

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:
Editorial Office.....No. 51
Business Office.....No. 51

SUBSCRIPTION RATES BY CARRIER

One Year	\$7.00
Six Months	\$3.50
Three Months	1.75
One Month	.60

SUBSCRIPTION RATES BY MAIL

One Year	\$7.00
Six Months	\$3.50
Three Months	1.75
One Month	.60

Subscriptions Not Accepted for Sunday Only Edition

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New York: 25 West 47th St., J. B. KEOUGH
Boston: 21 Devonshire St., People's Gas Bldg
Chicago: 222 N. Dearborn St., People's Gas Bldg
BRYANT, GRIFFITH & BRUNSON.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1921.

The Club Women

The new subject matter before North Carolina women's clubs, as reported by the correspondents in the various towns, arouses interest on the part of a mere man. More or less abstract literary themes and refreshments formerly served as pabulum, both mental and otherwise, for the club meetings, and it is no secret that in many communities the salad course was regarded with distinctly more favor than the literary feature of the afternoon. Incidentally a display of wardrobe resources was in high favor and often inspired more conversation than the quotations from Wordsworth's "Intimations" or the discussion of his love for and inspired interpretation of nature in her varying moods.

Nowadays, what do we have? "Foundations of the Democratic Idea"; "The Rise of the Democratic Feeling in the 18th Century"; "The Struggle for the Rights of Englishmen"; "The Anglo-American Inheritance of Freedom," together with innumerable papers and discussions on the subject of citizenship, party government, the duties and responsibilities of the President, civic improvement and betterment, better school facilities, economic housekeeping, health and sanitation and countless other kindred subjects—all of which reveals that the women of North Carolina are losing no time informing themselves on their new duties as members of the higher citizenship. Now that they have the ballot, they purpose to know how and when to use it most effectively, and he must be a stand-patter indeed who can not see that this sort of thing is going to lead to better government and more intelligent and sympathetic effort on the part of public administration for the abolition of things undesirable in civic life and for the achievement of things desirable in our commonwealth.

The South Overlooked

In some quarters there appears to be chagrin over the failure of the President-elect to include a Southern Republican in his Cabinet. It is quite natural that the Southern wing of the Republican party should feel disappointment, particularly in view of the abnormally strong showing that was made for the Republican ticket in some Southern states. The people of the South generally, however, had not expected that Mr. Harding would find it politically practicable to extend his search in this direction. His associations during the campaign and previously were not such as to foreshadow any marked degree of attention to the Dixie branch of the G. O. P. Despite the exceptional Republican vote in the South, the fact remains that the Republican party of the Southern states is generally under ineffective leadership and in some states so torn by domestic dissension as to have little claim to serious attention.

Whether a temporary advantage, gained under peculiarly favorable conditions, will be improved remains to be seen. It is entirely likely that encouragement will come early in the Harding administration in the form of minor national appointments, in addition, of course, to the pie that will be dispensed within the several states. Southern Republicanism, under the circumstances, can not well be overlooked entirely, and we may be sure that the administration will take some thought of the need of encouraging this "infant industry."

It seems that there is nothing absolutely final about the Cabinet selections, after all. Mr. Harding has let it out that no less than eight of the ten appointments "still were susceptible of cancellation if last minute considerations seemed to warrant it." The President-elect is evidently a great believer in the old-fashioned anxious bench.

The Latin-Americans continue to have great difficulty in learning to respect the sanctity of each other's backyard. The United States government has an appeal from the Panama capital asking that something be done to make the Costa Ricans behave and keep on their own side of the fence. A so-called influx of political refugees is said to have turned out to be an armed invasion. What ever may be the sentiment of Carolinians, the principle of free range is strongly entrenched among our Latin-American brothers.

In order to clear its calendar before March 4th, Congress has taken to holding night sessions. Instead of talking all day, the members may now put in the time catching up with their sleep.

The Italian government energetically insists that it will not be satisfied with 10 per cent of the German reparations. From the talk that is coming out of Berlin, we would gather that not so much as 10 per cent of the bill will ever be paid.

Mr. Hoover Accepts

The evidence of independence that Mr. Hoover has given in connection with the offer of a Cabinet post as Secretary of Commerce is refreshing and gratifying to those who would like to see him entrusted with an opportunity for broad service. Despite the suggestion from Florida that Mr. Harding may yet withdraw the offer, the announcement of Mr. Hoover's acceptance indicates that the matter has been settled. Assurances are said to have been given of Mr. Harding's whole-hearted concurrence in Mr. Hoover's "plans for upbuilding the department." The following from the former Food Controller's statement will be taken to mean that he assumes the new obligation determined to make his service worthy of his record:

If I take the post it will be only because I believe that President-elect Harding will stand behind me in making a real department of commerce. There is an enormous field for a department of the first import with the support of the administration and of congress. Unless this is done I am not warranted in shifting my responsibilities from relief work.

