



# The Columbus Dispatch.



FORTIETH YEAR.

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## OSCAR JOHNSTON DENOUNCES CRITICS

### PAYS HIS RESPECTS TO THOSE WHO HAVE PUT HIS DOMESTIC AFFAIRS IN CAMPAIGN

#### Grows Better At Aberdeen In Prepared Statement—Liar and Slandered Used Freely.

Aberdeen, Miss., April 7.—Oscar Johnston of Coahoma County, candidate for governor, addressed an audience of several hundred people at city hall today. Mr. Johnston was enthusiastically received, numbering his personal friends in Aberdeen by the score, and his address created a profound impression. He was introduced by Hon. Ben H. McFarland, former senator from Monroe County, who referred to his association with Mr. Johnston while in the legislature and who commended the candidate as a man in whom the people could place their trust and one who would make the state an ideal governor.

Before entering into a discussion of the issues of the campaign Mr. Johnston, after thanking Mr. McFarland for his introduction asked the audience to indulge him while he went to some extent into a personal matter which had been injected into the campaign by persons whom he did not know and whose identity he could not ascertain. "Upon entering this campaign some two months ago," said Mr. Johnston, "I stated that it was my purpose to pitch this campaign upon a clean, high plane and to maintain it at whatever cost. After two months I have not altered my determination. From time to time I have stated in my judgement the political gossip monger should be treated with silent contempt. However, thus early in the campaign there has come to exist a condition which, in my judgement, it becomes my duty both as a man and as a Mississippian to give attention to and note for the purpose of political discussion, and not for the purpose of discussion in one single other instance but for the purpose of denouncing the particular matter to which I shall allude in a moment once for all, and shall never again allude to it in the progress of this campaign.

In order that I may not succumb under the stress of feeling under which I must labor on such an occasion to the temptation to say something more than should be said, I have taken the precaution to reduce to writing the statement that I propose to make.

"I have believed that anonymous communications should be ignored, but there are exceptions to all rules, and there comes a time when even a rumor, for which you may be able to find no father and no responsible source, arises to that degree of common knowledge and discussion as to demand an answer. I propose to answer a rumor; it may or may not have pervaded to the confines of Monroe County. I sincerely trust that it may not have; if not, then all is well and good, and if it has my answer is made.

"Shortly after I entered the political ring friends told me that some scoundrel was circulating a rumor to the effect that I had given up my law practice and gone into the army because of domestic troubles. This lie was so absurd that it was its own refutation, the fact that I had wound up my law practice and turned over to my wife every dollar, cash and property that I possessed, and that she had accompanied me to camp, both while I was a private and later after I was commissioned remained constantly near me until I was preparing to go overseas was too well known to all who know to allow so vicious a lie to make headway.

"Now comes to me through this letter from a neighboring county, the County of Alcorn, the letter I shall not read, that some slanderer who because of cowardice has covered well tracks, has started a rumor intended to reflect upon the loyalty and fidelity of my wife. This I cannot permit to go unchanged. I have made an earnest endeavor to discover the identity of a responsible author in order that I might put an everlasting stop to the circulation of so willful a lie, but I am unable to discover him, and I am, therefore, driven to the painful necessity of publicly denouncing the cowardly author of this miserable lie, not with the view of stinging him into coming from his hiding into the open, for a creature so low, so utterly debased, so absolutely lost to all sense

## GOT FOUR HUNS.

### Private Frank Perkins Had Stiff Fight In Agronne Forrest.

Private Frank Perkins with four Huns to his credit, came back home from France Sunday. He was in the fiercest of the fighting in the Argonne forest and in a hand-to-hand engagement the first morning of the attack he accounted for four Huns with his bayonet.

He said they encountered the enemy in a few minutes after they went over the top on the memorable morning of the first day of the Argonne forest action, and for forty minutes his company was in close contact with the enemy, and at times the fighting was hand-to-hand, and it was fierce and bloody.

