

THE JOHNSON CITY COMET

Thirty-Third Year.

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GOVERNMENT ARMOR PLANT

OUR CHANCES GOOD TO GET THE PLANT LOCATED IN THIS SECTION OF COUNTRY

THE WORK ACCOMPLISHED

JOHNSON CITY AND ELIZABETHTON PRESENT CLAIMS FOR THE WATAUGA VALLEY

By recent act of Congress and after years of agitation the Secretary of the Navy was directed to build a Government armor plant, to supply the ships of the navy, and to cost \$11,000,000. By the act the General Board of the Navy, of which Admiral Dewey is head, was directed to select a suitable site, the only limitation being that it should be safe from the enemy in time of war.

On September 13th a hearing was held in Washington before the Secretary and General Board and the claims of some 125 places presented. Of course each claimed his site was the only perfect one and many elaborate briefs, maps and arguments were presented.

To go back.—For many years there has been more or less of a movement to have the Government make its own naval armor, with a view to reducing the price below that of the steel companies and which was claimed to be excessive. In 1897 the claims of Elizabethton as being a suitable point were brought prominently to the front by the Board of Commerce.

A naval board visited Elizabethton and reported favorably on it—among others as a suitable location for the proposed plant. So when the present movement was on Elizabethton at once got busy, had her claims presented in the form of a brief by Mr. Lee F. Miller, the Chamber of Commerce of Johnson City was also given and several enthusiastic meetings held here and at Elizabethton. Money has been subscribed, and an association has been formed to carry the work forward to a successful conclusion. This association is known as The Watauga Valley Armor Plant Site Association and is composed of the leading citizens of both towns, with Mr. James A. Summers at the head and Mr. Lee F. Miller as secretary. This association, through its various committees, is now actively at work and making every effort to locate the gigantic plant here on the Watauga river, between Elizabethton and Johnson City.

So much for the history of the movement. With so many places all over the country putting forth every possible effort, it is hard to convince some of our people that we stand any sort of a chance of being selected. On analysis and study, however, it appears that few if any points in the entire country offer such an ideal combination for the establishment of iron and steel works and especially of this plant. We are at the very center of vast iron ore beds with 200,000,000 tons of ore, close to the necessary limestone, with vast quantities of the best coal only 80 miles away and fine transportation facilities both for the raw materials and for the distribution of the output. Water and sanitary conditions are of the best and the population is known to be almost purely American and loyal to the core. A great advantage is the purity of the magnetic ore which is almost entirely free of phosphorus and sulphur, which are the great bugs of the steel maker. In fact the Cranberry ore is considered the very best ore in this country and possibly in the world for making steel.

The coal fields within easy reach have an almost inexhaustible supply of the very best steaming coal and making the finest coke. As to safety in time of war, an essential condition, we meet every requirement more fully than any other point proposed. Far from the seacoast and behind the mountains it is almost self-evident that no enemy could capture these works unless the country was prostrate and the war virtually at an end.

Few can conceive the enormous advantages to this region of locating this enormous plant here. With an initial outlay of \$11,000,000 and an annual pay roll of over \$1,000,000, it will mean more to this section than anything that ever happened. Once the armor plant is located here other iron and steel works are sure to follow and a big steel center will be the result. Other cities are making the most strenuous efforts to get the plant and are backed by population, influence and money to almost any ex-

WASTE TANBARK NOW USED TO MAKE ROOFING

Method Developed at the Forest Products Laboratory is Now Being Used Commercially

Washington, Oct. 11.—A method for using waste hemlock tanbark to partially replace expensive rag stock in the manufacture of felt roofing has been developed at the Forest Products Laboratory and is now being used commercially by co-operating mills, according to an announcement made by the Forest Service. It is stated that, in these mills, from 20 to 30 per cent of the rags is being replaced by waste bark and that the quality of the finished product is equal to that manufactured solely from rags. Members of the Forest Service who have been conducting the experiments say that the utilization of the bark will make it possible to effect a considerable saving in the manufacture of felt roofing.

