

THE PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE

The task which confronts the peace conference consists of three parts: To settle the amount of indemnities and the manner and time of payment; to revise the map; and to provide some means of preventing the recurrence of a world war.

The first of these tasks is not very difficult; the obvious thing to do is to make Germany and her associates pay as much as they can and quickly as they can. The real difficulty begins with the attempt to revise the map. The third part of the task,—providing means for preventing a recurrence of the war,—is, in the opinion of many competent authorities, not only difficult but probably impossible.

There are two reasons why the map must be revised at the peace conference, however difficult it may prove to be. One reason is that national boundary lines, as they existed before the war, were working a terrible injustice to millions of people, who were forcibly held as subjects of one nation when by race and sympathies they were afflicted with another. Justice demands that the lines be changed. That is one reason. The other is that, unless justice is done in this matter there is likely to be an endless series of wars.

Some of the changes are simple enough. Alsace and Lorraine must belong to France. Italy must have certain lands which have been held by Austria. Roumania must have Bessarabia and Transylvania. Poland must be freed. But some of the problems are very difficult.

But the real trouble comes when the attempt is made to form a league of nations to enforce peace. Many people think that the attempt is doomed to failure; others think that it is not only impossible but also wrong. The delay in assembling the peace conference has been largely due to disagreements on this point.

A good many very well informed people, whose judgment is usually good, are of the opinion that it would have been wise to let the league of nations alone and make peace as quickly as possible. Their idea is to collect the biggest possible forfeiture from Germany, to free subject populations wherever it can be done expeditiously, and then adjourn. They say that the best insurance against future wars is to make Germany pay for this one; no nation will be in a hurry to enter on a war of aggression while Germany is sweating to pay for this war.

A number of other leading men, however, take the opposite view. They maintain that the only way to prevent the recurrence of such wars is to form a league of nations. They admit this will delay the peace negotiations; but they claim that the result will justify the delay. This is the view of President Wilson, and it is held also by a good many people among our allies.

Those who have for four weary and agonizing years been living in the valley of the shadow of death, and have suffered to an extent which is inconceivable to us, must naturally be desperately anxious for a peace that will last. They have borne their sufferings as best they can, but they are determined that, if possible, their children shall be saved from that inferno. To a large number of such people, the league of nations looks good; it holds out a hope of a lasting peace; and these are the people who are giving such enthusiastic greetings to President Wilson. But there are very many in England and in Italy, and still more in France, who have little faith in the proposed league. They think it will provoke more wars than it will prevent. Clemenceau, the French premier, is their spokesman; and their slogan is to make Germany pay heavily and pay promptly, to liberate the stolen territories, and then adjourn.

Which of these opposing views will prevail, it is hard to say. There are a good many shrewd observers who predict a compromise. Their guess is that some sort of league or association of nations will be formed or started at the conference, but that its scope will be narrowed and its powers limited and that the conference will base its main reliance for future peace upon the terms imposed at Versailles.

James Brown left Monday for Davidson college, after spending the holidays with his parents.

BRITT'S TRIBUTE

With the death of Roosevelt there passes from earth the world's very greatest man. In every corner of the earth he was known and loved and honored. To his children of every tongue the magic name Teddy brought joy to the heart and hope to the soul, for he was the inspiration of every life that yearned for a brighter day.

But now we behold him but all too dimly. So quickly was he changed that he seems to us not dead, but only away. We stand too near the lofty peak either to paint its colors or measure its height. We can not grasp a globe of such illimitable proportions. The millions who loved him and followed him gaze after him with saddened hearts like children bereft of a father. How inscrutable it is, and what a mortal calamity, that one so divinely potent for good among men should so suddenly lie down to remorseless death and pathetic dust! And yet we know that for him it is not the end, but the beginning of a nobler and a fuller life. We know that the snows of yesteryear come not again, but who know God believe that for every trusting soul they hasten the dawn of an eternal harvest.

