

HICKORY DAILY RECORD

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WILL BURY SLANDER

Soldiers hanged in France by order of court martial may have had the nooses and black caps left on them, as two witnesses before the senate committee yesterday stated, but no evidence has been given of any illegal executions. It might be custom to leave the marks of dishonor on an executed soldier, but those marks should be removed if there is any chance that relatives might see them later. Probably there was no thought that the bodies would be removed and brought to the United States for final burial.

It has been suggested that the Watson charges were not without value to the country. If disgruntled men have been mouthing about what went on in France during the war, their imaginations would grow as time passed on and later much discredit would be cast on the service. While most of the participants are alive and while there is opportunity to refute charges is the time to make them. That was not Watson's idea at all, but it was not altogether bad, from the nation's standpoint, whatever his motives.

It has been shown that there were no illegal executions, and witnesses who have appeared thus far have been more noted for their desire for notoriety than to give actual facts.

The Record has hopes that the arms conference, in which there has been more or less disagreement, will resolve the various agreements in principle to agreements in fact on paper, and that real progress will have been made towards a lasting peace before the delegates leave for home about the middle of this month. If some progress is made, and we are confident this is the case, more progress can be made in the future; but if nothing comes of this conference, we had as well be ready for another war in a few years.

A great deal of the lawlessness throughout the country is due to the utter failure of parents to train their children correctly. In some cases this may be impossible, but in others the parents are thinking of other matters and neglecting their dearest charges. Of course it is hard at times to think of the family first, but those who do it undoubtedly derive as much pleasure out of life as those who neglect it. We might establish a thousand reformatories to correct erring youth, but what is needed most is reform in the home.

Now, if Postmaster General Heys held some other job than a political one, we could understand his hesitancy in accepting an offer to go with a motion picture concern at a salary said to be greater than \$150,000 a year. But maybe he is unwilling to leave the job until the Hickory postoffice fight is settled.

All sections of the country have now become acquainted with that almost ancient institution in the south, moonshine liquor, and its handmaid, the bootlegger. These are two names that suggest about as much rottenness as any other two in the dictionary, and they generally are at the bottom of most crimes.

The senate oligarchy, which put the nomination of Mr. Harding over at Chicago, is said to be hard to hold in line. Although Republican senators may think first of their party, they will crack their president over the head unless he mauls them first. At them, Mr. President!

Catawba county will be there with the roads by the end of 1922. But the highway all the distance from Hickory to Lenoir and from Newton to the Iredell county line ought to be made good in a few more years.

The Wilson Creek Quarry Company, organized and largely financed by Hickory business men, is getting in shape to deliver crushed stone for the Catawba link of the Central highway. In another month material will be on the move.

Two years ago we organized the Lewis-Hickory Company, a fine nursery; last year we built streets and the city hall and got ready to put up the Carnegie library, and we ought to be about something else worth while soon.

The Record would be glad to announce pretty soon something new and good for Hickory. It is about time something else was stirring.

THE FARM CONFERENCE

If there is virtue in conferences, the president is to be cordially commended for calling one to consider the problems of agriculture. The membership is to be broad enough to include representatives of all interests maintaining direct relations with the producers as well as of farm organizations. Thus there will be an exchange of views between farmers, shippers, railroad men, millmen, fertilizer companies, agricultural colleges, rural life experts and even bankers. It would be hard to exclude representatives of the consumers if the very widest range were to be permitted in the discussion of the subject.

The point is quickly made that the president has called the conference for political reasons. That is to say, his administration is threatened by the farm bloc and a conference on farm problems will save the Republican party from trouble. But political motives can no more be imputed than in the case of other national conferences on labor disputes and unemployment during the past three years. Conferences usually do no harm even if they do little good. If a conference will help agriculture, the more conference the better.

The trouble with the farmer was mathematically expressed in the government's report last week on the yield and value of farm crops in 1921. The five chief cereal crops were in the aggregate about up to the five year average, that is to say, nearly 5,500,000,000 bushels. But in market value the story was different. Compared with the "peak" prices of two years ago, there was a shrinkage of about \$8,000,000,000, or nearly 60 per cent, and compared with last year there was a shrinkage of almost \$1,000,000,000. The worst of it is that these crops were raised on a comparatively high cost level, so that agriculture, being left with high cost crops to market at low prices, is burdened with debt and with much impaired purchasing power.

