

THE LANCASTER NEWS (SEMI-WEEKLY) Established 1852.

Published Tuesday and Friday BY THE LANCASTER NEWS COMPANY, Lancaster, S. C.

GEORGE BULLA CRAVEN Editor and Manager

The News is not responsible for the views of Correspondents. Short and national articles on topics of general interest will be gladly received.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: Cash in Advance.

One Year \$2.00 Six Months \$1.00

Entered as Second Class Matter October 7, 1905, at the Postoffice at Lancaster, S. C., under act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

FRIDAY, MAY 2, 1919.



FLYING ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

A naval seaplane of the F-5 type, propelled by two Liberty motors of 499 horsepower each and carrying a crew of four men, remained in the air at the Hampton Roads naval base for twenty hours and ten minutes Saturday. This established what is said to be a world record for seaplanes. It is estimated that twenty hours will be required to make a flight from Newfoundland to Ireland in the trans-Atlantic flight if a direct route is finally determined upon, and it is said the machines which will negotiate the air over the great water will be much larger and more powerful than that with which the test was made at Hampton Roads.

This, then, may be taken as an indication that a successful flight across the Atlantic is in prospect and that soon we will have mail brought over from London almost overnight. After a few years the flying of planes across the water from America to England will be considered merely as one of the incidents of modern times, like the automobile, or the telephone, which goes to prove the assertion that nothing is impossible, any more. It used to be, but it is not now. Wireless possibly was considered impossible and now airships are talking to earth from somewhere five thousand feet above.

ACREAGE REDUCTION.

When the South Carolina cotton association was formed and subsequently associations in many counties of the state, including Lancaster, it was announced that a list of the farmers who signed the agreement to reduce acreage would be printed in the county papers. Likewise it was announced that a list of those who refused to sign would be printed. The movement for reduction in Lancaster county gained very little momentum. There were very few who signed the agreement and at this time indications are that the matter is in suspense. Certainly there has been no list prepared for publication, and it is perhaps a fact that a list of those who did not sign would more than fill any newspaper in this county.

The Newberry Observer carries a list of those in Newberry county who refused to sign and another list of those who "signed pledge, but failed to reduce." We take it for granted that the Newberry paper has already printed a list of those who signed the agreement, though we failed to take note of it. Some of the farmers in Newberry county, according to the list carried by the Newberry paper, have increased their acreage, one man being put down as going up from 160 acres to 290 acres and from 11 plows to 17 plows.

The News has no interest in the production of cotton or its selling price except insofar as its interest in the general welfare of the farmer goes, but the farmers will have no one to blame but themselves if there is an overproduction of cotton this year. Those who are increasing

acres certainly are doing nothing to bring about a better state of affairs. It is no concern of one man what his neighbor does in the matter of production, though when it is a case of general effect upon the business of the south, as in the matter of cotton, it is the concern of every one. However, if the farmer doesn't wish to reduce his acreage, or wishes to increase it, those of us who do not produce cotton at all can hardly feel disposed to go to him and tell him he is a fool. The reduction of acreage means better prices, but the matter is in the hands of the farmer, and he alone can solve the problem.

PRICES.

"The country is getting further and further away from the armistice," says the Charlotte Observer, "but things are not 'coming down' as fast as might have been hoped for. People are yet wondering, for instance, why meats remain so high—why, with the war ended nearly six months ago, there has not been an approximate return to conditions existing before the war."

The Observer possibly feels, as most every one feels, that prices should have a downward tendency in view of the proximity of peace and even the armistice. While it is a fact that the United States is still at war tentatively, it is also a fact that a resumption of hostilities is next to impossible, and a formal declaration of peace is not very distant. Many prices were advanced during the war for various reasons, supposedly an overwhelming demand and accompanying scarcity of materials, and it is perhaps quite true that there was little excuse for the advance in many cases. However, granting that the advances were justified by the conditions of war, when such unusual conditions are removed, is that not a good time to set back to peace basis and peace prices?