Of all the men of history he was pre-eminently the most universal and many-sided. Masterful in the home, he gave a new meaning to the endearing names father, mother and child; exalted of men to the last pinnacle of human glory, he yet walked humbly before God; convincing in the forum, he yet spoke the plain words of the man of daily toil; mighty with the pen, he wrote of the practical things of a workaday world; strong in the chase, he was yet passionately in love with animal and plant and forest and stream. He knew all joys and felt all sorrows and strove for all good.

He was the last notch of human courage, and knew no fear of either men or things. He spoke out his real thoughts and left them to soothe or burn as they would, and he challenged the sinister deeds of men and nations with the daring of a gladiator.

He had Washington's courage, Lincoln's goodness, and McKinley's gentleness and his Americanism rose to a height never before equaled. He worshipped daily at the shrine of his country, and passionately yearned to lay upon its altar the blood of himself and his sons.

Shocking and deplorable, yet how fitting was the end! As life was rushing and strenuous, so death was hurried and merciful. And it stole in on velvety sandals with healing in its wings. An oaken casket, a simple churchyard, a flowerless mound, with only the pomp of tears, and they laid him to rest who might well have claimed a place in the Pantheon of the gods.

He was without a like in all the world—a new and strange and wonderful figure, striding across the horizon of human history, beckoning men and nations to a new and exalted life vouchsafed by God's eternal providence.

JAMES J. BRITT.

FIRST BANK AND TRUST COMPANY

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the First Bank and Trust Company was held Tuesday afternoon. The old board of directors was re-elected for the ensuing year. Immediately following the stockholders' meeting the directors met and re-elected the same officers as heretofore.

That the bank has done well during the past year is shown by the fact that the net earnings have been about 18 per cent, of which 8 per cent was paid out in dividends. The last statement of the bank shows deposits of over \$556,000, a considerable increase over the deposits this time last year.

200,000 UNMARKED GRAVES

FILL 18-ACRE BATTLEFIELD

Mrs. Nina L. Duryea, the first American woman to cross the battlefields of the Somme, the Argonne, and the Ardennes, has returned to this country. She said, in a recent lecture in New York city, that in the vicinity of Ypres, Belgium, one field of 18 acres contained the bodies of 200,000 German and allied soldiers, unmarked even by a single cross.

Four terrific onslaughts had occurred there during the war, she said, and the men were buried where they fell.

Montraville Egerton is home from the navy visiting his mother.

HEALTH BOARD

At a meeting of the county health board, held Monday, Dr. L. B. Morse resigned his position as a member of the board and applied for the position of county health officer. He was appointed county health officer, and the vacancy on the board was filled by the appointment of Dr. J. S. Brown.

The dog question came up for consideration. Some citizens from the Naples section were present and reported the presence of mad dogs in their community and asked for protection. Several of B. B. Souther's children were bitten by a mad dog and sent to Raleigh for treatment. Dogs are running loose in various parts of the county, and are liable at any moment to be bitten by rabid dogs and thus contract and carry the disease.

There is already a law which would give ample protection if enforced. But it is not enforced. Another meeting of the health board will be held the first Monday in February, at which time it is expected that this law will be amended in such manner as to charge the secretary of the board with the duty of seeing that it is enforced.

CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK

The stockholders of the Citizens National Bank of this city held their regular annual meeting Tuesday in the directors' room in the bank building. The following officers were elected: E. W. Ewbank, president; C. E. Brooks and Brownlow Jackson, vice presidents; C. S. Fullbright, cashier; W. A. Young and E. H. Davis, assistant cashiers. These officers were all re-elected to the positions they have heretofore been filling in the institution.

All the directors who have been serving the bank so well and faithfully since its organization, were re-elected. The board of directors is composed of the following: E. W. Ewbank, B. Jackson, C. E. Brooks, W. C. Rector, R. P. Freeze, F. A. Ewbank, W. S. Ashworth, C. S. Fullbright, F. A. Bly, C. B. Glazener, W. A. Cannon and Foster Bennett.

This bank has grown steadily since it began business May 1, 1915. The institution's surplus fund has been increased until it now amounts to \$10,000, and a semi-annual dividend of 4 per cent is regularly paid its stockholders. This is equivalent to 8 per cent per annum.

