

THE MORNING STAR

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1918.

TOP OF THE MORNING

If I could choose For you one gift from out God's hand, I'd choose that you should love the Right, And walk therein—and understand.—Selected.

Destruction cometh; and they shall seek peace, and there shall be none.—Ezekiel VII-25.

With negotiable bonds on the side, what's a few loaves in last year's breeches for 1918 wear?

Register now so you can vote next Tuesday week for candidates who will support President Wilson.

The Kaiser and the sultan will have to draw straws in order to determine who is the Sick Man of Europe.

Get ready to go over any kind of top that may be pointed out to us as our duty in winning the war.

The Huns don't know where they are going but they are on the way, hoping they will get in the neighborhood of peace.

An old French proverb says: "Trickery comes back to its master." Well, "chickens come home to roost" in more ways than one.

They said General von Hindenburg was dead, but the report was largely exaggerated. He simply had his official head chopped off.

President Wilson's diplomacy is past finding out by professional critics, but it didn't take the Berlin absolutists long to tumble to the racket.

Dr. Solf makes it plain that the German's are in no wise modest about making it known that what they want right now is peace and not a piece.

All autocratic dames had better liberalize their form of domestic government so they can keep up with the Kaiser in the surrender of absolute power.

General Foch ought to know whether the Huns have had enough grubbing to make them drop that goose-step and get cold feet on militarism from now till doomsday.

Up to last Monday, the people of Horry county, our South Carolina neighbor, had subscribed \$219,819.75 for war savings and thrift stamps. That is a per capita of \$7.41 for her entire population.

Col. House may's well get ready for some more work that does not call for talking. Without saying a word about what he has done, Colonel House has done lots more than men who have done no end of talking, with more conversation on tap at all times.

The boys in France have invariably written back that they expect to be home for Christmas. They had some kind of idea that the war would at least be over by then. Perhaps they are not very far wrong, but it will take us nearly a year to get the boys back home after peace is declared.

It is about time for critics to sit down and wait for President Wilson's diplomacy to develop its purpose before they guess there's something wrong about it. Critics ought by now to learn to take a hint from the fact that Wilson always hits the nail on the head before they can even see the nail.

Some of the women politicians have made what's called a "covert attack on the president." Tut! Tut! How could the women make anything but a veiled attack? We have just read in the Woman Patriot an article on "Overworking the Commander-in-Chief," but its covertness indicates the fine Eustalian hand of a man. It takes a man to be the nigger in the woodpile.

If you are not getting all you want to eat, just remember that there are millions of suffering humanity that would be glad to get half what you have to eat. We will continue to save that they may eat. We will also produce wheat for our own bread and quit sunnycatching every year about cotton. King Cotton seems to have more sick spells than the Sick Man of Europe.

LIGHT ON PRESIDENT WILSON'S QUESTIONNAIRE.

If the German people really have been given a share in the government of the empire under bona fide constitutional guarantees, they can thank President Wilson. A new principle has been grafted on the German government plan, for it has been liberalized and popularized to a considerable extent. A radical change in the form of government has taken place. Autocracy has given way under a fundamental alteration of the constitution which now recognizes the people as part of the responsible power in the fatherland. They will have parliamentary representation and the people's voice hereafter is to be potent in the special particulars of declaring war and making peace.

It is a strikingly singular fact that the people have been fighting and dying for an imperialistic autocracy whose power at last has been shaken by the thunder of war that rights heretofore denied the people are recognized and fixed by constitutional provision, while new limitations are to hedge about the autocratic power of the old regime. If this has come true—and Dr. Solf gives the assurance over his signature—the Hohenzollern grip has been loosened and the German people have become a part and parcel of the world democracy. It is interesting to repeat here this assurance given by Dr. Solf in the government's reply to President Wilson:

"As a fundamental condition for peace the president prescribes the destruction of every arbitrary power that can separately, secretly and of its own single choice, disturb the peace of the world. To this the German government replies: 'Hitherto the representation of the people in the German empire has not been endowed with an influence in the formation of the government. 'The constitution did not provide for the concurrence of representation of the people in decisions of peace and war. The conditions have just now undergone a fundamental change. A new government has been formed in complete accordance with the wishes of the representation of the people based on equal, universal, secret, direct franchise. 'The leaders of the great parties of the reichstag are members of this government and in the future no government can continue in office without possessing the confidence of a majority of the reichstag. 'The responsibility of the chancellor of the empire to the representation of the people is being legally developed and safeguarded. The first act of the new government has been to lay before the reichstag a bill to alter the constitution of the empire so that the consent of the representation of the people is required for decisions on war and peace. 'The permanence of the new system, however, is guaranteed not only by constitutional safeguard, but also by the unshakable determination of the German people whose vast majority stands behind these reforms and demands their energetic continuance. 'The question of the president—with whom he and the government are dealing—is therefore answered in a clear, unequivocal manner by the statement that the offer of peace and an armistice has come from a government which is free from any arbitrary and irresponsible influence, and is supported by the approval of an overwhelming majority of the German people.'

