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PROSPECTS GOOD FOR PUBLIC BUILDING

In a Letter to Judge Brooks Congressman Pou Says He Will Do All He Can to Get an Appropriation for Post Office Building for Smithfield. Judge Brooks and the Chamber of Commerce Solidly Behind the Movement.

Judge F. H. Brooks, Acting Secretary Smithfield Chamber of Commerce, has been quietly working for the proposed public building or post office building, for Smithfield since the first announcement in the papers that Congressman Edward W. Pou had asked for an appropriation to purchase a site and erect a postoffice—and, in fact, for quite a while before. At the meeting of the citizens December 19, Judge Brooks suggested the feasibility of procuring such a building. Since his telegram to Congressman Pou, as printed in these columns several days ago, Judge Brooks wrote Congressman Pou urging him to exert every possible effort to get the appropriation made at this time.

Judge Brooks is in receipt of a letter from Congressman Pou in which he says: "The people of our splendid little town may rest assured I will do all in my power to get an appropriation for a nice building. Sooner or later the bill will go through, but our people must not get impatient, and I believe they will not. The most I can hope for during this session, during the closing days, is to get a favorable report from the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds giving us an appropriation to buy a site. I feel reasonably sure of this much. You can see at once the importance of this. It commits the government, in a measure, to the project; that is, as far it rests in the power of a committee of Congress to commit the government. I think it entirely possible I will be able to get the appropriation during the next Congress, which will, I think, undoubtedly be called in extra session during the summer."

"I have served the people of the Fourth district a long time. No man can get anywhere in politics unless he has the support of his home people. This has always been given to me without stint. I appreciate that support more than anything on earth. I feel a pride in getting this building, which I hope to leave as a sort of monument to my service in behalf of our people."

"I have often said, and I mean it, I believe we have as good a town as there is of the same size in the United States. We have all the comforts of the city, and yet are relieved of a good many of the disadvantages of the city. The spirit of our people is very fine. You may rest assured I will do my best to get a building of which we will all feel proud."

As stated in Judge Brooks' telegram to Congressman Pou, this building would be a deserving monument to the faithful and efficient service of Mr. Pou to his country for nearly a quarter of a century, and a fitting recognition of the progressive spirit of the new Smithfield. In view of the showing made by the Smithfield post office last year, and the letter from Mr. Pou above quoted, the prospect for a postoffice building at Smithfield in the near future appear bright.

A Narrow Escape.

The Government is forced to put up \$1,000,000,000 to make good its guarantee of wheat prices for the crops of 1918 and 1919. Just what might have happened had the Government undertaken to guarantee a price on cotton—say, of 30 cents—may be left to the imagination. The Southern farmer stands to lose because of successful opposition to the proposition to fix a price on cotton, but, after all, it is probably to his advantage, because if a price had been fixed on the staple, and the government were forced to make good its guarantee on the same that has been necessitated in the case of wheat, all the profits he might have made on price-fixed cotton would have been taken away from him in the imposition of make-good taxes. It was a narrow escape for both the farmer and the nation.—Charlotte Observer.

Casualties on Archangel Front.

Washington, Feb. 12.—A cablegram today from the headquarters of the American Expeditionary forces in Russia give the total casualties among the Americans in Russia to February 9 as 10 officers and 314 men killed, died of wounds and disease, and wounded and missing in action. The total list is as follows: Killed in action, two officers and sixty men. Died of wounds, ten officers and fourteen men. Died of accident, five men. Wounded severely, two officers and sixty-seven men.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS PLAN

Draft Will Be Considered by Plenary Session This Week—Wilson to Invite Nations to Join.

Paris, Feb. 10.—Committee reports clarifying certain passages in ambiguous language in the plan for the society of nations were presented to the special commission on the formation of the society at today's meeting. The reports enabled the commission virtually to complete the plan. This assures consideration of the plan at a plenary session of the Peace Conference this week before President Wilson's departure.

Wilson to Issue Call.

The plan is understood to leave the formation of the permanent international court of justice to the society after its organization. The constitution of the society itself will be written by the representatives of the greater powers now here. Credit for the plan of the organization will be given to the United States.

