

THE MORNING STAR
 Published by the
WILMINGTON STAR COMPANY, INC.
 Wilmington, N. C.

MEMBER THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.
 The Associated Press is exclusively
 entitled to the use for publication of
 all news credited to it or not other-
 wise credited in this paper and also
 the local news published herein. All
 rights of re-publication of special dis-
 patches herein are also reserved.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE:
 1 Yr. Six Mo.
 By mail, postage paid... \$6.00 \$3.00
 By carrier... \$7.00 \$3.50
 Sunday edition only... \$1.00 \$.50
 Daily by carrier or mail less than
 three months, 60 cents per month.

TELEPHONES:
 Business Office... No. 51
 Editorial Rooms... No. 61

Entered as second-class matter at
 the postoffice in Wilmington, N. C., on
 the act of congress of March 2, 1879.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1918.

TOP OF THE MORNING
 Only the good discern the good—
 Elizabeth Browning.

Enroll with the Red Cross.
 Oh, that empty stocking next Wed-
 nesday morning!
 Unless you keep in touch with those
 who are going ahead you are not get-
 ting much.
 Even a man would cackle if he could
 only lay claim to a productive farm in
 alluvial Carolina.
 Santa Claus will bring plenty of
 the spirit of Christmas but no ardent
 spirits of any kind.
 We have no end of problems to solve,
 and it is time we were getting some-
 where in the neighborhood of them.
 Christmas one week from today, and
 the first day of the new year just two
 weeks from today. Let's go! Hurry
 up.
 Anyhow, why should anybody want
 to get too darn gay on Christmas when
 the high in hilarity is too utterly too-
 too?
 Will you be able to answer the Red
 Cross roll call when the New Year
 bells clang out the old and ring in
 the new?
 Yes, Mabel, the two Johns, who are
 old pals, won't have much of a Christ-
 mas. They are John Barleycorn and
 Demijohn.
 The average man can start some-
 thing and then have the nerve to make
 out 'sif he was only functioning as an
 innocent bystander.
 Colonel Roosevelt often asserts that
 President Wilson never makes himself
 understood, but the people of France
 seem to have understood him.
 The German bolsheviks who control
 the Dughy of Brunswick, have appoint-
 ed a washerwoman as a member of
 their cabinet. Maybe she'll be at home
 among such scrubs.
 A woman has been appointed to the
 position of auditor in New York. Of
 course, if she gets on to many munici-
 pal secrets she's more than apt to put
 in overtime as a teller.
 Returns from the elections in the
 United Kingdom are coming in so
 slowly that our overseas cousins must
 be actually taking time to count all
 the votes so nobody can dispute the re-
 sult of the election.
 An ex-crown prince galloping
 around a corner with a bevy of Dutch
 ladies clattering after him, bent on
 messing him up a right smart, is a
 picture that will do fairly well as an
 illustration of the times in which we
 live. Divine right, meinself und Gott
 and all that sort of stuff certainly is
 considerably like a last year's bird
 nest this year.
 By the payment of one dollar be-
 tween now and January 1st, any man,
 woman, boy or girl can become an en-
 rolled member of the American Red
 Cross society. What religion incu-
 cates though its advocates, the Red
 Cross does through its workers. They
 are the Good Samaritans and it is they
 who go to the rescue of all humanity
 that may be helpless by the wayside
 throughout the universe. They "go
 about doing good."
 Two of the best anecdotes coming
 out of the war are of African origin.
 One negro, given the honor of speeding
 a big shell on its way, shouted as it
 left the gun, "Mister Kaiser, count
 yo' men!" The other, hearing his puzzled
 comrades debate on what General
 Pershing meant when he told them he
 would give the best of them a chance
 to "go over the top," said that "going
 over the top" meant getting out of the
 breastworks and saying, "Good morn-
 in', Jesus!" These have a fine negro
 flavor and presented properly to an
 American audience will infallibly
 bring down the house.
 The Atlanta Constitution says:
 "Southern chicken is a mouth-filling,
 juicy reality." That is a tradition.
 Southern chickens are about as scarce
 as hen's teeth, and the price is an un-
 palatable reality. We had dinner in
 the country not long ago and ate
 western chicken canned in Chicago.
 The meaning of this is that we don't
 raise enough chickens to brag about
 the way Aunt Gemma cooks them.
 That also accounts for the fact that
 eggs are selling in the south at 75
 cents a dozen, in spite of the fact that
 right here on the eve of Christmas
 chickens could be grazing on oats,
 wheat and Abruzzi rye from three to
 six inches high.

CONGRESS AND GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP.