At the meeting Tuesday, the stockholders expressed themselves as being highly pleased with the present healthy and growing condition of the bank, and a resolution was unanimously adopted praising the officers and employees of the institution for the good and faithful work they have done during the past year, and the harmonious manner in which all had labored for the success of the bank.

This is the only national bank in the county, and its deposits now amount to nearly a half million dollars, and its total resources foot up more than six hundred thousand dollars.

As soon as conditions with regard to the labor and building material situation become a little more steady, the Citizens National Bank will commence the erection of a handsome new bank building on its lot at the corner of Fourth avenue East and Main street, which it purchased some time ago from W. A. Smith.

The committee on plans for the new building reported to a directors' meeting this week, that the plans were completed with the exception of just a little more work on the specifications. Work on the new building will probably be commenced in the early summer.

THOMAS SETTLE SICK

Hon. Thomas Settle of Asheville, one of the best known men in the State, has been critically ill for the past several days with pneumonia. Mr. Settle is at the Mission hospital where he has been for the past several days, attended constantly by two physicians. Monday and Tuesday there was little hope held out for his recovery, but on Wednesday it was stated he had taken a turn for the better. And now it is thought he has a good chance for recovery.

STANDARD SUGAR IS AVAILABLE AGAIN

For the past several weeks North Carolina dealers have been able to purchase sugar only from the Louisiana sugar districts. This sugar has not been altogether acceptable to the North Carolina trade and the announcement just made by Food Administrator Page, that the eastern refineries and the Savannah Refinery have been authorized by the sugar equalization board to resume shipments into North Carolina and other southern states, will be very acceptable news not only to dealers but to consumers also. This announcement follows large shipments of new crop Cuban sugar which will begin to arrive at Savannah and other Atlantic coast ports the latter part of this week.

LEGISLATURE

The North Carolina Legislature has ratified the national prohibition amendment. The vote in the House was 93 to 10.

Beyond the ratification of this amendment nothing of importance has so far been done. It takes the Legislature some time to get down to real business, the first few weeks of the session being devoted to routine work.

The biggest question to come up is the tax question. As increased amounts of money will be needed for various purposes, especially schools, some system will have to be devised for providing the necessary revenues.

Jonathan Williams Jackson is said to be Henderson county's youngest office-holder. He is one of the pages of the General Assembly. He is the 7-year-old son of Representative Brownlow Jackson.

U. S. HAS BIG SURPLUS STOCK ON HAND

Uncle Sam is the biggest merchant in the world today. He has on hand in his 1,500 warehouses, reports say, enormous surpluses of materials that are not now needed by him, since the war is over. These materials are valued at billions of dollars, and if thrown on the open market, would doubtless bankrupt competitors handling the same lines of goods. But it is said the government will not allow these large surpluses of war materials to be thrown on the open market, or permit unfair competition, and under a plan for the sale of all these stores of surplus goods, outlined by L. H. Hartman, chief of the surplus stock division of the government, none of the immense quantities of supplies left on Uncle Sam's hands will be offered for sale or sold on local markets unless there should develop a demand for the materials.

Some of the Stocks on Hand Mr. Hartman has compiled an incomplete list of the materials that the government has on hand at the present time, part of which will have to be marketed. Among the items are the following:

- 70,000,000 cans of tomatoes.
- 32,000,000 cans of corn.
- 43,000,000 cans of pork and beans.
- 26,000,000 yards of duck.
- 4,800,000 cotton coats.
- 1,500,000 woolen coats.
- 6,000,000 leggins.
- 10,000,000 pairs of shoes.
- 5,000,000 miscellaneous hats.
- 6,000,000 pair of mittens.
- 6,000,000 bedsacks.
- 36,000,000 pair of summer and winter underwear.
- 40,000,000 pair of summer undershirts.
- 5,000 automobile trucks.
- 10,000,000 pounds of horseshoes.
- 2,000,000 tooth brushes.
- 10,000,000 shovels.

