

What Can We Best Do for Salisbury During 1919?

YADKIN VALLEY HERALD

VOL. 9, NO. 19. \$1.50 A YEAR AND WORTH IT. SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA, TUESDAY, DEC. 31, 1918. \$1.50 A YEAR AND WORTH IT. PRICE TWO CENTS.

FRENCH PREMIER WILL SUPPORT GREAT BRITAIN

"America Not Interested in European Politics." --President Wilson

Six Out of Eight Favor a Change in the City Government of Salisbury

These Reports Show That There is a Decided Interest in Commission Form of Government in the City---What is the Best Thing That We Can Do for Salisbury During the Year 1919?---Many Inquiries Being Sent Out and Replies Coming In.

Of the first eight replies coming in to the Post's inquiries "What Shall We Do For Salisbury During 1919," with special reference to a change of municipal government, commission form or city management--six were favorable to a change and two expressed opposition to a change. The replies indicated a very earnest interest in the city and the best interest of all the community. Local government and matters pertaining to city government claim first attention with those who replied, perhaps largely because they were given this cue in the question asked.

The majority indicate their interest in a change of form of government and in an immediate agitation for this change. Other matters touched on were such as indicated civic progress. A moral and physical cleanup of the city, co-operation for a diversity of industries and street improvement were set down as matters which should occupy the attention of Salisbury for the coming year.

Heartily in Favor Commission Form. Mr. J. F. Somers, the proprietor of the Yadkin hotel, sets himself down as favorable to a commission form of city government. Mr. Somers favors a concentration of the city administration and with this a very vigorous policy to make good our opportunities during the year. We quote his letter: "I am heartily in favor of Commission form of government for Salisbury. I lived two years in Greensboro under this form of government and know from experience that it is far ahead of our present form of government. It is more efficient and more economical from a financial standpoint. Salisbury at present has a superintendent of water works with his office in one part of the city, a city treasurer with his office at another part of the city and a city clerk with his office still in another part of the city, and a mayor with no office except his private law office. Yet all these men drawing salaries with their clerks and office expenses, and the public subjected to all these inconveniences brought about by lack of concentration of the city administration. On the other hand the commission form of government places the business of the city in the hands of three men who devote their entire time to the welfare of the city.

Another Favorable Expression From a Leading Banker. Mr. W. F. Snider, cashier of the Wachovia bank, wants the change adopted now and the city government changed. He wants the entire citizenship behind the government and an untiring effort made to make great advancement during the coming year. Mr. Snider writes as follows:

"I favor the Commission form of government for our city, and I think now is the time to agitate it. Any sensible business plan that will take the management out of politics would be acceptable. We want the entire citizenship behind our government.

Mr. H. A. Rouzer answers the inquiry about the change of city government in the affirmative; says he is in favor of the change and sees no reason why the change should wait. Speaking of the best thing we can do for the city during the year 1919, Mr. Rouzer says briefly, "Clean up, morally, physically and otherwise."

State Senator Says the Quicker the Better. State Senator R. Lee Wright says he is in favor of change in the city government and the quicker the better for him. Here is the letter which came from Mr. Wright:

"Dear Mr. Hurley: "In reply to your inquiry I will say that I am very much in favor of a Commission form of government for Salisbury, and think the quicker we get it the better.

"Other cities and towns in our state seem to be well pleased and are on the road to progress. Why not we? "Very truly, "R. LEE WRIGHT."

Father Anthony Says Need Is Variety of Interest. Declaring that he does not favor a change of government for Salisbury, that he does not favor a commission for mand sees no benefit of agitation, Father Anthony, of the Catholic church, writes that what we need now for the coming year, is to "promote a variety of industries and to place names of streets at all intersections."

Mr. Overman Favors Change to Commission Form. Mr. Ed. Overman, of the wholesale house of same name, favors a new form--the commission form--and believes that it should be pushed without a bit of delay. Mr. Overman takes only a few words to express his position, but there is no mistaking his position.

Peeler Company Write Favorable to Change. The wholesale firm of Peeler Company expresses the opinion that to keep up with the march of progress the city must adopt a more progressive form of government and take its place along with the more progressive cities of the land. Their letter follows in full:

"We have your letter asking us for opinion of a change in the city government. "In our opinion a Commission form of government would be better for our city than the present one. "As the world war has changed things, we can no longer do business as we did 40 years ago. "It is our honest opinion that the only way we can go forward would be to have a Commission form of government, whose business it would be to look after the interest of the town and make it so attractive that outside capital would want to come in. "If we want to keep pace with the times, we must wake up to the situation, or we will be counted a back number. "We truly hope that through the columns of your good paper that you will start now to educate the people to the new changes in the world that is bound to come. "Yours truly, "PEELER COMPANY."

