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EDITORIAL AND MAGAZINE PAGE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1917.

ONE MORE STEP-AND WAR

to Germany; an American ship has been sunk by a German submarine; four Hamburg-American liners have been seized by the Canal Zone officials at Panama; the German interned cruisers at Philadelphia have been seized by the Navy Depart-The severance of diplomatic relations by the President was the first event of the day. After that came the President's address to Congress, and the remainder of the events-ominous and disconcerting-happened on the heels of the address. It is a situation which practically amounts to a state of war without the formality of a declaration. At It was made plain that President Wilson did not

believe Germany would elect to have war with this country. He stated his deep conviction to this efthe American Ambassador and the sending home of the German Ambassador, together with a full statement of the causes leading up to that action. Only an actual overt act will convince him even tention of the German authorities to do in fact date in the future. what they have warned us they will feel at liberty

cautionary step in the severance of relations.

And yet the character of events closely following the President's address would seem to negaexpression. The sinking of the American ship by Legislature. a German submarine indicates that Germany proposes to carry out her policy of ruthlessness, and there could be but one regretful meaning to that.

STATE WELFARE WORK.

Senator Scales is in charge of a legislative bill which would enlarge the scope of the State Board of Charities into that of the Board of Public Welfare. This movement has the endorsement of the Baptist Convention, the Methodist Conferences and the Presbyterian Synod, in addition to that of the Teachers' Assembly, State Sunday School Association, Women's Clubs and other organizations, and appears to be a commendable one for several reasons, one of which would be the better care for the deserving poor of the State, and better provision for the neglected and dependent child who is the criminal in the making. The objects of the proposed enlarged organization are all in the direction of the betterment of the social conditions in the State, and there should be no reason why the bill advocated by Senator Scales should not be enacted into law without opposition.

CHARLOTTE'S LEADERSHIP.

claim leadership in textile manufacturing in her were 48 hours ago. own State, at least," which is a very safe claim.

on President Wilson.

A MODERN SYSTEM OF FINANCING

Mr. W. S. Wilson, Legislative Reference Librarian at Raleigh, has renewed his efforts begun in 1911 for the pasage of his bill for the encourage- Hall, Assistant Forester in the United States Dement of road building in North Carolina by State partment of Agriculture, in the matter of a system aid. The bill would open the way to a modern This newspaper receives Complete Reports of system of financing of vast advantages over any The Associated Press, and also maintains special system yet devised. The bill has been introduced in the House by Mr. Clark of Pitt County. In view c: the possibilities for good results that are to be necessity, and the plea The Observer has been makfound in this measure it has attracted wonderfully ing is for the Government to extend the same small attention. The methods of issuing bonds by counties is productive of much wastefulness. Briefly, the bill which has enlisted the aid of Mr. Clark provides for the issue of State bonds at four per Forest Reserves that it extended in the case of the cent, to be loaned to the counties at five per cent Colorado mountains. As Mr. Hall sets forth, "the for the purpose of building roads. The distinguishing feature of this bill is that it provides money for county road building at the rate of five per cent annually, which includes four per cent for interest on State bonds and one per cent for sinking Look at the printed label on your paper. The fund to retire such bonds at maturity, which is 41 date thereon shows when the subscription expires years after date of issue. The excess of one per cent, compounded semi-annually, becomes each Notice date on label carefully, and if not correct, year a part of the semi-annual road fund, and the please notify us at once. Subscribers desiring the bond issue is reduced by the amount of such sur-

> It can be readily seen how the operations of this bill might be broadened for great possibilities of good in the State. We might take a Mecklenburg experience under the old system of bond issues as an illustration of how different the financial situa tion in this county would have been today if some such plan as that devised by Mr. Wilson had bear

