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COMMANDER R. S. HOWIE GETS LETTER FROM FRANCE

Mr. Frank Armfield Recalls Amusing Incident Concerning Noted Confederate Forager.

OVER THREE THOUSAND TOTS ASSIGNED TO STATE

Appeal for Aid for Starving Children of the Near East Is Meeting With Good Response.

An appeal from the North Carolina Committee of the Near Relief has been scattered broadcast through this State and it is a cheerful sight to see how many of the people are responding to the cry for aid for the hungry and homeless Armenians and Syrians who are waiting for North Carolinians to set their table.

This advance drive comes at an opportune time—a time when the giver feels like giving and when the needy can be cheered most—and Chairman Bellamy is highly gratified with the holiday response.

The Christmas offering, however, will feed only a few of the 3,334 who are waiting for North Carolina to set their table. The big drive must follow and it is this drive that will tell whether all will be provided for at the Trebizond Orphanage.

Here Are Just a Few of the Sad Messages from their Land.

"Tens of thousands of refugees from zone of operations. The situation now doubly acute. Can you do anything to help in matter of food supplies."—Yarrow.

"Repatriation movement has collapsed. People must winter in Mosul region. Suggest we take over one block of Urubians (they are remnants of the old Assyrian race, Christians who were driven from their homes in 1918)."—Thrasher.

"Heavy taxes levied by nationalists on all Christians will not be easy to bear and will prevent them from contributing anything to the support of their dependents, and it will be very necessary for us to make up the deficiency."—Coombs.

These are only a handful of the numerous reasons why North Carolinians must feed the 3,334 tots assigned to the State by the National Committee of the Near East Relief.

North Carolina helped the starving children last year and the same opportunity is again offered to us. The Christmas appeal should not go unnoticed at a time when a little life can be saved.

It may be too late after some little child has perished by the wayside.

Are You Tired of Drives? This is a serious question.

Are the Armenian children tired of starvation? Are the homeless tots tired of persecution at the hands of the Turks? Are the ragged orphans tired of going without clothing? Are the hungry children tired of begging for something to eat?

Are we North Carolinians tired of pleasure, tired of folly, tired of the luxuries of life? What more could the hungry tots ask of us than a few morsels of bread and just enough bread to hope for life.

Chairmen let's get together in behalf of a just and Christian cause before it is too late. Let's prepare for a real blessing.

The children are waiting for us to set their table.

In Memory of John M. Bell.

To the Editor of The Journal:—An all-wise God, in his infinite wisdom has seen fit to send to our midst and claim our friend John on December 1, 1920. In calmness of the night we were hushed by a voice, which came in the home of Mrs. J. V. Medlin, and life was gone from our loved one. It may be what we say or what we think may not add to his peaceful rest or contribute greater repose to his eternal sleep. But somehow and in some mysterious way, we feel that the still and silent form moulding away in the churchyard plot, would rest better and we are moved resigned to fate of the dead. If after he is gone if kind hearts and loving lips recall his living face and speak words of praise and friendship for the virtues which he possessed. It seems but yesterday he was with us; today he has gone to his last resting place. Covered with the cold clouds surrounded by a silence that is eternal. He has left the warm and general spheres of life, and gone to mix forever with the elements and to be a brother in the city of the dead. Such is the sad fate of John for a little while with us, and then the number of his days are ended; the silver cord is broken and he is carried out by his loved ones to dwell in the city of the dead. I am sure that he for whom this sketch is written knew that when he was gone, his relatives and friends would not forget; he knew we would keep his memory sacred and secure and that in warm hearts and living minds would continually dwell kind thoughts of him fresh and sweet, until one by one we shall go to lay down with him in the silent hall of death. This sketch would be incomplete did we forget the glorious hopes of him. May we live so true that some time we may greet each other over there in the land of flowers and where trouble comes no more. John thou has left us. Here thou loss we deeply feel, but God that hast bereft us; he can all our sorrows heal. Peaceful be thy silent slumber. Peaceful in thy grave so low thou no more wilt join our number; thou no more our songs shall know. Yet again we hope to meet thee; when the day of life is fled then in heaven with joy to greet thee, where no farewell tears is shed.—His little friends, Oweles and Lucille Helms, 14 South Brevard, Charlotte, N. C.

