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OXFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

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NUMBER 1

HERE IS THE HOPE THAT YOU MAY FIND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Happier Than Any That Has Ever Preceded It!

The New Year comes clothed in mystery. But it comes with a great inheritance. All of the men who died left it some of their greatness, something of their high purpose, it will have a new power of eloquence. The memories alone that have been left to it should give it a passionate determination to do great things in the thoughts of men, in their hearts, in their enterprise outside in the world. There is no man in business who cannot feel, if he thinks of all that that he has and hopes to be preserved for him through the sacrifices of men whom he never saw, whose names he does not even know. How can there ever again be hatred or misunderstanding between groups in America? Or have we passed through the fire without learning its essential lesson?

If the New Year is able to distribute its rich inheritances in the minds of the world all men will try to be as brave as those who fought and endured the perils of the old year. If the men in high places, in business, in government, at the Peace Conference can be as faithful, as great-hearted as the unnamed men who passed through the fire and mud of war to save civilization, then the civilization saved at such appalling cost will be worth while.

Otherwise it will not be. For men who make philosophies, those who sustain religions, such as make literature and paint pictures, for all who in any way try to influence the life of them, the New Year brings treasurers indescribable. It brings them such revelations from the common heart of mankind as never before were seen. It brings an inspiration to exalted service because it is only in the coming year that we shall have time to sit down quietly and think of what our peace has cost.

The memory of the sacrifices made in France will be inexorable. It will come back often to many men when they are in a mind to make ill use of the privileges secured to them by others who died in a far country. Therefore the New Year should be a happy one. It brings new purpose with it and new hopes, and it should be ennobled by high ambitions.

Let's all hands join in a determined effort to make 1919 the banner year for business in this section and a whole-hearted endeavor to repair the ravages of war and other unusual afflictions to which we were grievously subjected during the memorable year now at a close.

Personally speaking, the Public Ledger is determined to do its full part within the limits of its abilities to help build up and reconstruct the whole community. The past year has been a peculiarly hard one on the paper by reason of lack of man-power and other unavoidable causes, but we hope the worst is over and we look forward to better things and a chance for greater service before the close of the first month of the New Year.

STOVALL NEWS NOTES.

The following Stovall people returned to the fire-side and spent a happy Christmas with relatives and friends in and around the old home town:

Misses Annie Davis, and Linville Younger, of Richmond; Mr. Joe Davis, of Richmond; Mr. Sterling White of Mar's Hill school; Miss Tillie Dixon, of Durham; Mr. Zack Williams, of Oxford; Mrs. Giffrey, of Washington; Miss Ida Jackson, of Winston.

Mr. B. W. Butler killed two fine wild turkeys this week. Mr. Jim Cottrell also killed one last week.

Julian Wilson has been mustered out of service and is spending some time here with relatives.

L. G. and R. C. Puckett have installed Delco Lights in their store. Private Pettis Cutts was mustered out at Camp Lee last week and is at home.

OXFORD BOY WINS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

Sergt. William Hill Powell, A. E. F., son of Mr. J. B. Powell, Register of Deeds, has been cited in the dispatches as having won the "distinguished Service Cross." The honor comes to the Oxford boy for conspicuous bravery.

UNITED WAR WORK FUND.

Northside School Is Placed On the Honor Roll.

In the recent published list of subscriptions by school districts to the above fund, Northside school was inadvertently omitted.

This district, with a quota of \$100 was well canvassed by Mrs. W. H. Fleming and Miss Maggie Currin, and subscribed \$101.43 in cash, there by placing Northside school on the honor roll.

MUST SING OR BUST.

Sooner or Later We Will Hear the Joyful Sound.

It is to be regretted that inclement weather prevented both the Thanksgiving celebration and the Christmas service, planned by the Music and Civic Department of the Woman's club. The committees made an effort to have the service held, but it was discovered at the last minute that it was discovered that the piano and other necessary equipment were securely locked up and that the parties who carried them were out of town.

But we are going to be heard from again before very long. We are somewhat like the man who ran for the legislature five times. The fifth time receiving only two votes, his own and one of his hired men. In desperation he determined to put an end to his miserable existence,—so he procured a rope, a can of kerosene some matches and a pistol. He saturated himself with the oil, climbed out on a limb over a nearby river, fastened himself securely with one end of the rope, made a noose of the other end, slipped it over his neck, struck the match, set fire to his clothing and jumped simultaneously firing the pistol toward his head. But he missed his mark the bullet severed the rope and he dropped into the water which of course extinguished the flames.

