

THE MORNING STAR

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THE MORNING STAR, the oldest daily newspaper in North Carolina, is published and mailed to subscribers outside the county at \$3 per year.

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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.

ALL DRAFTS, checks, express money orders and postal money orders for the paper should be made payable and all communications should be addressed to THE WILMINGTON STAR CO.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1917.



TOP OF THE MORNING.

We should be sure that we are really a voice, with a message from God. Too many lives stand for nothing, declare nothing to others, make no impression, of cheer, of beauty, of holiness.

—J. R. MILLER.

Sugar on the hip? Sugar in the gourd? Nit.

If you would not be thrifless do not be shiftless.

The world is getting better—at shooting and digging-in.

The only way to get a Christmas present is to cook for it.

When you can't get what you want, do like the people in Bodunk—do without.

It will be a long time till you hear the last tune of the alcoholic contraband.

Every time you leave your room at night, lest you forget, you must turn out your light.

If society listens to Hoover, it will have to confine its function to trust-breaking parties.

If Kerensky knows where he "is at" he had better not let the Bolshevik find it out.

Of course, man could get along without fighting, but he doesn't know any way to keep out of a fight.

Those who are from Missouri on the necessity of saving are being shown a thing or two now by the war.

Of course, Wilmington will be lit up by Christmas, but in that respect she will put one over on the males of the species.

The Christmas chimes will ring just a week from today, and two weeks hence this eventful year will give "way to 1918.

People who stay in America and try to rock the boat with Uncle Sam, ought to know better, for they are in it with him.

If we don't declare war on Turkey, it is to be hoped, she won't be foolish enough to believe we approve her atrocities in Armenia.

One of the most influential men in town did not have influence enough yesterday to get a pound of sugar. Influence has played out.

Our earth is anxious to communicate with Mars, but if Mars knows when she is getting along all right she will answer no signals from us.

The shining sun comes out again, and then he takes another sneak; He hides his face and lets it rain, and maybe snow and sleet a week.

CUT OUT THE LONG HAUL TO PORTS.

The one effective way to build up American commerce and develop a national ocean and rail transportation system would be to cut out the long haul railroad custom that has built up certain ports and discriminated against others to the extent that they have had no opportunity to develop their possibilities.

The nation's ocean and rail transportation system heretofore existing has simply collapsed, and that is all there is to it. It has failed to meet the needs of the tremendous export business of this country, and the evidence of it is a few hopelessly congested ports to which the commerce of a nation of 100,000,000 population has been rushed regardless of sound transportation economics.

The necessity for relieving the congested ports has brought a problem to the government, and as a matter of course, it is the whole country's problem—a very grave one, too. Even the government seems at a loss how to remedy the situation in Washington.

"One way of relieving the congested railroad traffic, according to Democratic National Committeeman A. W. McLean, would be to utilize the ports at Wilmington, Charleston and Savannah for the exportation of many articles now being sent and received by rail at the eastern ports.

Mr. McLean called attention to the ample depth of water at the port of Wilmington for the handling of such ships as are engaged in carrying munitions and foodstuffs for the armies in Europe. It was his idea, at least, that exports being hauled from Southern ports to New York, Philadelphia and other North Atlantic ports could just as well be handled at South Atlantic ports instead of ralling them all the way to ports already congested.

"Mr. McLean has spoken to the point. We read in a newspaper not very long since that the ports of Wilmington, Charleston and Savannah had been hit hard by lack of business since the beginning of the war, but we cannot imagine what excuse can be made for not utilizing them for exportation, as Mr. McLean suggests.

The government has failed to develop Southern ports as it should have done on a national scale, but these ports do possess certain facilities that would be of service to the government at this time, but the government can't do it all. These ports could have long ago handled some of the country's exports, but it requires the organization that has never been attempted at a single one of the South Atlantic ports.

If Mr. McLean's suggestion can not be carried out, why not? In answering that question, the ports have a chance to make a study that will be worth something to them. It is curious, indeed, that they have not long since done so. It is the ports that ought to do something "drastic." It is up to them more than it is up to the government.

OPENING A CAROLINA TIN MINE

The Kings Mountain Herald states that the Groves Mining Corporation has been chartered and has extensive plans for operating the tin mines near the town of Kings Mountain, in this State. The corporation is capitalized at \$100,000, and Mr. George S. Groves has arrived from Baltimore to begin mining operations.

A roose once laid an egg of gold. But her owner killed her so's he could get it all; Alas! That foolish man or old Destroyer's his source of wealth be caused of greed's insistent call.

