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THE OXFORD TOBACCO MARKET OPENS WITH BIG BREAKS AND RECORD AVERAGES

Average Per Pound Strives Toward Forty Cent Goal and No Telling Where It Will Get To When the Markets Get Well Under Way—Four Warehouses and Unlimited Storage Facilities—Ten Million Pound Season Expected—First Sale at New Minor Warehouse and the First Lot Sold Was Produced By Mr. Will Dixon.

Approximately one hundred and forty thousand pounds at an average of thirty and forty cents is the estimate of the opening sales of Wednesday. These are not adding machine figures for the sales had not been reported by the warehousemen when this article was written. That pre-season predictions of record breaking prices were fulfilled goes without saying.

Clear, cool weather ushered in the 1918-19 tobacco season here. Hundreds of farmers flocked to Oxford to witness the initial sales. Wagons and carts laden with tarpaulin-covered leaf came in throughout the night and morning. These caravans will continue to come until the holidays.

It was just an ordinary opening day as regards the crowds, the team-filled stables, the scenes around the warehouses, etc. It furnished no sensations outside the warehouses. There is a war on. Liquor is a much scarcer article here now than in former years. Instead of having extra men on for the occasion, the police force was not in evidence.

Prices set a record, as had been anticipated. The weed has advanced as have all other commodities. World production has decreased. "This is a war being fought on tobacco," say headlines, and the Sammies and Poilus and Tommies overseas just have to have it. It nourishes their morale and stimulates their nerves. When an opening day, with offerings never choice and rarely good, sees such prices as were paid Wednesday one can well afford to wonder what the midseason days will bring forth.

The average price for Granville bright leaf this season will pass the 50-cent mark, conservative estimates have it. It may go to 60 cents!

Good Break. Wednesday breaks were far from small. Opening day breaks are usually just "market testers." One estimate at ten o'clock, with the wagons still coming in, placed the day's totals at about 130,000 pounds. It may fall below this figure or it may exceed it. Any way, quarter million-pound sales may be witnessed in mid season when prices are soaring. Tobaccoists consistently advise the farmers to market slowly, however. They would prefer to sell 200,000 or 300,000 pounds in a day and extend the season.

No Limit to Facilities. Oxford has the goods as a market storage facilities for millions and millions of pounds, redrying plants, sales space, etc., give the market a great capacity. Sales of twelve million pounds this season would not tax the market unless that quantity of weed should all be marketed at once. It is not improbable that Oxford will sell more than eleven million pounds.

Order of Opening Sales. First—The new Mangum. Second—The Banner. Third—The Farmer's. Fourth—The Johnson. The Mangum had the first sale. The first three piles sold belonged to Mr. Will Dixon. The total weight was 124, 160, 114 and it brought 25c., 36c., 39 1/2c.

THE CROWN PRINCE TALKS.

Says Americans Do Not Know What They Are Fighting For. An Amsterdam paper quotes the Crown Prince of Germany as saying:

"Among the Americans I've found that the majority do not know what they are fighting for. I asked an American prisoner what they were fighting for and he answered, 'For Alsace,' and to the question, 'Where is Alsace?' he replied: 'It's a big lake!'"

None but a Yankee could frame such an answer. Mr. Gus Hall the druggist, tells a good tale. Returning from Washington recently, the train on which he was riding took the siding near Ashland, Va., to let a troop train pass. The train on which Mr. Hall was a passenger was southbound, and the troop train was going north. The two trains came to a standstill opposite each other, and the coach in which Mr. Hall was riding contained several ladies and gentlemen, who engaged the soldiers in converse and passed their lunches and candy boxes over to them. Finally some one in Mr. Hall's coach asked the soldiers where they were going.

"To Texas of course," answered a big strong voice, "don't you see we are headed in that direction?"

Books Are Needed. Mrs. A. H. Powell, Chairman of Camp Activities, is somewhat disappointed at the tardiness in which the people of the community have responded to the call for more books for the soldiers. There are plenty of good, interesting books in the homes of the people that would be highly interesting to the soldiers. Look over your list and call up Mrs. Powell. It is her desire to forward a box on September 10th. Think a moment, then act.

