

## MERCHANTS' GET-TOGETHER OCCASION BIG EVENT FOR BESS CITY BUSINESS

### Believed That Last Night's Banquet In Masonic Hall Marks Passing of Pessimism and New Day of Business Optimism in Picture City

One of the most helpful and inspirational gatherings of business men ever held in Elizabeth City was the Merchants Association Banquet held in the Masonic hall Thursday night.

What might be called the keynote address of the occasion was made by J. W. Brownley, of Ames & Brownley, Inc., of Norfolk, who made business and service synonymous terms in the larger sense of the word service.

"This is an age of organization," said Mr. Brownley, "and I am a believer in organization. But I am not in favor of any organization that sees no further than and exists for nothing beyond the aggrandizement of the individual in it. The organization which makes its members say 'I will not' and 'you shall not' has no right to existence among American institutions.

"It has been said that a fair divider is a great multiplier, and experience teaches us that it is true. The good Book utters an eternal truth in the saying: No man liveth to himself.

"The goods that you sell to your customers are in their quality an expression of your character, and in their sale you touch the homes and stamp your character upon the hearts of the people of the community in which you live and where you serve."

The speaker sounded a note of optimism as to the business outlook for 1921; and indeed a beautiful and alert optimism was the watchword of every speaker of the evening.

**Secretary Leonard Speaks**  
"I buried pessimism with 1920," declared J. Paul Leonard, of Statesville, secretary of the North Carolina Merchants Association, first speaker of the evening following the welcoming address by Ernest L. Sawyer.

"When I think of what we have come through," Secretary Leonard continued, and of how well we have come through it I feel like saying, 'May the Lord forgive us for being so downhearted over the disappointments of 1920.

"Our 1920 troubles were none but financial ones.

"In 1918 we were in the grip of war, and I was going up and down the State selling war savings stamps to save the lives or soften the hardships of our boys covering the sea."

"In 1919 friends and loved ones were dying with influenza; but undertakers will tell you that the times were never so dull with them as they were in 1920.

"We were hard hit financially in 1920 because the purchasing power of the farmer, with the largest crops cultivated at the highest expense on record, was cut off by five billion dollars. We have heard a great deal of criticism of the Federal Reserve system. But I am here to tell you that the Federal Reserve system is the only thing that saved us from panic. As it is we have had no panic—nothing worse than depression.

**There Was No Panic**

"I am here to tell you also that the Federal reserve system has done all that was sanely possible for the farmer and for us. Loans on agricultural collateral amounted to nearly two billion in 1920 as compared with 700 million only a year ago. Right here in our own Federal Reserve District under the stress of moving the crop of 1920 loans based on agricultural wealth increased from 75 million to 225 million dollars. Does that look as if the Federal Reserve system had done nothing for the farmer?"

"The thing that made the decline in prices, which was bound to come, work unnecessary hardship on the merchants was the anti-profiteering campaign conducted by the Government and the newspapers a year ago. The merchants have dealt squarely with the people. I challenge any man to deny that the retail merchants were the last to go up and the first to come down.

"There was never the time when the need of organization was greater than now. The stock market warned us, had we but had our eyes open, of the fall in the price of commodities that was bound to come. Well the stock market has started upward again. Commodities are sure to follow. Business is picking up. We but need to stand together to win. A mer-

chant at Warsaw told me the other day that attending the State meeting of the Merchants Association last year was the one thing that saved him from bankruptcy in the fall.

We can meet the problems of 1921 if we will put our heads together to solve them. More frequent meetings like this one are the need."

**The Gentleman From Kinston**  
Business is slow but business is sound," said C. H. Van Herwie, Secretary of the Kinston Chamber of Commerce.

"Prosperity is just around the corner. It's up to us to go out and meet it.

"There is money in the country. The only trouble is getting it out."

Secretary Van Herwie then told in detail how the Kinston merchants, in the darkest season and at a time when their courage was at lowest ebb, brought the money in that section out of hiding and within seven days turned into the tills of Kinston merchants over \$361,000 in cash.

"You can do it here, he said. When I look at this splendid body of men I am sure that right here among you is the man to take the lead in this matter—and put it over big. And I looked over your stores to-day. I must compliment you on them. They look good to me—better, I am bound to confess, than do those of my own town of Kinston. If Kinston merchants could take in \$361,000 in seven days you ought to be able to do better."

Toastmaster Gilbert, at the conclusion of Secretary Herwie's talk, asked for a showing as to how the merchants present stood on the question of undertaking Kinston's plan and practically unanimous approval was indicated.