After the first major engagement he said that as fast as the Americans advanced the Huns fled, though their flights was covered with the stiffest kind of machine gun and light artillery fire.

Mr. Perkins suffered from a gas attack and was laid up in a base hospital for two months from the effects of the gassing. He was with Company A of the 144th Infantry of the 29th Division, known as the Blue and Grey Division.

Frank says he is mighty glad to be back in Columbus, and expects to stay here the remainder of his natural life.

## ROAD BOND ELECTION ORDERED

### Election Will Be Held In Tuscaloosa District May 1, For Bonds.

On petition of the qualified electors of the Tuscaloosa Road District the county board of supervisors yesterday ordered an election to be held in the district on Thursday, May 1, to determine whether or not the district is to issue bonds for road construction up to 10 per cent of the assessed valuation of the property of the district.

There is a strong sentiment in the district for good roads and that the election will be carried there is no doubt. It will be held at only one voting precinct, Steens, and the following officers have been appointed to conduct the same: Judges, Messrs. C. E. Hugheson, Ross Griffin and T. W. Stinson; clerks, Messrs. O. W. Robertson and Sam Smith.

Mr. C. H. Hale spent the Sabbath in the city with his family.

of decency as to seek to attack a man in the fashion of a German submarine, coming from under the surface, from whence you know not, and stabbing a man in the back, is capable of any infamy and is too depraved to be stung into the open.

"But I now denounce the statement and the creature who utters it as a willful, deliberate and contemptible lie, and him who repeats it in the presence of any honest man or woman as a creature who is devoid of honor and unfit to breathe the same air with decent people.

"I brand any statement reflecting upon the loyalty of fidelity, of my wife as a miserable lie and denounce the creature who gives utterance to it as a moral and physical coward. I shall not again refer to this matter during the progress of this campaign, and regret mention of a matter so purely personal, but believe that every father, every brother, every husband, every man who loves the honor and integrity of Mississippi womanhood will agree with me that I could not afford to let such a charge go unchallenged.

"Whenever you hear such a charge if it should ever again be repeated ask the man who makes it if he will go before Oscar Johnston and make that statement or vouch for its veracity.

Mr. Johnston then launched forth into a discussion of the campaign issues. He stated that he advocated the repeal of the tax equalization bill and the abolishment of the tax commission or making it elective by the people so that its members would be responsible to the people. That it charged that he was against it because he was from the delta, but stated that if he should be elected and any effort should be made by the representatives in the Legislature from the delta to lower the valuations of delta lands in any way or tending toward that end, that he would veto the bill.

He favored, he said measures advancing the public health of rural communities, going into them at length. He went into his legislative record and fully defined his position on all matters before the people of the state at this time.

## LOCAL INTEREST BUY ROAD BONDS

### ROAD BONDS AMOUNTING TO \$95,000 SOLD YESTERDAY BY THE COUNTY BOARD.

#### All Bonds Bought By Local People Despite Spirited Bids By Foreign Buyers—Bond Election Ordered.

Local interests took the lead in bond buying yesterday at the court house when the board of supervisors sold road bonds to the extent of \$95,000 for two districts in the western section of the county.

Despite the fact that foreign buyers were represented at the sale all of the bonds were bought by local people and the money will be furnished from the county and spent in the county and the interest will remain here.

The first sale was of the West Port issue of \$40,000 which went to the Merchants and Farmers bank at 5 1-2 per cent and a premium of \$10. The Zion bonds amounting to \$10,000 were sold to Lindamood and Puckett for 5.65.

Lindamood and Puckett and Mr. T. O. Burris bought both of the issues of the Artesia Road District; one for \$40,000 for further road construction purposes, being interested at the rate of 5 3-4 per cent; and one for \$5,000 to pay off an existing indebtedness and bearing interest at the rate of 5 3-4 per cent.

