

RAISING RATES.

The two public utility corporations operating in Greensboro, the Bell Telephone Company and the North Carolina Public Service Company, have applied to the corporation commission of the state to be allowed to advance prices.

The Telephone Company wants to raise on its phone service and the Public Service Company on its gas.

The proposition is that the cost of operating has increased so rapidly that present prices for service are inadequate to meet it.

And because these corporations are public concerns, because they serve the public and are taxed by the public, as a matter of habit rather than of any justice, there is a feeling that they should not be allowed an increase—that is, in many quarters.

The Corporation Commission is a body that calls for figures, absolute facts, without ornament or theory, and if from the findings it concludes a corporation is entitled to higher prices for its service the Commission grants the request, and that is final.

The City of Greensboro, as an illustration, could oppose a raise in prices, but if the corporation commission granted the raise that would be final, if the facts were all brought out.

Therefore we see no particular use to discuss the two problems. The general public is vitally interested; it pays the freight and naturally wants the service at as low a price as it can be secured.

This is natural, reasonable. But, on the other hand, no thoughtful man is going to ask a corporation or an individual to render service at a loss. We all know that prices are advancing; today everything entering into production costs more than three years ago, and the corporations are the ones who are hardest hit if they are not allowed their prices with other prices.

Whether or not the two corporations mentioned have made a case we do not know. But we do know that it costs them more to operate than it did a year ago, and if it does they were then getting too much for their service or are now getting too little. Therefore the Corporation Commission with all facts before it will decide the question on its merits, and until then we take it the public has no voice in the matter.

The public of course wants service, but it is willing to pay for what it gets. At least it should be willing. We have heard many complaints here against the gas company—in fact have entered some ourselves when supply was limited and quality seemed to be poor. The officials have always tried to remedy matters; have shown great interest in giving the best service possible, and therefore it is probable that many complaints are not justified.

So with the telephone service. Many citizens take delight in cursing out the telephone service when as a matter of fact "many citizens" are more to blame than the company undertaking to render the service. It is exasperating for a man to call a number and be informed that the line is busy. He waits five minutes and it is still busy. He waits another five and instead of cursing out the individual who is monopolizing the line he naturally curses out the corporation—when the corporation is not to blame. We use the telephone and use it many times a day. The only fault we find is that the "line is busy" and upon investigation we have found where one party would use it for eighteen minutes at a sitting. This is a fact, and if the corporation were to cut off the offending customers a howl would go up. Sometimes we want long distance. Naturally in a hurry and it is a matter of news we are trying to get. We find that lines are busy and we must wait. We find that the person wanted in the other town is using his phone and cannot be reached at the moment. We find many things like that, and of course the "company" is to blame and should be sued or cursed—perhaps both.

We hold no brief for any corporation. We want them to toe the mark, but we do not see in all candor where there is just cause to find fault with the service rendered by the telephone company in this city. We have protested against the abuse of the privilege given to subscribers because they use the line to excess—but for courteous treatment we have always been given that and the service has been prompt and satisfactory so far as the company's part of it is concerned.

And if the Corporation Commission shall decide that the company is entitled to better pay for what it is doing, certainly no one can object. We willingly submit to an increase cost in our white paper bills; in our metal bills; in our labor bills. Complainingly, perhaps, but yielding we put up a dollar for a roast of beef that not long ago sold for fifty cents. We lay down ten and twelve dollars for a pair of shoes that two summers ago cost six and seven—but if a corporation wants an increase not one-third as large as we are taxed on many commodities we set up a cry that it won't do—that we can't allow a corporation to rob us. Just simply human nature in the saddle—just human nature feeling that it can curse out a corporation because corporations have been used by politicians as stepping stones to gratify ambition and the public has an understanding, somehow, that inasmuch as they are soulless they are bloodless and need nothing to sustain them.

The man who waits until he is dead to build the tombstone never sees what is put on it. Better do something in the monument way while living.

SOME OBJECT.

We are receiving objections to the proposed raise in the price of gas. We regret that it must come, but if the corporation commission finds that the corporation is furnishing gas at a loss it will allow the price to be raised. And no one wants something for nothing—that is, no one should want something for nothing.

