

AB POSTON JR. FATALLY SHOT

FOURTEEN YEAR OLD BOY IS VICTIM OF CARELESS HANDLING OF RIFLE IN THE HANDS OF RALPH GRIFFIN.

Little Ab Poston, the 14 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Ab P. Poston who live on South DeKalb street was killed Wednesday afternoon by Ralph Griffin, another boy of about the same age, the tragedy being due to the careless handling of a 22 calibre rifle. Young Poston was buried yesterday at Zion church, Revs. A. C. Irvin and Lee McB. White conducting the funeral services amid a crowd of sorrowing friends and relatives. Young Griffin was arrested and given a trial before Recorder B. T. Falls which resulted in the boy being sent to jail for further investigation by the recorder. The further investigation will probably take place today.

The only eye-witness to the tragedy other than Griffin and Poston was young A. D. Favel, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Favel who was walking along with "Little Ab" as he was affectionately known by his parents and comrades, when the shooting took place. They were approaching the house of Jackson Dickson, to the rear of A. C. Miller's Wednesday afternoon about 2 o'clock. Ralph Griffin was standing on the porch with a 22 rifle which he had borrowed from Mr. Spruence Cabanes to go hunting. According to young Favel, the Griffin boy yelled to Little Ab "Give me a lift". Little Ab apparently did not hear him and said nothing, but continued to walk along with his air rifle under his arm. Griffin leveled his gun and fired, the bullet entering the forehead over the right eye and piercing the brain. He ran about 14 steps and fell in the snow. The other boys hollowed and Mrs. Roy Wilson was the first to heed the alarm and reach the scene. Young Poston was carried home where he died about six o'clock without ever regaining consciousness. According to the story of young Griffin, he asked Little Ab to hold out his air rifle and let him shoot at it, whereupon Little Ab held out the butt of the gun and Griffin fired, the bullet striking him in the head.

Little Ab is the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Ab Poston and a favorite among his playmates. The eight grade school children went to the home in a body and sent a beautiful floral design. He was an exceedingly bright little boy manly in his conduct and friendly in his disposition. The Griffin boy's mother is dead. He returned to Shelby about two months ago from Hendersonville to live with his uncle, Will Rippy. His father, Dock Griffin, works at the carpenter trade at Winstboro, S. C., with Mr. Julius Branton. Upon receiving a telegram Wednesday night about 8 o'clock he left immediately for Shelby and went to the Poston home yesterday. His son who was in jail was released to go to the home also and see his victim. The deepest sympathy of the entire community goes out to the bereaved parents of "Little Ab."

Tongues and Needles Club To Sew For Red Cross.

On Tuesday afternoon the members of the sewing club were charmingly entertained by Mrs. Walter Fanning at her handsome home on S. Washington street.

Garlands of Christmas bells, holly and mistletoe, carried out the color scheme of green and red and made bright and gay the rooms where the guests assembled and spent a most delightful afternoon with busy needles.

During the afternoon the hostess assisted by her sister Miss Bettie Fanning served most tempting refreshments, in which the green and red idea was carried out, consisting of stuffed peppers, sandwiches, Marguerites and coffee. Attractive little bunches of mistletoe tied with red ribbon decorated each plate.

This club joining the women who are making an honest effort to reduce the suffering caused by the war have decided to sew for the Red Cross at each meeting. Only very light refreshments are to be served.

Gidney-Hughes Wedding.

The following handsomely engraved announcements have been received and will be of interest to the friends and relatives here of the bride, who is a granddaughter of Mrs. Mary E. Gidney:

Dr. and Mrs. Charles Chauncey Gidney announce the marriage of their daughter Daisie Elizabeth to Lieutenant George Casey Hughes, Seventy-first Infantry United States Army. On Friday the twenty-third day of November, one thousand nine hundred and seventeen San Diego, California.

Mrs. R. W. Ward has gone to Jacksonville, N. C., in Onslow county, to be at the bedside of her husband, Dr. Ward who is reported very ill.

COTTON SEED MEAL PRICE IS FIXED AT \$49.50 PER TON

\$1.00 Cheaper in South Carolina—Conference Between the Crushers and Officials.

