

CITY COUNCIL MEETING.

HEARING GIVEN FIREMEN, RESULTS IN DISMISSAL OF MEMBER OF DEPARTMENT.

Geo. D. Lemmon Recommended for Public Cotton Weigher from Large List of Applicants—Other Matters.

From The Daily Item, Dec. 11.

City Council met last night for the specific purpose of hearing an appeal by Alva Keels, a member of the fire department, from suspension by Council and to clear himself of a charge of boisterousness brought against him by Capt. P. F. Finn, general manager of the department; and to recommend a public cotton weigher to take the place of the late J. B. Raffield.

When council met there were practically all of the firemen present on behalf of Keels, who admitted the charge of being drunk, but denied the charge of being boisterous. He brought up other members of the department to show that he was in bed at the time stated in the charge against him and that he had not made any noise after one o'clock, as it was alleged. He and others stated that two of the drivers had been drunk and had made noise after he had gone to bed. Capt. Finn stated that this was the second time that Keels had been drunk, and as to the noise, he knew of that only by hearsay of the drivers and others.

Chief Wilder at the request of the mayor recommended that Keels be suspended for thirty days and then reinstated with the understanding that if he violated rules in future, he would be dismissed. Mr. Booth thought as he had been notified once already, by the city manager as to his conduct, another warning should not be given, and moved to make the suspension permanent. Mr. Rowland concurred in this opinion, Mayor Jennings voting for one month's suspension.

A protest was made by Manager Murphy of the Western Union Telegraph company that he should be made to pay the rent for water used on both ground and second floor of the building in which his office was located. Mr. McKagan was notified to require the users at this place to pay for water, as at other places.

A value of 7 1-2 cents an hour was fixed as the working rate of mules in the estimating of the accounts of various departments.

Mr. Booth was authorized to look out for a man to aid in the scavenger department and at the pumping station.

The rate of pay of day laborers was reduced from \$1.25 to \$1.00 and from \$1.00 to 75 cents, beginning December 15th.

The city clerk was instructed to write the Toumey Hospital concerning an emergency patient taken to the hospital. Council did not think that charge should be made in a case like this, as the hospital had its water free of rent, and stated that if such patients were charged for, the city should charge for use of water at the hospital.

Applications for the position of cotton weigher were received from the following: Bartow Walsh, Jr., Alfred Owen, R. A. Dixon, D. J. Auld, L. R. Jennings, Alex. T. Haynsworth, E. T. McCullum, H. V. Frierson, Jno. D. Lemmon, E. O. Ingram, W. Y. Sann, J. D. Cox, C. W. Kingman, Robt. D. Bradford, Jno. J. Team, M. B. Parham, H. J. Hicks, S. J. Myers, H. A. Bradley, Jas. D. Graham, E. L. Ducom, H. H. Wells, S. W. Raffield, S. Y. DeJear.

Council went into elections and Jno. D. Lemmon was recommended for the place.

DELEGATE TO TRADE COUNCIL.

C. G. Rowland Appointed One of Three Representatives of State to Convention at St. Louis.

Mr. C. G. Rowland, president of the National Bank of South Carolina, has been appointed one of the three delegates from this State to the National Foreign Trade Council by President C. J. Shannon, Jr., President of the South Carolina Bankers' Association.

President Shannon's letter follows: Mr. C. G. Rowland, Sumter, S. C.: Dear Sir: I am requested by the National Foreign Trade Council to appoint delegates to their trade convention to be held at the Planters' Hotel in St. Louis, Mo., on January 21-22, and I beg to appoint the following committee, and hope that it will be convenient for you to attend.

Mr. E. H. Pringle, Charleston, S. C.; Mr. C. D. Jones Lancaster, S. C.; Mr. C. G. Rowland, Sumter, S. C. Yours truly, C. J. Shannon, Jr., President.

Camden, Dec. 10.

Train Service Destroyed.

New York, Dec. 14.—Heavy snows and cold cover the east today. Trains are seriously delayed. Over a foot of snow fell in Pennsylvania.

GRAIN PLANTING SLOW.

FARMERS IN LOW COUNTRY HAVE NOT SOWN MUCH.

United States Agent Finds Large Areas Planted in Some Counties and Little in Others.

Columbia, Dec. 12.—The planting of grain has not been state-wide, according to the observations of W. W. Long, State farm demonstration agent of Clemson College, who has recently been in many sections of the State. He found that in the lower counties the farmers have been slow to understand the necessity of planting grain, and he expressed the hope that next spring many acres of land would be planted to corn, cowpeas and forage crops.

