

THE MONROE JOURNAL

PUBLISHED TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS

VOL. 23. No. 19.

MONROE, N. C., TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1917.

\$1.50 PER YEAR CASH.

HEARD THE BIG DEBATE ON WAR IN THE SENATE

Mr. W. S. Blakeney Sat for Eight Hours in Senate and Heard LaFollette and the Other Big Men Discuss the War Resolution—Arrangements for the Meeting of the Bankers Association.

Last Wednesday Mr. W. S. Blakeney sat for eight hours in the United States Senate and heard the great debate on the war resolution. He heard such men as LaFollette, who took violent issue with the administration, John Sharp Williams who followed LaFollette and flayed him, Senator Cummins and others. He would have heard Mr. Kitchin's speech in the house but was unavoidably detained. He saw Miss Jennette Rankin, the only woman in congress, and his sympathy for the little woman was aroused. "The times there are too strenuous for her," said Mr. Blakeney. "At two o'clock in the morning when the vote was taken she could scarcely vote above a whisper, she said weakly, 'I would like to stand by my President but I must vote against war.'" The sentiment in Washington, says Mr. Blakeney, had crystallized around the idea that this was the opportune time to enter the war, that if the Allies were defeated Germany would certainly attack us next and we had better go in now as a matter of self defense rather than to wait and have to fight her alone later on after Germany had become victorious.

Mr. Blakeney went to Richmond on business and on to Washington to secure the promise of Congressman Kitchin to speak at the Bankers Convention at Wrightsville in June. The State Bankers Association, of which Mr. Blakeney is president, meets at Wrightsville on June 19th, 20th and 21st. Mr. Kitchin promised to be present if possible. Another speaker who has been secured is Dr. D. W. Daniels of Clemson College, a man of wide experience on the platform and a speaker of unusually entertaining gifts. The convention will be held in the new auditorium at Wrightsville and the members will occupy both hotels, with headquarters at the Oceanic.

More About Mr. Winchester's Hen.
After reading about Mr. Jim Winchester's hen in a recent issue of this paper, Mr. C. M. Tucker, editor of the Pageland Journal, had this to say: "If you accept this one we don't want to hear any more objections to the story about Jonah and the fish."

To tell the truth we had begun to have our own doubts about that story, but since Mr. Lee Griffin and Mr. Clyburn Marsh corroborated the story, The Journal refuses to waver any longer. That story was the gospel truth, and if you are from Missouri, as Mr. L. S. Griffin, carrier on Unionville route 2, says, you can be convinced by spending the day at Mr. Winchester's.

Dame Hen committed a more marvelous feat yesterday than laying eggs on a sofa pillow. She abolished transportation charges by walking to the egg box on the table and depositing her day's bounty there. Mr. Griffin was also telling something about this hen looking at herself in the mirror, but The Journal reporter refused to hear any more.

Mr. Sell Says Safety First.
Mr. Jeff Sell, well known farmer on Unionville route 2, says the war situation is causing a good deal of worry to him and some of his neighbors. It is not that they may have to fight; far from it, as Mr. Sell himself seemed to have a slight hankering for the smell of powder, but they don't know what crops to raise. Mr. Sell says he has come to the conclusion that the best thing he can do, and others for that matter, is to raise plenty of hog and hominy to feed the family. He of course intends to plant a little cotton, but this crop will be of a secondary consideration to him in these troublesome times.

It is an undisputed fact that there will be a big demand for foodstuffs next year, war or no war. It is very doubtful that the cotton market will hold up; in fact, it is liable to break most any minute. Mr. Sell, therefore, has the right idea. Plant foodstuffs for home consumption, and there'll be no danger of the family suffering.

