

AT THE CAPITAL OF BANNER.

The Spirit of Progress Envelopes the Little Southern City. Two Handsome Churches, Six New Brick Stores and Many Residences Now Under Consideration. Deputy Flowers Gets on Hot Trail of Blockaders. Two Musical Recitals Given. Baptist Church Calls New Pastor. Many Local Items.

Benson, Jan. 25.—Mr. Edgar Johnson left Monday for Oxford where he has the management of the Oxford Jewelry Company.

Mr. Ransom Creech, who has been living at Goldsboro for the past few months, was here Sunday with relatives.

Miss Lillian Reece, of Western North Carolina, has accepted a position with C. T. Johnson as stenographer.

Mr. Herbert Barbour, of Elevation, was a visitor to Benson Sunday and Monday.

Messrs. J. T. Stanford and J. R. Barbour spent Saturday in Tarboro and Wilson on business.

Mr. Chas. Johnson was in Smithfield Monday on business.

Mr. Fred Cavenaugh, of Wallace, N. C., has accepted a position with Mr. J. W. Whittenton, the jeweler.

State Senator Ezra Parker spent Saturday, Sunday and Monday in town with his family.

Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Smith and children spent Sunday in Coats with relatives.

Mr. J. F. Gause, Jr., of Wilmington, N. C., was in town Monday on business for his company, Gause & Lynch, architects.

Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Barbour and son, O. A., Jr., are spending the week with relatives in Elevation.

Attorney W. J. Hooks, of Kenly, was in town Monday spending the day on business.

Mr. Ralph Canaday, who is with the Hood Drug Company in Smithfield, was in town Sunday with relatives.

Mr. B. I. Tart, Cashier of the Bank of Four Oaks, was a visitor to our city Monday.

Mr. Fred Royal, of Washington, D. C., is in town for the past few days with relatives.

Mr. James Benton, of the firm of Benton & Benton, Architects, of Wilson, N. C., spent Monday in town on business. His firm was awarded the drafting of the plans for the building of the Methodist church which will be erected here this Spring.

Mr. William Morgan, of Fuquay Springs, has been visiting for a few days in Benson.

Mr. Seth Allen, who has been in the Highsmith Hospital at Fayetteville for an operation for the past two weeks, returned home Monday much improved.

Mr. C. C. Murphy, of Greensboro, was in the city yesterday on business matters.

Mrs. Willie Weeks, of Nashville, N. C., arrived Tuesday and will spend several days here visiting friends.

Mr. Russell Bryant went to Wilson Saturday, returning home Monday after spending Sunday in Wilson.

Mr. Rosmal Smith has been spending a few days in and around Benson on business this week.

Mr. J. E. Wilson returned Monday from a week's visit to St. Louis, and other stock-markets, buying several car-loads of mules for sale.

One of the new buildings just nearing completion on Main Street, belonging to Mr. S. E. Williams, will be occupied by the Surlis Mercantile Company, when finished. The company will move into the new building within the next few days.

Messrs. S. F. Ivey, Jas. Raynor, N. T. Ryals, and Jasper Smith went to the city of Smithfield Tuesday.

Quite a large crowd attended the Music Recital given at the Methodist church last Friday night by Miss Florence Johnson. The recital showed that the pupils had been given excellent training and had received much benefit from the training.

The Music Recital given by Miss Myrtle Ashcraft at the school auditorium Tuesday night was well attended and enjoyed by the crowd present. It was evident from the rendition of many of the pupils that they had been under the care of an efficient teacher.

The town of Benson seems at this time to be taking on new life along many lines. We note that in the near future six two-story brick buildings will be erected on Main Street. Mr. S. D. Stone will begin work within the next few days on two of these buildings to be used as stores. Mr. J. E. Wilson will build one adjoining that of Mr. Stone. Mr. Darryl Allen will also erect one in the same block with Messrs. Stone and Wilson. The firm of J. H. Boon & Son will build two on the West side of the railroad at the location of their present stores. Among the residences that will be commenced shortly we note that of Mr. M. T. Britt which will be erected on Church and Railroad streets at a cost of about fifteen thousand dollars. Architects are now planning this residence and it will add

much to the appearance of Church street near the railroad when completed. Mr. M. A. Peacock will also erect a residence on Church street near the Baptist church, his building to be of the bungalow type. Mr. W. D. Boon will build on Main street at the location of his old residence but the writer does not know what style of residence he will build.