No special legislation is necessary for the moment, the earlier statement added, there must, however, be a real location of government bureaus, and we must bring into the department of commerce bureaus which belong there.

Under the direction of Mr. Hoover, the Department of Commerce should be brought to a new level of importance in the nation's business. It is a department little known to the people and one of which the fullest use undoubtedly has not been made. Mr. Hoover believes it can be made to "assist materially" in the readjustment of our foreign economic relations. This hope will be fortified in the public mind by his acceptance of the post.

The Langdon Case

The shooting of Lieutenant Langdon of the American Navy by a Japanese sentry at Vladivostok would, naturally, have been most regrettable under any circumstances. The incident was particularly unfortunate because of its relation to the widely agitated Japanese-American situation. The significance of the affair has been greatly exaggerated in the popular mind. Happily, the official statement from Tokio of the government's investigation and action is of the sort that should relieve whatever tension may have existed as a result of the sentry's recklessness.

It appears that the sentry had been placed on duty without proper training, and prison sentences have been imposed upon several of the Japanese officers responsible for the dereliction. Moreover, the commanding general of the Japanese garrison at Vladivostok has been removed from active service. Representative Japanese officials have called personally upon the commanding officer of the U. S. S. Albany to express regret over the occurrence. The official note from Tokio enters into the most detailed account of the investigation and begs that "the government of the United States will appreciate fully the sincere spirit in which the Japanese government has acted in dealing with this most unfortunate incident."

We do not often find more substantial evidence of honest intentions than we have in the series of steps that Japan has taken to overcome the possible evil effects of the Vladivostok case. Unless and until we are prepared to question the statements of fact in the Tokio note, we shall have to admit that the Japanese government has given the incident pretty "white" treatment.

Redeeming a Pledge

The Lower House of the General Assembly has voted to eliminate from the revenue bill the proposed five per cent ad valorem tax. In view of the explicit pledge given in the name of the Democratic party in the recent campaign, there was no other course consistent with good faith. The protest communicated to Raleigh by the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce is understood to have been instrumental in making the situation clear to the law-makers. Protests from many other sources, according to reports, were being formulated for the guidance of the Assembly. The proposed tax would have caused serious impairment of popular confidence in campaign promises, and the party is to be congratulated on the readiness of the finance committee to reverse its decision.

Play Ball—Or Not?

Wilmington baseball fans, fairly convinced by eleventh hour developments that their hopes for a season of the sport here had vanished entirely, today find occasion for taking heart afresh. If the desired berth in the South Atlantic League should, by some stroke of good fortune, be assigned to our city, local fandom will experience somewhat the same sensation as that of the well known man who was kicked upstairs.

From the Eastern Carolina to the "Sally" League is a leap that would hardly have been expected of a city that had not actually succeeded in nailing down a seat in the less pretentious organization. Nevertheless, there is no reason, unless it be within the minds of the South Atlantic's directors, why Wilmington should not be associated "baseballically" with the most important group of the two Carolinas and Georgia. We are confident the nation's chief outdoor sport would find here support equal to that accorded to it in any one of several cities now holding South Atlantic franchises.

In any case, the promptness of the local baseball leaders in making a record of Wilmington's application for admission is to be commended. They refuse to give up the fight for baseball until the way is manifestly blocked for the year. If their telegram of inquiry should develop the slightest show of interest at the South Atlantic headquarters, the next step will be for Wilmington supporters of the game to take. If there is a possible opening in the "Sally" circuit, we believe Wilmington is prepared to make a convincing bid.

High seas prohibition is opposed by Chairman Benson of the Shipping Board. He has announced his belief that the bill to permit American ships to sell liquor at sea should pass. "Already hard pressed by foreign competition," American vessels are said to have been placed at a sore disadvantage by having to omit alcoholic refreshments. Some of these days, perhaps, the whole world will go dry. Then, we suppose, people will travel no more and the great ocean liners will pass into memory.

Contemporary Views

COUNTENANCING THE HYPHEN

Houston Post: Isn't it about time that Mr. Harding began to discourage the political activities of Mr. George Sylvester Viereck?

Although pretending to be an American, Mr. Viereck devotes his attention so assiduously to looking after the interests of Germany in this country, that he is more likely to be mistaken for the German ambassador. Where Bernstorff left off, in trying to dictate American policies, Viereck has taken up the work.

