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# The Cleveland Star

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THE CLEVELAND STAR, SHELBY, N. C., TUESDAY, MAY 1, 1917

\$1.50 A YEAR IN ADVANCE

## DRAFT BILL IS PASSED

### ADMINISTRATION WINS FIGHT FOR SELECTIVE CONSCRIPTION BY BIG VOTE IN BOTH HOUSE AND SENATE.

Washington, April 28.—By overwhelming majorities, both the Senate and House passed late tonight the administration bill to raise a war army by selective draft.

The final roll calls brought into line behind the bill many Senators and Representative who had fought for the volunteer system until routed by decisive defeats of volunteer amendments earlier in the day in both houses.

The Senate, which has voted down the volunteer plan 69 to 18, passed the bill by a vote of 81 to 8. In the House, the vote against the volunteer plan was 313 to 109, and that by which the bill itself was passed was 397 to 24.

As passed by the Senate, the measure provides for the draft of men between the ages of 21 and 27 years, while in the House measure the age between the ages of 21 and 27 years, and lesser discrepancies will be threshed out in conference early next week so that the bill may be in the hands of the President as quickly as possible. The War Department already has completed plans for carrying it into effect.

Senators who voted against the bill were: Democrats—Gore, Hardwick, Krig, Thomas, and Trammell. Republicans—Borah, Gronna and LaFollette. Senator Vandaman, of Miss., Democrat, was excused from voting, at his own request. He did not give a reason.

The Representatives voting in the negative were: Republicans—Bacon, Kiser, Hay, Hayes, LaFollette, Lucas, Minnerath, Mason, Nolan, Powers, Democrat—Barnett, Church, Clark of Florida, Claypool, Crosser, C. W. Phelan, Gordon, Huddleston, Scott, Sears, Sherwood, Sisson, and Tamm. Democrats—Randall, Socialist—Lindbergh.

### Increase Pay.

Both Senate and House adopted amendments at just before the final roll calls which would greatly increase the pay of enlisted men during the war. The House provision would raise the pay \$10 a month and that proposed by the Senate would fix it at \$25 a month. The present pay is \$15.

In the House at the last moment, Chairman Fitzgerald, of the Appropriations Committee, objected vigorously to the appropriations of \$3,000,000 carried in the bill for the expense of the new army, and the section finally was eliminated entirely. Mr. Fitzgerald declared that to place the vast sum in the hands of the Secretary of War would make of Congress a "mere automaton," and promised that if the section was voted down the committee would provide funds promptly in a separate measure.

Among the amendments adopted in the Senate was one which would permit Colonel Roosevelt to recruit a volunteer force for service in France. A similar proposal had been rejected by the House. Speaker Clark, Democratic Leader Kitchin and Chairman of the Military Committee, who had favored the volunteer system, all voted for the draft bill on the final roll call. Republican Leader Mann also voted in the affirmative, as did Miss Rankin, who previously had voted with the volunteer advocates.

### Card of Thanks

My family, relatives, and friends of the late J. T. Buff who met me at the death in a Mica mine to express our sincere thanks for the kindness and sympathy shown by the kind people of Mooreboro where the tragedy occurred. We further wish to say that the many and various rumors that were abroad in the country as to the cause of his death by foul play are untrue and that we consider that the cause and the Jury were right in pronouncing the cause of the death as accident. We sincerely thank our many friends for the kindness, the sympathy and the loving acts that they have shown us in our recent bereavement and truly hope that they will be rewarded for this expression of sympathy.

We also wish to express our thanks to the neighbors and friends in the home community for the many acts of kindness that they showed us in our bereavement.

Signed Mrs. J. T. Buff and Family, Mooreboro, N. C., April 28th, 1917.

### Mooreboro Entertainment

The Mooreboro school will give an entertainment next Friday night. Among the pieces will be "The Mischievous Nigger." The proceeds will go to the benefit of school.

## THE BIG EXPLOSION

### Thornton Bostic, Shelby Boy, Doing Guard Duty at the Big Eddystone Ammunition Plant in Pennsylvania Tells of Horrible Scenes.

