

THE FORT MILL TIMES.

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NEWSY HAPPENINGS IN AND AROUND TOWN

Tomorrow (Friday) is the last day on which State and county taxes for 1915 may be paid without penalty. During January a one per cent. penalty attaches to all unpaid taxes.

The Fort Mill public school will reopen on next Monday morning, January 3. The patrons of the school are requested to have their children at the school building promptly at the opening hour.

While operating a folding machine in the Millfort mill Monday, John Blackwelder, young son of H. W. Blackwelder, had a finger of his right hand so badly mashed that the attending physician found amputation necessary.

James D. Fulp, superintendent of the Fort Mill school, was on Sunday morning elected superintendent of the Presbyterian Sunday school, succeeding Mr. W. M. Carothers who is soon to remove to his farm near the Catawba dam.

Cards announcing the marriage December 21 of Mr. B. Lester Branson and Miss Chatherine McSween, of Newport, Tenn., were received in Fort Mill the last week. Mr. Branson is a son of Chas. H. Branson, formerly of Fort Mill, and has for several years been connected with a mercantile establishment at Crestmont, N. C.

According to announcement from the adjutant general's office, the annual inspection of the Fort Mill Light Infantry, Co. G., will be held on Friday, January 14. The inspection will be made by an officer of the National Guard, accompanied by Capt. J. Malcolm, Nineteenth Infantry, U. S. A.

The handsome new home of Mr. W. H. Jones, one mile west of Fort Mill, narrowly escaped destruction by fire Friday at noon. The fire was supposed to have started from a spark from the kitchen flue and was burning briskly in the roof when discovered by a colored man who was passing by. A considerable hole was burned in the roof before the fire was extinguished.

The Rev. W. A. Hafner, who recently accepted a call to the Gaffney Presbyterian church, will arrive very soon after the first of the year, says a Gaffney special to The State. It is probable, the despatch adds, that a reception will be arranged by the people of the congregation for Mr. Hafner and family when they arrive.

The Christmas business in Fort Mill has exceeded all previous records, according to merchants, postal authorities and the railroads. Christmas Eve the streets were crowded as on "circus day" with belated shoppers who crowded the stores. The ideal weather contributed no little to the trade of the week, of course, but the general prosperity of the country has been shown in no mistakable way.

Never before in the memory of the oldest resident has there been as quiet Christmas in Fort Mill as that of last week. One man said Christmas day was more like Sunday than Sunday itself. So far as The Times was able to learn there were few drunks, no accidents or personal difficulties and but little rowdiness. The police of the town were a little in an official capacity during the holidays.



The yellow label above carries the date to which your subscription to The Times is paid. If you are paid in advance, this paragraph is not intended for you. If you are behind with payments for the paper, this is to again remind you that we wish you to pay up. A number are due for a year or more and to these we must insist upon immediate payment. It would be a pleasure to the publisher to allow further time on these subscriptions were we financially able to do so, but this we are not able to do. Beginning early next month we will from week to week drop off delinquents, and if you are in this class, we trust that your remittance will be forthcoming and that we may continue to send you the paper during the good year 1916.
Publisher Times.

NEXT GOVERNOR'S RACE TO BE OF MUCH INTEREST

The one chief topic of speculation in State politics at present is who will lead the so-called Blease faction next summer in the race for governor, says a Columbia despatch. Of course Governor Manning will be a candidate to succeed himself and he may or may not have opposition in the Democratic primaries. The former governor, Cole L. Blease, is already an announced candidate against Mr. Manning, but the proposition is can he rally his former clans behind him or are they looking for another? This later bend is becoming more pronounced with the approach of the annual meeting of the General Assembly and is just now causing speculation in political circles.

Will John L. McLaurin be put forward by the opposition and will he rally the former Bleasites? The suggestion of his candidacy for governor was made in a statement given out a few days ago by a State senator in connection with the candidacy of Representative John J. McMahon of Columbia for Warehouse commissioner, the position now held by Senator McLaurin.

Seven Die in Storm.

One of the most weird storms the East has seen in many years—rain, hail and snow, accompanied by thunder and lightning and a gale which reached a maximum velocity of 90 miles an hour descended on New York from the northwest early Sunday as the aftermath of a Christmas fog. It indirectly caused seven deaths in New York, carried down telegraph wires, damaged shipping, crippled railroad traffic and caused considerable property damage.

The phenomenon of thunder and lightning in the midst of driving snow awakened New Yorkers at the height of the storm about 7 o'clock Sunday morning. A gale from the south accompanied by rain, had been blowing during the night, but the temperature dropped during the early morning hours, changing the rain to hail and then to snow.

STATE NEWS ARRANGED FOR QUICK READING.

Mayor Hyde has given instructions to the chief of police to stop all forms of gambling in Charleston.

The 1916 session of the General Assembly of South Carolina will be convened in the capitol at Columbia on Tuesday, January 11.

Gov. Manning has been forced to decline an invitation to deliver an address at the annual banquet of the Aero Club of America, to be held in New York January 12.

The cleanliness of the buildings and grounds of Winthrop and Clemson colleges is commended in a special report to the State board of health by a special committee.

The State Tax commission, created by an act of the last General Assembly to equalize the tax system, has completed its first annual report which is being mailed out to members of the General Assembly.

