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# THE COMMONWEALTH

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NUMBER 43.

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## NO INTERFERENCE WITH SHIPMENT OF COTTON

Washington, Oct. 26.—Southern Senators and Representatives today were gratified by the announcement of Great Britain that it would not interfere with American cotton shipments as "contraband of war." Assurances to that effect were given Ambassador Page at London by Sir George Edward Gray, British minister of foreign affairs, who confirmed his government's action in a cablegram to the British embassy here. Ambassador Page in advising the State Department also reported that the British ship Camperdown, laden with American cotton and products, detained at Stornoway, Scotland, was not held because of her manifest, but on account of a disagreement between her owners and charter party.

Southern Senators had requested the State Department to ask the belligerent countries to give assurances that shipments of American cotton to neutral nations would not be seized or detained.

The action of the British government forestalled action by the State Department and will allow the safe movement of American cotton to any point, including Germany, where a fair market is said to exist.

The attitude of the British government, it is thought, means that there will be no interference with any non-contraband cargoes from a neutral country carried in neutral ships, even though consigned to a belligerent. Cotton never has been listed as either absolute or conditional contraband, but some cargoes have been detained and certain marine insurance companies have refused to issue cotton policies.

## Germany Stand by Monroe Doctrine.

Washington, Oct. 24.—Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador, announced today that Germany would respect the Monroe Doctrine, whatever the outcome of the European war. A note to that effect has been presented to the State Department by the Ambassador.

The text of the communication was with-held by department officials, but Acting Secretary Lansing made this announcement:

"The German Ambassador on September 3rd, last, in a note to the Department of State, stated he was instructed by his government to deny most emphatically rumors to the effect that Germany intends, in case she comes out victorious in the present war, to seek expansion in South America."

Discussion of the Ambassador's note was aroused by a published statement of Dr. Dernberg, former Colonial Secretary of Germany, calling attention to the fact that his government had notified the United States of its intentions in South America. Dr. Dernberg and German officials here attributed these rumors to Germany's enemies in the present war, believing they were designed to influence public opinion in the United States against Germany.

## The Injustice of It All

It is man's inherent right to "kick"; if he didn't do so he would be liking in one of the most human of human traits. So it is natural that while the American citizen will pay the "war" taxes now about to be levied, he cannot but feel his gorge rise on account of being taxed for a war, or for the conditions caused by a war with which he has nothing to do. He is going to be taxed upon to dig down into his purse and pocket because of Europe's war, and is forced to do so in the very time when every line of trade and commerce is bent on gouging him to the limit.

And here is the injustice of it all. Though his country is enjoying peace in the fullest meaning of the word, and notwithstanding the fact that food exports, for the most part are blocked up in American ports, while the country groans under the weight of record breaking crops, the American citizen is "trimmed" as going and coming. He is gouged, held up and knocked down, gaged and robbed by the most unholy combination of privileged interests that ever disgraced the country.—Ashville Citizen.

## BET LAST CENT ON ROULETTE

American Refugees in Ostend in Dire Distress Financed by Lucky Turn of Wheel.

A San Francisco real estate firm has received a letter from a client telling how he replenished his purse by risking his last coin at roulette, when his appeals home for money were fruitless on account of conditions following the breaking out of hostilities in Europe. He was in Ostend when the actual fighting began, and had been traveling in Europe for some months. For obvious reasons, his name is withheld. The letter says, in part:

"We had made Ostend our objective point, considering it the most favorable point for awaiting developments. The morning after our arrival there a complete paralysis of the financial situation established itself, nothing available had any circulating value; checks, letters of credit, the American Express company or travelers' checks, or even Belgian paper money, all shared the same fate. That evening our limited capital consisted of eight francs in my pocket. Of course, I had depended upon my letters of credit.

"We went in silence walking down the ocean shore. Both myself and wife wondered where we would go next, and what would become of us, when we came upon a brilliantly lighted kursal. It occurred to us we might correct our fortune by staking it all upon the roulette wheel. At the most it couldn't render our lot any worse than it was. To our horror, however, the inscription, 'five francs entree,' confronted our eyes. That would leave us but three francs in our pockets. Once again the situation was saved by my wife. From the bottom of her hand satchel she produced a five-franc piece, which she had laid away during the fat years, looking forward to contingencies. So in we marched, and, after having got on to the arithmetic of the gambling table, we selected No. 28 to decide our fate.

"The wheel whirled round and round, and it became black before our eyes, but in our ears it sounded like poetry, and when it stopped I hadn't hands enough to gather the money. My number had won, and they paid me 35 for 1. Remembering it was easier to make money than to keep it, we proved ourselves worthy of the honor by withdrawing from the ring, and sought our exit, feeling once again we were able to take care of ourselves for a day or two."

## Studying Health Insurance.

The National Civic federation has instituted inquiries into the methods in foreign countries of insuring wage earners against misfortune, and as a result the social service department of the federation is considering the desirability of recommending legislation to provide for compulsory insurance for illness.

