

PAGE IS SEEKING AID OF MINISTERS

TO AROUSE PEOPLE TO REALIZATION OF THEIR INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY.

DISPATCHES FROM RALEIGH

Doings and Happenings That Mark the Progress of North Carolina People, Gathered Around the State Capital.

The increasing seriousness of the food situation has led State Food Administrator Henry A. Page to make a stirring appeal to the Christian ministers of North Carolina to arouse their people to a realization of what the situation holds and of their individual responsibility in meeting the situation.

First: The United States has already exported to its allies and neutral Europe this country's normal export surplus of wheat; while the same is approximately true of beef and pork and fats; and we have drawn largely on our normal supply of sugar to help out the French and English.

Because of the transportation situation practically all the food which reaches Europe during the next few months must come from America and with our ordinary surplus already gone a marked reduction in our normal consumption of wheat, beef and pork products, fats and sugar, must be made in order to save our allied countries from a collapse and to save as many as possible of the people of neutral Europe from starvation.

Every Particle Will Count. The situation has sifted down to where it can be very clearly and definitely stated that every ounce of wheat and beef and pork and every particle of fats or sugar which is saved by any individual by substitution of other products or through economy will help not only to win the war but to save the life of some starving woman or child in Europe.

"The heartrending part of it all," declares Mr. Page, "is that our people have not waked up to a realization of the horrible death that threatens several hundred thousand individuals in Europe, or even to the terrible menace of a complete German victory if our European allies should collapse because we do not supply them with the foodstuffs which they must have if they are to hold out. The critical period is NOW."

It has been announced by the Food Administration that the price of \$0.046 a pound for the new crop of raw sugar in Cuba will mean less sugar to the consumer during the coming year. The Cuban crop, which is now being harvested, is estimated at three millions three and a half million tons which, added to our own crop of 600,000,000 tons of beet sugar and 200,000,000 tons of Louisiana cane sugar will be more than ample for our needs with the exercise of reasonable economy in using sugar.

The raw-sugar from Cuba will begin reaching our refineries within the next two or three weeks and the sugar problem will be very largely solved no far as any actual sugar famine is concerned. The utmost economy in the use of sugar, however, will be necessary during the period of the war on account of the very great decrease in the best sugar crop of France and Italy.

New Mills For Forest City. Charters have been issued for two new textile manufacturing corporations, both for Forest City, Rutherford county, and the incorporators of both companies are the same parties. The Wingo Manufacturing company has \$200,000 capital authorized and \$300 minimum for organization purposes subscribed by J. F. Alexander, W. G. Bostic and J. H. Thomas. The company is to manufacture hosiery, underwear, shirts and the like.

The Alexander Manufacturing company has \$500,000 capital authorized and \$300 subscribed for organization purposes by Alexander, Bostic and Thomas for manufacture of twines, yarns, cloths and cotton fabrics generally.

It is far better to sign the food pledge card late than not at all. Farmers who chop wood to save coal in our cities this winter will be making the chips fly for freedom. Food in the mouths of our allies is ammunition no less important than the shells in their siege guns.

The sugar that goes to waste in the bottom of American teaspoons would help to sweeten the life of many a French home. Christmas candy that requires little or no sugar is a gift to our allies as well as to the receiver. Buckwheat cakes should taste better this winter when cooked over a wood fire.

Food saving does not mean eating any less food but a more judicious selection of your diet. The food problem is an individual one. You and all others have in it a personal responsibility. When sugar is craved, buy fruits instead of candy, cream and soft drinks, it will be better for the body as well as being a patriotic act. Give children fruit, fruit juices, fruit breads and fruit cookies instead of candies and rich cakes.

12th Rural Routes in N. C. Special from Washington.—North Carolina rural carriers and patrons of rural mail routes will be interested in Postmaster General Burleson's recommendations for that branch of the service in his annual report submitted. "At the close of the fiscal year," said Mr. Burleson's report, "5,532,705 families representing a total population by 27,060,857 persons, were being served by rural carriers at an annual cost of \$52,920,408, as compared with 5,719,062 families, the equivalent of 26,307,638 persons on the close of the previous year, and at an annual rate of expenditure of \$51,515,616; that is, in 1917 there were 753,171 additional persons served, at an increase in expense of \$1,204,792, or a unit cost of \$1.60 per patron.

"At the end of the fiscal year 43,463 rural routes were in operation, covering 1,112,556 miles, and averaging 25.60 miles to the route, an increase of 536 routes over last year. "During the year 387 tri-weekly routes were established and 38 tri-weekly routes were discontinued. Service on 175 tri-weekly routes was made daily, and the service on two daily routes was reduced to tri-weekly. "There was an increase of 672 rural carriers as compared with the previous year.

