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SUMTER, S. C.

The Manning Times.

LOUIS APPELT, Editor

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CO-OPERATION AND PATRIOTISM.

The buy-a bale of cotton movement is a good plan as far as it goes, but the unfortunate part of it is that men who are able to buy cotton in lots of five, ten and twenty five bales are not going to take the risk, except in occasional instances in the large cities. The men who are really able to render substantial aid in this plan are going to be scarce. But the man who has a little money which he does not have to use otherwise and will invest it in a bale of cotton at ten cents from some poor fellow who has made it and has to sell it to get something to live on, is doing a real favor to the poor fellow and at the same time putting a little money into circulation and helping the situation that much. It can hardly be looked upon as an act of charity to buy a bale of cotton at ten cents, but rather an act of patriotism and co-operation, because when all this war is over cotton will certainly go back to ten cents and perhaps more. We suggest to those who are able to buy one or a few bales, however, that they do not allow their spirit of patriotism and co-operation to be abused by the fellow who wants to work off his crop at ten cents, but rather at the purchases be placed where they will do the most good, and put the money in actual circulation.

We understand that one big local business firm is receiving cotton from its customers and placing it on account, and holding the cotton, the farmer to pay the storage and insurance and when the cotton is sold he is to receive credit for the full amount of what it brings, less the insurance and storage charges. We also understand that two of these large grocery houses in Charleston to whom local merchants owe accounts are doing the same thing with their merchant customers. This is real co-operation, and a manifestation of the proper spirit, and enables the farmer who has given a lien to

hold his cotton for better prices and at the same time relieve the merchant whom he owes, and when the merchants are willing in this manner to meet their customers half way our advice to the farmers unquestionably is to get their cotton out as fast as possible and let the merchants have it under those terms. This is an almost unprecedented condition that we are passing through. We do not look for any substantial relief from the government warehouse plan so far as Clarendon county is concerned, because the government is not going to place its funds on deposit in any but national banks, and there is not a national bank in Clarendon county, and we have not heard of any effort on the part of any of the State banks in this county to obtain any government funds from the national banks, although it is understood that this is a part of the scheme of the government's money placing plan. We hope that if the bonds of the county can obtain any relief from this source they will make the proper efforts to do it. It is a time for real co-operation, and not a time for oppressive foreclosures. At the same time it is not an opportunity to be taken advantage of by people attempting to shirk honest debts and not make the proper effort to give some satisfaction to the man whom they owe. We really do not look for any great relief until it can be seen which way this European war is going to terminate, and the exportation of cotton to England is resumed. The present indications now are that if the war is not ended in thirty days the side of the allies will be sufficiently successful by that time as that we shall see some trade resumed with England, some cotton exported, and a cotton market opened here, at a price which, if not satisfactory, at least sufficient for us to sell a little and keep business moving. In the meantime let everybody "sit steady in the boat" and not do anything rash.

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THE DIVINE RIGHT OF KINGS
Europe today gives us the logic of the divine right of kings. Over in Belgium there is a mother who, years ago, when life was radiant with promise, when love and laughter grew in the little garden, when twilight was but the culmination of the joyous labors begun with the dawn, when the thatched hut was as full of song as the boughs of the little hedge are in the thrushes' mating time, met the lord of her love at the evening table.

We do not know what the talk was about; it may have been the bees in the garden or the gossip of the village or the plans for the next market day; what ever the subject the contentment of industry, the satisfaction of toil, the love of those who have found their kingdom and entered into the humble task thereof, permeated the talk and even the trials of life were strangely pleasant.

Then came the call to arms. White-faced and dry-eyed the woman stands at the door, a mite of humanity held to her breast. She sees her good man, with lagging steps and many a backward glance, walk down the path between the beet beds and out into the highway. She watches him as he plods away to the village. Slowly his form fades into the mists of the evening. The sun has set. The world is plunged in darkness and still she stands, staring into the darkness asking "Why?"