DISASTROUS FIRE AT LIVINGSTONE

Huntington Hall, Three Story Frame Structure, and Old Original College Building Completely Destroyed Together with Practically All Furniture.

At 3:30 o'clock this morning an alarm of fire called the department to Livingstone college where a blaze had gained considerable headway in Huntington Hall, the old original frame college building, and within a short time had eaten its way through the entire building which was completely burned to the ground, together with practically all of the furniture and fixtures.

This building was occupied as a boys' dormitory and had been since the regular boys' dormitory, Dodge Hall, was burned some months ago. The fire had gained such headway when discovered and spread so rapidly throughout the building that many of the students had to hurry for their lives and many of them lost much of their wearing apparel.

Just what caused the fire is not positively known but it is supposed to have started in the top of the rear wing and must have been caused by a defective fuse. The building was a large one, three stories and the fire made a big blaze and lighted up that whole section of the city. The firemen were handicapped at first by low water pressure but the blaze had gained such headway when they arrived on the scene that it would hardly have been possible to have saved the building.

The fire had a good start when discovered and was a mile or more distant from the fire station. The fire was one of the hottest the firemen have had to contend with in years and at one time a frame building some distance off and used as a laundry caught but was extinguished with only slight damage. Large burning cinders fell several blocks away and other houses in that part of the city were in danger for a time.

Huntington Hall was the oldest of the string of college buildings, having been the original home of the school and was built more than 30 years ago. In it was formerly the girls' dormitory but had been vacated by them on completion of the large new brick girls' building and the boys had occupied it since their dormitory was burned.

Just what the loss is has not been estimated but it will be \$10,000 or \$12,000, partially covered by insurance. The boys are now housed in the various buildings until some arrangements can be made for a permanent dormitory for them.

CLEMENCEAU WILL SUPPORT ENGLAND

French Premier Makes It Plain That He Adheres to the Old System "Balance of Power."

DECLARES HIS ATTITUDE IS SUPPORTED BY WILSON

During Stormy Debate in Chamber of Deputies War Aims of France Are Outlined.

(By the Associated Press) Paris, Dec. 29.--Premier Clemenceau was given a vote of confidence, 350 to 143, in the chamber of deputies today after a stormy debate in which the war aims of France were outlined by Stephen Pichon.

The foreign minister and premier has indicated his adherence to the old system of alliance called "the balance of power." It was indicated by the premier that the formation of a league of nations might be carried incident with the signing of the peace treaty.

Premier Clemenceau States His Position. Paris, Dec. 30.--In addressing the chamber of deputies last night Premier Clemenceau made it plain that it was his intention to support Great Britain in the peace negotiations on the question of the freedom of the seas, and he declared his attitude in the matter was assumed by President Wilson.

Premier Clemenceau said his conversations with President Wilson had been profitable although he added: "I should not be telling the truth if I said I always had been in agreement with him on all points."

In summing up his argument for full confidence and exercise of patience by the chamber the premier declared: "There will be claims to be set forth and others which will have to be given up. If I mounted the rostrum to elaborate on the subject I would be the worst premier in Europe. That does not mean we are not working hard to prepare a line of action for the peace congress."

The premier earlier had expressed his belief in efficiency of the system of alliance called the "balance of power," but indicated he was not opposed to a league of nations. Such a league, he said, might be organized at about the time the treaty of peace was completed.

The British premier, Lloyd George, said to me one day "You will admit without the British fleet you could not have continued the war." I answered in the affirmative. He then asked me if I was disposed to anything in opposition to British ideas on the freedom of the seas. I answered in the negative. Concerning this question President Wilson said to me: "I approve of what you said. What you have offered the allied governments will change in no way your answer to Premier Lloyd George."

WOULD DEPORT ENEMY ALIENS.

Department of Justice Will Recommend That 3,000 to 4,000 of These Men Be Sent Back Home.

(By the Associated Press) Washington, Dec. 30.--Deportation of most of the 3,000 or 4,000 enemy aliens now interned in the United States will be recommended to congress by the department of justice.

Special legislation will be required for the deportation and it was learned today that the department of justice will ask also for authority to prevent the re-entry of these men into this country later. Some of them are not considered dangerous permanently and no effort will be made to deport these. A careful investigation of the records, however, convince officials that the larger proportion of those interned should not be left in this country to foment future trouble.

PILLAGING IN FRANKFORT.

