

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 city at \$4 per year, \$3 for six months; \$1.50 for three months or served by carrier in the city and suburbs at 10c per month, or when paid in advance, \$1.00 per year, \$3.00 for six months, \$1.50 for three months.

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ADVERTISING RATES may be had on application, and advertisers may rest assured that through the columns of this paper they may reach all Wilmington, Eastern Carolina and contiguous territory in South Carolina. Quotations are made on the basis of the rate of 10 cents per line, to persons carrying a regular account or if paid in advance a 10 per cent. discount is allowed. Announcements of births, marriages, deaths, notices, etc., are charged at the rate of 5 cents per line, to persons carrying a regular account or if paid in advance a 10 per cent. discount is allowed. All communications should be addressed to THE WILMINGTON STAR CO.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1917.

SEALS IN OUR WATERS.

The fact that a fur seal was shot and killed by Mr. George Biddle, last Wednesday at Myrtle Grove Beach, near Wilmington, reminds us that during our thirty years of "newspapering" in Wilmington, we have handled seal stories several times. Some two or three years ago The Star published a statement from Captain E. D. Williams, veteran seafarer and present harbor master of the port of Wilmington, to the effect that seals had not only been seen and caught along this coast, but had been seen right in the harbor at Wilmington.

Captain Williams read the seal story in the local columns of The Star yesterday, and this adjunct of this newspaper establishment accompanied him to the store of the Gilbert-Memory Company, on Market street, where the seal shot on Myrtle Grove Beach was on exhibition. The seal was about four feet in length, and was what Captain Williams called a "calf" or baby seal, possibly only one of a herd on this coast.

During his towing experience on the Cape Fear, Captain Williams repeated yesterday, he has several times seen a large seal sunning on the limb of a sunken tree near the Dram Tree, just below the southern limits of the city. Several years ago he saw that seal or another at odd times in the same vicinity, and at times he has seen as many as three seals lying on the rocks of the breakwater at Federal Point, or Fort Fisher, about twenty miles down the Cape Fear from the city.

It is related by Captain Williams that Captain Crump Moore, now of Hampstead, Pender county, but master of the little schooner Stonewall a few years ago, giggered a seal under the most peculiar circumstances while his vessel was trading between Wilmington and New River. One beautiful moonlight night while the schooner was lying at anchor in the bight at Topsail Sound, near Scott's Hill, with a small lifeboat tied up to the stern of the vessel, the crew of the Stonewall was awaked by a startling commotion in the lifeboat from which came a noise as if someone had taken possession. The little boat was rocking wildly and the oars lying loose in the bottom were rattling against its bottom. Investigation revealed the fact that a large seal had taken possession and was floundering about in the bottom of the boat. The boat was drawn alongside the schooner and the intruder was promptly despatched with the ship's gig. Its valuable fur was sold to Messrs. Sam Bear & Sons, in Wilmington.

With reference to the volunteer speculations about the presence of seals in our waters, Captain Williams says it is quite possible that seals migrate this far down the coast either to winter or perhaps to feed, but he thinks it more likely that they came on an iceberg excursion from Labrador or the frozen regions of the Arctic circle. It is his theory that they were denizens of icebergs which drifted away with them and came down the coast along the east'd edge of the Gulf Stream. Huge icebergs sometimes melt down to mere ice flows between Cape Hatteras and Bermuda, which is just east of Hatteras, and there the seals, finding themselves out of ice, make for the nearest land in North Carolina, which seals as well as all seamen know juts further out into the Atlantic than any portion of the continent south of the New England coast.

That is why seals come by instinct to North Carolina's far east'd shores, and it ought to be a potent and convincing reason why commerce should naturally come to the port of Wilmington-Southport. This port is far out in the Atlantic and is the closest South Atlantic port to the ocean lane between North and South America and the Panama Canal, hence the Port of Wilmington, as all maps and navigation charts show, is the very nearest Atlantic port to the mouth of the Isthmian waterway to the Pacific commerce of the world. It also is, by chart, the closest Atlantic port to both the east and west coasts of South America. Commerce certainly ought to go to school to the seals and find out something.