The customarily sage Norfolk Virginian-Pilot observes:
 "The Louisville Courier-Journal says its Washington dispatches indicate the feeling at the national capital that government ownership of the railroads is a forgone conclusion. In that event, God save the republic!"
 We have never been able to believe that congress would undertake government ownership by fiat, since the congress was not elected on that issue. There are some things that congress should be careful not to do without leaving it to the people to say whether or not they want such a radical change made in the fundamental principles of their government. An issue so grave as government ownership is not a matter to be decided off-hand by congress before the necessity for it is made plain to the people and the issue is appealed to them.

If all along we had exercised proper control and regulation over corporations in this country, a necessity that itself is quite plain, we would not today be threatened with centralized and political operation of American transportation. With America's transportation facilities as the stake for capitalizing gambling and manipulation in the past, and the possibility of their yet becoming paternalized institutions and the patronage of politicians in the near future, there is no wonder that President Wilson, on the eve of his departure for the Versailles peace conference, said in his address to congress:
 "The question which causes me the greatest concern is the question of the policy to be adopted towards the railroads. I frankly turn to you for counsel upon it. I have no confident judgment of my own. I do not see how any thoughtful man can have who knows anything of the complexity of the problem. It is a problem which must be studied, studied immediately and studied without bias or prejudice. Nothing can be gained by becoming partisans of any particular plan of settlement. It was necessary that the administration of the railroads should be taken over by the government so long as the war lasted. It would have been impossible otherwise to establish and carry through under a single direction the necessary priorities of shipment. It would have been impossible otherwise to combine maximum production at the factories and mines and farms with the maximum possible car supply to take the products to the ports and markets; impossible to route troop shipments and freight shipments without regard to the advantage or disadvantage of the roads employed; impossible to subordinate, when necessary, all questions of convenience to the public necessity; impossible to give the necessary financial support to the roads from the public treasury. But all these necessities have now been served and the question is, what is best for the railroads and for the public in the future."
 In the foregoing, the president stated exactly the real railroad question. That question, as the president very plainly intimates, is not one of government ownership or private ownership, but it is, in the very words of the president himself, "what is best for the railroads and for the public in the future."
 That is the only public question involving the railroads. The problems of the railroads and the problems of the public's transportation interests, nevertheless, are two different things that have a great deal to do with the transportation companies and the facilities for transportation by both rail and water.
 The president left it to congress to thoroughly and cautiously investigate these problems before it can possibly pass upon the main question with wisdom and safety for both the public and the railroads. President Wilson actually left two huge tasks for congress to handle while he went off to exercise his treaty-making function. Those congressional tasks involve the railroads and American reconstruction, but congress has mostly made a noise like it preferred to function some at the world peace conference.
 Congress has no business saddling government ownership on the American republic till it first finds out "what is best for the railroads and for the public in the future." The question is more of an economic than a political one, and right there comes up the vital question whether congress knows as much about economics as it does about party politics.
 If the railroad question is such a serious and grave one that God has to save the republic from government and political operation of the railroads or whether God has to save the republic from capitalist manipulation of railroads, congress has more business at Washington than it has at Versailles. It really ought to get on its Washington job.
 In the joys of the new peace Christmas and reunion of soldiers with their loved ones, America with bowed head remembers that 68,000 of her sons will not be here, this Christmas nor the next nor any other. The nation can not place its finger on every home where grief instead of happiness will reign, but in its great heart, it sorrows for the homes where there is crepe instead of bright Christmas colorings. God bless the home whose soldier sleeps in France!

President Wilson will soon explain what he means by "absolute freedom of navigation of the seas." At the same time, it is easy to guess that he wants to safeguard navigation from any more Hun piracy and any other form of maritime policy that would enable any of the world's nations to establish any sort of commercial barge against each other. Maybe he wants the Black sea, or any other sea, just as free as the sea at maximum.

The Wilmington city council is eminently correct in its position on the Stonewall Jackson Training school at Concord, when it urges in resolutions adopted that the general assembly appropriate sufficient funds for this state institution to provide accommodations for the delinquent boys of the entire state, so that in order to correct and conserve boy life, no single county like New Hanover will have to provide at its own expense for the wayward boys who appear in the local courts.
 New Hanover county is one of the few counties in the state that pays into the Raleigh treasury more money than comes back to it in pensions, for schools, etc. A few of the 100 counties in the state keep the state government moving. The remainder are "paupers," receiving more from the state than they pay into the common treasury, although most of them are rich and fertile and prosperous and their "pauperism" is due to rotten politics and a rotten tax assessment. Already paying much more than a hundredth part of the expense of the Training school at Concord, New Hanover, or more correctly, Wilmington, must go down in its pocket and pay extra money to take care of wayward boys, which is strictly the function of the state.
 The state is committed to the training school proposition. The needs of the state have outgrown the school's facilities. Council warmly endorses the great work the school is doing and urges that the legislature provide amply for the school so that it may extend its work and include all the delinquents among juveniles who appear in the courts, and who must be sent to this school or sent to jail or the work house or the changang, to mix with hardened criminals. The legislature always has more calls to answer than it has money to answer with, but here is one thing that it ought to give consideration. These boys will inevitably become criminals unless corrected now, and unless corrected, eventually they will cost the state more than their training at Concord. It is a good business proposition to provide for every one of them, to say nothing of conserving valuable human material and making good citizens.
 In any event, no county ought to have to pay for work that the state is supposed to do itself.

