

THE CLAYTON NEWS

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP AND THE UPBUILDING OF THE COMMUNITY.

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LIGHT ON BEGINNING OF WAR

Great European Conflict Could Easily Have Been Prevented Is Contentment of the Allies.

It may seem a vain thing to attempt at this day to fix the responsibility for the European war, but Sir Edward Grey did well, in his address in London, to fasten attention upon one point. To prevent the outbreak of the war last August, he affirmed, there could have been "a European conference when and where Germany desired." This statement can be amply verified from the official dispatches at the time. Indeed, the Germans do not deny it. It is not even mentioned, for example, in the controversial article recently published by Dr. Karl Helfferich, the German minister of finance. This is skillful and plausible, but begins with the Russian mobilization, passing over entirely the fact that, if Germany had agreed to England's proposals, steps could easily have been taken to prevent further mobilization in any of the countries involved. The German government, to be sure, declared that Sir Edward Grey's plan was not feasible, but has never explained why. If the thing had to be done over again, we doubt if Germany would dismiss so cavalierly the suggestion of England that a conference of the powers be held "when and where Germany desired."

Upon the subject of Belgium forswearing her neutrality by entering into military schemes with Great Britain, the World, in its interview with King Albert, cites a statement by the Belgian ruler which goes to the very heart of the question:

"No one in Belgium gave the name of Anglo-Belgian Conventions to the letter of General Ducarne to the Minister of War detailing the entirely informal conversations with the British military attaché, but I was so desirous of avoiding even the semblance of anything that might be construed as unneutral that I had the matters, of which it is now sought to make so much, communicated to the German military attaché in Brussels. When the Germans went through our archives they knew exactly what they would find, and all their present surprise and indignation are assumed."

Here is a direct assertion which calls for an equally unambiguous reply. It certainly was an unusual conception of neutrality which impelled the Belgian government to acquaint the German government with precautions Belgium was taking against a German invasion; but it was good statesmanship, too, since the Belgian purpose would be served if Germany was aware that Belgium was prepared to defend her neutrality. Why the statesmen at Berlin upon the outbreak of hostilities should have pleaded the law of necessity instead of accusing Belgium of perfidy, as they did later, is a puzzle perhaps to be explained by the general muddle in German diplomacy that marked the beginnings.—New York Evening Post.

Willard Puts Negro to Bad

Jess Willard, known to the pugilistic world as the Kansas cowboy, won the heavyweight championship of the world from Jack Johnson, the odoriferous coon who has disgraced the sport for ten years, at Havana, Cuba, Monday, April 5th.

Johnson is a great fighter, and for twenty rounds set the pace and slugged, hooked and smashed Willard almost at will. He is one of the most scientific heavyweights the game has ever produced, and at sparring and boxing Willard is a novice compared to him. On the other hand, Willard, who is but twenty-six years old, is about the most perfect specimen of physical manhood known, and Johnson was simply unable to hurt him. After the negro had fought himself out and his age began to tell, Willard stepped in and with a few well directed pile-driver blows to the body and a terrific smash to the jaw,

knocked the coon cold, being proclaimed champion after one minute of fighting in the 26th round.

Willard has issued a statement in which he declares that he will never fight another negro.

Livingston—Ward

Hiram M. Livingston of near Paterson, and Mrs. Marie Ward, who taught school at that place the past winter, were married Wednesday evening by Justice Kingdom. They will make their future home in Colorado. Both are popular in the Paterson neighborhood, and have many friends who join The News in wishing them every success, and great happiness.

Riggs—Bair

On Tuesday of this week, at the home of the bride on her parents' ranch sixteen miles north of this city, at high noon, Hazel Lenore Riggs, charming daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hazel Riggs, and Benjamin Bair were united in the holy bonds of matrimony, in the presence of the immediate relatives and a few friends. Rev. Ray Spotts Dum, acting pastor of the bride, officiated, using the ring ceremony. Immediately after the wedding ceremony, all present partook of an elaborate wedding luncheon.

Mr. and Mrs. Bair will reside in the community, where the groom is engaged in farming.

They have many friends who join with The News in wishing them great happiness and prosperity as they journey through life together.

One good furnished room to rent, northwest of schoolhouse. Gentleman preferred. Robert Bangertor. 14-3L.

Grape Juice Diplomacy

When Secretary Daniels eliminated wine from navy lockers and Secretary Bryan made state dinners famous by the substitution of grape juice for claret, a roar of laughter went up from the chancellors of Europe at what the governing minds of the various nations labeled our "grape juice diplomacy."

Certain imperial orders recently issued in Russia; the suppression of the green siren in France, and pending restrictive measures in Merry England, make it appear that the stand taken by the American officials may not be so humorous as after all.—Albuquerque Herald.

Revolvers

A revolver is a nickle-plated substitute for bravery, which has practically driven the original article out of the market.

