

### THE COMMONWEALTH

Published Tuesdays & Fridays by  
The Commonwealth, Inc.  
Scotland Neck Bank Bldg.  
Scotland Neck, N.C.

Entered at the Postoffice at  
Scotland Neck, N. C., as second-  
class matter under Act of Con-  
gress, March 3, 1879.

Subscription Rates  
One Year.....\$1.00  
Six Months......50  
Three Months......25  
(In Advance)

All articles submitted for pub-  
lication must bear the author's  
name, not necessarily for pub-  
lication, but as a guarantee of  
good faith.

All drafts, checks, money or-  
ders, &c., should be made payable  
to The Commonwealth, Inc.

Friday, January 12, 1910.

### REDEEM THE WASTE PLACES— AND MEN

One great, supreme question is con-  
fronting the American people to-day, a  
question that overshadows all others of  
the moment and that is the much dis-  
cussed one of how to reduce the cost of  
living.

There is but one answer:

### We Must Redeem The Waste Places of

### Our Country—and the Waste Men

Food speculators are responsible for  
much of it, but waste places and waste  
men are responsible for even more.

Is it a matter for wonder that food  
supplies are held at almost famine  
prices when we are confronted with the  
spectacle of hundreds of thousands of  
men tramping the streets of cities  
and towns, doing nothing and produc-  
ing nothing, while within a few hours  
walk of any of them lie broad acres of  
land that are idle because there are  
none to cultivate them?

Let us stop hanging the high cost of  
living onto the war. It may have had  
something to do with the skyrocket  
rises, but very little, because we are  
exporting less than heretofore, a hun-  
dred million dollars worth less in 1916  
than in 1915.

We may twist and squirm and wrig-  
gle all we please, but we can not es-  
cape the fact that the law of supply  
and demand will regulate the cost of  
which we consume.

And, equally, we can not escape the  
fact that millions of acres of land are  
idle because hundreds of thousands of  
men would rather go hungry in a city  
than live on the fat of the land on a  
farm—would rather beg at the back  
doors of city dwellers than to ride in  
their own automobiles on country  
roads.

Harsh words, but true!

We read of Congress appointing com-  
mittees to "investigate the high cost  
of living." But about the only "in-  
vestigating" that is done is to see how  
much money can be extracted from the  
public till in the shape of "Commit-  
tee expenses."

If you want to know why you are  
paying so dearly for the supplying of  
your table just step into a car and  
spend one day in driving around to the  
farms of the township. Question the  
farmers and see how many would like  
to employ more help—IF THEY  
COULD GET IT.

Then go home and use your own  
brains instead of allowing others to  
think for you.

If every idle man in this state could  
be put to work on a farm during the  
coming summer the increase in the  
yield of foodstuffs for the state would  
be so staggering as to be almost be-  
yond belief.

And yet we sit around and blame  
politics, and the poor old overburden-  
ed war, and every other thing except  
the right thing.

We repeat, food speculators are  
partly to blame, and they would be in  
jeil if we had the energy and the courage  
to put them there. But we have  
neither.

The middle man is the hog and  
should be kicked into the pen with  
his brothers. But we are too indiffer-  
ent to do the kicking.

The commission man will rob you  
blind even if you have no eyes. And  
we turn the empty sockets for another  
gouge.

The railroad demands its pound of  
flesh and takes two. And all we do is  
to groan.

These things all have their bearing,  
but they are small as compared to the  
law of supply and demand.

Thousands and thousands of men and  
women and children are living in squa-  
lor and want in cities of our imme-  
diate section of the country. They  
are strong men, capable of enduring  
any hardship on the farm. But they  
are not on the farm and probably no  
one has ever mentioned farm to them.

Why can't the farmers of this sec-  
tion at least get together and devise  
ways and means of bringing these half  
starved people to the country where  
they can be put to work tilling the  
soil—where they can LIVE instead of  
EXISTING?

It might cost a few dollars to get  
them here, but the waste places would  
be cultivated and the waste men would

be converted into useful citizens.  
Talk it—shout it—let it ring from  
every housetop: Our lands must be  
cultivated and made to produce more!

It is the only solution.

For years we have been robbing the  
farm to feed the city, and the farm  
has just about reached the point where  
it can no longer be robbed.

It is time for our leaders to get to-  
gether and outline a plan whereby we  
may rob the cities and feed the farm  
—with men.

Everybody would be the gainer—  
the farmer most of all.

### I AM THE UNIMPROVED HIGH- WAY

(By E. G. Andrews)

(In the William Penn Highway Bulletin.  
Copyrighted, 1916 by the William  
Penn Highway Association)

I am the unimproved highway.  
My name is Mud!

