

PUBLIC LEDGER

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OXFORD, NORTH CAROLINA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1917

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ENTERTAINMENT AT GRADED SCHOOL POSTPONED.

The play that has been advertised for Friday night of this week has been indefinitely postponed on account of the weather. The teachers who have this play in charge feel that very few people would be able to come out at such a time. It will be advertised at a later date and a large crowd will be certain to attend since it is for such a worthy cause as the Red Cross.
The North Carolina Day program planned for Friday morning of this week has been postponed also until some day next week. It is the desire of the school that many parents and friends be present for this exercise and that would be impossible now. Full notice will be given for this.

SOME ADVERSE CRITICISM.

Put a Little Grease On the Old Bolts.
Whenever a building goes up in smoke there is always more or less criticism. The burning of the Minor warehouse early last Tuesday morning was productive of criticism—some just and some unjust.

It is well to bear in mind that the weather was as cold as whiz and that everything was frozen as tight as a steel yard. The Public Ledger gathered a few facts here and there bearing on the subject.

The first step usually taken when a fire breaks out is to notify "central." This was done and "central" responded with promptness. As soon as the alarm was sounded at the telephone exchange the Fire Company hastened to the scene of the fire. Everything moved with clock-like precision up to this point, but when the Fire Company arrived at the minor there was a preceptable delay in getting the stream on the fire. On inquiry the Fire Chief informs the Public Ledger that some of the bolts and taps on the hydrant would not yield as readily as might have been desired. It would appear that some one was at fault for not putting a little grease here and there at proper intervals. At a meeting of the Town Board Tuesday night the question of the proper care of hydrants was discussed and it was deemed necessary to examine the hydrants at least once every month and see that they are properly flushed and in working order.

DEAD AT HALIFAX NOW PUT AT 1,800

Halifax, Dec. 13.—A revised estimate today of the explosion casualties reduce the dead to approximately 1,800. It is believed that not more than 1,000 bodies, and perhaps only 900 still lie under the debris. The list of the missing also has been reduced.
Many of the victims are totally or partially blind, and 200 children have each lost both parents.

U. S. WAR SAVINGS CERTIFICATES AND GOVERNMENT THRIFT CARDS.

This Friday, December 14th, is North Carolina Day; isn't it a bad one? The people of Granville would have heard fifty-six speeches today, had the weather permitted, in the fifty-six school houses and with fair weather this outburst of patriotism will be heard on a day later on to be announced by Prof. Webb. Watch for the date and don't miss it. You can help win this war. How? How? How?

CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY TREE.

The Oxford Woman's Club Plans to Entertain the Children.
At a special meeting of the Oxford Woman's Club, held in the Oxford Library last Wednesday afternoon, ways and means of having a Community Christmas Tree was discussed and a committee was named to investigate and report.
Postmaster B. K. Lassiter, county chairman for the sale of the thrift stamp, made an interesting talk before the Club with a view of getting its members, as well as the ladies of the county, interested in the great movement to raise funds to fight the Huns.

A SPELL OF BAD WEATHER

The Mercury Was Down to Nine Degrees Monday.
The season's lowest temperature was reached in Oxford at five o'clock last Monday morning when the thermometer dropped to nine degrees above zero. An old citizen informs the Public Ledger that this was the lowest here in his recollection, excepting December 1899, when the thermometer fell to six degrees above zero.

As a result of the cold snap, it is learned that some poor families in Oxford suffered to some extent. Some of our citizens were surprised to awake Monday morning and find pipes in their houses frozen and some bursted. The plumbers are again swamped and have their hands more than full in an effort to repair damaged water connections.

ONLY A FEW FAMILIES OBSERVING CONSERVATION HERE

The Meatless Tuesdays and Wheatless Wednesdays Unknown to Many.
A good lady informs the Public Ledger that there are a very few families in Oxford who are observing the conservation measures asked of the people of the country by the Federal authorities in an effort to save foodstuffs.
The families of moderate means, says this good lady, are the ones that disregard the injunction; while on the other hand those who have always been used to plenty are the ones that deprive themselves most.

FIRST SNOW OF THE SEASON FALLS.

About Ten Inches Deep All Over Granville.
Following a gentle warning by a few scattering flakes about five o'clock Tuesday afternoon, Oxford's first snow of the season began falling shortly after dark and continued steadily throughout the night, reaching a depth of ten inches in the streets of Oxford. Winter starts its pilgrimage on the 22d of the month, but Oxford's first, and biggest snow in recent years, did not wait for winter.

It is not often that Oxford and the good county of Granville experience the like. Somewhat later in the year, a bit of snow sometimes falls, mixed with a drizzling rain. This kind the people detest; but the beautiful white, dry pure snow such as began falling Tuesday night is to many a welcome visitor.
The rural mail carriers left the Oxford office at the appointed hour Wednesday morning, but some of them found obstructions which they could not surmount, while others made it with comparative ease.

