

# The Forum of the People

(Brief communications, signed by the real name of the writer, will be welcomed for this department).

## ASKS CORRECTION.

### Manufacturer Makes Statement as to Adulteration.

To the Editor: My attention is called to an article in your edition of October 23, headed: "Say Dyes Are Adulterated," containing pictures of Mr. H. A. Metz and myself, and stating that we have made the charge that American manufacturers of dye had adulterated their products with a large quantity of salt. This statement is entirely contrary to the truth that I am asking you for a correction.

The circumstances are that Mr. Metz made a statement some time ago, to the effect that his customers should watch the dyestuffs which they were offered from dealers and speculators, as they were largely adulterated, and could not be depended upon, and this statement I confirmed to a number of reporters and others who called upon me on the subject. The colors made by American manufacturers, of which I am one, are not adulterated, and have been sent out always of a regular standard strength, and no complaint of any kind has ever been received by any of our customers that they have been adulterated.

The point is that what you intended to say was that the colors offered by dealers and speculators were badly adulterated, and not the colors offered by American manufacturers, or any other well established and well known firms.

Yours very truly,  
I. F. STONE.

New York.

(The article referred to by Mr. Stone, with the accompanying illustrations, was furnished by a syndicate serving The News and Observer and a great many other papers. That it took too rank a hold seems evident from Mr. Stone's letter, which is gladly published in order that News and Observer readers may be fully informed on the subject).

## FAVORS PREPAREDNESS.

### Policy of President Cordially Supported By Elizabeth City Man.

To the Editor:—From recent reports in the papers there seems to be a disposition on the part of some leaders to fight the administration's program for defense. While I respect their views, believing in their sincerity and patriotism, still I very much regret to see them taking this position. In the event that any ambitious and militant nations should clash with us, if we believe the reports of the leading authorities, we are woefully unprepared to defend ourselves from an attack by any first-class power. In the light of those reports as to our preparedness in an emergency and in further view of what is being realized on the battlefields of Europe by a thoroughly trained nation—equipped with every convenience for conducting war, I must confess that I cannot subscribe to the views of those who are opposing the administration's program. I am exceedingly sorry as a Carolinian to see some of our leaders advocating opposition to the defense plan.

I hope they may carefully consider the matter from every angle and that they may see their mistake before it is too late. About face, gentlemen; stand with the President, one of the dearest and foremost thinkers in America today, and who is every inch a true American. Pursue your course, Mr. President. I believe all thinking Americans are with you. And should the politicians not act wisely, it may not be amiss to do a little scalping for them in the future. I have made

a point to talk with people of all classes relative to this matter, and I feel safe in saying that 80 per cent, or more, are with you. I am not reluctant to say that I am with you to the letter. If we are not prepared to cope with any strong power, then the sooner we get prepared the better for us. I believe, heart and soul, in preparedness for defense of our country, our homes and our men, that in case of an emergency the men may not have to be sacrificed wantonly for lack of essentials to conduct a campaign with some degree of success.

This sudden cataclysm involving almost the whole of Europe, which began in August, 1914, came almost "like a thunderbolt out of a clear sky." Therefore, who knows what day may bring forth some point in controversy between our country and some other State, that could not be adjusted by diplomacy. It is possible that it might be a question we could not accede to. Then upon urgent pressure by the other State for acquiescence thereto, what would be the result? War certainly. Should we go along in the future as we have in the past with small increase in army and navy equipments, and war should occur, we would be very much in the position of England today, sighing with regrets for our negligence in not enlarging our army and navy sooner, mortified at our showing of success, and horrified at our tremendous losses, unnecessarily due to a lack of preparation.

Had England listened to her grand old soldier, Lord Roberts, eight or ten

years ago, her army would have been largely increased, and her showing for success enhanced threefold. Since America has the men, the wealth and the material, let us spend some of our wealth in training some of our men and boys to bear arms, so that in case of necessity they may be able to protect their homes, their loved ones and their country.

R. T. BELL.  
Elizabeth City, N. C.

## CHURCH AND STATE IN LINE.

### Seminary President and Navy Chief Commend Memorial.

To the Editor:—The Charlotte Observer is publishing a letter from the pen of the most distinguished man who has ever been a citizen of the Queen City, Rev. W. W. Moore, D. D., president of Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Va., in which he cordially commends the memorial to Flora Macdonald at Red Springs.

We are glad to append herewith another very gratifying letter from a very distinguished citizen of Raleigh, the Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Daniels, who is a member of the Scottish Society of America under the title of MacDaniels, is the coiner of the sobriquet, "God-blessed Macs," as applied to the Caledonians of North Carolina, and we are pleased with his earnest endorsement of the greatest work which the Scots of America have yet undertaken.

It is a great thing to have the approval of both church and state in our very worthy enterprise.

