THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH, SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 1918.

THE WILMINGTON DISPATCH

dispute.

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SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 1918.

A DANGEROUS SILENCE

Military secrecy is a necessary precaution in time of war. Occasionally, however, it can be made to cover more than the information that must be withheld from an enemy. A case in point is provided by the Leonard Wood mystery. The war department is maintaining a silence on this subject that may be discreet, but is, under the

THE PARTY IS CALLED

The Greensboro News Saturday morning editorially called upon the democrats of the state to know if they are going to permit manhandling methods in the conduct of the pet primary law, and bluntly asks if this piece of election machinery is to be allowed to go to the scrap heap because of misuse. The News has put a pointed question squarely up to the powers that be, and further developments, which we doubt will come, would be of more than passing interest in North Carolina.

The cause of The News' shot is the controversy that is now raging in the third congressional district, and the refusal of the state board to go behind serious charges that have been filed by Charles L. Abernethy, the defeated candidate in the recent democratic primary for the selection of a candidate for congress. The News takes the position, and we are inclined to Sunday Only, One Year \$2.00 agree with it, that while the controversy is between democrats, the effectiveness and probably the life of the primary law is involved, and for that reason it becomes the duty of the Daily and Sunday, Six Months \$3.50 election officials to aid in carrying out

> It is alleged that there was rank juggling with the vote in a number of precincts. As an example, it is said tha tone box, Albertson, in Duplin county, sent in a vote of 101 for

Dortch and 0 for Abernethy. This was considered dengerously generous in that box, so the charge goes, and 60 of these votes were lopped off, leaving 41 for Dortch. Then some meddlesome observer directed attention to the fact that only 20 men had voted at |ed. it will be necessary to make Wilthat box. Now all of this could have mington the home port for a large easily been settled under ordinary circumstances, but in this case the ballots were destroyed, eliminating for all time the possibility of untangling the

It is also charged that in Sampson county no primary was held. Another allegation is that the soldier vote played an important part, the Dortch supporters being allowed the widest this. latitude in getting their ballots count ed, while the Abernethy voters were made to comply strictly with the rules. There are numerous charges, and it is said that good men stand willing to swear to the truthfulness of these reports. With all of these charges as to the violations of the spirit of the primary law, the state board of elections says it has no power to go behind the returns, so Mr. Dortch is declared the nominee. It mattered little to us which of the two men won, but we do not like to an intimation of that fact, stripped of see one of the safeguards of the peoall details, should not be given out ple in selecting their candidates ignored in such a ruthless manner. It is true that it is a democratic fight. and one within the party's jurisdiction, but this fight was conducted under a legalized primary, and as both of the contestants are democrats, it beconcluded his personal arrangements | hooves that party to see that each one has had a fair play. It is not a question where a political enémy is involved, but is between two men in the same party, one having as much right to the party protection as the other. In this view, if there is evidence that he did not lose his head and make a something has gone wrong somewhere. it is the duty of the party to seek it out and right it. There seems to be no law to get at traditions and given an effective dem- the bottom of the contoversy, and onstration of true discipline by refus- there also seems to be no inclination ing to discuss the incident, even with to do so. The democratic party cannot afford to rest under the cloud. It is contended that to go behind the returns would be hurtful to the party. It strikes us that to rest under the charges would be more hurtful. There may not be a legal method of getting rows of this nature properly settled, but if there was much of a desire some way could be found. A few more affairs like that now in the third district, without any serious effort to adjust them fairly, and the primary law will become a joke, and some party other than the democratic may be called upon to put through the proper legislative machinery to protect all candidates. The primary law is a democratic law, and it looks like party pride would see to it that it is not subjected to abuses, especially when the abuses seem to favor one member of the party at the expense of another member of the same party.

HELP FOR THE RAIL-ROADS

When the United States shipping board first announced its plan for building wooden ships as emergency vessels there was a storm of protest from excited individuals who declared the construction would be a sheer waste of time and material. Exactly how much waste will attach to the production of the 400 wooden boats now nearing completion may be gathered from the announcement that 50 of them will be put into commission this fall on regular runs between Norfolk and New England ports.