News and Observer. Following a conference yesterday between Food Administrator Henry Page, of North Carolina, representatives of the South Carolina food administration office and the cotton seed crushers of the two states, the price of cotton seed meal in North Carolina was fixed at \$49.50 per ton and in South Carolina \$48.50 per ton. The new prices mean a reduction in the two states in line with the policy of the National Food Administration to stabilize the industries of this country during the war.

The conference was held in the senate chamber of the Capitol building and was presided over by State Food Administrator Henry A. Page. Food Administrator Goker of South Carolina, was unable to be present on account of illness, but his office was represented by Joe Sparks, executive secretary, and William Elliott. Also attending the conference were J. L. Benton and S. E. Pyle from the crushing division of the National Food Administration.

After Mr. Page told the purpose of the conference, he introduced the two representatives of the national Food Administration who briefly explained the prices the government wished to be fixed and gave reasons why these fixed prices are higher than those in Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas and other southern states. The crushers in these states one time ago fixed the price of cotton seed meal at \$46.50 per ton. The prices in North Carolina and South Carolina, stated Mr. Benton, must be higher because the crushers in the two states have paid a higher price for seed on account of keener competition between the mills. A reduction of the prices in North Carolina to \$47.50—as in other states—would make a greater sacrifice for the crushers while a price of \$50.50 in North Carolina and \$48.50 in South Carolina would put the crushers of the two states on a parity with other southern crushers. The difference in the prices fixed in the two Carolinas, it was explained, would have to exist because North Carolina crushers now pay higher prices for their seed than the South Carolina crushers. For example, cotton seed meal now sells for \$54 and \$55 a ton in North Carolina while the price in South Carolina is \$51 and \$52 per ton.

Another phase of the cotton seed regulations brought to the attention of the crushers were important amendments and additions to the rules prescribed by the cotton-seed industry division of the Food Administration at Washington.

One of the amendments changes the period from sixty days to four months in which a licensed crusher shall not have on hand or under his control any cotton seed oil, peanut oil, soy bean oil, palm oil, or copra oil. Another amendment says that any licensed crushers shall not have on hand in his possession or under his control at any time a quantity of cotton seed oil, peanut oil, soy bean oil or copra oil that exceeds the equivalent of his production for two months instead of 30 days.

FIGURES PUBLISHED ON GERMANY'S AIR STRENGTH

On the French Front in France, Monday, Dec. 10.—What are considered approximately exact figures of Germany's air strength which have reached the correspondent show that the German army possesses 273 squadrons, comprising about 2,500 airplanes. The squadrons are divided as follows:

One hundred of artillery spotters, 80 of scouts, 23 of bombers, 40 of chasers and 30 battleplane squadrons for the protection of bombers.

British Casualties.

London, Dec. 11.—The British casualties reported for the week ending today numbered 23,356, as compared with 28,822 in the previous week. The casualties were as follows:

Killed or died of wounds: Officers 359; men, 5,052. Wounded or missing: Officers, 978; men, 5,967.

Soda May Be sold to Farmers at \$56 A Ton.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Representative Robinson said today that the soda to be purchased by the government will be sold to the farmers for between \$65 and \$75 a ton. The price may be fixed at a lower figure.

NEWS OF CURRENT EVENTS

Incidents Gathered From All Parts of The Country.

A bill to provide for national prohibition for the period of the war has been introduced in Congress.

In the German air raid on England last week, seven persons were killed and 21 injured. Two of the machines were brought down and their crews made prisoners.

Representative Randall of California has introduced in Congress a bill to make the national capital "bone dry". The recent prohibition law did not prohibit the importation of liquor for personal use.

The indictment for embezzlement against former Governor Ferguson of Texas, was dismissed in the court at Austin, Texas, on motion of the prosecuting attorney. Governor Ferguson was recently impeached.

Combined forces of Mexican Federal cavalry ambushed a large band of Villa followers in Santa Clara canyon 75 miles northwest of Chihuahua city, Tuesday, according to a Mexican statement. total of 400 were killed and wounded on both sides. The Villa forces suffered the heaviest losses.

A resolution designed to permit Ruth Law, the aviator, to be commissioned in the army aviation corps, has been introduced in Congress by Representative Hulbert of New York. Incidentally, it would authorize army enlistment of women between 18 and 35 in the discretion of the President and secretary of war.