Give undivided service or none. Imitation goods give imitation results. Ask the man with a wooden leg.

Concluded on Page 8.

Should Highway Bill Pass, This County to Get \$750,000 Highway

Would Also Be Strong Likelihood of Us Getting \$2,000,000 Worth or More of Hard-Surfaced Roads, Says Mr. F. G. Henderson

Should the proposed highway bill pass at the next session of the General Assembly this county would become the immediate beneficiary of a seven hundred and fifty thousand dollar hard-surfaced road, and later on there would be a possibility of securing over \$2,000,000 worth more of hard-surfacing, according to Mr. F. G. Henderson, a member of the executive committee of the Citizens' Road Association.

The highway bill provides for the expenditure of \$140,000,000 over a period of twenty years for the construction and maintenance of 3500 miles of hard-surfaced highways. Twenty millions of this sum would be realized from the sale of bonds, while an ad valorem tax of five cents on the hundred dollars would amount to approximately a million and a half dollars a year, and a tax of one cent a gallon on gasoline would also return five hundred thousand dollars every twelve months. Automobile taxes would be used for maintenance.

Would Cost County \$500,000. The cost of the huge project to this county would be about five hundred thousand dollars with twenty years to pay. The ad valorem tax would cost the county about fifteen thousand a year, while interest and sinking fund for the retirement of the twenty million bond issue would cost us around two hundred thousand.

However, details of the bill are more accurately set forth in the following Raleigh dispatch:

"The bill to be presented to the legislature some time early in the session, will embrace the following ideas for raising the money:

"1. Federal aid money, \$2,500,000 annually; 2. 5c property tax, \$1,500,000 annually; 3. 1c tax on gasoline, \$500,000 annually; 4. State bond issue, \$4,000,000 annually; total, \$8,500,000 annually.

"This schedule does not take into consideration the million and a half dollars that will be collected from automobile license sales during the coming year for it is the suggestion of this joint committee that this money shall be used strictly for maintenance. Every sane man in North Carolina has given the matter any consideration at all has been led at the lack of judgment and foresight which has prompted the building of roads at a great cost without any thought for the maintenance of these roads. Yet such has been the program in North Carolina for many years and the result is that while great sums have been spent by the counties for road work, in the majority of the counties this money served but a temporary purpose for the roads soon wore out under traffic and no provision was made for keeping them in repair.

State to Maintain Highways.

"The new bill will require the State to immediately take over the maintenance of every mile of the 3,500 miles suggested for the State highway system. Provision will be made for patrolling these roads and for repairing them immediately after the damage is done either by rains or through any other agency. The officials in charge of every road section will be held directly responsible for the maintenance of every mile of his road, and the failure to do this will be the cause for his immediate dismissal from the service.

"With the expenditure of this money for road maintenance and of the other funds for the construction of new roads, it will be possible in less than a decade for a man to leave the mountain counties of the west and travel clean across the State to the sea-shore on the east without having to traverse other than a well-constructed and perfectly maintained road all the way. Such a system would open up the great mountain counties to the other sections of the State and would enable the people of the east to get to these beautiful mountain counties. The adoption of such a program, it is confidently believed would result in giving North Carolina one of the best systems of roads to be found anywhere in the country."

How Union Would Benefit.

"The purpose of the bill," said Mr. Henderson to The Journal, "is to connect county seat with county seat. This means that Union county, owing to its peculiar location, will get a hard-surfaced road between Monroe and Charlotte, or that part of the Wilmington to Charlotte highway; and later on, at least one, possibly all, of the following roads will be hard-surfaced and maintained by the State: Lancaster road, 20 miles; Concord road, 16 miles; Morgan Mill road to Albemarle, 16 miles; and the road to the Chesterfield county line, about 16 miles.