The Soldier.
Mr. Herbert Ervin, a Union county boy in the army at Loredo, Texas, sends The Journal the following:

The soldier comes back from the carnage and wreck. He's minus an arm and a leg and a neck; ah, never again will he linger and swing. He walked with a crutch and his head in a sling. As long as he lives he will sit by his dear and tell how he waded in enemy's gore, and young men will listen to his harrasing tale and blush that they're standing unwounded, and hale. I had rather come home from the army in a dray, all broken, dismantled, my head shot away, then stand around telling by day and by night that I was too proud or too moral to fight. The soldier comes home for a season of peace. He carries his legs in a trunk or valise. His lungs and his wish-bone were shipped by express, his body is filled with the keenest distress. But Reggie will listen, their hats in their hands, to all his adventures in war stricken lands. They will call him a hero, a soul brave and true; they will praise him and bless him and give him a chew. Then said is the lot of the man who feels that it is wicked and sinful to fight. The girls turn him down, and the boys hate his name. Thank God that we are not too proud to fight.

Mr. Bryan Tenders His Services to President.

Tallahassee, Fla., April 6.—William Jennings Bryan, three times candidate for President, and former secretary of state, today sent this message to President Wilson: "Believing it to be the duty of each citizen to bear his part of the burden of war and his share of its perils, I hereby tender my services to the government. Please enroll me as a private whenever I am needed. Assign me to any work that I can do until called to the colors. I shall, through the Red Cross, contribute to the comfort of soldiers in the hospital, and through the Young Men's Christian association, aid in guarding the morals of the men in camp."

Mr. Bryan, with the rank of colonel, commanded a regiment of Nebraska volunteers during the Spanish-American war.

Proposes to Enlist Aid of Churches.

Washington, April 9.—Plans for enlisting the Nation's churches to aid the American Red Cross in enrolling a membership of 1,000,000 men and women and to prepare hospital and supplies, assist the families of enlisted men in the army and navy and relieve Belgian children, were announced here tonight by Dr. Worth M. Tippy, secretary of the Commission on the Church and Social Service of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America.

Full details of the undertaking have been sent to 1,500 ministers and 1,000 cities throughout the United States, with the request that the work of forming local organizations in various congregations begin at once.

BILLY HAS HIT NEW YORK

And the Great City Is Proud of the Fact—Talks as Much About Country As About Jesus.

Twice on Sunday assemblages of New Yorkers 20,000 strong leaped to their feet in the pine shavings and sawdust of the great wooden Tabernacle at Broadway and One Hundred and Sixty-eighth Street—lifted from their seats by waves of emotion—and proclaimed with hands and throats their approbation of Billy Sunday, the "Christ and Country" evangelist.

Twice, afternoon and evening, the slender, wiry, one-time ball-player, who is to try during the next three months to "save the metropolis," stood with one foot on his platform chair, the other on his rostrum, and gazed out across a wide plain of upturned faces and waving arms, stretching for a hundred yards and more away from him, men and women jammed together in every direction as closely as human beings could be.

And twice, with a happy smile, he saluted them with his own swinging arms. For the ambition of his life was realized. He had come to New York, had reached the climax of his career, had faced the predicted scolding or indifference of the big busy city, and—so far as that day, at least, went—had triumphed. Neither the coldness nor the ridicule nor the stay-away spirit that the pessimists had foretold showed themselves. The first 40,000 New Yorkers to see him took Billy right to their hearts.

He gave them reason for that. He gave even the irreligious ample cause for rising with the regularly professing Christians, for Country figured in his two sermons almost as much as God.

Leaping to the highest point he could reach, which was the top of his table, he shouted, at the end of his afternoon sermon: "I don't want New York's money! I'm not going to take it for myself! No matter what may be presented to me on the last day of my services here, I will keep none of it. After paying one-third of it for the expenses of my assistants, as has always been my custom, I will divide the remainder equally between the American Red Cross."

Then he threw himself into the pose of a fighter, with one arm extended.

Bade Foes to "Come On!"

"Come on, you godforsaken bunch of degenerates that say I am a grafter, a money grabber! Come on, you mutts who have threatened my life from one end of this land to another, who have insulted my wife and children wherever we went, you rotten bunch who tried to raise—I was told—a fund of \$500,000 to fight me in New York. Come on! I call your bluff!"

