

THE ASHEVILLE CITIZEN

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Thursday, January 22, 1920.

What Will Americans Do About It?

A letter from an American in London to an Asheville friend says:

Please tell me what is happening, really, about the treaty, and what is the matter with President Wilson. Is America going to stigmatize herself forever and ever...

There is little of comfort that may be said in reply. There is less hope of compromise on the ratification of the peace treaty than there was two weeks before the special session of congress adjourned...

Not only in London but throughout Europe and Asia people are asking the same questions about America that are troubling this American in London. Tuesday evening Mrs. Lindsay Patterson brought to Asheville people the appeal given to her by Serbian to America to ratify the treaty so that the horrors suffered by that little country in the war may never be repeated anywhere.

Wherever citizens have voted on a straightout issue of approving the treaty substantially as it was written, the American people have rebuked the action of the Lodge majority. Students and faculties in the four quarters of the nation have voted against the Lodge reservations, but Senator Lodge still stands by the opinion expressed by him before the league covenant was completed, that nothing good could come out of the conference of Versailles.

In the eyes of the world America has failed of her duty in a time only less serious than war itself. It is not an inspiring record. But if the people really resent the action of their representatives in the senate they will sooner or later have opportunity to show the world that the senate does not represent America.

Sedition Laws and Liberty.

It is one thing to believe that those who by speech or writing advocate insurrection should be punished by law, but it is another thing to enact laws which make it possible to punish by imprisonment or death men who may never have intended rebellion against the government.

The sedition laws now before congress, in some of their provisions and in machinery of enforcement, are likely to become instruments of oppression as ruthless as the police system under the Russian czars.

If we understand these proposed statutes, that man is guilty of sedition who takes part in a riot of any kind if he acted with intent to overthrow the government. If the riot results in death of any person, the suspect would forfeit his own life as a traitor.

Under such a law men innocent of sedition may be put to death if witnesses can be found who would testify that he was known to hold revolutionary doctrines and was suspected of designs to overthrow the government. There would be too much danger in the interpretation of intent, slow as jurors are to presume guilt in the absence of clear evidence.

The fact that the American jury is inclined to err on the side of justice as well as mercy is not sufficient reason for placing innocent citizens or aliens in jeopardy of life or liberty.

According to these sedition laws now under discussion, an ignorant alien or a citizen of known radical tendencies might suffer death as the penalty of wearing a badge or button which was the emblem of an organization that advocated violence in changing the form of government, although the defendant might never have believed in force as a political weapon and may never have committed an overt act of violence in his life.

Crime must be made more personal than these laws propose if Anglo-Saxon ideals of justice are not to be thrown overboard.

These laws give to the postmaster-general power to open letters and bar from the mails any written or printed matter which he may believe advocates sedition, and under the house bill there is no court or other body to review his decision.

Such laws are not compatible with liberty. The right of free speech ought not to include the right to incite to the use of force against government, but these measures would substitute tyranny for unrestrained liberty and would aggravate the evils they seek to remove.

Many congressmen doubt the right of government to punish those who merely by speech urge violence against authority. But while men talk at will it is unlawful to slander. Men should not be convicted of sedition because they receive literature or hear speeches which advocate force, but if they explicitly urge rebellion by force, either in speech or writing, they should be punished.

What Will Hiram Say?

Senator Hiram Johnson, who recently inquired as to the rules for entering the North Carolina presidential primary, will find in the Tar Heel, published by the students of the University of North Carolina, some indications of qualifications demanded of presidential aspirants.

The university has voted overwhelmingly on the adoption of the League of Nations covenant without reservations. We have undoubtedly brought down upon us the scathing invective of Messrs. Lodge, Borah, and "Hell-Roaring" Hiram Johnson, who comes from the Pacific coast and should be a walking recommendation for Nuxated.

Yet we fought a great war with millions of our young men on a foreign battlefield, we gave the lives of thousands of our finest for the life of the world. What would Mr. Lodge or Mr. Borah or Mr. Johnson's "Americanism" think of this? It seems that we have been un-American all along.

