

THE ASHEVILLE CITIZEN

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Wednesday, February 18, 1920.

The State's Farm Wealth: Ten years ago North Carolina stood below 18 states in crop values, says the University News Letter. In 1919 only three states, Texas, Iowa and Illinois produced more agricultural wealth than this state's \$683,000,000.

The News Letter points out from these figures a number of facts for discourse. First, the general average of increase in value of farm products was 500 per cent. in ten years.

Strange as it sounds, in the past two years farm labor has decreased fully one-third less than in the past 20 years because of the Negro migration northward, the drift of small farmers and tenants to the factory towns and the failure of the farm youths to go back to the farm after demobilization from the army and navy.

The News Letter does not expect any great decrease in farm labor. And that serious situation leads the university paper to forecast the setting in of one of two movements in the farming regions. First, smaller farms, better cultivated; larger yields per acre, smaller yields per worker; excessive production costs, fewer domestic animals, minimum net profits and small per capita wealth.

If the farms are to meet the demand for food, a demand which increases out of proportion to the production of crops, it is clear that the small farming population must be by use of labor-saving machinery carry on large scale farming, with larger acreage in pasture to support meat and milk animals. It is clear also that all farming which does not produce the maximum of bread and meat is producing deceptive wealth, because, as the News Letter points out, North Carolina farmers will this year send to the grain and meat farmers of the middle west \$250,000,000 of the \$683,000,000 they made last year.

Italy's Demands: Italy has done more since the armistice to shake the allied world by the ears than Japan, and with less justification. Having gained more than she dared to dream by the success of the allied cause, in which Italy bore well her part, she has clamored for more so insistently that the Adriatic, really a small pond, has become a sea of trouble to Paris, London and Washington.

It is therefore refreshing to hear Premier Nitti telling his countrymen that the national complaint about getting nothing in the war settlement is contrary to facts, and that their insistence on the pact of London is insincere. "We must remember," says the premier, "that almost all Italians who desired war asked only for Trent and Trieste. It is therefore a mistake to say that nothing was obtained, when our terms are more than satisfied. . . . It would be dishonest if I accepted the pact of London without pledging myself to evacuate Fiume, even by force if necessary." But the trouble is that the great majority of the Italian people want not only all that has come to them but Fiume to boot.

After many attempted compromises the Fiume controversy has narrowed down to two proposals. On December 9 the supreme council, with Under-Secretary Polk representing America, agreed to the creation of a buffer state of Fiume and adjacent territory, subject to ratification by Italy and Jugoslavia. Then following the withdrawal of the American peace commissioners Lloyd George, Nitti and Clemenceau drew up a new settlement,

making Fiume a free city and giving Italy a large portion of the eastern Adriatic coast and Dalmatia. Although the United States would be bound by this program in ratifying the treaty, this government was not consulted about the change. Therefore America is protesting against such a settlement, and has refused to be a party to such an award. And the allies are not anxious to estrange America entirely from interest in European affairs; there is too much sentiment of that kind in America, and it may be expected that Nitti will finally convince his countrymen that they ought to know when they have enough.

An Allied Farce: In the world's wonder as to how the allies might retire from the position taken on the trial of German war leaders, there was no suspicion that they would retreat as ingloriously as they are now doing. It was presumed that the powers had not burned all bridges behind them, because of the critical condition of Europe, but it had not entered into calculation that the stage setting for a high and solemn tragedy would be shifted for a comic opera performance.

Nothing else than comic farce is the allied announcement that trial of the war criminals at Leipzig will conform to all the requirements of the peace treaty. The German government is told in effect that it and its people are to sit on their own case in which civilization indicts them of high crimes and assaults on all that is finest in civilized life. The allies will furnish the evidence, but Germany will furnish prosecution, defense, judge and jury. To be sure the allies will reserve the right to determine whether justice has been done and to bring the culprits before an allied tribunal. But if the entente is unable now to extradite the accused, the resistance in Germany to such procedure after the Leipzig whitewash is applied will be all the stronger.

The world has been led to indulge in a flood of discourse over a very trivial proposition. If the matter had to be compromised, why not conduct the trial before neutral judges on neutral ground? The world had been led to expect a judicial proceeding to surpass that in the great hall of William Rufus when Charles I received the death sentence, when the seven bishops who opposed King James were acquitted, and when Burke and Fox plead the cause of India against the iron rule of Warren Hastings. But what is now offered to expectant multitudes is as high and solemn arraignment as the moot court performance of a high school debating society.

