



THE COURIER

ISSUED WEEKLY.
VOLUME XXXIII.

PRINCIPLES, NOT MEN

\$1.50 A YEAR IN ADVANCE

Asheboro, North Carolina, Thursday, August 1, 1918.

NUMBER 38

GEORGE CREEL DISCUSSES THE WORK BEING DONE BY HIS COMMITTEE

Emphasis Laid On Expression, Not Repression; Commands Services of Any Writer That It May Choose to Call—Millions of Pamphlets Issued and Every Corner of the Globe Reached

Address delivered by George Creel, Chairman of the Committee on Public Information, before the North Carolina Press Association, at Asheville, July 25, 1918. After introductory remarks Mr. Creel spoke as follows:

The purpose of your invitation, I take it, was to learn at first hand of the activities of the Committee on Public Information, not out of any mere curiosity, but in an earnest effort to discover further opportunities for national service.

Let me say at the very outset that I am not THE censor or even A censor. I took this position because I believed in the freedom of the press, and wanted to be in position where I could help to guard it. You know and I know that this freedom has been often abused, but it is stupid to try to cure an evil by cutting it out. A better way is to crowd it out. Suppression is not a wise remedy. Hope of betterment lies in the slow process of education and in the development of a capacity for restraint and self-discipline.

I was not in favor of a censorship law in the beginning, nor am I now in favor of the enactment of any legislation. Aside from the physical difficulties of enforcement, the enormous cost, the overwhelming irritation, and the inevitable tendency of such laws to operate solely against the weak and powerless, I have always had the conviction that our hope must lie in the aroused patriotism, the nobler consciences, of the men who make the papers of America.

The great need is not that we should keep the press from doing hurtful things but that we should get the press to do the helpful things. The compulsions we want can never be applied from without, but must proceed from within.

It was upon this theory, when the proposed law failed of passage, that I evolved the voluntary agreement under which the press is its own and only censor.

The desires of government with respect to the concealment from the enemy of military policies, plans and movements, are set forth in certain specific requests. No law stands behind them. Their observance rests entirely upon honor and patriotism. There are violations, as a matter of course, and papers holding to the unwritten agreement have suffered injury from the papers less careful and less honest, but on the whole the press has responded in the same spirit of unselfish service that animates the firing line.

This is the only censorship exercised by the Committee on Public Information.

In all else the work is positive, the emphasis on expression. The committee, in plain, is the machinery created by the President of the United States to make the fight for public opinion in this country and in other countries of the world.

There is nothing academic in this proposition. Public opinion stands recognized as a vital part of the national defense, a mighty force in the national attack. The strength of the firing line is not in trench or barricade alone, but has its source in the morale of the civilian population from which the fighting force is drawn.

As the nation is united, resolute, and convinced of the justice of its cause, so may heroic efforts be expected of its defenders. Disunity and loyalty tear at the very heart of courage. The committee fights ignorance, misunderstanding and disaffection. It works for the maintenance of morale by every process of stimulation. We do not call it propaganda, for that word, in the German hands, has come to be associated with lies and corruptions. Our work is educational and informative, for we have such confidence in our case that we feel that no more than a fair representation of its facts is needed to win the verdict.

Under the pressure of this necessity, the committee has grown to be a world organization. Not only does it reach deep into every community in the United States, but it carries the aims and objects of America to every land.

There is no part of the great war machinery that we do not touch, no medium of appeal that we do not employ.

The printed word, the spoken word, the motion picture, the poster, the sign board—all these are used in our campaign to make our own people, and all other peoples, understand the causes that compelled America, to take up arms in defense of its liberties and free institutions.

At every point our accent is on expression, not repression. From the committee goes out the official war information; in each of the war-making branches we have sworn representatives whose duty it is to open up operations to the inspection of the people as far as military prudence will permit. We believe that public support is a matter of public understanding, and it is our job to take dead wood out of the channels of information, permitting a freer, more continuous flow.