If that authoritative assurance is to be accepted, President Wilson is dealing with a new kind of government whose chancellor even is responsible to the people and not to an autocratic head any more. All that remarkable change has been brought about in order to give the people an opportunity to make peace with President Wilson and the allies. President Wilson has all along made it plain that he would not deal with autocratic power nor accept its guarantee, and now obtuse or obturate people who could not understand why his recent note was in the nature of a questionnaire ought to see for themselves what he was adroitly driving at. The discerning and wise Berlin government saw the point and hastened to make a radical change in the government so Wilson could recognize it as representing the people and not an autocracy with absolute power. They saw that President Wilson would not deal at all with absolutism, so the absolutists stepped aside to give the people a free hand for a peace arrangement that the allies could have confidence in. President Wilson has received the answer to his questionnaire, so whilom critics who could not see why he fired an inquiry to Berlin can now clearly see it in Dr. Solf's answer. Those who were not able to see the motive in the president's query are now much wiser than they were when they could not possibly divine the object of the American president, acting as "the voice of the allied world." Indeed, many men would know a great deal more than they do if they would only keep quiet and stop, look and listen more.

No doubt the people of Germany will appreciate their increased power in a new representative government. For it they can thank Woodrow Wilson whose ideals have been incorporated to a degree in the constitution (the organic law) of Germany. He had refused all along to treat with autocracy and his questionnaire was so obvious to the absolutists that they forthwith surrendered certain powers into the hands of the people. A democratic president's ideals are leaving foreign governmental systems, making monarchies more effete and eliminating autocracies. Truly this is the light of day of "Liberty Enlightening the world." Of course it will take time to ascertain the true extent of the leaven in Hunland, but for Germany, the admission by Solf is certainly a long step forward.

Austria's next to get her comb clipped so she won't look so cocky as "be-fo'-de-wah."

DO FAIR PRICE COMMISSIONS FUNCTION?

Charlotte is getting ready to try the virtue of a fair price commission that will function. There are many such commissions that do not. The Queen City expects something from its commission and it proposes to meet and get down to business next Thursday. It is composed of representative wholesalers, retailers, butchers and ultimate consumers who hope to get together on commodity prices that won't make consumers feel as if they are being systematically robbed. For instance, the Charlotte commission is composed of the following: Mr. C. A. Brooks, chairman; Charles K. Hecht, representing the wholesale dealers; R. W. Miller, representing the retail dealers; and L. P. Mackenzie, representing the butchers. The consumers' representatives on the board are: M. J. O'Neil, of the General Fire Extinguisher company; H. C. Larzelere, manager of the Selwyn hotel and Mrs. Lenora Ross.

Beginning next Thursday night, Chairman Brooks hopes to give out the commission's first fair price list. The commission's activities will be under the general supervision of the state food administration. The work of fair price commissions ought to go a long way towards preventing a half dozen different prices for the same commodities in that many different stores. In addition to the fixing of fair prices, the commission is to begin an active food conservation campaign. In regard to this, Chairman Brooks says:

"The significant fact that it will be necessary for the United States to send 5,750,000 tons more foodstuffs to the allies this year than last, with an almost staggering total of 17,500,000 tons for the coming year, will reawaken the supervisor of the family market basket to the urgent necessity of maintaining a patriotic watchfulness over the spread of the individual table, in order that the 120,000,000 allies sitting at a common table in America may have the stamina with which to bring the war to a successful conclusion in 1919."

Unless something is done to check profiteering, the people will not have anything left to pay for war savings and thrift stamps or Liberty bonds. Besides that, many merchants will lose the confidence of the people and make it attractive for mail order houses to invade their territory as soon as transportation facilities improve. Consumers generally are getting the impression that they are not getting a square deal. A bad situation is likely to develop from that. Any city can get a reputation of which it will be ashamed.

UNWELCOME VISITORS.