Senator Hitchcock warns us against all sorts of false reports. However, he does not tell a fellow how to tell when reports are false. About the only thing we know for a certainty is that Uncle Sam will get the Kaiser's goat if it takes ten years to do it with the biggest navy the world ever saw.

TAP NORTH CAROLINA'S RESOURCES.

One of the pessimistic announcements from Washington a few days ago was to the effect that the iron trade is now faced with a famine in iron ores because the country's mines are not yielding the requisite needs of raw supplies.

"There might be reason why the country should be short of cotton or wheat or any product depending upon labor capacity to bring into evidence, but there is no reason why there should be a shortage in the supply of iron. Piedmont and western North Carolina can supply the needs of the nation in both times of peace and war.

"If the war shall force a somewhat short-sighted government to make investigation into the mineral and geological possibilities awaiting development in North Carolina it will have done one good turn for this country. The region we have described is a natural storehouse for iron, coal, gold, copper, monazite, metallic zinc, manganese, halosite, galena, feldspar, magnetite hematite, limonite and ilmenite, alum, potash spar, tin with limonite, Fuller's earth and other varieties of clays, quartz, garnet, beryl, garnet and abrasive minerals, all in commercial quantities.

Editor Harris has seen enough of North Carolina's mineral prospects to warrant every word he says. What he says will surprise many people, but it does not surprise us. The hidden wealth in North Carolina is immense, and now seems to be the time when capital should be forthcoming to utilize this state's resources.

It will be recalled that Spreckles charged the heads of the American and California-Hawaiian refineries, who are Florida's sugar administrators, had been unduly active in grabbing up raw sugar, and he charged that raw sugar was passing through New York to Canada where prices were higher; and that certain chain stores had sugar to sell when nobody else could get it.

HEREBY HANGS A NARRATIVE.

Florida raises an immense lot of corn and then buys a lot from Chicago just as North Carolina does. Just why any corn has to be bought from a great city to supply the country, we may partly judge from this editorial paragraph in the Milton (Fla.) Gazette:

"It is reported from reliable sources that Florida corn is topping the market in Chicago, bringing higher prices than corn from any other section of the United States. This is in spite of the assertion that Florida corn is not equal to that of the middle West. Yes, Florida is destined to become one of the nation's greatest corn producing states."

Why should Chicago buy corn in Florida, when Florida ought to buy all her own corn herself before Chicago gets a chance at it? Of course, Florida corn is better than Western corn, and Chicago knows it as well as we do.

We thought Jacksonville was going to put up an elevator and become a market for corn. An elevator company in our Southern cities would enable them to handle either Southern or Western grains, but they can not do so to advantage till they go into the elevator business.

SHIPBUILDING CONCERN ADDS \$18,500,000 TO ITS CAPITAL

Dover, Del., Dec. 17.—The Puzey & Jones company, a large shipbuilding concern of Wilmington, today filed a statement with the state secretary permitting an increase of capital from \$1,200,000 to \$20,000,000. The increase will make it possible to complete the proposed merger of the Pennsylvania Shipbuilding Company and the New Jersey Shipbuilding Company.

PRESIDENT WRITES BRYAN

Refutes Statement That Former Secretary Was Asked to Resign. Washington, Dec. 17.—President Wilson has written former Secretary Bryan a letter to refute the frequently published statement that he asked the secretary's resignation because of the celebration of the "New Year" conversation in which Mr. Bryan, after the sending of the Lusitania note, is said to have informed the former Austrian ambassador not to take it too seriously.

By The Wayside

"Can I get a pound of sugar?" a customer suggested rather than asked, yesterday at his regular grocer. "Sorry, but we ran out Saturday," was the reply. "A car has just arrived though."

The public mind has been prepared for "shortages." Short sugar, short coal, short wood, short everything, have been expected. But for all that isn't this the most amazing thing in the world short of any product, no matter what demands might be made upon it? The idea of America being short of fuel!

Speaking of sugar, a wholesaler who knows the inwardness of the sugar situation, declared yesterday that with position he highly appreciated Mr. Hoover didn't know all about the manipulations that the big refineries had been carrying on.

It will be recalled that Spreckles charged the heads of the American and California-Hawaiian refineries, who are Florida's sugar administrators, had been unduly active in grabbing up raw sugar, and he charged that raw sugar was passing through New York to Canada where prices were higher; and that certain chain stores had sugar to sell when nobody else could get it.

And speaking about wood—although the city business district was thronged yesterday with Christmas shoppers, home shoppers and outsiders, and all the elegant and elegant shops were full of elegantly dressed buyers and all was bright and lovely along the fifty marts, the cold, black-mucky water front was where the human interest shopping went.