Mobs Engage in Unlawful Acts and the Authorities Are Powerless to Prevent Trouble. London, Dec. 30.--Pillaging on a large scale is being carried out by mobs in Frankfort, Germany, and the authorities are powerless to prevent it, according to a Central News dispatch from Amsterdam. Troops in the city refuse to fire on the rioters.

CONCERTED PRICE FIXING WATCHED

Department of Justice Will Not Tolerate Any Violations of the Anti-Trust Law.

ATTITUDE DEPT. JUSTICE SET FORTH BY GREGORY

When War Industries Board Ceases to Exist Jan. 1st Price Fixing Will Be Watched.

Washington, Dec. 30.--Concerted price fixing by any industry after the government ceases to exercise price control January 1st will be regarded by the department of justice as in restraint of free competition, it was stated today.

The explanation was made in reply to a question as to what happens to war time price fixing when the war industries board ceases its functions at midnight Wednesday.

The attitude of the department of justice as outlined by Attorney General Gregory is that the anti-trust laws still in effect will be enforced vigorously by the department. They have been in full effect during the war but the department did not regard the action of industry in maintaining prices fixed by the government as contrary to law.

In making his explanation the attorney general did not refer to any industry specifically but stipulated his explanation that no violation of the anti-trust laws would be permitted.

BRISTOL HAS A FIRE LOSS \$1,000,000

Evidence Accumulates to Show That Destructive Blaze in Virginia-Tennessee City Was Incendiary Origin.

Bristol, Va.-Tenn., Dec. 30.--Discovery of a large hole in the rear of the bins of the Mitchell-Powers Hardware company, apparently made with a saw and crowbar, strengthened the theory that the million dollar fire last night was the work of firebugs.

Three other serious fires occurred in the business district within the past month. One entailed a loss of more than \$500,000.

Lack of water and explosion of dynamite and small munitions in the stock of the Mitchell-Powers concern "greatly handicapped the work of the firemen."

Most Disastrous Fire in City's History Destroyed Much Property Sunday--Fourth Fire in a Month. Bristol, Va.-Tenn., Dec. 30.--Fire tonight, which originated in the five-story building occupied by Mitchell-Powers Hardware company in State street, on the Virginia side, completely destroyed that structure and four other buildings in the heart of the business district, at an estimated loss of \$1,000,000, partially covered by insurance.

The fire which was the most disastrous in the history of the city was started under control shortly after midnight when it reached the Dominion (National bank building on the north and the Strauss Department store on the south, damaging these buildings.

Lack of water and the explosions of powder and shell in the Mitchell-Powers building greatly handicapped the firemen and when the blaze began to spread on either side of this building, an appeal was made for assistance from Kingsport and Johnson City. Water was finally obtained from a small creek through a pump and this, it is said, probably saved the entire downtown district from destruction. No one was injured, although one fireman became overbalanced on top of a three-story building where he was fighting the flames. Turning somersault in the air, he landed head downward between the staves of a ladder, standing on the first floor. Other firemen ran to his assistance thinking he was dead. When pulled loose he was unhurt.

SPENCER WOMAN ENDS LIFE WITH GAS

Mrs. Joseph Steadman, for Years in Ill Health, Takes Her Life at Her Home, Using Rubber Tube and Gas Range.

Mrs. Joseph H. Steadman, wife of a well known engineer on the main line of the Southern, running from Spencer to Moore, Va., was found dead in her kitchen this morning when Mr. Steadman came in off of his run and went to his home. It was evident that the unfortunate woman had taken her own life and had planned out the means of suicide. Coroner Sides was called but it was a such plain case of self destruction that an inquest was not deemed necessary.

When Mr. Steadman entered the house he did not see Mrs. Steadman and he went through to the kitchen. There he found her lying prostrate on the floor, dead. She had secured a rubber tube and attached this in some manner to the gas jet on the range and turned on the gas. Then securing a pillow she placed this on the floor and lay down with her head on it, placing the tube in some manner over her face and inhaling the fumes of the gas.

Just how long the woman had been dead is not known but she was cold and stiff when discovered.

Mrs. Steadman was 49 years old and had for a number of years been in ill health and it is believed this brought on a spell of melancholy and resulted in her planning self destruction.

The remains will be taken to her old home at Carey, near Raleigh, tomorrow morning on No. 44 and the husband will take place there. The husband and several children survive.

Mr. Steadman is one of the most popular engineers on the Southern and has a host of friends in Salisbury and Spencer who learned with deep sorrow of his bereavement.

REVENUERS MAKE A RAID IN STANLY

Also Halt an Automobile Containing Plockade--Dr. Fitzgerald Gives Up Central Hotel.

