

THE MORNING STAR

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THE LUMBER INDUSTRY AND THE WAR.

We often hear saw mill men assert that the depression in the lumber business is due solely to the "Democratic tariff and that the war in Europe has nothing to do with it. As a matter of fact, the war has affected every line of business in America, even the newspaper business. One of the first effects of the war was to stop the building operations of the 100,000,000 people of the United States. Even repair work was suspended in most cities and in some of the largest of the cities of this country huge buildings were left half finished. Plans for others were deferred. Every man of intelligence must know that a condition like that would affect the lumber industry, all the building trades, and even the labor which is so essential a part in building and construction operations. The effect which the war had upon the money market alone would put a halt upon all kinds of business.

The tariff ought to bear whatever blame justly attaches to it for the condition of any business, but there is something else responsible for the depression in the lumbering industry of the South. Differential freight rates, for instance. It has not been so long ago that all the lumber manufacturers' associations were up in arms on the freight rate question and they appealed to the Interstate Commerce Commission for relief.

Most everybody has forgotten that the original Payne-Aldrich tariff bill put lumber on the free list. Senator Simmons wouldn't stand for it, and on that ground, together with "quebracho" and other things, the brilliant W. W. Kitchen waged war on him for his seat in the United States Senate. The altogether able and adroit Mr. Kitchen made speeches that rang from the sea to the mountains, and surely we have not forgotten that Senator Simmons' friends had to get busy. While New England and the North and the West were getting their share of protection and Senators Aldrich and Smoot and Representative Payne fully intended to leave the South out, Senator Simmons saw that it would mean inequitable taxation, so he made a successful fight for the retention of a tariff on lumber. Nevertheless, the Canadian, Northern and Western railways nullified it by immediately granting a freight differential in favor of Canadian lumber. The railroads reduced freight rates to points above the Ohio river and increased them from points below the Ohio river. They made it a stand-off, so the Western as well as the Southern lines could get lumber traffic from all the producing fields.

They did it also because consumers in states which have no lumber or timber interests wanted relief from the tariff on lumber. Those same consumers wanted their own interests protected, but they did not want to pay any tariff on Southern lumber if they could get the Canadian product cheaper by getting lumber on the free list. That is the reason the Republicans wanted to put lumber on the free list. They were complying with an insistent demand in the North and the Middle West, and if the Republicans get in power again they will be sure to put lumber on the free list again. They will do it because they will get the votes of the lumber consumers who outnumber the lumber producers.

The Republican party distributes the benefits of protection with an eye to business—ballot box business. They give plenty of it for that great part of the country where votes are the thickest, but they incidentally resort to the free list when it is to the interest of the most voters in the North. Therefore, the lumber people who say they want the Republican party back in power, so they can get protection on lumber so as to shut out Canadian lumber, want something they can't get from the Republican party—a high tariff tax on Northern lumber buyers for the benefit of Southern lumber manufacturers.

Let the lumber people remember that Northern Republicans are protectionists when they have something to sell and free listers when they have something to buy. Shoe manufacturers want a high tariff on shoes, but they want free leather and plenty of it to make protected shoes. They want to tax the masses who wear shoes, but they do not want to pay any tariff tax on the leather which they import for making shoes. They play the game open at one end and shut at the other, and it is the pet special interests which get benefits coming two ways—leather duty-free and shoes duty-high.

The Democrats are trying to adjust the tariff so its burdens and benefits will be equitable in all sections of the country, without regard to any special interest. They may have to revise their tariff in order to do that to the best advantage of the Treasury and the people, but they should be given time to accomplish what they honestly aim to do. Under such extraordinary war conditions as we face at the present, however, no economist or politician is able to correctly analyze the tariff question. All we know now is that if we had a high protective tariff to aid the war in shutting out foreign imports, ships would have to go to Europe loaded and come back empty.