Work is rapidly being pushed on the Presbyterian church which is being erected on Hill street near the school building. This church when finished will cost about six thousand dollars and will add much to the appearance of Hill street in East Benson.

Architects Benton & Benton, of Wilson, are now at work on the plans of the Methodist church which will be erected on the old church site. This building when completed will cost from eighteen thousand to twenty-five thousand dollars, not including the heat, light and plumbing. Work is to begin on it about April 1st, and it is to be completed by September or October. Including the two churches more than one hundred thousand dollars will be placed in buildings in Benson before the first of next October.

A call has been extended by the Baptist church of Benson to Rev. G. W. Rollins, of Western North Carolina, to serve the church here for the coming year. Mr. Rollins is one of the ablest ministers in the State and our people hope that he will be secured by the Baptists of the town to serve their church here.

Services will be held by the Presbyterians on the fourth Sunday morning at eleven o'clock in the Methodist church here, also on the first Sunday night at seven o'clock, from now until work is completed on the new Presbyterian church which is in course of erection.

Posseman R. L. Flowers located a still near Benson last Friday and staged a raid on the same farm Friday night, but some how or other those who were in authority snafed a mouse and the still, together with the four barrels of beer, were all spirited away. However, Mr. Flowers was not so easily to be gotten rid of, and he tracked the beer for about four miles till he finally located it. Secreting himself he waited for several hours till three men appeared upon the scene with the still, a fifteen-gallon copper outfit, and began building the furnace, which they finished in about an hour. The process of making booze then began and this operation was looked upon for about three hours by Mr. Flowers, one charge having been run off, jugged up, and taken away by a notorious blockader who doesn't live far from Benson. When he returned a second charge was being run, when one of the men walked out in the thicket near the still and found himself face with Flowers. Like many another moon-chiner who has declared he would kill Flowers the first time he interfered with his career, this blocker and violator of the law, when he found himself face to face with the real thing, ran, fled and flew all at the same time, in fact, he ran so fast that his poor dog, faithful to him, even in crime, could not keep pace with him, but yelped upon his tracks with his master far in the lead, closely followed by the other two blockaders. These men were all well known to Mr. Flowers and will be arrested later. Two of them are well known in the Federal Courts and the other bears the reputation of making liquor. One of the men has recently returned from Atlanta where he served a term for violation of the Federal laws and one of them is well known in the State and County courts. Some boys hunting in the woods near the first location of the still were notified last week by a man who lives in Benson that if they were caught in the woods near there again they would be shot.

Why the Salesman Quit the Store. In a certain Johnston County store a few years ago, a young man had been clerking for nearly two years when suddenly and unexpectedly to everybody, he gave up the job and went to his home in another town. When first asked why he quit he was slow to answer, but finally said: "I looked on the people in and around that town until I decided I wanted to look at another crowd for awhile." This is the only reason he gave and the only reason he seemed to have. Thousands move for no better reason. Tenants move into a neighborhood and live for a year and then decide they want to get with another crowd. It does not seem to make any difference how well the tenant is treated by the land owner or his neighbors he is going to move. He must get to a new neighborhood and must see some new people.

President Wilson has designated Secretaries Baker, Lane, and Houston to report on a site for the proposed Government nitrate plant, for which \$20,000,000 was authorized by Congress.

NAVAL BATTLE IN NORTH SEA.

German Destroyer Sunk and Other Torpedo Craft Scattered by British. The English Lose Another Battle. Destroyer With Three Officers and 44 of Her Crew Go Down.

London, Jan. 23.—In an engagement between British light naval forces and German torpedo boat destroyers in the North Sea last night a German destroyer was sunk and the other torpedo craft scattered, it was officially announced today. The sinking of a British torpedo boat destroyer in another engagement with German torpedo boat destroyers in the vicinity of Schouwen Bank last night, with the loss of three officers and 44 of the crew, also was announced.