He swam to the shore, hurried home, changed his clothes and immediately went out and announced himself as candidate for legislature.

Like this politician, we are of dauntless courage and sometime, after peace has been proclaimed, perhaps when the influenza is not so prevalent as to make indoor gatherings inadvisable, we are going to have a great meeting; we are going to have the singing, the sneaking, and the rejoicing. In the language of the post-card artist:

"Let other folks be silent
And gloomy if they must.
But we've just got to sing our song;
Or else blow up and bust!"

COMMITTEE.

INFLUENZA COST ABOUT EIGHTY MILLION DOLLARS

Commissioner Young Says No Spectral Alarm So Far As Stability Goes.

With the tenacious hold that the influenza epidemic seems to retain in many sections of the State and the country at large and the death toll it is imposing, the effect on life insurance interests is coming in for much consideration by insurance journals, the life companies, fraternal and policyholders generally.

The best estimates place the cost of the epidemic thus far to the "level premium" companies at about \$40,000,000 in death losses and the assessment associations and fraternal orders in about the same proportion. The losses during the major prevalence period of the epidemic are estimated to have been about \$10,000,000 above normal. The rated mortality of members is estimated to have been from four to six times the normal rate.

It is an interesting fact that one company reports thus far the loss of about 75,000 policy-holders and the payment of about \$15,000,000 in insurance due directly to deaths caused by the influenza epidemic.

The insurance experts say there is really no cause for alarm thus far as the excess in losses will be taken care of rapidly by the companies and societies and there are no failures anticipated on this account.

SAFE AND SANE HOLIDAY.

Oxford Has a Way of Doing Things Right.

Christmas day in Oxford was observed on the safe and sane plan. It was an observance like the Christ child would have had. People generally laid aside a large part of the merry-making, and celebrated seriously. The great world war had left its touch with us. It was too early for many people to forget the sacrifices that the year 1918 carries with it.

FIRST COLD WAVE OF WINTER ON THE WAY.

Was Spread Over Northwest, Southwest and Middle West.

Chicago, Jan. 2.—The first cold wave of the winter has struck the northwest, southwest and middle west. The mercury stands at 24 degrees here today and tonight was hanging at 10 above zero while extreme temperatures were registered in widely separated regions.

In the far southwest, Flagstaff, Arizona, reported 18 below zero. Amarillo, Texas, 6 below. Roswell, N. M., 2 below, and even Mexico had freezing weather.

NORTH CAROLINA UNIVERSITY AFTER WILSON

College Would Pay Him \$20,000 a Year as President.

Woodrow Wilson for the presidency of the University of North Carolina is the object of emergency propaganda discovered in Raleigh. It appears that the proposal was conveyed to President Wilson before he sailed. The plan of those trustees who are urging their fellows not to elect a president at their next meeting is to make the presidency pay \$20,000 annually, to be taken from the Bingham bequest which came from the will of Mrs. Mary Lilly Flagler, wife of Henry M. Flagler, and later of Judge Bingham. This rich gift to the State University was primarily for the payment of professors. From that, President Wilson would be paid if he accepted. The Wilson proponents believe they can interest him in this proposition when his administration ends.

OVER 1,100,000 TROOPS NAMED FOR DEMOBILIZATION AT ONCE

Official Reports Show That Total Discharges From Army To Date Are 534,334 Men and 35,409 Officers.

Washington, Jan. 2.—More than 1,100,000 American soldiers at home and abroad have been designated for early demobilization from service in the army.

General March gave the figures as 937,000 in home units to be discharged, and 168,000 men and 6,800 officers assigned by General Pershing for early convoy home from France.

This includes men already discharged and those who have landed from France.

The official reports show 534,334 men and 35,409 officers actually discharged. Complete reports for the week just ended are expected to raise the total at least 100,000.

Fourteen battleships and 10 cruisers have been assigned by the Navy Department to help bring American troops home from France. The battleships assigned for this service are among the older on the navy list and in order that they may bring as many soldiers as possible are operating with far less complement than usual.

Included in the units en route homeward as announced are five complete field artillery regiments, the 125th, 127, 145th, 301st, and 333rd, in the neighborhood of 1,500 men and more than 50 officers. There en route also two complete trench mortar battalions the 6th and 7th, with about 30 officers and 700 men each.

YOUNG PEOPLE MASQUERADE.

Delightful Dance Given at the Armory.

Misses LaVera and Carolyn Harris entertained at a delightful masquerade dance at the armory on December 26th. Dancing started at 8:30 and lasted until 12:30 p. m. Punch was served during intermission by Miss Christine Harris.