THE COLORED MAN.

The colored man is taking his place in the war work. The following letter from Raleigh is worth considering:

"Time will not be wasted on Saturdays by negroes of some congregations. If letters from the pastors of these churches to Director B. W. Kilgore of the Agricultural Extension Service are of any real significance.

"A few days ago Mr. Kilgore sent a letter to the negro county agents and preachers, in so far as a completed list could be obtained, and requested these to bring before the attention of their people the importance of utilizing all spare moments in productive work. The matter of loafing all day Saturday was especially pointed out, and suggestion made as to observing this day by productive labor. As a type of the letters which came in the following is a good example:

"Your letter to me was received and carefully read, and prayerfully laid before my people on Sunday, with a result that the whole congregation promised that they would stop wasting time, as was suggested by you. I can now say that all letters sent me will be brought before my people the first opportunity, so I thank you for the letter and hope I may be used to deliver any message you or my government wants delivered to our (colored) people.

"Praying and hoping that God is on our side, I remain yours truly to suffer, if need be, in the great cause of my country. "M. N. McRAE."

Everybody is of the opinion that the intense bombardment on the war front—so many explosives jarring the air cause the peculiar weather of the last year or two. But guess if you search the records and get the dope on each day you will discover that every year has its peculiar weather. We simply forget.

THE HORRORS OF WAR.

The news today from Amsterdam, the story telling where there were two hundred and sixty-five trains passing filled with wounded soldiers, Germans, in three days passes comprehension. The story adds that these miserable wretches were dumped into open coal cars and taken somewhere. And all this in an age of civilization, and Germany doesn't know today and can't tell for what it is fighting. Mr. Taft suggested last night that it was necessary for America to help in this great struggle—to aid God Almighty in His plan for universal democracy.

But to think of hundreds of trains of cars passing filled with groaning and shrieking men, men maimed and mutilated, dumped into open coal cars—why, the cold chills creep up and down one's spinal column as he shrinks from the horror and the ghastliness of it all.

Let every man help run the three billion dollar bond sale over the mark. It looks today like the goal would be reached, and then some. But don't depend on the other fellow—buy one yourself.

THINKING IT OVER.

The people who at first protested against allowing the corporations to raise their prices have been thinking it over. They have needed no reminder that everything they use is advancing in price, and just because the corporations haven't advanced yet, because of the process to advance, they think maybe after all no one should furnish a commodity to the individual below cost. If the corporations can satisfy the corporation commission that they are losing money at present prices they will doubtless be allowed to make an advance. The corporation commission, however, will say what advance is proper. This being done, there will perhaps be no serious objection.

The Boy Scouts are doing a big work here. They are selling Liberty Bonds—not only trying to sell them, but they are selling them. The boys work hard, are thoroughly in earnest and each one of them is a loyal citizen.

ON TODAY.

Reports show that there is something doing today on the Flanders and Italian fronts, and great news, either good or bad, may be expected.

The story from the British lines that since the offensive began six weeks ago two hundred and fifty thousand British soldiers have been killed suggests to America that she must hurry up, and hurry up in double speed. True, she is hurrying all she can, sending men to throw into the trenches to take the places of those fallen, but two hundred and fifty thousand mowed down in six weeks' time presents a picture appalling.

Germany is making a life-and-death struggle; if she fails in the offensive she fears all is lost, and that is why she will fight like a demon—fight to the last man regardless of what happens. The news isn't good today; in fact, the news today is bad news.

The town is always busy. Always something on and it is a fact that no town in the whole world goes into things like Greensboro. Any worthy cause gets the whole town back of it and it is put over to the satisfaction of all concerned.

GOING UP.

Prices are to be advanced, says a commercial report, on most all commodities. Just how much higher they can go is problematical. People are now standing on tiptoes to reach things to eat—guess we'll all have to build a ladder.

Those who are waiting for another personally conducted Noah's flood thought the thing had started this April—but it seemed it was a false alarm.

