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 The Sumter Watchman was founded in 1880 and the True Southern in 1887. The Watchman and Southern have had the combined circulation and influence of both of the old papers, and is manifestly the best advertising medium in Sumter.



The list of the successful candidates for officers at Fort Oglethorpe was made public Sunday and it reveals the fact that not a single Sumter man who entered training failed to get his commission. Out of the twenty-five odd men who went from this county not one was returned as unfit. This speaks well for the calibre of the men sent and for the citizenship of the county. It is true that two of the men who left Sumter with the first increment had to return on account of illness which occurred before actual training commenced, but both of these will attend the second camp and will in all likelihood get commissions. Sumter is proud of her sons and they have done more than was expected of them. The career of each individual will always be followed with intense interest by the citizens of the Gamecock County.

**INSURANCE FOR SOLDIERS.**

The plan of the Treasury Department to insure the lives of all soldiers in the service of their country should have the right of way in congress. With troops already in France about to enter the conflict and thousands of others preparing to enter the struggle, it is imperative that something be done to adequately protect the men on land and sea and their loved ones at home. In justice and fairness to the men, the government plan, carrying out its various phases of indemnity, should be speedily enacted into law.

The insurance plan has been presented in order that the pension system heretofore invoked, with its opening for extravagance, graft, and fraud, might be done away with and not be a continual drain upon the treasury of the country. As a business proposition it is straightforward and worthy of consideration. We have had enacted into law recently a workmen's compensation statute which indemnifies employees engaged in hazardous work. Why not apply a similar plan for our soldiers and sailors? Why not let these men have the comfort of knowing that whatever their fate, their loved ones at home will not be left to charity!

Another feature of the soldiers' insurance is that the insurance companies have expressed a willingness to cooperate with the government. In fact several of the old line companies have already fallen in line with the indemnity plan and have themselves offered suggestions along this line. Chiefest among the suggestions made was the one submitted by the Equitable Life Assurance Society, which reads as follows:

1. Immediately to urge a law providing protection for the soldier's dependents during his absence.
2. To prepare to establish re-education schools to teach him a new trade, if through injury or sickness, he is prevented from following his usual occupation.
3. To provide a monthly cash indemnity (heretofore misnamed a pension), which the people shall pay through their government to compensate him for loss of earning-power due to personal injury or impaired health resulting from military service.
4. To give his dependents, if he loses his life a monthly cash indemnity to guard them against want until they are able to take care of themselves."

A bill with some of the foregoing features would be beneficial both to the government and the person insured. It would keep down fraudulent pensions and would at the same time protect our fighting men and their dependents. But as yet no finished plan has been presented, and the time for action has come. The administration should have little

trouble in having enacted into law the proposed plan. The situation demands immediate action and there should be no delay about getting the bill into definite form for its approval by congress.

**The Question of Peace.**

New York Tribune.

At a time when the whole world is beginning to discuss the question of peace there is perhaps a certain appropriateness in reviewing briefly those facts which seem pertinent to this discussion. It is, in addition, necessary that The Tribune should set forth its view quite definitely, since certain of its readers have seemed in recent days to misunderstand its statements.

At the outset we may say that the United States, like all the nations fighting Germany, is at war because Germany has attacked not merely or mainly the material interests of the United States, but has assailed that whole body and framework of international law and common humanity which represents the meaning for us of the world civilization. The Germans have done this thing with the deliberate purpose of accomplishing thereby certain ends and aims, profitable and desirable to themselves.

When Germany invaded Belgium she tore up, not a treaty merely, not a single guarantee of specific Belgian rights; she thrust a German sword through the whole basis of international right. When, having done this, the Germans sought to terrorize and subdue the people whose liberty they had invaded by systematic arson, murder, rape; by carrying the methods of the battlefield into their relations with civilian populations, they similarly did violence to that conception of humanity which had prevailed hitherto throughout the civilized world and was up to that time believed to prevail in Germany.

In sum, having set out to impose a German rule on certain portions of the world, to conquer some races and to annex and permanently subjugate others, Germany had recourse to methods and to instruments which were abhorrent to civilized man. The massacres of Belgium were the work of soldiers, with weapons in their hands; the crime of the Lusitania, the loosing of poison gas at Ypres, the use of the Zeppelin and the aeroplane against the non-combatant populations of open cities represented the combination of modern science with ancient barbarism. But all were equally the expression of the same German idea.