It was road day for the board for the entire session Tuesday was taken up by road matters. The first action of the board was to appoint Mr. L. G. Bridgforth, a qualified elector and property holder road commissioner in District 4 to fill the vacancy caused by the removal of Mr. J. M. Lumpkin.

## BUYS HANDSOME FIXTURES.

Two firms who were burned out in the recent fire placed orders for handsome interior furniture and fixtures yesterday.

The Columbus Clothing Company placed an order for complete new and modern interior fixtures, handsomely and beautifully designed specially for gent's clothing store service.

Dr. C. D. Goodwin and A. J. Romback also placed orders for handsome fixtures for their store in the First State Bank Building. Expert fixture architects planned and designed the equipment specially to fit the new apartment. The store will be one of the handsomest in the south when completed.

## FIRE TRUCK DUE THIS WEEK.

The fire truck loaned to this city by the LaFrance people pending the arrival of the big LaFrance fire fighting truck recently purchased for the department here, is expected to arrive from Atlanta the latter part of the week.

The truck is a combination chemical and hose truck, motor driven and will take care of any fire situation that may develop before the arrival of the big truck. It was loaned to the city free of cost by the LaFrance people. They will send an experienced fire truck driver here to coach the fireman in its use.

## CAN DRINK FROM GLASSES NOW.

Since the influenza epidemic last fall patrons of all soda fountains have been forced to drink from paper cups and containers.

But Streets' drug store goes back to the former custom and patrons of their fount may again enjoy their beverages in real glasses.

In order to conform with the law the store has installed an electric sterilizer in which all glasses and containers, and spoons, are sterilized after use. Their sterilizer which is operated by electricity is highly efficient. Its temperature ranges around 300 degrees Fahrenheit, and it conforms with all of the sanitary requirements of the State Board of Health.

## BASE BALL THIS AFTERNOON.

The Stephen D. Lee High School baseball team will cross bats with the Amory team this afternoon on the Franklin Academy campus. The game will be called at 3:30 o'clock and a close and exciting contest is anticipated. The two teams are pretty evenly matched and a game of unusual interest is looked for.

## THREE ROAD BONDS ELECTIONS ARE SET

### BOARD ORDERS ELECTIONS IN THREE ROAD DISTRICTS FOR MAY 1.

#### Ask For \$83,000 In Bonds And Limit Of Authority In Issuance In Bent Oak District.

Three bond elections were ordered by the county board of supervisors at the regular session yesterday.

The elections will be held in three districts of the county on Thursday May 1 and they will determine the issuance of bonds in definite amounts in the Macon and Gilmer road district authority to issue up to 10 per cent of the assessed valuation of the property of the district is asked.

Petitions for bond issues under the laws of 1918 are not required to lay over thirty days, but elections may be ordered on presentation of the petition as the law directs that all in final steps in bond matters must be by election.

In Supervisors' District No. 4 the question to be voted on is the issuance of \$60,000 for road improvement and the following officers have been appointed to hold the election: Trinity, Judges, Messrs. R. B. Hardy, J. T. W. Hairston and J. L. Pratt; clerks, Messrs. Hunter Walker and P. C. H. Hairston; Crawford, Judges, Messrs. G. P. Waller, J. O. Kinkle and J. Ervin, Jr.; clerks, Mr. Birney Scales and Mr. P. L. Perkins.

The Macon and Gilmer road district will vote on the issuance of \$23,000 in bonds and the following officials will conduct the election: Judges, Messrs. W. G. Evans, C. H. Cocke and J. R. Thomas; clerks, Messrs. W. R. Watson and W. A. Swoope.

Then Bent Oak district will vote on the issuance of bonds up to the 10 per cent assessed valuation limit. The election will be held at Bent Oak at Moody's Store. The following will officiate: Judges, Messrs. J. A. Hardy, Prentiss O'Rear, T. J. Sloan; Messrs. John Moody and T. L. Lloyd.

