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### OFFICER LANEY COLLECTED CHECK PASSED 3 YEARS AGO.

Worthless Paper, to the Amount of \$45, Was Paid Last Week After Monroe Officer Had Worked Years—Other Check Stunts.

After three years work, during which time he carried in the assistance of detective agencies and lawyers, Officer T. B. Laney has collected a worthless check that was passed on Mr. Russell Edgeworth, night clerk at the Gloucester, in June 1914 by a guest, who gave his name as B. U. Andry, claiming that he was a travelling man. The amount of the check was \$45.

Several weeks after the check was passed, Mr. N. G. Russell, the proprietor of the hotel, received it back marked "worthless." He turned it over to Mr. Laney, who proceeded to work on the case. He learned that Andry had been arrested in Ashboro, and he sent a warrant for him. Nothing, however, was ever heard from it. He soon learned that Andry had been pronounced incurably insane, and had been committed to the Dix Hill hospital in Raleigh. Mr. Laney then wrote the late Ney McNeely, who was then in the Senate, to ascertain the real facts of Andry's confinement. Mr. McNeely replied that he was informed that Andry was pronounced insane by a competent physician, suffering at first from physical weakness, later becoming a kleptomaniac, and finally developing into a paranoic.

Two weeks ago Officer Laney learned that Andry was back at his old home. A duplicate warrant was sent the officers there, but it was not served. Through his attorney the young man denied having ever been in Monroe, and emphatically denied the check. Mr. Laney then secured a photograph of a check which had been admitted and paid at Marion, together with a photograph of Andry, and secured Mr. J. C. Sikes to go to Raleigh to present this incontrovertible evidence to Andry's attorney. The check was then promptly paid. The charges against the young man have been dropped.

Andry is not the only one who has worked the check flashing game in Monroe. During August, 1914, another check for \$85 was passed on Mr. Russell. The flasher gave his name as A. V. Rawls. His game was somewhat similar to Andry's, who gave Mr. Edgeworth a check on a New Orleans firm that did not exist. Rawls' check was on the "International Molasses Co." of New Orleans, a fictitious firm altogether. He purported to be travelling for this firm, and Mr. Russell did not hesitate to cash it, as he thought it was the man's expense check. Rawls would mail letters ahead to himself, call for them at the hotel; read it, producing a check that looked genuine, get the money and hit the trail before it was returned. Mr. Laney has located Rawls somewhere in New Jersey, and believes he can either get the man or the money in a few days.

Three small worthless checks were passed on several Monroe citizens last week. The party left for Florida, but through the efforts of Officer Laney he was apprehended. The checks were paid.

### BLIND TIGER KILLED TWO

Fataly Wounded Mayor, Murdered Two Policemen; Attempted to Kill Chief.

Tarboro, March 3.—Policemen Ranson Gwathley and Pat Riggins were instantly killed and Mayor J. P. Keech probably fatally wounded this afternoon in aiding an alleged blind tiger at the home of W. C. Nelson. The shooting was done by Nelson. Attending physicians held out no hope of Mayor Keech's recovery.

Chief of Police Pulley and the dead officers, accompanied by Mayor Keech and armed with a search warrant, descended upon the Nelson home in the early afternoon. They called Nelson out and announced their purpose to search the premises. No objections were raised by Nelson and there was no reason for the officers to fear violence until a quantity of bottled whiskey was found hidden between mattresses on a bed. Nelson then drew a pistol and in quick succession shot down all three men. Police Chief Pulley hurled himself upon Nelson, who fought to free his hand holding the pistol. Men attracted by the shots rushed to Pulley's assistance and Nelson was overpowered.

There is considerable feeling here tonight against Nelson.

### President May Have Power to Arm Merchant Vessels.

Washington, March 5.—Determined to protect American rights at sea, President Wilson tonight sought to fix the exact status of his power to arm and convoy American merchant vessels to brave the Germans zone of submarine ruthlessness. At the same time administration leaders in the senate planned their fight to so alter the rules of that body, that an opposing minority could not prevent the enactment of legislation to extend and amplify the President's powers to deal with the international situation.