BY THE DIVINE RIGHT OF KINGS.
The other day she stood again at the door. This time so feeble she clung to the casement for support; her form is bent, her hair is gray, her eyes can no longer see the little knoll from which her man waved his final farewell on that fateful day long—so long—ago. And now it is the son who walks down the garden path to the road and disappears in the gathering gloom.

Again she stands and gazes with unseeing eyes. Again in her supergrief she is asking "Why?"

THE DIVINE RIGHT OF KINGS.
The picture is pitifully inadequate. It does not approach the truth. The Kaiser, they say, has 5,000,000 soldiers. Multiply this woman's grief—as though it could be multiplied, as though it were not the superlative de-

gree already—multiply it by 4,000,000; they say France has 4,000,000 soldiers, that England adds a million, that Russia's forces approach 7,000,000, and there is Austria and Serbia and Japan and the valiant Belgians—take the sum of the men in the field in Europe today and multiply by that sum this woman's grief and if you can begin to comprehend the very deluge of sorrow and agony, you, too, will be looking into the gloom of the night and asking "Why?"

THE DIVINE RIGHT OF KINGS.
Today the cannon in Europe must be sounding the death knell of this murderous folly. Tomorrow it must be impossible for a man—A MERE MAN NO MORE IMMORTAL THAN THE PEASANT WHOSE LIFELESS FORM MARKS THE BEGINNING AND THE END OF WAR—to call unnumbered millions from their hearth and send them forth to slaughter.

When the dogs and foxes and vultures have picked the last bone in this war and it is given to those who made the real sacrifice to count their gains and contemplate their irreparable losses, what answer will the kings make to those who clamor before their palaces?

THE DIVINE RIGHT OF KINGS? THE KING CAN DO NO WRONG?
What infamous blasphemy! Are we to believe that God has given the Little White Father the right to send his subjects out to murder their German brothers? Are we to believe that the Prince of Peace has conferred upon the Kaiser the divine right to send his subjects out to slaughter their French brethren?

Is God, then, but a monster who revels in blood and who demands in the choirs of heaven the minor chord of ten million stricken women's grief?

This is the God of the divine right of kings. He never has existed and he never shall exist. God has surrendered His royal supremacy to no man. He and He alone has the divine right and His royal edict of peace, ever peace on earth. He has issued but one decree. It is "Love thy neighbor as thyself."

Many careful students of the trend of events express the conviction that Europe is in the throes of its final war; certainly the last vestige of belief in the divine right of kings must be

crumbling before every cannon shot. The English people right now are in revolt against the conditions which permit a few men, a king and his advisers, to say that a million men must go out and kill other millions whom they do not know and against whom they can harbor no real enmity.

Germany declares war. England declares war. France declares war. Lies! All lies. Ten men, common mortals as you and I, ten men have declared war and but ten men are interested in the outcome and yet for each one of the ten already has 10,000 men given up their lives.

Unutterable folly.

The only divine right conferred on man was that of service.

"AND WHOEVER SHALL BE CHIEF AMONG YOU, LET HIM BE YOUR SERVANT."

Let the kings and princes of all lands consider. This and this alone is the "divine right."

AMERICAN ROAD CONGRESS.
Regarding the public roads as an indispensable part of the transportation system of the country, supplementing its railroads and waterways, President Harrison, of the Southern Railway Company, takes an active interest in the good roads movement. He is vice president of the American Highway Association and will be one of the speakers at the Fourth American Road Congress in Atlanta, the week of November 9.

Speaking of the relation of the country highway to the railroad, Mr. Harrison said, "Whatever may be the final destination of the farm products, their first movement must be over the country road and if the farmer is to receive the largest measure of benefit from good roads the policy should be adopted of improving those highways which radiate from market towns and shipping stations and over which the farmers must haul their products. The profit which will be earned by the farmer may depend largely upon the condition of the road from his farm to a shipping station. Statistics compiled by the U. S. Department of Agriculture show that the cost of hauling farm products to shipping points over bad roads is a disproportionately large part of the total expense of their transportation to market

This is not always fully realized by the farmer, but if he will take into account the time of himself and his team, the wear and tear of his vehicle and harness made necessary by a large number of trips with smaller loads, he will find that the cost amounts up very fast and correspondingly reduces his net profits. Another item of the cost of bad roads to the farmer, which is often overlooked, is that he must haul his products to markets when the roads are not in their best condition with little regard as to whether prices are favorable or whether hauling at that time interferes with work on the farm. With good roads he can not only haul heavier loads in shorter time, but except as to perishable commodities, he can market his products when prices are most favorable and can do his hauling when it is most convenient and even when the ground is too wet for work in the fields.