Does Hoover Menace Democracy? In yesterday's Citizen, C. C. Daniels, a North Carolina lawyer, now a resident of New York, warns the democrats of his home state against what Mr. Daniels sees as the insidious Hoover propaganda. Hoover is a republican, says Mr. Daniels, and his candidacy is backed by the big predatory interests.

There is no danger that democracy in this state will endorse a man whose convictions on fundamental questions of government are so far unknown, except for some general statements by Mr. Hoover. But the fact that the republican organization leaders have little more use for Hoover than Mr. Daniels satisfies us that Mr. Hoover is independent of the ordinary partisan considerations which occupy the minds of most party men. When the republicans were in a rage over President Wilson's letter urging the election of a democratic congress, Mr. Hoover issued a statement appealing on non-partisan grounds for support of the President and his leadership. "There is no other leadership possible if we are to succeed in these great issues," said the man whom alarmed democrats are picturing as being perfectly acceptable to Penrose, Lodge, Knox and Hiram Johnson.

As the political situation is today, if Hoover is nominated by either party, it will be because that party is willing to accept as leader a man who puts the right solution of great questions of the reconstruction era above the strict construction of party regularity.

An Explanation Needed: Commenting upon the President's dismissal of Mr. Lansing on the unexplained change of usurpation of executive functions, the Charlotte Observer says that "perhaps the President did not regard it appropriate to include apology and explanation in the notes which he presented to Mr. Lansing, the purpose of which was to make statement of a grievance and secure an answer, reserving justification for elaboration at another time."

Which interpretation of an act that has filled the country with justifiable questions on the reasons therefor is as far as Mr. Wilson could expect his best friends to go with the evidence before them. For the President, disregarding real differences of opinion on foreign policy which stood between him and his secretary of state, asked for resignation on the charge of usurpation, an indictment on which Mr. Lansing could be impeached. The country has right to expect that, if the President has evidence of deliberate usurpation by Lansing, or other malfeasance, he will make it known.

Mr. Wilson's liberal opponents in politics acknowledge that he is a great and far-sighted statesman. His most discriminating friends admit that in many smaller matters the President is "near-sighted," as Mr. Grasty, owner of the Baltimore Sun, expresses it. But none but those impelled by bitter hatred of the President and all his works have heretofore accused him of being capable of deliberate injustice. With only the facts now before them as guide to judgment, the people are bound to think that the President's treatment of Mr. Lansing was unjustified.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

Editor of The Citizen: Martin Rothan, "being a citizen of Asheville and engaged in the production of oil," has taken strenuous exception to my article on "How the Wild Cat Oil Scheme Works," recently published in The Citizen. Had Mr. Rothan not rung in a string of figures on Texas production, which should have appeared in the advertising columns, and intentionally or otherwise created the impression that wildcatting took place in Kentucky alone, I would not dignify his article by an answer.

It is not my intention or desire to enter a controversy with an oil promoter who lives thousands of miles from the Texas oil fields, and I know it is not the policy of The Citizen to have individuals air their differences through its columns, so this is my final statement regarding the story. Mr. Rothan admits I am well "posted as to oil wildcatting in his own district, Winchester, Ky." Now I'll show I am better posted on Texas production than he would have people who read my article believe. He devotes quite a lot of his "answer" to figures on production and drilling reports in the Texas sugar.

fields. I said nothing in my story about there being oil in Texas. That is where the advertising was hung in. A person engaged in the production of oil usually is called an oil producer and generally is on the ground attending to operations. Furthermore, oil producers are getting quite doubtful of the lasting qualities of the present Texas oil fields, for when 2,245 producing wells and 432 dusters—I use Mr. Rothan's figures—are brought in to any oil pool, not much oil is going to remain in the ground long, and oil producers aren't sinking from \$25,000 to \$60,000 in short-lived wells. Burkburnett field, Texas—the field mentioned by him as having the 2,245 producing wells, is falling rapidly, for that many wells, even in considerably more territory than the actual pool embraces, soon take all the oil from the field. Over-production, it is called, is what is wrong with Texas now, and Louisiana likewise is beginning to feel the effects of a hole being punched down on an average of one to about two acres of land.

