

THE OBSERVER

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ABOUT BUSINESS.

There has been much talk within the past several months about essential and non-essential business, and large percentage of the business men even demand has been made that the Government close up the non-essential business during the period of the war.

Let us suppose that every non-essential business in Fayetteville were closed down tomorrow; there would be a bad state of affairs in the community and surrounding country in a very short space of time.

Last winter a good many people thought the Government should pick out the businesses that were not essential to winning the war and shut them up out of hand.

Finally it has come to a point where, without any arbitrary classification by the Government but simply by the expansion of most essential industries, some businesses are pinched almost to the point of extinction.

Far from wanting to wipe them out, the Government finds it advisable to intervene for the purpose of keeping them from being wiped out. Because all these so-called non-essential businesses, though they can contribute nothing directly—save taxes—to war work, are intricately woven in to the national fabric of credit and commerce.

It is no doubt the part of wisdom to take all men capable of doing military duty out of non-essential business, and let their places be filled by those in deferred classes or by older men and women and girls, but we believe it to be likewise the part of wisdom to keep running every business which is not morally harmful to a community, and now that liquor will soon be wiped out, there really will be no business which can be called morally harmful.

CRUMBLING OF THE GERMAN MORALE.

One of the most significant features of the series of Allied victories beginning on July 15 last was the signal success of the Belgian forces in the recent offensive, when in a day or two they captured far more of Belgian territory, at a far less sacrifice of life, on their side, than the British did in 1917.

The German soldiers have had much, within the past three months, to cause the weakening of their morale. In the first place, the splendid fighting qualities of the American soldiers came as a rude shock; then it developed that the American Army, instead of being a small and contemptible army of cowboys, was a mighty host, constantly increased by arrivals from overseas.

Next it developed that the British and French were still remarkably aggressive under Foch, striking here, there and everywhere, at weak and unexpected points. Frank H. Simonds, in an article in the October number of Review of Reviews, says: "The German has lost a series of engagements this summer, but he has lost these battles far in French territory. He still holds all of Belgium, much of France. He has overthrown Russia, and is slowly erecting a circle of subject states about him. Finland is his, Poland is his, Rumania is under his thumb, Serbia is at his mercy. In the eyes of his people the Kaiser is still a victor." Since the above was written, great changes have come. Rumania is breaking her chains, Bulgaria is no longer under Germany's thumb, and Serbia is at his mercy. And by just

that much, in addition to continued reverses to the German arms, has the Kaiser lost in the estimation of his people and soldiers. He has been looked upon as a conqueror whom no nation or combination of nations could conquer, but the scales have been removed from the eyes of the worshippers.

The morale of the German soldiers is evidently crumbling, and it is not to be wondered at, for there is nothing so calculated to bring confusion and dismay to egotistical and stiff-necked mortals as reverse and defeat, and the German civilians and soldiers have been led to believe that the Prussians were a race of superior beings to whom all the balance of the world must bend the knee.

DOWN WITH PRUSSIAN MILITARISM.

Alexandre Millerand, distinguished French statesman, orator, reformer, Minister of War for France in 1914, has contributed an article to a Paris periodical which casts a brief glance at the most striking events of the great war now being waged. M. Millerand views the situation from the same standpoint as do all lovers of right and justice. He says in the conclusion of his article:

Five words summarizing the conditions of peace accepted by the Entente: "Prussian militarism must be destroyed."

The New World has not entered on the scene, it does not traverse the Atlantic, it does not achieve the daily miracles of which we are the amazed and grateful witnesses, in order to rest satisfied with a bastard, deceitful peace pregnant with every sort of danger. The United States and we with them, will not halt until the aim is attained—"Prussian militarism destroyed."

What friend of right and justice does not heartily endorse the burning words of Millerand? It is the solemn duty of all true men and women, especially in America, to resolve that "Prussian militarism must be destroyed," and, having so resolved, to put forth every possible effort for the accomplishment of this great result.

MORE PRETENDED PEACE TALK.

Prince Maximilian, the new German Chancellor, is following in the footsteps of his predecessors and throwing out peace feelers. The intent to bring about a cessation of hostilities is plainly shown. The German armies on the western front are in grave danger, and the latest news from the battlefields is that they are really on the edge of breaking into a rout and fleeing (not retreating) to Germany. The text of the German peace note is as follows:

The German Government requests the President of the United States to take in hand the restoration of peace, acquaint all the belligerent States of this request, and invite them to send plenipotentiaries for the purpose of opening negotiations. It accepts the program set forth by the President of the United States in his message to Congress on January 8th and in his later pronouncements, especially his speech of September 27th, as a basis for peace negotiations.

