

**THE MONROE JOURNAL**

Founded in 1894 by the present owners and publishers, G. M. and R. F. Beasley.

Published Each Tuesday and Friday.

\$1.00 per year.

The Journal Building, corner of Jefferson and Beasley Streets.

Telephone No. 19.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 22, 1914.

Here It Is.

A lumberman in Wilkes county writes a letter to the Greensboro News in which he says that if the government is going to help out on cotton he wants it to help also on lumber and furniture, for these interests, he thinks, are as large and important in North Carolina as cotton, and are in just as bad a fix.

This demand has come no sooner than we expected, and it is only the beginning. It is even an old familiar cry. We have heard it before, only in a different shape.

Lumber men have all along argued that the government should come to their relief by putting a tariff on lumber from foreign countries in order to raise the price of theirs. Manufacturers who will probably raise an objection to the government's taking steps to raise the price of cotton have heretofore contended that the government ought to raise the price of their goods by taxing all the people through custom duties.

The farmers who think the government ought to buy cotton, if there are any such, are not to be blamed. They are only following the lead which has been in vogue in this country a long time. The thing to do is not to make matters worse by creating new government activities, but to learn the lesson that all privileges should be withdrawn.

And those gentlemen who have been arguing that this country would be ruined by "floods of goods from Yarus" ought to be satisfied now. We have a perfect example of protection. The war is preventing Europe from sending us any goods. In times of peace men contend that we should prevent other countries from sending in their goods by means of high tariffs. We now have the ideal condition according to the protectionist argument. How do you like it, gentlemen?

This war is going to kill a lot of European folks but it is also likely to kill a lot of American humbug.

Suppose.

Suppose that those gentlemen who want the government to go into the cotton business should have their way. All of them agree that to make a success of it the government would have to say how much cotton every farmer would be allowed to plant next year, and so on.

Next spring times are looking better, the scare is over, and old farmer Smith decides that it is necessary for him to plant about his usual amount of cotton. He hooks up old Kate and old Jane and starts to prepare his land. About eleven o'clock on a hot day, when he is tired and listening for the dinner horn and old Jane and Kate have become contrary, he looks out on the road and sees a cloud of dust like a young cyclone. Out of it dashes an automobile and from the automobile steps a gentleman with a blue suit and brass buttons and a United States' Marshal's badge on his breast and about as much sense in his head as a last year's pumpkin. He hails old man Smith thusly:

"Hey, whatter doin' there?"

"Fixin' ter plant cotton," says Smith.

"Ho'mucher goin' t' plant?"

"Bout same as last year."

"Not on yer tintype," says the Pumpkin Head, "you plant only half what'u planted last year, you old clodhopper. You plant any more an' you'll hear from me an' Aus Watts." And away he goes to tell somebody else what's what.

And when he has made that round a few times something is going to happen besides the reduction of acreage.

Peanuts and World Drama.

One of our contemporaries remarks that we need to get down to business and pay no attention to the European war, or words to that effect.

While that is true in a sense, and no one should neglect his work, still it is natural that all should be deeply interested in the great struggle that is now going on. The men of this generation have never seen, and will never see again, anything like the world drama that is now going on. Human destiny is wrapped in this struggle as it perhaps will be in no other that we shall see. It will wit-

ness perhaps the birth and death of nationalities. It will profoundly affect all the nations and peoples of the earth. It will plant the seeds of decay of many things that are wrong and of things which though right have never had a chance to take root. War is itself a great evil, but every modern war sweeps away many things that are unjust. This is not a justification of war, because men could, if they would, be better employed in sweeping away the wrongs without war.

It is no wonder, then, that all intelligent men are interested. While business in this country is being hurt, our injury is but temporary, and our inconvenience transient. The man who can see nothing in this huge world drama except an inconvenience to his business lacks imagination. The whistle of his peanut parcher is more to him than the cries of a dismembered Poland hoping for a resurrection.

Big tragedy stalks the world today. There will be plenty time for mere business and money getting when the crash of armed millions has ceased to sound. Our business is to see that as few hardships as possible shall come to our people and be content to watch and hope that out of the mighty struggle better things may come for our brethren who are caught in the deluge.

Everybody Curtails But the Grafters.

