

# Wilmington Morning Star

Published by THE WILMINGTON STAR COMPANY, Inc., 109 Chestnut Street, F. H. BATTIE, Managing Director.

Telephone: Business and Editorial office, No. 51 Entered at the Postoffice at Wilmington, N. C., as Second Class Matter

One Year \$7.00 Six Months \$3.50 Three Months \$1.75 No weekly mail subscriptions.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 1923

## Germans Resentful.

The attitude of the German government towards the French occupation of the Ruhr valley, with a large army and a big staff of engineers, collectors, and civil attaches is one of "passive resistance," as advised by Premier Cuno. Germany promptly dissolved diplomatic communications with both France and Belgium as a national protest against the military occupation of German territory. The German ambassadors to France and Belgium were recalled by the Berlin government. German party spirit is bitter and popular resentment is manifest, although the people in the Ruhr territory have been advised by the German government to refrain from hostile demonstrations.

The French feelings were hurt by the order of the Washington government, withdrawing American soldiers from Germany. While the government at Washington claims that it officially notified France some time ago of America's readiness to submit a plan for bringing about a solution of the reparations problems by means of a financial commission to investigate Germany's ability to pay, the proposal was not accepted by France. The French government knew that the United States was opposed to military action, and while France proceeded in spite of the American attitude, the American government did not see fit to protest against the French-Belgian occupation of Germany.

At the meeting of the reparations commission last Tuesday in Paris, the attitude of the American government was made known by the American observer, who has invariably attended the meetings of the commission. The commission declared Germany "voluntarily in default," by a vote of 3 to 1. The affirmative votes were cast by the French, Belgian and Italian commissioners. Sir John Bradbury, the British commissioner voted in the negative. Roland Boyden, the American observer, did not vote, as he was not an official member of the commission. The proceedings were described as "cut and dried," with the exception that Mr. Boyden made a speech in which he attacked the Versailles treaty, and his indictment of the pact was especially laid on "its too liberal application."

Taking a view similar to that of the British commissioner, Mr. Boyden agreed with him that from the technical judicial point of view, Germany was in default, but in his opinion Germany was less to blame than the commission and the peace treaty itself "for placing an impossible task on Germany." He constantly blamed the treaty, but he took the ground that coercive measures were warranted, owing to the fact that the reparations question should have been considered as a whole instead of with reference only to its coal and wood particulars.

The British commissioner took a similar view and stated plainly that extreme measures were not necessary since Germany was only 11 1/2 per cent in default, and had offered to make up that in cash.

It must not be overlooked that France has not gone into the Ruhr solely on account of Germany's small coal, wood and stone default, but she has been prepared for months to occupy German territory till Germany settles her reparations obligations in cash as well as in supplies.

## One Billion Dollar Bug.

Mr. J. Scottowe Wannamaker, of St. Matthews, S. C., president of the American Cotton association, reviews the ravages of the cotton boll weevil for the last twenty-eight years, beginning with its invasion of Texas and ending with the infestation of North Carolina, and it is rather discouraging view that he takes of the prospects of the great cotton growing industry of the United States. Mr. Wannamaker states that after six years of ravages in a cotton growing section, the weevil damage becomes less than during its first three years infestation, but even at that it is endangering the industry as a whole in all the southern belt. As to North Carolina and South Carolina, he expresses the conviction that it will be impossible to grow cotton profitably in these two states unless heroic steps are taken in all the particulars of trying to grow cotton under best conditions. The New York Evening Post views this as a national calamity, and it proceeds to discuss it in this exceedingly interesting way:

Compared with the loss caused America by the boll weevil the \$2,500,000 which the American Cotton Growers Association plans to spend in combating it in a crop in the sea. If about 1890, when Mexico lost the pest upon Texas the whole American army had been mobilized and the total annual revenue of the Government appropriated to drive it back, the nation would have been the gainer. Because we fought only a delaying and harassing battle at first the cotton grower and weevil are now grappled in something like a fight to the death. At the time the European war began the world regarded an average American crop of 15,000,000 bales as a certainty; in fact, the 1914 crop exceeded 17,000,000 bales. The boll weevil is the chief factor responsible for the drop of the crop to 7,950,000 bales in 1921 and 9,960,000 in 1922. With \$60 or \$70 a bale formerly the normal price, Uncle Sam's bill for entertaining the weevil in the east is easily calculated. Great Britain in alarm is increasing the subsidy to cotton growing in her empire—in Nigeria, East Africa, the Punjab, Mesopotamia, and northern Australia—in proportion as British, Chinese, and Brazilian growing increases we shall lose our market.

In the economic history of insects there is no more inexorable invasion than that which the boll weevil has pushed to the far limits of the cotton belt. The little quarter-inch driller had occupied about 1,400 square miles in 1892. Not until 1902, in spite of its passion for puncturing bolls and laying eggs therein—four or more generations a season—had it occupied 100,000 square miles, and the South was but mildly worried. Then, in each of the next six years it added 27,000 square miles to its domain, and by 1912 American agriculture saw in it the most terrible portent since the spread of the Hessian fly from Long Island to the Potomac in 1915 and 1916, aided by mild winters, it made record gains of more than 70,000 square miles each season. In these years Oklahoma and Arkansas were overrun, Louisiana like Sherman, through Georgia to the sea, and it reached the borders of South Carolina. In 1919 it had pushed across South Carolina and was moving north of Wilmington. Now it is ready to conclude the conquest of Virginia and is at bay only in western Oklahoma and Texas, where climatic conditions are unfavorable.

So prolific is the insect, so well does it hide itself within the plant and so contemptuous is it of ordinary sprays and powders, that it has mocked science. Not until 1919 was the efficacy of calcium arsenate, which the boll weevil slips with the dew, demonstrated, and this powder has to be used at the rate of twenty pounds to the acre. It costs so much that only large crops justify its employment, and the shortage of the material—not 1 per cent of the amount needed—is almost a public scandal. By early planting, destroying the breeding places, and developing early varieties we can limit the destruction. It would be obviously better to spend a huge sum to eradicate the weevil once and for all, if that were possible, than to spend large sums forever to reduce the annual loss, but for the present it is impossible. Better than any grandiose plans on paper would be a practical assurance that 10,000 tons of calcium arsenate would be available next season at fifteen cents per pound, and a campaign directed by the Agricultural Department, through party financed by the cotton growers, would seem preferable to one directed by any association.

We are sure that the Post has considered this matter in a very informal way, and every line of what our valued New York contemporary says will be read with more than ordinary interest in North Carolina. Here in the midst of boll weevil infestation, we are fighting the billion dollar bug, with our limited resources and genius, and while farmers will endeavor to produce some cotton during the coming season, they are not counting on any great results this year. Last season proved so disastrous to some of our cotton growers that they are doubtful whether they will make an attempt to grow cotton this year. The cost and the risk are both great.

A Chicago bandit has been arrested in Seattle. He might have known that Seattle would do most anything to secure publicity.

There is an ancient axiom that it is impossible to squeeze blood out of a turnip, but France has an idea that she can do it regardless of "feelings" from Washington.

## Women Boosters.

When Charleston cut loose from ancient traditions and reorganized her chamber of commerce at the close of last year, the one radical change in its policy was to make women eligible to membership. Many of the leading women of the city immediately came in to swell the membership, and the Charleston American states that this infusion of a new element into chamber of commerce work has put new life into that heretofore staid old body. The chamber directors, the steering committee and the executive committee met on Monday night and made wonderful progress in arranging a constructive program for this year. The women members of the committees actively concerned themselves in all matters concerning the chamber. One of the main addresses of the evening was by Mr. J. B. Wiles, of Chicago, who gave various expert opinions on enlarging the beneficial scope of the Charleston chamber of commerce. Mr. Wiles made it a point to commend the chamber for its conception of the value of women as forces in chamber of commerce work for the city and community. One of the beneficial results of this new membership is that the chamber can count on larger and more representative meetings of the booster organization. It will be a woman's organization unless the men attend the meetings.