By Thornton Bostic:

On the morning of the explosion, I had come on guard, eaten breakfast, and just gone to bed, when it occurred at 9:50. I was not conscious of hearing the report, but I am sure that is what woke me up, for the first thing I knew I was sitting up in bed looking out of the window towards the ammunition plant. I saw a big cloud of smoke, and timbers flying thru the air. Getting into my clothes I grabbed my rifle, and a squad of us night guards started for the plant on the run. We arrived at Baldwin gate about five minutes after the first explosion, and here we saw several women being carried away. Crossing the road we entered the ammunition gate and began to get busy keeping the crowd out of the way. Automobiles of all kinds, and wagons were bringing the dead and injured out and soon ambulances began to arrive from the city hospitals.

I was at the gate keeping the way clear for automobiles, when a shell came from somewhere and knocked a big hole in the fence a few feet behind me. I didn't know at the time what had happened except that for some reason the fence was falling down. Then I looked up on the main building and saw shot falling on it in several places. After that I began moving the crowd out of the Philadelphia road that runs between the ammunition plant and Baldwin's. I cleared the road of people for about half a mile up the road and then came back and went over to Baldwin's infirmary where they brought a few of the dead. About two o'clock they sent me down to the hospital in Chester where the majority of the injured were and it was not until then that I learned how bad it really was. My orders were to keep every one out except the doctors and nurses, which I did. In the afternoon a company of the First Regiment N. G. P. came down, and the town was placed under martial law for the night. The Penn. Military College Cadets were also on guard and the Boy Scouts were helping in various ways. The Army in Chester was thrown open and about 20 of the injured were brought there. By night there were over a hundred dead in the morgue and over a hundred more badly burned in the hospitals. About eight o'clock I was taken to another hospital in the suburbs of town. The people were coming in crowds looking for missing friends and relatives, but none of them was allowed to enter unless the person they were looking for was there. It was pitiful to see them come there after going to all the other hospitals and learn that their friends were not there or find out that they were but dead, as several did. I stayed there until three in the morning, and could hear them yell and groan in their pain, and saw them roll three dead ones out. The next two nights I was again at the same hospital and it was about the same as on the first night, except there weren't so many people coming in.

It was an awful sight to walk thru the morgue and look at the dead. There were about 125 bodies there to be identified. Practically all of them were burnt black all over, and the only means of identifying for a lot of them was by their teeth or jewelry. Occasionally you would see one who was not burnt much, who had been killed by shrapnel. Then you would see one with its head half gone, or without arms, or legs, or with only the body. There were a good many loose limbs picked up and brought in. I lay in the morgue six hours and identified dead. They said I think it was in one large grave. Each corpse was in a plain pine box with an American flag over each one. The guards from Remington, Baldwin's, and the Ammunition plant were there, and as they finished the operations, they came to present arms, as a salute to the dead. There was a minister of every denomination present, and each one conducted services as it is in their church.

The total list of dead now is one hundred and thirty-six, and I suppose there will be a few more to die. The coroner is conducting an investigation now as to the cause of it, but I don't suppose they will find out the exact cause, although the general opinion is that it was caused by a plot.

### Trinity Memorial

Memorial services at Trinity church May 4th. Devotional exercises at 9:30; decoration of graves at 10; sermon by Rev. L. W. Swope at 11; dinner at 12; address by Prof. J. D. Huggins at Boling Springs High School at 1:15; address by Attorney Peyton McSwain at 2:15; address by Prof. B. H. Bridges at 3:15. J. F. Weathers, Bill Bridges, Everett Bridges, committee.

## SOCIETY NEWS

### Important Meeting of Civic League

The monthly meeting of the Civic League will be held Thursday afternoon at 4:30 in the court house. A full attendance is requested. (Signed) Mrs. W. B. NIX, Pres.

