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MONDAY, MAY 19, 1918.

The boys at the front ask you to heed the speeches of the four-minute speakers for the Red Cross.

It won't be many days before the Germans will find out what a serious proposition it is to attack American troops in force.

"It is a heap easier to be poor than proud," says an exchange. And generally the poorer a man gets the prouder he becomes.

If you really want to help the boys in the trenches, then assist in raising the hundred million dollars the Red Cross is getting up for their benefit.

The weather man seems to have an idea that there was a change in the seasons as well as in the hours of the day. He is trying to give us April weather in May.

You had better take warning from your last winter's experience and begin to get in your supply of fuel for the next. Coal will keep—if you keep it under lock and key.

Every man who has ever published a newspaper can sympathize with the president in his troubles over congress telling him how to run his office.

It is said that in England the families of the king and of his humblest subjects have the same ration cards. This is hard to believe if it means that they are supplied with the same quality of food.

This is what is called an off year in politics, and some of the party leaders are trying to make it more "off" than ordinary, but they can't succeed. There are too many men anxious for office for such a move to succeed.

We hear much about non-essential industries in these days of war on waste. The question has been asked: What is a non-essential industry? The best answer we have seen is that it is the other fellow's.

Don't you want our boys in France to be relieved as far as possible of suffering? It is the Red Cross that ministers to them when sick and wounded. Then if you feel for the boys who are suffering, contribute to the Red Cross fund.

That last batch of American soldiers to arrive at the front created so much more stir than usual among the allied men in the trenches that it must have been a larger body of men than any former American reinforcements. They have gone, too, to the point where the fiercest fighting is expected to occur.

"The lightning rod agent hasn't been seen lately. Wonder what has become of him and why, if it was a good thing fifty years ago we don't put up rods to dodge the lightning now? Funny how science even falls flat on some of its best propositions," says the Greensboro Record. Why not say it is because the people are not so easily humbugged as formerly?

The Red Cross drive in this country will probably be on at the same time as the most desperate drive of the Germans against the allies' line. It is likely that before this time next week Red Cross ministrations will be in greater demand in France than at any time since the war began. And remember that there will be ever so many more of our soldiers in the next battle than in any of the past.

MR. ABERNETH RESIGNS.

In resigning from the office of solicitor of the fifth judicial district because of his candidacy for the democratic nomination for congress, Charles L. Abernethy, of New Bern, has, as we see it, done exactly as he should have done and has complied with the best conception of the ethics of political campaigns. Mr. Abernethy could have held on to his office as solicitor awhile longer and not only not have seriously violated the proprieties of the game, but would have had ample precedent for such a procedure. However, he took the other and more praiseworthy course, for which he should be commended.

As The Dispatch has stated before, we have no interest in the third district contest other than that of a casual onlooker, believing that the voters there are perfectly capable of picking their own representative in the lower house of congress, but we repeat that W. T. Dortch, Mr. Abernethy's opponent, should resign as United States marshal for the eastern district of North Carolina, and make his campaign unfettered by reason of holding one office while seeking another.

IMPROVING SCHOOLS.

The people of Mecklenburg county are awake to the importance of greater educational facilities for the coming generations and they realize that under present conditions it takes more money and consequently heavier taxes to secure the needed educational advancements. Therefore the Mecklenburg people do not hesitate to vote more taxes on themselves for public education. As to what they have done along this line The Charlotte Observer says:

"The season for voting additional school taxes is now on in Mecklenburg county and it is a pleasure to note the degree of enthusiasm characterizing the manner in which the people of the county are going at it. In six districts only 28 votes were cast against increases, and 25 of these votes were cast in a district which strangely enough has the reputation of being one of the most progressive high school districts in the state. Seven other Mecklenburg districts are to vote today and there is no doubt that the good record already made will be maintained."

It is gratifying to be able to say that the people of New Hanover county have been alive to the necessity of improving the public school conditions in their county as are those of Mecklenburg. This is shown by the handsome majority given at the recent special election for a large bond issue and an increase of the school tax.

