

# ENCOURAGED.

This year, so far, promises to be by far a greater business year with us than last which was greater than some of our leading business men thought possible in Scotland Neck. This encourages me to give to the people of our town a grocery store that will be a real credit to a town several times its size.

With the possible exception of one in Rocky Mount where, in the state, could you find a grocery store more up-to-date in every detail?

Everything in Fancy and Staple Groceries. Quality and service guaranteed.

Prices low as possible. Your orders appreciated. Both Phones 1-7-4.

## CLEE VAUGHAN

QUALITY, CLEANLINESS, SERVICE

We give moving picture tickets for cash purchases.

### THE COMMONWEALTH.

Published Every Thursday

Telephone Number 5.

CHAS. F. CARROLL, Editor & Prop.

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Thursday, Jan. 13, 1916.

The Greensboro News asks: "Where is Hindenburg?" Dunno, we'll ask Mackensen.

When you're down in the mouth, think of Jonah. He came up all O. K.

Dr. Staton evidently believes in "preparadness" but he forgot to consider the cost feature of the thing.

Charlotte Observer says Kitchen is possessed of staunch character. Exactly correct, Zerver, he is a real statesman with a mind for his constituents and sympathy for his enemies—political and otherwise.

A new explosive for shells has been perfected by a Swedish superphosphate company at Stockholm. It is said to be very powerful, and a factory is being erected for its extensive manufacture. One of the principal ingredients is perchloride of ammonia prepared in some special way.

#### ALL FOR CAPT. JINGO CAPITALIST.

The following poetry has appeared in the press of the country for the past few weeks, and is headed "Preparadness." Some one who bears the initials "A. P. K." daddied the article, which takes care of itself admirably:

I'm Captain Jingo, U. S. A.,  
I feed my crew on pork and bray  
And I whoop it up, "Prepare and pay  
For a great American Army."

I'll teach the youngsters how to shoot  
The kids to toot, the girls salute,  
I'll scare the people till they root  
For a great American Army.

I'll work the powder mills all night,  
I'll hitch their profits to a kite,  
And pretty soon I'll order "Fight,"  
With my great American Army.

Is there a reader of this paper who is so stuck on President Wilson that they think him impregnable from attack and persuasion at the hands of the money interests of the country? Is there one man in this district who favors "preparadness?"

as outlined by the President to such an extent he won't listen to convincing reason? If there are they have our permission to remain in the pot, "cooked, sir; and well done, sir."

Does it stand reasonable to suppose that any nation now involved in the war will be ready (or able) to attack the United States within the next fifty years? Some tell you any one of the really big nations can rebuild their lost armament within five years and proceed to annihilate us. This is bull. Some will tell you that Japan is ready and is only awaiting the opportunity before she strikes us. Likewise, this bull. Still others will tell you that the whole war is simply a frame-work to blind this country to the liability of attack from the present belligerents. It is now time to laugh, reader.

Like the great North Carolinian, Claude Kitchen, leader of the House, and Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, this paper believes in preparedness, has always done so and will continue to do so. But we do not believe in preparedness on such a vast and wholly unwise as well as extravagant scale as in outlined by the arms and munition manufacturers through our President. Suppose we prepare as the schedule says. If we don't engage in a war within twenty years at the most, we have lost, haven't we? Yes, Past figures show that the average life of an inactive vessel of the U. S. navy to be about 20 years. Five hundred million dollars in steel and powder to corrode and rust! They tell you that we shall always uphold the Monroe doctrine. "No more possessions by conquest." The President affirms it. What then, are we about to "prepare for?" We'll tell you, reader. Listen: To enrich the coffers of the capitalist and add more burden to the tax-payer—the wage-earner. Don't let alick tongued orators point your conscience with a coat of misformation. Think for yourself and read if you will who has always paid the bill for everything.

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facilities and transportation, the adaptation of products and sales methods to the varying demands and customs of the market in other countries, proper packing, knowledge of foreign tariffs and the need for the investment of American capital in foreign fields as a stimulus to export trade were thoroughly discussed.

The practical application of these principles, now generally accepted, will furnish the basis for discussion at the forthcoming meeting. It is proposed to consider the formulation of a sound business and governmental policy which will muster every possible resource of the United States to the extension and retention of its commerce beyond the seas.