This is not the simplest thing in the world. On one hand is the press, impatient of reticence and suspicious of concealments, and on the other hand we have generals and admirals reared in a school of iron silence. Both, however, are in process of education. The press, I feel, is commencing to realize our honesty of purpose, and the military experts are growing to have an increasing faith in the power of absolute frankness. The army and navy, through this division of news, has pledged to the people instant and honest announcement of all casualties, all accidents, all disasters. Bear this in mind when the air fills with rumors about the sinking of a transport, the loss of thousands of soldiers in France, the destruction of the fleet. Brand them as lies, and publish the liar, for the government does not suppress such news or seek to minimize it. We do not have to conceal reverses, because we do not have to fear for the courage of America.

It is for you to remember, and I make the statement with pride, that while this committee has issued thousands of releases during the year of its existence, only three of this vast number have ever been questioned as to absolute accuracy.

The first of these, a direct charge that the Fourth of July statement was a "fake," and that our transports had not been attacked by submarines, was met fully by the report of Admiral Gleaves.

The second complaint, concerned with certain captions for airplane photographs, was largely due to a confusion between training planes and battle planes. The captions referred to training plane production and the pictures showed clearly that the machines were training planes.

The third, a release bearing upon airplane production and shipment, came to us with explicit endorsements that we were without right to question.

A system of checking and verification is now permitted that will hereafter guard effectively against error.

The committee prepares and publishes all war literature that is issued in pamphlet form. It commands the services of any writer that it may choose to call, and at its back stand over three thousand of the leading historians of the country, every man in the service. These pamphlets, covering every phase of America's position, purposes, aims, are printed in many languages and millions of copies reach not only the people of America, but go to every corner of the world, carrying our defense and our attack.

Another division has gathered together the leading novelists, essayists and publicists of the land, and these men and women, without pay, toil faithfully week after week in the preparation of brilliant, comprehensive articles.

The foreign language press is dealt with by a distinct division that has enlisted the services of over two hundred volunteer translators. Reports are made on virtually every paper in the United States that is not printed in English, and we try to fight ignorance and untruth with a steady stream of articles selected with particular reference to the race or to the problem of bitterness.

The Official Bulletin has a daily free circulation of 100,000, and although a seemingly prohibitive price was fixed, over \$35,000 has been received in subscriptions in its first year.

There are other mediums of public appeal than through the printed word, and we are developing them to the fullest extent. The division of four-minute men now commands the services of over 35,000 speakers who appear regularly in the motion picture houses, carrying messages from the government to the people.

The division of speaking has coordinated the efforts of all government agencies and of all the patriotic bodies to the end that some order has been brought out of oratorical chaos. It is this division that arranges mass meetings or aids them, calls war conferences in the states, and sends picked individuals and groups on speaking tours that reach from coast to coast.

The division of pictures prepares and distributes, advises upon and censors photographs and moving pictures to the number of more than seven hundred a day. As in the case of the press, there is no law that can be invoked, but the patriotism of the motion picture industry itself has enabled us to exercise an iron control in the interest of the national service.

Under the direction of Charles Dana Gibson, the artists of America have been mobilized for the production of posters, car cards, and every other form of pictorial appeal and already over four hundred designs are being displayed carrying the messages of the army, navy, food, ships, Red Cross and the Y. M. C. A. Where once we had the worst posters in the world, today we have posters that compare favorably with the best of any nation.

TURKEY BREAKS WITH GERMANY

ALLIED OFFENSIVE ON WESTERN FRONT CONTINUES, BUT SLOWS DOWN SOME - GERMANS OFFER STRONGER RESISTANCE

According to the Copenhagen correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph, London, in a dispatch of last Monday, the relations between Germany and Turkey have been severed. The correspondent claims to have direct information from Constantinople.

The Germans are said to have recently demanded the cruiser Hamidieh, the only large ship then in possession of Turkey as compensation for the Breslau, a former German cruiser which was destroyed in the Dardanelles while under the Turkish flag. Despite Turkey's protest, the Hamidieh departed for Sabastopol with the German flag flying.