Fifteen members of the sixth cavalry are on trial before the court-martial at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, on charges of mutiny growing out of an alleged refusal to obey an order to drill September 25, when they were stationed in the Big Bend district. It is said the men refused to drill because they were tired out by a long siege of guard duty.

Secretary of War Newton D. Baker made the opening address in Richmond, Va., last week at the first of a series of war conferences to be held in every state in the union within the next few months, at which speeches will be delivered by members of the cabinet and other prominent citizens for the purpose of advising the people as to war conditions.

MACHINE GUNS IN MOSCOW'S STREETS

London, Dec. 11.—The situation in Moscow is reported to be grave according to a Times dispatch from Petrograd. The Bolsheviks, according to Petrograd newspapers, have placed machine guns in the streets as they fear an uprising of hostile parties. The garrison, however, shows signs of insubordination and is reported to be disobeying the Bolshevik commander, a private named Muranoff.

Considerable forces, the dispatch adds, are being detached from the west front to be sent against the Cossacks.

The Cossacks are preparing to fight the Petrograd correspondent of the Daily Mail reports. Three train loads of Cossacks are said to be at Bielgorod and three at Sumy, commanded by General Kornloff. Extremist red guards to the number of about 1,000 are expected at Kharkov Moscow.

The correspondent says General Keledines, the Cossack leader, is disbanding infantry regiments in the Don territory and sending them home on account of their extremist opinions.

SNOW IS GENERAL

Four Southern States Report Snow From 8 to 10 Inches Deep.

Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina and northeast Georgia were covered today by one of the heaviest December snowfalls in history.

From the mountains to tidewater in the Old Dominion snow which began falling early last night was reported this morning to have reached a depth of from 8 to 10 inches, according to unofficial accounts, a 10-inch fall accompanying severe cold weather and high winds virtually tying up shipping at the Hampton Roads port. Roanoke reported a fall of 8 inches. In North Carolina also the snowfall was the heaviest near the coast. Raleigh reported 7 inches. In the mountain city of Asheville, the depth was only 4 inches.

Columbia was barely covered under an inch of snow but in the northern and western section of South Carolina from 3 to 4 inches of snow were recorded.

From northeastern Georgia came reports of snow to a depth of three inches.

Mr. Claude Dodd who holds a lucrative railroad position at Greenville, S. C., is spending several days here this week with his sisters, Mrs. Ike Kendall and Mrs. Pink McMurry.

BELWOOD P. O. EXAMINATION.

Will Be Held January 12—Office Paid 223 Last Year.

The United States Civil Service Commission has announced an examination to be held at Shelby, North Carolina, on January 12, 1918 as a result of which it is expected to make certification to fill a contemplated vacancy in the position of fourth-class postmaster at Belwood, N. C., and other vacancies as they may occur at that office, unless it shall be decided in the interests of the service to fill the vacancy by reinstatement. The compensation of the postmaster at this office was \$233 for the last fiscal year.

Applicants must have reached their twenty-first birthday on the date of the examination, with the exception that in a state where women are declared by statute to be of full age for all purposes at 18 years, women 18 years of age on the date of the examination will be admitted.

Applicants must reside within the territory supplied by the postoffice for which the examination is announced.

The examination is open to all citizens of the United States who can comply with the requirements.

Application blanks, Form 1753, and full information concerning the requirements of the examination can be secured from the postmaster at the place of vacancy or from the United States Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C.

Applications should be properly executed and filed with the commission at Washington, D. C., at the earliest practicable date.

PROPER ADDRESS IS VERY NECESSARY SAYS GARDNER

In Sending Telegrams and Letters, Always Be Sure to Give the Full Address Says Col Gardner.

To the Editor of the Star.

Wish you would publish a notice in your paper calling attention to the fact that there are about 30,000 soldiers here and if a telegram or letter of enquiry is sent to anyone the sender should state the company and regiment to which the person enquired about belongs. It is a very easy matter to find out and locate a person when you have the above information; but a very difficult matter when that is not given. I receive letters and telegrams quite often that only give the names of the person and often have been unable to locate the person mentioned in the letter or telegram.

