

NEWPORT DAILY INDEPENDENT.

VOLUME XVIII. NO. 227.

NEWPORT, ARKANSAS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1919.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

Flood Prevention Canal Would Cost \$352,000.

The Independent has received the following article from W. D. Gray of Batesville, who is interested in protecting our town and farming lands from flood waters. It was written after he had read the write-up in the Independent some days ago of the Departhe Creek drainage proposition in Oil Trough. Last July Mr. Gray had an article in this paper on the same subject and quite a few land owners affected have signified their belief that the canal would be of great benefit to them. He believes if the government would sponsor the proposition, it could not fail to be put over. Many believe that the opening of this canal would also be the beginning of an era of prosperity for Newport.

The article from the pen of Mr. Gray follows:

"In a recent write-up of the Departhe Creek drainage proposition in Oil Trough published in the Independent, it is proposed to follow the Departhe creek basin to a point opposite Augusta, a distance of 29 miles. It was also proposed to make the canal 200 feet wide, but it did not say how deep. After studying this matter over, I would suggest that entirely too much work has been proposed to get, probably, no better results than the original route from the head of Oil Trough bottom to Bradford, a distance of approximately 18 miles. This would shorten the new proposed route eleven miles and cut the cost one-third. Another thing: the quicker the water can be gotten from one side of the bottom to the other, so much the better. I favor a deep rather than a wide ditch, say 20 feet deep—this would cause the flood water to begin to divert earlier in flood conditions, and continue to relieve Newport of White river water longer and would also prove to be of particular benefit if you were at the same time experiencing unusual flood water from Black river.

During the great August flood of 1915 a man was heard to exclaim, "Newport is saved, White river is going across and down the Departhe creek channel." His theory was correct, but evidently he had never seen Departhe creek channel, which is as crooked as a dog's hind legs, full of brush and drift, with no chance for the water to go in a hurry as it has to do in order to relieve flood conditions about Newport. You will bear in mind too, please, that the water had to go over the high bank at Oil Trough before it could get into the Departhe creek channel. IN THE MEANTIME, SO GREAT A VOLUME OF WATER HAD PASSED OIL TROUGH, THAT COMBINED WITH BLACK RIVER FLOOD WATERS, NO POWER ON EARTH COULD SAVE NEWPORT FROM A DISASTROUS OVERFLOW. Had there been a flood prevention canal at the head of the bottom at Oil Trough one-third of this water would have been diverted and Newport could have taken care of the flood from Black.

Another reason I am opposed to following the meanderings of Departhe creek, besides the added length (in itself unnecessary), is that the canal would be crooked. Drift would be liable to lodge and you would lose some of the swifter fall that the shorter canal would have. If the canal is dug straight across to Bradford, it will relieve the Departhe creek basin anyway, as it would take Depar-

tee into the canal 3 miles from the head of Oil Trough bottom. At the same time, also all future time, it would take all the water off the hills, and thus relieve the Departhe basin of all flood water from hills which is a big detriment to farmers in that locality. Besides, Departhe would become a DRY STREAM BELOW THE CANAL, and by burning out the drift piles, would within itself become an economical drain for land situated in the basin. At any rate it would reduce the problem of drainage to a minor question. This canal can be dug for 10 cents per cubic yard. (This work is being done today in South-east Missouri for 10½ cents per cubic yard.) With the water of Departhe creek to work with, which would be available in 15 miles of the canal, we ought to get the work done as stated above, or even cheaper. A canal 50 feet wide and 20 feet deep and 18 miles long would call for the excavation of three million, five hundred and twenty thousand cubic yards of dirt. It will be ALL dirt—no rocks to handle in this project.

"The above number of cubic yards, at 10 cents, would be three hundred and fifty-two thousand dollars (\$352,000)—that is what the work would cost. I like to know, approximately, what an improvement will cost, don't you? Then one can tell whether he can afford to pay the bill.