Officials in Washington were not at all surprised at the dispatch from Copenhagen. It is said that Germany, in trying to serve both Turkey and Bulgaria in the division of spoils resulting from the enforced peace treaty with Rumania, has incurred the ill will of both her allies.

Allies Continue to Advance

According to Monday's reports, the German retreat still continues along the whole line, with the Allies closely pursuing. The Germans have succeeded in checking to a certain extent but not in stopping the French advance.

The Franco-American troops, continuing their pressure on the Germans in their retreat from the Marne, have reached and crossed the Ourcq river and penetrated the town of Fere-En-Tardenois, one of the great German supply bases for the enemy troops inside the Soissons-Rheims salient.

On the wings of the ever-decreasing pocket, the enemy has had heavy re-enforcements and is holding tenaciously to his ground, realizing that Allied successes there would result in a general crumbling of his plans of defense against the locking up of his armies inside the big bag.

Since the beginning of the Allied offensive, July 18th, the Germans have been driven back 13 miles farther from Paris than they were on that date. At the nearest point of their line to Paris, the distance is now 60 miles.

The total number of German prisoners taken by the Allies during the past two weeks, is estimated at 30,000.

Dispatches from the battle front on Tuesday were that the Germans were offering violent resistance, but in spite of this fact the Americans that day pushed their line forward nearly two miles through a barrage as deadly as any the Germans have yet laid down on any sector for months. The advance of Tuesday brought the Americans to the apex of the long Allied front.

The French also made some advances on Tuesday.

The Germans during the past few days have been re-enforced by two crack divisions of the Bavarian guards and other choice troops and have settled down to the hardest resistance yet displayed against the Americans.

R. J. REYNOLDS PASSES

Was a Leading Manufacturer of Winston-Salem—Reynolds Tobacco Famous all Over the World

Richard Joshua Reynolds, head of the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, died at his country home, Reynolds, near Winston-Salem, last Monday after an illness of a year. He was one of the most successful and wealthiest business men in the South, his estate being estimated at \$10,000,000 or more.

Mr. Reynolds was 68 years of age. He is survived by his wife, who before marriage was Miss Mary Katherine Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Z. T. Smith, of Mt. Airy, to whom he was married in 1905; four children, two daughters and two sons; four brothers, Maj. A. D. Reynolds, Bristol, Tennessee; H. H. Reynolds, Patrick county, Virginia; W. M. and W. R. Reynolds, of Winston-Salem; and one sister, Mrs. Robert Critz, also of Winston-Salem. The two last-named brothers have been associated with the deceased in the conduct of the immense business for many years, both being officers of the company.

The funeral service was held at the Reynolds residence Wednesday morning, conducted by Dr. D. Clay Lilly, Dr. H. A. Brown, and Bishop Edward Rondthaler. Interment followed in the Salem cemetery.

Every plant of the company throughout the country was closed on Wednesday in respect to the memory of the deceased.

Mr. Reynolds was a striking example of the American self-made man. Starting as a farmer boy, he became one of the leading manufacturers and wealthiest men of the South. He was a liberal contributor to all worthy causes in his home city and gave employment to thousands of people, black and white.

Baseball Players Must Work or Fight

Professional baseball players have been given until September 1, to seek essential employment or be called to the colors in an order issued by Secretary Baker, last week, denying the application of the national baseball commission that the effective time of the work or fight regulations as they apply to the baseball industry be extended to October 1.

HEARD ON THE STREETS

WHAT OUR TOWN CORRESPONDENT HEARS AND THINKS—MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST DISCUSSED

There are now several deserters in Randolph county. We understand they have been slipping around in the county and keeping out of the way of the authorities. Has any effort been made to apprehend those men and send them back to camp?

Mr. J. A. Ward, a prominent citizen, of Pleasant Grove township, was in town one day last week.