"What is hindering the restoration of pre-war prices anyway?" the Observer asks. "The National Industrial Conference Board has just made public an exhaustive report on the result of an investigation into the changes in the cost of living since the signing of the armistice, the whole being summed up in the conclusion that there was 'no important change in the cost of sundries collectively between November, 1918, and March, 1919, and the increase over pre-war levels was therefore again placed at 55 per cent.' It finds that increases in the cost of living for wage earners in average American communities from July, 1914, to March, 1919, was 75 per cent for food; 22 per cent for shelter; 81 per cent for clothing; 57 per cent for fuel, light and heat, and 55 per cent for sundries. The changes since November, 1918, show a decrease of 4.4 per cent in food, 6.2 per cent in clothing, and an increase of 1.7 per cent in shelter and 1.3 per cent in fuel, light and heat. The average price of 22 articles of food, combined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics according to consumption by representative families, was approximately 75 per cent higher in March, 1919, than the average price for the year 1913, which has been accepted as a satisfactory pre-war standard. This is a decrease of about four percent since November, 1918, of about six per cent since December, 1918, when food prices were the highest ever recorded by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and of five per cent since January, 1919; it represents a slight increase, however, over February, 1919, prices, which were 72 per cent above the 1913 average.

"Especially significant are the facts revealed in the renting situation. There has been no drop in rents and in many communities prices have advanced since last March. It is said that these advances are more noticeable in cities which up to this time had experienced little or no increase in rents and were most marked for the better class of tenants and cottages and for new tenants. Frequently there had been no important

changes in rents of the lowest class of houses. A few decreases were reported, but there was no significant tendency toward a downward movement. In many cities no change had occurred in this interval. An average increase of 23 per cent since July, 1914, is apparently representative for the country as a whole. The opinion was general that rents will not decline until building is begun on an extensive scale and at lower costs than prevail at present. "When will prices begin to tumble? This is an interesting question and one that is hard to answer intelligently or with any degree of confidence. We might venture the suggestion, however, that when cotton begins going up to stay, prices will begin coming down, and we need not expect cotton to reach the top of the ladder until peace is signed with Germany."

The News wonders whether the price of cotton when the 1919 crop is harvested will have something to do with the prices of other things. And whether reduction of acreage or non-reduction will affect the coming down process of prices. Some kind of equalization is necessary, and if certain things that the people have to buy remain high, then the things the same people have for sale must necessarily sell high. Labor must be high, and increases must be equitable.

On the other hand, if prices tumble on certain commodities, the prices on other things must necessarily tumble proportionately. The man who earns now the same that he earned before the advance in price of nearly everything he has to buy is chasing a rainbow and will never get anywhere; while the man whose earnings have increased with the war conditions will probably relinquish some of the earnings if prices begin to come down. It's a big problem, this question of prices, and the only fair solution is that supply and demand control.

A POPULAR PHYSICIAN.

The Macon Telegraph says Dr. Samuel McChord Crothers, of Cambridge, Mass., says if he had his way he would order everybody to take a month's vacation and forget for a while at least the problems of the troublous times. "We have never met the Doc," says the Telegraph, "but we certainly do adore his style of pitching and broad-minded way of looking at things, and if we ever visit Cambridge and catch anything it will afford us great pleasure to give him our trade."

FEDERAL HIGHWAYS.

If the national highway, or what is generally known as the national highway, had been built upon the ground instead of upon paper, it would have been of great benefit to the people. Time may come when the government will build, probably jointly with the states, federal highways from the north to the south and the east to the west. Contention is as natural as the growth of vegetation when counties are taken into consideration in the matter of building roads. The coming of the automobile has made it such that counties are crossed in a single hour and where one county has good roads and the next does not, the joy of life loses much of its fragrance. The matter of state highways will always create a row because the counties through which the hard-surface roads are built will gain the enmity of those through which they do not run, and those responsible for building them will probably be deapitated.

The government, however, might well construct federal lines, say, from Maine to Florida and New York to California, and while politics would doubtless creep into such scheme, if the roads were built politics wouldn't hurt. Nobody has ever heard of opposition to good roads where good roads have already been constructed. Opposition, usually is found in those sections where they have no good roads and where the people dwell upon the uncomfortable thought that some other sections have.