Kitchin Voted Against War.

Representative Claude Kitchin, Democratic Majority Leader in congress, voted against the war resolution Friday. And in so doing, according to Parker Anderson, Washington correspondent of the Greensboro News, he is a bigger man today than at any time since he came to congress. Not that everyone, possibly not even a majority of people agree with his views, but Kitchin's act was one that demanded courage—courage which many other members wished they could have possessed—and even the most rabid war advocates are applauding his stand today.

Notice to Persons Having Lock Boxes in First National Bank.

All persons having lock boxes in the First National Bank will please call with their keys on or before April 20, 1917, as the Bank is going to dispose of its present safe and purchase a larger and more up to date one, and it is important for you to see us at once.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK, Monroe.

Austria-Hungary Throws Her Weight Against U. S.

RELATIONS BROKEN OFF BY REASON OF GERMAN PRESSURE

Congress Now Preparing to Raise Revenue and to Send Three Billion to Aid of European Partners—President Urging that Draft System Must Take Place of Volunteering.

Austria-Hungary follows the pressure exerted by Germany and breaks off relations with the United States. Congress is at work on war measures as fast as possible. Just what plans will be adopted for raising large armies are not yet known.

No conflict has taken place between any American ship and an enemy. The St. Louis, the first American passenger boat to be armed and sent through the war zone around England, arrived safely back in New York yesterday. She was not fired upon.

Brazil and South American countries are expected to follow the United States in declaring war at once.

WILSON FIRM FOR DRAFT SYSTEM IN THE ARMY

Volunteer System Advocated by Some Members of Congress But Opposed by Administration.

Washington, April 9.—President Wilson threw the weight of his personal influence into the scales today in an effort to overcome opposition in congress to the Administration army plans based on the draft system. Summoning Chairman Dent, of the House Military Committee, now considering the bill, to the White House, the President made it clear that he believes the safety of the nation hangs on the action of congress in this regard. He will make a similar exposition of the military situation tomorrow to Representative Anthony of Kansas, who has led opposition to the draft plan among Republican members of the military committee.

In his action today, the President recognized the fact that there may develop a strong feeling in congress in adhering to the old volunteer system, and sought to bring home to Mr. Dent, one of those who hold that view, the lessons to be drawn from the great war into which the United States now has been plunged and which all point, military advisers of the government declare, to the absolute necessity of facing the issue squarely and summoning men to the colors by draft.

A compromise plan may be offered by the opponents of the compulsory service. A sentiment for such a move was evident in Mr. Dent's committee before which Secretary Baker and the military chiefs of the War Department assembled during the day to support the Administration's policy. There was no indication, however, that a compromise would be accepted by the President.

Debate in Senate.

In the senate, debate on conscription occupied much time during discussion of the regular army appropriation bill left over from last session. During the debate Senator Kirby offered an amendment which would authorize the President to call volunteers in lots of half million each. The amendment is subject to a point of order, and probably will be disposed of that way without debate.

As a result of Chairman Dent's attitude, it is possible that some other member of the House committee will present the Administration bill if it is reported in the form in which it was drawn.

Discussion of the regular army appropriation bill had been perfunctory in the Senate until a section authorizing advertising agencies to obtain recruits for the army was reached. Chairman Chamberlain said it was considered necessary to get men inducted the fact that recruiting for the National Guard had not been successful.

"Recruits have flocked to National Guard headquarters ever since the German Ambassador was sent home," declared Senator Wadsworth, "but now I hear the War Department has sent out orders forbidding the Guard to accept recruits."

Senator Nelson, a veteran of the Civil War, declared himself in favor of a call for volunteers.

"I venture to say," said he, "that if the President calls for a volunteer army of 500,000 men and says that it is going to Europe to fight, there will be no trouble at all. What the boys dread above all is to be stationed in camp with nothing but drills and guard duty. What they want is to march and fight and meet the enemy."