In North Carolina. North Carolina has 1,493 rural routes with a mileage of 32,264, which are maintained at an annual cost of \$4,608,555. The number of patrons served by these routes total 1,075,210. The annual cost per patron is \$4.524.

Judges to Exchange Courts. An exchange of courts between Judges George W. Conner, W. A. Devin and W. M. Bend is authorized by Governor Bickett so that Judge Conner holds the courts of the ninth judicial district January 7 to the week of February 25; Judge Devin holds the courts of the tenth district January 7 to the week ending March 4 and Judge Bend the courts of the first district December 31 to the end of the week of March 4.

Agricultural Clerks Get Raise. The state board of agriculture adopted a 2,000,000 \$ budget for the next year's departmental work. It included \$14,000 for cattle tick eradication, the federal government to expend an additional \$41,000 for this work. Increases of 10 per cent on the salaries of departmental clerks receiving less than \$2,000 and 10 per cent on salaries of \$2,000 and more are allowed.

Norris Gets a Pardon. L. J. Norris, Raleigh pressman, convicted in 1911 of second degree murder in the killing of J. B. Blissett, just east of the Raleigh ball park, and sentenced to twenty years in the State Prison was pardoned conditionally by Governor Bickett after it has been presented to him that there was considerable doubt as to the prisoner's guilt and that he had made a most exemplary prisoner.

Woman Food Head for Wake. Mrs. J. R. Chamberlain has been appointed county food administrator for Wake county, succeeding J. M. Broughton, Jr., who resigned because of his inability to give justice to the increasing duties of the position and at the same time attend to his duties as president and chairman of the Wake county council of defense.

Our money cannot buy bread and meat in Europe for our allies for there is little to buy. We must give them food—REAL food. To do this we must conserve by substitution.

Savings Stamp Campaign On. Fifty-nine of the counties were represented by chairmen. Each of these was informed as to just exactly the amount of these savings stamps and certificates their counties are expected to absorb. At the same time the details of the operation of these savings stamps and certificates were explained.

State's Allotment. The county chairman throughout the state will be advised at once as to the amounts their counties are to take in rounding out the \$48,538,535 that North Carolina is assessed in the nationwide campaign for these war savings stamps and certificates which are confidently expected to mark a new era in the thrift development of the state and nation.

The conference here of Director Frank H. Fries of the war savings stamp campaign in this state with the chairmen in the various counties of the state as he has appointed them proved highly successful. The net outcome is that the state will at once be honeycombed by workers in a most strenuous campaign in a combined patriotic and commercial effort.

Colonel Fries, Governor Bickett, Judge R. W. Winston and Gilbert Stephenson were special speakers for the conference.

In his spirited address endorsing the movement and appealing for the fullest possible support for it, Governor Bickett expressed confidence that the "lights would be kept brightly burning" in this state for the return of the boys who are being rushed to the war fronts and that this movement of savings in support of the government, with stamps and certificates in the names of those who have gone to the front, along with others at home, would serve a wonderful purpose in making available funds after the war for the home-coming soldiers, and the hosts of other investors.

Colonel Fries, in his address stressed the tremendous benefit this fifty millions of savings will be for the people of the state after the war when there will be the greatest need for it. He also spoke of the lessons in savings and general thrift that will be learned by the people while rendering this great aid to the nation in time of war. In making a great success of the conference Colonel Fries was assisted by Gilbert Stephenson, and R. O. Self of the state committee staff.



Gift Bringer In Various Countries

THE Dutch girls sing a pretty little song on the feast of St. Nicholas instead of writing a letter to Santa Claus: Santa Claus, you good-natured man, Give me some nuts and sweetmeats—Not too much, not too little. Throw them into my apron. For a Christmas without gifts would be no Christmas at all. So always there is a gift bringer, akin in nature, if different in name, to the good St. Nicholas, once Bishop of Myra, who loved children and whose memory lives vitally today through its association with the great Christmas festival. Kris Kringle, Father Christmas, Santa Claus, Sinterklaas, are identical. The holy Christ child comes to Germany. In mystical Brittany the Christ himself is thought to come to bless the households of the pious, especially the homes of simple shepherds.

In Spain on "Twelfth Night" all the people, young and old, put their shoes and slippers out on the balcony outside the window in order that the three kings journeying by may see and fill them. There are also grotesque Christmas visitors. Knaeve Ruprecht, terror of Teutonic babyhood, has a load of nuts and apples and other goodies with him, as well as his traditional bunch of switches.

