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THE COMMONWEALTH

A Family Newspaper: For the Promotion of the Political, Social, Agricultural and Commercial Interests of the People

VOLUME XXXIII. TWICE-A-WEEK SCOTLAND NECK, N. C., TUESDAY, JULY 18, 1916. READ IT FIRST IN THIS PAPER NUMBER 45.

$10,000,000 LOSS BY WORST RAINS IN FORTY YEARS

Asheville and Biltmore, N. C., Partiallly Inundated by Rising Rivers.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN ARE DEAD

Many Cotton Mills and Railroad Bridges Carried Away by Mountains of Water.

Serious floods in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia have caused five known deaths, rendered hundreds homeless, damaged property and crops to the extent of $10,000,000, according to first estimates, and demoralized railway, telegraph and telephone communications. Following the hurricane that struck the South Atlantic coast Thursday, unprecedented rains have fallen, driving rivers and smaller streams from their banks and imperilling many lives.

The French Broad river has broken from its course near Asheville, flooding factories and homes in the lower part of the city. At Biltmore three persons, Captain J. C. Lipe, Miss Nellie Lipe and Mrs. Leo Mulholland were drowned when the Lipe house was flooded. Two persons were drowned at Asheville while trying to put food into the upper story of the Glen Rock hotel. Many are marooned in their residences along the rivers and rescue parties for hours have fought their way against the rushing current in an effort to reach them.

Swift streams of water are flowing down some of the streets of lower Asheville. The Southern Railway station is flooded to a depth of six feet as are all other buildings in that vicinity. The city proper, 300 feet higher, is without lights tonight, but otherwise is not affected.

Throughout Western North Carolina the situation is reported serious. The big dam at Lake Toxaway, the noted resort, and two dams at Hendersonville, are reported to have collapsed, loosening hundreds of tons of water.

The Southern Railway bridge over the Catawba river at Belmont, N. C., has been washed away, carrying ten or twelve men into the river. Whether they were drowned or not has not been learned. The Seaboard Air Line bridge over the Catawba river at Mount Holly, N. C., has collapsed, as has that over the Catawba on the Salisbury-Asheville line.

An earth fill at Lookout Shoals power dam, near Shelby, has yielded, and the East Mondo, West Mondo, Liladaun and Alspaugh cotton mills are under water. A wall of water 40 feet high is reported rushing down from Lookout Shoals.

Reports from Spartanburg, S. C., tell of heavy crop damage by the rains that have fallen in South Carolina during the past few days.

Practically all railway traffic in southwest Virginia and eastern West Virginia was tied up by washouts and slides resulting from the heavy rains of the past week. Many bridges have been carried away by swollen creeks and rivers, telephone and telegraph lines are down and heavy crop damage has been reported.

The Dravo Power Company's dam on Broad river, near Blacksburg, S. C., has broken, cutting of the electric supply for Spartanburg and nearby textile towns and menacing the Southern Power Company's plant at Ninety-Nine Islands, at Cherokee Falls.

The flood threatened Jonesville and other nearby towns and the residents have moved to higher grounds.

The Yadkin river has reached the highest stage recorded in years and continues to rise around Lexington, N. C. Crops and saw mills have been destroyed and livestock drowned. Debris litters the swollen river as it is sweeping past Lexington.

MUCH STREET PAVING IS ORDERED AT ROCKY MOUNT

Rocky Mount, July 17.—Between $15,000 and $25,000 in street improvements are now being made in this city, or have been ordered by the aldermen and the slate includes a pressing of work though it may be early in the coming year before it is completed.

The big item for street work and for which there may be made a bond issue by the board of aldermen under the general act is that of a rebuilding of Falls road for about one mile between Thomas street and the city limits line at the North Rocky Mount fire department. The cost of this work could hardly be estimated at less than $12,000, while a much larger sum will be expended if the street is put into the same condition as the bithulithic and asphalt streets of the city.

THE INTELLIGENT MANAGEMENT OF A PUBLIC INDUSTRY

Thousands of Dollars Saved Annually By the Introduction of Modern Methods in P. O. Department

The interest of people in public affairs is considerably heightened when they learn that the revenues of the Government are wisely and judiciously managed. A statement of economical expenditure which is susceptible of proof will always attract attention and please the thoughtful reader.