A committee has been in London to study the operation of the national insurance act of Great Britain. Employers were asked about the cost of the insurance and its relation to business. Wage earners were asked to give information regarding the effects on wage rates, on the conditions of employment, and on their general welfare. Changes in the cost of poor relief and any reduction in the death rate from preventable diseases were investigated.

This general survey will prepare the way for an investigation by a commission next spring, when an effort will be made to bring together all information which will serve social insurance purposes in the United States.

## The Next Great Man.

They are de-Anglicizing Berlin, even in the matter of hotel names. Well, if it comes to signboards, what of our own "King of Prussia"? About half a dozen such in London still commemorate Frederick the Great, and over all England you may still find widespread the tavern glory of the victor of Rossbach. Shall we proceed to paint them all out, as has just been done at Barnett? One recalls Goldsmith's tale of the alehouse keeper of Islington, who made of his French King sign a "Queen of Hungary." "Under the influence of her red nose and golden scepter he continued to sell ale till she was no longer the favorite of his customers; he changed her therefore, some time ago, for the King of Prussia, who may probably be changed in turn for the next great man that shall be set up for vulgar admiration." Now, who is the "next great man" that shall emerge from the fog?—London Chronicle.

## Objects to Milk Pasteurization.

Dr. Ralph Vincent of the Manchester (England) Infants' hospital says that pasteurization cannot be relied upon to kill tuberculosis bacilli and claims that in his experience children fed upon boiled or condensed milk have been more prone to consumption than those fed on raw milk. One of his arguments against sterilizing milk is that we do not pasteurize butter, although it is a raw milk product. He wants to prove that, although harmful bacilli exist in raw milk they are useful in destroying other harmful bacilli in the liquid.

## Mean Brute.

"My, my," exclaimed Mrs. Gabb, as she looked up from the newspaper, "it says here that a girl wrote her name and address on an egg and secured a husband. What do you think of that?" "Rats," growled Mr. Gabb. "Marriage always was a shell game."

## BIGGEST TOBACCO WEEK ROCKY MOUNT MARKET

Rocky Mount, Oct. 24.—The past week has been the heaviest of the season; beginning Monday morning the receipts of leaf tobacco have been very large, the sales blocking four days out of the five and Friday only being able to dispose of the offerings by fast selling, the last sale ending about dark. For the week the receipts total about 1,000,000 lbs the amount paid out to the farmers being about \$250,000 to \$300,000.

The offerings have been about like the past week, there being about equal quantities of good serviceable tobaccos and common non-descript grades. Prices have shown appreciable decline, notwithstanding the heavy receipts, and the market closed Friday evening very active, the buying sticking to the sales closely to the last.

Much of the tobacco are badly graded and sell for a reduced price. It pays the farmer to grade and handle his tobacco well, as he invariably gets a bigger price for same. Also there has been much damaged tobacco offered. This the farmer cannot always help, and is due largely to the long wet spell of the week before.

Good receipts are expected next week. Sales up to date run about the 3,000,000 lb. mark.

## The Cause of Pellagra

The interesting announcement is made by the Public Health Service in Washington that diet is at once the cause and cure of pellagra; that the disease is not contagious or infectious, and that a cure can be effected within four weeks by proper eating.

Many theories have been advanced about pellagra. There was a widely prevalent belief at one time that it was caused by eating corn bread, but the people of Kentucky had been eating corn bread for a hundred years before a case of pellagra appeared in the State. There has been no decrease in the consumption of that staple article of food, an evidence that very few people took the corn bread theory seriously.

There are scientists who have argued that pellagra was caused by the bite of an insect. That seemed more probable, for the world appears to be developing new variety of insects every year, in addition to maintaining a plentiful stock of the kind by which humanity has been stung from time immemorial.

It is more likely that the Public Health service is right. Pellagra seems to stick rather closely to religions where the food supply is meagre and the daily menu is exceedingly limited.

It has been observed that many of the pellagra patients in the Kentucky insane asylum improve materially with practically no treatment other than balanced rations.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

## Financing Ruin is a Problem.

The United States might not make much commercial progress while the war is on in Europe, but when it is all over we will be in a better position to do so than the balance of the world with its impaired resources. Yet we are more than apt to be drained of huge amounts of capital to replace the waste resulting from war in Europe. If we husband our own resources we will be able to dominate the financial and commercial revival.

At the same time we must remember that the enormous waste in Europe will tax our own resources, which otherwise could be better employed in making a Greater America. The one need in the South is capital, yet the American policy rather seems to be to look for investments everywhere rather than at home.

Loans of enormous amounts of capital abroad at a low rate of interest are often made in preference to better investments that can be made right here in the South. One of the eventualities to be guarded against by this country is to retard its own development for many years by financing the rehabilitation of the war-stricken nations of Europe. Of course, we have to do all we can to help the humanity of the world to get on its feet, but, all things being equal, we should not forget where we will come in when it is all over, but the ruin and sorrow.—Wilmington Star.

## Farmers Union Notice.

The State Convention of the Farmers Union will meet this year in Greenville, Pitt county, on the 18th, 19th and 20th of November.

The Halifax County Union has made arrangements to carry a car load from Halifax county. The train will leave Weldon on Tuesday, November 17th, at 3:40 p. m., Halifax at 4:00, Scotland Neck at 4:40, Hobbins at 4:55, arriving in Greenville at 6:30 p. m. There will be reduced rates on all roads.