The wild cat schemes that Mr. Campbell speaks about in Kentucky oil propositions cannot take place in Texas any more," writes Mr. Rothan. The statement misleads the reader into thinking wildcatting, of which so much is heard, is practiced in Kentucky alone, when, as a matter of fact, Kentucky is an oil producing state and a promoter's paradise as are Texas and Louisiana.

"Any man engaged in helping to produce the natural resources of this country can feel he is doing a patriotic duty," grandiloquently writes Mr. Rothan. I heartily agree with him, and I admire the producers who are in the fields producing the oil. Would that the "blue sky laws" of North Carolina, Texas, Kentucky—notwithstanding inference to the contrary—and other states, were really stringent enough to drive the promoter out of the game. They have put an awful crimp in his promoting activities, but certain things can be done "within the law," but make no inferences. I am not a practical oil man nor do I pose as one, neither do I own any stock in any oil company, but if I were going to put money in the oil business I'd certainly spend a few dollars and go see where my money was going in the ground.

Respectfully, M. B. CAMPBELL, Memphis, Tenn., February 18.

THE HOOVER "PROPAGANDA": Editor of The Citizen: May I briefly comment upon the long and labored letter from Mr. Daniels of New York in your issue of today; a letter designed if one can find a design to shoo the good people of our part of North Carolina, against the dangers to democracy and our homes and firesides of a "Hoover propaganda."

If there ever was a "propaganda" absolutely honest, spontaneous, and representative of the best common sense of America,—yellow Hearst and this Mr. Daniels to the contrary notwithstanding,—it is this. The only dangers in it, and they are not great, are to the "machines" of both parties. The day has passed when democrat and republican mean vitally differing things. Tariff has lost its importance. We are all Americans striving in this difficult era that the world war has forced upon us, to use a little common sense in our politics, and not play into the practiced hands of those who, for purposes of office, would guide our innocent steps. And Mr. Hoover, like Roosevelt, respects the necessity for "machines" in so far as they play square; and considers merit alone.

I happen to know, having been a "dollar-a-year man" myself under Mr. Hoover, that if there were, as Mr. Daniels states, more than fifty per cent. of the employees of the food administration republicans, it meant no more, than if it were to be found that more than fifty per cent. of the employees of the Red Cross were republicans. And I know that the loyalty and devotion and trust felt for our "chief" as we called him, was one hundred per cent.

As to the absurdities of cheap appeal to smallness in some human matters, in declaring the few newspapers and magazines who actually come out for Hoover, to be dominated by, or to be, "multi-millionaires," or in even more unwarrantedly declaring Hoover himself to be such, I shall leave to common sense whether any candidate who appeals to intelligence can fall to have the intelligent best of him, whether he be comparatively poor, eventually. In a spontaneous movement of any kind, some means of attack can always be unearthed against the sponsors.

As to Mr. Hoover representing the packers, the grain men, or others, there again attack is one thing, and knowledge another. Of course Mr. Hoover had to use in the major division of his administration men who knew something of world movements and practical distribution of meats, and similarly in grain, etc. Of course some of them were genuinely patriotic and some deceived him, if not for long. Mr. Hoover is only human. I know of one important individual who thought he had been up to the time the armistice, but he only deceived himself, and was allowed to work efficiently, but always watched.

Personally, if any party is to be "disrupted" by having Hoover for its candidate, it is quite as likely to be the republican, I think it will be a fortunate party that is to be so disrupted,—I wish it might be both. HERBERT MILES, Asheville, February 17.

WHEN RICHMOND WAS EVACUATED: Editor of The Citizen: I am the oldest member of Trinity church. I read your editorials daily and I notified in a recent one you discussed the opening of the churches during the influenza and made a statement with which I wish to differ. "That church services could not continue during a bombardment."

I was in Richmond, Va., during the evacuation and was attending a service in St. Paul's church which continued during the most terrible explosions, as the order had been given to destroy all the ammunition before evacuating the city. Gen. Lee and President Davis were called out of church to consult my brother, Col. Wm. LeRoy Brown, who was in charge of the ordnance department. They decided to move the artillery to Lynchburg to be safe—before the evacuation. I wish also to add that co-operative prayer of several earnest souls in one accord would be more powerful than the prayers of one. For we are told that "where two or three are gathered together there am I in the midst of them."

MRS. S. J. STEVENS, Asheville, February 17.

STREET SKATING: Editor of The Citizen: Will you allow me a small space in your paper to ask a few questions in regard to children skating on the sidewalks?

