

HICKORY DAILY RECORD

TELEPHONE 167
Published by the Clay Printing Co.
Every Evening Except Sunday

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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.

Table with 2 columns: Subscription Rates, Price. Rows include 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 8, 1879.

MEMBER OF ASSOCIATED PRESS

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MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 1918

ISSUE IS CLEAR CUT

The Record has had little to say on politics thus far and what it has said has been in an effort to make the candidates for the more important offices define their positions. It is aware of the tendency to carry water on both shoulders; it is aware that patriotism is not confined to any one party, and it is also aware that no set of individuals has a monopoly of patriotism.

The question is not whether Mr. Wilson could have prevented the war, as some politicians are even now contending he should have done, or of whether he should have thrown the United States into it two years earlier, as others claim he should have done—the question is: Are the men who aspire to be congressmen and United States senators in favor of prosecuting the war to a successful conclusion and making it impossible for the Hun again to throw the world into a battle field?

That is the issue. If a candidate tells one crowd that his election will bring an early peace and informs another that he will see to it that the Hun is beaten to a standstill, he is guilty of hypocrisy, and deserves no consideration whatever. He should be spurned.

Record readers are in better position than this paper to determine whether the speeches they hear this fall are sincere or not. The Record may not hear them; indeed, it cannot hear all.

Intelligent, patriotic men will see to it that the candidates do not hedge—will see to it that they speak plainly. Abusing the president does no good, abusing Taft or Roosevelt, big war men, does no good. Winning the war is the thing.

The war will be won, but good North Carolinians should see to it that their state is not placed in a humiliating position by candidates for office. They should see to it that when the boys come home, they will not be ashamed of their position. Make every candidate come clean on the war issue.

The Record is not reproducing the editorial from the State Journal because that paper declared the Record had annihilated Jonas in the little controversy some time ago. The Record's motives were good then, as now, and its original intention was to let the public find out what sort of fellow Jonas was. The public has learned a good deal—most of it from his insolent and threatening letters—but it will learn more. In the meantime Mr. Webb is supporting the country at Washington, and is giving a practical demonstration of his position.

So far the Record has not seen any report of the amount of War Savings Stamps sold at that patriotic meeting at the three-county corners. It has heard from many sources that Mr. P. A. Setzer of Hickory presented the matter vigorously and did his full duty, as Mr. Setzer is in the habit of doing. It was up to the others to help out. What they did in a patriotic way will be published in figures that will speak good or ill of their sincerity. We hope the sales will amount to \$15,000 at least.

The Record does not know a father who is not proud of his son or sons in the service. These fathers and mothers have every reason to be proud. They are offering the best that America has, and their worth will be recognized more and more as the years pass. The country has honored its heroes, but never before has it been able to appreciate them as it will be able after this war.

In his war review a week ago, Frank H. Simons ventured the opinion that the allies might have the Germans out of France before snow falls and in his review yesterday he thought the Huns would not be pushed much farther than the old Hindenburg line this year. The military writer was confident the allies would win and he told how they in a series of drives at different parts of the line would send the enemy retreating to positions in the rear. The Germans always could make a stand on prepared lines. Mr. Simons thought, but each time they would lose prisoners and supplies—and what is more important, morale.

"MAKING IT SAFE FOR BIG D DEMOCRACY"

State Journal, Raleigh. Senator Charles A. Jonas, in his opening speech in the congressional campaign of last week, is given but a fragmentary write-up which, of course, commits a candidate to all the misunderstandings that such imperfect recording invites. Nevertheless it is manifest that whatever Mr. Jonas meant by some of the very foolish things he said, that democracy on the other side is no concern of ourselves, that we should not be in the war but for the hypocritical campaign two years ago and that we got into it because the Kaiser thought we were too cowardly to fight, he imagined he had found a way to make safe that sort of appeal. And for making it Mr. Jonas should be very much ashamed of himself.

We gather from Democratic comments that party leaders are very happy over the evident fiasco of the Morehead-Jonas grand fall opening. It was Morehead through and through to fancy that he can interest the world, fighting the Hun for freedom, in the proposition to pay America more for her goods than anybody else is paid. That is the way Mr. Morehead's mind works. It runs wholly to business advantage, honorable enough, we doubt not, but he makes a poor start for United States senator when he would make his miserable fetch protection, his paramount issue.