Secretary of State Lansing and Attorney General Gregory tonight made a close, detailed study of the constitution, and all of the statutes from the inception of the government, bearing on the question of armed ships. There was a clear conviction in Washington tonight that the cabinet law officers who expect to call on experts in international law from private life to aid their researches, will hold that the constitutional powers of the President are sufficient to allow him to act.

### PRESIDENT WILSON TAKES OATH OF OFFICE FOR ANOTHER TERM

After Repeating the Oath Taken by Washington a Century and a Quarter Ago, He Kissed the Bible at Open Passage.

Washington, March 4.—President Wilson took the oath of office for his second term at noon today in his room at the Capitol, and will be formally inaugurated tomorrow with public ceremonies reflecting a great national expression of Americanism. Before a desk piled with Executive business laid before him in the closing hours of Congress, and surrounded by members of his official family, the President reaffirmed with uplifted hand and grave features his promise to uphold the Constitution in whatever crisis may confront the Nation in the momentous four years before him.

After he had repeated the oath taken by Washington a century and a quarter ago, he kissed the Bible at the passage reading:

"The Lord is our refuge; an ever present help in time of trouble."

Chief Justice White administered the oath and was the first to extend his congratulations. Wringing the President's hand, the Chief Justice looked fervently into his face a moment, and said brokenly:

"Mr. President, I am very happy."

Members of the Cabinet then crowded up with expressions of regard. Mr. Wilson received them with a smile, and then turned back to his desk to complete his interrupted task.

Tomorrow, the President will take the oath again on the inaugural stand before the Capitol. He might have omitted today's ceremony under precedents established by other Presidents, but he decided to comply literally with the constitutional stipulation that he take office at noon on the fourth of March.

Mr. Wilson was worn in at 12:03 p. m., a few minutes after Congress adjourned. With a stern flection in his voice, he repeated the oath as it was read by the Chief Justice:

"I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

### PRESIDENT WILSON HAS NO AUTHORITY TO ARM SHIPS

Twelve Republican Senators, Who Desired Extra Session of Congress, Blocked Armed Neutrality Plans of President.

Washington, March 4.—President Wilson informed the country, in a statement, that he may be without power to arm merchant ships and take other steps to meet the German submarine menace, in the absence of authority from Congress.

An extra session of Congress, the President says, is required to clothe him with authority, but is useless to call one while the Senate works under the present rules which permit a small minority to keep an overwhelming majority from acting.

The President proposes, therefore, that the special session of the Senate, which he has called to meet tomorrow, revise the rules "to supply the means of action and save the country from disaster."

"A little group of wilful men," says the President in his statement, "representing no opinion but their own, have rendered the great Government of the United States helpless and contemptible."

Twelve Senators, led by Senator LaFollette and encouraged by Senator Stone, Democratic chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, in a filibuster denounced by President Wilson's spokesmen as the most reprehensible in the history of any civilized Nation, defied the will of an overwhelming majority in Congress up to the last minute today, and denied to the President a law authorizing him to arm American merchant ships to meet the German submarine menace.

Unyielding throughout the 26 hours of continuous session to appeals that their defiance of the President would be humiliating to the country; uncompromising in a crisis described to them as the most serious to the Nation since the War Between the States, LaFollette and his group of supporters refused a majority of their colleagues an opportunity to vote on the armed neutrality bill, and died with the Sixty-fourth Congress. To fix responsibility before the country; 76 Senators, 30 Republicans and 46 Democrats, signed a manifesto proclaiming to the world that they favored passage of the measure.

This declaration, embodied in the record of the Senate, referred to the fact that the House Thursday night had passed a similar bill by a vote of 493 to 13, and also recited that the Senate rule permitting unlimited debate gave a small minority opportunity to throttle the will of the majority.

### Historic Precedent Written in 1821 Guided Ceremonies.

Washington, March 5.—Historic precedent written by Chief Justice Marshall in 1821 guided the inauguration of President Wilson, and holds that even though March 4 has fallen on a Sunday, there has been no interval during which the United States has been without a President as many have believed.

It also disposes of the popular notion that the secretary of state has been President for a day in this interval.

Chief Justice Marshall's ruling was made in a letter to John Quincy Adams, then secretary of state, and who later became president, who asked for his advice.



