

**THE EXCHANGE**

Established in 1882. \$1.50 Per Year.  
Published Every Thursday by  
THE EXCHANGE PUBLISHING CO.  
INC.  
O. L. MOORE, Editor.

Entered at the Postoffice in Laurinburg, N. C., as Second Class Matter.  
Advertising Rates Furnished Upon Request. Telephone No. 50.  
Not responsible for the views of Correspondents on any question.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen. II Corinthians 13:14.

**THE MILITARY SPIRIT.**

The military spirit is growing in America. Just now it is a popular thing. The popular mind is occupied with it and the enthusiasm it breeds is contagious. The pacifist is a back number and his pleadings for sober second thought are like the plaintive whimpers of a puppy against the bitter winds of night.

The nation is hungry for heroism. And its eyes are eagerly watching for the shaking of a red rag—the signal for hostilities. Advocates of universal military training are having their day, and extreme measures are being openly proposed. The era of preparedness is upon us and what a day may bring forth no one can foresee.

Ex-President Taft is said to be in favor of conscription and believes now a good time to get the measure before congress. If he had advocated such a measure five years ago, he would have lost his political head sooner than he did. There is danger that this thing may be carried too far. And it would pay better to stop and think than to "go crazy" and then try to think what it was all about.

The papers are saying the country is "back of the President" in this crisis with Germany. But if it comes to actual hostilities—war, if you please—the President will want quite a few of the boys in "front of him." And there's where the rub will come.

There are those—and it is entirely probable that most of us are alike in this—who believe that Germany is on her "last legs" so to speak. And these would have us think that the war is all over but the shouting. Any entrance into the theatre of the world war on the part of Uncle Sam would of necessity and the very nature of the case be short and of little consequence so far as actual expenditure of blood and material go. But it may be that we have guessed wrong, and no one can tell what is in store for us.

The present interesting and serious situation is not devoid of politics and greed. True, it must be admitted that there are those who are actuated by the highest motives and whose course of action is anchored in principle. But there are others who are making money out of it, and to them may be ascribed other motives.

England started out to starve Germany into submission and her blockade of German ports recommends itself to the honest mind and heart as one of the most unscrupulous and heartless plans to starve England with her submarines. It is a game of war and if Uncle Sam gets mixed up in the fight he will have blood on his hands.

It is the hope and prayer of good people everywhere that we may be spared such an experience.

**FOR TOWN AND COUNTY.**

Some weeks ago we suggested in these columns that the time is ripe for the organization of a chamber of commerce, or some sort of community enterprise. The suggestion has met with the approval of a number of forward-looking men here and doubtless the time will come when such action will be taken. We doubt not there are those here who would like to see Laurinburg grow and prosper in no uncertain manner, and who would be willing to give of their time and energy to the upbuilding of this town and the good county of which it is the capital.

Any movement that overlooks the allied interests of the town and the county will necessarily fail, and any organization or organized effort that would bring the town and county closer together and foster a community spirit that would reach to the farthest corners of the county, will prove marvellously successful.

When every energy of town and county is brought into effective and harmonious play, we may expect to see such a season of growth and development as has never been known. The abundant natural resources, the potential endowments which nature has lavishly made and the wonderful energy of an industrious and enterprising citizenry may be devoted upon to such wonders. And we know that great things are ahead for those who will work. Now for Laurinburg and Scotland!

**A HOME FOR ERRING WOMEN.**

Dr. A. A. McGeachy, pastor of the Second Presbyterian church of Charlotte has made a strong plea for a State-owned home for delinquent and erring women. Reports come from Raleigh to the effect that the Legislature does not look upon the proposal with any too much favor. Just what the opposition to the measure is, we have not learned. But we would put it down as a safe bet that it is "stand-pastry" and selfishness, or the inability of a body of men to see and to do their whole duty.

That there is need and serious need of such an institution, no honest man will question for a moment. The "bird with a broken wing" and the woman with a stained soul present a problem that is as old as humanity itself. But it is evident that the old methods employed in dealing with this class have not been successful. The proposal of Dr. McGeachy may not prove a complete solution of the problem, but it will do good and will be salve for the public conscience.

If the men in the legislature fail in this instance, it means that the work will be left to the women of the State and will prove a strong and unanswerable argument for woman suffrage. We sometimes are led to think that the women would put more heart into the public service than do men, and in this case we are sure they would not hesitate.