Finally, it should be borne in mind that this is the only European war in which ten of our customer nations have ever participated at one time. The situation is without precedent. They can't buy as much from us as we would like to sell, and they can't sell us as much as we want to buy. We can deny the truth as to that? Not a living soul. People who are willing to look the stubborn facts in the face surely have to agree with the Jacksonville Times-Union when it expresses the indisputable economic view that "the independent economic view that the depression of industry and the paralysis of capi-

tal, for the moment in America, is as much the effect of the war in Europe as the starvation of Belgium and the slaughter of contending hosts on battlefields." Furthermore, when the war in Europe is at an end and the nations there are recovering from prostration, their unfortunate condition is bound to be fortunate for American industries. That will be inevitable. Europe will have to rebuild and it will depend upon America for the wherewithal in money and materials.

INDUSTRY MUST HAVE CREDIT. Mr. R. B. Belser, of Sumter, S. C., has contributed to the Charleston News and Courier a thoughtful, wise and timely appeal to merchants, bankers and landlords not to restrict credits. He warns the bankers particularly that the real danger threatening the South at this time is "the danger of great economical loss through the throttling of the force of production by undue restriction of credits."

We take it that credits are being restricted to such an extent in South Carolina as to make a man of sound economic views like Mr. Belser write to The News and Courier some things that apply to North Carolina and every other Southern state as well. We have heard North Carolina manufacturers, for instance, state that they have been so restricted in their credits that they could not run their plants when there was every reason why they should keep on running and giving employment to wage earners. They not only need money to buy raw material while it is cheap, but need it for their pay rolls. They also need it to market their products on the same line of credits which their factories formerly enjoyed.

Who doubts that much of the industrial depression of the country is attributable to that very cause? However, the Sumter man makes this warning apply to all forms of industry. He might apply it to business as well, but as the planting season is here he refers particularly to the danger of doing serious injury to our farming industry by the restriction of credit by banks, merchants and landlords. He recognizes the fact that due caution should be exercised, but he goes on to say:

"We all realize that some degree of restriction is necessary—indeed, desirable for all parties concerned. But that does not mean that this restriction must be carried to the point where it necessitates a large portion of the lands of the state lying idle, that perhaps half of the annual \$160,000,000 product of the field shall be lacking next fall for the want of necessary supplies with which to make it. If this condition is brought about there will be more than psychological hardships—the result of a short-sighted economic policy.

"This is an agricultural state. Sixty per cent. of the wealth produced each year consists of agricultural products. If we include cotton seed products and cotton manufactures, amounting together to nearly \$100,000,000, more than 90 per cent. of the state's annual products may fairly be said to be directly dependent upon its agricultural activities. The necessity for keeping these forces in operation is patent.

"Let us examine into the conditions that make some restriction necessary, with a view to determining the measure of restriction that is sound economic policy. Agricultural disorganization exists to a marked degree only in the South, and the logical conclusion is that it is due almost entirely to the effect of the war on cotton, grain, and live stock sections are enjoying unusual prosperity. The South can produce on lands that will yield 100 bushels of cotton per acre (and on other lands in proportion); 50 bushels of corn, with several bushels of peas, and vines to be turned under with manurial value of \$5 to \$10 per acre; 50 bushels of wheat, followed by a ton or more of peavine hay; 30 bushels of wheat, followed by a peavine hay crop of a ton or more; yields of tobacco worth \$100 to \$200, and of truck and lesser crops to the value of \$100 to \$1,000 per acre. When all of this will because cotton no longer promises much profit? Because there is no market for anything but cotton? Or are sections have provided and the finding of a market for live stock and diversified products—and are prospering. It is up to us to do likewise. Are we going to let a great agricultural section like the South be shut out of the market by periodically low prices prevail for cotton? Where is the proof of our boasted resourcefulness and of our confidence in our state and the South?"