The News would like to see a fea-

eral trunkline through this county, but if it can't get that, it would like to see it through some of the other counties in South Carolina. I don't make us nervous to contemplate hard-surface roads in Greenville, county, for instance, even though Lancaster has no prospect of same.

SCISSORS AND PASTE.

Whiskey Ticketed Through. (New York World.)

If Homer Gudger of Asheville, N. C., providing himself at Baltimore, Md., with a few bottles of whiskey as he was about to begin his journey homeward, had not been arrested and searched on the train at Lynchburg, Va., protracted legal proceedings would have been avoided and the supreme court of the United States would have been spared the necessity of delivering one of its justly celebrated homilies on the meaning of words.

The Reed amendment prohibits the transportation of liquor in interstate commerce "into any state" where prohibition obtains, but it is silent on the subject of transporting liquor "through a state" in which prohibition prevails. As Mr. Gudger and his drinkables were ticketed through from Baltimore to Asheville, the judgment is that the prohibition officers at Lynchburg who interrupted their progress acted without authority of law. Although the awful crime was in contemplation from the first, it could have been actually perpetrated only in North Carolina, for that was the state "into" which the offender was transporting his supplies.

Probably this is a fair sample of the momentous litigation with which state and federal courts are to be overwhelmed. Prohibition and its enforcement will involve personal rights and property rights innumerable, some weighty and some frivolous, and whole libraries of complaints, arguments and decisions are bound to result. Since many of these controversies will embrace federal questions on which appeals will be taken, the supreme court of the United States promises soon to become as busy and almost as sedate as an old-fashioned excise board.

Birds and the War.

(Saluda Standard.)

A writer in a London magazine tells us that at first the birds of France and Belgium were panic stricken by the war. Six or seven months after the war began an unusual number of birds were observed in France.

But after a few months the birds, just as soldiers do, adapted themselves to the condition of war. They came near to the armies with the greatest confidence. Ground birds made their nests and reared their young in thistle patches in No Man's Land.

The trenches became overrun with rats and mice, and consequently owls and kestrels (a species of

hawk) made their appearance and hunted fearlessly in the trenches themselves. And the kestrels sometimes built their nests in the barbed wire entanglements.

A lark in one of the severest bombardments at Verdun hovered above the French troops and sang cheerfully. The birds seemed to become accustomed to the sound of heavy artillery and to pay it little attention. Different birds called to give warning of the approach of airplanes. They evidently heard the sounds of the planes before human ears could distinguish them. Storks became interested in the airplanes and would sometimes alight on the machines that were coming down from a flight. The birds which so bravely endured the terrors of war will probably be delighted to have their homes in peace again.

Bank No. 33. Statement of the Condition of the The Bank of Lancaster Located at Lancaster, S. C., at the close of business March 4th, 1919.

RESOURCES. Loans and Discounts \$640,035.99 Overdrafts 8,766.57 Bonds and Stocks owned by the bank 147,100.00 Bonds deposited 248,500.00 Furniture and fixtures 2,450.89 Banking house 6,042.18 Other real estate owned 3,500.00 Due from banks and bankers 143,569.03 Currency 21,664.00 Gold 2,660.00 Silver and minor coin 4,142.12 Checks and cash items 1,791.86 Total \$1,230,222.64

LIABILITIES. Capital stock paid in \$50,000.00 Surplus fund 100,000.00 Undivided profits, less current expenses and taxes paid 38,964.14 Dividends unpaid 100.00 Individual deposits subject to check \$429,457.61 Savings deposits 197,530.71 Bond deposits 248,500.00 Time certificates of deposit 108,571.56 Certified checks 5.84 Cashier's checks 2,059.59 986,125.31

Notes and bills rediscounted 45,000.00 Time deposit interest account 10,033.19 Total \$1,230,222.64

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, County of Lancaster—ss. Before me came Geo. W. Williams, Cashier of the above named bank, who, being duly sworn, says that the above and foregoing statement is a true condition of said bank, as shown by the books of said bank. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10th day of March, 1919. H. T. CANNON, Notary Public S. C.

Correct Attest: LEROY SPRINGS, WADDY C. THOMSON, L. C. PAYSEUR, Directors.

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