

The Morning Star

THE OLDEST DAILY IN NORTH CAROLINA. Published Every Morning in the Year by THE WILMINGTON STAR COMPANY, Inc., 109 Chestnut Street, Wilmington, North Carolina.

Entered at the Postoffice at Wilmington, N. C. as Second Class Matter.

Telephones: No. 51 Business Office, No. 51 Editorial Office.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES BY CARRIER: One Year \$7.00, Six Months \$4.50, Three Months \$2.75, One Month \$0.90.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES BY MAIL: Postage Prepaid. Daily \$7.00, Sunday \$1.00, One Year \$8.00, Six Months \$5.50, Three Months \$3.25, One Month \$1.00.

Subscriptions Not Accepted for Sunday Only Edition.

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FOREIGN ADVERTISING OFFICES: Atlanta: Candler Building, J. B. KEOUGH, New York: 21 Devonshire Place, Geo. S. Bids, BRYANT, GRIFFITH & BRUNSON.



THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 1921

The Size of the House

There should be general rejoicing in the vote by which the House of Representatives at Washington yesterday rejected the proposal to increase the membership of that body by forty-eight. There were several excellent reasons advanced by opponents of the proposal, and no argument of apparent validity submitted in its support.

The soundness of the proposal to make room for forty-eight additional members had not been accepted generally even when it appeared that the cost of the increase would approximate one million dollars; the opposition gained appreciable support when it was pointed out that the cost would in fact be nearer five millions.

In normal times I should consider this increase unwise. At this time I think it would prove us singularly unresponsive to the solemn demands of this hour in the world's history.

A measure designed to reduce the membership of the House would, we believe, merit favorable attention. Long before the present total of 435 members was reached, there were many thoughtful persons who regarded the lower branch of Congress as of unwieldy numerical strength.

The House already is of an unwieldy size, and many of the members are hardly more than messenger boys for their constituents. The whole number is so great that one half is continually falling over the other half in its efforts to get something done.

Gambling

Last Tuesday's Star carried two interesting items.

On the back page, Judge Cranmer was quoted as making, in the course of his charge to the Grand Jury, the following striking statement:

The second thing to which I invite your attention is gambling. I don't know to what extent this vice exists in your community, but, if it exists, it should be stamped out, and, you gentlemen, should do your part in seeing that it is stamped out.

These are good, strong words. They reveal a genuine sense of social values, a very appropriate zeal for the enforcement of law. Their significance sinks in upon the reader, when he turns to an inner page and finds this account of a proceeding in the Recorder's Court:

H. E. Walker, J. E. Reed, Bennie Chadwick, W. Z. Zellers, and George Bray, all white, pleaded guilty to gambling charges, were fined \$25 each and sentenced to 24 hours in the county jail.

Judge Harris also ordered that a \$20 bill alleged to have been removed from the "pot" after the officers entered the room, be turned over to the court; and \$25.85 was divided by the recorder between the officers making the arrest and the associated charities.

Disarmament

The best way in which to disarm is to disarm. The merit of the Borah resolution, looking to a reduction in the navies of the United States, England and Japan, is in its directness and simplicity. The great armaments of the world are these floating machines of destruction. If they can be reduced, the first big step toward disarmament will have been taken.

The rise of the Harding plan of a conference, to be called after the change of administrations has taken place, to take up the restriction of armaments, is that it makes for delay, when every moment is precious; that it is coupled with the proposed consideration of the establishment of an international court, an utterly extraneous matter; and that it contemplates the inclusion of the reduction of armies, a point upon which France will for some years be adamant.

Everybody wants disarmament, and yet nothing is being done toward the devoutly-to-be-wished consummation. The issue rises above party politics. Democrats who stand in the way of the Borah plan, and Republicans who juggle dilatorily any and all plans and talk vaguely about a grandiose gathering in Washington of the representatives of the Powers, will have much to answer for if they fail to agree with dispatch upon some quick solvent of the crushing problem of the international competition in arms.

Problems of Peace in Mexico

Mexico is a three-crop-a-year land, and has an area equal to one-third of Europe. Yet today, at the beginning of a period which promises stabilized government, 9,000,000 of Mexico's 15,000,000 people are nearly always hungry. Their crop of cereals for 1918 was 110,000,000 bushels. As a writer in the Forum says: "At six bushels per head of population, that leaves only 20,000,000 bushels for re-seeding, feeding horses, cattle, chickens. It hardly needs telling that such a surplus means one of two things—either the people must go short of food and seed, or the meat supply must fall from lack of feed."

Whatever the causes leading to the impoverishment of the land, the fact remains that Mexico's need of the economic basis for stability of government is as intense as that of any of the war-devastated lands of Europe. It is even worse in some respects, for the Mexican has no tradition of the soil comparable to that of France. Mexico must have, not only agricultural banks to lend capital to small land holders, but agricultural and technical schools to teach the peon how to work the land to the best advantage.

