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POLK COUNTY NEWS

Wonderful Polk County, "In The Land of The Sky", Offers Unusual Opportunities for Home Seekers. Mountain Spring Water. Magnificent Scenery.

VOL. XXI NO. 18. TRYON, POLK COUNTY, N. C. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1915. ESTABLISHED MAY, 1894.

26 LIVES LOST WHEN HESPERIAN SANK

VESSEL WENT TO THE BOTTOM WHILE BEING TOWED TO PORT.

ALL THE MAIL WAS LOST

Steamer Carried 3,545 Bags of Mail. Much of it Originating in Neutral Countries.

Queenstown.—Six second cabin passengers, six third cabin passengers and 13 of the crew of the steamer Hesperian, torpedoed 150 miles off Queenstown, were unaccounted for, according to revised figures issued by the Allan Line. This brings the probable death list, including Miss Carberry of St. Johns, Newfoundland, whose body is here, up to 26.

The captain of the Hesperian remained by his ship until it sank, while being taken into port. He declined to comment on the disaster for publication. Any official statement as to whether he believes his ship was a victim of a torpedo or a mine must come from the Admiralty, although the captain is quoted as having told an Allan Line official that the Hesperian was torpedoed.

Captain Main and the officers who remained aboard the steamer while efforts were being made to tow her to port were able to save some of their effects before the ship plunged to the bottom, 70 miles southwest of Fastnet, not far from the scene of the attack, taking with her 3,545 bags of mail, much of it originating in neutral countries.

The flooding of the forward compartments, which caused the Hesperian to sink so much by the head as to throw the propellers out of the water, made the task of towing her to Queenstown impossible in the rough sea.

The names of the missing second cabin passengers follow: Miss Bannister, Mrs. Fisher, Joseph Fowler, Mrs. Hannah Fowler, Maria Jenkins and Miss Murray.

BRYAN PRAISES PRESIDENT.

Tells Friends of Peace He is Thankful Wilson Loves Peace.

Chicago.—Prolonged applause greeted William J. Bryan during his address at the national convention of the Friends of Peace, when he said: "I want you to be thankful that this country's President loves peace and is trying with every means at his disposal, to preserve our country's peace."

Shortly before the delegates had cheered Congressman Henry Vollmer of Iowa when he attacked the Administration for permitting export of war munitions to Europe.

Before adjourning the convention instructed its officers to make known to President Wilson and Congress the purposes of the Friends of Peace as embodied in resolutions styled "a new declaration of independence." The "declaration" made no formal demand for an embargo on war munitions, but declared for freedom of the seas to all commerce, including that with all belligerent nations, and opposed manufacture of death dealing implements for profit. The officers also were instructed to draw up bills embodying these principles for presentation to the next Congress.

Daniels Will Not Report Soon.

Washington.—Secretary Daniels will not make a final report on plans for strengthening the navy until he has received further information regarding lessons learned during the present war in Europe.

Steamer Cymbeline Sunk.

London.—The British steamer Cymbeline has been sunk. Six members of the crew were killed and six were injured. Thirty-one others were rescued safely.

British Steamer Mimosa Sunk.

London.—The British steamer Mimosa, from New York to Belfast, has been sunk. The crew was saved.

Carranza Not Responsible.

Washington.—General Carranza sent an emphatic denial from Vera Cruz that Carranza troops had taken any part in the disturbances along the Texas border. "I have issued instructions to General Nafarrette," read General Carranza's telegram, "to avoid energetically any act that may cause any international complications on the border. Deny emphatically that our troops have either taken part in the disturbances of Texas, or that they allow the organization of such bands of disturbers."

RAISE TAX VALUES IN 80 COUNTIES

EIGHTY COUNTIES MUST ADVANCE VALUATION OF THEIR TAXABLE PROPERTY.

AN INCREASE OF \$92,000,000

Commission Makes This Increase in State Since Last Quadriennial Re-assessment in 1911.

Raleigh.—In the matter of the equalization of assessments of real property in North Carolina for taxation the Corporation Commission, in its capacity as State Tax Commission, issued an order in which the assessment made by the county assessors in 80 of the counties are advanced from 5 to 30 per cent and the assessments in 20 of the counties are accepted as made by the local assessors. The assessments in the three counties of Mecklenburg, Wake and Pender have not yet been filed with the commission by the county authorities and the percentages of the raises in these, if any, will be determined later when the returns are filed.

