

HICKORY DAILY RECORD
 TELEPHONE 167
 Published by the Clay Printing Co.
 Every Evening Except Sunday.
 Editor
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 Manager
 PUBLICATION OFFICE:
 1402 ELEVENTH AVENUE
 Subscribers desiring the address of their paper changed, will please state in their communication both OLD and NEW addresses.
 To insure efficient delivery, complaints should be made to the Subscription Department promptly. City subscribers should call 167 regarding complaints.
 SUBSCRIPTION RATES
 One year \$4.00
 Six months 2.00
 Three months 1.00
 One Month .40
 One week .10
 Entered as second class matter September 11, 1915, at the postoffice at Hickory, N. C., under the act of March 3, 1879.
 ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORTS
 SATURDAY, JULY 28, 1917
 WAR AND FINANCE

The Record is printing this afternoon a review of the war for the past three years. Alarmist reports sent out from Washington this week to the contrary notwithstanding, the situation so far as the allied powers are concerned is much better than it was a year ago. While the financial burdens of England, France and Italy undoubtedly are heavy, fortunately they have based their expenditures on a more scientific method than the central powers.

England is paying as it goes as far as possible and economists figure that the huge debt can be reduced appreciably by a continuation of the war tax after peace comes. In Germany, on the other hand, the war has been financed almost exclusively with bond issues, the expectation being that the enemies would pay the cost. The German people are being told that if the central empires are defeated they will be ruined, because the cost of the war will be overwhelming. The United States is the only big power whose financial chest has not been drained. Its resources are greater than those of any belligerent and while it is paying its part, still most of the money will be spent at home and the greater part of that loaned the allies will find its way into the hands of farmers and manufacturers. It would require 10 years to impair the financial strength of the United States.

Almost exclusive use of white wheat flour is a cause of pellagra, Dr. C. H. Croom of Wilmington informs J. P. Lucas, secretary of the state food commission. In that case the use of whole wheat flour, ought to be encouraged for two reasons, the second being that the supply of flour will go farther.

The excess profits tax is based on the excess business of concerns three years before the outbreak of the war. If a concern was going bad then and made a killing as a result of war, the government intends to have a part of the profits. That sounds fair enough; and in any event, the money must be raised.

These delightful afternoons are far more preferable than rummaging around in the basement, with the thermometer 6 degrees above, trying to stop a leak in the water pipe.

The United States is expecting to spend a few extra dollars on this war. Raising the sinews is not children's play any more.

We know of a few men who urged preparedness three years ago who are not hollering at the cost now.

Strong Men and Measures in Russia Springfield Republican.

In this country there has been rather too much disposition to reproach Russia with not producing a "strong man," meaning of course a man capable of bringing the country to order and uniting it for the prosecution of the war. But this both does injustice to the leaders of the revolution, who probably compare well in force and ability with the statesmen and generals of any other country, and takes too little account of the terrific forces which revolution lets loose. In the popular notion of a "strong" man there is a serious fallacy. No man is strong except through the strength of others; the leader with no following is as helpless as Napoleon on the rock of St. Helena.

We ought not, therefore, to confound strong men with strong measures. Kerensky seems now in a position to apply strong measures, but he was as strong a man before opposing elements grant him new powers. Nor is it possible to say that he is a stronger man than others who have been set aside, for the present at least, by the stormy course of events—men like Paul Milukoff, an ardent patriot whose imperialism the revolution rejected, or Lyoff who could not go the whole way with the revolution on internal questions. Weaklings could not carry through the greatest revolution in history as the Russian leaders did last March; for the subsequent exercises they cannot fairly be blamed.

When indignant critics demand a strong man what they really mean is a strong leader at the head of a nation united in will and disposed to follow. But this brings in condi-

tions which lie far outside the powers of any individual. The strongest man may be like Bonaparte in a humble position, and it is not at all certain that like Napoleon he will get to the top. At the head of the government again, there may be not one strong man but several strong men pulling in contrary ways; it is an axiom of dynamics that their energies neutralize each other. The strong men, too, may and often do, weaken themselves when their strength turns to weakness. Military triumph swept the French revolution along in the wake of Napoleon; riotous anarchy gave him his chance to restore order with a whiff of grace. Not till distinctive democracy feels its weakening does the strong man get his chance to apply strong measures; till a debacle impends the ablest statesman may have less strength than a loud-voiced demagog like Lenin.