The economist or financier, taking a detached view of the situation, reasons that time will effect a cure. Two or three new crops raised at a low enough cost to be profitable and liquidate bank credits would effect a wonderful change. But meanwhile the terrific shrinkage in crop values within two years has been a tragedy to hundreds of thousands of individual farmers in the United States, and the wholesale catastrophe gives driving power to the farmers' movement in politics.

A UNIQUE EX-PRESIDENT

Philadelphia Public Ledger. It is already evident, and will become more so, that Woodrow Wilson is not as other ex-presidents. After Grant's time ex-presidents were generally by the world forgot, unless somebody started a third term boom. Roosevelt was an exception to the rule, as to all rules, but he differed from the place Wilson holds in that he made his own place for himself, while the place that is being made for Wilson is being made without the slightest effort on that statesman's part. There is something Brahminical about it. Nothing like it has been seen in the United States since the years of Andrew Jackson's retirement at the Hermitage. As time goes on, and after Mr. Wilson dies, the two retirements will differ from each other in retrospect; and during Wilson's later years, especially if they should be many, a sort of religiously will increasingly touch his hermitage that will divert it still more strongly from the tone of Jackson's.

To illustrate, there was formed on his birthday a year ago an organization called the Woodrow Wilson foundation, which held its second annual meeting and luncheon in New York yesterday—at least its women

members did—and launched a plan to raise a fund of \$1,000,000 to endow periodic awards for "meritorious service to democracy, public welfare, liberal thought or peace through justice." One could hardly imagine the devotion to Old Hickory's leadership taking just that form. Then there was a plan for a "Wilson hour," from noon to 1 o'clock yesterday, at which contributions were to be made for these purposes. If these outgrowths of affection and admiration take a slightly grotesque form at times, they are of a sort that certainly could not be called out by any other popular hero.

By their nature they seem worthy honors, but they, and all the other tributes to Wilson, are beginning in his lifetime. Deeply did he touch the popular imagination, where he touched it at all. Where he did not touch it he aroused a bitterness to which all such honors seem cant and slush. No man who honored Theodore Roosevelt, for instance, could imagine himself offering this kind of tribute or his hero's accepting it. But it is enough to remember that no man for 80 years did or could have aroused such feeling and such tributes, and that God fulfills himself in many ways. The room in our National Pantheon for widely different figures; and in the forefront of that Pantheon Woodrow Wilson has been most certainly elected to stand.

THE STATE

Quite logically, one of the very best places for investment is North Carolina, for the reason that she is way up head in production, manufacturing and general progress. The state's resources are inconceivably great, and the state is steadily going ahead in a broad development that is ranking her high among American commonwealths. She is making marvelous progress because of the genius and enterprise of her people, and they are the kind to live among and take a hand within the greater things that are yet to be accomplished in the future.

NURSED KING OF ITALY



But for two state labor inspectors, Mrs. Maria Buttora might have left America as she came many months ago, unknown, unheard of. Just before the Giuseppe Verdi sailed for Italy the two inspectors came upon the aged woman. A few moments with her revealed the fact that Mrs. Buttora had nursed King Victor Emmanuel of Italy for 18 months. She has gone to Frosino, Italy, where she will occupy the home which the king has furnished her in recognition of her tender care for him.

SAVING IN THE SOUTH

Referring to clipping enclosed, cut from Observer of December 30th: If you have not a copy of Charles Dickens American Notes borrow a copy and read of his trip to Lowell, Mass., in 1842. He says that in July, 1841, no fewer than 978 girls, textile operatives, were depositors in the Lowell Savings Bank and the amount of these joint savings was estimated to be one hundred thousand dollars. Something ought to be done to textile workers of the south. You cannot say too much along this line.

L. H. CARPENTER,
Rutherfordton, N. C.

STRANGE, BUT TRUE

Providence Journal. Talk about carrying coal to Newcastle, importing pepper into Hindustan, sending fir trees to Norway, or pouring water into the sea! According to Secretary of Commerce Hoover, British coal is being delivered at our Atlantic ports at a price to compete with the product of American mines a few miles distant.

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By receivers of freight in the South Atlantic states during 1921 in unrecovered overcharges.
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