



SINCE first our sires stood beside the stream,
And fired the shot that echoed 'round the world,
Has come to pass the epoch of their dream
When to the April breeze their flag unfurled.

TODAY, where floats the Stars and Stripes, we deem
Each star defiance at the tyrant hurled;
Each stripe a bar 'gainst despots, too, would seem
To interpose for human rights imperiled.

TODAY, in foreign lands, the flag is flung
Against a crimson sky across the sea,
Where battle's bane from out the land has wrung
Its dreadful toll. It promises to free
Each nation, and to number each among
All peoples in a worldwide liberty.

—HARLOWE R. HOYT.



North Carolina Led Colonies in Freedom's Fight

It is popularly supposed that the Independence of the United States began on a Fourth of July in Philadelphia, but down in the Old North State is a community that threw off the British yoke more than a year before the

Tumult in the city. In the quaint old Quaker town announced the first general step toward the freedom of the colonies.

In 1765 the British parliament passed the stamp act. When the first sloop of war arrived off Cape Fear from England carrying stamped paper the people terrorized the captain until he was afraid to land his stuff, and then they captured the stamp officer from the governor and made the officer take oath that he would not attempt to enforce the use of stamps. A year later the stamp act was repealed. But North Carolina had found that she had a power when the people arose, and the English crown was never again sure of its ground in the colony.

The people asserted the right of free assembly after that, and the assumption led to numerous clashes with the governor until in May, 1771, the governor, with soldiers, proceeded against a band of men calling themselves Regulators; and a few miles north of Southern Pines a battle was fought in which more than 100 casualties occurred on both sides, nearly two score being killed. This was the first bloodshed in the Revolution. The injudicious governor, whose force was victorious, aroused further hatred on the part of the people by hanging a number of his prisoners. Herman Husband, the leader of the Regulators, escaped and went to Pittsburgh, where he settled, dying later at Philadelphia.

The feeling was fanned by the extreme acts of each side, until a state

convention was held at Newbern in August, 1774. The meeting of the colonial legislature, which followed, practically endorsed the radical views of the convention, which was proclaimed by the governor to be anarchy. The result was that the legislature was dissolved and the governor took refuge on a ship of war in Cape Fear river.

In May, 1775, the people of Mecklenburg county had a convention, and they took occasion, nearly 14 months before the Declaration of Independence was issued at Philadelphia, to say that—

Ringed Declaration.
"We declare ourselves a free and independent people; are and of right ought to be a sovereign and independent self-governing association, under no power than that of our God and the general government of congress.

To the maintenance of which independence we solemnly pledge to each other our mutual co-operation, our lives, our fortunes and our most sacred honor."

The convention that adopted such startling resolutions of independence undertook to lay the foundation for a government for North Carolina until a suitable and stable form could be provided by congress, and from that day the authority of the British crown was exhibited only during those few times when Cornwallis made his ventures with more or less varying success on the territory of the colony.

North Carolina was the first of the colonies to have an English settlement, the first to shed blood in the war for independence, and the first to give utterance in explicit form to that independence. Nor was the declaration of the people of Mecklenburg the sole manifestation of the sentiment in the matter. At Fayetteville, on Cape Fear river below Southern Pines, another Declaration of Independence antedated that of Philadelphia. The people in Cumberland county, of which Fayetteville is the capital, issued their statement in June of 1775, insisting that resort to arms was justified, and pledging each other to sacrifice life and fortune to the freedom and safety of an oppressed people. In April, 1776, still before the Philadelphia Declaration of Independence, the provincial congress of North Carolina appointed

a committee to prepare a civil constitution, and it was done so well that the document served some 60 years as the organic law of the state. And so it was that North Carolina opened the road that led up to the creation of the most progressive nation on the face of the earth, and the one whose influence has done most for the advancement of mankind.

Some Tory Sentiment.
All of this section of North Carolina was not enthusiastic in the Declaration of Independence. A portion of the settlers were ardent Tories—so ardent, in fact, that it was not until the war of 1812 that the Scotch of Cape Fear valley finally turned away absolutely from the royal standard.

The story is one of singular misfortune. The Cape Fear valley was settled largely by the adherents of the Stuart family, which met with such disaster at Culloden that many of the followers of the Pretender were banished to America for taking up arms against the British crown. Before these people were permitted to sail they were sworn on a binding oath to be loyal henceforth to the English king. When the settlers around them in North Carolina were rising against the royal governor, declaring independence, refusing to pay stamp taxes, making new constitutions and fighting against the king, the Scotch settlers were in arms under the British flag. Their oath and their bitter experience before migrating to America prompted them to keep away from any further rebellious acts.