## Useful Booklets For Carolinians.

The Star acknowledges receipt of two valuable booklets just issued by H. M. London, legislative reference librarian, under the auspices of the North Carolina Historical commission. One of them contains 71 pages, and it is titled "Directory of the State and County Officials of North Carolina." It is pocket-size, and it is as interesting as it is valuable for ready reference.

This concise directory, contains a complete list of North Carolina congressmen, state officials, heads of various state departments, state boards, state commissions, state institutions and their presidents, supreme court justices, superior court judges, district solicitors, members of both houses of the general assembly, together with their names and addresses. It gives for each county the names and addresses of the clerk of court, register of deeds, sheriff, county treasurer, coroner, surveyor, auditor, superintendent of health, superintendent of schools, superintendent of public welfare, chairmen of boards of elections, farm agents, and county and highway commissioners. It also contains a list of the counties composing each of the various counties in the various judicial and senatorial districts throughout the state.

Of almost equal value and interest is the other booklet issued by Librarian London, embracing a compilation, by counties, of the official vote cast at the 1921 election for state officers, judges, solicitors, congressmen, as well as the state vote on the constitutional amendments, voted on by the people at the last election. Both these booklets are handy references, which may be obtained without cost by any person who makes application to H. M. London, legislative reference librarian, Raleigh, N. C.

This is a thoughtful service rendered to the people in line with the functions of the state historical commission.

The Germans want to settle down, but the French want to settle up. North Carolina is going to get there in spite of those who are disposed to throw monkey-wrenches into the machinery.

The Entente allies are too much divided to make the Turks understand that the Lausanne conference is a coroner's inquest.

Chicago is talking about her prospects for having a population of 50,000,000. Why should the windy city keep on nagging at New York?

The man who can propound a solution for the German reparations has an opportunity to do a considerable amount of damage to the reputation of Solomon.

A certain minister preached from this text: "They toll not, neither do they sin; yet Solomon, in all his glory, was not arrayed like one of these." A certain bewitching element in his congregation probably regarded such a text as entirely too personal.

At the recent meeting of the National Woman's party, our lady friends demanded more equal rights. This is evidently a demand on the male of the species, hence the men folks will have to get together and demand as many equal rights from the ladies as they are demanding from the men. In union there is strength, and also various opportunities to come to a wise understanding.

## CONTEMPORARY VIEWS.

### "OCCUPATION" AND FINANCE

France's apparent determination to occupy the Ruhr region is, on the surface at least, the outgrowth of alleged necessity for the immediate collection of reparations goods to assist in balancing the budget which is now in danger of breaking down. The situation thus stated presents a singular commentary on post-war financial policy. France has consistently assumed that Germany could and would pay what all advisers said she neither would, nor could. In this regard her policy has been in striking contrast to that of Great Britain. Ever since the armistice the British Government has reiterated its intention of collecting, at least in part, both the German indemnity and the loans it made to the Allies during the war. But, so far as its current financial affairs have been concerned, it has followed a strictly "pay as you go" policy, meeting expenditures for pensions, interest on American and domestic debts and unemployment (all direct outgrowths of the war) from current taxation. This policy has not been altogether popular with the British taxpayer, who pays to the State a higher ratio of his income than is required in any other country in the world, but it has been feasible for the government to pursue a dignified and humane financial policy without undue inflation of the currency. In France, on the other hand, a well-nigh unmanageable public debt has piled up since the war (1.6 billion in addition to the war debt) under the fiction that it was "recoverable from Germany." According to the Treaty of Versailles, it was, but practically it was not, much of this debt was created in order to rebuild the devastated regions of France—but in this, as in business in general, a financial policy must be determined by practical conditions, not theories. Since France's only important debt is her war debt, she must shape her financial policy accordingly. Thus far she has been unwilling to impose taxation to meet war burdens. If she continues in this frame of mind it will seem that further inflation was inevitable, regardless of her policy towards Germany.—New York Journal of Commerce.

