

NATIONAL FUEL ORDER HITS INDUSTRIES HARD

Holiday Season Getting Into Full Swing When Drastic Ruling by Fuel Board Forces Merchants to Close Early—Manufacturers Also Affected

BY RALPH POOL

Local merchants are much disturbed over the recent order of the fuel administration, given to the press of the country for publication last Sunday, instructing that stores and office buildings may use heat, light and power only from 9 a. m. to 4 p. m. Taking the standpoint that no official orders to close had been received the business men of this city, with a few exceptions, did not observe the published regulations Monday and Tuesday. On Wednesday a proclamation by Mayor Gathier resulted in the strict observance of the law throughout the city.

The manufacturing plants of the city are facing a serious dilemma in that their employees are showing a disposition to demand full-time pay for the 48 hours which mills, factories and the like are permitted to operate per week. With the holiday season just getting into full swing the drug stores, department stores and other firms dealing in Xmas goods will be hard hit by the enforcement of the new regulations. In short time, practically every business and manufacturing establishment in the city will be hurt to a greater or less degree by the mandate of the fuel administration.

The ruling which will be enforced under the wartime powers of the Fuel Administration, provides that stores and office buildings may use heat, light and power only between 9 a. m. and 4 p. m. Bakeries, restaurants and drug stores or the sale of drugs only may use heat light and power from 8 a. m. to 6 p. m., while theatres, moving picture houses and other places of public amusement are permitted to use heat, light and power only between 1 p. m. and 1030 p. m. All advertising signs and billboards using electricity and all white way lights, show windows and other non-essential lights must be cut off entirely. Industries, except in the case of plants operating continuous processes, may operate only 48 hours each week. Violation of the order will result in fuel supplies being cut off from the offending cities, and in addition the attention of federal district attorneys will be called to the violators. It is further pointed out that new and more rigid restrictions may be necessary at an early date unless the coal output can be put upon a normal basis soon.

Meanwhile the coal situation appears to be as uncertain as ever. Government officials are hopeful that the authorized increase of 14 percent in the wages of coal miners would bring many back to work within a few days; however the men seem still disposed to hold out for more money. Attorney General Palmer, in a statement Tuesday called upon the American people to "refuse to be stampeded by threats of lack of coal into concessions which will insure unreasonably high prices in all commodities for at least three years to come." Governor Roberts of Tennessee announces that he will file proceedings against every mine in that State not being operated because of refusal of miners to work, with a view to having receivers appointed for the properties and thus forcing their operation. The Governor stated further that court action against mining properties may be expected at once.

Governors of seven soft coal producing States in conference at Chicago this week agreed that

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MORE MONEY FOR POTATO GROWERS

Brock & Scott Start Manufacture of Dependable Barrels for Elizabeth City Section

The bulk of the Elizabeth City section's Irish and early sweet potato crop will go to market in stave barrels next summer and the slat barrel which has meant a loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars to the potato growers of this section is doomed.

Brock & Scott Produce Co., of this city, one of the largest growers and shippers of potatoes in this section, has gone into the manufacture of stave barrels and are already turning them out at the rate of 225 a day. A little later they will increase their output to 800 barrels a day. They expect to have 40,000 barrels in storage before the demand starts.

The Elizabeth City section uses about 250,000 potato barrels annually. Local barrel manufacturers have supplied this demand with a gum veneer or slat barrel which has given shippers and transportation agencies endless trouble. These slat barrels have gone to pieces in transit, have gone to pieces on the wharves at Eliz. City, and, in the many instances go to pieces in the very fields before they can be sent to a wharf or depot. Growers have lost thousands of dollars thru the use of this type of barrel.

Last season buyers north and east created a near panic in this section by refusing to take potatoes in slat barrels. When eastern North Carolina potatoes could be sold, they sold a dollar a barrel under Eastern Shore of Virginia stock which is always packed in the stave barrel. The stave barrels stand up and get to market in good shape.