HUNS RETREAT NO LONGER CONDUCTED WITH MILITARY SKILL

Reports Indicate to Washington Officers That the Withdrawal, Forced and Precipitate, is Getting Out of Hand—Growing Disorganization in German Ranks Indicated by Capture of 10,000 Prisoners in Two Days.

(Washington Special.) Recent reports from the British front indicated to officers here that the German retirement heretofore conducted with utmost military skill, was getting out of hand. Under the terrific pressure of the British and French armies all along the line from Ypres to Soissons the enemy apparently is being forced to a more precipitate withdrawal, particularly on the old Drocourt-Queant front, where Marshal Haig's men hammered forward irresistibly.

Decided Gap in Enemy Line. The British now have broken a decided gap in the old German fortified line and the fall of Cambrai, Douai, St. Quentin, and several other rail and road centers upon which the Hindenburg line deepened seems imminent. If the enemy intended to fall back upon this line when he was forced to a general withdrawal along his whole front from Rheims to Ypres, his chances are rapidly dwindling as the British lines surge forward at the very center of the great battle front.

May Force Withdrawal to Rhine. So evident is the growing disorganization among the Germans shown in reports from the British front that some officers are inclined to think it possible that the enemy be forced to a withdrawal to the Rhine this year.

American Field Army. On all sides it is evident here that announcement of the formation of the first American field army and the fact that many American units which had been brigaded with the French or British the final training have been withdrawn to be added to it, have been taken to mean that the Americans would attack during the present year.

Ample time remains, it is said, for the organization of the force to be completed and the assault launched before winter interferes. It now appears probable to many observers that it will be delivered soon and probably in a region to the east of Rheims or of Verdun, where the concentration of enemy reserves to meet it will be the most difficult because of the bitter fighting in Flanders and Picardy.

Great Wastage of Men By Enemy. In connection with the evidences of weakness noted in the German war machine in the last few days, an official dispatch from France quoting captured German documents showing the great wastage of men in the enemy's ranks was received with peculiar interest.

TOTAL OF 808 NAMES IN THE CASUALTY LIST

J. M. Parker, of Granville County Severely Wounded.

Casualty lists issued for Wednesday contain 808 names. Killed in action, 110; missing in action, 170; wounded severely, 309; died of wounds, 21; died of accident, 15; wounded, degree undetermined, 160; died of disease, 18.

From the southeast: Killed in action, Jonathan Tayloe, Windsor, N. C.; died of wounds, L. L. Owens, Fletcher, N. C.; died from airplane accident, Robert H. Wood, Charlottsville, Va.; wounded severely, T. M. Carlton, Woodruff, S. C.; Lester Wall, East Bend, N. C.; Guy C. Baxter, Clifton, S. C.; J. E. Hildreth, Rosemary, N. C.; J. W. L. Dreth, Chesterfield, N. C.; Hurley Jones, Frankville, N. C.; Arthur McManus, Buffalo, S. C.; George Crocker, Anderson, S. C.; Clarence L. Houck, Baldin, N. C.; G. Waters, Winston-Salem, N. C.; W. Lancaster, Greenville, S. C.; B. F. McCormick, Conway, S. C.; J. M. Parker, Sten, N. C.; George Holder, Winston-Salem, N. C.; Harmon Hatchell, Hartsville, S. C.; J. F. Shoemaker, Newhope, N. C.; Clarence Orvin, Bouneau, S. C.; Wounded, degree undetermined, Fred Scott, Herndon, Va.; R. M. Moore, Strother, Va.; W. E. Riley, Charlotte, N. C.; Robert B. Kephart, Charlotte, N. C.; Kellis Ryers, Brooks, Va.; J. P. Hick, Canton, N. C.; A. C. Motley, Shepards, Va.; Bernard Nunley, Abingdon, Va.; T. L. Pearson, Portsmouth, Va.; Missing in action, Fred Roberts, Gaffney, S. C.; M. O. Hoffman, Reddies River, N. C.; J. E. Swangune, Asheville, N. C.

PUBLIC CORDIALLY INVITED.

Oxford Schools Will Open Next Monday Morning at Nine O'clock.

