

# THE DESOTO COUNTY NEWS.

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The News is the Official Paper of the Board of Public Instruction of DeSoto County, also Publishes All the County Commissioners Reports and Proceedings

## FOUR BRITISH AND 3 GERMAN

War Vessels Have An Engagement Off the Coast of Belgium. Two of the German Vessels Are Reported to Have Been Hit, While Four Men on the British Vessels Were Wounded.

London, March 22.—An engagement occurred Monday off the Belgian coast between four British and three German destroyers. Two of the German vessels were hit. Four men on the British boats were wounded.

The official account of the action follows:

"Monday morning four British destroyers sighted three German destroyers off the Belgian coast. The German destroyers turned at once and ran for Zeebrugge, chased by our destroyers.

"Shots were exchanged during this short running fight. Two enemy boats were observed to have been hit. Our casualties were four men wounded."

The French war office statement announces that the German forces again made violent attacks against French positions in the Verdun sector, west of the Meuse. The Germans gained no success, except that they obtained a slight footing southwest of Malancourt wood. East of the Meuse the night was calm. There has been the usual intermittent bombardment carried on by both sides. The remainder of the west front is without notable incident.

A Reuter dispatch from Teheran, Persia, states that the Russian forces entered and took possession of Ispahan, the old capital of Persia, on March 19.

There is little other news from the Turkish-Russian front, or the British-Turkish arena of operations in Mesopotamia. There has been no decisive fighting in that section the past ten days. The Turks continue to fall back before the advance of the Russians, who are drawing nearer Bagdad, and bid fair to come to the relief of the British forces in Mesopotamia soon.

The Austrian official statement admits the loss of a bridgehead in the Czernowitz sector to the Russians, who have renewed their activity along the Galician front and are hammering away at the Austrian defenses before Czernowitz. The Russians have been keeping up a sporadic attack in that sector, harassing the Austrians day and night. A more general attack by the Russians is indicated. In the northern sector of the Teuton-Slav arena, around Riga, there has been little but detached fighting of late, but activity in that zone may be expected with the general return of warmer weather.

## MR. W. L. CARLTON HAPPENED TO ACCIDENT.

Mr. W. L. Carlton, one of Arcadia's most prominent business men, happened to a serious accident yesterday afternoon about 2:30.

He was driving alone in his Ford car between Horse Creek and Pine Level, when his car became unmanageable, ran into a ditch and overturned, pinning him fast under it. The overturned car held every part of his body fast except the head, which made it utterly impossible for him to extricate himself. The door of the car rested immediately on his throat, and it was with the greatest difficulty that he could breathe. Mr. Carlton, who never lost consciousness for a single moment of the long period of one and one-half hours before help came, said he felt that his time had come, especially since there would probably be no one to pass the road until too late to render him assistance.

Imagine his joy at about the hour of four to hear the voices of two ladies who were driving by. The ladies immediately came to his rescue, and by raising the car slightly from his throat, enabled him to breathe more freely. Assistance was immediately summoned from a nearby farm house, where he was taken until medical assistance could be had. Dr. McSwain responded promptly to the call, and washed and dressed his wounds which, while many and painful, are not regarded as serious.

A gash four inches long was cut on his head, and his nose is also badly lacerated, but he does not appear to have received any internal injuries.

This morning Mr. Carlton is feeling and doing as well as could be expected under the circumstances, and it is hoped that it will be but a short while before he is sound again.

## PUNTA GORDA AND CH. HARBOR

Special Road and Bridge District Bond of \$130,000 Voted Nearly Unanimously. Only Eighteen Votes Reported Against the Proposition.

A special road and bridge district bond to the amount of \$130,000 was yesterday voted in the southern portion of this county, the vote from the various polling places heard from being as follows:

Punta Gorda, for 81; against 11. Cleveland, for 4; against 2.

Charlotte Harbor, for 36, against 5.

The territory to be embraced within said proposed special road and bridge district is described as follows: All of townships 40 south in ranges 21, 22, and 23 east, and all of townships 41 south in ranges 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25 east, and all of townships 42, south, in ranges 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26 east.

## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING COMMERCIAL CLUB.

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Arcadia Commercial Club held Monday night, March 20th, 1916.

Meeting called to order by President Lynch, after which the secretary was instructed to call the roll of members. There were present at the meeting forty-one members and two visitors.

Minutes of the regular meeting held February 21st and also of the called meeting of the board of directors held February 26th, were read, and on motion adopted.

The secretary reported that by direction of the board he had ordered a cut of the Dixie Highway map that was presented to the Commercial Club by Mr. H. E. Anschutz, to be made at a cost of \$3.45, and same had arrived.

The secretary was instructed to take the matter of having the map printed on the back of the letter heads with the different business men of the city.