And all the time it was impossible to persuade local manufacturers to change their machinery and processes in favor of the barrel that would stand up.

The barrel factory of the Brock & Scott Produce Co. is located on the second floor of the Ayldett warehouse on North Water Street. It started operations unostentatiously a few days ago and the new barrels are piling up. The staves and heads are manufactured in Washington, N. C. and the factory on Water Street only has to assemble the stock. The stave barrel sells for about five cents more than the slat barrel and shippers say that it will add 50 cents a barrel to the price of every barrel of potatoes going out of this section next season.

ANCIENT TREE GOES WITH FEW TO MOURN

An old landmark of Elizabeth City passed away last Monday when city employees cut down a large elm in the yard of the Bradford home on Main street. The street was closed for several hours while workmen dismembered the big tree, which has seen Elizabeth City grow from a country crossroads town into a beautiful city, the metropolis of northeastern North Carolina. Within the past few years it has observed the vacant lot directly in front become the site of a handsome store and office building, while a little further down the street has been erected one of the finest business edifices in the eastern part of the State. Directly within the shade of its overhanging branches a small bank has grown within a few years into an institution whose resources run into millions of dollars. Paved streets now take the place of the hog wallows of an earlier day in the thoroughfare before it. Truly, if the old tree could have spoken in its dying moments, it would have said: "All is change; nothing endures save the tax collector and the high cost of living."

FEET SMELL OF KEROSENE HE LANDS IN CITY COURT

Ambrose Riddick, Colored, Must Face Charge of Arson at Next Term of Superior Court

Evidence purporting to show that he had attempted to burn the barn of J. A. Byrum, near the Old Fair Grounds at this city, landed Ambrose Riddick, a young colored man, in police court here Monday, and resulted in his being bound over on a charge of arson to the next term of Superior Court under bond of \$1,000, in default of which he was placed for safe keeping in the city jail to await the action of the higher court.

It appears that J. A. Byrum's stables were destroyed by fire Friday night, together with a mule and cow that were confined in the building. At about 11:30 o'clock Sunday night, Byrum's barn was discovered to be on fire, with a strong odor of kerosene about the place. The flames were put out, and next morning bloodhounds were brought from Washington, N. C. and placed upon the trail of the supposed incendiary. They are said to have led the way straight to Riddick's front door, but a short distance from the barn. It is alleged that Riddick, when found, was under his bed with his clothes on, and Byrum testified that upon smelling of the negro's feet he detected a strong odor of kerosene. No motive for the alleged crime has been brought out.

He Fulfills The Scripture



LORENZO D. CASE AND EVERYTHING

THIS then is a Saunders' snapshot photo of Lorenzo D. Case, Secretary of the Elizabeth City Chamber of Commerce; Executive Secretary of the Albemarle Agricultural Association; writer, lecturer, preacher, community builder, rural up-lifter, and—everything and nothing seems complete without him. If there is such a thing as an indispensable citizen in Elizabeth City, it is this same Lorenzo Dow Case. He cares less about his personal welfare and works harder for the welfare of humankind than any man this newspaper knows anything about. In him is the scripture more than fulfilled. He actually loves his neighbor better than he loves himself.

COL. MEEKINS' PRANK AROUSING CAMDEN MAN

Monkey Rum Advertisement Was a Joke That Might Not Have Been a Joke

The editor of THE INDEPENDENT came near getting a licking last week, and all on account of the devilry of Col. Isaac M. Meekins. This newspaper published an article last week dealing with a sale advertised by J. A. Armstrong, of Camden, in which it was hinted that those attending the sale would have an opportunity to imbibe Camden County Monkey Rum. When that article came out in this newspaper Mr. Armstrong came over to look for the editor of THE INDEPENDENT. Fortunately Mr. Saunders was out of the office every time Mr. Armstrong called.

It seems that Mr. Armstrong had nothing to do with the advertising in question. He got Col. Isaac Meekins to have his bills printed for him and Col. Meekins wrote the advertisement. In a spirit of mischief he tacked the Monkey Rum suggestion on to the advertisement, without Mr. Armstrong's knowledge or consent. Of course this newspaper had no means of knowing that the thing was a joke and cheerfully makes this explanation and apology.

