

COMMISSIONERS HEAR REPORT OF FARM AGENT

ON RETIRING FROM WORK IN ESCAMBIA COUNTY, MR. SMITH OFFERS SOME POINTED SUGGESTIONS ON FARMING.

One strong outstanding feature of a rather brief meetings of the board of county commissioners meeting, devoted in the main to routine business, was the hearing of the final report of Pig Club Manager J. L. Smith and the action thereon. Mr. Smith is retiring July 1, and the report rendered gave a comprehensive view of the valuable work he has performed in the four months of his activity in Escambia county.

In that time he has induced thirteen boys to join peanut clubs, thirty to join corn clubs and 95 to join pig clubs, a total of 138 boys enlisted in these three phases of farm industry. He has made fourteen visits to peanut club boys, fifty-eight to corn club boys and 112 to pig club boys, a total of 194 visits to enlisted boys.

He has met and conferred with 156 farmers on the road, and has visited 135 farmers on their farms, besides visiting 35 schools and clubs. He has held four farmers' meetings and 28 other meetings; has distributed 298 bulletins and circulars, written 428 letters, and given several newspaper interviews, besides traveling 5038 miles, mostly by automobile.

It developed during the report that Mr. Smith's services were secured for Escambia county from the federal government, by the state board, as a direct result of the fine showing made last fall by the county at the state fair; and that his salary has been paid from federal funds. Mr. Smith stated to the commissioners, however, that in spite of his earnest effort to trim his expenditures to the line of actual necessities, so as to keep within the bounds of the federal appropriation, he had been obliged to "go in the hole" as he says, to the extent of \$70.

Commissioner Hardy made a statement highly appreciative of the efficiency of the work done by Mr. Smith and hoped the papers would give it generous publicity, and on Mr. Hardy's motion, a warrant was authorized for \$70 in Mr. Smith's favor, County Attorney Reese having given the opinion that the board had the right to draw the amount for such a purpose from the general fund, and Mr. Hardy expressing the opinion that Mr. Smith's work was the best \$70 bargain the county ever secured.

Mr. Hardy was of the opinion that the work done by Mr. Smith had gone a long way toward stimulating interest in the county fair, and had hastened preparations greatly for proper exhibits at this year's fair at Molino in November. In this connection the commissioner expressed the view that the outlook for a successful fair is much better than it was last year at this time; and he felt certain that if all the farmers would continue to plan to have a good exhibit, and if the papers would continue to keep the fair in the minds of the people as they have already done, nothing but an act of providence could keep the county from taking first place at the next state fair and drawing some more valuable aid from the federal government.

When asked why he was leaving and what his future plans might be, Mr.

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Dixie in the Hall of States



Southern soldiers to the number of 1,400 lying in the great Army debarkation hospitals of New York, are dependent for their first touches of home cheer and welcome, on the efforts of just a few women who are striving valiantly to meet the needs of the situation but have found themselves overwhelmed by the work. Mrs. Leroy Brown of the Southern Society who has charge of the welcoming of wounded men, entering at the Hall of States, maintained by War Camp Community Service at 27 West 4th St., has appealed repeatedly for more volunteers from the states of Alabama, Arkansas, North Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Virginia, and West Virginia, and has a few representatives of some of these states picked as Chairmen for their own commonwealths, but she has not been able to find sufficient volunteers to take care of separate desks for each state, as should be done in view of the great number of wounded men arriving here daily, sometimes to the number of 4,000 in 24 hours.

The Southern Society maintains at the Seawannee House, 114 East 5th St., a home center for the southern soldiers and those who are able to find their way there are entertained lavishly. The men who are unable to leave the hospital or who have only a few days in the debarkation hospitals, however, are dependent for their welcome on letters sent by State committees in the Hall of States, and Mrs. Brown has been unable to recruit sufficient forces to write to all the southern men.

The Southern states mentioned are somewhat at a disadvantage as compared with their sisters of Maryland, Tennessee, South Carolina, Kentucky, and Texas, which maintain separate

desks and separate organizations for writing to their individual men. Still other states, notably Massachusetts and Kansas, have made appropriations of from \$35,000 to \$50,000 for the welcoming of their boys to America, and some of them maintain large club rooms in New York in addition to their desks in the Hall of States. Several of these states have sent secretaries direct from home to take charge of the work here. Mrs. Brown has been getting in touch with various organizations in the individual and southern states, and special endeavors are now being made to get a desk started for Mississippi and Louisiana. H. M. K. Smith of 1107 Broadway, has gone to Mississippi with a view to interesting there the State government or State organizations in the work for the wounded men here.

Outside of the cheering and visiting of wounded men, the women at the Hall of States are busily engaged in welcoming men from other home communities who are able to get about. Another important activity is a nationwide employment bureau which the War Camp Community Service maintains, and whose Manager, J. H. Verrees, seeks positions back home for men from the southern states, and sends lists direct from here to the job.