### PRESIDENT BEGINS SECOND TERM WITH A MESSAGE OF HOPE FOR PEACE AND APPEAL FOR UNITED COUNTRY

Washington, March 5.—President Wilson's inaugural address was as follows:

My fellow citizens: The four years which have elapsed since last I stood in this place have been crowded with counsel and action of the most vital interest and consequence. Perhaps no equal period in our history has been so fruitful of important reforms in our economic and industrial life or so full of significant changes in the spirit and purpose of our political action. We have sought very thoughtfully to set our house in order, correct the gross errors and abuses of our industrial life, liberate and quicken the processes of our national genius and energy, and lift our politics to a broader view of the people's essential interests. It is a record of singular variety and singular distinction. But I shall not attempt to review it. It speaks for itself and will be of increasing influence as the years go by. This is not the time for retrospect. It is time, rather, to speak our thoughts and purposes concerning the present and the immediate future.

Although we have ventured counsel and action with such unusual concentration and success upon the great problems of domestic legislation to which we addressed ourselves four years ago, other matters have more and more forced themselves upon our attention, matters lying outside our own life as a nation and over which we had no control, but which, despite our wish to keep free of them, have drawn us more and more irresistibly into their own current and influence.

It has been impossible to avoid them. They have affected the life of the whole world. They have shaken men everywhere with a passion and an apprehension they never knew before. It has been hard to preserve calm counsel while the thought of our own people swayed this way and that under their influences. We are a composite and cosmopolitan people. We are of the blood of all the nations that are at war. The currents of our thoughts as well as the currents of our trade run quick at all seasons back and forth between us and them. The war inevitably set its mark from the first alike upon our minds, our industries, our commerce, our politics, and our social action. To be indifferent to it or independent of it was out of the question.

And yet all the while we have been conscious that we were not part of it. In what consciousness, despite many divisions, we have drawn closer together. We have been deeply wronged upon the seas, but we have not wished to wrong or injure in return; we have retained throughout the consciousness of standing in some sort apart, intent upon an interest that transcended the immediate issues of the war itself. As some of the injuries done us have become intolerable, we have still been clear that we were not ready to demand for all mankind—fair dealing, justice, the freedom to live and be at ease against organized wrong.

It is in this spirit and with this thought that we have grown more and more aware, more and more certain that the part we wished to play was the part of those who mean to vindicate and fortify peace. We have been obliged to arm ourselves to make good our claim to a minimum of right and freedom of action. We stand firm in armed neu-

trality since it seems that in no other way we can demonstrate what it is we insist upon and cannot forego. We may even be drawn on, by circumstances, not by our own purpose or desire, to a more active assertion of our rights as we see them and a more immediate association with the great struggle itself. But nothing will alter our thought or our purpose. They are too clear to be obscured. They are too deeply rooted in the principles of our national life to be altered. We desire neither conquest nor advantage. We wish nothing that can be had only at the cost of another people. We have always professed unselfish purpose and we covet the opportunity to prove that our professions are sincere.

There are many things still to do of home, to clarify our own politics and give new vitality to the industrial processes of our life, and we shall do them as time and opportunity serve; but we realize that the greatest things that remain to be done with the whole world for a stake and in co-operation with the wide and universal forces of mankind, and we are making our spirits ready for those things. They will follow in the immediate wake of the war itself and will set civilization on again. The tragic events of the thirty months of vital turmoil through which we have just passed have made us citizens of the world. There can be no turning back. Our own fortunes as a nation are involved, whether we would have it so or not.

And yet we are not the less Americans on that account. We shall be the more American if we but remain true to the principles of a province or a single continent. We have known and boasted all along that they were the principles of a liberated mankind. These, therefore, are the things we shall stand for, whether in war or in peace:

That all nations are equally interested in the peace of the world and in the political stability of free people, and equally responsible for their maintenance;

That the essential principle of peace is the actual equality of nations in all matters of right or privilege;

That peace cannot be secured or justly rest upon an armed balance of power;

That governments derive all their just powers from the consent of the governed and that no other powers should be supported by the common thought, purpose, or power of the family of nations.

That the seas should be equally free and safe for the use of all people, under rules set up by common agreement and consent, and that, so far as practicable, they should be accessible to all upon equal terms.