And now our university has become un-American. For we sent our men to the war (some of them didn't come back), and we have capped the climax by endorsing the covenant. It was a dastardly thing to do.

A Neglected Institution.

Asheville has recognized, and with good reason, the Y. M. C. A. as an institution for the training of boys and young men for Christian citizenship. But Asheville has too long paid scant attention to the needs of the Young Women's Christian association.

The Y. W. C. A. has come to mean for hundreds of young women the only home influence they know. For others it supplies training for body, mind and spirit. If the Y. M. C. A. is indispensable for the development of manhood, if it has become the right arm of the church, as Rev. Dr. McLarty said last Sunday, is the work of the Y. W. C. A. less important? The perils of the city for boys either friendless or in need of wise guidance is so great that business men do not hesitate over the necessity of providing physical, mental and religious instruction in an institution that will help "lick the cob of youth into the lion of manhood."

Men and women of this city have postponed long enough provision of material equipment for the spiritual influence of the Y. W. C. A. The Y. W. C. A. has demonstrated its business ability in its lunch room for the public and cafeteria for business women. Last year 27,000 meals were served in the cafeteria; 35,000 in the lunch room. The Travelers' Aid has served thousands in various vital ways.

The Henrietta is too small to accommodate all girls without homes. For a gymnasium the association is dependent upon such halls as may not be in use.

By its demonstrated ability to serve young womanhood and the community, the association deserves a building in the heart of the city where all its activities may be carried on under one roof.

A Constructive Step in Madison.

County Farm Agent Bowditch, of Madison county, is undertaking constructive work in seeking to bring farmers and other business men into closer relationship. The organization which is now being formed in Madison will afford farmers better opportunity to learn market and general financial conditions, while the merchants, bankers and professional men will learn more of the problems of rural life, and especially the difficulties which confront the agriculturist.

Few counties in the state have richer soil or better grazing lands. Originally none had finer growth of hardwoods. The fever of good roads and more school houses has transformed this mountainous county in the past decade, and the Madison citizens are still eager for more progress.

Co-operation is a hard-worked word, but what it signifies is manifesting itself among the people of Madison with results that must be as gratifying to the county as they are stimulating to its neighbors.

An Interesting Career.

One reads now and then of young men who start their careers with no resources but energy and honesty, and who make brilliant success from small beginnings. Weaver college the other night had the pleasure and honor of entertaining an alumnus who because he had always done with might what his hands found to do served his country greatly in the crisis of war.

D. Edward Skinner left Weaver college (as it was then) with the determination of doing something in the world. He saw the possibilities of the cedar and fir in the northwest. When war came he was head of a great shipbuilding concern. The government called for more ships. Skinner's lieutenants reported that they were unable to buy them a surplus. "We'll build them," said Skinner. And some of the world's shipbuilding records were smashed in the months that followed.

Mr. Skinner's executive and financial ability, his regard for human rights and his understanding of men make an interesting story of a man who has done fine things by keeping his hands clean and hitting the line hard.

VOICE OF PEOPLE.

THE MITCHELL MOTOR ROAD.

Editor The Citizen:— While they are buying and planning to operate the Mount Mitchell railroad, for tourists that visit Western North Carolina, I think one of the greatest drawing cards for Asheville and Western North Carolina would be an automobile road to Mount Mitchell, via Democrat, Barnardville, and Dillingham, to the Balsam gap. We will soon have a hard road to Democrat. From Democrat to Dillingham would soon be doubled in number, when it becomes a motor road. From Dillingham to Balsam gap is seven miles. From the gap to Mount Mitchell is nine miles, 22 miles from Democrat to Mount Mitchell. But the best of all, the road from Balsam gap to Mount Mitchell is already graded, where the railroad has been removed—and not only that, but miles and miles all over those mountains around Mitchell where the railroad has been taken up.

I am glad to know that the Asheville and Buncombe County Good Roads association has conceived that idea, as I see published in the Citizen of January 16. The auto tourists that visit Western North Carolina would soon be doubled in number, when it comes known that they could motor to Mount Mitchell, a distance of between 40 and 45 miles from Asheville.

