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LULL IN THE BUSINESS WORLD

JANUARY IS THE DULLEST MONTH OF THE YEAR.

Business Will Pick up About the First of February and the Outlook for Oxford is Bright.

Owing to the very disagreeable condition of the weather for the past two weeks there has, seemingly, been a lull in the general business world.

As we all know the months of January and February are the worst months of the year for all classes of people except the doctors and undertakers.

The business man sits by his stove and burns expensive coal, reads his daily newspaper and complains of hard times.

The farmer sits by his fire, smokes his pipe, eats expensive flour and complains about the bad conditions of the weather.

The school master sits by his stove with such a small percentage of his students present that he actually becomes lonesome.

The merchants and business men of Oxford anticipate a revival of business during the month of February. We learn from the contractors and builders that there will be considerable activity in their line during the spring and summer.

ROBS EXPRESS OFFICE.

Thieves Take Sixteen Sacred Quarts and Depart.

Thieves on Friday night last entered the Southern Express office at Stovall and took therefrom sixteen quarts of high-grade liquor intended for the thirsty people in and around the metropolis of north Granville.

There was wailing and gnashing of teeth next morning when it was learned that the sixteen sacred quarts ordered by that number of people, had taken their flight during the night and not another drop to be had south of Baltimore.

The fact that some one on the same night entered a stable in Stovall and placed a bridal on a fine horse and rode him away, leads to the conviction that it was the same party that entered the express office.

The fact that the horse was recovered on the National Highway near Oxford the morning after the robbery conveys the idea that the thief took him from the stable for the purpose of bringing the liquor to Oxford. The horse was returning to Stovall unaccompanied by a driver when captured.

INSTITUTE WORK

At Enon February 7th and at Hester February 8th

Mr. T. B. Parker, director of Farmers' Institutes in North Carolina, has announced the dates of the institutes which will be held in the State shortly for the first time in connection with the North Carolina Extension Service. Mr. Parker and the Extension workers will co-operate to increase the efficiency of the institutes. Mrs. Jane McKimmon, State agent of Home Demonstration Work, has been made assistant director of the institutes and will have charge of the women's meetings. Institutes will be held in 39 counties.

Institutes will be held at Enon February 7th and on the following day at Hester.

JUDGE DEVIN BUYS PROPERTY. Takes Over the Baptist Parsonage on Williamsboro Street.

The Baptist Parsonage on Williamsboro street was purchased by Hon. W. A. Devin Monday. The deal was consummated through a committee from the Oxford Baptist church, who was authorized to sell the property, the Baptist having acquired a handsome home for the pastor on Main street near the church.

The property purchased by Judge Devin is situated near the business section and it is said that it is one of the best built houses in Oxford. The consideration was \$4,500.

Printers Change Positions.

Mr. J. Ben Comer, who has been a very valuable printer in the Public Ledger office for the past two years has accepted a position in the printing department of the Oxford Orphanage. We regret to let this good man leave us, but he falls in splendid hands and he is just the man for the place, as he will set a splendid example for the little boys in the printing office. Mr. Comer relieves Mr. Millichampe, who goes to Washington City.

The going of Mr. Comer creates a vacancy in the Public Ledger office for a good capable printer and we hope to have him here in a few days.

Culbreth Community Club—At 7:30 Friday evening, January 26th, Culbreth Community Club will present a play to the public. There will be no charge for admission and everybody is invited.

Mrs. John Booth was among the large number who went to Raleigh Tuesday to hear Paderewski.

GRANVILLE STANDS HIGH

Representative D. G. Brummitt Speaks of Conditions.

Hon. D. G. Brummitt, the able representative from Granville, spent Sunday in Oxford, returning to Raleigh on the early Monday morning train. Although it was Sunday, our popular representative was surrounded by friends practically all day and it was almost impossible to get his ear. Comparing Granville with some of the eastern counties, especially Pender, which caused the turbulent scenes in the Legislature a week ago, Mr. Brummitt stated that it filled him with pride to point to Granville as a model county.

"The decks have been cleared," stated Mr. Brummitt, "and there will be something doing every day until the end of the session. Some of the measures recommended by Governor Bickett are popular, but some of them are destined to go down in defeat. In my opinion the bill pending to elect the Board of Education by popular vote will precipitate a contest of the first magnitude."

Mr. Brummitt is making a close study of all bills of a State-wide nature and we are going to hear from him in a substantial manner. Some of the big papers that keep a close vigil on him classes him with the "big four of the house."