"The seeding of grain in the State is spotted," said Mr. Long. "In some counties there is great deal of grain seeded and in others very little, comparatively speaking. The farmers in the upper and middle counties of the State have seeded a large area, both of wheat and oats, but I find with regret in the lower counties that we have not been able to make the farmers understand just how necessary it was for them to seed grain. It seems that many hesitated to seed their grain for fear that there would not be a market. This is especially true of wheat. They did not realize that to supply South Carolina with wheat bread next year it would take 450,000 acres, provided we did not make more than our usual average yield per acre and certainly under present conditions, the State should furnish a sufficient amount of wheat for the consumption of the people at home. It looks now as if we will again have to buy a large quantity of flour from the West.

"Of course we can look forward and hope that a great deal of the land will be planted in corn, cowpeas and forage crops next spring and in certain sections of the State, especially in the light lands, that we can begin in a small way to grow peanuts; for I believe that we can grow them as successfully on certain of our lands as they can be grown in Nansemond county, Virginia. It must be remembered that Nansemond is in the coastal plains of Virginia and the soil is similar to our coast country. The profit in this crop is from \$50 to \$100 an acre under best conditions, and the growing of this crop makes the raising of hogs absolutely necessary in order to get the greatest profit from the acreage planted."

WAREHOUSE CERTIFICATES.

Ragsdale Asks That Banks Be Allowed to Carry Them.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Congressman Ragsdale today asked the treasury department to make a rule permitting banks now having national deposits to carry as security which the government will accept, 75 per cent. of United States bonds as now required by law, and 25 per cent. of cotton warehouse certificates instead of State, municipal or county bonds as now required by law. The department promised to consider the request.

TRIO ACCUSED OF CRIME.

One Prisoner at Winsboro Said to Have Confessed.

Winsboro, Dec. 11.—Through the efforts of Sheriff Hood, the alleged slayers of a negro woman, who was robbed, assaulted and killed near Rockton a short time ago, have been apprehended and are now in the county jail. They will answer the charge of murder at the February term of court. The three accused men are mill operatives, and their names are Lanzey Esters, Verna Dent and Tom Chalk.

HAS COTTON FOR GERMANY.

First Steamer Direct for Fatherland From New York.

New York, Dec. 11.—The first steamer to leave direct from New York for a German port since war was declared sailed today. It was the El Monte, of the Southern Pacific Line, which came here from Galveston for coal. She is bound for Bremen with cotton and flies the American flag.

Denies German Charges.

New York, Dec. 10.—Denial of charges by Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, that the Union Metallic Cartridge company has shipped to Canada since October 8,000,000 soft nosed bullets for the British army is contained in a letter sent to Count von Bernstorff today by S. F. Pryor, vice president and general manager of the Remington Arms-Union Metallic Cartridge company.

Less Cotton Consumed.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Government census report today shows 420,663 bales cotton consumed in November against 456,356 last year. Exports 760,929 bales, against 1,601,219 last year.

WILL NOT AID FARMERS.

NO CRYING NEED FOR ASSISTANCE SAYS HOUSTON.

Favors Warehouse Plan and Urges Permissive System of Centralization in Storage—Points Out South's Errors.

Washington, Dec. 10.—That there is no emergency which justifies government assistance to farmers directly through the use of government cash or credit, was the position taken by Secretary Houston of the department of agriculture in discussing rural credits in his annual report submitted today to President Wilson. Secretary Houston's statement was regarded as indicating the policy of the administration.

Secretary Houston pointed out that the new bank law "takes just and particular knowledge of the farmers' requirements." He suggested that any credit needs of the agricultural community beyond those cared for under the federal reserve law should be cared for by a system of "cooperative credit associations," financed with private funds by means of which the combined credit of farming communities could be utilized and by a system of land mortgage banks, likewise, privately capitalized.

"There seems to be no emergency which requires or justifies government assistance to the farmers directly through the use of the government's cash or the government's credit," said the report. "The American farmer is sturdy, self-reliant and independent. He is not in the condition of serfdom or semi-serfdom in which were the European peoples for whom government aid was extended in some form or other during the last century."

In advocating a land mortgage banking system and a system of cooperative credit associations the report asserted that the use of the funds loaned for productive purposes on the farms covered by the mortgages should be insisted upon.

