

THE GASTONIA GAZETTE

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GASTONIA, N. C., FRIDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 4, 1917.

\$2.00 A YEAR IN ADVANCE.

Gaston County's Pressing Problem

Shall Our People Go Hungry?

Word has gone forth that the South will be expected to raise sufficient foodstuffs this summer to take care of its own wants for the next year. Heretofore the South has lived largely out of the granaries and packing houses of the West. We have raised cotton to the exclusion of foodstuffs and in so doing have grown poor—rather we have kept ourselves from making the headway that we should have made in the way of material prosperity.

The world-war into which we have been plunged is to change all of this. The West is being looked to this year to grow foodstuffs to supply England, France and the other countries which are pouring out their life-blood in a continuous and unstinted libation for the preservation of civilization. We of the United States are going to play a great part in the final stage of this titanic struggle, not only in that we must and will furnish men for the battlefields of Europe but, more important still, we must feed the fighters and the civilian population of our Allies across the waters.

If the United States fails, the battle for the preservation of civilization falls. If the United States is to succeed in doing her part every section of this great Union must do its part. This means that the South must perform its part of the great task. That part, just now, is to feed itself and thus release the products of the vast West and other sections for export to the Allies.

Had we the figures at hand to give our readers showing what Gaston county alone sends away annually for foodstuffs for its people and for its cattle and horses the average man would be appalled. The amount runs into the millions. Practically all of the staples, such as corn and wheat, flour and meal and meat, are shipped in from the West. This should not be. Gaston county has thousands of acres of land lying idle, mainly because there is no labor available. These acres if tilled properly would feed every man, woman and child in the county and leave some to spare. A thousand acres more planted in corn would produce 30,000 or more bushels of corn. We cannot raise any wheat now. The season is past. We can raise corn. We should do so at once. Every farmer, even if he has planted, as he thinks, every acre he can work, should plant another acre or two if at all possible in corn. More hogs should be raised, for meat will be scarce and high next winter.

The Gazette believes that the convicts of Gaston county, 30 or more in number, could be used to great advantage in raising corn, peas and similar food crops that can yet be planted. There is a sentiment in Gastonia and over the county favoring such a move by the county commissioners and it is our humble opinion that the county fathers would do well to give this matter serious consideration at their next meeting Monday.

Thirty or forty convicts, properly handled, could cultivate several hundred acres of corn. Not only so but this work would not take them from their task of road building more than perhaps a third of the time for the next few weeks. There is plenty of idle land, as stated above. There might be some trouble in finding large tracts but the county, we believe, could easily rent several tracts of one to two hundreds acres each. One thousand acres planted in corn by these convicts and cultivated by them would mean the addition to the county's store house of food for next winter something like 30,000 bushels of corn. It is worth while. At the present rate of increase in the price of flour there is a possibility that in the not distant future we may be securing our bread on bread tickets as they are doing in Europe.

ROAD WORK CAN WAIT, HUNGRY PEOPLE CANNOT.

The Gazette realizes that it is possible to raise objections to this plan but it is our belief that the scheme is altogether feasible and should be put into operation at once. There will be difficulties to overcome but no worth-while task can be accomplished without hating against difficulties.

The Gazette would like to see a large number of Gaston citizens at the meeting of the county commissioners next Monday to place this matter before that body. We feel sure that the commissioners are ready and willing to do everything in their power to help solve the food problem—which is the people's problem—and we feel assured that they will give such a proposition careful consideration.

LIEUT. CRAIG RESIGNS.

First Lieut. Clyde C. Craig, of Company B, Gives Up Commission Upon Advice of Physician—Lieut. Reinhardt and Sergeant Boyce Promoted.

First Lieut. Clyde C. Craig, of Company B North Carolina National Guard, has resigned from active duty with the company and, at his own request, made because of his physical condition, has been placed in the North Carolina National Guard Reserve.

Lieut. Craig tendered his resignation to Capt. A. L. Bulwinkle with reluctance and only after he had been advised to do so by Dr. W. B. Hunter, following an examination which developed the fact that he was not physically able to withstand the rigors of army life. Lieut. Craig saw several months service on the Mexican border and has made an exceptionally good officer, but was handicapped to some extent because of his physical condition.

