

THE OBSERVER

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"AN ACT OF HOSTILITY."

Our Associated Press dispatches of Monday announced that General Carranza has notified the United States that if force is used to prevent further firing by Mexican troops across the border...

We had an idea at one time that General Carranza was a patriot and a man of good common sense, but his present course leads to the belief that he is neither.

As to Carranza's announcement about "an act of hostility," he displays a lack of common sense that is amazing, considering that he sets himself up as a leader of men.

When the peace conference between the United States, the South American countries and Mexico was held at Niagara Carranza acted in a strange and stubborn manner...

However, the United States Government is apprehending no serious trouble from a disregard of Carranza's announcement about "an act of hostility," and will be apt to soon bring to a close the firing of Mexican bullets across the border.

D. A. TOMPKINS AS A WRITER.

We reproduce today from the Charlotte Observer a chapter from "The History of Mecklenburg County and the City of Charlotte," by D. A. Tompkins.

If Mr. Tompkins had never written anything but this one chapter on "Life in the Old South," that alone would suffice to mark him as a fine writer...

D. A. Tompkins was a remarkable man. Skilled in mechanics, learned in science, a master of finance, a literary man of rare parts...

BOYS' CORN CLUBS.

We published on Monday an account of the awarding of prizes to winners in the boys' corn club contest in this county.

30 bushels. Think of it—95 1-2 bushels of corn to one acre! And raised by a boy at that! North Carolina has made strides in farming...

NORTH CAROLINA SAND HILLS.

Not many years ago the sand hills of North Carolina were considered as productive of practically nothing save tar, pitch, turpentine, wire grass and pine lumber.

Moore, Hoke and Cumberland Counties contain great stretches of this sand hill land, which twenty-five years ago could be bought for a song.

The cause of this development is two-fold: First, the fact that scientific farming has been introduced and followed; second, the character of the people who dwell on the land.

The people who dwell on the sand hills of North Carolina are, as a class, among the best people on earth.

VILLA IS CONSISTENT.

Francisco Villa, one-time bandit but now the dominant figure in Mexico, is a remarkable man and one of the kind who make history.

The proof that Villa is a man of intelligence and decided character (however cruel and vindictive he may be) lies in the fact that he is consistent...

The New York Herald says: The metamorphosis of Francisco Villa from a bandit of the mountains of Northern Mexico to the dominant figure in his country has been accomplished in a little more than four years.

Throughout it all Villa, in his partisanship, has remained consistent, something that cannot be said of a single one of the other revolutionary leaders.

So it has been with the vast majority of the leaders of the north. Villa gave his first allegiance to Madero, fighting by his side through-out the life of the martyred President.

CONCRETE FIRE-PROOF BUILDINGS.

Edison, the inventor, is a wonderful man, and so great have been his achievements in science that the world is ready to believe that he can do almost anything which he sets his head and hands to.

If these concrete walls have not been injured by fire and are ready for the erection of other buildings, the fact is demonstrated that concrete is the material that should be used in building in the future.

The Charlotte Observer says: As was to have been expected, some valuable lessons in fire building are coming out of the burning of the Edison plant.

BELGIUM'S WAR TAXES.

The Observer carried in Tuesday's dispatches the following: Paris, Dec. 15.—A Havre dispatch to the Matin says: "According to news reaching the Belgian government, the German government general who occupies Belgian territory has ordered the provincial councils to meet December 17 and take the necessary measures for the payment of a war tax of 350,000,000 francs."

A franc is about 19 cents in American money, so the Belgians are called on to pay Germany about \$66,500,000 in the shape of war taxes.

And now Germany, after bombarding and partially destroying some of Belgium's cities, has taken possession of them, and for the privilege of being conquered and made to suffer, (or rather because Germany has the power to enforce its demands) the stricken people are called on to pay an indemnity of more than sixty-six million dollars.

How long will the people of Europe be called on to endure the sufferings and cruel injustice put upon them by effete royalty? How long are they going to stand them? We believe the day is coming when the people of the kingdoms and principalities of the world will rise up and declare that there shall be no more war, and we be to crowned heads when that day shall come.

A TRUCE DURING CHRISTMAS.

The Pope of Rome has originated a scheme to have the warring nations in Europe observe a truce of some little time during the Christmas season. The proposition was not agreed to by one nation at least, said to be Russia.

When my boy, Ray, was small he was subject to croup, and I was always alarmed at such times. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy proved far better than any other for this trouble.

JARVIS COUNTY.

A movement is on foot to petition the Legislature to pass an act for the creation of a new county to be formed from Cumberland, Harnett, Johnston and Sampson.

