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FRIDAY, FEB. 14, 1919.



"My Country 'Tis of Thee, Sweet Land
of Liberty."

SENTENCE SERMONS.

There is no inherent evil in money. It is not the money, but the love of money that is the root of all kinds of evil. There is nothing in the acquiring, holding or the dispensing of wealth inconsistent with a Christian conscience, or the teachings of the Master on the subject. Where the evil comes in is in the manner of acquiring, holding or dispensing wealth. If we make, hold and dispose our money as faithful stewards of God, it becomes a means of grace to both the dispenser and the receiver.—Nowlin.

To love playthings well as a child, to lead an adventurous and honorable youth, and to settle when the time comes into a green and smiling age, is to be a good artist in life and deserve well of yourself and your neighbor.—Stevenson.

Do not trouble because you have not great virtues. Only have enough of little virtues and common fidelities and you need not mourn because you are neither a hero or a saint.—Henry Ward Beecher.

We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing, while others judge us by what we have already done.—Longfellow.

EDITORIALETTES.

There ought also to be some sort of a celebration staged for Woodly when he returns from overseas.

There is many a sip between the cup and the lip and also between a tri-colored map and concrete roads.

We haven't heard of any Columbia people comparing the price of whiskey in Atlanta to that in Columbia.

The price of eggs in Columbia appears to have absorbed the attention that otherwise might have been given the legislature.

To tell the truth the parading ought to be done by those of us who remained at home and let the men of the Thirtieth occupy the reviewing stand.

Of course, the fellow who hasn't any cotton anyway doesn't care what happens to the market, and that's the way with the prices of everything. It all depends on whose ox is gored.

The kind of weather we have been having suggests the possibility that somebody has been monkeying with the calendar and has thrown Indian summer here in the middle of winter.

Bolshevism being, according to our privately-owned vernacular, the exact similitude of Villainsm, there is not enough difference between it and what might be termed banditry to cut a hair.

And the announcement that the United States may build a big navy is likely to have a quieting affect upon the nerves of some European "statesmen" who insist that if harsh terms are imposed at the peace conference Germany may rebel.

UPHOLDS BOARD OF HEALTH.

Judge Ernest Moore, of this city, has upheld the board of health in Rock Hill in the matter of closing the moving picture shows during the influenza epidemic. The contention of the exhibitors was that the closing order was discriminatory in that the schools and churches and other public places were permitted to remain open. They appealed for a restraining order to prevent the board of health closing their show-houses and the judge refused it. The judge's opinion appears in full in this paper.

It was a miscue the picture exhibitors took in the matter and they lost friends by the procedure. If the board of health deemed it advisable to close the picture shows that the life of one person might be saved, its action then would have been justified. But it was not one life at stake but perhaps hundreds. And if the board of health believed the shows a menace to the health of the community, it would have at least been better form had the exhibitors acquiesced and assisted in every way possible to avoid a spread of the disease.

The question at issue, however, in the matter heard by Judge Moore was the authority of the health board, and this is settled by the opinion rendered unless the exhibitors carry the case further, which is unlikely. The picture shows are in a class to themselves, it may be said. There are many other places where crowds congregate, but none where they remain for upwards of two hours with little or no ventilation and breathe the same air, and there are none where they are crowded quite so much, and the authority of the health board, which is granted by the legislature is never questioned unless their actions are arbitrary or capricious. The judge appears to have taken this view and consequently has refused the injunction sought to restrain the health board.

FRENCH CLAIMS.

It is an open secret, according to Clinton W. Gilbert, a newspaper writer in Paris, that the United States and France are in conflict as to the attitude of the two countries toward Germany. President Wilson, according to Mr. Gilbert, has been severely criticized in the French press and the "unthinking" have regarded him as an idealist and pro-German. It is hardly possible that the French have forgotten so soon that President Wilson proved an idealist only in the manner in which he hurried two million troops to France's aid and the fact these troops kept the German iron heel out of Paris.

France wants German territory on the Rhine, German coal lands, a big indemnity and an assurance that Germany will not be a great power in future, menacing France. The American position is totally opposed to this. And whatever may be France's right in the matter, it is a bit perplexing that the two countries cannot get along better together in peace, in view of the harmony that existed in war. There is no doubt that France has suffered greatly in the war; more than any other nation, except Belgium. The devastation that was visited upon the invaded portions of northern France is beyond description. Mr. Gilbert may know whereof he speaks, but The News is not prepared to accept the statement that America doesn't want Germany to pay for the war and for the ruin and devastation visited upon Belgium and France. Neither is it prepared to believe there is any wide difference between France and the United States.