To fill the vacancies created by Lieut. Craig's resignation Second Lieut. John P. Reinhardt has been promoted to first lieutenant and Sergeant Erskine E. Boyce to second lieutenant. Other vacancies created will be filled by Capt. Bulwinkle.

CITY ELECTION MONDAY.

Many Candidates Have Announced for the Various City Offices, Some of Whom Will Be Chosen Next Monday—Jack V. Harper Announces.

Beginning at 7 o'clock Monday morning, May 7, and continuing throughout the day and until sunset, the municipal election for the city of Gastonia will be held, at which time seven aldermen, seven school commissioners and the mayor will be officially chosen to pilot the city's affairs for the ensuing two years.

At noon today there were eleven avowed candidates in the race for the seven aldermanic positions, and two tickets of school commissioners, totaling 13 candidates, while Mr. A. M. Dixon will make the race for mayor unopposed. These candidates will, it is predicted, enter the race Monday morning without any additional handicaps.

MUTINY BREAKS OUT IN PETROGRAD

(By International News Service.)

LONDON, May 4.—Mutiny has broken out at the Petrograd garrison. A detachment of troops marched this morning to the Duma waving red flags and demanding the resignation of Foreign Minister Milukoff, who is among the staunchest opponents of a separate peace with Germany. No actual fighting has yet been reported. So menacing has the Russian situation become at Riga on the northern end of the Eastern front that Commander-in-Chief Alexieff has gone there to direct operations, says a dispatch this morning from Petrograd.

Do you know what the Red Cross is? Be at the First Presbyterian church next Tuesday night and hear all about it.

COMMUNITY FAIRS.

Nine Already Organized in the County and Others Are Being Planned—Are of Great Educational Value to Any Community.

There is abundant promise that Gaston county will this fall have the largest number of community fairs of any county in North Carolina. In fact it is very probable that the number in this county will just about double the next highest number in the State.

The above statement is not a rash one nor is it founded on conjecture. Already nine Community Fair Associations have been formed and at least two more are just at this time in the process of being organized. There is a bare possibility that this number may yet be increased by one or two.

In every community where the question of organizing a community fair has been given serious consideration it has invariably developed that the people as a whole are heartily in favor of the movement and they have taken hold of the matter with an energy and an interest which forebodes success. Gaston county has commanded the attention of the State on previous occasions in other lines and now she is going to make the entire State sit up and take notice in the matter of community fairs.

No small portion of the credit for the formation of these community fair associations is due to Mr. J. M. Holland, secretary of the Gaston County Fair Association, and Mr. J. M. Gray, county farm demonstrator. They have worked indefatigably for the past several weeks, devoting a great deal of their time to this work. However, the credit in the final analysis is due the energetic public-spirited men and women in these communities who have shouldered the greater part of the burden and who are working unceasingly for the success of the fairs.

So far organizations have been perfected at Panhandle, Union, New Hope, Sunnyside, Mount Olivet, Cherryville, Dallas, Costners and Landers Chapel.

Lack of space renders it impossible to enter here into any detailed discussion of the advantages of a community fair or as to what constitutes it. Suffice it to say that the educational and social advantages of the community fair are in themselves well worth all the trouble entailed. The community fair is in reality a vest-pocket edition of a county fair. At it are exhibited the products of the community, including not only the products of the field but of the kitchen as well and of the skill of the housewife in sewing, making fancy work, etc. Some of the community fairs already organized are even planning to exhibit livestock, though as a rule it is not practical to do this owing to lack of facilities for housing and taking care of the animals.

That the holding of these community fairs in Gaston county will have a splendid influence on creating a larger and more lively interest in the larger county fair is hardly questionable. However, the organizing of these fairs is not looking to that end as a purpose of their existence by any means. It is considered by those interested that the community fair is, within itself a great asset to the community and its benefits will justify whatever amount of labor and time is required to produce it and make it a successful exhibit.