Business men from all sections of the country have accepted an invitation to take part in this conference. The gathering will represent all the manufacturing, merchandising, agricultural, mining, railway and steamship transportation and banking elements engaged in or affected by foreign trade.

#### UNITED STATES MUST BE PREPARED.

"The problem before the United States," says Mr. Farrell, "is not to engage in fierce trade rivalries with other nations but to prepare this country to discharge efficiently its function in world commerce. There is no question of greater importance to the welfare of American industrial enterprise and labor than the stimulation of commerce abroad, since extensive overseas trade tends, under normal conditions, to stabilize domestic industry by insuring to manufacturers and producers a wider sphere of activity."

"The heavy sales of American products abroad since the European conflict began have furnished a striking illustration of what it means to have access to foreign markets when business in this country has become depressed and the domestic demands fall below the productive capacity of our mills and factories."

"But inasmuch as our present advantageous position, with a vast excess of exports over imports, is largely due to the abnormal conditions brought about by the war, it cannot be relied upon as a permanent foundation. It does not serve as a criterion of our future position in international trade."

"Whatever may be the outcome of the European war, changes in territorial lines or colonial domination each of the belligerents will find it essential to pursue foreign trade vigorously to repair the ravages in its domestic commerce, to provide labor for the men released from the armies and to ameliorate the greatly increased burdens of taxation which enormous war loans will impose on the people when they return to peaceful pursuits."

"Diplomacy of the future, as in the past, will be concerned intimately with commercial aggrandizement and it is of vital consequence to the future position of this country that advantage be taken of the present opportunity to exploit the products of American invention, enterprise, ingenuity and quality—to establish a firm foothold in the markets of the world which neither political effort, tariff discrimination nor low prices of competitors can successfully assail."

#### WORLD TAKES UP THE DOLLAR.

"Other countries are fast learning to do business with us in terms of the American dollar instead of the English pound sterling. This is owing to the fact that under the new banking system national banks are permitted to establish branches abroad for the assistance and encouragement of foreign trade, and conditions in the foreign exchange market the world over for the last twelve months have made it advantageous for all who could do so to settle their indebtedness to this country in American dollars."

"The large gold balance accumulating here has caused many countries dependent upon foreign investment for their development and expansion of their purchasing power to hope for loans of American capital. Leading financial interests here have recognized the need of organizing to finance the legitimate needs of those countries which apply to us for assistance, and the investment of American capital abroad will prove fundamental aid to the development of our foreign trade. Briefly it means that the people who borrow money here will spend just that much more money for American products. Failure to make such loans would jeopardize our existing trade with neutral markets which have been deprived of the financial support formerly obtained from London and other European money centers."

"Aside from exports of natural products, such as grain, cotton and other raw materials, which virtually sold themselves our export trade in the past, although large, has been built up principally through the individual efforts of some of our large industrial concerns. It has completely lacked the national character which inheres in the commerce of

leading European nations. The reason for this lack has been the failure of smaller manufacturers and dealers, either through lack of capital and experience or because of difference to make the attempt to place their products on foreign markets."

#### WOULD DIVERSIFY TRADE.

"The National Foreign Trade Council always has taken the position that the more diversified foreign trade becomes through the wider participation in it by an increasing number of industries the more profitable and permanent it will become. It is therefore one of the primary objects of the council to open the way for the smaller manufacturer more confidently and effectively to enter the markets of the world along with our larger industrial concerns, which, through individual enterprise, have demonstrated that American-made goods when backed up by American capital and salesmanship, can be made to hold their own against all competitors."

"Before the foreign trade of the nation as a whole, however, can reach its fullest development there are many problems that must be solved in a practical manner. One of the more important of these has to do with the rehabilitation of the American merchant marine. The utilization of the tariff to encourage overseas trade and protect it from discrimination and the adaptation of commercial education to the needs of foreign trade are others."

"If the business men of the country will give these questions the same painstaking attention they accord problems which arise in connection with domestic business a truly national, non-political policy should result, adequate to meet whatever test may be imposed by future developments."