This isn't the first prank of the kind ever played by Col. Meekins. On one occasion J. Q. A. Wood got Col. Meekins to write a mortgage for him on the personal property of a colored man. Mr. Wood usually takes an all inclusive mortgage. In writing the mortgage Col. Meekins enumerated the Negro's goods and chattels and added, "And all other goods and chattels whatsoever, including one muzzle loading shot gun, one picture of Abraham Lincoln and one yellow hound dog."

You remember getting a pair of those sample shoes from us last fall and how good they were? Well we have just received some more in vici kid and Gun Metal; sizes 3½, 4 and 4½ that we will sell for \$2.50 and \$3.00 a pair. TWIDY & WHITE.

THE EDITOR IS AWAY BY RALPH POOL

The boss is out of town this week; he's gone away to far New York, and while away, we dare to speak without fear that he may squawk. Upon the wicked Great White Way beyond a doubt he would disport, a-jazzing with the lassies gay the chorus girls of wild report. We doubt not that he would dispel the gloom, wherever gloom there be, and that his bulk he would propel into the gayest company. The famous Follies of renown, those graceful beauties sprightly, rare, whose antics bring a troubled frown to prudish madams everywhere, would surely catch his roving eye, and cause him twinges of regret that he must bid them sad good-bye while fain he'd linger with them yet. We say, he WOULD be some bad guy while mid the women and the song, but now, forsooth, he dares not try—it happens that his wife's along.

We who remain to run the plant, and get the paper out this week, have every chance to rave and rant though erst-while we were ever meek. The man who sets the linotype spends hours chatting with his girl; he seems to think the time is ripe to tell her she's his priceless pearl. The foreman keeps his private jug of extra-special at his side, and ere he goes to find a slug, he takes a drink full long and wide. The printer's devil and the rest, whose conduct no one e'er condones, do nothing save with eager zest to roll the too-capricious bones. We know that when the boss gets back we'll get called down and maybe canned, but while he's gone we make the shack a place where work is strictly banned.

TAX RATE IS UP THIS YEAR

Just Why the People of This City and County Must Pay More This Year When the Tax Collector Comes Around

Why are taxes so high this year? This is the question that Mr. Average Citizen asks when he goes to the sheriff's office to pay up, and finds that he is called upon for 76 cents per \$100 property valuation more than he paid last year. Here is the answer: The county taxes for the present year are apportioned as follows: School and pension tax (State) 47-2-3 cents; general county fund, 19 cents; floating indebtedness of county, 10 cents; county road bonds, to pay interest upon the \$500,000 bond issue for Pasquotank's paved roads, 36 cents; general road tax, for upkeep of roads, 18 cents; district highway bonds, 10 cents; and special county school tax 35 cents, making a grand total of \$1.75-2-3, as compared with \$0.99-2-3 for last year, or, as stated, an increase of 76 cents.

The actual added taxation this year is distributed as follows: Total school tax, State and county, 67 cents, as compared with 25 cents last year, a net increase of 42 cents; special county road tax, 36 cents; floating indebtedness of county, 10 cents; district highway, tax 10 cents; total, 98 cents. To partially offset this, there is a reduction of 12 cents in the State tax for general purposes, and a special road tax for planned experimentation levied last year in the amount of 10 cents has been taken off this year. These two items, deducted from the total of 98 cents, leave a net increase of 76 cents in the amount of the county taxes.

Under the Tax Revaluation Act passed by the General Assembly of North Carolina last Spring, the tax rate next year will be reduced to a half, or possibly a third, of the amount fixed for this year. However the fair assessment of all property will in most cases proportionately raise property valuations so that the actual decrease in the amount of the taxes paid will be negligible. The important result of honest property valuation will be that the tax dodgers and low valuation sharks of former years will have to bear their just share of the burden of taxation. In any event, Pasquotank county can well afford to spend more money for better roads and schools.