President Wilson has been accorded the honor of being designated as the one who shall issue the formal call to the nations of the world to join the society of nations after its machinery has been set up by the Peace Conference, it was stated today.

The commission now working on the draft of the constitution of the society is understood to have approved the plan which provided that the President of the United States perform this function, it being considered that the distinction was his due.

ASK FOR \$348,000 FOR NORMAL

Budget for Two Years Presented by Committee to General Assembly.

Appropriation of \$348,000 for maintenance and support of the State Normal and Industrial College during the next two years was yesterday requested of the State by a committee of the trustees of the college who appeared before the joint appropriation committee of the General Assembly. The committee was favorably impressed with the report submitted by the trustees.

In presenting figures upon which the needs of the institution are based, the board allows a ten per cent increase in teachers' salaries of 1920. The appropriation needed for 1919 is \$168,000 and for 1920, 180,000. The report presented to the committee, however, calls attention to the fact that a note of \$10,000 must be paid in 1919 and one for \$5,000 in 1920, the money being required to help pay for 10 acres of vacant land purchased by the Alumnae Association in order to protect the regular college property.—News and Observer, 13th.

SOLDIERS RETURN FROM FRANCE IN STEADY FLOW.

Since Signing of the Armistice 287,332 Have Embarked for America. Over Million Mustered Out.

Washington, Feb. 12.—From the signing of the armistice to February 8, 287,332 American troops in France and Great Britain had embarked for the United States, while up to February 10 67,454 officers and 1,069,116 men had been demobilized in this country. Total arrivals of overseas troops up to February 7, were 215,749.

These figures were made public today by Secretary Baker together with others relating to the number of sick and wounded now in France and the number returned home. Men in France being treated for disease on February 1, totalled 62,561 and those suffering from wounds were 24,434. The aggregate of 87,045 was 4,688 less than in the preceding week and 106,403 less than the number in hospitals overseas on November 14.

Since the end of hostilities 53,042 sick and wounded have arrived in this country, bringing the total since the beginning of the war to 63,160. On February 1, the occupied beds in hospitals in the United States numbered 60,777, while there were 47,048 vacant beds available for returning cases.—Greensboro News.

Fourth Trial in Senate.

The Senate first voted on the Susan B. Anthony amendment in 1887, 15 Senators being recorded for it and 34 against it. The next vote was in 1914, Senators dividing 35 for and 34 against. On October 1, 1918, the vote was 54 to 30, or two less than the necessary majority.

The one vote gained Monday was that of Senator Pollock, of South Carolina, Democrat, who spoke in vigorous support of the measure. Senator Pollock succeeded former Senator Bennett, who voted last October in opposition, and will himself retire next month.

HIGH WHEAT PRICES HAVE ILL EFFECT

There is a Big Glut in Wheat Markets of the World—Great Surplus on Hand and the Great Coming Crop Can't Be Consumed—Low Price Help Credit.

Paris, Feb. 11.—The American treasury department favors the release of the government control of wheat so that the price may reach a normal supply and demand basis. This would entail a big drop in the price and a great government loss because of the \$2.26 a bushel price guaranteed by the government to farmers for the crops of 1918 and 1919.

That policy is favored generally by American economic representatives here, who desire to see the normal reached in every way possible.

But since this measure is international in effect and since England and Canada also have guaranteed prices and England has subsidized the bakers in order to reduce the cost of bread to its public, it is likely the supreme economic council will have to pass on the whole question before the policy of the American government is finally decided.

There are many arguments for the treasury department plan. As the result of the artificial stimulation of wheat production, there is a big glut in the markets of the world, and the sooner consumption is stimulated by low prices the less wheat will have to be destroyed or fed cattle in 1919. Unless the present surplus is disposed of, facilities will be lacking to store and handle the market crop of 1919.

Consequently, the Americans, who thought the guaranteed wheat price was necessary to farmers under war conditions now fear a large loss in any event.

The great surplus on hand and the great coming crop cannot be consumed at the artificial price now prevailing. It must be destroyed or wasted or carried over into the period when the guarantee of price ends, and in any case a huge loss is certain. It is considered better to face the loss now and give the world the cheap food it needs.