In 1870, Mecklenburg County issued bonds to The American Ambassador at Berlin has been paid six per cent interest on the money received tourist development than in some of the Western ordered to close his office and return home: the from the sale of these bonds. These bonds ran 20 States. Mr. Hall points out the importance of the German Ambassador at Washington has been years and became due in 1890. During these 20 given tickets for himself, family and attaches back years, Mecklenburg County paid \$360,000 in interest alone on this indebtedness of \$300,000. When the bonds became due, no sinking fund had been provided and the bonds could not be paid, so that refunding bonds were issued to the amount of thing needed is the roads. Certainly it would ap-\$300.000, bearing six per cent interest, payable 30 pear that with the influence of the North Carolina ment, and the entire National Guard of New York bears or in 1920. Within three years delegation in Congress and the friendly assistance this issue of bonds will become due, and we are in- of the Forest Service officials, North Carolina State, with the Naval Militia, have been called out. formed the county has no sinking fund to meet their payment. During these 30 years, which will expire in 1920, the county will have paid \$540,000 additional in interest, which, added to the \$360,000 paid from 1870-1890, makes a total of \$900,000 which has been paid as interest on a \$300,000 loan contracted in 1870. When these bonds bethis writing it is humanly impossible to see how to be taken care of and it will be necessary to refund these bonds again, so that in 1920 the original \$300,000 will have cost the county \$900,000 in interest and it will still owe the \$300,000, which fect in his address to the joint session of Congress, by the county for an original loan of \$300,000, in which he gave account of his action in recalling \$900,000 of which will have been paid with \$300,-000 still due.

If the Wilson idea of finance, embodied many as "a deplorable renunciation of its assurand he refuses to believe that it is the in-

But if the President's faith in Germany's regard argument in favor of the proposed bill—H. B., 604. ment it became apparent that diplomatic relations when we bear in mind that all of the for her solemn obligations proves misplaced and The Wilson plan would simply authorize the State with Germany must be severed the sentiment of purchases of the Federal Government Germany shall strike a blow at us, what then? to create a semi-annual road fund not to exceed the country became solidified in support of Presi-President Wilson will again come before Congress \$400,000 to be used by the counties upon the terms dent Wilson, and the people of the country rose up made. and ask it for authority to use any means neces- which have been briefly stated. Some people, who as one ready to follow the President and the flag. sary for the protection of our seamen and our peo- evidently do not thoroughly understand the mean- There is no incident in history where a country ple-in other words, for authority to inaugurate ing of the bill, have said that if it is enacted it was found more firmly and completely united in war against Germany. For that the President—and will necessitate the issuance of about \$30,000,000 support of its President or more willing and ready he speaks for the people of America—has no de- of State bonds during the next 40 years but this to rally to his call. The outside world could not sire. "We are the sincere friends of the German idea is wrong. As a matter of fact, the extra one by any possible means mistake the sentiment of Government," he declares, and we earnestly desire per cent surplus takes care of nearly one-half of the American people. It had been against war so tourists. The movement in that di-key, where he is in the employ of the to devote himself entirely to his art. to be at peace with her people. "We will not be- the total amount of road funds provided during long as war could be avoided, but if war must rection at present is in its mere in-Here that they are hostile until obliged to believe this period. The bill provides for the expenditure come they were ready to meet it as it has been met it." But the principles he has laid down are the of some \$30,000,000 for road purposes during the by no other country. It would be a united Amerbasis of peace, not of war. It is certainly to be next 41 years, but only about one-half of this, to ica fighting for the rights and the honor of Amerihoped that we shall not be challenged "to defend wit: \$20,000,000, will consist of State bonds, and cans, and fighting all the more determinedly and them by acts of wilful injustice on part of the balance of it will be made up from the semi-enthusiastically to make up for the insults imposed ing in which the Federal Government, Government of Germany." If it comes to the annual sinking fund received from the country while it was bound up by a the State and the local communities Ninch and Hugh W. Harrison who worst the United States will not go before the world and reloaned at compound interest. The State, it policy of forbearance. If war is to come, America will have to participate to their utas serving a selfish end. It will be a war on part is believed, stands in no danger of losing a dollar of is ready for it and will not enter upon the work in of this Government for the immemorial rights and money spent under this bill; nor will the issue of any half-hearted manner. principles of our people to which they have ever these bonds affect the State's credit, for the reason ought to stand true in thought and action, for that for every dollar that State bonds are issued the a windication of our rights to liberty and justice State Treasurer will have in his vaults county se-

THE RELEASE OF FOODSTUFFS.

