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AMERICAN SCHOONER SUNK IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

ALL ON BOARD WERE AMERICANS THE CREW LANDED--NO LIVES LOST

Officials at Washington to Determine How the Destruction of the American Schooner Will Effect the German Situation.

THE PRESIDENT TO GO BEFORE THE CONGRESS

Washington, Feb. 14.—On the basis of news despatches, the government began seeking official information of the destruction and the sinking of the American schooner Lyman M. Law by a submarine to determine at once how the case effects the delicate situation between Germany and the United States.

The despatch was taken to indicate that the Law sunk in the Mediterranean where Austria also is conducting submarine operations.

The main points to be determined are whether the ship was attacked without warning, whether she carried contraband and whether any American lives were lost.

It is expected that the destruction of the schooner Law will turn out to be "the overt act" of the submarine campaign will have to depend on the exact facts.

New York, Feb. 14.—The Lyman M. Law carried a crew of nine men in addition to her captain, all Americans, and it was loaded with lumber materials used in Italy for manufacture of lemon crates, according to the schooner's agents here, the Maritime Transportation Company.

May Be Judge

Hon Harry Stubbs, representative from Martin, is coming in for many honors during the session of the Legislature. Just a short while ago, he was prominently mentioned for lieutenant governor at the next election, and now his friends are naming him for one of the new judgeships to be appointed under the provisions of the bill introduced by Senator Lindsay Warren of this district. Friends of Mr. Stubbs in Williamston and in the county, too, would be pleased to see him in a judicial capacity, as he has the ripe legal mind, a high sense of justice largely tempered with mercy, and would carry to the bench that dignity with which the office should always be invested. As Mr. Stubbs would still be in his beloved county of Martin should he receive the appointment, he would more readily accept the high honor, it is thought.

What is needed here is better and more hotel accommodations.

Splendidly Equipped

The reporter paid a visit to the offices of Dr. P. B. Cone this week, and noted the carefully planned arrangements for the practice of dentistry in which he has been engaged here for more than two years. Recently he has moved his offices from the Godard Building to that of the F. & M. Bank, where he has three rooms—reception dental and laboratory. All modern equipments are installed and both water and electricity add to the convenience of the whole. The interior of the rooms have been made attractive as well as comfortable, and there are no more conveniently furnished dental parlors than these in Eastern Carolina. The larger towns and cities of North Carolina do not surpass the arrangements, and the professional services of Dr. Cone meet the requirements of his patients in every particular. Among the best assets of Williamston, these dental parlors may be named.

On the same floor and greatly augmenting the pleasure of those who may desire to come to town and shop or to spend the day are the rest rooms which are being provided by the F. & M. Bank. When completed and furnished, Williamston will be in the list with towns containing thousands of people.

First Depositor

It may be interesting to note by those who have taken account of the consolidation of two banks here, and the organization of a new one, that W. C. Manning was the first depositor in the Peoples Bank and also in the Martin County Savings and Trust Company. Both banks are getting in shape for extensive business, and the future looks roseate for all three institutions in the town.

High School Bank

Among the many things which are interesting the pupils of High School here, is the Bank organized by those who are taking the business course under Supt. Jerome. It is a real bank, too, with officers and deposits, which are placed in the F. & M. Bank for safety. The object is to teach by practical means, the system of banking. Herman Taylor is President, William Manning, Vice-President and Roland Crawford, Cashier. The young bankers are very enthusiastic, and are endeavoring earnestly to acquaint themselves with every method which will prove helpful. The business course, which is one among the many advantages of the Williamston Graded School, adds greatly to the efficiency of the present system under Supt. Jerome and Principal Bundy.

The roads continue to be almost impassable, and automobiles remain under shelter, and gasoline in the tanks.