Mrs. Brown's efforts at the Hall of States are seconded daily by Miss Elvira B. Wright of Charleston, S. C., who takes special care of the South Carolina men, and gives help to all other southern soldiers, and by Mrs. Alfred Spencer who, like Mrs. Brown, is from Memphis. Chairmen have been appointed for several of the individual states, but sickness or absence from the city has prevented most of them from doing any active work.

Smith stated that in accepting the work because the appropriation made by congress, by which he has been working, is exhausted, having been made primarily to promote a heavy production of farm products during the war. He is of the opinion that new appropriations would be available before long, but that they would not be nearly as large as the former ones. He had been led to believe at the beginning of his work that success here would lead to his appointment elsewhere in the state as a farm demonstration agent; but the recent legislature followed the lead of the federal government and cut the appropriations to such an extent that there cannot be more than 20 county agents in Florida during the ensuing fiscal year, necessitating the dropping of many of the younger men, including himself. He explained the scheme of hiring county agents as an equal partnership between the federal, state and county governments, each putting one-third of the salary expense "into the pot." It thus depends on the counties themselves whether they have a county agent next year, he said, for the thirty that go after the prizes the hardest

will get them and the others will receive none of the outside aid. Mr. Smith's plans are therefore uncertain at present. The work he has been doing will fall on Carl W. Burnett, county agent, in addition to his other duties, and what Mr. Burnett cannot do will have to be neglected.

Mr. Smith made an interesting statement regarding the most important duty of the county agent. He said that the impression is wrong that agents' chief duty is to stimulate greater production. He pronounced it to be a patent fact that if the farmers can but market their crops with a reasonable degree of profit, they will naturally turn to large production that will be necessary. He declared that the most serious problem before production today is that of finding a reasonable market; and was further of the opinion that the problem is so serious in Escambia county that unless the business men of Pensacola come to the rescue of the producers and devise some way to open a better market, production in this county and section will receive a serious set-back.

As a strong item of proof of his contention he cited an experience of the

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Messrs. Barrineau of Quintette recently. These prosperous farmers and fruit growers, he said, had shipped four car loads of fine home grown peaches to northern markets a few weeks ago, and had received considerable favorable newspaper publicity for the achievement. He said he had been told by W. C. Barrineau that they had expected to get about \$2,000 net profit on the four cars, or about \$500 a car, for their peaches, above all shipping expenses. The condition of the northern market at the time of shipping justified that expectation, and the fruit was received in the north in good condition according to reports returned.

But instead of making \$2,000, shippers had received for the fruit \$300 less than enough to pay for the hampers and lumber, not a single cent of compensation for the peaches, and losses at that. Instead of taking chances consigning to commission merchants, who are said to have often been found unscrupulous in their dealings with shippers, the Messrs. Barrineau had taken the precaution to ship through the Georgia Peach Growers' Association. This association was said to have been organized for the very purpose of protecting Georgia peach growers against unscrupulous brokers and commission men; and while it is admitted that it was not intended primarily to help Florida growers, the Barrineaus solicited and secured the services of the Georgia peach people, and so are of the opinion that they were commercially and morally entitled to a square deal.

W. C. Barrineau stated to Mr. Smith that he would have been much better off to have turned his hogs in on the peaches, instead of gathering them all for human consumption. Mr. Smith believes that this suggests as good a problem as the business clubs and merchants of Pensacola could well find to claim their earnest attention; for he says that it is plainly to the interest of all the people here, all being consumers, to help build up a good market and thus stimulate home production.

Mr. Smith made the interesting statement that he has found the boll weevil doing deadly work in Escambia county, and that he knows of one farmer who is plowing under a thousand acres of cotton because of the weevil and plowing Spanish peanuts instead. He stated that crops are suffering damage from the growth of grass stimulated by the early excessive rains, and are now in need of rains. He considers the county's prospect still good, however, for a crop and a good fair.

SECRETARY DANIELS DEDICATE FIRST M. E. CHURCH

Washington, June 29.—Secretary Daniels today sent this message to all naval ships the stations:

"The signing of the treaty of peace at Versailles ushers in the best day in the history of the world since the angels sang in Bethlehem 'Glory to God in the Highest, On Earth Peace, Good Will Toward Men'."

"We are living in the fulfillment of that prophecy. As a republic we are grateful to have borne a part in making straight and plain the path of permanent peace with justice to the world. Upon the receipt of news of signing the treaty of peace, the most important document in the history of the world, every ship and shore station will fire a salute of 21 guns with national ensign at each masthead."

LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS.

Private Floyd O. Baggett, son of M. O. Baggett, of Gonzales, arrived home yesterday. He has been over-seas with the A. E. F. 20 months.

Mrs. Rhea Chenwith, of the Hat Shop, will leave today for a visit to her home at Dothan, Ala. From Dothan, she will go to Birmingham and Chicago to buy fall goods.

Miss Agnes Neeva McKinna will spend today and tomorrow waiting for examination of school children for trachoma and for other physical investigations. She will be at the home of Mrs. John Barber.