### Beautiful Reception in Honor of Bride

Yesterday afternoon (Monday) Mrs. E. A. Wellmon, at her elegant new home on North LaFayette street was entertaining at a large floating reception as a pretty courtesy to her son's bride, Mrs. Paul Wellmon.

### 20th Century Club Met and Elected Officers

At the hospitable home of Mrs. H. E. Kendall, the 20th Century Club convened on last Friday afternoon at 4:30. This being the regular yearly business meeting, the most important business to come before the club was the election of officers. So capably had the former officers fulfilled their duties in the past that they were unanimously re-elected as follows: President, Mrs. L. M. Hull; vice president, Mrs. A. W. McMurry; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. O. M. Gardner.

After the business session, Miss Stella Seroggs delighted the members by a number of beautiful vocal selections. Following this the hostess, assisted by Miss Annie Miller, served a delicious two-course collation, consisting of sandwiches, ice tea, ice cream and cake, and salted nuts.

The next meeting will be on May 11th with Mrs. Will Roberts.

### Beam-Harrison Nuptials

In a simple but beautiful ceremony Miss Nora Beam and Mr. Elbert Harrison were covenanted in marriage at the home of the bride's parents on last Saturday morning at 9 o'clock. The parlor in which the ceremony took place was artistically decorated in handsome forms and palms, the vases being spoked beneath a lovely green bell. Rev. Lee M. White pastor of the First Baptist church officiating. The only attendant was dame of honor, the bride's sister-in-law, Mrs. Enos Beam, who was gowned in a handsome tan costume. The happy young couple entered the parlor together to the strains of Mendelssohn's wedding march, played by Mrs. George Hoyle.

The bride was becomingly gowned in a beautiful tan cloth going away gown and carried white carnations. Following the ceremony, an informal reception was held. Mr. and Mrs. Harrison leaving over the Southern for a visit to relatives in Morristown, Tenn., before going to Virginia to make their home for the present. The bride is the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Beam of this place, a most popular and accomplished young woman. The groom, until recently, has been making his home here for the past two of three years, engaged with Mr. W. H. Balanton, but is now interested in construction work in Virginia. He is a splendid business man and has made many warm friends since his sojourn in our city.

Mr. and Mrs. Harrison will perhaps return to Shelby in the fall.

### Road Funds Apportioned

The State Highway Commission announces the apportionment of the second installment of Federal aid funds for co-operative road building in this State, amounting to \$228,000, much of it going to counties along the Central Highway, Morristown to Asheville, to assure immediate completion of the highway. Apportionments for that purpose in this section are: Guilford \$15,000, Rowan \$10,000, Iredell \$10,000, Burke \$10,000, McDowell \$5,000.

Other apportionments in this part of the State are: Alexander county \$10,000, Caldwell and Catawba for bridges, \$10,000; Davidson \$8,000, Watauga \$10,000, Caldwell \$7,500.

### Omitted

Through an oversight on our part the advertisement of Mr. J. F. Ledford giving the rates on hail insurance on crops was omitted from Friday's Star. It should have appeared then as announced in Tuesday's paper. Mr. Ledford has been writing considerable hail insurance for two years in Cleveland. Said advertisement appears today.

You can get just what you want and need at Lineberger's, go there first.

FOR— Ice Cream Freezers go to J. D. LINEBERGER'S SONS.

## MORE FOOD FOR CLEVELAND CO.

### CLEVELAND COUNTY FOOD CONSERVATION COMMITTEE ORGANIZED TO CARRY ON EXTENSIVE AND IMPORTANT WORK.

There met in Superintendent J. Y. Irvin's office Saturday the following members of the Cleveland County Food Conservation Commission: Messrs. C. C. Blanton, chairman; R. M. Gidney, secretary; H. T. Fulton, chairman of the board of county commissioners; William Plonk, chairman of the County Board of Education; I. C. Griffin, secretary of the Shelby Board of Trade; J. Y. Irvin, superintending of education; Joe E. Blanton and Jim Gardner, up-to-date farmers and Editors G. G. Page of Kings Mountain Herald and Lee B. Weathers, of the Star, said commission being similar to ones that are being organized in every county in North Carolina under commissions issued by Governor T. W. Bickett. The purpose of the commission will be to agitate the growing of more food crops for man and beast to help combat the grave situation that has arisen as a result of the war. Mr. Irvin has appointed a committeeman from each school district in the county who will meet here with the central executive committee Saturday afternoon, May 5th at 3 o'clock in the court house to further organize and discuss the work to be carried out.

