Established 1882.

# THE COMMONWEALTH

ADVERTISING MEDIUM IN EASTERN CAROLINA

L. MILLS KITCHIN, Editor and Proprietor.

"EXCELSIOR," IS OUR MOTTO

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, \$1.00 PER YEAR.

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SCOTLAND NECK, N. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1915.

**NUMBER 6.** 

### A Few Reasonable Reasons.

The reason I sell so much Groceries is because I carry the

#### Very Best —in—

## Quality

sell at a a reasonable price and give the

#### **Best Service**

The reason I get the Best Grade and Brands of goods is because I instruct the wholesalers to ship the Best or nothing. The reason they know I mean the Best is because I return them if they are infertor.

The reason 1 can sell the Best goods at a reasonable price is because I sell so much.

The reason certain Brands, such as Sunbeam, White Cap, Reliable, &c., are the Best is because the manufacturers have great reputations at staka for which they would not take thousands of dollars.

The reason they are kept Fresh in my store is because they don't have time to become

The reason everybody doesn't trade at my store is what I don't understand.

I appreciate your orders, large or small.

> Call 1-7-4

It Pays You Goods Delivered Promptly

Clee Vaughan

#### Notice---Public Land Sale.

By virtue of power vested in m by that deed of trust executed to me on the 24th day of January, 1914, by Handy Todd and wife, Martha Todd, and duly recorded in the office of the register of deeds for Halifax county, in Book 255 at Page 333, and given to secure the land below described. I shall sell for cash at public auction in the town of Scotland Neck, N. C., in front of the Scotland Neck Bank, on the 2nd day of February, 1915, at 12 o'clock noon, to the highest bidder, the following described tract of real estate, lying, being and situate in the county of Halifax and State of North Carolina, to-wit: Bounded by the lands of Ben Partin, the public road leading from Hill's Cross Roads to Dawson's Cross Roads, the lands os Jim Lawrence and the lands of Frank Moore, being the same land formerly owned by Emmett Bishop, and BERLIN HAS MANY MAIMED which was conveyed to the said Handy Todd by Ed. Shields and wife Soldiers Swathed in Bandages Are by that deed of record in the office of the register of deeds for Halifax county in Book 178 at Page 33, said land containing 117 acres, more or

Also the following described personal property, to-wit: One black sands of wounded in the streets. In horse named Dan, one red mule motor cars, in wheel chairs and in the named Hattie, one black mule named | crowds on the streets, they are every-Mattie, one top buggy, one doublehorse wagon, one dump cart, one rail cart, one cotton planter, and farming implements

This January 2, 1915. ASHBY DUNN, Trustee.

### WOOD'S **Seed Potatoes**

are specially grown for seed purposes, in the best potato-producing sections in this country, and are much superior to stocks ordinarily sold. All the best and most productive varieties:

Irish Cobbler, Eureka Extra Early, Improved Early Ohio, Extra Early Sunlight

Bliss Triumph, and all othes standard kinds. "WOOD'S CROP SPECIAL," giving prices and cultural information about the best methods of planting potatoes for profitable results,

mailed free on request.

T.W. WOOD & SONS. SEEDSMEN. - Richmond, Va.

Wood's Descriptive Catalog for 1915, telling about all Farm and Garden Seeds, free on request.

Write for it.

Also Tells Wife She Is His Sister-In-Law and Treats Her as If She Were.

Tacoma, Wash.-Discharged Monday from the Pierce County hospital, where for months he had been unable to remember his own name, Edward C. Cooper went to Seattle with his wife, who had just discovered his presence in Tacoma.

The next day he disappeared again. When he next came to official notice he was at the Tacoma city jail, representing himself as the Rev. Ernest A. Cooper, who had come from Africa to help find his missing brother, Edward. Instead of the dingy brown suit he had worn as the "man of mystery," he had donned a long frock coat with silk lapels, black rimmed spectacles, fancy vest and broad clerical hat.