**LIVING THE TRUTH.**

The editor of Collier's Weekly is doubtless one of the ablest editorial writers in America. His comments deal with a wide variety of subjects, and usually he closes his columns with a gem that is universal in adaptability. We clip this one from a recent issue:

Three men set forth in search of Truth. The first said: "I will seek it in the wisdom of others. There, if anywhere, it is to be found." So he ensconced himself in the alcoves of a great library and began to pore over the great tomes of all the ages in all the centuries. Years and years he delved thus. One day, an old man, he abruptly closed the volumes spread about him. They all contradict each other," said he. "There is no such thing as Truth." The second man had said: "It is not in books but in the lives of my fellow men that I shall find Truth." So he went forth for the quest, through all the marts and byways of mankind. In a few years he returned wearing the cynic's sneer. The third man had hesitated. Said he: "Before I go to seek Truth, I fancy it will be well that I should try to practice it myself." And in that endeavor he became so absorbed that he postponed his great quest, year after year, all his life long. As he lay upon his deathbed he sighed deeply. "I vowed to seek for Truth," he murmured, "and I have broken my vow." And then, even as he raised his eyes there stood before him a shining apparition of great beauty. "I am Truth," said the figure, and smiled down upon him. And, as the man gazed in silent amazement, the voice continued: "Truly you had no need to look for me, you found me and I have been at your side ever since that day long ago when you chose to do rather than to seek."

**The Pay They Get.**

The following table of average annual salaries has been constructed from figures given by Dr. Victor I. Masters in his recent book The Country Church in the South; by Mr. M. L. Shipman in the 1915 Report of the State Labor Commissioner; and by Dr. J. Y. Joyner in the 1913-14 Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The average annual salaries are for white preachers in the South outside of cities having 25,000 inhabitants in 1909; for white common-school teachers in North Carolina, in 1913-14; and for wage earners of both races in the state in 1915, supposing that they were steadily at work throughout the year.

Public school teachers, white, rural	\$235
Public school teachers, white, city	454
Baptist preachers, white	478
Methodist preachers, white	581
Presbyterian preachers, white	588
Automobile mechanics	469
Wood-workers	479
Blacksmiths	529
Cabinet makers	601
Carpenters	676
Engineers	789
Painters	329
Masons	361
Electricians	339
Marshallers	961
Boiler makers	1074
Stone cutters	1095
Plasterers	1299
Bricklayers	1317
Contractors	1590
Flourishers	1499

**Notes From Maxton.**

Maxton, N. C., Feb. 13.—Mr. A. H. Currie is reported very ill at his home here, possibly with pneumonia.  
Rev. J. E. Dixon, of Red Springs, filled the pulpit of Dr. Hill here Sunday night and collected funds for sending a Bible choir at Pine Mountain College in memory of Dr. Hill.  
Several members of Maxton church expect to attend the Laymen's Convention at Lexington, Ky., February 20-22.

**IN IDLE MOMENTS**

Things of Passing Interest Heard and Overheard on the Streets and About Town.

We learn from County Superintendent L. M. Peels an interesting little story. Recently in his office he showed us a freight "bill of lading," with the statement that he had "some more books." And here is the story:

For some time—maybe many months—Mr. Peels has been receiving shipments of good books from a philanthropic institution in a distant city. These books come at intervals of several weeks throughout the year and are to be distributed among the schools of the county, where it is thought the same are most needed and will be most appreciated. These books come to Mr. Peels freight prepaid and absolutely free of charge. The last shipment contained 27 volumes and were received a few days ago.

A number of schools in the county have been the recipients of these books and it is stated that many of them have been read and reread by people, who if it had not been for the generosity of the unknown friends in a far-away city, would in all probability have been deprived of the opportunity the books offer.

It is said the Gibson schools have received in all 100 volumes, which is probably the largest single gift in the county.

Sometimes the books are new and sometimes they are secondhand, but always in good condition and ready for service. Mr. Peels suggested to us that this publicity might prove embarrassing to him, as any number of schools may now be making application for these books. But it is impossible to supply all needs and demands. The books can be distributed only as they are received, and the request always comes to send them where they are needed most and where the school is not able to purchase books.

This story illustrates the manner in which a great deal of good is being done. The people who furnish these books make no noise about their work and they seek no reward other than the satisfaction of knowing that the books are being read and that they may be serving in this way to make the world richer and better.

Said a man Saturday afternoon in our office, "I am going to Charlotte tonight and I hope that train will be on time. I have made more than a hundred trips on it in the last few years and only twice have I known it to reach Charlotte on schedule time. Last Saturday night was one of them. This is from a traveling man who works out of Charlotte. Another traveling man recently said, "S. A. L.—she's always late."

And then he spoke and said something that is worthy of thought. And that is, what would we do without the railroads? Impatient as we often are and exasperated we sometimes get with the service that is given, but what would we do without them. And then he said we would have no towns, do no business and be nothing without the railroads. All of which is true.

February is in many respects a remarkable month. It is the month of the groundhog. And the doctors tell us that it is the most hazardous month to health of any of the twelve. The calendar tells us it is a month of holidays. February 12 is Lincoln's birthday. February 14 is St. Valentine's day and February 22 is Washington's birthday.

"The month of February," it is pointed out by the Danville Register, "appears to be a fateful one for this country in the matter of the inauguration of wars and the birth of warriors and men who have had to make war. It was on February 12, 1898, that the old battleship Maine was blown up in Havana harbor and virtually forced the war with Spain. Again, it is February, 1917, and diplomatic relations with the German imperial government have just been formally severed by the United States, a step just short of actual war.