There are times when some people don't know when they are about as unwelcome as the Spanish influenza. Because some people don't think or won't think, the New Bern Sun-Journal comes forward with the suggestion that when a contagion is rampant, it's no time for pop calls. Says the New Bern paper:

"During these days when an epidemic rages in our midst, this bustling town of running around the neighborhood paying pop calls, should be discontinued. Only a few days ago a lady telephoned this office and stated that one of her neighbors, in whose home there was a case of influenza, had dropped in for a personal chat and she wanted us to say something against such acts. Whether you have influenza in your home or whether you have it in the neighborhood, you should for a few weeks, of course, if you are on business bent that is a different thing. However, even then, attend to your business as quickly as possible and return to your home. Do this and do your part toward helping eradicate the epidemic."

Of course, one of the things for people to remember is that if they "run around" they are liable to pop right in on the influenza, even if they do not run around and scatter it around. Some who do that scare others almost to death.

UNCLE SAM AS A SQUARE DEALER.

Having induced farmers in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida to grow castor beans for the purpose of making castor oil for use in the manufacture and operation of aeroplanes, Uncle Sam has found out that he did not offer a sufficient price to keep some of the bean growers from losing money on their experiment in that kind of farming. The price offered to encourage castor bean growing was \$3.50 a bushel for husked beans. Growing castor beans on a commercial basis was entirely new to farmers, and gathering the crop and husking them by machinery was another proposition which did not make the outlook appear sufficiently good for the farmers to go ahead and gather their bean crop. For that reason, the government has increased its offering to \$4.50 a bushel. This shows that when people give Uncle Sam a square deal he will play fair with them. A great oil industry can be built up if the price of beans is sufficient to induce their cultivation as a farm crop in this adaptable section.

DEATH OF W. A. FEAZELL.

Popular Traveling Man Dies of Influenza at Clarkton.

(Special Star Correspondence.) Wallace, Oct. 22.—W. A. Feazell died early this morning in Clarkton hospital. He was taken sick Tuesday Oct. 15, with influenza-pneumonia. Mr. Feazell was a traveling man with R. Potter & Co., Wallace, and was taken sick while at Clarkton. Hugo Rowe of Burgaw, who was traveling with him, and Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Smith of Clarkton, together with their friends, gave him every attention while at the hotel. Afterwards he was taken to the hospital where he had the best treatment and attention that could be rendered by skilled doctors and nurses. Mr. Feazell was formerly from Louisiana, but had been traveling in the east for the past few years. He was an honest, upright, hardworking young man and leaves many friends who grieve over his passing.

Letters To The Star

Brief communications from citizens on matters of public interest are welcomed for this column. In every case articles must be signed for publication by the real name of the writer.

FASTING AND PRAYER.

To the Editor of The Star: A few months ago we were called by the president of the United States to observe a day, which should be spent in fasting and prayer for the success of our armies and the salvation of our people, and this was observed in this section of the country by a great majority of both saints and by many sinners and as possibly most people have noticed, the Americans and allies have not lost a battle but have been victorious in every battle. Do we give God the glory? and do we believe in fasting and prayer? If so why do we not hear a proclamation coming from the president and from our governor calling us to fasting and prayer that this is worse than the north killing more people each day than we are losing in the war in a month, this awful disease influenza, that peradventure the Lord will hear our prayers and give us deliverance, and to his name shall be glory. Elizabethton, N. C. Oct. 21, 1918.

EPIDEMIC IN COLUMBUS.

To the Editor of The Star: The influenza epidemic situation in Columbus is still bad, though in some sections there is some improvement. So far as can be learned there is an improvement at Whiteville, Chadbourne and Taber, and there may be at other places, but in some rural sections the influenza is spreading with wonderful rapidity. Doctors are scarce, and so are nurses. But right here your correspondent wishes to stop and take off his hat to our noble physicians who have stood so true during these many days of trial. No body of men could have done more than they have done. The county board of health met again to-day and after taking into consideration the situation throughout the county decided it best to keep the churches, schools, etc., closed at least two weeks longer. All lines of business should be closed for the time being which has caused more deaths in the last three weeks in our county, by ten times, than the war has caused since it began. The board of health will meet again October 31, and if at that time the situation is sufficiently improved steps will be taken for the re-opening of the churches, schools, etc. F. T. WOOTEN. Whiteville, Oct. 22, 1918.

THE THIRTEENTH DIVISION.

