

THE NEW ORLEANS BEE

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MOBILIZING THE LAND.

In view of the imminence of war, the meeting of lumbermen in New Orleans April 11 to 15 for the purpose of promoting the settlement and cultivation of the cut over pine lands of the south is a conference of national significance. Our first thought in this crisis must be to insure an adequate food supply for the nation, and the denuded timber lands constitute the largest body of undeveloped lands convenient to central points of distribution.

These lands, over a hundred millions of acres in area, are distributed over the entire south from the Carolinas and southern Missouri to the gulf coast and from the Brazos river in Texas to the Atlantic coast. They belong to lumbermen who bought the lands entirely for the value of the timber grown upon them, and whose mills have stripped them of their original wealth.

It is only a few years since the owners of these lands would have been glad to close them out at a dollar an acre, and they can still be bought at a low price. Of their agricultural possibilities, there can be no question whatever. They have been proven valuable, not only for general agriculture, fruit growing and truck growing, but also for the growth of live stock. The famous Tangipahoa strawberry belt, the cattle ranches in western Louisiana and sundry experimental farms at different points in the state are examples of what can be done with cut over lands. At some of the experimental farms maintained by lumber companies, various crops have been grown for several years, the results from different varieties carefully noted and a cost system of production established so that the farmer who undertakes the cultivation of these lands need not guess what they can be made to produce most profitably.

The problems which will probably most deeply engage the conference to be held next week will be the best methods of securing settlers for these lands at a low price and on long time, and the cheapest plan for clearing them of stumps and forest offal, which is undeniably costly and involves hard work. No two farmers or lumbermen agree upon the cost of clearing these lands, but it may be laid down as a general rule that the cost increases as the haste to effect the clearing increases. One who is willing to let nature do part of the work will not find the cost of clearing a heavy burden.

It is highly fitting that this conference be held in New Orleans; not only because it is a central point, but because Louisiana has a large acreage of cut over pine lands and a corresponding interest in their utilization. There are whole parishes in Louisiana now made up almost entirely of cut-over lands, and the number will probably be heavily increased in a few years more. A cut-over timberland desert is just as much a desert as a slice of the Sahara. It is highly important that Louisiana shall lead in reclaiming these lands to the production of wealth.

The former empress of Russia is said to have sent her jewels to a neutral country to be sold. Considering the size of the Czar's salary, it looks as though the Romanoff family reached bedrock in record time, after he lost his job. But it was always thus: the bigger the size of a man's pay check, the less he saves.

April seems to be naturally our month to make war medicine. The revolution started April 19, 1776, the Mexican war on April 21, 1846, the war between the states on April 12, 1861 and the Spanish American war on April 24, 1898. Kaiser Bill should have reflected on this before starting anything.

Lloyd Stephens Bryce, who died in New York this week, was a member of congress for one term, editor of the North American Review for several years and for four years minister to Holland and Luxemburg, but a newspaper headline describes him as the father of Mrs. Gifford Pinchot.

The United States had over three billion dollars in gold in the treasury Monday. This is at least sufficient to pay our entrance fee into the world's greatest free-for-all.

In the meantime it is well for the spy hunters to remember that many people with German names have American ancestry dating back hundreds of years.

KIND OF NEWSPAPERS THAT HELP.

Some years ago, the late D. A. Tompkins, editor of the Charlotte Observer, laid down a rule for his employes, which, if strictly followed, would render all newspapers of greater service to their communities.

"If," said he, in substance, to some of his men, "you want to feed our readers on sensational murders, keep a man stationed at the Chicago morgue. He can fill the paper every day with horrors if that is what you are after. If a few negroes or disreputable white men or women get into serapes and cut each other up, that is not news to be 'played up.' It is worth just about out or two lines merely to mention the fact, and nothing more. But if a farmer improves his land and raises a big crop, if a new mill is to be built, or a school or church established, if mill villages unite for local betterment, if anywhere in the South new enterprises are established showing the advance of this section, then these are the news things to make the most of. And always remember to keep the Observer clean and wholesome, that it may safely be taken into any family. Make it," said he, "clean, make it a power for good and a power for rebuilding the city, the State and the South."