## INSTALL TYPHOON SYSTEM.

### Princess Will Be Cooled By New Process—Will Not Show In Airplane.

Ever abreast of the times and in the forefront of picture show development, Manager E. L. Kuykendall of the Princess Theatre, has made arrangements for the installation of the latest and most modern process of theatre cooling.

It is the well-known Typhoon system of cooling and with it the theatre will be comfortable throughout the hot summer months. The temperature in the theatre will be from 10 to 20 degrees lower than the temperature outside. It will be cool and delightful in the theatre all through the sultry summer weather.

The air dome on South Market street which has been used for evening shows during the summer months for the past several seasons, will be abandoned, and all shows will be at the Princess.

In the largest theatres and hotels in New Orleans and other large cities the Typhoon system is being used with fine results, and its installation will be thoroughly appreciated by the Princess patrons.

## FIRE DESTROYS GAS SUPPLY.

### Blaze Consumes All Gas At Plant—Rapid Recovery.

A spark from an electric drill ignited a leak in the gas storage plant at the gas works Monday afternoon and the entire supply of gas at the plant was destroyed.

Fortunately the tank was under heavy pressure which prevented an explosion. Mr. Hoseny McCowan, superintendent of the plant, was drilling a hole in the tank with an electric drill when a spark from the drill ignited the gas.

The fire department responded to the call, but the gas supply had been exhausted when they reached the scene. The city was temporarily out of gas during the remainder of the day, and gas service was resumed yesterday morning.

Lieut. Julian Hopkins has returned from Washington where he received his discharge from the army. He is being cordially welcomed home.

## EDUCATORS COMING.

### Southern Association Meets Here Next Week At The College.

The Southern Association of College Women will hold its annual session in Columbus at the Industrial Institute and College next week, April 17, 18 and 19.

Prominent and leading educators from all sections of the South will be in attendance upon the sessions and will have part in the program. Among the distinguished persons who will deliver addresses are Dr. Dinwiddie, president of Tulane University in New Orleans and Miss Virginia Gildersleeve, dean of Bernard College, Columbia University, New York.

The visitors will be shown many social courtesies while in the city, and a formal reception will be given in their honor on the first evening of the conference.

## CHANCERY COURT POSTPONED.

Chancellor Albert Y. Woodward of Louisville, Miss., has written to the court officials here advising them that the session of the court will be postponed this month from the second to the third Monday. The regular period of the court is for the second Monday but on account of illness he will postpone the term until the third Monday, hoping by that time that he will have recovered sufficiently to undergo the work of conducting the same. Chancellor Woodward has been a victim of influenza and has not entirely recovered from his illness.

Circuit court meets the third Monday also unless pretermitted and this promises to be a busy week for court officials, the members of the bar and litigants.

## ODD FELLOWS MEETING.

At the regular weekly meeting of Union Lodge No. 35 Independent Order of Odd Fellows held last Monday night at the Odd Fellows' building on Main street the initiatory degree of the order was conferred on Mr. L. E. Spencer. The work was impressively executed under the direction of Mr. Albert Loeb, degree master, assisted by Mr. Irby Leech. Next Monday night the same degree will be conferred on Mr. Louis Randle. All members are urged to attend this important meeting.

## THE POWER OF ADVERTISING.

The pulling power of advertising in the Dispatch is being emphasized every day in all lines of business, but the past week it was demonstrated in a clean-cut and convincing way.

The Harris Hardware put in an advertisement telling the people about the arrival of a shipment of Herculane buggies. A car-load of buggies were received and all were sold out within a week's time.

Its just another case of "it pays to advertise."

## ATTENDING MEMPHIS MEETING.

Quite a party of Columbians attended the Liberty Loan meeting in Memphis yesterday. The following represented this city: Mr. and Mrs. Ira L. Gaston, Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Phillips, Mr. R. E. Johnston and Mr. George Senter. The purpose of the meeting was to outline plans for the Liberty Loan campaign which begins next week.

