BREVARD NEWS

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Friday, September 21, 1917

Why War Was Necessary.

In some isolated sections of the country designing persons are still attempting to convince the people that the United States entered this war without provocation. Of course these emissaries of the kaiser have little conception of either the rights of individuals or nations and are just drifting along in ignorance and selfishness. They are giving aid and comfort to the enemy of the government which seeks to save them and theirs from the clutches of the greatest foe known to civilization today. But happily for the American government, in this crucial hour a patriotic press stands as a sentinel upon the watch tower proclaiming liberty and justice throughout the land. Ever on the alert to locate and expose evils of every form, the editors of the country have rendered distinct service in running down the detractors of Uncle Sam since the break with Germany put the tongue of the disloyalist to wagging overtime.

No explanation of why the United States entered the war should be necessary anywhere, but the activities of designing men in rural ommunities of Davidson county leads the Lexington Dispatch to give its conception of the cause in an editorial which is calculated to bear fruit. One of many timely suggestions it presents for the benefit of the country people is to the effect that "if someone were to shoot down a farmer's team when he attempted to use the public road, or to wreck his car because he attempted to go where he had a right, would he have cause to resent it? Would an attempt to defend himself be unnecessary or useless? If paid spies and cut-throats plotted to burn his barn and dynamite his house where his wife and children slept, would resentment be unnecessary or uncalled for? An exact parallel for this supposed case is just what Germany did to the United States as a nation." Quite right. And the scores of innocent American women and children, whose bodies were sent to the bottom of the ocean by murderous submarines, are crying aloud for the punishment of the assassins who took their lives without even the slightest provocation. And further:

"But," someone may say, "Germany could never have successfully invaded this country." Do you not realize that if Germany could have forced England to make peace it would have taken over the English navy? This would have made it an easy matter, with the bulk of the world's merchant ships and fighting ships at their command, to transport an army of a million men immediately to American shores, overcome our navy, destroy our great cities, loot and pillage our wealth, prey upon our women and force us to make a humiliating peace and pay to Potsdam untold billions through generations to come. Germany began the war deliberately aginst France, without provocation, and her leaders have admitted this time and again. It would be but the course of logic to attack us. For many months Berlin had sent propaganda over the earth setting forth a trumped-up claim for a quarrel with the United States. Yes, and she hoped the bait thrown out to Mexico and Japan would bring these countries to her support and cripple the influence of the Washington government in the event President Wilson decided to resent German outrages upon the high seas, which had amounted to deliberate insult and oppression. Whatever reason may be advanced for the action taken by the president and congress in entering the war the fact remains that no other honorable course was open to them. It was either fight or run.

Bread Instead of Booze

On September 8th, at eleven o'clock p. m., all the licensed distilleries of the United States ceased wasting corn and other food products in the manufacture of whiskey. The liquor mills, both great and small, were closed under the national food administration law by orders from Washington to internal revenue collectors in every section of the country, which were to the effect that all tubs in the distilleries must be empty of "beer," as the whiskey brew is called, exactly on the hour named. The object sought by this prohibitive legislation was the conservation of the food and feed supply of the country and the dealers who heretofore supplied the distilleries with grain will have to find a new market for their products. And it is well. The people must have bread. They do not need booze.

The government estimates a saving of 68,000,000 bushels of grain a year, mostly corn, by this legislation. There is an unprecedented demand, both at home and abroad, for the food products that have been going into the manufacture of alcoholic beverages, so little difficulty will be experienced in placing whatever surplus may appear in any section of the Union. The new law, in addition to closing the distilleries, prohibits the importation of distilled spirits during the period of war and empowers the President to limit the output of beer, ale and light wines, and even to stop their manufacture altogether, if he deems such a step necessary in connection with the conservation of the food supply of the country. It is better to be safe than to be sorry and the people are reasonably certain to approve the plan inaugurated by the government to protect their supply of food even to the exclusion of booze entirely.

The order for closing the county schools for two weeks during the institute which begins next Monday has not met with a willing spirit among all the teachers and parents concerned. That confusion should arise from the new regulation limiting the management of institutes to a board of six persons is not strange. The strange thing is, that the highly centralized power, known as the state board of education, did not foresee the confusion and take steps to prevent it. Half the teachers thrown out of employment and all the children turned out of school for two weeks looks like a high price to pay for the benefit to be derived.