Mr. Tompkins' plan of conducting a newspaper will appeal to all who have the good of the community at heart, as well as all who know how to discriminate between real and bogus news. One crime is very much like another: one theft resembles another theft; they have been going on for centuries, and it is rare that any novel features appear in them. Reading of them creates depression. But news of individual enterprise or community improvement encourages like enterprise on the part of the readers.

LOUISIANA CONDENSED.

Onachita reports the dipping of 424 herds of cattle during the last week in March. Postmaster S. Y. Watson of Baton Rouge, was married Wednesday to Miss Bertha P. Smith, one of his employes.

Company L. of Shreveport will leave for New Orleans with a strength of 85, fifty-four of whom saw service on the Mexican border.

Lafayette citizens are organizing and financing a municipal band.

Eunice high school had a flag raising and patriotic exercises Wednesday.

Abbeville will hold a Chautauqua April 11 to 17.

The work of planning the Acadia parish road system has been almost completed.

Oscar Carrier, witness in a murder case, appeared in court at Amite with a fully developed case of small pox. He was sent to an isolation hospital and the case continued.

The young men of Lafayette, under the leadership of Senator J. R. Bonjeaux, are organizing a military company.

The commencement exercises at Southwestern Industrial institute will be held May 19 to 22.

The homes of Ernest Cruise and Thomas Duke at Holm were destroyed by a tornado.

Monroe's fire losses for the first three months of 1917 totaled only \$658.

Hammond is inaugurating a sanitation campaign to prepare for a healthful summer.

A loss of \$1,500 resulted from the burning of a vacant house at White Castle belonging to Philip Quagline of New Orleans. Incendiarism is suspected.

Oscar Zenor has bought the Lakeland plantation and sugar factory of Dr. Sanders at Patterson, the price being \$120,000.

Donaldsonville held a patriotic rally yesterday with an address by Dean Tullis.

No matter in what turmoil the United States may find itself, the motto of some of its esteemed but acquisitive citizens seems to be "business as usual." The ice companies of Kansas City gave the citizens a new topic Monday by raising the price of ice. Presumably it will take more water to make ice when the nation goes to war.

Having hurled a bomb that resounded throughout the world Monday night, President Wilson was out early next morning chasing a little white ball over a five acre lot with a stick. And yet people claim that Americans are excitable.

A touch of comedy is given the situation by the Argentine press, which speaks coldly of the President's war address because the editors think the United States is embarking on an "imperialistic" career.

Joe Aby writes in the States: "Adam Good-fellow lives in Meridian, Miss., and we hope that he is what his name says he is." If he so proves and is unattached, he might be a good life partner for Miss Goldie Rich of Orange, Tex.

In the midst of the big events of the week, no correspondent seems to have thought of describing Congresswoman Jeanette Rankin's Going-to-Congress gown.

156 RECRUITS JOIN MILITARY IN DAY

The sudden jump in the number of recruits yesterday indicated that New Orleans, in her slow but sure manner, will supply her quota of fighting men in the event of war with Germany. Since Wednesday afternoon 153 members were added to the various military organizations. Many applicants were turned down because of not being able to pass the rigorous physical examinations.

Enforced enlistment adopted by the House yesterday and the call of 100,000 men to arms will serve to stimulate greater interest, army officers opine. This, they point out, will arouse the patriotism of our young men and convey to their minds that Uncle Sam is in earnest.

A martial air pervades the city, making it more like the capital of a military European nation than a city in a land boastful of prosperity and plenty. Flags flutter from roofs and galleries, figures in khaki and blue trot the streets, and veterans of the Civil war can be seen seated at the Canal street recruiting stations.

The appearance of these old warriors is believed to have had the desired effect. Their presence recalled the stormy days of '61 when they rallied in behalf of southern rights and reminded the young men of today of their duty to the land of their birth.

Meetings were held at different corners in the downtown section yesterday by members of communal bodies, city officials and army and naval officers in automobiles. Buglers accompanied them and drew crowds with the thrilling, shrill blasts of their instruments.