Dates for the several community fairs will be announced in the near future. It is planned to have them during a period of about two weeks just prior to the Gaston County Fair, the dates for which are October 9th to 13th inclusive. It is believed that these community fairs will contribute no small amount of interest and enthusiasm to the county fair, which by the way promises to be this year the biggest thing of its kind yet held in this section.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY WANTS PEACE.

(By International News Service.) LONDON, May 3.—Many socialist meetings were held in Austria-Hungary on May Day and resolutions were passed demanding immediate peace. There were no serious disorders.

NOMINEES OF PRIMARY MAKE STATEMENT TO THE PUBLIC

Call Attention to Fact That It Has Been Customary in Past to Vote For School Commissioners in Primary—Explain How Boards May Be Separated.

The following statement was given The Gazette this morning by the nominees for school commissioner in the recent municipal primary held on Saturday, April 21st:

"We wish to call attention to the call issued by the Citizens Executive Committee for a primary as duly advertised in The Gazette. It was as follows:

"NOTICE OF CITY PRIMARY. "Be resolved by the Citizens Executive Committee, of the city of Gastonia:

"FIRST: That a Primary shall be held on Saturday, the 21st day of April, 1917, at the City Hall, from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m., for the purpose of nominating a mayor, seven aldermen, seven school commissioners and seven members of executive committee, for the regular election to be held May 7, 1917. A majority of the votes cast shall constitute a nomination. In event of no nomination for one or more of the offices, a second primary shall be held on Saturday, the 28th day of April, to be participated in by the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes.

"SECOND: That any citizen of the city of Gastonia, who is a qualified voter before the municipal election, to be held on the 7th day of May, 1917, shall be entitled to vote in said primary.

"THIRD: That the Chairman of the Executive Committee shall appoint three Poll Holders for the said primary election; the said poll holders shall provide three ballot boxes, one for Mayor, one for Aldermen, and one for School Commissioners and Executive Committee. Said poll holders shall also record the name of each person voting in said primary.

"This the 19th day of March 1917.

"W. B. MORRIS,
"W. J. CLIFFORD,
"D. M. JONES,
"J. F. THOMSON,
"S. S. MORRIS,
"Executive Committee."

"We wish to correct statements made to the effect that it has not been customary to vote for city school commissioners in the primary. On April 17th, 1915, 5,000 tickets for school commissioners were printed by the Gazette Publishing Company, were charged to C. B. Armstrong and were paid for (\$4) by C. B. Armstrong on May 1, 1915.

"In compliance with the above-mentioned call from the executive committee, the following ticket was voted on for school commissioners in the recent primary held on April 21:

G. R. Spencer,
D. M. Jones,
J. M. Gilliam,
W. F. Riddle,
A. A. McLean,
C. B. Armstrong,
M. A. Carpenter.

"In regard to rumors current concerning the proposed separation of the board of aldermen and the board of school commissioners: The city attorney advises us that this can be done neither by the board of aldermen nor the board of school commissioners. He advises that, under the recently enacted bill for the governing of towns and cities, this can be done by a vote of the people. The way to get the election on this proposition is for one-fourth of the qualified voters of the city to petition the mayor and board of aldermen asking for an election for this specific purpose. When such petition is presented then the board shall duly advertise, call and cause to be held an election. If a majority of the people vote for the proposed change it will become a law. We, as the nominees of the primary are in favor of complying with the wishes of the people in this matter.

"The primary nominees favor a progressive administration of the affairs of the city schools, believing that they constitute one of the most important factors in the growth and upbuilding of the town and in training the young people for future citizenship."

1,000 Flower Pots received, all sizes, at Gastonia Furniture Company.

AN APPEAL TO SOUTH.

Thirty-five Thousand Ministers Asked to Make Sunday's Sermon an Appeal to South to Plant More Food Crops.

(By International News Service.) ATLANTA, Ga., May 3.—Systematic telephone messages are being sent out today from Atlanta to telephone districts in the Carolinas, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas and Tennessee, communicating to every exchange which in turn presents the message to every minister asking him to make his sermon for the coming Sunday an urgent appeal to the people of the South to plant food crops. The message originated with the Southern District National Conservation Congress and urges the South to raise its own food crops, thus releasing Western supplies to the Allies. Mr. Gifford Finchet, now in Atlanta, expects hundreds of replies from the 25,000 ministers addressed.

