Mount Airy News.

J. E. JOHNSON, Editor and Publisher.

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WAR TIMES.

It is just beginning to dawn upon this country that we are living in war times. Even our own town is beginning to feel the effects. It is not generally known that we are up against a fuel shortage. From the standpoint of a man who is informed it is a serious proposition right here in dollars and cents to know we are to get fuel. And yet there is the advantage.

One day this week a large merchant of this city happened to his phone and [illegible] dealer. [illegible] dealer in the coal fields.

Mr. [illegible] stated that all the large coal concerns in the country are [illegible] every car they can to [illegible] and that these large concerns will not promise a single car to any one. The supposition is that they have made arrangements with the government to help get a large supply of coal about the shipping centers to meet the needs in case of war. In the meantime the only coal that a small dealer can buy is from a concern that is not large enough for the Government take its supply.

Every paper brings news that makes the situation look more gloomy for this country. Most people feel that it would be a calamity for us to have to go to war with Germany and thus be drawn into the great European conflict. And yet each day seems to bring us that much closer the conflict. No doubt the men who make war [illegible] will do all they can to bring on the war, and it would be a great incentive for keeping up prices of all kinds of farm products. There are many people who would in a way be financially aided by a war. Not many seem to be thinking of the fellow who may have to go to the front and do the actual work.

Town Inventory.

[illegible]

Captured Still.

[illegible] Thursday morning. An interesting feature of this capture is that the officials are supposed to have known of the plans of the blockaders for some days before the venture was launched. It got out in some way that the parties to the new enterprise had all their plans laid to make a few runs, and these plans leaked out and got to the ears of the officers long before the still was placed or the corn made into beer. At least this is a part of the story that we hear told on the streets.

At any rate on last Thursday morning, sometime after midnight, the officers left here and drove to within a short distance of where the still was supposed to be located. The lay of the land was such that they decided to wait until day light to proceed into the brush and thicket where the still was located. And so they waited in the brush by the roadside until light and then proceeded to the spring and up the branch according to information given and there sure enough was the still. It proved to be a good one of large size and about 600 gallons of beer on hand ready to convert into the ardent. The still had been in operation for a few days according to appearances [illegible]

[illegible]

GERMANY PROPOSED ALLIANCE WITH JAPAN AND MEXICO TO WAR ON UNITED STATES

MEXICO WAS TO HAVE NEW MEXICO, ARIZONA AND TEXAS AS SPOILS

Copy of Instructions Sent by Germany to German Ambassador at Mexico City In Possession of United States---Sent Through Bernstorff

Washington, Feb. 28. The Associated Press is enabled to reveal that Germany, in planning unrestricted submarine warfare and counting on consequences, proposes an alliance with Mexico and Japan to make war on the United States if this country should not remain neutral.

Japan, through Mexican mediation, was to be urged to abandon her alliance and join in the attack on the United States. Mexico, for her reward, was to receive financial aid and support from Germany, reconquer Texas, New Mexico and Arizona lost provinces—and share in the territorial peace terms Germany contemplates.

Details were left to German Minister von Eckhardt in Mexico City, who by instructions signed by German Foreign Minister Zimmermann, at Berlin, January 19, 1917, was directed to propose the alliance with Mexico to General Carranza and suggest that Mexico seek to bring Japan into the plot.

These instructions were transmitted to von Eckhardt through Count von Bernstorff, former German ambassador here, now on his way home to Germany under a safe conduct obtained from his enemies by the country against which he was plotting war.

Germany pictured to Mexico, by broad intimation, England and the entente allies defeated; Germany and her allies triumphant and in world domination by the instrument of unrestricted submarine warfare.

A copy of Zimmerman's instructions to von Eckhardt, sent through von Bernstorff, is in possession of the United States government. It is as follows:

Berlin, January 19, 1917.

"On the first of February we intend to begin submarine warfare unrestricted. In spite of this, it is our intention to endeavor to keep neutral the United States of America.

"If this attempt is not successful, we propose an alliance on the following basis with Mexico: That we shall make war together and together make peace. We [illegible] general financial support [illegible] understood that Mexico [illegible] the lost territory [illegible] Texas, New Mexico and Arizona. The [illegible] to you for information [illegible] instructed to inform the President of Mexico of the above most secretly as soon as the outbreak of war with the United States is certain and to add the suggestion that Mexico on her own initiative should invite Japan immediately to join us and at the same time act as mediator between Japan and us. Please draw the President's attention to the fact that the ruthless employment of our submarine weapon promises now to compel England to sue for peace in a few months.

ZIMMERMANN."

Has Been Kept Secret.

The document has been in the hand of the government since President Wilson broke off diplomatic relations with Germany; it has been kept secret up to this time, while the President has been asking Congress for full authority to deal with Germany, and while Congress has been debating. It was in the President's hands while Chancellor von Bethmann Hollweg was declaring that the United States had placed an interpretation on the submarine declaration "never intended by Germany," and that Germany had promoted and honored friendly relations with the United States "as an heirloom from Frederick the Great."

Of itself, if there were no other, it is considered a sufficient answer to the German chancellor's plaint that the United States "brusquely" broke off relations without giving "authentic" reasons for its action.

The document supplies the missing link to many separate chains of circumstances, which until now have seemed to lead to no definite point.

It sheds new light upon the frequently reported, but indefinable movement of the Mexican government to compose its situation with the friction between the United States and Japan [illegible]

Bernstorff and the German embassy in this country, which have been colored with passport frauds, charges of dynamite plots and intrigue, the full extent of which never has been published.

