

# 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

## AFFAIRS IN MEXICO

San Antonio, Texas, April 12.—The opinion of army officers here that the next few days will bring important developments in the situation created by the expedition against Villa has been strengthened. With sentiment apparently growing stronger among followers of Carranza for the United States government to withdraw American troops from Mexican soil and relinquish pursuit of the outlaw forces to the de facto government, officers here believe the issue will be forced in the near future.

Unless Mexican railroads are made available for the transportation of supplies to General Pershing's command, it is frankly admitted in military circles that chances are against success of the campaign. Although the troops have penetrated 400 miles south of the border, Villa has managed to maintain his lead, and the field force cannot continue much farther unless supply facilities are bettered.

It was announced at department headquarters that the two companies of the Twenty-Fourth Infantry at Del Rio would start for Columbus within a day or two for duty along the line of communication. The remainder of the regiment entered Mexico several days ago.

An over-night dispatch from Consul Letcher at Chihuahua brought word to General Funston that the people of Torreon are in a starving condition.

Headquarters was unadvised of the location of the advanced columns of American troops.

## LADIES' AID SOCIETY OF METHODIST CHURCH.

The Ladies' Aid Society of the Methodist church met Tuesday afternoon, April 11th, at the home of Mrs. John Treadwell. The first part of the afternoon was spent socially. The charming hostess had planned a delightful program consisting of readings by Miss Willie Wells and piano solos by Mrs. Kards. After a pleasant social hour the meeting was called to order by the president, Mrs. W. G. Welles. The minutes of the last meeting were read by Miss Ves Parker, due to the absence of the regular secretary, Mrs. Z. N. Parker. It was decided that the society give a recital some time in the near future for the benefit of the pipe organ for the new church.

The ladies are contributing generously for the bazaar to be held some time in December. The different articles of work certainly deserve praise and commendation. The different committees reported splendid work for the past two weeks. There being no other business the hostess then served refreshments consisting of salad, stuffed dates, saltines and tea.

Those present were: Mesdames Bierwert, E. H. Giles, W. L. Scott, Kards, Kemp, E. B. Sampey, John Hendry, P. T. Richards, Marsh, D. G. Barnett, E. J. Weaver, M. M. Archard, J. O. Bickley, J. A. Parker, H. L. Carlton, Forrester, D. L. Smith, W. G. Welles, Kilpatrick, Barney Hollingsworth, Timberlake, M. L. Williams, Misses Alice Dean, Ves Parker and Willie Wells. New members: Mesdames Hollingsworth and Timberlake. Visitors: Misses Alice Dean and Willie Wells; Mesdames C. C. Dear and M. L. Williams.

The meeting adjourned to meet with Mrs. W. G. Welles next time.

## WHAT WILL THE COTTON FARMER DO.

Cotton farmers are in a predicament this year. If they wait too long to plant they will catch the boll weevil. If they plant too soon the cotton may be damaged by cold. C. K. McQuarrie, state agent for the University of Florida extension division, thinks that farmers should not be in a hurry to plant this year, because indications are that the spring will be late. Of course the boll weevil is to be considered, but cotton will not grow well until the weather becomes favorable.

Cotton has little ability to recover from injuries of cold, unfavorable weather. Cold nights in May make it especially susceptible to rust. It is also more likely to suffer from other diseases, owing to its weakened condition.

Where there is plenty of moisture and the soil is warm the seed may be soaked before planting. But if the soil is not moist it will draw the moisture from the seed and arrest germination. The seed will then be in worse condition than it was before it was soaked.

## 150,000 DIE OF STARVATION

Paris, April 12.—William Willard Howard, of New York, secretary of the Albanian relief committee, who has left Paris on his way to the United States from Albania, said that 150,000 human beings had died of starvation in Albania during the last 18 months, and that 500,000 were likely to die before normal conditions in that country were resumed.