This arrangement will remove 'a heavy burden from the railroads and will prevent another coal famine in states where important munition plants are located. Before the end of the present year at least 100 wooden ships, with a carrying capacity of several thousand tons each, will be in service and 300 more will follow in quick succession.

This announcement is particularly interesting to residents of this city. There is no doubt that the railway administration plans a big future for Wilmington. There is every reason to believe that Mr. McAdoo's transportation department will detail a reasonable percentage of the new wooden

vessels to Wilmington, thus forming a coast shipping connection with New England, via Norfolk, and, undoubtedly, a direct service between Wilmington and New York.

It is entirely within the range of probabilities that Wilmington may be made the port for a large zone that will include all of North Carolina and parts of South Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky. If this plan is adoptnumber of coast-trade carriers. The wooden ship is likely to prove a big factor in the swift growth of what, unquestionably, is to be the future

metropolis of North Carolina.

It is announced that America will son be flying aircraft across the Atlantic. Congress should investigate



The Marines. By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

They took a fortress, which they had

Washington, D. C., June 22 .- Amer-, tions had become especially annoying. ican marines are now going over the The lives and property of many fortop with their usual conspicuous suc- eigners, including Americans, had been cess. Twice in the past two weeks destroyed. There were rumors of Euthey have earned the praise of the ropean interference if some action allied armies by their "irresistible ac- were not taken by the United States. tivity," which forced the Germans back So marines were landed, about 2,000 at Chateau Trierry and Belleau of them. They immediately helped woods. Already they have hundreds themselves to all available rolling of German prisoners, several machine stock for the railway, made up long guns and many meters of strategic trains, loaded them with ammunition and food, and were ready to proceed. ground to their credit.

And, so far, there is only one brigade of marines in France, a brigade been assured could not be taken, alconsisting of 10,000 men. Units for though they left a dozen of their comanother brigade are rapidly being as- rades behind them. Then they ran sembled in this country at the re- the trains to Managua and Granada, quest of General Pershing, however, where they requested the revolutionand it is expected that 10,000 more ists to surrender. Reports of the marines will be landed in France dur- deadliness of the machine guns and ing next month.

had preceded them. The revolution-The strength of the United States ists compiled with their request. marine corps has been raised more The marines have proved themrapidly in proportion to its original strength than that of either the army or the navy. Two years ago there peace as in establishing it. A guard were only 2,000 men in the whole of 100 marines, called the legation corps. In August, 1916, the first in- guard, has been maintained, at the crease was authorized, raising the invitation of the Nicaraguan governstrength of the corps to 14,000 men. ment in that country ever since. And As soon as war was declared the pres- it is a testimonial to the character of ident issued a call for 3,000 more the marines that they have never marines, and congress subsequently abused the Nicaraguan hospitality. raised the strength of the corps to 30 .-000. Now the new naval appropria- fixed on the war in Europe during the tion bill increases it to 75,500, excludpast three years the marines have ing reserves, of whom there are about 3.000. such as the one which brought peace

The reason for this tremendous in- to Nicaragua, and have lost a number had brought in a pound of salted nuts crease in the marine corps is found in of men and officers dead and woundthe extraordinary efficiency of its ed. They have converted Santo Do-2.000 men. These men were all vet- mingo, which had not known a peaceerans. They had seen active service ful decade in 300 years, into a peaceful in many parts of the globe, they were republic. Haiti, on the same island, splendidly organized and they pos which had a belligerent outburst regusessed an amazing versatility which larly every summer, has been put in had enabled them to perform any kind order by the firm but diplomatic acof unexpected duty, from fighting in tion of American marines; and maa rowboat to running a railroad. rines have landed to protect property Hence they were men well fitted to in Cuba. The American legation in officer troops. Peking, China, has a guard of 250

Before the war an English army of- marines. ficer, who had made a study of the world's various military organizations, marine corps has a peculiar status declared that "the best equipped, or- which fits it particularly well for such ganized and most efficient body of its police duty. The landing of a detachsize in the world" was the United ment of marines in a small country States marine corps. The Canadian like Nicaragua or Haiti is not regardmounted police and the Pennsylvania ed by that nation or by the European state constabulary, he asserted, came nations as an act of conquest or agsecond and third.

gression, whereas the landing of a The exact significance of the exist- regiment of infantry under the same ence of the marine corps as a separate circumstances would be regarded as a branch of the nation's fighting strength | declaration of war. is not always thoroughly understood The other important duty of the

by the civilian. Marines are often marine corps, that of establishing and confused with sailors of the navy, maintaining naval bases, is of first im- talked. I watched Lena Moore close- they pass a law making the owner



A House Warming.