For the benefit of those who don't know, every single member of the fuel-food administration from Hoover down is a Republican. Looks like the dominating party is liberal, doesn't it?

Mr. V. C. Marley, the Courier's capable correspondent at Ramseur, was in town a few days ago.

The booze evil in Randolph county has grown by leaps and bounds during the past two years.

The Red Cross school district in Providence township, has sold \$2,500 worth of War Savings Stamps.

The people seem to realize the importance of buying war stamps which offer one of the finest investments in the world and at the same time help to stop the Hun in his march to destroy civilization. There is considerable money in the country and no better use could be made of it than lending it to Uncle Sam.

Mr. A. O. Adams has a fine farm and a beautiful home. He is one of the best and most progressive farmers in Providence township.

Mr. P. P. Jones, of Liberty Route 1, has our thanks for a renewal of his subscription to The Courier. He is an ideal farmer and unsurpassed in hospitality in his splendid home.

Mr. W. S. Staley, of Liberty Route 1, is a good farmer and a good man, and has been reading The Asheville Courier for a long time and was kind enough to say that he did not see how he could get along without it.

Mr. Felix York, of Climax Route 1, is numbered among our renewal subscribers this week. Mr. York is a good farmer and one of our best citizens.

Mr. Alfred York, a prosperous farmer of Liberty Route 1, made 600 bushels of wheat.

Mr. W. S. Buie, a good citizen of Franklinville, spent a short while in town last Saturday.

Mr. J. M. Blake has moved his family from High Point to Randleman.

If anyone ever doubted the ability of Randolph county to raise her own corn should visit the farm of Mr. W. D. Siler. Mr. Siler is a Confederate soldier and is one of our best citizens.

Mrs. Mary Hudson, who owns a fine farm in the Julian section, made over 600 bushels of wheat.

Mr. J. C. Teague, of Climax Route 1, was among our renewal subscribers last week. Mr. Teague is a good farmer and is making great improvements on his farm.

One of the county's best citizens, Mr. Nathan Sheffield, of Randleman, spent a few days in Moore county last week.

The farming lands in Providence township are as fertile as any in the county, and are occupied by most progressive farmers.

Mr. Allen Hanner, a prominent citizen of Randleman, spent a few hours in Asheboro last Saturday.

Mr. A. C. Jackson will erect a new residence in the Level Cross section in the near future.

Mrs. W. M. Mitchell, of Randleman Route 1, has renewed her subscription to The Courier. She says she cannot get along without The Courier.

Mr. J. W. Kirkman, of Liberty Route 1, has a fine farm and splendid home. He is a successful farmer and believes in The Courier.

Mr. O. R. Vuncannon is placing lumber on the ground for a new dwelling on Millboro Route 1.

Mr. P. C. Story, the clever superintendent of the Deep River Mills at Randleman, is numbered among our renewal subscribers this week. Mr. Story is highly esteemed by the people and his interest in the material growth and commercial progress of the community makes him a valued citizen of Randleman.

Mr. W. D. Vickery, of Randleman Route 1, renewed his subscription to The Courier last Friday. Mr. Vickery is an acknowledged master in mechanical and general repairing trade, and his personal attention to repair work of all kinds is an absolute guarantee of his thoroughness and satisfaction.

Mr. Tom Buie, of Franklinville, who holds a good position in High Point, spent a short while in Asheboro last Saturday.

Mr. J. G. Berry, a good citizen of Providence township, was here one day last week.

Mr. J. T. Millikan, a good citizen of Climax Route 1, has a good farm and is making great improvements on it.

Mrs. J. W. Pugh, of Liberty Route 1, has our thanks for a renewal of her subscription. She has been receiving weekly visits from The Courier for a long time.

Mr. W. M. Foster, of the Red Cross section, has had his subscription to The Courier moved up. He is a splendid fellow.

Mr. Frank Cameron, a prominent citizen of Denton, was in town one day last week.