Because the war has stopped the shipment of goods into this country and thus cut off the revenue which the government secures from tariff duties, the government is running short of the usual revenues at the rate of about ten millions a month. It is estimated that from other sources something like one hundred millions of dollars must be raised within the year to take the place of the loss from decreased imports. Every private citizen is forced in times like these to economize. Why can't the government do the same? The usual Rivers and Harbors bill, "the pork barrel," which is now pending, appropriates ninety three millions of dollars, fifty per cent of which is political graft pure and simple, and the balance of more or less doubtful value. The whole thing could be dropped this year and the country wouldn't suffer ten cents from the loss. We hope the Republicans, who are fighting the bill, will be successful in defeating the hungry Democrats who are trying to pass it. Of course the Republicans started the thing and worked it for all it was worth while they were in power and their opposition now is only for the reason that the Democrats have their arms in the barrel up to the armpits, while the Republicans are on the outside. Still we hope the bill will be defeated. Instead of wiping out this indefensible and criminal extravagance and thus avoid laying new taxes, the Democratic statesmen are putting their wise heads together and figuring on a tax bill with the following items in it:

Bank checks, two cents; drafts or bills of exchange inland, two cents for each \$100; certificates of deposit, two cents; promissory notes, two cents for each \$100; money orders, two cents per \$100; express receipts, one cent; freight receipts or domestic bills of lading, one cent; telephone messages costing 15 cents or more, one cent; bonds, 50 cents; certificates of deposit, two cents per \$100; certificates of damage, 25 cents; certificates not otherwise specified, 10 cents; charters, \$2 to \$10; bankers' contracts, 10 cents; conveyances, 50 cents for each \$500; telegraph messages, one cent; life insurance policies, eight cents on each \$100; marine, inland fire, casualty, fidelity and guaranty, one-half of 1 per cent; leases, 25 cents to \$1; mortgages or conveyances in trust, 25 cents for each \$1,500; power of attorney to vote, 10 cents; power of attorney to sell, 25 cents; protests, 25 cents; warehouse receipts, 25 cents.

It would seem that the political grafters in congress who insist on burying millions every year in creek bottoms would at least be willing to hold up in times like these when everybody else has to economize, and when the people can ill afford to pay more taxes.

(The above editorial was written on Saturday. On yesterday fourteen Democratic senators joined with the Republicans and defeated the bill, passing an amendment to appropriate a lump sum of twenty millions to be spent on existing projects under the direction of government engineers. Many of the old stand pat Republicans stood with the majority of the Democrats who wanted the full amount of pork. The bill, which was originally for an amount, which, taken with appropriations previously authorized, ran the total to ninety-three millions, had already been shaved to thirty-four millions, and for this the pork barrel Democrats contended like grim death, lead by Senator Simmons. It is a real pleasure to see that they were defeated.)

**THIS IS THE REAL THING.**

**Mr. Gonzales Tells Why There is No Use to Look to the Government and Praises Buy-a-Bale Scheme.**

Mr. W. E. Gonzales, former editor of the Columbia State, and now the American Ambassador to Cuba, is in New York State, presumably taking his vacation. He writes the State as follows:

It is frequently unpopular to dispel illusions, but my concern for the welfare of the Southern cotton grower is so great and my understanding that only prompt measures for his assistance can be beneficial is so clear that I must speak against an illusion.

Every hour that our people wait inactive, in the hope that the general government will purchase and retire the 5,000,000, 6,000,000 or 7,000,000 bales of cotton in excess of the demand for manufacture is an hour lost. Every effort to get the government to do that thing is effort wasted, and this is no time for the South to waste effort.

Even were the government willing to embark in a revolutionary venture the machinery could not be organized and set in motion in time to save the small farmers and the weak holders from disastrous losses; and those are the farmers whom it is most important to assist. But the government is not going to buy and hold cotton when there is overproduction. Any more than it will buy and hold wheat or pig iron in similar circumstances. There is an overproduction of 6,000,000 or 7,000,000 bales this year because the European war has curtailed the demand by that amount; but two years hence, when the consumption throughout the world is normal, the identical problem would face us if the South produced 21,000,000 bales. The government will not establish a precedent for buying cotton in years of overproduction. It can not control the production. Even were it possible for the general government, under the constitution, to limit the acreage (and the South would quickly resent such an attempt) the production depends upon the seasons, upon cultivation and the quality of seed, and it can not be regulated by governmental decree.

I believe that in agreeing to issue \$75 in currency at a low rate of interest, to every bank lending \$100 on cotton, the government has gone a long way to help the South. No stringent regulations are made for warehousing, and the United States treasury makes no attempt to fix the value; the banks may lend on a 7 cent or a 12 cent basis.

Of the multitude of plans proposed to meet the present situation in the South and save the farmer who can not hold from disastrous loss, one only—with its developing possibilities—stands out as practical and immediately effective. That is the buy-a-bale plan.

The South is the part of America hit hardest by the war in Europe and nothing can prevent us from suffering loss, but if we can establish a market for cotton on a 10 cent basis we will be saved from disaster, and that is what the buy-a-bale movement will do if pressed to its possibilities. Besides giving relief to the individual who sells for \$50 a bale instead of \$35 or \$40, it can be made to stimulate holding by those who would otherwise throw their cotton on a demoralized market. For example, if it were known that next week, at 50 different points in South Carolina, 3,000 bales would be bought for \$50 a bale, thousands of small farmers would hold, maybe 10,000 or 12,000 bales off a 7 cent market this week, in the hope of participating in the limited but better market next week.