Self Congratulation "Didn't we have a good time?" Jane When we had been in the flat about a month we decided to have a party, said as the door finally closed after as Betty called it, a house warming, our guests. It was midnight and yet we were too happy and excited to white and blue spreads for the four want to go to bed. cots, and made bureau cover and sash "Rather!" Carrie answered, briefir

curtains of some thin material that "I don't believe a Vanderbilt could matched them. We had bought a good have had a nicer supper. Your sand. wiches were delicious, Mary." "No better than your chocolate dotted muslin curtains for the windows. cake." "What about my fudge? 1 don't see

"Curtains make a heap of difference, a crumb anywhere. I suess they don't they?" Betty said, looking at them admiringly. "Next to a stove thought that was all to the merry too, the accuracy with which the men shot the way they eat it.' flat." She had not yet become accus-

tomed to the stove, and constantly selves as efficient in maintaining compared it to cooking over the gas jet at Mrs. Fagin's. We had invited Alice Newlands. Tom Hunter, George Harkness and two young men whom Jane and Betty knew. Carrie had asked if she might

include Lena, and we had been glad gone. He's a nice fellow, too-if you to have her. So our little home was like him." pretty well crowded. While American attention has been Betty had fulfilled her long cher-

George or I have any idea beyond just ished dream and learned to make de- being good friends. Don't get silly licious fudge. Carrie had made a big been carrying on several small wars, chocolate cake, and we had ordered ice cream from the corner store. Jane

and I made some delicious lettuce sandwiches with mayonnaise. I don't think any one could have had a more dainty supper, no matter how much money they had, than we did. We

had no silver, and used paper napkins, but we also had the best time he had shown his affection. I knew Complimentary Guests.

"It is wonderful!" Alice Newlands said to me. "You girls are a positive inspiration."

"That is what I want to be," I re-In the unwritten law of nations turned, thoughts of my big idea flashing through my mind at her words. "Isn't this homey?" George remarked to Tom. I listened for the answer.

> want to hurry Alice;" they were going to be married in the fall.

"I should think it would," George returned. "There's nothing like a home of your own." Did he sigh, or did I imagine it Anyway, I was hap-

FIDENCE. AS TO WATER RENT. To the Editor of The Dispatch:

From the viewpoint of the property. holder the city council could hardly pier for overhearing that little talk. After supper we played hearts and make a law that is more unjust, if

ideas in that head of yours. "He's in love with you," she persist. ed, just as Carrie called: "Mary Matthews, are you going to stand talking to that yellow-haired kid all night?" "Coming right away, Carrie," and yet I couldn't hurry. As I slowly un-

"Ate, Betty," I corrected.

"Nonsense!"

"Never mind how it was swallowed

it's gone," she laughed, then slid her

hand in mine and whispered: "George

has it pretty bad, Mary. He couldn't

take his eyes off you the whole time"

"It ain't nonsense, Mary, He's dead

"Thank you, Betty, but neither

dressed I felt happy that Betty thought he cared for me: happy that we could be nothing but friends but

neither could he be anything more to any other girl. "It may seem strange that I was contented with this, all that he could

give, but my work kept me so occu. pied, .so busy, that I had no time to brood, no strength to waste in useless repining. Yet I loved George Hark. ness with all my heart. "I should say it was. It makes me Temorrow-AN UNEXPECTED CON-

Water rent is not a fixed charge and

your water bill may be anywhere from

owner in debt several hundred dollars

that will occur the first cold weather

(at the expense of the owner) than

to turn it off; and it is not in keeping

You can imagine the great waste

circumstances, just a bit dangerous.

