

BONE DRY BILL A TIME SAVER.

For Local Employees of Southern Express Company, Estimating the Average Time Required to Deliver Package of Firewater at Two Minutes Over Eight Hours Will Be Saved

(Wilmington Star.) With the exception of the thirsty individuals, who will long in vain for their daily portion of bottled joy, no one will feel the effects of the "bone dry bill" when it goes into effect next October more than the officials and employees of the express companies.

Assuming that it requires on an average of two minutes to look up the customer's past orders, find his package, and have him sign for it, it will readily be seen that 8 hours and 20 minutes by a single person are daily devoted to delivery of whiskey at the local office of the express company, exclusive of the time devoted to writing money orders to be sent to various liquor dealers throughout the country.

The express toll on one quart of the snake bite remedy from Baltimore to Wilmington is 33 cents. Now assuming that the average rate of all booze imported into Wilmington is 30 cents, (the greater part of it comes from Baltimore, Chattanooga and Jacksonville), this means that the "bone dry bill" will cut about \$75 daily off the receipts of the local office. Again this is exclusive of the money order fees, which would amount to about \$5, as the express company probably gets on an average 60 per cent of the total orders used for liquor.

Now each of those 250 orders required a two-cent postage stamp to carry them to their destination, and that means that Uncle Sam will lose a five spot each day as a result of this last prohibition venture of Congress—from the Wilmington business alone.

Other local effects of the passage of the bill will be noted by the late staying club man, who will no longer find his wife lying awake to bestow on him the midnight osculation, for wife, with the bone dry bill to ease her mind and allay her suspicions, will be wandering through the enchanted valleys of dreamland, with never a thought of sampling the aroma of hubby's breath.

Then, too, the revenue officer may find that holding a Federal job is not always a picnic, for he will hear strange rumors that will cause him to slink forth in the small dark hours of the night and seek various nooks and crannies in the ravines and gullies that border the swamp lands.

Perhaps some low rakish looking schooner will drop anchor just outside the three mile limit, and send a message to the city with joyous news to the thirsty citizens. And then there will be much coming and going from city to boat and when the strange craft turns her nose once more into the seas and heads for another port, there will be many wishes for a safe voyage and an early return. All this musing, mind you, is based on a vague perhaps.

Eat Salt and Walk Twenty Miles.

The Germans have discovered a pleasant new medicine, cheap but powerful—a teaspoonful of table salt. Each soldier is given his morning dose in a small glass of water, and, strange to say, it carries him almost buoyantly on a twenty-mile march. Company Surgeon Link of the German Army gives a report of his discovery in the Munich Medical Weekly.

Sweat contains a great deal of salt, and as the blood contains only about twenty grams of salt altogether,—about as much as a person eats every day in his food,—Dr. Link decided that sweat carries from the body a strength-giving chemical.

He experimented on soldiers, who often lose as much as twenty grams of salt from perspiration on a hot march. At 5:45 one morning he gave one hundred soldiers the dose. Marching twenty miles in damp, sultry weather, they proved the power of salt. The hundred salted soldiers were less fagged than the rest of the regiment, and they had perspired only a fraction as much.—Every Week.

It was understood that the constitutional amendments recently adopted in North Carolina would cut out the introduction and cumbering of the legislative calendars and the taking up of the time of the General Assembly with hundreds of local bills, but it appears that some of the members of the Legislature did not so understand. Are they mistaken or are all the rest of us mistaken about the amendments? Or were the amendments really adopted?—Wilmington Star.

Some Facts on Dunn's Bonded Indebtedness.

Dunn Guide, 21st. Last week The Guide reproduced an article from The Smithfield Herald in which The Herald published an interview with Judge J. F. Wilson who happened to be passing through that town, regarding the street paving in Dunn. The Herald stated that Mr. Wilson said three hundred thousand dollars in bonds had been issued for street paving in Dunn. The Guide made some comment after publishing the article from The Herald, and said according to this, the town was bonded for something like four hundred thousand dollars. We have made a personal investigation and find that there is an error in this report, and wish to place the facts before our people as they appear on the minutes of the Clerk of the town.

The Guide has always stood for every forward movement of the town since it was established twenty-three years ago and we want to be absolutely fair, giving the town credit for every improvement it has. However, we do believe, and have contended all the while, that to pave every street in the town of Dunn at this time, is too great an undertaking, and we are still of that opinion.

In the following statement we have charged the bonded indebtedness up against the town, and have given the town credit for every improvement that it owns to this date, and we find it stands like this:

Table with columns for item and amount. Includes sections for BONDED INDEBTEDNESS, CREDIT FOR THE TOWN, and Credit town Improvement.

The amount of bonds issued for street paving appears to be \$140,000.00. The city fathers pay interest on these bonds at 5 per cent. The property owners pay \$93,333.34 of this amount and pay 6 per cent, thus the town makes one per cent interest on the amount paid by the citizens, if they see fit to fix the interest at this rate, which would be reasonable.

