

BARRE DAILY TIMES

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New Hampshire's gain in population is just about enough to say so. With Vermont was assured of as much.

The incidents near Lake Dunmore last Thursday night indicate that rum and revolvers make a might poor combination and that they must be separated by court action if necessary.

Vermont's golf champion is again a New Yorker, but the prospects are that he was not up against the best there is in Vermont. The annual state golf championship, for some reason, is not attracting a wide field of players.

It is a dull day in the news market when the space writer gets a story on the front page telling how President Wilson gave three boys a "lift" in his automobile while the boys were on their way home from the swimmin' hole. The editor must have been tearing his hair for want of a really good news story.

Just what happened to Pres. Dechanel of France when he was reported to have fallen out of a train window some months ago may go down in history as one of the famous mysteries like "Who struck Bill Patterson?" or "How old is Anne?" About the only inside information which the French public is permitted to know is that Pres. Dechanel is incapacitated for his office and may be succeeded by someone else. Possibly the secret will come out later.

The Barre Times breaks into an unusually long editorial in defense of John W. Gordon, in reply to mention of Mr. Gordon's name in connection with labor and the Democratic party in this paper. Mr. Gordon, himself, also uses many words to make reply. It was not realized that a casual summarization of all congressional candidates in a single sentence would cause such consternation in Barre. If this paper made any misstatement of facts in saying that Mr. Gordon is "closely associated with labor," and Mr. Gordon is not so associated, then it is desired to make a retraction, but neither the Barre contemporary, nor Mr. Gordon himself make a denial. Mr. Gordon merely says he is not "too" closely associated, and the Times says "it is not an accurate portrayal to infer that he was a partisan of the labor cause," but neither deny that he is "associated with labor." And suppose that Mr. Gordon is so associated. Is that any crime? Able men than Mr. Gordon deem it an honor to claim such association. This paper recognizes much that is good and beneficial to every one in "labor," as we have come to speak of organized labor, and because it is generally talked and supposed that Mr. Gordon's tendencies lean more strongly toward labor than those of his opponents who seek the same office, it is not understood why he should object to the statement originally made. After all is said and done are not the words of The Times and of Gordon sort of a camouflage to make his candidacy appear palatable to those who oppose organized labor, while it is quietly passed along among the labor leaders and most strongly organized labor influences that "Gordon is the man!" We do not consider Gordon a one issue man and but for the honest belief that Dale is a much better qualified man because of his experience, could support such a man as Gordon. But this attempt to hedge is not particularly commendable. Is Gordon associated with labor to such a degree that he is labor's candidate, or is he not? If he is so associated is it any dishonor to Gordon, or to labor?—Barton Monitor.

There was no desire on the part of The Times to "hedge about" but to correct an impression which the contemporary seems to have fastened on its mind that Mr. Gordon is dangerous simply because in his broad minded analysis of world conditions he endeavored to secure some measure of justice to the laboring people. As a matter of fact, Mr. Gordon is not an advocate of labor's cause to the exclusion of other considerations; what he has done in behalf of labor (and it is generally agreed that he has done considerable) has been performed simply because he was endeavoring to get to labor that which was its due. There has been no attempt on our part, nor on the part of Mr. Gordon, so far as we know, to spread a "hoax of camouflage" to make his candidacy appear palatable to those who oppose organized labor." His acts in behalf of labor were mentioned in the summing up of the man simply to show that he was not a man of a single issue or a single idea, but that he had broad human sympathies, not restricted by class or other consideration. If John Gordon goes to Congress he will be a true representative of the second district and of the state of Vermont as viewed by one gifted with something besides narrow-gauged vision. Moreover, we are pleased to note that the Barre contemporary recognizes that Mr. Gordon is not a one-issue man and

that there is nothing objectionable in him even though in the next breath it seems to try to build up an indefinable antagonism to the benefit of Mr. Dale.

THE BANKS AND THE PONZI CASE.

The statement by Bank Commissioner Allen of Massachusetts that no banks in New England besides the two in Boston already closed by his order are affected by the Ponzi financial furor should serve to reassure any timid people who have money deposited or invested in the banks of New England. It is not often that a bank lends itself to such a scheme as that of Ponzi even in an ever so remote capacity because a bank is as chary of its reputation for conservative action as a conscientious citizen is of his personal repute in a community. To have it known that a bank is associated with a financial scheme of doubtful stability and uncertain antecedents is a bad thing for that bank because it tends to alienate confidence. Few bank officials are willing to become tied up to such manipulations inasmuch as word of such affiliation will spread like wildfire and have a tendency to cause a run on the bank. Moreover, the Ponzi method is against all tenets maintained by a banking institution conducted by experienced banking officials; it violates the cardinal rules of banking. Therefore, depositors who may have felt any uneasiness over the things uncovered in connection with Ponzi's manipulations should take courage from their own reasoning as well as from the statement of Bank Commissioner Allen.