The French are making a wonderful stand and they will die in their tracks before they ask for a separate peace.

SHOULD BE NEW SAVINGS.

Some people think that one is helping out by withdrawing money from the savings banks and investing it in war stamps.

Today's bulletin from state headquarters for war savings says when you do this you are not buying stamps and bonds in the way that the government intended you should buy them, and in a measure you are defeating the purpose of the campaigns. It says further that this war must be financed largely out of new savings. The money you have in the savings bank represents past savings—that is capital. Your bank has already invested it in essential industries and government bonds. If you withdraw it to buy government bonds you are simply shifting an obligation to pay the bank to an obligation to pay you. You are not really adding to the financial resources of your government. You will help your country more by buying a \$50 bond on a partial payment plan, with current savings, than by buying a \$1,000 bond with money drawn from your savings bank. Again, you will help the government to carry out its program in meeting the war's needs more by buying Thrift and War Savings Stamps regularly and systematically than by buying \$1,000 worth at one time and taking the money out of the savings bank to do it.

To get new savings and to encourage the making and saving of money in ways people have never known before, and to do it this year, is the purpose of the war savings campaign. This calls for doing without many things—not essential, for saving and using again things that were once wasted or discarded, and for producing more ourselves, that our government may have labor and material for winning the war. When we fail to do this we hinder the government's war program.

Only one more day—tomorrow—to buy that Liberty Bond in this campaign. Say, brother, did you come across? If not, you have yet time to do your duty.

PLEASED HIS AUDIENCE.

William Howard Taft spoke in this city last night and his audience was pleased. It was a great man talking on a great subject—a subject in which every American citizen is vitally interested. His theme was the war that is now on, and he gave the audience some information not hitherto known, and the frequent applause showed that the people were with him. Ex-President Taft, who is president of the American Peace Society, understands that America must fight, and he insists that we send at least five million men to the front.

This seems now to be the only solution. Men, and then men, and then more men. The Germans never believed we would enter the war in earnest, and to let them know for a fact that five million American soldiers were coming would do more to secure the lasting peace we want than anything else. Because those five million men would annihilate Germany, and complete annihilation is necessary to destroy militarism.

Well, what about it? Shall we celebrate the Fourth of July or shall we just start to celebrate every day and keep it up until Christmas?

SLANDERING THE BARBARIAN.

"When we analyze the modern German at war, we don't know whether we are flattering him by calling him a barbarian or slandering a barbarian who has the opportunity to know better," says the Hickory Record. "If Attila could return and behold Louvain and Rheims and scores of other cities and towns in Belgium and France and see the wasted country, the ruins of the beautiful cathedrals that his hordes spared, and a few other marks of German kultur, he doubtless would weep at the sight. We recall only one instance in ancient history where the warring savages destroyed utterly the fruit trees of the enemy, and we cannot make comparisons between those who were supposed not to know better and those who have had all the opportunities of modern times."

These beautiful May days suggest that pretty soon the good old summer time will be with us, and if it really comes, then we would advise the taking of them off.

AND SOME OTHERS.

The town is wondering about the advisability of interring a man who has refused to buy a Liberty Bond because he is an alien. It is a question perhaps worth discussing, and while that is being considered, what about interring some folk not alien who have not only refused to buy Liberty Bonds, but advised other people, by suggestive intimation, to have nothing to do with them?

Looks like the American-born citizen who refuses to buy when eminently able to do so and who refuses to help sell them is more of a subject for confinement than the enemy alien who publicly admits his allegiance to his native land—and this isn't saying that he also should not be interned.

Next to going fishing the best thing is to sit down and tell about the fish you have caught.

IN THE AIR.

Down Raleigh way politics is in the air. The whole bloomin' output of ozone is laden with politics, and the disease is catching and the Raleigh Times has "took it." Every day we find that paper talking politics of one kind or another. And that printed right in the town where the Governor makes headquarters, who wanted a political year.

Those figures furnished by Chairman King of the Liberty Loan campaign are glorious. Think of going over the top almost, if not quite, fifty per cent. That shows what our people are made of.

