

THE MORNING STAR

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1918.

TOP OF THE MORNING

And somewhere in life's music There was always that which jarred— A hidden and dreary discord, That all its sweetness marred.

But my harp of life was lifted By one who knew the range Of its many strings—for He made it, And He struck a key-note strange; And beneath the touch of the Master— I heard the music change. —SELECTED.

Don't you want to be governor of North Carolina, too?

A man who won't carry in the stove wood ought to be roasted.

The man who leads a dog's life is liable to take to the woods and run rabbits.

How would you like to peep behind the scenes during the rehearsal for the world peace conference?

Lots of grouchy old gentlemen who must not believe in destiny, keep on snapping at the heels of Wilson.

You have two days more in which to come across with a dollar and get on the Christmas roll call of the Red Cross.

The Huns are afraid the allies are going to take from them everything they have taken from others. If that is what they guess, they have guessed right.

What a grand and noble aspiration it is for men to want to function for four years at Raleigh as governor of the best state in the great American republic.

Von Hindenburg handed 'em out a lot of hogwash for Christmas. It makes some folk mad. It ought to enable them to know a joke when they see one.

Who had any idea that so many men have been lying awake at nights imagining that it's about their time to be governor of the great state of North Carolina?

Get the Yule log ready to be lighted. Can't you almost hear the approach of somebody with white whiskers and good things and pretty things and toys of all kinds?

Men try to regulate and control and intimidate each other by law and force, but: "By mercy and truth iniquity is purged, and by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil."—Proverbs xvi-6.

Buy war savings and thrift stamps for Christmas and New Year's gifts. Don't forget, also, to lay in a supply as an investment. They pay more than 4-1/2 per cent interest on the money invested in them.

Daniel Webster uttered this truism: "If a thing can't be done, an ingenium man can tell how it is to be done." Well, that's one more argument that ought to reconcile Teddy to President Wilson's presence around the peace table at Versailles.

A union of all the churches is proposed so there will be a universal Christian brotherhood, exemplifying "how sweet it is for brethren to dwell together." At the same time, has any of them thought up a plan to get all the choirs to exemplify, too?

President Wilson stands for open diplomacy—wide open and free and above-board. We take it that it makes him sick to recognize as diplomacy some of the sneaking dickering, underhanded negotiations and machievellian understandings which have passed off in Europe as diplomacy. According to Noah Webster, its right name is intrigue.

An orator says: "Every man should have the right to enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Oh, that's all right, but some men want to enjoy life at somebody else's expense. Some want to enjoy the kind of liberty that enables them to do as they please. Some want to get out in a 'tin lizzie and monopolize the whole pike in pursuit of happiness.

Twenty years ago a North Carolinian went out west to get rich on the irrigated lands offered to him. He left here with only enough money to pay his way out west. In order to show how good fortune overtakes those who go out into the world to make their fortune, he returned to North Carolina a few days ago with \$50 in his pocket. He borrowed enough money from his North Carolina brother to get him home on and managed to save \$50 of it to return to his brother. His North Carolina brother told him to keep the change, as he had netted \$300 an acre on yellow leaf tobacco this year.

THE SOLDIER FARM PLAN.

Secretary Lane's soldier farm proposition ought to afford a splendid opportunity for the owners of idle lands in Eastern Carolina but it largely depends on land owners themselves whether Eastern Carolina can adapt itself to his plans and actually cooperate with him in his undertaking for homesteading thousands of soldiers who are returning from Europe. They ought also to have plans that can be co-ordinated with his plans.

Secretary Lane has come into Eastern Carolina and looked over our idle land possibilities. He has seen farms that have been developed out of our land possibilities. He has seen farms in the first stages of development, and he has seen the land where farms ought to be and where farms can be established sooner or later. He has seen the land without the man, and he has a plan to get the land and the man together.