The Dunn correspondent of the Greensboro News says: John C. Clifford, upon whose shoulders has fallen a large part of the burden in the fight for the formation of Jarvis County, believes that the project's chances for success are brighter now than at any time since the idea gained a grip upon the minds of the people of this locality.

The Greensboro News says: In the final analysis, indeed, there is little to recommend it. Had the nation been following the spirit of the teachings of Christ there would have been no war.

A resolution has been introduced in Congress to have this country use its best efforts to bring about a cessation of hostilities for a few days.

TRADE BALANCE SWINGING AROUND.

"It is an ill wind that does not blow somebody some good." However much we may regret the suffering, destruction of property and demoralization of business in Europe caused by the war, it were foolish for the United States not to take advantage of the opportunities for business increase afforded by that war.

So much has the European war done for this country. But it has done more; the trade of Europe is already coming to this country through sheer force of circumstances.

The Baltimore Sun says: As an indication of how rapidly the financial and commercial tide is changing in our favor, it is now announced from Washington that the occurrences which were initiated in October by Sir George Paish and B. B. Blackett, the English economic experts, have been called off by mutual consent.

However, it is for the people to decide. If they want a new county all they will have to do is to say so, or, on the contrary, they do not wish one, they had best "get a move on."

THE BOMBARDMENT OF ENGLAND.

It has been centuries since a foreign foe set foot on England's soil, but the Germans came dangerously near doing so Wednesday when a squadron of their cruisers bombarded several towns on the Yorkshire (eastern) coast.

Perhaps it is best that naval engagements should become frequent, as the more fighting there is, both on land and sea, the greater is the probability of the war coming to an early close.

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ROOSEVELT NOT NEEDED.

Representative Richmond Pearson Hobson has proposed to the House Naval Committee that Colonel Theodore Roosevelt be asked to testify before the committee on the preparedness of the United States navy to defend the Panama Canal.

To begin with, Colonel Roosevelt is an enemy to the Administration, and as he has heretofore taken every opportunity to disparage its work, it is fair to presume that he will continue to do so.

There are numbers of level-headed, conservative men with much more knowledge of armament and naval affairs than the Colonel, whom the committee can call as witnesses, and the Colonel's "opinion" can be very well dispensed with.

Why should the committee call as witnesses any persons except government officials and army and navy officers? They, and they alone, are the proper persons to be examined, and

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the examination of outsiders would simply mean useless expense to the government.

Scarborough is a seaport and fashionable resort in the northern part of Yorkshire on a headland extending into the North Sea.

Scarborough has been popularly styled "the queen of watering places."

Hartlepool is a seaport of Municipal borough, in the southeast portion of the county of Durham.

Adjoining Hartlepool is West Hartlepool, a city of more than 65,000 inhabitants. The Hartlepoons, which are provided with a vast system of docks, before the war had an active trade with the Baltic ports, and with Hamburg, Antwerp and Rotterdam.

Hartlepool was the place where the Comte De Bar landed from his fleet in 1171 to assist William the Lion in invading England.

Hartlepool formerly was a perfect specimen of a fortified town. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the town fell into such decay that it was spoken of as "an ancient, decayed coast town, once a brave, stately, and well fortified town, now only a sea land habitation for fishermen."

Whitby is in the North Riding of Yorkshire, on the coast, and about half way between Scarborough and Hartlepool. It is a town of about 12,000 people and also is a sea side resort.

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ENGLAND'S PROTECTORATE OVER EGYPT.

According to The Observer's dispatches of Friday, England has established a protectorate over Egypt, and in doing so will of course share in the government of that ancient country.

We have no doubt that the Sultan now sees the handwriting on the wall. His union in the war with Germany has turned against him England and Russia, which are glad of the opportunity to make war on the Ottoman empire.

THE RAILROAD FREIGHT ADVANCE.

The decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission allowing an advance in freight rates by the Eastern railroads of five per cent. will add to their revenue about \$30,000,000.

Chairman Harlan and Commissioner Clements dissented vigorously to the decision. Chairman Harlan, in his dissenting opinion, held that sufficient aid had been given the roads by the August decision and that the findings of the majority were "morally wrong."

There is no doubt about the fact that the railroads have been hard hit by the general business depression and badly needed relief.

COTTON GIN REPORT.

The Director of the Census, Department of Commerce, at Washington, has issued a preliminary comparative statement of the cotton ginned in North Carolina of the 1913 and 1914 crops, prior to December 1. We give as follows the number of bales ginned in the counties tributary to Fayetteville:

Table with 3 columns: County, 1914, 1913. Rows include Bladen, Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland.

CHRISTMAS EDITION.

The Maxton Scottish Chief has issued a Xmas edition. It is a handsome sheet of eighteen pages, filled with good reading matter and attractive and well displayed advertisements.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA