

The Watchman and Southron.

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ICE TO ORDER.

The Shamokin, Pa., Dispatch is authority for the statement that the outlook for ice in its community is very gloomy...

The condition of affairs in Shamokin is a fair example of a large part of this country...

Unless the situation is relieved by weather of considerable severity the only resource will be the establishment of artificial ice factories...

The stoppage of the brewing industry should release for the market quantities of chemicals necessary to the manufacture of ice and freezing compounds.

Artificial ice is much more sanitary than the natural product, anyway. The refrigerating room or box is better than either.

BUILD NOW.

There is no use in postponing building projects longer in the hope that building materials will be cheaper.

Unquestionably there is going to be a great deal of building this year, regardless of what the doubters may do.

Real estate men say, too, that it is safe to put money into buildings now, even at prevailing prices.

THE HOME LETTER.

The boys in the American army of occupation are already tired of their job. The defeated Germans are not interesting—no defeated German ever is—and there is none of the stimulus of excitement or of victory unwon to make army life tolerable.

There is no way in which such a condition can be avoided. Of course every effort will be made by officers and relief organizations to keep the men interested and happy.

However much sympathy may be felt for the boy who must stay, it must not go into the answering letters from home in any weakening terms.

tent and dishonor. In order that the boy may stay on the safe side of the line and perform his dull duty well, the home letter must be interesting...

Parting with sons and husbands was agony when they went away to the danger of active service; but to every one of them the going was made easier by the tang of adventure.

Such letters only should be written as will help a boy to hold on, and then the public should insist that these letters have safe passage and prompt delivery.

No nation is being coerced at the peace conference. All agreements are to be made not by majorities, but by unanimous consent.

The Allies have stopped talking of collecting an indemnity of \$140,000,000,000 from Germany...

A RAILROAD PLAN.

Hardly anybody seems to want government ownership of the railroads. Nearly everybody, however, wants a larger and more enlightened control exercised by the government.

Director General Hines comes pretty near the prevailing view in a recent statement made to a senate committee. "I believe," he said "that a form of radically reconstructed private ownership with close government supervision, including government representation on the boards of directors will give the public and labor all the benefits of government ownership and at the same time preserve the benefits of private ownership."

The railroad men themselves have been thinking and working along the same line. Perhaps the best plan yet put forward is that offered by the Association of Railroad Executives, representing 92 per cent of American railroads.

Private ownership and operation to be maintained. Regulative power invested solely in the national government.

Interstate Commerce Commission relieved of administrative duties to act as a quasi-judicial body, passing on rates and hearing complaints.

A Secretary of Transportation in the cabinet to take over the Commission's executive functions, oversee the country's transportation facilities, look out for maintenance of service and financial credit, distribute traffic in emergencies, and allow building of new lines and terminals.

Rates to be initiated by carriers in accordance with rate-making rule embodied in statute and subject to approval of Secretary of Transportation and appeal to Interstate Commerce Commission.

Anti-trust laws to be modified to allow pooling, rate agreements, joint use of facilities, and mergers, as approved by Secretary of Transportation.

LET GERMANY DO IT.

The American people are generous and philanthropic and all that. Nevertheless we advise our foreign friends to go a little bit slow with that plan of pooling the war expenses and letting the big powers pay equally.

Italy and Japan would not enter such an agreement, because their expenses have been much smaller than those of Britain, France and America, and they are so poor comparatively that they could not afford to make up the difference.

As for the three foremost powers, the expenditures of Britain and France have been a good deal more than those of the United States, owing to their longer period of fighting, and to place all three on an equality the United States would have to make them a present of many billions.

That might be done, if sufficient reason were shown for it. But while the Americans appreciate the incal-

culable services of Britain and France in holding the fort of civilization before we arrived on the field, few Americans would consider this a legitimate obligation.

It is Germany's place, not ours, to ease the war burdens of our allies. Let Britain and France collect from Germany all their war expenses in excess of ours.

When the war is all over, and the peace conference has finished and gone home, and the League of Nations has settled down to work, and Germany has reformed, and the bills and indemnities are all paid, and peace broods over the world like a dove, we suppose congress will still be arguing about how the war ought to have been fought and settled, instead of doing its own work.

New York restaurant proprietors say prohibition will make it necessary to raise the price of food, because all their profit now is made on booze.

From the New York World's frenzy over prohibition, one gathers that the World is equally concerned with the right of nations to control their own destiny and the right of individuals to drink beer.

NO PROHIBITION FOR TOBACCO.

A professor in Syracuse University is said to have organized a Tobacco League of America, not, as the name might suggest to make everybody smoke, but to obtain a national prohibition to stop everybody from smoking.

Such acts and utterances naturally tend to arouse indignation in the hearts of smokers. Possibly too much is being made of them. Some temperance workers charge that this wave of anti-tobacco publicity is a deliberate attempt on the part of the liquor men to discredit prohibition.

Dr. Clarence T. Wilson, general secretary of the board of temperance, prohibition and public morale of the Methodist Episcopal Church, takes this view. He condemns "the desperate effort of the outlawed liquor traffic to make credulous people believe that victorious prohibitionists will now demand a constitutional amendment against tobacco, not to mention dancing and failure to attend Wednesday evening prayer meeting."