Have our land owners got a plan that will co-ordinate with the secretary's plans? If not, why not? We certainly ought not to leave it all to Secretary Lane. We certainly ought to keep in touch with him. The Raleigh News and Observer thinks well of his patriotic and constructive undertaking, and discusses the matter in this way:

"The proposition to provide farms for the returning soldiers looks like a good thing. It suggests so many new phases and involves so many of the new results of war that it will be discussed thoroughly and probably put into practice. North Carolina has a lot of untitled land. If we can get away at the start from the idea that putting soldiers on the land is a land speculation scheme that will be wise. Also if we can get away from the proposition that the land must be taken from the owners for nothing that will be wise. The plain truth is that the initial cost of the land is an incident, and has little to do with the merits of this scheme. Land values are largely speculative, and under the government plan, as the land is not to be sold, but to be given to the soldier, the selling value is a minor consideration. If he cannot make on the land, enough so that the first cost of the land is a small matter he will be wise to start off at once. If he cannot make his land pay him six per cent on a valuation of at least \$200 an acre he makes a mistake to undertake farming at all.

"The price a farmer pays 'or his land is determined by his success or failure. So many other things enter into the case that it is the other things that must be considered. It is because of the consideration of these other things that the proposition to put the soldiers on the land is a good one. In taking a step of this kind the government will go far enough to see that the soldier is provided with sufficient capital and equipment to farm right. There is an essential element of success in the plan, a farm where farming is his business and not land speculation. He will be provided with a small farm and his interest will be in what his land can produce, not what he can get for it in the years to come. The real worth of a farm is what it will produce in crops. We do not estimate farms that way at all, but by what they can bring if sold.

"If the government will put soldiers on small farms and stand by them and make of them successful producers, the benefits will extend to the whole community and will be of far greater importance than merely providing the soldier something to do or than in adding to the land values of the community. Possibly a process of this kind might lead to a revolution of the speculative land farming and make a really business occupation."

Secretary Lane recently came to Wilmington and looked over our lands with regard to their homesteading possibilities. We must not let him get away from us. We must keep in touch with him and give him all the assistance and encouragement we can. He saw many advantages, and no doubt he also saw some disadvantages that we fail to observe ourselves. Doubtless we know of advantages that he overlooked. Certainly there are problems that have to be solved. Perhaps he noticed some of them and also know how they can be dealt with in a manner that they may be overcome.

Secretary Lane came through here rather hurriedly. He saw some of our prosperous farms, and saw some of our settlement and community possibilities, those capable of being brought into model shape under his plans for settlements, roads, schools, churches, community houses, farm industries, etc. He saw an opening here for community developments, but we wish he had remained over long enough to have visited Chadbourn. There he would have seen a colony developed out of just such land possibilities as he inspected. He saw farms in a state of development and in progress of development, but at Chadbourn he could see a farm and community development, a settlement where three of four thousand prosperous westerners have become prosperous.

Most of the lands in this section are virgin lands that have to be cleared and drained and brought into cultivation. They are far away from good roads, and they are not the \$200 per acre developments that would appeal readily to settlers if plenty of such land could be had in large tracts. Chadbourn has some such lands but they are not for sale. The lands for sale can be developed just like these at Chadbourn, but they have to be sold as undeveloped lands and at prices in competition with all the millions of idle lands in South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and other states. The price of these lands will be largely regulated by the price of similar large undeveloped areas in other states.

A Chicago man sued his wife for money which he loaned her, but at the trial a learned and experienced judge decided that when a man loans money to his wife it becomes hers. This shows that you can't fool a judge after he has lived long enough to find out the facts in the case.

MAKING A BETTER CITY.

For nearly two years we have been mostly concerned in what we could do for our nation and the world democracy. We have helped to win the World War for humanity, and now once more we will turn to the constructive things of life. After the holidays are over, shortly after the next ten days, it will be time for us to be concerned over what we can do for our respective cities and communities. With us here in Wilmington it will be what we can do for our city and the port.

