Public funds could well be employed in this way and it would be better for the streets of the town to be unswept for two or three weeks in May than for our pantries to be bare next winter."

"I urge every man in town to go into the surrounding country and procure from one to five acres of land and plant it in corn, potatoes, peas and beans and thus make sure provision against want in his own family. Do not expect your neighbor to do this, but do it yourself. I earnestly urge every man in the state who has an idle acre to list it with the mayor of the nearest town as rent-free land for any person who will plant it in food and feed crops."

"All forms of idleness and waste of time should be discouraged. I love a game of baseball, but it seems to me that the summer of 1917 is no time for professional baseball, and I think all professional leagues should be disbanded. The man who is able to play professional baseball ought to be either in a trench or in a furrow. And the 'fans' and 'fannies' who hold down the bleachers can find recompense and recreation in a corn field."

"Let the automobile joy ride be given up entirely. Surely this much of self-denial can be practiced by every man in the state. If every man who owns an automobile would cut his gasoline bill half in two months would be saved to meet the necessities of the people and a vast quantity of gasoline would be made available for the uses of war. I am advised that Mr. Rockefeller could in the face of this economy on the part of the people, still manage to get along."

"We should make a frolic of our necessities and should force our fads and fancies to furnish us food. As the children would say, let's all play at farming this year."

"Seriously, men and brethren, let us shake off our fatuous complacency and give ourselves no rest until we know that we and our loved ones are secure from the wolf whose gaunt spectre now looms large against the sky-line. Let us work while it is summer. Winter cometh. — T. W. Bickett, Governor."

and restriction upon manufacture of grain into intoxicating liquors, and rejected an amendment designed to curb speculation in food products, although sentiment obviously was overwhelming in favor of such legisla-