Another argument for letting the price drop is that prices must be generally be got down before a healthy credit situation can be restored.

Not only is credit scarce, but credit does not go far with prices inflated, often artificially, as the wheat price is. The price of wheat has a large sympathetic effect, especially on all food prices.

For example one difficulty in feeding central Europe is the credit question.

If the wheat price falls half way, only one-half of the credit now necessary for feeding central Europe would be needed.

An immense market exists in Germany and Russia for wheat. An American army surgeon returning from the occupied areas says that the bread eaten in Germany is so full of coarse substances as to cause chronic dysentery and permanently to impair the health of the population.

Figures show the glut wheat crop of America for 1918 to be the second largest in our history, 971,000,000 bushels. The 971,000,000 gave an exportable surplus of 400,000,000, enough to feed 60,000,000.

Of this surplus only 40,000,000 was exported up to January. The crop next year will be much greater because American winter wheat is 16 per cent greater than last year and it is estimated that the spring crop will be 1,100,000,000 bushels, giving a surplus of 500,000,000.

Before the war the United States never furnished more than 63,000,000 bushels a year to Europe.

Australia also now has 200,000,000 bushels surplus and Argentina 60,000,000 bushels. This low priced surplus is entering the European market.—Clinton W. Gilbert in Greensboro News.

JUDGE M. H. JUSTICE DEAD.

An Acute Attack of Indigestion at Asheville Court Takes Him Away. Seventy-five Years Old.

Asheville, N. C., Feb. 12.—Following an acute attack of indigestion Judge M. H. Justice, aged 75 years, for sixteen years a leading member of the Superior Court bench in North Carolina, died suddenly in this city this morning at 8:45 in a local hotel. He came here this week from his home in Rutherfordton and held court up until last night.

Preaching at Fair View.

Rev. C. E. Clark will preach at Fair View, near Mr. J. W. Bailey's Sunday, the 16th, at 3:30 o'clock. The public is invited to come and bring others.

STACY'S ROAD BILL PASSED BY SENATE

Senate, Turns Down Stevens-Scales Bill—Connor Introduces Woman Suffrage Bill in the Senate—State-Wide Stock Bill Introduced.

(News and Observer, 13th.)

By a vote of 30 to 18 the Stacy substitute bill for the Stacy-Scales road measure was passed on its first reading by the Senate last night following a debate lasting for six hours. The essential changes in the Stacy substitute are the adoption of the present State automobile license tax, an increase on the tax on trucks, permission to the State to issue bonds not exceeding four and a half million dollars during the next two years to meet the Federal road allotment and the reduction of the State Highway Commission to three members following the expiration of the terms of those now in office in April.

The Stacy substitute following its completion of readings in the Senate today and tomorrow will go to the House of Representatives.

Senator Connor put in another suffrage bill in the Senate yesterday, this being a proposal to amend the constitution to give the women the same rights to vote that men now have. He would submit the question to the people at the next general election.

Senator Ferebee introduced a State-wide stock law, which would allow, however, any county to vote itself out of the jurisdiction of the act at the next election. In other words, it puts the shoe on the other foot or changes the presumption as William Jennings Bryan would say, so that a county must show cause why it desires to remain without the stock law.

Senator Brown introduced two health measures, one being to increase the amount of money to be used in rural sanitation work to \$36,000 a year and the other providing for the physical examination of children. The latter provides that children shall be given a physical examination at least once in every three years and the results recorded on blanks to be furnished by the State Board of Health, and the parents are to be notified of any defects found. Senator Scales put in a bill to require the licensing of chiropractors.

Head Man in All Affairs.

Again the Allied Nations have given token of more confidence in President Wilson than some of the blooming statesmen in his own country. They have decided that it shall be President Wilson who is to make for formal call upon the nations of the world to join the Society of Nations after the machinery is set up by the Peace Conference. The responsible parties to the forming of the Society are of opinion that this distinction is due the President of the United States, and insist that he accept it as such. If there has been any possible chance lost of impressing upon President Wilson and the world the fact that he is the guiding hand in all details working up to the establishment of peace, the fact appears to have been overlooked by the news agents.—Charlotte Observer.