THE SCISSORS ROUTE

MOUNT MITCHELL.

(Raleigh News and Observer.) Mount Mitchell stock is rising. A few evenings ago a number of business men met at Asheville and decided that the railroad up the mountain should be opened April 1 for tourist travel and a goodly amount of the stock necessary to carry out the undertaking was subscribed on the spot. The only objection of moment raised was that sparks from the locomotives of the trains to be operated might form a fire hazard to the watershed of the city of Asheville, after discussion the conclusion was reached that this danger was negligible in view of the fact that the law now requires locomotives to be supplied with spark arresters and that the territory is well supplied with fire wardens. A short while after the meeting in Asheville the Mount Mitchell Park commission in Greensboro and the plans for the development of the park were financed by Gen. J. S. Carr while plans also were launched for the raising of a fund for the erection of a memorial on the crest of the mountain to Dr. Elisha Mitchell. All this must be intensely gratifying to North Carolinians who want to see the state's places of national interest completely developed and opened up and also are concerned in suitable recognition being taken of the men who have served the state with unusual fidelity and distinction.

ASHEVILLE'S TEMPORARY PRESTIGE.

(Charlotte Observer.) Naturally the North Carolina Good Roads association selected Asheville as the meeting place for its convention next June. Asheville is the hub of good roads in the state and the delegates will receive inspiration on their daily spins over its 122 miles of hard-surfaced highways—Asheville and Buncombe have that many miles now and the stretch will have been added to by June. Time was when Charlotte and Mecklenburg county constituted the Mecca for good roads enthusiasts, but that supremacy has been yielded to the mountain city for some time however. We believe that in the course of the next two years, Mecklenburg will have regained its former prestige as the home of good roads. It has more mileage in macadam bases to work upon than any other county in the south, and modern application of hard-surface to the macadam bases makes them an enormously profitable asset for the county.

DAVID DOOLEY.

(Charlotte Observer.) The negro race resented in the south, should find inspiration in the record of David Dooley, of Anderson, S. C., a negro blacksmith, who died yesterday. The Associated Press tells in four or five lines the fact that might be elaborated into a volume highly inspirational to the younger generation of colored people. "Humble and highly respected citizen." Thus he is briefly described in the press dispatch heralded over several states by wire. But these few words speak volumes. Laboring continuously for more than 40 years as a blacksmith, Dooley had accumulated a fortune conservatively estimated at \$100,000. These few words also speak volumes. Dooley was a negro of the type that is an asset to the community in which he lives. Negroes of the Dooley type are a big asset to the south. He had character and was industrious. He attended to his own business and did it well. He caused no trouble or friction of disturbance in his community. He was not of the type of negro ever to cause friction or feeling between the races. He was "highly respected" by the white people of Anderson, and we may safely presume that he was as highly respected by the colored people of his community. He was a man of high character, and his work, and exemplary conduct, in point of worldly goods, was independent. He had no ask favors of no man. Not only in point of influence and character was he an asset to his community, but also in that he was a substantial citizen and taxpayer.

As we may presume that he was happy and contented. We could not conceive of Dooley becoming dissatisfied with conditions in the south to the extent that he would for a moment think seriously of pulling up stakes, turning his back on his neighbors and friends, white and colored, and going to the north or elsewhere to live and undertake to better himself among strangers and amidst inhospitable surroundings.

Of course it is not possible for every negro, no matter how exemplary his character, no matter how industrious and energetic and thrifty he might be, to amass a fortune of \$100,000. But the Dooley policy, if adopted by the negroes of the south generally, would result in thousands of them being far better off financially than they are, in the course of a few years. Many of them have demonstrated the fact. Some of them are to be found in almost every southern community. But, even though the great majority of them are not able to accumulate a fortune in dollars and cents, most of them can create for themselves a really greater fortune than money, in making of themselves good citizens, worthy of the respect of white and colored.

