

**EDITORIAL PAGE**



**THE ADVANCE**

*Herbert Peale*  
EDITOR

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**NORTH CAROLINA  
FOR THE BELGIANS**

Prophets are telling us that after the war this country will be over run by a flood of immigration such as America has never known before.

Also there are coming to us stories of Belgians not starving but in danger of it who must look to this country or to other neutral countries for food until the war is over.

It has occurred to us that there might be some of these Belgian refugees ready to seek a home in America if the opportunity were offered to them to do so. Now comes the news that already the first of these immigrants are beginning to arrive. Moreover, some of them are coming to North Carolina.

Daily newspaper reports last week told how the first of these refugee immigrants had arrived at Wilmington and from there gone to farms in adjacent counties. One party went to Bolton in Columbus county; another consisting of a dozen families, went to St. Helena, near Burgaw, in Pender County.

Concerning the arrival of the Pender county party the Wilmington Star carried the following interesting story:

"Farms have been especially prepared for the people and houses of neat design and in perfect order provided for each family. The houses were completely furnished and the lands of the small farms thoroughly drained and a large part of it in cultivation. On each farm prepared for a Belgian family the Development Company has prepared two acres which has been limed and fertilized, plowed and harrowed, ready for immediate planting. Tools and seed have been made available so that the first party to arrive went to work the first day on the land planting a variety of crops with the idea that those first produced should provide as fully as possible for the food required by the family. Farm Demonstrator J. P. Herring of this county, and other expert farmers of New Hanover have co-operated with suggestions as to the first crops which the Belgians will plant.

"The families which have arrived were secured by Mr. Frank Mead who is abroad in the interest of the Carolina Trucking Development Company. He has found that only a small per cent of the refugee Belgians are the sort of skilled intensive farmers that he was seeking but he has been successful in securing a fine group for this district. The work of securing the Belgian families has been materially aided by the co-operation of the officials of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, and co-operation

of other local interests has also been enlisted in this work, which while designed to benefit the territory has also the feature of assisting in the great rescue which the American people are now undertaking for the relief of the Belgians."

To this story we subjoin the following editorial comment from the Pender Chronicle:

"On last Sunday afternoon a family of Belgian refugees arrived in Burgaw, and will make their home at St. Helena.

"We have heard a great deal about the desirability of Belgians as colonists to this Country, and we hope that those who come to Pender will live up to the reputation that seems to exist in regard to them.

"The very fact that seven million people developed the resources of so small a County as Belgium sufficiently to support their population bespeaks for them energy, industry, and conservation. Belgium is about four times as large as Pender County we are informed, and its population is about three times that of the State of North Carolina.

"We hope that the coming of the Belgians to Pender will mean the beginning of intensive farming among our people, and that they will apply the principles of conservation in this County as they have so successfully done in Belgium."

The Advance told its readers many months ago how the savannah wastes around Burgaw were being transformed into fertile farms by the energy of Italian and German immigrants. Probably the Belgians are the fittest and most carefully chosen of the homeseekers yet brought into that region. And what they can teach the farmers of Pender is yet to be seen as is also to be demonstrated how productive waste farming lands in the South can be made.

Here in this section there is much land uncultivated, some of which has been but recently drained and made tillable. Belgian refugees might here not be found undesirable neighbors; and it may be that we could bring these families here and sell them homes with more profit to ourselves than we get from sending food to them.

While the women folk are meditating upon the approach of millinery openings and the Easter parade *Everything* speaks a word on fashions for men:

"It causes us to rejoice in the last knowledge wafted from Chicago where the National Association of Merchant Tailors held out in an annual gathering. They tell us that men's spring styles will be decidedly militaristic. Slender and high waisted effects will be quite the thing. Coats will be slightly longer and waists high and close fitting. And the trousers—oh, hear me, darling, will continue narrow and slightly shorter.

That is the stuff. Our trousers have been continuing shorter for some time and to know that they can be made shorter saves us a new pair if the scissors will do the work. But think of the military effect—think of the ten million men wearing some hand me downs bagging at the knees and lacking style, symmetry and the proper plunge, as we would say in France, caring anything about what the Merchant Tailors did in Chicago. Happily the men tailors or the tailors for men never got hold of the popular mind. Women go crazy over fashion plates—but your Uncle and many of his friends are satisfied with any old thing that looks good.

With the war on across the pond we are getting but few fashions from abroad—and Chicago might as well decide

what we are to wear as any town we know. But the fact has obtained and will obtain that man suits himself and if he wants to go to a full dress dinner in a Jim Swinger. Custom has decreed that he has the right and no one cries him shame. There is where man beats the woman."

**AS WE SEE IT**

The Advance followed with close interest the election contest case in Currituck county but we have refrained from taking sides in this issue until the facts were before us. Now having heard the testimony on both sides we feel less diffidence in expressing an opinion. Even, however, had the editor of this paper been able to attend the trial throughout and give close attention to the great mass of evidence, we should express our selves not without hesitation for there are questions of law involved on which we are not competent to pass.

We do not now, therefore, undertake to say how the referee should rule in this matter. But in our opinion, and we offer it only for what it is worth, he will not sustain action of the board of canvassers in cases where all the returns from any precinct were thrown out. For it appears to us that where this was done it was in technical grounds, and the election was too loosely conducted all over the county to hold any precinct or township to strict account.

This case, which is going to cost some individual or some set of individuals a pretty sum before final decision is reached, shows the need in North Carolina of a legalized statewide primary. If such a primary is not given to North Carolina by the present legislature the people will want to know the reason why.

**THE WRONG SPIRIT**

The Advance heard over in Currituck county last week expressions from two or three of our good friends living in Jarvisburg township which indicated that they were disposed to vent part of the displeasure which they felt at having their votes thrown out in the late election on Solicitor Ehringhaus merely because he was representing Baxter's side of this case.

This is all wrong. All good men must in their saner moments desire in any matter of this sort nothing except to see justice done, and with such able counsel representing Mr. Bray and his friends as Ward and Aydlett it was up to the other side to secure as good legal talent as they could also; and it was nothing short of Mr. Ehringhaus' duty for him to do all within his power for the client whom he had agreed to represent. In his conduct of the case Mr. Ehringhaus was unfailingly courteous and considerate and nothing that he said, we believe, except for the high pitch of feeling in the court room at Currituck while this case was under way, would have laid him open for criticism.

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