That national armaments should be limited to the necessities of national order and domestic safety.

That the community of interest and of power upon which peace must henceforth depend imposes upon each nation the duty of seeing to it that all influences proceeding from its own citizens meant to encourage or assist revolution in other states should be sternly and effectually suppressed and prevented.

I need not argue these principles to you, my fellow countrymen. They are your own, part and parcel of your own thinking and our own motive in affairs. They spring up active among us. Upon this as a platform of purpose we can stand together.

And it is imperative that we should

### GERMANY TRIED HARD TO WIN OVER JAPAN; TOKIO ADMITS

Attempted Frequently to Sow Discord Between Mikado and His Allies and Also the United States, Says Foreign Office.

Tokio, March 3.—A statement issued by the Japanese Foreign Office today refers to frequent attempts of Germany "to sow seeds of distrust between Japan and Great Britain and to cause the estrangement of Japan and the United States," and adds:

"The Government is confident that the people and Governments of the Entente will continue to have confidence in Japan's loyalty and its determination to extend all possible aid and share the difficulties and hardships until the struggle against Germany and cruelties end."

Following a statement yesterday by Foreign Minister Viscount Motono, that Japan had received no proposition from Mexico or Germany to join in a possible war against the United States, Kijuro Shidehara, Vice-Foreign Minister, said in an interview:

"We were greatly surprised to hear of the German proposal. We cannot imagine what Germany is thinking about to conceive that she could possibly involve us in war with the United States merely by asking Mexico. This is too ridiculous for words. Needless to say, Japan remains faithful to her allies."

In response to a question regarding Japan's attitude toward the anti-Japanese measures which were brought forward in Idaho and Oregon, M. Shidehara said he had especially requested newspapers to refrain from inflammatory comment, advising that the matter be left for treatment through diplomatic channels. It was noticeable that of the time the matter was brought up in California in 1913, and it is doubtful whether the masses of the people were ever cognizant of the Oregon and Idaho bills.

"Of course we registered objections to the bills on the ground that they were discriminatory," M. Shidehara continued. "Japan is convinced Secretary Lansing has done everything possible to prevent the passage of the measures, but regrets the apparent revival of the anti-alien measure in one State. We realize the embarrassment of the central Government owing to the system of State rights, but it is our duty to protect the dignity, honor and interests of Japanese subjects."

### County Board of Education.

The following bill was passed by the legislature and is now the law: The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Section 1. That the number of members of the County Board of Education of Union County be and the same is hereby increased from three to five members.

Sec. 2. That the following named persons be and they are hereby appointed as members of said County Board of Education for the terms hereinafter named, said terms to begin on July first, one thousand nine hundred and seventeen: J. L. Rodman, two years; B. F. Packer, four years; Zeb M. Little, six years.

Sec. 3. That this act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

(The other members of the board are: Mr. J. W. Laney, appointed in 1915 for six years, and Mr. A. A. Scalet, appointed by legislature of 1913 for six years.)

stand together. We are being forged into a new unity amidst the fires that now blaze throughout the world. In their ardent heat we shall, in God's providence, let us hope, be purged of faction and division, purified of the errant humors of party and of private interest, and shall stand forth in the days to come with a new dignity of national pride and spirit. Let each man see to it that the dedication is in his own heart, the high purpose of the nation in his own mind, ruler of his own will and desire.

I stand here and have taken the high and solemn oath to which you have been audience because the people of the United States have chosen me for this august delegation of power and have by their gracious judgment named me their leader in affairs. I pray God I may be given the wisdom and the prudence to do my duty in the true spirit of this great people. I am their servant and can succeed only as they sustain and guard me by their confidence and their counsel.

The thing I shall count upon, the thing without which neither counsel nor action will avail, is the unity of America—an America united in feeling, purpose, and in its vision of duty, of opportunity, and of service. We are to beware of all men who would turn the tasks and the necessities of the nation to their own private profit or use them for the building up of private power; beware that no faction or disloyal intrigue break the harmony or embarrass the spirit of our people; beware that our government be kept pure and incorrupt in all its parts.

