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INDUSTRIES OF ALL KINDS ARE INVITED TO LOCATE HERE FOR WE HAVE EVERYTHING TO OFFER IN THE WAY OF LABOR, CAPITAL AND TRIBUTARY FACILITIES. WE HAVE AN UP-TO-DATE JOB AND NEWSPAPER PLANT.



Agriculture is the Most Useful, the Most Healthful, the Most Noble Employment of Man.—George Washington.

WE HAVE A CIRCULATION OF TWELVE HUNDRED AMONG THE BEST PEOPLE IN THE EASTERN PART OF NORTH CAROLINA AND INVITE THOSE WHO WISH TO GET BETTER ACQUAINTED WITH THESE GOOD PEOPLE IN A BUSINESS WAY TO TAKE A FEW INCHES SPACE AND TELL THEM WHAT YOU HAVE TO BRING TO THEIR ATTENTION.

OUR ADVERTISING RATES ARE LOW AND CAN BE HAD UPON APPLICATION.

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CHILD LABOR BILL DOES NOT MATERIALIZE

Other Matters of Interest Taken up by The Legislature Yesterday

INSURANCE QUESTION IS UP

Law Makers Are Making Satisfactory Progress With The State's Business—Have Made Very Good Record So Far.

Raleigh, Feb. 17.—The Weaver Child Labor bill, which had been set for special order at noon yesterday, came up on the calendar in due course. Senator Weaver, the maker of the bill and one of the members of the committee submitting a minority report, withdrew this report. There was no argument, and no explanation. To all intents and purposes, the bill is dead. This is not saying, however that another bill of like import but of different form may not be introduced later.

Senator Ward introduced a resolution yesterday morning to memorialize the North Carolina Representatives in Congress to use their efforts for the passage of the ship purchase bill now before Congress.

Senator Ward earnestly disclaimed any such purpose in his resolution, offering it in good faith without purpose beyond that of the public good.

The real fight in the Senate yesterday was on the Cooper bill to provide for the taking of collections up to the limit of ten per cent in fees upon judgments on contracts promising the same. It turned out in the round up that Senator Cooper was about the only one favoring the measure. Senators Haymore, Mecheal, Speight, Muse, Ward, Atwater, Ballou—all of them found grievous wrongs opening up through such a measure. It was pronounced unconstitutional, unjust, unfair, the acme of pernicious legislation, the highest route of charging usury, a bill to open the door for oppression, and a good bill only for two by four lawyers and money sharks.

Senator Cooper was not looking for this. He offered to withdraw his bill or to table it if such were the impression of the Senate regarding it. At any rate this is the course it finally took, swamped in unfavorable criticism not directed at Senator Cooper but at his bill.

House Proceedings.

Debate on the Sewell bill to enlarge the powers of the Insurance Commissioner and regulate fire insurance rates in North Carolina featured the House proceedings yesterday and when the hour of adjournment arrived the vote on the measure had not been reached and further consideration will be given to it today.

Spelling Bee Last Night Was Very Interesting Occasion to Large Crowd

The spelling bee which was given last night at the Court House was greatly enjoyed by a large number of people who were present in spite of the bad weather. After the crowd had assembled the sides were chosen under the leadership of Mr. Roy Flanagan and Prof. Hoy Taylor. Prof. Peele gave out the words from the old "blue back" spelling book. Some of the best spellers in town were pitted against each other and some good spelling was done. The most interesting and funniest part of the contest was the way some crack spellers were tripped on simple words. The first words given out were comparatively easy but the ranks began to thin out at once, one of the best spellers in the house going down on "discreet". Other words which proved the undoing of the spellers were schism, guinea, bdellium, daguerrotype, ingenious, and others. The contest finally narrowed down to Mrs. L. C. Arthur on Mr. Flanagan's side and Supt. Underwood and Dr. Fitzgerald on Prof. Taylor's side. The final contest was between the last two gentlemen and resulted in a victory for the County Superintendent.

Every one present reported a very pleasant time and quite a nice sum of money was raised for the Missionary Circle which was giving the Bee, the total receipts being \$28. As a general good time producer and fun maker a spelling bee is hard to beat.

Valentine Party.

The Fourth Grade at the Model School was given a valentine party by the Third Grade on Friday afternoon February 12, 1915. The room was attractively decorated with artistic Valentine's which were made by the children. After a number of interesting games were played on the school grounds the children again went to the Third Grade where they were given candy hearts. The children amused themselves by writing Valentine letters to each other.