The desire of the French to keep Germany a pauper nation as long as possible and get a chance themselves to outstrip that country industrially, agriculturally and therefore financially, may be a subject for criticism, but the French hold that if Germany does not suffer at least as France and Belgium have suffered, Germany and not France will have been the victor. Furthermore, they reason that they must live neighbor to Germany and America and Great Britain do not,

and being less possessed of worldly goods than those two countries, does not want a menacing cloud continually hanging over them. And another view of the matter is contained in the thought that if France, in the division of the spoils should visit ruination upon Germany, which no one denies Germany merits, how may Germany be expected to pay for the war and for the ruination of Belgium and northern France. After all, France may come to see that Mr. Wilson, instead of an idealist and pro-German, is strictly pro-French and pro-ally. There are many sides to the questions which come before the peace conference and that is why Mr. Wilson is on the ground. He had the foresight to see that questions would arise that could not be handled at long distance with the degree of efficiency and fairness with which he wished to handle them. Even the "unthinking," as Mr. Gilbert pleases to call the critics of the president, will in time come to understand.

IT WILL ADJOURN.

The News has little fear that the legislature will run over its legal forty days. As we understand it the pay stops at that time and it is strictly against the ethics of the American working man to work for nothing. Of course it might be possible that the great body of lawmakers would remain over in Columbia a day or so after the expiration of the forty to complete some important bill like that creating a dog tax, but it is unlikely that more than a day or two will be taken up before the lawmakers are back at their homes.

As a matter of history it may be said that legislatures generally do very little real work during the first four weeks of the session and very little during the last four weeks, but history also records that there are some really worth-while laws on the statute books and some legislatures in the past must have done some good work at one time or another. Also, it may be said, that legislatures are necessary evils. We couldn't get along without them even if we wanted to, but The News has always held to the theory that it is not new laws, as a general rule that is needed, rather machinery for the enforcement of the laws already made. There are, necessarily, exceptions, and good roads legislation is one of these.

But the legislature may be expected home at the expiration of the forty days and if there is any delay it will more than likely be due to late trains or missing connections.

MORE WILD NEWS.

Trouble anticipated by readers of the daily newspapers a few days ago when they encountered big-type headlines telling of the formation in Germany of an army of 3,000,000, the chief purpose of which was to bulldoze the peace conference into a lightening of the terms to be imposed upon that country, was worry without just cause. When Germany was well organized after preparation of forty years or more, it found it could not whip the allies and when the water was up to its chin and becoming more threatening each day, it threw up its hands and cried: "Kamerad." Now that Germany has been whipped and there are none to say it has not been whipped and whipped good, even if it had a desire to stir up trouble it could not do it. A few weeks ago a story appeared in the daily papers to the effect that the Bolsheviks had 3,000,000 men under arms, but it panned out that the cams on the linotype machines were gummed up with oil and dust and too many 0's fell from the magazine when the operator tried to get 300,000. (This may not be the literal explanation of the wild report but serves to show that errors will happen.)

China and Japan appear to have some misunderstandings of difficulties, according to the reports that are coming across the waters from the peace conference, and these very probably are serious to the two countries involved but to none

other. Japan, it is related, has virtually threatened war if China makes public secret treaties between the two countries and fails to carry out an agreement to make Japan the successor of Germany in rights, property and concessions held by Germany at the outbreak of the European war. China is relying on the peace conference, where her delegates are said to have made an excellent impression, and is seeking support from the United States and Great Britain. Wang Chin Chun, member of a Chinese mission, on the way to Paris, while in San Francisco a few days ago is reported to have said that "All China is solid for fair play and we want the world's aid to free us from Japan." Perhaps China is becoming a little alarmed at the prospect of war with Japan but we fancy that every time a country gets into an argument with some other country, the world needn't be appealed to for help; at the same time we do not place any great importance upon the difficulties between these two countries and we anticipate that they will be speedily adjusted without resorting to arms.

Mr. Wang says that "it is the opinion of the whole of China that everything concerning China be done in the open," which is, according to American spirit right and proper, but when open covenant involves violation of agreements already made, by which violation one or the other of the interested countries may profit, it is entirely a different story. The Japanese ambassador to Great Britain, Viscount Chinda, who is now representing his country at the peace conference, declares that the reports of threatening or attempting to coerce China are untrue. "There has been no pressure exercised, no menace formulated, no bargaining done on the subject of the province of Shantung, or any other Chinese territory," he says. "No right of control has been sought over China, and there has been in no degree any ambition to represent China at the peace conference."

We may expect that the trouble between China and Japan may turn out to be another case of clogged up linotype cams.

THE MILITANTS.

The action of the militant suffragettes in burning effigy of President Wilson should not be taken as influencing to the least extent the vote in the senate Monday, one way or the other, but it may very truthfully be taken as influencing public sentiment against the measure. More of us would be enthusiastic over the prospect of the women voting had this class of propaganda been dispensed with, and those of us who do favor the granting of the franchise to women are more and more opposed to granting it to this class if a distinction could be made, every time they flare up and flaunt the cause in the faces of people in such a depressive manner.

Suffrage, as a matter of fact, lost in the senate by but one vote, which is indicative that the franchise eventually will be granted. It merely requires time to convince people, and when this is finally done, we will wonder why it has not been granted long before. The militant, however, will gain nothing and will lose much, not only for herself but for the other women who wish to and should be granted the right to vote.

