

MIDWINTER BEAR HUNT

L. D. LOWE. There was a heavy crop of chestnuts and the bears had become very fat before hibernating for the winter...

A GOOD AUTO STORY

A man who had never driven an automobile, recently purchased a high-powered car. After a few lessons he was full of confidence in his ability to manage it all alone.

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE TO U. S. CLERGY IS ISSUED

A joint New Year's message to the clergy of the United States was issued Saturday evening by Alvin Owsley, national commander and Rev. William F. O'Connor, national chaplain of the American Legion.

24,000 MEN AND WOMEN ARE GIVEN EMPLOYMENT IN N. C.

Raleigh, N. C.—Twenty-four thousand men and women were given employment in North Carolina during the past 12 months through the co-operation of the state and federal government in the employment service of which M. L. Shipman is director.

WOMAN IS ELECTED TO GREENSBORO POLICE FORCE

Miss Louise B. Alexander, lawyer and state president of the North Carolina League of Women Voters, was elected a member of the Greensboro Police Force, December 28th.

RESTAURANTS AND CAFES CHARGING TOO MUCH

(Boston, Dispatch) Down town restaurants and lunch rooms are making excessive charges for food, District Attorney O'Brien reported to the legislature today as the finding of the county grand jury.

BIG LIQUOR HAUL MADE OFF FLORIDA COAST

While A. B. Stroup divisional prohibition chief for Florida was on his way to Fernandina to seize the Cuban yacht Miguel Ferrarer and his cargo of several thousand cases of liquor, several of his subordinates were bringing in to Jacksonville an auxiliary sloop registered as V-10220 seized near Mayport, at the mouth of the Saint John's river with enough liquor aboard to put a dent into the supply of Christmas cheer destined to be distributed by Jacksonville bootleggers within the next few days.

EXECUTIONERS ASK HIGH RATE FOR SERVICES

Officials of Welland county, Canada, are worrying about a double hanging which is set to take place in the county jail on January 12th. One of the chief causes of concern is that no official hangman has yet been engaged.

WATAUGA FALLS ITEMS

Mr. Eoly Vines, one of the County's best teachers and business men, was married to Miss Edna Tester, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tester of this community, on December 23. Rev. J. H. Farthing united the happy couple in the bonds of matrimony.

ESCAPE OF AVIATORS IS SOMETHING REMARKABLE

A big airplane piloted by J. E. Walters of Lumberton, crashed 1,800 feet to earth at Chadbourn, fifty miles from Wilmington Saturday afternoon but Walter escaped injury and his companion, Howard Bryan, of Lumberton, suffered only minor injuries.

IN ADDITION TO A PRISON SENTENCE FOR SPEEDERS, A DETROIT MUNICIPAL JUDGE HAS THE VIOLATORS TAKEN THROUGH THE CHILDREN'S WARD OF RECEIVING HOSPITAL THAT THEY MAY SEE AT CLOSE HAND WHAT SUFFERING THE SPEED CAR HAS WROUGHT.

In addition to a prison sentence for speeders, a Detroit municipal judge has the violators taken through the children's ward of Receiving Hospital that they may see at close hand what suffering the speed car has wrought. The judge also promises to take the speeders to the county morgue there to view those who have been killed by reckless drivers.

New Year Wishes

By CHRISTOPHER G. HAZARD Copyright, 1922, Western Newspaper Union. ASSURANCE. WHEATHER the year may bring. Of things not understood. We certain are that everything. Will have to serve our good. We may go on with joyous tread. And not a single thing to dread.

SOMETHING NEW. AMID the false, amid the true. Between the laurel and the yew. Thank God for something young and new! And may this new leaf of time's page. This fair addition to our age. Be filled with sunny wit and sage!

NINETEEN TWENTY-THREE. MAY the New Year be threaded through. With strands of blue and gold for you! Things high and precious, far and fine. To serve, inspire, delight and shine!

And here we stand to say "Good-by!" Brief words—and yet we scarce know why. They bring a moisture to the eye. And to the heart some quakes and aches; We speak their very tenderly. With half a sob and half a sigh— "Old Year, good-by! Old Year, good-by!" —W. K. Barleigh.

HERE we stand again on the borderland of Welcome and Good-by. There is so little between them and so much either side of them.

When the great bell of time strikes the midnight hour, and 1922 passes into the land of long ago, there is one simple resolution that we can all make with pretty good surety that we can keep it till the next midnight chimes—that we will be a better man or woman in the next year than in the last.

That won't be a hard resolution to fulfill in some degree, and if everyone is even a little better, there will be a heap more goodness, kindness, success and love in the world when 1923 rings out than there is now.