Messrs. W. G. Brown, Frank Talley and John Gray, of Randleman, spent

LIEUTENANT W. A. CROSS



First Lieutenant W. A. Cross, of Franklinville, was wounded in action in France several weeks ago, but has recovered and returned to his command. Lieutenant Cross who is an adopted son of Mr. W. A. Cross, of Asheboro, has been in the regular army of the United States for about twenty years. He was stationed for a long time at San Antonio, Texas. When war was declared with Germany, he was stationed at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and went over with Pershing's soldiers last summer. Mrs. Cross, who was a Miss Jones before marriage, and children live at Franklinville, now.

OUR RALEIGH LETTER

(By Maxwell Gorman.)

Raleigh, July 30.—With the lull in the fighting on the European battle front, some politicians of the state spending Sunday in Raleigh found time to indulge in congressional politics.

It is learned today that Claude Wheatley, of Carteret, the Republican candidate in the third district, has decided to get out of the race so as to give Abernethy a clear field in his race against Dortch. Abernethy having decided definitely to run. His case in court, it is now hinted, will probably hang fire and never reach a decision.

Simmons and Morehead

It is also developed that the opposition to Senator Simmons is waging a still hunt in Motley Morehead's candidacy for our senior Senator's job. They are building a machine, it is alleged, that will have its ramifications in every voting precinct in North Carolina; and it is added that, besides the votes of Republicans, some alleged independent voters and malcontents, the Morehead machine is plying heavily for the influence of the suffragettes. But it is hard to realize how the people of the State could make up their minds to make such a swap—especially now, when our Senator holds such an influential and commanding and useful position.

So-Called Opposition to Pou

Yesterday the war news has so far resumed its torridity as to curtail the resources of the freeze politicians, but not before they had included in their calculations the alleged "opposition" to Ed. Pou for another term in Congress.

Some pool-room habitués and their sort are alleged to have held a sort of conference here recently and to have expressed displeasure at Mr. Pou and Mr. Simmons at the same time of having their main grievance—the closing of the pool rooms—and while canvassing the subject of electing three (or two) city commissioners who would re-open their places.

That instance has been magnified by one or more newspapers in the proportions of a "movement" against Pou, when as a matter of fact it didn't amount to a hill of beans.

Neither Josiah William Bailey nor J. M. Broughton (who have been credited with aspirations to succeed Mr. Pou) had any supporters in that bunch and they are really without a candidate. If any man runs against Pou he is yet to be "discovered."

As to the anti-Simmons suffragette forces—have you met with many of them in your neighborhood?

Release Hotels from Wheat Ban

Release of hotels, restaurants, clubs, and dining car services throughout the country on August 1, from the voluntary pledge to use no wheat until the present harvest has been announced in a cablegram received in Washington from Food Administrator Herbert Hoover, who is now in England. Public eating places, the food administrator said, will continue to comply with baking regulations and to serve "victory bread."

Mr. Hoover, in his cablegram, congratulated the proprietors of public eating places upon their patriotic service. It is estimated that approximately 175,000,000 pounds of wheat products have been saved since the first of last October by this voluntary pledge of the eating house proprietors.

No Limit Set for Size of Our Army

We are now sending men across the ocean at the rate of 250,000 a month with gradual increases every month. The size of the army we are now raising does not depend upon what we think will be enough to lick the Germans on the western front this year and next, but the numbers sent over will be the very largest force that it is humanly possible to raise.

STATE EDITORS MEET

WAS HELD IN ASHEVILLE LAST WEEK—GEORGE CREEL AND SENATOR OVERMAN SPEAK.

The North Carolina Press Association was in session in Asheville, Tuesday and Wednesday of last week, with president Sanford Martin, presiding.