**DEMANDS PROMPT RELEASE OF AMERICANS IN GERMANY.**

Government Will Take Vigorous Action If Germany Fails to Liberate Seamen.

Washington, Feb. 13.—An inquiry concerning the retention by Germany of the sixty-two American seamen brought in by the prize ship Yarrowdale was dispatched to Berlin today by the United States preliminary to more vigorous action, if the men are not promptly released.

The plight of these sailors occupied much of the time at today's cabinet meeting, given over to the crisis growing out of Germany's submarine warfare. It was agreed that their liberty again should be demanded in most emphatic fashion. Pending complete reports as to the treatment of German crews on war-torn ships in the Philippines, Hawaii and elsewhere, however, the government will continue to demand the inquiry as to why the Americans are held and under what conditions.

**Lincoln and His Mother.**

Tomorrow we will celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. Fifty years after he came into this great world, he was elected president of these United States amid one of the greatest crises in the history of the world. Four years later the assassin's bullet struck him down. The reunited nation is his monument, the heart of our people his shrine.

As a child, Lincoln was a true, honest boy. His own mother passed out of this life when he was a little boy, and as they lived many miles from a town where a church stood, there was no minister to conduct the funeral services, but as little Abraham stood beside the open grave he vowed that the proper services should some day be read. Later in the year a preacher came by that way and the little boy begged him to read prayers for his mother. So the two went to the lonely grave and held the services as the rain fell gently all about them.

After awhile a new mother came to the Lincoln home. She learned to love little Abraham and helped him in every way she could. He learned to read and his new mother did everything in her power to secure books and papers for him to read, and she helped him do sums and to figure out the problems which had to be done when he went to school.

Of his life Lincoln once said: "It was a wild region where we lived, with many bears and other animals still in the woods. There were few schools, but no qualifications were required of a teacher beyond reading, writing and ciphering to the Rule of Three."

In spite of these handicaps Lincoln acquired an education which fitted him for his work, and he gave the credit to his mother, who was his friend as well as his guide. In all he spent only 12 months in school, but whenever he could get a book to read, no matter what kind of a book it was, he would spend all his leisure time reading and talking about the contents of the book with his mother. One day he borrowed a book—the "Life of Washington," from a crusty old man who lived in the neighborhood. That very night he sat up late to read this treasure and fell asleep while he read. He was awakened later by drops of water falling on his face. The roof leaked and a hard shower had come up. The book was very wet, and its red cover spoiled. He did not know what to do, but the next day he went to the old man and told him what had happened. The owner of the book was angry and told little Abe that he would have to pay for the book. Abe said he had no money but would work for the man until the book was paid for. For three days he worked from daylight until dark on the farm, and at the end of that time the man came to him and told him he had earned the book, and it was his. This was the first book that Lincoln ever owned. Abe enjoyed reading this book to his mother, and it was she who helped him to become the great and good man he was.

—Exchange.

**Spring Opening Next Week.**

Mr. J. C. Morgan states that early next week he will have on display some early arrivals in the new Spring Coat suits, Coats, skirts and shirt waists, showing the latest creations in ladies' ready-to-wear. He will be pleased to have his customers and friends call and see the new Spring styles. Mr. Morgan states that a number have been asking about the new Spring goods and he takes this plain of letting all know when the new merchandise will be on display and ready for inspection.—Adv.

**LAND FOR SALE**

165 acres more or less, known as "McLaughlin" Place, located in Scotland County, between Laurel Hill and Hoffman. 100 acres being on East side Jordan Creek, and 65 acres on West side. Land good clay foundation. Partly cleared, some timber.

Also 100 acres more or less, known as "L. J. Oliver" Place, five miles East of Hamlet, adjoining land of D. O. Cameron. Good piece of land with some timber.

Address

W. H. PATE, Jr.  
Box 538, Florence, S. C.

6-8

**JUST RECEIVED**

My new Spring Coat Suits in all the Latest Colors and Styles.

Also a shipment of Silk Taffeta and Georgette Crepe Dresses.

See me for anything in Dry Goods, Notions, Clothing, Shoes, Etc. If we haven't got it we can get it for you.

**J. W. MASON**  
Laurinburg, North Carolina

**For a Better Garden Plant WOOD'S SEEDS The Best For The South.**

We have stocked this high grade line of Garden and Farm Seeds. When you plant Wood's you plant the best.

Special attention given to special orders for seed that we haven't in stock. Buy your seeds from us and save transportation charges. Our price is the Richmond price.

Come in and select your seeds now.

**J. D. Sanford & Son**  
"The Quality Hardware Shop."  
IT PAYS TO PAY CASH

**FREE ALUMINUM WARE**  
JOHN F. McNAIR  
Laurinburg, N. C.

We have commenced to give to all our cash customers, as shown by punch cards, their selection from an assortment of large high-grade Aluminum Cooking Utensils, each of which have a retail value of \$3.50 to \$5.00. These items are given free for trading a punch card of \$50.00 and the payment of shipping and express charges amounting to 75 cents in cash.

Always present your card in paying for purchases.  
Office Phone 15. Store Phone 110.