It gives new credence to presistent reports of submarine bases on Mexican territory in the gulf of Mexico; it takes cognizance of a fact long recognized by American army chiefs, that if Japan ever undertook to invade the United States it probably would be through Mexico, over the border and into the Mississippi valley to split the country in two. It recalls that Count von Bernstorff when handed his passports was very reluctant to return to Germany but expressed a preference for asylum in Cuba. It gives a new explanation to the repeated arrests on the border of men charged by American military authorities with being German intelligence agents.

Battle of Verdun Began a Year Ago.

[illegible] February 21, 1916 [illegible] the Battle of Verdun [illegible] great advance [illegible] February 7 [illegible] their first [illegible] On July 1 [illegible] the Germans [illegible] the Battle of Verdun was ended.

On October 24 the French took Douaumont in three hours; November 1 the Germans evacuated Fort Vaux; December 15 General Nivelle, just promoted to commander in chief of the French armies, launched a farewell attack and sent the French troops back again to the Vacherauville-Louvemont Bezonvaux line, holding the heights commanding Verdun.

The German advance had won a maximum depth of a little over six miles; all along the heights on the east bank of the Meuse the French regained from four to five. In places they are back within a mile of the line of February 21, 1916, before the battle began.

Eggs For Hatching! From those Pure Bred Ringlet Barred Rocks. They won again this year, 1st cock 1st and 2nd hens, 2nd pen and 3rd best hen in the whole show. My pens are now ready for 1917 season. They are picked from 150 fine birds and mated with these prize winners, great layers, big strong vigorous birds, the kind the farmers like everybody likes them. They won for me let them win for you. Price of eggs, $1.00 for 15, f.o.b. Mt. Airy.

ORA ROBERTS Mt. Airy, N. C.

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NORTH CAROLINA IN 1812.

Facts About the State Gathered From an Old Book.

[illegible] States (Ile Landmark.

Mr. J. S. McRorie has a copy of "The American Universal Geography, or a View of the Present State of All the Kingdoms, States and Colonies in the Known World." The book was published in 1812 and its author was "Jedidiah Morse, D. D., F. A. A. S. H. S., a minister of the Congregational Church in Charlestown." First of all, it will be noted that the treatise took in the available territory and it [illegible] had at eight United Commonwealths. [illegible] feature the book contains [illegible] matter of [illegible] of the [illegible]

[illegible] The area of the [illegible] the same [illegible] but [illegible] Dees a compared with [illegible] and indeed [illegible] chief towns of the State then are given as Fort Stoddard, Monroe county, Washington, Beaufort county; Hertford, Gates county; Salem, Surry county; [illegible] Lexington, Franklin county; Williamsborough, Granville county; [illegible] Montgomery county; Morgan, [illegible] county, Tarborough, Edgecombe [illegible]; Windsor, Bertie county; Warrenton, Warren county; Newbern, Craven county; Smithville, Brunswick county; Jonesboro, Camden county; Greenville, Pitt county; Wilmington, New Hanover county; Beaufort, Carteret county; Rockingham, Richmond county; Halifax, Halifax county; Pittsborough, Chatham county; Elizabethtown, Bladen county; Raleigh, Wake county; Upper Saura, Stokes county; Nixonton, Pasquotank county; Fayetteville, Cumberland county; Martinsville, Guilford county; Wadesborough, Anson county; Edenton, Chowan county; Salisbury, Rowan county; Lincolnton, Lincoln county; Charlottesville, Mecklenburg county.

Many of these places, it will be noted, are now unknown. The names have been changed or the places have ceased to exist. Who, for instance, knew that Morganton was once known as Morgan.

Iredell is noted as a county but had no chief town. The county's population was 10,972, less than a third the population at present.

New Berne is given as the largest town in the State at that time, [illegible] population of [illegible] 2,467, [illegible] [illegible] Episcopal church [illegible] at home and a [illegible] Quaker, who [illegible]

[illegible]

How to Prevent Croup.

When the child is in danger of attack of croup, see to it that he has a little emetic near, as one mentioned in asthma, being on an attack, also watch for the first symptom, hoarseness, and give Chamberlain's Cough Remedy as soon as the child becomes hoarse. Obtainable everywhere.

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J. D. MINICK.

Mt. Airy, N. C., Aug. 26, 1915.

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MOUNT AIRY, N. C. PHONE 178

Edison Works Secretly On New U. S. Submarine.

New York, Feb. 27. Thomas A. Edison has hired the casino on the summit of Eagle Rock mountain in Essex county, and is spending twenty hour daily devising a submarine for the use of the government, according to reports from West Orange.

A visitor to the place revealed the fact that the Casino was occupied by exceedingly busy Edison men and that an important experiment was being worked out on the small plateau surrounding the Casino grounds.

A watchman guarded the only entrance to the building that was not boarded up and he had instructions to permit no one to enter unless he had business with the staff of experts at work on the upper floor.

Eagle Rock mountain lies a few miles west of the Edison plants, and is part of the public park system of Essex county.

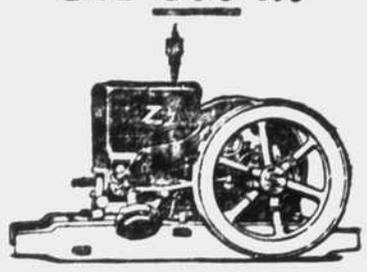
Few visitors are attracted to it in the winter, and rumor had it that the place was selected by Mr. Edison for the sake of extreme privacy.

He was reported to have been at work in this isolated place for several days devising a new type of gun, a powerful explosive and a submarine.

Bitter Outburst from the Dutch Newspapers.

The Hague, via London, Feb. 24. While official circles remain exactly calm, there is [illegible] an inevitable outburst of [illegible] the part of the Dutch newspapers at what [illegible] Amsterdam Telegraaf calls "A [illegible] face [illegible] to which a section [illegible] Dutch people have [illegible] what they admit to be a "ghastly blunder."

It's Here! Come In and See It!



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