Charges of reckless and careless driving are docketed against J. S. Mathews and Herbert Cotton, the latter a negro, at the police station. They are alleged to have had a collision of automobiles at the sharp curve in the road on West Hill at Remich's store late Saturday night. However, no material damage was done, either of

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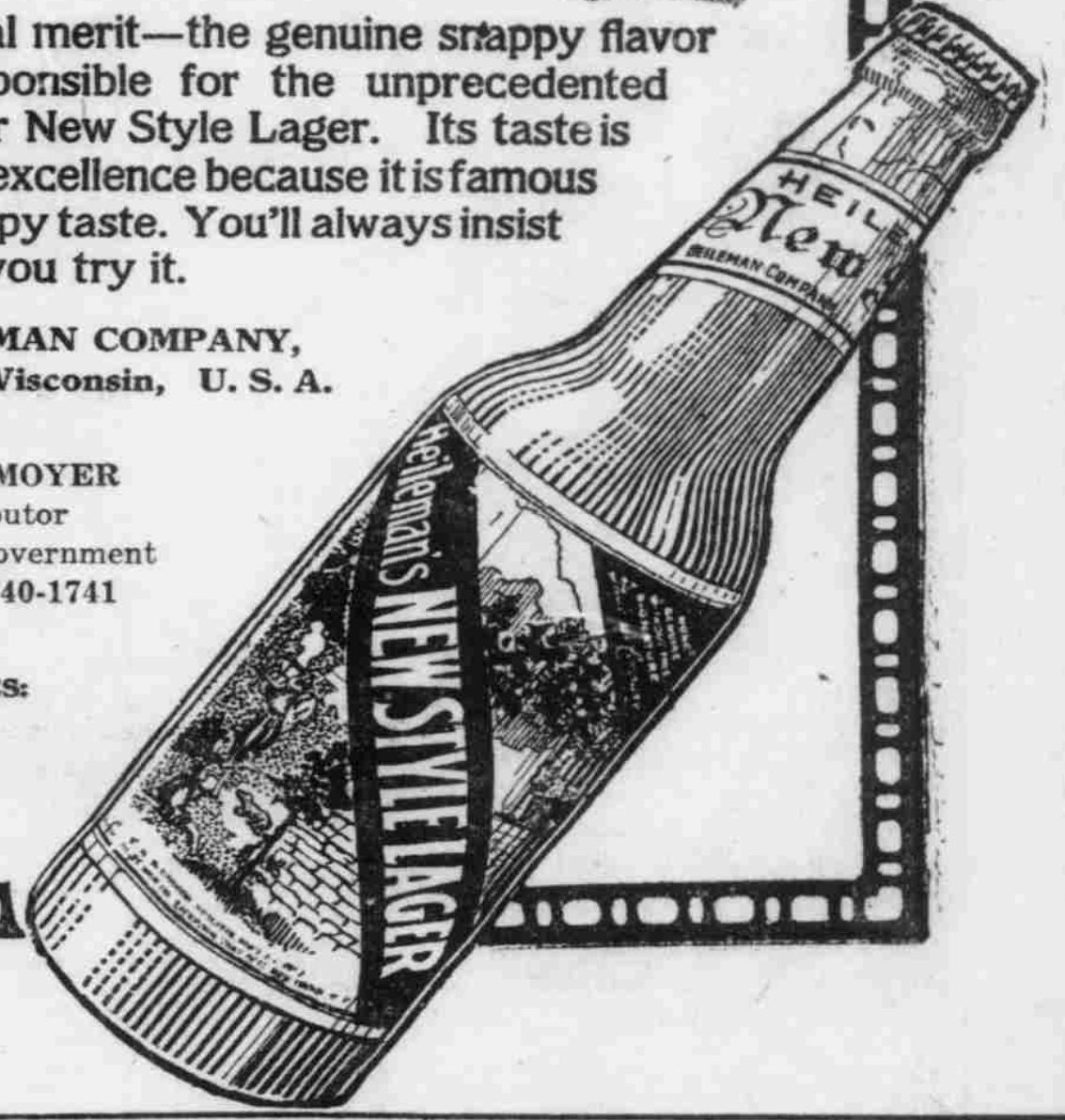
It possesses a tang and after taste all its own, is refreshing, wholesome, nourishing and is a particular brew for particular people.

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the machines. Cases were made by Capt. Harper of the department.

GENERALLY FAIR WEATHER PREDICTED FOR MOST OF WEEK

Washington, June 29.—Weather predictions for the week beginning Monday issued by the weather bureau today are:

Middle Atlantic states: Generally fair. Temperatures below normal early in week; nearly normal thereafter.

South Atlantic and east gulf states: Generally fair, although local thunder-showers probable. Nearly normal temperatures.

West gulf states: Generally fair, although occasional local thunder-showers are probable after Monday in Texas and Louisiana. Nearly normal temperatures.

G. L. GRUND THE TAILOR

Formerly located at Warrington for 7 years, announces removal into new quarters, July 1st, at 30 East Garden St.

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NOTICE!

ELECTRICIANS, LOCAL NO. 327

Regular meeting will be held next Monday night in the hall over the Central Pharmacy.
F. C. JACK.