MRS. A. R. DUNNING HOSTESS AT CLUB

Had good old Saint Valentine assumed his fleshly form again and dropped down into the rooms of the Lotus Club on Tuesday afternoon, it would have made his heart glad to have seen that the sentiment, which by his kindly acts he put in the breasts of men, women, boys and girls of the world, held a strong place in Williamston. For hearts were flung everywhere and beautiful decorations emphasized the spirit of the hostess and the season, and all things were lovely for the entertainment of dozens of women. Mrs. A. R. Dunning, who is one of the charter members of the Embroidery Club, planned to dispense pleasure to it and a number of others, and more than seventy-five were invited to enjoy the hours with her at the rooms of the Lotus Club. Those who desired, carried work bags and spent the time in embroidery or some form of needlecraft; others played rook and cards; while some sang or rendered selections on the piano. It can be said without question, that Mrs. Dunning is the most gracious of entertainers in the town, as she always plans to have with her scores of friends, who find great joy as her guests.

Before the hour for departure, the guests were served salad, sandwiches, pickles, olives, saltines, ice cream and cakes, in which the color scheme of white and red was beautifully blended. After the guests had partaken of the delicious menu, quite a number of the members of the Lotus Club and their friends were invited to enjoy the good things provided by the hostess, and in this way she made a multitude happy.

To Marry Tomorrow

Mr. Burrous A. Critcher left yesterday afternoon for Cardiff, Maryland, where tomorrow afternoon, he will wed Miss Ozella Proctor. The marriage will be a quiet home affair, and after the ceremony, Mr. and Mrs. Critcher will leave for Washington City for sight-seeing before coming home.

The bride is well known here, where she was with Harrison Bros., for two seasons, and made many friends during her residence in the town, and these are pleased to know that she will make her future home in Williamston. They will reside with the parents of the groom on North Watts Street.

Christmas Savings

Monday, Christmas Savings accounts were opened at the Farmers & Merchants Bank, and the entire force in the counting room was busy all the day. The saving idea seemed to be strong in the minds of old and young, white and colored. From present prospects Christmas money will be more plentiful than ever in this community. Those who failed to enter the club, will regret it when the Christmas spirit begins to move within them.

Ash Wednesday on the 21st.

THIEVES MAKE ANOTHER RAID ON DEPOT

Thieves have again invaded the sanctity of the booze department of the A. C. L. Station here, and carried away much of the most-to-be-desired stuff. Perhaps, the intruders were the same gang which has been operating in many places in the East, for they surely could find out that Williamston is never "dry." The stuff is getting so scarce now, and difficult to secure, it might be well for the various stations to have a safety vault made of concrete to house the valuable mixture of poisons. But it is not thought that any one had to come here to break in, for there seems to be plenty of folks right on the spot to do the job. Fortunately, the only things that they want are booze and "dope," an evidence that they are happy-go-lucky beings, who float around like pine bark on the waters. A goodly number of quarts was taken, and there was not much left for the other fellow.

THE PEOPLES BANK A NEW INSTITUTION

Last Friday afternoon, the stock-holders of The Peoples Bank, representing 400 shares, met at the rooms of the Lotus Club and completed the organization of the bank by electing J. G. Staton, President; J. L. Hassell, 1st Vice-President; V. R. Taylor, 2nd Vice-President; C. H. Godwin, Cashier; Dunning and Moore, Counselors. The capital is \$50,000 with a surplus of \$25,000, and the institution will open on March 1st in the Hoyt building on Main Street. The following directors were elected:

J. G. Staton, J. L. Hassell, V. R. Taylor, C. H. Godwin, A. R. Dunning, James A. Everett, W. C. Manning, Leslie Fowden, A. Anderson, J. Dawson Lilley, M. P. Taylor, J. S. Griffin, R. T. Griffin, S. E. Hardison, W. A. Perry, G. W. Hardison, Henry D. Peel, W. J. Whitaker, H. B. York, J. Henry Wynn, J. L. Holliday, J. J. Manning, R. J. Peel, A. B. Ayers, G. H. Harrison. Messrs Gilbert and Luther Peel were elected book-keepers.

As soon as material can be collected, a handsome banking house will be erected on Main Street. A building committee composed of J. G. Staton, J. L. Hassell, J. D. Ward, V. R. Taylor and R. E. Roberson will attend to all details of the erection of the building.

Mr. John Oakley Dead

After months of suffering with cancer, John Oakley died at his home near Macedonia Church on Tuesday night, February 13th, at 8:30 o'clock. He was a native of Nash County and had been residing in Martin for several years, where he had been a successful farmer. He was the brother of Mr. Joseph L. Oakley and in early life, married Miss Mallory of Rocky Mount, who with eight children survive him.