"As the cost of hard-surfacing is about thirty thousand dollars a mile, the Wilmington to Charlotte highway through this county would cost \$750,000; and the construction of highways to the other county seats would entail an expenditure of over \$2,000,000.

"From a selfish standpoint, if from no other, this county ought to be by all means heartily support the highway bill. The hard-surfacing of the Charlotte to Wilmington highway alone would equal in importance the advent of a new railroad to Monroe. The resultant saving in freight, and the pleasure and profit to be derived from road roads leading out of Monroe would alone be worth the cost to us."

Changing County Offices Back to the Old Fee Basis Proposed

Extension of Hunting Season to Forty-Five Days, and a Tax on Hunters Also Among Legislative Acts Slated For This County.

Proposed legislation to be passed for this county at the forthcoming session of the North Carolina General Assembly includes acts changing the county officers back to the old fee system, a tax on bird hunters, and making a jail sentence mandatory for the second conviction for manufacture or sale of illicit liquor, so The Journal learns from various sources.

An effort to secure a revision of the Revaluation Act will also probably be made, according to some of those opposed to the measure, and who are known to have sought the influence of at least one of our legislators towards the accomplishment of this end.

The belief that the county should not profit by offices created for the purpose of serving justice and the recording of papers is said to have actuated the movement for a change to the old fee system. All of the county officers are now on a fee basis, even the sheriff. The fees in the Clerk of Court and Register of Deeds offices amount to around \$1000 a year each; while the sheriff would be allowed five per cent on all taxes he collected up to a certain amount. Salaries of deputies would also be paid out of the fees.

Change in the Bird Law.

The agitation for a change in the game laws, which has been going on for many years, has reached a successful climax, it seems. Interested parties claim a law will be passed extending the hunting season from fifteen to forty-five days; and that a resident tax ranging from \$1 to \$3, and a non-resident tax of \$15, will be imposed on hunters. The law will be patterned after the South Carolina statute, which is said to be an ideal one. A part, if not all, of the taxes collected from this source will be paid to a game warden to enforce the laws.

sentence on moonshiners or blind-livers convicted for the second time would provide a minimum sentence of thirty days, and a maximum of one year. The punishment for third offenses would be increased in like proportion. As the law now stands the penalty is discretionary with the court. Advocates of this measure believe its adoption would stop much of the illicit distilling that is now going on.

May Save Recorder's Court.

The movement to abolish the Recorder's court will be defeated, this paper is told by a Monroe citizen who stands high in the counsel of the mighty. There may be some salary changes made, but the jurisdiction of the court will be extended rather than curtailed.

Gets Thirty Years For Stabbing Woman.

In Guilford Superior court Thursday, Frank Pietro, Italian, who stabbed Maud Latham to death at the home of his mother, Mrs. Charlotte Hagley, 116 Ward street, High Point, on the night of July 15-16, 1920, was permitted through his attorney, H. L. Koenig, to enter a plea of murder in the second degree by Judge J. B. Ray, presiding over the criminal term of Superior court. The court sentenced the defendant to a period of thirty years hard labor in the State penitentiary at Raleigh.

The Greensboro Daily News says that Pietro, stockily built, between 35 and 40 years of age, wept copiously after the sentence was passed. He spent six or seven very anxious hours during the day, and when the judgment was read to him he was unable to restrain himself longer. He stated he was born in Panna, State of Naples, Italy, and had been living in the United States for the past 17 years, most of the time in Philadelphia, Pa. He was unable to understand or speak English, necessitating an interpreter, Mrs. Gus Pappas.

FRAUD IS DISCOVERED BY THE USE OF ETHER

Under the Influence of the Drug, Faked Paralysis of Negro Beggar Is Exposed.

