

# For People Who Think Everything For People Who Think

BY AL FAIRBROTHER

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## THREE CENTS ON A LETTER

The increase in letter postage will be watched with interest. On November 1st the new law goes into effect, as announced in The Record yesterday by Postmaster Cooke. After that date all letters, except those dropped in the city boxes for distribution in the city where they are mailed, will be charged three cents each. Post cards, if written, will be two cents, printed ones at one cent. This increase may mean a great increase in revenues or it may mean a decrease. Two cents for sealed envelopes was considered cheap and millions of letters were mailed that were needless. In other words, a printed postal card conveying the information which can now go at one cent will doubtless take the place of millions of letters which have been paying two cents. Postage these days has been a big item. Many concerns sending out thousands of letters a day had an enormous postage bill. City papers say that great retrenchment will follow the advanced prices and that doubtless hundreds of people in each city who have been employed making machine letters will be discharged because of the increase of postage.

It has been the custom since the mimeograph came into fashion to have machine made letters resembling type-written ones, and many mail order houses and thousands of concerns have flooded the mails with the sealed envelope, thinking it would look more like a personal appeal. But they have become rather commonplace, and the increase of postage may stop a great deal of that kind of work, which will throw out of employment thousands of girls, and at the same time reduce the government's revenues on postage. All of this is, of course, speculative. That it will work a change, either for largely increased revenues or destroy the present system of letter writing, is freely predicted. In other words, it will not be an even break.

### ABOUT EVEN.

It wasn't very long that we employed transient colored labor for ten cents an hour. Nine hours constituted the day's work, about all you could get out of it, and the colored man moved his ninety cents, and many worked regularly for sixty cents a day. Seventy-five cents a day was considered a good price for regular labor. At that time wood sold in this town at the wood yard for one dollar a load, cut and delivered. Now the colored man can get \$2.50 a day, regular work, the city needs men right now and will pay that price, and the load of wood costs \$1.50. In other words, the man who works a day has a dollar and a half to pay for his load of wood, whereas when things were cheap a day's labor wouldn't buy a load of wood. And in those days there were scores of idle men, they could find nothing to do. In these days any able-bodied man who wants to work can find work—people are begging men to work. The city cannot secure men for street work, and Commissioner Foushee is offering \$1.50 a day. So it is seen that the present price of wood is cheaper than it was five years ago. And unless there is some real reason for it wood is not going to advance in price. We mean by a real reason, unless something entirely unforeseen happens. The farmer will sell wood at four dollars. Within sixteen miles of Greensboro wood can be bought for two dollars a cord, but it costs two dollars to get it here, because it is not near the railroad.

Mr. R. C. Bernau, of this city, who owns land out toward High Point, has been trying to get in his own wood and it cost him \$3.50 a cord—mind you, his own wood, off his own land. Therefore the local dealers are not "robbing" the people and are not demanding exorbitant prices. There is plenty of wood, and there will be, except in very bad weather. We have had bad weather every winter, and never during our many years' residence in this city do we recall a winter when there wasn't a shortage of wood for a few days at a time. But it was never before deemed necessary to start a municipal wood yard, and that is why there isn't going to be any such thing this winter.

### WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

Now that the election is over, or practically so, it is well to wonder if the advisory board didn't make a mistake in insisting that it would no longer serve. It is pointed out by a correspondent writing us, not for publication, that he cannot figure out who will be the seven citizens to make the board of education if the issue carries. He is inclined to believe that the selection of the advisory board was a very wise one and thinks some of them should not have been so hasty.

But our correspondent should understand that those seven people had the interest of the school at heart; they had no personal axe to grind; they served their purpose and, fearing they might in some way stand in the way of the election, like the loyal citizens they are, got out of the way. All honor to them, and here is hoping they will be rewarded by seeing a better school system in Greensboro than we have ever had.

The bonfire last night looked pretty, and was pretty, but it wasn't conservation.

With coal dealers unable to furnish coal and the ice man out of commission, the coal man hasn't much to do.

## THANKSGIVING IN WAR TIME

Laurence Sterne made one of his characters say that it was an ill wind that blew good to nobody, and it looks like conservation days have brought glad tidings to the great American bird, the turkey gobbler, if the turkey gobbler knows anything about glad tidings.

It is said that Thanksgiving Day this year, instead of being a day of feasting, will, if the President's request is heeded, be a day of fasting.

It is proposed to cut out the big Thanksgiving dinner—the turkey and the cranberry sauce and the cake and the plum pudding—and thus save a hundred million dinners that otherwise would be on. It is claimed that by doing this there will be saved to the nation a wonderful supply of food.

It may be all right to suggest this. Many a man who hasn't the price of a turkey will be glad of the excuse not to hustle for one, but we fear the food conservation has so far amounted to little.