Not long ago he was going to organize 6,000,000 German-Americans to force Mr. Harding to name a German-American as a member of his cabinet. A crude attempt to inject direct German influence into the president's official family, and to have the government recognize the hyphen.

Now he is returning from Florida where he has been to tell Mr. Harding how to make a "just peace" with Germany. A "just peace," in Mr. Viereck's estimation, no doubt, involves relieving Germany of all liability for reparations, indorsement of a restoration of Hohenzollern autocracy and impudence, and possibly an apology for having entered the war. If some clause can be injected that will put the United States on record as affronting Great Britain, it will be all the better.

In receiving Mr. Viereck for conferences, Mr. Harding is following out his policy of listening to advice from many quarters. But wouldn't it be better for Mr. Harding, if he desires to hear the German side of the case before he assumes office, to receive Germans direct from the fatherland? In recognizing Mr. Viereck he is countenancing the hyphen in American affairs. He could make no greater mistake than to give public recognition to any group in America distinguished for its devotion to a foreign country.

Mr. Viereck says Mr. Harding will do all he can to ally racial prejudice. In order to do that, however, it will be necessary for Mr. Harding to discourage the activities of such agitators as Mr. Viereck, whose purpose is to dominate the American government in the interest of a foreign country, or a racial group in this country.

SECRETARY DENBY—AN ADMIRABLE APPOINTMENT

Springfield Republican: The surprise of the cabinet is Mr. Denby, of Michigan, who is to be Secretary of the Navy. It is an admirable appointment. It should please the navy and its friends. It will bring to the cabinet table a man of force and of unusual qualities of personal attraction.

As a member of Congress ten years ago, Mr. Denby won wide favor. He was democratic and he had energy and tact. It was one of the sights to see him scolding about the city occupying pretty much all the available space in a certain small make of automobile. Just how much he weighed or weighs, is in doubt. But certainly it was no gentleman weighs more than that and Edwin Denby is every inch a gentleman.

Gov. Lowden is due added credit for declining the Secretaryship of the Navy for the valid but infrequently suggested reason that he had no special equipment for it. The place now goes to a man fitted for it by interest and training as well as by ability. As a member of the naval committee of the House Mr. Denby was an alert student of the navy's problems from the legislative viewpoint. In 1898 he had served as a gunner's mate in the war with Spain and in the recent war he was as a private into the marine corps. As the Associated Press dispatch politely puts it, he insisted "despite his dispatch of age and weight" in going through the sweat and toil of the severe training that properly came to every man in the ranks.

Aside from his special fitness for the navy, Mr. Denby's experiences in China qualify him to bring to the cabinet a valuable and much-needed understanding of the Orient.

THE SOUTH LEFT OUT

Charleston News and Courier: In spite of the soft words that have been spoken to the South and all the pleasant phrases that have been addressed to the people of this section of the country and all the bright promises of the coming of a new day for Dixie in the warm sunshine of a broader and more liberal Republicanism, there is no Southern man in the new Cabinet. Even Mr. A. Tobias Hert, of Kentucky, who was labelled a Southerner for the purposes of the occasion and who was said to be sure of a Cabinet appointment has been left out in the final shuffle.

Yet the South helped to elect Harding and, more recently it has helped to promote the cause dearest to the Republican heart by endorsing the protective tariff. Only a part of the South and only some Southerners did these things, of course, but not in many years have so many people in the South swung so far towards full acceptance of Republican candidates and progress. What is their reward? The reward that was expected was the placing of a Southern man in the Cabinet, but there is no Southerner there.

The fact that there is none will disappoint bitterly some people in this section and it will be regretted by a good many far-sighted people in other sections. It would surely have been good politics to appoint a Southern man to a Cabinet post and thus try to consolidate and enlarge the foothold that the G. O. P. has gained here. But Mr. Harding and his advisers haven't been able to see it that way, and there are many people in the South who will shed no tears over the fact.

THE "TRAGEDY OF WILSON"

E. S. Martin in Harper's: One hears about the "tragedy of Wilson"—hears him spoken of as one of the tragic figures of history. Behold him, say some, a broken man—yesterday acclaimed as a Messiah by the common people of Europe, and the next moment regarded in physical health, berated by Europeans as one who misled them, balked at home in all his purposes, and a spectator at the defeat at the polls by enormous majorities of the party that had supported him.

Of course it makes a picture of a damaged figure, but is it really so tragic? Not every one will think so. There will be those who feel that nothing is really tragic that does not involve moral or spiritual collapse, and no one associates that with Mr. Wilson. There is no physical impairment about him, but no spiritual collapse. He holds as firmly as ever to what he has believed to be right. He is still an idealist with hosts of followers. The fault found with him was not that he abandoned principles, but that he held too strictly to them.