Andrew J. Bethea, lieutenant governor of South Carolina, has quit the Ford European peace party and it is presumed that he will at once return home. Personal business is given as the reason for Gov. Bethea's action.

The matter of disposing of the whiskey stocks carried over after the first of the year by the county dispensaries will be left to the general assembly. Gov. Manning said that the law was plain and that he could take no action.

In a fire which destroyed a boarding house at Clearwater, Aiken county, Saturday night, Charles Smith, was burned to death, and another man who had been with Smith all Christmas day and whose name was not learned, was missing after the fire.

Bub Pou, about 23 years of age, was shot and instantly killed Saturday night at Wards, in Saluda county. Fred Kneece, also of Wards, is in jail charged with the killing. Pou's body was found on the street early Sunday and blood stains were discovered on the floor of Kneece's house.

In a fit of despondency, Geo. C. Whitner, a liveryman of Saluda, killed himself Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock by firing a shot from a revolver through his head, the bullet entering just above the right eye and emerging at the back of the head. The killing took place in the office of his stables on Main street.

Holding that the legislature was without power to authorize the indefinite suspension of a sheriff for neglect of official duty, the supreme court in a unanimous decision has ordered the reinstatement of W. W. Huckabee as sheriff of Kershaw county. Mr. Huckabee was suspended several months ago by Gov. Manning on the charge that he had refused to enforce the whiskey laws.

In spite of unusual conditions, agricultural depression and business stagnation, the scholastic year 1914-15 was one of the best in the history of the public schools of the State, according to the report of J. E. Swearingen, State superintendent of education, prepared for the general assembly. He says that the growth of the schools is the result of universal sentiment in favor of efficient schools.

FORD QUITS PEACE PARTY AND RETURNS HOME

The Norwegian liner, Bergensfjord, with Henry Ford aboard, sailed from Christiania, Norway, Friday morning for New York. Mr. Ford's departure was due to illness, it was stated. The peace expedition, according to a statement by Mr. Ford, will continue under the auspices of the Women's International Peace association.

Before leaving Christiania, Mr. Ford wrote out the following statement for the press: "I am satisfied with what has been accomplished in Christiania. Peace has been given publicity. Newspapers have power to end the war, for it is through publicity that the gospel of peace is spread. Norway is like every other country. The people are all right."

In the opinion of many, however, Mr. Ford's departure from Europe marks the termination, in its original form, of the most novel of the many movements which have been undertaken to bring about the ending of the war. Mr. Ford's announcement that the Women's International Peace association henceforth will conduct the expedition would seem to indicate that, so far as he is personally concerned, he has relinquished the self-imposed task which he expressed in the phrase: "out of the trenches by New Year's."

The despatches state that Mr. Ford has put up \$270,000 to finance the operations of the peace party.

J. A. Withers, of Fayetteville, N. C., was among the Christmas visitors to Fort Mill.

THE NEWS IN GENERAL BRIEFLY PARAGRAPHERD

It is claimed that one out of every four Chinamen in California is a Protestant.

The Germans have sunk five hundred and eight vessels, the total tonnage of which has been given as 917,819.

A missionary from the Philippines reports the cure of twenty-three lepers. There has been no sign of the return of the disease in two years.

The executive committee of the State Teachers' Association has decided on Columbia as the 1916 convention city, and March 16th-18th as the dates.

Articles of agreement have been signed binding Jess Willard to a match March 4 at New Orleans with Fred Fulton of Rochester, Minn., for the world's heavyweight championship.

Brigadier General McIntyre claims that it will take bloodshed to do away with polygamy in the Philippines and advises congress to leave such prohibition out of the bills for the island this year.

Herbert Adams, a New York designer, is making plans for a monument to be erected at the grave of the late Mrs. Woodrow Wilson. There is nothing to mark the grave at present except a mound of earth.

The State Department announces that Great Britain has consented to allow two cargoes of dye stuffs to come through to this country from Germany provided they are consigned to Secretary of Commerce Redfield.

GERMANY'S NEXT MOVE A QUESTION OF DOUBT

While the diplomats in Rumania and Greece are engaging in new deals which will decide the next step in the Balkan operations, there is increasing evidence that the Germans, ever restive, are preparing for new strokes on both the eastern and western fronts, or at least a concentration of their forces to strike when conditions are propitious.

Recent despatches from Petrograd note German activity, particularly in the Dvinsk district, which would accord with the German ambition to reach the line of the Dvina river, while all accounts from neutral countries mention a continued movement of men and guns to the west. In the latter theatre of operation it seems only a question of what points the offensive is to be taken. Many believe that the Germans, having found the lines in Flanders and Artois nuts too hard to crack, contemplate moving in the Saint Mihiel region, where their line penetrates to the river Meuse, and where there has been considerable activity during the last few days. The only argument against this is that the river has been at flood and the French have been systematically destroying bridges as they were rebuilt.

The annual report of the Department of Labor is out, and the report shows that the tide of immigration is lower this year than it has ever been. Of the 326,000 admitted to the United States this year, 52,000 were under fourteen years of age. Immigrants admitted to the country had an average of sixty dollars each.

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Thank You.

SOON the new year will be ushered in and will begin our 1916 duties.

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In the New Store.