Urged Pay Increase.

Senator Stone urged an increase in the pay of privates to four or five times the present amount. He said that might increase the army bill \$1,000,000,000 a month, but was worth it because the men who would go to war would leave behind dependents.

"I don't think this is a business matter," said Senator Vardaman. "It is a matter of patriotism."

"We are about to vote \$5,000,000,000 to the President," replied Senator Stone. "Very well, I shall vote for it. But I would not hesitate so far as I am concerned to compensate the men who go to the front, not purchase them, not as a bounty,

but that it might be the best paid army in the world."

Before the house committee, Secretary Baker stood firm for the General Staff plans.

Mr. Baker approved a suggestion that instead of authorizing two increments of selective draft forces, 500,000 to an increment, the bill authorize the President to call as many such increments from time to time as he deemed necessary to prosecute the war.

United States Seizes All Austrian Ships in Our Ports.

Fourteen Austrian merchant vessels in American ports were taken over yesterday by the government coincident with the announcement that Austria had broken diplomatic relations.

Telegrams to the Collectors of Customs at the ports concerned were sent personally by Secretary McAdoo late last night instructing that the crews aboard the vessels be removed and that customs guards be placed in their stead. The status of the removed crews will be determined by immigration authorities of the Department of Labor.

In a formal announcement of the government's action, Secretary McAdoo made it clear that the government had not confiscated the vessels, but acted for the purpose of protecting them "from further injury." From this statement was inferred that the ships were damaged by their crews, as in the case of the German vessels taken over by the government upon the declaration of war with Germany.

The vessels thus taken into the government's keeping were all in Atlantic or Gulf ports.

AUSTRIA ALSO QUILTS

Has Broken Off Relations With United States and May Also Go to War.

Austria-Hungary, ranging herself unreservedly with Germany, has severed diplomatic relations with the United States, precipitating a situation which is expected to lead to war.

Baron Erich Zwiadnek, the Austrian Charge, asked the State Department yesterday for passports for himself, his staff and the Austrian Consular force in this country; and simultaneously American Minister Stovall reported from Berne that Austria had announced the break in relations to the American Embassy in Vienna yesterday.

Whether Bulgaria and Turkey are preparing to follow suit still is unknown, but officials generally believe that sooner or later they will do so. Bulgarian Minister Panaretoff called on Secretary Lansing yesterday to ask if this government had any information from Sofia, but was told none had been received. Both Bulgaria and Turkey are believed here to be weary of the war, but German domination of the Central European alliance is expected to drive them, as it drove Austria, to a break with Germany's new enemy.

Although the full text of the communications exchanged was not given out, the Department's review disclosed a disposition on the part of the United States to tolerate Austria's verbal endorsement of the German policy, provided there were no steps for actual co-operation and no instance that Count Tarnowski received by the President. On the part of Austria, there was evident a desire to maintain friendly relations, but an increasing inability to do so because of German pressure.

Although war with Austria is thought now to be a practical certainty, President Wilson is described as having no intention of forcing it. The belief is that the President will not ask congress to declare that a state of war exists unless some overt act against the United States is committed.

Better Keep Off The Railroad Track.

"Trespassing on railway property, at all times a perilous practice, involves an even greater hazard for the trespasser, now that it has become necessary to place armed guards at strategic points, to prevent possible interference with the country's transportation facilities through the depredations of enemy agents," said Fairfax Harrison, president of the Southern Railway System and chairman of the American Railway Association's special committee on National defense, calling attention to the importance of all loyal citizens keeping off railway premises unless they have business thereon.

"In addition to the ever present danger of being killed by a train," Mr. Harrison continued, "the man who now trespasses on railway property, subjects himself to the peril of being shot, should he fail to heed the challenge of the military guard. Charged with the duty of protecting railway structures, whose destruction would interfere seriously with transportation, the guards cannot afford to take any chances. Unfortunate occurrences can be avoided if citizens, who have no business on railway property, will keep off. It is especially important that pedestrians, who have been accustomed to walking tracks, rather than public highways, should understand the added danger and recognize that they can perform a patriotic service by avoiding it."