"With a view to avoiding further bloodshed, the German government requests the immediate conclusion of an armistice on land and water and in the air."

"The immediate conclusion of an armistice," right on the eve of what looks like a great victory for the Allies and consequent disastrous defeat for the Central Powers! If the brazen effrontery of Prince Maximilian's overtures were not an insult to the intelligence of the Allies, it would be laughable. Imagine Germany paying heed to peace offers and talk of a general "cessation of hostilities" from the Allies if the German armies were thundering at the gates of Paris and in virtual possession of all the channel ports! A few months ago, before the Americans got into the fighting and the Allies were being pushed back by sheer weight of superior enemy forces, the German militarists were insolent in their talk of heavy indemnities from America, Great Britain and France, the holding of Belgium "as a pawn" and the turning over to Germany of about all the balance of the earth.

"To meet at a neutral place for the discussion of a league for arbitration and disarmament!" In the meantime the German armies would be saved from defeat and would be given the opportunity to recuperate.

"It accepts the programme set forth by the President of the United States in his message to Congress January 8." President Wilson speaking for his own Government and the Entente, has truthfully said that the German militarists have shown to the world that they cannot be trusted, which is equivalent to saying that there is not going to be any cessation of hostilities until the Germans not only have been run off of foreign soil, but have been defeated and disarmed.

Bulgaria has set the pace. That country wanted peace, and being told how to get it (before hostilities were ended) it got peace by laying down its arms and getting into its own backyard. If Germany wants peace let it follow Bulgaria's example and get down on its knees, after retiring from foreign soil. Otherwise, there will be no peace until the Allies have cleaned out the German stables and put things to rights.

OWN A HOME.

These times of high prices, especially for house rent, should impress forcibly on the minds of all renters the importance and blessing to a man with a family of owning a home. There are numbers of men in every community who are renters simply through lack of their own lack of good management, as is breaking her chains, Bulgaria is no longer under Germany's thumb, and Serbia is at his mercy. And by just

through the aid of a building and loan association, and by the time middle age, at least, was reached the home would have been paid for, and the children scattered here and there could come back to the roof tree of their own vine and fig tree, with none to molest them or make them afraid!

Aside from the "good business" in owning a home—in the amount of money saved through freedom from house rent—a home owner has an advantage over a home renter in his standing and rating in a community. His home, "be it ever so humble," stands as a guarantee for citizenship, which no "homeless" man can lay claim to, and it tends to make him a better citizen, a better man and a better neighbor.

THE PEACE MOVE.

President Wilson's reply to Germany's request for an armistice and peace negotiations was just what was expected of him and was simply to the effect that, speaking for his own Government, he could not entertain for a moment any proposition for an armistice whereby the enemies of Allies of the United States would be allowed to remain undisturbed on the soil of those Allies.

The necessity of vigorous prosecution by the people back home of the war work is more urgent than it has ever been. The soldiers at the front are being called to do arduous fighting and endure greater hardships, and surely their fathers, mothers, sisters and sweethearts can be relied on to redouble their efforts in their behalf.

THE FOURTH LIBERTY LOAN.

That the Fourth Liberty Loan will be made, there is no doubt, but it will not reach the desired goal by October 19th, the allotted time for the drive to end, according to the latest estimate. This is to be regretted, but the epidemic of influenza has disorganized conditions, while the recent peace move by Germany has rendered many careless and optimistic over the prospect of peace.

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"SPANISH INFLUENZA"—"THREE-DAY FEVER"—"THE FLU."

What is Spanish influenza? Is it something new? Does it come from Spain? The disease now occurring in this country called "Spanish influenza" resembles a very contagious kind of "cold" accompanied by fever, pains in the head, eyes, ears, back or other parts of the body, and a feeling of severe sickness. In most of the cases the symptoms disappear after three or four days, the patient then rapidly recovering; some of the patients, however, develop pneumonia, or inflammation of the ear, or meningitis, and many of these complicated cases die. Whether this so-called "Spanish" influenza is identical with the epidemics of influenza of earlier years is not yet known.

