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THE LAURINBURG EXCHANGE

THE COUNTY PAPER.

THE EXCHANGE

A. P. WIGGINS, Editor and Proprietor
MAG GAMBON, Associate Editor.

Established in 1882. \$1.50 Per Year

ON PREPAREDNESS.

The following bits of wisdom are taken from the speeches delivered by President Wilson on the question of our unpreparedness, and the necessity for our preparedness, during his trip through the West last week:

The trouble makers have shot their bolt and it has been ineffectual. I know that whenever the test comes every man's heart will be fast for America.

There is no sudden crisis. Nothing new has happened. I am not upon this ground because of any unexpected situation.

I know that you are depending upon me to keep this Nation out of war. So far I have done so, and I pledge you my word that, God helping me, I will, if it is possible.

There may, at any moment, be a time when I cannot preserve the honor and peace of the United States. We want war, if it must come, to

be something that springs out of sentiment and principles and the action of the people themselves.

If danger comes, I want to turn to my fellow countrymen and say: "Men, are you ready?"

We are bound together in America to see to it that no man shall serve any master who is not of his own choosing.

We are the champions of the freedom of popular sovereignty wherever displays or exercises itself, throughout both Americas.

When we prepare for defense we prepare for national political integrity; we prepare to take care of the great ideals which gave birth to this Government.

Back of all our energy we are a body of idealists much more ready to lay down our lives for a thought than for a dollar.

The American people are neither niggardly nor parsimonious when it comes to buying protection of their homes and ideals.

I cannot indulge in the reckless pleasure of expounding my own private opinions and prejudices. I speak as the trustee of the Nation.

When I see some of my fellow citizens spread under whose spears are falling, I wonder what their ideal

of Americanism is. So many men on this side of the water are seeing red that you need to be in their thoughts the reflection of the blood that is being spent so copiously on the other side of the sea.

If it be an offense against the peace of nations to covet honor, then is America the most offending nation in the world.

If a man with red blood in him had his choice, knowing that he must die, he would rather die to vindicate some right, unselfish to himself, than die of his bed.

Let no man trifle with the rights of humanity, which are in America's keeping, and let no American hold back from making this Nation ready, upon the instant, to vindicate these rights of humanity which are entrusted to our own keeping.

It may be necessary to use the forces of the United States to vindicate the right of Americans everywhere to enjoy the rights of international law. America is not going to abide the habitual or continued neglect of those rights.

It is easy to refrain from unneutral acts, but it is not easy to refrain from unneutral thought.

It is easy to talk and say what

should be done when you don't have to do it.

America knows that the only thing that sustains the Monroe Doctrine and all the influences that flow from it is her own moral and physical force.

We shall respect any blockade, but the world needs the products of the United States and we will insist that the world gets them.

Some men of foreign birth have tried to stir up trouble in America, but some men of America birth have tried to stir up trouble too.

What we are proposing is what every woman's heart, and every man's heart as well, should desire—to have the people not only willing but ready to fight if necessary.

Do you know that some of our hearts are already on fire?

Ground-Hog a Reality.

Some persons doubt the existence of such an animal as the groundhog and think it a myth, but there is really such a "varmint," although it is also called the woodchuck. It is thus described in Martin's Natural History: "It is about eighteen inches in length, from the nose to the tip of the tail, with the vertebrae and tail

four inches. The tail is bushy, but small; the ears and legs short; the body thick and heavy; weighs nine or ten pounds. The usual color of the back is grizzly brown, with the head and tail, and feet darker; the under surface reddish. The woodchuck is familiar to all the farmers of the middle states. It is abundant on the Missouri river, and exists westward to the Rocky mountains. Northward it is found as far as Hudson's Bay. It is an inhabitant of the woods; digs its burrow under a log, brush-heap or fence, or among rocks, and particularly delights in rocky bluffs. It is fond of peas, clover, etc.; is strictly herbivorous. It hibernates like the squirrel, to which family it belongs, and its sleep is very profound. The fur is of no value, but the dressed hide is very tough, and highly esteemed by the backwoodsmen for making whip-lashes, money pouches, and various other articles of use."

Leap Year.

The custom which ordains that a woman may propose marriage to a man in leap year dates back seven or eight hundred years. An act of the Scottish Parliament, passed about the year 1229, made it a crime, punish-

able by a fine, for an unattached man to refuse to become the life partner of a woman who had the courage to "speak ye men she liked."

The custom in a milder form is referred to in a work published in 1606, entitled "Courtship, Love and Matrimony."

"Albeit it has now become a part of the common laws in regard to social relations of life that as often as every bachelorette year doth return, the lady have the sole privilege during the time it continueth of making love unto the man, which they do either by words or by looks, as to them it seemeth proper; and, moreover, no man shall be entitled to the benefit of clergy who doth in any wise treat her proposal with slight or contumely."—The People's Home Journal.

Her grief over a dead horse which she saw in New York city cost Miss Mary Elliot a trip to the police station. The woman explained she entertained a great affection for horses and was examining the beast in the hope of finding some signs of life. The police captain said he, too, had a similar feeling of pity for dumb beasts but that such sentiment could not be permitted to obstruct traffic in the streets. Miss Elliot was discharged.