

THE DAILY FREE PRESS

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H. Galt Braxton, Editor and Manager

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THURSDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 7, 1916

Possibilities: "North Carolina Guardsmen may go to the border at an early date;" "The Bremen is still expected to arrive."

If Villa should attack General Pershing's expeditionary force it would give the American troops the opportunity for which they have been waiting.

We venture to say that the Cranks' Convention in session in California this week did not begin to marshal a fair representation, regardless of the number present.

A contemporary inquires if "John M. Parker is still running for the vice-presidency." At the last accounts he was avowedly in the race to the finish, but of course, it is possible that he may have concluded that the "Cniah" has already arrived.

The Episcopal revisionist committee now in session in Chicago is reported to favor the elimination of the word "obey" from the marriage ceremony. Its removal will undoubtedly take away one vow which is not regarded very seriously by a very large percentage who take it.

Having occasion to be in the Capital City on Tuesday, we, of course, called to pay our respects to our newspaper friends. We found the boys of Raleigh's evening paper all at their posts, but were disappointed to learn at the sanctum of the morning journal that Editors Britton, Haywood and Clark "had not recovered" from the Labor Day celebration or at least had not reported since the observance of the holiday, which we were informed, was a festive occasion.

ABUSE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY.

The Washington Daily News touches upon an interesting subject, and one that is general in its application when it discusses the carelessness in which patrons of postoffices and other public buildings deface the property by expectorating upon the walls and floors and otherwise contributing to the unsanitary condition. Not only do a large number of people fail to appreciate the individual responsibility resting upon every one, who has occasion to use public property, with respect to keeping it clean, but it is not an uncommon sight to see furniture and fittings in a public building carved up. As a matter of fact, it is doubtful if any of the older courthouses in the country can be looked over without the signs of whittling being in evidence. The situation presents a well-defined necessity for continued education and promotion of adverse public sentiment to the mutilation and marring of public property. It may require more drastic action than the mere warning notices to accomplish the desired results and teach all the people their responsibility in the matter.

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING RATES MUST ADVANCE.

The shortage in white paper supply and the excessive prices which the publishers of the country are called upon to pay, to which The Free Press has referred several times of late, is causing publishers in all parts of the United States to take drastic steps to conserve their

supplies, eliminate waste and all surplus copies. Many of the larger newspapers have reduced the number of pages, have cut out return privilege to news dealers, eliminated their complimentary lists and have even cut off all exchanges and copies sent to foreign advertisers. Newspaper readers and advertising patrons everywhere will be called upon by their respective papers to assist in caring for the increases. Subscription rates and advertising rates as well must be increased by every paper in the country to prevent losses unless there is a quick reduction in the price of stock. There is no indication whatsoever of any such reduction.

In a good many cases after the increases have been made the newspapers will be getting about what they have been entitled to all the time when the cost of materials was on the old basis. Comparatively few of the newspapers of this country have had the financial support of their constituents that they deserved. When the amount of capital, labor and community service is considered the average newspaper is about the poorest paid agency to be found. Live publishers have realized this for some time, and they are gradually bringing the standard up and educating the newspaper clientele to the standpoint of giving adequate support.

Newspaper readers and advertising patrons, as a rule, we believe, will respond to the increases which are made necessary by the extraordinary conditions now prevailing. The Free Press is calling upon its advertising patrons whose contracts are being renewed, and where new contracts are being made, to pay a small increase. An increase was contemplated even before the price of paper had gone to the figure that it has now reached. This was because the growth in circulation and prestige of the paper makes its advertising space more valuable. The increases that are being asked now are but little, if any, in excess of what would have been asked had only a reasonable increase been made in the cost of white paper, for after all, the basis of advertising value from the standpoint of the patron, at least, is the quantity and quality of the medium's circulation and the prestige that it enjoys with its reading patrons.

As stated in previous articles, no increases now in the subscription rates are contemplated for immediate effect, but if the threatened additional increases in the cost of white paper come, subscription prices will perforce be increased.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

EMERGENCY LEGISLATION.

Springfield Republican: "With the passage and enactment of the eight-hour law for railroads and with the menace of the greatest railroad strike in history wholly removed, it is idle to say that Congress was clubbed by labor unionism into this legislation. The Senate could never have been driven into passing such a measure within two or three days, almost without debate, unless an irresistible public opinion, concerned first of all, with a paramount public interest, had demanded instant action. When emergencies arise they must be met. The Senate with its time-honored freedom of debate, and infinite opportunity for filibustering, toed the mark as it had never done before in our time; but the Senate was coerced not by unionism, but by the inexorable necessity of saving the country from a calamity which no group of men had the slightest moral right to inflict upon the people."