The time has come when every county in the state must spend more money on its public schools or the cause of education will suffer. If the state does not go forward in educational matters it will go backward. There is no standing still. It is progression or regression. To progress will take more money. Because of conditions at present the dollar has depreciated as much in value when it comes to buying education for the children of the state as it has in the purchase of any material commodity. It will take more dollars to furnish the same amount and quality of education formerly available for a certain sum. The sooner the people understand this the better it will be for the whole state.

THE CONVOY SYSTEM.

British and American navies broke the record for destruction of submarines during the month of April. In that month they sank or captured twelve of these sea scourges. Sir Eric Geddes accounts for the great success in this way, as he recently told the house of commons:

"One result of the convoy system has been to drive the enemy closer to the shore, thus rendering the open sea safer for navigation. During the first months of the unrestricted submarine war 50 per cent of the losses (of merchant ships) occurred more than fifty miles from land, and only 21 per cent within ten miles of the shore. Today the losses outside of the fifty-mile limit have fallen to 1 per cent, while the losses close to land have risen to 61 per cent. This transfer of attacks nearer the coast gives increasing opportunities for attacking the enemy by patrolling surface craft and airplanes, and enables us to save many vessels which would otherwise have been lost."

Says The Durham Sun: "The bakers of North Carolina have formed an organization—a service board. We hope they will do good service, and devote themselves to raising bread and gardens, but not put the leaven of prices on the bakery products." It's the people who are bothered about raising the prices for the baker's bread.

FLOUR FOR SOLDIERS.

The North Carolina flour mill men are showing their patriotism in a substantial way by sending large portions of their outputs to the soldiers in France. The state food administration bulletin says:

"All of the larger roller mills of the country have been furnishing the government with 40 per cent of their output of flour during the past several weeks for export to our army and the armies of our allies in France. The mills of less than 75 barrels capacity, which are not working under agreement with the grain corporation, have not been called upon for flour except in a few instances. A number of them, however, in co-operation with patriotic wheat producers in their respective communities, have recently offered flour to the food administration for export. Among these communities are Cedar Grove, Orange county; Kernersville, Forsyth county; Davis Springs, Alexander county, and a number of others which are now ascertaining if they will be able to get up a full carload for shipment, either by themselves or in combination with other similar mills."

"It would be an inspiration to any community to supply through its local mill a carload of flour for the fighting men in France. The identity wheat that is grown upon the farms of these communities will, in some instances, be used to feed the soldier boys that go out to battle from North Carolina, and all of it will be used to feed either these brave lads or men who are fighting shoulder to shoulder with them."

"Mills desiring to offer flour for export should communicate either with the food administration at Raleigh, or with the milling division, food administration, Nashville, Tennessee."

A NECESSITY.

are calling on America to hasten for German forces on the French front are calling on America to hasten forward her troops, there is a greater and more urgent appeal coming to us from them. It is for food. Food is of more importance to them than men and ammunition, great as the demand for the latter. Raise all the crops you can; produce all the food possible in their pleading. For the allied armies to win they must have food. The army that has an extra ration is the army that will win, and we will not have the food the allied armies will need unless we realize the duty placed upon us in this respect, and act upon that realization. Our people have got to do more along this line than they have done in the past. If they do not do so voluntarily then it will be incumbent on the government to make it compulsory. There will be drafting for agricultural purposes just as there is now for military. The legislature of North Dakota has already taken the initiative along this line. It has passed a bill for conscripting men for labor on the farms. There is possibility of many other states following this example in the near future if there is not a large increase of farm products.

THE ANTI-DRUG LAW.

It has been three years since congress passed what is known as the Harrison anti-drug law. That legislation was an attempt to put a check on the rapidly increasing drug habit among the people of this country. As bad as was the liquor habit, the advocates of the drug habit counted its victims by the many more thousands than did the other.

To effect a remedy through that law was considered by many as but an experiment—it was better than no law at all along that line. It was worth trying because it might do good and there was the chance of real reformation resulting from its enforcement.

After three years' trial of the efficacy of the law one of the best authorities on that subject and matters of public health generally says that there has been much improvement in the country along this line. He thinks, however, that the law should be strengthened and supplemented by stronger and uniform state legislation on the subject.

This authority on the subject says that indications are that the number of confirmed addicts to the drug habit has not been greatly reduced as a consequence of the law, but wherein the law has done most good is in the reduction of the number of new recruits to the army of drug fiends.