The revolver gives a puny man with a 5/8-inch brain and the pluck of a grasshopper, a 100-yard reach, and makes him more deadly than a Sioux Indian. There was a time when this country had no dangerous animals, except bears and wolves and life was safe, except on the frontiers, but now vast herds of 16-year old boys who use their skulls for a dime novel bookcase, roam the streets with cigarettes in their face and portable cannon in their hip pockets, producing obituaries with the skill and enthusiasm of a cholera microbe; while it is at all times possible to meet a personal enemy who has been chasing you for a week, and who is reluctantly compelled to defend himself when he catches you by filling you so full of lead that your remains will require eight pall-bearers. Revolvers are now so generally used in debate, in domestic quarrels and repartee of all sorts, that 8,000 Americans die of them each year, it is said.

For Sale

A fine 2-year-old Spanish Jack of the classy kind. May be seen at the O. K. Feed Yard on or after Monday, April 19, and for two weeks after, unless sold before. Owner can be found at Pioneer Garage. 15-2L.

NEW MEXICO LANDS VALUABLE

Uncle Sam Fast Losing Out in This Land District. New People Fast Taking Vacant Lands.

50,954.41 acres were taken up in this land district during the month of March, 1915, this being next to the largest acreage ever allowed since the district was organized. There have been taken up and allowed in the past nine months 358,744.74 acres. This shows conclusively that government land in Union county is being homesteaded rapidly and it is a question of a very short time until all vacant land will be taken. There have been from fifteen to twenty people on the streets every day for the past week looking for homes here. Evidently the people of the older states are looking upon this section of New Mexico with a keen eye, and Union county is bound to enjoy a year of prosperity such as it has never known before. Beside the homestead entries mentioned above, thousands of acres of deeded lands have changed owners. Union county farmers are putting out record crops, and considering the fine season now in the ground it will not be surprising if farming land is selling for from \$25 to \$35 per acre within one year.

A Land Office Business

Thos. L. Owen, receiver of the U. S. Land Office at Clayton, was in the city Monday on business connected with his office. In an interview with Mr. Owen he stated that on July 1, 1914 there was 700,000 acres of open land in his district, of which over one half has been taken up to this time, November 1914, being the biggest month with 52,000 acres filed upon. This land is proving a success as agricultural land, splendid crops being raised thereon the past year. The filings are for the greater part being made by people from Kansas, Texas and Oklahoma. Mr. Owen further stated that Clayton is enjoying a prosperous and healthy trade. Northeastern New Mexico land, which is as productive as land in eastern states commanding high prices, together with the ideal climate and best people, are the chief reasons for locating in this section.—Haton Reporter.

For Sale

55 head cows and 2 bulls. Extra good quality, all natives. 75 head calves coming three and four years old. May be seen at my ranch 7 1/2 miles southwest of Texline.—H. H. Hamilton. 14-3L.

Special Notice

The town clerk is instructed to notify all residents of Clayton to clear their premises of all rubbish of whatsoever kind, including dead animals and fowls, also that the practice of throwing refuse of any kind in the alleys must be discontinued.

The cost of hauling will be greatly reduced by all taking pains to keep their ashes free from rubbish and otherwise clean so they can be used on the streets. Those doing this will be able to get their rubbish hauled away for 50c per load, if same can be easily loaded from the alley; less than loads will be handled in proportion. Anyone failing to clean up as here required, will have their premises cleaned under the supervision of the sanitary board, with additional cost.

It is further advised that Ordinance No. 8 will in future be strictly enforced. This ordinance prohibits the keeping of hogs in the city limits, or permitting chickens to run at large, under penalty of a fine or imprisonment, or both, at discretion of the court.

It is to the interest of all to cooperate with the city officials to make Clayton clean and sanitary, and it is earnestly hoped that it will not be necessary to use compulsory measures in a single instance to enforce the above ordinances.

By order of the Board of Trustees Town of Clayton, New Mexico.

First episode of the "Twenty Million Dollar Mystery" will appear on the screen at The Dixie, Wednesday, April 14th. The story is running in all the leading newspapers of the country. Nothing but the Thanhauser Stars appear in this series of pictures, which is a guarantee. 15

Milo Ratcliff returned Tuesday from Denver, where he purchased a fine new soda fountain for the City Drug Store. Milo is making a success as a young business man.

Fence Post Wanted

1500 good sound post. Call at the Pioneer Garage up until April 21.

Mrs. Sol. Ham, Dead

Mrs. Solomon Ham, wife of the popular young ranchman, died Wednesday morning at the Winchester hospital, blood poisoning being the immediate cause of death. The funeral was held Thursday afternoon and was conducted by Rev. Herrin, pastor of the Baptist Church. The Odd Fellows and Rebeccas conducted the services at the grave. Many friends and neighbors of the family came in from the country to attend the funeral.