Mr. Houston's report reviews the investigation of the marketing and distribution system and while the study is not yet sufficiently finished to admit of final conclusions the work thus far shows the need of a reorganization of the distribution process. He says:

"During the present grass season, for example, Chicago has received Mexican, Canadian and Florida cattle at about the same time. Steers raised in California by an Orgeon operator have been shipped through Denver to Omaha and their beef sent to points on the Atlantic coast. Hogs raised in Illinois and sold at Indianapolis, have been slaughtered at Boston and a part of their cured bacon shipped to Los Angeles. Michigan dressed veal calves expressed to south Water street commission houses at Chicago have been returned to the identical shipping points from which they came to fill orders from local retail markets."

Secretary Houston asks congress for an additional emergency appropriation of several million dollars on account of the recent outbreak of the foot and mouth disease among cattle. He said that if the interval between the last and the present session of congress had been longer the department would have been without sufficient funds to meet the situation.

"The department," he said, "has pursued its former policy of purchasing diseased and exposed cattle at an appraised value and of slaughtering them and burying them. It has established a very strict quarantine. The expense of this task will be very great and it will be necessary to ask congress for an emergency appropriation of several millions of dollars. The interests at stake are vast and justify any reasonable expenditure."

The report sets forth the activities of the department in establishing standard grain grades, and in the initial administration of the new cotton future law, which the secretary calls the "first" definite systematic, legal approach to the solution of difficult problems in this field of distribution."

The secretary recommends consideration of legislation to establish a permissive warehouse system for grain and cotton. He pointed out that the warehouse facilities for cotton in the South are not centralized.

"If the warehouses now in existence," said the report, "were remodelled so as to comply with the underwriters' requirements, and were bonded, and if adequate business methods were adopted the financing of the cotton crop would be materially improved. Such a system would furnish relief in times of emergency and would form a useful part of the normal distributive system. It is probable that a federal law for a permissive warehousing system would stimulate this desirable development."

While the production of grain generally showed a great increase in the crop of 1914, the report pointed out, the production of corn showed no advance and the meat production showed a distinct decline. In this connection the secretary points out a "lamentable neglect of live stock production in the South."

GREAT GOLD DISCOVERY.

COLORADO EXCITED OVER THE GREATEST STRIKE IN HISTORY.

More Than a Million Taken From One Drift Within Three Weeks With Over Fifty Million More in Sight.

Denver, Dec. 12.—All Colorado is wildly excited over the reported great gold find in the Cresson Consolidated Mining and Milling Company's drifts. Experts state that the strike is the greatest in the history of the world. Within three weeks the company is reported to have taken out over a million dollars, with fifty million in sight. The company is a close corporation.

WILL BUY FIRE HORSE

City Needs Animal to Replace Jerry—Penalty on Taxes.

At the recent meeting of Council Councilman Booth was authorized to look out for a horse for the fire department to take the place left vacant by the death of Jerry. For some time a horse belonging to the Booth-Boyle Live Stock Company has been used by the fire department as a fire horse, but recently this company has had need for their horse and a fire department horse will be purchased.

There will be a penalty of three per cent. on all city taxes unpaid by January first and those who have not paid their taxes by that time will have to pay this penalty. During December the penalty is only one per cent. on unpaid taxes.

mentable neglect of live stock production in the South."

The secretary's report includes a table giving the census figures for 1899 and 1909, showing that in all products except corn and meat animals there has been a marked increase in production during the ten-year period. Continuing, the report says:

"We know that the wheat crop of 1914 of approximately 892,000,000 bushels is the greatest ever produced in our history and that the crops of oats, barley, rye, potatoes, tobacco and hay are unusually large. The cotton crop, forecast in October at 15,340,000 bales, is the second largest. The apple crop, estimated at 259,000,000 bushels, is the greatest ever harvested. The total production of six leading cereals is estimated to have been nearly 5,000,000,000 bushels, or about 428,000,000 bushels in excess of the crop of 1913. For the country as a whole the crop yields per acre were 2.3 per cent. better than the average for the past ten years. The average yield per acre of all the staple crops was 9.4 per cent. greater than 1913, and, except for corn, oats and flaxseed, greater than the ten-year average.

"But after all our efforts, while there is an increased diversification of agriculture and both a relative and absolute increase in important products, such as wheat, forage crops, fruits, dairy products and poultry, we still note not only a relative but also an absolute decrease in a number of our important staple food products, such as corn and meats. In the former in the last 15 years there has been no substantial advance. In cattle, sheep and hogs there has been an absolute decline—in cattle, from the census year of 1899 to that of 1909, of from 50,000,000 head to 41,000,000; in sheep, of from 61,000,000 to 52,000,000; in hogs, of from 63,000,000 to 58,000,000. Since 1909 the tendency has been downward and yet during the period since 1899 the population has increased over 20,000,000.