M. B. Trezevant, who organized the campaign; Mayor Behrman, St. Clair Adams, Col. T. J. Lewis, U. S. A.; Lieut.-Commander S. M. Labounty, U. S. N.; Major Allison Owen and Captain Bryan Black, of Washington Artillery; Frank B. Hayne, Commander G. W. Rowbottom, of the Louisiana Naval Militia, were some of the speakers at these meetings.

The Second, Third and Fifth divisions of the Louisiana Naval Militia are under orders to go to the front. It is expected they will leave in a day or two for the Charleston, S. C., navy station, where they will undergo training to fit them for service aboard the nation's war vessels.

Little difficulty will be experienced in organizing an ambulance company here, it is believed, as practically all the undergraduates of Tulane University and a number of doctors who have graduated are willing to join. Eighty-three is the requirement for such a company which Dr. Rudolph Matas, professor of surgery in Tulane Medical School, and commandant of the Red Cross Base Hospital here, believes will be formed without trouble as soon as the Federal mustering officer, who has been requested, arrives to take up the work.

Reciprocity. A man sixty years old lost his life in a fire in New York while attempting to save the life of a dog. Well, the timid die a thousand deaths, while the brave man dies but once, and the dog wouldn't have hesitated to attempt a similar service.

WILL NOT BE CAUGHT AGAIN. Australia Will Have 200,000 Defense Army After War. Sydney, N. S. W., April 5.—The Australian defense department plans to have an army of 200,000 men for national defense within twelve months of the end of the present war. This is to be known as the Australian army reserve, to be used for repelling invasion.

The reserve will be open to members of the Australian citizen army who have completed the period of training under the defense act, to Australian soldiers who have been on service in the present war, to retired members of the permanent military forces in Australia, to men who have seen service but who are not attached in any way to the present defense system, and to members of rifle clubs.

The service will be voluntary, with drills of short duration frequently, and a training course of four days every year under canvas.

For the purpose of preserving the traditions and honors of Australian units which have seen service in the present war, the forces will be numbered as far as practicable with the numbers at present borne by the units of the Australian army at the front.

Australia will be divided into seventy-five territorial divisions, similar to the scheme carried out in England. Preparations are now being made to lay out the groundwork of the new system.

UNIVERSAL SERVICE IS NOT NEW; REQUIRED BY LAW PASSED IN 1800

Kansas City, April 5.—Get out your spontoons and hangers. Get out your powder horns and your pouches of leaden balls. You, Mr. Citizen, if you are anywhere between 18 and 45 years old, are a member of the unorganized militia of the United States and liable for military duty in the service of your country.

You are required to attend an annual muster, where you will receive training in the manual of arms and in military tactics. The "Army Regulations" of 1800, which have never been repealed, although they have been amended since the Civil War, require all this. The law may have become a "dead letter" but it is none the less the law and can be put into full force and effect at a moment's notice.

"The fact that every citizen is a member of the 'unorganized militia' has been frequently referred to since the United States sent troops to the Mexican border last summer and his been discussed widely since the breaking of diplomatic relations with Germany, but the details have been overlooked.

There probably isn't one man in 100,000 who knows anything about the regulation spontoons and hangers. And very likely that one man doesn't know what a spontoons is, although he may have a hazy idea of the hangar from the reading of historical romances.

As a matter of fact, "spontoons" was the Colonial name applied to a halberd. And if that isn't quite clear let it be said that a halberd is a halberd—an ornamental hatchet head with a spike at one end and a blade

at the other mounted on a staff. It was, in short a sort of glorified battle ax.

A hanger, on the other hand, is a short sword with a curved blade, a forerunner of the cavalry saber, perhaps.

Both the spontoons and hanger were worn by the officer in the days when the military experts wrote the "Army Regulation" of 1800. The spontoons was not intended for actual service so much as a badge of office, although earlier in history it had been a most practical weapon. The hanger is preserved to-day in the shape of the officer's sword, although modern military usage discards it for all purposes except display on dress parade.

The musket which the private of the unorganized militia was required to bring to the annual mustering may have been a flintlock. Always it was a muzzle loader, so the powder horn, which had to be kept filled like the pouch in which the bullets were carried, was an actual necessity and as important as the weapon itself.