The untold year brings with it another chance for all—a chance to make good where we have failed a chance to benefit by what we have counted as failures in the year that is passing out.

The old year has been a difficult one for many. Some have lost heart. The new year, which gives promise of so much that is better, will bring new courage and hope to them.

If we can let the unhappy part of the past year go with it, and only remember the good, it will help toward all that is best in the new.

One of the best things that we can hope for the untold year is that it will be a busy one for everybody. Work is the best promoter of goodness and happiness, and the best cure for trouble and sorrow that there is.

When the solemn, happy bells "Ring out across the snow," let them ring out with them the bad things and ring in all that is good and true and beautiful that is within the power of each one of us.

ANIMALS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY

Oxen, Cows, Sheep, Goats and Pigs Blessed in Churches of Italy, Spain and France.

IN ITALY, Spain and France more is made of New Year's day than Christmas and on St. Sylvester's eve as the last day of the year is called the utmost joyousness prevails. Even the animals are blessed in the churches. A correspondent who attended one of these quaint ceremonies, writes:

The priest lifted high the host and said some words of benediction at which the people fell on their knees with a response. An acolyte with a holy-water sprinkler passed through the columns of animals deftly throwing the sacred water upon them. The oxen and cows were thus blessed first, then the sheep and goats and lastly the pigs. A moon nearly full glittered high above the mountain stones and combined with the light from the candles revealed the long, polished horns and beaving sides and sleek coats of the oxen and cows and the white woolly skins of the sheep. The acolyte passing among them, incensed them and their bellowing, bleating and squealing arose to a tumult. But, high above all, the voice of the priest was heard, as he chanted these words:

"My children, God in his goodness sends me, his unworthy servant, here to bless your flocks, according to an ancient custom of our mountains, so that these animals by whose aid you live may join in our religious ceremonies which usher in the New Year. Let us then sing a loud hosanna of praise to the ever-merciful Lord so lenient to sinners."

a windy month. Spring, a budding month, a flowery month and a pasture month. Summer, a harvest month, a hot month and a fruit month.

Each month began somewhere between the 18th and the 22nd—according to our reckoning. Thus the first month of the autumn trio began on September 22, and lasted until October 21, etc.

With the restoration of a stable government in France, this calendar was repealed, and the usual one substituted. But for a time, as we have seen, New Year day did not begin on January 1, in France, so late as the last century, and it does not begin on that date in non-Christian countries today!

Relic of Saxon Days (6, 1922, Western Newspaper Union.)

THE New Year begins precisely at midnight, and almost everyone nowadays sees the New Year in by general festivities and many good resolutions, which are promptly forgotten on January 2.

The festivities marking this occasion, says Hereward Carrington, scientist and author, are very ancient, and in old Saxon days it was the custom to partake of a bowl of spiced ale, which was passed around with the expression "Wasshael," which meant "to your health!" Hence the origin of the Wassail, or Wassel bowl.

We now keep New Year on January the first; but the Chinese, Jews, Turks and many others do not observe it on this day. Even Christian countries have not always so observed it; the Romans began the year with the March equinox. The later Teutonic nations for a long time continued counting the beginning of the year from March 25.

It was only in 1563, by an edict of Charles IX, that France changed the time of the beginning of the year to January 1. In 1600 Scotland made the same change, and England only did so in 1752, when the Gregorian system was adopted there. It will thus be seen that the New Year, observed on January 1, is relatively new, though we are accustomed to think that it dates back from time immemorial.

It was Julius Caesar, in the year 46 B. C., who first reformed the calendar—aided by the Egyptian astronomer Sosigenes. He made it a few minutes too long, and a second correction was necessary. Pope Gregory made certain changes in 1582, A. D., and additional minor changes were made later on, from the "old style" to the "new style" calendar. We now employ the new style.

After the French revolution France decided to set up an entirely new order of things. A new calendar was made. The Christian era was wiped out, and was replaced by the new French era, beginning September 22, 1792. Instead of our week of seven days, a week of ten days was established—in accordance with the decimal system—the tenth day being set aside for rest.

Instead of the mythological names of the months, others deduced from the prevailing seasons of the year were substituted.

Everything was to be based upon reason! The Notre Dame was converted into a "Temple of Reason." Mme. Momoero, the young and beautiful wife of a Jacobin printer, was chosen to represent "Reason." And so it went.

The months were chosen and given French names which were thought to be characteristic of them. Thus, autumn had a vintage month, a berry month and a stony month. Winter, a snowy month, a long month and a stormy month.