"This situation exists not in a crowded country but in one which is still in a measure being pioneered; in one which, with 935,000,000 acres of arable land, has only 400,000,000, or 45 per cent. under cultivation; and in one in which the population per square mile does not exceed 31 and ranges from 0.7 person in Nebraska to 508 in Rhode Island."

In urging farmers generally to diversify their products and especially to produce beef, swine and poultry, at least for home consumption, the secretary said:

"If farmers in the South had heretofore practiced diversification on a sufficiently large scale, producing their own home supplies, that section would not now be in its present hard case. The experts of this department are laboring earnestly to bring about a better direction of the agricultural activities of the South."

The report reviewed the increased activity of the department's information bureau and included a statement of the plans for a reorganization of the department to increase efficiency. The opening of the forest reserve in a manner that would aid local communities and at the same time preserve the forests, and a system whereby the government could bear a part of the local burden of taxation to be charged against future timber sales, where forests are not at present available for timbering, were recommended.

TO PATROL CANAL ZONE.

NEUTRALITY OF TERRITORY WILL BE UPHOLD.

Laws of Canal Zone Will be Enforced—Ships Will be Required to Furnish Health Certificates and Take out Clearance Papers.

Panama, Dec. 13.—Col. George W. Goethals, governor of the canal zone, announced today that his request that two swift American torpedo boat destroyers be stationed at the entrances of the Panama canal was caused by recent activity of belligerent warships and colliers in the vicinity of the isthmian waterway.

The action of the Australian collier Mallina, in leaving Balboa without clearance papers and the fact that other colliers have shown a disposition to disregard canal zone shipping laws, convince Col. Goethals that decisive measures should be taken to preserve the neutrality of the canal.

Nearly all the colliers in canal waters arrived without health certificates and in several instances sailed without clearance papers. It is presumed the Mallina met and coaled the Australian and English fleet, which concentrated recently in the vicinity of Pearl Islands, 60 miles southeast of Panama City.

The torpedo boat destroyers requested by the governor are expected to do patrol duty and overhaul belligerent craft attempting to disregard the canal regulations.

Alleged violations of the canal shipping laws have, it is said, been the subject of complaint to Sir Claude C. Mallet, British minister to Panama, and also have resulted in orders that the fortifications prevent neutral colliers remaining in ports in the zone in disregard of the orders of canal authorities.

In the case of the collier Mallina it is stated that she arrived without clearance papers or a health certificate and with no coal or supplies. She attempted to buy \$3,000 worth of supplies, consisting largely of articles intended for a Christmas dinner for a large force. She was refused the supplies and was ordered to depart because she refused to state her destination, as required by the canal zone laws. The collier Proteslaus is pointed to as a similar case.

It is stated that there has been much wireless interference in canal waters on the part of eight colliers, which recently were in the vicinity of the canal, and also by large warship fleets, reported to be within 25 miles of both ends of the canal.

DANIELS IS SURPRISED.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Col. George Goethals' request for two torpedo boat destroyers came as a surprise to officials here who had received no previous intimation that neutrality was being violated in the vicinity of the canal. Secretary Daniels prepared to order destroyers from Charleston or from the west coast of Mexico. He did not interpret Col. Goethals' message as indicating that the situation was urgent, and asked for further information.

PROCLAIM ARIZONA'S NEW LAWS.

Act Affecting Alien Laborers Much Discussed—Prohibition Law.

Phoenix, Ariz., Dec. 13.—The law providing that 80 per cent. of those employed in any business furnishing employment for five or more persons shall be Americans, which has led to formal protests from the British and Italian governments, will be proclaimed by Gov. Hunt tomorrow as effective January 1. Secretary Bryan recently asked the governor to defer the preliminary proclamation of the law, but the latter found he could not legally comply.

The new prohibition law also will be proclaimed tomorrow. It is expected that both it and the "80 per cent. law" will be immediately attacked on grounds of unconstitutionality. The attack on the former will take the form of applications for injunctions by Father Thomas Connolly, pastor of All Saints Roman Catholic church at Tucson, Ariz., alleging that it will interfere with the use of wine in religious ceremonies; by a syndicate operating drug stores as the representative of the druggists; by a Phoenix hotel company for the retail liquor dealers and by a Phoenix firm acting for wholesale liquor dealers.