If the law has prevented people from becoming drug fiends even if it was not able to cure a single person already a slave to the habit it should be considered a success and if legislation is needed to give it greater power to do good by all means let the law be amended.

It we will lick the war stamps our boys will attend to licking the Hun.

With The Editors

Rocky Mount Telegram: The boys "over there" need the money, and McAdoo is asking congress to raise part of it by increased taxation. It is reported from Washington that from \$1,500,000,000 to \$2,500,000,000 will be needed. But at the same time it is reported "the proposition has met with a storm of opposition in both house and senate." It is stated that congressmen and senators are afraid to vote for a new war bill before they go home to meet their constituents. In fact, such leaders as Simmons in the senate and Kitchen in the house have said that it is the unanimous desire of congress not to take up taxes until after the fall elections. In other words, congress is afraid to go home and tell the people the truth: That is what it boils down to.

Durham Sun: A whole squadron of German submarines of a new, large type failed to return after a cruise, according to information received from a German source. It would not surprise us one bit if they did not fall in with some of your Uncle Sam's boys and found them such good company they cannot leave them.

The New Bernian: We and our British friends have been accustomed to being sport-crazy. The Germans particularly have criticised us for "wasting so much time" on athletic games, when we might be training our minds. We may have overdone it, but the results speak for themselves. In the supreme game of war, the sporting nations fight clean. It is the nation without sports that has done the "dirty fighting" and set the standard of this at its lowest mark since Europe first rose above sheer savagery.

Greensboro Record: The Baptist women have been given long denied rights in the way of church suffrage. The Methodist conference also bestowed the same broad privileges on women bestowed by the Baptists, but the bishops came in and held it up for awhile. Gradually the women are coming into their own. But a short time and universal suffrage will go on and forget that it took a hundred years to convince the men that women had rights.

Hickory Record: Woman suffrage is marching across the country. The goal may be long, but the women will reach it. A few congressmen may defeat suffrage a few years, but opponents had as well recognize that women will vote. Let them vote.

Charlotte Observer: Our German fellow-citizens at Hot Springs had been decorating their quarters and making things in general quite comfortable in expectation that they would not be disturbed during the war, and they were in a rebellious mood when word came that they would have to migrate. Out of this disturbing of a comfortable and contented situation our people will be able to derive considerable satisfaction.

State News

Hoarder Helps Red Cross.

A voluntary contribution of \$200 to the Pineville chapter of the Red Cross was made by J. E. M. Davenport, a banker of Pineville, to save himself from prosecution for hoarding foodstuffs, according to an announcement today by State Food Administrator Page, at Raleigh. It was shown at a recent hearing before Plummer Stewart, Mecklenburg county food administrator, that Mr. Davenport purchased in December a ton of sugar and had on hand excess quantities of flour also. It was stated that Mr. Davenport returned to the retailers the excess quantities, retaining 24 pounds of flour and five pounds of sugar.—Charlotte Observer.

Union County Wheat Crop.

Reports coming in from over the county indicate that the wheat crop in Union county this year is better and bigger than it has been for many years past. The county used to raise about enough wheat to supply its needs and then the rust and other enemies got so bad that wheat culture was practically abandoned, but the high price of wheat and the great need for more wheat for the European countries led many farmers to sow wheat last fall. Perhaps because of the long rest the land had, perhaps because of the improvement in wheat itself, whatever the reason, the wheat crop is doing fine and many Union county farmers will have some wheat to sell.—Waxhaw Enterprise.

Cattle Dipping Proceeding Well. According to statements made by the government agents who are engaged in the work of freeing Craven county from the cattle tick they are making considerable progress, and are making headway for the first time in many months. The men who are engaged in this work are going about among the cattle raisers explaining to them the benefits that will be derived from freeing their cattle of the tick and are asking their co-operation in the matter. Many of the cattle raisers who have been opposed to the measure in the past have seen that the project is one which will benefit them and are giving their assistance.—Onslow Progress.

J. Frank Wooten Endorsed for Solicitor. The members of the county bar of Onslow met here Tuesday and endorsed J. Frank Wooten, for solicitor of the Sixth Judicial District of North Carolina.—Onslow Progress.