The foot that pattered in primeval  
slime gave me birth.  
Unchanged while the ages passed, I  
have endured. Time has but served to  
increase my infinite variety. Earth  
born, and without a soul, yet have I  
lived. From the beginning have I  
been man's enemy.

A dust-colored python am I, stretch-  
ing my length across the hills, waiting  
my time to crush endeavor.

I have snared caravans that left  
bleaching bones in lands now desert.  
Empires have fallen because of me.

I have turned victories into routs;  
I have trapped mighty leaders and have  
crushed armies.

I am without faith; and those who  
trust me I deceive.

Today I am fair to look upon; tomor-  
row a steaming bog.

I add Difficulty to Distance.  
With Isolation do I conspire to un-  
joint the endeavors of man. I tug at  
the wheels of the grain cart, that bread  
may be dear. I hamper those who  
would feed the race. I am an enemy  
of church and school. I mire the hea-  
ler on his rounds and delay the coming  
of that little ones may die.

I am a disrupter of home. I speed the  
first-born to the cities when I am fair  
to see; and when he would return I  
face him with my forbidding depths.  
I minister to Bitterness; and lay a tax  
on all the world. There is none who  
lives who does not pay me tribute.

When men ploughed with a crooked  
stick I was there. When the ancients  
covered me with stones I slipped away  
to other lands. I am the oldest Lie  
that lives today. Men count me cheap.  
I know the price they pay who count  
me so.

I am the unimproved highway.  
My name is Mud!

### THE COST OF HIGH LIVING

The success attending the boycott on  
eggs and turkeys serves to remind us of  
the remark of a recent writer who ven-  
tured the opinion that it was not so  
much the high cost of living as it was  
the cost of high living that was trou-  
bling the country at this time.

That writer placed his finger on one  
of the sorest spots in our domestic  
economy.

We are the most extravagant people  
on earth.

Fifty years ago our fathers would  
have sworn mighty but righteous oaths  
had any been guilty of our extrava-  
gance. They lived in a manner that  
we of this day would consider the ex-  
treme of hardship.

Our grandmothers, could they come  
back, would be thoroughly scandalized  
at our profligate extravagance, and yet  
the strange thing to us is that they  
managed to extract about as much hap-  
piness from life as we do—if not a lit-  
tle more.

It has been said that the luxuries of  
one generation are the necessities of the  
next.

If this be true the outlook in a few  
generations is truly appalling. Given  
all our luxuries as their necessities,  
with proportionate luxuries of their  
own of which we have not yet even  
dreamed, to what gigantic extent will  
extravagance have been reached?

The picture is not a promising one.  
In fact, it is by no means attractive.

It has been said that an European  
peasant's family would live in com-  
fort on what the average American  
kitchen consigns to the swill barrel.

And we haven't a doubt of the truth  
of the assertion.

Here's the American pace: Mr. and  
Mrs. B, worth half a million, aspire to  
live on the same scale as Mr. and Mrs.  
A., who are worth a full million. And  
Mr. and Mrs. C, with only a quarter of  
a million, would keep pace with the  
B's, who have half a million, and so  
on down the line.

Really, isn't it time for the sober,  
intelligent citizenship of the country to  
call a halt on the useless, senseless and  
even idiotic extravagance of the age?

There is an end to every string, and  
the American people are a mighty long  
way from the beginning.

### FARMER'S NOTES

(By Donald McCluer)

Land is like a bank account, your de-  
posits are very easily overdrawn.

While thinking over your crops for  
the summer plan to plant some soy

beans on those poor acres of yours.  
They will help the land and make first  
class hog feed.

### UPPER BERTHS

The upper berth is not, primarily, a  
place of rest. It's a Numbler. Like poker  
and marriage and storage eggs.

The main idea of the Upper is first,  
to see if you can get in it and second,  
to stay there till morning without  
breaking your neck.

The chances are \$2 a piece and 100  
to 1 that you lose. If you win you pay  
the porter a quarter. If you lose, you  
pay your own funeral expenses.

Life in the upper is just as calm as  
life in a bathtub on a flagpole in a cy-  
clone.

If you insist on trying to sleep in  
one, put your clothes to bed and hang  
yourself on a hook.

The only right way through is to ap-  
proach it as a purely sporting proposi-  
tion. Take a lot of life insurance and  
a long breath and make a night of it.

### THE WHATHAMA COLUMN: GETTING UP

Getting up three hundred and sixty  
times a year as we do, a person would  
think we'd get used to it. But we  
don't.

Not even with bellboys alarm clocks,  
cold water, wives waiting breakfast  
and other pernicious inventions to egg  
us on, we don't.

Foiks have been getting up ever since  
the world began; and they don't like  
it any better now than they did the  
morning Cain slew Abel.