Secretary Daniels' letter follows. "My dear Dr. Vardell:

"When that great Scotch-Canadian statesman and journalist, Hon. James A. Macdonald, of the Toronto Globe, suggested the name of Flora Macdonald for the college at Red Springs, I wondered why the God-blessed Macs of North Carolina, who for years educated their daughters there, had never thought of this before. It is the name of all names for the school. Emerson said that "every great institution is but the lengthened shadow of a great man." One needs but to think of scores of the greatest colleges in America to realize the truth of this statement. Have not the bonnie lassies in the homes of the Scotch-blooded people of North Carolina had held up before them always as the paragon of human perfection Flora Macdonald? Is it not fitting in this day when the importance of woman's thought and work in the world is being given larger recognition than ever before, that this school of the Scotch shall henceforth be "the lengthened shadow of a great woman?" Some of the world's greatest exemplars have been those whose lives were spent in devotion to a "lost cause." Doubtless true is this of Flora McDonald, who served the House of Stuart in Scotland and the House of Hanover in North Carolina, and lost for both. It is one of the paradoxes of inspirational heroine worship that this fair lady, whose foot trod the heather and who wore the thistle in her hair, and who proved during her romantic and fascinating career as no other woman in history the success of failure, is above all others the one to be chosen as the pattern for the girls of Scotch blood in America who thirst for a college education. Long life and prosperity to Flora Macdonald College!

"Faithfully yours,  
(Signed) Josephus Daniels."  
C. G. VARDELL.  
Red Springs, N. C.

## ASSAILS TAX PLAN

### Warrenton Man Objects To Tax Equalization By Central Authority.

To the Editor: In the State convention of 1873 an amendment was proposed limiting the per cent tax rate, its intent and purpose declared to restrain and check legislative appropriations. This was ratified by the people of North Carolina.

The fear of impairing or annulling this amendment and the manner in which a list of amendments were handed down to the people were two potent forces influencing its rejection. As a sequency of this defeat of amendments in which the people had no voice in formulating, a denial to them of an absolute right, exercised over a century, they have imposed upon them a substitute. The equalization of values between counties, a board of review or corporation board vested with power to increase or decrease assessment values upon which the county board has specialized each and every unit of property or holdings of the individual citizen. It is plain that board could easily have retained its ratio per cent distribution, preserved the same equalization with less increase of assessment. What was feared the people would not do in a State convention has been consummated and justifies the rejection of the amendment defeat.

The county board of assessors are personally acquainted with all land properties in their territory or can easily find out local environments, each factor tending to increase or decrease value; that there are errors of

value on some units of property is true, and so in all human endeavor, but a large majority of values as near their approximate value as can be obtained in any other way. So much so that cash, bonds or notes would not be exchanged at the assessed value and any complainants for cause can have such value reconsidered without cost, which if permissible by the State board extra cost would bar the average property holder.

The equalization substitute we believe false in theory and fact; it forces an arbitrary basis of revenue, differentiating in values, discriminatory taxation, which, incidentally, places a premium upon the interchangeable values of invisible property, imposing a tax deficiency caused by the non-listing of such property upon increased assessment of land values.

Under our ever-increasing bond mortgage indebtedness of State, county and town, there is no assurance of any less per cent rate of taxation than the full limit of the constitutional rate per cent except by a large increase of assessment values as a source of revenue, which virtually destroys the constitutional limit, certifying assets for any legislative appropriation however excessive, a draft upon the pocketbook of the citizen at will.

Let those who make the plea of necessity or temporary emergency first answer why the people were denied a constitutional convention of delegates elected by them for the special purpose of formulating amendments to meet existing conditions, instead of a list of amendments; those or none—the answer of expense is but flanking the whole matter and principle involved. Progressive policies demand increased taxation, which should force on a progressive advanced step in our system of taxation which could wisely be engrafted into the State Constitution as a precedent from some other States!

The eternal citing other States, an argument held in stock as discounting and disparaging North Carolina, to excite emulation is a political elphering that does not tally with facts or demonstrate the apparent disparity set forth.

We may not realize a condition that the Treasurer of Maryland has reported to her Governor "that the resources of the State are exhausted and appropriations must be curtailed." To avoid this crucial condition a radical change in our tax system is imperative.

The people of this State have never been abject slaves to any authority; not radical, but their conservatism is of that spirit—strong enough to force its will; the ancient and time honored custom of the "fathers" in recognizing their right to direct representation in amending the Constitution as the great bulwark of their protection and only safeguard is a heritage they should defend.

JOHN HALL.  
Warrenton, N. C.

## HONORS FOR HUNGARY.

### Emperor Adds Its Arms to Those of Austria On Naval Flag.

Philadelphia Ledger.

The growing importance of Hungary in the Dual Monarchy is shown by the order issued by Emperor Francis Joseph that the army ensign and the naval war flag shall bear the arms of Hungary as well as of Austria. Hitherto these flags have borne only the heraldic device of the ancient dukes of Austria, which date back to 1191, although in the mercantile marine flag of the Austro-Hungarian Empire the introduction of a green half-stripe denoted the combination of the Hungarian red, white and green with the Austrian red, white and red, and the shields with which this flag is charged bore the arms of oth countries. Commands to troops, however, still issued in the German tongue only, the Hungarians' threatening demands of a few years ago for use of their language having come to naught.