The National Foreign Trade Council is a body whose object is to co-ordinate and nationalize the foreign trade activities of the country. Its function is investigative, advisory and educational. By reason of their association with diversified enterprise, and knowledge of the public interest in widely separated sections of the country, the members are able to bring to the council information and advice to assist in its deliberation concerning foreign trade development. The council endeavors to cooperate with supplement, and so far as possible co-ordinate the efforts of other organizations to extend overseas commerce.

#### Decline The Notion

Dear Editor of the Commonwealth as my subscription has expired I will notify you I have declined the notion of renewing again from

The above was written by a Halifax county citizen. The editor trusts he will take some newspaper for his own benefit as he is sadly in need of reading and writing practice. The Commonwealth is sorry for this man and respectfully asks him to attend a school some where if within his power.

#### Ten Commandments of Mail Order House

The following 10 commandments are offered for the guidance of catalogue house patrons:

1. You shall sell your farm products for cash when you can, but not to us. We do not buy from you.
2. You shall believe our statements and buy all you need from us because we want to be good to you although we are not personally acquainted with you.
3. You shall send the money in advance to give us a chance to get the goods from the factory with your money; meanwhile you will have to wait patiently for weeks, as that is our business methods.
4. You shall apply to your nearest city to aid you in building good roads so that you can conveniently get the goods from the depot, for we can not build country roads.
5. You shall buy church bells and fixtures from us and forwards the money in advance for this is our business method, and you shall collect from the business men in your city as much money as you can for the benefit of the churches for it is against our rules to donate any money for country churches.
6. You shall buy your tools from us and be your own mechanic in order to drive the mechanics from your vicinity, for we wish it so.
7. You shall induce your neighbor to buy everything from us as we have room for more money—the less money you have in your community the sooner we can put your local merchant out of business and charge you any price we please.
8. You shall look often at the beautiful pictures in our catalogue so that your wishes will increase and so you will send in big orders although

you are not immediate need of goods, otherwise you might have some money left to buy some necessary goods from your local merchant.

9. You shall have the merchants who repair the goods you buy from us book the bills so you can send the money for his labor to us for new goods, otherwise he will not notice our influence.

10. You shall in case of sickness or need apply to your local dealer for aid and credit, as you do not know you nor care to.

#### OAK CITY ITEMS

Mr. Walter Burnette of Norfolk is spending some time here with his father.

Miss Helen Council spent Friday morning in town on her way back to school in Greenville.

Mr. P. T. Davenport of Bath was the guest of his sons, Messrs. Luther and Tom Davenport, several days last week.

Messrs. Hilary and Timothy Brown of Pine Town spent the week end with their uncles Luther and Tom Davenport.

#### HONOR ROLL FOR PRIMARY DEPT. FOR 16TH WEEK.

- 1st Grade  
Margaret Hines  
Sarah Long Johnson  
Lucile House  
Myrtella Hyman  
Mildred Davenport  
Pauline Davenport  
Hazel Piland  
Ethel Bunting  
Eloise Ross  
Erma Johnson  
Mildie Johnson  
Mamie Turner  
Charlie Price
- 3rd Grade  
Christine Piland  
Olivia Johnson  
James Price
- 5th Grade  
Herman Piland  
Selma Johnson  
Wheeler Daniel  
Elizabeth Moore
- 6th Grade  
Alta Hines  
Ernest Bunting  
Bertha Piland
- 7th Grade  
Joe Bunting  
Marvin Everett

#### REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF THE PLANTERS & COMMERCIAL BANK

at Scotland Neck, in the State of North Carolina, at the close of business Dec. 31 1916.

RESOURCES	
Loans and discounts.....	\$112,672.39
Overdrafts.....	2,831.31
Banking house, furniture and fixtures.....	2,111.93
Demand loans.....	3,859.10
Due from banks.....	14,695.69
Cash Items.....	1,619.54
Gold Coin.....	556.00
Silver coin, including all minor coin currency.....	2,234.69
National bank notes and other U. S. notes.....	5,031.00
	\$145,611.65

#### LIABILITIES

Capital stock paid in.....	\$15,000.00
Surplus fund.....	5,563.75
Undivided profits, less current expenses and taxes paid.....	12,000.00
Deposits.....	112,835.65
Cashier's Checks outstanding.....	112.24
Certified Checks.....	100.00
Total.....	\$145,611.65

State of North Carolina ) ss:  
County of Halifax )

I, O. J. Moore, Cashier of the above named Bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

O. J. MOORE, Cashier.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 10th day of January 1916.  
J. E. SHIELDS, Notary Public.  
My Commission Expires Feb. 16, 1916.