Mr. Brummitt will likely spend a couple of days in Oxford during court week, which convenes Monday, February 12th.

GRANVILLE BOY WINS PRIZE

Some Facts About the Corn Club Work.

Allison Overman, Rural Route No. 4, Kealy, in Wayne County, has been declared the winner of the 1916 Corn Club contest in a decision rendered by the Office of Agriculture Clubs of the Agricultural Extension Service. This young man produced 120.7 bushels of corn at a cost of 25.5 cents per bushel, and his total score was higher than any other member in the clubs, through four other members produced more corn on an acre of land.

Joseph A. Morris, a Granville boy, living on Oxford Route 2, was declared a winner in the State-wide contest. His yield was 75 bushels at a cost of 29.3c per bushel.

The Wayne County Boy

Allison Overman, the Wayne county boy who leads the work in the State, has been a member of the Corn Clubs for three years and has always put forth great effort to secure a large yield of corn. Last year he made 70.7 bushels at a cost of 38 cents a bushel. He has been carefully selecting his seed corn in the field for the last three years and has used a local variety, "Walter Myatt's." Some winter cover crop has also been used on his land in the winter, to be turned under in the fall. It can be seen, therefore that up-to-date methods through a period of years was responsible for the prize being awarded as it was.

In addition to a prize of \$25, given by the Board of Commissioners of Wayne County, Allison gets a certificate of merit, signed by the Governor of the State; a gold medal from The Progressive Farmer; four valuable pecan trees from B. W. Stone, of Thomasville, Ga., and some peach and strawberry plants from the Continental Plant Company of Kittrell, N. C.

Some Facts.

There were enrolled in the Corn Clubs as conducted by the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service, 3,257 boys and girls for the 1916 season. Of this number 891 made reports. Those who reported produced 48,829.4 bushels of corn, with an average per acre yield of 54.8 bushels. This is about 34 bushels above the State average.

To raise the 48,829.4 bushels of corn it cost the members \$19,152.71 including a rent charge of \$5 per acre for each acre of land in the contest. This made the corn cost an average of 39 cents per bushel. The value of this corn at \$1. per bushel is \$48,829.40, which leaves a net profit for the work of \$29,676.69.

PROVIDENCE C. L. CLUB.

Will Meet January 26th to Plan Years' Work.

The Providence Country Life Club will meet at the school house Friday evening, January 26th, at 7 o'clock, for the purpose of planning this year's work. We are to have Dr. Morris and other good speakers with us.

This progressive Club has done much for the school and the community. During December they raised \$135.00 to be credited to the piano fund. Most of this amount was raised through an advertisement social. A splendid play was given under the leadership of the teachers. The bad weather, however, prevented a large crowd from attending. We wish this splendid school and club success in the community work. D.

CROWDS HEAR EVANGELIST

REVEREND BLACK PRESENTS THE SCRIPTURES WITH MUCH FORCE.

Capacity Crowds Fill the Presbyterian Church at Each Service—The Singing is also Inspiring.

Rev. William Black, the noted evangelist began a series of meetings at the Oxford Presbyterian Church Sunday morning and at each service preaches to a capacity crowd. Even though the weather has been inclement ever since the arrival of Mr. Black, large numbers from the surrounding country who heard him on a former visit to Oxford, ventured out through the mist and mire to hear him. It is beyond us to describe the manner in which Mr. Black holds and sways his audience. He speaks as one endowed with much wisdom from on high and never fails to press home the important truths of scripture.

Prof Aaron Burr, the sweet singer who is here and is assisting Mr. Black with the meetings, adds much interest to the services. The choir is made up of about seventy-five of the best singers in Oxford. Each afternoon at 4 o'clock in the different parts of the city there will be prayer meeting at the homes of those which are announced from night to night.

The people from all the denominations are praying for the success of the meetings, and there promises to be a great spiritual awakening in the community.

SQUADRONS SCOUR ATLANTIC

NEW YORK SHIPPERS WORRIED BY BIG COMMERCE MENACE

Sea Terror Reported Moving Toward Main Ship Lines—Craft Has Taken or Sunk 24 Vessels—Others Missing—May be Moeve.

New York shipping circles are alarmed at the presence of the German raider in the Atlantic, which has already sunk or captured twenty-four ships and is reported to be moving northward. Fifteen British cruisers are searching the seas for the German craft.