What might be termed the one bright spot in the prospective situation is an immediate and substantial lowering in the price of living. The reason is plain. Millions of pounds of beef and immense quantities of all other kinds of foodstuffs have accumulated in storage for shipment to the European markets at war prices, and these stored products will have to be released upon a lowered market. The holders could better afford to sell at cheaper rates than to continue holding in storage for an indefinite time. In the event of war it would be impossible to ship these supplies out of the country. The storage people would be compelled to hold them at a continued heavy cost, or liberate them to the markets of this country. This would mean a breaking of the backbone of the high cost of living, and as a compensatory measure would prove of enormous advantage to our

CHANGED CONDITIONS ON THE SEAS.

Since President Wilson's action in severing rela-The Mill News quotes Dockman's 1916 Directory tions with Germany, the sailing of ships carrying President Wilson has said will apply equally to a showing that Charlotte textile plants and those the American flag is attendant with war risks, Austria. having principal offices with plants nearby, now having now become a military measure. If Amernumber 25, with a combined capital of more than lean merchantmen undertake voyages through \$5,600,000, employing probably more people than European waters they will likely have to be ac- waters. One is at Constantinople and two are at the textile factories of any other city in the State. companied by war ships. In that event, and an Alexandria, and they are still flying the flag of There are in these Charlotte plants over a quarter American merchantman is attacked by a hostile their country. of a million spindles and nearly 5,000 looms, the ship, there could be but one result—a fight. But product being a diversified line of manufactures in it is scarcely probable that things will soon come heavy, fine and fancy goods. The Mill News thinks to that pass. All the same, conditions governing that with these industries. "Charlotte still may ocean traffic are vastly changed from what they

The stock market has heard reports that Ger- turn to affairs is that the helping hand of the Uni- complained that Mr. Wilson is a man of notes and many has offered concessions to the United ted States has been withdrawn from the aid of the words, a Byzantine logothete, while he himself is States, but it is manifest that if this report is true, sufferers by the war, not only in Germany, but in pre-eminently a man of deeds and rarely opens too fast. the proposed concessions made no impression up- other countries. In this particular respect Ger- his mouth. Such hallucinations are not uncommany has inflicted a severe injury upon herself.

ROADS FOR THE FOREST RESERVES

The Observer is inclined to felicitate itself upon having enlisted the interest of Mr. William L. of roads for the National Forest Reserves in North Carolina. For the development of this Government acquisition good roads are an imperative friendly hand to the building of roads and trails over the North Carolina section of the National securing of necessary roads is a large undertaking in which the Federal Government, the State and the local communities will have to participate to their utmost abilities." Mr. Hall also refers to the influential part the newspapers of the State will be able to play in securing this system of roads, and it has been the hope of The Observer that it might enlist the aid of the papers in the western counties, to the end that the vast opportunities of road building in the reserves of North Carolina might be the more readily impressed upon the Government at Washington. Mr. Hall speaks hopefully of the future of the forest reserves in this State, and it is true, as he says, that the movement is as yet in its infancy. "Our Great Mountain Asset," is practically untouched by the hand of the developer. The beginning must be made with the building of roads and trails, as has been done in the Western States, and we hold fast by our contention that in the mountains of western North Carolina there are greater scenic possibilithe amount of \$300,000 to build a railroad. It ties and other ready-to-hand opportunities for forest reservations in supplying the industries of North Carolina and adjoining States as a consideration aside from that of "the hundreds of thousands of people who in the future will come to the mountains as vacationists or tourists." The one should shortly succeed in getting the road-build-

THE COLLAPSE OF FORBEARANCE.

ing work under way.