### A Million Imports

"Grow your own food and feed crops or go hungry" is the situation that confronts us. The south has been depending upon the north and central west for food and feedstuffs to the value of approximately 700 million dollars a year—at present prices the figures would no doubt pass the billion dollar mark. North Carolina's part of this tremendous aggregate of imports has been in round numbers eighty million dollars. AND Cleveland County's part is conservatively estimated to be over the million mark. What are we going to do about it? There are several means of increasing production. Where farmers can see their way clear, they are urged to reduce slightly their acreage of cotton and tobacco, especially the latter, giving more acres to corn, soy beans, peas, potatoes, hay and other food and feed crops. Every where they do not reduce their acreage of cotton and tobacco, they are urged to try to take care of a slight additional acreage, if they can do so without neglecting their accustomed crops.

### Systematic Campaign Planned

In order to carry on the work, Chairman C. C. Blanton appointed R. M. Gidney, I. C. Griffin and Lee B. Weathers who will, through the board of trade and the office of farm demonstrator, circulate literature to every farmer in Cleveland county, laying the situation plainly before them and urging that steps be taken to meet the situation. The students in typewriting in the Shelby Graded Schools will be asked to volunteer their services in addressing envelopes and mailing literature. Letters written by this committee, together with farm bulletins will be sent broadcast every week or ten days. An effort will be made to procure various seeds in large quantities to be sold at cost in extreme cases where individuals are not able to buy seeds, they will be furnished with the understanding that an equal amount will be returned after harvest, thus no cash outlay of money on the part of those not able to stand the drain.

School District Committeemen—Those whose names appear below are urgently requested to be here Saturday, May 5th. The call is imperative to perfect an organization throughout the county.

A. E. Elliott, Shelby 1; Z. C. Mauney, Stubbs; O. M. Mull, Shelby; Clarence Gardner, Shelby 1; J. E. Blanton, Shelby 5; L. A. Cabaniss, Shelby 6; T. P. Cabaniss, Shelby 5; J. M. Tucker, Shelby 7; J. L. Allen, Shelby 7; S. L. Roberts, Shelby 7; O. C. Dixon, Shelby 6; Julius Hord, Shelby 6; D. G. Mauney, Shelby 6; J. M. Wilson, Shelby 5; J. R. Dover, Shelby; Harris Rameur, Shelby; Sam Hamrick, Shelby 4; Tom Wallace, Shelby 4; Jim McSwain, Shelby 4; J. L. Green, Shelby 4; Franklin Harrill, Shelby 4; S. C. Brooks, Lattimore 1; B. M. Ellis, Mooreboro; H. H. Green, Mooreboro; William Beam, Lattimore; J. G. Lattimore 1; C. B. Hamrick, Mooreboro 1; Clarence Warwick, Lawndale 1; J. A. McCraw, Gaffney 1; C. Jones, Gaffney 2; H. S. Wood, Gaffney, 9; H. F. Hamrick, El-

## LIVE NEWS OF CURRENT EVENTS

### INTERESTING HAPPENINGS GATHERED FROM ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY AND CONDENSED TO PARAGRAPHS.

Postponement of the International Christian Endeavor convention, which was to have been held in New York July 4 to 9, is announced. The postponement is on account of the war and is for a year or more.

Three powder workers met death Tuesday when an explosion of black powder occurred in the Coalburg plant of the Aetna Explosive Company, 12 miles north of Birmingham, Ala. Cause of the blast unknown.

The Spanish government's note to Germany regarding Germany's submarine campaign contains a paragraph stating that if Germany continues in its determination to sink all vessels in order to defend its life, Spain must take a like step to defend her life.