Double Poolroom Tax.

Rocky Mount failed to follow in the train of Raleigh, Wilson, Goldsboro and other municipalities in the state, and did not revoke the poolroom licenses for the coming year. The board of aldermen last night considered the matter in executive session, and finally decided to simply double the poolroom license tax for the coming year.—Rocky Mount Telegram.

A Year of Selective Service

By FREDERICK J. HASKIN.

Washington, D. C., May 20.—An organization which a year ago existed only in the minds of half a dozen men and now reaches out from Washington to every part of the United States and its possessions; a national employment agency a year old, which has now placed in service 1,300,000 men with prospects of placing 3,000,000 more in another year—such is the division of the war department known as the department of the provost marshal general, which handles all the work connected with the draft until the men summoned are actually in camp.

It was on May 8, 1917, that President Wilson signed the selective service act. Six weeks after the declaration of war America had taken the step to which England was more than a year in coming to, and which the North did not adopt until the Civil War had been in progress for two years. All over the country there were gloomy prophecies that conscription in America would be a failure and that on registration day only a small percentage of the nation's young manhood would enroll for service.

But the results have amply justified the foresight of those who realized that in a conflict such as the present the whole power of the nation must be mobilized without stint or hesitation. The manhood of America responded promptly to the call, and old army officers say the drafted man is making as fine a soldier as has ever fought America's battles. Drafted men are already in the trenches, have borne their share of recent heavy fighting and have taken German prisoners. Before King George on May 11 five trainloads of them marched in review on their way to France. Lloyd George, prime minister of England, has said that the outcome of the war depends largely on the work of the selectives of America. There is the opportunity to turn a crisis in world history.

Here in Washington, at the office of Provost Marshal General Enoch M. Crowder, all the work connected with the draft is centralized. Not even in existence a year ago, today this office is probably the most perfectly organized branch of the war department. General Crowder and his staff have never received wide publicity for their gigantic work; neither have pages of the newspapers ever been filled with accusations and charges that the department had broken down. They have not been harangued by investigating committees; they have not been called before congress to spend valuable time in explaining the expenditures of vast sums of money. The total appropriations for the provost marshal general's office up to July 1 this year have been only \$19,000,000, and of this sum General Crowder informed congress the other day \$7,000,000 is still unused because 3,000 local boards have done their work at their own expense.

This does not mean that no mistakes have been made, and that in a year of operation the policy governing the draft has never undergone a change. But it does mean, what is really higher praise, that when the provost marshal general has realized that to meet a changing situation new methods must be adopted, necessary adjustments have been made without delay or hesitation.

Much unfair criticism has been levelled at the army officers who are forced to stay in Washington in charge of administrative work, and the bright saying of "Uncle Joe" Cannon, who remarked that he supposed these officers wear spurs to keep their feet from sliding off their desk tops, has gone the round of the country. But if you could walk through the draft headquarters in the old land office building in Washington and talk to the officers in charge, you would discover that the life of, at least a few of these "swivel chair officers" is by no means a bed of roses. There is no room for sported boots on the top of the desk with plans for special calls or requisitions on states, which must be apportioned by previous calls, adjusted to population and sent immediately by wire.

This office is entirely different from any other branch of the war department. Instead of dealing with coal, steel, explosives, ships and machinery in terms of production and shipment, human beings, every one of whom is efficient in some employment and useful in others, are the raw material to be considered. Instead of long and short tons, General Crowder and his staff must think in such terms as machinists and farmers, shipwrights and dentists, carpenters and wireless operators. Not only is the modern army a highly specialized organization, where the majority of men must be skilled in other things than the handling of bomb or bayonet, but great care must be taken not to dislocate the industries and farms which feed and supply the army and provide the second line of defense. Every effort is being made to fit the right man in the right place and to take none for military service who would be more valuable in his work at home.

The industrial, agricultural and military classification of registrants, which is being worked out under the direction of General Crowder for this purpose, has been the source of a very annoying misconception in the public mind. Hearing that the government is classifying registrants, thousands of people whose relatives and friends have left home and disappeared, are writing to the provost marshal general describing the lost one in the belief and expectation that Uncle Sam has him listed and will immediately forward his latest address. Every day hundreds of these letters are received in Washington. While the government has check on every registrant and will call him when his services are needed, draft headquarters were never intended as a detective agency for missing relatives.