Wednesday afternoon, the funeral services were conducted by Rev. H. M. Eure, pastor of the Methodist Church, assisted by

CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION BILL PASSES HOUSE AND IS IN SENATE

Rev. Asa J. Manning, of the Christian Church. The body was interred in the Baptist Cemetery at Williamston, where a large number of friends and neighbors assembled to pay the last tribute of respect to the dead. There is much sympathy felt for the bereaved wife and children, who are left to mourn the loss of husband and father through the years.

Tobacco Sales In January

The reports of leaf tobacco sales for the month of January, 1917, show a decided drop from that of last year for the same month. The total sales for the month this year were 8,090,061 pounds against 26,416,022 in January, 1916. This was owing, no doubt, to the fact that the weed was rushed in earlier in the season. The Martin County markets sold 70,585 pounds—Robersonville selling 40,954 and Williamston 29,631.

Bone Dry Comes Again

Though the two-quart bill was defeated in the Legislature, the Anti-Saloon people were not dismayed or cast down, and they announce that the fight will continue until North Carolina gets in the list with the other "bone dry" states in the Nation. On the heels of the defeat of the two-quart bill comes another bill in the Senate which is more drastic in many respects than the first. The Anti-Saloon folks throughout the State are waging a strong fight to put down the unholy traffic that is being carried on contrary to existing laws. In the new bill, common carriers are forbidden to deliver liquor to any one except physicians, druggists or sanitariums and then not more than two quarts per month, and provides for the punishment of any physician who violates the law. If this bill should pass, same would be in effect on the first day of May, 1917.

House Burned

Early Tuesday night, the alarm of fire was sounded and it was ascertained that the house occupied by Tempie Biggs on the land owned by Mrs. Sarah Wilson on the Jamesville Road, was on fire. It was a low, two-room house and very old. Reports are that Tempie Biggs was found lying prone at the gate, when two men ran up to render aid, and she had probably run out of the house and in her excitement fell on the ground. Everything in the house was consumed, the chickens in the henhouse being the only property saved. Tempie lived alone, and had accumulated some serviceable house furnishings, as she was industrious and economical. This is the third house in the last two weeks, which were occupied by colored people, to be burned.

Some enterprising citizen should start a wood yard in the town. One has never been needed more than at the present time.

Representative H. W. Stubbs' Measure to Provide For Convention Gets Large Vote--No Opposition Was Offered Against Bill.

MR. STUBBS MADE HIS FINE SPEECH ON BILL

Raleigh, Feb. 14.—Representative Harry W. Stubbs has at last succeeded in getting his bill calling for a Constitutional Convention through the lower house of the Legislature. It was the special order for Wednesday morning, and on the third reading received only 11 adverse votes. Now it will go to the Senate. Mr. Stubbs made an eloquent plea for the passage of the bill, which he has introduced every two years since 1911. The bill provides for the election of 120 delegates to the convention, each county to have the same representation as now in the House of Representatives. Should the bill pass the Senate, it will have to be ratified at the next general election.

Representative Rufe Haymore, Republican of Surry, advocated the Stubbs' bill, being one among the few of his party to support it. He made the statement that though the constitution was a rock in a weary land, he was in favor of a revision.

Spoke On Pension Fund

Sunday, at the Episcopal Church, Mr. George C. Royal, of Goldsboro, spoke to the congregation on the Pension Fund for disabled clergymen of the Church. This fund of \$5,000,000 must be raised by March 1st, and the last million is being raised now. When in operation, no disabled clergyman will receive less than \$600 per annum for life, and the widows and children of the clergy will also be provided for. The parish here will give \$350 as its proportionate part of the fund. Mr. Royal is a very pleasing speaker, and gave a clear presentation of the workings of the fund. He was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Staton while in town.

Rev. Asa Manning administered the rite of baptism to one candidate in the creek on Sunday afternoon.

Some one attempted to get into the home of John A. Manning on Saturday night.

Two more cases of smallpox were found by Dr. Warren near town last week.