The consequence of this German procedure was to give the present war a wholly different character from all other wars in modern history. It was recognized in France, in Britain, it has later been recognized in Italy, Russia, and the United States, that the real issue of the war was whether the German idea, the idea of force, violence, of the use of every weapon and the employment of every machine and method to attain a desired object, an object not based upon moral right, but upon material interest, should prevail in the world or be defeated.

By slow but sure steps the war changed its character in the mind of the remotest neutral from a war of the old European type, from a war based upon rival ambitions of contending States, to a struggle between two ideas and two ideals, the ideal of the world outside of Germany, which was based upon the conceptions and teachings of a thousand years of progress toward humanity, justice and equality, toward the mutual recognition of individual rights, and the German idea that there was a special right vested in the German to ignore all dictates of law and humanity when he, collectively and in the form of his State, desired something.

The German asserted through all his spokesmen that there was a higher law than the common rights of nations. He asserted it when he invaded Belgium, and the German Chancellor frankly affirmed that what was being done was wrong but that the wrong was atoned for by the fact that Germany was in a state of necessity. Each further assault of Germany upon the rights and liberties as well as the persons and lives of men and women, of neutral as well as belligerent nations, was defended and justified because it served a German purpose and contributed to the realization of a German end.

In this time there was frankly proclaimed a doctrine in Germany which was nothing more nor less than the sheer enthronement of brute force. France was to be partitioned, Belgium annexed, the whole world made over without regard to the rights of the people inhabiting various regions, solely as this change benefited Germany and German ambitions or interests. And in this spirit regions of occupied country were ravaged, cities and towns destroyed, populations enslaved and driven to work in a servitude recalling that of the Children of Israel in Egypt.

In the face of this assault non-German mankind, with few excep-

tions, entered the war. In all the nations fighting there came to be a very distinct recognition that the war was being waged not primarily against a nation, but against an idea; that it was above all a battle to defend civilization as they knew it against what seemed to them the essential and destructive barbarism of the German idea.

This barbarism, this German idea associated itself in the minds of many people with the ruling caste of Germany, and with that ruling caste which controlled the army. We had therefore equally denunciation of autocracy and of the House of Hohenzollern, which was at its head, and of German militarism, which was the expression of this German idea. Quite loosely, therefore, we have all come to talk about the war as one between democracy and autocracy, and President Wilson and others have asserted that there was no quarrel with German people.

But is this an exact statement? Do we yet know what war is or is the view of the German people? Certainly nothing that has so far happened has suggested that the German people found the things done by German soldiers or statesmen abhorrent, since all the Germans we know or read have justified them. What we do hear and suspect is that the German people are becoming tired of a war which has not succeeded and of the leaders who have not achieved victory, despite the blood tax they have levied.

Are we quite sure that the German thing we all abhor and are fighting was merely the expression of the few who controlled German machinery in July and August, 1914? Granted that there is no desire now in any sane man's mind to apply German methods to German cities, women, children, to apply to German provinces and German towns the doctrine of the Pan-German and the Junker, is it still possible to consider peace and peace terms to the utter exclusion of what Germany has done for three years?

To The Tribune the fact seems perfectly clear. One of two things must happen. Either the war must go on to a military decision because the German people still remain faithful to the gospel of force and the doctrine of barbarism, or the German people must of themselves renounce the doctrine and dispossess those who have applied the doctrine all over the world.

If there must be a fight to a military decision, then there is no need of discussion. All discussion is, in fact, hopeless if the Germans are still of the mind that was written in Louvain and the Lusitania, expressed in Zeppelin raids and submarine killings, and to talk about peace with Germany is like discussing relations of amity with a man-eating tiger whose jaws are still stained with fresh blood.

But if Germany is to free herself from this doctrine and this policy, it remains patent that the measure of her own freedom must be her recognition of the duty of repairing the injuries she has done, so far as they can be repaired. Above all, if a new born German democracy is to supersede an overturned autocracy, we can only recognize its character when it presents as its peace proposal a programme which carries with it as a first article the indemnification of Belgium.