A busy and interesting branch of the draft office is the appeals division.

His Stenographer
By DALE DRUMMONDCHAPTER XVII
An Unrestful Rest Day

I went to bed very early, and laughingly said that as long as I had been given the next day to rest up, they needn't expect me to get out of bed until noon. But about 7 o'clock the postman came, and with him came a letter that effectually prevented my sleeping, even staying in bed.

"Dear Miss Matthews," it read, "will you go to the moving picture show with me tonight? If it suits you, we will see Douglas Fairbanks. Hoping to hear from you, I am very truly yours, George Harkness."

He probably thought I would let him know at noon when I went out to lunch. The letter had been sent special delivery, so I would get it before I left the house. I was still very stiff, but what were stiff knees that I should let them bother me when I had an invitation to go out with a nice looking and agreeable young man?

I dressed and had breakfast with the girls. Betty teased me unmercifully.

"I thought you were going to stay in bed till noon!"

"I don't get a chance to go out often, and I'm going if I have to go on crutches," I replied.

"A Telephone Acceptance."

As soon as I thought George would be in his office I put on my things and started for a telephone.

"Now that Mary has a beau, I think you should put in a telephone," Mary said to Mrs. Fagin, who happened to come in.

"Shure and it's glad I am, Miss Mary! It's the nice girl you are and deservin' a sweetheart. You has no need to blush for an old Irish woman, dearie. No need, at all. It's meself had many a follower in mown days, though I don't look it now. What with the hard work since Fagin died and no one to help me, I have lost what looks like half along with me hair and me teeth. But it's the young things should have the good times. Good young things like you."

"How about me, Mrs. Fagin?" Betty asked.

"Oh, you go along! You've lots of time! You ain't nothin' but a baby, you ain't!" she answered Betty, who was an immense favorite with our kind-hearted and uneducated but not overly clean landlady.

George was in and came at once to the telephone.

"Shall we get a bit of supper somewhere and then go?" he asked, after I had accepted his invitation.

"I am at home today," I told him. I knew he thought I was at the office.

"Not lost your position?" he asked, a note of concern in his voice which

THE BUSHMAN

The whole selective service system is so organized that much authority is given the local boards, few individual cases coming directly under the jurisdiction of the main office. However, appeals to the President for deferred classification on grounds of engagement in necessary industry or agriculture are made through the office of the provost marshal general. Already about 30,000 of these appeals have been received and over half this number affirmed. Each case requires careful individual study and attention.

Comparison of the working out of the draft in the present and in the Civil War forms an interesting contrast between methods of now and then. After two years of unsuccessful war with the Confederacy the North decided to follow the example set by the slave states and in March, 1863, the conscription act was passed by congress. Two months were then consumed in building up a military machine to administer the law and enforce it. It took four months to complete the registration, during which time there were serious riots due to the unfairness of the law, which permitted a rich man to buy himself out of service by furnishing a substitute.

Eighteen days after the passage of the selective service act of 1917 4,000 local boards had been appointed. Between sunrise and sunset of the eighteenth day, June 5, 1917, practically every male in the United States within the prescribed ages had registered for military service, the number totalling 9,586,508, equal to the entire population of the Confederacy in 1861.

Napoleon, thirsting for world conquest, must bear responsibility for the system which makes every man of military age liable to military service. In 1798 the first conscription law was passed by France. Prussia took up the idea in 1808, introducing universal military training largely for the purpose of resisting French aggression. The system has never lapsed in Prussia and its development is generally regarded as a chief cause of the present struggle.

Names in the News
THE ALPINE—pronounced "al-pe-ne"—are the Alpine soldiers of the Italian army. They are a picked force of mountaineers and are regarded as the elite of the army, both as regards physique and stamina.