We presume the Washington government is aware of the fact that exceedingly ugly rumors are going the rounds in regard to the extraordinary treatment accorded the ranking major general of the United States army. If there is any real reason for the humiliation to which General Wood has been subjected, the time has come for the war department to disclose the facts. If, as has been intimated, General Wood is being held in this country for an important European assignment, there can be no sane reason why by the secretary of war.

As matters now stand, the American people knew that General Wood was detached from the expeditionary forces only a few hours before his command sailed and some time after he for the trip to France. The abruptness of the order relieving him from command of the overseas forces was almost a slap in the face of a distinguished American soldier. It is very much to General Wood's credit that bitter comment during the first minutes of staggering disappointment. Fortunately, he has upheld the army's his intimates.

In view of partisan efforts to transmute the affair into political ammunition, true friends of the administration cannot fail to feel deep regret that the war department persists in a policy of silence that seems as unnecessary as it is obviously unfortunate.

A QUESTION AND ANSWER

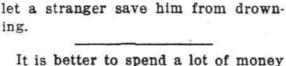
Many of us in the great army of stay-at-homes chafe over our inaction during this war time and ask, "How can I help?" The editor of The Brooklyn Eagle gives this answer:

"Those who regard the sale of war savings stamps as a side enterprise or as something that appeals mainly to children totally miss the purpose behind a plan which is one of the best thus far evolved for war purposes. In the last analysis the selling of these George H. Bellamy, one of the warstamps is the fitting of the whole nahorse democrats of this community, is tion to sustain the burden of the war. a candidate for the office of United It is the application to war finance of States marshal for the eastern district the principle of universal service. It aims to enlist all of the American peo. of North Carolina, to scceed W. T. Dortch, democratic nominee for conple in direct support of that gallant migress in the third district. Mr. Belnority among them who have answerlamy, known over the state as the ed the call to arms and prepared themselves for the firing line. "The war savings stamps supply the final and conclusive answer to the aspires, and in addition there is nor question: 'How can we all help?' " Baseball was having enough trouble before Crowder placed it on the list of non-essentials. The Italian resistance gives Emperhoped will prove successful or Charles a considerable jolt.

"Duke of Brunswick," meets every requirement of the office to which ha has been no more loyal party man than he. With his equipment and party loyalty, he is considered completely galified for the position, and his many friends here and throughout the state will urge his appointment with a heartiness that it is

Bulgaria and Turkey are having a row over the division of spoils. When thieves fall out, honest men get their

dues. Holding Japan out of Russia is about like the Englishman who wouldn't



for winning the war than to lose the war and then have to pay trbute.

Uncle Sam is now sending soldiers to France at the rate of 100,000 per week. How is that for speed?

Cty councl's proposal to make landlords pay water rent seems not to be

meeting popular favor. Colby sticks to it that a little beer now and then is relished by shipyard

men. Have it your way, Bainbridge.

We see little need for so much explaining about the "work or fight" order. It means just what it says.

has ever engaged. But the most important duties of the

the task of establishing and maintain-

time there is dissension.

marines who established quiet in Nic- in shooting anti-aircraft guns. aragua after many years of continuous revolution. One of these revolu- plishments the marines possess some-

whereas they are really soldiers. The portance in the event of a naval war, first United States marine corps was A naval base is absolutely necessary ashamed of her. She was quiet and called into existence by the continen- to a navy which expects to maintain reserved, very different from the girl tal congress in 1775 and fought gal- itself in any special waters for any lantly through the revolutionary war. length of time. Where a nation owns It was disbanded at the end of the such a base it is elaborately fortified. war, but was reorganized again in Where such a base is owned by the 1798. From that day to this the ma- enemy it has to be seized, equipped rines have figured conspicuously in and fortified in quick time. This every war in which the United States work in the United States navy is in the hands of the marine corps.