Cotton and Cotton Seed Prices

The prices on cotton, cotton seed and cotton seed meal at various places in the State as reported for the past week range from 7 to 8 1-2 cents a pound for cotton, 30 to 48c a bushel for cotton seed and \$28 to \$32 a ton for cotton seed meal. The highest price paid for cotton in this section of the State for cotton was 8 1-4 cents at Fayetteville. The average price is about 8 cents. Corn is selling for 80 to \$1.00 a bushel. Wheat according to market quotations is selling for \$1.35 to \$1.62.

Claffin Creditors Get Dividend

New York, Feb. 17.—The noteholders and other creditors of the H. B. Claffin Company, the big combination of stores that failed last summer, today received a dividend of 15 per cent under the terms of the reorganization

British Make Successful Air Raid on Germans in Belgium and Drop Bombs

Blockade Still Center of Attention in Western Zone of Fighting

HEAVY FIGHTING IN EAST

Berlin Claims Big Gains in Prussia But Allies Claim Retirement in Accordance With Regular Move

London, Feb. 16.—Forty British and French aeroplanes and seaplanes today attacked the German positions at Ostend, Middlekerke, Ghisteltes, and Zeebrugge in Belgium and, according to the official report, with good results. Bombs were dropped on gun positions, trawlers, and barges and an aerodrome.

The official statement, concerning the raid, says:

"The air operations of the naval wing against the Bruges, Ostend and Zeebrugge district were continued this afternoon. Forty aeroplanes and seaplanes bombarded Ostend, Middlekerke, Ghisteltes, and Zeebrugge.

"Bombs were dropped on the heavy batteries on the east and west side of Ostend, on gun positions at Middlekerke, on transport wagons on the Ostend-Ghisteltes road, on the Moie at Zeebrugge, on barges outside damaged in former attacks, on the locks at Zeebrugge, on barges outside Blankenberghe, and on trawlers outside Zeebrugge.

"Instructions are always issued to confine attacks to points of military importance, and every effort is made by the flying officers to avoid dropping bombs on any residential portions of towns."

Blockade Overshadows All.

London, Feb. 16.—In the absence of any striking news from the two European battle fronts, public attention in England today was centered on the threatened blockade of the British Islands by German submarines and mines in retaliation for Great Britain's act in prohibiting the carrying of food to Germany.

Other Neutrals Join Protest.

Holland and Italy, like the United States have protested to Germany against her sea war zone threat and have asked Great Britain not to make free use of neutral flags. Similar representations are expected to be made to the two countries tomorrow in a joint note by Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

On the battle fields of Europe military movements of the first importance are taking place, especially in the East. The German offensive strongly supported but French troops is being pushed with great vigor both in Poland north of the Lower Vistula. The Russians have evacuated East Prussia except for a small area near Lyck, and also are apparently falling

back in North Poland for the Germans today announced the occupation of Plock and Bielsk which the Russians recaptured from them a short time ago.

Still Called Retirement.

While the Germans seem to have inflicted heavy losses on the retiring Russian armies military men here and the newspaper correspondents in Petrograd continue to refer to the Muscovite movement as a strategic retirement to the fortified line along the Niemen river which runs through Kovno, Grodno and Lomza and thence southwest to the Fortress of Novoe Georgiewsk.

Heavy fighting continues in the Carpathians and Bukovina. In Bukovina the Russians also are falling back but they continue to hold the Carpathian passes farther west and are offering stubborn resistance to the Austro-German offensive in that region. Here the armies are fighting in deep snow and both sides are suffering severely.

Some Activity in West

Although there have been no events of outstanding importance on this front a long official report of the British operations from November to the beginning of February, issued today, shows that there is more or less activity there. The report says there has been a lot of trench fighting in with the Indians and British territorials have distinguished themselves. General French, in the report pays high tribute to the Indians. He says the territorials have far more than justified the most sanguine hopes entertained of their value in the field. The report adds that reinforcements are arriving regularly.

UNITED STATES EMBASSY MAY LEAVE MEXICO

Washington, Feb. 16.—The United States, President Wilson said today has received no confirmation of reports that Spain had addressed the powers on restoring order in Mexico. The President told cabinet there was no material change in the Mexican question.

American attaches of the United States embassy in Mexico City, lately attached to the Brazilian legation will leave Mexico City if all other diplomatic representatives depart.