The "Julbok" or "kiapperbok," a tall, thin beast, with goatskin covered head, is after naughty Danish children, just as the "habersack" is after those in the Harz mountains. Sinterklaas sends sometimes a goat laden with presents. The animals which the saint of Christmas uses for his carriers are quite as various. Donner and Blitzen and the other fleet reindeer come first. Santa drives a span of reindeer in Sweden. In Alaska he comes by dog team. Camels, so the story goes, bring the three kings into Spain on their gift bringing errand, though sacred art would show us that horses might be used as well historically. In Holland, of the Zuyder Zee, St. Nicholas comes on skates over the frozen wastes of water. In England there are in use for Christmas several imitation horses, the hobby horses of the Morris dancers, which appear still in Staffordshire, according to their ancient habit.—Chicago Tribune.

Christ Flowers. Born of the clouds and darkness, Of the frost and early snow, When the summer blooms have faded, The beautiful Christ flowers blow. All through the budding springtime, All through the summer's heat, All through the autumn's glory They hide their blossoms sweet. But when the earth is lonely And the bitter north winds blow, With a smile of cheer for the dear old year The Christmas blossoms blow. Sweetest of all consolers! Feast of flowers that grow! When hopes and flowers have faded The beautiful Christ flowers blow. Bright in the cottage window, Sweet in the darkened room, Fair in the shortened twilight, Cheering the dusky gloom, Oh, when our hearts are lonely And clouds of care hang low, What blessed cheer for our dying year, The Christmas blossoms blow!

Afternoon Dresses. Tweeds and homespuns stand hard wear amazingly, and in many mixtures show soft very little. This season, too, there are some extremely nice things in homespuns and tweeds of somewhat gay coloring. The yellow tones, for example, have been very well handled, and certain imported coats and domestic models made up of imported cloths are of mixtures in which soft gold yellow tones predominate, so that at a little distance the cloth looks like plain gold-yellow.

December. By J. C. OLIVER. MONTH for jamed! For festive days and nights renowned, Joy fraught, with hallowed benedictions crowned. Life's annual clearing house for retrospective thought, Where penance memory recalls the smiles, the tears, The hopes and joys of youth, the loves of vanished years, And sighs to see the havoc, sad, that Time has wrought.

O hoary month! In regions of the north and east The song of bird and rippling of the brook have ceased, And Nature's thousand charms of summer days have fled. There boras reigns, fierce God of wind and storms And winter all of verdure, into brown and white transforms And leaves no trace of life and beauty sped.

O happy month! When keen anticipation, sweet, Flies swift on wings of ardent love to greet With gifts the friend, the lover or the kindred near. As winter closer draws his icy fettered chains The heart expands and love unselfish reigns And speeds its largess to the ones most dear.

Illustrous month of most illustrious birth! Good tidings, peace and joy to all the earth A heavenly choir announced when Christ was born. No other birth such mighty portent bore, This Prince of Peace whom heaven and earth adore. How thrills the heart at thought of Christmas morn! —Los Angeles Times.

The First Christmas Day

Told For the Littlest Children. LISTEN dear little children, and you shall hear about the very first Christmas day. It was in a country across the sea, far away from here, that some shepherds were watching their flocks one night. The sheep were resting on the grass, the little lambs were fast asleep beside their mothers, but the kind shepherds were not asleep. They were watching that no harm should happen to the sheep.

Perhaps they were looking up at the stars and the beautiful moon above them when suddenly there appeared a wonderful light in the sky, brighter than the moon, or stars, as if the sky had opened and they saw the glory within. While the shepherds were looking up, wondering what was the cause of that strange light, a beautiful shining angel came near to them and said: "Fear not. I bring you good tidings which shall be to all people. This day is born a Savior, and ye shall find the babe lying in a manger."

And suddenly the angel was joined by a multitude of the heavenly host singing praises to God. This was their song: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth Peace, good will toward men. When the angels had gone back to heaven the shepherds said they would go to Bethlehem and see this Savior of whom the angels sang. They went and found him, a little baby, in a stable, with no cradle to lie in, only a manger for his bed. That little baby was Jesus, who when he grew up said: "Let the little children come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." His birthday was the first Christmas day, and ever since that time we kept that day as a joyful and happy one.—New York Press.

To All Our Friends May Christmas Bring You Merry Cheer, To Last You Through A Glad New Year

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON FOR DECEMBER 23 THE STORY OF THE FIRST CHRISTMAS.

