

## Plans Being Considered

### By Young Men's Club to Build More Homes in Big Stone Gap.

The Young Men's Club is going after the "Build More Homes" campaign with a determination that indicates they are not going to let up until something definite has been accomplished. At their last meeting Wednesday night several different plans were discussed as to the quickest and best way of building more homes in Big Stone Gap to meet a demand that continues to grow, in fact the greatest in the town's history.

After the constitution and by laws were read by Secretary Bliss and adopted by the club the meeting was thrown open for a general discussion among the members as to the proper way of financing a building campaign. Some were in favor of organizing a stock company and sell shares to local business men, while others favored the idea of soliciting individuals to build. H. E. Fox, speaking in behalf of the Big Stone Gap Land Company, said they would probably make an effort to build about twenty five homes. However they were awaiting a reply from Mr. J. F. Bullitt, president of the land company, who is now at Philadelphia, for his advice as to the proper course to pursue. Mr. Fox will probably make a report at the next meeting.

The following committees were appointed by President Wren to gather data and make a report at next meeting of the club:

C. S. Carter, J. B. Wampler and H. E. Fox to go among the business men of town and find out how many will build homes individually.

W. J. Smith, W. S. Miller and G. N. Knight will find out who wants to buy or rent a home.

J. R. Taylor, Wm. A. Stuart, R. E. Taggart, W. T. Goodloe, and J. L. Cambios will draw up plans for the organization of a stock company to finance a building campaign.

These committees will make a report at tonight's meeting in the Mineral Motor Company building and all members, together with every business man in town, is urged to attend, as some important business will be transacted. Before the meeting adjourned last Wednesday night a number of new members were added to the Club's list.

(Build more homes).

## May Get Places As Sanitary Officers.

Richmond, Jan. 10.—Virginia soldiers who have been actively associated with various sanitary organizations of the army, no matter where located, would do well to communicate with the State Board of Health Richmond, upon receiving their discharges. The State Board may be able to procure positions for a good many of the former soldiers as the service men experienced in sanitation may be desired in many towns and cities of Virginia.

Persons interested should write the State Health Commissioner and give him full information as to their experience and the sections in which they would like to establish themselves.

## Campaign

### For Relief of Armenians is Being Waged This Week.

The nation-wide campaign to raise \$30,000,000.00 to aid the destitute Armenians is being waged this week. The quota of Richmond Magisterial District is \$2,300.00 of which \$600.00 is assigned to Big Stone Gap and vicinity.

It is fortunate that our government is able to lend millions of dollars to Belgium, France, Serbia, and other allied nations to supplement their own grants for their people whose homes and means of livelihood have been destroyed by the war. But unfortunately there is no friendly and responsible government in the near East to which our government can make loans for the aid of the millions of homeless and destitute people in that region. The generosity of the American people is the only answer to the problem.

The organization to raise the quota of Big Stone Gap as follows:

Secretary for Richmond District—Major Wm. A. Stuart.

Chairman for Big Stone Gap—Mr. George L. Taylor.

Chairman of Ladies Committee—Mrs. R. B. Abover.

### Ladies' Committee.

Mrs. E. E. Goodloe, Mrs. D. B. Pierson, Mrs. H. E. Fox, Mrs. Otis Mouser, Mrs. J. A. Gilmer, Mrs. C. O. Long, Mrs. C. S. Carter, Mrs. E. J. Prescott, Mrs. H. A. W. Skeen, Mrs. W. H. Wren, Mrs. J. L. McCormick, Mrs. C. C. Cochran.

### Teams for Big Stone Gap.

Minor Building—H. W. Gilliam and R. C. Williams.

Intermediate Building—J. B. Wampler and J. M. Baker.

I. R. R. Offices—W. L. Jones and W. S. Miller.

Furnaces—W. A. Rogers and Chas. Connor.

South of Wood Ave. and West of School House—C. W. Dean and F. W. Bliss.

North of Wood Ave. and West of School House—E. F. Burgess and H. J. Ayers.

East of School House and not including furnace—P. H. Kennedy and J. M. Smith.

Merchants—J. S. Hamblen and W. T. Goodloe.

Cadet—C. O. VanGarger and Harry Zepp.

Powell's Valley—L. H. Skeen and W. R. Wilson.

## Will Start Soup Kitchen at School House.

The Food Conservation Committee of the Civic League met on Saturday afternoon at the High School building for the purpose of organizing the soup kitchen for the public school. This work was started last year and proved quite a success. The primary teachers especially noted a great difference in the work of their classes.

The committee deemed it best to charge only a penny a cup for the soup therefore it is impossible for it to be wholly self-sustaining. Any contributions of time, money or food would be greatly appreciated by the entire committee and can be given to the chairman, Miss Conway Howard.

It is hoped that not only the Civic League members, but all people who are interested in gaining the best results from their school will give the work their hearty co-operation.