According to the census of 1909, over 608,000 tons of hemlock bark were produced each year in the United States. After the tanning is extracted this bark is used for fuel purposes, for which it is said to have a value of 60 cents per ton.

The extent of the savings rendered possible by the new methods is pointed out by the fact that the roofing mills of the United States have a total estimated annual production of 237,000 tons of finished roofing of all kinds, equal to about 11,300,000 "squares." By a "square" of roofing is meant 100 square feet. The utilization of the waste bark in this industry should, it is said, enable the mills to reduce their manufacturing costs appreciably.

In addition to the use of the bark for roofing, papers made at the Forest Products Laboratory on the basis of 80 per cent of waste hemlock, have been successfully printed on a commercial twelve color wall paper printing machine, and give promise of being entirely satisfactory. Other paper of the same make up has been made into fiber conduits by a commercial manufacturer.

Other possible uses of waste bark which suggest themselves, says the Forest Service paper experts, are the use of bark mixed with ground wood for the production of wall board, or with sulphate screenings in the manufacture of car liners. Studies already made at the Forest Products Laboratory indicate that it may be possible to use waste hemlock and oak tanbark in making sheeting paper, carpet liners, bottle wrappers, deadening felt, and the like.

McKELLAR TO VISIT KNOXVILLE OCT. 11

Congressman K. D. McKellar will visit Knoxville next Saturday, October 14, says the Knoxville Sentinel.

The democratic nominee for the U. S. Senate will arrive here at 8:20 Saturday morning, and will be met at the Southern passenger station by a large number of friends. He will be escorted to a local hotel, where an informal reception will be accorded him during the day. Ten details of this reception will be announced later.

Congressman McKellar's friends here anticipate that he will consent to deliver a public address while here in which he may discuss the vital issues before the state and nation, particularly matters pertaining to the responsibility of the office to which he aspires.

Congressman McKellar has been making an aggressive campaign over the state. Wherever he has spoken or visited, he has been given splendid encouragement and his friends are confident that his majority will be very complimentary. The regard him a very formidable candidate.

Congressman McKellar is popular socially, as well as politically, having many warm personal friends in Knoxville, all of whom will extend him a most cordial welcome here.

If we secure the plant it will certainly be on merit alone.

Our citizens through this organization are making a big fight, and if we lose the effort will advertise the advantages and resources of this East Tennessee region in a way that has never happened before. It should be a source of pride to every citizen that we are able to make such a splendid showing against such formidable opposition. Those who heard the arguments say that Mr. Miller's brief and his presentation of the resources and advantages of this locality were among the very best and were most convincing.

It is felt that this region has not had the development to which its natural advantages entitle it. This movement has united the two towns and people as never before and great good will result.

WORK OF ONE SUBMARINE

WAS THE DESTRUCTION OF SIX SHIPS SUNDAY IS OPINION OF REAR ADMIRAL GLEAVES

MERITORIOUS RELIEF WORK

DONE BY FLOTILLA—THE RAID CEASED, TEMPORARILY, AT LEAST, MONDAY

Newport, R. I., Oct. 9.—There was a flurry of excitement tonight when the destroyer Samson received orders to proceed to Buzzard's Bay. The purpose of the trip was not announced, but it recalled at once the rumors circulated yesterday that a strange submarine had been sighted by fishermen in that vicinity.

During the evening the destroyer Drayton put to sea to relieve the other members of the flotilla returning from their fruitless for the Kingstons' boats.

Submarine's Wholesale Raid.

Newport, R. I., Oct. 9.—The wholesale raid on foreign shipping Sunday was the work of one submarine, according to reports of American naval officers. Rear Admiral Albert Gleaves, commanding the torpedo boat destroyer flotilla which did such remarkably speedy rescue work yesterday, said tonight that the reports of all his officers agreed that to the best of their observations one raider only was concerned. This boat presumably was the German U-53, which called at Newport Saturday.