LESSON TEXT—Matthew 21:12. GOLDEN TEXT—There is born to you this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.—Luke 2:11. The story of the birth of Jesus is recorded in three of the four Gospels, Matthew, Luke and John, each of which contributes some feature essential to complete the picture. No one should teach this lesson who does not have a good "harmony of the Gospels." Every year for the 45 years of the International Sunday School Lessons, we have had the Christmas lesson taken from these three Gospels one at a time. This year in closing the present series, we unite all three Gospels in one complete story, "The Story of the First Christmas."

The order of events should clearly be kept in mind as follows: "The angelic announcement to Zacharias, the priest, while in the exercise of his ministerial office. The angelic announcement to Mary, the mother of Jesus, and to Joseph, her espoused husband. Mary's visit to her cousin, Elizabeth, and the birth of John the Baptist. The birth of Jesus and his circumcision on the eighth day (Luke 2:21). His redemption some 31 days later, introducing Simon the priest (Luke 2:22), and the purification of the mother.

The coming of Jesus was at the most opportune time in all the history of the world, for Palestine was the central region of the Roman empire. The whole civilized world was subject to Roman domination. He was born while the entire world was at peace, for once in its history. Travel was at its best, for the Roman military roads all centered in Rome and extended throughout the empire. The Greek language was spoken everywhere, along with native languages, so that the Gospel could readily be heard in all parts of the empire. The Old Testament was translated into Greek. The Jews were scattered throughout all lands, carrying this Old Testament with them, and had established their synagogues in nearly every city and town. There was also a wide-spread intellectual and moral awakening, and there was wide-spread religious unrest and a hungering for something better.

1. The Search. Notice that he who was born on this first Christmas, was the "only begotten of God." This divine being became flesh, a strange and seemingly impossible union, but only such a union of the human and divine could draw man to God. If Jesus had not been identified with the divine nature of God, all the love, honor and devotion which we give to him, would lead us into idolatry. (1) Wisdom seeking (vv. 1, 2). See also Acts 13:6. Who these men were, we do not know. They were evidently students of the stars, and perhaps came from Persia whither Balaam went. (Numbers 23:7; Numbers 24:17-19.) They may have known of Daniel's prophecy. They came because they had seen a star. A little light, only a small star, and we may have the sun. (John 8:12.) The highest wisdom is to know God. (Prov. 9:10.) We do not have to seek far to find him. The highest wisdom is also teachable: "Where is he that is born?" These wise men were not the first ones to seek him, for the humble shepherds who had heard the angelic host (Luke 2:15, 16), immediately went to Jerusalem to make sure that the good news was true. Tradition only gives us the names of these men. They typify the world, the first Gentiles who came to seek Jesus. (2) Wickedness Seeking (v. 3-8). It is interesting to note the alarm of Herod, his suspicion and jealousy. Why? Note the carefulness of Herod's search. First the chief priests, who were the theologians; then the scribes and lawyers, who were the historians; then the common people who were familiar with the traditions; and, finally, the wise men (v. 7). He thought he had not left any loop-hole in his search, but he had neglected God. It is interesting to know that the searching of Scripture on this occasion did not produce the result we most naturally think of in connection with the study of the word of God.

11. Wisdom Rewarded (vv. 9-11). Persistent obedient searching after God always brings wisdom. Notice the steps of the wise men. They sought, they found, they rejoiced, they worshiped and they gave gifts. The stable of Christ's birth is evidently an exchange for a house (v. 11 and Luke 2:7). The gifts they presented have a threefold significance: Gold, for royalty, indicating divine glory; Frankincense for deity, the aroma of his life; Myrrh, signifying death, his death and its value to mankind. Notice that they did not worship Mary. They gave their best gifts and thus they provided for his flight into Egypt. Their gifts represented the world's tribute, but notice that worship came before giving. (Psalm 72:10, 11.)

111. Wickedness Folted (vv. 12-16). God intervened (v. 12). Notice the impotent rage of the enemy (v. 16). Christ was delivered. Herod was dismayed, and the people were desolate, due to sin. Notice the contrasts. Men seeking, Jerusalem careless. Men seeking to worship, Herod, to kill. God intervening to protect (v. 12); Herod to destroy (v. 16). Joy coming to the wise men, wrath to the folted wicked ones. Suggestions: The cry "where" of the human heart is here answered. God answers all honest searching. God himself gave his best gift (John 3:16). God also desires our best gift. We must worship Jesus as king. Religion is not for the Magi alone, nor for the common people; it is for all. We have not far to go to seek the Christ.