The county fair is started, and the newly organized association is determined to put it through. But the officers cannot do everything by themselves. They need the support of the people's interest, work, and money. To make the fair a success, there should be a liberal allowance for prizes. Let every one do his bit—even if it is only a little bit.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE

An educational service will be held at the Methodist church next Sunday morning at 11 o'clock.

The following representatives of local educational interests are expected to be present and take part in the service:

Principal J. Clyde Jones of the graded school, Assistant Principal Knight of Brevard Institute, and A. F. Mitchell, county superintendent of schools.

The service will be in charge of C. H. Trowbridge, and Welch Galloway will speak a few words of tribute to the late Dr. Jas. H. Weaver of Western North Carolina.

Rev. W. E. Poovey, the pastor, who is out of town assisting in a protracted meeting, will return for the evening service to deliver the seventh in a series of sermons on "Ten Men Who Missed the Trail."

To Clean Hair Brushes.

To clean hair brushes take a cupful of cornmeal and fill the brush, rubbing gently with the hand. As it absorbs the grease and dirt shake it out and use fresh meal till the brush is cleaned thoroughly. This is better than ammonia, as there is no water to injure or loosen the back of the brush.

IS A RUBBER STAMP SIGNATURE VALID?

IMPORTANT QUESTION CONCERNING USE OF LITTLE LABOR-SAVING DEVICE.

WHERE DIFFICULTY ARRISES

Any One Who Signs Any Document in Any Way Is Bound By His Signature.

Is a rubber stamp signature valid? Considering how many of them are going out of insurance offices daily, how many agents affix them to policies and riders, and the almost general use made of this labor-saving, authority-delegating device, it is well to attend the reply recently made by the Journal of Commerce to the inquiry of a subscriber on the point "Any one," says our contemporary, "who indorses a check or signs any other document is bound by his signature, whether it is made with pen or pencil, a rubber stamp, or in any other way. The difficulty arises only when an attempt is made to show that the signature is his. If he admits it, he is bound without further controversy. If he declares that he did not append the signature to the document, it will be necessary to prove that he did make it, and this is the point at which the whole difficulty arises. A written signature can be compared with others known or acknowledged to have been made by a certain person, and the correspondents of that person or handwriting experts can testify with a considerable degree of assurance as to the genuineness of the signature in question. No one can say with assurance, however, whether a rubber stamp was in the hands of one person or of another, when it was in use for the making of a disputed signature. For this reason no one can reasonably be asked to adopt a signature so difficult to prove as that made with a rubber stamp."—Insurance and Commerical Magazine.

SIGNS OF THE TIME.

One of the important indications pointing to a general awakening in the direction of fire protection and prevention was the recent action of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and Engineers, advocating a more extensive use of automatic sprinklers and urging the passage of ordiances requiring automatic sprinklers to be installed in buildings where conditions favor the inception and spread of fire, especially where the safety of life is menaced. The resolutions of the fire chiefs included the appointment of committees "to consider the compulsory requirements fo rinstallations of automatic sprinkler systems and to investigate ways and means whereby automatic sprinkler systems may be used to best advantage by fire departments as fire defense auxiliaries." Surely the work of fire protection and prevention is growing in popular esteem. —Fire Facts.

Such It Was.

Twelve baldheaded men were jurors in a Massachusetts hair-restorer case. "Is this justice?" asked the Brooklyn Eagle. "It may be retributive justice," suggests the Albany Argus. Let's call it destiny.—Buffalo Times.

Sounds Deceptive.

Someone has estimated that there are 30,000,000 cats in this country. Inasmuch as a few cats may sound like millions at certain uncanny hours at night, we demand a count.—Pittsburgh Post.

Dogs and Dogs.

"You can keep a real fine dog in food," says the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, "at an expense of about $10 a month, while a real sorry dog can get out and make a living for himself."

Book Ends.

You could make your own book ends by joining two pieces of metal or wood and then covering it with a cover made of green linen, heavily embroidered in a conventional design.

The Ultimate Consumer.

Frieda—"What is an ultimate consumer?" Father—"The ultimate consumer, dear, is someone who ultimately consumes his last penny in keeping body and soul together."—Puck.

Could Tell Him That.

Client—"How much will your opinion be worth in this case?" Lawyer—"I am too modest to say. But I can tell you what I'm going to charge you." —Boston Transcript.

Sky Splitter.

Marcy, the highest mountain in the Empire state, was named in honor of Gov. William L. Marcy. Its Indian name is "Tahawas" (he splits the sky).