Those enjoying the occasion were Miss Mary B. Minor, of Raleigh; Mr. Tom Woods, Miss Mary Landis, Chandler Watkins, Miss Sarah Canady, William Webb, Miss Alice Morton, John Graham Webb, Miss Elizabeth Hicks, Sam Hall, Miss Aline Hicks, George Hunt, Miss Beatrice Parham, Jack Capehart, Miss Ethel Hancock, Maurice Parham, Miss Nina Cooper, Henry Shaw, Miss Margaret Capehart, Shepard Booth, Miss Estelle White, William Bryan, Miss Nell Woods, Tom Mullins, Miss Martha Cupp, Godfrey Cauthen, of Durham. The stags were: Messrs. Will Hicks, Frank Taylor, James McMurtrey, Junious Cooper, Ben Thorp, Cameron Hunt, A. T. Worsham, J. B. McIver, Robert Duke, of Durham; Thomas Harris, "Bill" Bailey, George Bailey, Kenneth Younger, of Raleigh; Sonnie Ballou, "Billy" Devin, Harry Renn, James Bullock.

Chaperones were: Mrs. John W. Hester, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Hancock, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Jack Currin, Miss Mary Royal Hancock, Georgia Winston, Mr. T. C. Harris.

Ten costumes were very attractive and created lots of fun.

HAWAIIAN SINGERS

Coming to the Orpheum Monday, January 6.

Albert Vierra's Hawaiian Singers, presenting a "Night in Honolulu"; also picture, Bryant Washburn in "Kidder Ko." Pictures at 7 and play at 8:30 p. m. Children 50c; adults 75c.

Mr. W. W. Fuller is wearing a very pleasant countenance since the holidays, which were spent in the eastern part of the State. The same can be said of our popular dentist, Dr. S. J. Finch, who took a short side trip during the holidays.

STEM NEWS LETTER.

(W. R. MANGUM.)
Crymes-Dickerson.

Perhaps a more beautiful and elegant home wedding has never taken place in this community than was solemnized in the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Crymes Tuesday, December 24, at eight o'clock in the evening, the contracting parties being their attractive daughter, Miss Ora, and Mr. Carroll R. Dickerson. The parlor had been decorated with holly and running cedar. The arch was covered with white with two lamps on each side, with green and red Christmas bells on windows and arch. First to enter was Miss Mary Crymes, sister of the bride, accompanied by her brother, Mr. Roy Crymes, who turned the music sheets at the piano; next the maids of honor, Misses Bessie Bullock and Bessie Mangum; then entered the bride and groom to the strains of Mendelssohn's march played by Miss Mary Crymes. The bride was attired in a suit of navy blue cloth, hat and veil to match. During the ceremony, which was performed by Rev. Thompson, pastor of the groom, "Hearts and Flowers" was softly played. At the conclusion of the martial vows, the bride and groom motored to Durham and boarded their train for Dickerson, the home of the groom's parents, where a royal welcome was extended to them. The bride is the beautiful and accomplished daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Crymes, of Stem. The groom was born and reared near Dickerson and is a young man of excellent qualities. He is now employed as a salesman at the Long Company in Oxford.

Slaughter-Bowling.

It was with great surprise that the people of Stem heard of the marriage of Mr. John H. Bowling, our esteemed fellow townsman, and Miss Ella T. Slaughter, of Stovall, which was solemnized in the office of the Register of Deeds in Oxford, Monday, December 30th, Rev. R. H. Marsh performing the ceremony. Immediately following the martial rites, the happy couple repaired to the home of Mr. Ed. Satterwhite, Oxford Route 4, where a sumptuous supper had been prepared for the occasion. A large crowd gathered Monday night to extend best wishes and congratulations. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Abe Slaughter, of Stovall, and by her kind and gentle disposition has won many friends in her neighborhood. The groom is well known in our section as a kind hearted, generous christian gentleman and has accumulated a handsome fortune. We extend to them a hearty welcome to our community.

Automobile Accident.

A very serious automobile accident occurred on Thursday, December 26, about one half mile from Stem just this side of Ledge Rock Creek. Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Haskins and five children had started on a car with Mr. W. H. Whitaker to Apex and just as they had reached a point in the road just this side of the bridge their car collided with Mr. C. G. Sanford who with his little boy was coming to Stem in road auto truck. The front part of Mr. Whitaker's car was badly damaged, axle bent, one tire burst, windshield broken, fenders mashed and other damage. Mrs. Haskins, who occupied a rear seat was cut about nine inches across the forehead, and Mr. Haskins received a cut above one eye and on the right hand. His little son was also cut about the face. Mr. Sanford's car turned over, his little boy was thrown out, but Mr. Sanford was caught under the car and received a very severe bruise on his leg near the knee joint. The injured parties are doing as well as could be expected.