In this town there is always something going—and the most of it worth while.

THE FRENCH AND THEIR GLORY.

Here is an editorial from yesterday's New York Herald, which carries its thrill and makes the blood leap high. The Herald says: "What a beautiful tribute to the spirit of France is that paid by the unnamed banker of New York, now with the American forces in France, whose letter to his father was printed in Thursday's Herald."

"You cannot ever beat the French," he wrote. "They are superb in their dauntless courage. It's a case of sheer nerve, backed by a something that knows no defeat, the spirit of supermen in the simple, patient heart of children. The lesson of how to live nobly and how to die nobly is what they teach ceaselessly, and it is a heritage they are leaving to their children and to the world's children, the value of which can never be assessed. As a sergeant said to me yesterday, 'It's in the blood,' and it is. They laugh, they curse, they sing, they play, and when such crisis comes they rise as one man to attain a grandeur of sacrifice almost undreamed of."

"It is one man's testimony, and yet how many times since the German beast set out to rob them of their country has its truthfulness been proven by the acts of the men of France. It was that spirit of the superhuman in the heart of the child that saved Verdun. It was that grandeur of sacrifice which inspired a division of the army of France, its identity not yet revealed, to hold Kemmel hill until the last man was wiped out. Every man of that division knew that it meant certain death for him, but each made of himself a willing sacrifice in order that the line behind that position might be made strong—and for the glory of France."

The British casualty list is enormous, but the German casualty list is astounding. Wonder what is numbered?

OVER THE TOP.

It was interesting information we printed last night to the effect that Guilford county and Greensboro had gone over the top in the Liberty Bond sale. We have done more than was asked, but we are expected to do still more. Three billion dollars are not many the way we must spend money and the scheme is to get all we can get at a getting. If the nation could make this loan five billion it would defer the next campaign. We have had three Liberty Bond sales—Germany has floated nine. It will perhaps be up to us to float many more, and the more money we get each sale the longer until the next demand.

Guilford county has her honor flag; as also has High Point and the City of Greensboro. All of which suggests we are not slackers here—of which proves we are loyal and interested.

The real estate men are putting over many sales and the brass bands keep up a continual programme on our streets.

THE GREAT WORK.

There is no doubt that Greensboro and Guilford county responded loyally to the call of Uncle Sam when he said he wanted to borrow of our people a certain sum of money. He proposed to issue his notes, bearing four and a quarter per cent. interest, in the shape of Liberty Bonds, and then the different committees, working all the time and without price, explained the proposition. The newspapers got busy; the town and county became interested and both went over the top in good shape. This was the third time our people responded to Uncle Sam's call for a loan, and it is safe to say that every time he needs money he can count on our people to do the very best they know how.

The day will come when the Bolsheviks will be out of business and Russia will again be in the saddle.

THE SHIRT TAIL.

Yesterday the Associated Press sent a story from Richmond, carried in this paper, telling about an organization of Red Cross workers in Iowa who want the eminent men in each state—men who have achieved fame—to send to the workers their cast-off shirts, stating that the idea was to make kitchen aprons out of the tails of these garments.

It is hard to tell just what American ingenuity will not suggest before the war is over, but it goes without saying that conservation is reaching the limit when famous men must give up their shirts.

And then, after hope had almost gone, the sun came back.

THE LAST DAY.

Today closes the Third Liberty Bond campaign and all interested officially are busy trying to run the loan up to something like a billion dollars more than was asked. The sale will be on until midnight tonight. Everywhere in America today workers are out giving of their time and boosting the big sale. That the three billions wanted will be secured is understood, but the hope is to run it away over the three billion mark.

In Greensboro people were busy and many bonds were sold.

And now the May roses in the gardens are looking their sweetest—and beautiful, indeed, they are.

THE BLACKBERRY CROP.

Experts sent out by our department of science report the blackberry crop reasonably safe. Those who like blackberries can now take renewed hope. Of course the problem of getting sugar to sweeten 'em is still on, but it is business to get the berries first and sweeten 'em afterward.

The baseball news isn't heavy and but few people are interested this year.