"The manifold advantages of an improved highway in reducing the cost of drayage, facilitating social intercourse, promoting school and church attendance, expediting rural mail delivery, increasing the value of farm lands, and promoting agricultural development back from the railroads are so great that they need but to be enumerated to present a convincing argument in favor of road improvement.

"Since several years ago when the Southern Railway Company, in conjunction with the U. S. Agricultural Department and State and local authorities, operated over its lines a good roads train, carrying machinery and lecturers, and building at central points object lesson roads, there has been very substantial progress in the good roads movement throughout the South. This was accelerated in 1911 by the operation of another good roads train in co-operation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the American Highway Association. The interest of the Southern people in good roads has been thoroughly aroused and in many localities the country highways have been highly improved and are being adequately maintained.

"I think it is fortunate for the South that the American Road Congress of 1914 is to be held in

Atlanta. This will unquestionably be one of the most important gatherings ever held in the Southern States. It will bring together the official heads of the State Highway Departments, the foremost experts in roads construction and maintenance, and other leaders in the good roads movement in each State for an exchange building and maintaining the best types of country highways. Its exhibits of road machinery and of model roads will be highly educational and it can not but serve to increase interest in the good roads movement throughout the South.

CUT OUT COTTON—RAISE MEAT.
The financial conditions which we have had in Clarendon county for the past sixty days, and through which we are still passing, has demonstrated the foolishness of depending altogether on cotton, and had it not been for the little bit of tobacco that was planted in Clarendon county and sold here this summer there would hardly have been enough money in circulation about in the county to pay off the cooks and washer women on Saturday evenings.

Already the effect of the past two years of good prices for cotton has discounted the raising of hogs, and you could hardly go out in the country and buy three fifty pound shots in a day's ride at eight cents per pound on foot. The farmer himself is largely to blame for this, also the lien merchant who wants to make advances to him at exorbitant prices and practically refuses to make him advances in anything but cotton. But the farmer is an easy fellow to put the blame on. Where he has his own land he is entitled to wear a great deal of blame for his condition, but where he has to rent land and give a lien the proposition is very different. Land rents are too high in this county. How can a man pay seven dollars per acre rent and pay for fertilizers and come out on what he makes on an acre, with the tendency on the part of the landlord being that the more he fertilizes the land and builds it up, the higher the landlord raises the rent. As a rule the bigger the landlord in this county the smaller taxpayer he is in proportion to what he holds his land at. The general

policy of the law in South Carolina favors the landlord more than it does the man who has to rent. There is no question about that. The landlord has a first lien upon everything that is produced upon the land, regardless of who furnished the stuff to make the crop with, and that lien upon a dollar and cents basis, regardless of whether the fellow who plants the land makes a good crop or a failure as a result of drought or other disaster. If large landlord owners paid their proper proportion of taxes and were made to share upon some equitable basis in what the land made, protected against tenants falling down and doing nothing and throwing away their crops, conditions would be much improved, as affects both the man making the crop and the man furnishing the supplies. If such were the case a landlord in a time like this would be made to share in seven cents cotton prices, but as it is when his rents become due he can demand it, whether cotton brings seven cents or twelve cents per pound. Such times as through which we are passing sometimes teach good lessons, but if we had twelve and thirteen cent cotton next year there would be very little meat raised, an insufficient corn crop, landlords would want ten dollars per acre rent and ask seventy-five dollars per acre for ordinary farming lands, and some farmers would be foolish enough to try to pay it, and thousands and thousands of dollars which could be otherwise more profitably used would be spent for automobiles.

Contributed Article.

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