

MARION PROGRESS

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE BEST INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE OF McDOWELL COUNTY.

ESTABLISHED 1896.

MARION, N. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 1917.

VOL. XXI—NO. 31

NAVY PUT ON WAR BASIS

President Wilson Takes Steps to Place Nation on Complete War Footing.

Washington, March 25.—President Wilson took steps today to place the nation on a war footing. By executive order, he directed that the navy be recruited without delay to full authorized war strength of 87,000 enlisted men. Taken in connection with emergency naval construction already ordered, this means that the president has exercised the full limit of his legal powers as commander-in-chief to prepare the navy for war.

For the army the president directed that two new military departments be created in the Atlantic coast region. The order means that the task of organizing whatever army congress may authorize will be divided among six departmental commanders instead of four, in the interests of speed and efficiency in mobilization.

The third step was to assume as a national duty the task of protecting American industries from domestic disorders in the event of hostilities. For this purpose eleven full infantry regiments, two separate battalions and one separate company of national guards were called back into the federal service to act as national police in important districts. Supplementing these troops, a regiment of Pennsylvania guard and two companies of Georgia infantry, en route home from the border for muster out, were ordered retained in the federal service.

The president's orders were made known in terse official statements issued by both departments. No explanation accompanied them except the statement that reorganization of the military departments, effective May 1, was designed to facilitate decentralization of troops.

Following is the executive order bringing the navy up to war strength:

"By virtue of the authority vested in the president by the act of congress approved August 29, 1916, entitled 'an act making appropriations for naval service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1917, and for other purposes,' it is hereby directed that the authorized enlisted strength of the navy be increased to 87,000 men.

(Signed)
"WOODROW WILSON."
The navy must enroll immediately approximately 20,000 men to reach the required strength.

Dock Smith, white, and three negroes, a woman, boy and girl, were drowned in the Catawba river near Morganton, Sunday afternoon, when a small row boat capsized from being overloaded. A negro man in the boat was saved, managing to reach a small island in mid-stream.

Mrs. Rebecca Ledbetter died at her home at Sugar Hill last Friday. Mrs. Ledbetter was 95 years old and is survived by two sons and three daughters, William and Lee Ledbetter and Mrs. Haynes, of Montsford Cove, Mrs. Wellman and Mrs. Whitesides of Cleveland county. Her death is mourned by a large number of relatives and friends in this county.

County Commencement Saturday.

Plans are being perfected for the commencement exercises of the McDowell county rural schools to be held in Marion next Saturday and a large attendance is expected from every township in the county. Supt. D. F. Giles, former county superintendent of McDowell and now superintendent of Wake county schools, will deliver the address. Mr. Giles has many friends in McDowell who will be glad to see him back in the county again. Following is the program for the day:

10:00 a. m.—Assembly at graded school building.

10:30 a. m.—Parade of floats and school children.

Floats as follows: Columbus at the Court of Isabella, Greenlee School. Mayflower and Pilgrims, Chapel Hill School. American Indians, Marion Mill School. American Pioneer Life, Stroudtown School. Plantation Life, Clinchfield School. Revolutionary Scene, C. C. & O. School. Volunteer town floats.

March—Marion Graded School and all county schools now in session with banners.

11:00 a. m.—Recitation and declamation contest by boys and girls below 8th grade, at graded school.

12:30 to 1:00—Dinner hour.

1:30 p. m.—Address.

2:30 p. m.—Athletic games for boys; rhythmic games for girls.

All day exhibit of work in the court house.

8:00 p. m.—Debate at graded school. Query: "Resolved, that the State of North Carolina should grant the right of suffrage to women." Declaration and recitation contest. Music. (Program furnished by high school students of the county schools.)

Best progress in reading, first grade, a book; second grade, book. Best progress in writing, first grade, set of pencils; second grade, school stationery. Third and fourth grade recitation, book of poetry. Third and fourth grade Language exhibit, a book. Fifth and sixth grade composition (Conservation of our Forests), set of books. Fifth and sixth grade composition (Conservation of our Native Birds), fountain pen. Best recitations and declamations, fifth and sixth grades, also high school, medals.

Best essay on Ideal Rural Life in McDowell, by girl, subscription to Woman's Home Companion; by boy, subscription to Progressive Farmer. Successful examination for high school, certificate. Perfect attendance and punctuality, books. School having best average attendance for year, Young Folks' Encyclopaedia. Best school float, picture. Vehicle bringing largest number of children to town, \$10; next largest, \$5. For exhibits of work, blue ribbons.

Big Minstrel Here Thursday Night.

Lange's Dandy Dixie Minstrels, recommended as the cleanest and funniest minstrel show on the road today, will give one performance in Marion Thursday night, March 29. The company comprises 25 performers and musicians, male and female, featuring the best minstrel stars of its kind before the American public. Mr. Lange prides himself on having the cleanest and best colored minstrels on the road this season and his band and orchestra are far above the standard.