Preferential Market Created

Already large inroads are being made into the surplus. The Russian bureau of the war trade board has ordered 800,000 pairs of shoes, 140,000 pairs of drawers, 1,400,000 pairs of cotton socks and hundreds of thousands of coats, shirts and other clothing. The millions of pounds of supplies that Food Administrator Hoover estimates will be required for Belgium will be taken from the government surplus.

The Postoffice Department has ordered \$45,000,000 worth of automobile trucks and will take over all surplus aeroplanes that are not needed by the War Department.

Montenegro and Ecuador representative in Washington are placing orders for goods, and the Netherlands is expected to purchase thousands of yards of cloth for uniforms for its postal employees.

The Department of Agriculture will ask for enormous supplies. American representatives also will be sent to Europe to drum up trade with foreign governments.

The government is selling goods to enlisted men at cost and to retiring civilian war employees at ten per cent below cost. Catalogues are being prepared for the use of the county, state and municipal governments in the expectation of disposing of much of the material to them.

PEACEMAKERS DIFFER RELIGIOUSLY

Many religious faiths will be represented when the peacemakers gather. Marshal Foch is a devout Roman Catholic. Marshal Haig, of England, is a Presbyterian. President Wilson is also a Presbyterian. Lloyd George was brought up a Unitarian. Premier Clemenceau and General Petain, of France, are agnostics. Arthur Henderson, British labor leader, is a Methodist. Hughes, Australian premier, is a fighting Baptist.

BOARD OF TRADE

The Board of Trade met Tuesday night to consider the draft of the proposed new road law. The proposal is to have a road board of three members, one to be a county commissioner and the other to be appointed by the commissioners. The draft also provides for a whole time road supervisor.

ESTIMATE GERMAN DAMAGE

Maj. George B. Ford, head of the Red Cross housing service, and American engineers associated with him, have completed a survey of the devastated areas of France and Belgium and place the damage done by the Germans in France at \$13,000,000,000.

Belgium is estimated to have suffered from destruction to the amount of \$2,000,000,000, and more than \$1,000,000,000 in loss of machinery stolen by the Germans.

Half a million buildings were damaged in France, of which 250,000 were destroyed. It is estimated that, if no building were to be done anywhere else and 500,000 men were available, it would take more than 20 years to restore the damaged areas.

CHURCHES UNITED IN DRIVE

A united church campaign to raise \$10,000,000 for after-war emergency needs will be launched soon by 14 Protestant denominations. Each denomination will carry on a separate campaign at approximately the same time.

The principal objects of the drive are to help ministers engaged as chaplains, to assist in the restoration of evangelical churches in Europe and to provide scholarships in colleges for returning soldiers.

MANY U-BOATS BAGGED

The allies destroyed or captured 202 German submarines during the war. In addition to these, 14 U-boats were destroyed by the Germans themselves, ten in the Adriatic sea and four off Flanders. Seven others were interned in neutral countries.

The surrender of the German submarines has not been completed. The number already brought into British ports is 122. There are at least 50 still to be surrendered. The U-boats now being built in German shipyards will be at the disposal of the allies upon completion.

RAILROAD HEADS SPEAK

Railroad executives have decided to recommend to Congress a system of unified private management of rail lines with strong public control exercised by a secretary of transportation in the President's cabinet. They also ask a reorganized Interstate Commerce commission with regional divisions acting as a court of last resort in rate disputes.

The railroad commission opposes indefinite continuance of government ownership or operation of railroads at this time. However, there is some sentiment for adopting Director General McAdoo's proposal that government control be extended for five years to provide a test period.

U. S. IS CARRYING HEAVY INSURANCE ON SOLDIERS

Uncle Sam has today the largest insurance business in the world—as much in fact as all the rest of the world together. When the armistice was signed he had insured his soldiers for a total of between thirty-seven billions and thirty-eight billions of dollars, about two-thirds of the cost of the war to the United States. This was written on the lives of 4,000,000 soldiers, 95 per cent of whom now carry insurance. The average policy is about \$8,750.

The War Risk Insurance bureau is now at work canceling allotments to dependents of soldiers as they are discharged from the army. About 1,300,000 men made allotments.