Famine due to failure of the crops as a result of the excessive rains, Mr. Howard said, had reduced the population to a pitiful condition, and typhus fever threatened to become epidemic. Owing to the war, commerce and industry are paralyzed. The secretary said the Christian work relief ship Albania, carrying the fourth shipment of relief supplies, still remained in the Mediterranean. Mr. Howard is returning to the United States to fit out another relief expedition. He says the Albanians are not taking any part in the war in the Balkans.

## INTERURBAN LINE ENDORSED.

Tampa, April 8.—Endorsement of the project with a section urging all administrative bodies to assist as much as possible in its realization, was given yesterday by the board of governors of the Board of Trade in special session to the proposed interurban electric line between Tampa, Plant City and Lakeland.

The project was explained in detail by F. M. Williams, who declared that the promoters are anxious to rush the plans along. The fact that they are bound by agreement with Gary and Plant City to start work within six months makes the month's delay imposed by the county commissioners embarrassing, as a corps of expensive engineers is in the city waiting to start to work.

Mr. Williams stated that plans have been pending since eighteen months ago, and that maps were secured showing the location of every road and farm house, together with the names of all property owners. He added that the concern does not propose to go after five cent fares, but will do a strictly interurban business between the three cities.

The Hillsborough County Board of Trade will meet at Ruskin next Friday afternoon, and notices have been issued inviting all the members from other commercial bodies in the county to attend.

## SAVE ALL THE RAIN POSSIBLE.

C. K. McQuarrie, state agent for the University of Florida extension division, advises farmers to save all the rain they can within the next few months. Mr. McQuarrie thinks that there is not much chance for plenty of rain until the rainy season. At any rate, as long as the present drought continues moisture conservation should be practiced.

Land should be cultivated after every rain. This will break the crust and prevent moisture from escaping. It is not enough to cultivate near the plant rows and leave the middles unbroken. Moisture will soon find channels through the unbroken surface. The capillary force works horizontally as well as vertically, and can transport water in any direction.

## COST OF CULTURE.

The college freshman year was proving very expensive to father, so father decided to have a "heart-to-heart" talk with Charles, home for the week. "Now, son," said he gravely, but affectionately, "your mother and I are spending just as little as we possibly can. I get up in the morning at 6:30 and I work until after 5. But, son, the money just won't go round at the rate your expenses are running. What do you think we had better do?"

For a moment Charles' head was buried in thought, and then he replied: "Well, father, I don't see any way out but for you to work nights."—Philadelphia Ledger.

## \$2,300 CONTRIBUTED TO CENTENNIAL MISSION FUND.

The Rev. W. Y. Quisenberry, who has been in the city for the past three or four days soliciting for the \$1,250,000 Judson Centennial Mission Fund, left this morning after having completed the canvass. Mr. Quisenberry reports that the contributions were very liberal, and aggregate nearly \$2,300. This special collection does not in any way interfere with the regular contributions for current expenses of the mission board.

## NEWS CONFIRMING THE REPORT OF THE DEATH OF VILLA YET LACKING

El Paso, Texas, April 12.—Pursuit of Francisco Villa probably will be brought to a conclusion within forty-eight hours, according to information brought here by an American mining concern with large interests at Parral and Torreon.

The message stated that the report that Villa was dead was current throughout southern Chihuahua and northern Durango and, while it was far from being confirmed, it was expected that definite news would be received in a very short time.

There are only two possibilities accepted as true in the situation; either Villa is dead and his pursuit automatically ended, or he is far to the south in Durango. If the latter is true, army officers say that the entire plan of campaign of General Pershing must be reorganized or abandoned altogether. One officer who has had an active part in directing the plans of the expeditionary force summed up the situation in this way:

"If Villa is dead, there is no more to be said, except to issue an order for the soldiers to come back to the United States as speedily as possible. If he is not dead there is very little reason to doubt that by this time he is well into the state of Durango. It is ridiculous to suppose that our troops can keep on going south indefinitely with no railroads back of them. They will either have to halt or arrange for the dispatch of another expedition of some sort on the border which will enable them to cut in behind Villa. I am not a prophet, but the most casual observer should see that the existing conditions are impossible of continuance."