Parallel with this agricultural development must come the building up of an adequate transportation system. Without roads and railroads, great crops can not be transported. For this reason the following statement by a student of Mexican affairs is significant:

At present one main line to the Gulf has had her number of locomotives reduced from thirty in 1918 to nine in 1919, and about seven in December, 1919. These ruined locomotives have been replaced by transferring from other lines other engines, but that depletes other lines; and Mexican lines are in the position at present of stripping dead engines for parts to repair engines that can be still run; but there is an end to that system of repair.

That end has come. Mexico needs money to finance her roads, buy rails and engines, supply capital to farmers, and in general put her national affairs on a sound footing. Obviously it is the United States which must finance the equipment of our neighbor to the south. If we do this, we shall have a neighbor prosperous, with food for 50,000,000 people; not a land of banditry, but the home of people who regard the rights of others because they have an established place under a dependable government. It may, and most probably will, take years to put Mexico in the ranks of the self-supporting, but it is a task toward which we should bend our energies.

To Benefit the Home

Mrs. Harriet Taylor Upton, frequently in the press of late as the probable head of the proposed new department of public welfare, in a recent interview expressed her delight that women as voters were living up to expectations.

"Women are making no rush for offices. The women who worked hardest in the campaign never think of such a thing. I have yet to find one who seeks reward for her efforts. On the other hand, what we suffragists said would occur after women obtained the vote has come about. The very first thing the women have concentrated upon is this bill, the Sheppard-Towner maternity bill, to protect the home. We said that it was the mother thought that we would try to put into legislation, and here we are."

In municipal affairs, as well as in national, the same tendency is evident, says Mrs. Upton. This is particularly important, as the local government, which touches the life of the people at every point, is by the same token more easily changed and improved. Even to those to whom the concept of a great national government is difficult of attainment, local government is real and tangible. If their municipal affairs are well managed, they will have a stronger loyalty to the higher organization; if they suffer from the mismanagement of local affairs, the growth of a larger allegiance will be dwarfed.

As women realize more fully the truth that their homes are helped or hindered in proportion to the efficiency and justice of local government, their interest in the government will be deeper. Schools, sanitation, recreation, housing conditions, public service corporations, all are extensions of the work of the home, and foster or nullify the efforts made in the home, and, therefore, should be as much in the mind of the home-maker as are the cost of school clothes, or the proper menu for lunch.

One of the well known colleges in the State has placed a ban on student-owned automobiles. The road to learning is not royal or built for joy-riders.

The House has decided that forty-eight additional members would be an expensive luxury at four million dollars. The decision seems wise. There is no reason to suppose that the new forty-eight would show a higher average value than the present 435.

Mr. Harding is going to spend a couple of weeks on a Florida house-boat. Here's wishing him a merry time, but we trust that this is not his idea of training for the ship of state.

We are not aware of any general desire in this country to charge the Tokio government directly with the murder of Lieutenant Langdon. The mild suggestion that the Tokio government might keep a little closer watch on its sentries in the future would hardly have been expected to cause so much irritation among Jap officials.

Letters To The Editor

PUBLIC WELFARE IN NORTH CAROLINA

Recent discussions of the work of the County Superintendents of Public Welfare in North Carolina have brought to the attention of the people of the State a characteristic criticism of all work that is new and untried. It has not been many years since the work of the County Superintendent of Schools in some Southern States was undertaken as a part-time work, and in ways thoroughly non-professional. Even last year in one of the Southern States where there were one hundred and fifty-two County Superintendents of Schools, less than fifty were reported to be devoting full time to the work, or considering the work as a professional occupation.

Of late the dispensaries have taken on functions along the lines of preventive medicine and public health, but this development is still in its infancy. The great opportunities of the dispensaries in the fields of both curative and preventive medicine have not as yet been fully grasped by the institutions, nor have their social responsibilities been clearly realized.

In other words, the committee finds the dispensaries quite efficient in the treatment of specific ills, such as an abscessed ear, or a broken leg, but they do not give complete physical examinations to determine the general health of a patient; they do not go in for educational work, such as the teaching of good health habits, and they do not have the time for the follow-up work which would make them one of the greatest social influences in the community. Only a few of the dispensaries, as yet, have well-organized social service departments.

Two things that also need immediate amelioration in clinic procedure, it says, are the reduction of waiting time before admission and the method of assignment of patients to clinics. Doctors made to wait unduly long periods of time, which is a hardship for most of them if they are employed, or, as in the case of mothers, if they have domestic duties. The committee believes that this evil could easily be corrected if each clinic could be divided into two or three departments, the clinic which would take care of him. But often, after hours of waiting, when he arrives at this department, the diagnosis turns out to be incorrect and he is transferred to an entirely different department—sometimes to an entirely different clinic.

