

The News and Observer

Publication information, subscription rates, and office details for The News and Observer.

THE ECKH RAILROAD BILL.

The Eckh railroad bill is going to attract considerable attention because of the fact that it is...

In the past and under the custom we are moving away from the railroad conducted on the theory...

The Eckh measure is sufficient to foreshadow a venture into some of the untraveled fields. It affords a suggestion that we tackle the railroad...

PEACE BY PROCLAMATION.

It sounds more like a joke of little boys than the deliberate sense of grown men for a member of the Senate to ask the President of the United States to declare peace by proclamation...

Peace has been provided for in a treaty between the nations that were at war with one another. Our own government has assented to the peace...

The process is simple. The Senate can without much trouble ratify the treaty which was drawn after much time and consideration on the part of the representatives of more nations than ever before assembled for such a purpose.

The one plain step is for the Senate to ratify the treaty, which is the sentiment of the country. To attempt to reach the end desired by any other step will not be effective.

NEVER LOSES ITS ROMANCE.

The good old days of Robin Hood and his merry men sound dreamy and picturesque enough in these more prosaic times, but in the years to come no doubt some romancing genius will weave up the tales of adventure based on those stirring episodes of the early twentieth century...

Bandits on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad in Tennessee, down there in the limestone bluegrass, there where Old Hickory is in the tang of the air, and you stop to talk of the glories of the famous Belle Meade farm, and the old stirs, Bonnie Scotland, and Luke Blackburn, and Great Tom and Bramble, and the Jersey cattle, the mild-eyed, mild-mannered queens of milk production with pedigrees as long as a chapter of Matthew where so many names get into print.

And there where history, and pastoral romance, and scenery and innocence are the productions of the soil, the bandit appears on the scene and holds up the train, and carries away the treasure, and electrifies the State of Tennessee, and no movie artist there to catch the climaxes when they would be worth money to the film concerns—possibly enough to make the business of the modern Robin Hooding profitable if properly staged and executed with not too much frightening of the passengers and without bloodshed, and in other ways in the same gentlemanly manner as that of yesterday.

Tennessee may be getting away from the days of chivalry since Bob Taylor and Parson Brownlow and the O'Connors and the Mabrys and the Zollicoffers are in history, but never away from romance.

LEAVING US.

North Carolina was not many years ago the leading sweet potato State of the country, but Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi have gone away from us. Although our product has increased very much the other States have increased still more, and now we are fourth instead of first, even though we make more sweets than any State made when we were at the front.

Alabama made last year nearly twenty million bushels, with our yield not half so much. The States farther South have been making things to eat instead of so much cotton, and it is a good thing that they have climbed up in their production. It will be a long day before the sweet potato is overdone in this country, for even now the total yield falls below an average of a bushel for each of us. Some day we will make the sweet potato for starch, alcohol and for chemical supplies, for it is easy to raise and has many uses. It is another of those resources that the South has in reserve in large supply.

The Senate has reported the prohibition bill out of committee, but what will happen next nobody knows, except that it will not happen with any blaze of haste. Meanwhile New York is gradually becoming accustomed to sobriety, and other towns in the limited wet zone of the North are finding that they are going to live through the dry weather, and pretty soon we will be like the man going to the next town on the stage who started to walk ahead a little until he would be overtaken and got there before the stage reached him. Nobody would be surprised if the country is dry under the amendment before the Senate catches up.

That sugar has been getting plentier since Attorney-General Palmer started to hunt for it indicates that it was not so scarce before he commenced his search.

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS

War Conducted Economically. Philadelphia Record. "Extravagant economy" characterized the conduct of our part of the war, according to Representative Sanders, of Louisiana, who has been looking into the details. Prices of everything have doubled and quadrupled since the war with Spain, and yet the cost of our war with Germany was held down to less than a negligible increase over the cost per man in 1898. The management of the war with Spain by a Republican administration was on every side the most inefficient and expensive thing we ever did. The present administration conducted our war with an efficiency and an "extravagant economy" that will always be memorable. And the Republican sheets are denouncing the inefficiency and extravagance of the administration.

before he started. He was disappointed while on his way. He was disappointed after he arrived and after he left. Nothing that the President could have said or done would have satisfied Henry Cabot Lodge.

Every sound analysis of the present price situation leads back to confirmation of Governor Harding's decision that as a solution of high living costs can be reached until the country shakes out its present spending intemperance and settles down to demanding the receipt of a dollar's worth of food or material, measured by the labor or effort required to obtain that dollar.

Liberty bonds and other securities, accumulated by the most worthy patriotic sacrifice during the war, are being cashed at a loss to purchase luxuries at prices exorbitant even for luxuries. The people have themselves to blame if prices of necessities have followed the prices of luxuries upward, when merchants observed the absolute carelessness with which people parted with their money.

