

LOCAL MEAT DEALERS ARE NOT PROFITEERS

Their Margin of Profit Fair Say Investigators.

Price List Was Agreed On Last Night and Will Be Published Later—Matter Thoroughly Discussed at Conference.

The local meat dealers have not been guilty of profiteering. They were exonerated from such charges at a meeting of the committee appointed by the local food administration to get up a fair price list on meats, with the district inspector for the food administration, representatives of the two shipyards and other representative citizens held in the chamber of commerce assembly hall last night at 8 o'clock.

The committee on fair prices consisted of local packing housemen and retail meat dealers, and after the meeting had been called to order by J. C. Hobbs, Jr., of the fair price committee of the food administration, a price list was submitted, together with the price the retailer has to pay, and the unanimous opinion of the meeting was that there has been no profiteering.

There was little time consumed in deciding that the list as submitted by the committee was a fair margin of profit for the retailer, but lengthy discussions followed before any agreement was reached as to just how the price list should be published. Some were of the opinion that the retail price list should be published with the wholesale price paid for the beef. This would show that the butcher was making an enormous profit on the best cuts while the less desirable parts were going around for a few cents less. Fearing that this would cause a confusion on the part of the housewife, others thought it would be better to publish a comparative price list containing the wholesale and retail prices. The advocates of the latter plan finally prevailed, and the list will be worked up today and published tomorrow.

In the discussions which followed the reading of the fair price list as agreed on by the committee it was stated by Mr. Davis, of Davis and Hutz, that his business was doing well, was 20 per cent. which means that he must get 20 cents on every dollar invested before he can begin to realize any net profit whatever. It was the consensus of opinion that there was about the average cost of doing business experienced by other dealers of the city.

The list placed before the meeting last night will receive the full approval of the food administration officials and it is understood, will be strictly observed by the retail dealers. With the knowledge that the food administration approved the prices it is presumed that the public, or any who may have entertained any such idea, will cast aside any thought that Wilmington butchers are "getting rich" at the expense of the consumer. The price ranges on the list are: round steak, 15 to 18 cents for round steak. As a margin of profit is to be fixed, the native, or Jacksonville, beef, will reach the consumer at a cost of several cents less than the charge for western beef. It was also stated that the "down town" dealers handle only the western beef, which is held as the best placed on the Wilmington market.

The representatives of the shipyards were present upon special invitation of Mr. W. Nash, district inspector for the federal food administration, who came to Wilmington early yesterday morning to "thresh out" the alleged charges of profiteering in Wilmington. In discussing the matter, R. W. Beck, of the Carolina and York shipyards, stated that he has received complaints from men on board of excessive prices. He said he had been unable to get the men to make specific charges and what he wanted was the facts that he might place them before the men and prove to them that they are not being charged unreasonable prices for the necessities of life.

Instead of finding the butchers have been profiteering it was shown that they are actually selling their merchandise to the consumer for a smaller profit than allowed by the food administration. On a beef that cost \$10 it was shown that at the prices agreed on last night it will be sold for a gross profit of \$34.70, which is approximately 29 per cent. gross, where the food administration allowed a 14 per cent. by the food administration.

The results of the meeting last night were entirely satisfactory to both the food administration officials and to the retailer committee, and is expected to be received in the same manner by the consumer.

The Quick Way to Stop a Cough

This home-made syrup does the work in a hurry. Easily prepared, and saves about \$1.

You might be surprised to know that the best thing you can use for a severe cough, is a remedy which is easily prepared at home in just a few moments. It is cheap, but for prompt results it beats anything else. It stops the cough, soothes the throat, tastes pleasant, too—children like it—and it is pure and good.

Pinex is a highly concentrated compound of Norway pine extract, famous for its healing effect on the membranes. It is a highly concentrated compound of Norway pine extract, famous for its healing effect on the membranes.

WEST THAT WAS COMING

Will Be Presented at Holiday Bazaar of the Stage Employees, Etc.

Among the many attractions secured for their holiday bazaar, by the Stage Employees, Motion Picture Operators and Musicians, is a typical scene from a mining camp in the "Days of Old, the Days of Gold." This exhibit vividly portrays the life, sports and pastimes of many of the miners who crossed the plains, in search of wealth, in the early days.

There will be plenty to amuse one at the bazaar as a number of dramatic comedies and exhibits have already been arranged for and every available foot of floor space will be used for something to entertain the patrons.

Prizes will be given away every night and a grand prize that will prove a surprise, will be presented to the lucky person on the last night of the bazaar.

MANY HOUSES HAVE BEEN BUILT HERE

Committee Gets Facts on Housing Problem.