#### CORRECT—ATTEST:

S. A. DUNN  
STUART SMITH  
Directors

#### NOTICE OF SALE

On the 16th of February, 1916, at 11 o'clock, A. M., I will sell for cash to the highest bidder, at the home place of the late J. T. Edwards in Rosemeath Township, the following personal property, to-wit: 5 good mules, 4 nice horses, 2 two-horse wagons, 2 carts, two-horse surrey and harness, buggies, lot of farming implements including harrows, weeders, cultivators, etc., lot of wire fencing, and lot of corn, fodder, and peavines. This sale is had for the purpose of settling the estate of the late J. T. Edwards. This the 12th day of January, 1916.

Belle Edwards,  
Administratrix.

## Belgium Helpless Anyway Till Spring, Says Commission

Need of Relief Still Very Urgent, According to Latest Reports From Stricken Land—How Americans Can Send Their Mite

By WILL IRWIN



BELGIAN REFUGEES IN THE RUINS OF TERMONDE.

ACCORDING to the Commission For Relief In Belgium, the American people will probably have to feed the Belgian people all this winter. "We have taken pains to investigate," said one of the commissioners last week, "and the best informed Europeans tell us that there will be no change in the military situation this winter. It means that we must keep up the work until spring breaks or longer."

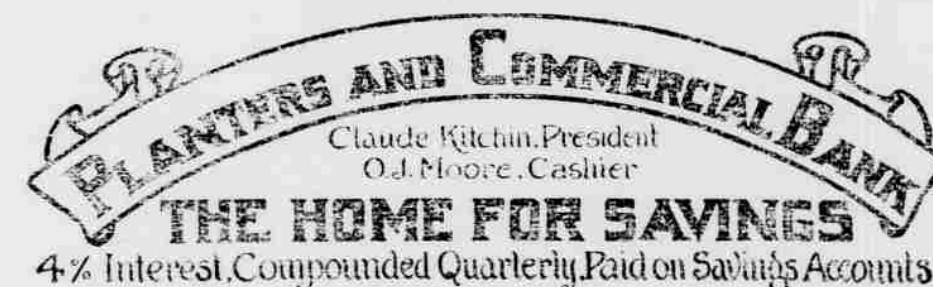
It has been a race with hunger, this business of feeding 6,500,000 people with supplies gathered a half a world away. All Belgium depends on American food. Half of Belgium is never more than a week ahead of starvation. Often it has come closer than that. Once the province of Limbourg, remote and hilly, was starving. In some communities the people had not eaten for two days, when one of our United States consuls managed to borrow from the Germans enough bread to keep the people alive until an American shipment arrived to repay the loan. Once Captain Lucey, the shipping agent in Holland, had to borrow 10,000 tons of wheat from the Dutch government. Liege and Hamme and historic Ghent were crying for bread, and it was still several days before the next American ship was due at Rotterdam. This was a noble thing for Holland to do since the Dutch themselves are short on food. Yes, it is a race with hunger, and America, now that she has faced the starter, must win! This is America's great and glorious part in the world war of 1914-15.

That every American may have a personal chance to help some Belgian the Commission For Relief In Belgium has arranged its "parcel post plan." Any one who wants to send a package containing between twenty and fifty pounds of nonperishable food need only put a tag on the package, address the tag to the nearest collection depot of the commission, stamp it in the regular way and drop it in the mail chute. If the giver puts on the package tag his name and address, TOGETHER WITH THE LETTER "R," the money he has spent for stamps will be refunded.

Packages mailed from NORTH CAROLINA should be addressed to ASHEVILLE TRANSFER AND STORAGE COMPANY, ASHEVILLE, who are collecting agents for this district.

# BANKING

Accounts Appreciated—Large & Small  
4% on Savings Deposits



Xmas has gone, but a good Rocker is welcome the year around. We have a good assortment and will be pleased to show you our line and prices.

## SCOTLAND NECK FURNITURE COMPANY

Cash or Credit

Scotland Neck, N. C.

## The Palace Theatre