

**The Morning Herald**

Published Daily Except Monday by  
The Durham Herald Co., Inc.

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**SUBSCRIPTION RATES:**

Weekly subscriptions paid promptly at end of each week, 10 cents.  
Otherwise, payable strictly in advance as follows:  
By Mail Or Carrier  
One Year ..... \$5.00  
Six Months ..... 2.50  
Three Months ..... 1.25  
One Month ..... .50

Entered as second-class matter at the postoffice in Durham, N. C., under act of congress of October 3, 1917.

DURHAM, N. C., MARCH 2, 1919

**TWO BIG MEN.**

Tuesday night's speaking in New York city will be one of the most notable events of its kind ever held in this country. From the same platform and to the same audience, President Wilson and ex-President Taft will speak upon the same subject—the league of nations, and the remarkable part about it is that both hold the same views on the question. This should give the people something to think about. The nation's two greatest men, each the ablest man in his party, though there are many who will deny this, are fighting for the same purpose—some method to protect the world against war.

**WAR VERSUS WAR.**

It is argued that the league of nations plan will cause war, and it is almost certain that without a league there will be wars, so there you are, with this difference: It is practically unanimously agreed that without some sort of a league there will be wars, while there is an argument about whether the league will produce them, leaving the league holding a little more prospect for peace than no league. One of the main objects sought by the allies and America in the last war was to prevent a recurrence of its horrors if such a thing be possible, and if some move is not made looking toward securing permanent peace the peoples of all the world are going to want to know why it was not done. If there is a better way than the league of nations, by all means adopt it, and if there is no better way, then adopt the league. The opposition to the plan as proposed at the peace conference, so far as has been noticed, has not put forward a better program. Their attacks have been merely destructive without constructive suggestion. The unrest that is tossing the world around on a bed of nightmare will not be dissipated until there is some assurance of early improved conditions. The people are not going to live under a constant threat of another bloody struggle, and they will take things in their own hands if the leaders themselves do not afford a remedy.

**RAILROAD PROBLEM.**

The railroads are not to be released for some time yet, according to announcement by Director General Hines, with the approval of President Wilson. No intimation is given as to when the return will be made, but the indications are that it will not be for a year or two, and maybe not for five years. This decision will hardly meet the approval of the country, which has formed the conclusion that the best interests of business demands the early return of the railroads to their private owners.  
Some times it is wondered if it would be wise to make an immediate return, in spite of the insistent demand of the business interests. Would business be benefited? No national issue has produced more conflicting views than the problem of what to do with the railroads. The private owners want them back, realizing that under the present freight and passenger rates and with the government's financing program there would be more revenues than before the roads were taken over by the government. The railroad administration says the change should not be made now, as the conditions are such that an injury would result by too quick a release of the rail properties. The employees of the roads are almost unanimous for maintaining federal control, business looking only at peace time conditions with low rates and other favors obtainable under private control, wants to get back the same conditions, and congress doesn't know what to do. From the viewpoint of the parties to the controversy each side has meritorious claims. What the country needs and wants is a solution involving the good features of all of the contentions, and for the best interests of the most people, but congress frankly admits that it is not equal to the task of arriving at the proper solution. While the retention of federal control may be objectionable at this time, there is no assurance that a change back to the old system would help, because conditions as they existed before the war will never return. Should the roads be given back under the changed status it is probable that there would be no better service and no reduction either in wages or rates. With the government's financing program, there is reason to believe that in a year conditions will be restored

in much better shape for the resumption of control by the private owners. There is no dispute about the present unsatisfactory conditions, the question being how to best go about securing improvement.

The least of our worries is the proposed income tax amendment.

It is mighty hard for some people to realize that the laws of the land apply to all alike.

The German general assembly has a squabble, which shows that it is rapidly becoming democratized.

Warm weather is coming on and we haven't heard anything for several weeks about the municipal ice plant.

There is a sneaking feeling that a revaluation of property will equalize and reduce tax burdens.

Among the things for others to worry about is the advance in the price of beer in New York.

Many people want government control of public highways, but don't want the government to keep the railroads. Funny, ain't it!

Secretary Redfield is either a poor real estate dealer or one of the sharpest, according to the committee report.

France may not want German territory, but she does want assurance that Germany will never be able to get any of France's.

Now that the legislature has spent all the money it finds necessary it is faced with the problem of providing funds to meet the appropriations.

The legislative committee in passing upon the question of dividing Robeson county, evidently remembered the old cry of "Hold Robeson and save the state!"

The national suffragist party at last appears to have seen some of the errors of its way, and it is announced that a modified suffrage amendment will be presented to congress. If they had done this some time ago they would have been much further along the road to their ultimate goal than they are today.


The south seems to be an undesirable number on the program of northern and western politicians. They yelled about the influence southern men had in the Democratic administration, and now they are alarmed over the alleged efforts of Chairman Hays, of the Republican national committee, to get control of southern Republicans. They seem only to want us to vote what they consider right and let them run things.

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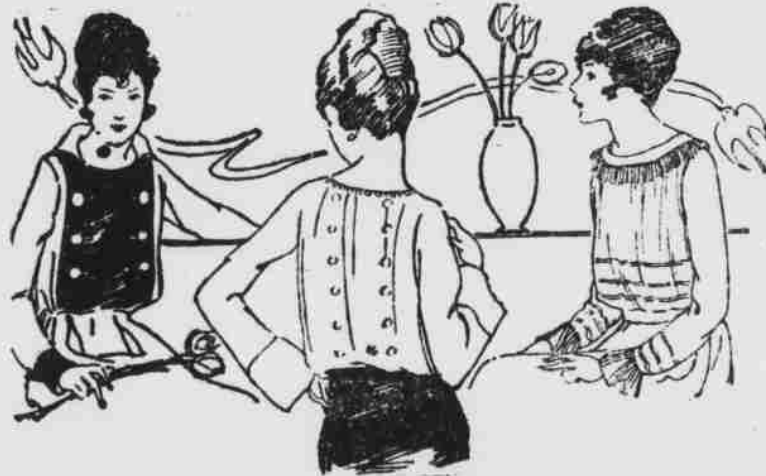
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