Fifty-Three Have Been Built in the City—Over Fifty More in Suburban Districts—Problem is Not Yet Solved.

While it is possible that Wilmington people have not built altogether as many houses to accommodate the shipyard workers as was agreed to early last spring, the canvass of the city, which has just closed, and which was conducted by the building committee of the chamber of commerce, reveals the fact that there have been 53 new houses built in the city, which, together with those of the Victory Home company at Sunset Park, others built by individuals and some remodelled and made habitable, will swell the number to between 150 and 175.

The committee was unable to get the exact number remodelled, but from the information gained it was learned that a total of 105 new houses will have been built when the Victory Home company completes its program of 50 houses, while Walter Colwell, local contractor, reports that he has remodelled and made habitable 20 homes, the majority of which have been considerably enlarged in the process of remodeling.

This canvass was made following the announcement by officials of the United States shipping board had definitely announced that it would undertake no home building program in Wilmington, and that it was up to the people of Wilmington to get behind the Carolina and provide the houses if the yard is to remain a factor in the industrial life of the city.

In addition to the above facts it was learned that all who agreed to build a certain number of houses last spring have not lived up to their obligation in one sense of the word. Some who have failed to build independently have taken stock in the Victory Home company, and in some instances, they have not lived up to their obligation, others who promised to help take care of the situation have been called into the situation and they probably would have fulfilled their promise had they remained at home.

Some additional pledges were received during the recent canvass, but number of them will make the number of houses to be built in the city of the situation is yet to be determined. In determining if Wilmington has fulfilled her agreement it must be borne in mind that several of the large buildings of the city have been converted from private homes into apartment houses, while some office buildings have been changed into rooming houses. The Purcell house has also been remodelled and made suitable for roomers.

But the question now, it is pointed out, is not what Wilmington has done, for it is a well known fact that this city has done more for the government than any other city in the state that has been favored with government industrial plants, but what is needed to be done in the future. Regardless of how well Wilmington has done, the population is willing to do more for the practical, in fact anything in its power to solve the housing problem.

POSTAL CLERKS BUSY

Christmas Parcels in Large Quantities Are Being Dispatched.

Although Christmas is six days away, the post office is and has been, in a sense, the busiest of the holiday season. The clerk at the parcel post window is being kept busy almost every minute of the day weighing and marking Christmas packages.

The crowds surrounding the parcel post window yesterday afternoon was at times packed six and eight deep, as eager folk with packages of all sizes and shapes and what he wanted was the parcel post window to be opened almost every day. There are always a few, however, who wait until the eleventh hour to mail Christmas gifts, causing the parcel post window to be pushed almost beyond endurance during the two days preceding Christmas. By mailing Christmas packages early the employees at the post office may be saved much unnecessary strain and over-work during the Yuletide when they should be enjoying the holiday.

The parcel post division is open from 8:30 o'clock morning until 6:30 p.m. in the afternoon, and Christmas gifts may be dispatched at any time between those hours.

Postmaster Green announced last night that he will open his parcel post window today, keeping it open until the Christmas rush is over in order to facilitate matters. This window will be locally used for insured packages entirely. Uninsured parcels should be carried to the regular parcel post window to be stamped.

ONE DOSE RELIEVES A COLD

---NO QUININE

"Pape's Cold Compound" Ends Bad Colds or Grippe in a Few Hours.

Relief comes instantly. A dose taken every two hours until three doses are taken will end grippe misery and break up a severe cold either in the head, chest, body or limbs.

It promptly opens clogged up nostrils and air passages in the head, stops nasty discharge or nose running, relieves sick headache, dizziness, feverishness, sore throat, sneezing, soreness and stiffness.

Don't stay puffed up! Quit blowing and snuffing! Ease your throbbing head! Nothing in the world gives such prompt relief as "Pape's Cold Compound," which costs only a few cents at any drug store. It acts with-out assistance, tastes nice, and causes no inconvenience. Be sure you get the genuine.

RED CROSS GAINING MANY NEW MEMBERS

Total of 2,416 Answer Christmas Roll Call.

Efforts of Canvassing Committees Crowned With Success—911 Enrolled Yesterday—Important Committee Meetings Today.

A CALL TO PATRIOTISM.