If skating is against the law, why is it enforced only on one or two streets? I am perfectly willing my children should be deprived the pleasure by using their roller wagons and skates if all the other children in Asheville must do the same, but if my children must suffer to please "spoiled babies" or "childless grown ups" that humor their nerves, then I object.

What are healthy boys supposed to do in a city where there are no skating rinks or parks? Should they sit on the steps and hum soft tunes or stay inside and read fairy tales? Sincerely, MRS. J. LONIE EVERHART, Asheville, February 17.

QUESTIONS ON HEALTH BOARD REGULATION: Editor of The Citizen: Why, in these days when our churches and schools are closed to avoid crowds, do our health authorities permit merchants to hold widely advertised special bargain sales, deliberately planned to draw large crowds together? I quote a line from an ad in your paper of Monday, February 16th: "To make this a big week, we are putting back the tables that brought us a rush last week." Does it not seem that this is carrying "business as usual" a little too far? Do the people of Asheville really consider business more important than education or religion? W. A. VENABLE, Asheville, February 17.

HIS MODEST REQUEST: Mr. Goodsoe—Well, what do you want? Benny the Butcher, I wanna know kin I borrow a red hat off'n you? I find I gotta wear in the street tonight 'n I'll hafta warn the traffic to drive aroun' me.—From the Columbia Star.

EXACTITUDE: "Hiram" said Mr. Conntessell, "it was going too far for you to say our boy Josh ain't worth his salt." "Mebbe twas. Salt so dear. But I'll hang to it that the way he's workin' now Josh ain't worth his salt."—From the Washington Star.

Daily Reminder

"IN THE DAY'S NEWS." Sixty-five years old today is Jean Jusserand, who has been French ambassador at Washington for eighteen years and during that period has constantly labored to vivify and make ever closer the friendship—the "binding tenderness"—to use his own expression—which from the very birth of the republic has existed between France and the United States. Ambassador Jusserand was born at Lyons and early acquired a taste for English. He recalls how his father's library contained the works of Fenimore Cooper and Nathaniel Hawthorne in longed-for English classics. He entered the French diplomatic service in 1876 and his first appointment abroad was in London, where he served as consul. Mr. Jusserand has a wide reputation in the world of letters as well as in diplomacy. He has written many books both in French and English, but his principal work is the "Literary History of the English People."

TODAY'S ANNIVERSARIES.

- 1776—William Scarborough, one of the builders of the Savannah, the first steamship to cross the Atlantic, born at Belfast, S. C. Died in New York, June 11, 1838. 1820—United States senate passed the Missouri Compromise bill. 1825—More than 100 vessels lost in a great storm at Gibraltar. 1870—Texas ratified the Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments to the federal constitution. 1876—Charlotte Cushman, the first great American actress, died in Boston. Born there, July 23, 1816. 1892—Arthur J. Balfour introduced the Irish local government bill in the house of commons. 1893—Frances E. Willard, founder of the world's W. C. T. U., died in New York city. Born at Churchville, N. Y., September 28, 1839. 1900—Colenso was re-occupied by the British under Gen. Buller.

ONE YEAR AGO TODAY IN THE WAR.

Italy refused to arbitrate her territorial claims in Dalmatia. Austria restored \$200,000,000 in treasure taken from Trieste during the war.

CONVENTIONS OPENING TODAY.

- San Francisco—Regional convention of the W. C. T. U. Winnipeg—Western Canada Dairy association. Des Moines—Central and Northeastern Iowa Lumber association. Charlotte, N. C.—Tri-State Medical association.

MAXWELL, PELL CONTEST AROUSES MUCH INTEREST

Judge Pell Commended For His Recent Statement on Appointment.

Asheville Citizen Bureau, 402 Merchants' Bank Building, Asheville, N. C., Feb. 17.—(By JULE B. WARREN.) RALEIGH, Feb. 17.—The contest over the appointment of A. J. Maxwell or Judge George P. Pell, of the state corporation commission, to a place on the interstate commerce commission, continues to be the chief subject of talk about the capitol. There is general commendation of the stand taken by Judge Pell in his statement of Saturday afternoon. He said he considered it more important that some man from North Carolina be on the interstate commerce commission than that his own "desires or aspirations be gratified."