The highest percentage of increase applied to any of the counties, 30 per cent, is against the three counties of Alleghany, Sampson and Scotland counties. The other counties that get increases, grouped as to their percentages of increase, follow:

Twenty-five per cent increase, Richmond county; 25 per cent increase, Ashe and Caldwell.

Fifteen per cent increase, Bertie, Catawba, Cleveland, Davidson, Onslow, Randolph and Wilkes. Ten per cent increase, Anson, Bladen, Burke, Camden, Caswell, Chatham, Chowan, Cumberland, Duplin, Durham, Edgecombe, Forsyth, Franklin, Gaston, Granville, Guilford, Iredell, Jones, Lincoln, Macon, McDowell, Montgomery, Orange, Person, Pitt, Robeson, Rowan, Union and Wilson.

Five per cent increase, Beaufort, Buncombe, Cabarrus, Clay, Columbus, Craven, Currituck, Davie, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Harnett, Haywood, Henderson, Hertford, Hoke, Hyde, Jackson, Johnson, Lenoir, Madison, Mitchell, Northampton, Pamlico, Perquimans, Polk, Rockingham, Rutherford, Transylvania, Tyrrell, Vance, Warren, Washington and Wayne.

The commission declares that this order is made after carefully considering the assessments for taxation of property in all the counties of the state for the purpose of equalization as between the counties.

The 20 counties that are "white-listed" as having assessments made by the assessors that are considered as fair in their relation to assessments made in other counties follow: Alexander, Alamance, Avery, Brunswick, Carteret, Cherokee, Dare, Graham, Lee, Martin, Moore, Nash, New Hanover, Stanley, Stokes, Surry, Swain, Watauga, Yadkin and Lenoir.

More Land For Reserve.

Asheville.—W. A. Ward and J. J. Nichols have sold to the United States Government 431.95 acres of timber lands in Swannanoa Township, Buncombe county, for use as a portion of the Southern Appalachian forest reserve. The land is bought under the provisions of the Weeks act. The purchase price is given in the deed as \$2,807.67 and Uncle Sam takes immediate possession of the property. The greater part of the land is covered with virgin timber and the tract abounds in springs which run into Tree Creek and Shope Creek. The land will form a portion of the Mitchell range and the government has been desirous of purchasing it for some time past.

