

HICKORY DAILY RECORD

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ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORTS THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1917

THE SOUTHERN AND C. & N. W.

Mr. H. W. Miller, vice-president of the Southern Railway System, while in Hickory Thursday gave the Record a verbal answer to its editorial several days ago in reference to the request of the Carolina & North-Western for an increase in freight rates on lumber.

Mr. Miller was interested in clearing the Southern Railway of any shadow of an attempt to hold up the smaller road and he convinced the Record.

Colonel Nichols, who was with J. M. Miller, corroborated the vice-president when he said that the Southern had been good to the smaller road; in fact, Mr. Nichols said the Southern had helped it from the start and helped it generously.

The C. & N. W. was hard hit by the floods of last July. Before that its finances were low and it was unable to meet its interest charges.

The C. & N. W. owes the Southern \$350,000 as interest on bonds.

The Carolina & North-Western had opened debts aggregating \$85,000, when the Southern interceded financially in its behalf.

These debts have been paid and the Southern has arranged to re-finance and guarantee loans to the road aggregating nearly \$100,000.

This loan is to be made at 5 per cent.

It would have been good business for the Southern to have thrown the C. & N. W. into the hands of a receiver, Mr. Miller said.

The Southern was fully protected at that time and its claims would have been met out of the sale of the property.

But merchants and bankers from Chester to Hickory would have lost thousands of dollars.

The point is that the Southern, Mr. Miller in particular, decided it would be better business to assume these obligations rather than to make the people think that the Southern had robbed them.

That is what they would have thought. Mr. Miller is a North Carolinian; he desires to see the state prosper, and he has thousands of friends whose good opinion he values more than dollars.

He is serving the Carolina and North-Western without charge and is doing a lot of work. He says he expects to pull it out of the hole, but he must have help.

The Record believes Mr. Miller will do the right thing by the patrons of the line, and it accepts his statement without qualifications.

TO SAVE TROUBLE

There are men in Catawba County who do not read the newspapers. This was proved at an investigation conducted some years ago by citizens who desired to know the facts. Men like these probably have not heard that congress has passed an act making it mandatory on young men between the ages of 21 and 30 years to register Tuesday, June 5.

The Catawba board of registration requests the ministers of the country to call the attention of their congregations to the fact that all men, white and colored, are expected to register.

An announcement from Washington said that all men, even convicts, were required to register, but this did not mean that all men would be selected. They will be drawn by lots.

It may as well be borne in mind that there is no way out of registering. The officers will have as much power to run down a man who fails to do this as they will to chase a criminal.

There is no escape. Every man in the county, or every man in the state, should tell his neighbor about registration day Tuesday, June 5.

Paving material is being rapidly distributed on the streets, water and sewer connections are being made in distant localities, making with the usual traffic, the streets of Lenoir present a busy scene.—Lenoir Topic.

WAR AIMS

Springfield Republican. With the active participation in the war comes the necessity for a clearer understanding of its aims. It may be true that Russia is bound to its allies by secret treaties with the new government dared not to publish or repudiate. This country is not so bound. It is free to shape its policy except as it must shape its policy to fit the actual situation. It must cooperate with the allies, but it is not pledged to their war aims or even against a separate peace. If any country is in a position to help shape the course of the war it is the United States, for the reason that in regard to many of the issues in controversy it is known to be disinterested.

In regard to Ireland an appeal has already been made to American opinion. Upon Russia the ideals of President Wilson have already made a powerful impression. To undertake to dictate terms, even if the exhaustion of Europe should make that possible, would, of course, be a disastrous blunder, both because dictation would be resented and because this country would be held responsible. Europe must settle its own problems, but as an outsider involved in the world war the United States occupies a peculiar position which, if rightly used, may be of great service to Europe and to humanity. With our presumptuous domination it may be able to use its influence to harmonize the war aims of the allies at points where these conflict and to accomplish something toward an ideal solution.

The first essential is to help win the war, for if that is lost the terms of peace will be made in Berlin, which for a year has been industriously engaged in the reorganization of Europe. How far the process has gone is not generally realized but here are some of the steps:

- 1. Poland set up as a kingdom under Teutonic control. 2. Lithuania put under a German ruler. 3. Belgium partitioned into Flemish and Walloon provinces, under German suzerainty.

- 4. Alsace-Lorraine divided between Prussia and Bavaria. 5. Galicia set apart to give Germans control of the Austrian reichsland.

- 6. Servia absorbed by Austria and Bulgaria. 7. Rumania cut in two and half of it shared between Bulgaria and Austria.

- 8. The "All-Deutsch" Danube scheme realized. 9. Economic agreements between Hungary and Austria and between the dual monarchy and Germany completed by the governments and lacking only parliamentary ratification.

The plain fact is that if the war were to end with things as they are Germany would be the sole victor and for the present at least the United States is fighting to prevent Germany from being the victor. Even if driven out of France it will not be defeated, if it can carry into effect the program of empire building which is now becoming visible to all. It is a program which involves a heavier yoke for the non-German, non-Magyar, non-Bulgar peoples of central Europe than they have yet had to bear. It would mean the control by the warrior caste and the business interests of Germany, of the most powerful military empire ever created. It would be the negation of the principles for which the free nations of Europe are fighting and which this country has espoused.

It is not very useful therefore, to expend energy upon details while the war hangs in the balance. By the time that issue is settled our people will have had opportunity to study out many problems that are still obscure, and their solution will be of no importance whatever if the terms are to be dictated by Berlin. To help prevent that is the first duty of the United States, the second will be to use its influence for an ideal settlement on the general lines which President Wilson has indicated in his public utterances.

This may involve renunciation by some of the allies of certain cherished aims of the renunciation of what governments have fought for may give pleasure to the people in other countries that Russia. The sacrifice of selfish aims may not involve more lenient terms for an ideal program would be fatal to what Germany is fighting for, and to free central Europe would mean the end of Austrian rule in its present form. But if free Russia and the United States are to support a war for ideal ends they will have a right to suggest the modification of any plans that are in harsh discord with those ideals.

In this connection may be noted the statement of a Russian diplomat given to the public through the Pelecorrod correspondent of the New York Times, that the allies should recognize that the revolution has created a new diplomatic situation and aid the Russian government by a re-statement of their war aims that will command the sympathy and support of the Russian people. To them, he says, the war is a war of the old regime, and urges them to continue their allies only a sense of duty to the struggle. To create enthusiasm it is necessary that the Russian people "should receive clear and definite proof that the allies have no imperialistic—or what the Russian consider the same—nationalistic aims."

Full agreement as to war aims is perhaps not to be expected, but with concessions on both sides, it should be possible to find a program which can stand on its merits, and to which all can subscribe in the common interest even if some sacrifice is involved. The more sharply it can be distinguished from the German war aim the more will it be worth the enormous cost of life and treasure that will be called for before victory is in sight.

Would Make Up For It Indianapolis News.

Mary Jane, just on the edge of five, knelt beside her bed for her evening prayer.

"Dear Lord," she whispered wearily, then paused.

Her mother waited for the prayer to continue. Instead, Mary Jane slowly dragged herself up under the covers and her mother heard her say: "Oh, I'm too tired to pray tonight, Lord. I'll give you two prayers in the morning."

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