If you have a heart inclined to humanity, you will find some way to raise a dollar and become a member of the Red Cross during 1919. One bean between now and the first of January will enable you to enroll as a human crusader.

Great Britain had a general election Saturday, but the results will not be known for two weeks, owing to the delay in counting the soldier vote abroad. That the coalition government, headed by Lloyd George, is endorsed is conceded. For the first time in British history, practically every adult male had opportunity to vote and every man over thirty. The sweeping reforms in the electoral systems which marked the elections Saturday were carried out by the coalition government.—Richmond Journal.

FINDING WORK FOR SOLDIERS

The people everywhere will commend the systematic efforts of the government to find employment for soldiers, sailors and civilian war workers who have been serving the government, some on the field of battle, some in the navy, some in munitions factories and some in the necessary lines of service that had to be performed to carry the war to a successful conclusion. In order to do that as effectively and rapidly as possible the United States Service has established bureaus throughout the United States and is getting into close touch with all those who need employees of every description. The United States Service Bulletin states that the need of this work for those who have served the nation during war is only too apparent. The Bulletin makes this plain when it explains:
 "During the period of transition from a war peace basis literally hundreds of thousands of munition and war workers will be temporarily out of employment. Thousands of men who have been called from one State to another will return to their homes to find new employment. At the same time the Army is being rapidly demobilized. When it is remembered that we have more than a million men in arms in the United States and more than 2,000,000 in France, most of whom are soon going home and many of whom have no work when they get there, the need for immediate action is obvious. The Employment Service as such can not solve this problem alone; it is a national problem, more especially a community problem. In other words, in order to demobilize the munition plants and our armed forces in such fashion as to avoid suffering and a falling wage scale in the face of the continued high cost of living, we are going to require the best thought and the best effort of every community in the United States."
 The Public Service depends upon the newspapers to help out in this important matter, and not only the press but all the agencies of employment are asked to join in. The co-operation of all the national welfare organizations, all government agencies interested in demobilization, and local community organizations of every kind is expected, as the work of getting about four million men and women back into civil employment is a huge undertaking. However, that work ought to be done to the best advantage, as the Employment Service will have as its assistants 184,000 local units, among them the state councils of defense, 4,000 community councils, and 16,000 women's organizations.

All of us can help in some particular to get the unemployed in touch with the government labor bureaus. It is especially important that all persons needing employees of any description to make known their wants to the labor bureaus. This will give every community the opportunity to get high class men of every description or to get technicians, professional men, industrial workers, and laborers for all vocations. We must all help, and get in a position to contribute a share to this work of employing those who have helped to win the war for America.

ENLARGE THE TRAINING SCHOOL.
 The Wilmington city council is eminently correct in its position on the Stonewall Jackson Training school at Concord, when it urges in resolutions adopted that the general assembly appropriate sufficient funds for this state institution to provide accommodations for the delinquent boys of the entire state, so that in order to correct and conserve boy life, no single county like New Hanover will have to provide at its own expense for the wayward boys who appear in the local courts.
 New Hanover county is one of the few counties in the state that pays into the Raleigh treasury more money than comes back to it in pensions, for schools, etc. A few of the 100 counties in the state keep the state government moving. The remainder are "paupers," receiving more from the state than they pay into the common treasury, although most of them are rich and fertile and prosperous and their "pauperism" is due to rotten politics and a rotten tax assessment. Already paying much more than a hundredth part of the expense of the Training school at Concord, New Hanover, or more correctly, Wilmington, must go down in its pocket and pay extra money to take care of wayward boys, which is strictly the function of the state.
 The state is committed to the training school proposition. The needs of the state have outgrown the school's facilities. Council warmly endorses the great work the school is doing and urges that the legislature provide amply for the school so that it may extend its work and include all the delinquents among juveniles who appear in the courts, and who must be sent to this school or sent to jail or the work house or the changang, to mix with hardened criminals. The legislature always has more calls to answer than it has money to answer with, but here is one thing that it ought to give consideration. These boys will inevitably become criminals unless corrected now, and unless corrected, eventually they will cost the state more than their training at Concord. It is a good business proposition to provide for every one of them, to say nothing of conserving valuable human material and making good citizens.
 In any event, no county ought to have to pay for work that the state is supposed to do itself.