For those things it has done in war—for those things it is doing in reconstruction—for those things it will do in peace—is the Red Cross society to be kept existent, not by the donations of the few but by the voluntary membership of the many. When alleviating suffering on the battle field, when reconstructing shattered human frames, when using its utmost efforts to control epidemic or to stamp out tuberculosis, it knows no creed, no caste, no race. It is a great democratic institution of the people and must, to be thoroughly effective, be supported by the contributions and the moral support of the people. It asks not, it knows not, it cares not who one is. When it sees suffering, it relieves it. When it sees sorrow, it comforts it. It fears nothing, it seeks no reward. It may be me, it may be my son. It may be you, it may be your daughter. To the Red Cross it is a matter of supreme indifference. Simply this. Is its aid needed?

Can one refuse to become a member? Can one refuse to help his own mother? As you answer that, so answer the question, can one neglect to keep alive "The Greatest Mother on Earth?" Let every man, woman and child in New Hanover county join this week while the opportunity is being made so easy.

C. C. CHADBOURN.

Unusual success is being gained by canvassing committees of the Red Cross Christmas roll call in their efforts to enroll all adult citizens of Wilmington and New Hanover as members of the Wilmington chapter of the American Red Cross.

When the daily report was wired from headquarters yesterday afternoon to division headquarters at Atlanta, the roll call included 2,416 new members, 911 of these having been secured yesterday. W. A. McGirt, chairman of details, and the staff of workers associated with him in the roll call are very optimistic. Chairman McGirt believes that Wilmington will not only reach her goal of 5,000 new members but will go far beyond it. "When the roll call closes next Monday," he said, "the total will be nearer 10,000 than 5,000."

"Of course no one in the city could afford to miss this opportunity of becoming a member of the Red Cross and identifying himself with one of the most benevolent organizations actively engaged in the relief of human suffering wherever it exists in the world," Mr. McGirt added. "Everyone, however, should join as early in the week as possible. Reports are being received daily to division headquarters at Atlanta and also to state headquarters in Greensboro, and Wilmington should not only lead the state when the roll call is completed, but she should be leading every day. This can be made possible only by having the people enlist early so that large encouraging reports may be sent to state headquarters from day to day. The success of the roll call so far is very promising. We have a total of 2,416 enrolled to date, an average of approximately 800 a day."

Reports turned in at headquarters by canvassing committees yesterday were unusually good. The ladies' committee canvassing the residential district reported a total of 163 new members for the day. This committee has secured a total of \$7,775 in membership fees since the roll call commenced. The young ladies soliciting memberships at the booths remained at their posts during the day in spite of the cold weather reported yesterday evening a total of 84 new members. The committee of which Mrs. Cuthbert Martin is chairman secured 143 additional members in the business section, while the committee canvassing the Liberty shipyards, a rural district, reported 65 enlistments. Fifty-five members of the Church of the Covenant have been enrolled up to the present. This is the only church from which a report has been received, as the other churches requested the privilege of waiting until Saturday to send in lists of their members who have enrolled with the Red Cross. The Atlantic Coast Line reported yesterday approximately 500 of its employees as having answered the roll call. Several large industries of the city, including the Carolina and Liberty shipyards, the rural districts and the navy committees have not yet sent in their reports. When these are received the total of the roll call will be greatly augmented.

Chairman McGirt calls attention to the fact that dollar-memberships are for one year only. Those who join the Red Cross now will continue as members through 1919, but at the end of the coming year their memberships will expire. In order to simplify matters the Red Cross has announced that all memberships will expire January 1.

Two Red Cross meetings are scheduled to take place today in the chamber of commerce. A search of the premises of the church committee, has called a meeting of this group at 12 o'clock to discuss plans pertaining to this particular branch of roll call activities. At 2 o'clock a meeting of the roll call organization are expected to meet in the assembly hall of the chamber to map out plans calculated to push Wilmington far beyond her goal in the Christmas roll call.

ROCK HILL NEGRO OPENS FIRE ON THREE OFFICERS

Sheriff Jackson and Deputy Return Fire and Jim Davis is Wounded.

Jim Davis, a negro about 30 years of age whose home is at Rock Hill, five miles from Wilmington, is in James Walker Memorial hospital probably fatally wounded as the result of being shot in the abdomen last night. A search of the premises of Sheriff George C. Jackson or Deputy Sheriff A. W. Allen after he had opened fire on the officers. The negro was rushed to the city and placed in the hospital and after an examination Dr. Freeman stated that his condition was very critical.

The shooting took place at the home of Davis where the officers were in search of an illicit whiskey distillery. Having received information that a still would be in operation in that vicinity the officers left Wilmington in the sheriff's car about 8 o'clock. They first went to Davis' home but he was not there. They then returned to the premises, revealed about 85 gallons of still mash, some of which was ready to "run off."