## MERCURY 90. FINGER FROZEN

### Baby Sticks His Hand in Brine From Ice Cream Freezer.

Altoona (Pa.) Dispatch Philadelphia Record.

Freezing one's hand when the mercury is hovering up around 90 in the shade is rather rare; nevertheless, that is what 3-year-old Sherman Dodson did. His father is an ice cream manufacturer, and Sherman had often seen men about the plant remove the plug from the tub containing a big freezer and let the brine run out. So he thought he would try it.

When he attempted to return the plug he could not find the hole, and the brine poured over his hand until it froze the tiny member. The fingers were swollen to twice their normal size, but the doctor says he will be all right in a few days.

## SEES GHOST, SHOOTS HIMSELF

### Pursued By Female Wraith, Man Dies At Sea.

Seattle Dispatch Sacramento Bee.

John Peters, of Los Angeles, a passenger on the steam schooner Yosemite, bound for Seattle, shot and killed himself while the boat was nearing Port Townsend.

Peters, a carriage maker, had been suffering from the delusion that he was being pursued by a woman's ghost.

# ALBEMARLE HAS GROWING CHURCH

\$30,000 Structure Now Replaces Building That Had 5 Members in 1890

Albemarle, Oct. 23.—The story of the growth of the First Lutheran church of Albemarle is one which should inspire other churches of this section as to what can be done when taken hold of in the proper spirit for it establishes beyond question that fact not recognized by many churches, that business methods and enthusiasm are as essential to success in church life as in private business affairs.

In 1898 this church was organized with five members, S. H. Hearne, J. W. Boston, Mrs. L. C. Lilly, Mrs. M. L. Betts and Mrs. J. E. Hearne, all of whom are dead except S. H. Hearne and Mrs. J. E. Hearne. The last two are still residing in Albemarle and have seen their fondest dreams come true in the completion of one of the handsomest little brick churches in the State at a total cost of \$30,000. The first pastor was Rev. W. Kimball. The church has had twelve pastors including the present one. At first its growth was slow, and no special progress was made. However, on July 1st, 1907, Rev. H. A. McCullough accepted a call to the pastorate and from the day on which he arrived in Albemarle to take charge of his new field until he accepted a call to Columbia, S. C., every day was marked by hard work, progress and growth. Almost immediately after Rev. Mr. McCullough took charge of the work it was decided to build a new church, and a beautifully located lot was given by the late Mrs. Jane Caldwell on the corner of South and Second streets.

Early in the spring of 1908 the corner stone was laid, Dr. G. H. Cox, a former pastor, and Rev. H. A. McCullough officiating at the ceremonies. After the church was completed, but while there was a rather heavy indebtedness still hanging over the church, Rev. Mr. McCullough accepted a call to a pastorate in Columbia, S. C., and for several months the new church was without a pastor. Having just lost a pastor of Mr. McCullough's caliber the parishioners were slow to call his successor, and their waiting was not in vain, for in 1912 they found a man whom they felt sure was able to fill the vacancy. This man was Rev. V. C. Ridenhour, of Knoxville, Tenn. A call was extended to him and accepted, and on August 1st, 1912, Rev. Mr. Ridenhour came to Albemarle and took charge of the work. The work of progress still went on and within a few months after the arrival of the new pastor a new two story brick parsonage was completed at a cost of about \$5,000. This still added to the indebtedness of the church, and many a church under similar conditions would have appealed to the home mission board for help. But not so with this one. Her pastor and members were not that kind to halt because the lion was in the pathway. They, therefore, still kept paying, and on last April it was decided to make a red hot campaign to remove the church indebtedness during the year 1915. The goal was reached even sooner than the most sanguine members expected on the 3rd day of June the last cent was taken up and a congregational meeting was held to celebrate the occasion.

The indebtedness thus removed the first Sunday in October was named as the date on which the church should be dedicated. For this occasion, of course, Rev. H. A. McCullough, of Columbia, S. C., was chosen to preach the dedicational sermon. Rev. Mr. McCullough took for his text Genesis 28:17 "And he was afraid and said, How dreadful is this place, this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of Heaven." From this text he delivered one of the most eloquent sermons ever heard in Albemarle. Special music had been arranged and the occasion was one of sacredness and inspiration. Special services continued for the week following, at which some of the most noted Lutheran divines in North and South Carolina preached.

The membership of this church while still comparatively small is made up of families many of whom are known throughout the State; the Edrds, Hearnes, Pattersons, Howards, Millers, Moores and many others which might be mentioned. One knowing the men and women bearing the above names in this section of North Carolina, and knowing the ability, zeal and capacity for leadership of the former pastor, Rev. H. A. McCullough, and the able, plous and exemplary character of the present pastor, Rev. V. C. Ridenhour, will not wonder at the things accomplished by the First Lutheran church of Albemarle.

Ringgold county, Iowa has established a 4,000-acre game preserve. Pheasants and partridges will be raised. The Middle West is beginning to realize that "prairie chicken" will be carved on a slab beside "buffalo" unless some one makes rapid and purposeful motions.