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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1917.

President Wilson talks and the world applauds. Colonel House keeps silent and the world says what a great man.

Pretty strong hints come from Washington that it wont be long before American troops will be on the firing line in Italy.

By the end of this week it will be in order to begin to turn the key on Austrian subjects found roaming about the country.

Judging from Postmaster General Burleson's report the government is getting a dose of the medicine the railroads have been required to take.

Henry Ford is safe in saying he is willing to give the government his last dollar when it needs it. He well knows the government will never get that hard up.

After the Austrian war resolution passes German agents prowling about on the hunt for government property to destroy want gain anything by claiming to be Austrians.

President Wilson is leaving no stone unturned, etc., says The Greensboro News. We know a Stone that ought to have been turned some time ago, but has been left to stay as it was.

Congressman Fitzgerald finds Congressional life too strenuous. He will give it up at the end of the present term. We should think any man would get tired of it after twenty years. The present is Mr. Fitzgerald's tenth term.

The Asheville Times tells of a man fined in the city court for having on hand more whisky than permitted by law. What was worse, he had some tablets for making a drink called whisky. Drop one of these in a glass of water and there was your substitute for whisky.

When the Bolsheviks get through negotiating with the Germans they will find they have lost every thing they were seeking; that instead of having won their freedom they have only swapped the Czar for the Kaiser as their master.

It is said the Russian peasants are great lovers of liberty. That may be true; but since the deposition of the Czar, they have not shown that they know what the word means and they certainly have not indicated fitness for self government.

Because she can hold it no longer Germany says let Jerusalem go. When it comes to rearranging the map of Europe at the close of the war what will she say about Constantinople when Western Europe and the United States say the Turk must get out of Europe?

With one exception, the press of London and Paris give full support to the declaration of policy and aims contained in Mr. Wilson's message to Congress. The London Times does not approve of some of the language. There seems to be too much thought of settlement of world peace and not enough about punishment of Germany in it to suit that paper.

Congress has been in session five days and La Follette has not had anything to say; but that is no sign that he will not be heard from. This Austrian war resolution may be taken by him as a good opportunity to air his disloyal views and throw defiance to the people who are demanding his expulsion from the Senate. It would be in keeping with his character for him to do so.

THE TOBACCO FUND.

The Dispatch has enlisted its services in the nation-wide campaign for raising a Tobacco Fund for the American troops who are serving their country abroad, and its initial effort at securing contributions for this purpose is being made through the thrilling trapeze performance staged on top of the Trust Building by Harry Rich. The first of these public exhibitions was held yesterday evening, the others to follow this evening, Saturday afternoon and Saturday night, and the performance is of an order that is worthy of the most favorable criticism which it received at the hands of last night's spectators. At each of these exhibitions, a collection is taken, contributions being entirely voluntary and solicited without undue pressure from the collectors. The money thus contributed, after paying the performer a reasonable part for his work, is devoted to the Soldiers' Tobacco Fund.

Those of us who use tobacco in some form or other, and we are in the great majority, fully realize the solid comfort to be derived from a few minutes indulgence in the charms of the goddess nicotine. When the silver lining to our clouded lives grows dim, and things look bluest; when friends seem to have forsaken us, and the world itself is passing us by unheeding, it is remarkable how a brief period of communion with a cut from our favorite plug, a few puffs from our old black pipe, or inhalations from a popular made-in-America cigarette will give us clearer perception of the blessings of our friends, give a more rosy tint to life's clouds, and send us into our daily battles with a renewed hope and "do-or-die" spirit.

How much do our boys in France miss their tobacco? In wet trenches; far from home and loved ones; death walking everywhere, with hardship as a bedfellow, if there ever was a time when any man wanted, or could be said to need, tobacco it is now with those boys in France. A smoke or a chew will bring America right to one of them for the moment, and he will think more of the people at home than any other period during his busy life over there. You may send him wearing apparel, fancy things to eat, and costly presents, but the first thing he will grab when he opens his box from home will be the good old American tobacco. After he has lighted his pipe or cigarette or taken his chew, then he will proceed to examine the other things received. It is a small thing, but it is the one supreme time when "small things count."

The raising of this tobacco fund is in progress in every city and town and hamlet in America, and Wilmington, which has furnished so many soldier boys, will certainly see to it that they will not want for a little thing like tobacco. All who desire to aid this worthy cause may send their contribution—25 cents for a week's supply or one dollar for a month's—to the Tobacco Fund, care of The Wilmington Dispatch, and the tobacco for which your money was contributed will go forward to the American troops abroad.