He had the police bring out the picture taken of the strange wanderer arrested on Tacoma avenue last March. He declared this unkempt, bewhiskered person was his brother Edward. He seemed much disappointed when informed the unknown had left the county hospital, but declared he would keep up the search.

The unknown was in a daze when dering aimlessly on Tacoma streets. He was sent to the county hospital. 1876. It was Cooper's wife in Seattle who revealed his plural identity or insanity. She said he is now obsessed with the idea that he is his own brother, treats his wife as a sister-in-law and talks religion to her as if he were actually a preacher.

#### FERDINAND PINNEY EARLE



The man who drew "affinity" from the pages of the dictionary is now living at the home of his brother at Allenhurst, N. J. His latest soulmate is Miss Charlotte Herman.

Seen Everywhere in the German Capital.

Berlin .- No fair picture could be drawn of the Berlin of war time that did not include mention of the thouwhere limping, maimed and swathed

dages. At one dinner table in Hotel Adlon were four officers, every one of whom had his arm in a sling, and two of whom had their heads in bandages. One, a captain, had lost his right hand, but he had the fron cross of the first class and he seemed the happiest of the party. Indeed, the cheerfulness of the wounded contrasted strikingly with the sad eyes of the many women in mourning.

#### FRANCE HAS NEW AIR BOMB

Liquid Missile Can Be Used Three Hours After Filling-Guarded With Secrecy.

Paris .- A liquid air bomb has beeu perfected which can be used in three erable secrecy has been observed in tory includes several western Kansas regard to the bomb, which M. Painley, the academician, made practical from section made money this year by the inventor's design.

Shot Carried Gold Coins. Paris.-Three gold pieces have been extracted from the skin of Private Boissey in Paris. A piece of shrapnel pierced the pocket of another soldier, who had coins, and who was marching ahead of Boissey. The shrapnel and the coins lodged in the leg of Boissey, who didn't have a cent before he was wounded.

## SAYS HE IS HIS BROTHER SENT CUSTER STORY

Telegrapher Who Flashed News of Massacre Just Retired.

John M. Carnahan Receives a Pension-Ticks off 80,000 Words in Two Shifts.

Missoula, Mont.-The news of the Custer massacre was first told to the world in 1876 by John M. Carnahan, then manager and operator in the Western Union office in Bismarck. North Dakota. After an active service of more than fifty years Mr. Carnahan has just been retired on a pension. Mr. Carnahan began his career as

a telegrapher in 1861. In the fall of 1872 the Northern Pacific railway line had been completed as far west as Bismarck, N. D. Mr. Carnahan was asked to go to Bismarck and manage that office, and in the spring of 1873 he went there and the big chapter in the story of his eventful life began. For it was while he was at Bismarck that he sent to the found by the police last March wan- world the account of the Custer massacre on the Little Big Horn in July,

Fort Abraham Lincoln, the post of the Seventh cavalry and the headquarters of Brigadier General Custer, was at Bismarck. Mr. Carnahan won Brigadier General Custer's friendship and he became the personal friend of the officers at Lincoln. And so it was that he and the post surgeon rode out from the old garrison with the Custer expedition when it started in June, 1876, to punish the Sloux. The surgeon and the operator made the first twelve miles with the Seventh cavalry. Then they turned back with the last dispatches which Brigadier General Custer sent.

No word came back to Bismarck from the Seventh cavalry and its commander. But that occasioned no surprise. Expeditions of that sort were a common occurrence in those days.

It was on the night of July 5 when the steamboat Far West came down the river to Bismarck. The Far Westbrought the wounded of Reno's command and the official dispatches which told of the complete annihilation of the Custer command.

