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FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 1920.

THE GOOD ROADS' BILL.

In our last Monday's issue we carried a synopsis of the bill introduced in the Senate by Senator Moore, which, if passed, would authorize the issue of six hundred thousand dollars of bonds in this county for the building of roads.

Six hundred thousand dollars is no small amount of money, even in these days of forty cents cotton and three dollar-a-day labor, and the amount of money involved should be sufficient to engage the attention of every taxpayer in Abbeville County.

When the movement was on foot to issue three hundred thousand dollars in bonds for the building of roads in this county we opposed it on the ground that the roads proposed to be built were not in fact good roads. We have not changed our opinion on that subject. Should the bill now before the General Assembly become law we shall undertake to show the taxpayers that we were right then, and that we are right now.

Of course some good will come out of the expenditure of the money to be raised by this bond issue. The roads will be graded, the small streams bridged by permanent bridges, and the topsoil will make the roads better for a year or two. But there will never be permanent roads in this section built of dirt. The people had as well make up their minds to this fact.

And we cannot help but believe that Capt. Shaw is right when he says that the present roads could be greatly improved if we would raise the road tax to two dollars (we say to three or even five dollars) and if we would pay an additional two mills tax for grading and widening the roads. This additional money well spent, under the supervision of a road commission, would make the roads about as good as they will be five years after the money from this bond issue is spent, that is, if the law is ever passed.

We become more firmly convinced each day that if we are to build roads at all, we should commence by building permanent roads, such as are built in the cities and towns. There is no way to begin this work except through a state system of highways. There are many who object to such a system, we have our own objections to it, but it is the only way to build lasting roads, or to commence the building of these roads. The present legislature should raise the automobile license tax in this state to a minimum of fifty dollars per year, with a graduated license tax upwards. We can in this way raise four millions of dollars the present year. A two mill tax will add to this and the amount of money to be had from the Federal Government will add further to the fund. With this fund we may build two hundred to two hundred and fifty miles of highways of a permanent nature in the state. In five years, with the additional automobiles to be bought by the people we will be able to build at least fifteen hundred miles of permanent highways in the state. This would give practically every county in the state a highway leading across the county from East to West and from North to South. The counties might supplement these highways by building others. If they did, in ten years we might hope to make of all the main roads in every county permanent roads over which any kind of a vehicle of reasonable weight and capacity might run every day in the year. Until this kind of highway is built, or something new is discovered for this country, as at present advised, we shall advise the people of the county to vote against all roads' bills.

HOLLAND'S ANSWER.

The law advisers of the Queen of the Netherlands have wasted no words and observed all the proprieties in furnishing her with an answer to the request of the Supreme Council for the extradition of William of Hohenzollern, the answer that the lawyers advising the Supreme Council probably expected. They are met at every point in the closely reasoned document of 700 words, the temper of which is admirable. The opponents of Germany believe that William II. was responsible not only for an iniquitous war, but by assent, and even approval, for violation of the neutrality of Belgium, and as war lord for foul wrongs committed upon her soil and the soil of France; further, for the atrocity of submarine warfare upon non-combatants. He could be impeached, as Edmund Burke impeached Warren Hastings, if his person were brought before a high tribunal.

In the case of the adventurer and statesman who

won India for the British Crown the evidence failed to sustain the rhetorical impeachment. What would be the result of a trial of the former German Emperor can be only a matter of opinion, but he could be indicted on many counts and a prima facie case could be made out against him. The difficulty has been to arraign him. He sought sanctuary in Holland. Could the Government of the Netherlands be induced to surrender him? There was no precedent. It was necessary to base the request for his "extradition" upon high international policy, which had to be shaped for the occasion. The only hope of obtaining the person of the august criminal lay in reasoning Holland into compliance. Would she take the moral view of the issue and disregard the legal to stand with the Allies in the making of a historic example of the sovereign who claimed protection within her borders? Could Holland be made to see that she would condone his offenses against civilization if she failed to give him up?

There was no impediment in the argument that Germany would have been obliged to surrender the Emperor under the terms of Article 228 of the treaty of peace if he had not crossed the boundary into Holland, but had faced the consequences by remaining with his people. Holland merely answered that she was not a party to the Treaty of Paris. Moreover, Holland had maintained her duty of neutrality, "not without difficulty," to the end of the war, the implication being that in the matter of the surrender of William of Hohenzollern she must not abandon her detached position by assenting to the "act of high international policy" which the Supreme Council proposed. Therefore, to quote from the note of reply, the Government of the Queen could not "admit in the present case any other duty than that imposed upon it by the laws of the kingdom and national tradition." The salient and unassailable reasoning of the reply is contained in the following decisive paragraph:

"If in the future there should be instituted by the society of nations an international jurisdiction, competent to judge in case of war deeds qualified as crimes and submitted to its jurisdiction by statute antedating the acts committed, it would be fit for Holland to associate itself with the new regime."