## HEALTH BOARD NAMED.

At the regular meeting of the city council held last week the following were appointed to serve the city as a city board of health for the ensuing year, the appointments conforming with the charter requirements providing that the board shall be composed of a physician, a merchant, and lawyer: Dr. Edward Lehm, Mr. S. L. Caine and Mr. T. W. Lewis, Jr.

## STATE OFFICER COMING.

Queen City Camp No. 23, Woodmen of the World will have a prominent visitor for the meeting Thursday night in the person of Mr. W. A. Martin, of Meridian, State Manager. Mr. Martin will have an important matter to present to the camp and all members are urged to be present.

Mrs. W. C. Worley left yesterday for Washington and New York where she will visit for sometime. She was accompanied by her son, Mr. Charley Worley, who is in Uncle Sam's Navy.

## LEADERS' ILLNESS HALTS WORK

### PRESIDENT WILSON AND LOYD GEORGE, BOTH ILL AT PARIS—LEAGUE'S PROGRESS DELAYED.

#### Presidents Condition Improving—Out Of Danger—Whole Conference Is Delayed However By His Illness.

PARIS, April 7.—Because of the indisposition of Premier Lloyd George and the continued illness of President Wilson, the council of four did not hold a session during the forenoon.

PARIS, April 7.—President Wilson's condition was improved this morning, but by the direction of Rear Admiral Grayson, his physician, the president will remain in his room today, attending no meetings.

Apparently the president's condition is in the last stages of the wearing off process. He hopes to be able to resume his work on Tuesday.

LONDON, April 7.—An important statement on the work of the peace conference which Premier Lloyd George promised to make tonight has been postponed until Tuesday, according to a Central News dispatch from Paris. The British premier, it is added, is confined to his Paris home with a severe chill.

Paris, April 7.—The peace conference commission on reparation and damage today adopted a provisional report on the various forms of damage and the methods of valuation. The report was presented by the first sub-committee of the commission.

Paris, April 7.—The peace conference has apparently reached the turning point between definite and speedy results and further prolonged delay. The indications today were today toward action, but new doubts began to appear as to whether the desired results could be accomplished within a fortnight, as Premier Lloyd George and Col. House have predicted.

The council of four was to have met at 11 o'clock this morning at the White House, where the president is still confined to bed, but able to consult with his colleagues in emergencies. It developed, however, that Premier Lloyd George has been affected in a similar manner as the president which has confined him also to his bed. A morning session of the council, was, therefore impossible.

It was then determined to have the council meet at Mr. Lloyd George's residence so as to be near him, and here the session began at 3:30 o'clock this afternoon with Premier Clemenceau, Premier Orlando, Col. House and all the financial experts present. Reparations was again the chief issue, and although set in the main principle, a number of essential details still remained open.

## VICTOR CONFATES FUNDS

The following additional subscriptions have been received by Mr. E. Johnston, custodian of the fund which is being raised for the benefit of Victor Confates, whose business was destroyed by the recent fire.

Arthur Stansel	\$10.00
Thos. C. Shaw	5.00
Mrs. C. S. Meeks	1.00
Simon Levenson	5.00
Dr. F. M. Vaughn	2.50
"Cash"	1.50
Total	\$30.00

A lot of fat hens at 25 cents a pound. J. T. Clardy, Phone 536 and 154.

Fresh country eggs: 2 dozen or more 32 1-2 cents a dozen. J. T. Clardy, Phone 536 and 154.

## DIED IN FRANCE.

Mr. W. D. Gardner of this city is in receipt of news from the War Department at Washington announcing the death of his nephew, Forest D. Cade, with the American Expeditionary Forces in France. Mr. Cade's home was in Brooksville and he was a native of that section. He had many friends in this section who will be grieved to learn of his death.

Mr. Will Rose, of West Point, was among the welcomed visitors in Columbus yesterday. He has many friends in Columbus who are always glad to see him.