The official announcement says: "Last night, while our light forces were patrolling the North Sea not far from the Dutch coast, they met a division of enemy torpedo boat destroyers. A short engagement took place, during which one of the enemy torpedo boat destroyers was sunk and the rest scattered, having suffered considerable punishment. Darkness prevented the full results of the action from being observed.

"During last night there was also a short, sharp engagement between enemy torpedo destroyers and our own destroyers in the vicinity of Schouwen Bank. During this engagement one of our torpedo boat destroyers was struck by a torpedo, the explosion killing three officers and 44 of the crew. She subsequently was sunk by our own ships. Relatives of the victims have been informed. Our ships suffered no other casualties."

Attempted to Leave Zeebrugge.

London, Jan. 23.—Reports from Ymuiden received by Reuters Telegraph Company via Amsterdam say that German torpedo boats last night attempted to leave Zeebrugge to avoid the ice, which was very thick. They were immediately attacked by a large British squadron. The action opened at short range, and early in the fight the bridge of the German destroyer, V-69, was swept away by a direct hit, the commander and two other officers being killed.

The V-69 fired one torpedo and was then hit by another British shell, which knocked the funnel flat on the deck. Still another shell put a hole in the forepart of the vessel. Her guns appear not to have been damaged. The crew of the V-69 numbered about sixty. It would appear from the statements of the men that seven other German vessels were sunk. The V-69 belonging to the home fleet.

According to a Reuter despatch from Ymuiden it was officially stated that four men were killed aboard the V-69, including the commander, Lieutenant Boehm, and the commander of the flotilla, Captain Schultz. German officers refuse information about the engagement, the scene of action or the strength of the flotilla.

Two Reported Sunk.

London, Jan. 23.—According to a Hague report to the Exchange Telegraph Company two German ships were sunk and three others badly damaged in the North Sea fight.

BETHLEHEM STEEL BRINGS DIVISION OF BIG MELON.

New York, Jan. 23.—One of the largest "melons" ever divided by an industrial corporation was announced today when the directors of the Bethlehem Steel corporation increased the common stock dividend from 7 1/2 per cent to 10 per cent quarterly; recommended a 200 per cent common stock dividend or bonus, and also offered the common stock holders the right to subscribe to \$15,000,000 new stock at par on the basis of share for share of present holdings.

This action was made possible by a proposed increase of the common stock from \$15,000,000 to \$60,000,000. The plan regarding the new stock is to be submitted to shareholders at a special meeting February 14. Inasmuch as Chas. M. Schwab, chairman of the corporation, and his friends are believed to control the present stock issue, it is virtually assured that the proposition will be approved.

The usual annual dividend of 7 per cent on the preferred stock payable in four quarterly installments, also was declared. Earnings of the Bethlehem corporation for the year 1916 amounted to \$61,717,329. Deducting interest charges of \$3,772,575 and charging off \$14,350,785 to depreciation and depletion, the aggregate net addition to the surplus is \$43,593,968, making a total surplus of December 31, 1916, of \$69,370,198.

A Mighty Mean Man.

The meanest man in the State is the Spartanburg farmer who sharpened all the stumps on his place so that his hands could not sit down to rest.—Greenville News.

There is no beautifier of complexion or form or behavior like the wish to scatter joy, and not pain, around us.—Emerson.

BUSINESS LOCALS

SEE OUR LINE OF STOVES AND Ranges—we have them from \$10.00 up, with all the ware. Cotter Hardware Company.

TWO CARS OF TOBACCO BED Guano just received. Austin-Stephenson, Smithfield, N. C.

IF IT IS GARDEN OF FIELD SEED or Flour, or anything in Groceries you want, you can get them from Floyd C. Price at Pine Level.

FOR GRAFONOLAS AND COLUMBIA double disc Records, call at Cotter Underwood Company's.

TWO CARS OF TOBACCO BED Guano just received. Austin-Stephenson, Smithfield, N. C.

SEE STEDMAN STORES COMPANY for Groceries and Feed Stuff, Smithfield, N. C.