CLINCHFIELD COTTON MILL.

Marion, March 27.—Miss Hattie Loggins has returned to her home at Liberty, S. C., after a visit to relatives here. She was accompanied home by Miss Mary Lowdermilk.

Roy Suttles has again resumed his work at Woodruff, S. C.

We are glad to state that C. B. Queen is able to resume work again after a protracted illness.

R. P. Dixon visited his sister in Gaffney, S. C., during the week.

The series of meetings at the Baptist church have been attended by large congregations each night and there has been several conversions.

NEWS FROM THE COUNTY

Brief Mention of Some of the Happenings in McDowell County—Items About Home People.

NEBO.

Nebo, March 27.—Rev. T. A. Drake preached a splendid sermon to a large congregation at the Baptist church here Sunday morning.

Miss Mamie Goforth of Dysartsville is visiting her sister, Mrs. G. D. Taylor. Key Landis spent the week-end with homefolks at Dysartsville.

Miss Ola Gibbs of Marion spent the week-end with her sisters here.

Miss Lona Goforth of Chapel Hill and Miss Faye McGimsey of Bridgewater spent Sunday with relatives and friends in Nebo.

W. J. Bowman, who is engaged in the lumber business near Lenoir, is at home with his family for a few days.

Mrs. M. C. Sigmon and daughter, Miss Iowa, spent Sunday in Bridgewater with the former's daughter, Mrs. M. L. Hildebrand.

Mrs. R. V. Wilson and Miss Estelle Wilson were shopping in Marion last Saturday.

W. A. Beach visited his parents in Morganton last Saturday.

Miss Rebecca Greenlee spent the week-end with homefolks at Greenlee.

Mrs. J. E. Sigmon was shopping in Marion Monday.

Miss Lois Kincaid spent Saturday and Sunday with her aunt, Mrs. Tom Beck, near Marion.

BRIDGEWATER.

Bridgewater, March 27.—Misses Florence and Myrtle Hemphill of Norristown, Pa., are here and will spend the summer with homefolks in Bridgewater.

Miss Pink Tate has returned home after a three weeks' visit with friends and relatives in Lenoir, Hickory and Newton.

Little Kate Ballew, who underwent a very serious operation at Grace Hospital in Morganton last week, is now getting on nicely.

Miss Terrissa Campbell spent the week-end with homefolks at Rutherford College. She was accompanied by Miss Charlotte Anthony.

The Southern Railway company has remodeled and greatly improved the depot at Bridgewater.

M. F. Tate made a business trip to Marion Tuesday.

Miss Florence Hemphill was shopping in Marion last Saturday.

Pat Thompson has been quite ill for the past few days.

There will be an "egg hunt" for the children at the Presbyterian church here Saturday afternoon before Easter.

R. A. Abernethy spent Saturday in Morganton on business.

THOMPSON'S FORK.

Thompson's Fork, March 26.—Mrs. S. C. McNeely and Mrs. J. C. Hemphill and son, John, visited Mr. and Mrs. George Lentz, near Nebo, Sunday.

Miss Mary Olive Conley of Marion was the guest of Miss Rena Hemphill today.

Robert and Bryan McNeely were in Marion last Thursday.

J. C. Hemphill visited relatives near Hankins Sunday and Monday.

Thompson's Fork Band met at the home of Tom Cuthbertson Saturday evening. The music rendered was enjoyed by all present.

Miss Jessie McNeely and Rena Hemphill visited friends at Harmony Grove yesterday.

A. F. Morgan of Marion was here on business today.

OLD FORT.

Old Fort, March 26.—The Southern Railway company has begun the construction of a new depot at Old Fort.

The contract has been let for the paving of many yards of sidewalk in Old Fort and within forty days it is hoped the much needed work will be completed.

J. E. Williams has returned from a visit to relatives in Chattanooga, Tenn., and Lafayette, Ga.

STATE NEWS OF THE WEEK

Items Concerning Events of Interest and Importance Throughout the State.

A state organization of the knitting mills of the state has been effected at Charlotte.

A fuel famine at Morganton has become so serious that the public schools were ordered closed.

The University of North Carolina catalog for 1916-1917, containing 342 pages, came from the press, and is probably the largest yet issued by the University.

Governor Bickett pardoned T. Pierce Jackson, of McDowell county, who has been serving a sentence of twelve months on the roads for manufacturing liquors. The pardon is conditioned upon the prisoner's good behavior.

Over 100 University students have enlisted to drill under a United States commissioned drill sergeant for two hours a week. A telegram was sent to the government at once for an officer and the proper number of guns.