In 1916 the taxes in Dunn amounted to about fifteen thousand dollars, and there will be a slight increase in this for 1917. Part of the above amounts of the indebtedness of the town is figured at 6 per cent and part of it at 5 per cent. The interest on the entire amount figures close around thirteen thousand dollars annually.

We are glad to say that all the items shown in this indebtedness is for permanent improvements and investments in permanent improvements is not lost. If our town has no backset it will have paid out on its street paving in ten years and the improvements will be here.

Senator Parker.

Only two Democratic and two Republican Senators are members of the present Senate who were members two years ago. One of these Republican members is Senator Ezra Parker, of Benson, who jointly with Senator John A. McLeod, represents the fourteenth senatorial district, composed of the counties of Harnett, Johnston, Lee and Sampson. Senator Parker is a graduate of the University of North Carolina and practices law in his home town. Senator Parker enjoys the distinction of being the minority leader of the upper body of the Legislature. The fact that he has been returned to the Senate indicates the confidence which is reposed in him by his native county.—News and Observer.

Ninety-nine and In College.

Four years ago, when Dr. David Jordan Higgins was youngster of ninety-five, his family missed him one morning; and when they found him again, the rascal had slipped over to the University of Southern California and registered in the Department of Philosophy. Some people learn slowly: Dr. Higgins is now ninety-nine, and still feels that he has something to learn; whereas our shipping clerk is only seventeen and knows everything.—Every Week.

FIRING COST OF ONE TORPEDO.

Expense of Dreadnaught Broadside Equals Average Income of Twenty-five Years.

Every time Uncle Sam fires a torpedo, zip! zip!—two houses and lots! Eleven men must work a year at the average American wage to pay the price thereof.

A single broadside from the dreadnaught Arizona means the income of the average workman for twenty-five years!

That's the way our money will be shot away in case of war with Germany.

A 14-inch shell weighs 1,400 pounds and costs \$700.

A 12-inch shell, already considered one of our "smaller" shots, costs \$600.

The Arizona has 12 14-inch guns, all of which, together with some of her smaller cannon, can be fired at once—at a cost of \$15,000.

Ten 14-inch shells or one torpedo are counted on to sink a battleship.

The cost is the same for ammunition—7,000.

But the torpedo is the cheaper way because of the lessened expenses of firing; also the lesser risk.

A torpedo is really an electric launch; it leaves the torpedo-tube with the propellers working, and it will keep on going till the motor runs down—unless it hits its mark.

When it hits—bang!

It is fitted with a gyroscope, to keep it steady in its course, and two propellers moving in opposite directions. The motive power is electricity or compressed air.

Torpedo parts are gauged to as near exact size as possible—two thousandths of an inch. It is as delicate a mechanism as the machines that record earth tremors.

Compared to a torpedo, a wrist watch is as delicate as a coal wagon. Copper and nitroglycerin are what make torpedoes costly.

There are cannon shells that cost more than torpedoes.

The German 42-centimeter shell costs \$9,000.

A rifle cartridge costs a nickel. That shows the relative importance of the rifle in modern war.

Fourteen-inch guns throw projectiles 14 or 16 times. They will pierce an 11-inch Krupp steel plate at seven miles.

Twenty-inch guns will shoot just as far, but will pierce the 11-inch plate only at five miles.

When big guns are fired every man on the battleship has to stuff his ears with cotton, and touch the deck with his toes and fingertips, keeping his mouth open. This is to prevent broken bones and lost teeth.—Washington Dispatch.

The Only Absolute Monarchs.

The Empress Zeoditu of Abyssinia, or Ethiopia, as the Bible calls it, sits on the throne once occupied by the Queen of Sheba, and claims to be a lineal descendant of that famous lady who paid King Solomon a visit. She is opposed to railroads and other twentieth century signs of progress.

The ruler of Afghanistan, Habib Ullah Khan, is absolute monarch of six million people. He plays golf and dresses like an European.

One of the proudest of the absolute monarchs is Youssef, the Sultan of Morocco. He wears red rubies on his fingers and bracelets on his toes.

Along the northeast coast of Arabia is a country called Oman. It has a population of 500,000 and is ruled by Sultan Seyyid Fossil Bin Turki, who has an income of \$250,000 a year. His country has one open port, Muscat.

The Sultan of Siam, V'f M'a Vajeravudh, rules over six million subjects and has an income of three millions. It is said that he would be willing to exchange places with any American young man, rather than be connected with 1203 brothers and sisters, and 604 step-mothers. According to the ancient customs of his country he must marry one of his sisters, before he can marry other wives. Rather than do this he remains single.

The sixth of these absolute monarchs is Prince Monaco who rules the little kingdom of Monte Carlo. He has 22,000 subjects. They should be happy, because they have to pay no taxes. However, they are not allowed to go near the gambling tables which have made Monte Carlo famous. The Prince has an income of one million a year, all made through the roulette wheels. The gamblers of the entire world visit Monte Carlo, and the daily average of suicides is five, making about two thousand a year.

The rotation bill has met with defeat in the Legislature. The Observer believes the inclusion of county officers in the measure is to be credited with its unpopularity. If it had applied to State officers alone, it would have gone through with a whoop. It seems that something is always bobbing up to save the State House scalp.—Charlotte Observer.