There is plenty to be done, and no doubt nearly every thinking man in Wilmington knows or thinks of some one thing or other that we ought to turn our attention to in a united, earnest manner. Up in the growing and flourishing city of Winston-Salem the leading citizens are suggesting various things that will make the Twin City a better and more progressive city. For one thing, Col. F. H. Fries, who has been North Carolina's able and active state director of the war savings and thrift stamps campaign, suggests through the Winston-Salem Journal that the spirit of thrift aroused during war times, be made a permanent feature and popular characteristic of the city's life, as thrift will make people economically free and contribute very materially to their happiness and the happiness and contentment of the whole community.

That is a capital suggestion. It ought to apply to every hamlet, town, city and community in North Carolina. It will be as much to the advantage of Wilmington as it will to that of Winston-Salem. Thousands of people have learned the lesson by reason of the war and the various campaigns and "big drives" that have been launched and carried out under systematic pressure.

Some of the things that we can do for Wilmington can be launched and carried out in that same way. That is a capital suggestion. It ought to apply to every hamlet, town, city and community in North Carolina. It will be as much to the advantage of Wilmington as it will to that of Winston-Salem. Thousands of people have learned the lesson by reason of the war and the various campaigns and "big drives" that have been launched and carried out under systematic pressure.

A SACRED COMMUNITY DUTY

The sacred community duty of Wilmington during the coming month will be to unite in a whole-souled campaign to carry out the community purpose to erect a fitting memorial to commemorate the memory of New Hanover county's world war martyrs—the splendid young men who have laid down their lives for the immortal cause which has triumphed because of the supreme sacrifice which such men have made.

That is the first thing in our hearts for the new year. The plans have been made and we will launch and carry out a campaign to raise a memorial fund of \$25,000. It is aimed to raise the memorial fund in three days, beginning January 17 and concluding January 20. That is our first sacred duty of the new year, and our hearts will be in that campaign. We can not do a nobler thing for Wilmington than to commemorate the sacrifice which our own heroes have made for the glory of our city, our state, our nation and the world.

"We can make Wilmington a better city by uniting in the community purpose to honor our 'Glorious Dead in the Great War,'" as Dr. James Sprunt used the term in behalf of the memorial committee of the council of defense, in the beautiful tribute card printed on the editorial page of Sunday's Star. We have learned the spirit of giving for noble causes, we have learned the lesson of unity, and we have learned the method by which we can give expression to what is best in our community.

This is our first community duty of the new year, and when we shall have performed it we shall keep up the unity spirit that will help to make Wilmington a better city in various ways.

ASHEVILLE'S COMMUNITY HOUSE.

Now that the war is over, Asheville proposes to again take up the proposition for the erection of a community house. The Asheville Times says the agitation for it has once more come to the front and urges that it is time that active steps be taken "to make the dream of a number of Asheville men a reality." We should think the ladies would have more dreams about it than the men, for they have more use for a community house than anybody else. In the average city the women literally have no community home that they can call their own. They hold hundreds of meetings a year and have to hold them in any and everywhere they can get a convenient room or hall. Their societies and organizations of various kinds meet in all sorts of places not suitable for their gatherings. They have to hold festivals and entertainments wherever they can get a place—very often in a vacant storeroom. The men of a community also are in dire need of a suitable place for their gatherings, conferences, committee meetings and the like. The Asheville Board of Trade and the Rotary Club both propose to enter into a campaign for a community house for that city. It is a splendid idea.

Japan proposes to bring up the race question at the peace convention. The Japanese dislike race prejudice and discrimination. However, it is difficult to see how a peace conference can handle a matter that is distinctly one of instinct. Japan will be surprised to observe that Europe's troubles are very largely racial. The Balkan stew is because it has been settled by about all the races in Europe. These different races can't or won't live in harmony, so the Balkans have been Europe's hot bed of disruption, involving all the nations from which they emigrated. The peace conference will have a time of it settling the racial differences between the Dalmatian Italians and Jugos-Slavs.

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.

THE CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES.

During the tension of war time activity one is prone to overlook the merits of those who pursue the noiseless tenor of their way, and I am taking the liberty of asking for space enough in your public forum for a brief in their behalf.