Dr. Simmons made a motion that the action of the board in reference to this matter be sustained. The same prevailed.

A communication from the Tampa Board of Trade in reference to a movement inaugurated at the cattle men's convention at Tampa for the eradication of the tick in the state of Florida was on motion laid on the table until the next regular meeting.

The secretary was instructed to provide a bulletin for the purpose of displaying all letters of general interest to the members of the club, and especially all letters of inquiry.

Mr. Ed. Scott, as chairman of the special committee appointed to appear before city council for the purpose of soliciting from that honorable body a donation to help defray the expenses of getting out a new booklet for Arcadia, reported that the sum of \$100 was allowed the committee for that purpose.

Mr. Scott also reported that the entertainment committee was diligently at work on plans for the entertainment of the coming Horticultural Society, and had the matter well in hand so far.

Dr. Cline called attention to the fact that the State Medical Society met here the first week in May, and Mr. Scott assured him that at the next meeting of the entertainment committee he would have the local doctors meet with them and devise plans for entertaining this convention also.

Mr. E. R. Jones, as a member of the band committee, reminded the members that the Arcadia Band would give a concert at the Star Theatre tomorrow (21st), and urged every one to encourage the boys by attending.

Captain Lynch reported that the band raised between \$20 and \$25 at the high school concert last night (17th), same to be divided between the band and the high school.

Mr. J. L. Jones brought up the matter of the Title Men's convention that is to be held here May 24-25 next, and stated that Mr. Mack, the president, was in Arcadia today and reported that the program had already been completed. There will be an attendance of from 100 to 150 upon this convention.

The one redeeming feature of the many conventions that are to be held in Arcadia this year is the fact that the members of all are to pay their own expenses, and in that way there will be turned loose in the coffers of the various business men of the city

(Continued on Last Page.)

## CARRANZA FORCES ARE CO-OPERATING WITH U. S. TROOPS. THEREFORE QUITE LIKELY VILLA'S CAPTURE IS NEAR

Washington, March 22.—General Pershing, leading the Mexican punitive force, is believed to be near Francisco Villa and his bandits. It was believed that General Pershing and the Carranza forces are co-operating in the bandit hunt, and it is quite possible that the bandit chief may be trapped.

Advices to the state department tell of the co-operation of the Americans and Mexicans and of generally favorable conditions in the interior of Mexico and along the border.

Unofficial dispatches picturing a very different situation were brought to the attention of Secretary Baker, who said that although the situation was fraught with many possibilities, so far there had been no unfortunate developments.

General Pershing's reports said the attitude of the natives continued very friendly. Mr. Baker, in referring to this, said that the department had no information to indicate a hostile shot had been fired before the messages were sent.

While Acting Secretary Polk, of the state department, and Ellison Arredondo, Mexican ambassador designate, were conferring during the day over the terms of the protocol proposed by General Carranza to govern the joint pursuit of Villa, the war department was ordering additional troops to the border in response to a request from General Funston. The Fifth cavalry, the squadrons of which were stationed at Fort Myer, Fort Sheridan, Ill., and Fort Leavenworth, Kans., and

the Twenty-fourth Infantry at Fort D. A. Russell, Wyo., were ordered to entrain immediately. The point to which the troops will move was not made known. The Second Cavalry, at Fort Ethan Allen, Vt., will be sent to Fort Myer to supplement the garrison there.

Mr. Arredondo conferred at length with Mr. Polk after President Wilson and his cabinet had decided to send more troops to the border. He said that the proposed protocol was being considered, and that a draft would probably be agreed on in a few days. It is proposed to have the agreement cover such questions as how many American troops shall enter Mexico; how far into the country they shall penetrate, methods of co-operation and the use of railroads for army purposes.

The state department sent to Consul General Rogers, at Queretaro, for presentation to the de facto government the information asked for in regard to the request of the United States for permission to use the railway from El Paso to Casas Grandes for the shipment of supplies to the American expeditionary forces. It was pointed out that the United States had no intention of shipping troops over the line, and that the request was made solely for supplies.

Entraining of the horses and equipment of the headquarters and third squadron of the Fifth Cavalry began at Fort Myer, immediately after the orders were received. Col. Wilbur E. Wilder, commanding, expected to be ready to start south early today.

## Ex-Governor Malcom R. Patterson of Tennessee.



Next Wednesday night, March 23rd, former Governor Malcom R. Patterson, of Tennessee, will deliver an address in the First Baptist church of this city. These meetings are being held over the entire United States, and the campaign is known as "The Great Dry America Rally" movement. Dr. Patterson is known as one of the great speakers of the nation, and seating room should be at a premium on this occasion.