It is said as a fact, and the reports are so many that we must believe them, that at the different cantonments there is a willful and wanton waste of food; that the soldiers are wasting enough food every day to feed another army, twice as large. It is talked freely. Soldiers write back and tell about it, and it is said that the thing has become a national scandal, and that when Congress meets already there is an organization which will strongly protest against what is going on.

The average southern cook doesn't understand the necessity of conserving food—we speak now of the colored cook—and the same waste is on. True, the people raised a great deal more food than ever before, but when it comes to saving it and economizing but little of that is done.

However, if this Thanksgiving is to be a day of fasting and prayer instead of a day of dyspepsia making, all well and good. The Thanksgiving turkey is being saved, and perhaps Christmas will witness his slaughter. One bird a year in these high cost days should suffice, and if the American people will all agree to pass up the Thanksgiving dinner it can be done. And perhaps, in all candor, it should be done.

### NO CAUSE FOR EXCITEMENT.

The Associated Press report brings glad tidings of great joy. It says there will soon be cheaper coal and that all is well. The miners who have been on a strike in these war times have returned to work, and unless dealers persist in advancing prices of coal, and Garfield says it can't be done, the fuel situation is not dark at all. The press report reads:

Fuel Administrator Garfield announced today that all coal miners have resumed work in Indiana, practically all in Ohio and all miners are resuming work in Illinois. He said that reports from all sections indicate a gratifying tendency downward in retail coal prices.

The following telegram summarizing the middle west strike situation was received by Dr. Garfield from President White of the United Mine Workers of America, who is dealing with the situation from his headquarters at Indianapolis:

"All miners resumed work in Indiana this morning and practically all in Ohio. Latest reports from Illinois are that all mines are resuming in line with our instructions."

The strike situation in the southwest is unchanged, so far as the government is advised, the men there holding out under advice of their leaders on account of the operators' penalty against strikes.

Mayor Stafford is willing to buy a hundred cords of wood and be ready for an emergency, but he isn't going to start a Municipal Woodyard, and neither is Commissioner Foushee, and neither is Commissioner Phipps. They were not so easily taken off their feet as was hoped.

### GETTING READY.

The Elks are making fine progress with their rehearsals for the big minstrel show which is to be put on in this town next week. There will be two nights of this amusement, thus giving every citizen a chance to go and enjoy himself. In the meantime there will be no excuse not to buy a ticket. This entertainment is for the benefit of the Red Cross and Elks. This means that the price of a ticket goes for worthy purposes, and therefore every citizen, male and female, should buy a ticket. It is not money thrown away, but money spent for things needed.

Senator Overman is at home and speaking in the state for Liberty bonds. He made a speech at Asheville and told them what he thought.

And so it is decided that there is to be no Municipal wood yard. The rich man must pay the price; and the price is not too high when other prices are considered.

A miss is as good as a mile, and—well, thirty-eight will do.

Might mention as a fact that the O. Henry is nearing completion of the first floor, and the other stories will go up very rapidly.

## THE OLD TOWN VOTED RIGHT

The election to determine whether Greensboro should increase taxation twenty cents on the hundred dollar valuation of all assessed property and change the charter so that a school board or board of education could be created, or whether the present existing condition should continue, was decided in the affirmative by the small margin of thirty-eight majority.

That was a close shave, but for all practical purposes it was just as good as though the election had been unanimous. The Record is not crowing over any victory. The result is highly satisfactory to it, but it understands that many men were of a different opinion, and while they didn't go to the polls to express themselves they had registered and remained at home. This was the same thing as voting against the proposed measure, and it conserved shoe leather or gasoline.

It occurred to us, and still seems tenable ground, that seven wholly disinterested people serving the city from purely patriotic motives would make a better body of citizens to conduct our school than the three busy commissioners, whose hands are already full. Because we believed this we favored the measures and voted for them. Time will prove whether or not we were right; but one thing is certain, the city schools must be built to a higher standard, and if we are on the wrong track now it will not be a hard matter to change.

There are more reasons than one why Greensboro should have the finest public school system in the state. The first is that we are necessarily more of a residential city than anything else. We never have been and perhaps will never be what could be called a manufacturing city. Therefore we should improve every opportunity to make the city a still larger residential city. Good schools will do this. Then we have here several educational institutions, foremost being the State Normal College and the Greensboro College for Women. These two institutions are helpful in many ways, but in no way more than making Greensboro attractive to those with daughters to educate. But we must have also the public school in order to attract the man with the young family—the children who must first go through the high school before entering upon higher educational grounds.

Greensboro is a growing city and she needs more school houses; she needs more money to pay the teachers already employed; she needs more teachers; and this election will help some in the way of going ahead with what is needed.