A dispatch from Peking, China, says at a conference of provincial and military governors, at which the premier presided, it was voted unanimously that China should enter the war against Germany. A canvass shows that Parliament is overwhelmingly in favor of China declaring war, but President Li Yuan Hung is still undecided on the question.

More than 200,000 bushels of wheat and a large wooden grain elevator known as "elevator A" of the Western Transportation Company, owned by the Great Lakes Transit corporation, were destroyed by fire at Erie, Pa., Tuesday night, with a loss estimated at \$600,000. Officials of the company say the fire started from an overheated pulley in the elevator.

Senator Simmons and Congressman Hood have received resolutions from the citizens and civic organization of Morehead City and Beaufort, urging that Fort Macon be properly fortified. This fort is located at the inlet to Beaufort and Morehead, but is now obsolete. An effort is being made to induce the War Department to properly fortify this entrance to the harbors.

State co-operation in the government's war time food control programme will be encouraged by the appointment of a Federal expert in each State to assist State boards in putting into operation food production and conservation measures. These men will be put at the disposal of Governors as special representatives of the national Department of Agriculture.

The United States Supreme Court has affirmed the decree of the Federal court enjoining the Southern Pacific railroad from disposing of timber and minerals on its lands received by congressional grant. By the decision the government won its suit against the Southern Pacific to regain nearly 2,300,000 acres of Oregon and Washington land, worth \$30,000,000.

Censorship on all cables touching the United States and on telegraph and telephone lines into Mexico will be established shortly by Executive order. There is no plan for extending the censorship to lines of internal communication. The chief object of the order will be to prevent the transmission to Mexico, South of Central America, of information that might be of value to Germany.

Representative Rogers of Massachusetts has introduced in Congress a bill, which is understood to have the approval of the State Department, permitting former American citizens now fighting in the armies of the Entente allies to regain their citizenship on their discharge from military service. The bill modifies a law of ten years ago that expatriates a citizen who takes an oath of allegiance to a foreign government.

The "efficient and satisfactory" manner in which the American line steamships were armed and manned by officers of the United States navy was highly praised in a letter written by President Franklin to Secretary Daniels. "The work reflects the greatest credit on the Secretary, on Admiral Benson and Usher and the assistants in charge of the work, and it makes me feel proud of the American navy," Mr. Franklin stated.

### More Than 8,000,000 Women Voters

With Nebraska added to the suffrage column it is announced by the Leslie Woman Suffrage Commission that the total voting strength of women in the United States now is 8,557,308.

"Of the 41 Legislatures that have convened, or are scheduled to convene in 1917," a statement said, "13 have already taken favorable action; 7 have passed presidential suffrage, 5 have passed municipal suffrage measures and 6 have passed constitutional amendment measures."

The trail-hitters, as usual, were the smiling "glad-to-see-you-Bill" type. There were a score or more of soldiers and sailors. The crowd of penitents was about evenly divided between men and women. Two young Japs hit the trail and added an unusual touch to the scene.

At the Billy Sunday Revival—Thousands Turned Away—Rev. Mr. Sunday Pleads for Single Standard of Morality. New York World: Three thousand six hundred and six New Yorkers, adjured by Billy Sunday to "come forward for the honor of the old town"—this town which has responded more nobly than any other in America—hit the trail in Bill's Tabernacle yesterday afternoon and last evening, making a total of 8,636 who have marched down the sawdust aisles since he extended his first invitation Thursday. Forty-four thousand persons heard the evangelist at his afternoon and evening services, and about 15,000 were turned away because the big shed up on Washington Heights was filled at each session an hour or more before the time scheduled for Billy to appear. "Oh, I'm proud of this town," he said last night in the prayer he offered before he invited his auditors to shake sin and his hand at the same time. "I don't know when I have known a city which answered like this one does. Why, New York, you're great! You make a man preach his fool head off! (Laughter—though Billy was praying.) And a man's glad to preach his fool head off to people like you."