The enclosed clippings are too voluminous to be reproduced, but a mere glance at them will show that every phase of occupation has been advanced. Especially by the war. You will notice that they range in location from San Diego, Cal., to Buffalo, N. Y., and from Toronto, Canada, to Birmingham, Ala., and include such vocations as theatrical employes, blacksmiths, electricians, down to and including waiters in the restaurants.

In percentage, the increases run from 20 per cent to 150 per cent, and some will run higher. The "living costs" shows that the cost of living has run, for some articles to 123 per cent increase—but this story has been so oft repeated, one knows it by heart.

But in all of it, the civil service employees, the professional men who in the service for years before we dreamed of fighting the Boche—has had practically the same wage.

I am not at liberty, of course, to cite names, but the professional men, the faithful employes who are today receiving the same salaries they received seven or eight years ago; and others are receiving more merely because they have been promoted to higher positions. The salaries of the positions to which they have been elevated have not been inflated.

The average person outside of the civil service knows very little of it, and the soldier in the trenches, who the civilian cares nothing about it, because the personnel of its element cannot override his influence. But, at the same time, it is a public matter, and one that the soldier in the trenches should know about it, because the personnel of its element cannot override his influence. But, at the same time, it is a public matter, and one that the soldier in the trenches should know about it, because the personnel of its element cannot override his influence.

In standpoint of efficiency, there is no corporation whose entire personnel are such as the civil service. The efficiency and ability near the combined efficiency of the entire civil service. The actual daily efficiency tests of one of the Patent Office typewriters was said to have been 99.8 per cent. If the average of the civil service is such, the efficiency of the government service with those of other large organizations, they will invariably come up to and surpass them in accuracy. If you will take the total number of letters handled by the post office department and take the number actually lost or misplaced by them, you will have a percentage that will have to be run out to about two zeros and five points more.

The average of education in the entire personnel of the civil service over-reaches the average of education in large corporation forces. This comes by being required to pass examinations before they can be appointed. Each of the numerous candidates for the positions to which they are appointed are given a high grade, generally.

For these reasons there is no great advance in salaries, is primarily, because the major portion of these employes are not voters, being in the District of Columbia, where the vote is not counted. The others in the United States are so scattered that at no one place could they make or break a candidate.

At the same time, it would surprise one to find that in all the branches of the civil service, there is a total payroll of several thousand dollars monthly. One often hears it said, "Well, their jobs are permanent." This is a popular myth. For the civil service employee's position is permanent only as the railroad or bank employee's job is permanent. If he becomes incapable, he is eliminated. If he becomes unnecessary, he is dropped from the rolls. If he becomes old, he is discarded.

Nearly all of the big corporations of the day have retirement or pension systems. The Western Union, the Bell Telephone, the Atlantic Coast Line, the Pennsylvania, Standard Oil, and son on—all have such provisions. But in the civil service there is no such thing. On my way to the squarehead war last year, I stopped in Washington to see a friend of mine who was chief clerk in one of the important bureaus of the war department. His salary had been \$1,800. I found that he had been reduced to \$1,200, and he was about to be "let go" for getting a little bit old. He told me, He was 54. Another friend of mine who is an army officer, and has never been out of the U. S., except to Europe, had been retired at a lower rate than that, on three-fourths of the pay of a colonel.

During the war, these men have done valuable work. It would set one's teeth on edge to know how many of these men were in uniform in France. In the general headquarters alone there were several hundred. One of the most valuable men in the general's office got \$1,000 a year in fact, this was about the highest salary paid. But these men who worked day and night, were often in two hours' rids or less from the front, and took the fare and lodging of soldiers, and except for their official duties they were soldiers. But they had to be paid and carried according to civil service rules and laws.

While my brief is in a personal interest, it is not so in its intent. It is in the interest of fellow workers whose integrity is continuous, and whose labor is continuously conscientious. HERBERT H. FORD, Wilmington, Dec. 21, 1918.