In Russia we have illustrated to perfection the four stages of government depicted by Plato—the reign of the czars, passing gradually into the oligarchy of grand dukes and bureaucrats and the license of democracy preparing the way for dictatorship. It was because this fatalistic view of the degeneration of governments had deeply impressed thoughtful men of antiquity that Polybius was so greatly struck with the stability promised by the rising power of Rome, combining republican institutions with dictatorship is a painful and difficult expedient for a free people; they cannot be blamed if they come to it with reluctance and ill-will, yet history shows that it is often the safest way. There are times when it is better to make chosen men the trustees of liberty than to let the welters of anarchy throw up self-chosen dictators to seize power by the sword. Abraham Lincoln was a good deal of a dictator, but a first rate democrat; and so far as we know Kerensky, the present heir of the revolution, is equally sincere and incorruptible in his democracy.

It would have been well for Russia if it could have brought itself earlier to grant him a dictator's powers; in their profound and natural hatred of a counter revolution the radicals were taking the surest way to bring it to pass by binding the hands of the government and fermenting anarchy. But it is as foolish to scold a vast, ignorant and disorganized nation as to rail at leaders when the nation will not follow; a great empire in revolution is like a dismasted and rudderless ship in a typhoon, and we have to recognize forces beyond human control. Luckily Russia has no lack of able, honest and self-sacrificing men; if panic has at last forced discordant groups to drop their quarrels and give loyal support to the government, we may soon see a turn for the better. Strong men can do little till the times permit them to use strong measures.

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Sale of Hickory Township Land For Taxes

By order of the County Commissioners and authority of law, I will sell the following tracts of land for taxes on Monday, August 6th at the court house door in Newton.

Buff, Riley C., 6 lots	3.79
Campbell, Thos. G., 1 lot	7.84
Cline, Rev. R. H., 1 lot	7.02
Cook, Adolphus A., 36 acres	6.50
Davis, J. E., 2 lots	.55
Deitz, Mrs. M. A., 2 lots	1.22
Gantt, S. O., 19 acres	4.27
Herman, Hosié P., 54 acres	5.24
Holloway, Sarah, 1 lot	2.92
Holsclaw, Wm., 1 lot	4.32
Hoover, M. Henry, 1 lot	6.87
Ishour, David D., 1 lot	6.49
Lovett, A. H., 1 lot	3.79
Miller, J. E., 1 lot	.35
Miller, Lewis, 1 lot	.76
Miller, Abel S., 76 1-2 acres and 1 lot	53.40
Morrow, W. C., 1 lot	2.32
Prevost, Charlie, 1 lot	11.73
Ramsour, Lawrence, 9 acres	13.84
Simerton, Robert, 1 lot, bal	3.43
Smith, John W., 1 lot	5.05
Turner, David M., 10 1-2 acres	10.72
Walker, Obie Estate, 1 lot	1.87
Ward, Charlie, 20 acres	9.17
Ward, T. W., 29 acres	9.90
Warren, Mrs. Laura, 1 lot	1.02
White, John P., 23 acres	8.43
Whitener, Julius T., 52 acres	9.52
Whitener, E. L., 80 acres	17.48
Whitener, Abel P., 30 acres and 1 lot	10.00
Wolf, Dr. R. W., 1 lot	6.49
Gardner, R. F., 1 lot	9.46
Yoder, Robert M., 2 lots	4.83
Poovey W. E. I lot	35c
Colored	
Alexander, James 1 lot	5.93
Wilson, Willie, estate, 1 lot	1.55
Smyre, John, 1 lot	5.48
Brown, R. L., 1 lot	.61
Witherspoon, Tess, 1 lot	1.40
Peterson, Henry, 1 lot	4.92
Archie, Leu, 1 lot	3.48
Arthur, W. T., 1 lot, bal	3.48
Bost, Charlie, 1 lot	2.49
Barber, Wm., 2 lots	4.70
Reinhardt, Ed, 1 3-4 acres	1.77
Robinson, John, 5 1-4 acres	2.52
Scott, Frey, 1 lot	4.35
Setzer, Walter, 1 lot	4.17
Shuford, Augustus, 1 lot	2.98
Sudderth, Charlie, 1 lot	2.32
Barringer, Lucy, 1 lot	1.77
Bost, Lou, 1 lot	1.79
Finger, Will, 1 lot	4.75
Forney, Wm., 3 lots	3.48
Humphill, Mary, 1 lot	2.32
Hooper, John, 1 lot	6.19
Hull, Minnie, 1 lot	2.95
Jones, Joe, Estate, 2 lots	2.92
Knox, Victor, 1 lot	4.22
Lucas, Wm., 1 lot	2.52
Ramsour, Lucy, 2 lots	2.42
McKey, Robert, 1 lot	4.96
Ward, Wilson, 1 lot	.61
Whitener, Necie estate, 10 acres	.31
Wilfong, Ezekiel, 1 lot	1.25
Williams, Robert, estate, 1 lot	2.95
JNO. A. ISENHOWER, Sheriff of Catawba county.	

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 W. I. Caldwell, Rec. Sec

Catawba Lodge No. 54
 K. of P.
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