THE LEGISLATURE AT WORK.

The Senate last Friday passed the Brummitt-McLendon educational bill which had already passed the House. The bill provides that in every county each party shall at the regular nomination of county officers nominate a member of the County Board of Education, and that the General Assembly at its next session shall appoint one of the men nominated to be a member of the Board. This shall be done every two years, the man appointed serving a term of six years. This act does not apply to the six counties that now elect their Boards by a popular vote. The measure is in our opinion only a makeshift, and is no improvement over the system now in vogue. However, it will give those who are clamoring to have the Boards elected by a popular vote a say-so to a certain extent as to who shall serve them.

Senator McLeod's bill to allow the people of Sampson County to elect their Board of Education by popular vote was defeated by the Senate, the vote being 31 to 17. Eight Democrats voted for the bill.

The Stubbs bill to submit the question of a Constitutional Convention to a vote of the people passed the Senate by a vote of 43 to 4. This bill provides for an election on the question at the next regular election in 1918. At the same time each county will elect a member of the Constitutional Convention, their election to be void in case the convention is defeated.

One of the most important measures considered in the House Friday was the Warren Judicial District bill which provided for the creation of four additional districts and dividing the State into an Eastern and a Western circuit. The bill was defeated by a vote of 61 to 44.

Mr. Doughton introduced a new measure providing for the appointment of two emergency superior court judges, one from the East and one from the West, the appointment to be made by the Governor. These are to be available in case of illness of regular judges or in case of congested docket.

It's a dull day when the Legislature does not propose some measure that will provide for an election of some kind. A measure was gotten through a few days ago providing that any county that so desires may hold an election to decide whether a tax shall be levied on dogs. Just imagine a big county like Johnston voting on the question as to whether the dogs of the county shall be taxed! But then, we should remember that men who are sent to the Legislature must do something even though it be nothing more than getting through a dog law. We do not recall the name of the author of the dog law, but think it was a Westerner.

Once in awhile a man holding a seat in the General Assembly grows big enough to vote on a question without considering its political effect. When the bill providing that Sampson County elect its Board of Education by the vote of the people came up eight Democrats voted for the measure, knowing that the people of Sampson would surely have a Republican Board of Education if the bill should pass. They were Blue, Holderness, Jones, Linn, Persac, Scales, Thompson and Tucker. But the bill was defeated.

PLAINFIELD SCHOOL NEWS.

Mr. Roy Creech and sister, Miss Clia, of the Brogden section, spent Saturday night with their sister, Mrs. J. E. Tyner.

Mr. Will J. Wright, of Princeton, spent Sunday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Wright.

Mr. Braxton Atkinson, of Wayne, spent Sunday evening with his mother, Mrs. John Atkinson.

Messrs. W. H. Woodard, Rance Tyner, Jake Creech and Willie Creech, of Brogden section, spent Thursday night in our section fishing. They reported good luck.

Miss Ethel Faircloth, of Brogden section, spent part of last week with her uncle, Mr. Lonnie Moore.

Master Jinnie Alford spent Sunday night in Princeton.

Leacy May, the three-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Moore, died Saturday evening, after an illness of about three weeks with measles, pneumonia and sore throat. She leaves a father and mother, two sisters, one brother and a host of friends to mourn their loss. The community extends their sympathy to the bereaved ones.

On Monday, February 12, 1917, the teacher and scholars of Plain school organized a society, with Thomas Wright President; Lela Rhodes, Secretary; Annie Corbett to write locals; Kizzie Williford to write jokes, and Lena Tyner to write advertisements. X. Y. Z.

100 RAIN COATS At Cost! Original Prices \$3.00 to \$10.00 Now Going At \$2.25 to \$7.75 N. B. Grantham Head-To-Foot Outfitter for Men and Boys Smithfield, N. C.

Farmers Commercial Bank Benson, North Carolina FINANCIAL STATEMENT FEBRUARY 6, 1917 ASSETS: Loans \$129,146.36, Stocks and Bonds 4,097.00, Due by Banks and Bankers 37,560.57, Real Estate 4,000.00, Furniture and Fixtures 3,125.90, CASH: Currency and Gold \$4,373.50, Silver and Coins 902.77, Cash Items NONE, 5,276.27, Overdrafts NONE, \$183,206.10. LIABILITIES: Capital Stock \$50,000.00, Undivided Profits 10,487.27, Due Depositors 122,718.83, \$183,206.10. WE HEREBY CERTIFY that we have made an examination of the books and records of the FARMERS COMMERCIAL BANK at Benson, N. C., and have proved the correctness of the above statement, and have made a thorough test of the accounting of the funds of the Bank, and find that the officials in charge have properly accounted for all funds under their care, and that the general conduct of the business compares most favorably with that of many of the largest banks examined by us.

Send your orders for Job Printing to Beaty & Lassiter, Smithfield.

INAUGURATION President Woodrow Wilson Washington, D. C. Monday, March 5th, 1917 \$10.05 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.