Wilmingtonians seeking to give publicity to Wilmington's premier ship for commercial possibilities certainly ought to sit up and take notice from the seals. They know something that would be of tremendous importance to Wilmington if the world were made to know it.

NO PAY RISE IN TEN YEARS.

Uncle Sam's letter carriers, who deliver our mails at our doors, rain, hail, sleet or snow, have not had a rise in their pay for ten years—not since everything was about a hundred per cent cheaper than during these terrifically burdensome war times. For that reason and because of the tremendous cost of living, the Letter Carriers' Association has petitioned Congress for increased pay in proportion to the increased cost of living.

Through the efforts of the Letter Carriers' Association, Representative Madden last April introduced a bill providing more pay for one of the most indispensable and deserving classes of Federal employes, and that bill is expected soon to come before the Committee on Postoffice and Post Roads, possibly to be reported at the present or next session of Congress.

The letter carriers probably wear out more shoe leather than any class of men going, and they are always going some, so in that one particular of high priced shoes, added to crushing prices generally, the letter carriers are up against it hard. However, that is merely incidental to their

EXTERMINATING DAIRY CATTLE.

The Food Administrator at Washington is very much exercised about the possibility of exterminating dairy cattle and calves, owing to the high cost of feed, and the commission, having knowledge of the fact that many small dairy farmers have already sold their cattle to butchers, has called attention to the serious condition prevailing in European countries because of the necessity of getting rid of animals for which it is almost an impossibility to purchase feedstuffs on account of the war. The experiences of European countries is a warning to Americans, and so the Food Administration has issued the following impressive facts:

"The sale and use of cream has been prohibited in Great Britain by government order, except for infants, invalids and for butter making, according to information received by the United States food administration. Forage conditions in Europe generally are now such that the number of cattle cannot be taken as indicative of the production of milk."

"In France the number of cattle has decreased about one-seventh, while the production of milk has increased from two and one-half to one gallon as compared with pre-war times."

"In Vienna the daily supply received prior to the war was 2,000,000 litres. This has been decreased to 200,000 litres. In Berlin, notwithstanding the national necessity for safeguarding the health of children, the milk supply for children has been reduced one-third."

"This warning comes none too soon, indeed if it is not too late to prevent the slaughter of thousands of dairy cattle all over America. When dairymen right here in Wilmington, who depended altogether on commercial feedstuffs for their cattle, found it impossible to pay high feed prices without losing money on their small dairying enterprises, they were compelled to sell their cows to the butchers or dispose of them to big dairy farmers who had raised their own cheaper feedstuffs and provided pasturage for cattle. The Durham Herald, in pointing out such a misfortune as lamentable says:

"Owners of dairy cattle should think long and hard before they butcher these animals, or before they allow them to be butchered, for upon this watchfulness depends the future milk supply of the nation. The high prices paid for beef will be a great temptation to the owners of dairy cattle in these times of the high cost of feed, hunched war and patriotic and selfish standpoint the owners of these animals should refuse to sell the dairy cow to the butcher. Instead, every effort should be made to increase the herd and to better it, for there has never been such a demand for good dairy cattle as there will be when the war is over, and the people of the old country begin making preparations to restock their land."

Every word that the Food Administration says by way of warning is impressive, and every word that the Herald says about it is true, but neither the warning of the Food Administration, nor newspaper appeals, will prevent the slaughter of dairy cattle. That is unfortunate but true, nevertheless. When a farmer gets so he can not buy feedstuffs and won't raise them himself, he is compelled to sell his cattle to butchers or let them starve, which is worse.

The fact is, when dairy farmers depend on high priced Western feeds for their cattle, and also depend on the West for what they eat themselves, it is not a matter of taking warning but a matter of necessity for them to sell the livestock that they are not able to feed. They can hardly feed their families, so it stands to reason that improvident dairy farmers have to let their cows go to the highest bidder, as a matter of course, whether they will or no.

This same inexorable necessity has prevailed in all the war countries and such dairying countries as Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, and others, for farmers in all countries were compelled to send their cattle to slaughter or let them starve, which is beyond the question. We can conceive of only two ways to keep dairy cattle off the market for slaughter. One is for the government to buy the cattle, or for stock companies to be organized to buy up all such cattle.