PITT FARMERS "COINED" IT.
 Tobacco Prices Have Been High And The Sales Big—Season Over.
 (Special Star Correspondence).
 Greenville, N. C., Dec. 17.—Block sales in December are a new thing to the Greenville tobacco market, but Greenville is having them. Last week was a week of all day sales with the ending about one o'clock Saturday p. m. Sales have already reached that of last season, and are something over 20,000,000 pounds. Prices are high too, good tobacco bringing away up in the eighties and some the nineties. Tobacco farmers have coined at this year down in Pitt.

MRS. STELLA WILLIAMS LANE.
 Rocky Mount Lady, Native of Warsaw, Dies Pneumonia.
 (Special Star Correspondence).
 Rocky Mount, December 17.—Mrs. Stella Williams Lane, wife of Dr. J. L. Lane, a prominent physician of this city, a native of Warsaw, Pa., passed away at her home after a brief illness from pneumonia following an attack of influenza.
 Mrs. Lane was a native of Warsaw, Pa., and had been a resident of Rocky Mount for over six years. She is survived by husband, and two children Celeste and Jack. Two brothers and two sisters also survive her. Mrs. Lane's parents have been dead for some time. The deceased made many friends during her residence here, to whom the news of her death came as a distinct shock, and the bereaved family will be missed by the tobacco planters of many. Mrs. Lane was a member of the Presbyterian church here.
 The remains were taken to Warsaw yesterday, and the funeral services will be held there today.

CHIEF W. S. HAMILTON.
 Kinston's New Police Head Youngest Ever in Office.
 (Special Star Correspondence).
 Kinston, Dec. 17.—Walter S. Hamilton is Kinston's new police chief. He was selected from the force. He is 30 years old, a sergeant and motorcycle officer. He is perhaps the youngest chief of police the city has had. For a time he was the special guiding genius of the "blue belt" in South Kinston. In that capacity he quelled single-handed many a neighborhood row and free-for-all fight. Hamilton is a foe to the speeder. He succeeded J. Felix Skinner, who after the holidays will become a tobacco planter. The force, it is stated, is to be augmented by men chosen from among the returning soldiers.

Today's Patriotic Pennies Will Be Given to Buy Chickens for France.

CURRENT COMMENT.

The contention of Senator Simmons and other southern senators that nitrate of soda held by the war department at Wilmington and other southern ports should be sold to farmers at the price that would obtain in a free market, regardless of what the soda cost the government, seems only just and fair. The nitrate of soda was bought by the government for war purposes at war-time prices, and if it is sold to farmers at what it cost the government they will have to pay \$15 or \$20 a ton more than it could be bought for in a free market today. It is said that the government expects to take a loss on other supplies and it would not be fair to the farmers to make them protect the government against loss in purchasing this commodity which they must have at any price.—Lumberton Robesonian.

The Times pauses in its contemplation of those who wish to succeed him long enough to wish Judge H. W. Whedbee good voyage on his return to private practice at his home town of Greenville. Judge Whedbee has by his habit of hard work and constant attention acquired a reputation for dispatch. He has been an exception to none ever enjoyed by a North Carolina lawyer of the ermine. Withal he has seldom shown or been accused of having temperance—his tendency to haste is considered a working ally. He should find it easy to readjust himself to straight practice of law, for the judgeship he has held with honor to himself and his profession in the public that commonly an official quits its employ before he has outlived his usefulness.—Raleigh Times.

In sailing for home the fleet of ten American battle-ships that saw service in the North Sea will have only one cause for regret. After long months of weary watching the opportunity was denied them to measure strength with the enemy. The men of the fleet will share the disappointment of the British navy. The day of the final test never arrived, through the abject surrender of the German high seas fleet. But it shall never be forgotten that when the Germans at last came out to turn over as prizes of war the fleet that had been the boast of the German nation the Americans were there in line with the British Navy. Never before in the history of the world had there been such a spectacle. Never before had it seemed credible that a great nation would submit to such humiliation. That day in the North Sea Germany fell to the rank of a third-rate naval power without sacrificing a single warship in battle. When the American battle-ships now on the way reach home they will receive a welcome worthy of the part they played. At all times they were eager for action, but they were dealing with an enemy navy that was afraid to fight and warred by stealth on women and children and hospital ships.—New York World.