FUEL ORDER MODIFIED

As THE INDEPENDENT was going to press Thursday, word was received here of a modification of the fuel order which permits stores and offices to open before 9 a. m. and remain open later than 4 p. m. provided they use no heat, light or power generated by coal, wood or gas during the additional hours. This permits the use of kerosene lamps and stoves, and any other heating or lighting facilities not using the prohibited fuels named above.

TWO BIG TRUCKS FOR DIRT ROADS

Pasquotank Highway Commission at Last Gets Nash Quads for Road Work

The two big Nash Quad trucks for use in the upkeep of the county roads of Pasquotank arrived in this city last Sunday, having been driven all the way from Raleigh by Road Superintendent Provo and two helpers. They were obtained from the Federal government thru the State Highway Commission after much red tape had been gone through with. It is stated that but one hundred of these trucks were apportioned to North Carolina, and Pasquotank county is therefore very fortunate to secure two of them.

The trucks now on the job here are two-ton trucks suitable for road dragging and for hauling of loads that need not be dumped, since they are not provided with dump bodies. They cannot be successfully used in road grading or in hard surface road construction. Pasquotank county receives them with the understanding that they are only to be used in the maintenance of dirt roads. The two Nash trucks will cost the county \$300 per year, payable in quarterly installments to the State Highway Commission.

YOUNG EYESIGHT IN OLD AGE

You can't grow younger; but you can enjoy good sight to a ripe old age, if you change your glasses as the advancing years demand.

My eyeglass service is based on long experience, modern equipment and progressive methods in optometry.

This entitles me to your serious consideration, if your eyes need glasses.

DR. J. D. HATHAWAY
Optometrist :: Bradford Bldg.
Phone 999 :: Eliz. City, N. C.

GREAT BAPTIST DRIVE HEADED TOWARD SUCCESS

Both Elizabeth City Churches Handsomely Oversubscribe Their Quotas—State May Raise Ten Million Dollars—All Reports Not Yet In.

MARRIES PENNA. GIRL



JOHN BRADFORD GRIGGS, JR.

THIS then is a likeness of Lieut. John Bradford Griggs, Jr., U. S. N. whose marriage to Miss Florence Shoemaker, young society girl of Wilkes-Barre, Pa. took place in New York City on November 29. Lieut. Griggs is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, class of 1916, completing his course of study in three years, which is rather an unusual occurrence. His parents, Dr. and Mrs. J. B. Griggs, are members of one of the first families of this section. Dr. Griggs' father being one of the pioneer physicians of the Albemarle section. Lt. and Mrs. Griggs returned to Philadelphia yesterday where he will join the U. S. S. Delaware on which he is at present stationed.

AMERICAN LEGION NOT TO URGE EXTRA PAY

Legion Convention at St. Louis Refuses to Take Action on Bonus Legislation Before Congress

Early action is expected from this session of Congress upon a matter of great interest to the soldiers, sailors and marines who served during the world war; namely, upon the giving of an additional bonus. At the recent convention of the American Legion held at St. Louis with the conservative element in control, the Legion passed resolutions refusing to ask Congress for an additional bonus, declaring that it would be putting a money value on patriotism. The Legion did not state itself as being opposed to the bonus, but merely as in favor of leaving the proposition entirely to Congress.

Meanwhile another organization, from which all officers are excluded, has sprung into sudden existence with a determined intention of making a strong appeal for a year's extra pay. This is the Rank and File Veterans Association, with headquarters at Washington, D. C., and its platform stands for one year's extra pay for all who served honorably, as embodied in the Gronno-Baer bill, now before Congress; lump sum payments of war risk insurance; liberal compensation and fair play for all disabled men; opposition to universal military training; land and homes for service men, by Government loans; release of all military prisoners excepting those guilty under the civil code; free speech and liberty of the press; and return of fines levied by court-martial.