The State Department has informed the Brazilian minister that it proposes he will be guided by instructions from his own government with respect to leaving, but asks him to advise the American attaches that they may leave if others do.

Confirmatory dispatches of the Capture of Guadaluajara by Villa forces and a steady advance on Mexico City were received today.

What most married men would rejoice to see is a war tax on old bachelors.

SIGHTED A WHALE

Government Party Took Observations But Didn't Molest.

Wilmington, Feb. 16.—The members of a surveying party from the office of Maj. H. W. Stickle, United States District Engineer, sighted a whale on the ocean bar at the mouth of the Cape Fear Friday but as they didn't get within a mile of the fish they were unable yesterday to give a very clear description of it. It was reported, however, that it was 75 feet long and ever so big around.

Some of the other members of the engineering office force were disposed to treat the story with some scorn yesterday, declaring that it was a "fish story." The doughty surveyors, however stuck to their guns and maintained stoutly that it was a whale and also called attention to the fact that it wasn't the first whale that has been seen in that vicinity.

TAKING THE 'OFFICIAL BATH.'

A London "Tommy" Tells How the Operation is Conducted.

London, (Correspondence of The Associated Press).—A description of the soldier's monthly "official bath" is sent from the front by a member of a London Scottish Regiment:

"Yesterday we had a novel experience," he says. "As none of us had seen soap or warm water for over five weeks, we were ordered to take to a town in the rear of our lines and escorted to a large building, where facilities had been arranged for the purpose. In the first room we were numbered off into squads of ten men or so. In a second room we emptied our pockets and laid aside our boots, bonnets, puttees, and sporrans. In a third room we threw the rest of our clothes into a heap, and then made a double-quick to the showers. There were two men to each shower, and we were allowed ten minutes under the hot water with a generous supply of laundry soap.

"At the end of our ten minutes we hurried on to a drying room, where each man got a huge towel as thick and rough as a carpet. Then we rushed on off to a dressing room, where an attendant gave us anything we wanted in the way of brand-new underwear, shirts, and socks, while on hooks on one side were our clothes, which had been thoroughly fumigated.

"After we had got back our boots, boots and other property, we were ushered into a room where a squad of barbers awaited us. When they were through we marched, spie and spie again, into a tea room for tea and cigarettes. Could anything be better arranged."—New York Herald.

Big Demand for Horses

Dillon, Montana, Feb. 17.—The annual Dillon Horse Sale, which began today drew an unusual number of buyers from the East. High prices were paid some of them record-breakers for this section. The heavy demand for horses by European governments has exhausted the eastern market, and the Montana ranch owners smiled to see the bidding rise to record prices today.

SHIP PURCHASE BILL PASSES LOWER HOUSE

Republicans Try To Delay Passage But are Finally Decisively Defeated

TRIBUTES TO THE PRESIDENT

Result a Decided Victory to The Administration Which Has Urged The Passage of This Measure At This Congress

Washington, D. C., Feb. 17.—The government ship purchase bill, as an amendment to the Week's naval auxiliary bill, was passed by the House of Representatives at 1:20 o'clock this morning, by a vote of 215 to 121.

The passage of the bill followed a fourteen hour parliamentary struggle which, until long after midnight threatened to extend interminably because of a determined filibuster directed by minority leader, Mann, who yielded only after administration leaders decided to apply a second special rule to bring the fight to an end.

To Vote on Bill

Washington, D. C., Feb. 16.—Democratic leaders in both houses of Congress agreed tonight that the government ship purchase bill either would be before President Wilson for his signature within a few days or dead so far as this session is concerned.

The House remained in session late tonight to pass the Week-Gore bill, as the amended measure is known and tomorrow the administration forces will begin a final effort to get a vote in the Senate on the House amendments over the opposition of Republicans and resolute Democrats.

Majority leaders spoke confidently today of the prospect of victory and President Wilson, after a conference with Senator Kern, told cabinet the bill would be passed.

On both sides of the Capitol, belief was expressed that if the Senate fell through the ship bill would be abandoned and all efforts centered upon disposing of appropriation bills to make necessary an extra session.

The ship bill as it will go to the Senate from the House includes the ship purchase measure as agreed upon in Senate caucus and a provision that two years after the close of the European war ships acquired by the United States shall be turned over to the Secretary of the Navy to be operated or leased for commercial purposes under the terms of the Weeks bill already passed by the Senate.

By the time the average man reaches the age of fifty he knows a lot of things he would like to get rid of at 25 per cent less than cost. Chicago News.