Notice is hereby given that all pupils of the High School and of the Col-Graded school will meet at the Col-Graded Street School for the opening exercises. From there they will go to exercises. From there they will go to exercises. The public is urged to assignment. The opening exercises be present for a good year are The prospects for a good year are fine. It is hoped that all pupils will be in for the first day. It pays to get the advantage of the opening days. G. B. PHILLIPS.

DRASTIC SHORTENING OF LINE DECIDED UPON?

London, Sept. 5.—The evacuation of Lens tends to confirm the theory that the Germans have decided upon a drastic shortening of their whole line.

THE GERMAN ARMY IS IN RETREAT ALONG THE ENTIRE WESTERN FRONT

Foch Prepares to Launch New Blow Upon Retiring Enemy—Over 1,600,000 American Soldiers Over Seas—If Germans Attempt Whole Sale Retreat Foch Might Decide Upon Decisive Stroke on Account of Confusion That Would Emerge.

(Washington Special.) In his midweek conference with newspaper correspondents General March reviewed briefly the battle situation of the last three or four days, noting particularly that the British in the most impressive phase of the battle, east of Arras, had smashed their way across the Hindenburg line on an eight mile front with Cambrai as their objective. The major enemy resistance along the whole 60 mile battle front from the Scarpe to the Oise, he said, had been encountered and overcome by the British and the swift advance of the French troops last week, when they gained five or six miles on a 25-mile front in a single day, was due largely to withdrawal forced upon the enemy in the north.

American Troops. Announcement by General March, chief of staff, that more than 1,600,000 troops had been embarked for all fronts up to August 31, furnished a new measure of the forces Marshal Foch has at his disposal with which to follow up the victories already won on the western front.

Big Battle Pending. The size of this American force becomes increasingly important as the scope of the new British assault at the very center of the German line on the Douai-Cambrai front becomes apparent.

Foch Has Ample Reserves. In the opinion of army officials here, the breakdown of the German defense lines on this front may prove the entering wedge for allied successes of a sweeping nature since the fact that General Pershing's army has not yet been largely employed is proof that Marshal Foch has ample reserves with which to press his advantage.

Rapidity of Ally Advance. General March pointed out also as indicating the rapidity with which the battle is shifting under the steady drive of the allied armies, that the British had pressed ahead 14 miles since they launched their attack on August 21.

NO DEPENDENCY QUESTIONS ON NEW REGISTRATION CARD

Features of the 18-to-45 registration card follows: It contains twenty questions. Questions concern name, age, date of birth, color, citizenship, occupation, employer and name of nearest relative.

Contains no exemption clause, questionnaires, to be filled out after registration, caring for this fully. Makes no mention of social status—whether married or single—nor of dependents as on original registration card.

LIMITED SERVICE MEN.

To Be Called Only As Substitutes.

Men classified under the selective draft as qualified for "limited or special" service will not be called unless thereby able-bodied men will be released for service abroad. Secretary Baker announces. The only exceptions now in force, he said, were the cases of a few limited service men who are assisting in construction of a terminal at Charleston, S. C. This was considered a temporary detail and the men will be assigned to other work now being done by men eligible for full military service.

AUGUST WAR BILL NEAR TWO BILLION

Washington, Sept. 5.—Government war expenditures in August broke all monthly records by more than \$100,000,000, amounting to \$1,714,000,000, reports up to today show. Later reports may raise this by \$50,000,000.

CAPT. BEN. K. HAYS.

Dr. B. K. Hays, former health officer of Granville county, has been transferred to the U. S. A. General Hospital, Azalea, N. C. This is the new tubercular hospital near Asheville. "I go there and it will be good to say Dr. Hays, and it will be good to be back in North Carolina again, but no matter where I go or what I am doing the best thing that comes to me is the news from home."

LETTER FROM TEXAS.

Mr. Jeff Daniel Is Now Doing Business In Beaumont.

Having moved from Jefferson Texas, Mr. Jeff Daniel, well known in Oxford and Granville county, request us to change the address of the Public Ledger to 798 Alpine Street, Beaumont, Texas. Among other things Mr. Daniels says:

"We are now on the coast, near the Gulf of Mexico, and may experience some excitement on account of the German U-boats, but we are here to stay. "I often wonder how many of our Granville boys are overseas. I am sure they will give a good account of themselves on the triumphal march to Berlin."