In his address of welcome E. L. Sawyer contrasted merchandising here twenty-eight years ago, when the city was without telephones or electric lights, when there was not a single exclusive wholesale store in the city and when he in his father's store looked after the oil lamps, kept the coal fires burning, sprinkled and swept the floor and transmitted all telephonic communications by ankle express, with conditions today when there are nearly two hundred retail stores and a score or more wholesale houses, each with its traveling salesmen covering all this territory.

**No Dull Moments**

Toastmaster Gilbert kept things moving and there were no dull moments during the entire evening.

A most pleasing feature of the program were the musical numbers rendered by Mrs. A. R. Nicholson, soloist, Miss Emma Cobb, pianist, and H. C. Routt, violinist. There was singing by the entire assembly at the opening and close of the program.

Invocation and benediction were pronounced by Rev. Mr. Myers, pastor of City Road Methodist Church. The elaborate menu, prepared by the ladies of City Road Methodist Church, was served with grace and ease without hurry or confusion and no perceptible period of waiting between courses.

All arrangements for the banquet, both by the ladies who served it and by the banquet committee of the association, had been made with such careful attention to detail that the entire program went through without a hitch or any feature to mar the pleasure of the evening, and the committee and the ladies were given a unanimous rising vote of thanks by those present.

**A New Courage**  
Every man attending who was heard to express himself at all echoed the words of Toastmaster Gilbert. "I am going back to my business tomorrow with a new spirit of optimism, courage and enthusiasm, and with the determination to make 1921 the best year in the history of my business."

It is believed that this meeting will definitely mark an end of the depression that has for some time prevailed in business circles here and the beginning of a more optimistic attitude on the part of the merchants and the public in general.

Those composing the banquet committee were A. R. Nicholson, J. T. Stallings, T. T. Turner, H. S. Overman, M. Leigh Sheen, E. R. Spence, Buxton White, Tommie Hughes and Camden Blades.

## King's Counsel Badly Wounded

### By Men Who Forced Way Into His Home in Dublin Says Message

London, Jan. 14.—William McGrath, King's counsel in Dublin, was severely wounded when fired upon by men who forced an entrance into his home early today, says a Dublin dispatch. McGrath was struck by several bullets.

## CONFERENCES ABOUT PROBLEMS OF CONGRESS

Marion, Jan. 14.—Harding's conferences again covered a wide variety of public questions today with problems of legislation at the present session of Congress predominating.

Three members of the House were among his callers. He also had appointments with Col. Theodore Roosevelt and former Governor Forbes and Judge Johnson, of the Philippine Islands.

## MEET SUNDAY AT ALKRAMA

### Local W. C. T. U. Celebrates National Constitutional Prohibition In Service of Song And Speaking

The Elizabeth City W. C. T. U. will celebrate the first anniversary of National Constitutional Prohibition in a service at the Alkrama-Sunday afternoon at three o'clock to which the public is extended a most cordial invitation.

The meeting will begin with a song service led by Frank Hufty. Rev. H. E. Myers of City Road Church will pronounce the invocation, after which Rev. H. K. Williams, pastor of the First Baptist Church, will read the Crusade Psalm 146.

Addresses by J. C. B. Ehringhaus, J. B. Leigh and L. M. Meekins, will follow, interspersed with musical selections. Rev. J. M. Omond, pastor of the First Methodist Church, will take the collection, and after the singing of "Bless be the tie that binds," Rev. G. F. Hill, rector of Christ church, will pronounce the benediction.

It is hoped that the Alkrama will be packed, for the entire service, both music and speaking, will be well worth hearing.

## Denies Making Allies Proposal

Munich, Jan. 14.—General Ludendorff denies that he has presented a memorial to the Allies proposing a joint offensive against Russia by England, France and Germany.

He also denied any connection with General Hofman, who recently said "Pershing or Foch should lead the world army against the Bolsheviks."

## BALLOONISTS IN NEW YORK

New York, Jan. 14.—Kloor, Farrell and Hinton, American balloonists returning to the United States after their spectacular flight into Canada, arrived here today, exactly one month since they landed near Moose Factory after their balloon flight from Rockaway.

A crowd of relatives and naval officers greeted the balloonists, who declared they were none the worse for their adventure and lined up for the photographers apparently with the best of feeling.

## Greeks Advance On Brussa Front

London, Jan. 14.—The Greeks have made another important advance against the Turkish Nationalists on the Brussa front, according to the Greek legation here.

## TO AMEND TARIFF

Washington, Jan. 14.—Decision to open the house emergency tariff bill to amendment was made today by the Senate finance committee.

## BASKETBALL TONIGHT

There will be a boys' basketball game between the Elizabeth City High School team and the Edenton High School team at the Y. M. C. A. tonight at eight o'clock.