It is generally admitted that the raider may possibly enjoy a long immunity, as it is recognized that it is easier to find a needle in a hay stack than a ship, bent on eluding capture, in the Atlantic. Anxiety is expressed over the fate of cargoes of grain and meat from Argentine and steel from the United States. It is admitted that the loss of such cargoes may be severely felt coming on top of the depredations of the submarines.

A number of steamers, distinct from victims of the raiders, are posted at Lloyds as missing.

Missing Vessels.

In addition to the twenty-four vessels reported captured or sunk by the German Raider, the following vessels are reported missing:

Lorca, British steamer, left Norfolk October 29 for Queenstown. La Roche Jacquelin, French bark, left San Francisco late in June for Ipswich and has never been heard from. Consult Olsson, Swedish steamer, sailed from Galveston, November 16 for Harve. Consul Corfitzen, Swedish steamer sailed from Galveston November 13 for Havre.

Believed to be the Mowie.

According to official announcement the British steamer Yarrowdale entered a German harbor twenty days ago carrying 469 prisoners, members of crews captured by the German sea raider in South Atlantic waters. The official announcement of the arrival of the Yarrowdale in German waters was announced Saturday by the International News Service.

The prisoners brought to the home port in Germany numbering 469, were the crews of vessels sunk or captured by the raider.

The statement speaks of captured vessels, but does not name them. It does say that the cargoes of these captured vessels consists principally of war materials for the entente allies and food stuff.

The Berlin dispatch emphasizes the fact that three of the vessels which have been overhauled by the raider in the south Atlantic were found to have been armed. The dispatch says they were sunk. It is believed that announcement in Berlin that the arrival of the British vessel in a German port was occasioned by the report of the raider's activity and the doubts as to just what had become of the Yarrowdale. The surprising feature of the whole matter is how the Yarrowdale happened to run the gauntlet of British warships and reach German port with the large number of persons taken from the entente vessels sunk or captured.

At least three of the British vessels previously sunk are reported to be now assisting the Moeve in her terrorizing campaign. They are British 5,000 ton steamers St. Theodore, said to have been converted into an auxiliary cruiser armed with two guns

(Continued On Page Eight)

PROPOSED NEW RAILROAD.

Given Tremendous Boost By Henderson Board of Trade.

We gather from the Henderson Daily Dispatch that the annual banquet of the Henderson board of Trade held in the dining room of the Vance Hotel last Thursday night, was the occasion of much enthusiasm. Seventy odd citizens, including a number of invited guests, were present, and the proposed Oxford, Henderson-Wilson railroad came in from the lion's of attention and discussion.

Mr. J. H. Brodie was called, and he told of the tremendous resources of the territory which the railroad would open up to Henderson and declared it would bring hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of business to the city every year. He wanted to see the road started and built without delay. Senator R. S. McCain, home from the Legislature to attend the banquet, was called on to tell of the fight for the charter. This he did, declaring that the charter had been granted, but that a great effort was going to be made to have the law repealed. He urged the utmost co-operation on the part of the local business men, and wanted it at the time it was called for. J. C. Kittrell, who has acted as secretary of the old coporation under the original charter, explained the attitude of Mrs. J. M. Turner, widow of the man who seemed to have originated the idea of the railroad. He did not think any injustice was being done her, but he believed the proposition of the new boosters to give her in stock dollar for dollar the amount Mr. Turner had expended was fair. He believed the road could be built by the proper effort on the part of the Board of Trade.

NAME FOR VANCE FAIR.

ter February 1 When List..... No Suggestion Will Be Accepted After February 1, When List Will Close.

(Henderson Daily Dispatch) Many responses have been received by Secretary E. M. Rollins, of the Vance County Fair Association, for names for the Fair in its enlarged capacity as taking in all the surrounding counties, including Warren, Franklin, Granville and Mecklenburg county, Virginia.

A meeting of the officers of the Association will be held shortly after the contest is ended, and the name, which is meant to imply the larger scope of the Fair, will be selected by them, and the winner will be awarded the \$10 in gold offered by the Fair officials for the best name suggested.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

To the Memory of the Late T. S. Waller.

At the Oxford Baptist Sunday School last Sunday morning appropriate services were held in honor of the late T. S. Waller. In short talks Gen. B. S. Royster, W. A. McFarland, D. G. Brummitt, J. C. Howard, B. W. Parham and C. D. Ray bore testimony of the good work of the deceased. The following resolutions were adopted:

Resolutions of Respect.