When Germany attacked Belgium she visibly and unmistakably left the ranks of civilized nations. The issue of Belgium is between the German people and the whole world. Until Germany meets the Belgian issue squarely there can be no crossing the gulf that divides the German people from the rest of mankind, because with a nation and with a people that can permanently justify this crime, the rest of mankind can have no relations, save across the firing line. To use Mr. Wilson's rather vague phrase in a specific application, the world will not be safe for democracy as long as any nation, with weapons in its hand, is able to justify and indorse the Belgian iniquity.

The gulf dividing reparation from reprisal is very wide. There will be no attempt to visit against a Germany herself escaped from the leading-strings of those who dictated her policies in recent years reprisals of the sort that Germany planned to visit upon her foes and did, so far as she was able, visit upon Belgium and France. But if the German attack upon Belgium stands without reparation, if it is not paid for to the uttermost brick and the last demolished home, then is it not plain that the German idea, if it has not conquered the world, has yet demonstrated that it can function with impunity?

Peace we all want, but only peace, not a prolongation of the war made possible by the perpetuation of some portion of the German idea. We must conquer this German idea; it is a deadly peril to all that we love and believe in, whether it be democracy or decency. Nothing that we love or hold to in this world is safe if the German idea stands unrepealed. You can't live at peace with a man who

believes he has an inherent right to murder you, dishonor your wife and cripple your children whenever he can serve his own interests by such a course and has the power to do these things.

The German has asserted the right to murder, to maim, to abuse, to destroy, to attack the weak and the unarmed, the innocent and the helpless, to destroy the beautiful and defile the sacred, whenever his interests seem to be served thereby. He has applied this doctrine to his neighbors for three years. He is still applying it. He has built up a whole body of doctrine founded on the essential detail that physical force makes moral right and that the strong man is entitled to use his strength to serve his own ambitions, appetites, material interests.

As a result the whole world has gone to war with the Germans. It has not conquered him, but he has not conquered it, nor is there left any real belief in his mind that he can now and at this time conquer the world. But can the world afford to leave the issue at this point? The Tribune believes not. We must have a settlement, we must have a decision. We must have it on the battlefield if it cannot be had elsewhere. And it can only be had elsewhere if the German people lay aside this idea and in advance of military decision consent to make that reparation which must be made.

Abraham Lincoln in 1864 perceived with utmost clarity that there must be a decision in the dispute between the North and the South, because of the two ideas only one could possibly prevail. One may not compare the Civil War with the present war, because both sides remained loyal to their common ideal of humanity and of civilization, but it is still plain that two ideas were in conflict and there had to be a decision, that there might be peace thereafter for those who were to come.

We must have a decision in the present war, a clear, unmistakable and immutable decision. Our civilization will have to be vindicated or abolished. The German idea and the idea of the rest of mankind cannot live side by side, because the German idea is at bottom founded upon the arrogated right to destroy all else in the world when it pleases and as it pleases. The man who lives in the vicinity of a tiger may have no animosity in his heart toward the tiger, but he will, nevertheless, have no choice of procedure, and the Germans have left us no choice.

When one speaks of a peace founded upon the doctrine of no annexation and no indemnity, we can all subscribe to it if it means no application to Germany or German methods, no seizure of German provinces, no effort to do in the Palatinate what Germany did in the case of Alsace-Lorraine, no attempt to carry off the visible wealth of the country by a punitive indemnity, by an indemnity collected as war booty, as sheer plunder, as Germany exacted an indemnity in 1871. But who can subscribe to it if it means that Germany shall not make reparation for what Germans have done in Belgium, Serbia and France, so far as reparation can be made? Who can subscribe to it if it means the perpetuation of the German wrong of 1871, the wrong that survives in Italia Irredenta?

If the German people think as we think now, they will themselves recognize what must be done in the case of Belgium, as the Russian democracy recognized that the imperialistic ambitions of the Romanoffs must be laid aside and the policy of enslaving other peoples abandoned. But if the German people do not recognize this, we have no choice but to fight until they do, until the power to apply this doctrine is taken from them, or until we can fight no more and must ourselves surrender to the German idea. We are nearer to victory than ever in this war, but because we are nearer we must keep on; we have no choice, for if we hesitate now all these three years of agony will have been in vain.