GOETHALS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTRACTS AT HOG ISLAND

San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 22.—William Denman, former chairman of the United States shipping board, telegraphed today to Senator Fletcher, chairman of the senate commerce commission, a statement charging responsibility for the Hog Island shipyard contracts to Major General George W. Goethals, former administrator of the shipping program.

Kinston Tobacco Sales, Kinston, Dec. 22.—The local tobacco market has handled 23,444,533 pounds of tobacco this season according to a tobacco board of trade announcement. This total surpasses any previous season forecast by nearly half a million pounds. The monetary value of the leaf handled so far was nearly \$3,000,000. Tobaccoists estimate that between 2,500,000 and 3,000,000 pounds are outstanding. The season's total will be the \$10,000,000 mark, that being the highest forecast made early in the season.

CURRENT COMMENT.

Is Emperor Nicholas Alive? Another shock! The mother of Emperor Nicholas of Russia, now living in the Crimea, gets letters every ten days purporting to be written by her son. Well, after having shed tears several times for his uncle, the Grand Duke Nicholas, and finding they are wasted, we are prepared to welcome back to life the slain tsar.—Richmond Journal.

Judge Gulon's Selection.

In appointing Judge Owen H. Gulon, of New Bern, to the Superior court bench to succeed Judge Wheeler the governor has peremptorily ended what was likely to become another row within the ranks of the Democratic party, particularly in so far as the third congressional district is concerned; a row that would have done no one any good and the governor's party least. In this district, in the case of at least the governor by not delaying the appointment, has been wise. While we are fully persuaded that had the governor seen fit to appoint Mr. Everett, of Pitt, or Mr. Frieselle, of Greene, to the vacancy an able lawyer would have been elevated to the bench yet there can be no gainsaying the fact that in Judge Gulon the governor has chosen well without venturing into the territory of the New Bern bar and the Superior court bench several years ago and, we believe, was looked upon with favor by both members of the bar and laymen who had business with the court. He is considered one of the best lawyers in the New Bern bar and his indorsements were all that the governor in seeking to fill the vacancy could have desired. Judge Gulon has figured prominently in political affairs in this district for a number of years. He is known throughout the state as a leader in the good roads movement, now an officer, lieutenant colonel we believe, in an engineering corps in France, is to be a "soldier" candidate for governor in 1920. He has a fine record in the legislature and at one time was speaker of the house. Judge Gulon is not only well equipped as a lawyer but he has a fine record in the legislature and at one time was speaker of the house. Judge Gulon is not only well equipped as a lawyer but he has a fine record in the legislature and at one time was speaker of the house.

It is rumored that Dr. Joseph Hyde Pratt, of Chapel Hill, will be known throughout the state as a leader in the good roads movement, now an officer, lieutenant colonel we believe, in an engineering corps in France, is to be a "soldier" candidate for governor in 1920. He has a fine record in the legislature and at one time was speaker of the house. Judge Gulon is not only well equipped as a lawyer but he has a fine record in the legislature and at one time was speaker of the house.

PRISONER CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTED JAIL DELIVERY

(Special Star Correspondence.) Asheville, Dec. 22.—John Spain, caught in the act of attempting to slip four huck sacks to Jerry Dalton, alleged murderer, at the Buncombe county jail, is held for court under bond of \$300 to answer to the charge of attempted jail delivery. Spain is again in jail for the same offense. Jerry Dalton, the man to whom Spain attempted to give the sacks, is said to be one of the most desperate characters of Macon county. He is charged with shooting Merrill Anger and a Miss Grant, near Franklin, shooting Anger through the window and Miss Grant as she ran. He was brought here for safe-keeping, his violence being feared at Franklin.