BELGIUM SETS EXAMPLE.

(Tampa Tribune.) Does Belgian efficiency and recuperative power so far excel that of France and other nations that one is comparatively reconstructed while the others still founder, or is the explanation in a lesser concern over politics and militaristic pride in Belgium? Whatever the reason the difference between Belgium's rehabilitation and in most other European countries continued industrial prostration is too striking to be ignored.

Not even France can claim to have suffered more from German occupation, since Belgium was invaded first and the country was more completely destroyed and carried away, but so was that of Belgium, which was literally stripped of even ordinary domestic fixtures. Yet Belgium is producing 80 per cent of pre-war coal tonnage, of which much goes to France, has restored the glass industry and is able to supply structural steel for French coal mines and rails for French railroads. Almost all the industries have been revived, some to greater extent than others, while in some the restoration is almost to the normal point.

In northern France, on the contrary, there is little improvement over the conditions that the ending of hostilities. Textile plants, which suffered most, are barely operating, some not at all, while industrial works in other lines are doing little or nothing. Perhaps the real explanation is that little Belgium, with her densely crowded population had no time to waste on politics once fighting ended. Belgium had no advantages over the other countries except perhaps, serious inclination to get back to work.

NOTHING COULD BE CLEARER.

(New York Tribune.) The Tribune is of the mind of Job Hedges—namely, that the five (socialist assemblymen) should be excluded if they should be, and should not be if they should not be.

SANDYARDS VIEWS

ARE THEY MARTYRS?

Thackeray saw in womankind a class that reminded of the tulip, gorgeous, brilliant, dazzling, and King Solomon met this lady in his day and regretted it in his old age when he turned author and wrote books; there is another class of woman, also seen by Thackeray, that reminds of the violet, modest, shrinking, sweet, and all the poets of all the races of men have proved unequal to the task of singing her praise in adequate measure.

The republican party is much of a tulip; the democratic party is more like the violet. The world war is finished in the fighting; but social and political conditions the world over are riotous tumult, and it will be years before the convulsion works its way to the normal calm that is bound to come. The republican party, playing on the fears of men, is resolved to change the democratic party into all sorts of socialistic notions. It claims to be the party of law and order. It proclaims that it has a monopoly of all the Americanism there is. It pretends that it alone is capable of constructing the social and political fabric to the end that tranquility may take the place of the present world-wide turmoil.

There is much in socialism to condemn, and the Anglo-Saxon is not going to accept one particle of its insanity; but it is doubtful if the republican congress at Washington, or the republican legislature at Albany, has set about combating socialism in the right way. This Victor Berger as a socialistic congressman is a fellow of mighty little consequence; but if he is to be expelled his seat every time his constituency return him to congress, he will turn out to be of a heap of consequence. He may become a John Wilks, who played such an elaborate part in British politics the last quarter of the eighteenth century. Wilks was a misceant of all colors and a demagogue of huge proportions. His private life was execrable and his public life meteoric. Outlawed from all decent society, he was a leading member of that saturnalia correctly named "the Hellfire Club." An editor of a depraved periodical he was author of preachment that shocked the most dissolute of even that dissolute age. He plunged into politics and was chosen a member of the British house of commons and was promptly expelled. He was repeatedly re-elected and as repeatedly expelled. His friends constituted him martyr, and their party cry was, "Wilks and Liberty." Finally the commons gave his seat to the man who was his bitter competitor at the polls; but that did not rid them of Wilks; he stuck to them like a leech. He was wounded in a duel and had to flee to France to escape prosecution for libel; but he was again returned, was again elected to parliament and was given his seat, after which he sank to his proper level.

And by the folly of his adversaries, this man, as infamous in character as he was brilliant in parts, is forever linked with the favorite handmaid of liberty—a free press. Edmund Burke was the man who made the press of England free, and he did it as the champion of the cause of John Wilks in the British parliament. To illustrate what an infernal scamp Wilks was, a story will suffice. Though he had denounced the king in vituperative phrases, yet with captivating rhetoric, he had the impudence to attend the king's levee some time after he ceased to be of consequence in the political field. Old George III greeted him cordially and asked about his former warm friend and partisan, Sergeant Glyn, an eminent counselor at law, to which Wilks proudly replied, "He is no friend of mine. He is a vile Wilkite, something I never was."