Postmaster for Half Century.

Washington, N. C., Feb. 10.—Captain E. D. Springer last week celebrated his fiftieth anniversary as postmaster of South Creek. In completing this long term of service Captain Springer has established a record which probably cannot be duplicated by any other man in the country.

Captain Springer is 81 years old and is in good health. He was one of the first settlers in the South Creek section and helped to build it up. At the time when he moved to that part of the county there were only one or two houses within a radius of thirty miles. He was appointed the first postmaster of that section and he has held the office ever since, both Republican and Democratic Congressmen having appointed him. Captain Springer is a Republican in politics.—News and Observer.

Death of Rev. Sam Hanff.

Many people in Smithfield and vicinity will learn with regret of the death of Rev. Sam Hanff, which occurred in Statesville Wednesday morning, following an operation for appendicitis. He was buried yesterday afternoon in Raleigh. He was 38 years old and had been a minister of the Episcopal church for about fifteen years. He was rector at one time of St. Paul's Episcopal church at Smithfield. He is survived by a young widow and three small children, also his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Hanff, of Raleigh.

EBERT PRESIDENT OF GERMANY

Of the 397 Votes Cast, He is Given 277—Accepts the Election—Second Reading of the Provisional Constitution Brings Out First Division.

Basle, Feb. 11.—The German national assembly today elected Friedrich Ebert president of the German state by a vote of 277 out of 379 votes—a majority of 102. Herr Ebert accepted the election. Count von Posadowski-Wehner received 49 votes.

Wiemar, Feb. 11.—The session of the national assembly today was a tedious one except that it brought out the first exhibition of a difference of opinion. The second reading of the provisional constitution came up for debate and it was the only business of the day. For the first hour and a half the members debated, championing the measure of offering minor objections.

Herr Labbe, majority socialist; Herr von Prager, democrat; Herr Delbrueck, conservative; Herr Heim, centrist, and others spoke in favor of the constitution. The independents at first raised objection only to the frequent use of the word "empire" in the document and requested the substitution of "republic" throughout the draft offered for acceptance. Much time was wasted in this procedure.

The first prolonged fight was against secret agreement clauses, but this was mild compared to the storm that came later. Centrist and conservative speakers declared the provisional constitution was open to various objections more or less technical, but that they were willing to accept it, as Herr Delbrueck said, for the sake of unity and the urgent need of getting an established government in working shape for its effect on Germany's enemies.

It was Herr Cann, who acted as spokesman for the independents in demanding that "republic" be substituted for "empire." He spoke so long the house began to waver in its attention until with waving arms he launched a veiled threat against the entire right of the house as follows:

"If the government does not in its provisional constitution make a clear break with the old order of things, nobody in Germany or outside will believe the revolution has accomplished anything."

Herr Cahn concluded with an appeal for the construction of the constitution in such a manner of wording as to leave no possible doubt in any minds that the monarchy was banished forever. Unless this were done, he added, "revolution, which is nourished by lack of raw materials, will live again." The speaker concluded by warning his hearers to "remember the past and make a new government and do not make the mistakes of the old."—Associated Press.

FEDERAL BUILDINGS FOR THREE TOWNS ASKED.

Godwin Introduces Bills for Lumberton, Dunn, and Southport—Webb Wants German Cannon.

Washington, Feb. 11.—Representative Godwin is making a strong pull for public buildings at Lumberton, Dunn and Southport. He introduced bills today for \$10,000 for a building at Lumberton, which had \$18,209 postal receipts last year, and \$115,000 for site and building at Dunn, which had postal receipts amounting to \$12,609 last year. Lumberton has a site and Southport would erect its building at Fort Johnson.

John A. Currie has been recommended for postmaster at Lumberton Bridge.

Representative Godwin has two vacancies at Annapolis and examinations will be held in April. He has first and second alternate place to James C. McDairmid, Jr., of Fayetteville. An examination will be held March 18.