We catch the hint that nobody wants to finance a cotton crop, but since cotton heretofore has been the sole basis of credit, no chances will be taken on financing any other crop. For instance, if a farmer wants credit to enable him to diversify his crops he can't get it, whereas he should be encouraged by credit to abandon the all-cotton system and grow other money crops for which there is bound to be a great demand. If the credit men are denying credit to any great extent, in either North Carolina or South Carolina, they are doing the very thing that will make diversification impossible. Mr. Belser makes it very plain that we cannot revolutionize our credit system or revolutionize our farming system all at once. We have to do both by degrees, and he emphasizes this view:

"The banker, the merchant, and the landlord each has his duty and responsibility, and failure to measure up to it will not fall to come to the delinquent. A life-long credit system cannot be changed in one year. The measure of restriction and change that is possible is a matter of business consideration of the best brain of our commercial life. Let us give the matter careful study and arrive at an adjustment that will keep in operation the productive forces of our state. If this is done our people by economy and thrift can, and I believe will, come through this trying period without serious loss—and will ultimately benefit by the lesson which it has driven home."

The agricultural industry in our Southern states is such a tremendous one that its depression by war has taught us what it means. If we depress it further by withholding credits, business is in for it. We don't know that such has prevailed to any great

extent, but it is well to be on our guard about it. We must remember that probably as many as three-quarters of a million people in North Carolina are directly dependent on agriculture. Sixty per cent. of our business also depends on it. The merchants and the landlords are all directly concerned in seeing that our agriculture is not demoralized if they can help it.

GRAIN EXPORTS FOR WILMINGTON.

A news item appeared in The Star a few days ago to the effect that a surplus of 365,000 bushels of corn from last year's crop remains in Hyde county because of the war in Europe. Few knew that North Carolina's eastern corn belt had been exporting corn to Germany till the war broke out and put an end to Hyde's export business.

The fact came out by reason of the action of the State Corporation Commission in allowing a readjustment of freight rates on the Norfolk Southern Railroad so Eastern North Carolina corn can reach the interior markets. While North Carolina has been buying thousands of car loads of corn, a portion of the State probably could supply a million or more bushels but for the matter of transportation—particularly railroad rates that would enable State consumers to get the North Carolina product.

A few years ago Hyde county lacked railroad facilities, and may to a large extent now be so isolated as to make rail shipments uneconomical. Yet the Norfolk Southern has come along and to a great extent will be a powerful factor in promoting the grain growing resources of that part of the State. When it comes to water transportation, Hyde had that, and the probability is that corn could be shipped to Bremen cheaper than it could be transported by rail to Charlotte.

Wilmington has water communication with Hyde and, owing to the fact that Europe will want an immense amount of grain for the next few years, it would be a good idea for Wilmington to prepare to export corn. There also will be a large increase in corn production all over Eastern North Carolina and the possibility is that Wilmington can concentrate it to great advantage for distribution both by export abroad and by rail to all parts of this country. If this is going to become a grain country, Wilmington wants to get the business.

Whenever it tries to get dull around Wilmington, something happens and disappoints it.

THINKS WELL OF FESTIVAL.

To the Editor of The Star: I was delighted to see the suggestion of Mr. J. F. Harris in your columns regarding the proposed Musical Festival at Lumina. Most of the larger cities have adopted the Musical Festival as an annual event, and I am pleased to see Wilmington falling in line. It may interest you to know that the subject has been discussed in musical circles for some time and I feel assured that Mr. Harris will have the hearty appreciation and support of the music lovers of the city.

I am one of several who believe Wilmington can compare favorably with any city in this respect and that the material for the making of a good chorus will be readily obtained by organized effort. Having had the privilege of attending and taking part in festivals of this kind both in this country and abroad, I have yet to learn of one that has not been a success, both musically and financially.

With Mr. Harris the best of success and trust his efforts will be brought to a successful termination and form the basis for a permanent choral society for the city of Wilmington.

Yours, BERT JONES.

CURRENT COMMENT.