Admission is twenty-five and thirty-five cents.

A. G. James left Thursday for Norfolk, Va., to undergo an operation at Sarah Leigh Hospital.

## BELLAMY URGES "BETTER BABIES"

### At Least His Measure If Passed Would Give Some of Them Better Fathers And Mothers

Raleigh, Jan. 14.—Applicants desirous of embarking upon the matrimonial sea in North Carolina will be required to satisfy the Register of Deeds that they are safe and sound, both physically and mentally, if a bill introduced in the House Tuesday morning by Representative Bennett H. Bellamy of New Hanover passes the required three readings in both houses of the General Assembly.

Representative Bellamy in writing the bill specifies a physical examination of all applicants for license to marry and a certificate from a reputable physician or from the county health officer whose duty it shall be to examine such applicants and issue such certificates without charge.

Issuance of a license to marry without the presentation by the applicant of a health certificate shall be fined "not less than \$200 or imprisonment for thirty days." A similar fine and imprisonment for six months in the event the physician issuing the certificate makes any false statement as to the applicant's mental and physical condition. The bill further provides:

"No license to marry shall be issued by the Register of Deeds of any county to a male applicant thereof except upon presentation by the said male applicant of a certificate executed within seven days from the time of presentation of the said certificate to the Register of Deeds" which will show the "non-existence of any venereal disease, the non-existence of tuberculosis of the infectious stage, and that the applicant has not been legally adjudged to be insane, nor shall any license be issued to any female applicant who shall not present a certificate showing the non-existence of tuberculosis of the infectious stages and that the applicant has not been legally adjudged to be insane.

Representative Mumford, of Wake, introduced a bill seeking to amend the law regulating the sale of concealed weapons so that permits for the purchase of firearms may be issued by mayors of the towns of the State instead of or in addition to the clerks of superior court.

## Morrison's First Message

Governor Morrison said today that he was not ready to discuss any of the recommendations he had in mind for the General Assembly, but that he would in all probability go before a joint session of the legislators within the next two or three days.

It is known that Governor Morrison will in his first message, make some recommendations with reference to the enactment of a new system of taxation. The Governor indicated as much in his inaugural address but did not go at length into the subject because he desired to talk directly to the members of the legislature.

His recommendations on taxation will be of particular interest to the citizens of North Carolina.

## Compensation Act

Advocates of the workmen's compensation act for North Carolina are somewhat leary of the fate of the recommendations made by the commission appointed at the special session of the General Assembly and at this time there are indications that the bill may not be written up on the statute books of the State.

Organized labor is literally up in arms over the commission's report to the legislature for an act similar to the one now in force in the State of Virginia. Inasmuch as the laborers are more vitally interested in the proposed legislation than anybody else there is a disposition that the bill, when it is drawn will be defeated or radically amended.

Senator J. L. DeLaney, of Charlotte, has a bill he proposes to introduce which will satisfy the unionized laborers, but it is not known whether it will be agreeable to the employers and the manufacturers. The provisions of the proposed bill as submitted by the commission follows:

The scale of compensation is sixty per cent of the weekly wage for a gradual period not to exceed 500 weeks except in cases of total disability. Relief accorded by the proposed bill will entail no outlay from the treasury except a temporary appropriation of \$10,000.

To Legalize Charge of Exchange  
A bill is now pending in the legislature which would legalize the

## BROWN GETS VERDICT WITHOUT TAKING STAND

The defense in the case of the Home Development Company vs. C. W. Brown was awarded a verdict Thursday afternoon without putting on a witness, the jury holding after hearing the argument that the plaintiff company had failed to make out a case.

The suit was entered to set aside a deed to Brown for the old Citizens Bank building which it was alleged that Brown had obtained by fraud.

Thursday morning witnesses for the plaintiff were still on the stand and observers thought that the entire afternoon would be taken up with evidence for the defense. When the defense decided to go to the jury without offering any evidence, the end of the trial was hastened. The jury took the case at 5:15 and brought in a verdict within five minutes.

Superior Court adjourned Friday morning and Judge Allen left for his home in Kinston.

## BROOKS FAVORS PRESENT PLAN

### Of Selecting County Boards of Education, But Bitter Fight Next Week On Subject Is Predicted

Raleigh, Jan. 14.—Prospects of a bitter fight over a proposed bill at the present session of the General Assembly which would require the election of all county boards of education by popular vote are now cropping out as the legislators get down to real hard work.

While the survey made by the educational commission recently urged that the law be changed providing for this manner of selecting the members of the educational departments of the various counties Dr. E. C. Brooks, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, in his report to the governor has recommended that no change be effected. There is some sentiment among the House members to ignore the recommendation of Dr. Brooks and put the bill over.