On December 9, 1918, the War Risk Insurance bureau had made compensation awards on 4,023 death claims and 4,699 disability claims and had received a total of 51,845 claims. A large number of the men insured are expected to keep their insurance in force. And the War Risk Insurance bureau is expected to be in operation many years.

If the death claims were paid in one sum, instead of by instalments, they would amount to about \$800,000,000. Premiums to date amount to \$170,000,000, as an offset to these claims, or leaving a deficit of \$630,000,000. This figure may be greatly increased when final reports have been received. Deaths from influenza amounted to 17,000.

THE HOG AND CORN MARKET

The following from the monthly review of the markets issued by the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service, is of interest alike to both buyer and seller.

Special reports from forty North Carolina mills show a total weekly demand of 13,259 bushels of corn. Twenty-five mills report paying on an average of \$1.63 per bushel for shelled corn in bulk for the week ending December 7. The range of prices paid is from \$1.50 to \$1.80 per bushel. This average is slightly under the price of No. 3 white western corn, which averaged \$1.42 3-4 for the first three weeks in December or \$1.65 3-4 delivered in Raleigh. The average price paid for corn in North Carolina towns was \$1.81 per bushel during December. Usually the price paid for North Carolina corn is less at this time of year than what it would cost to deliver western corn in the State. The average price paid for corn in twenty-nine counties is \$1.78 and the range of prices \$1.25 to \$2.25. If the hope of western growers to obtain \$1.75 for their corn later in the season is realized North Carolina farmers may obtain \$2.00 a bushel for corn this year again. The crop in the United States is reported 155,000,000 bushels less than the five year average in the seven surplus states. The total for the seven leading corn producing states on a five year average is 1,485,531,000 bushels and the estimated 1918 production is 1,330,297,000 bushels. The number of hogs to consume corn this year is greatly increased over last. However, as the food regulation requiring the use of corn as a substitute has been removed, demand by North Carolina mills for home grown corn will not be as great as last year. The regulation of hog prices by the United States food administration is undoubtedly having a stabilizing effect upon the price of corn.

Hog Markets
Quotations in general at packing centers show only a slight decline during the month though receipts were approximately 20 per cent greater than in November, and the market is expected to be firm for some time. The belief is prevalent that the present heavy demand for pork will continue resulting in steady to higher prices for the next few months at least. The Baltimore market showed a decline of approximately 50 cents per cwt., Chicago market about 15 cents per cwt. lower, while the decline on the Richmond market was nominal. The daily averages on larger markets showed comparatively little variation even in the face of occasional record breaking receipts, a condition that was frequently lacking prior to the government regulation of prices. The approximate average prices paid for hard hogs (soft hogs 1-2 to 2 cents lb. less) on the Richmond and Baltimore markets are: Richmond; mediums and heavies, \$17.25 to \$17.75 cwt.; lights \$16.00 to \$16.50 cwt.; Baltimore, mediums and heavies, \$17.93, lights \$16.81. Reports from North Carolina local markets indicate that \$16.75 per cwt. was the average price paid farmers for live hogs, and \$23.90 for dressed hogs, the North Carolina quotations being for both hard and soft hogs. The foregoing quotations indicate that local North Carolina markets have been relatively higher than packer markets when shipping expenses and reductions for soft hogs at packer markets are taken into consideration, which probably explains why only a very limited number of car load shipments have been made to packer markets during the months. Whether or not this condition will continue during the next two months, when the marketing of North Carolina hogs will probably be more rapid, remains to be seen.

RETURNING NAVAL GUNS
Naval guns and gunners placed on American merchant ships to protect them against German submarines are being removed as rapidly as the vessels reach home ports. The rifles and their crews are being returned to the navy.

With the withdrawal of the naval crews, accommodations will be afforded for apprentice seamen, firemen and stewards, junior deck officers and junior engineers, who will be given final training at sea.

Mrs. A. S. Truex is back at her home after a long and severe illness from erysipelas at the Patton Memorial hospital. She is improving nicely.