Mrs. Ham is survived by her husband and three small children, and by her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. J. Stevens, of Tucumcari, who were present at the death and attended the funeral. The News extends sincere sympathy to the bereaved family.

Watch for the announcement date on "The Dollar Mark," which is to be exhibited soon at The Dixie. 15

Methodist Notes for Sunday, April 11

9:45 a. m. Sunday school.
10:45 a. m. Morning worship and sermon by the pastor.
3:00 p. m. Preaching at Apache Valley schoolhouse.
7:00 p. m. Young peoples service.
7:45 p. m. Evening worship, and sermon by the pastor. Music by a large chorus choir.
Mid-week service for bible study Wednesday evening at 7:30 o'clock.
Children's class Friday afternoon at 4:15 o'clock.
Ray Spotts Dum, Minister.

The American Legion

The American Legion is an organization trying to get into communication with, enlist the help of, and secure the co-operation of those men scattered throughout the country who would come to the defense of their country in case of war. It is a movement which deserves the success with which it has met, because, in case of war, it could be of the greatest assistance. Men who have had training in the regular army, in the states' militia, or in civil life, and who would volunteer in case of war, should be located and kept in communication with each other. The American Legion is simply an organization that will assist the government in case of need. It asks neither state nor national aid, financially or otherwise.

The commission for relief of the Belgians, with headquarters in the city of New York, reports that a total of more than \$21,500,000 has been received, and the greater part of it spent for the Belgians. Nearly sixty cargoes of foodstuff valued at more than \$20,000,000, had been sent to Rotterdam for relief purposes up to the middle of March. It requires about 90,000 tons of food per month to keep the Belgians from starving.

Card of Thanks

We take this means of extending our sincere and heartfelt thanks to the many friends who so kindly rendered aid, sympathy and comfort at the time of the recent sad death of our son and brother. Your kindness cheered us greatly in our affliction. Your friendship will ever be gratefully remembered.

Mr. and Mrs. John J. Brophy.
John Brophy, Jr.

STOCK DISEASE IS ERADICATED

Government issues notice that Foot and Mouth Disease is Thing of the Past.

Washington, April 5.—With the livestock foot and mouth epidemic curbed, the department of agriculture today issued orders modifying quarantine regulations in many of the infected districts. The orders were the first issued since the campaign against the disease began last fall that added new territory to the quarantined area.

Reports during the past few weeks have shown steady improvement in conditions, and on April 1 the department announced that there was no animal in the United States suffering with the disease. Since then there have been reports of sporadic cases, but it is believed that complete eradication of the plague is almost in sight.

School Election Was Quiet Affair

The annual school election held last Monday resulted in the election of Mrs. Jennie Deam, and Dr. D. W. Haydon, both for a term of four years. Several tickets were in the field, but the strength developed by the opposing candidates was almost nil. The day was cloudy and threatening, a fact that caused a tight vote. The result of the voting was as follows:

Mr. Jennie Deam,	229
Dr. D. W. Haydon,	203
N. F. Gallegos,	35
R. W. Isaacs,	34
F. C. de Baca,	24
Mrs. J. M. Davis,	13
A. James McDonald,	11

How to Learn War

Crawl through the trenches of an unfinished sewer excavation in the slush and cutting wind of a sleet storm. Touch off a few sticks of dynamite from time to time to keep you unaware of the lack of regular meals and have an obliging policeman empty his revolver occasionally in your general direction. Four or five early morning hours of this will make you forevermore a real neutral.—Collier's.

CUATES

Our guess is that the people of this community enjoyed Easter, as it was such a nice day.

The dance this week at the new Guy schoolhouse was well attended. Music was furnished by Mr. and Mrs. Fisher. Every one enjoyed themselves hugely, and did not go home until an early hour in the morning.

The party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Wood's was well attended. Supper was served at 10:30. Games were played and every one enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

Mr. Nin Halcomb will leave New Mexico in a few days for a trip to Wyoming.

Mr. Chas. Stone and family, Mr. C. M. Sprague, and Mr. Ira Wood, were Sunday visitors at the home of Mrs. L. A. Stone.

J. W. Stone and family were Sunday visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Blye Huff.

Mr. Bee Rainwater, Mr. Carl Moore and two friends, who were on their way to Colorado, were delayed Tuesday evening by the rain storm. The delay was announced by their chaperone, Miss Sylvia Stone.

Editor's request.—Please, and please again. Please give dates, or something that will definitely establish the time of happenings.

George Kleine presents "Vendetta," Monday, April 19th, at The Dixie Theatre. Matinee at 2:30 p. m., and regular show at 7:30 p. m. This production had a long run at Denver. 15

F. C. de Baca, deputy county treasurer, left Friday afternoon for Santa Fe to look after business connected with his office. He will return the first of next week.