### Last Call for Knitters.

Those who have Red Cross knitting and are unable to finish it please return it, with the wool and needles to the headquarters so it may be finished. Those who have finished articles please return them right away because we want to make our last shipment by the 20th of this month. We appreciate the aid you have given in knitting for our soldiers.

Mrs. C. C. Long, Supt. of Knitting.

## DO YOU WANT A HOME IN BIG STONE GAP?

### If So Give the Committee Full Particulars As to the Kind of House You Want

At a meeting of the Young Men's Club on last Wednesday night W. J. Smith, W. S. Miller and G. N. Knight were appointed a committee to get the names of persons who would like to either buy or rent a dwelling house in Big Stone Gap and report these names to the Club as fast as they are obtained.

The Young Men's Club, which was recently organized here has as one of its prime objects the building of more dwelling houses in Big Stone Gap, and it would like to have the names of all who want to either buy or rent and about the kind of house they will require, and if you would like to be included in the estimate of the number of houses that will be necessary to properly house our people and those from outside of town who want to move their families here, write either one of the above gentlemen, stating the kind of house you want and whether you want to rent or buy, and your requirements will be laid before the Club and an effort made to meet them.

It is the intention of the Young Men's Club to organize a stock company for the purpose of building houses, in addition to a number that enterprising citizens have already agreed to build this year. In all it is estimated that about a hundred houses are needed in Big Stone Gap this year and a great effort will be made to build them. The town, as it is now, cannot advance any further until more houses are built, and every one who can possibly build a house, either for sale or rent, should do so this year. There is no danger of getting too many; they will all be filled up as rapidly as they are built.

If there ever was a time in the history of Big Stone Gap when every one should put his shoulder to the wheel and push it is now. The Young Men's Club is leading the way and we believe every one in town will do all he can to help them along. It's for the good of all and the building up of our beautiful mountain town.

Don't forget to write the committee if you want a home in Big Stone Gap.

## BADGES FOR RED CROSS WORKERS

In a letter of recent date the National Headquarters issued the following:

Certificates in recognition of loyal service to the Nation, through the Red Cross, shall be awarded to all persons who have given regular service during a period of not less than six months, in which period the actual work done shall be equivalent to at least four days a week, or approximately 800 hours; or for eight months of service or not less than three days a week, or approximately 800 hours; or for twelve months of service or not less than two days a week, or approximately 800 hours; or for eighteen months' service amounting to at least 800 hours, etc. In no case shall an award be made to a worker whose period of enrollment in service has been less than six consecutive months, and with a minimum of 800 hours of service. In computing periods of service subsequent to April 6, 1917, shall be considered.

Certificates shall be awarded irrespective of whether services rendered have been on a volunteer or paid basis.

In Chapter production, work done outside of workroom, such as knitting and garments, shall be estimated on a piece-work basis or in the same manner as used in the Chapter work rooms.

Service for the Red Cross in other than Chapter activities shall be credited to the worker. Allowance should also be made for time given in different departments or activities of the Red Cross.

Badges for women workers.—All women workers to whom certificates are awarded for service for the minimum period, as specified above, shall be entitled to purchase the standard service badge with a plain ribbon.

Women workers serving an additional period equal to the minimum period specified shall be entitled to wear on the badge, in place of the plain ribbon, a ribbon interwoven with one stripe; and a ribbon bearing an additional stripe may be substituted after service for each additional period equal to the minimum.

Buttons for Men Workers.—Men workers to whom certificates have been issued for the minimum period of service shall be entitled to purchase the standard service button to be worn in the coat lapel. No modification in this button is to be made for varying periods of service in excess of the minimum period.

The Red Cross further suggests that where it is possible to secure accurate records of services rendered, that the workers submit their claims for service badges. These letters shall state the nature of the service rendered, where it was rendered and the period and number of hours of service as accurately as possible.

The committee in charge of the distribution will carefully review all claims. Please make out your hours of service and send in as soon as possible.

This means approximately 800 hours of work for the eighteen months and averaging about ten hours a week for that time.

MIXIE FOX, Vice Chairman.

The oldest daughter of Isaac Bond, who died of pneumonia at Norton, where her parents reside, was brought through Gate City the early part of Christmas week on the way to Nicklesville for burial. Her funeral was conducted by Rev. M. F. Porter. She was about eighteen years of age. Mr. Bond reported that his family had passed through a severe stage of influenza.—Gate City Herald.

## Shell Holes

### Big Enough to Hold a Good Sized House.

S. L. Whitehead, proprietor of the Tampa Heights Drug Store at Seventh and Nebraska avenues, has received an interesting letter from his son, Hal R. Whitehead, telling of his experiences in active service at the front in France.

Mr. Whitehead enlisted in the medical department of the army about a year ago, and, after spending six months in training at the hospital at Fort Roots, Little Rock, Ark., he was sent overseas, where he was attached to an ambulance company.