The judge did not believe either he or Mr. Maxwell would be named by the president if the names of both men were placed before the president, and said he did not wish to hinder Mr. Maxwell if his friends continued to push for his place. There seems little indication that the Maxwell friends and supporters have any intention of quitting the campaign they started sometime ago without Maxwell's knowledge or consent. As a matter of fact the publication of the fact that Maxwell's name would be presented to the president has aroused a great deal of interest from all sections of the state, and especially from the eastern section of North Carolina and in Charlotte.

Maxwell today said he still had no statement to make about the proposition other than that he did not intend to make a race for the job. If the appointment came to him through the efforts of people who thought he could serve the state and the nation in the capacity of a commissioner in Washington, he would be glad to go there, although he realized that the work of the corporation commission, acting as tax commission in North Carolina was doing now, was a very important piece of constructive work.

Likewise Judge Pell said that he had no statement to make about the unusual contest between two members of the same commission today. He showed letters he had received from a number of members of congress in which they told him they would be willing to aid in furthering his candidacy, and from the senators who said that they had presented his name to the president for appointment for the place. Locally, it seems that there is a sentiment in Washington for both men, but it is generally believed that Pell's boom reached Washington first although the Maxwell boom was started in North Carolina before either of the two commissioners considered getting into the contest.

Cramer's Appointment Delivered.—The delegation of Southport citizens who came to Raleigh on Sunday for the purpose of interesting the governor in the appointment of E. H. Cramer to succeed Judge W. P. Stacy, resigned, remained long enough to thank the governor for anticipating their mission and appointing the man before they got here. They got the official appointment of the Southport attorney and delivered it to him in person today. Another man came to see the governor about the appointment of another man, for he did not find out that the place had already been filled. Following his usual custom Governor Bickett made the appointment on Saturday night, soon after he had received the announcement of the resignation of Judge Stacy, who will re-enter private practice in Wilmington. There is general regret at Judge Stacy's decision to quit the bench.

Business Consultants

Talk to any business man of broad vision regarding the things that make for commercial success and he will almost invariably pay tribute to his banking affiliations.

Competent bankers are something vastly more than custodians of cash, currency and collateral. They are also close students of business economics and frequently their advice is decidedly more valuable than any financial backing that may be required. Our officers will be glad to confer with you in regard to your business problems.

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STRENGTH and SECURITY Are the Foundations Upon Which COURTESY and SERVICE Are Building Up Our Bank

American National Bank

Charter Member Federal Reserve System National Bank Protection for Savings and 4% Compound Interest

AUTOMOBILE SHORTAGE

If you are planning to buy a car this spring you had better get one right now and not wait. There will be an unprecedented demand this year and deliveries are very slow. The threatened freight strike may delay shipments for months. We have a few

CHEVROLET 490 TOURING cars on the floor. Price, \$835, delivered to you completely equipped. If you want one, better speak quickly.

ERSKINE MOTORS CO.

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fully with stout hearts the future in their new world of eternal night, knowing that when they leave the institution they will be fully equipped to supplement their meagre government pension by earning a good living at their chosen trade or profession.

Feb. 17th, 20.

Editor Citizen: Kindly allow me space in your valuable paper to correct the impression that I have apologized to our Commissioner of Public Safety for writing the article which brought about the recent regrettable controversy in our Fire Department.

The word "apology" has been worked over-time in the many articles written about the reinstatement of myself, and I wish to state to the informed public that I have not apologized to the Commissioner of Public Safety or anyone else for writing the letter about the one-way street hampering the work of the Fire Department.

I have on repeated occasions told the Commissioner of Public Safety that I meant no personal insult to him, but this is as far towards the "so-called" apology as I have ever gone, or ever will, and I don't hesitate here to say that I didn't mean the article as a personal insult to our Commissioner, but the article stands as written by me on January 18th in its entirety and will stand as such so far as an apology from me is concerned.

There was nothing in the article which could have been taken as a personal insult, and seems a pity that the whole unfortunate matter can not be allowed to die out, now that it has been settled to the entire satisfaction of those vitally concerned. Yours very truly, ERNEST W. DAVIS.

POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.

I hereby announce myself as a candidate for the office of Sheriff of Buncombe County, N. C., subject to the action of democratic primary to be held June 8th, 1920. J. H. REED, Advt.

WAYNESVILLE, N. C. SUYETA PARK HOTEL

Only Steam Heated Hotel in Waynesville All Modern Conveniences. Open All the Year Special Attention Given the Commercial Trade