Pierian Literary Society.
The Pierian Literary Society met Friday afternoon, December 7th. The program of this meeting was unusually good. Several scenes from "David Copperfield" were given by a few of the members of the tenth grade. The costumes were very appropriate and the scenes were enjoyed by all present.
Ruth Howard read a selection from "David Copperfield"; Betty Hobgood and Mary Emma Carrington read two interesting papers on the "Work and Life of Charles Dickens."

We were very glad to have with us as guests, Mrs. J. Y. Paris, Mrs. John Booth and also Sam Yancey, Earle Hunt and Roy Upchurch from the Boy's Society. REPORTER.

UNITED STATES SPEEDS UP TO COMBAT FOE'S DRIVE ON WESTERN FRONT.

Baker Declares America Must Rush Military Preparations to Meet Menace.

THE KAISER'S TROOPS MASSING

Asserts Support of Whole Nation Should Be Given Our Soldiers.

United States soon may have to rush troops into battle and take up full measure its part in the great war. The sending of larger forces to France is considered likely and troops may be compelled to enter the conflict without waiting for the full course of training.
These facts are indicated in despatches from Europe telling of preparations by Germany to make supreme drive on the Western front, and in the weekly review of war operations issued today by Secretary of War Baker. The Secretary says that the United States must speed up its military operations and declares that Germany may attempt to strike a mighty blow on the French front. Such a blow, it has been suggested, may include the region in which Pershing's troops are located.
Secretary Daniels asserts that the American Navy is ready to play a bigger part in the war. In the meantime America is building a great airplane fleet which, it is believed, soon will be ready for actual fighting.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.

Germany has massed on the western front her greatest army of the war. Secretary Baker declares in his weekly war review. To meet this menace the United States must speed up its military preparations, the Secretary adds, with a warning that the enemy is preparing to put into execution in France plans he has been maturing since the defeat of the Russian armies at Tannenberg early in the war. The peace negotiations with Russia have permitted the massing of men on the western front for that purpose.
"The united nation must stand squarely behind our soldiers," the Secretary says. "It is not sufficient to prepare to fight; we must prepare to win."

The review asserts the German counter-offensive on the Cambria front has been successful in winning back less than one-third of the territory captured by General Byng. The statement also notes that American engineer troops "exchanging shovels for rifles, fought off the enemy by side with the British."

German Strength Revived.

The lesson of the German exhibition of strength is then taken as follows:
"This German parrying thrust, the most powerful and successful blow aimed at the British during the last two and one-half years, coming as it did immediately after the British victory in the same area, serves to emphasize the reviving strength of the Germans in the west. We must recognize plainly that the situation in the eastern theatre has brought about a very decided change in the strategic possibilities of the military situation in the west."
"Germany by leaving only skeleton divisions in the Russian area by concentrating all available guns, munitions and men in the theatre of operations in the west, has been able to mass a relatively greater force than she has ever been able to mobilize in France in the past."

"This explains the success which the enemy was able to achieve in driving the British back from Cambria. It would not do for us to minimize its importance."
"We must expect that he will put these plans into execution. Thus he may have at his disposal for a time a preponderant numerical superiority in the West; he may even be able to achieve some relative advantages in the field, such as those recorded during the past week."
"The magnitude of the task before us can be more fully realized when measured by the success which the enemy is still able to gain. It means that we must speed up our military efforts. The united nation must stand squarely behind our soldiers. It is not sufficient to prepare to fight; we must prepare to win."

Inquiry by a Senate committee into the causes for the shortage of coal and sugar with a view of recommending legislation to improve the situation was ordered Wednesday on motion by Senator Lodge.

THIRTEEN NEGRO RIOTERS DIE ON THE SCAFFOLD.

Had Paid Death Penalty Before Verdict Was Made Public. Forty-one Given Life Terms.

San Antonio, Texas, Dec. 12.—A trampled clearing in a lonely mesquite thicket on the government reservation here, except for the ashes of two hugh bonfires, showed no sign tonight that it was the execution place of thirteen negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth infantry yesterday. The negro, convicted of participating in the riots at Houston, Texas, August 23, last, were hanged at one minute before sunrise.

After dark last night, motor trucks carried the lumber for the scaffolds and a company of engineers to the clearing. The scaffolds were built by freight. Motor trucks shortly after five o'clock this morning carried the condemned negroes and the officers and military guard to the place of execution. The trucks later carried the bodies to a place as indistinguishable as the execution site where the burial took place. Then they hauled back to Fort Sam Houston every piece of lumber used in the scaffold so that the site was clear before formal announcement of the executions had been issued by the southern department headquarters.

They displayed neither bravado nor fear. They rode to the execution singing a hymn, but the singing was that of soldiers on the march. Arrived at the clearing the song ceased, the men, shackled, were helped from the trucks to the scaffolds and seated on chairs. A low "good-bye boys" addressed to members of their military guard who had been in charge of the negroes since they were brought here from Fort Bliss, was the only expression from any of the negroes.

The men's feet were bound. An army chaplain offered prayer. An officer called, "Attention," and as on parade the negroes stood erect. They stood quietly while caps and nooses were adjusted and then stepped on the traps. The major in charge of the execution gave a signal and soldiers sprung the traps.
The negroes plunged nine feet to instant death.