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At an afternoon clinic recently visited by the reporter, over 50 people of the hard-working type were waiting for their registrations and first treatment. Some of them were women suffering, but they continued to sit patiently on a row of hard, wooden seats, as the afternoon wore on and only a third of their number had reached the front office. In the front office, where one patient was admitted at a time, all was confusion. Doctors, rushed in and out, hunting lost records, the telephone interrupted every other second, and the young lady who was in charge, wore a dazed expression.

"Do you wonder that I sometimes get the people mixed up?" she asked wearily, as the clock pointed to five o'clock. "Under the circumstances, the procession of patients still kept on."

"But think of them," she added sympathetically, "some of them sitting there all afternoon waiting for their turn and now having to go home without getting any attention at all."

The committee has a remedy for this evil, also, however. It believes that this waiting period of the patients could easily be used for educational purposes. Moving pictures dealing with certain health aspects, it says, could be shown, large posters concerning health matters could be placed on the walls of the dispensary where they could be read from a distance, and other methods of health education employed. Dietetic demonstrations, it believes, would also be of great value in this connection. When not in progress, the dispensary might also be used for lectures, classes in dietetics, corrective gymnastics and the teaching of hygiene. In other words, it suggests, the dispensary should strive to become the health educational center of the neighborhood.

Dispensaries

By Frederic J. Haskin

NEW YORK CITY, Jan. 19.—What does the dispensary do for the health of the city, and what more could it do?

These are the questions which the public health committee of the New York Academy of Medicine has recently sought to answer by an extensive investigation of New York dispensaries and the people who patronize them.

The growth of the dispensary during the past few years has been phenomenal. In 1904, there were only 150 dispensaries in the entire United States, whereas today there are at least 3,000. From a few dingy rooms, presided over by a couple of doctors whose chief duty was the vaccination of people against smallpox, the dispensary has developed into a modern, well-equipped, small hospital, where the poor receive almost free of charge the best treatment for which the wealthy pay large sums.

In New York there are now 153 dispensaries. In this number are included 21 tuberculosis, eight dental, 10 eye and three rabies clinics of the department of health, and six school clinics maintained by the Children's Aid society. Of the 105 remaining, 65 are out-patient departments of hospitals, 34 are detached dispensaries, and 54 are connected with clinics. In addition, the health department maintains 12 venereal disease clinics (all but two advisory only), three occupational clinics and 60 private health stations. Several private agencies also maintain an additional number of milk stations.

The average number of persons treated annually in New York dispensaries has been one and a quarter since the last five years. Over 2,000 New York physicians are giving their services to this cause, in the majority of cases absolutely without compensation.

New York is plentifully supplied with dispensaries, but the public health committee believes that their quality could be improved upon. "Of late the dispensaries have taken on functions along the lines of preventive medicine and public health, but this development is still in its infancy. The great opportunities of the dispensaries in the fields of both curative and preventive medicine have not as yet been fully grasped by the institutions, nor have their social responsibilities been clearly realized."

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In the matter of fees, the clinics charge no more than a few cents. No effort has been made to standardize charges. Usually, the charge is very low, although in some dispensaries the registration fee is as high as one dollar. Municipal hospitals charge no fees whatsoever. Their out-patient departments, but payments are accepted in such hospitals for the maintenance of patients in the wards. The committee believes that a standard charge for treatment, as well as for medicine, dressing and electricity, among all the dispensaries, would be expedient.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

By William Brady, M. D.

Q. How many states did the Democrats carry in the last presidential election? T. M. D. A. In the recent elections the Democrats carried 10 states—Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia.

Q. What is the "Cypres doctrine"? W. S. T. A. "The Doctrine of Cypres" in English and American law is a rule of interpretation whereby a testamentary gift which cannot take effect in the precise manner intended by the testator is given in effect as nearly as possible like that which was intended. The doctrine has been applied in two classes of cases; in the creation of fee-tail estates and in charitable gifts.

Q. How much is a widow exempt from income tax? M. H. A. As exempted by a widow is \$1,000, the same as for any other single person, unless she is maintaining a home for dependent children or relatives. She is then entitled to \$2,000 exemption as the head of a family, with an additional \$200 exemption for each dependent minor child.

Q. What is and where is the Barge? O. E. R. A. The Barge is in Florence and is a national gallery of art.

Q. Does it make any difference to do with the quantity and quality of petroleum that a well will produce? J. N. M. A. The bureau of mines says that so far as the quantity of petroleum does not have any effect upon the quantity or quality of petroleum produced.