The letter, dated November 24, follows:

"Dear Father: Now that the war is practically over and the censors are not so strict, I'll tell you a few things that have happened to and around me. After crossing 3,500 miles of water without seeing a submarine, we landed at Liverpool, England. From there we went to Southampton, England, and took a boat across the English channel by the Isle of Wight, to Cherbourg, France, thence by train to Thesee, a small village, where our company was split up and assigned to different organizations. With twenty other men I was assigned to Ambulance Company Thirteen, First division, the first division to land in France, and a 'crack' one. From there we went to Toul, and joined our company, which was stationed in a wood near the Moselle river.

"Instead of getting into a base hospital, I found that I was just an ordinary litter bearer and first aid man. My first night in this wood will always be with me. Four German planes came right over us and proceeded to drop a couple of bombs within 200 feet of our camp. We examined the holes the next morning, and you could have dropped your bungalow on Twenty-third avenue into one very easily.

"We were in this camp for two weeks, then via ambulance we started for the Toul front. We established an advanced first aid station at Schoisprey, a small town just at the foot of Montsec, where the French lost 85,000 men in 1914 trying to take it. Schoisprey, at this time was in 'no man's land', but the Germans were retreating, so it was reasonably safe for us. They sent only a few shells over.

"After the infantry had taken Montsec without losing a man, they advanced so fast that we had to move our dressing station about every half hour. We went to St. Mihiel, Pont a Marson and to most of those places you have read about.

"After resting a week we were sent to the Verdun front. With seven others I was detailed to set up a dressing station Exermont, at that time about a kilometer from the front line trenches. We cleaned out a place in a church, and had dressed two patients when a shell took the rear end of the church away. We moved quickly to another house near the side of a hill and proceeded to turn out six hundred wounded in four days. The first night we spent there we had to wear our gas masks all night. The second day and from then on shells hit all around us—big ones, small ones, gas shells—right over this hill and house into the town and road about twenty feet from our station. Lots of dirt, rocks and shell fragments flew around, but no one was hurt.

"After we were relieved we had to walk through the rain and mud about fifteen kilometers to the company. I took a cold and influenza and was sent to Base Hospital No. 89, just below Paris, where I still am. After learning that I was a registered druggist, the lieutenant in charge of the base wants me to transfer to the base. I am still thinking it over. My illness didn't develop into any

thing, so I was O. K. in two or three days.

"I have had two 'close calls,' the first happened near Verdun. I was eating supper and sitting on a log with another fellow, when we heard a shell 'coming in.' We slid off the log just as it hit, not more than ten feet from us. Luckily it didn't explode, but the next one did, near enough to ruin our kitchen and wound one man, but I was half way to a dug out by then.

"The next was at Verennes, where we had to walk down a road about one-half mile for our meals. I was on my way to supper (a gang of men were working on the road at the time), when I heard airplanes, and looked up. I saw eight German planes very high. I walked on, but the bunch of men stopped work to look at the Germans. They made a perfect target for the planes, who proceeded to unload three bombs in the road, killing two men and wounding nineteen others. I was just close enough to have my feet knocked from under me, but not hurt. Our station dressed all of these men."—Tampa (Fla.) Tribune.

Mr. Whitehead formerly lived in Big Stone Gap and is known to many of our readers.

## New Dog Law

The last state legislature passed a dog law which makes it the duty of all persons owning or having in his possession or upon his premises a dog, to list same for taxation with the proper assessor and pay tax on same before the 1st day of February of each year. The tax on male dogs is \$1.00, on female dogs \$3.00.

The town treasurer, who collects said tax, furnishes a brass tag which must be kept on dog at all times. No dog to be permitted to run at large at night without a muzzle. It will be duty of game wardens and officers to kill all dogs that do not have the license tags properly attached. All owners of dogs who fail to properly list for taxation and pay taxes are subject to pay a fine and costs.

## Has Forgotten His Mother Tongue.

Thirty years ago, at the age of 21, Mr. Mike Blue came to the U. S. from Italy and after some years married an American wife. Living away from the people of his native country and not hearing his mother tongue spoken, and never having learned to read he has now entirely forgotten it, being unable to speak it or understand it when it is spoken to him.

He lives near the tannery here, where he owns a good home of his own and is a respectable and industrious citizen.

## CAPITAL INVESTED IN THE RAILROADS

### It Amounted to \$20,543,389,571 Before Government Took Charge.

Washington, Jan. 10.—Capital invested in American railroads at the end of 1917, when the roads were taken over by the government, totaled \$20,543,389,571, the Interstate Commerce Commission reported today in a preliminary statistical abstract of steam roads. The gross receipts from their operation during the year was \$3,956,865,706, while the total expenses of operation were \$2,357,398,412. This left a net railroad operating income, after certain taxes and rentals were subtracted, of \$1,081,556,496.

More houses, more houses, is the cry in Big Stone Gap just now. People are actually moving away from here because they cannot get anywhere to live. Such a condition should not be allowed to exist, but it will take more houses to relieve the situation.