SCISSORS AND PASTE.

Highways to Freedom.
(Columbia State.)

Considering the matter of constructing a state system of paved highways, the important question is whether it would aid in solving the problem of commercial transportation, that being at this time the most acute economic problem before the people of the United States.

Would a paved highway from the North Carolina line to Charleston enable the people to travel and to haul many kinds of freight as cheaply as it can now be hauled on steam railway? To ride in a steam railway car costs three cents a mile, besides the war tax. Could a public motorear carrying

A SERVICE TO THE NATION

Saving is no longer only a personal or family matter—it is a service to the nation.

The war has shown everyone that there is only so much wheat, meat or wool in the world and that by wasting these things someone is obliged to go without them.

It is the same with all material resources. Every dollar deposited in this bank goes to build up business and prosperity for all.

The Bank of Lancaster

"THE OLD RELIABLE,"

Lancaster, S. C.

a half a dozen passengers be operated for 18 cents a mile?

Could a three ton motor-truck haul bacon from the packing house in Orangeburg over a hard road to Columbia at a price approximating the freight charges on the Southern railroad?

Could the ice factories in Columbia distribute their product to the people of Lexington and St. Matthews profitably in similar manner?

About two and a half years ago the whole country was imminently threatened with paralysis of steam railroad transportation by a dispute between the "brotherhoods" and the companies. Everyone remembers the extreme anxiety of that time and, had the strike not been averted, discomfort and suffering would have been universal. Strikes of railroad workers are of common occurrence and the menace of them multiplies.

Why should the people be at the mercy of the companies or the unions when they have the solution of the peril in their own hands, in part, at any rate?

Highways over which any man could drive his car or his truck would deliver the people from the danger of oppressive and tyrannical dictation. In other words, we should have tens of thousands of individual passenger and freight carrying ears, which might be multiplied indefinitely, to check the exertion of the power now monopolized by the steam railroads. The motorear on the good highway would never take the place of the steam railroad trains, but it might be such a restraining influence as to keep the railroads on their good behavior, making the people equally independent in emergency of brotherhoods and presidents.

The highways are by long odds the most valuable of all physical possessions of the whole people. In dollars they are worth many times as much as the school houses. The application of gasoline to vehicles has quadrupled this value and we may confidently look forward to mechanical inventions and discoveries that will further add to the cheapness of highway transportation.

Why should the people neglect this best of all their physical properties, which belongs to them altogether, in which every citizen is a shareholder?

If the actual value of the steam railroads in South Carolina be \$125,000,000, would it not be common sense for the people to spend \$40,000,000 on the roads which they own, thereby making them equal to the railroads as commercial contributors to the general prosperity and giving them, at the same time, freedom from railroad despotism?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Meeting to Discuss Cotton.
To the Editor of The News:
At the request of Governor Robt. A. Cooper, I am issuing a call to all

counties to send a strong delegation of farmers, bankers, business men and county demonstration agents representing the various counties to meet at the county court house in Columbia on Thursday, February 13th, at 12 M, to map out and adopt a practical method to reduce the production of cotton in 1919 at least 33 1-3 per cent.

With a large part of the spindles of the world standing idle, a vast majority of them working on short time, it is absolutely essential that the production of cotton be fully reduced in proportion to the spindles standing idle in order that a fair price to the producer of cotton can be had for the residue of the 1918 crop, and more especially for the crop of 1919.

For forty years the product of southern farms has maintained the balance of trade for the United States, and for forty years the cotton crop has been marketed regardless of the cost of production. For the first time in forty years, due entirely to four short crops of cotton (and not on account of the war) the banks of the south and the cotton farmer are in a position to determine what the price of cotton shall be if we elect to take such measures as are necessary to bring it about. While world conditions are disturbed as at present it is necessary that no over-production of cotton be allowed if we purpose to maintain a living wage scale for cotton producers. The wage scale obtaining throughout the cotton producing districts has been heretofore the lowest in existence in the United States, being only equalled by Chinese "coolie" labor. On account of war conditions the price of labor has advanced and in order that this advance be maintained and the south secure their due proportion of the prosperity of the nation, it is necessary that our cotton crop should bring at least 35 cents per pound.

We cannot expect good roads, good churches and school houses and an educated people on the wage scale that has formerly existed throughout the cotton belt, therefore, let all public spirited men from every walk of life make it their business to advance in every way possible the plans being outlined in this and other states to reduce production of cotton in 1919 at least one-third. The meeting called in Columbia on the 13th is to devise ways and means to this end. Let every county in the state be fully represented at this meeting that they may present their local conditions and help in an intelligible solution of the situation.

Governor Bickett, of North Carolina, has issued a call through Messrs. Clarence Poe and O. J. McConnell, to be held at Raleigh, on February 11th to outline a plan of action in that state on cotton acreage reduction.

L. I. GUION,
Camden, S. C., Feb. 10, 1919.

William Marion Reed has entered Fennell infirmary where he will undergo medical treatment.