Death has claimed one of our useful and highly esteemed Sunday School workers. Brother Thomas S. Waller for many years the Secretary of our Sunday School has been called to his reward. In discharge of the duties of his office as well as in all the relation of life, Brother Waller was faithful and conscientious and we desire to bear testimony to his fidelity and to record our estimate of his worth. Therefore be it resolved,

First, that in the death of Brother Waller our School and church have lost a faithful officer and member and consecrated servant of God

Second, That we tender to his wife and children our deepest sympathy in their sad bereavement and we commend to them the God of the widow and the orphan.

Third, That a copy of these resolutions be furnished to Mrs. Waller and that a copy be sent to the Public Ledger with request to publish the same

Fraternally submitted:

M. P. CHAMBLEE,
L. THOMAS,
F. W. HANCOCK,
Committee

Judge Devin at Troy.

One of the judges being sick, Judge Devin was selected to preside over the court this week at Troy, Montgomery county.

The bright side again. No longer hear some men boasting that they can eat twelve dozen hard-boiled eggs.

Elsewhere in this paper it will be seen that Fleming & Mangum have a fine lot of mules and horses for sale.

Read the announcement of the Lyon-Winston Company elsewhere in this paper.

THE COMMISSION MERCHANTS

WHO OR WHAT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HIGH COST OF LIVING?

You Might as Well Ask That Old One About Aunt Ann's Age Or the Othehr About Which Came First, the Chicken or Egg.

Some people believe that the merchants rejoice in the fact that many lines of goods have advanced, but such is far from the truth. In our rounds the other day, one of our big-hearted grocerymen took us into his confidence and showed us that he sells an old brand of high-grade goods at the figure he paid for them. He lamented the fact that the price on the goods had advanced, and stated that he would rather discontinue handling the brand than to advance the price.

But since society must blame somebody for every economic change that affects its pocketbook, the commission merchant has been singled out as the guilty party. Almost everybody, from the President of the United States to the youngest student of economics, places all the blame on him.

The charge frequently made nowadays that the commission merchant is in some manner responsible for high cost of living is based upon an utter misunderstanding of the commission business. The commission man is exactly what his name implies—a salesman who disposes of the produce of his customers on a strictly commission basis. Whether the price received for the articles sold is high or low he receives only his per cent. commission. If produce sells at a high rate the volume of sales diminishes, and while his 10 per cent. on each pound, bushel or hundred weight of goods sold amounts to more, his volume of business is less, and he makes no more money. On the other hand, if the price of his produce falls, he does a large volume of business, but receives a low rate of return per unit of goods sold. In either event, he makes his legitimate percentage of profit, which, depending on other circumstances, may be greater or less when the price per pound or bushel is high or low.

Undoubtedly at present, prices of food and, indeed, of almost all articles of consumption are unprecedentedly high. There are many causes for this condition, among which are the present great prosperity, the unusual amount of gold in circulation, and the fact that Europe has bought goods of all sorts in our markets to an unprecedented volume.

The merchants are only too well aware that there is a popular impression abroad in the land that they make more when prices are high and it must be painful and embarrassing to them at times to know that their neighbors suspect that they are responsible in a measure for the advance in prices.

Neither commission merchant nor speculator nor any other controllable agency can raise or lower the prices of articles of food for any extended period. The whole matter is one of supply and demand. When the country is prosperous and crops are short, high prices will result. When vegetables are plentiful, prices are low, and if times are hard, and there is not much money in circulation, they may go to unprecedentedly low levels.

GUARDSMEN COMING HOME.

All Units Ordered Released Will Move as Fast as Facilities Can Be Provided.

War Department officials explained Monday that some units of the 25,000 National Guardsmen whose return from border service had been ordered probably could start for home within the next few days, and that all "will be returned for muster out as rapidly as transportation facilities can be supplied."

Carterett Literary Society.

The Carterett Literary Society met January 19th, the debate being: Resolved, that the Electoral College should be abolished. Affirmative: J. M. Sneed, William Howell, Negative: Travis Chamblee, William Farmer. The Judge were Thomas Woods, Joe Taylor, William Webb. The declaration rendered by Sydney Turner was in favor of the Negative.

"Pounding Party"

The ladies of the Oxford Baptist Church are planning to "pound" the new pastor. Breedlove & McFarland store has been designated as the place to leave the packages.

Blacksmith Shop Changes Hands.

Lonny Hicks, colored, who has operated a blacksmith shop for several years in the lot in the rear of the Acme Hardware Company, has sold the business to Mr. J. N. Norwood, former proprietor of the Granville Garage.