Admiral Gleaves said he could easily understand the positive statements of the captain of the Nantucket lightship and of the sailors of the torpedoed vessels that more than one submarine was concerned. The U-boat, he said, was very fast and appeared to have been handled very cleverly. It was easy, he pointed out, for her to disappear on one side of a ship and then show up unexpectedly at another spot. Doubtless, he believed, she had submerged and reappeared often enough to mislead any but a keen professional observer and to create the impression that more than one sea-terror was operating.

This opinion would seem to be borne out by the statements of many of the refugees that the submarine had more business on hand than she could take care of at once and was obliged to request one steamer to wait her turn while another was being put out of commission. Lieut. Commander Miller, of the destroyer Ericsson, who witnessed the destruction of the Stephano, said he was positive that only one submarine was in the vicinity at the time.

Today the raiding had ceased, at least for the moment. The known list of the victims of the U-boat's Sunday exploits remain at six, notwithstanding reports from the Nantucket lightship that three other ships, the identity of which could not be learned, were sent to the bottom. There also was a persistent rumor, without verification, that a British cruiser, one of the allied patrol fleet, sent to the submarine zone, had been attacked.

Ten more refugees were eluded here tonight by the Melville, tender of the destroyer flotilla, which picked up 10 Chinese members of the crew of the steamer Stratdene. They were sent to the training station to be held until immigration inspectors can pass upon their cases.

RUMOR THAT BREMEN SANK IS CONFIRMED

Newport News, Va., Oct. 6.—Corroboration of the statement recently given out by a British steamer captain reaching New York to the effect that the German commercial submarine Bremen, bound from Germany for the United States, had been captured in a net in the English channel was given here by Captain Reavley, of the British steamer North-Point, now in this port. The Bremen was seized by the British, according to Captain Reavley, and will be put in condition for use against her former owners. Whether or not two of the crew were lost and the others taken prisoners, as stated in the New York story, could not be learned by Captain Reavley. The capture of the Bremen was made about seven weeks ago, when the North Point was in the English channel, said Captain Reavley.

HAVE YOU AN INTEREST IN THE BUSINESS?

A gentleman asked a youngster how he was getting along in his new job, and the young man, who had been employed but for a month, replied that he was getting along all right and that he "had an interest in the business." Somewhat surprised that such rapid advancement had been made, the gentleman, upon further questioning the youngster regarding his promotion, received this answer:

"I got that interest the day I went to work. My employer told me he wanted me to take an interest in the business, and I did from the very start."

The above may sound like a vaudeville joke, or an extract from a comic supplement, but the man or boy who takes an interest in his employer's business is made of the right stuff, and if the employer is not broad enough to appreciate these sterling qualities, the employe will not be the chief loser, for by diligent and faithful attention to duties he has been gathering information and acquiring experience that will enable his services to be sought by outside concerns, or probably he will have so mastered the business that he will be able to branch out into business for himself.

There is often heard in the office or shop the complaint that this or that fellow has a "pull" with the "boss." Nine times out of ten it will be found that the secret of the "pull" is a willingness to work and take an interest in the business. You will not find a young man "with an interest in the business" watching the clock while waiting for the "ghost to walk," receiving payment for work which it is doubtful whether it has been earned; but he will be among those who are talking about "our concern," "our policies," "what we expect to do," etc.

Would Carnegie, Schwab, Edison or any of the great host of successful business men and men of affairs of today that have risen from the ranks have amounted to anything if they had not taken an interest in the business, or if they had not been under the control of high-salaried union labor officials and allowed to work (?) only eight hours a day, becoming merely automatons, instead of being permitted to develop the latent ability possessed by every conscientious worker?

If a job is made important enough to put one's whole life interest into it, it will return the favor nearly every time. Take an interest in the business; by so doing your employer will take an interest in you.—Manufacturers Record.