"The above canal ought to carry, when running full, one-third of the volume of water in the river. The reason is that the canal would have three times the fall of the river, so in carrying volume would have equal capacity to a stretch of the river 150 feet wide, and 60 feet deep—or 300 feet wide and 30 feet deep—or 600 feet wide and 15 feet deep. Read this carefully. These figures are authentic, and authentic figures will not lie. You do not need to believe any one; figure it for yourself. The width of the river at the ferry at an average stage of water, I should say, is about 500 feet. The cable is 700 feet. Take theoretically, 15 feet off your high water there and you can see I have made no wild statement when I contend that this proposed canal would make a stage of over 26 feet at Newport unlikely. Then the benefit: Instead of the banks being fearful of backing farming operations on account of the menace of overflow, the credit of the farmers who own land in Oil Trough bottom would become gilt-edged, and their business something to be CONTINUALLY desired. The benefit to the business men of Newport would be incalculable, but, undoubtedly if Oil Trough bottom was definitely relieved from flood menace, Newport would reap a full harvest of benefit. The benefits of this canal could consistently be spread over a large acreage—in Oil Trough, Padgett Island, Big Bottom and on the Jacksonport side as well as the city of Newport. We are willing to concede that it will benefit every acre of land we own in Oil Trough and the vicinity of Newport. We would be glad indeed to be privileged to pay our full and fair part toward this improvement. Some say it would benefit a half million acres of land. If this is true, and I believe it is, the cost will be so largely divided as to give no reason to try to hold the project up. Publicity, and facts will tend to keep it from being embarrassed by litigation. Newport ought to pay a fair proportion of the cost, based on its assessable property. And I may add, I do not see any cause for trouble as to either.

"Now, here is the other side of the picture: I am not questioning the good faith of any one here on any of the subjects already discussed or to be discussed. You have a right to your opinion, also a right to express it. You have a right to fight anything you don't like or question anything you do not understand. I am a firm believer in the efficiency of publicity. No one can sit in the audience of a movie and hear the cheers and jeers of the crowd when the villain gets the worst of it or is thwarted, without having full faith in the honesty and justice of his fellowman. Now, to the other side of the picture:

Newport has a levee project. Levee District No. 3 has just been authorized on the opposite side of the

NEW GOVERNMENT IS NOW IN VIEW

Results of Election Promises a Fairly Stable German Administration At An Early Date.

Paris, Jan. 21.—Early returns from the German elections are interpreted here to signify a promising prospect for the establishment of a fairly stable German administration at an early date.

The Majority Socialists and the German Democrats, who are the successors of the old radical party, apparently will go into the constituent assembly with a big lead over the Independent Socialists. Friedrich von Payer, former vice chancellor and leader of the democrats, and the socialist leaders, Ebert and Scheidemann, demonstrated their ability to work together in the old Reichstag. They also can count on Kronstantin Fehrenbach, the Centrist leader, as an ally in their efforts to institute a government with a basis of popular support.

This consummation is regarded in all allied circles here as an indispensable preliminary to any peace negotiations. The coming into power of these groups will mean the continuation of the present armistice commission and the probable appointment of Scheidemann, von Payer and Fehrenbach or Erzberger as the leading members of the German peace delegation.

river. I am appealing to your common sense and your sense of justice now. It is conceded that when completed these two levees will hold a lot of water off of Newport, also off the land leveed opposite Newport. Where will it go? On someone else's land. It will render unfit altogether land that now has some small chance of making. These levees will back water up to Elmo in my opinion, thus, instead of benefiting Newport as a canal would do, still further rendering precarious farming operations in Oil Trough. Eventually, (if not now), you are going to have to endorse and fight this canal through for your own benefit and preservation. There will be the constant menace of your levee giving way. Instead of having helped your trade territory you will have done it a business and a financial wrong, which will work back on you as individuals. It is true, we have the same right as others to build levees. If we do it will be the beginning of a levee building area that would prove inadequate in the end to hold the water off. Why not begin with the canal, then all other improvements needed can be economically, and without waste, added. The same argument may be made as to bridging White river at Newport. The river could be bridged for half the money necessary now, under pressure of such flood as are sure to come time and again.

PROCEEDINGS IN CHANCERY COURT

Cases Carried Over from December Docket Were Disposed of At This Adjourned Term of Court.

An adjourned term of Chancery court was held the latter part of last week, the new chancery judge, Lyman F. Reeder of Batesville, presiding. Several cases from the December docket had been carried over and disposed of by his honor, most of them being divorce proceedings.

