

THE ASHEVILLE CITIZEN

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Wednesday, February 4, 1920.

Should William Be Tried?

Advance copies of the Literary Digest for February 7 contain a poll of leading American jurists on the question whether the ex-kaiser should be tried and what punishment should be given him if he is found guilty of responsibility for the war and violation of rules of warfare accepted by civilized peoples.

Only 18 out of 328 men trained in the law agree with Secretary Lansing that colossal crime cannot be punished because legal precedents are lacking to give validity to an international court having jurisdiction over offenses committed against humanity.

The majority opinion of this extrajudicial court is thus stated by Judge William B. Rose of the Supreme court of Nebraska: "Civilization, represented by enlightened, humane government, should exercise jurisdiction in exceptional cases of unprovoked and brutal atrocity."

The fact that there is no international statute covering the charge against William does not bar mankind's appeal to the principles of justice that are independent of legal maxims and customs.

From this viewpoint Holland's refusal to surrender the kaiser may be law but not equity. There is perhaps no established principle of extradition by which the Netherlands can surrender the refugee.

Relief Funds Needed: Scarcity of nurses and the necessity of saving time and energy in visiting the sick in widely separated sections of the city made it necessary yesterday to open the Montford school emergency hospital.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Editor of The Citizen: Suggestions have been made on several occasions, by citizens of Asheville, to erect a monument perpetuating the memory of the soldiers and sailors of Buncombe county who fell in their service during the great war, and the Kiffin Rockwell post of the American legion, now has the matter under consideration.

Is North Carolina Poor? Add the state property taxes for the past 40 years, and the total is short by several million dollars of the sum of internal revenue taxes paid by the state for the year ending June 30, 1919—\$101,278,153.

Then why not erect a community house as a memorial to the fallen? Those strong, virile men who made the supreme sacrifice in the cause of humanity, should live in spirit in our midst, and the writer believes that the community house is best adapted to the purpose of "carrying on" the lives and influences of those men.

taxes. And if these figures suggest that tobacco is the state's largest crop, the News Letter calls attention to the fact that cotton manufacture is worth more by several million dollars.

The \$30,000,000 in federal income and profits taxes were paid by less than 30,000 people out of the two and a half million or more population, but more than 100,000 people own automobiles.

A demand is made for a \$50,000,000 bond issue for highways, but opponents of revaluation say it will never do to increase tax returns by the equitable method of true valuation and readjustment downward of the tax rate.

How To Meet Radicalism.

"It is curious," says Mr. Edison, whose mind usually discards the husks and seizes on the kernel of a problem, "that the better impulses of our humanity do not work as hard to spread their careful, helpful thought as the less worthy elements do to spread their evil thought and foolish reasoning."

The wizard of electrical science was asking why there is not an organized propaganda of sensible, constructive facts about society and government to meet the propaganda of discontent and misrepresentation.

Mr. Edison's ideas in some form will have to be adopted in a program teaching American ideals to the ignorant aliens who learn all they know from radical agitators.

A field of battle is more fascinating than a field of ripening grain. A nature as noble as Lee's felt this when he said as he watched his victorious divisions sweeping over the field at Fredericksburg.

As we understand Engineer Knox's testimony on Mexican conditions, Villa establishes rough justice; Carranza's rule means just roughness.

Postal employees who have been asking for salary increases have not received postoffice department questionnaires seeking suggestions for lowering the cost of living.

Defendants in the Newberry trial succeeded in their alleged intentions of making Mr. Newberry the best known man in Michigan.

The railroad administration announces a net loss of \$29,420,000 in two years' operation of the roads. But what it would have cost the government and the world had railway operation broken down in the midst of war under private control is a fair consideration to balance against the loss.

Tar Heels are planning for some little business activity this year. In January the secretary of state chartered new enterprises with capital stock of \$23,000,000.

Daily Reminder

Albert Thomas, who has been unanimously elected director general of the International Labor organization, which body was created by the peace conference and held its first meeting at Washington last November.

It seems to us that the republican senators who administered the "third degree" to Senator Lodge scored on the gentleman from Massachusetts in pointing out that you can't reduce an irreducible minimum.

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SAVOYARD'S VIEWS

This is as critical a period in our political history as it was when our forefathers started the glorious rebellion of 1776, or as it was when our fathers fought to a finish the heroic rebellion of 1861.

WILLIAM HOHENZOLLERN'S PUNISHMENT.

Holland's refusal to surrender the former kaiser for trial will hardly surprise the allies, and by one of them at least it will be accepted as a happy escape from new complications.

SOMETHING NEW.

"Husband, that Chinese visitor seems deeply interested in our Chinese room."

CONVENTIONS OPENING TODAY

Atlanta—United States Independent Telephone association.

EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON, Feb. 3.—Austen Chamberlain, the chancellor of the exchequer, discussed with leading bankers, political leaders and others the situation that has arisen from the adverse rate of exchange.

STREET CAR SCHEDULE

IN EFFECT JUNE 1, 1919. RIVERSIDE PARK—6:15 and every 15 minutes until 11 p. m. DEPOSIT VIA BOKKIMON AVENUE—5:30 a. m. and every 15 minutes until 1:15 p. m.

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SEVERE DECLINE MARKS THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE Slump Unsettles Prices on Stock Exchange and Commodity Markets. NEW YORK, Feb. 3.—Another sensational slump in foreign exchange today unsettled prices on the stock exchange and the various commodity markets.

OFFICIALS DISCUSS EXCHANGE RATES LONDON, Feb. 3.—Austen Chamberlain, the chancellor of the exchequer, discussed with leading bankers, political leaders and others the situation that has arisen from the adverse rate of exchange.

CONVENTIONS OPENING TODAY Atlanta—United States Independent Telephone association. Louisville—Kentucky Veterinary Medical association.