In the election there is no personal triumph for any one, no need of bitter disappointment for any one. So far as the school board is concerned it can be experimental, and certainly seven loyal citizens, laboring with the only reward which a hope of success constitutes can commit no grievous wrong. If it should prove that some other way is a better way, we have no doubt our citizens will adopt it. In the meantime let us all pull for bigger and better schools.

A touch of winter put people to shivering, and overcoats smelling of the moth ball, which conserved them during the summer, were out this morning.

### SUGAR SCARCE.

The country reports a shortage of sugar and the telegraph reports speculators hoarding it—hiding it; putting it under different labels. Wonder if the coal supply isn't being juggled in some sort of a similar manner? Wonder if it won't become necessary to take drastic measures to put the speculator who corners food supplies out of business? Sugar is one thing that the world wants—because the world has a sweet tooth. But the world might get along without sugar.

Today we received an order cancelling a chewing gum advertisement for a few weeks, the big concern claiming to be two months behind on orders for chewing gum. Perhaps the high price of cotton has made it difficult for so many people to chew the rag, and they have taken to gum. But from everywhere come reports that mills and factories cannot fill orders. How much higher will our speed go? To what a dizzy height have we already climbed, and when, we wonder, will the old car turn turtle? Bound to hit something unless speed is reduced, and maybe shortage of food and sugar and wood and coal will help bring us down to the earth. God works in a mysterious way His wonders to perform, it hath been said, and surely something will happen unless this nation reduces the speed.

### THE FIRST TO RESPOND.

The Fifth Federal district, of which old Guilford is a part, was the first to respond in the campaign for the sale of its quota of Liberty bonds. The fact that Guilford county went over its allotment causes general rejoicing among those who have been fighting for the success of the issue. And to know that our district—this includes Richmond and the many Southern cities—was the first to make a report, and favorable at that, shows the South is no slacker and her sons and daughters are loyal.

Cigarette smokers should be careful. The threat is to again double the taxes on them. If this happens the price will become almost prohibitive.

## OUR ENEMIES THE GERMANS

In his eighth article on "What We Are Fighting For" Mr. Newell Dwight Hillis, under the publicity department of the Liberty Loan Committee of New York, writes thus entertainingly and instructively: "Jesus made his choice between His convictions and physical death. Mankind survived His crucifixion, but the race could not have survived a big moral compromise to save His life. Today mankind can survive the loss of this generation of boys, American, French and British, but one thing society cannot survive, namely, a compromise with German lawlessness, German cruelty and German crime."

Today in many cities and continents men are wondering how the German spies and secret agents manage to keep proposals for peace in the newspapers, at public meetings and before the people. Short of ammunition, short of food, alarmed by the breaking of the morale of her soldiers, the German war party begins to fear a revolt against its leadership. In the hope of saving her plunder Germany is now using every conceivable influence to force a peace proposition upon the allies.

"During the first three years each week brought its own revelation of German preparation for war, through the sinking of hospital ships, the looting of cities, the murder of all the inhabitants of villages, the treachery by her ambassadors of every great capital. Having ended the war epoch, Germany is now preparing for peace, and once more she is using gold, bribes, lies and treachery to gain the desired end."

"We have the news from Rome of a public official who has fled, having been a secret agent of Germany, spending millions in bribing men of influence. Then came the shock incident to the revelations of Bolo Pasha, with the fifty millions sent to this country for seducing Americans from their loyalty. And now a shock is due to the discovery that last November pro-Germans began to join all the American peace societies, to control the nominations and the officers to be elected for January."

"A full expose of those machinations would make one of the most startling, dramatic and venal of all the subtle and seductive schemes for peace conceived by diplomatic tricksters. As never before, Satan is now transformed into an angel of light, that the soul of man may be betrayed and debauched. For thoughtful men who have weighed the issues there is something startling about the enormous gains Germany would make by securing an immediate peace."

"Germany has missed the goal she desired—namely, the conquest of a kingdom from Hamburg on the North sea to the Persian gulf and two hundred and fifty millions of people. By withdrawing from Belgium and France and then closing the incident Germany would leave France, Great Britain and their allies broken by invasion and saddled with ninety billions of debts. The rich fields east of the river Rhine have not been invaded."

"Belgian steel mills, iron foundries, silk and cotton mills, sugar factories, have all been looted of machinery and then burned, but Germany's factories are intact. France's farms, granaries and vineyards have been destroyed, but not Germany's. To rebuild the ships that England has lost would mean the labor of half a generation. Not in fifty years will Belgium and France, Poland and Serbia recover their former prosperity. But while these lands, ruined by German cruelty, are being rebuilt, Germany, having lost nothing by invasion, will put her billions upon a new army, and then strike a second time, and complete a victory but half won. The cessation of this war, therefore, at Germany's request, and the acceptance of a German peace, means an abject capitulation to Berlin."