Mr. and Mrs. M. B. McKinney, residents of Stem for the past year, left Wednesday for Lillington where they will make their future home.

WAR SAVINGS CAMPAIGN TO OPEN JANUARY 17

(Washington Special.)

The 1919 war savings campaign will be opened actively by a nationwide celebration on January 17, the anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin.

The day will be devoted particularly to the organization of thousands of war savings societies to systematize the preaching of thrift and promote the sales of \$2,000,000,000 worth of stamps during the year.

Oxford Boy Wounded.

Dr. Fort received a letter from the War Department Wednesday stating that his son, Corporal Robert K. Fort, was slightly wounded in the battle October 11th. That is the date the boys broke the Hindenburg line.

REV. R. C. CRAVEN MUCH BELOVED BY OXFORD PEOPLE

Those who have met Rev. R. C. Craven and heard him preach since coming to Oxford are charmed with him. The following special from Rocky Mount tells what "manner of man" he is:

"Mr. Craven served four years here, and during that time proved himself not only one of the ablest religious and spiritual workers that ever worked in the city, but was also a citizen of the first class, being active in every social and progressive movement launched here during the four years he was pastor.

"Mr. Craven leaves the church with the membership increased over fifty-three per cent. He put the church on a firm foundation by clearing the debt thereon, and remarkable and gratifying progress has been shown in every branch of endeavor of the institution.

"The pastor was active in war work, and made the winning of the war a principal part of his work during the quadrennium—the most important and momentous in the history of the world. In the last year Mr. Craven made twice as many speeches in the interest of the Liberty Loans, Red Cross, Y. M. C. A., and other war causes than he preached sermons. His speaking trips embraced eight eastern North Carolina counties.

"Another remarkable feature of his work here was the interest he showed in the young people. He organized the scout movement, and now there are five troops of boy scouts and one troop of girl scouts to attest to the success of his efforts. It is safe to say that Mr. Craven did more during the past year toward the upbuilding of the citizenship of tomorrow than any other man in the city.

"Mr. Craven has been in the conference fifteen years, and has held charges at Tarboro, Henderson, Durham, and Rocky Mount. He is a graduate of Trinity College."

THE MOTHER TONGUE ON THE ALLIED FRONT

One wonders sometimes how many "mother tongues" were spoken among the allied forces that licked the Germans into submission. From every corner of the earth came different nationalities or tribesmen to take part in the fray. Haas spokesmen for every language represented talked together it would have given rise to sounds like unto that which attended the building of Babel's tower. Sometimes the strange tongues were confusing, and at others dangerous. Because a little group of soldiers defending a liaison shell hole spoke Gaelic they were mistaken for Germans in the darkness and came near to death at the hands of their own comrades.

COL. LASSITER'S BELOVED WIFE DIED IN CALIFORNIA

Mrs. Cora Armstrong Lassiter, wife of Col. Lassiter, died at 12:20 the morning of December 17th at their home in Ross, California.

Col. Lassiter is a brother of Mr. R. W. Lassiter, of Oxford.

"A ROCK IN A WEARY LAND."

In riding through this section of the State at night, it is a great pleasure to come upon a farm home like Mr. J. T. Daniel's or Mr. G. T. Sherman's or Mr. Sam'l. H. Jones', or a village home like Dr. Wm. L. Taylor's at Stovall or Mr. J. B. Mayes' at Stem, or a store like L. G. & R. C. Puckett at Stovall or G. N. Daniel at Tar River; lighted by electricity.

Mr. C. A. Upchurch has done much good for this section of the State by installing Delco-Light in the homes on farms and in villages.

To see an electric lighted home in the country reminds one of a "rock in a weary land." See the announcement of Mr. C. A. Upchurch on the second page of this paper.

The phone number in the announcement should be No. 256-W.

RETURN \$1,200,000,000 IN STOCKS TO FRENCH BANKS

(Paris Special.)

The Germans have returned stocks taken from the banks in Northern France amounting approximately to 6,000,000,000 francs.

Several safes, weighing five to seven tons each, which the Germans did not open and are now in Brussels will be brought back shortly to Valenciennes.

Mr. Jack Currin, auctioneer at the Farmer's warehouse, has accepted a similar position at Mayesville, Ky., and left this week to enter upon his duties. Mrs. Currin, who has a slight attack of influenza, will join her husband as soon as she recovers.