WANAMAKER ON ADVERTISING

John Wanamaker—the man who made retail advertising famous, and the man who was made famous by retail advertising—states:

"Our little allowance of advertising money went to the newspapers, as it goes nearly altogether, because if I ever have a monument for discovering anything it will be for finding out that the only advertising of direct and instant benefit to both merchant and customer is in the newspaper. All others are vanity and vexation of the spirit. To have learned this fact has greatly helped my enterprises."

TO WHIP CHILDREN FOR RUNNING ON STREETS

Town of Norton, Va., Takes Drastic Steps in Quarantine Against Diphtheria and Fever

Norton, Va., Oct. 6.—Arrival of the "whipping post," or what may amount practically to the same thing, may be seen in Norton under an ordinance passed by the town council in order to enforce a quarantine against scarlet fever and diphtheria here. At a special meeting of the town council an ordinance was passed causing all public schools, churches, moving picture shows or other public gatherings to be closed until Monday, October 18, unless other cases of scarlet fever or diphtheria. There are five cases of diphtheria and four cases of scarlet fever here.

When members of the town council learned that there was no danger of epidemics of either disease spreading if a strict quarantine were kept, a local law was passed to force every child under 15 years of age to stay at home and not leave the premises under penalty of a fine of \$10 or to receive a public whipping at the city hall.

This step was taken, it is said, because children in whose homes scarlet fever has existed have been on the streets. It is alleged the police have taken such children back to their homes, but they were back on the streets with other children again in a few minutes.

ATTITUDE OF GOVERNMENT

WITH REGARD TO GERMAN SUBMARINE OPERATIONS AWAITS DECISION OF WILSON

OFFICIALS ARE CONVINCED

THERE HAS BEEN NO VIOLATION INTERNATIONAL LAW IN NANTUCKET ATTACK

Washington, Oct. 9.—So much depends upon President Wilson's decision regarding the German submarine operations in the western Atlantic and there are so many possibilities of complication of the U-boat campaign proceeds, that officials here decline to make almost any statement of what the American government's attitude will be.

Although state department officials are convinced there has been no violation of international law in the attack off Nantucket, they realize that prolongation of operations in waters adjacent to the U. S. might create situations out of which serious diplomatic issues might arise.

It is understood here that it is to discuss this feature that Secretary Lansing is going to Shadow Lawn tomorrow. The secretary declined tonight to make any statement regarding his trip or to discuss the U-boat campaign.

DECREE OF DEATH PENALTY FOR ROBBERS

Mexico City, Oct. 6.—The government today prepared a decree providing for the death penalty for robbers, bandits and those convicted of hold up. The decree is similar to the one issued by Benito Juarez sixty years ago and is for the purpose of putting an end to banditry.

The foreign office announced that it had protested to Cuba against alleged anti-Mexican attacks in so-called governmental newspapers in Cuba.

"GRAVEYARD GRIP" IS LATEST TERPSICHOEON FAD IN ATLANTA, GA.

Atlanta, Oct. 7.—The "Graveyard Grip." Have you danced it yet? Atlanta dancing clubs are doing it every night, and their members say it's the most fascinating step since the "Turkey Trot."

The young man places his right arm across the young lady's left shoulder, and holds it straight and stiff like a broom handle. With his left arm he encircles her waist. Then they go whirling across the floor in the mazes of the dance.

One couple recently danced the "Graveyard Grip" with such frenzied enthusiasm at a very prominent terpsichorean club a few nights ago that the young lady's left shoulder was positively dislocated.

They call it the "Graveyard Grip" because the dance exemplifies the well known nuptial vow: "Till death us do part."