James Taggart by his brother and next friend, Samuel W. Taggart, disabilities of minority removed.

Grace Toddy by her husband and next friend, Walker Toddy, disabilities removed.

Arthur Lax vs. Leone Lax, divorce, decree granted.

Balma Davis vs. S. F. Davis, divorce.

Addie Owens vs. Sherman Owens, divorce.

Dee Hogan vs. Alice Hogan, divorce.

Bertha Robinson vs. Elma Robinson, divorce.

Archie Williams vs. Louella Williams, divorce.

J. D. Harris vs. Fannie Harris, divorce.

Ernest Babb vs. Ivy Babbs, divorce.

Kate Nuckolls vs. Homer Nuckolls, divorce.

Richard Tidwell vs. Alice Tidwell, divorce.

Ollie Broadwater vs. W. J. Broadwater, divorce.

—JOIN THE C. OF C.—
LIEUTENANT SMITH ARRIVES.

Lieutenant Theodore Smith of Conway arrived from France at Newport News last Saturday and was met there by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Smith of Conway, who went immediately to see their son. Lieutenant Smith is a nephew of Mrs. Bradley Graham of this city and the family are indeed rejoiced to again know he is on American shores, for he was reported dead at one time, then seriously wounded and later blind from gas.

Lieutenant Smith was one of the first officers to go to France from Camp Pike's training camp, and was one of Pershing's ten thousand men, who have been there since September, 1917. He was in the battle of Cantigny, the fighting around Metz, St. Mihiel and the Argonne Forest. His organization, Battery A, Field Artillery, had the distinction of firing the first shots for America. In the fighting on the Marne, his right leg and right arm were broken, receiving other wounds on his body also. He will be confined in a hospital for several months.

With the water out of the way to the extent of 8 or 10 feet, and definitely safe from a dangerous stage, a low-priced bridge could be built and maintained."

Movement In Legislature To Make State "Kiln-dry"

Special to Independent.

Little Rock, Jan. 22.—The unexpected of a few years ago has been realized. It is politically popular to be a prohibitionist—as well as an equal suffragist, for the two go together.

There is a rivalry in legislative bodies for the honor of fathering laws on both subjects, and it requires considerable nerve to oppose either. Only two members of the House had the courage—to say nothing of political judgment—to oppose the equal suffrage resolution. They were Moore of Newton, one of the five republicans in the whole assembly, and Stevens of Columbia, who boldly voted "no" in the midst of a flood of "ayes."

But as no opposition has developed in any quarter to anything that has for its purpose the scotching of the old Demon Rum, who has just about as many friends left as old Bill Hohenzollern.

The first thing done by the House was to adopt a resolution by Judge Doyle of Lawrence county to ratify the Federal amendment for prohibition, and the senate adopted it Tuesday, which enabled Arkansas to get in among the 32 necessary to make the amendment effective.

But even that is not enough, although it means that one year from today, the whole country goes dry, and all the breweries and distilleries must close up or go to manufacturing dyestuffs, fertilizers, bitters, or something equally harmless.

Bills are introduced to make the "bone-dry" act of 1917 even drier than it is—in fact, to make it kiln-dry.

A bill by Judge Doyle prohibits the shipment of liquors into or within the state; prohibits the storage or possession of liquors; the solicitation or taking of orders for liquors, the storage of liquors in lockers or other places in any social club or fraternal organization for use therein, declaring a nuisance all places where liquors or intoxicants are maintained for use or sale, and providing for the forfeiture of the charter of any incorporation, club or association violating the law.

The penalty provided for violation of any section of the act, which includes having in possession, is a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000, and, at the discretion of the court, imprisonment in the county jail for not less than thirty nor more than ninety days.

A bill by Mr. Talkington of White prohibits the bringing into the state of any liquors for any purpose what-

GLASS TOWNSHIP CITIZEN DISAPPEARS FROM HOME.