Among the vared industrial enterprises of the Post Office Department in Washington is an establishment devoted entirely to the manufacture of mail locks and the bag attachments used in mail transportation. When the administration came into power the Department sorely needed an improved type of mail lock. The shop was immediately reorganized, placed on a business basis, and its activities enlarged so as to meet this imperative demand. With in a very short time a new and greatly improved lock had been devised and its production begun.

The lock in use weighed 5½ ounces; the new one weigh 2 4-5 ounces. As 430,000 of this new product have been put into service, the difference in weight (the Government paying as much for the weight of equipment as it does for the mail itself) can be easily calculated. The locks replaced by this new and better style cost 21 cents each to make; those now being manufactured cost 8½ cents, direct and indirect charges considered, the saving thus shown on original cost of production to date amounting to $53,750. Of the old style, 36,000 were annually returned for repair at a cost of about 9 cents each. Of the new style, out of a great number sent into service, but 906 have been returned, and as these new style locks can be repaired at a cost of 3 cents each, the annual saving on this item will amount to over $2,100.

The Department has in this administration encouraged its employees to give their best service to the Government and many instances have recently come to notice wherein the Department has greatly profited by this wise public policy. In the lock shop a recent achievement in this direction is an improved cord fastener, the work of three of its employees, for use on bags; also one designed for locking large quantities of parcel-post matter, which has heretofore been without this protection. It can be made at a very low price requiring less material and a fewer number of operations. The insignificant part of this lies in the great number required in the service, between three and four millions, the output being 500,000 annually. As the cost has been reduced by the new method from 4½ to 3 cents each, it will be seen what a splendid showing this makes for administrative economy.

Another valuable improvement has been the perfected locking cord fastener designed for use in the sacks, something the Department for years has needed and vainly endeavored to accomplish. This device will be of great value to the postal service at large by increasing the capacity and efficiency of mail bags to a degree difficult to estimate. The modern system of business methods and the proper encouragement of employees to take an active and earnest interest in their work, both of which desirable features this administrations of the Department has favored and put into practice, is responsible for the many improvements made and the advantages gained.

Active experiments are constantly being made for the betterment of the service. For many years a tremendous expense has been labeling of the immense quantity of mail bags in use. The form of label used in the past and still used by clerks all over the country is doubling and refolding of what is known as a "facing slip." The preparation of these labels by the thousands has been and is an expensive proposition, yet there appears to have been no effort on the part of previous administrations to progress from the old method. Under present direction a perforated label in sheets and runs has been designed which is practically ready for use when furnished to employees. Every postal clerk in the country and thousands of post office employees will find this new method of great advantage and it will result in a large economy in the service.

There have also been some other notable improvements made, viz., the substitution of steel where brass was formerly used, at a very considerable lessening of expense; a device for fastening foreign mail pouches, doing away with the old-fashioned method of string and seal; a scheme for saving twine by means of a simple holder which permits free and easy use with out waste, and a flexible stamp design, for which the contract price was 34 cents, but which will now be made at a cost of but 8 cents. A mechanical pick-up or facing table for use in facing and stacking letters in first class post offices has also been developed and will soon be perfected. This device is considered superior to those now in use and costs less than one-third as much to manufacture. Those at present in use cost approximately $1,500.

It will thus be seen that the activities of the Post Office Department have been centered along lines which will not only produce large economies to the people of the country, but will also prove a great convenience to those in service. During the past three years two objects have been kept constantly in view, viz., saving the public money wherever possible and serving the people to the fullest extent. There was room for great improvement and there has been much accomplished. It is but common justice to award due credit in these administrative reforms to the Fourth Assistant Postmaster General, in whose Bureau these measures of economy were developed and who has so faithfully devoted his time to that purpose.

SHOT IN THE LEG.

Richard Powell, Colored, Recipient of Bullet From Another's Pistol

Richard Powell, colored, who is an employee of the Greenwood Lumber Co., at Hobgood, came to town Sunday seeking medical attention. According to the negro, he and another boy of the same color were pranking with a pistol when a bullet glanced and struck him in the leg. He says the shooting was accidental. The bullet was located.

DEALERS CONTRACT FOR $100-000,000 WORTH OF OVERLAND CARE BEFORE PRICE IS DECIDED UPON

Recently there gathered at the Willys-Overland factory 250 distributors from various sections of the country. All were clamoring for more Overland's and Willys-Knights.