Daily Editorial Digest

Charges against Judge Keneaw Mountain Landis, including a call for impeachment from Representative Wetly, have caused almost as much comment in the newspapers as a presidential election. Every corner of the Fourth Estate has been heard from. The question of the propriety of the judge's conduct has been discussed before, and while many editorial writers are not altogether in sympathy with the idea, a great many others refuse to take the matter seriously, assuming the role of the Dutchman who, when which remarks: "Impeachment? Bless you, there's no chance of it!"

The other point, agitated by Senator Dial, concerning Judge Landis' statement that the employees of an Illinois bank, arrested for embezzlement, were responsible for his crime because they paid him an absurdly small salary, is still more widely commented upon. Here, though some of the criticism is bitter, there is still a tendency to explain the judge's apparently startling behaviour with the assurance that "he did not mean to imply that they had dishonestly," as the New York Mail puts it, "are justifiable under any circumstances."

A "class" argument in the attitude toward Landis is perceived by the New York Call (Sec.) for, it asserts, "criticism of the opinion of the Chicago News (Ind.) 'Landis has made a colossal mistake' in rendering a conclusion which the Kansas City Times (Ind.) considers 'subversive to all honesty, honor and faith in every relation in life.' To the Pittsburgh Gazette-Times (Rep.) and the Columbia (S. C.) State (Dem.), it will decidedly interfere with his ability to keep baseball clean."

Though the question which the impeachment specifically raises, i. e., the right of a federal judge to be, as the New York Times (Ind. Dem.) puts it, "a baseball judge at the same time," has been discussed before it is taken up again and many papers still support Landis but feel that she should not hold both offices. The Times is one of them. The Lincoln (Neb.) State Journal (Ind. Rep.) also believes "the calm judgment of the country" is against this "dual service." Though he might "hold down both posts and do justice to both" the Minneapolis Tribune (Rep.) feels that "the judiciary would suffer" and the Syracuse Post Standard (Rep.) thinks that "a federal judge should not be any other kind of a judge." The fact that he is in the employ of the baseball interests, the Milwaukee Journal (Ind.) thinks is "an undignified and 'sooner or later he must choose' between the two. To keep both, the Philadelphia Bulletin (Ind. Rep.) looks upon as a "gross impropriety."

On the other hand, the Scranton Times (Dem.) recalls the fact that judges are often delegated "to act as arbitrators and arbiters, work entirely out of their province" and offers the "surmise" that the attack on Landis "is aimed more at the baseball end of it than any neglect or duty"; it shows the "shallowness" of Representative Wetly's criticism. The Tulsa Tribune (Dem.) adds, as for Mr. Wetly "and his baseball score," "the Norfolk Ledger Dispatch (Ind. Dem.), "nothing to it."

Sabbath Legislation

By the Rev. W. A. STANBURY
(A Paper Read Before Ministerial Association of Wilmington)

Of late there has been a deal of blasphemous jesting, to say nothing of a vast quantity of falsifying in the public press and elsewhere about proposed national Sabbath legislation made by some conferences of the Southern Methodist church and read into the Congressional Record by Senator McKeellar, of Tennessee, together with an effort to get passed in congress a bill which in one form or another, has been pending for thirty-two years has been seized upon by interests in unholy alliance for gain as the occasion for making a great outcry against the approaching suppression of the people's rights by certain "wicked" bureaucrats. Nobody has been able to escape reading in the daily newspapers—even in so high a publication as the Atlantic Monthly, scathing criticism and blasting ridicule concerning "blue laws." Special story writers, reporters, syndicate authors, and editors have been busy propagandizing the whole country against the "dreaded and dangerous" "blue laws." Newspaper stories, magazine articles, and editorials have all been written to side with in opposition to the "curtailment of American liberty." They have resorted to the time worn and trite observation that you can not make a people religious by legislation. The American citizen is a free man and will not tolerate interference with his legitimate interests and pursuits. The hair-raising cry of "Puritans" and "Puritanism" has been frequently heard in the land.

Not Hard to Understand.