As to Mr. Jonas, the gentleman does not seem to know where to begin. He can recount the fall of Congressman Yates, his opponent, in the support of the administration when it came necessary for it to make war. Mr. Webb supported Jeff McLemore's resolution and was headed to the long oblivion which already has come to McLemore. Mr. Webb was also on the road to questionable fame when he paired with a better American, a Republican, and thereby relieved himself of actual responsibility in voting for a declaration of war.

Just where Mr. Jonas gets on, is not visible to the naked eye. It seems that he thinks war is a stupidly needless thing. At least he thinks the Democracy which he hates with all his moderate abilities, is responsible for the war because it made a campaign ostensibly to keep out. The plain implication of Mr. Jonas is that the Democrats meant to declare war as soon as the result of an anti-war campaign had borne fruit in Wilson's re-election.

If the gentleman means that he should say so. He owes it to himself to take a stand. Sam Farabee has challenged him and annihilated him on the state of facts now developed by Jonas himself. If Mr. Jonas is opposed to America's entry into the war he will find many in his own surrounding counties no better citizens in that respect than himself, but he should not be ashamed of his position. If he has the Roosevelt obsession so deep-rooted that he thinks by bluster and terrific writing all the insolent powers allied with Germany might have been frightened into concluding the war before it had begun, it makes no difference. That is a vital issue of debate as Mr. Jonas has been able to offer thus far.

The Republicans would be entirely justified in attacking the "he kept us out of war" slogan if they had a better record to which they might point with their accustomed pride. But Mr. Hughes was nominated by Germany in business that sought to penalize President Wilson for his manifest inability to remain neutral as between pirates and murderers and gentlemen who play the game scrupulously by rules of international law. Democrats in glorifying the peace record of Mr. Wilson had substance to cast over the shadow of war. They should be ashamed of their self-abasement of Germany following the Lusitania and the pledge to respect neutral rights. The violation and repudiation of this solemn compact led to the war and the Republican who refuses to see it merely defiles himself.

Mr. Jonas might have had a chance in the ninth had he sailed into the Webb record and assaulted it because it fits ill into the relentless warfare which Mr. Webb's chief is now waging against Germany. We fancy that nothing can make partisan Democracy quite so safe as the miserable campaign of Mr. Jonas which seems to have as its object justification of the Webb course of hesitancy and inharmony.

NEBRASKA PRIMARIES

Springfield Republican. Senator Norris's resolution in the Republican primaries of Nebraska indicates that the Republicans there are not inclined to be punitive in dealing with a man who was one of the "wilful 12" and voted against the declaration of war. Mr. Norris had the support of the farmers of the nonpartisan league, while the opposition to him was not united. His success in the primaries, however, must embarrass the Republicans of the east who may be inclined to play up their party as the more patriotic one. Vardaman's defeat in Mississippi is the democratic retort to Norris's victory in Nebraska. Yet neither party could get far with the claim that it enjoys a monopoly of patriotism. The Democrats of Nebraska are rather disarmed with reference to Senator Norris by the record of Senator Hitchcock, who before the United States became a belligerent was in correspondence with "my dear Vierick" in support of a movement for an arms embargo. Then there is Mr. Bryan's dreadful Lusitania record in the farther background. The war makes a fine mixture of Nebraska politics.

Extraordinary Attraction AT PASTIME T-O-DAY J. STUART BLACKTON The Master of the Screencraft presents "WILD YOUTH" From the novel of SIR GILBERT PARKER Picturized and produced under the personal direction of J. Stuart Blackton. A PARAMOUNT PICTURE Admission 10 and 20c, war tax included. Special Music tonight by Mrs. Hatcher