Now it happens that the Overland company is about to introduce certain new types of cars, but, in view of uncertain market conditions and limited material sources, the price of the cars for the fall season had not yet been established. The distributors were informed to this effect but, one and all they wanted a guarantee that they would be appropriated a definite number of cars for the fall business, irrespective of price and other details. The result was that they left the plant, those alert distributors had left contracts with the company calling for between $75,000,000 and $100,000,000 worth of cars to be delivered between now and January 1, 1917.

"Yes, it was probably the largest contract for an unlisted popular and medium price car ever recorded," said John N. Willys, president of the Willys-Overland Company. "Although it assures us, beyond question, of an even greater production than we had planned on for the next twelve months there is an intense personal satisfaction for me in the achievement which is almost as attractive as the business end of the transaction.

"The confidence which those distributors placed in our product pays it a higher tribute, concerning its efficiency and selling qualities, than all the alluring descriptions of the expert engineers who have designed the car and all the statements which we manufacturers may make concerning the high standard of the product we are turning out. It is obvious that the engineers would be proud of the result of their endeavors because of the labor involved and the long hours they have spent in perfecting their work. It is natural that we should speak in the highest terms of the Overland and Willys-Knight cars because we believe in them. The distributors, however, have no personal bias to sway their opinions concerning our make of automobiles. They want them simply because they know the public wants them and when the public clamors for a certain product that product must have already demonstrated its worth and superority over other products in the same line.

"The Overland and Willys-Knight cars are not new to the public. They have been on the market long enough to have firmly established grade of motor vehicles. The distri- $75,000,000 and $100,000,000 worth of them, without a definite selling price, were not taking a chance. They had watched our methods of doing business. They knew that the best of materials would be placed in the cars and, more important to them from a selling standpoint, they knew that our long experience in the manufacturing world and our unexcelled factory system would enable us to sell those cars at a price just as attractive to the buying public as our prices have been in years gone by.

"Therefore, confidence in Overland and Willys-Knight cars and faith in The Willys-Overland Company led to one of the most unique and probably the largest contracts of its kind—nearly $100,000,000 of automobiles unseen and unpriced.

Chattanooga, Tenn., July 17.—Corn, cotton and hay within a radius of from 57 to 90 miles of Chattanooga was damaged to the extent of approximately $1,000,000, according to a survey completed by Bradstreets. If the rain continues the damage will be greatly increased, the report added. Heavy showers were frequent today.

REPUBLICANS TO CONTEST SEATS THIS ELECTION

"Uncle Joe" Cannon and Other "Big Guns" to Circulate Among People.

BRITT'S JOB TO WEAVER?

Shipman Says Tenth District will Return to the Democratic Column.

Raleigh, N. C., July 18.—The coming of Uncle Joe Cannon and some other Republican spellbinders to North Carolina during the approaching campaign is enlisting some interest and discussion. The Republicans are anxious to capture the next Congress, and it is understood that they have designs on several North Carolina districts—the third, eighth and tenth, and probably the seventh and ninth—being the fields which they intend to cultivate.

Talking about the tenth district with Commissioner of Labor and Printing Shipman, whose home is in that district, and who is especially well qualified to speak on the subject, I am told that the prospects of Republicans there are not very encouraging this year; that, on the contrary, "the Democrats are sure to redeem that district in November." The nomination of Mr. Weaver has given entire satisfaction, and there are no "disgruntled" Democrats in the tenth this year. Lack of harmony and the consequent disorganization among the Democrats two years ago made the election of Britt (Republican) possible. The district is normally Democratic. Mr. Shipman added: "Weaver is a strong candidate and, besides, the Republicans never carry the district twice in succession."

Commissioner Shipman spent a week in the tenth ditsrict recently, and he knows what he is talking about, for he is one of the clearest thinkers and one of the hardest party workers in the State. "We are united to a man this year with all of us enthusiastically for Weaver, and we are just as certain to put Congressman Britt out of business in November as any future contingency can be." Mr. Shipmen left Raleigh Saturday for Buffalo, New York, to attend the annual convention of the National Association of Government Labor Officials of the United States and Canada, which is in session there this week.

Keep the Rudder True.

