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HICKORY, N. C.
MONDAY EVENING

A GREATER QUESTION

If the question confronting the house tomorrow was no greater than one simply warning Americans off armed ships of belligerents, the Record would be in favor of it, as would all people who are not irrevocably committed to the cause of one side in this awful war.

The United States should abide by the principles of international law as developed through centuries of conflict; it should not swerve one jot at the behest of any powerful belligerent; it should insist on its rights and the rights of neutrals.

Should the United States, after trying so hard to prevent war with Germany over various incidents—which, if they had been committed by the United States against Berlin, would have brought every German sword from its scabbard—finally back down and allow Berlin to dictate to Americans—who ought to be freemen—what they shall do and what they shall not do then there is no reason why our liberties will not be attacked not only by Germany, but by every big country in the world.

And if we as Americans submit to foreign domination, then we deserve to be humiliated.

The best man to allow to handle the situation is the man who has taken the President Wilson's hands, cornered him, and made a football of our relations, and that one of our best men, confident that the United States might commit a crime against the United States by really what would mean war.

President Wilson was told up.

And it must be remembered that the international situation is acute until congress convenes.

It must be pretty hard to learn for ladies and children.

on Tuesday afternoons to skate

If the United States were to get in the war, it would not be much of a war on our part. We haven't any army to speak of, and our navy would be useless. Our moral support would count, however, in that the German people would be slow to believe that the whole world turned against them without cause.

The Record agrees with Mr. Elliott, as indeed everybody does, that strong men are needed as mayor and members of council. We don't believe any but good men will be chosen, either. Hickory, so far as we can see, always puts good men forward.

We are frank to admit that all those who have told us they do not approve Mr. Wilson's policy simply don't want him to hinder Germany. These men can justify anything that has been done in this war on the grounds of human nature.

The Kinston Daily News is of the opinion that the average congressman hasn't much more backbone than the average jellyfish. Most of them do seem to run with their noses to the ground and their ears to the wind.

That newspaper which printed a story to the effect that Mr. Wilson might resign if he is not sustained got a calldown that ought to hold it for a while. A brave man does not run from his responsibilities.

Of course we understand perfectly that everybody who does not agree with you—or with us—simply is to be pitied. Isn't that the way you feel? Or would you like to boot him?

Since the middle of the last quarter century, we have heard of the same "middle-weight" champions in North Carolina. Are these present-day wrestlers the same guys?

Now that Representative Webb has received two separate petitions from Hickory urging him to do two different things, of course he will know just what action to take.

The Turks are not feeling before the Russians too rapidly to drop a hint backward that the British are losing their influence in the east.

We take it that Lenoir also welcomes the new automobile. It will bring two good towns together, for one thing.

We might add that congress delegated to the president the authority to handle the Mexican situation—and we are at peace.

If Mr. Webb were accused of straddling, somebody who imagines he was prepared to alight from the fence.

And it must be remembered that the international situation is acute until congress convenes.

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Would War Be "Grateful?"
Raleigh, N. C., Oct. 21.—The senate by Mr. Gore of Oklahoma to the effect that the president had stated that "war might not be ungrateful, might end the war by midsummer and thus render a great service to civilization" was a poor excuse as justification for the introduction of the resolution concerning the surrender of American rights. No man in his senses could have seriously believed that the president had made such a statement. For Mr. Wilson has shown himself neither a fool nor a loose talker on diplomatic questions. To have accepted such a rumor as a basis on which to found a national policy was the best possible proof that a desperate search was being made to discover a pretext to conceal the real motive.

There is, however, something highly significant in the phrase chosen to be attributed to the president. As a matter of sober fact, would he be ungrateful to the American people? Instantly we say "Yes," but a moment's reflection brings a doubt. Without question war would bring temporary relief. It would be of immense psychological value to the nation. It would bring America to self-realization as nothing else could do. It would result in a silencing of a dangerously selfish element. It would bring us into a sudden sense of patriotism as it would disclose for us as treason acts and words and motives which have been tolerated with the easy indifference that goes with peace.

War would mark the beginning of another national epoch distinct from that which began when the War Between the States came to an end. Its very declaration would result in a mental benefit worth the cost. As the easy way to the temporary solution of many questions which otherwise will take years to determine might well be an economic asset, as to American participation in the war causing a speedy end of the struggle, no man knows well enough how the Teutonic mind would react to the situation to determine. The United States, in the world would be practically divided between allies and central powers. Germany, the genius of war would be permanently isolated. Its people would be brought to realize that organized humanity considered the system by which they live in common blight and peril. They would see the handwriting on the wall, the unmistakable finger of fate. How would they accept the inevitable? Would they welcome the opportunity of yielding or would they take fresh courage of desperation? No man can say. No man who has the power remotely to influence events has even the right of opinion.

"War might not be ungrateful!" We wonder, weird as the phrase is when attributed to the president, ticks with a mysteriously familiar sound. Can it be that it expresses in its cold opportunism what has begun to beat in the hearts of a people unconsciously and despite them?

News of the War
Wall Street Journal.

With the strictest censorship at every frontier in Europe, it is increasingly difficult to get in America the real facts in the progress of the war. The press associations and the recognized correspondents would not care to bring them over, and very few travelers are trained observers, or are permitted approach to vital situations.

There is almost no conception in this country, and certainly no adequate report, concerning the enormous munition plants that are being built in England, and yet herein lies the most important factor affecting the American industry and finances.

There are no permits, no licenses, no restrictions. But premises and regulations. So many fires would be kindled there would not be so much for the use of fire departments. A great reduction would be made in the loss of lives and property.

BEWARE!

There is a business concern somewhere in this country manufacturing a preparation known as solvite. The name is doubtless also the product of the same enterprising pirates. We call them pirates, not because we feel any uncharitableness in our heart, but because, as it seems to us, it would require gentlemen with souls such as pirates seem to have—remember, we are going on the printed descriptions we read of them, for we have no personal acquaintance with any—to advise the careless general public to buy two ounces of their preparation and, after dissolving it in two gallons of gasoline, use the inflammable combination in which to wash soiled outer garments. Of course, it isn't quite as dangerous as giving the baby a pound of gunpowder and a box of matches with which to amuse himself, but the scheme arranges itself somewhere in that category. As chemists and compounders of dangerous substances, the soap-pilot don't seem to be a startling success. There are many household angels in heaven who went there unexpectedly on the Gasoline Express.—Insurance Critic.

FEDERAL SUPERVISION.

Much is being said and written about Federal supervision, and as far as the chances for any net results in the near future are probable, a further discussion is a waste of time. It might not be amiss to say that if the recent reinsurance of the Knights of Honor in the Continental Beneficial Association of Philadelphia by order of the District Court of East St. Louis is a fair sample of Federal work, they deliver us from all such.

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