The report of Villa's death was accepted as highly probable by General Bertani, Carranza commander, who is now in Juarez.

"There is only one doctor in the country where Villa now is," said General Bertani, "and if blood poisoning has set in Villa's leg, as my informants report, this doctor can do nothing if he has a chance. Witnesses who saw Villa told me his left leg was shattered by a fall from his horse, following his being wounded by a bullet. They said the leg was in bad shape, swollen and gangrenous."

General Bertani said that Villa had not more than fifty men with him. The Villa band which his troops encountered in the Madero sector were quickly dispersed, fleeing without taking their dead.

Led by "Peaches," the captor of Generalino, twenty Apache scouts started south yesterday on motor trucks. Each Apache wore sun goggles and a wrist watch.

The southward rush of the American cavalry forces pursuing Villa has

been so rapid that it has carried Colonel Dodd and his troops far beyond all lines of communication.

Officials of the Carranza government in Juarez are making attempts today to gain information over the Mexican land lines in regard to the advance position of the American troops.

Army officers at Fort Bliss believe that when the expeditionary commanders get in touch with Major General Funston they will report that the American troops have engaged the Villa forces in battle. Reports that a battle has been fought with Villa bands south of Satevo were current yesterday, but there was nothing to confirm the reports.

While the American cavalry are commanding the country at the far end of the attenuated line of communications, there was little apprehension over the situation, for it was felt at Fort Bliss that Dodd's men could fight themselves out of any uncomfortable position.

Scouts and refugees said that the American troops will find it particularly difficult to operate in any numbers against Villa in the district where he is fleeing.

The Arrieta brothers are said to be fortifying the city of Durango, but for what purpose has not been indicated.

A plot of wide dimensions, hatched in El Paso and backed by the people who are financing Felix Diaz, in a movement against the de facto government of Mexico, is believed by the police to have been unearthed by the arrest of fifteen Mexicans accused of being implicated in the flight across the border of General Ynez Salazar.

Agents of the department of justice aided the police in making the arrests, the most important of which were General Marcelo Caraveo and General Ignacio Morales Zaragoza who, like Salazar, were among the best known and trusted of the late Victoriano Huerta lieutenants.

The prisoners were questioned for the better part of the night by police and secret service officials. This story was pieced together from their admissions, and the authorities believed they have discovered the essential details of the plot.

The backers of Diaz, it is said, became dissatisfied because his own military reputation was limited, and he had no man with his movement in whose generalship the Mexican people had confidence. They were also anxious to reinforce the Diaz campaign in southern Mexico by a similar insurrection in the northern part of the republic. A soldier was wanted of proven ability, and Salazar was selected. He was amply supplied with funds and proceeded to organize his followers from El Paso.

## AVON PARK

O. L. Mason and Miss Clara Mason left the Park Tuesday for their home in New York.

The Mothers' Congress gave an entertainment in the high school auditorium Tuesday evening. The characters were represented by the best talent in town, and the house was crowded.

The Citrus Exchange is packing fruit this week. Roberts Brothers will finish shipping for this season in a few days.

Mrs. A. B. Carter was seriously scalded by water from a stove that was partly overturned by a leg dropping out.

Annie Lewis, eight months old, daughter of J. C. Lewis, died Sunday morning.

Guests at the Village Inn: Bernia Chenworth, C. B. Fish, Miss M. Fish, Chicago, Ill.; H. P. McCurdy, Pittsburg, Pa.; George D. Jones, New Castle, Pa.

Contracts are let for several dwellings.

The board of governors of the Board of Trade met April 8th.

The tendency of every new town is to get into debt without much thought about being able to pay when the time comes to settle. Industries and business is the first consideration in town or city.

Miss Hallie Rice, the expression teacher of the DeSoto County High School, went up to Wauchula last night and is spending the day there teaching a class of expression pupils which she has in the Wauchula High School.

## GARDNER

The school picnic last Friday was well attended and very much enjoyed by all. Several from Brownville attended.