Q. What are the duties on wheat, corn, wool and cotton provided in the new tariff bill? F. R. K. A. As passed by the house the schedules are wheat, 30 cents a bushel; corn, 15 cents a bushel; unwashed wool, 15 cents a pound; washed wool, 30 cents a pound; scoured wool, 45 cents a pound, with a compensatory duty of 45 cents a pound in addition to existing duties upon the manufacture of wool; long staple cotton, 7 cents a pound, with a compensatory duty of 45 cents a pound in addition to existing duties upon the manufacture thereof. These schedules may be changed, of course, in the senate.

Q. What is a bush league? J. J. K. A. This is baseball parlance indicating a minor league of professional, or semi-professional baseball teams.

Q. How many Jews are there in the world? R. T. S. A. It is estimated that the Jewish population is about 15,000,000.

Q. When were the Sons of the American Revolution organized? B. B. A. The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was organized April 30, 1859, and incorporated by act of congress, June 9, 1906.

Q. Which state has the greatest mileage in surfaced roads? In all roads—surfaced and unsurfaced? S. O. A. Ohio leads in mileage, having 31,800 miles. Indiana comes second with 31,000 miles. Texas has the greatest mileage of all roads combined, the total being 128,960 miles. Kansas ranks second with 111,000 miles.

Q. Which state ranks first in crop value? A. C. A. According to value of crops produced Texas ranked first in 1918, the total value being \$1,978,163,000. Iowa came second with a total \$861,338,000.

ROBBERS GET ONLY 70 CENTS (Special to The Star) GREENSBORO, Jan. 19.—An unsuccessful attempt last night was made at robbery of the safe in the P. & N. Railway company's safe at the Piedmont station, the robbers getting away with only 70 cents taken from the cash drawer. No arrests have been made.

law provides that no person who is able to pay a private physician can be treated in a dispensary, and the dispensary registrars are instructed carefully to question all applicants on this point. Investigation has shown that only a very small percentage of people apply for dispensary aid when they can afford to consult a physician, but recently the percentage has shown a perceptible rise. The knowledge that the same specialists who charge 10 and 20 dollars per visit to their private offices, are often found strewing their pearls of wisdom about certain clinics, has led many persons to pretend excessive poverty during the past two years.

A few clinics in New York, including notably the Neurological Institute, are open to the public upon a sliding scale of charges, fixed in accordance with each person's income, but the pay clinic is a comparatively recent development here. Usually it is opposed on the grounds that it interferes with the business of private practitioners, which the committee finds regrettable, inasmuch as there is an urgent need for dispensary treatment among the middle classes. Because he is not rich enough, the man of moderate income cannot afford private consultations with high-priced specialists, and because he is not poor enough, he is denied their aid in the clinics.

For with all their faults as the public health committee sees them, the dispensaries of the better type provide the poor of our big cities with practically the same medical aid that the rich receive from prominent specialists. If they can do so much under their present physical and financial restrictions, how much more could they do with more money and equipment? And should they not be open to all who cannot afford the services of specialists?

FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVES DAY (Special to The Star) FAYETTEVILLE, Jan. 19.—With propriety and imposing exercises Jackson day was observed here in addition to the exercises, which were held under the auspices of the J. E. Stuart chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, all the halls of the city were closed during the holiday hours.

The address was delivered by Bayard Clark, prominent attorney this city.

NO CLUE IS YET FOUND IN THE WIGGINS CASE Believed Moonshiners Killed Something of Killing (Special to The Star) GOLDSBORO, Jan. 19.—No clue has been found up to this time in the murder of Makajah C. Wiggins, highly respected farmer, who was shot down in old blood within sight of his home, six miles west of here on the night of January 5. Officers of the county are doing everything that can be done to bring the guilty parties to justice.

As the body was not found until this morning, it was too late to trace blood hounds on the tracks of the guilty persons. The grand jury convened here next Monday, and Lyons, of Whiteville, presiding, will employ every method in their power to find the guilty ones. It has been reported that Mr. Wiggins was murdered because he had reported some moonshiners in his neighborhood for making moonshine, but the neighbors will not talk about this matter, and while it is so doubtful that this had something to do with the killing, there will be some "third degree" used to make some of the people tell what they know about the case.

The tobacco market was well filled with the choice weed today and prices paid. In fact the best prices were paid here yesterday and today that have been paid this season. Cotton has also advanced in price, and farmers are hurrying their crops to the market.

Notice to Stockholders The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of The Wilmington Savings and Trust Company, of Wilmington, N. C., will be held at the office of the company on Thursday, January 20, 1921, at 11 o'clock. It is desired that all stockholders be present at the meeting.

The Wilmington Savings & Trust Co. W. HULL MOORE, Cashier