President Martin's annual address this year was on the subject of "War Savings Stamps." Judge Gilbert T. Stephenson, of Winston-Salem, also, addressed the editors on the first day, and the annual oration was delivered by W. T. Bost, of Raleigh. Other speakers on the program the first day were Editors T. W. Chambliss, Wada H. Harris, and Archibald Johnson, all of whom discussed the topic, "The Editor's Duty in War Times;" R. F. Beasley, of Monroe, who spoke on "Democracy in Action;" M. L. Shipman and H. B. Varner, on "Legal Advertising." At night William Laurie Hill read the annual poem and Dr. J. Y. Joyner was, also, heard on "Six Months' School."

The two principal speakers on Thursday, the closing day, were Senator Lee S. Overman, who is spending some time in Asheville, and was present and made a short, patriotic talk; and Mr. George Creel, chairman of the Committee on Public Information.

Mr. Creel made a splendid talk, telling of his long desire to see the land praised and lauded and the people so greatly loved by Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels. The speaker paid a beautiful tribute to the Secretary of the navy, declaring that, despite efforts at ridicule, slander and lies circulated against him, the North Carolinian had made 100 per cent good, and stood recognized today as one of the pillars of the great American government.

Mr. Creel said that when he accepted his present position as chairman of the committee on public information, he did so because he wanted to aid in spreading the news. He said that he took the position as a writer, with the intention of helping, rather than hindering, the newspapers in keeping the American people informed regarding the war.

He declared that he is not a censor, and that he realized early in the war that the cost of censoring the newspapers of America would be prohibitive to the government, as well as highly unsatisfactory, because the stronger papers would go ahead and the weak ones would suffer.

Mr. Creel said that he believed the honor system inaugurated by the government was by far the best plan that could be devised for Americans and that he was a consistent advocate of this plan.

Other speakers on the second day were Miss Elizabeth Hughes, of the National Y. M. C. A., who asked the support of the editors in the driving Y. M. C. A. and W. C. A. drives; F. H. Jeter, of the Extension Farm News; James M. Oglesby, with a plea for the Marines; and several others.

Election of Officers

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Z. W. Whitehead, of the Southern Labor Journal, Wilmington; first vice-president, R. T. Wade, of the Morhead City Coaster; second vice-president, Ike London, of the Rockingham Post Dispatch; third vice-president, Miss Beatrice Cobb, of the Morganton News-Herald; secretary, J. B. Sherrill, of the Concord Tribune; historian, M. L. Shipman, commissioner of labor and printing; orator, H. R. Dwyer, Winston-Salem; poet, Dr. William Laurie Hill, Raleigh; executive committee, H. B. Varner, W. C. Hamner, J. F. Hurley, James H. Caine and Sanford Martin.

Henry M. London and W. T. Bost were made members of the legislative committee.

MR HENRY YOW DEAD

Was a Useful and Substantial Citizen—First Resident of Seagrove

Mr. Henry Yow was born October 1, 1844, and died July 26, 1918, in the 74th year of his age.

The funeral was held at Seagrove, the following day, at the residence of Rev. W. F. Ashburn, who conducted the services, after which burial was in the family plot.

Mr. Yow was married to Miss Francisca Trogdon in 1872, and to this union were born nine children, all of whom survive their father. They are as follows: Misses Nova, Bertha, and Ornie Yow, Mrs. Bethel Lucas, Mrs. A. R. Auman, Messrs. John, Will, and Lester Yow, all of Seagrove, and Mrs. R. L. Russell, of Eldorado, Arkansas. Mrs. Yow also survives.

The deceased was the first resident of Seagrove, in which place he was a merchant from the year 1872 till the time of his death. He also ran a cooper shop at Seagrove for a period of thirty years or more.

He was a member of Fair Grove M. P. church from the age of 19 years until the time of his death.

Mr. Yow was one of the most highly respected and useful citizens of his town and community. He was a good husband and father to his family and kind friend to his neighbors and acquaintances. He was a devout christian and patriotic citizen, who will be sadly missed by family, friends, church and community.

Judge E. W. Bingham, of Louisville, Ky., is reported to have received a few days ago a legacy of \$5,000,000, from the estate of his wife, formerly Mrs. Henry M. Flagler, who died in Louisville about a year ago.

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