

THE DAILY FREE PRESS

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SATURDAY EVENING, JULY 8, 1916

Villa like Mark Twain, denies the stories of his demise. And you really can't blame him.

Between the lynching bees and the Duplin night riders Eastern Carolina is coming in for some very unavailing advertising just at the present time.

The new game law in Virginia whereby 'coon hunters must provide themselves with license will spoil many an enjoyable outing for the old houn' dog.

An electric fan advertisement reads: "Think of the hot days coming." Wonder whether the reference is to the summer season or a still warmer clime?

We don't know whether that order of Secretary Baker excusing the married fellows from service at this time takes in the band or not, but we'd like to have our Joe back.

Judging from the number of corpses which have been "definitely identified" by Mexican officials as that of the Bandit Chieftain Villa, there must be a great many "doubles" of the notorious outlaw.

That young fellow who walked twenty miles to enlist in the service of his country, not only demonstrated the right spirit but there is some evidence of the physical faculties requisite to the soldier.

Interesting news that which comes from Russia to the effect that the war ban placed on vodka, the national drink, has had such beneficial results that the probability is that it will be made permanent, and thus make of Russia the first nation in the world's history to be entirely free from the curse of strong drink!

Unless there is evidence to the contrary forthcoming pretty soon we will be forced to change our opinion as to the dissimilarity of the young men of the United States and England in reference to their patriotism. It begins to look like "force" would be required about here if there was real need for a large army to protect the country. The volunteers at any rate are scarce.

If the esteemed editors of Greensboro and Winston-Salem are grooming themselves for the place of poet-laureate of the State Press Association, as some of our contemporaries have concluded, we suggest that they be elected with the understanding that they not be required to demonstrate their ability for writing verse any further.

"How can we help?" is the spirit of the American reply to Carranza's latest note, and not "What can we get?" There's a vast difference in the underlying principles of the two, but one which is not readily appreciated by even the average American to say nothing of the ig-

norant Mexican, whose sole conception of life is to look out for self and have little or no regard for the welfare of the other fellow.

It is to be hoped that the physicians throughout the country will take the warning of Surgeon Rucker of the United States Public Health Service and take steps to prevent the spread of infantile paralysis, and that the people will co-operate with them. At present the malady is only affecting the babies of New York to any appreciable degree, but cases are being reported from other cities, and there is cause to warrant uneasiness on the part of the health officials. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

THE LYNCHING INVESTIGATION.

The Free Press regrets that circumstances have made it necessary for the hearings into the lynching of Joe Black to be stopped before they were finally concluded. The investigation very naturally has aroused the most intense interest. The possibilities of sensations and the uncertainty as to what direction the "cat might jump" has kept the public on the qui vive; sentiment and bitter feeling have been engendered and will be engendered until the hearing has been concluded, and if there are developments which involve men of more or less prominence that feeling will be lasting.

The Free Press hopes that Judge Bond and the other officers representing the State will arrange to continue and conclude the investigation at the earliest possible time, that the matter may be for once and all put in the past and Lenoir and Greene be spared the opprobrium incident to the undesirable brand of publicity.

The people of Greene county and of Lenoir are, as a whole, law-abiding and peaceful citizens, and they are suffering because a few men, perhaps not exceeding a hundred, in a fit of passion took the law into their own hands and did that which was unlawful—committed murder. The good people of the two counties want no "whitewashing" process, but they are anxious for an early conclusion of the hearings and final disposition of the cases, which may arise from the investigation.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

AND THEY STAND FOR IT.

Greensboro Record: "Because of the increase of the cost of white paper the Atlanta newspapers have raised the price from two cents to three cents a copy, and the buying public stands the raise. Just where the white paper problem will end is a question that many men are trying to answer. There will come a day when the pulp is gone—and then just what substitute will be used no one knows. There will always be newspapers—but the day of the really cheap one—in price—is rapidly disappearing."

DISCHARGE FOR MARRIED MEN.

Raleigh Times: "The War Department solves the problem in the right way when it announces that discharge will be given as a matter of right to all National Guardsmen who show that they are the support of a dependent family or relative.