LITTLE NEGRO BOY WHO WAS MISSING IS FOUND

(Special Star Correspondence.) Fayetteville, Dec. 22.—William Marshall Campbell, the little 6-year-old negro boy missing since Monday afternoon, has been located by his mother at the home of Hudson Briston, a negro man living near the Hawthorne mill southeast of Fayetteville. The boy, who was carried out to Camp Bragg with several other pickannies by a negro teamster, failed to return at night and search for him continued for three days, until a colored boy told the mother of the missing child that his grandfather had found a little boy near the camp and had carried him home. Briston found the child Monday night. He was suffering considerably from cold and was burned while he was trying to dry them before a fire at the camp. The boy's disappearance created considerable anxiety on the part of his mother and other persons who interest themselves in the case. The driver who carried him to the camp, John Hoskins, was detained at the police station until he satisfied the police that he knew nothing of the child's whereabouts.

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT READ IN SWEDISH PARLIAMENT

Stockholm, Friday, Dec. 20.—A message from President Wilson was read in the Swedish parliament today. It follows: "I have received with the greatest satisfaction the message which the two chambers of the Swedish riksdag were generous enough to send me and I accept it as a most welcome expression of the confidence of the chambers."

"I hope and believe that by common counsel a peace worthy of the aspiration of the people of Europe can and will be secured and I shall with pleasure and pride do all I can to promote it." (Signed.) WOODROW WILSON.

INVITATIONS TO THE NAVAL HOME-COMING ARE SENT OUT

Washington, Dec. 22.—Invitations to attend the welcome home ceremonies at New York on December 28 for the battleship squadron returning from service in European waters were sent out by the navy department today to members of the cabinet and their wives, the governors of all states, members of the senate and house naval committees, the military and naval representatives of all the allied nations in Washington and the wives of the commanding officers on duty with the fleet. The battleships New Mexico and Mississippi with a large number of destroyers will be sent to meet the fleet near Fire Island Lightship.

Cupid Is a Slacker

Kinston, Dec. 22.—The local Cupid is slackening. Not half as many marriage licenses have been issued during the past three weeks as in the corresponding period last year, according to Carl W. Pridden, register of deeds. The absence of hundreds of young men from military service is principally responsible.

Nuxated Iron Helps to Spread Health and Strength to 3,000,000 People Annually. Get Your Share!

When you think of the successful men and women you know—people who are doing things worth while—you will find that they possess force, vim and energy—the kind that simply brim over when the blood is filled with iron. Iron is red blood food—it helps put strength and energy into the veins of men and roses into the cheeks of women.

A prominent New York Surgeon and former Adjunct Professor of the New York Post Graduate Medical School and Hospital, Dr. Kenneth K. MacAlpine, says: "If people would only realize that iron is just as indispensable to the blood as is the air to the lungs and be just as particular about keeping up a sufficient supply at all times there would, in my opinion, be far less disease resulting from anemic, weakened conditions. Unlike the older inorganic products, it is easily assimilated and does not injure the testis, make them black nor upset the stomach. The manufacturers guarantee successful and entirely satisfactory results to every purchaser or they will refund your money. Sold in this city by Jarman & Futrell.



charged with shooting Merrill Anger and a Miss Grant, near Franklin, shooting Anger through the window and Miss Grant as she ran. He was brought here for safe-keeping, his violence being feared at Franklin. In the Future. (Detroit Free Press) "There is one time coming when men will really enjoy their wives' coits and rolls." "What time is that?" "When we look back and remember the war bread mother used to make."

FOR SALE! Four new two-ton Hall Trucks. Continental engine. Timkin axles and bearings. Worm drive. A bargain in these trucks to prompt purchaser. Write us for cash price required to buy one of these new trucks. If you are wanting a good two-ton truck at a real bargain, now is your opportunity to get one. Address, Marion Motor Company Marion, S. C.

PLEASE NOTE! "Suburban Trains" between Electric Center and Wrightsville will be operated on "Half-Hour Schedule" from 2:00 p. m. to 10:00 p. m. Tuesday, December 24, 1918. Tide Water Power Co.

Perfect Oil Heaters Big Shipment Just Received Gillette Safety Razor Blades Gem Ice Cream Freezers All Sizes - All Prices N. Jacobi Hardware Co. 10-12 South Front St. Wilmington, N. C.