JUST HOME FROM THE TRENCHES IN FRANCE

An Oxford Soldier Will Talk Of His Experience This Friday Evening. Lt. James I. Stegall, a member of the old Granville Grays Company, who arrived from France this week, has consented to talk of his experiences in France and Belgium at the Court House this Friday evening at 8:30 o'clock. Lt. Stegall makes no claim of being an orator. A heart to heart talk is what the people may expect of him, and he will tell us about our own home boys who are in the thick of battle.

BULLOCK ITEMS.

The farmers of this section are very much pleased with the prices of tobacco on the opening sale Wednesday.

Among the Oxford visitors Wednesday, were Messrs. T. A. Royster, B. T. Hicks, Horace Hicks, V. G. Davis, Ray Shotwell, G. W. Royster, G. H. Faucett, and Hugh Pittard. Misses Zulene Evans of Oxford, and Rosa Nelson of Virginia, are visiting their uncle, Mr. I. B. Royster, this week.

Miss Martha Davis will leave Tuesday to accept a position as teacher in the Dunn High School. Miss Melia Hatcher, Mrs. E. G. Freeman and children, of Richmond, returned home Thursday, after spending some time with relatives around Bullock and Vance county.

Mr. Banister Royster left this week to accept a position with the Imperial Tobacco Company in Oxford. The Bullock School will open October 1st, with the following teachers: Misses Eulah Turner, of Rougemont, Principal; Myrtle Crews of Oxford, Intermediate and music and Dorothy Hicks of Bullock, Primary.

The Baptist Sunday school has organized the Fidelis and Baraca classes, of the Fdelis, the officers were elected as follows: Dorothy Hicks, President; Susie Pittard, First Vice-President; Mary Norwood, 2nd Vice-President; Mary Royster, 3rd Vice-President; Pattie Royster, Secretary; Fannie Campbell Treasurer; Blanche Norwood, Reporter; Mrs. Sue B. Pittard, Teacher.

L. T. BUCHANON APPOINTED UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER

To Fill the Office Made Vacant By the Resignation of Mr. F. W. Hancock, Jr.

Mr. Frank Hancock, Jr., having resigned the office of United States Commissioner for Granville county, Judge Connor has appointed Justice L. T. Buchanan to the high calling. It is understood that Mr. Hancock, who filled the office with distinguished ability, resigned under pressure of business.

The appointment of Justice Buchanan is very acceptable to the people of Granville. He has long acted as justice of the peace; is familiar with the law and above all is possessed with an abundance of common sense. It will be his duty to pass upon those who are guilty of seditious remarks.

THE RECORD OF GRANVILLE COUNTY IS AT STAKE

The people of Granville county is given an opportunity to say to the Government whether or not they can be counted on to help win the war, particularly through the War Saving Campaign. This is the second time that the Government has asked this county to declare itself in regard to this work, to say whether or not it would pledge itself to raise its quota of War Savings Stamps during the year. It asked that this be done by subscribing its entire quota in pledges, which was the purpose of the War Savings Drive of the week of June 23-28.

Knowing as we do the size of the task that is before us, our first duty is to set ourselves about to do it. Nothing should come before this call of the Government. Our private and personal interests can be and should be set aside until we have redeemed our country from the unfavorable position it now holds in this work, and placed it on record as 100 per cent patriotic. This will call for service and perhaps a little sacrifice on the part of our citizens, but we will be a poor lot if we are not able to make at this period of our county's struggle whatever sacrifice is necessary to save her righteous cause.

PERCEPTIBLE DECREASE IN AUTOMOBILING LAST SUNDAY

Automobiling was noticeably on the decline Sunday. Two automobiles halted before a local garage, which was closed, to replenish their supply of water. The driver explained that he was on his way home from church. The other stated that he had been to a hospital to see a sister, who was desperately ill. The county roads showed fewer autoists than on former Sundays.

No gasoline was sold here. All of this in accordance with the government's request that there be less automobile trips on Sunday.

It is expected that the attendance at Sunday school and church will be much larger since public opinion has decreed that there shall be no joy riding on Sunday.

Preaching At Hebron.