The census taker, I think, have the proper address and without that it is a very difficult matter for you to find the person and often have to go to division headquarters and hunt over the roster of the division.

J. T. GARDNER, Col. Inf. Comdg. Camp Sevier, Greenville, S. C. Dec. 12, '17.

13 NEGROES HANGED.

They Were Negro Soldiers Who Participated in a Texas Riot.

San Antonio, Tex., Dec. 11.—A trampled clearing in a lonely mesquite thicket on the government reservation here, except for the ashes of two huge bonfires, showed no sign to-night that it was the execution place of 13 negro soldiers of the 24th infantry today. The negroes, convicted of participating in the riots at Houston, Texas, August 23, last, were hanged at one minute before sunrise.

After dark last night, motor trucks carried the lumber for the scaffolds and a company of engineers to the clearing. The scaffolds were built by firelight. Motor trucks shortly after five o'clock this morning carried the condemned negroes and the officers and military guard to the place of execution. The trucks later carried the bodies to a place as indistinguishable as the execution site where the burial took place. Then they hauled back to Fort Sam Houston every piece of lumber used in the scaffold so that the site was clear before formal announcement of the executions had been issued by the southern department headquarters.

Eleven Killed in Action.

The New York World is authority for the statement that of the 1,348 soldiers of the United States who have died since the war began, 937 died from "natural causes," 352 from accidents and only 11 were killed in action.

Million Cattle May Starve.

A million head of cattle in southwestern Texas are said to be in danger because they can not be grazed in Mexico as usual on account of activities of Villa.

GOVERNMENT WILL HELP YOU FIGURE YOUR INCOME TAX

Men Will Come Around to Assist you In Making your Calculations—There Are Many That Will Have to Pay.

Statesville, Dec. 13.—You won't have to figure out your own income tax by yourself hereafter. The government is going to send out men to help you. It will be up to you to hunt up these men, who will be sent into every county seat town, and some other towns besides, to meet the people. Postmaster, bankers and newspapers will be able to tell you when the government's income tax man will be around, and where to find him. He will answer your questions swear you to the return, and take your money. Returns of income for 1917 must be between January 1 and March 1, 1918.

"The government recognizes," Collector of Internal Revenue Watts said today, "that many persons experience a good deal of difficulty in filling out income tax forms. It recognizes too, that taxpayers resident at points where collector's offices are not easily accessible find it hard to get proper instruction in the law. Next year, when every married person living with wife or husband and having a net income of \$2,000, and every unmarried person not the head of a family and having a net income of \$1,000 for the year 1917 must make a return of income on the form prescribed, there will be hundreds in every community seeking light on the law, and help in executing their returns. My own and every other collection district in the nation will be divided into districts, with the county as the unit, and a government officer informed in the income tax assigned to each district. He will spend as many days as necessary in each county, very likely in the court house at the county seat town. In cities where there are collector's branch offices, he will be there, and in other cities at the county courthouse or postoffice building. My office will in due time advise postmasters and bankers and send out notices to the newspapers stating when the officer will be in each county. It will be unnecessary for prospective taxpayers to ask my office for forms on which to make returns. The officer who visits their county will have them.

"It may be stated as a matter of general information that 'net income' is the remainder after subtracting expenses from gross income, personal, family, or living expenses is not expense in the meaning of the law, the exemption being allowed to cover such expenses.

The new exemptions of \$1,000 and \$2,000 will add thousands to the number of income taxpayers in this district, inasmuch as many farmers, merchants, tradesmen, professional men and salary workers and a great many wage workers will be required to make return and pay tax. The law makes it the duty of the taxpayer to seek out the collector. Many people assume that if an income tax form is not sent, or a government officer does not call, they are relieved from making report. This is decidedly in error. It is the other way round. The taxpayer has to go to the government and if he doesn't within the time prescribed, he is a violator of the law, and the government will go to him with its penalties."

Beer-Soaked Brutes.

A Baltimore physician gives as his opinion that Germany's brutality has been largely developed by the fact that for generations its people have been steadily soaked in beer. While this beer-drinking habit has not made them out-and-out drunkards, in his opinion it has kept them so soaked in alcohol that the moral fiber of the nation has been largely destroyed through this evil influence.