Messrs. J. H. Hardee, Enfield, and J. H. Pope, Tillery, is the committee on arrangements. The railroad fare from Weldon will be about \$2.80 round trip. About forty of the members in the county have already sent in their names saying that they are going. There will be plenty of room for all, and if you can possibly go it is a trip you shouldn't miss. Send me your name if you are thinking of going and I will make arrangements for you. GEO. R. BENNETT, County Secretary.

## Sentenced to Feeble-Minded School.

The first person to be sentenced by a court to do time in the North Carolina School for the Feeble-Minded is Tommy Tackey, white, aged sixteen years, who is not, as his name would imply, loose in his attire. In fact, the contrary applies to Tommy.

Beating about the country, the lad, who is an orphan from Chase City, Va., retained some degree of respectability in dress and manners, but was driven, through want or wantonness, to steal. A Hookerton man was a victim, losing about \$9 or \$10. The boy eluded the man he had robbed and made his way to Snow Hill. The victim asked the police here to look out for him, and when he arrived on a train Tuesday morning he was promptly arrested. The policeman relieved him of a revolver, which added to the charges against Tommy.

In Superior Court Wednesday Judge Daniels decided that, for the boy's best interest, he should be sent to the State institution until he is twenty-one years of age, and there Tommie Tackey was sent.—Kinston Free Press.

## Pamlico Farmers to Cut Acreage.

New Bern, Oct. 23.—The farmers in Pamlico county, one of the largest cotton growing counties in the State, will cut their cotton acreage at least 50 per cent next season, said George W. Brinson, of Arapah, who was among the visitors in New Bern. Mr. Brinson is one of the most prominent farmers in the county, owning a large plantation, and he is emphatic in his declaration to cut down his own acreage in cotton, and from conversation with a large number of the other agriculturists there he has learned that they also intend to follow his example. Last year the storm and flood ruined the cotton crop in Pamlico and this year the farmers cannot sell their staple for any satisfactory price, and are determined that they shall not be overstocked with it another season. However, despite the fact that low prices are being paid for cotton, the farmers are prosperous and Mr. Brinson stated that hundreds of them would be seen here at the fair next week.

## The Southern Planter.

Gets up at the alarm of a Connecticut clock. Buttons his Chicago suspenders to Detroit overalls. Washes his face with Cincinnati soap in a Pennsylvania pan. Sits down to a Grand Rapids table. Eats Chicago meat and Indiana hominy fried in Kansas lard on a St. Louis stove.

Puts a New York bridle on a Kentucky mule fed with Iowa corn. Ploughs a farm covered by an Ohio mortgage with a Chattanooga plow. When bed time comes he reads a chapter from a Bible printed in Boston. Says a prayer written in Jerusalem.

Crawls under a blanket made in New Jersey, only to be kept awake by a Georgia dog—the only home product on his place.

And then wonders why he cannot make money raising cotton.—Macon Telegraph.

## MR. CLEMMER PLEASED WITH HIS PURCHASE

Mr. R. H. Clemmer, of Virginia, a stock raiser of considerable experience, was here several days last week preparing for shipment the herd of Grade Angus Aberdeen cattle recently purchased from Mr. W. E. Smith. Mr. Clemmer says he has been in the stock business practically all his life and has been raised in the great stock section of Virginia, but he is better pleased with the herd purchased from Mr. Smith than any he has ever bought. It is his intention to use these cattle for breeding purposes.

Mr. Clemmer says this is one of the finest sections in the world for successful stock raising, and why the people have waited so long to begin the industry is very strange to him. He has urged the farmers here, with many of whom he had personal talks, to get into the stock business. He says also that he is certain the present crisis throughout the South will open the eyes of the people and cause them not to depend so absolutely on growing cotton and give more attention to the raising of stock and other food supplies.

Mr. Clemmer says he is greatly impressed with the possibilities of this section of Eastern Carolina.

## Farmer Gored by Bull

Goldsboro, Oct. 24.—Mr. J. D. Talton, a prominent farmer, who lives near Pikeville, was knocked down and was almost gored to death by an enraged bull one day this week. Mr. Talton had the bull chained in his pasture, and had started to take him from the pasture to the house. On the way the bull got sullen and did not want to go, whereupon Mr. Talton struck him on the head to make him go on. Instead of having the desired effect the lick enraged the animal and before Mr. Talton could realize what had happened the animal had knocked him down and was trying his best to gore him to death, and did not like much of doing it. He was skinned and bruised all over the body when assistance reached him, and at last accounts he was in a most serious condition with but little hopes of his recovery. The bull was immediately killed.

## A Pretty Girl Held Captive by a Mad Scientist

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## Administratrix Notice

Having qualified as administratrix of the late J. H. Hopkins, this is to notify the persons having claims against his estate to file same with me on or before the 10th day of August, 1915, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons owing said estate will please make immediate payment. This 10th day of August, 1914. MARTHA HOPKINS, Administratrix. PAUL KITCHIN, Atty. 8-13-6t

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