The coming of William Howard Taft to Greensboro Friday is to be the big social event of the year.

FORTY-TWO MILES.

To jump into a flying machine and go forty-two miles isn't much. To get into a joy-riding car and make a spin of forty-two miles doesn't signify, as Mr. Dickens would say. But for a mighty army to get forty-two miles in front of a rain of fire and shell is a long distance to go—longer than one would imagine.

So when we look at the map and see that it is only forty-two miles to Calais, the big channel port wanted by the Germans we are liable to get cold feet and look for the arrival in an hour or two. It must be recalled that it has been almost six weeks since the Germans started the present battle on the western front; it must be recalled that the Germans made the proud boast that they would be in Paris by April first—and today is May the first—and they haven't progressed very far.

It must be recalled that the Germans have been slaughtered right and left, that hundreds of thousands of them have been put out of business—and all the time the allies are getting reinforcements—that America is hurrying men over there, perhaps two hundred thousand a week.

While just to say forty-two miles doesn't seem far, it is far when the German army is trying to break through. And it should be remembered also that the Germans are getting desperate, whereas the allied forces see new hope in all that is transpiring. Forty-two miles is a long, long distance for the German army to go.

Better take the second sober thought and put 'em on again if you have already taken 'em off.

BURLINGTON PROGRESSIVE.

Burlington is progressive and she wants to see education go forward. The News has this to say of a battle fought and won:

There is general rejoicing in Burlington today over the fact that the city "went over the top" again yesterday when it marched to the polls and gave the schools a majority of 180 for an increase of 20 cents on the \$500 for school purposes, and enabling the school to remain open for nine months in the year and have a full complement of teachers.

The matter has been agitated for some time and the board of aldermen, on petition of a large number of citizens, ordered a special election to be held on Tuesday, April 30, to determine whether an additional tax should be levied or not. Some few who opposed the measure came out in the open and voted for it, but others merely registered and did not vote at all, letting their registration count against the measure.

Friends of the school worked hard for the measure and were rewarded for their efforts by seeing a handsome majority rolled up for it.

And with its other progressiveness it is also announced that Burlington is rapidly going over the top in the Liberty Bond sale.

Frost last night—but the young peaches well in the bud say it never touched 'em.

BUY ANOTHER BOND.

The news today is that everybody is responding to the President's action and buying another Liberty Bond. He bought one on the installment plan—seventeen cents a day—and it is thought at least a million people will follow suit. The three billion hasn't yet been reached but this last campaign will perhaps put it over.

Buy another bond. That is the slogan today and tomorrow and Saturday. Let every man do his best to see his way clear to buy another bond. It means much to the country—and the investment is first class—a good business proposition even if there wasn't patriotism in it.

The girl debaters certainly demonstrated last night that women folk can think. Those brilliant young ladies would make great politicians when the ballot is finally given them.

READS GOOD.

The war news tonight reads good. It looks good from most any angle. And yet we mustn't be too hopeful. The Germans are cunning and may have something up their sleeve. But the way the story reads today it appears that the allies are now having their inning. One thing is certain: Kaiser Bill didn't get into Paris by April first, and here it is thirty four days after the promised invasion.

Naturally the man who has no peaches thinks the crop is ruined. But those with the bacon insist that everything is lovely.

THE LAST DAY.

Tomorrow is the last day of the Liberty Loan campaign. Because Greensboro and Guilford have gone over the top is no real reason why you shouldn't "buy another bond," as President Wilson has done. The more bonds sold the better off the nation, and surely the purchaser has made a first-class investment.

So, before the campaign closes let's all get busy and "buy another bond."

The German spy is getting nervous. All over the country people are getting onto him and his road becomes rocky and dangerous.

A PERSONAL AFFAIR.

The Chautauqua is purely a personal affair, because it has so many "yous" in it. Then, it was that the foreman of the news room swiped the punster with an iron sidestick, and perhaps there will be no more attempts at being funny.

They say that Irish potatoes will take the place of bread. Now, if we could get something to take the place of Irish potatoes and so on down perhaps we could discover how to live without food.