J. L. Brandon is on the sick list this week.

Mrs. Henry Tyson and children, of Limestone, stopped in Gardner Monday.

R. F. Saxon, of Brownville, attended to business matters here Monday. Dr. Coker was a business visitor to Wauchula Monday night.

Mrs. Mabel Boggess left Tuesday for Berlin, Ga., where she will visit her parents.

E. C. Sharp, of Brownville, attended to business here Monday.

T. E. Fielder has purchased a new boat for his fishing industry. Mr. Fielder now has about ten men in his employment at Lake Stearns.

P. D. More, of Saxon & Company, Brownville, spent Tuesday here in the interest of his firm.

Rev. Barber filed his regular appointment at the Baptist church on the second Sunday.

The stork visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Pelham Monday last, leaving them a fine boy.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Moore returned to Bartow Sunday after a pleasant visit to their daughter, Mrs. Hartsfield.

Mrs. Roy Saxon, of Brownville, visited friends here Tuesday.

Mrs. Clark and sons moved to Limestone this week. We regret to give up these good people.

Mrs. Hurt, of Ona, is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Kirby Coker. Little Courtland Hartsfield, Jr., who has been seriously ill, is now improving under the care of Dr. Coker.

## WILSON WILL MAKE SPEECHES

Washington, April 1.—President Wilson will make two speeches this week, which many of his advisers expect to have an important bearing on the coming presidential campaign.

The first will be made here tomorrow night at a Jefferson day gathering of democrats from all parts of the country, and the second will be delivered Saturday night in New York at a banquet of the Young Men's Democratic Club.

Chairmen of democratic state committees and members of the democratic national committee and of the democratic national congressional committee will be the guests of the Common Council Club, composed of government officials, at the banquet here tomorrow night. It will be the first distinctively political gathering the president has addressed for more than a year.

## WHAT WAS IT?

Was it a mastodon or mastodonsaurus, or just a plain, every-day walrus?

That is the question that is now agitating the minds of the people that have seen the bones of some extinct animal that are now on display in the office of the West Coast Realty Company on South Main street.

Recently while excavating a large ditch on the Hyde Park subdivision, there were found, near the middle of the ditch, bones of some extinct mammal.

The bones were found in a shell formation some six feet below the surface of the ground, and over which there had evidently been a stream of water. From indications that were observed, there must have been quite a few of the mammals that were overtaken at the same time. This may have been caused by an upheaval of the earth while the animals were feeding, or they may have been slain by Indians. This, of course, is mere conjecture, but the fact remains that the bones were found at the place indicated.

In talking to Mr. W. M. Tuttle, the engineer who had the work of laying out this ditch, and which is over 6,500 feet long, a Times representative was led to believe that the bones were those of a mastodonsaurus, an extinct genus of mammals closely allied to an elephant. The species were mostly larger than elephants, and their remains are found in all parts of the world in deposits ranging from Miocene to late Tertiary times.

The bones that were found in this ditch are from the tusks and parts of the vertebrae of the mammal, and being very heavy must have been in the ground for thousands of years. This is the conclusion of a gentleman who seemed to know something of geology. But he thought, from the peculiar formation of the tusks, that they may have been those of a walrus.

It is the intention of the officers of the Hyde Park subdivision to send in some of the bones found to the geological institute at Gainesville, and also to the Smithsonian Institute at Washington.

Mr. Tuttle is under the impression that were further excavations made at this point both east and west, a more complete skeleton of these mammals would be found.

It has been proven beyond the shadow of a doubt that the part of Florida that is now occupied by Sarasota has all been under water. If this be so, then the opinion of the gentleman that the bones as found were those of the walrus is right, and the opinion of the Times man wrong, but the geologists of the state institute and the Smithsonian Institute should set this matter clear for all time, which they will, no doubt.

Webster's dictionary says of the geological series, "the science of geology, as treating of the history of the different strata which compose its crust, their order of succession, characteristic forms of animal and vegetable life," etc.