(Special to the Post.) Albemarle, Dec. 29.--Dr. W. C. Fitzgerald who has run the Central hotel here for the past number of years will give it up January 1 and move his family into his magnificent residence on East Fourth street. The owner of the property has just closed a lease to R. R. Bland who will take charge January 1 when it is given up by Dr. Fitzgerald. Mr. Bland will continue to conduct his music store which is located in one of the rooms in the hotel building.

Revenue Officer S. P. Duv. Sheriff G. D. Blacklock, Chief of Police J. D. Love and Deputies Thomas Blacklock and Frank Crisco made a raid the other night in western Stanly and got a still hot, together with two men who were running it. After the officers captured the still and men they then started back to Albemarle and overtook a Maxwell car which they decided was an Albemarle outfit. They hailed the driver and demanded that he stop. He stopped, and lo and behold it was driven by Rich Wall, a negro man of this place, who is rather well known and the owner of considerable Albemarle real estate. Rich's car was taken in charge together with Rich and eight gallons of the meanest whiskey ever seen in Stanly county and that is saying a lot. The men arrested will be given a hearing within the next few days.

Many an Albemarle man's Christmas was ruined when those officers made that raid on Rich Wall's automobile.

GREENSBORO SCHOOLS OPEN

Closing Ban for Schools Is Lifted and Influenza Epidemic Well in Hand in Raleigh-Greensboro.

(By Associated Press.) Greensboro, Dec. 30.--Schools reopened here this morning after having been closed since early in the session because of influenza. Theaters and churches were allowed to reopen several weeks ago. The epidemic situation is now believed to be under complete control.

Raleigh Now Feels Safe.

Raleigh, Dec. 30.--The public schools of Raleigh, closed since October 7, on account of influenza, reopened today. While the disease has not entirely disappeared the health authorities believe the situation is under control.

NOT INTERESTED EUROPEAN POLITICS

America is Not Concerned in Politics Overseas But in the Partnership of Power.

SO DECLARED PRESIDENT WILSON AT MANCHESTER

United States Will Join No Combination of Power Which is Not a Combination of All.

(By Associated Press.)

Manchester, England, Dec. 30.--America is not interested in European politics but she is interested in the partnership of right between America and Europe, declared President Wilson in receiving the freedom of the city of Manchester in Free Trade hall here today. America is not interested merely in the peace of Europe but the peace of the world, he added.

"If the future had nothing for us but a new attempt to keep the world right and poised by a balance of power," the President added, "the United States would have no interest in it because she will join no combination of power which is not a combination of all."

"If we remain a body of friends, the President said, there must be an easy and constant method of conference so that the troubles could be taken when little and none allowed to grow until they were big.

"I wish we could for the whole world enter a league and covenant and declare ourselves friends of mankind," the President added.

The President said he was not hopeful that immediate items of settlement which was about to be attempted would be altogether satisfactory. "Only one has to apply his time," he continued, "to any one of these questions of boundary of altered sovereignties of racial aspirations to do more than 'hing more than conjecture. There is no man or body of men who know best how they ought to be settled and yet if we are to make satisfactory settlement we must see to it that they are rendered more satisfactory by subsequent adjustment which is made possible. We must provide the machinery for adjustment in order that we may have the machinery of good will and principle."

There was a feeling of cordial fraternity and friendship between America and Great Britain, declared the President, which was based on the principle of friendship and patriotism, that led men to give more than was demanded. The partnership of interest which had lempeted the governments of the world had broken down, he said, as interest did not bind men together but separated them. A common devotion to right, he said, was the only thing that could bind men together.

In the settlement which is just ahead something more difficult than was ever attempted before had to be accomplished--a genuine concert of mind and purpose, the President said, but a keen international consciousness would make it easy. There is a great voice of humanity abroad in the world "which he can't hear if dead," he added.

"We are not obeying the mandates of parties or politics," the President continued, "but we are obeying the mandates of humanity."

CENTRAL COUNCIL APPOINT MINISTERS

Soldiers and Workmen's Council Names Men to Replace Haase and Dittman Who Retired Saturday Night.

(By Associated Press.) Copenhagen, Dec. 30.--The Central Council of Soldiers and workmen of Germany has appointed Herr Noske governor of Kiel; Herr Loeb, Editor Brenlau of Volkswacht, and Herr Wisel members of the reichstag and cabinet members to replace foreign minister Haase, minister of social policy and Demobilization Minister Dittman, who retired Saturday night, according to Berlin advices received here.

A. F. of L. Rejects Proposal New York, Dec. 29.--The executive council of the American Federation of Labor, at a special session here today, rejected a proposal calling for the formation of a national political labor party, but voted to send delegates to the international labor conference to be held at Versailles next month.