

THE FRANKLIN TIMES

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FORTY SEVENTH VOLUME

It is our pleasure to announce to the readers of the Times that with this issue we begin a new volume representing the successful completion of another year's work. This begins our forty-seventh volume and we are indeed grateful to you for the liberal patronage and loyal support you have given us during these past years, which is assurance to us that we have been giving you a paper which you appreciate and an endorsement of our efforts to give you a worthy publication. Although the conditions connected with publishing a paper have completely changed in the past few years and nothing connected therewith at present is stable, we propose to continue our untiring efforts to give you a reliable edition each week, and continue out battles for a bigger, better and more prosperous County and citizenship. Where we would not attempt to claim the credit it gives us much pleasure to look back over the past and see so many things accomplished that we have seen so much interest in and have labored so unceasingly for. We hope that future efforts may be equally or more successful and are sure that with your continued support they will be.

Therefore let us join again in renewed efforts to accomplish much in the coming year. We will take pleasure in doing our "bit" freely and fearlessly.

MISINFORMATION

A prominent Southern jurist, in addressing a class of young men in a prep school outlining the reasons for America being at war with the central powers, among other things says: "We freed Cuba and the Philippine Islands from the tyranny of Spain, and they now rejoice in this freedom. We come now to the support of France, a former noble ally in our own struggle for freedom, that her people may remain free and not be crushed to earth by a barbaric foe, scientifically skilled to be cruel."

Just such erroneous statements as the above are responsible for much of the dissatisfaction in the country. Ignorant and unthinking people gather from such utterances that this country is fighting the battles of France. Nothing could be farther from the fact.

Had not the German policy run counter to every interest of the American people; had not that country leveled an offensive directly at us, we would still be found adhering to the policy of neutrality, the policy to which we deliberately tried to cling even in the face of repeated insults and aggressions.

Had Germany in 1917 in good faith carried out her promises in regard to submarine warfare, President Wilson would not have severed relations with her. Other causes might, and probably would, have worked a rupture; but the direct cause of our entering the fight was Germany's failure to keep her pledged word in a matter that meant almost the life or death of this country.

The United States has no quarrel with Germany on France's account. The wrongs of that country may, and no doubt will, add to the zeal with which our people will prosecute the war, but they were no part of the causes that led this nation to taking action. We are today as loyal to the Monroe Doctrine as at any time in our history.

The purely national affairs of the Old World countries are no concerns of ours, and never should be. We are glad that, since we are in the struggle on the entente side, we can in some measure repay the debt we owe

to that plucky republic; but without grievances of our own, we could not in honor have entered the conflict.

There is no necessity of our inventing reasons for our action. The causes were plain and could not be mistaken. The American people were expected to bow to the arrogant demands of Prussia and her warlord, and surrender rights guaranteed to us by the laws of all nations—even those of the arrogant teuton empire. To have yielded would have been to forfeit our self respect and the respect of the nations of the earth.

Let us be honest with our people. We are in the war because we had cause to enter—just cause—causes piled mountain high. We are not fighting the battles of any other country. We are fighting our own battles. We shall however, fight side by side with the entente armies in all good fellowship, glad that we are fighting in the same noble cause—the preservation of freedom in the earth.

ARE THE PACKERS PROFITEERING?

The investigation into the packing industry is threatening to bring things to light, practices that have been alleged and denied many times. The most serious accusation against them is that the five leading firms have divided the territory of the country for buying purposes, each firm refusing to purchase from the territory of the others, thus completely eliminating competitive buying. This has been repeatedly charged in the past and as often denied. The investigation now going on, however, has pretty well established the fact.

The packing industry is one of the most important in the country, and in justice to both the packers and the people the full truth of the matter should be brought to light. If the charges are unfounded, the country should know it; that justice may be accorded these concerns upon which we are so greatly dependent. But if they have been using their great wealth and powerful purposes of unlawful profiteering, then the Government should promptly penalize them and take over their property. The American people are in no temper to be exploited on such a gigantic scale for the enriching of a few commercial brigands.