It is absolutely necessary, as Governor Harding has pointed out, to work regularly and efficiently in order to produce and distribute the largest possible volume of commodities and to exercise reasonable economies in order that money, goods and services may be devoted primarily to the liquidation of debt and to the satisfaction of the demand for necessities, rather than to indulgence of desires for luxuries.

Along those lines lies unbounded opportunity for national service by war savings societies and their members. Enrolled in the societies are more than six million people, close to the very heart of American industrial life. It is in their power to increase the flow of production through the arteries of industry. It is in their power to check waste, not only among themselves and those dependent on them, but among all in the communities in which they live.

SECRETARY DANIELS TACKLES A BUSY DAY.

(From The-Tribune, San Diego, Cal.) Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels had his "working clothes" on this morning when he pranced out of the U. S. Grand Hotel elevator and jumped into the all-day battle that was before him.

By way of "working clothes" the Secretary wore that famous linen suit and flat straw hat that all the movie pictures show him in. Perhaps he has two such suits, exactly alike, so one suit can rest while the other works, but there was no deviation this morning from the Secretary's regulation togs.

Millions of dollars, the authorities say, must be spent along the Pacific coast to make it a practical place for a fleet. The present facilities are admittedly inadequate, and the navy authorities freely announce that the ports of San Diego, San Francisco, Bremerton and other places must be built up. The big work on hand today is to determine what San Diego needs.

San Diego aimed to put forth the strongest men it had for the work of showing how this city can accommodate the navy's needs. The list of those San Diegans consists of George Burnham, G. A. Davidson, Congressman William Kettner, President Rufus Choate of the harbor board, President Melville Klauer and Vice-President A. P. Johnson, Jr., of the chamber of commerce, Harbor-master Capt. J. Brennan, City Manager W. H. Judy and Frank Spalding of the chamber of commerce. The success of the efforts of these men in showing the city's advantages to the Secretary of the Navy will determine what San Diego will get, for the Secretary's recommendations must come before Congress can make appropriations and a second "battle" must be fought on the appropriations end.

The Secretary had heavy support, four rear admirals and a lot of aides protected him. His heaviest support consisted of Rear Admiral C. W. Parks, chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, and Rear Admiral J. S. McKean, chief of the Bureau of Construction and Repair. It is said that the decisions of the two admirals will decide the result. Rear Admiral C. M. McCormick, medical corps, and present in the Secretary's party, is practically a final authority on the kind and size of naval hospital San Diego should have. Rear Admiral J. L. Jays, commander of the Twelfth District, is in the party and his familiarity with all local conditions probably will be of the greatest importance for the guidance of the others. Half a dozen aides completed the Secretary's party.

The start, scheduled for 9 a. m., was made shortly before 10 o'clock, because Secretary Daniels was late in making an appearance. He kept to his room in the hotel, breakfasting and looking over his mail, until he was ready to meet the committee in the lobby.

When he appeared he was all smiles and emanated his usual good cheer, last night's banquet and ball leaving no marks of fatigue on him. The whole party got off in a hurry, going by autos, the schedule including trips to the marine brigade site, shipyards, San Diego and Arizona railway terminal, North Island, cooling station, hospital site in Balboa Park, and other locations around the bay that have been under consideration by the naval authorities.

Congressman Kettner said you bet this party will last all day. He was in battle form, too, and he stated to his friends that today's work carried the most momentous import for San Diego of any day's work this city ever knew. Today's trip was not heralded in advance as no desire was felt for bringing out a crowd of prominent citizens by way of making up a welcome delegation. The welcome business was carried through yesterday, and today's schedule calls for no junketing and much work on the part of the best informed men in the city. Every effort was made to hold the party down to working proportions, no mention of it being made on the official schedule, but the importance of the business at hand is noted by Kettner as being even greater than that of yesterday's celebration that marked another page in history.

Kwiz

Answers to Yesterday's KWIZ. 1. Not by miniature "air-pumps" in the extremities as popularly supposed, but by adhesion of a viscous substance that is exuded from the tiny hairs of the feet.

New Questions. 1. What is the final word in the familiar expression, "pure as a—?" 2. Where is the St. Lawrence river?

THE Y'S GREAT RECORD IN CONSTRUCTING HUTS

Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 22.—A construction record that will stand for a long time has just been brought to light in figures received at department headquarters here and given out by the construction department of the American Y. M. C. A. on its work in France and Germany.

HONOR MEMORY OF MEN WHO WERE IN LOST BATTALION

Santa Ana, Calif., Aug. 23.—Nathaniel Rochester, of Santa Ana, war a member of America's famous "lost battalion" and who was killed in the Argonne, will be honored here in the same fashion that his great-grandfather, Colonel Nathaniel Rochester, founder of the city of Rochester, N. Y., and one of Washington's officers in the Revolutionary war, was honored in the city he founded.

FASHIONABLE PLANT.