Marriage License Record.

Yesterday was quite a busy day in the marriage license bureau operated by the clerk of court, among the darkies of the county. There were not less than seven couples to call for licenses during the day, those not already mentioned being: Lawrence Hickman, Hagood, and Emma Bradford, Boykin; Isaiah Davis, Sumter, and Nancy Davis, Wedgefield; Dillwood Johnson and Leila Brown, Remini; Willie Caesar, Mayesville, and Mary Fullwood, Turbeville; Sam Clark, St. Charles, and Martha Anderson, Mayesville.

ORDERS HALT AT NACO.

GUTIERREZ WILL STOP HOSTILITIES TO RETAIN FRIENDSHIP OF UNITED STATES.

Regrets Trouble Caused Americans by Firing of His Men—Guarantees Safety to Citizens in Mexico.

Mexico City, Dec. 11 (via El Paso).—Provisional President Gutierrez, in an interview to the Associated Press, made this comment on the situation at Naco:

"I sincerely regret the troubles which have occurred along the northern border, in which Americans have been killed or wounded by stray bullets. I have ordered the absolute cessation of hostilities in the neighborhood of Naco, and I will proceed in a like manner should fighting occur at any other points along the border, even if such an order should jeopardize our cause. I realize that at any cost we must retain the friendship of Americans."

President Gutierrez today answered the note of Secretary Bryan, asking guarantees for refugees who left Vera Cruz upon Carranza's entrance to that port, and now wish to re-enter Mexico by way of El Paso. Gutierrez assured the Washington government he would give full guarantees of safety.

President Gutierrez still is confined to his bed, but is much improved in health.

Troops under Zapata are besieging Peubla. They have cut off the water and light supply and are guarding all routes to prevent entrance of foodstuffs. Gen. Angeles has left Mexico City for Peubla. The siege is considered difficult for the Zapata forces and it is estimated that more than 25,000 troops would be needed to invest the fortifications. It is reported here that the Carranza troops which recently evacuated Pachuca are in a demoralized condition and that many commands have dispersed for want of food.

MAYTORENA GETS ORDERS.

Command to Cease Firing in Vicinity of Naco Delivered to Governor.

El Paso, Texas, Dec. 13.—It was learned here today that the order from President Gutierrez to Gov. Maytorena that he cease firing in the vicinity of Naco, Ariz., has been delivered to agents of Maytorena at Naco, who are in close communication with the chief.

MEXICAN BULLETS INJURE THREE.

Shells Falling Into Naco Wound Woman and Two Men—One is Serious.

Naco, Ariz., Dec. 13.—Three persons were injured, one of them, Mrs. Jose Martinez, seriously, by bullets from the battle at Naco, Sonora, which fell into this city today. Mrs. Martinez was hit by a bullet which penetrated the wall of her home. Her husband and one man were less seriously hurt.

The reported order from Provisional President Gutierrez for Gov. Maytorena to cease his attacks if they endanger Americans still is reported "not received."

Maytorena still purposes it is said, to carry out his plans for a final attack Tuesday. Meanwhile he is occupying his men with persistent firing from the south, which keeps American Naco in constant danger.

A carload of artillery ammunition was received by Maytorena today. The reinforced American border patrol under Brig. Gen. Bliss continued its preparations for possible action.

TO BUILD DESTROYERS.

Contracts for Six Craft are Awarded.

Washington, Dec. 12.—Secretary Daniels today awarded contracts for the construction of the six torpedo boat destroyers authorized by the last naval appropriation bill as follows: Fore River Shipbuilding company, two ships, \$795,000 each; Bath Iron works, two ships \$800,000 each; Cramp Shipbuilding company, one ship, \$820,000.

The sixth ship will be constructed at the Mare Island navy yard. It will be the first destroyer built in a government yard.

The appropriation bill limited the amount to be paid for each destroyer to \$925,000, but made no provision for more than six vessels. Money saved in today's award may not be used for additional construction, but must be turned back to the treasury.

In this connection Mr. Daniels issued this statement:

"If the appropriation bill had allowed the construction of six or more destroyers for the amount authorized it would have been possible for the secretary of the navy to order seven destroyers instead of six and keep within the appropriation. Secretary Daniels will ask congress to appropriate for destroyers this year as it did for submarines last year, when it made the appropriation eight or more submarines for a six sum."