The announced purpose of the Republicans should, however, place the Democrats in all the counties on their guard. Republican activity for Congressional candidates will, of course, have its effect on the candidates for state office and for the legislature, and our folks should not run the risk of allowing the interests of any nominee to suffer in default—lack of effort, because of fancied security is one of the most dangerous shoals that threaten navigation along the political seacoast. "Keep the rudder true!"

Farm Women's Convention.

The program for the Farm Women's Convention, which meets in Raleigh, at the A. & M. College, August 29-31, has been prepared. It shows that prominent experts will deliver addresses on that occasion, including Mrs. Kate Brew Vaughan, noted lecturer and demonstrator on home economics. Every "farm woman" who attends will be certain to derive benefit, as well as enjoying what promises to be a most pleasant occasion.

State Funds for County Fairs.

Commissioner of Agriculture Graham desires to be notified at once by all the counties which contemplate holding county fairs this year, so he can apportion the fund each is to receive. All county fairs which desire to share in the $3,000 appropriation which the State makes for this purpose must notify the State Department of Agriculture by August 10th.

Tar Heel Soldiers i nGood Shape.

The health of the Tar Heel soldiers at Camp Glenn seems to have been carefully looked after, according to Dr. W. S. Rankin, Secretary of the State Board of Health, who has returned to Raleigh after completing a sanitary survey of the camp, during which he inspected the water supply, handling of food, kitchin facilities and conditions, and methods of disposition of waste and sewerage arrangements. Dr. Rankin, who will prepare a formal report on the subjject, states that the sanitary conditions at Camp Glenn are so good that many towns could advantageously pattern after the "military city."

While some of the boys are represented as chafing under the restraint of mobilization camp life and are anxious for the fray—at least to the point of proceeding to the Mexican border—the "old folks at home" and most of their friends hope they will never be called upon for actual service in Mexico, from which so many of them would be apt to succumb to the diseases peculiar to that climate if they escaped Mexican bullets—and "the knife under the fifth rib."

Better Care for Soldiers' Home Veterans.

Col. A. H. Boyden of Salisbury; Gen. J. S. Carr, of Durham; and Col. W. P. Wood, State Auditor, the three most active members of the Soldiers' Home board of directors, together with the other members of the board, have ordered increased facilities for the care of the 165 old veterans now at the home here, which include an additional nurse and an assistant housekeeper. All of these old soldiers are over 70 years of age, and most of them spend much of their declining days in the hospital wards. In a few more years the last of them will have passed into the better world. Meanwhile they are fortunate in having such devoted friends as Col. Boyden, Gen. Carr and Col. Wood.

State Firemen's Tournament.

The firemen from the various towns who constitute the State Firemen's Association are holding their annual convention and tournament here this week. It began today, with Wednesday and Thursday scheduled as the "big days" of the tournament, and they are having a great time. Commissioner of Insurance Young, whose department has of recent years been taking much interest in the firemen's organization, expresses much gratification in the splendid progress they are making.

LLEWXAM.

"BUCK" DARDEN NOW MANAGER

Appointed HHead of the Franklin (Va.,) Baseball Club Saturday Night.

It will be interesting news to the home friends of Mr. Josey Darden to learn that he has been made manager of the Franklin, Va., baseball club in the Tri-Town League. The following article appeared in yesterday's Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch:

"Franklin will remain in the Tritown League. At a large mass meeting of citizens Saturday night sufficient funds were raised to keep the team in the league for the remainder of the Tri-town schedule. The Birds play Roanoke Rapids in Franklin today and Tuesday. "Buck" Darden has been appointed manager to succeed G. W. Pillow, who has been managing from the bench, and new players will be secured at once to strengthen the club. A scout is in Richmond now looking for good amateur material. Jake May, a pitcher, has already been signed."

CHAPEL HILL LETTER.

Chapel Hill., N. C., July 17.—The present week, the last of regular classwork during the summer school, will in many respects be the busiest and most interesting of the session. Lectures and entertainments will be many, while the class work will probably be the most important of the summer. The attendance upon the summer school this year has held up in a remarkable manner, about four-fifths of the students remaining for the entire six weeks. This means that more than ever before are taking work for college credit, or are determined to stay long enough to master the subjects in the graded and high school courses, rather than obtain merely attendance credit.