United alike in the conception of our duty and in the high resolve to perform it in the face of all men, let us dedicate ourselves to the great task to which we must now set our hand. For myself, I beg your tolerance, your countenance, and your united aid. The shadows that now lie dark upon our path will soon be dispelled and we shall walk with the light all about us if we be true to ourselves—to ourselves as we have wished to be known in the counsels of the world and in the thought of all those who love liberty and justice and the right exalted.

And it is imperative that we should

### GERMANY ADMITS PLOTTING AGAINST THE UNITED STATES

German Foreign Secretary Says That Scheme Was Merely a Defensive Act in Case of War With This Country.

Berlin, March 3.—Foreign Secretary Zimmermann today admitted Germany had attempted to ally Mexico and Japan against the United States. Such a course, he said, was merely a defensive measure—not to be carried out except in case the United States declared war on Germany. When a member of the staff of the Overseas Agency (Germany's official press bureau) asked Herr Zimmermann about the report of a plot he answered:

"You understand that it is impossible for me to discuss these facts of this 'revealed plot' just at this moment and under these circumstances. I therefore may be allowed to limit my answer to what is said in the English reports, which certainly are not inspired by sympathy with Germany."

"The English report expressly states that Germany expected and wished to remain on terms of friendship with the United States, but that we had prepared measures of defense in case the United States declared war against Germany. I fail to see how such a 'plot' is inspired by un-friendliness on our part. It would mean nothing but that we would use means universally admitted in war in case the United States declared war."

"The most important part of the alleged plot is its conditions and form. 'Conditional form' is the way the London version phrases it. The whole 'plot' falls flat to the ground in case the United States does not declare war against us. And if we really, as the report alleges, considered the possibility of hostile acts of the United States against us, then we really had reasons to do so."

"An American newspaper a short while ago really 'revealed a plot' when it told that the United States last year suggested to other American republics common action against Germany and her allies. This 'plot' apparently was not conditional in the least."

"The news as published by La Prensa (Buenos Aires) agrees well with the interpretation given, for instance, by an American newspaperman, Edward Price, in Berlin and London, who said the United States was waiting only for the proper moment in order to opportunely (openly) in the London version) to assist the Entente. The same American stated that Americans from the beginning of the war really participated in it by putting the immense resources of the United States at the Entente's disposal, and that Americans had not declared war only because they felt sure that assistance by friendly neutrality would be during that time much more efficient for the Entente than direct participation in the war."

"Whether this American newspaper man reported the facts exactly we were at a loss to judge immediately, since we were more or less completely cut off from communication with the United States."

"But there were other facts which seemed to confirm this and similar assurances. Everybody knows these facts, and I need not repeat them. The Entente propaganda services have sufficiently revealed all these pro-Entente demonstrations in the United States. And if you link these demonstrations with the actual attitude of the United States, then it is obvious that it was not frivolous on our part to consider what defensive measures we should take in case we were attacked by the United States."

### Short News Items.

A 9,000 ton transport under escort is reported sent to the bottom on February 17, south of Malta, while the sinking of thirteen other vessels of more than 25,000 tons is reported. The German underwater campaign is now reaching the height of its ruthlessness.

Dispatches from Asheville state that Bryson City, the county seat of Swain county, is under three feet of water with the Tuckasee River, which passes there, rising Sunday night. The heavy rains have put the Murphy division of the Southern Railway out of business, according to reports.

For the first time in history, a woman Sunday appeared on the floor of the United States Senate while the "greatest deliberative body in the world" deliberated. She was Miss Jessie L. Simpson, secretary of the foreign relations committee. Miss Simpson was chosen secretary of the committee some time ago. She exercised her floor privileges for the first time Sunday.

The Peking correspondent of the Associated Press says that the cabinet Sunday decided that China should join the United States in breaking off relations with Germany. The decision was submitted to the President who refused to approve the Cabinet's action, saying such power rested entirely with him. Premier Tuan Chi Jue immediately resigned and left for Tien Tsin, accompanied by several other members of the congress.

### Colored Teachers Meeting.

The colored teachers of Union county will meet at the colored graded school building in Monroe on Saturday, March 10th, at the usual hour; for the purpose of arranging the business for the county school commencement. The Superintendent, Mr. R. N. Nisbet, requires each teacher to be present, in order that there will be no trouble in carrying out the program as published.—Rev. H. O. Frederick, President.