The annual musters of the unorganized militia continued down to the time of the Civil War, and General Grant was one of the active figures in the form of universal training which obtained in the old days. He organized camps, drilled the citizens who appeared for military duty and generally kept his hand in, for he had learned military science at West Point, although after graduating he decided he was not fitted to be a professional soldier.

KING ALFONSO BLUFFED A REVOLT

Madrid (undated, by way of the Spanish frontier and Paris, April 5).—Strong measures adopted by the Spanish government have checked a widespread agitation which assumed a distinct revolutionary aspect, although Premier Ramones, in a formal statement, declares the government refuses to treat the movement as revolutionary.

At the outset there was much apprehension of a revolution, but it is now believed the summary action of the government has postponed development of the movement, if it has not entirely broken it up. The only serious disorder reported was at Valadolid, where a clash between workmen and soldiers led to the injury of three guardsmen.

The capital remained calm but expectant, apparently believing the events in Russia might lead to something similar here. There is no doubt that the Russian movement and the republican regime in nearby Portugal has stirred feeling in Spain along similar lines. It is also asserted that German influence figured in stirring up discord so as to keep Spain fully occupied with home affairs.

King Alfonso remained in the capital throughout the agitation, and is reported to have told his advisers that there would be no repetition of the experience of Czar Nicholas in Russia, as he would go to the head of the troops if necessity required.

The report had the effect of raising the king's prestige, making it appear that he would display firmness and courage in any emergency likely to arise.

SEEK UNIFORM LAW FOR SUNDAY REST

Several years ago the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws created a special committee to consider the subject of a uniform law on one day's rest in seven, of which Mr. Frederick W. Lehmann, one of the commissioners from Missouri, was made chairman of the committee. But as Mr. Lehmann soon resigned as a commissioner nothing further was done, and Mr. W. O. Harl, the first commissioner appointed from Louisiana and who has never missed a conference since his appointment began in 1903, has sent to Mr. W. A. Blount of Florida, chairman of the committee on scope and program of the conference, a recent pamphlet on the subject prepared by the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America. Mr. Harl suggested that the subject be again brought before the conference. It is probably not generally known that such laws exist in the Argentine Republic, Austria, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Belgium, British India, Canada, Cape of Good Hope, Chili, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Roumania, Spain, the federal government of Switzerland and seven cantons of Switzerland.

SOLEMN SERVICES AT THE CHURCHES

The solemn ceremonies of Holy Week began yesterday morning, when, at the "Gloria" at high mass, the bells of the church and at the altar were still and the organ was hushed until the same period of the mass Saturday morning. Large congregations were in attendance at all the Catholic churches. Last night the office of Tenebrae was chanted at the downtown Jesuit church.

This morning the Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated in the churches. The Way of the Cross will be followed at 3 o'clock, the reputed hour of the Crucifixion and passion sermons will be delivered at night.

Easter Saturday the ceremony will begin at 6 o'clock, with the blessing of the Fire, the Paschal Candle and the holy water. Bishop Laval, assisted by Father Anderson, will officiate.

At the same period of the mass when the organ and bells were silenced on Thursday, the organ will peal forth, the Gloria will be chanted and the bells will ring, ushering in another glad Easter-tide.

DEATH OF A LABOR LEADER

Fred Stadler, one of the best known union labor leaders of the city, died at his home, 831 Nashville ave, here early yesterday after a seven weeks illness originating in an attack of la grippe. Mr. Stadler was an employe of the city railways for twenty years, member of the executive board of the Carmen's union and for a time its president. He was 42 years old.

E PLURIBUS UNUM

Here is a Sample of Many Expressions of Good Wishes. Editor N. O. Bee—A wish to add my congratulations to those of your many friends and readers over the appearance of the Bee, enlarged and with new features. I trust you will receive a hearty welcome and a liberal patronage. R. W. COLOMB, 227 Bourbon St.

MORE ARRESTS UNDER ANTI-LOTTERY LAW.