The conferences of the high school teachers and officials here last week resulted in a threshing out of many perplexing high school problems, and was extremely helpful. Dr. Thomas E. Finegan, Commissioner of Education from New York, delivered a series of five helpful lectures before the conference on problems of the modern school, its enlarged field for usefulness, its value as a health agency, and its relation to the entire community. He pled for a wider and more economic use of the school plant, and for vocational training for every boy and girl, not, however, to the neglect of the culture objects.

The union services in Memorial Hall each Sunday night have been unusually well attended and interesting. Rev. B. F. Huske of Newbern delivered the sermon last Sunday night. Each of the local ministers has preached one Sunday night there.

Although the opening of the fall term of the University is six weeks off, the number of applications and certificates that has already been sent in indicates that next year will break all records for attendance. The dormitory rooms have practically all been taken for some time. The University, with such a large increase, will insist that those who enter this fall are adequately prepared for college. It is desired that those with many conditions remove these before applying for entrance, inasmuch as those improperly prepared must needs be refused admission. Registration for the fall term begins on September 12.

More than 500,000 people die of communicable disease each year in the United States, and more than 5,000,000 are sick as the result of infection.

"WILD TURKEY" HARMON IS HOLDING ON TO LIFE

Deputy Marshall Bought a Coffin For Blockader, But May Find It on His Hands—Keeps Healing.

Raleigh, July 16.—Deputy Marshall Gaston Dortch bought a coffin for Ed Harmon Tuesday and the blockader with the top of his head blown off, is living, healing, cussing every hour.

The federal officer consulted the doctors and from them gathered the suggestion that Harmon could hardly play such a joke on him. The marshall did not "pass money" but he picked the box and was ready to receive it any hour the past week.

Harmon lies on his bed in Rex hospital with a hole through one leg, a hole through his head, an eye gone and a patch of skull half the size of one's hand removed by a bullet which entered his hard head Tuesday morning and carried the top thereof away in the explosion. The "wild turkey" fell to the ground but to this hour he has not lost sensibility. "I ain't hurt as bad as Knight," he said yesterday, and Mr. Knight is the posseman who caught the desperate blockader and received a shattered leg as they went together to the ground.

"And I want to get well to get even with him," Harmon again said. "And the government has got to pay me for this injury. Oh, I am going to get well, don't you worry about that. I know who told on me about that still. I married that fellow's cousin 14 years ago. I haven't seen her in a long time and I don't want to see her, but I would like to see my children."

Harmon's head had not been bridged by any metallic brace up to this writing. When he was picked up in the woods, his brains were running out from the wounds and his unprotected scalp moving as he breathed, nobody thought he could live and the necessity for an armor place in his head was not even considered. He gives promise today of recovery and an operation may be necessary now. The fellow talks all the time and relishes company.

He says that he is 33 years old. He looks 50 and must have lived two or three years in one. "Can you shoot a pistol?" he said in reply to the suggestion that he must have met pretty good marksmen. "Well, I am not much of a shot. But I can take a cartridge put it on a stump, stand off 15 steps and knock it off more times than I'll miss it. I can plug a man's head 50 yards away any time."

Collector Bailey is happy that Harmon is healing. The collector's men did the shooting, but had to do so. And even Marshal Dortch is willing to take a chance on using the coffin for somebody else. Harmon had strength enough left to make necessary being bound to bed.—W. T. Boost in Greensboro News.

LONGEST CONTINUED SERVICE IN U. S.

Cleveland, July 17.—Miss Bettie A. Button, 76, just retired as principal of the Kentucky grade school here, is believed to hold the record for the longest continuous service in the public schools of this country. Beginning at 18, she has taught in this one school for 58 years. She has educated three generations of children.

GIVE THE BABY A CHANCE.

Bad air, bad milk, over-crowding, poverty, dirt, ignorance, heat—these combine in summer to kill the city baby. It seems as though the brunt of the cities' sanitary sins were focused on the baby. The baby didn't ask to come, to live in a hot, dark, air-tight tenement, to be fed on dirty, half spoiled milk, to be pestered with flies and mosquitoes. He is not responsible for any of these conditions and it is his right that he have fresh air, clean surroundings and decent food. The United States Public Health Service issues free of charge to all applicants a bulletin on "The Summer Care of Infants." It should be in the hands of every mother.