Veterans of the Spanish-American war, who live in North Carolina, read with interest of the sinking by a German submarine of the Vigilance, because this was the steamer that brought a part of the First North Carolina regiment home from Cuba.

Thornton Lingle, living near Crescent in Rowan county, had his barn destroyed by fire and with it two fine horses, a quantity of machinery, vehicles and other valuables. Mr. Lingle was not at home and Mrs. Lingle saved the cows and in doing so was burned but not seriously.

A charter has been granted an Iredell corporation composed of G. B. Haliburton, J. W. Sims and J. S. Keever, all of the vicinity of Stony Point. The company, which has an authorized capital of \$50,000 will operate what will probably be the only asbestos mine in North Carolina.

Raleigh and Wake county suffragists in monthly meeting heard an address by Mrs. Josephus Daniels, who is in the city from Washington, and then began to make plans for the speaking and entertainment of Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, who will be in Raleigh April 25.

The Greensboro branch of the Bankhead Highway Association has been organized for the promotion of the proposed military highway, which is to cross the entire country from Washington south through Greensboro, Columbia, Atlanta, Birmingham, and through the northern part of Texas to Los Angeles.

Sergeant J. R. McConnell, the American aviator reported missing in France, is a son of Judge S. P. McConnell, of Carthage, N. C., president of the Randolph and Cumberland Railroad. McConnell is a graduate of the University of Virginia and is about 30 years old. He went to France in 1914.

The largest hosiery order from the United States Navy Department awarded in recent years, has been given to the Durham Hosiery Mills, according to announcement made by J. S. Carr, Jr., president of the mills. The order for 450,000 pairs was received by Mr. Carr in a telegram from Paymaster Admiral McGowan, at Washington. The order calls for delivery within 60 days.

The finest commentary on the General Assembly of 1917, said Governor T. W. Bickett in a statement issued a few days ago, will be found in the simplest statement of its record. The outstanding feature of that record is that it deals entirely with industrial, social and educational problems, sensibly touch the domain of politics. The big, constructive measures were considered in patriotic fashion, and it is due the members of the minority party to say that on these questions they refrained from playing politics and gave vote and voice to the support of what they conceived to be the highest good.

Bring in or phone your news items to The Progress office.

Renew your subscription to The Progress promptly, please.

Holy Week—Lenten Services.

Last Sunday was Passion Sunday and this week is Passion week. Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, the day of the triumphant entry of our Lord into the Holy City. Next week, April 1-8, is Holy Week, the last week of Christ's mortal life, when He was betrayed, crucified, died and was buried. Thursday, April 5, He instituted the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, giving His body and blood for us. Sunday, April 8, is Easter, the Day of Resurrection, when He rose from the grave and displayed the wonders of the spiritual body. His Church is one with Him, in the forty days of Lent apart from the world, in His agony, betrayal, crucifixion, death and resurrection. It is His body filled with His life blood. The "Church is His body, the completion of Him who all in all is being completed." He calls all to His eternal life—the shadow of the cross passes over the world; the glory of the Easter morn, "the faithful witness," is overshadowing the earth.

Services at St. John's church next Sunday at 10 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. During next week, Holy Week, or Silent Week, when our hearts are silent unto God, every worldly voice stilled that we may listen, services on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 4 p. m.; on Wednesday evening at 7:30 o'clock, on Good Friday at 4 and 7:30 p. m. and on Sunday, Easter day, at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. All are cordially invited to attend the services, in the name of the suffering Son of God.

There will be addresses by the ministers of the town at the evening service on Good Friday.

The shadow of death is covering the nations now, let us take refuge in Him who is the resurrection and life.

The cry of the desolate and wandering men, women and children and wounded soldiers comes to us from across the waters; let us respond to the call of those who are crucified with Christ, with Him who said: "In as much as ye did it to me of the least of these my brethren, ye did it unto me. Come ye blessed to everlasting life."

Let us remember that in our own land the glorious flag of stars and trailing clouds, such as God sets in the heavens, is floating over a solemn assembly in our capital who really hoist "the black flag of pirates" to rob and steal, who have been publicly named the "Sunpreme Court of Spoils;" held together by the cohesive force of plunder."

High School Debates.

The high school departments of Marion, Nebo and Old Fort will debate on Friday night, March 30, the problem of Federal Ownership of the Railroads of the United States. The negative team of each school will go to another school to meet its affirmative team. Marion sends her negative debaters to Old Fort, and the affirmative team will debate Nebo's negative team in the high school auditorium at 8 o'clock Friday night.

Nellie Corpening and George Bowman will champion the affirmative side for Marion; Grayson Neal, and George Streetman go to Old Fort to sustain the negative side of the proposition. The school that wins both sides of the controversy will be entitled to go to the State University on April 19th to contest for the State championship. The public is cordially invited to attend the exercises Friday night.

Bring in or phone your news items to The Progress office.