Story of Horrors of German Military Rule in Belgium and Tortures.

Washington, April 8.—A story of the horrors of German military rule in Belgium and of the tortures inflicted upon Belgians to force their labor for their enemies was revealed here tonight in hitherto unpublished letters to the government from an American official who spent many months in the midst of the reign of terror.

Of the Germans' explanation that they deported only the unemployed among the conquered people, this official says: "They needed skilled and active artisans and these men were naturally still employed. The authorities did not evidently dare to announce their real wishes."

"Belgium at this moment," says a letter written in December, "is going through a reign of terror. It is hard to believe that the dark moments of the French revolution were very much worse than the conditions of which we are now the witness. With each month that we remain, the net is drawn tighter and tighter around the population. The entire country is more or less one great internment camp."

"Even the Austrian representative here had words of apology and even blame for the policy and in defense could only refer to the alleged ill-treatment of Germans in Russia."

President Wilson's "splendid protest" against the deportations, the writer says, was of great moral value. "It is really pitiful to see how the Belgians look to America in a crisis like this," he continues, "but the deportations continue without any apparent serious modifications."

"The fashion in which any given recruitment is carried out depends very largely on the character of the officer in command. Some proceedings pass off in orderly manner and others in a disorderly fashion. A guard of Uhlans is generally necessary sometimes backed with machine guns. At times it is thought necessary to charge the watching crowds."

"Various methods are employed to force the men to sign and work. Starvation is the most prominent."

The writer recalls the German promise of liberal wages to those who will sign, with permission to send their earnings to their families in Belgium. "Painstaking inquiries," he adds, "have failed to elicit a single instance in which such money has been received from Germany."

ADMINISTRATION'S FINANCIAL PROGRAM

Secretary of the Treasury Will Call Aid of Financiers and Wants to Give Quick Aid to Partners in the War.

The administration's financial program for carrying on the war, in so far as it relates to the authorization of a \$5,000,000,000 bond issue, including \$3,000,000,000 to be loaned to the Allies, will be placed before congress within the next 48 hours with every prospect of prompt approval.

Secretary McAdoo predicted that the bond issue would be overwhelmingly subscribed. The facilities offered by bankers and others, who have asserted that they would place their services free of charge at the government's disposal to aid in making the issue a success, will be accepted. Assistance also will be sought of Federal Reserve banks, National banks, State banks, insurance companies, private and investment bankers and of every governmental agency in floating the issue.

Mr. McAdoo also announced that he would "take the benefit of the counsel of the most experienced bankers and investors of the country as to the best means of making the offer a pronounced success."

Mr. McAdoo's formal announcement of the program made at the conclusion of a day of conferences, read as follows:

"The administration will ask congress for authority to issue \$5,000,000,000 of government bonds to meet the situation created by the war with Germany. The proposed bonds will be exempt from taxation and bear interest probably at three and one-half per centum per annum. Two billion dollars of these bonds will be required to finance in part the expenditure involved in the proper organization and operation of the army and navy and the conduct of the war generally. Of course, a large amount of additional revenue will have to be raised by taxation, but this part of the problem is under consideration by the Ways and Means Committee of the house of representatives."

"Three billion dollars of the proposed issue of bonds should be used to supply credit to the governments making common cause with us against Germany to enable them to secure essential supplies in the United States and carry on the war with increased effect. This financial aid ought to be extended at the earliest possible moment. It will be trebly valuable and effective if extended now."

"The purpose is to purchase the obligations of the foreign governments to which credit is given, such obligations to bear the same rate of interest and in other essentials, to contain the same terms and conditions as the bonds of the United States."