It's just as easy to keep a good man  
down as it is to get him up.

About the only way to keep from  
gettin' up is to lie down and die. And  
that doesn't always work. Look at  
Lazarus.

### OSAK CITY ITEMS

The funeral services of Mr. J. L.  
Hines, who died Saturday, Jan. 6, at his  
home, took place at 1 o'clock Monday  
afternoon in the Baptist church and was  
largely attended. Rev. T. J. Crisp  
conducted the services which took place  
in the family burial ground at Mr. J.  
L. Hines farm. During the service  
songs were rendered by a selected choir.  
The pall bearers were as follows:  
Honorary: Messrs. R. W. Salsbury,  
Bake Council, Lewis Johnson, J. T.  
Savage, John Bennett and Jno. Daniel.  
Active pall bearers, L. T. Chesson, B.  
M. Worsley, J. C. Ross, John York, Tom  
Johnson and Nat Brown. There were  
many handsome floral tokens of respect  
and esteem.

Mr. Hines was taken ill with pneu-  
monia, Thursday Dec. 28 of which he  
practically recovered. Complications  
of another kind set in, which caused  
his death in nine days after his illness  
began.

Mr. Aaron Haskett of Port Norfolk  
has been with Mr. J. L. Hines the past  
two weeks.

Mr. N. C. Hines and son of Cary have  
been in town this week.

Mr. Templeton of Cary was here a  
few days this week.

Mr. Frank Cartwright of Cartwright  
Wharf, Va., is spending a few days at  
the home of Mrs. J. L. Hines.

Miss Grizzell Baldwin of Rocky  
Mount left for her home Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Waverly Holmes of Bel-  
haven are spending a short time with  
Miss Jefferson House.

### ENTENTE WANTS PEACE NOT PROMISES

LONDON, Jan. 12.—Premier Lloyd  
George, speaking in the Guild Hall yester-  
day afternoon said Emperor William  
had told his people that the entente  
allies had rejected his peace offer. The  
Emperor did so, he said, to drug those  
he could no longer dragoon. We had  
rejected no peace terms, the Premier  
said, and added:

"We were not offered terms but a  
trap baited with fine words. It would  
suit Germany to have peace now on her  
own terms.

We all want peace but it must be a  
real one."

The Premier said the allies were of  
the opinion that war was preferable to  
Prussian domination over Europe.

The allies had made that clear, he said,  
in their reply to Germany, and clearer  
still in their reply to America.

### HARRY THAW ATTEMPTS SUICIDE

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 12.—Harry  
K. Thaw cut his wrists and throat in a  
private house on Walnut street west of  
32nd street here and was taken to St.  
Mary's Hospital, according to Captain  
of Detectives Tate, who has been  
searching for him.

According to Captain Tate, Thaw's  
whereabouts were learned and the  
house was surrounded.

When detectives entered the place  
according to Tate, they found that  
Thaw had cut his wrists and throat.

Lieutenant Scanlon, of the detective  
bureau, said that Thaw was found in  
the house shortly before 2 o'clock.  
Scanlon said that he had learned that  
while Thaw was unconscious he was ex-  
pected to live.

Thaw, Tate says, asked that Dr. El-  
wood Kirby, a well know physician  
be sent for. When the doctor arrived  
he ordered Thaw removed to St. Mary's

Hospital, where Dr. Kirby is head phy-  
sician.

The house where Thaw was found is  
within a short distance from the street  
where Thaw was in an automobile acci-  
dent last May. A damage suit instituted  
against his mother, the owner of the  
machine, brought Thaw here last  
Monday to defend the action.

### Report of the Condition of THE PLANTERS & COMMERCIAL BANK

At Scotland Neck in the State of  
North Carolina, at the close of business  
Dec. 27, 1916.

RESOURCES	
Loans and discounts	\$159,690.17
Overdrafts	2,248.23
Banking Houses	2,111.93
Demand loans	14,643.31
Due from National Banks	3,280.13
Due from State Banks and Bankers	19,635.43
Cash Items	5,891.11
Gold Coin	551.09
Silver coin, including all mi- nor coin currency	1,943.02
National Bank notes and oth- er U. S. Notes	7,693.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$217,687.33</b>

LIABILITIES	
Capital stock paid in	\$15,000.00
Undivided profits, less current expenses and taxes paid	6,995.31
Dividends unpaid	16.00
Deposits	194,945.22
Cashier's Checks outstanding	130.80
Accrued Interest due deposi- tors	600.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$217,687.33</b>

State of North Carolina—County of  
Halifax, Jan. 8th., 1917.

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 8th., day of January 1917.

J. E. Shields, Notary Public.

Correct—Attest:  
S. A. Dunn,  
Stuart Smith,  
Directors.