THE VITAL QUESTION.

In 1915—"How many miles will it go an hour?"

In 1916—"How many miles will it go on a gallon of gasoline?"—Cornell Widow.

STILLWELL'S BODY WAS RECOVERED.

Matawan, N. J., July 15.—The body of Lester Stillwell, killed in Matawan creek by a man eating shark, was found Friday. The corpse bore the mark of the fatal accident. Watchmen believe they have three sharks penned up in the creek and plan to kill them at low tide.

BROUGHT CONSIGMENT OF DIAMONDS.

London, July 17.—It has been learned from a good source, says Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent in a dispatch today, that the principal object of the voyage of the German commercial submarine Deutschland to the United States was to convey a consignment of diamonds which it had hitherto been impossible to export.

BRITISH CONTINUE TO THREATEN THE TEUTON 3d LINE

Despite Great Resistance English Under Sir John Haig are Making Gains.

GERMANS ARE PAYING HIGH

Captured Evidence Indicates the German Casualties are Enormous.

LONDON, July 17.—The British army under General Sir John Haig is forcing an ever-deepening salient into the German lines and has improved its position along practically the entire battle front, capturing by assault 1500 yards of German second line positions in the last few days. Strong German positions have been taken north of the Bazentin-Le-Petit wood, Waterlot farm between Longueval and Guillemont and the entire village of Ollivers and La Boisselle has been captured.

Evidence in the shape of documents captured from the Germans give testimony as to the high price the Germans are paying in casualties.

The British have improved their position along almost the whole of their line of the battle front, capturing by assault, 1,500 yards of German second line positions north of the Bazentin-Le-Petit wood, a strong German position at the Waterlot farm between Longueval and Guillemont, beside completing the capture of the whole of the villages of Ovillers and La Boisselle. These gains bring the British almost to the crest of the Albert plateau, where stretches the German third line.

The news from the eastern front today was equally important. The Russian commander, General Kuropatkin, has launched an offensive against Field Marshal von Hindenburg on the Dvina river, and General von Linsingen's troops southwest of Lutsk have been compelled to retire behind the Lipar river, while in the course of Sunday's fighting in Volhynia the Russians captured an additional 13000 prisoners and 30 guns. General von Linsingen's retirement, according to the Petrograd military critics, represents a great Russian tactical success. It was preceded by heavy fighting in which the Russians smashed the Teuton front on a width of a mile and penetrated several miles into their positions.

The war now is costing Great Britain 6,000,000 pounds sterling daily, but with such news as the successes of the entente allies this sacrifice is nowhere grudged. While the powers of endurance of the Teutonic allies, should they be forced to act entirely on the defensive, have still to be tested, the British nation is full of confidence.

It is taking nothing for granted, however, but is fully prepared to acquiesce in the advice of its leading ministers, like Foreign Secretary Gray and Chancellor of the Exchequer McKenna, who are publicly exhorting the nation to the need of patience. Mr. McKenna told in the House of commons today that nobody could estimate what the nation's war expenditures might be in a month. He also intimated that it would become necessary this week to ask parliament for fresh borrowing papers.

ACCEPTS A POSITION HERE.

Mr. S. C. Pegram of Washington, N. C. has accepted a position as bookkeeper for the Hardy Hardware Co., of this place and entered upon his duties Monday morning. Mr. Pegram was recently connected with the National Bank at Washington, and comes to the local hardware concern highly recommended. The citizens here extend to Mr. Pegram a hearty welcome.

LECTURE AUGUST 1ST.

Rev. J. A. Megason of Brooklyn, N. Y., will hold services at Madry's Opera House at 8:30 P. M., August 1st. The public is cordially invited to hear the lecture.

CELEBRATE MOORE'S CREEK BATTLE.

Wilmington, July 15.—The program has been announced for the annual celebration of the Moore's Creek battle, which will be held at the battle ground near Currie on Thursday, August 3. The event is always attended by from 5,000 to 10,000 people from this section. The orator of the day this year will be Hon. J. D. Murphy, of Asheville. A very enjoyable feature of these celebrations is the picnic dinner that is served. There will be music by a band. President George J. Moore, of the Battleground Association, will preside at the celebration. In the afternoon the annual meeting of the Confederate veterans of Ponder county will be held.