BRYAN COMING TO STATE FOR ONLY ONE DAY

Nashville, Oct. 10.—William J. Bryan, on his visit to Tennessee this month, will speak in all the principal cities and towns between Memphis and Nashville, Chairman Hill announced. He arrives in Memphis from Missouri Wednesday night, October 18, and leaves over the N. C. & St. L. on a special train at 7 a. m. Short stops will be made at Somerville and other towns and at Jackson he will stop for an hour. From Jackson to Nashville he will make brief speeches at several places and arrive in Nashville about 6:30 o'clock in the evening. At night he speaks here at the Ryman auditorium and after the speech goes to Kentucky to continue his campaign. Mr. Bryan was assigned to Tennessee for only one day as the national committee said it had more requests for the speaker than he could fill.

ON THE FARM, 1916

"Watered the horses this morning, Josh?"
"Not yet."
"Watered the cows?"
"No, not yet."
"Done anything at all this morning, osh?"
"Well, the only things I've had time to do to water so far is the automobile; changed two rear tires, cleaned twelve cylinders, changed the spark plugs and adjusted the carburetor."

BERLIN SEEKS WILSON'S AID TO END THE WAR

Gerard is Coming and Persistent Rumor is That He Bears Appeal From Germany to Wilson

New York, Oct. 6.—The New York Evening Post today publishes a story saying that it has been learned from a trustworthy source that James W. Gerard, now on his way back from Germany, will lay before President Wilson a request that the president use his good offices in suing for peace with the allies.

"Germany has definitely decided to apply to President Wilson," the article reads, "to use his good offices in suing for peace with the allies. This was learned today from sources in a position to have absolutely trustworthy information on these matters. It is understood that Ambassador James W. Gerard, who is on his way over here, will lay the kaiser's request before President Wilson within a week. It is a fact, however positively it may have been denied officially, that the possibility of President Wilson acting as mediator has been discussed by German officials with Ambassador Gerard. It is therefore by no means surprising that the reports now take definite shape in connection with Mr. Gerard's trip to this country."

Ambassador Gerard is on board the Frederick VIII, due in New York about Tuesday next.

HERE'S THE LATEST ONE FROM MEXICAN BORDER

Chattanooga, Oct. 8.—That life along the Rio Grande does not kill the essence of humor of American troopers, is shown in a recent letter received by Maj. W. J. Bass from an officer with Gen. Pershing's expeditionary force in Mexico. According to the officer who wrote the letter, a wounded Mexican had died in a camp hospital, and a squad of the 10th colored cavalry had been detailed to bury him. At the grave side, the sergeant, a big black negro, turned to the officer and asked if something ought not to be said the dead man's grave. The captain told the sergeant to go as far as he liked, and he with solemn mien bowed his head over the new made mound, and in graveyard tones said:

"Ashes to ashes; dust to dust;
If Carranza won't kill you,
Then the United States must.
Amen."

GREATEST OPPORTUNITY IN HISTORY FOR LUMBERMEN

Memphis, Oct. 6.—W. J. Drewry, European representative of the Southern Pine association, told officers of the association, in session last night, that lumbermen of the south "are facing the greatest business opportunity since time began."

After the European war, Mr. Drewry said, America alone will be able to supply the quantity of pine lumber needed in Europe and asserted that he found that the American product was preferred to either French maritime or Baltic pine.

At the meeting the advisability of confining export business to sales to foreign governments until the war ends was discussed. Reports read showed a greatly increased domestic demand but shipping was hampered to some extent by a shortage of freight cars.

TARIFF CHANGES ARE NOT LEGAL IN THE STATE

Nashville, Oct. 6.—The Tennessee railroad commission has returned to the N. C. & St. L. railway supplements to tariffs filed by the road on October 2 with the statement that these supplemental changes in the tariff are not legal. The commission states that the only legal rates in the state are the rates contained in tariffs filed under the regulations prescribed by the commission.

Some time ago the commission was forced to call attention of railroads to the fact that tariffs must be first filed with the commission before they can be enforced in the state. Under the order of today the new tariffs advancing rates on sand and gravel, on live poultry en route and wood and coal are not legal rates.