### THE VEAL LAW REPEALED.

The City Commissioners have passed an ordinance repealing the veal law passed a few weeks ago. That law prohibited the killing and selling of veal within the corporate limits. As this paper pointed out from time to time, the people on the outskirts of the city were killing calves and selling them to people just over the line, and therefore the new law accomplished no good and worked a hardship on our local meat dealers. There was a state law which prohibited the killing of young calves, but the last legislature, for some unknown reason, repealed it. Therefore the City Commissioners saw that a mistake had been made and wisely repealed the law. This gives Greensboro meat dealers an equal chance with their outside neighbors.

### CONSERVATION.

The story to the effect that the government had found one warehouse containing one hundred and fifty carloads of sugar labeled something else suggests that Uncle Sam will finally be forced to deal severely with food speculators. With a sugar famine on and one concern secreting a million pounds of sugar in order to speculate on it, and all this in defiance of law, should call for prompt action. And hanging would be none too good for the man who worked the scheme.

Thirty-eight majority—well, that was pretty nearly a bust.

## BIG BUSINESS IS VINDICATED

Big business for many years was hard hit. Populistic spellbinders used it for a pounding bag. Climaxes were reached by politicians who wanted to send to the penitentiary those who had been successful and created here the greatest commercial country in the world. It was very unpopular a few years ago to say anything in favor of Big Business, because if you did, and printed it, you were at once pilloried before the world as a subsidized and venal editor, holding up Capital in a blackmailing way.

But times have changed. Conditions have changed. These days it is hard to get a big verdict when you "sue the company." Capital has been recognized as having rights, and it has proven that it is necessary in the economy of the world. This week's letter from Henry Clews, the banker, tells the story in a cheerful way. He says:

It is worthy of special mention that a very remarkable change has taken place in the attitude of the Government toward big business since the war began. Previously our leading business men were often persona non grata at Washington, prejudice having run so deep that men of unquestioned character were frequently regarded as criminals, simply because they had been successful. All this has changed. The big business men of the United States invaded Washington in force to help the Government, without pay and at heavy sacrifices to themselves. Such a remarkable display of patriotism by the leading men in industry and trade has never been seen before in any country, and the result is there was never a better understanding between Government and business than exists in the United States today. Let us hope that these better relations will extend to the national legislature also, where prejudice has proved most injurious.

Of course there are men today who say that these big-brained business men who are offering their services without pay to the government have something up their sleeves; but that makes no difference. They have shown themselves loyal and helpful, and Big Business will hereafter be better understood.

There will be no municipal wood yard in Greensboro, and for this reason the people should congratulate themselves. For a concern already over a million dollars in debt to embark in the wood business would be folly.

### TRULY AMERICAN.

The American soldier is everywhere honored for his bravery. In the report of the sinking of the submarine Antilles this paragraph stands out and sends a thrill through the blood of every American citizen:

All the survivors commend the captain of the Antilles and the men of the gun crew, who stuck to their posts while the officers searched with field glasses for the submarine until the waves closed over the vessel.

It was at Gettysburg, and no matter whether the uniform was gray or blue, that the American soldier showed the world that he was the bravest of the brave. And when the Antilles went down the captain and men of the gun crew watched to the last moment to see if it wasn't possible to get a shot at the submarine. But it wasn't, and when the waves closed over the vessel to send those men to the bottom of the sea they were standing ready to fire upon the enemy.

A city official says it would cost five hundred dollars to build a fence around a wood yard at the side tracks in order to keep people from stealing the wood. That would buy quite a lot of wood—that five hundred dollars.

### NO MUNICIPAL WOOD YARD.

The wood question is not a war measure. Soldiers do not use wood, and if you can't get coal, although Dr. Garfield says coal will be plentiful, those who do not lay in their supply of wood cannot expect a city to furnish it to them. Local wood dealers will do the best they can. If there is an abundance of wood, why not private capital go into the wood business? Bacon sells for fifty cents a pound, and when the government called on municipal authorities to encourage pig raising inside the limits of cities seems to us we heard a howl go up. And fat is more important to a soldier than stove wood. The Municipal Wood Yard as at first proposed in this town was simply socialistic, and for that reason there will be no municipal wood yard.

### A MATTER OF REGRET.

It is a matter of regret that a citizen who opposes a municipal wood yard should be classed as one guilty of treason. The man making the accusation is certainly not guilty of reason.

There were but few slackers in the Guilford county bond campaign. Every citizen, save some of the farmers, having the price came across. And many pinched to come across, but it was loyalty—and when a man is loyal he doesn't count the cost.

Dr. Garfield says now that the strikes are settled the coal question is not to be serious.