

THE MORNING STAR

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THE MORNING STAR, the oldest daily newspaper in North Carolina, is published daily and mailed to subscribers outside the county at \$6 per year; \$4 for six months; \$1.50 for three months; or delivered in carrier in the city \$1.00 per month, or

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THE WILMINGTON STAR CO.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 1915.

A Paris paper says "the French women are up in arms." Probably so when the heroes are on hand.

A biologist says the war in Europe is simply a struggle between protozoa. If that be true the fittest ought to survive.

A little more than 30 days Eastern North Carolina will be hustling around to get its million dollar strawberry crop to market.

Two young married men met at the market and agreed that matrimony had made it necessary for them to go after "chicken" feed every now and then.

When a man once gets stuck on Wilmington he won't stay away, even if he runs the chance of returning and being caught for something that caused him to absent himself for a while.

Probably the handwriting is on the wall, but the Turks can't make out whether it is "Get out" or something else scrawled by the "Bear That Walks Like a Man."

The Largo (Fla.) Sentinel says: "Watch Largo Grow." No doubt there would be a great inrush of newcomers if the town would manufacture something like Largo beer.

If the Turks only knew enough they would give up Constantinople to the British and the French so they could once more make a nightmare of Russia's dream for centuries past.

Between now and the time for holding the next Republican National Convention a number of political incendiaries will try to make the country believe that they can set the whole world on fire.

The Baltimore American continues to insist that "a Republican will be in the White House in 1917." Of course, he will be in there long enough to congratulate President Wilson on his re-election.

In the West, a woman is resisting all efforts to make her turn over an oven to another. She announces her determination to hold on to it, in which respect there is no difference between a man and a woman.

Old Hurrygraph says in the Durham Sun: "Of course, if women vote they should tell their ages. Very few of them nowadays look old enough to vote." Of course, if North Carolina women were to try to vote, it would look as if they were engaging in some girlish prank.

Now that Congress has adjourned, Republicans are saying that "there is now no Congress in Washington to be bossed by President Wilson." The President got a great deal of necessary "team work" out of Congress, and the team management was so heartily endorsed that Republicans are laboring under the hallucination that Congress was bossed. In justice to the Congressmen, it is only necessary to state that they were only the teammates of the President.

The hammer and the anvil quarreled. "I'm tired of hammering from morning till night," the anvil complained. "It's true," said the hammer, "that you stand a whole lot of pounding, but that is what you were made for. I am the tool which makes something, but I couldn't make useful things out of iron, if I didn't make you do your part. You don't even make a noise till I hit you, but you become useful when I hammer you from morning till night." The anvil retorted: "Yes, you make an underling of me and put it all over me in every way, but I guess I'll have to be content with being an adjunct in the plan of economy." The bellows broke in with the remark that it boosted the whole shop by doing all the blowing, but the blacksmith wound up the conversation with the philosophic remark that so far as men are concerned some have to be hammers, some anvils and some blow-hards in order to achieve results.

The agricultural industry in our Southern states is such a tremendous one that its depression by war has taught us what it means. If we depress it further by withholding credits, business is in for it. We don't know that such has prevailed to any great

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THE LUMBER INDUSTRY AND THE WAR.

We often hear saw mill men assert that the depression in the lumber business is due solely to the Democratic tariff and that the war in Europe has nothing to do with it. As a matter of fact, the war has affected every line of business in America, even the newspaper business. One of the first effects of the war was to stop the building operations of the 100,000,000 people of the United States. Even repair work was suspended in most cities and in some of the largest of the cities of this country huge buildings were left half finished. Plans for others were deferred. Every man of intelligence must know that a condition like that would affect the lumber industry, all the building trades, and even the labor which is so essential a part in building and construction operations. The effect which the war had upon the money market alone would put a halt upon all kinds of business.

The tariff ought to bear whatever blame justly attaches to it for the condition of any business, but there is something else responsible for the depression in the lumbering industry of the South. Differential freight rates, for instance. It has not been so long ago that all the lumber manufacturers' associations were up in arms on the freight rate question and they appealed to the Interstate Commerce Commission for relief.

Most everybody has forgotten that the original Payne-Aldrich tariff bill put lumber on the free list. Senator Simmons wouldn't stand for it, and on that ground, together with "quebracho" and other things, the brilliant W. W. Kitchin waged war on him for his seat in the United States Senate. The altogether able and adroit Mr. Kitchin made speeches that rang from the sea to the mountains, and surely we have not forgotten that Senator Simmons' friends had to get busy. While New England and the North and the West were getting their share of protection and Senator Aldrich and Smoot and Representative Payne fully intended to leave the South out, Senator Simmons saw that it would mean inequitable taxation, so he made a successful fight for the retention of a tariff on lumber. Nevertheless, the Canadian, Northern and Western railways nullified it by immediately granting a freight differential in favor of Canadian lumber. The railroads reduced freight rates to points above the Ohio river and increased them from points below the Ohio river. They made it a stand-off, so the Western as well as the Southern lines could get lumber traffic from all the producing fields.

They did it also because consumers in states which have no lumber or timber interests wanted relief from the tariff on lumber. Those same consumers wanted their own interests protected, but they did not want to pay any tariff on Southern lumber if they could get the Canadian product cheaply by getting lumber on the free list. That is the reason the Republicans wanted to put lumber on the free list. They were complying with an insistent demand in the North and the Middle West, and if the Republicans get in power again they will be sure to put lumber on the free list again. They will do it because they will get the votes of the lumber consumers who outnumber the lumber producers.