Hot Weather Specials: Refrigerators, Ice Boxes, Ice Cream Freezers, Water Coolers, Vector Porch Shades and Porch Furniture at Gastonia Furniture Company.

DISCONTENT SPREADING IN GERMANY

(By International News Service.)

WASHINGTON, May 4.—Germany is doing business on a flat money basis according to definite information secured today from the British and French missions. German credit is practically exhausted and the Germans are taking government paper money at par through compulsion. Prices of commodities are almost prohibitive and discontent is spreading. A popular movement against the government is threatened.

IN SOCIAL CIRCLES LATEST EVENTS IN WOMAN'S WORLD

LADIES URGED TO PLANT CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

The members of the Floral Fair committee of the Gastonia Woman's Betterment Association wish to remind the members that now is the time to plant chrysanthemums for the floral fair to be held this fall. It is hoped that this year's fair will be the biggest and most successful ever held and in order to insure that result it is important that a good beginning be made now in the planting season.

TO ATTEND MEETING IN ASHEVILLE.

Mrs. B. T. Morris, Mrs. T. E. Summerrow, Mrs. J. W. Atkins and Miss Lois Smith will go to Asheville Monday to represent the several women's missionary organizations of Main Street Methodist church at the annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Western North Carolina Conference which convenes at Central church there Tuesday and continues through Friday. An elaborate program has been prepared for this event, the list of speakers including a number of prominent men and women of the church.

ATTENDED THE MUSIC FESTIVAL.

Among the Gastonians who attended the Musical Festival at Charlotte Tuesday and Wednesday were Mrs. J. Holland Morrow, Mrs. H. B. Moore, Mrs. W. H. Poole, Mrs. W. T. Love, Mrs. A. M. Dixon, Miss Marie Torrence, Mrs. B. H. Parker, Dr. Utley, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Morris, Misses Jane and Carrie Morris, Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Atkins, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Atkins, Mrs. C. E. Adams, Miss Johnnie Adams, Mrs. E. W. Gilliam, Mrs. W. Hugh Wray, Miss Maude Rankin, Mrs. W. C. Barrett, Mrs. O. F. Mason, Miss Nell McAllister, Miss Lillian Atkins, Miss Margaret Morris, Misses Blaine and Myrtle Gray, Miss Nellie Rose Sloan, Miss Lucy Jordan, Miss Huey, Messrs. P. P. Leventis, A. S. Trakas and Robert L. Adams.

MR. HARRY ADAMS MARRIED.

Invitations reading as follows have been received by Gastonia friends of the groom:

Mrs. A. M. Shannon announces the marriage of her daughter
Cora May
to
Mr. R. Harris Adams

Monday, April thirtieth
nineteen hundred and seventeen
Baltimore, Maryland.
Norlina, N. C.

The above announcement came as a surprise to most if not all of Mr. Adams' friends here in his home town. He is a brother of Mr. W. H. Adams, cashier of the Citizens National Bank, and of Miss Rebecca Adams. He is a conductor on the Seaboard Air Line Railroad with headquarters at Norlina. He and his bride will have the best wishes of a large number of friends here.

250 MEN LOST.

(By International News Service.) LONDON, May 3.—(Official.) The troop ship Arcadia has been sunk by a submarine in the Mediterranean. Two hundred and fifty men were lost.

NAMES STILL WITHHELD.

(By International News Service.) WASHINGTON, May 1.—Official information of the sinking of the Vacuum reached the State Department today. The names of the American gunners lost are still being withheld.

GIVEN ROUSING WELCOME.

(By International News Service.) WASHINGTON, May 3.—The French mission, headed by Premier Viviani and General Joffre, visited the House of Representatives this afternoon and were accorded a tumultuous welcome.

ACCUSED OF BEING PRO-GERMAN.

(By International News Service.) JANEIRO, May 2.—Mr. Laure Nulter, Brazilian foreign minister, accused of being pro-German has resigned.