WHAT THE WAR WILL DO FOR US.

Every cloud has its silver lining. Some good can be gotten out of every misfortune. This war, horrible as it is, will be of some benefit. Under the heading "Results of the War," The Columbia State says:

Even if the great war should end before the American troops in large numbers can play their part on the fighting lines, it will have left behind it an inestimable heritage to the nation. Being at war, and forcing ourselves—without the necessity of doing so, but in order to help our allies in the field and their families at home—to live in a state of war and privation, has trained the people in habits of thrift and unselfishness. It has made them more ingenious, better able to take care of themselves, and has broadened their outlook upon the world and mankind. It has shown to millions of Americans and Englishmen the true and lofty virtues of the French, while revealing to us the real nature of the Germans. We shall be a wiser, a thriftier, a more neighborly, a better people because of the war, even if the struggle ceases before we are granted the high privilege of helping to suppress Prussianism.

But what we wish particularly to refer to in this article as one of the war's fruits is the manliness that military training—full-blooded living in the open with nature and their fellowmen, the spirited exercises in camp, and field, the hard discipline necessary to win the war—will bestow as a priceless gift upon American youth and young manhood.

All this we of America will learn, but we will learn it at greater cost than the sacrifices the people have already made. There is no possible reason for supposing that the war will end before the American soldiers by the thousands have entered into the thick of it. We should hardly let ourselves speculate upon such a possibility, for to do so would only tend to make waris before us the harder to bear.

LIQUOR QUESTION IN MASSACHUSETTS.

We wonder what's the matter with the Pros. up Massachusetts way. In the elections last Tuesday they allowed the Wets to take four cities away from them. The cities of Fall River, Fitchburg, Haverhill and Taunton left the prohibition ranks and joined those of the anti-prohibitionists. Taunton went dry last year by a majority of 176. This year the majority for license was 1,419. Springfield remained wet by a majority of 2,225. In the other thirteen towns in which elections were held the Pros. were victorious. Surely there is not a reaction on the liquor question in the moral, sobersided old State of Massachusetts. We would like to know the real reason for the change in the above mentioned towns. There must have been some side-issue which overrode the prohibition question. That, however, would be reversing the usual order. Generally prohibition is a side-issue which affects elections on political questions. The Wets, of course, claim the change as straight-out victories on the clear-cut issue of prohibition or license, and the Pros. have some good reason whereby to account for their defeat other than a preference by the people for license.

THE HALIFAX DISASTER.

At this writing it is not possible to even estimate the extent of the disaster in Halifax harbor yesterday. Because of the destruction of all electric wire communication with the outside world it was at first impossible to secure details. We hope that more definite information than we now have will be at hand by the time this issue of the paper is put to press. Enough is known, however, to make it certain that it was a most appalling catastrophe—the most disastrous as to loss of life and destruction of property which has occurred since the war began. The first reports stating that there were troop ships in the harbor caused the fear that the loss of life would extend into the many thousands. As it is, the total death list is fearful. The exact number may never be known.

Many persons down in this part of the State may not be aware of the fact that in the western part there is a school for Indian children which is supported by the Federal government. There two hundred and fifty Cherokee boys and girls are taught and trained to become useful citizens. The school is under control of the Treasury Department. Secretary McAdoo has asked Congress for appropriations of six thousand dollars for improvements and fifty-one thousand for maintenance.

It looks like every day will be a meatless day for the soldiers at Camp Jackson unless the government will ship fresh meat there from a distance. The Federal inspector has condemned the slaughter houses of Columbia because of their unsanitary condition. The inspector recommended to the general commanding the camp that an order be issued forbidding the soldiers to eat fresh meat at the city restaurants. This is a pretty heavy oilt for South Carolina's capital.

OUR DAILY BIRTHDAY PARTY.

Major General Sir John E. Capper, K. C. B., who is the director-general of the famous "tank" corps of the British army, born 56 years ago today.

Sir Edward Wallington, who has served as private secretary to Queen Mary since her accession to the throne in 1910, born 63 years ago today.

Rev. Edwin Holt Hughes, bishop of the Methodist Episcopal church, born at Maundsville, W. Va., 51 years ago today.

Horace Boies, former Governor of Iowa and at one time nationally prominent as a Democratic leader, born in Erie county, N. Y., 90 years ago today.

Hannes Kolehmainen, the world's long-distance running champion, born in Finland, 28 years ago today.

IN THE DAY'S NEWS.