Greene's Memory Worthy of Honor.
Next to Washington, Nathaniel Greene was the most potent force in our struggle for national independence. He was born on May 27, 1742, in a little farmhouse in Rhode Island. His boyhood was spent like that of the other youth of the neighborhood. Probably it was a little less exciting, for his father was a strict Quaker and pastor of a church at East Greenwich. He was also a "captain of industry" at that period. With his five brothers, he owned a forge, a grist mill, a sawmill as well as a store for the sale of general merchandise.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE ITEMS

Pottstown.—As a result of swallowing by mistake rat poison containing arsenic, Mary, a little daughter of John K. Binder, a Pottstown newspaper man, was made seriously ill.

Sunbury.—J. R. Stamm, manager for a wholesale grocery house, had a bad half hour when he returned from a business trip and found his wallet containing \$1000 in Liberty Bonds missing. A little later a telegram told him that the Pullman porter had found the bonds and that they would be returned.

Harrisburg.—Highway Commissioner O'Neil has asked for bids for 75,000 feet of new road construction, to be opened in July. The construction includes Kennett Square borough and Pocopson township, Chester county; Hollidaysburg, Clarion and townships in Erie, Greene, Mercer and Washington counties.

Williamsport.—An appropriation of \$800,000 has been made by the railroad administration for enlargement of the New York Central shops near Jersey Shore, to include new car shops and new machine and blacksmith shops, as well as improved equipment and power plant. Work will be started at once.

Shamokin.—Running from her home to greet a playmate, six-year-old Mabel Higgins ran in front of a six-horse team, was knocked down and trodden on by one of the heavy draught horses, and is in a dying condition at the Shamokin State hospital.

Harrisburg.—The commission of Edward J. Fox as supreme court justice was signed by Governor Brumbaugh and sent to the home of the justice. This is the first time in recent years that two appointments of justices of the supreme court have been made within a month.

Sellinsgrove.—On charges of buying wheat from Snyder county farmers and exchanging it for flour contrary to food administration rules, M. B. Brubaker and David Neitz were ordered to return the flour and to pay \$10 each to the Red Cross.

Sunbury.—Wrapped in American flags, Mrs. John Koenig and Mrs. John Meyers effectively stopped an attempt of a party of workmen to lay a pipe line across their properties. Procuring a revolver, Mrs. Koenig wrapped the flag about her shoulders and jumped into the ditch. She defied any action. Mrs. Meyers followed suit, and the workmen retired, admitting that they were beaten.

Sunbury.—At a meeting of wholesale and retail liquor dealers here it was decided to cut out the clubs and family trade if the liquor shortage continues. Beer picnics will also be taboo in Northumberland county this summer, as far as the breweries and beer wholesalers are concerned.

Carlisle.—Herbert Hays, a grandson of Molly Pitcher and a well-known citizen of Carlisle for many years, has died.

Shamokin.—J. Burns Kadel, of Waynesboro, has made an unprecedented offer to the war gardeners and farmers of the Mahanoy valley. The Worton and Zerbe township who last week lost heavily when a hailstorm ruined their gardens. He has 3000 tomato, cauliflower and pepper plants which he offers to send free of charge to victims of the hailstorm who are willing to replant the war gardens.

Uniontown.—Four buildings were completely destroyed, another damaged and one woman seriously injured during a severe electrical storm which swept Fayette county. The home of Burgess Thomas McFadden, of Fairchance, was damaged, and Mrs. McFadden badly shocked. The home of Sol. G. Krepps, near Republic; the barns of William L. Stewart, Luzerne township; Dr. Charles H. Smith, near Bute, and O. D. Porter, Luzerne township, were entirely consumed by flames which followed the stroke. The loss is estimated at about \$75,000.

Mount Carmel.—The fiftieth anniversary of the institution of Mount Carmel Lodge, No. 630, I. O. O. F., was celebrated here. Among the speakers were Fred Gross, who has been secretary for the last forty-eight years.

Mount Carmel.—War conditions have not slowed up police work here. There were fifty arrests in two days for various offenses.

Shenandoah.—Deserting his wife and three children, John Melefsky, it is alleged, broke open the trunk of his father-in-law, who made his home with him, and stole \$200 and left for parts unknown. His wife claims gambling caused his downfall. Police have issued a decree against all gambling places and slot machines.

McKeesport.—John Sell, eighty-three years old, of this place, has applied for service in the army as a veterinarian.

Harrisburg.—Compulsory work for slackers is urged by the state compensation board.

Mauch Chunk.—Many miners who retired for age, years ago, are welcomed back to work in the Lehigh field.