CURRENT COMMENT

The Bagpipes in War.

Most people suppose that the bagpipe is as much an anachronism under actual service conditions to-day as is the harper and the bard. The skirling pipes produce smiles when heard in the streets of peaceful cities and are commonly rated merely as picturesque survivals of a long age. Yet it seems that in the World War, after the shortage of men had been corrected early in 1915, the pipers played the companies into action many times. One piper, belonging to the Scottish Borders, won the V. C. by standing on a parapet during a gas attack at Loos and "piping his battalion together" with "Blue Bonnets Over the Border." A recent investigator has collected the names of 150 bagpipers who performed individual feats of heroism and shows that during three full years of war the pipers played their heroic role in the fighting lines. For centuries wherever Scottish regiments have fought their pipes have gone with them. "The Piper of Quatre Bras" is one of the figures in Scottish military history, and Scotchmen have often resented the action of Wolfe at Quebec in silencing contemptuously the pipes of the Fraser Highlanders. The pipers themselves have sometimes been disdainful of "mere drummers," and a story is told of a piper in a Highland regiment exclaiming to his captain: "Sir, shall a little rascal that beats a sheepskin take the right hand of me that am a musician?" The complete story of the pipes in the last war reverts the statement of Sir Eyre Coote, who called them "a useless relic of the barbarous ages." Many a Scottish soldier responds to the throb of the pipe as never to the bugle and the cheer.—Boston Herald.

Greek Policy in Thrace.

Nothing better can be wished for Greek administration in eastern Thrace than that it may be as successful as the military occupation of the territory. The little campaign will probably be finished this week. It has proceeded without a check, and with hardly more than a show of resistance, the Turks almost everywhere laying down their arms without attempting to fight. They could not prudently do anything else. With Adrianople, Kuleli-Burgas, Kirk-Kiliaset, Lule-Burgas, Rodosto and the railways in the hands of the Greeks, and Constantinople held by the British, the Turks were so surrounded that they could save their lives only by surrender. If the garrison of Adrianople was unable to hold the citadel, there was no hope for the small insurgent bands elsewhere, their compatriots under Mustapha Kemal having been driven even from the eastern shores of the straits by the Greek expedition from Smyrna. And the Turkish peasantry may have been more than willing to accept Greek rule for the sake of peace.

It is now by their upbuilding of just and peaceful administration that the Greeks have to prove their worthiness of the Turacian trust. They will do this if they carry into effect the policy declared by the Venizelos government. It is the policy of economic prosperity for all, putting away the thought of vengeance for the seizure of Greek property and the deportation of the owners, and making the country fit to live in, not only for the Greeks, but also for the Turkish and other inhabitants. If the Greek administrators let the Moslems have religious freedom and assist in the maintenance of the mosques and Turkish schools, as Foreign Minister Politis promises, half the peace battle will be won. No doubt, as he says, reconstruction is a huge task, involving as it does the problems of housing, roads, ports and forests, in the track of war and Turkish devastation, but its performance will redound to the honor of Greece and insure the happiness of Thrace. Americans may well consider the invitation to take a hand in port development at the Piraeus and Saloniki. There may be further work at Kavla and Dedeagatch. Greece is a growing nation.—Boston Herald.



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RECLAIM THE FARMS. Hundreds of Homesteads Going to Waste Need Attention. A tour through Oakland, Macomb and Lapeer counties will reveal thousands of acres of farm land producing little or nothing. Many big tracts can be bought at small prices per acre for the reason that the soil is poor. It lacks fertility, and in consequence, in its present condition, it will not bear the burden of high prices. Much of this land is wild—not primeval, but allowed to go back to waste and brush after once being under the plow. Much of it is a mass of weeds and thistles, where once flourished good grain crops, fields of hay and corn or pasture for cattle. The real reason for this state of affairs is that the soil, once teeming with fertility, has been systematically robbed. In the old days of pioneering, land was very cheap and methods of cultivation so as to retain the productive abilities were not generally understood. Particularly in districts of "light soil," sand and gravel, in the course of a period of years the crops grew steadily less, until it scarcely paid to till the acres. To-day we have hundreds of poor down-at-the-heel homesteads, thousands of acres of land that does not return the taxes upon it. Yet we annually spend millions on reclamation projects in deserts and

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