It was the refusal of a seat to which a constituent had returned him that made Wilks as prominent as he was notorious in the political field of England for at least a dozen years, and let us hope that this man Berger may prove unable to play the part in our politics Wilks played in England. Let him think what he chooses. Don't make a martyr of him.

The New York legislature has expelled five of its members for what they believe. That will only increase their influence and strengthen their standing among their constituents, and New York will be fortunate if at the next election a dozen like them are not returned to the legislature.

The order is better in England. Scarcely a Sabbath day passes that immense crowds do not assemble in Hyde Park where orators spout treason by the hour, denounce the government in terms the most vituperative and the most explicit, but it stops at that. They have let it pass and go about their usual avocations contented. But let one of those chaps do something treasonable and in a moment he is arrested and on trial punished for his act.

Here is an English policy our country should adopt and adhere to. Washington, January 19.

Daily Reminder

"IN THE DAY'S NEWS.

Ellis Loring Dresel, who has been designated by the state department to Washington to be United States commissioner at Berlin, is well qualified for the post, having served for a time as special counsel to the embassy on the staff of Ambassador Gerard. Mr. Dresel is a native of Boston and a graduate of Harvard university. After leaving the university in 1887 he traveled abroad for some time and upon his return entered the Harvard Law school, where he received the degree of LL. B. in 1892. In his new post Commissioner Dresel will be expected to keep the state department advised in regards to all important political and other developments in the German capital. He will also be in a position to render assistance to American manufacturers and exporters desirous of renewing their business relations with Germany.

TODAY'S ANNIVERSARIES.

- 1823—Mary McCauley (Molly Pitcher) a heroine of the American revolution, died at Carlisle, Pa. Born there, October 13, 1744.
1867—Charles J. Keen, famous actor died in London. Born at Watford, Ire., January 18, 1811.
1870—George D. Prentice, famous journalist and humorous writer, died at Louisville. Born at Preston, Conn., December 18, 1802.
1888—Centenary of the birth of Lord Byron celebrated in England.
1895—A national convention of manufacturers met at Cincinnati.
1901—Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, and empress of India, died at Osborne, Isle of Wight. Born at Kensington, May 24, 1819.
1906—Steamer Valenta wrecked off...

Houses Burn Down —and— FURNITURE BURNS UP Hope soars high when life is full of joy, but when a fire burns down a home where insurance was neglected, it takes all the hope out of a man. Be on the safe side—get in touch with our insurance department and let them explain our policies. P. C. BLACKMAN, Mgr. Insurance Department. Wachovia Bank & Trust Co. Capital and Surplus \$2,000,000 Member Federal Reserve System

GOOD ADVICE FROM SOME OF THE WORLD'S GREAT MEN ABRAHAM LINCOLN "Teach economy. That is one of the first and highest virtues; it begins with saving money." JOHN WESLEY "Make all you can; save all you can, and give all you can." SIR THOMAS LIPTON "The true secret of SUCCESS is thrift and principally as applied to saving." AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK THE ONLY NATIONAL BANK IN ASHEVILLE 4% on Savings and Certificates of Deposit Travelers' Cheques and Foreign Exchange Issued

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS. Joshua W. Alexander, the new secretary of commerce of the United States, born in Cincinnati, 68 years ago today. William H. Finley, president of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway company, born at Delaware City, Del., 58 years ago today. Terence V. Powderly, former head of the Knights of Labor, born at Carbondale, Pa., 71 years ago today. Chase S. Osborn, former governor of Michigan, born in Huntington County, Ind., 60 years ago today. Amos A. Strunk, outfielder of the Philadelphia American league baseball team, born in Philadelphia, 31 years ago today. The road of thrift is the road to contentment, to freedom, and to success. It is open to all; it is open to you.