Montrose.—While working on a road near here, Claude Snell was struck by lightning and killed.

Lancaster.—While examining goods John Brill, superintendent of a cotton mill, fell dead from heart disease.

Scranton.—Six million dollars in corporation and income tax was collected at the Scranton revenue office. June 15

Universal Military Service Is the Great Preparedness Program

By EDWARD W. PICKARD of the Vigilantes



The great war, whatever may be its effect on the fate of dynasties and on national boundaries, is certain to be followed by a "leveling" process wider than the world has ever known. Already the movement is well under way in many of the countries of the old world, and its spread to the new world is inevitable. The insistent will of the great mass of the people is imposing itself on the governments of the nations. Where it is not expressed by their legislative representatives it will be given voice more directly.

The ancient fiction that there are no "classes" in America has long been discarded, but before many years we will have approached much nearer to that ideal state of equality. The nations that are best prepared for the coming change will suffer the least disturbance from it. The United States now has under consideration a plan potent to prepare it—universal military training.

In the working of this plan the young men of all stations of life will be brought together on terms of absolute equality. The sons of the farmer, the miner, the artisan, the professional man, the capitalist, the congressman, will drill together, hike together, dig trenches together, mess together, sleep together, and no man will be better than his comrades. In this close association they are bound to thresh out their differences, to learn one another's needs and views, and from this must come mutual respect for varying opinions. At the end of their term of service these young men will return to civil life with a knowledge of their fellow citizens such as their ancestors never have had.

What the people of America want they can have. The whole country, rather than congress or any one administration, was to blame for our lack of preparedness for the war. Universal military service is the great preparedness program for after-the-war conditions. The whole country will be to blame if it is not adopted.

Educational Opportunities for All Country Children Must Be Given

By MARY C. C. BRADFORD
State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Denver, Colo.

The rural school problem as a whole is practically one with the great problem of America's function in modern civilization. For America's proper discharge of its mission in twentieth-century life depends upon the effectiveness of its educational system, and that part of the school organization embraced in what are called rural schools provides for the training of more than one-half of the children in the United States. Therefore it is easy to see the importance of giving to the majority of the school population of our country such advantages as will enable them to become worthy to transmit the best traditions of American life and thought to future generations. Ample educational opportunities for all country children must be afforded by any school system claiming to do efficient work. Education broad and deep and rich in content and practically adapted to the needs of the rural community must be the aim. The country child is entitled to instruction from professionally trained teachers and to the use of schoolhouses and playgrounds arranged in such a way as to conserve health and comfort and to develop appreciation of beauty and the use of power. The community is entitled to the possession and use of such buildings for all purposes tending to enrich the community life and to tighten the bond of community unity.

The rural school teacher is entitled to a salary commensurate with the cost of living and the present-day demands in the lines of scholarship, professional activity, and community leadership. The teacher is also entitled to a home environment of comfort, added to at least a modicum of beauty, to the end that hours of preparatory work and leisure may be spent in congenial surroundings, thereby increasing the efficiency of the teacher.

Breeding Stock on Farms Is One of Most Vital Factors to People

By A. G. LEONARD, President of Chicago Union Stock Yards

To the average American farmer the world war is still a far-off event. When he does wake up to the true significance of this great struggle, he will see that preservation of breeding stock on farms is one of the most vital factors to all the people of every nation, in order that the world's rapidly disappearing supply of meats, wool and leather may be replenished. Everything points to a continuance of the war for some time to come. The world's needs will increase as the war goes on.

Is it not plain that the demands upon agriculture for food and clothing will grow greater and greater with each month of destruction; that it will be impossible to produce an adequate supply, especially of animal products, such as meats, leather and wool, unless breeding herds are maintained, and that those American farmers who are wise enough to realize this fact and prepare for the world's coming greatest needs, which are inevitable, will reap the greatest rewards for their foresight, both in money and the gratitude of their fellow men?

There was an estimated yield last year in the United States of 3,210,000,000 bushels of corn, which is an increase of 627,000,000 bushels over the crop of 1916. It is easily seen that the usual quantity of corn thrown upon the grain market and sold as corn will be more than doubled during the season just about to open.

The amount of corn consumed directly as human food is so small compared to that fed to live stock that any probable increase in the former would scarcely affect the proportions of the entire crop; so, in spite of the great world demand for cereals, there is more than likely during the coming year to be a large surplus of corn thrown upon the markets for grain, with resulting declines in market value. At the same time conditions give a positive assurance of sustained prices for live stock of all kinds.

The logic of the whole situation points to liberal profits for those who study it broadly in the light of facts and hold on to their young and feeding stock until matured.