Continuing their crusade against violators of the lottery law, police yesterday made two more arrests. The alleged offenders were Charles Obudie, negro, 221 Homer street, arrested by Patrolman Harvey, of the eighth precinct, and Octave Gaspar, negro, 1728 Marais street, taken into custody by Patrolmen Kirchem and Fernandez.

RETURNED TO SHREVEPORT.

T. J. Greer, State president of the Federation of Labor, returned to his home in Shreveport last night, after closing up the work of the State convention which ended Wednesday. Mr. Greer was the first president of the Federation and the delegates like him so well in that capacity that they show no indication of making a change.

IN SITUATION OF UTMOST GRAVITY

Laredo, Tex., April 5.—Internal policies, used as a lever in an effort to regulate Mexico's course in international affairs, have brought about a situation of the utmost gravity in the republic, according to travelers just arrived from the Mexican capital.

These travelers say the Constitutionalists party, now holding the reins of government, is divided into a "civil" group and a military party embracing many of the chiefs of the army. Tremendous pressure is being brought to bear on General Carranza by each party, but the President-elect so far has not definitely aligned himself with the policy of either, although it is known he desires to curb the undue activities of the military, according to the recent arrivals.

The "civil" party, these men say, was strongly opposed to any alliance with Germany against the United States and is standing firm for a policy of neutrality in the event of the entry of the United States into the European conflict. The military party, according to these stories, is strongly pro-German and advocates the entry of Mexico into hostilities against its northern neighbor with all that such entry implies.

The reports brought from Mexico City assert that German influence and money have been active among certain of the military party and that certain members have in contemplation and preparation plans for an active invasion of the border States after the United States has been goaded into making the first active hostile move.

It is so asserted that these plans contemplate the founding of a revolutionary movement in Guatemala and the burning of the oil wells in the Tampico district from which the large part of the British naval fuel supply is drawn.

The story has been brought to the border that General Maximilian Klaus, a German-Mexican commander, has begun the recruiting of a brigade of 3,000 Germans who he duty it will be to force hostilities with the United States in Chihuahua and Sonora. General Klaus now is believed to be in Guadaluajara.

CELEBRATION NOT MARRED BY STORM

Nothing daunted by a fierce rain-storm, the members of the Seventh Ward Improvement Association met Wednesday night at the hall 1634 North Dorgenois street, and after transacting important business celebrated the fourth anniversary of the organization. Achille Blaise presided with Secretary J. L. Reeder at his desk.

Among the measures adopted were the following: Appointment of a committee to act in concert with the Broad Street Commission in their efforts to obtain an all-night car on the Broad street line; Messrs. Philip Anapol and J. W. Baggert were appointed. Committee to interview the Public Utilities Commission and protest against the adoption of any rules concerning the regulation of gas and meters until the association shall have had time to investigate the same; Messrs. J. L. Reeder, LeMarchand and T. W. Muller were appointed. And appointment of a committee to have charge of the annual benefit moving picture show and vaudeville for the hall fund; Messrs. Hall, LeMarchand, Vandenhorne, Danna, Engelhardt, Reeder, Pigeon, Suhrens.

A petition from residents of the vicinity of lower St. Bernard avenue was presented by Mr. W. L. Wright asking the association to endorse the plan of closing a part of said thoroughfare not now of public use and turning over to the city some vacant squares of ground for park purposes. Messrs. Wright, Hernandez, Vandenhorne, Davis and Baggert were appointed and will report at a special meeting of the association.

President Blaise briefly reviewed the history of the association, after which refreshments were served. Mr. N. Danna acted as master of ceremonies.

SUCCESSION NOTICE

Succession of Mrs. Edgar G. PINE. CIVIL DISTRICT COURT FOR THE PARISH OF ORLEANS—Division E, No. 118,076. Whereas Philip J. O'Brien has petitioned the Civil District Court for letters of administration on the estate of the late Mrs. Edgar G. Pine, deceased, intestate. Notice is hereby given to all whom it may concern to show cause within ten days, why the prayer of said petitioner should not be granted. By order of the Court. THOMAS CONNELL, Clerk. HARRIS FERNANDEZ, Jr., Attorney for petitioner.