Hearst and Roosevelt

Mr. Hearst occupies four columns of display space in the New York papers to tell what he thinks of Col. Roosevelt. And perhaps Col. Roosevelt would need about as many columns to tell what he thinks of Hearst. However, in this big war those two gentlemen are simply side-shows along with the Bearded Lady and the Snake Charmer. The big show is on and it is the attraction. Neither Hearst nor Roosevelt get front page now. There are bigger things before the people.—Greensboro Record.

A Wonderful Evening

That suited me exactly. I told him, and so it was arranged.

I hurried back home as fast as my lame knees would let me. I had a lot to do. I took out the only dress I had left that was at all in style and with Betty's help changed it a little. Then I carefully washed and ironed my one set of lace collar and cuffs, afterward darning them. A process I had to repeat every time they were washed. Then Betty went out and bought a pint of gasoline. I cleaned my gloves and the collar of my light weight coat. It was pretty shabby, but the evenings were cool—it was getting to be late in the fall. My dress, too, was thin, and I had felt chilly all the time for the last week or two.

It was late in the afternoon when I finished my preparations.

"Nice restful day you've had, Miss Matthews," Betty said. She had a little habit of addressing us by our last names that was extremely funny. "I am so glad your boss let you stay at home to do your washing and cleaning. Go and lay down for an hour, Mary," she coaxed. "You'll be too tired to have a good time if you don't."

I did as she wanted me, but I knew that no matter how tired I was I wouldn't prevent me having a good time. I sleepily wondered if George Harkness would like me, if he would go on asking me to go out with him or if he had only asked me because I was a friend of Alice Newlands. I wanted him to like me for myself.

It was 5 o'clock when I woke up, rested, and yet so lame I could scarcely get up.

"It will go away in a minute," Betty comforted when I complained. And she was right. By the time I had bathed, curled my hair and dressed I was nearly all right. Then just as we finished our supper the bell rang and Mrs. Fagin came up and told me my young man was in the parlor. I felt highly honored. Mrs. Fagin usually stood at the foot of the stairs and yelled to the roomers when any one called.

"He's a fine upstanding boy. You ain't no call to blush for him," she said.

(Tomorrow—"A Taste of Pleasure.")

CONTINUED TOMORROW.
(Copyright, 1918, by Dale Drummond)

TRAVELETTE

The Bushmen are called the "archists of South Africa." Of all the native tribes they alone have refused to accept the white man's civilization or to surrender their liberty into his hands. Stories of South Africa are filled with tales of their fierce and savage attacks. Despite their diminutive size they are the terror of both the whites and the other native tribes. The Little South Africans are frightened into silence with the name of the Bushman—he is the nightmare of their dreams.

And yet, despite their unsavory reputation, they are a kindly people. With their tiny round bodies and twinkling roguish eyes they are like the chorus of some burlesque—the clowns of native Africa. Their hair grows in small isolated tufts. Little islands of hair on the bare surface of their heads. The Bushmen do not worry over the clothes question, their usual garb is a happy smile and a profusion of brass and iron ornaments. A favorite decoration is a huge roll of wire worn around the waist or neck, telephone wire preferred. The women paint their bodies with red clay and a curious native ointment, which, hardening, forms a shell over their bodies. Their language seems to be a series of clicks and gurgles. The natives claim that the Bushmen talk to the monkeys and other animals. It is partly owing to this fact that they are regarded with such awe.

The Bushmen themselves do not attempt to deny the accusation—they grin widely and refuse to answer when questioned as to the matter. A reputation such as theirs is not a handicap in the trouble some life of a native South African.

Stolen Auto Recovered

This morning Chief of Police Fox has received a telegram from the sheriff at Ashokle telling him that he had located the car which was stolen in his town in March. The car belonged to J. W. Bull, now of Norfolk, but formerly of this city. It is suspected that Ashokle is the place where car numbers have been changed by the Sears-Godfrey combination.—Greensboro Record.

The Same

The war department, which has placed more than half a million American troops in France, is the same war department which we were told some time ago had practically ceased to function.—Charleston News and Courier.

Kaiser Bill Imposed Upon

Kaiser Bill still insists that he is in close partnership with the Lord in this butchering business. It may be that he can't think so. Kaiser Bill is deluded—he has been imposed upon by the devil, who has impersonated another being. Kaiser Bill will realize all this later.—Greensboro Record.