Since the strawberry season opened in Florida, 434,327 quarts have been shipped North, and the growers have received in exchange money to the amount of \$86,016.10. The average price this season is better than it was last year. As the Florida season wanes, the strawberries from the Wilmington section will come on, and the growers will be encouraged over the prospect of making more money than was the case with the past season's crop.—Charlotte Observer.

Murne Cowan is the name of an Ohio Guernsey cow that has broken the world's record as to milk production. The Ohio State university has just given out the results of several competitive tests made, and they resulted in resting the laurels on the head of Murne. Last year she produced 12 tons of milk, and 1,096 pounds of butter fat, which churned into 1,400 pounds of butter. America is a land of politicians big and little. They flourish in every county seat and in every village. Each one has a separate panacea for saving the country, and a good many of them who have since gone to Washington claim to have written chapters in American history. As against the great majority of these busy gentle-

men, we put the unobtrusive activities of Murne Cowan. For the cow that sets a new record in milk production like the hen that sets a new record in egg production, has accomplished something definite. And few politicians can sincerely make affidavit to that effect. Murne never made a speech from a stump or got a plank inserted in a political platform. All she has done is to raise the milk production record of the world. Therefore, we hail Murne as a patriot and a "perfect lady."—Atlanta Constitution.

THE BEST PROOF

Given by a Wilmington Citizen.

Doan's Kidney Pills were used—they brought benefit.

The story was told to Wilmington residents. Time has strengthened the evidence. Has proven the result lasting. The testimony is home testimony—the proof convincing. It can be investigated by Wilmington residents.

J. F. Hansley, 406 Walnut St., Wilmington, says: "My back and kidneys troubled me a great deal and I think I was due to my being on my feet so much. I suffered from dull, dragging backaches and I couldn't stoop without having sharp twinges in my loins. The kidney secretions were too frequent in passage and contained sediment. I got a box of Doan's Kidney Pills at Bellamy's Drug Store and in a few days the pains and aches left." (Statement given Feb. 25, 1908.)

OVER TWO YEARS LATER Mr. Hansley said: "I have not had occasion to use kidney medicine since I got Doan's Kidney Pills gave me lasting benefit." Price 50c, at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mr. Hansley had. Foster-Milburn Co., Props., Buffalo, N. Y.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the provisions of an Act of the General Assembly of North Carolina, passed at its session for the year A. D. 1915, entitled "An Act to amend the City of Wilmington," and a resolution duly passed by the City Council of the City of Wilmington, and by the City Board of Elections for said City, adopted on the 5th day of March, A. D. 1915, a special election is hereby called and ordered to be held in the City of Wilmington and in the territory described in said Act, on Tuesday, the 30th day of March, A. D. 1915, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of the City of Wilmington and in the territory described in said Act, the question of the ratification of said Act by the voters of said City, and the territory covered by said Act, and the charter of the City of Wilmington, at which said election those favoring the adoption of said Act as the charter of the City of Wilmington shall vote a written or printed ballot, containing the words "Yes" and "No," and those opposed to the adoption of said Act shall vote a written or printed ballot containing the words "Against the Charter," and that an entire new registration has been ordered for said election, and the registration books for the registration of electors, desiring to vote in said election, shall be opened on Tuesday, the 30th day of March, A. D. 1915, and shall continue to be kept open up to and including the second Saturday, preceding said election, Sunday excepted; and that the books will be kept open for the registration of electors residing in the various precincts, from 9 o'clock A. M. until 5 o'clock P. M., on each registration day, except Saturdays and Sundays, and the said registration books shall be kept open for registration until 9 o'clock A. M., on said day, and any electors registering as required by law will be allowed to vote in said election.

That there have been established one-sixth election precincts in the territory covered by said Act, namely: One precinct for each ward: The First Ward precinct, covering the territory described in said Act as the First Ward; The Second Ward precinct, covering the territory described in said Act as the Second Ward; The Third Ward precinct, covering the territory described in said Act as the Third Ward; The Fourth Ward precinct, covering the territory described in said Act as the Fourth Ward; The Fifth Ward precinct, covering the territory described in said Act as the Fifth Ward; The Sixth Ward precinct, covering the territory described in said Act as the Sixth Ward.