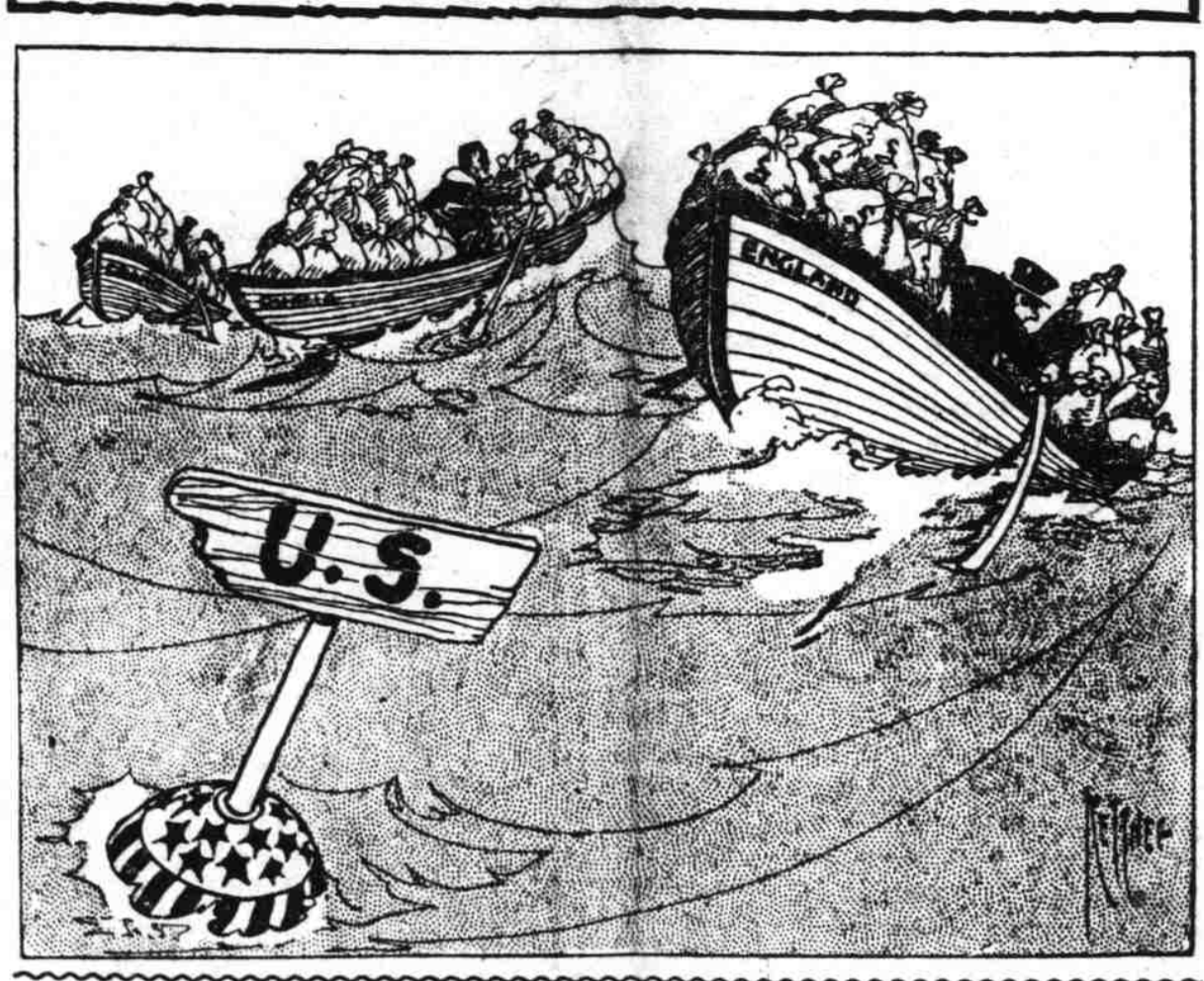
New Cotton Mill Operating.

Marion.—The Clinchfield Manufacturing Company, Marion's new million dollar cotton mill, has just completed the installation of all machinery, and is now operating at full capacity. This is one of the most complete, and up-to-date cotton mills in the country, embodying everything modern known to the cotton mill world.

Decrease of 113,970 Bales.

Wilmington.—There was a big decrease in the receipt and export of cotton at this port the past year as compared to the previous year, being directly due to the European war. The receipts for the cotton year ending August 1, 1915, amounted to 285,058 bales as against 399,023 bales for the previous year, a decrease of 113,970 bales. The exports the past year amounted to 248,945 bales, which was a decrease of 104,387 bales over the previous year. There are now stored in Wilmington 32,390 bales of cotton.

COMING OVER



TAFT ON PREPAREDNESS WILL HELP WITH COTTON

INCREASED WAR AND NAVY SUBJECT OF PRINCIPLE "TAFT DAY" SPEAKER.

Relief of Tension With Germany Should Be Source of Profound Rejoicing by Americans.

San Francisco.—William Howard Taft advocated preparedness for war and detailed means for its accomplishment in an address at the Panama-Pacific Exposition, delivered at "Taft Day" exercises.

In ceremonies preceding the address, Mr. Taft, using the silver spade with which, while President he broke ground for the exposition four years ago, planted a California redwood tree in "Taft Circle."

He also reviewed portions of the United States coast artillery at the Presidio of San Francisco. A silver loving cup, inscribed "in grateful remembrance of his unflinching friendship and the fulfillment of his confidence that San Francisco knows how," was presented to him by the exposition officials.

In beginning his address Mr. Taft declared Germany's acquiescence to the United States contention for the rights of non-combatants on commercial liners "should be the cause of profound rejoicing by every patriotic American and the occasion for congratulation to the President."

"It must relieve the strain between the two countries. The shadow of a serious breach passes," he continued. "It should not, however, lead our people away from their duty of reasonable preparation. The incident, though closed as we all hope, except as to indemnity for the lives of those already drowned, shows how near, as neutrals, we are to the war. It shows that we must be careful to insist upon our rights as much as that we ought to be reasonably prepared to defend, against their invasion by any belligerent powers."