"The bonds of the United States will be offered as a great popular loan, and the widest opportunity will be given to the public to subscribe, and by subscribing, to perform one of the most patriotic services that can be rendered to the country at this time."

MUST MAKE ENOUGH FOR HOME AND ALLIES TOO

Secretary Houston Calls Upon Farmers Not to Let Up on Food Production—Will be Needed Even if Peace Comes Soon.

Secretary Houston is calling upon farmers to take measures to increase food production. "The importance of the nation of a generous food supply for the coming year cannot be over-emphasized in view of the economic problems which may arise as a result of the entrance of the United States into the war," said the Secretary. "Every effort should be made to produce more crops than are needed for our own requirements. Many millions of people across the seas, as well as our own people, must rely in large part upon the products of our fields and ranges. This situation will continue to exist even though hostilities should end unexpectedly soon, since European production cannot be restored immediately to its normal basis."

"It is obvious that the greatest and most important service that is required of our agriculture under existing conditions is an enlarged production of the staple food crops."

"The most natural step that may be taken to increase the production of these crops is to enlarge the acreage devoted to them in the regions where they are grown habitually. This expansion of acreage should be to the limit permitted by available good seed, labor and equipment. The placing of too great emphasis on production in new regions is inadvisable since the introduction into a farm operation of a crop not usually grown frequently involves practical difficulties not easily nor quickly surmountable."

"Rice at present prices provides more food value for the money than most of the other cereals."

"Prices of the grain sorghums during the past season appear to warrant increase of acreage of these grains in the regions where they can succeed."

"Corn is the leading food and feed crop of the United States in geographic range of production. The vital importance of a large acreage of this crop if properly cared for, therefore, is obvious. Conditions warrant the planting of the largest acreage of this crop which it is possible to handle effectively."

"The usefulness of cow peas and soy beans as human food has been recognized only recently in this country. Existing conditions warrant the planting of all the available seed of varieties known to do well in the several sections."

"A deficiency of hay and forage for next winter would jeopardize the future meat and dairy supplies of the country and result in a shortage of roughage for military draft and saddle animals."

"Seed potatoes should be conserved by planting on the best lands available for them and planning for thorough tillage and protection of the crop against disease and insect pests. Potatoes can be grown most advantageously near the centers of population in the northern states where transportation cost may be reduced to a minimum. Such vegetable crops as carrots, rutabaga, turnips, onions and cabbage are worthy of more attention than they generally received."

"In the southern half of the country perhaps no crop has larger possibilities for quick increase of production of food for both men and animals than the sweet potatoes. The peanut in many sections of the South is also capable of greatly enlarged production."

"Only about 20 per cent of the supply of sugar normally consumed in the United States is produced domestically, and this amount cannot be increased appreciably during the coming season."

"Through increased attention to poultry on farms it is possible to add quickly and materially to the food supply. When conditions render it feasible small flocks of poultry should be kept by families in villages, towns and especially in the suburbs of large cities."

"Consumers living in villages and in the suburbs of cities do not appreciate sufficiently the possibility of adding materially to their food supply by utilizing suitable idle soil in yards, vacant lots and unused outlying fields. Gardening is peculiarly an activity in which the family and community may share with resultant mutual helpfulness and benefit."

"The duty of the individual farmer at this time is to increase his production, particularly of food crops. If he has control of tillable land not in use, or money lying idle, or labor unemployed—he should extend his operations so as to employ those resources to the fullest extent. This does not mean that he should rob his land, waste his capital, or expend his labor fruitlessly, but that by wise planning and earnest effort he should turn out a greater quantity of food crops than ever before. He will not lose by it, and he will perform an important service in supporting his country in the task that lies before it."

Lady Congressman Voted Against War.

Miss Jeanette Rankin, congresswoman from Montana, voted against the war resolution in congress Friday—and then she cried. Four times the clerk of the house called Miss Rankin's name before she answered. She was evidently laboring under the deepest mental distress. After her name was called three times, she said nervously: "I want to stand by my country—but I cannot vote for war."