The more one studies the program of the German Government for the violation of all pledges to the United States and its dictatorial announcement of its plans of submarine warfare, the more will grow the wonder that President Wilson waited even for so brief a time to sever relations with that Government. It was not enough for Germany to say that she would proceed at once with the torpedoing of vessels without the customary warning Assistant Foresten Hall on the North in accordance with international warfare rules, but dictated to this country what course it should To the Editor of The Observer pursue in privileged shipping. The United States was told that it could run one ship over specified route, provided Germany should name the flag under which this ship might sail, and this ship could Great Mountain Asset." In this edinow that Germany would take a step which would in the Clark bill, had been the law at that enter but a single designated port. A deliverance call upon the United States to draw the sword. Be time, these bonds would have been paid in 1911, of that sort to the Government of the United States to the lands recently approved for that as it may, President Wilson made it clear and the total amount the county would have been did not invite a protest. It invited what was rethat Germany's sudden and deliberate withdrawal required to pay for both principal and interest, turned—a severance of diplomatic relations and all Mt. Mitchell. of the assurances given in her note of May 4, 1916, would have been \$615,000, which would represent which that implies. That President Wilson did left this Government no alternative consistent with a saving of \$585,000 on this one bond issue. There not wait for Germany to make an "overt act"—did the dignity and honor of the United States, but to is a saving of this amount up to 1920, without taknot wait for Germany to strike at the flag—before the State in the future is in my judgtake the course which it has just taken. President Wilson regards this action on part of Gerdent wilson regards this action of Gerdent wilson regards this action on part of Gerdent wilson regards this action on part of Gerdent wilson regards the gerdent wilson regar

ALL FOR THE FLAG.

The people of the United States were practically This example, we should think, proves a strong united in a desire to keep out of war, but the mo- up this holding to its proper size but Sheriff Harris until such time as he sic House, yesterday rented the W.

THE EFFECT ON MONEY.

and an unmolested life." The Observer, however, curities worth twice the amount. Another thing war with Germany would cause a stiffening in the is inclined to share in the President's incredulity. Which might be considered is the fact that each money market, yet the claim is made that easier It cannot yet believe that it is the serious inten- item of county indebtedness under this act be- money would be the expectation. A banker is tion of Germany to challenge this country in the comes a better security as payments are made quoted by The Wall Street Journal as saying that manner feared and which prompted the first pre- each six months, thereby progressively reducing the money situation is in excellent shape to meet the expected shock of war. "Naturally." he says, "It is a time for caution, but I believe that money, We should think that the Wilson plan is one if any thing, will work easier as a result of the en Monday night at Lexington in the hopes and belief to which he had given which should catch the interested attention of the present situation." If the views of this banker are correct, the immediate consequences of a rupture the dance at a late hour and was prewith Germany will not be so bad. "Money will be sented by a young lady whom he had easier." It has been a drug for several weeks, "and persuaded that he was a well-known it is bound to become more so in consequence of composer. the drastic liquidation of securities." With money the Desert Grow Cold," "A Little Bit easier and foodstuffs coming down, our people will of Heaven," etc., did cause a flurry be in position to take a more confident view of the be in position to take a more confident view of the situation than otherwise might have been the case.

> Franklin Safford, the gentleman who was so sure that James W. Osborne had registered at his hotel as to make oath to his belief, got off, as Col. Bunch McBee would say, "tollable light," with nine saw your editorial paragraph. It months in prison and the sentence stayed at that months in prison, and the sentence stayed, at that The court evidently intends ungloving its hand when it comes to dealing out justice to the real offenders in this noted blackmailing case.

For the first time in many years the gates of falling into error through acceptation the White House have been locked against the intrusion of suspicious characters. The day has matrusion of suspicious characters. The day has ma-rection by request of some of our amongst trees where the Cardinal, the name of John terialized when it is well that the person of the folks who feel that you have done an blue bird, mocking bird and Juncos attached the car. President be guarded with extra care.

Austria, of course, will be governed by the German program, and Austria understands that what

Three American naval vessels are in troubled

IN THE HALLUCINATION ZONE. (From The Philadelphia Record.)

Of course, the Colonel had to butt in with his gather the pelts of his victims. unsolicited views on what the President should do. Every day or two now something appears from his The part pitiful to contemplate about the new overworked typewriter. And yet the Colonel has mon with advancing years.

PUBLIC OPINION

What the People Have to Say on Current Events

THE NATIONAL FORESTS.

Carolina Possibilities.