SHOWAN MOTOR COMPANY. Passenger—Mail—Express. Daily Except Sundays. No Steamer on Sundays. Lv. Murfreesboro ... 7:50 am—1:10 pm Lv. Como-Mapleton... 8:10 am—1:30 pm Lv. Sears Wharf ... 8:40 am—3:00 pm Lv. Winton ... 9:50 am—3:00 pm Ar. Tunis ... 10:10am—3:20 pm Lv. Tunis ... 10:40 am—6:06 pm Lv. Winton ... 11:00 am—6:25 pm Lv. Sears Wharf... 12:05 pm—7:25 pm Lv. Mapleton-Como... 12:35 pm—7:40 pm Ar. Murfreesboro ... 1:00 pm—3:15 pm URIAH VAUGHAN, Mgr.

WELLINGTON AND POWELLVILLE RAILROAD. SOUTH. No. 1—Leave Washington (R. F. & F. R. R.) 4:20 a. m.; leave Richmond (A. C. L.) 8:15 a. m.; leave Weldon (A. C. L.) 11:25 a. m.; leave Wilmington (A. C. L.) 7:40 a. m.; leave South This November 23rd, 1914 Rocky Mount (A. C. L.) 12:55 p. m.; arrive Ahoskie (A. C. L.) 2:43 p. m.; leave Norfolk (A. C. L.) 3:40 p. m.; leave Suffolk (A. C. L.) 5:05 p. m. Arrive Ahoskie 6:13 p. m. Wellington & Powellville R. R. No. 1—Leave Ahoskie 6:25 p. m.; leave Powellville 6:39 p. m.; leave Cremona (Branding) 6:53 p. m.; leave Holly Grove 6:58 p. m.; leave Askewville 7:00 p. m.; arrive Windsor 7:30 p. m.

Passenger—Leave Windsor 2:30 p. m.; leave Howard 3:30 p. m.; leave Steels 3:45 p. m.; leave Blanchards 4:45 p. m.; leave Sans Soucie 5:15 p. m.; arrive Plymouth 6:30 p. m.

NORTH. Steamer. Passenger—Leave Plymouth 7:00 a. m.; leave Sans Soucie 8:30 a. m.; leave Blanchards 9:00 a. m.; leave Steels 10:00 a. m.; arrive Windsor 11:00 a. m.

Wellington & Powellville R. R. No. 2—Leave Windsor 8:50 a. m.; leave Butler's 9:02 a. m.; leave Askewville 9:17 a. m.; leave Holly Grove 9:23 a. m.; leave Cremona (Branding) 9:28 a. m.; leave Powellville 9:41 a. m.; arrive Ahoskie 9:56 a. m. A. C. L.

No. 3—Leave Ahoskie 11:06 a. m.; leave Suffolk 12:21 noon; arrive Norfolk 1:35 p. m.; leave Ahoskie 10:50 a. m.; leave South Rocky Mount 12:50 noon; arrive Wilmington 6:50 p. m.; leave Weldon 6:00 p. m.; leave Richmond 7:45 p. m.; arrive Washington (R. F. & P. R. R.) 11:50 p. m.

Connections—No. 1 with A. C. L. R. R.; No. 2 with steamer line, with A. C. L. R. R. and Norfolk Southern R. R. Horton Corwin, Jr. President and Treasurer, Edenton, N. C. W. O. Pruden, Secretary, Edenton, N. C.

R. C. Holland, Auditor, Edenton, N. C. R. G. White, T. A. Edenton, N. C. W. M. Corwin, Sup., Ahoskie, N. C. W. M. Sutton, Gen. Frt. and Pass. Agt., Windsor, N. C.

Printing. Are You in Need of Tags, Cards, Blanks, Folders, Dodgers, Receipts, Envelopes, Statements, Bill Heads, Invitations, Packet Heads, Letter Heads. Call at this office. Good Work Is Our Specialty.

Do You Use Good Paper When You Write? We Can Print Anything and Do It Right. You May Talk to One Man. But an advertisement in this paper talks to the whole community. Catch the Idea!

TRAVEL VIA ALBEMARLE STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY. Plying on the Queen of North Carolina Streams, the CROWAN FIVER; also on MEMERRIN, BLACKWATER RIVER, BENNETTS and WICOON CREEKS, and the ALBEMARLE SOUND. Two Big Steel Steamers Carolina and Virginia. STEAMER VIRGINIA. From Franklin, Va., Mondays and Fridays. For Tunis, N. C., and intermediate points. From Tunis, N. C., Thursdays and Saturdays. For Franklin, Va., and intermediate points. From Tunis, N. C., to Harrellville, N. C., and return two days a week. From Tunis, N. C., to Gatesville, N. C., and return one day a week. For Further Information, Apply to W. M. SCOTT, General Passenger Agent, Franklin, Virginia.

YOUR AD In This Space Will Increase Your Business