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EDITORIAL AND MAGAZINE PAGE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1917.

ONE MORE STEP—AND WAR

The American Ambassador at Berlin has been ordered to close his office and return home.

It was made plain that President Wilson did not believe Germany would elect to have war with this country.

But if the President's faith in Germany's regard for her solemn obligations proves misplaced and Germany shall strike a blow at us, what then?

And yet the character of events closely following the President's address would seem to negate the hopes and belief to which he had given expression.

STATE WELFARE WORK.

Senator States 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.

CHARLOTTE'S LEADERSHIP.

The Mill News quotes Dockman's 1916 Directory as showing that Charlotte textile plants and those having principal offices with plants nearby, now number 25.

The stock market has heard reports that Germany has offered concessions to the United States, but it is manifest that if this report is true, the proposed concessions made no impression upon 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 passage of his bill for the encouragement of road building in North Carolina by State aid.

It can be readily seen how the operations of this bill might be broadened for great possibilities of good in the State.

In 1870, Mecklenburg County issued bonds to the amount of \$300,000 to build a railroad.

If the Wilson idea of finance, embodied in the Clark bill, had been the law at that time, these bonds would have been paid in 1911.

This example, we should think, proves a strong argument in favor of the proposed bill—H. B. 804.

We should think that the Wilson plan is one which should catch the interested attention of the Legislature.

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.

CHANGED CONDITIONS ON THE SEAS.

Since President Wilson's action in severing relations with Germany, the sailing of ships carrying the American flag is attendant with war risks.

The part pitiful to contemplate about the new turn to affairs is that the helping hand of the United States has been withdrawn from the aid of the sufferers by the war, not only in Germany, but in other countries.

ROADS FOR THE FOREST RESERVES

The Observer is inclined to felicitate itself upon having enlisted the interest of Mr. William L. Hall, Assistant Forester in the United States Department of Agriculture, in the matter of a system of roads for the National Forest Reserves in North Carolina.

THE COLLAPSE OF FORBEARANCE.

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.

ALL FOR THE FLAG.

The people of the United States were practically united in a desire to keep out of war, but the moment it became apparent that diplomatic relations with Germany must be severed the sentiment of the country became solidified in support of President Wilson.

THE EFFECT ON MONEY.

One would naturally expect that the prospect of war with Germany would cause a stiffening in the money market, yet the claim is made that easier money would be the expectation.

THE LEXINGTON DANCE.

Didn't Fall Quite So Hard as Editor Indicated.

To the Editor of The Observer: In today's issue of The Observer is an editorial reference to a dance given Monday night at Lexington.

Runs Traps in a Motor Car.

(From The Salt Lake Republican.)

IN THE HALLUCINATION ZONE.

(From The Philadelphia Record.)

Of course, the Colonel had to butt in with his unsolicited views on what the President should do.

Second Officer—No, he was going too fast.

"WELL?"



PUBLIC OPINION

What the People Have to Say on Current Events.

THE NATIONAL FORESTS.

Assistant Forester Hall on the North Carolina Possibilities.

To the Editor of The Observer:

A friend has sent me a clipping from The Charlotte Observer of January 28 giving your editorial on "Our Great Mountain Asset."

You point of view that the National Forests in North Carolina will be of large economic importance to the State in the future is in my judgment entirely correct.

I look to see it multiplied many fold in the future.

You do well to point out the need of roads through this wonderful mountain region.

The 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 ability.

W. M. L. HALL, Assistant Forester.

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LOOKING BACKWARD

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 Ambassador to Germany, had an audience today with Kaiser Wilhelm, remaining afterwards for luncheon with the Imperial family and the immediate entourage of the court.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

There came near being an explosion of serious proportions at the Charlotte Hardware Company yesterday.

George W. Allen, traveling passenger agent of the Atlanta and New Orleans Short Line, spent yesterday in the city on business connected with the Mohr-Hardt firm.

E. J. Garrison, of Mint Hill Township, is the possessor of a badly scratched face as the result of an encounter with a wild cat several nights ago while "possum hunting."

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