A friend has sent me a clipping from The Charlotte Observer of January 28 giving your editorial on "Our torial reference is made particularly purchase by the National Forest Resrvation Commission on the slopes of

tional Forests in North Carolina will to acquire 272,000 acres within the Jean Napoleon Ingram, the well- in time to prevent ignition. State. This is probably less than 25 owned either by the Federal Govern- answers to Attorney Means. By or- Two of the deceased persons ment, the State or cities and a num- der of Judge Webb, the witness was elsewhere. ment, the State or cities and a numyears it shows that progress is being returned to his home near Concord, her residence to this city. This forested area will not only have tremendous importance in supplying the industries of North Carolina and adjoining States with raw \$11,150 cash. material but it will be of even greatimportance I believe on account \$6,000 of the hundreds of thousands of people who in the future will come to I look to see it multiplied fancy. many fold in the future.

mountain region. The securing necessary roads is a large undertak- cumbent. Others are: S. H. Hilton, Orleans Short Line, spent yesterday most ability. The influence of the press in pointing out the opportunities and its influence in this direction is of very great importance.

WM. L. HALL, Assistant Forester Washington, Feb. 1. THE LEXINGTON DANCE.

Didn't Fall Quite So Hard as Editorial Indicated.

To the Edietor of The Observer:

In today's issue of The Observer is editorial reference to a dance givhonor of J. K. Brennan. No such True, the entrance of the supposed author of "Till the Sands " young ladies did not fall near so hard as your editorial would suggest. In your same issue you carry correction wired yesterday in regard to Salisbury version, but the correction is buried in the paper and will probably not be read by a tenth of the folks who that he failed to get away with his tricks here, and the amount of money

he collected here was small.

The use of the special sent your paper from here on the date of the one shot weighing 33 pounds. incident would have prevented vouc of the Salisbury version I am asking you to make this cor-

unintentional injustice E. E. WITHERSPOON.

Runs Traps in a Motor Car. (From The Salt Lake Herald-Repub-

lican.)

Twin Falls, Idaho .- Z J .Lvnch, of Milner, one week recently trapped 242 prairie in his motor car collecting the the mills have been established

Not Too Fast for That.

(From Puck.)

First Officer-Did you get that fellow's number? Second Officer No he was

First Officer-Say, that was a finelooking dame in the car. Second Officer-Wasn't she?

LOOKING BACKWARD

H-BOAT

Items of Interest Concerning People of Charlotte and the Carolinas, From The Observer of This Date, 1907 and 1897.

TEN YEARS AGO

Mr. Meyer, the United States Am- | There came near being an explosion bassador to Germany, had an audi- of serious proportions at the Charence today with Kaiser Wilhelm, re-maining afterwards for luncheon with diate entourage of the court. Mr. knownst to the proprietors of the Meyer, at the luncheon, was seated store, had become filled with powder, beside Princess Alexandria Victoria, spilled from kegs during the past of Schleswig-Holstein, the flancee of Prince August William, the fourth a match upon the floor and a blaze

sation with Mr. Meyer. Quite a mild sensation was caused It was only through heroic work on known traveler, kept the tribunal in an uproar of laughter through his Sharon Township since January could observe the dignity of the court. T. Jordan home on Professor Ingram was placed in jail, street. His mother, who is at present but was later released on bail and residing in Camden, S. C., will move

The city of Durham sold less than | Chief Culpepper, of the fire departhalf acre for a small fortune.

cord, who has many friends in Char-American Tobacco Company.

Gossip is suggesting various names as successors for Recorder You do well to point out the need Shannonhouse, whose term of office of roads through this wonderful will expire in the near future. Among of the number is that of W. M. Smith, J. E. Little, F. R. Mc-

Lawrence Harrison, who has been day clerk at the Hotel Elwood, in ship, is the possessor of a badly High Point, has accepted a position scratched face as the result of an enas night clerk at the Central Hotel.