Any Congressional action upon the year's extra pay plan will be hotly contested. Claude Kitchin, former Democratic majority leader in the House, and congressman from North Carolina, has stated himself as unequivocally opposed to any sort of legislation giving bonuses to the veterans of the war. Many other Senators and Congressmen are likewise holding the extra bonus plan in disfavor both among the Democrats and the Republicans. One telling argument for an additional bonus of at least \$180 is in the fact, published in an earlier issue of THE INDEPENDENT, that war workers at Washington, holding down bomb-proof jobs at four to six times the pay of the enlisted men, were allowed a bonus of \$240, whereas the service men have thus far received only \$60.

ELKS' MEMORIAL AT LODGE

The annual memorial service of the Elizabeth City Elks at which the members of the fraternity pay reverent tribute to their dead brethren will be held at the lodge room at the order next Sunday afternoon at three o'clock, instead of at the Alkrama Treater, as has heretofore been the case. All members are urged to attend.

EVEN THE COWS STRIKE

Monte: "Old man why do you call your cow United States?"
Cristo: "Well, she went dry last summer."

The big Baptist \$75,000,000 Drive is going ahead with a rush in this city and throughout the entire district, reports now available indicating that by the end of the week considerably more than the quota will be raised. According to information available Wednesday afternoon, the two Baptist churches in Elizabeth City had oversubscribed their quotas, the First Baptist Church, with a quota of \$27,500 having raised \$32,157.75 and Blacklell Memorial, whose quota is \$30,000, having pledged itself to give between \$35,000 and \$40,000. It is expected that these amounts will be much increased by both churches when the final reports are turned in.

Incomplete reports from the rural churches are highly encouraging. Last Sunday the members of Salem church, near Weeksville, pledged themselves in the amount of \$4,000; Corinth church subscribed \$3,000; Olivet church, \$300; and Shiloh church, in Camden county, subscribed \$7,000. The banner record in this part of the State is that of the Edenton Baptist churches, which, with a quota of \$14,000, pledged themselves to give \$28,000, or just 100 per cent more than they were asked to give.

Reports from all parts of North Carolina on the progress of the great Drive are daily encouraging, and it is confidently believed that by the close of the eight-day campaign at midnight next Sunday the State quota of six million dollars will be oversubscribed by something like four million dollars. Many city and rural churches in various sections have already given from 10 to 100 per cent more than their quotas, and these are still going strong in practically every case. Wilmington Association is safely over the mark set, with many churches not yet heard from. The Buncombe Association, with a quota of \$200,000, reports that amount subscribed by half the churches. Mecklenburg-Cabarrus, asked to give \$250,000, already has pledged in the amount of \$292,000, with every church making its full allotment. Other districts are doing as well.

There was never any real doubt from the beginning of the Big Drive as to what the Baptist congregations of this city and section would do with big, live congregations full of zeal and pep working as one inspired individual to accomplish the maximum results possible: a successful consummation of the drive was a veritable certainty. The big oversubscriptions already reported from many churches afford a splendid indication of the excellent final results to be expected by the close of the campaign.

ONE ELIZABETH CITY MAN IN THE HOBES' CONVENTION

The picture of a former resident of Elizabeth City appears in a group photo of delegates to the Hobbes Convention held in Baltimore last week, appearing in the Baltimore American of Nov. 28. The delegate from Elizabeth City is Winslow Quiddle. This newspaper doesn't know Mr. Quiddle, but he probably is known to others here. Baltimore papers gave consideration publicity to the Hobbes convention. Delegates came from every part of the country, representing migratory workers in every branch of industry.

TEACHERS MEETING DEC. 13TH

The second meeting of the Pasquotank County white teachers will be held at the office of Superintendent M. P. Jennings on Saturday, December 13th, Chapters VI and VIII of Davis' "The Work of the Teacher" will be taken up, and it is hoped that all teachers will be at the office of the superintendent on the second floor of the Kramer building promptly at 10:30 A. M. All teachers are requested to bring copies of the book with them, if possible.