It is exceedingly doubtful that any individual member of either house would have dared to vote against the bill if its passage had been known to depend on one vote. There were members who voted in the negative, but they knew that the bill's passage was assured. That they did nothing, under the circumstances, to aid in preventing the strike does not prove that they desired such a catastrophe to descend upon the nation, yet it is certain that their negative votes were tantamount to an acceptance of a cruel and devastating labor war in which the whole people would have been the real victims."

"The evidence accumulates that the railroad presidents as a body wanted the strike. 'A strike, in their opinion,' said the Wall Street Journal yesterday, 'would test the loyalty of the rank and file to the misguided brotherhood leaders and would put the matter on trial before the public.' Congress was loyal to the public interest rather than to the policy of the railroad executives and their financial backers in what it has done. Congress rightly preferred to prevent a national catastrophe which the railroad arbitration board of 1912 declared would 'be beyond our power of description.' It was a sane and righteous conclusion in the circumstances, criticize it as one may."

BRIEFS IN THE NEWS OTHER EAST'N CAROLINA TOWNS AND COUNTIES

George Jones, white, of the Maple Cypress section, was to go on trial at New Bern today charged with murder. Jones is alleged to have shot and killed George Pate. Pleading self-defense, he says Pate would have killed him had he not shot first.

New Bern is to purchase an auto truck for hauling garbage.

Aeroplane flights will be featured among the attractions at the New Bern fair.

Clinton Pugh, found guilty of voluntary manslaughter in the killing of Horace Flynn at a logging camp near Vanceboro, will serve six months on the Craven county roads.

About 625 pupils were admitted to the Greenville schools on Wednesday, the opening day. Rain probably kept a number away.

A camp of Modern Woodmen of America has been organized at Winterville.

FARMERS' PRESIDENTS AGAINST ADAMSON LAW

New Orleans, Sept. 6.—At the closing session here late today of the annual meeting of the Association of State Presidents of the Farmers' Educational and Co-Operative Unions of America, a resolution was adopted which endorsed the action on Monday of the president of the association, H. N. Pope of Fort Worth, Texas, when he telegraphed to President Wilson a criticism of the President and Congress for passage of the Adamson 8-hour labor bill. A clause in the resolution as adopted called attention to what was termed "the failure of Congress in 1914 to render aid to the several hundred thousand farmers in the South who were suffering as a result of depressed cotton prices."

COTTON IS IN GOOD CONDITION IN VERY FEW PLACES, STATED

Washington, Sept. 6.—Cotton showed some improvement in the northern part of the belt during the week just ended, the National Weather and Crop Bulletin today announced.

"The condition of cotton is quite variable," says the bulletin, "but it is good in only a few localities. Boll weevils are reported as far north as southern Hardeman county, Tenn. Shedding continues also, and rust damage is still reported in places."

WATERWAYS CONVENTION TO HAVE PREPAREDNESS FOR THEM NEXT WEEK

Philadelphia, Sept. 6.—A mighty battle for deeper waterways "for commerce and national defense" will be fought here one week from today when delegates from every coastal State will assemble in the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel for the Philadelphia convention of the Atlantic Deeper Waterways Association.

With adequate preparedness against commercial or international war being so agitated, the managers have set the scenes for what they declare will be the most important and successful gathering this association has ever held. The theme of the convention will blaze from behind the speakers' platform in electric letters—"To Be Prepared for Commerce in Peace and Defense in War Is Common Sense Preparedness."

During the four days of the gathering—September 12, 13, 14 and 15, inclusive—every phase of improving America's waterways will be discussed by men representing every profession and business line.

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MIKE THE MESSENGER

HE EVIDENTLY WANTS TO REMAIN A BACHELOR BY WALT DESMOND.

GEE—A GIRL IS AN EXPENSIVE PROPOSITION—I JUST BOUGHT A POUND OF CANDY FOR FLOSSIE AND IT COST ME A DOLLAR!

AH! GOOD EVENING FLOSSIE—HERE'S A LITTLE PRESENT FROM YOURS TRULY!

OH! MIKE YOU'RE A DARLING!

MIKE—YOU'RE SPENDING ENTIRELY TOO MUCH MONEY ON ME!

AW—I'D SPEND EVERY NICKEL I HAVE ON YOU FLOSSIE!

YES!—BUT DON'T YOU KNOW THAT A GIRL GENERALLY MARRIES THE MAN WHO SAVES HIS MONEY?

I KNOW DAT—DAT'S TH' REASON I'M SPENDING ALL OF MINE!