NAMES AND ADDRESS WANTED

Major Will Landis Ready to Forward Packages to Soldiers and Sailors.

Just as soon as Major Landis can ascertain the address of a few men in the select army he will forward the remainder of the Christmas presents to the soldiers and sailors who have gone from Granville county.

Major Landis has the names and addresses of all the town boys, but there are a few from the country that he can not locate. Some of them have been changed since going to the cantonments, and parents or friends of all such are asked to notify Major Landis of their name and address at once so that their name may not be overlooked.
Previously Acknowledged \$226.00.
P. W. Knott \$ 1.00
Chas. G. Royster 2.00
Banks S. S. 5.25
Mrs. H. G. Cooper 1.00
Ben K. Lassiter 2.50
Mrs. N. H. Cannady50
Mrs. J. C. Robards 1.00

PREPARE FOR BAD NEWS

It Will Arrive Only Too Soon.

Although the failure to receive letters from men in the service is not pleasant to relatives and friends at home the adage "no news is good news" never was more true than at the present. The report of every casualty at home or abroad is immediately cabled to officials at Washington, being relayed from there without loss of time to the emergency address of the soldier or sailor affected. It is also at once released for publication in the newspapers.

No man in the service has received orders not to write home; he has been urged on the contrary, to keep in touch with relatives and friends. The forces in France have at their disposal post cards giving general information in regard to health and the receipt of letters and parcels, which may be dispatched without payment of postage.
When our boys go to France in large numbers, remember that no letter from them is "good news."

The cold wave which has held the 30th division at Camp Sevier in its grasp for the last four days was accompanied Tuesday morning by a heavy snow, which measured five inches. The camp is well supplied with wood and a large supply of coal is in sight, so that the men in the camp are well and comfortably provided for.

MR. WEBB WILL RE-BUILD MINOR WAREHOUSE

Mr. Mangum and His Force is Now at the Banner.

The thousands of friends of Mr. I. W. Mangum, popular tobacconist, will be glad to learn that his loss in the destruction of the Minor Warehouse by fire last Tuesday morning, is comparatively light from a financial standpoint. There was a quantity of tobacco on the floor, the property of Mr. Mangum, which was consumed, but he sustains a greater loss by the temporary interruption of business. This will be greatly overcome, no doubt, by the fact that he has taken his entire force over to the Banner warehouse and joined the forces of Mr. Mitchell for the remainder of the season. Mr. Mangum has won the confidence and esteem of the tobacco growers by his uniform courtesy and square dealings, and they will follow him wherever he leads.

Mr. James Webb, owner of the Minor, sustains his loss with patience and fortitude. The insurance on the property was less than \$6,000 and it will require an expenditure of at least \$15,000 to restore it to its original proportions, but Mr. Webb has determined to go one better and construct the building larger and better. Mr. Webb told the Public Ledger yesterday that the building would be ready for occupancy when the season opens next fall, and Mr. Mangum informs the Public Ledger that he will occupy it with his present splendid force.

THE WAYS OF THE GIVER

Pay Your Debts and Let the Other Fellow Shine Some.

The Public Ledger has watched with interest the list of contributions made to various objects, and find therein the names of those who are known in the community to be slow in paying their bills, and a still worse class of people who contract debts with no intention of paying them—the professional dead-beat, as it were. The lists also contain the names of well-to-do persons who could have given \$25, \$50 or \$100 without missing it, gave only \$1. The lists also contains the names of good average citizens, who measured up to what was expected of them and gave according to their means, not at a sacrifice, but liberal just the same. No doubt the same situation prevails elsewhere.

The man who owes others is not generally bad at heart—just careless, and thriftless, and while he has no business giving liberally publicly and shunning his just debts privately, they are not likely to get their names on the books of the recording angel. Giving is a noble trait of character, but no man has a right to give that which belong to the other man. Money is plentiful and it is up to every man to meet his obligations and come clear in the sight of God and man.

THE HOME GUARD.

Guns Will Not Be Available For Members For Several Months Yet.

There will be an additional delay in the arrival of the guns for the members of the Home Guard. A quantity which it was thought could be sent here had to be forwarded to cantonment camps for use of soldiers who were not yet provided with the army regulation rifles (and as soon as they have been equipped, the old guns will be forwarded here for distribution.

In the meantime, sticks of the sort the boys use when they are doing military stunts will be distributed among the civilian soldiers, and their instruction in fire arms must be limited to what they can learn from a stick of pine wood until the greater demands of the government have at least in a measure been met.

The regular Monday night drill may be disposed of a week or two during the holidays, although Major Will Landis is hopeful that the members may consent to drill an hour of two in the afternoon several days during the Christmas interval.

Red Cross Work.

The Granville County Chapter of American Red Cross is greatly indebted to Mr. Willie Murray for the use of sewing machines which he so generously loaned it since the Work Rooms were opened in July last, until this week, when Mr. Murray had an opportunity of disposing of these machines. Sewing machine are greatly needed at the Work Rooms now and any persons having machines in order will aid the work by loaning them to the Red Cross.

The constitutional amendment for nation-wide woman suffrage was reported without recommendation Tuesday by the House Judiciary Committee.