Mrs. Oscar Saffel of Swifton was here a few days ago looking for her husband, who left home one week ago to come to Newport, and from that day to this has not been seen or heard from. Mr. Saffel was for a number of years, a farmer living a few miles out from Swifton, but for some time has been in the automobile business at Swifton, where he has a garage. He handles the Overland car and had a shipment of two cars, sent through a local automobile company here, and it was to get these two cars that he came to Newport, leaving Swifton on the evening train, saying he would drive them through next day. The cars are still here and the required amount paid on them for their release. Mrs. Saffel said her husband bought a ticket for this place, but it is not known whether he got off here or not. He had an engagement to meet the state agent for the Overland car here the next day. The agent came, but Mr. Saffel failed to keep his engagement. The family are very much worried over his disappearance and are unable to account for his seemingly uncalled for act, as his wife and neighbors say he had no domestic or financial troubles that would cause him to disappear in this manner. He is known to have considerable money in the Swifton bank. Mrs. Saffel, who is almost crazed with grief, came to Newport to make an investigation of her husband's disappearance, and has appealed to the Chamber of Commerce to aid her in locating her husband.

—JOIN THE C. OF C.—
MRS. S. A. DRIVER.

Mrs. S. A. Driver was born near Elgin, Jackson county, Arkansas, in 1861, and died at her home in Swifton, January 19, 1919. In 1878 she was married to S. A. Driver. She lived near Swifton from the time of her marriage up to the time of her death. In 1887 she joined the Methodist Episcopal church, South, and remained a faithful, conscientious member. Few women in the community were better and more favorably known than Mrs. Driver. A husband, and one daughter, Mrs. Nora Henson, survive her. Funeral services were held Monday afternoon at the Swifton Methodist church by Rev. M. A. Fry, with interment at the Arnold cemetery.

—JOIN THE C. OF C.—

The remains of Mrs. E. J. Meade, who died at Moulton, Alabama, Monday reached this city this morning on No. 17 and were carried to Batesville, where the funeral was held this afternoon. Accompanying the remains were the husband, Dr. J. W. Case, Miss Maggie Case, Mrs. A. C. Wilkerson, Miss Fannie Huddleston, Mrs. Jean Diaz and Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Adler.

—Join the Chamber of Commerce.—

MRS. SPITZER CALLED TO CALICO ROCK.

Dr. C. W. Garrison, state health officer of Little Rock, telephoned Mrs. Spitzer yesterday to know if she would go to Calico Rock and assist in caring for the victims of influenza in that town. Mrs. Spitzer was given a leave of absence by the local board and has gone to the relief of the stricken ones of Calico Rock. A man from that town yesterday, stated that business houses were closed, schools suspended and whole families down. Newport and Jackson county feel honored that her nurse should be called to help in such times, for we well remember that we had to ask Little Rock for help to go to Swifton several weeks ago, when the scourge struck this county so terribly.

—JOIN THE C. OF C.—

MISSIONARY CIRCLE CHANGES NAME.

Members of Missionary Circle No. 2 of the Methodist church met in business session with their chairman, Mrs. O. E. Jones, Tuesday afternoon. Plans were made by which the society will greatly strengthen its financial condition. Much enthusiasm is being demonstrated by all the members and it is expected that the new year will prove most successful.

The most important business of the meeting was the changing of the name of the society from Circle No. 2 to "The Lelia Head Johnston Society." This was done in honor of the faithful work rendered the circle by Mrs. Johnston. She was an untiring worker and never failed to devote her best efforts to the cause of the circle, her efforts being crowned with much success, as the solid footing on which the society now stands, will show. Mrs. Johnston's untimely death is greatly mourned by all who knew her, for to know her was to love her. Her good and noble work will never cease to be remembered and will be a beautiful example for those who follow her in the fields of service. Her life must have received God's most blessed benediction, "She has done what she could."

—JOIN THE C. OF C.—

FUNERAL OF MACK FOUSHEE.

The funeral of Mack Foushee, aged 39 was held at the home of his cousin, Mrs. Frank Rankin, this afternoon at 2:30; the service being conducted by Rev. J. F. E. Bates of the Methodist church, burial following at Walnut Grove. The body was shipped from Little Rock this morning on No. 30 and was accompanied by the wife, Mrs. Rankin of this city, George Foushee, Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Woodall of Little Rock, also Mrs. G. B. Shoemaker and Mrs. S. G. Smith of that city.

The pallbearers were John Purdy, Sprigg Foushee, Jeff Avera, Joe Armstrong, Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Woodall of Little Rock.

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Featuring Alice Brady in a
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In a two reel Pathe Comedy
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