George M. Cohan, who is a member of the national committee of theatrical managers promoting today's national-wide observance of Red Cross Theatre Day, has won international fame as an actor, producer and writer of popular songs and plays. According to the calendar, Mr. Cohan is a real live nephew of Uncle Sam, for it was on July 4, 1879, that this famous author-actor-composer first saw the light of day. The particular spot selected for his birthplace was Providence, R. I., and it was in this same city 10 years later that he made his first stage appearance. For a number of years he toured the country in vaudeville in association with his father, mother and sister, the quartet becoming widely known as "The Four Cohans." It was "Little Johnny Jones," written by Mr. Cohan and produced by him in 1904, that first brought him definitely before the public as a native American author. Since then he has written and produced many successful plays. As a writer of popular songs he has also earned an enviable reputation.

WITH THE EDITORS.

Greenville News.—"What are we fighting for?" asks the obstructionist, just as seriously as if they imagined they really had a hand in the fighting, instead of doing everything possible to prevent it.

New Bern Sun-Journal.—A headline says that Congress is "ready to put on full steam to help the Allies win the war." If that body will simply use "steam" and cut out the "hot air" the Allies will no doubt greatly appreciate it, as will the people of this country.

Wadesboro Ansonian.—A school cannot grow any faster than the community in which it is situated. When you see a dead school, one which is not serving the community nor advancing its interest, you will usually find that the community is too dead to support a good school. A live community will not put up with a dead school.

Fayetteville Observer.—A college professor, in a recent address to the student body, said that in order to win the war against Germany, the people of America must appreciate, not depreciate, the vast resources, strength and ability of Germany. In other words, that we must realize what we are up against. If depreciation of an enemy spells unwisdom, the German people themselves are very unwise, as their contempt for and depreciation of the Allies, especially America, knows no bounds.

Charlotte Observer.—It is understood that the Republicans will undertake an agitation by Congress of the discarded plan for the erection of a War Board to be composed of Congressmen, the object of which would be to assist President Wilson and the War Department in the conduct of the war. The functions of such a board would be in reality that of a board of interference. The proposition is of too dangerous a character to receive serious consideration at the hands of Congress and the first attempt to bring it forward should find vigorous and effective resistance. This is no time for the playing of politics in Congress—and the proposition to create this board of meddlers is nothing but a political play of the purist kind, albeit one of a most mischievous nature.

STATE NEWS.

Mr. D. McN. Ray, a well known and prosperous farmer and land owner of this county, died in Cumberland General Hospital Tuesday evening at 6 o'clock, after a long period of ill health from heart and kidney trouble.—Fayetteville Observer.

Women of Asheville who took the lead here in the food conservation campaign this morning took vigorous action toward branding as false the newspaper reports that many women of the city and vicinity had refused to sign pledge cards. Leaders of the conservation movement went to the board of trade and asked that the directors take some action. The directors did so, adopting resolutions branding the reports as false. The ladies, slow to anger but evidently stirred up now, also made statements telling the world just how "baseless as the unsubstantial fabric of a dream" are the sensational dispatches which have been published in The Greensboro News in regard to Asheville women and their criticism of the treatment of the interned Germans.—Asheville Times.

Thursday was a day of true Thanksgiving to Thomas J. Flake, his faithful wife and two children and his devoted mother. Governor T. W. Bickett gave to them the one best thing for which they had been working and praying for more than six years, that being a complete pardon to Mr. Flake, who was serving a 10-year sentence for the killing of Sam Smith, his own second cousin. The tragedy occurred nearly seven years ago one Sunday afternoon in Lileville township. Flake was intoxicated at the time and has always maintained that he had no recollection whatever of the crime. He was dumfounded when he came to himself to learn that he had shot and killed his relative toward whom he had had only the kindest feelings previous to the time.—Wadesboro Ansonian.

A DAILY LESSON IN HISTORY.
*****One Hundred Years Ago Today.
1817—Edward Tuckerman, famous botanist, born in Boston. Died at Amherst, Mass., March 15, 1886.Fifty Years Ago Today.
1867—Eneland observed the tercentary of Mary Queen of Scots.Twenty-Five Years Ago Today.
1892—David R. Hill of New York introduced a bill in the United States Senate to repeal the Sherman silver law.*****
ONE YEAR AGO TODAY IN THE WAR.

Dec. 7, 1916.—David Lloyd-George formally accepted the British post of Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury. Answering United States protest, Germany admitted that the Arabia had contended she thought it a transport.

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