But it is going to develop upon the Republican members to sponsor the bill, and they will doubtless start the movement during the next week. Democratic members interviewed frankly admit that the present plan of having the county board appointed from Raleigh works an injustice upon the minority party in some counties, particularly in those counties that are regularly and overwhelmingly Republican. They are inclined to vote for the change, but would prefer that the fight be started by members of the opposition.

A number of counties are already naming their county boards by popular vote, Mecklenburg offering a striking example. There are other counties which will likely be asked to come under the Mecklenburg plan at this session even if a law applying to the State as a whole fails of passage.

## Secret Ballot Popular

During the first week of the session a number of counties have been placed under the Australian ballot system, indicating in the minds of some of the legislators including Representative Emmett H. Bellamy, of Wilmington, that there is an abundance of sentiment in North Carolina for the secret ballot.

The wishes of the women voters is believed expressed by Miss Exum Clement, of Asheville, who is here for the first time as representative in the lower house from Buncombe County, who has already introduced a State-wide bill providing for privacy in balloting. There are other friends of this plan although they are not inclined to endorse completely the Australian system. The State Federation of Labor is said to favor the system and will ask their representatives in the Assembly to vote for it.

## BOWEN-STEEL

Mr. James Thomas Bowen and Miss Lillie Mae Steele, both of Norfolk, were married by Rev. H. K. Williams Thursday afternoon at his home on West Main street.

charging of exchange between banks in North Carolina. Senator Oates, of Hendersonville, who introduced the bill, declares that the act will correct the discrimination in the ruling of the Federal Reserve Board requiring a non-member bank to clear all checks and papers at par. The bill provides that a fee of ten cents may be charged for clearing all checks and that the rate must not exceed one-eighth of one per cent for handling.

## N. Y. POLICE ARE ON GUARD

### Intimated That Warning of Radical Demonstrations Was Given Last Night By Federal Authorities

New York, Jan. 14.—Public buildings, churches, public utility plants and homes of wealthy citizens throughout the city are under heavy guard today by police order as a precautionary measure against possible radical demonstration.

The police officials are extremely reticent concerning the order given verbally last night to the entire police force but they intimated that it was prompted by federal authority.

Washington, Jan. 14.—Warning of the threatened demonstration with bombing activities in New York has been received by the government from a reputable private detective agency. Department of Justice officials said today.

An investigation is being made, but Federal agents are unable to find any evidence that demonstrations are to occur.

## PERET TO FORM NEW FRENCH CABINET

Paris, Jan. 14.—Raoul Peret, president of the chamber of deputies, has been asked by Millerand to form the cabinet to succeed the one headed by Georges Leygues, which resigned yesterday.

## AWAITS FURTHER WORD FROM JAPS

### State Department Expecting Assurances of Japanese Intention to Make Repetition Killing Incident Improbable

Washington, Jan. 14.—Satisfactory assurances by the Japanese government that its regrets over the killing of Lieutenant W. H. Langdon, of the Cruiser Albany, by a Japanese sentry, would be supplemented by convincing proof of its intention to make similar incidents improbable were awaited today by the State Department.

Confidence that the Japanese government would make adequate reparation for the killing was expressed by the State Department in a note despatched last night to Tokyo.

Foreign Office officials are inclined to regard the end of the incident as in sight.

## INCENDIARY FIRE RAGES IN PENNSYLVANIA TOWN

Clearfield, Pa., Jan. 14.—Fires believed to be of incendiary origin, broke out at Madera, near here, today at 9:30, destroying thirteen buildings at an estimated loss of a quarter of a million dollars, and the fire is still burning.

The fire was brought under control only after the buildings in the path of the flames had been dynamited.

Madera is a thriving town in the bituminous coal district.

## Whites Outnumber Blacks Two to One in Richmond

Richmond, Jan. 14.—The negro population of Richmond is 54,047; white, 117,565.

All other races number 55.

## FEDERAL TROOPS WITHDRAWN

Charleston, W. Va., July 14.—Federal troops on duty in the Mingo County coal strike zone begin to move out tomorrow on their return to Camp Sherman, Ohio. The movement will be gradual and it will be some time before all troops have been withdrawn.

This was announced today by Governor Cornwell.

## SENATOR WILLIS SEATED

Washington, Jan. 14.—Former Governor Willis, of Ohio, took his seat in the Senate today as successor to President-elect Harding, who has resigned for the remainder of his term expiring March fourth.

Mrs. Bruce Barfield, of Goldsboro, is visiting her grandmother, Mrs. H. O. Sedberry, 324 West Main street.