Thousands Die of Hunger.

Thousands of old men, women and children, who sought refuge in the Caucasus from the barbarities of the Turks in Armenia, are dying from hunger as a direct result of the overthrow of the Russian provisional government, according to a cable message received by Secretary Lansing from F. Willoughby Smith, American consul at Tiflis, Russian Caucasus.

Austro-Germans Displaced.

The German press generally uses language of denunciation in commenting on President Wilson's message to Congress. That was expected. The declaration of war against Austria-Hungary by the United States while "painful" to the empire, will not affect the events of the war, in the opinion of Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister.

First Baptist Church

We have enough coal for Sunday school and the morning preaching service on Sunday, but there will be no church service Sunday night.

TO CONTRIBUTE TO WORLD NAVY

AMERICA IS WILLING TO CO-OPERATE IN PURSUING A NAVY THAT WOULD ENFORCE PEACE AND SUPPRESS THE FIGHTERS.

(By David Lawrence.) Washington, Dec. 10.—America's idea of what shall constitute naval disarmament after the war has hitherto been expressed only in vague terms, but Secretary Daniels, with the approval of President Wilson, today announced that the United States will be willing to contribute its share to any international navy of sufficient force "to give validity to the international decree" of the peace conference.

The secretary of the navy, dealing with the subject of international disarmament in his annual report, just available, gave, indeed, the first clear idea of what the United States might propose when the nations of the world are gathered together in peace council to decide how the security of the world shall be guaranteed in the future.

In Line With President Mr. Daniels' proposal are directly in line with the President's previously expressed position on a league to enforce peace—so much so that this phase of the annual report undoubtedly received the careful attention of Mr. Wilson before its publication.

Secretary Daniels writes: "The immediate hope for a world-wide agreement of the navy-building nations for a reduction of armaments through joint action, which I have urged in every previous report, cannot be cherished now that all the world is at war.

"But if this condition could not be reached in time of peace, may we not believe that it will be one of the compensations for the terrible tragedy of war? The necessity for naval vessels will continue, but among the policies that will be approved in the peace conference that will follow war there should be incorporated a provision guaranteeing an international navy to enforce international decrees.

"To this international navy, composed of separate naval establishments of all nations, each nation should contribute in proportion to its wealth and population, or upon some sort of plan to insure that no nation can safely challenge the decree of the high international court.

"To such a police of the sea this country will be ready to make full contribution, and to that end the expansion that now crowds all the old and new shipbuilding resources will soon place this country in a position to furnish as many and as powerful ships as will come from any other country. It would be a lasting calamity, if, when this war ends, there should linger as a burden upon a people already heavily taxed by wars, a competitive program of costly naval construction.

"This country will, no doubt, take its proper place in bringing about such provisions in the peace treaties as will never again constrain any nation to adapt its naval program of some other nation from which there is a compelling menace of possible and unprovoked attack. Such compulsion is the very negative of national and orderly naval development. It means the tyranny of a program dictated by apprehension rather than the free choice of a standard suggested by national needs and supported by national ideals.

"An international navy, will make possible such naval development as each nation deems fitting for its own people. It will also serve the 'parliament man' by providing a naval force ample enough to give validity to international decrees and strong enough to keep inviolate the peace of the world."

CHERRYVILLE NEWS

From the Eagle. Mrs. Sarah Hallman, aged 70, died last Friday night at her home near Bethpage church following an illness of only a short while.

Mr. E. F. Dellinger, a prominent citizen of Fallston, was a business caller Friday. Mr. Dellinger's daughter is one of the efficient teachers in the graded school here this year.

Mrs. J. F. Moser left Monday for Union county to spend a few days with her father, Mr. W. S. Starnes. Mr. Starnes has been in poor health for a number of years.

Rev. J. F. Moser was called to Forest City last Friday to attend the burial of Mrs. Sallie King, widow of the late Thomas B. King of that town. Mrs. King was the mother of R. V. King of Lileville but who was formerly one of the leading merchants of Forest City.

Box Supper at Pleasant Grove. There will be a box supper at Pleasant Grove school house Friday night, December 21st, beginning at 20. Proceeds to go for the benefit of the school.