That the following named polling places, registrars and judges of election in the territory described in said Act, for the purpose of holding and conducting said election, to-wit: First Ward Precinct: Polling Place—Engine House, 4th and Campbell streets. Registrar—W. H. Evans. Poll Holders and Judges of Election—W. H. Howe, Willie Kerr. Second Ward Precinct: Polling Place—Court House of New Hanover County, in basement at northwestern corner of said building. Registrar—W. W. Hodges. Poll Holders and Judges of Election—E. H. Munson, C. H. Ward. Third Ward Precinct: Polling Place—Giblem Lodge, Eighth and Princess streets. Registrar—J. R. Davis. Poll Holders and Judges of Election—Sam. Wood, Norcum Hewlett. Fourth Ward Precinct: Polling Place—McClellan's Stables, No. 11, Dea street. Registrar—F. W. Peiffer. Poll Holders and Judges of Election—W. A. Spooner, J. O. Reilly. Fifth Ward Precinct: Polling Place—New Engine House, Fifth and Castle streets. Registrar—H. H. Orrell. Poll Holders and Judges of Election—Ike Burriss, W. W. Sellers. Sixth Ward Precinct: Polling Place—Mann's Store, Seventeenth and Market streets. Registrar—J. H. Mann. Poll Holders and Judges of Election—J. H. Mann, J. D. Edwards. The polls will be opened on the day of election at 8 o'clock A. M., and remain open until sunset of said day, and no longer.

Each registrar will keep the registration books open for the registration of electors residing in the respective precincts, between the hours of 9 A. M. and 5 o'clock P. M., beginning Tuesday, March 9th, up to and including the second Saturday preceding said election, Sunday excepted, except on Saturdays, when the said registration books shall be kept open from 9 o'clock A. M. until 9 o'clock P. M. No registration will be allowed on election day except to such persons as shall give satisfactory evidence to the registrar and the judges of election that he has become of the age of twenty-one years, or otherwise has become qualified to register and vote since the registration books closed. On the second Saturday before the election, the registration books will also be open at the polling places in the voting precincts for the inspection of the electors of the precinct, and to enable challenges to be made of the right of any person to vote in said election whose name appears thereon, and if any person is objected to, notice will be given him and a hearing granted as provided by law.

The registrars and judges of said election have been notified of their appointment and of the places, and are required to take the oath prescribed by law, and will be furnished with necessary books and materials for conducting said election, and all vacancies occurring among the registrars and judges of election will be filled and the returns from said election will be received as required by law. If a majority of the electors voting in said election shall vote for "For Charter," the said Act will then become the charter of the City of Wilmington, but if a majority of the votes cast in said election shall be cast against Charter, the said Act will not then become the charter of the City of Wilmington. By order of the City Council and City Board of Elections. THOMAS D. MEARES, City Clerk and Treasurer of the City of Wilmington.

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The finest grade of Aluminum Kitchen Ware that is manufactured, consisting of every utensil used in kitchen service, each article sells for \$2.50.

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You will find Blankets, Comforts, Winter Underwear, Overcoats, Heavy Hose, Felt Hats, and All Winter Goods so cheap that you can well afford to buy at present prices and carry them until needed. We cannot afford to carry them over, but you can.

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We make the Iron for all Builders at Right Prices. We carry the stock and get your orders out promptly. It pays to SEE US when it's made of Iron, Steel, Brass, or Other Metals

WILMINGTON IRON WORKS

THE IRON MEN FOOT OF ORANGE STREET

Everybody Reads the Star Business Locals

Our candies are made in fourteen different cities—insuring fresh candies at every Huyler agency. Huyler's Fresh Candy Works. Our Sales Agents in Wilmington are Mathews Jno. W. Plummer, Jr. Huyler's Cocoa, like Huyler's Candy, is Supreme