On the morning of July 6 Mr. Carnahan found on his desk in the telegraph office a carpet bag filled with official dispatches. There was an immense lot of them. He "flashed" the news to the East, and then settled down to the transmission of the official story to the department of war in Washington. It was eight o'clock on the morning of July 6 when he began his tremendous task. Not until five o'clock the following morning-21 hours-did he leave his instruments. Then for three hours he slept the sleep of utter exhaustion. He returned to his work, and for 20 hours he sat at his key. It was four o'clock the next morning when he checked off the signature of the last dispatch in that old carpet bag. He had sent 80,000 words in the two shifts.

For two days the eastern newspapers had been clamoring for news, and there was no one to send it. Mr. Carnahan could not leave his official work and there was no other telegraph operator within two hundred miles.

To the New York Herald, the Chicago Inter Ocean and the St. Paul Ploneer Press he sent as much of the news as he had strength to prepare. And that was the way the news of the Custer battle was sent out.

That was the big news article in the career of John Carnahan. But in the professional secrets of 53 years at a telegraph key there must be many incidents stored up which would startle the world if they were told.

#### PADDY MAKES BLUFF GOOD

Irishman, Singlehanded, Captures Six German Soldiers and Marches Them Into English Trenches.

Private George, at Brighton, wound-

ed, tells this story: "Paddy Keenan, an Irishman serving with our regiment, was surprised one day by a German scouting party of six while he was taking it easy a little in advance of our lines. He saw there was no choice between bluffing it or a little trip to Berlin or the grave, so he chose the former. Jumping to his feet he called on the Germans to throw down their arms, as they were covered by the rifles of his friends. Paddy ordered them to march in single file toward our his rifle ready. When the Germans found that the trenches were so far away they were waxy, but as they had previously thrown away their arms they could do nothing against Paddy and his rifle, so they made the best of a bad job and were brought into camp as prisoners."

Makes \$16,000 on Seed Wheat. counties, says many merchants in that fall, to be repaid on a basis of onefourth the crop. The expense of seeding is about two hundred dollars a quarter section. One merchant in his territory made \$16,000 this year.

Testing War Fabrics. London.-To test war fabrics, 40,000 recruits in English camps are wearing suits of khaki of different texture over their ordinary clothing.

pect of American Thoroughbred Gloomy.

"It will take years for the thoroughbred of America to get back to the high state of perfection it occupied ten years ago, now that the only After Fifty Years of Active Service hope of improving the strain has been cut off by the war in Europe," remarked J. P. Mayberry, a well known horseman of Sheepshead Bay, at the Unted States Warships in for Raleigh, the Washington Post states. "The inimical laws enacted in the various states, particularly in New York, in the last ten years checked the improvement of the breed, and the American thoroughbred has been steadily going backward ever since. Any one who knows anything about the thoroughbred type knows that the American thoroughbred of today does not compare with the racer of five years ago. When the antiracing laws of New York drove the sport out of the Empire state in 1910 many of the breeders of thoroughbreds-those who had helped largely to build up the horse in America-began to dispose of their horses. Many were shipped abroad, and in four years more than fifty per cent of the best thoroughbrea stock has gone back to Europe.

"Reports from the warring nations are to the effect that the countries that have been foremost in improving the thoroughbred, England, France, Germany and Austria—the seat of the war-in all probability will commandeer most of the racers of the European turf. If this be so it will remove almost the last hope the turf has to rebuild the rapidly diminishing quality of the American thoroughbred. The horses that are parading around the race tracks of this country are mere ghosts of what we had five years ago. There is not a real good horse on the American turf at this time, whereas a dozen years ago there

Insist That This "Has Never Been Sprung Before."

disolution of partnership, in which one partner makes the statement that "those who owe the firm will settle with him, and those that the firm owes will settle with Mose," and sends it -, which was in 1855."

To this charge we enter a plea of tend that the courts will take judicial war if the superior officers have not notice of the fact that there is nothing performed all the evolutions often in new under the sun, and in our judg- time of peace. ment the jokesmith is well within his rights in resurrecting a joke which was old in 1855.