Again, every purchaser of a bale of cotton at 10 cents, becomes an advocate of "holding," and a talking advocate for reduced acreage and higher prices next year. Better than that, in ten years to come, will be the developed self-confidence of the South, and the spirit of aiding each other and our section in times of stress.

There are thousands in the South who can buy, in the spirit of this movement, five, ten, 50 or 100 bales; and they will do it if "worked up" to the understanding of the importance of their co-operation. The press from Virginia to Texas, should work on this plan as earnestly and systematically as when raising a Democratic campaign fund.

And then there are innumerable opportunities for developing and extending this movement. One suggestion of great importance made recently by a South Carolinian was that the fertilizer companies to whom farmers of the South owe many millions of dollars, take their pay in cotton on a 10 cent basis and retire that cotton. They, as suggested, are vitally concerned in the South's prosperity; therefore they should help the farmer help himself in time of pressure; and they are in better position to insure the increase in value of their holding of cotton because of their potency in bringing about reduction of acreage. If the fertilizer companies should take half their dues in cotton at \$50 a bale, the movement would gain such impetus as to insure success.

There are thousands of other creditors, great and small, in the East and West who would co-operate in this movement and take cotton on a 10 cent basis if the facts were put before them. If a big concern in New York or Chicago takes cotton in payment for debts on a 10 cent basis from a Southern business house, that business house should extend the benefit down to the grower of cotton. In like manner of banks, with increased reserves permitted by the government in this emergency, extends additional credit to a Southern business house or refrained from pressing for payments for loans, that business house should be likewise lenient with its debtors. If such leniency is extended "all down the line," honest men will not be sacrificed. It need scarcely be added that is occasion for the banks of the South to utilize their resources in extending to the utmost assistance where it is needed. That is that spirit of the government; that is the spirit of the United States treasury in dealing with the financial institutions of the country.

# Complete Line of Millinery and Pattern Hats will go on SALE SATURDAY MORNING.



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**Blessed Wounds.**

New York Call.

One prince, Joachim, who is a son of the German Kaiser, has been wounded in action, and according to reports, the following telegram to his grandmother or some other female relative, was sent:

"God has allowed me to be wounded. Bless him. I am proud of the day I fell. It was the finest day I have lived."

One might ask wonderingly what kind of an education that young man has received to thus rejoice when he has been smitten. Does anybody think he really means it?

If God "blessed" every German soldier in the ranks as he has "blessed" this young man, would there be universal rejoicing in Germany?

No, but there would be in France, Russia, England and Belgium.

And this comes at a time when reports say that Berlin and every other great German city mourns without ceasing over the horrible lists of killed and wounded, and praying God to have them cease.

There is something wrong with that young man's religious ideas, and his conception of God is equally twisted. The whole range of his ideas is against "human nature." It isn't even Christian.

When a Christian receives a wound he doesn't bless God for it, but "resigns" himself to it, which is perhaps sensible enough, seeing he can't do anything else. He may say that God has laid his chastening rod on him for some good, thought unknown purpose, and let it go at that. One may not perhaps understand the explanation, but at least it is not on the face of it altogether contrary to reason.

But the other conception isn't religion or even "heroism." It is sheer insanity instead. And, happily, it is the kind of thing that is making the world tired of its royal parasites, and stiffening its determination to get rid of them for good and all.

**State Prison Farm Sets Good Example.**  
Lexington Dispatch.

At the monthly meeting of the directors of the State's prison at Raleigh last Tuesday, the directors decided to eliminate the growing of cotton, which has been the great money crop of the State's farm. Heretofore the crops grown in the main have been cotton, corn and peanuts. On account of the European

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war, they decided to cut out cotton entirely and to put at least 2,000 acres in wheat this fall, and to grow a crop of corn on the same land after the wheat is cut next June. So that the crops of the State's farm for a while at least will consist of wheat, corn and peanuts.

**Selecting Seeds.**  
Washington News.  
Instructions to farmers on how to select good crimson clover seed are available as a result of endeavors of the United States Department of Agriculture. The official advice is to select only seed which is free from any brownish color, although old seed show varying degrees of brown according to age and storage conditions. The brownish tinge is an indication of poor germination—the darker the color the poorer the ger-

mination. Seeds which show a light brown hue should be tested before planting and no brown seed should be used at all unless it shows well in germinating tests.

**Paris receiving Her Daily Quota of Prisoners.**

After becoming accustomed to good news during the day of the German withdrawal, Paris was made nervous through the silence of the war office.

Now the Capital is reassured by the steady file of prisoners arriving from the scene of action. On Friday 1,500 prisoners were brought, Saturday 1,200 arrived, and on the preceding days since the Germans first fell back 1,000 to 1,500 has been the daily average. More than 10,000 prisoners are now in the city.