By all means, the organization of stock companies is the best and surest plan to save cows and calves. Well financed farm companies can buy and keep such stock at a profit, but the small farmer who does not raise cattle feed, or provide pastures, nor raises his own food, has no alternative but to sell—warning or no warning.

CURRENT COMMENT

Recently we have had a wooden steamer 120 years after the work began, and a steel steamer in 78 days. These are extraordinarily good records, but they have been smashed. A steel ship was launched at Seattle 72 days after the laying of the keel, and the yard that launched it will after January 1 turn out a ship every 30 days. But this record did not stand long, for another yard at Seattle completed a vessel within 64 days on the laying of the keel. These vessels were not built by three relay crews, covering the 24 hours, but by men working one shift and overtime. The Shipping Board hopes to get most of the yards to work three shifts a day.—Philadelphia Record.

The building of a ship from iron and artificial stone should not appear to the people of this time and day a performance stranger than the building of a ship from the coasters. It was the suggestion years back to the people of that time that ships could be made from iron. Experimentation has produced the practical concrete vessel and it has been found that these vessels have some advantages over either wooden or steel ships. That some headway is at hand in the construction of this class of ships is evident in the expressed determination of the Shipping Board to build an experimental concrete ship of 4,500 tons capacity. The Shipping Board is said to be passing on the relative claims of Wilmington and Savannah for the construction of the nearest ship, and as a matter of course all

HE GAVE AWAY A FAMOUS MOUNTAIN.

Wilmington is proud to have a citizen who is so generously public spirited that he gave to the American Republic one of the most picturesque mountains in America. Certainly, every word that the Charlotte Observer utters with reference to it meets a hearty echo here in Wilmington. Says our valued Queen City contemporary:

"That was a royal gift Mr. Hugh MacRae gave to the Government in the peak of Grandfather Mountain and it is encouraging to know that the Government is so instantly appreciative of its value that no time will be lost in the institution of Grandfather Mountain Park, the first to be established in the Blue Ridge territory. Senator Overman is doing the state, and incidentally the Nation, a service in facilitating the establishment of this park."

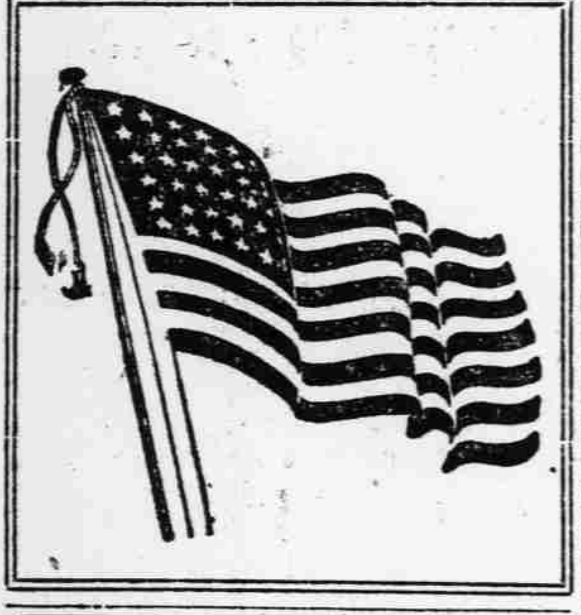
Grandfather mountain is no small mountain but it is one of the noblest in the Appalachian range. It is in the "Land of the Sky" and it is a magnificent scenic object in the midst of a group of the highest mountains east of the Mississippi. In Western North Carolina there are twenty-eight peaks more than 6,000 feet high. Grandfather may not be so lofty, but he rears his peak in a majestic manner towards the sky in the midst of surroundings of the most romantic description.

Anyhow, the Charlotte News saw the poetic side of the snow and sleet, while others considered the sick side of it. The News saw a vista of beauty in the robe of white in which the forests and landscape were bedecked the past week. It sleeted a wee bit in Wilmington and the rain froze on the doorsteps and pavements, but as usual, the snow staid away from the Sunny Cape Fear region. The snow and sleet was heavy in the upcountry, with even Goldsboro getting enough to cover the earth with a blanket of white.