200 TONS OF 7 1/2 PER CENT Cotton Seed Meal at \$43.50 per ton—Cash. Austin-Stephenson Co., Smithfield, N. C.

NOW IS AN IDEAL TIME TO paint and we have it—either Lead Oil or ready prepared. Cotter Hardware Company.

TOBACCO CANVAS FOR SALE AT Cotter-Underwood Co., Smithfield, N. C.

FARM MULES FOR SALE—WE have about a dozen farm mules which we are offering at bargains, ranging from \$150.00 to \$250.00 each and cheap at the price. See us before buying. Farmers Mercantile Co., Selma, N. C.

FOR SALE—I HAVE FOR SALE A nice young mule, weighing about 1000 or 1100 pounds, terms to suit. Floyd C. Price, Pine Level, N. C.

FRESH JERSEY COWS FOR SALE. Write, phone or see, E. F. Boyett, Smithfield, N. C.

IF YOU NEED A GOOD MULE, see Cotter-Underwood Company, Smithfield, N. C.

WE HAVE TOBACCO BED CANVAS. Austin-Stephenson Company, Smithfield, N. C.

IF YOU WANT A NICE BUGGY IT will pay you to see Cotter-Underwood Co.

NOW IS AN IDEAL TIME TO paint and we have it—either Lead Oil or ready prepared. Cotter Hardware Company.

SEE OUR WINDOW FILLED WITH 25-cent books. There are many choice titles in the lot. Herald Book Store.

IF YOU HAVE A FARM YOU wish to sell, write Box 123, Smithfield, N. C.

TWO CARS FINE FURNITURE just arrived at Cotter Underwood Company's Store. It will pay you to look before you buy.

IF YOU HAVE A FARM YOU wish to sell, write Box 123, Smithfield, N. C.

IF YOU HAVE A FARM YOU wish to sell, write Box 123, Smithfield, N. C.

SEE OUR LINE OF STOVES AND Ranges—we have them from \$10.00 up, with all the ware. Cotter Hardware Company.

100 BUSHELS OF CLEVELAND Big Boll Cotton seed for sale. The same kind of seed as have been sold by Mr. Dock Johnson. Price \$1.00 per bushel. Israel Stephenson, Smithfield, N. C., R. F. D. No. 1.

COTTON SEED HULLS JUST RECEIVED. Stedman Stores, Smithfield, N. C.

YOU SHOULD HAVE A TURNER'S North Carolina Almanac early in the year. Call for one or send by some one passing to town or send us ten cents in stamps for one. Beaty & Lassiter, Smithfield, N. C.

FOR SALE—I HAVE A SOW AND pigs and 18 nice shoats. Call on or write, J. H. Whitley, Smithfield N. C., Route No. 1.

YOU MAY HAVE AN ALMANAC, but you need a North Carolina Almanac which is better. You should buy a Turner's—worth 10 cents. Beaty & Lassiter, Smithfield, N. C.

IF YOU BUY A TURNER'S ALMANAC now you will buy one each year hereafter. Thousands buy them every year and you too will find one useful in your home. Send ten cents in stamps for one and it will be mailed to you. For sale by Beaty & Lassiter, Smithfield, N. C.

Notice to Tax Payers!

The tax books will be sent out to Township Deputies on February 1, 1917. All persons wishing to pay without cost, can do so by calling at Sheriff's Office before February 1st, 1917. After that you will be expected to pay cost. Taxes are long past due, so come and pay and save cost and having a deputy to call on you for your Tax.

W. F. GRIMES, Sheriff Johnston County. January 15, 1917.

FOR SALE OR RENT.

Small farm, 23 acres cleared; six-room house, tobacco barn and out buildings; suitable for tobacco, cotton and corn; especially adapted for dairy or truck farming; on improved road, R. F. D. route; in Selma Graded School district; barely two miles from one of the best schools in Eastern, N. C., and a modern, \$50,000.00 steam-heated school building. Easy terms. Apply to Farmers Mercantile Co., Selma, N. C.

PRINTED STATIONERY ADDS

dignity to one's letters. Every farmer should have his farm named and then have his printed letter heads, note heads and envelopes. The Herald Print-shop is ready to do this class of printing on short notice.