In short, the Supreme Council could present no law for the surrender of the fugitive in sanctuary, and Holland must decline to join the Allies in their "act of high international policy" devised for the emergency, because her laws and traditions forbade it. With dignity Holland pleads that her territory has always been "a ground of refuge for the vanquished in international conflicts." It is urged that the honor of the people of the Netherlands is involved. One can imagine Lord Reading using the very same language employed by the Government of the Netherlands if, the conditions being reversed, a victorious league of allies requested the surrender of a fallen monarch who had set his foot on British soil, relying upon British justice and traditions for his safety.

Though they abhor the character and denounce the deeds of the man who was German Emperor, Englishmen will find it hard to take exception to the spirit of the Dutch note and to challenge its conclusions. As times goes on there is likely to be a feeling of relief among the people of the allied countries because Holland has declined to be a party to the setting of the stage for the trial of William of Hohenzollern and the prolongation of the agony of the great war. There will still remain to the Allies the opportunity and duty of making up the case against the former Emperor as a lesson to autocratic rulers and for the information of posterity. More effective than the judgment of an international tribunal is the verdict of mankind from generation to generation.—New York Times.

THRIFT AT THE TOP.

It is useless for the government to urge thrift on the people unless it first sets the example. The government is the agent of the people. It represents them in their collective activities. It is the hugest single spender in the country. Why, then, shouldn't it retrench before it gives lectures on retrenchment—before it tries to get the cost of living reduced through individual action?

Senator McCumber brought this point home forcibly the other day when he said that the people as a whole cannot go back to a normal economic basis so long as the government keeps up "its abnormal extravagance." He put the case somewhat exaggeratedly, for the sake of emphasis, when he told the Senate: "Government extravagances are solely responsible for the high cost of living today, which, when analyzed, means nothing more or less than that we are indulging in a wild orgy of spending borrowed money."

If the estimates of the departments for the next fiscal year are not cut the government will continue to live on its debts. Mr. McCumber advises cutting them by \$2,250,000,000. Such a pruning may seem painful to government agencies still operating with vastly expended pay rolls. Few department or bureau heads want to see their working force cut down. Some worthy projects must suffer from sudden retrenchment. But the incidental injury thus done is infinitesimal compared with the healing effect on the general economic situation of a return to the sound policy of keeping the government's expenditure within its income.

Taxes are high. Congress knows that it would not be justified in increasing them. The high taxes in force impose multiplied burdens. They inflate the cost of everything to the consumer, for everybody who can tries to pass his share along to his neighbor. A reduction of Federal taxation would cause universal relief. It would be a far surer way of reducing the cost of living than any campaign

against individual profiteers. Yet taxes can't come down until government outlay comes down.

Congress holds the key to the situation. But too many Congressmen are afraid to use it. The problem has a moral as well as an economic side. Everybody in these days who makes an unavoidable expenditure is doing the public an injury. It is a doubly immoral thing for Congress to spend money except for absolutely necessary purposes, for the money is taken from those against whose interest it is spent, and at the same time its expenditure maintains inflation and decreases the public's ability to save and support the government.—The New York Tribune.

THE OPINION OF OTHERS.

AS A WARNING TO THE LIVING.

A man died owing a Missouri editor six years unpaid subscription to the paper. The editor did

not send any flowers. He attended the funeral and placed a palm-leaf fan and a block of ice on the casket.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Our State Department has written another note to the Carranza government demanding "energetic measures," &c. If Old Whiskers doesn't heed this admonition, we'll give him another dose of watchful waiting.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Governor Morrow, of Kentucky, doesn't seem to understand that "Marse Henry" has been a colonel all along.—Montgomery Advertiser.

Some of those who oppose the trial of Wilhelm Hohenzollern say he will be made a saint if brought to the bar. It might seem poetic justice to "canonize" a man who wanted to reduce everybody else to cannonfodder.—Columbia (S. C.) State.

"It costs less nowadays to keep an automobile than to keep a servant." It may be added that the servant has a greater tendency to skid just when you think everything is lovely.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

# Soldiers, Sailors and Marines OF ABBEVILLE COUNTY Monday Night Feb. 2nd

You are requested to meet in the Court House of Abbeville County, Abbeville, S. C., at 8 o'clock to organize the Abbeville Post of THE AMERICAN ARMY

Every Soldier, Sailor and Marine, who served in any branch of service from April 6th, 1917, to Nov. 11th, 1918, is entitled to membership of this organization.

Each and every one of you are asked to advertise this meeting so we may have as large attendance as possible, this means too much to our Homes, County and State to neglect it any longer.

CARROLL SWETENBURG,  
Acting Chairman.

# A BANNER YEAR

1919 was the banner year in our real estate business, for which we are deeply appreciative to our customers and friends. The year 1920 we look forward to as being still better than 1919. The confidence which we have in Abbeville and Abbeville County causes us to feel very optimistic over the future.

We are pleased to refer to our former predictions that real estate values would increase as they have, and that those who buy now will profit by their investment. Real Estate never goes down. We have several good propositions in business houses, homes and farm property that we will be pleased to talk with you about.

## Dixie Land Company

L. M. TALBERT,  
Abbeville, S. C.