Mexico Has Specimen That Changes Attire Thrice Daily. Detroit News. That plants eat and drink in their own way through the soil is a well-known fact. But in South America is a species of orchid which takes a drink whenever it feels thirsty simply by letting down a tube into the water. When not in use the tube is coiled up on the top of the plant.

Just Folks

SAID HIS MOTHER TO ME. "Few understand him as I." Said his mother to me "There are some who say he will lie. But I'm sure it can't be. His lips have been sweet with a song From the days of his youth, And always, whatever the wrong, He has told me the truth.

FEATHERED VETERANS BEING DEMOBILIZED

Great Britain's Pigeon Service May Be Used By Her Air Force. (London Correspondence of The Philadelphia Public Ledger.) Feathered "veterans" of H. M. pigeon service are being "demobilized," and it has been decided to present them to discharged soldiers.

The pigeon services of the army and navy are to be disbanded, and in future the R. A. F. will be responsible for the varied duties which are allotted to "carriers."

Carrier pigeons have, in fact, been employed in all parts of the battle zone—even in the front-line trenches—and, as a result, numbers of our soldiers, sailors, airmen have formed an attachment for them and are taking up the breeding of carrier pigeons either as a sport or a hobby.

St. Mary's School. Largest resident school of the Episcopal Church in the United States for the education of young women and girls. Address: Rev. Warren W. Way, Rector.

MORNING TONIC

(Marcus Aurelius.) We are born for co-operation, like the feet, the hands, the eyelids and the upper and lower jaws.

UNCLE WALT MASON

THE SUMMER OPTIMIST. If man's an optimist these days, when this old world seems all ablaze, if he can gaily sing and smile, he is an optimist worth while. There is no trick in being gay upon a spring or autumn day, when gentle breezes fly along, and birds put up a gleaming song, and nature seems to strain a throat to bring all pleasant things in view.

Mr. Plum seems not so sure whether he is or is not.

Mr. Shillady appears to have come into uncomfortable proximity to somebody's shillalah.

Commerce of a billion dollars with Italy! And there were those who predicted that war would destroy our foreign trade.

A Massachusetts postoffice closed because it could not pay salary enough to get a postmaster. Teachers and preachers are not the only ones, evidently.

In this discussion about the ignorance of Henry Ford it is not to be forgotten that he has furnished the world with several ideas that have been accepted.

The various wars in Europe seem to be more disposed to let blood occasionally than those we are carrying on over here in the Senate and elsewhere.

Germany is out of automobile tires. In that event the folks over there dodge a big bill through the course of the year which the tire man would get if he had anything to serve.

The Prince of Wales who comes this time does not wear such a gorgeous plume in his hat as the Prince of Wales did who came to this country in 1860, that is if the pictures of the older day are accurate in their effluences.

Several brands of oil are recommended for engine knocks. Mr. Lodge might try one of them for his kind of knocks and if it proves helpful he could confer a favor on some folks he knows by passing along the information.

The automobile tire and the safety razor and the cigarette appear to think they are more important than congressional oratory. At least they pay more to get their stuff into print, which is a pretty good way to get at its rating.

Talk continues that Great Britain may trade Jamaica to Uncle Sam or her account. Probably well enough to encourage our British friends to bring in anything they have in the way of trade, for they are going to have a big bill to pay before they harvest much.

Of-course it is to be remembered that the packers may not be the cause of all the trouble, and that if that be the case we want to keep an eye out for the fellows who are, and not follow a wrong trail too persistently and let the other fellows get away with the plunder.

Now Germany says it was Russia that ignored the imploring effort of Germany to keep the peace and brought the world into war. Germany has explained that it was so many other countries that started the trouble because William could not hold them back that people are getting tangled up in the surplus of information.

If the men who are trying to devise equipment to salvage sunken ships are successful in their work, treasure hunting will become as prosaic in the next few years as sawing wood, and Captain Kidd and old John Silver will be met coming up the beach with a whistling lead of plunder on every oar in the heliograph sea region.

THE INVESTIGATIONS.

Democrats ought not to complain perhaps at the wholesale investigations of the winning of the war that the party in control of Congress is conducting. For it is a maxim never to disturb the enemy when he is making a mistake.

Of the many successful war activities which partisan Republicans are investigating one is that of A. Mitchell Palmer as alien property custodian. Palmer appears to have put a tremendous amount of energy and effectiveness in his work and from all accounts he was hated by the Germans about as badly as any of the American war executives. He never lost an opportunity to cripple German financial efficiency. In fact, he was so thorough and effective in his work that his Republican foes are sure that there was crooked work somewhere. The more a Democratic official hammered the Hun the more he was deserving of investigation, it appears, according to the actions of the investigators. And it may be that after all what our Republican friends mean by so many investigations is that they want to learn how the Democrats managed things so well. But if that is the case they ought to say so, for otherwise the public are going to draw the conclusion already indicated, namely, that they are acting purely from partisan bias and deserve to be punished by the withholding of support.