TEUTONS MAKE HEADWAY.

Riga Only Section Where Russians Have Solid Front.

London.—Except in the region of Riga, where the Russians are presenting a solid front, the Austro-German offensive again is making headway. The western forts of Grodno were evacuated after two of them were destroyed by the heavy guns and stormed by the German infantry, and it is considered extremely likely the whole fortress already has been left to its fate. Vilna, doubtless, will be the next objective of the Austro-Germans on this front.

Vienna reports a series of successes which virtually have driven the Russians out of Galicia; they now hold only a very narrow strip between the Sereth and Bessabia. Across the border in the latter province the Austrians say the Russians set fire to a number of villages, which might indicate a further retreat.

Thus hopes raised recently in the Allied countries that Russia at last was making a stand, have been dispelled. The Austro-Germans, however, claim no large captures of men or guns and the Russians apparently are keeping their guns well behind the infantry.

Turks Burn Town.

London.—An Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Athens says: "Travelers arriving from Constantinople announce that Turks burned the town of Ismid and massacred a large number of the American inhabitants." Ismid, at the head of the Gulf of Ismid in Asia-Minor, is 56 miles southeast of Constantinople.

NEWSPAPERS TO TAKE CONTRIBUTION

WADE H. HARRIS OF THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER WILL RECEIVE INDIVIDUAL CHECKS

FOR CALDWELL MEMORIAL

Committee Meets at Statesville, Organizes and is Now Ready to Receive Contributions.

Statesville.—The committee appointed at the last meeting of the North Carolina Press Association to make arrangements for the erection of a memorial to the late Joseph P. Caldwell, long-time editor of The Observer, met here a few days ago for the purpose of completing an organization for the campaigning of voluntary contributions. There were present Mr. R. R. Clark of the Statesville Landmark; Mr. Archibald Johnson of Chatham and Children; Mr. H. B. Varner of The Lexington Dispatch and Mr. Wade H. Harris of The Charlotte Observer. Mr. James H. Caine of The Asheville Citizen, the remaining member of the committee, missed connection, but sent a telegram requesting Mr. Clark to act for him.

The Caldwell Memorial Fund Commission was organized with Mr. Clark as president, and Mr. Harris secretary and treasurer.

Every newspaper in the state is authorized and requested to receive contributions, and in every community in the state a committee of personal friends of Mr. Caldwell will be appointed whose services in the cause will be supplemental to those of the local papers.

Some money has been forwarded even before the committee was ready to take up the work.

The memorial is to be provided through voluntary contributions from the friends and admirers of the late editor, and the committee is now in readiness to receive monies. Individual contributions may be forwarded by check or through other commercial sources to Mr. Wade H. Harris at Charlotte, to whom also, the collections by the newspapers will be forwarded from time to time. The form which the memorial will take will be determined by the nature of the contributions as a whole, and the location will be decided largely by public sentiment as developed. These two matters were discussed only informally by the committee.

Trull Pays Death Penalty.

Raleigh.—Leaving as his final dying confession the statement that he assumed sole guilt in the murder and robbery of Sidney Swain in Charlotte on the night of May 16, 1914, Charles E. Trull went to the electric chair in the state's prison here paying the death penalty with a remarkable degree of self-control.

It was exactly 10:30 o'clock when Trull entered the death chamber, walking between two prison guards. However, he advanced to the death chair unsupported, while a silence pervaded the crowded chamber that was distinctly oppressive. As he advanced with somewhat unsteady step he muttered prayers such as "Lord, have mercy on my soul" and "Lord, bless my poor mother."

Home For Women About Ready.

Fayetteville.—In a ringing appeal to the people of the state Mrs. Hunter G. Smith of this city, chairman of the advisory board of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, which will be in charge of the Home for Confederate Women, is asking the patriotic men and women of North Carolina for contributions towards the furnishing of the home so that it may be opened in October. The home is nearing completion and it is the earnest desire of the committee to have it thrown open for occupancy at the earliest possible date after the contractors have turned the building over to the directors.

WEATHER FORECAST.