It is not very difficult to understand the reason for this hue and cry. The fact that so-called "blue laws" have never been a part of real American legislation, that no state has ever passed, and no party has ever attempted seriously to pass laws requiring people to be religious or to worship on Sunday, that there is no basis whatever in fact for the great outcry now against Sunday legislation, that the whole thing is a falsehood and a hoax—these things do not seem to bother in the least those who have become so greatly excited and have lifted their voices in such tremulous passion for America and for American liberty. But as I have stated, the motive is easy to find. The passage by different states, and finally by the United States and people, of a wide prohibition laws has filled with burning indignation that large and influential contingent who made money out of selling whiskey and beer. They have stopped at nothing to balk at nothing to bring into discredit the whole system of moral legislation and into contempt and ridicule the bodies and societies which were responsible for leading the way in the prohibition movement. The mere fact that on the basis of this contention of theirs is a falsehood does not concern them in the least. Propaganda gets attention, and a recital of supposed popular facts excites the populace—and Americans are particularly sensitive about what they are pleased to call liberty. So that if propaganda against Sunday legislation promises to get results, then why not propagandize with fact.

be unlawful for any person to labor or employ for labor any other power in secular business or trade on Sunday, and that in cases of charity or necessity when persons are required to work on Sunday, they shall be granted a consecutive twenty-four hour rest each week.

In this connection I call attention also to the law proposed by certain conferences of the Southern Methodist church, which the International Council form bureau describes as not as far ahead of the law of the land as we are in advance of the law of the land, and while desirable, not in this time practicable. This bill proposed by government employees, and all interstate commerce on Sunday and bars Sunday papers from Sunday sale.

It is very evident from these facts that the situation has been very magnified for some very good reasons, which reason I believe I have already stated.

It might not be amiss at this time to suggest certain reasons why the church and church leaders should be active in regard to this whole question.

First—it is a matter of common knowledge that during the war there was a reason for Sunday labor in camps, shipyards, and elsewhere, and that was not different from other days. Furthermore, some two million of our young men went to France and other parts of Europe in which the observance of the Sabbath was not required in America is practically unenforced. There has been in their minds, and consequently in the minds of the whole people, a marked loosening and letting down of ideas in regard to the sanctity or even civil necessity of the Sabbath. One of the outstanding features of Continental civilization has been the continental Sabbath, which has been translated into practical every country in Christendom, except the United States and Canada, except the alternative of the Continental Sabbath, with other Continental characteristics following in its wake, or an American Sabbath in which the Christian idea predominates, and the hope, wholesome and Christian civilization. To be sure, the manner of Sunday observance is not the sole factor in determining the character of a nation, but it is a never failing criterion as well as a vital factor.

Second—There has been a rapid secularization of nearly everything in this country lately. Even the church is blandly looked upon by our social and economic factors as a relic of a civilization, and her influence and power have, in large degree, in the minds of the public, been the measure of her worth and power. Some things have been kept separate from the human life and human society, and descend to degenerate and sickening levels.

In the eyes of the state Sunday must be regarded as a wholesome thing, a thing which has been kept reverent and religious it must be held to be sacred. It must be the Lord's Day. This is essential, if we do not cheapen and materialize everything, if we do not see how a people can be kept separate from the world, grow out of religion without the Sabbath.

Third—it must not be forgotten that in the civil view of the Sabbath the great object is the protection of the individual, the family, and the influence upon society. We need the Sabbath Day for the sake of men and women who toil; for the support of the family life of the public; for the opportunity, physical, mental, and spiritual, of every citizen to rise to a higher level and to advance; for the opportunity of the church to keep moral standards parallel with mental advances and to put an emphasis on the spiritual, for the intellectual and religious life of American workers; and for the sake of decent courtesy to the prevailing religion.

Fourth—it is seen therefore, that this whole matter is deeply related to the social fabric of our nation, fundamentally of the survival and the advance of our civilization, for it is a matter of its character, and no matter and no society are better than their hearts. The whole question of the Sabbath, for the intellectual and religious, and mendacious ridicule of which the press lately has been so full, it is not even a matter that can be lightly or quietly disposed of as one almost aside for himself. The prophets of greed and the angels of gain and the serfs of sport and entertainment make it impossible that each man determine the issue for himself. It is a matter requiring the thoughtful consideration of every earnest citizen, and the powerful reasoning and Christian advocacy of every man who can see beneath mere economic and social rearrangements and conditions into the heart of a people out of which the issues of their life are being determined. I venture to suggest that this question should command our earnest consideration and prayerful presentation at the hands of every Christian minister and action by every Christian citizen. The social and economic necessity of the civil Sabbath should be made plain to the people; it should be shown—for it is a fact—that the physical and mental well-being of the whole nation rests in the hands of the Christian, it should be made emphatic that it is the patriotic and religious duty of each God-fearing man to promote wholesome Sunday laws, and to keep personally the biblical law of God which sets apart one day a week for rest, recreation and worship.

March 1—March 3

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