### FINANCIAL IMPERIALISM

France's apparent intent to occupy the Ruhr and begin the collection of taxes on the part of the bayonet is lamentable from the political and governmental standpoint, but it is likely to be of no little interest from the economic and fiscal side as well. Can a foreign country do better on such a greater efficiency in the administration of a conquered territory and in the administration of its affairs than the people themselves?

There are examples and illustrations on both sides of this question; but the chief one that there can be of support. Success in such imperialism has been had, in those countries whose resources were back into the nation, and in which only the smallest portion was deducted for exportation or remittance to the country that exercised control over them. Our experience in the Philippines is a case in point. We have spent nothing for our government of the islands, and all that we have spent has been returned to the inhabitants. England's control of India furnishes much the same kind of illustration of imperialism. The cases may be contrasted, to advantage, with the experience of Spain in governing her colonies, and with the profit-making management of various tropical and Oriental peoples in the interest of their Western exploiters. Where such domains have been a source of gain the result has been deterioration which has promptly reacted upon the income-producing power of the community.

France's purpose in her occupation is an ordinary case of colonialism. There is no pretense that self-government is impossible. The provinces are occupied in order to collect the indemnity. Taxes are to be gathered from the start, and so far as possible, the plan is not likely to work; for, in so far as necessary funds are taken from the people, their productivity is likely to fall off, and in so far as they are uncoupled, there will be little or no change from past conditions. If the Rhine provinces are merely "held" as a hostage which Germany may pay back in the future by liquidating the indemnity, the case is different, but this is not what France nominally proposes, and it should be added such a programme is as little likely to succeed as any other.

Imperialism has been successful in world history only when unselfish. Finance and imperialism has never had more than a transitory virtue or advantage to any of the parties to it. In this case it is highly improbable that real gains on profits will be contemplated. If France gets, through her occupation, enough to pay the expenses of it—assuming that the regular upkeep of the government is popularly recognized—it will be all that can reasonably be expected. The economic aspects of this experiment are as hazardous and discouraging as its political and international phases.—New York Journal of Commerce.

### PRESSURE ON THE RUHR

French occupation of the Ruhr will be a failure if it does not produce reparations, and a disaster if it discredits and breaks down the republican government of Germany. The danger is not so near as some pessimists seem to think. Certainly not all of the dire results predicted by them can follow. We hear, variously, that German "heavy industry" will be ruined to the profit of French heavy industry, that French and German heavy industry will amalgamate, fusing all the coal and iron of the Ruhr and Eorraine into an economic combination of enormous power; that occupation of the Ruhr will be immensely profitable to the

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Industrial kings who will have the head of the French government—after his Ruhr properties have been occupied by French troops. When he has waited barefoot in the snow for a reason—New York Times.

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Ladies' black kid one-strap pumps, welt soles, Cuban low heels, quite a few sizes left, values to \$9.00. To close out.....	<b>\$2.45</b>
Women's black satin, brown satin, patent leather and dull calf one-strap pumps, covered Baby Louis heels, values to \$9.00. To close out.....	<b>\$4.95</b>
Women's or big girls' patent leather pumps and brown calf pumps and oxfords, low flat heels, quite an assortment of sizes and styles, values to \$8.50. To close out.....	<b>\$3.95</b>
Cantilever oxfords for women, the most highly advertised shoe sold in the city, once a wearer, always a wearer. To introduce them we are offering black kid, brown kid and brown calf oxfords that sold for \$10.50 and \$11.50, at.....	<b>\$8.85</b>

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