The officers then made a thorough search of the vicinity, returning to Davis' home about 10 o'clock. Sheriff Jackson and Deputy Sheriff W. H. Howe stopped in front of the house while Deputy Allen went around to the rear. The officers did not know if Davis had returned and was informed by his wife that he had but had gone again.

About that time he heard Deputy Allen call "hit" and he and Deputy Howe immediately ran around the house. Davis was making for his house with a revolver in his hand. All three of the officers called to him to lower his gun, but instead of doing so he opened fire, shooting four times. One bullet passed through the sheriff's scarf which he had around his neck, while another knocked Deputy Allen to the ground. The other officers returned the fire about the same time, the former shooting twice and the latter once.

One bullet struck the negro in the left side, penetrating the minuscule. The officers were aware that the negro bears anything but a good reputation and fearing trouble the sheriff gave instructions before starting to carry him and asked them to make an investigation and ascertain his whereabouts, if possible.

Mr. Willett was seen in the city at 3:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon by Ben Griffith, brother of the prospective bride. At that time he was on Front street in company with a soldier from the same neighborhood where Mr. Willett resides. Mr. Griffith did not know the name of the soldier. Thirty minutes later, or at 4 o'clock a man purporting to be Mr. Willett was in conversation over the telephone with Miss Griffith, telling her that he would be at her home about 8 o'clock. That is the last that has been heard from him.

"All You Need Is a Heart and a Dollar" Your Red Cross Dollars

RED CROSS CHRISTMAS ROLL CALL WEEK For Universal Membership \$1.00 Per Year—JOIN—\$1.00 Per Year

Space Donated by:—American Bank & Trust Co., Home Savings Bank, Murchison National Bank, The Peoples Savings Bank, The Wilmington Savings & Trust Co.



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CHAMBER ADDS ENDORSEMENT

Executive Committee Approves Good Roads Resolution—Sends Copies.

Urging that every city in the state aid in securing better roads for North Carolina, the executive committee of Wilmington's chamber of commerce has given its complete endorsement to the resolution adopted at the meeting of the North Carolina Good Roads association held here last August and copies of the statement drawn up by the chamber have been forwarded to all chambers of commerce in the state.

The state is in need of better highways because of the steadily increasing use of the automobile and the ever-growing popularity of that vehicle as an aid to industry and commerce, it is pointed out. The resolutions call for taxation to support the good roads movement as embodied in a state-wide highway organization.



THIS IS THE LAST WEEK

Before Christmas, and you should not put your shopping off a day longer. Decide now what your gifts will be. Look over the list below. It might help you.

GLOVES FOR MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN Leather, kid or Fabric Gloves in all the popular shades and combinations—are always appreciative. Men's Auto Gloves. \$2.25, \$3.00 Boys' Scout Gloves at . . . . 98c

HAND BAGS AND PURSES In all the new shapes, made of leather or velvet and lined with fancy brocade, 50c to \$5 Men's Leather Purses, 50c to \$3.50 Children's Hand Bags, 50c to 75c

TOILET AND MANICURE SETS With ebony or ivory handles, packed in neat leatherette covered cases, or in separate pieces.

HANDKERCHIEFS No other one item is so popular for Christmas-giving, and here you can make selections that will suit all ages. Packed in decorated Christmas boxes and folders. Priced at . . . . . 25c to \$1.50 Ladies fine quality plain Linen Handkerchiefs, at . . . . . 29c Men's fine quality plain Linen Handkerchiefs, at . . 25c to 48c

SILK HOSIERY Ladies' Silk Hose in blacks, whites and colors, in suitable quality for Christmas giving, at . . . . . 98c, \$1.59 and \$2.00 Men's Silk Hose, plain or fancy, at . . . . . 50c, 75c and 98c

FANCY TOWELS Fancy Turkish Towels in large, medium and small sizes, with fancy colored borders, especially suited for gift purposes Priced . . . . . 25c to \$1.50

KNIT CAPS AND SKATING SETS Children Knit Caps 25c, 50c, 75c Ladies' Knit Caps 50c, 75c, \$1.00 Wool Knit Cap and Scarf Skating Sets . . . . . 98c to \$3.95

RUGS AND ART SQUARES Small Grass or Wool Rugs, in a variety of rich patterns. Priced . . . . . 48c to \$6.50 Large Grass Art Squares, \$6.95 to \$12.50 Large Velvet and Axminster Art Squares. \$24.75 to \$85.00

CHRISTMAS STATIONERY White, tinted and gold edge Paper and Cards with envelopes to match, put up in attractive Christmas boxes, make useful gifts. Priced . . . . . 35c to \$1.50

Belk-Williams Company