### Report of the Condition of THE BANK OF HOBGOOD

At Hobgood in the State of North  
Carolina, at the close of business, Dec.  
27, 1917

RESOURCES	
Loans and discounts	\$25,481.95
Overdrafts	1,330.71
Banking Houses	2,363.07
Due from State Banks and Bankers	21,859.38
Gold Coin	45.00
Silver coin, including all mi- nor coin currency	666.92
National Bank Notes and oth- er U. S. Notes	2,627.90
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,374.03</b>

LIABILITIES	
Capital stock paid in	5,000.00
Surplus fund	2,500.00
Undivided profits, less current expenses and taxes paid	312.50
Deposits subject to check	39,995.33
Time Certificates of Deposit	7,533.05
Cashier's Checks outstanding	62.85
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,374.03</b>

State of North Carolina—County of  
Halifax, January 5, 1917.

I, S. L. Hyman, Cashier of the above-  
named Bank do solemnly swear that the  
above statement is true to the best of  
my knowledge and belief.

S. L. HYMAN, Cashier.

Subscribed and sworn to before me,  
this 5th., day of January 1917.

W. D. Hyman, N. P.

Correct—Attest:  
R. J. Shields,  
K. Leggett,  
S. D. Bradley,  
Directors.

### PECULIAR ACCIDENT TO MR. FORBES

Hobgood, Jan. 10.—Mr. W. H. Forbes  
foreman for Mr. J. H. Heath, who has  
charge of the logging camp of the Ar-  
rington company, met with an acci-  
dent today that might have been fatal.

Mr. Forbes was on the log wagon  
when the tongue jerked up and hit him  
on the top of the head cutting a gash  
several inches in length and knocking  
him off the cart. He was also bruised  
about the face and body, though he  
did not lose consciousness.

Mr. Heath hurried the injured man  
into Hobgood where Dr. K. Leggett  
took seven stitches in the scalp and  
bound up his other wounds.

The accident occurred in Martin  
county, about three and a half miles  
from Hobgood, and, though the wounds  
were extremely painful Mr. Heath  
stated the injured man did not lose his  
nerve all the way to the doctor's of-  
fice.

Mr. Forbes is a native of Camden  
county and had only been on this job  
two weeks.

### BERNARD ALLSBROOK FIRE INSURANCE

Scotland Neck, N. C.

Office Phone 122  
Residence Phone 121

## THE CENTERS OF BUSINESS AT- TRACT THE STRONG

"Get where the money is," was the commonplace remark of a  
successful man the other day. In other words, associate yourself  
with successful people if you expect to succeed. Shun hockers or un-  
successful men or women.

Just as soon as you decide to become a student of this school,  
you command a close, personal interest that encourages and follows  
you in every move you make toward your Business Success.

"It is the preparation you make TODAY that FILES THE  
CLAIM on a position TOMORROW." Big dividends follow an in-  
vestment in this school.

Write today for the finest catalogue ever published in this

## KINGS BUSINESS COLLEGE

RALEIGH, N. C. — OR — CHARLOTTE, N. C.

# IF you must live on a Moderate Income

It is far better to work hard to save a part of it than  
to strive to live in a style beyond your means. If you want  
to avoid vain regrets in your old age—save some of your  
earnings—NOW.

## 4 Per Cent Interest Compounded Quarterly Allowed in Savings Department

# Planters & Commercial BANK

CLAUD KITCHIN, President, O.J. MOORE, Cashier

# Come to US for your HARDWARE from a Carpet tack Up.



WHEN YOU COME INTO OUR STORE AND ASK FOR A  
TACK HAMMER WE DO NOT TRY TO PERSUADE YOU THAT  
YOU OUGHT TO HAVE A SLEDGE HAMMER TO DRIVE A  
TACK. WE WANT TO GIVE OUR CUSTOMERS WHAT THEY  
WANT AND DO NOT "BORE" YOU TRYING TO FORCE ON  
TO YOU SOMETHING YOU DON'T WANT.

COME IN AND BUY YOUR HARDWARE FROM US ONCE;  
WE WILL TREAT YOU SO THAT YOU WILL COME AGAIN,  
BECAUSE—

OUR HARDWARE'S THE BEST; IT STANDS THE TEST.

## Josey Hardware Co.

PIONEER HARDWARE DEALERS

SCOTLAND NECK, NORTH CAROLINA.

OUR OCCUPATION IS SELLING  
**PURE DRUGS**  
THERE ARE IN THESE  
UNITED STATES

218,585 BLACKSMITHS  
218,400 MALES  
185 FEMALES

WHAT'S YOURS?

THE ANVIL CHORUS

NORTH END DRUG STORE