Dr. Patterson will be accompanied by Dr. Adam Clarke Bane, of California, who is the present financial secretary of the Anti-Saloon League of America. Dr. Bane is also a man of rarest eloquence, and an orator of the first magnitude.

In referring to the coming of Governor Patterson for a similar meeting at the First Baptist church in Durham, N. C., the Durham Evening Sun says:

"The coming of former Governor Malcom R. Patterson, of Tennessee, to Durham for an address at the First Baptist church Wednesday night, brings to mind a scene such as we have witnessed few times in our newspaper experience.

"The setting was the national convention of the Anti-Saloon League convention of America several years ago—not so very long. We were there in the capacity of a reporter, the most honorable position, in our opinion, in the journalistic profession.

"We had listened to more than forty of the leading temperance orators of the country in less than three days. We had seen the great audiences of 5,000 enthusiastic men and women go wild with excitement and fervor for the cause, under the words of these great advocates. And we thought we

had watched those thousands pass through the whole gamut of human emotions.

"But we shall never forget the moment when Malcom R. Patterson brought his oration of human experience to a close.

"There was a second of tense silence—such a silence as seems to fill the air before the break of a clap of thunder.

"Then we watched those thousands of thrilled humanity rise as of one accord, and crying, shouting, cheering, applauding, acclaim the oratorical powers of the prohibition statesman from Tennessee.

"And Mr. Patterson's speech had not been filled with spread-eagle and tawdry attempts to captivate his hearers. Nothing of the sort.

"It was the life story of a high minded man who had faced the depths of hell with liquor and had come back to fight.

"Maybe it was the atmosphere of that soul-stirring convention that brought out the best there was in Mr. Patterson.

"Possibly it appealed to him as the chance of a decade to drive home his story to those Americans from every corner of our land.

"But if Malcom R. Patterson is delivering the same kind of speeches on his trip through North Carolina that he delivered at that convention it affords an opportunity to Durham that will rarely be presented again."

Paul Kensey, who recently accepted a position with the Southern Drug Company, of Tampa, arrived in this city yesterday. He will remain here until Friday on business, when he returns to Tampa.

## BIG LAND DEAL CONSUMMATED

In Hillsborough County. The Deal Involved Considerably More Than Half a Million Dollars, the War Tax Stamps Alone Requiring That Stamps Valued at \$595 Be Affixed to the Papers.

Tampa, March 22.—Bearing war tax stamps totalling \$595, two deeds which were registered yesterday in the office of Circuit Clerk Culbreath, indicated a value of \$595,000 attached to large tracts of land in eastern Hillsborough county, which have recently been acquired by the High Grade Pebble Phosphate Company of Virginia. A \$1 stamp must be attached to a deed for each \$1,000 in value of the property involved.

This company purchased from the Virginia Trust Company, a tract totalling perhaps 2,600 acres in township 20 south, range 21 east, most of it being in the neighborhood of Hopewell, Alafia, Durant and Keyville, in the Alafia district. Stamps to the value of \$395 are attached to this deed, indicating a value of \$395,000. Part of the wooded land is subject to a turpentine lease, and through a portion of it the Seaboard holds a right of way of 125 feet.

The Old Dominion Trust Company has sold to the High Grade Pebble Phosphate Company a total of about 1,400 acres in township 20 south, range 21 east, and township 30 south, range 21 east, lying in the neighborhood of Turkey creek, Valrico and Lithia. This property was acquired about three years ago by the Old Dominion Trust Company from James P. Martin.

## THREE NEGROES CAPTURED

Near Platt by Sheriff Dishong and Posse and Brought to the City Sunday Night.

Last night Sheriff Dishong, accompanied by Messrs. W. H. Seward, Lamar and Barney Hollingsworth, went down to Platt and captured three negroes who stole a cow from Mr. Whit Garner. One of the negroes confessed, after being captured, that they had taken the cow. He then guided the sheriff's party to where the cow had been butchered, and there the hide was found. The prisoners will probably be bound over to the circuit court. In the past six months some heaves have from time to time been missed from the herds located on Myukka prairie, and it is the general opinion of the cattle owners of that district that the negroes captured last night are the ones who did the thieving.

Saturday night Deputy Sheriff Ed. Garner and C. S. Dishong, of Wauchula, went to Ona and arrested five negroes who were raising a disturbance there. They were brought to town and charged with being drunk and disorderly.

Deputy Sheriff Ed. Garner also arrested a negro, Charles Hewitt, at Moffitt yesterday, who is charged with cutting his wife. A negro has not been killed in this county for over twenty months, and this singular fact is attributed to the good work done by the sheriff's office in stopping the sale of liquor and the totting of pistols.