PRIVATE WANTED "Y" WOMAN TO BE CAREFUL.
 Was Afraid Her Note To His Girl Might Stir Up Jealousy, But She Fixed It Okeh.
 Paris, Nov. 20.—(Correspondence).—He wanted to buy a Christmas present for his girl back home so that she could show it to all the other girls, and destroy their peace of mind because it had come from France. He knew just what he wanted, too, but every time he thought of going into the shop and trying to ask in French for the thing he wanted, he got red behind the ears. He had gone over the top in the past, unafraid, but he couldn't do this.
 At last, when his leave was all up, he went into the canteen and asked the Y. M. C. A. woman there to make the purchase for him. He gave her the address, and hoped it wouldn't be too much trouble to send the package.
 "Of course it won't," said the Y. M. C. A. woman who buys dozens of such gifts each week. "I'll enjoy it. I'll see that the package goes all right, and, if you like, I'll write her a little note too, telling her how well you're looking."
 "That will be nice," said the private. He counted out the money, a generous amount. Still he lingered, and it was evident that he had something else on his mind.
 "Anything else I can do for you?" asked the woman.
 "It's like this," began the private,

hesitatingly. He stopped, swallowed, and started all over again. "Please be careful what you say in that note, won't you, Ma'am? You see—my girl—she's funny about some things—she might think—well, you know how women are!" finished the private wisely.
 "I'll tell you what," said the American woman, "I'll tell her I enjoyed meeting you because I have a son in the army myself. Will that do?"
 "That will be fine!" said the private. "I wouldn't have mentioned it, only you know how women are!" He smiled at her understandingly, saluted, turned and went out.

SEVERAL MORE TAR HEELS IN GERMAN PRISON CAMPS.
 (Washington, Dec. 17.—A list of American soldiers reported in prison camps in Germany made public tonight, include the following:
 At Bastatt—Privates Paul Denton, Hickory, N. C.; Oscar Copper, Bush, La.; Sergt. William L. Sperry, Tampa, Fla.
 At Camp unknown—Corporal Charles M. Lumpkin, Asheville, N. C.; Robbie A. Walker, Weaverford, N. C.; Privates William Perry, East Durham, N. C.; Josiah H. Dugger, Culloden, Tenn.; Corporal John Peckroy, Robertsonville, N. C.

Young Officer Left Fortune.
 Mineola, N. Y., Dec. 17.—Major Willard D. Straight, the young financier and diplomat, who died of pneumonia recently in service, left the bulk of his fortune, approximately \$5,000,000 to his wife, Dorothy Payne Whitney Straight, requesting that certain "mutual agreements" for financing and aiding certain institutions be observed.

AMERICANS ORDER HUN CLOCKS TURNED BACK.
 Change of an Hour is Made in The To Conform With That Used by Occupation Forces.
 American Army of Occupation, Monday, Dec. 16.—(By the Associated Press).—By decree of the American military authorities the clocks in Coblenz, Treves and elsewhere in occupied areas were set back an hour on Sunday. The change from the German time was made so that the clock within the bridgehead and the district west of the Rhine would correspond with the time used by the American forces.
 In accordance with the terms of the armistice the Germans Sunday turned over to the Americans 250 military trucks. About 500 of these have been assembled at Coblenz. As rapidly as possible the former German army trucks are being manned by Americans and used to bring up supplies. German-built trucks, driven by Americans, rumbled through the streets of Coblenz on Sunday, but they do not attract much attention.
 Miske Knocks Out Flynn.
 Tulsa, Okla., Dec. 16.—Billy Flynn of St. Paul, knocked out Jim Flynn, a scheduled 15 round fight here last night. Flynn was knocked down before taking the count, the bell ringing him in the first round.
 Today's Patriotic Pennies Will Be Given to Buy Chickens for France.



Beginning tomorrow our store will be open every night until Christmas eve.

Sale of Silk Blouses

One hundred Crepe de Chine and Georgette Waists, \$4.00 values, will go on sale today at **\$2.98**

Colors—White, Flesh, Black, Nile, Canary, Peach, Etc.
NEW MODELS OF LADIES' COATS.
 A complete assortment of sizes and shades just received, and priced much below their value. \$18.50 to \$29.50

G. DANNENBAUM
 20 MARKET STREET



USEFUL GIFTS---

What is more appreciated than a pair of Slippers or Shoes for a Christmas Gift? We have a large assortment in Felt and Leather Slippers for men, women and children, in different colors. Something for every man's family, at



PETERSON & RULF
 Home of Good Shoes.