GREENEVILLE BOY MAY BE FATALLY BURNED

Greeneville, Oct. 6.—The little son of John Noel, former sheriff of this county, was seriously burned yesterday when he with some other boys playing near a garage struck a match near a tank of gasoline. The tank burst into flames and the little fellow was enveloped in the blaze, almost all the clothing being burned from his body. It is very doubtful if the child, who is but ten years of age, will recover.

IN FAVOR OF UNITED STATES

TRADE BALANCE OF \$1,730,000,000 IS THE RECORD FOR THE PAST EIGHT MONTHS

EXPORTS MANY MILLIONS

MORE THAN THE VALUE OF EXPORTS FOR ENTIRE FISCAL YEAR OF 1911

Washington, Oct. 6.—The enormous extent in increase in gains in exports of the United States is disclosed in statistics issued today by the department of commerce. Total exports to the various countries for the first eight months of the calendar year were in many cases millions of dollars greater than those of the entire year of 1914 and very large increases are shown in percentages.

Exports to Greece leaped 2,200 per cent; to Russia, 900 per cent; to Norway, 340 per cent; to France, 240 per cent; to Denmark, 140 per cent; to Italy, 129 per cent; to the United Kingdom, 103 per cent; to Sweden, 84 per cent; to Cuba, 42 per cent, and to Japan, 25 per cent.

This vast export trade shows an apparent trade balance for the last eight months of \$1,730,000,000 in favor of the United States and department officials predict that by the end of the year it will exceed \$2,500,000,000. Total exports amounted to \$3,435,969,212, an increase of \$1,205,082,010 over the same eight months a year ago.

The largest gain was in exports to the United Kingdom, which took nearly one-third of all goods exported from the United States in that period. They amounted to \$1,207,751,929, showing an increase of \$554,000,000 over the same eight months last year and \$713,000,000 more than the entire fiscal year of 1914. France, the second best customer of the United States, took goods valued at \$544,475,000, an increase of \$211,000,000 over the previous eight months and \$284,000,000 more than 1914. Canada was third, taking \$378,736,569, an increase of \$163,000,000 over the eight months of last year but only \$29,000,000 more than 1914.

Russia in Europe and Asia took \$300,362,626 worth, an increase of \$219,000,000 over the previous eight months period. Greece's imports from the United States amounted to \$23,597,141 compared with \$1,100,000 in the whole fiscal year before the war. Exports to Germany and Austria have almost ceased. Decreases for the eight months when compared with the same period last year were shown in exports to Denmark, The Netherlands and Sweden, but the totals except for The Netherlands, exceed those of the fiscal year 1914.

"YOU OUGHT TO BE OUT RAISING HELL" MOTHER JONES TELLS STRIKERS

New York, Oct. 7.—Five hundred women, mostly wives of striking street car men, rushing out of an uptown hall, where they had listened to an address by "Mother" Jones, the labor orator, denouncing the strike-breakers and the traction heads, began to riot late Thursday and attacked a trolley car.

They hurled stones, shattering windows and drove the motorman and conductor from their posts. A battle with the few policemen on hand ensued. The officers used their clubs freely. Many women were struck and a number were arrested, together with several men. A call for reserves was sent in.

"Mother" Jones in her speech to the women, declared that heirs would be the blame if the strike was lost. "You are too sentimental," she cried, "staying at home and thinking of dress and trinkets when you ought to be out raising hell."

CAMPAIGN TO BUY THE JEFFERSON HOME

Washington, Oct. 6.—An active campaign to secure purchase by the federal government of Monticello, the Virginia home of Thomas Jefferson, was outlined today by the board of management of the Daughters of the American Revolution in session here. Tomorrow Mrs. William Cumming Story, president of the organization, and members of the board will go to Monticello on a special train to inspect the estate and secure information for use in the campaign.