But since this war a third important corps have developed during the last duty has been assigned to the marine 20 years. Before the Spanish-Amer- corps. That is to fight with the army. ican war the marines served simply as | Their training and experience obtained soldiers on the warships of the navy. in the Caribbean are proving of great In this capacity they were the first value now. For years the marines to land in Cuba and organize the Cu- have specialized in sharpshooting, as bans. Since then the marines have well as field artillery and machine gun noon or evening." acquired two new duties of greater handling. And in addition to this, importance. They have been assigned because they have had to fight small wars all by themselves, they know ing advance naval bases for the fleet how to do many other things. They in time of war, and to them has fallen can manipulate field wireless, port the task of policing the small coun-able searchlights and heliographs: tries of the Caribbean and the Amer- they can plant submarine mines; they ican tropics, in which from time to can handle torpedoes; build roads and rine, always a marine," the truth of

bridges; they can land big guns from which was evidenced upon the

But in addition to all these accom-

ly, and Carrie had no cause to be It is manifestly unfair to hold one person liable for the acts of another. Carrie had described her when she especially where the person held liable has no control over the one who first met her.

Just a little before they left George commits the deed. Harkness came over to where I was sitting and said: "I don't know when I have enjoyed \$1.50 per quarter to \$100 per quarter.

myself so much, Mary. I was afraid or even more, and a house that rents shouldn't be able to come. Mother for \$5 or \$10 per month can run its was not very well.' during the year. "I'm sorry, but very glad you came,"

said very low. "You are happy now, aren't you?" "Yes, so much happier than we were that comes; for the reason that it at Mrs. Fagin's. And George, I am is much easier to let the water run always at home Sundays, either after-

"Does that mean that I may come?" with the spirit of the times to waste "Yes, whenever you can leave your anything, and do not forget it costs

money to pump water, and to buy coal thing of even greater value. They and chemicals, and while it is not the have a pride in their work and an un- intention of council to encourage waste, but in action such a law will usual esprit de corps. There is a saying in the marine corps, "Once a ma- result in waste.

In order to meet the demands of en- the government shipbuilders, many This last task has kept the marine ships, and they can ride anything trance of the United States into the houses will have to be built; but with corps in military trim even in times from a llama to a race horse. They war. For then, men who had once the possibility of such a law being of peace. It was the United States are now developing a remarkable skill been marines and had risen to high enacted, it is certain that it will be positions in civil life dropped every- extremely hard to induce any one 10 thing and hurried to the nearest re- build.

cruiting station of the marine corps

The proposed law is unjust and every property-holder should make an effort to persuade the council not to change the present method, that provides for a consumer paying for water used and not the owner of the

building. Respectfully. J. O. REILLY. June 22, 1918. A DAILY LESSON IN HISTORY

One Hundred Years Ago Today 1818-Steamboat service inaugurat

ed between New Bedford and the island of Nantucket. Seventy-five Years Ago Today

1843-President Tyler and his suite reached Baltimore on their return to Washington from the Bunker Hill monument dedication.

Fifty Years Ago Today 1863-Matthew Vassar, founder of Vassar college, died at Poughkeepsie, N. Y. Born in England, April 29, 1792. Twenty-five Years Ago Today

1893-Sir William Fox, prime minister of New Zealand, died at Auckland. Born in England in 1812.

ONE YEAR AGO TODAY IN WAR June 23. 1917-Reception in house of representatives to war commission from Russia; house of representatives passed food administration bill. giving broad powers to President Wilson.

OUR DAILY BIRTHDAY PARTY H. R. H., the prince of Wales. helr apparent to the British throne, born at White Lodge, Richmond, 24 years ago today.

George R. Lunn, New York con

gressman, former mayor of Scheneo

tady, born at Lenox, Ia., 45 years ago

Clarence Eddy, celebrated organis

Adolph O. Eberhart, former gov

ernor of Minnesota, born in Sweden,

Abel R. Kiviat, celebrated distance

Even China refuses to stand for

runner, now in the service. born in

New York city, 26 years ago today.

and composer, born at Greenfield

Mass., 67 years ago today.

48 years ag otoday.

bolshevikism.

Brig. Gen. Henry A. Reed. U.S.A. retired, born at Plattsburg, N. Y., 74

years ago today.

today.



The Days of Real Sport

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