Rev. Marion Boggs will preach at Hebron Presbyterian church next Sunday evening, September 8th, at 4 o'clock.

STATE LIBRARY REDEEM PLEDGES WITH TOBACCO MONEY

The farmers were right when they said they would buy stamps and bonds in the fall. Many of them, tobacco farmers, are not waiting till the fall. As soon as they sell their first load of tobacco, and get the money for it they remember their War Savings pledges and go buy an installment of stamps.

As a result of fine tobacco sales comes the report that War Savings Stamps are selling rapidly and that the farmers are redeeming their War Savings pledges in full. Many of them, the report says, are buying more stamps than the number for which they pledged, and are doing this with the feeling that the War Savings Certificate is the best investment a farmer can make.

For the reason that the success of the War Savings Campaign depends almost altogether on the farm and the farmer, it is expected that the unusually good crops and the prevailing high prices will furnish the stimulus to put over the State's War Savings quota. Many county chairmen have been encouraged by these conditions to make a second and a third attempt to subscribe their full quotas in pledges at once. Other counties which felt that their task was more than they were able to meet have expressed their faith in being able to raise their quota as the result of good crops and high prices.

LT. JAMES I. STEGALL BACK FROM THE TRENCHES

Spending Few Days in Oxford With His Family.

Lt. James I. Stegall, an old member of the Granville Grays Company, arrived from France Tuesday morning and will rest with his family here a few days. He comes direct from the trenches at Ypres, about 30 miles from Dunkirk, an important channel port as large as Richmond, Va. He has been fighting side by side with the British opposite the army of Prince Rhuempert.

Lt. Stegall is in the pink of condition. Asked if he had ever been hurt, he replied that he had not, but admitted that he had done some sharp dodging. He brings with him a german helmet, which he took from a Hun prisoner.

The report that Pershing's army is infested with vermin and that the men never shave, said Lt. Stegall, is not true. The men, he said, are compelled to keep themselves clean and are required to shave at least twice a week.

Lt. Stegall explained that the meals are cooked some distance to the rear and are brought to the trenches and served at night. They have spirit lamps in the trenches by which they warm the coffee. The men in the trenches do much of their sleeping during the day.

Only one member of Lt. Stegall's company has been killed and four wounded. Neither one of which were Granville boys.

Lt. Stegall returns to America for special duty, the nature of which he would not reveal. However, it is known that new divisions will be created and sent abroad. He will probably be stationed at one of the cantonments in the south for a few months. Yes, we have a big job on our hands said Lt. Stegall, but it is a pleasant one and when we get a couple of million more men overseas there will be something doing mighty quick.

THE LARGEST WAR SAVINGS LIMITED FAMILY IN STATE

Family of C. E. Neisler, Kings Mountain Heads List With Ten Members.

Mr. C. E. Neisler of Kings Mountain, has a \$10,000 War Savings Limit Family. Each of his eight children, as well as himself and his wife own \$1,000 of War Savings Certificates—all that the law allows to any one person.

Mr. Neisler's family heads the list of the North Carolina Limit War Savings Society as the largest limit family. The next largest families that have qualified and become members are those of Mrs. R. J. Reynolds, of Winston-Salem, with six in family, and Mr. W. T. Allover, of Charlotte, also with six.

CZECHS ARE KNOCKING AT GERMANY'S BACK DOOR

United States Strikes Heavy Blow for Freedom From Hapsburg Yoke.

(Washington Special.) The United States Wednesday formally recognized the Czech-Slovak National Council as a de facto belligerent Government, clothed with proper authority to direct the military and political affairs of the Czech-Slovak peoples.

It recognized that a state of belligerency exists between the Czech-Slovak and the German and Austro-Hungarian peoples. It also announced that it is prepared to enter formally into relations with the de facto government, thus recognized for the purpose of prosecuting the war against a common enemy, the Empires of Germany and Austria-Hungary.

Public School Examination.

There will be a reexamination for white teachers at the Court House Thursday, September 12th, for colored teachers Friday, September 13th. J. F. WEBB.

The Surgical Dressing Class of the Granville County Chapter, American Red Cross will be open Monday night at 8 o'clock, Wednesday and Friday morning at 9:30 o'clock. All members are asked to be present.