Don't we know enough to realize that we haven't got much to brag about till the South kisses the West good-bye and makes up her mind to live at home and board at the same place? Braggins is a sort of second-hand pipe dream so long as we wake up and go to eating out of the hand of the West and looking to the North to ask the blessing. Go to!

TOP O' THE MORNING.

"The Word of God is... powerful. Glad to see yuh, but hope yuh brought yuh own sugar. What are the people doing in addition to doing each other and calling it doing business? The longer you hold on to your money, buddy, the longer will everybody hold ruddy to you. Here's the week before Christmas. You haven't got much time in which to do your shipping leisurely. Mr. Hoover certainly ought not object if we could hoard some of this golden sunshine on the Cape Fear. Our old friend, E. Nogg, is dead and no more will he do his bit putting Christmas in "dese dry bones ergin". According to the Austro-Hungarian war minister, "Jerusalem will remain outside the fighting zone." He guessed right the first time. Here's to the gallant, dashing and audacious Italians who rushed torpedo boats over the mines and under nee into the harbor anchorage at Trieste and torpedoed two Austrian warships. That counts. A New York man who got as full as a goat in Chicago complains that he was robbed of all his money and jewelry. At the same time, he was lucky, Chicago seems to have entirely overlooked his overcoat. A man says the last Christmas present he ever got was when he was five years of age. He acknowledges that he is fifty-five years old, so most any Wilmington kid can figure out that it's been fifty years since Santa Claus drove up to his house and stopped. Lots of people are without coal, wood and sugar because they paid no more attention to Hoover than the ancients paid to Father Noah when he warned them that it would rain for forty days and leave them no ground upon which to rest the soles of their feet. It is said that the Bolsheviks are looting at Petrograd. They are acting just as if this is the last chance they will ever have to get what they are after. The main difference between a Bolshevik and a pirate is that a pirate gets more like a profiteer."



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THE TRUTH CAN'T BE REPEATED

Too often, but it bears repeating only because we are all human, and inclined to forget. So please remember this truth, that Christmas is only about one week and one day off, and to secure the best selection it is of vital importance that you make your selection just as early as possible, and it is also important that you make your selection where the variety is greatest and prices the lowest, and naturally you will wend your way to Rehder's, as the most important place. Here you'll find a complete Department Store, wonderful assortment and varied selection of newest novelties as well as a complete line of staples.

Last Minute Gift Suggestions

For the ladies, nice Coat Suit, Dress, Coat, Silk Waist, Fur or Muff, Velvet Stole, Kimono, Bath Robe, Silk Petticoat, Sweater, Corset, Knitting Bags, Laundry Bags, fancy Table Cover, Center Pieces, Blankets, Comforts, Lace Curtains, Bed Spreads, Table Linen, Kid Gloves, Silk Hose, Neckwear. Many other things to make suitable gifts.

Gifts for Men—Overcoats, Suits, Shoes, Hats, Hosiery, Neckwear, Bath Robes, Watches, Scarf Pins, Belts, Umbrellas, Gloves Suspenders, Handkerchiefs, Rain Coats, Silk Suits.

Toys for the Children—Automobiles, Irish Mails, Baby Carriages, Dolls, Velocipedes, Tricycles, Desk, Chairs, Rocking Horses, Drums, Pianos, Erectors, Tool Box, Play Suits—Indian, Cowboy, Sailor, Boy Scout Suits.

For Anybody, appreciation gifts—Cut Glass, fancy China, Box Paper and many other things which we have not the space to mention. Everybody welcome.

J. H. REHDER & CO.

615, 617, 619 NORTH FOURTH STREET

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Advertisement for J. H. Rehder & Co. featuring a large illustration of a man's face and the text 'THE TRUTH CAN'T BE REPEATED'. The ad lists various gift suggestions for Christmas and provides the store's address and phone number.

Advertisement for the Red Cross Campaign, titled 'ORGANIZED LABOR'S PART IN THE RED CROSS CAMPAIGN'. It discusses the importance of organized labor in supporting the Red Cross and includes a testimonial from Mr. Jos. H. Curtis, Team Captain.

Advertisement for G. C. Elliott, D. C., a chiropractor. The ad features a large illustration of a human spine and the text 'FREE CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC'. It describes the clinic's services and provides the doctor's contact information.