In the meantime, those that are interested in this interesting subject should not fail to see the bones that are now in the windows of the office of the West Coast Realty Company.—Sarasota Times.

Mrs. P. W. McKeever, of Orlando, after spending the last few days in Arcadia attending to business matters, left last night for her home.

Colonel Epps Tucker, one of the prominent members of the legal fraternity of Lakeland, was a business visitor to this city yesterday.

## THE MEXICAN FARMER

We are indebted to Kelly Crane, in the World Outlook, for the following interesting information contrasting the farmer in Mexico with the farmer in the United States:

"In the United States the farmer is a humble person; in Mexico he is a king of millionaires. You look out across a level plain and see a magnificent house of stone, cement and great timbers, covering some times as much as half an acre. Surrounding it are other houses, hundreds of them, but all small, constructed of adobe, brush or even of cane stalks.

"You are not looking at a town, but at a ranch settlement. In the great house live the hacendado and his family. In the little houses live the peons.

"The typical farm in Mexico is not of 160 acres, but of a million. A major fraction of the agricultural and grazing lands of Chihuahua is owned by one family. Lower California, equal in size to Alabama, is nearly all held by five great corporations.

"The million acre farms lie mostly fallow. Mexico does not produce enough corn and beans to feed her own peon population. Modern machinery is needed, but modern machinery will never be used extensively so long as the peon is so cheap that primitive methods are cheaper than machine methods."

## DO NOT FIRE THE RANGES.

The wild lands are the farms of posterity. The man who deliberately sets fire to the forests or prairies destroys the legacy of his children. Florida land needs the organic matter that the decaying vegetable matter on wild land affords.

S. S. Walker, associate chemist to the University of Florida Experiment Station, cites three phases of this wasteful practice for the consideration of farmers. The first is the destruction of organic matter mentioned. The other two are the destruction of soil bacteria and the deforestation of land. Millions of little pine trees are killed by the fires and the loss to the soil through the destruction of organisms which render plant food available can not be estimated.

That range fires destroy cattle ticks is a fallacy, according to C. K. McQuarrie, state agent. The ticks are usually dormant at the time fires take place and, hence, are hidden where they are not subjected to the fire.

## LADIES' AID SOCIETY OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

The Ladies' Aid Society of the Baptist church met yesterday at the home of Mrs. Charles E. Roe. There was a good attendance and an enjoyable time spent. One hundred and ninety visits to the sick and new comers were reported during the last month.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. D. H. Scott. Upon the conclusion of the meeting delightful refreshments were served of ices and cakes. The following ladies were present: Mesdames S. J. Carlton, O. H. Carlton, W. C. Appleg, C. C. Carlton, H. L. Carlton, Horace Carlton, Goodell, J. W. Burton, Etherton, E. R. Jones, S. Garner, E. W. James, J. L. Livingston, Hollingsworth, Link, Vance, Whidden, Welts, F. W. Jones, Lawrence Roe, G. N. Perry, Lence, Turner and Fowler.

## CORN REPLANTING PAYS.

The field that does not produce as much corn as it can, loafs. It cannot produce a maximum yield if the corn is not planted. If the first planting is not successful, it should be replanted. When the stand is less than 75 per cent, it is best to plow the field and plant over, according to C. K. McQuarrie, state agent for the University of Florida extension division.

If there is not a stand ten days after the first stalks appear, there will never be any. A longer wait may be expensive. The second planting should be deeper than the first, because the top soil has usually dried to the level of the first planting by that time.

## ALL WEATHER RECORDS BROKEN.

All Florida records were broken in the recent cold snap. Yesterday morning the mercury showed a record of forty-five degrees at Tampa, and it is said upon reliable information that this temperature has never before been reached as late as the 10th of April.

Other records made in different parts of the state were: Bartow, forty degrees; Eustis, thirty-eight; Fort Pierce, forty-four; Gainesville, thirty-six; Jacksonville, forty-two; Miami, forty-six, and Titusville forty-four.