The Republican party distributes the benefits of protection with an eye to business—ballot box business. They give plenty of it for that great part of the country where voters are the thickest, but they incidentally resort to the free list when it is to the interest of the most voters in the North. Therefore, the lumber people who say they want the Republican party back in power, so they can get protection on lumber so as to shut out Canadian lumber, want something they can't get from the Republican party—a high tariff on Northern lumber buyers for the benefit of Southern lumber manufacturers.

Let the lumber people remember that Northern Republicans are protectionists when they have something to sell and free lists when they have something to buy. Shoe manufacturers want a high tariff on shoes, but they want free leather and plenty of it to make protected shoes. They want to tax the masses who wear shoes, but they do not want to pay any tariff tax on the leather which they import for making shoes. They play the game open at one end and shut at the other, and it is the pet special interests which get benefits coming two ways—leather-free and shoe duty-high.

The Democrats are trying to adjust the tariff so its burdens and benefits will be equitable in all sections of the country, without regard to any special interest. They may have to revise their tariff in order to do that to the best advantage of the Treasury and the people, but they should be given time to accomplish what they honestly aim to do. Under such extraordinary war conditions as we face at the present, however, no economist or politician is able to correctly analyze the tariff question. All we know now is that if we had a high protective tariff to aid the war in shutting out foreign imports, ships would have to go to Europe loaded and come back empty.

Finally, it should be borne in mind that this is the only European war in which ten of our customer nations have ever participated at one time. The situation is without precedent. They can't buy as much from us as we would like to sell, and they can't sell us as much as we want to buy. We can deny the truth as to that? Not a living soul.

People who are willing to look the stubborn facts in the face surely have to agree with the Jacksonville Times-Union when it expresses the indisputable economic view that "the depression of industry and the paralysis of capi-

tal, for the moment in America, is as much the effect of the war in Europe as the starvation of Belgium and the slaughter of contending hosts on battlefields." Furthermore, when the war in Europe is at an end and the nations there are recovering from prostration, their unfortunate condition is bound to be fortunate for American industries. That will be inevitable. Europe will have to rebuild and it will depend upon America for the wherewithal in money and materials.

GRAIN EXPORTS FOR WILMINGTON.

A news item appeared in The Star a few days ago to the effect that a surplus of 365,000 bushels of corn from last year's crop remains in Hyde county because of the war in Europe. Few knew that North Carolina's eastern corn belt had been exporting corn to Germany till the war broke out and put an end to Hyde's export business.

The fact came out by reason of the action of the State Corporation Commission in allowing a readjustment of freight rates on the Norfolk Southern Railroad so Eastern North Carolina corn can reach the interior markets. While North Carolina has been buying thousands of car loads of corn, a portion of the State probably could supply a million or more bushels but for the matter of transportation—particularly railroad rates that would enable State consumers to get the North Carolina product.

A few years ago Hyde county lacked railroad facilities, and may to a large extent now be so isolated as to make rail shipments uneconomical. Yet the Norfolk Southern has come along and to a great extent will be a powerful factor in promoting the grain growing resources of that part of the State. When it comes to water transportation, Hyde had that, and the probability is that corn could be shipped to Bremen cheaper than it could be transported by rail to Charlotte.

Wilmington has water communication with Hyde and, owing to the fact that Europe will want an immense amount of grain for the next few years, it would be a good idea for Wilmington to prepare to export corn. There also will be a large increase in corn production all over Eastern North Carolina and the possibility is that Wilmington can concentrate it to great advantage for distribution both by export abroad and by rail to all parts of this country. If this is going to become a grain country, Wilmington wants to get the business.

Whenever it tries to get dull around Wilmington, something happens and disappoints it.

THINKS WELL OF FESTIVAL.

To the Editor of The Star:

I was delighted to see the suggestion of Mr. Harris in your column regarding the proposed Musical Festival at Lumina. Most of the larger cities have adopted the Musical Festival as an annual event, and I am pleased to see Wilmington falling in line. It may interest you to know that the subject has been discussed in musical circles for some time, and I feel assured that Mr. Harris will have the hearty appreciation and support of the music lovers of the city. I was one of several who believe Wilmington can compare favorably with any city in this respect and that the material for the making of a good chorus will be readily obtained by organized effort.

Having had the privilege of attending and taking part in festivals of this kind, both in this country and abroad, I have yet to learn of one that has not been a success, both musically and financially.

I wish Mr. Harris the best of success and trust his efforts will be brought to a successful termination and form the basis for a permanent choral society for the city of Wilmington.

Yours,
BERT JONES.

CURRENT COMMENT.

Since the strawberry season opened in Florida, 434,327 quarts have been shipped North, and the growers have received in exchange money to the amount of \$8,016.10. The average price this season is better than it was last year. As the Florida season ends, the strawberries from Wilmington section will come on, and the growers will be encouraged over the prospect of making more money than was the case with the past season's crop. Charlotte Observer.

We catch the hint that nobody wants to finance a cotton crop, but since cotton heretofore has been the sole basis of credit, no chances will be taken on financing any other crop. For instance, if a farmer wants credit for making shoes. They play the game open at one end and shut at the other, and it is the pet special interests which get benefits coming two ways—leather-free and shoe duty-high.

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"THE IRON MEN"

FOOT OF ORANGE STREET

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