Bethlehem's Bid on Shells for the United States Navy

To the American People: The Secretary of the Navy has awarded contracts amounting to over \$3,000,000 to a British bidder for 14 and 16-inch projectiles for the Navy because of very much lower prices offered by the English bidders. We know nothing of the basis upon which the British bids were made, but the public is entitled to know the facts upon which we ourselves bid for this work.

Two years ago we took contracts to make 4,200 14-inch shells at a price of \$1,515,000. Up to now not a single shell has been accepted by the Government, although we have expended, in wages, materials, etc., on these orders \$522,331, and we have not received a SINGLE DOLLAR on these contracts.

In addition, a literal interpretation of the contract might make us liable for penalties amounting to \$678,016. In the light of our experience, and having no other basis, we bid for 16-inch shells approximately the same rate per pound as that which the Navy Department actually awarded a 14-inch shell contract one year ago.

Bethlehem Steel Company CHAS. M. SCHWAB, Chairman EUGENE G. GRACE, President

Valuable Property For Sale!

I will offer for sale to the highest bidder, on Thursday, February 15th, 1917, at 12 o'clock M., one 50 H. P. Erie City Boiler, one 40 H. P. Eclipse Engine, one No. 2 Dewey Bros. Sawmill, three 60-Saw Gins, one Double Box Press, Munger System, Belts, Pulleys, Line Shafts, etc., all in good running order. Engine, Boiler and Sawmill practically good as new. I will also sell 18 or 20 acres of land. Sale on the premises. Lee's Cross Roads, Ingrams township. Terms made known on day of sale.

PHILIP LEE. Four Oaks, N. C., R. F. D. No. 3.

F. Hunter Creech Geo. Ross POU CREECH & POU ATTORNEYS AT LAW Smithfield, N. C. Offices formerly occupied by Edward W. Pou. One partner will always be found in the Office.

ED. A. HOLT Dealer in High Grade Coffins, Caskets and Burial Robes, Princeton, North Carolina

L. G. STEVENS Attorney At Law Office Over The Herald Office, Settlement of Estates. Smithfield, N. C.

NOTICE OF SALE.

On Saturday, February 3rd, 1917, at 11 o'clock A. M., I will offer for sale at public auction, at the home of the late J. T. Peedin, in Bentonsville township, the following personal property, to-wit: One buggy and harness, one cart, farming utensils, etc.

This January 9th, 1917. JOSEPH H. STRICKLAND, Administrator. Bentonville, N. C., Route No. 2.

NOTICE.

In order to wind up the estate of Mrs. Mary A. Noble, deceased, I will offer for sale at public auction, FOR CASH, in front of the Post Office in Selma, N. C., on Saturday, January 27th, 1917, at 12 o'clock M., FIFTY SHARES of the Capital Stock of the FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF SELMA, par value \$25.00 a share. Will sell either as a whole, or in small lots to suit purchasers. This is a splendid opportunity to invest in fine dividend paying institution.

A. M. NOBLE, Administrator. January 6th, 1917.

Another Lot Bibles

We have just received a new lot of Bibles and Testaments. Bibles from 35 cents up to \$3.00. Testaments from 10 cents up to \$1.00. Large Type Edition Testament and Psalms for 50 and 75 cents.

The Herald Office Smithfield, N. C.

INAUGURATION

President Woodrow Wilson Washington, D. C.

Monday, March 5th, 1917 \$10 Round Trip VIA SOUTHERN RAILWAY

From Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill, Burlington, and all intermediate points to Greensboro. \$10.65 from Goldsboro; \$10.70 from Selma

Round trip tickets for this occasion will be on sale March 1, 2, 3, 4, and for trains scheduled to arrive Washington by noon March 5th. Tickets will be limited returning to reach original starting point by midnight of March 10th, 1917, or by depositing ticket in Washington and paying a fee of \$1.00 final limit will be extended to April 10th, 1917.

Special Pullman Sleeping Cars will be operated from Raleigh and Durham, and from all points for special parties of twenty-five or more. For sleeping car reservations, and complete information, ask Southern Railway Agents, or address,

J. O. JONES, Traveling Passenger Agent, Raleigh, N. C.