No clew has yet been found in the Bowling Green burglary case. Five people in Bowling Green have sworn that at about the time the postoffice was robbed they heard the noise of an automobile, and it is thought that the thieves, who were probably professionals, left that city by way of an auto. Sheriff Dishong went as far as Bartow, but no strange cars or men had been seen. The postoffice inspectors are now working on the case. During the past week the sheriff's force has captured Garrett Taylor and Lawrence Coker. These young crooks recently escaped from the convict camp in this county, where they were serving a long sentence for stealing and forgery.

## TWO AEROPLANES

Of First American Squadron Are Lost In the Flight Into Mexico.

Columbus, N. M., March 22.—Two aeroplanes of the first squadron have been lost in flight en route from here to the front in Mexico.

Captain B. D. Foulis reported their failure to arrive, and said their whereabouts was not known. Six machines arrived safely. High winds have made army airman's tasks hazardous.

## "A RED LETTER" W. C. T. U. DAY

An Interesting Program Has Been Prepared by the W. C. T. U. Workers of the City, Which Will Be Rendered Next Thursday at 3:30 p. m. Everyone is Cordially Invited.

Next Thursday will be a "Red Letter" day with the W. C. T. U. workers of this city. The meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. R. L. Cline at 3:30. A most delightful and highly instructive program has been arranged. March 1st, birthday of Neal Dow, "father of prohibition," and March 20, birthday of Lillian M. N. Stevens, former national president to her death—Red Letter Days. The leading subject is "Mother's Meeting," and the entire program is as follows:

Hymn, One of Our Mothers. Scripture reading, Prov. 31:10-31. Prayer.

Hymn. Song and duet, "A Place in the Ranks for Me." Mrs. R. O. Turner and Mrs. J. E. Trice.

Talks (not papers) three minutes each, on "Mothers of the Bible." "Sarah, the Steadfast;" Mrs. Geo. Scott.

"Rebecca, the Far Seeing;" Mrs. J. L. Livingston.

"Hannah, the Evangelist;" Mrs. H. E. Carlton.

"Elizabeth, the Prophetic Mother of John the Baptist;" Mrs. L. Dishong. "Lois and Eunice, the Mother and Grandmother, Who Believed in Child Training;" Mrs. H. R. Morley.

"The Madonna Mother, the Virgin Mary;" Mrs. J. W. Vesey. Special music: Mrs. W. E. Lefner.

"Great Mothers of Later Days." Three minute talks.

"Susanna, Mother of John and Charles Wesley;" Mrs. Mary Smith. "Mary, Mother of Washington;" Mrs. J. E. Trice.

"Catherine Booth, Mother of the Salvation Army;" Mrs. C. H. Slifer. "Madam Willard, Mother of Frances, the Founder of the W. C. T. U.;" Mrs. Alberta Smith.

"A Tribute to the Best of Mothers—Our Own;" Led by Mrs. Applin. "A Warning to Present Mothers;" Mrs. S. W. Ball.

Recitation, "Mother;" Margaret Powell. Business. Close with prayer.

W. M. U.

The devotional and business meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society of M. E. church, south, met at the home of Mrs. Mary H. Smith Tuesday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. About thirty members met at the church, from which they were conveyed by automobile to the beautiful suburban home of Mrs. Smith. A splendid program had been arranged by the president, which proved of much interest to all present.

Much business of the various departments of missionary work were discussed and disposed of. Mrs. Morley was elected delegate to the Methodist missionary conference to be held in Tallahassee soon.

Mrs. A. L. Durrance and Mrs. J. H. Treadwell were appointed as a visiting committee for the following month.

During the social hour Mrs. Smith delightfully entertained her guests with several well rendered piano selections, after which delicious refreshments were served by Miss Emily Smith and Miss Bertie Gore. As the sun was going down the guests departed for their various homes, thanking their hosts for her hospitality, and feeling that the afternoon had been one of much benefit to all. Those present were: Mrs. A. L. Durrance, Mrs. D. G. Barnett, Mrs. Ridder, Mrs. Royall, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Tomlin, Mrs. Will Scott, Mrs. John Williams, Mrs. Hays, Mrs. Ada Rogers, Mrs. George F. Scott, Mrs. Kamp, Mrs. Bickley, Mrs. Cochelle, Mrs. Lella Newsome, Mrs. Gore, Mrs. Derryberry, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Henry Carlton, Mrs. Thad Carlton, Mrs. John Treadwell, Mrs. John Hendry, Mrs. Campbell and Misses Whitestone and Chappelle.

Cad Hendry, of Fort Myers, who has been staying in Arcadia for several days on business, left last night for Gardner, Wauchula and other towns in the northern part of the county. Mr. Hendry is heavily interested in the hog industry, and he is in this county now trying to buy as many "razorbacks" as possible.