While insisting that the tobacco habit is a bad one, particularly for young people, and that its evil effects should be brought home to the youth of the nation, he disclaims all desire to prohibit it, because tobacco is not so bad in its effects as alcohol, and the tobacco business has not corrupted politics, bought journalism, tried to remake the country in the image of Germany or allied itself with prostitution and gambling as the beer business did.

It is well that this assurance is given. A time may come, and may even be ardently desired, when tobacco will go the way of booze. But mankind is not yet evolved to the requisite stage of enlightenment and self-sacrifice.

SENATORIAL CONSISTENCY.

United States senators, in their persistent efforts to discredit the peace conference, have made much of the "secrecy" with which that body is doing its work.

It may be granted that the conference is not operating with the degree of openness and publicity that most people expected. But it is curious that the senators should find this fact so shocking and intolerable, seeing that the peace conference is following precisely the same method that has been used from time immemorial by the American senate itself.

PALACE BUFFET

Atop DELORME'S PHARMACY, Sumter, S. C. UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Steaks, Chops, Deviled Crabs, Salads, Home Made Pie, Cake and Puddings. Delicious Sandwiches. Open Daily 10.00 A. M. to 12 P. M. Sunday 12 M. to 9 P. M.

Music All the Time. Dance if You Like.

HARBY & CO., Inc.

COTTON AND FERTILIZER MERCHANTS

If you have cotton to sell, see us, it will pay you.

If you have fertilizer or fertilizer materials to buy it will pay you to see us before you buy, Cash or approved collateral.

9 West Liberty Street

When the peace program is finally completed, and is submitted to the United States senate for ratification, the senate will then do just what it has always done—go into executive session and discuss the document behind closed doors until it has come to agreement and is ready to submit its conclusions to the world.

Of course, if the peace delegates undertook to thresh out all their differences of opinion and adjust all their conflicting claims on an open forum in the hearing of all the world, they would take pains for the job, and end in a hopeless row.

Call to Farmers

Quick and Decided Action is Needed to Save Situation.

At the request of Governor Robt. A. Cooper, I am issuing a call to all counties to send a strong delegation of farmers, bankers, business men and county demonstrating agents representing the various counties to meet at the county court house in Columbia on Thursday, February 13th at 10 A. M. to map out and adopt a practical method to reduce the production of cotton in 1919 at least 33 1-3 per cent.

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With a large part of the spindles of the world standing idle, a vast majority of them working on short time, it is absolutely essential that the production of cotton be fully reduced in proportion to the spindles standing idle in order that a fair price to the producer of cotton can be had for the residue of the 1918 crop, and more especially for the crop of 1919.

For 45 years the produce of Southern farms has maintained the balance of trade for the United States, and for forty years the cotton crop has been marketed regardless of the cost of production. For the first time in thirty years, due entirely to four short crops of cotton and not on account of the war, the farmer in the south and the cotton farmer are in a position to determine what the price of cotton shall be if we elect to take such measures as are necessary to bring it about. While world conditions are disturbed as at present it is necessary that no overproduction of cotton be allowed if we propose to maintain a living wage scale for cotton producers. The wage scale obtained throughout the cotton producing districts has been heretofore the lowest in existence in the United States, being only equalled by Chinese "coolie" labor. On account of war conditions the price of labor has advanced and in order that this advance be maintained and the South secure its due proportion of the prosperity of the nation, it is necessary that our cotton crop should bring at least 37 cents per pound.

We cannot expect good roads, good churches and school houses and an educated people on the wage scale that has formerly existed throughout the South unless we make it our business to advance in every way possible the plans being adopted to reduce the production of cotton in 1919 at least 33 1-3 per cent.

The meeting called in Columbia on the 13th is to devise ways and means to this end. Let every county in the State be fully represented at this meeting that they may present their local conditions and help in an intelligible solution of the situation.

Governor Pickett, of North Carolina, has issued a call through Messrs. Clarence P. and O. J. McConnell, to be held at Raleigh, on February 11th to outline a plan of action in that State on cotton acreage reduction.

L. I. GUION. Camden, S. C., Feb. 10 1919.

Cotton dropped again in price Friday, and local buyers were paying only twenty-two cents for middling cotton. The pinch is beginning to be felt by those who are holding cotton and some of them weakening or are being forced to sell to raise money to pay pressing debt.

TAX RETURN NOTICE.

I will appear in person or by deputy at the following named places, and on the dates given below, for the purpose of receiving tax returns for year 1919. Return should be made on personal property, poll, road and dogs: Privateer Station—Wednesday, Jan. 8.

- Levi Siding—Thursday, Jan. 9. Wedgefield—Friday, Jan. 10. Charenton—Wednesday, Jan. 15. Hagood—Thursday, Jan. 16. Pembert—Friday, Jan. 17. Darzell—Wednesday, Jan. 22. Brodson—Thursday, Jan. 23. Maysville—Friday, Jan. 24. Pleasant Grove—Tuesday, Jan. 28. Slitch—Wednesday, Jan. 29. Norwood Cross Roads—Thursday, Jan. 30.

R. E. WILDER, Auditor.

BUY A NEW

HAT

The new Hats are here, all kinds, all colors, all styles. A hat to suit every person and every pocket.

COME AND SEE THEM



Knox Hats, Station Hats, Mallory Hats, Schmale Hats



These lines represent the best hats that this country produces. It is a pleasure to show them.

D. J. Chandler Clothing Co.

Home of Hart Schaffner and Marx Clothes.