Representative Webb introduced bills today for captured German cannon for Shelby, Lincolnton, Davidson College, the Deaf and Dumb school at Morganton and Gaston county.—H. E. C. Bryant in Charlotte Observer.

\$30,000 for Atlantic Christian College

By the terms of the will of the late Mr. Charles N. Nurney the Atlantic Christian College of this city is the beneficiary of \$30,000 subject to an annual annuity of \$600, payable \$50 per month, to Mr. Nurney's sister, Mrs. Stephenson, of Norfolk. At her death the entire sum reverts to the college. In addition to this bequest he leaves \$2,500 each to Misses Martha and Sudia Hackney. The Christian church receives \$11,000 and Mr. Douglas Hackney is named as administrator.—Wilson Times.

STRICTLY BONE DRY. POOLE SUGGESTS

State-Wide Prohibition Measure of Superintendent Davis Starts in the House—Doughton Presents the Revenue Bill—Secretary Daniels Will Speak to Joint Session Thursday at Noon.

(News and Observer, 12th.)

Ethyl alcohol for medicinal use, wine for sacramental purposes and cider for conversion into vinegar would be the only things of spirituous, fermented or intoxicating nature any person may have in North Carolina if the strictly bone dry bill drawn by Superintendent R. L. Davis, of the Anti-Saloon League, becomes a law. The measure was introduced in the lower branch of the General Assembly yesterday by Representative Poole, of Montgomery.

The revenue bill was also introduced yesterday by Governor Doughton after it had been approved by the Finance Committee in a special meeting at noon. Meeting at 2 o'clock with prayer by Rev. D. N. Caviness, the House worked for exactly an hour and then adjourned out of sympathy for cotton conference which reconvened at three.

Announcement was made by Mr. Mull, of the House Invitation Committee, that Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels would speak to a joint session of the General Assembly in the House Thursday at noon. At the instance of Senator W. B. Cooper, of New Hanover, the House and Senate also passed yesterday a resolution inviting W. P. G. Harding, governor of the federal reserve system, to speak to a joint session of the General Assembly Friday. Thirty-two new bills were introduced in the lower branch yesterday including one by Representative Pharr to make the carnal knowledge of a married woman, knowing her to be such, a misdemeanor.

House Accepts Amendment. On motion of Representative McCoin, author of the bill, the House yesterday concurred in the Senate amendment to the legal advertising bill striking from the measure the provision that every publisher should file with the clerk of the court a sworn statement of his current commercial rate. Practically everything else passed yesterday either amended or repealed road laws in different counties and provided new means for highway maintenance—all of them local.

As introduced by Governor Doughton, after the approval of the committee, there are many changes in the revenue bill looking to raising more funds to operate the State government on. Considerable alteration has been made in the inheritance tax regulations and in some instances privilege taxes have been raised.

The levy for State purposes will be 11 2-3 cents and for the schools, conforming with the Bryant educational bill to provide a six months school term in every county, thirty-two cents with four cents for pensions. The equalization and building funds of the educational department are cared for in the thirty-two cent levy and the net increase for school purposes is a fraction over three cents, or, in round numbers, about \$325,000.

More From Inheritance Taxes.

Among the changes in the provisions of the bill relating to the inheritance tax, the committee has added one that will make stock owned by a resident of another State in a foreign corporation owning property in this State subject to the tax where the holding of the corporation here is in excess of fifty per cent of its total property. The Corporation Commission is given the right to employ special agents or examiners to investigate estates behind the reporting of executors and administrators and for the purpose three per cent of the inheritance tax is set aside. Provision is also made in the bill to allow clerks of the court, even where they are on a salary basis, to receive graduated fees for collection of inheritance taxes.

Exemption of \$1,000 for unmarried and \$1,500 for married persons is made in the income tax clause, the last applying to widows or widowers with child or children.

The Gentleman.

If a man be gracious and courteous to strangers, it shows he is a citizen of the world, and that his heart is no island cut off from other lands, but a continent that joins to them.

If he easily pardons and remits offences, it shows that his mind is planted above injuries, so that he cannot be shot. If he be thankful for small benefits, it shows that he weighs men's minds, and not their trash.—Bacon.