To the Editor of The Star: I am writing to thank you for the very able editorial in Sunday's Star in regard to the Thirteenth Division Sun, commencing upon the personnel of the now famous 30th division of General Pershing's fighting forces in France. The writer of the article in the Sun appears to think that the division is made up largely of men who live in the mountain sections of Tennessee, North and South Carolina and who are descended from those who opposed the cause of the south in 1861 and 1865 and that they do not represent the sentiments of the leading men of the south today. The Sun writer clearly does not understand conditions in the sections he refers to. The members of the division named who come from the sections of the states mentioned either are not descended from the enemies of the south in 1861 and 1865 or their sentiments have undergone an entire change since that time. The 31,000 men of the Union army during the civil war from Tennessee belonged to a class of rough necks who are opposed to constituted authority. They fought the south because of them in 1861 and 1865 and they were forced to live under the laws of that state. They were willing to do anything against constituted authority that they were compelled to live under. Since the close of the war they have been fighting the constituted authorities of the United States and their descendants are fighting these authorities today. The mountains of North Carolina and South Carolina and Tennessee are the home of the run Alibis, tigers and illicit distilleries and conduct counterfeiting dens and woe to the United States officer who happens to oppose them in their mountain fastnesses. They are as hostile today to the United States government as they were to the Confederacy in 1861 and 1865. It doesn't matter what government controls their country, they oppose it because they are against any power that is exercised over them. If they were in Russia today they would be members of the Bolshevik gang because that gang represents the lowest order of the constituted authority known. All the mountaineers of 1861 and 1865, however, do not belong to the class just named. Zebulon Baird Vance was reared in the mountains of Western North Carolina and was a strong Union man when the civil war began, but he was not a traitor to his people and their cause. The late Gen. Robert E. Lee, who also was a strong Union man at the beginning of that war, did all in his power to aid the government of his state. No, the illiterate lawbreaker who defies the government and its officers is not the kind of stuff that the 30th division of General Pershing's army is composed of. R. K. BRYAN. Scotts Hill, Oct. 22, 1918.

Y. M. C. A. WILL DO WAR WORK IN SOUTH AMERICA.

Buenos Aires, Oct. 1.—(Correspondence.)—South America is to be organized for Y. M. C. A. war work along the same lines as the European countries. The Y. M. C. A. work council of the Young Men's Christian association in New York has appointed Jay C. Field, of the Buenos Aires Y. M. C. A., to act as field secretary in South America, which capacity he will look after the entertainment of United States sailors whenever they land at any South American port. It is proposed to have permanent organizations in all the South American ports, under the direction of the Y. M. C. A. fleet secretary, which can on a moment's notice prepare themselves to entertain any number of sailors who may be sent ashore on leave. One night recently when an American cruiser was in the port of Buenos Aires, the Y. M. C. A. arranged for the entertainment of 150 sailors in the homes of American and English families. As Buenos Aires has the only Y. M. C. A. building in South America large enough to look after a large number of sailors, the first work of the Y. M. C. A. committees will be to provide buildings in each port which will be turned into permanent homes for American sailors during their shore leave. American families will be called upon to entertain large number of them at their homes.

CURRENT COMMENT

Taking into consideration the fact that we have an epidemic of Spanish influenza in our midst and that this is no time for our people to congregate, Mayor Edward Clark acted wisely in putting his foot down on all public speakings. It had been planned to wage an extensive political campaign in New Bern and Craven county during the next two weeks and several speakers with national reputations were scheduled to come to Craven county for this work. However, all such events have been cancelled. It is regretted that it has been found necessary to take action of this sort but the health of the people of the county is worth more than all the speeches ever made and it is the paramount desire and intention of the health authorities to guard this zealously.—New Bern Sun-Journal.

The Progressive Farmer has come out in open and bold advocacy of the retirement of Dr. H. Q. Alexander as president of the North Carolina Farmers' Union. The annual meeting of this organization is to be held shortly at Wilson, and it is in view of this fact that Editor Poe makes the call. It is the first time, we believe, that the editor of The Progressive Farmer has spoken his mind. He has had some rather indifferent references to the attitude of Dr. Alexander in the past, but none was openly antagonistic. They were rather in the nature of mild protestations. It has been our understanding that at the meeting of the Union at Winston-Salem last year, there was a line-up of the Alexander and Poe factions. Dr. Alexander was re-elected and Dr. Poe was retired from the official position he had held with the organization for some years. Since then, resignations from official and private membership in the Union have been in order, the State organizer and lecturer, Mr. J. Z. Green, being the first to pull out. The next resignation of consequence was that of Mr. C. C. Wright, member of the executive committee, who had already been noted as an absentee from the committee meetings. It is said, but The Observer has no direct knowledge on that point, that the membership of the Union has been dwindling. In fact, it appears to be Dr. Poe's concern over the threatened dissolution of the State organization that has impelled him to make call for throwing Dr. Alexander overboard.—Charlotte Observer.

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