The S. L. I. has not yet as yet received any orders to entrain, although cars have been stationed for their use for several days. The boys thought that they would be moved immediately after inspection, as was done with the Timmonsville company, but nothing official as been received. The men are still drilling twice a day and are gaining military knowledge every day despite the fact that they are not in a regular training camp.

News received from the members of the boll weevil commission dated at Selma, Ala., was to the effect that the party was behind schedule time, but that they had gained much knowledge of the destructive work of the weevil in that section. In some places, it is said, the entire locality was affected and almost deserted by both whites and negroes. The party hopes to reach home late Tuesday night or Wednesday morning, coming from Augusta direct.

**ANNOUNCEMENT.**

We have been largely instrumental in inducing the Planters of Sumter, Clarendon and Lee Counties to grow their own food. We put our money in a flour mill to encourage the planting of wheat. We have added a Rice Mill to our plant to help the situation.

We feel that the people appreciate our efforts in this direction.

We now beg to announce that we have arranged to install with least possible delay, an additional Flour Mill of 100 barrels capacity, to take care of our trade.

We are turning out the finest flour that can be produced. Our "FLAVO-FLOUR," "Nature Flavored" has no superior.

Bring us your wheat, rice and corn, either to grind or to sell. We will pay the highest cash market price at all times for grain, and guarantee you satisfaction in every way.

**Sumter Roller Mills,**  
 Sumter, S. C.

Foot of Sumter Street Phone 502

**Storing Food Rapidly.**

There can be no doubt about it—this region is producing more food this year than it ever before dreamed of having on hand by frost and there is more canning, pickling, preserving, drying and the like going on than ever we imagined possible in the easy going years before this great emergency. It is somewhat droughty in spots, but as a whole the country is having a good season for growing pretty much everything commonly grown here. It is a pretty good fruit year as luck would have it. So the earth is yielding food for us and the preservative arts are being utilized on every hand to store up whatever is perishable.

All of which is good to see. It gives one a comfortable sense of security against possible want when winter winds come and frost has put an end to growing things. It means, too, that our country's allies abroad will be just so much the more ample and effective, not to speak of aid to starving populations in lands thoroughly devastated by war.

Let the good work go on energetically, conserving and storing up every pound of food the earth will yield until winter arrives. We should have stores of food in pantries, cellars and store rooms to make glad the heart of every partitive man and woman, who realizes at all the dangers overhanging all the world as the fourth winter of war devastation comes on apace.—Spartanburg Herald.

the plane of art when love for the task—loyalty—is fused with the effort.—The Fra.

The Sumter Chapter, Red Cross, has already shipped 54 pajamas and 66 bed shirts to headquarters at Atlanta. Material is now on hand for other articles to be made and the ladies in charge request that each woman do her share in order to enable them to make another shipment sometime next week.

**"Peg" Quits The Observer.**

Latta Observer.

"Peg," our office boy, has recently severed his relations with The Observer to accept a more lucrative position as bootblack and brush-off at the local barber shop. "Peg" informed us that the high cost of living was such that he was forced to have a raise in salary or would have to hunt employment elsewhere. It was with regret that our financial condition was such that we could not give him the necessary raise and retain his services. Now the editor will have to turn the papers off himself unless some of our delinquents will lend us a helping hand occasionally. If you have not got the money, just drop in on press day and turn your subscription out, then, we feel sure, you will enjoy reading the paper even more than ever while you rest.

**CASH FOR YOUR LAND.**

You can get the service of a trained organization to subdivide and sell your land, quickly turning it into cash and interest bearing notes. We are now dating sales for the fall. If you have land to sell, convince yourself that we are capable and reliable to handle your property. Our representative will call to see you and explain our method.

Write us to-day.

ATLANTIC COAST REALTY CO.

"The name that justifies your confidence"

OFFICES:

PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA  
 And Greenville, N. C.

Work is for the worker. Love is for the lover. Art is for the artist. The mental is a man who is disloyal to his work. All useful service is raised to