We sincerely hope the packers can prove a clean bill of health but the fact that they have made desperate efforts to stave off an investigation would lead the country to the conclusion that there must be an African gentleman in the woodpile somewhere.

THE BUSINESS OF WAR

The fact is being driven home to the people of this country that we have reached a state of war where heroics and stage oratory must be dropped and serious work take their place. We have exhausted our vocabulary and invented other languages in our condemnation of the Hun which was probably to be expected and necessary in the working up of a general war spirit. Now, however, the preliminaries are over, and depend entirely on our future actions.

We must realize the seriousness of the fact that a half million of our boys are at this moment facing the greatest engine of destruction this world has ever known. Other thousands are daily departing to share their labors and bare their breasts to the same dangers. These men have no false or exaggerated notions of the glory awaiting them. They are imbued with but one thought—to remove from the world the greatest menace to human liberty. To this end they are willing, if need be to give their lives. Certainly they are giving to the task the very best of their manhood. It is a serious business and they are going about it in deadly earnest.

Are we who must remain at home making the same serious business view of the work before us? Are we devoting our lives to the end that their lives may be preserved, or, if sacri-

ficed in the cause, that the sacrifice may not be in vain?

Just recently the country was called upon for the first real sacrifice of the war—the conserving of fuel. It has been interesting to note the spirit in case where the order was met. As is case in all such blanket orders, there were many loopholes of escape for those desirous of evading the order. Be it said to the everlasting credit of our people, very few sought for these excuses. The rule was rather to cheerfully comply if there was any chance that the order reached them.

Unless circumstances work to modify the order, it will stand until April 1st and unless all signs fall there will be added to it the necessity of compulsory saving of food. This too should be met cheerfully. Our own boys must be kept up to the highest point of efficiency and our allies must be fed. American citizens must dedicate their lives and energies to two objects—producing and saving. The entire question resolves itself into a purely business proposition—that of increasing our income to the highest possible figure, and then living well within that income that each may lay upon the altar of our country.

Let's cut out the heroics and get grimly down to the business of winning the war. Any other course spells failure.—Exchange.

Quite a little interest is being brought out in the discussion of local politics for the year.

The heatless Monday closing order has been revoked for eight southern states south of Virginia.

A meeting of the Democratic Executive Committee for the State has been called to meet in Raleigh early in March.

Gen. Pershing is reported engaged to be married. Let us hope this engagement will be free from the dangers incident to the one Uncle Sam entrusted with him.

Ireland has 350,000 men in the British army out of her population of 4,390,000. And yet Congresswoman Rankin cherishes the delusion that there is an "Irish question" that she can settle.

Gov. T. W. Bickett will address a patriotic Mass Meeting in Louisburg on Monday, February 25th.

If Mr. Hoover will see to it that all the vegetables and fruits raised this year are really put on the market and not dumped in the rivers or left to rot in the field it will aid greatly to the food supply.

Reports show that the food order requiring every person to purchase an equal amount in weight of some cereal of the flour he buys has been changed so that a person who raises and uses any or all of these cereals to such an extent can buy flour without buying the cereals, provided that he will certify to the fact that he is using such cereals in good faith.

Chief of Police High requests us to call attention to the danger in allowing children to skate on the streets of Louisburg saying that he had notified all of the danger and that further indulgence of the practice is at their own risk. He also says that they will be allowed to skate on Middle street below the home of Mr. F. B. McKinne. This is an exceedingly dangerous practice and one the parents should look after and stop. It is a matter of impossibility in many cases for a skater to control his movements and traffic is not required to give way for pleasures of this kind. Recently a little child fell in front of a horse and before the horse could be stopped had passed over it. It was just a streak of good fortune that the child was not hurt. In the future children or grown folks who will use the streets for skating or they may be the victim of serious injury.

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L. W. PARRISH