Epidemics of influenza have visited this country since 1647. It is interesting to know that this first epidemic was brought here from Valencia, Spain. Since that time there have been numerous epidemics of the disease. In 1889 and 1890 an epidemic of influenza, starting somewhere in the Orient, spread first to Russia, and thence over practically the entire civilized world. (Three years later there was another flare-up of the disease. Both times the epidemic spread widely over the United States.)

Although the present epidemic is called "Spanish influenza," there is no reason to believe that it originated in Spain. Some writers who have studied the question believe that the epidemic came from the Orient and they call attention to the fact that the Germans mention the disease as occurring along the eastern front in the summer and fall of 1917.

How Can "Spanish Influenza" be Recognized?

There is yet no certain way in which a single case of "Spanish influenza" can be recognized; on the other hand, recognition is easy where there is a group of cases. In contrast to the outbreaks of ordinary coughs and colds, which usually occur in the cold months, epidemics of influenza may occur at any season of the year, thus the present epidemic raged most intensely in Europe in May, June, and July. Moreover, in the case of ordinary colds, the general symptoms (fever, pain and depression) are by no means as severe or sudden in their onset as they are in influenza. Finally, ordinary colds do not spread through the community so rapidly or so extensively as does influenza.

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For Best and Most Productive Crop. Our Virginia-Crown Seed Wheats are superior for the South—make larger yields and better quality of grain.

Write for "WOOD'S CROP SPECIAL" giving prices and information about SEED WHEAT, SEED OATS, SEED RYE, BARLEY and all other seeds for fall sowing.

T. W. Wood & Sons Seedmen, Richmond, Va.

GALLANT FIGHTERS.

The people of North Carolina are exultant over the fine record being made by the 20th Division in the fighting on the Western front in France. The North Carolina regiments are part of the 20th Division, and on Tuesday on the Cambrai-St. Quentin front, they took the towns of Brancourt and Fremont in most brilliant engagements. Field Marshal Haig, in his report Wednesday, made special mention of the important work accomplished in the right center by the "20th American Division, comprising troops from North and South Carolina and Tennessee." In the taking of Fremont, General Haig said, they completed "a successful advance of over three miles, in the course of which they cleared the enemy from a number of farms and woods."

The hearts of thousands of friends and relatives in the Old North State, including Fayetteville, were thrilled by the brave manner in which their loved ones acquitted themselves, but whose action was only the fulfillment of what it was well known they were capable of doing when the opportunity was presented.

There are glad hearts and proud hearts, but there also are anxious hearts, awaiting the news from the fight and the issuing of the casualty lists, for the post of danger has been held by our North Carolina boys, and with dash and daring they have rushed into the thickest of the fray. May God be with our soldiers in the valley of the shadow, or in the hospital ward, or on the mountain top of victory, and it will be well with them.

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BUY BONDS

"With their backs to the Allies, the German forces are being whipped faster and faster out of France," yet that gratifying fact makes it the more incumbent on the people back home to over-subscribe the Fourth Liberty Loan. The money is needed to prosecute the war, and a cheerful and prompt purchase of the full amount of the issue would be simply a just recognition on the part of the people, of the heroic work being done by our soldiers overseas.

President Wilson, whose counsel should always be heeded, has issued the following urgent appeal:

Recent events have enhanced, not lessened, the importance of this loan, and I hope that my fellow countrymen will let me say to them very frankly that, the best thing that could happen would be that the loan should not only be fully subscribed, but very greatly over-subscribed.

We are in the midst of the greatest exercise of the power of this country that has ever been witnessed or forecast, and a single day of relaxation in that effort would be of tragical damage alike to ourselves and to the rest of the world. Nothing has happened which makes it safe or possible to do anything but push our effort to the utmost. The time is critical, and the response must be complete.

(Signed) WOODROW WILSON.

Heed the appeal of our great, wise President and buy Bonds until the Fourth Liberty Loan has been over-subscribed.

ABOUT COTTON.

Cotton, for the last few days, has shown a disposition to continue the operation of falling in price. Why it should do so can be explained (according to our way of thinking) only on the ground that it is manipulated by the speculators. In a short article on the staple, the Saturday Evening Post says that there has long been a dire famine of the raw material in Germany, formerly the greatest consumer on the Continent. The textile industry has been practically destroyed in Belgium and almost destroyed in France. In England for a year cotton has been so scarce, due to the pinch in shipping, that mills working on American cotton have been restricted to fifty per cent of their capacity and have run for only forty hours a week instead of the standard fifty-five hours. Yet The Post says that a recent trade review puts the world's consumption of cotton for the past twelve months at 17,000,000 bales, a reduction from last year of less than 13 per cent.