HUN PRISONERS DEPRESSED; KNOW GERMANY CANNOT WIN

British Army Headquarters, Aug. 25.—(Reuter's.)—The demeanor of hundreds of German officers taken prisoner recently is in striking contrast with the attitude of officers captured during the British retreat last spring. Then German officers were arrogant and meant to crush the British to earth, but now they are depressed and very anxious. They appear to be willing to talk and the tenor of their conversation may be summed up as follows: They say Germany entered the war with enthusiasm, but this has long since disappeared and the struggle has now become an economic one with Great Britain. They admit that Germany is in practically a hopeless condition, both economically and from the manpower point of view and ask whether Great Britain cannot consider Germany sufficiently reduced to be no longer a dangerous trade rival or whether the allies intend to crush her altogether. In the latter case, they say, Germany will be forced to fight to the last, but they make no effort to conceal their impression of what this means for the fatherland. They say they believe there is every disposition to evacuate Belgium and northern France and even negotiate for the retention or evacuation of Alsace-Lorraine. They are generally unanimous in agreeing that annexations thus far made and the Brest-Litovsk peace treaty were a great mistake, but think they cannot withdraw from Russia in the present condition of affairs there. They are aware that the American army now has assumed very formidable proportions and there is a general admission of the seriousness of this factor. The submarine campaign they cannot refer to without gestures of impatience. Captured non-commissioned officers attribute recent German defeats to the inefficiency of their air service and more especially to the inexperience and lack of stamina of the latest recruits who are most inadequately drilled and trained and who are physically incapable of sustaining the heavy strain of defensive warfare. The mere presence of these new recruits, they say, produces in a company a demoralizing effect upon the older men because it indicates to what straits Germany must be reduced to employ such poor material.

LEGION OF HONOR AWARDED TO FIFTY-FIVE AMERICANS

With the American Army in France, Aug. 25.—Fifty-five officers non-commissioned officers and men of a certain American division were awarded the legion of honor, the military medal, the war cross or distinguished service cross yesterday morning at the most brilliant decoration ceremony the American army has held in France. Similar decorations have been awarded 72 others who were unable to be present owing to the fact that they are in a hospital. Most of the awards have been made for gallant conduct in the Marne battle. The decorations and medals were personally pinned on the Americans by General (name deleted), who was accompanied by a large group of American, French and British staff officers as well as majors and brigadier generals. After the decoration ceremony was completed, regiments of infantry, engineers, French machine gunners and American artillery, with colors flying, filed past the men thus honored. Perfect weather added to the joy of the occasion and the sound of the guns in an airplane battle overhead gave just the proper dramatic touch. French medals were awarded officers and men selected by the division authorities. The chevalier of the legion of honor was given to Major D'Ally Fechet, infantry, of Eustis, Fla.; Capt. E. A. Cook of New York; Capt. Arthur H. Terer, Lieutenant Richard S. Heston, infantry and Harry W. Caygill, infantry and Chaplain Hirsia Darche, who was absent. Lieut. Louis Vand, of the French army, was awarded the distinguished service cross for gallantry, coolness and bravery during a raid in which he led a Franco-American detachment. Sixteen non-commissioned officers and 79 officers and men also received the war cross.

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Fraternal Directory Hickory Lodge No. 343 A. F. & A. M. Regular communication First and third Monday nights. Brethren cordially invited to be present. W. B. SOUTHERLAND, Sec' r. L. MOOSE, W. M.

Piedmont Council No. 43, Jr. O. U. A. M. Meets every Monday evening at 7:30 P. M. All visiting brothers cordially invited. W. I. Caldwell, Councilor A. J. Essex, Rec. Sec.

Catawba Lodge No. 54 K. of P. Meets every Thursday night. Visiting brethren invited. R. L. HENNER, C. C. A. G. KIRKPATRICK, K. R. S.

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Test of Ability The test of ability to save, is some surplus that you have laid aside or put in the bank. If you have no surplus, you are not prepared for the emergency that is sure to come. This bank will help you get started. If you open a savings account here in the name of your boy or girl you will find that it impresses them more with the value of money, the principles of economy, etc., than any lesson in school of a book. Economy is the most essential element of success. If you would have your boy be a successful man you must start saving money. No matter how little it is, you will be able to come at this bank. ...We Welcome Your Business... FIRST NATIONAL BANK Capital and Surplus \$500,000.00 Hickory, N. C. Four Per Cent. Interest On Savings Accounts. Compounded Quarterly.

NOTICE to Subscribers The war industries board has issued the following order: "Discontinue sending papers after date of expiration of subscription unless subscription is renewed and paid for." This is one of eleven conditions imposed on newspapers by the government in the interest of paper conservation, and must be complied with if newspapers are to obtain print paper. The Record will comply with the order, beginning October 1. Effective October 1 the Record will advance its subscription rates from \$4 to \$5 a year by carrier and will adhere to its \$4 mail rate. Owing to the tremendous increase in white paper and other materials, as well as the increased cost of publishing the Record, it is forced to do this. Subscribers will please bear this in mind. Those who renew before October 1 will obtain the advantage of the present rate, but for a period no longer than October 1, 1919. The Record is sure that it will receive the hearty cooperation of its subscribers. HICKORY DAILY RECORD