FAMISHED TIMBER WOLVES EXACT TOLL IN HUMAN LIVES

Port Arthur, Ont., Dec. 27.—A great roving band of hungry timber wolves has devoured three men, according to meagre reports sifting in today from the snow covered trails of the Sturgeon river country. These reports told of a losing battle fought by two Indians after a white trapper had been downed and killed.

Last Saturday an elderly trapper left his cabin in the woods 70 miles north of Ignace in Mush down to the settlement for his Christmas mail. He arrived in safety. There was no mail, however, and the old man said he would come back Christmas morning. At noon he had not arrived. The postmaster sent two Indians to follow the trail until they found him.

About two miles from the settlement the Indians found a spot pounded in the snow and crimson hue. Bits of dog harness torn to shreds were scattered about. In the midst of them the Indians found human bones. They hastened back to report their discovery.

The lure of the bounty on wolves however urged the Indians to take the trail again with extra ammunition. They sped behind their dog teams into the woods as the villagers waved good bye. They did not return.

Yesterday a new searching party departed. They found another patch trodden in the snow about two miles beyond the first.

The two guns of the Indians were laying there and scattered about were bones, bits of clothing and empty shells. The carcasses of sixteen dead wolves lay stretched in a circle about the trampled patch of snow.

THE MOONSHINER OR THE LAW

There seems no mistake about the fact that the Government has made determined acceptance of the challenge by the bootlegger. The issue drawn for the New Year is whether the bootlegger or the law shall run the country. With the first of the year divisional headquarters of the prohibition enforcement bureau will be opened at High Point, where 10 agents will be assembled under Chief Sams. The territory over which these men will have active charge is composed of the whole of North Carolina and part of Virginia, and it is significant that the offices were moved to this center from so important a place as Norfolk, High Point, therefore, is to be the center from which prohibition enforcement operations will be conducted next year. High Point seems duly appreciative of the distinction that has come its way, and has promised hearty co-operation and support.—Charlotte Observer.

ROMINGER HAPPENINGS

Deputy Sheriff Johnson was here collecting taxes on the 21st. Mr. Custer Baird was here with his truck buying apples last week and hauled away a load of very fine ones.

Mr. Willard Presnell and family spent Christmas with W. P. Mast. They have been living for some time in Tennessee.

Mr. Mancel Rominger and son, Coy and wife, O. A. Baird, and Daily Presnell have gone to Akron Ohio to work this winter.

In the way of road construction it is hard to get to the bridge with an empty wagon.

A little child of Wesley Presnell's was buried at the Mast Grave yard recently.

Little Miss May, daughter of Chas. Gilliam, is a very sick girl at this time.

W. S. Rominger has been on the sick list recently.

Mr. Ben Harman made a business call at C. W. Gilliam's last Sunday.

Messrs. Charles Gilliam Boyd, and Harman and Charles Mast are contemplating going to Akron Ohio about the first of the year.

Mr. Carson Mastin of Matney and Miss Cameline, daughter of W. R. Ward of this place were married recently.

Mr. J. E. Harmon a highly respected old gentleman, died here a few days ago.

The bridge near John Mast's is completed and will be a great convenience if we had a road to it. It seems like money thrown away if something isn't done.

PIRATES GET \$1,000,000 WORTH OF LIQUOR IN RAID

A report received from customs officials today from Nassau, Bahamas, of a \$1,000,000 liquor robbery on the high seas was taken by customs officials as proof of reports that pirates were raiding rum runners off the Atlantic Coast. The report said the Vincent A. White, which cleared from Nassau for Miquelon, on October 21 with 10,000 cases of liquor, had been boarded off the New York coast and all the liquor and money she carried taken.

When an American offered the Russian players of Oberammergau a million dollars for the privilege of filming the Passion Play without a change in cast, the players sacrificed their locks and saved their self-respect and honor. Owing to the depreciation of the mark, the temptation to violate a sacred tradition was great. Anton Jung's philosophy that riches do not bring contentment and happiness, two assets the players now possess.

1923 Greetings TO OUR MANY FRIENDS AND CUSTOMERS: While we may be new merchants we are at the old stand and are old in the business of Bargains and Square Dealing. We want your trade during this year and shall do all in our power to merit it. We shall mention our bargains from time to time and call your attention now to our LARGE AND COMPLETE LINE OF GROCERIES, SHOES, CLOTHING, DRY GOODS, HOSIERY, FURNITURE AND OTHER LINES OUR PRICES ARE ATTRACTIVE COME AND SEE US WATAUGA SUPPLY CO.