Creek Township, was destroyed by fire hunter viciously and a battle royal enat an early hour last night. The blaze sued. The wild cat was finally killed had its origin in a quantity of fod-by the dogs and its skin will be re-der and was discovered by Tom Sad-tained by Mr. Garrison as a memento ler, too late to save the structure.

months. A customer yesterday cast Your point of view that the Na-eon, the Emperor had a long conver-and headed toward the kegs of stored powder in one corner of the building.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

There has

The ment, was able to be up town yesterlot was bid in by G. C. Farthing for day for the first time since receiving The municipality pur- a severe fall from the roof of a Dilchased the lot several years ago for worth house, where he was fighting \$6,000. Peter E. King, a native of Con- with a cane for some weeks yet. Harvey Overcarsh, who has a de-

cided talent for music, has decided He now practices five hours a day upon the piano and expects Frank North next year to complete his edu-George W. Allen, traveling passen-

ger agent of the Atlanta and New in the city on business connected with the Mobile Mardi Gras.

E. J. Garrison, of Mint Hill Towncounter with a wild cat several nights A barn belonging to Mrs. John H. ago while possum hunting. The ani-Sadler, whose residence is in Paw mal, after being treed, attacked the of a rather thrilling experience.

TAR HEEL PRINTS

Merely Suggested.

(From The Greensboro Record.) If it happens to come his way, if the city planner will tell us how to reduce the million dollars the city owes it might come in handy for ref-

Killing Wild Turkeys. (From The Sampson Democrat.)

Wild turkeys seem to be plentiful. During the past week John Boyette, of Honeycutts, was out hunting and killed five at one shot and two at another. Frank Armwood, man, of South Clinton, killed three at

The Tea House and the Birds. (From The Tryon Bee.)

The Valhalla Tea-House is set brought suit against the driver under amongst trees where the Cardinal, the name of John Doe, for \$650, and The Valhalla Tea-House is set congregate. Lately the fields have been alive with robins and meadow car will be sold at public auction. If larks, red-headed wood peckers and anybody bids against him, all the betwrens have even tried to get board ter, there, all they ask for are the will increase the amount he will col-

Passing of the Trees. (From The Chapel Hill News.) The cedar industry is equal to the coyotes and rode around over the cross-tie business in this section since pelts, which will bring him \$2.50 Carrboro. The prices paid for cedar apiece bounty from the State. He will logs are much higher than crossties, so be able to sell the fure for about and both industries greatly aid far-\$600. Mr. Lynch has 500 traps set mers in a time when there is little over a radius of 50 miles, and goes doing on the farm. Thousands of dolforth in State with his motor car to lars are paid farmers annually for cedar timber and crossiles in this sec-

> Surveys and Trial Lines (From The Wilkesbore Patriot.)

Numerous road surveys, trial lines, et cetera, have been run by the road The location of the State highway on

\$25,000 will, The Patriot understands, be left largely, if not altogether with the State Highway Commission.

GOT CAR THAT RAN OVER WIFE. Irate Husband Sues for Damages and Collects a 1910 Model.

(From The Minneapolis Journal.) Samuel Rothenberg won the motor car that struck and injured his wife last Fall.

The court gave it to him. But Samuel Rothenberg can't ride in his car till he buys it from himself and pays himself for it. And he can't even do that for 10

Such is the law of the land, as Rothenberg found out when District Judge Daniel Fish gave him a default judgment against John Doe in what is said to have been the first civil suit Mr. Doe ever lost in the

Hennepin County courts. When a motor car struck and injured Mrs. Rothenberg October 18, the driver got out of the car, tore off the license number and fied. The police seized the machine. Later Rothenberg

He won the suit by default. The says Rothenberg, for

By the way, the car is a 1910 model.

TEARS BEHIND HER SMILES.

Actress Plays Comedy Role While Mourning Her Mother's Death. (From The New York World.) Few in the audience at the Cohan & Harris Theater at a recent performance of "Captain Kidd, Jr

that while the merry lines of her part came from the lips of Edith Talia-ferro, the star, her heart was burdened with the knowledge that her mother was dead only a half mile away from the playhouse.

Miss Taliaferro played her part.

successfully keeping he from those who saw her. her heartache engineers, but so far no permanent. Her mother, Mrs. Anna Taliaferro

location has been made except on Abell, died a few hours before the the North Wilkesboro-Traphill road. performance after a short lilness. She s survived by her which the Government will spend two daughters, Edith and Mabel