"Such a ruling does justice and cures the lack of logic in those measures which were introduced in Congress looking to payments for the relief of the families of soldiers. Where no such relief was contemplated in the terms of enlistment, the guardsman with dependents to support made his own contract and accepted the risks incident thereto. Whether those risks were or were not unreasonable was a matter for his determination, not that of the government. The government does not seek married men for the regular army. Why should it feel impelled to vary the contract of enlistment in the case of men who went into the guard without fully weighing the possibilities of the step they were taking? To have done so would have been not only to add vastly to the cost of mobilization, but it would have established a precedent that, from every point of view, is against public policy.

"The first duty of the man of family is not only to support, but to stay with it. His place in war is with the last reserve and his duty to fight arises only when fighting becomes a necessity for the protection of the family. In this the government has as clear a stake as the married man himself, and it were folly to encourage him to think otherwise.

"When it consents to his release from an ill-considered contract, the country is as liberal with the married soldier as it will can be with justice to its own interests."

VISCOUNTESS SAYS BABIES ARE NOT SO WELCOME AS AUTOS

London, June 19—(By Mail)—Babies refuse to come into a world full of automobiles, for the simple reason that new automobiles usually are more welcome than new babies. Babies and autos don't go together. Muriel Viscountess Helmsley gives this explanation for the falling birth rate in England.

Autos, according to the viscountess, create an appetite for amusement and, as babies furnish little amusement, in the twentieth century way of thinking, they are considered an interference with the pleasures that the automobile affords.

Viscountess Helmsley says further: "The lamentable decline in the birth rate is due to the selfishness of women. They feel that with increasing family ties they may be unable to maintain their social status, while at the same time they might find their outdoors activities crippled.

"The craze for amusement has been a growing deterrent to family life, but with the limitation of gasoline supplies by the military and the partial suppression of automobiles, the problem ought to adjust itself."

FALL OF BAGDAD AND COTTONLESS GERMANY PREDICTED IN LONDON

London, July 8.—With British and Russian forces converging on Bagdad, military experts pointed out here today that the fall of the great Turkish stronghold probably will follow one of the most decisive battles of the war.

The reason is cotton.

Far more important, say the experts, than the encircling of the Turco-German divisions in the middle reaches of the Tigris is the fact that for months since American cotton has been denied to Germany the Bagdad region has been the chief source of cotton for German arsenals. Cotton from this district, probably the last avenue to Germany open to this vital necessity for Teutonic explosives, has been steadily crawling over the Bagdad railway since the British blockade observed American cotton as contraband.

It is the opinion here that Germany will order the Turks to hold Bagdad at all costs and probably will send large numbers of men to aid the Sultan's fighters. The point is declared, from the German standpoint, to be one of the most vital of the war.

With the Tigris floods abated, an active and relentless Anglo-Russian campaign against ancient Bagdad is believed to have already commenced.

PILES CURED AT HOME BY NEW ABSORPTION METHOD.

If you suffer from bleeding, itching, blind or protruding Piles, send me your address, and I will tell you how to cure yourself at home by the new absorption treatment; and I will also send some of this home treatment free for trial, with references from your own locality if requested. Users report immediate relief and speedy cures. Send no money, but tell others of this offer. Write today to Mrs. M. Summers, Box F, Notre Dame, Ind.

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MIKE THE MESSENGER BY WALT DESMOND. FARMERS NEED RAIN—BUT MIKE IS NO FARMER. Panel 1: 'TH' OLD LADY DON'T LIKE ME NEW SUIT, BUT I'VE A HUNCH I'M GONNA BE TH' BIG NOISE WID TH' POULTRY!' Panel 2: 'HERE I AM ALL DOLLED UP AN' WID A HANDFULL OF MAZUMA IN ME KICK—ALL I NEED IS A SWELL WREN TO COMPLETE TH' PICTURE!' Panel 3: 'HULLY GEE!—HERE'S A FINE NOTE—TH' CLOUDS ARE BEGINNIN' TO LEAK AN' I'M A HALF A MILE FROM HOME AN' NO CARS IN SIGHT!' Panel 4: 'OH! WELL!—I DON'T CARE—DIS GUIT IS GENUINE WOOL AN' GUARANTEED NOT TO SHRINK!' Panel 5: 'IF DESE CLOTHES CONTINUES TO SHRINK AT DIS RATE I'LL BE LUCKY TO GIT HOME WIDOUT BEIN' ARRESTED FER INDECENT EXPOSURE!'