The incident brings to mind the following story. "The editor of a Minnesota newspaper back in the '80s concocted the following: 'Yon Yonson put four sticks of dynamite in the stove last Sunday to thaw them out. The handles were nickel plated and only cost \$10." A professor of English literature in an eastern university wrote a very interesting article on this joke, claiming that it represented a distinctly American brand of humor, in any other country or at any other

But alas for the professor of English literature-for there is nothing new under the sun. Reference to II Chronicles, Chapter 16, Verses 12 and 13, produces the following:

12. And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceedingly great; yet in his disease he sought not to the Lord, but to the physicians.

13. And Asa slept with his fathers -West's Docket.

Would Handle Wheat in Bulk. Australian wheat, at the present time, is transported in bags, a system which involves not only a considerable cost, but is also uneconomical in the use of labor. In consequence, the governments of New South Wales and Victoria are considering proposals for handling it in bulk, based upon the reports of engineers, who made inquiries as to this method in Canada, the United States and South Africa. The ex- ent. perts also say that the change would result in large extension of the growing areas. It is understood, how ever, that the steamship lines, which have been approached on the subject, are not agreed that under existing cir. division is made up of these powerful trenches. He followed behind with cumstances the shipment of grain in bulk is practicable, though it is believed that if adequate supplies were of the seven divisions of torpedoguaranteed the necessary space would boat destroyers will have a part in be readily forthcoming.

Rum Barrel Proves Bomb. Warren Rhoads, farmer of Jacksonwald, Pa., says hereafter he will care. | flotilla. fully examine would-be empty whisky barrels before he tries to alter the Atchison, Kan.—Henry Merwick, an bungholes. He hastily came to this vessels under Admiral Fletcher's comnours after it has been filled. Consid- Atchison traveling man, whose terri- conclusion after one exploded when mand will be at Guantanamo. There he attempted to enlarge the bunghole will be missing all the submarines, with a red-hot poker. As a result of as well as all the smaller cruisers the explosion most of his hair was and gunboats and two divisions of the staking farmers to seed wheat last burned off and many cuts and bruises destroyer flotilla. Admiral Fletcher were inflicted by the barrel staves as directs 103 vessels, of which 55 will they flew skyward. Investigation be at Guantanamo. proved that the barrel had been re- It was figured by a naval officer

to remodel Rhoads' arms and place his all of which are placed so that they face in good shape.

## BLOW TO HORSE BREEDERS MONSTER FLEET NOW ASSEMBLED FOR MANEUVERS

Month of Hardest Kind of Drilling.

COMMANDED BY FLETCHER

Largest and Most Powerful Fleet Ever Assembled Under the Stars and Stripes-May Solve Efficiency of Our Navy.

Washington.-The largest and most owerful fleet ever assembled under the Stars and Stripes is now gathered off Guantanamo, on the North coast of Cuba, for a month of the hardest kind of drilling. It will be a great spectacle for the few civilians who will see it, but for the more than one thousand officers and 25,000 enlisted men it means work, unceasing labor, to fit the American navy for battle.

Yet every Jack Tar is glad he is there. Great fascination surrounds the maneuvers, the orderly marching and counter-marching over the parade ground of the ocean, dreadnaughts and cruisers taking the place of individual soldiers, but obeying the orders sent by wireless and wigwag just as implicitly and readily as a squadron of well-drilled cavalry.

The firing of the great guns is fun for officer and man, too. Target practice is a great game. Every nerve is strained to make the enormous rifles do their best, and hot rivalry is exhibited by the gun crews. Business is NOTHING NEW IN JOKE LINE pleasure when the heart is in it.

Foolish is the Humorist Who Would are directed to Rear Admiral Frank Friday Fletcher and his ships today. A great wave of criticism has swept over the country. The European war A reader of the Docket in New York has created interest in the army and city cut out the item relating to the navy; and every patriot feels that if not the greatest we should have the best navy in the world.