"I never have stole nobody's wood," admitted a fellow, "but believe me, if this weather keeps up and I can't get some, derned if I don't get at it."

A woman who had been out shopping had a quarrel with her husband on the street and immediately engaged him in animated conversation. "and I had to pay two dollars for a pair of shoes for my baby!" she exclaimed, in time for a long-eared reporter to hear her as he passed.

The British general who captured Jerusalem entered the Holy City with his staff, stout. He assured the inhabitants of protection and stationed guards at all the holy places maintained by every religious sect and creed. Nothing was allowed to be touched, nobody was hurt. That's the British way. Had it been a Hun army, how different! First off, they would have been shelling the place for days, until not a brick was left atop another.

JO YOU WORK INDOORS Then you need a winter tonic to keep up your blood-strength and nerve-force. For nearly fifty years physicians have prescribed SCOTT'S EMULSION because it is a true food and an active tonic, easily digested and free from alcohol.

What is more appreciated than a pair of Slippers for a Christmas Gift? We have a large assortment in Felt and Leather for Men, Women and Children in different colors. Something for any member of the family.

CURRENT COMMENT

Gordon H. Gilley, advertising manager of the Philadelphia store of John Wanamaker, announces that it is planned to use this season double the amount of advertising space used last season. This policy is adopted in order to overcome selling handicaps imposed by war conditions.

Whatever may be developed in the denouement of the tragedy on East avenue when little Charles Aushand was run over and killed and left lying unattended on the snow, the people of this community for the present stand ashamed and shocked that such a calamity should occur in a civilized city. It is one of those things that make one's blood boil at the sheer heartlessness of him who is guilty of such infamy and atrocious madness.

An article in The New Republic has something to say about "The Education of the Future," and in it we find this keynote: "The spirit, individual or social, is a living thing, by its name and by its nature, a flame that burns, and it must in degree make the world over for itself or it is not spirit."

DR. HURT THINKS CLOSING CHURCHES AT NIGHT UNWISE

Believes More Fuel Would Be Saved By Having Services as Usual. To the Editor of The Star:

I have read with unusual interest the letter in your issue of today from our esteemed citizen Mr. C. C. Chadbourn. We may differ with him as to plans for conserving the public good, but all of us can afford to emulate his example in unselfish service. He suggests as a means of fuel conservation that we discontinue separate Sunday night services in the various churches and unite in one or more union meetings.

The times before us are trying, indeed. I am deeply concerned lest we seek to settle some of our problems at too great cost to other vital interests. This nation never needed God more than now. Every church house in our city should be crowded twice each Sunday. Our religious convictions must be deep and ineradicable; our heads must be level and all our thinking straight.

I honor my good brother's views and I honor his example, but I am constrained to believe, in consideration of fundamental human frailty as explicated in history, that such union meetings would be attended mostly by faithful souls of the church that is open, while glowing fires would minister to the spiritual lethargy of hundreds who remain at home. JOHN JETER HURT. Wilmington, Dec. 17.

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Advertisement for Dainty Flour. Includes image of a woman and a flour bag. Text: "Makes fine baking because it is fine in texture and quality. Best wheat milled slowly and sifted thru silk. Requires less lard." The Corbett Co., Wholesale Distributors, Wilmington.

Advertisement for Rayo Lamps. Includes image of a lamp. Text: "Enjoy the Soft Light of Rayo. Why put up with a flickering, flaring, smoking old lamp when you can buy a Rayo? RAYO LAMPS give a steady light that is easy on the eyes. You remove neither the chimney nor the shade to light them—as convenient as gas. Artistic in design, they have no cheap filigree ornaments that make cleaning a long job."

Advertisement for Standard Oil Company. Text: "STANDARD OIL COMPANY (New Jersey) BALTIMORE, Md. Washington, D. C. Norfolk, Va. Richmond, Va. Charlotte, N. C. Charleston, W. Va. Charleston, S. C."

Advertisement for Peterson & Rulfs Slippers. Includes image of a slipper. Text: "USEFUL GIFTS SEE OUR LINE OF SLIPPERS What is more appreciated than a pair of Slippers for a Christmas Gift? We have a large assortment in Felt and Leather for Men, Women and Children in different colors. Something for any member of the family. AT PETERSON & RULFS Wilmington's Largest and Best Shoe Store"

Advertisement for Town Property at Burgaw. Text: "TOWN PROPERTY AT BURGAW the county seat of Pender, for sale on easy terms. This property consists of two two-story large brick buildings and two one-story buildings, also large livery stable brick building, also few lots. Write A. B. CROOM, JR., or Phone 450 Wilmington, N. C."

Star Business Locals Get Results