In view of all this, the question arises, why should cotton show a disposition to fall in price? The Post says that in spite of government regulation and scant supply, the year was the most profitable for cotton manufacturers they have ever known. It is true that 20 cents for cotton is a high price, but it has been as high as 35 cents this year. Why should it drop now? The indications for peace are brighter than they have been since the war began, and with peace would come an increased demand for cotton, for then the closed down mills in Belgium and France could resume work and the mills in England could get back to running at full capacity.

It is cotton going lower still, or is it going to remain around 20 cents, or will it go up to 25 cents and stay there? Conditions point to the fact that in all fairness to the planter it should sell for 25 cents. The "cotton men," who pretend to know all about cotton no doubt will explain the situation to their own satisfaction—but after all the verbiage and technical terms have been cleared away, the only explanation will be that while the cotton manufacturers are made more money during the year than ever before, the planter, although doing very well, has not been given the same amount of money as the manufacturers.

Where crowding is unavoidable, as in street cars, care should be taken to keep the face so turned as not to inhale directly the air breathed out by another person.

It is especially important to beware of the person who coughs or sneezes without covering his mouth and nose. It also follows that one should keep out of crowds and stuffy places as much as possible, keep homes, offices, and workshops well aired, spend some time out of doors each day, walk to work if at all practicable—in short make every possible effort to breathe as much pure air as possible.

Go up each cough and sneeze, if you don't you'll spread disease!

CHICKEN LIVERS

An old hen has a much larger liver than you in proportion to weight or food eaten. Thus it follows that they eat billions just like you do. They are grouchy, cross, unhappy. Start her liver and make her happy. Then she will lay eggs all winter. Come and get a package of B. A. Thomas Poultry Powder. Feed it occasionally. See your boss park up—hear them sing—look for eggs. You'll never back if H. falls. A. E. B. 1000.

THE WEEKLY OBSERVER AFFORDS MERCHANTS AND OTHER BUSINESS MEN AN EXCELLENT ADVERTISING MEDIUM. CIRCULATION LARGE AMONG THE FARMERS.

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MASTIC PAINT. "The Kind That Lasts". Made with pure white lead and zinc-oxide, ground in pure Linseed Oil. Contains highest percentage of ZINC. Mastic Paint lasts longest, has greatest covering capacity and is most economical. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction. There's a Pee Gee Finish for Every Purpose. Ask For Free Paint Books and Color Cards. A. E. RANKIN & CO., Fayetteville, N. C. Established 1867. PEASLEE-GAULBERT CO., Louisville, Ky.

TO THE WHEAT GROWERS. As there is so much confusion among our farmer friends as to the grinding of wheat this year, we desire to inform them just what the Government requirements are. A farmer may have enough wheat ground to last until August 1, 1919, based on 12 pounds per person per month for his household and establishment (farm hands, etc.). The mills are required to grind his wheat and deliver flour, bran and shorts in accordance with the grade of wheat. There is a severe penalty attached where corn bran is mixed with wheat bran and delivered as feed in exchange for wheat. For the past 35 years we have ground for the public for 1-8 toll, and we respectfully solicit your business on that basis, promising the highest yield of flour. Our mills have been running night and day since June 24th. We are manufacturing the very choicest flour which under Government rules requires mighty good milling. Yours for helping crush the Huns, McNeill Milling Co.

Over 600 Mules and Horses Just Arrived. All size mules and a good assortment of horses. SIX CARLOADS OF EXTRA BIG MULES IN THE LOT. SUITABLE FOR HEAVY HAULING. C. L. BEVILL. Largest Individual Dealer in the South. FAYETTEVILLE, N. C. Eat Us and Save the Wheat and Meat for Our Soldier Boys. An old hen has a much larger liver than you in proportion to weight or food eaten. Thus it follows that they eat billions just like you do. They are grouchy, cross, unhappy. Start her liver and make her happy. Then she will lay eggs all winter. Come and get a package of B. A. Thomas Poultry Powder. Feed it occasionally. See your boss park up—hear them sing—look for eggs. You'll never back if H. falls. A. E. B. 1000.