Is the navy up to scratch? This is the question the maneuvers may solve and at the same time do a back to us with this notation: "This great deal toward making it possible was an old chestnut when I lived in to answer in the affirmative. The navy needs maneuvers, just as an army needs drills. A fleet will be awkward confession and avoidance. We con- in forming in battle line in time of

Much Practicing Necessary. Partly due to the use of the big ships off the coast of Mexico, the maneuvers have been neglected. This is the first time in three years that the entire fleet will be assembled for battle practice. Three years means a long while when one considers how fast the art of naval warfare is developing. Just to mention one item: Naval guns of 14-inch caliber were carried on no ship in the world three years ago. Now the Texas and the New York carry these mammoth rifles, and it is currently reported and that it could not have happened that Great Britain's new Queen Eliza-

beth class, now building, will have 15inch guns. When one considers that the fleets of Great Britain, Germany, France, Austria, Russia and Japan are now engaged in actual war work every day in the year, it is easy to see that the United States must do a lot of practicing even to approximate the degree of efficiency to which the fighting

navies of the world are arriving. The Guantanamo maneuvers will be the most extensive target and fleet practice the American navy has ever gone through. They will last through the greater part of the month, and opening exercises, which may involve some maneuvers of value, too.

The armored fleet (the biggest ships) will be in four divisions of 21 vessels. Ten will be of the so-called "dreadnaught" class and 11 of the predreadnaught type. Besides these, two of the four armored cruisers of the fleet and all of the torpedo flotillas, except those in reserve, will be pres-

Never before did the fleet contain practically two complete divisions of the dreadnaught class. The first division consists of dreadnaughts of the most powerful type and the second vessels except one battleship. In addition to the battleships, five

craft. There will be ten auxiliaries and the scout cruiser Birmingham, which is the flagship of the torpedo Directs 103 Vessels. This does not mean that all the

the exercises. This means 21 more

cently emptled, was still wet, and the here that the 12-inch guns of the fleet red-hot iron formed so much gas in can fire a broadside of 105,400 pounds the inside that it burst open with a and the 14-inch guns bring this up to 133,400 pounds. There are 124 12-It took several yards of court plaster inch guns in the reorganized fleet. can be fired in a single broadside

have ten 14-inch guns. The projectiles fired from these guns weigh 1,400 pounds each, and it costs the American people \$777 every time one is fired, not counting the deterioration in the gun. Fletcher has five rear admirals un-

sion of the fleet. There are 25 captains, more than 1,000 officers of lesser rank, and about 25,000 enlisted

der him, one to command each divi-

The total money value of the fleet is \$300,000,000.

The New York, with its sister ship the Texas the most powerful ship in the American navy is ordinarily the flagship of Rear Admirai Fletcher, but his flag has been transferred to the Wyoming. The New York has been fitted up with luxurious quarters to receive President Wilson and his party at New York after the maneuvers, and carry them to the canal. It has been informally christened "The Boudoir Ship."

#### HOLDS OFFICE FOR 44 YEARS

War Veteran Has Continuous Terms as School Board - Clerk.

Marshall, Minn.-For 44 years Jacob Rouse has been clerk of the school board of District No. 1 in Lyon county. He was first elected in 1876 and has held the office ever since. He has seen the district grow from a small one-room log schoolhouse with but a few seattering pupils to a fourroom consolidated school with four teachers in charge of 135 pupils who have the advantages of domestic science and manual arts. Mr. Rouse lives in the Camden valley of Lynd township, where in 1870 he took a claim in section 22. He was for one term treasurer of Lyon county and is a veteran of the Civil war.

#### **CONSOLING THE HOMELESS**



A French general sympathizing with peasants in northern France who have ost their homes.

#### MEN BECOME MERE MACHINES

Soldiers in the Trenches Get Absolutely Dehumanized Under Continuous Fire.

Paris .- A motorcyclist who has been in front of the army and continu-

ally under fire writes as follows:

"When they are in the trenches with shells bursting all around, men become mere machines. They get absolutely dehumanized under continuous fire. It is the only alternative to going mad! One has no consciousness of danger, but obeys orders without realizing what they mean. One forgets what death is.

"When first I had to carry a disratch under fire I used to dismount when I saw a shell burst on the road ahead and wait to see if more were coming. Now I don't notice them. My comrade riding twenty yards behind me was killed by a shell, but the incident had no effect on my mind. will be followed by the Panama canal | We are no better than brutes on the firing line."

#### JUDGE HAS NARROW ESCAPE

**Dumb-Bell Exercises Arouse Suspicion** That He Is Communicating With Enemy.

London.-An English judge had a narrow escape from arrest on the ground of signaling to the enemy. He Scotland Neck, was taking a short holiday on the East coast, and, as is customary with him, was indulging in a little dumbbell exercise before retiring to rest. The movements of his arms behind the red blind of his bedroom attracted the attention of the sentries on the cliffs. They thought someone was sig- | Scotland Neck, naling and hastened to the hotel to capture the culprit. For some time they refused to believe the judge's explanations, and it was only on being shown the visitors' book that they withdrew.

in Court of Stealing Animal.

Little Rock, Ark.-The finding of Howard county saved William Ken nedy, twenty-four, from entering the penitentiary. Kennedy had been convicted of stealing the cow, and sentenced to one year.

He was allowed to come to Little Rock alone, and was about to go to the penitent ary to surrender, when a detegation of friends brought him the good The New York and the Texas each | news.

## You Like Your Home?

The degree of love you have for your home is shown in the care you take of it. Beautiful homes make a beautiful community. Such a community in turn demand stores that give a service in keeping with that community. That's the kind of store we are operating. It is our aim to give you high quality drug store goods, courteous service and conduct our store in such a way that it will reflect credit on the community in which we live. Whatever trade you give us, co-operates with us and it also helps yourself. Deal at this the home store and we both profit.

#### The North End Drug Store

Phones Store 96 Room 96

### Clee Vaughan,

DEALER IN Monuments

Tombstones

Italian, Vermont and Georgia Marble of highest grade, and the best grades of granite. Will save you meney and guarantee quality.

### J. E. Woolard

Transfer North Carolina Scotland Neck. Cars for hire. Cars repaired. Poite attention. Quick service. Telephones—Residence 45, Office 66.

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If you are thinking of having a house of any kind moved see me at once. Prices reasonable.

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Scotland Neck, North Carolina Money to loan on approved secu-Dr. T. D. Kitchin

#### Office in Postoffice Building over North End Drug Store. Telephones

Physician and Surgeon

North Carolina

Scotland Neck,

–Office 10, Residence 34. Dr. A. D. Morgan Physician and Surgeon North Carolina Scotland Neck,

Office in building formerly used

#### by Br. J. P. Wimberley. Dr. R. L. Savage

North Carolina Rocky Mount, Will be in Scotland Neck on the third Wednesday of each month at the hotel to treat the diseases of the Eye, Ear, Nose, Throat and fit glasses

#### Dr. A. C. Livermon Dentist

North Caralina Office up-stairs in the Whitehead Building. Office hours from 9 to 1 and 2 to 5 o'clock.

### Willie H. Allsbrook

Life Insurance North Carolina Representing the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., of New York.

### Executor's Notice.

Having qualified as executor of he estate of W. K. Williams, late of COW'S SKELETON SAVED HIM Halifax county, N. C., under his last will and testament, this is to nohis estate to present them to me duly verified on or before the 3rd day of December, 1915, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their the skeleton of a cow in a woods in recovery. All persons owing said estate will please make immediate payment. This Dec. 2, 1914. E. P. HYMAN, Ex'r. A. Paul Kitchin, Atty.