Florence, S. C., December 23.—Having such a large and varied wardrobe in his possession, Florence officers are confident that a negro giving his name as George Lee is wanted somewhere for robbery, but so far they have not been able to get in touch with the proper city or town. Lee came to Florence in a rolling chair and made application to the chief of police to beg. He claimed that he had been paralyzed for ten years. The chief was suspicious and put the negro through all sorts of tests to see whether he was really paralyzed. The man stood all of them even to bearing the pain of pins jabbed into his leg without flinching. This did not satisfy the police, who took Lee to the Florence infirmary for examination. There he was placed under an anesthetic and as the ether began to take effect, Lee swung his arms and kicked out his legs like a good fellow. He left the infirmary free of paralysis and has been held here pending further investigation. Lee is 45 years old, 5 feet 7 inches tall, weighs 170 pounds, is slightly baldheaded and is of a ginger cake color. In his two trunks were found several suits of new clothes, seven fancy vests, a new overcoat, two leather raincoats, several pairs of shoes, nine silk shirts, 23 cotton and wool shirts, 30 suits of light and heavy underwear and numerous other articles of wearing apparel. It is claimed that he told a fellow prisoner that he had killed another negro in Virginia and he was very much worried for fear he had talked too much when under the influence of the ether which cured his paralysis.

Robbers Enter Bank and Get \$10,500 Cash and Bonds.

Orangeburg, S. C., December 20.—Robbers entered the Farmers' Bank at Parier, S. C., 16 miles from here, early today and after blowing the safe made their escape with \$500 in cash and Liberty bonds said to be the amount of \$10,000.

They Can't Pull This Stuff on Smart Folks.

(From the Holton, Kan., Signal.) How would you like to pay \$960 for two gallons of whiskey? Nobody in Holton would pay that price, but that is what a fellow who said his name was John Custer tried to get for it here last week. The fellow put up at the Sutherland Hotel and as one began to look around for customers to whom he proposed to sell the old reliable brand of "Taylor" whiskey at \$60 per gallon, but the men who were familiar with the brand, which in time gone by they had purchased for \$4 a gallon, were shocked at the price asked, and word was passed to the sheriff that there was a profligate in town and he was placed under arrest. After the arrest of Custer his room at the Sutherland Hotel was searched by the officers, who found a two-gallon jug under his bed. When the whiskey was poured out it was discovered that instead of there being two gallons, there was only a pint, and repeated shakings failed to produce any more. When the bottom was broken it was found that the jug had been filled nearly to the top with layers of sand and sawdust to make it the proper weight, and on top of this was a layer of waterproof cement, leaving enough space in the top to hold a pint of whiskey.

Presbyterian Church.

A cordial invitation is given to the following services.

10. A. M.—Sunday school, A special program and offering for "Near East Relief."

11 A. M.—Worship and sermon, Christmas text, "Where is He?" "We have found Him!"

7 P. M.—Praise service and sermon, Miss Alice Norwood's class in charge. We are glad to welcome our young people home for the holidays and wish them and all our people a Happy Christmas.—Recorder.

Custom of Laying Corner Stone.

The custom of laying the corner stone of a public building with ceremonies was practiced by ancients, says the Detroit News. At the laying of the corner stone when the capitol of Rome was rebuilt a procession of vestal virgins robed in white, surrounded the stone and consecrated it with libations of living water. A prayer to the gods followed, and then the magistrates, priests, senators and the knights laid hold of the ropes and moved the mighty stone to its proper position. In a hollow cut in the stone was laid ingots of gold, silver and other metals which had not been melted in any furnace. With the Jews the corner stone was considered an emblem of power, and they also performed ceremonies at its laying. In Medieval times the rite was taken up by the order of Freemasons, and by them has been brought down to modern days the Masonic ceremony of laying a corner stone being symbolic.

Out of Sight.

The topic under discussion was the advantage of a woman's stocking as a bank.

"Nowadays, women wear hose so thin that you can read the serial numbers on the bills in the bank-roll," advanced the New Gangled Guy.

"Oh, I admit the principle is all right but the money draws altogether too much interest," persisted the Old Mossback.

WOMAN REQUESTS HARDING NOT TO USE CIGARETTES

Seventy-Five Year Old Pennsylvania Woman Is Branded a Witch and Ostracized.

NEWS OF THE STATE & NATION

The United States will have a population of 137,000,000 people, the maximum which its continental territory can sustain, about the year 2100, Professor Raymond Pearl of the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health estimated in a lecture recently. To support such a population, he said 620 trillion calories of food a year would be needed, and judging from the production of the last seven years, when the maximum population was reached, it would be necessary to import about half the calories necessary for sustenance.

Branded as a witch, blamed for sickness, death and misfortune in her neighborhood and threatened with burning at the stake, Mrs. Augustino Cataro, 75 years old, of Ellwood, Pa., has appealed to the law for protection. In the meantime Antonio Capriano, accused by Mrs. Cataro of starting the witchcraft story, is under arrest. Mrs. Cataro said that women avoided her in the street, that children fled in fright and that she was ostracized by neighbors. Threats had been made, she said, that unless she left Ellwood city she would be tied to a stake and burned to death.

A Topeka, Kan., dispatch says that Miss Lucy Paze Gaston of Chicago superintendent of the International Anti-Cigarette League, who is in Topeka working in the interests of the organization has announced that she had sent a letter to President-elect Harding asking him not to use cigarettes. The letter concludes: "The United States has had no smoking President since McKinley, Roosevelt and Taft and Wilson all have clear records. Is not this a question of grave importance?"

Henry Ford got panicky over the coal shortage in Detroit, according to testimony introduced in Washington before a Congressional investigating committee, and sent ten different agents secretly into the coal fields to buy coal. These agents competed against each other, one buying from the other, until they "jumped" the price from \$4 to \$11 a ton for the same coal in one day.

The highest paid labor in Vienna, Austria, receives only \$8 a week in wages and workers there could not have existed last month had not the government contributed thirty-two million crowns daily to reduce the price of food, says an official dispatch to the New York Herald.

The fate of the navy balloon and three navy officers, who left New York City Monday on a flight, is still a mystery. Nothing has been seen of the men since they started their flight.

A thief had been sneaking into the barn at night and stealing milk from a cow owned by a Johnson county farmer. The planter determined to put an end to the culprit's depredations. A few days ago the cow was transferred from her regular stall and a young mule was substituted. One night later, the farmer was aroused by a terrific racket in the vicinity of the stable. He grabbed his shotgun and ran to the barnyard, but the thief had escaped, leaving a battered milk pail, a small stool and a hat in the mule's stall. The visits of the intruder have ceased.

THE NEWS OF HOVAVILLE

Bill Dreams He Drank Last Pint of Liquor on This Earth.

Hovaville, December 23.—Everybody in Hovaville, including Gaps Allsop, wishes the rest of the world a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. We hope the rest of the world will be as happy as we are going to try to be. Hovaville is a very care free place. No man who ever lived here has been committed to an insane asylum. Also there is not a bald-headed man in the whole town.

Zero Peck has been excluded from membership in the Hovaville Loafers' Club. The Club voted unanimously on this unusual action immediately after Zero went out and left the post office door open during the cold snap a few days ago when the wind was blowing squarely from the northwest. Zero will contest this action but it is doubtful if he will be reinstated until winter is over. Zero has spent a great deal of his life working around saw-mills where they do not have doors and it is believed that a great deal of his thoughtlessness can be attributed to this fact.

In a dream Bill Hellwanger saw himself drinking the last half pint of whiskey on earth. The thing that did him the most good, Zero Peck and Dag Smith were there looking at him.

Gaps Allsop bets there won't be near as much drinking, shooting and killing this Christmas, unless they drink something else.

Miss Faruzia Hocks and one of the Allsop boys will be married Christmas. They will locate on a farm east of town near the place of the bride's parents. They would locate elsewhere, but the bride wants to be close to her mother. Mr. Allsop, the husband, to be, being more or less a stranger to the young lady. Little Helena Allsop says Santa Claus will never think of going to see the Moseley children with a dozen dogs lying around under the house.