South Atlantic and East Gulf States.—The week will be one of generally fair weather and normal temperatures.

NORTH CAROLINA MARKET.

Prices of Cotton, Corn, Oats, Peas, Butter, Eggs, Etc., on North Carolina Markets During Past Week.

Ahoscie—Cotton, 8½¢; corn, \$1 bu; oats, 55¢ bu; peas, \$2 bu; Irish potatoes, \$1.25 bu; Western butter, 22½¢ lb; N. C. butter, 30¢ lb; eggs, 15-17¢ doz.

Asheville—Corn, 96¢ bu; oats, 55¢ bu; Irish potatoes, \$1.50 bu; Western butter, 30¢; N. C. butter, 31¢; eggs, 15-25¢ doz.

Charlotte—Cotton, 8½¢; corn, \$1.05 bu; oats, 60¢ bu; Western butter, 35¢ lb; eggs, 18-25¢ doz.

Durham—Cotton, 8¼¢; corn, 92¢ bu; oats, 58¢ bu; peas, \$1.85 bu.

GERMANS TORPEDO LINER HESPERIAN

THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY PASSENGERS ABOARD.—ALL ARE SAFE.

ARMED WITH VISIBLE GUN

Off South Irish Coast When Attacked.—All Passengers Landed Safely at Queenstown.

London.—The Allan Line steamer Hesperian, with 350 passengers, bound from Liverpool for Montreal, was attacked without warning by a German submarine off the Irish coast. Although the torpedo found its mark the vessel remained afloat and, according to a statement issued by the company every soul aboard was saved.

No submarine was seen, and probably it was too dark to observe the wake of a torpedo, but all the passengers and crew who arrived at Queenstown in rescue steamers agreed the attack was made by a German undersea boat, basing their opinion on the force of the shock and the great volume of water thrown into the air.

The force of the explosion was tremendous, and of the passengers landed at Queenstown, many of them scantily clad, about 20 were injured.

There were no American passengers on board so far as the American Consul could learn, but two members of the crew were American citizens and they both were saved. About 30 wounded Canadian soldiers going home to recuperate were aboard. Most of the other passengers were Canadians or English.

The torpedo struck the Hesperian in the forward engine room, and the ship immediately began to settle by the head. Captain Main ordered the passengers and crew into the boats, but with his officers remained on the bridge, although at that time he must have felt sure his ship would go down.

The discipline was perfect, but one of the boats, the falls of which became jammed, capsized, and those in there were thrown into the water. In the darkness some confusion prevailed, but all were picked up, and with other passengers and the crew, were transferred to the rescue steamers, which arrived in answer to wireless calls for assistance.

TROOPS ON BORDER READY.

Would Not Hesitate to Cross Border After Mexican Bandits.

Washington.—All United States troops on the Mexican border are under orders to be in readiness to meet any emergency. War department officials said extraordinary vigilance had been ordered as a result of repeated raids in American territory by Mexican brigands and soldiers, and renewed reports of preparation for an organized invasion from across the Rio Grande in the states of Coahuila and Nuevo Leon.

As long as the raiders continue to appear in small bands, it is understood none of them will be followed into their own territory, but officials indicated that the American commanders would not hesitate to pursue the enemy until they were completely routed—should anything resembling an organized invasion of the United States be encountered.

Persistent reports that some of the Mexican raiders slain wore Carranza uniforms have reached officials here. Rumors have come, too, that there is a concerted move by Carranza leaders in Nuevo Leon and Coahuila to arouse Mexican sentiment against the Pan-American movement for re-establishment of constitutional government in the republic.

Charles A. Boynton Dead.

Washington.—Charles A. Boynton, one of the veterans of the Associated Press and one of the best known American newspaper men of the last 25 years, died here at his home, aged 79. He had not been in active service since 1909, but until recently had been in fair health.

Martial Law in Haiti.

Washington.—Foreign influences in Haiti, working to block the plans of the United States to pacify the republic and rehabilitate its finances under American supervision, have made it necessary to declare martial law in Port au Prince, and in practically all but two of the country's open ports. Rear Admiral Caperton, acting within his general instructions, declared martial law and explained that his action was taken because of a situation which was beyond the control of the local government.