MINES SINK SUBMARINES.

(By International News Service.) PORT IN EUROPE, May 3.—Mines newly placed by the British in the war zone of the German coast have been destroying many submarines. The results so far are very heartening to the British admiralty.

DRAFT BLANKS ARE HERE FIRST SIGN OF CONSCRIPTION MEASURE

Registration Cards to be Used in Securing Gaston County's Quota of Big Army Were Received in City This Morning—No Information Furnished as to How the Blanks Will be Handled—Gaston's Quota is 150.

Several thousand registration cards were received this morning by Sheriff W. N. Davis, presumably from the War Department, which are to be filled in by male citizens of Gastonia and Gaston county. The blanks arrived in the city last night by mail and were delivered at the sheriff's office this morning, but no information has at this time been received as to how the cards should be handled. For the present, at least, Sheriff Davis is preserving the cards. Definite information will probably be furnished within the next few days, when the plans made by the Government have been agreed upon.

This is doubtless the first step taken by the War Department towards enrolling all male citizens between the age limit of 21 to 35 years, preparatory to putting the selective draft system into operation. All male citizens within the specified age limit will be required to fill out one of the cards, on which must be written his name, postoffice and street address, occupation, number of members in family, dependences, place of birth and whether married or single.

Just how soon the draft system will begin to operate as yet is unknown although it is very likely that further steps will be made within the next few weeks towards registering all men within the age limit. When this is done the work of selecting Gaston county's representatives for the first army will begin, probably in the same manner as Jurors are drawn.

Gaston county's quota of the first increment of 500,000, which are to be drafted, will be approximately 150 men. This is based on the information that North Carolina will be expected to furnish 11,500 men. This is an average of 118 men to each county, but Gaston county will be expected to contribute more than that amount because of its population—150 to 200 doubtless being about the number necessary from counties the size of Gaston.

STAGE SET FOR KIRMESSES.

Fun and Music Will be Ushered to the Front of the Stage Tonight at Big Musical Entertainment Given by Pythian Drum Corps—Dress Rehearsal Last Night.

The stage is set for the Kirmesse, a musical extravaganza, in which more than 100 Gastonia people are to participate at the Central school auditorium tonight at 8 o'clock. Those in charge of the musicale have been busy all morning putting the final touches to the stage and now everything is in readiness.

Last night a dress rehearsal was held and the uneven places smoothed out by Miss McCloskey, who has been coaching the members of the cast for the past several weeks.

There were quite a number of surprises last night when several members appeared on the stage in costume, as their work was even better than was expected by those who have had charge of the Kirmesse. Those who saw the rehearsal last night for the first time expressed surprise at the unusual ability shown by those on the program.

One feature of the evening will be the dancing of Miss Hattie Dudley, of Charlotte, who has been persuaded to assist in making the Kirmesse a success. Miss Dudley dances with quite a bit of ease and her every movement is gracefully executed. She will be assisted by her sister, Miss Rutledge Dudley.

Throughout the evening there will be fun interspersed with excellent music, a riot of color, lights, roses and pretty girls.

Reserved seats for the attraction are being secured at Kennedy's Drug store.

DANCES ABOLISHED.

Commencement at University to Be Quiet Affair—Many Chapel Hill Men Will Go to Fort Oglethorpe.

Correspondence of The Gazette. CHAPEL HILL, May 2.—At a recent meeting of the faculty of the University all commencement festivities in the way of dances have been abolished. It was voted that all seniors who stand creditably in their work be given their diplomas May 7. About 40 men or more out of the senior class have signified their intention of going to Fort Oglethorpe. In this number will be included those who intended to go to the Plattsburg camps. A number of instructors are planning also to leave for Fort Oglethorpe.

This coming commencement will be the quietest one in years.

TROOPS MAY SOON BE SENT TO FRANCE.

(By International News Service.) WASHINGTON, May 3.—Sentiment for sending to the battle front in France as soon as possible an American expedition continued to increase today in official circles. It is believed certain that the assembling of initial units will soon be authorized but when or how or what units will be sent must remain a military secret. It is felt certain, however, that the regular army will contribute the larger part.