

The News and Observer

Published every day in the Year... The News and Observer Publishing Co. JOSEPHUS DANIELA, President.

Local News Department... 90-1 Ring... Advertising Department... 127-1 Ring... FULL ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORTS

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: One year... \$7.00 Six Months... \$3.50

Entered at the Postoffice at Raleigh, North Carolina, as second-class matter.

Morning Tonic

(Hugh Black.) TO be a strong man in the dark, to another in the time of need, to be a cup of strength to a human soul in a crisis of weakness, is to know the glory of life.

Uncle Yalt Mason

IN Shinytown the people cling to their belief that in the Spring all men should rise, and clean up alley, yard and lawn, till every sign of trash is gone—

Soon there will come the day of delight for the fan. He's just on tip-toe to hear His Umpire cry out, "Play Ball."

We are very glad that the German merchant raider, the Prinz Eitel Friedrich, did not have a name to match up with Przemysl.

Evangelist Ham should look out or he will be dubbed the Carrie Nation Evangelist if he keeps up the smashing of booze-jugs during the course of his sermons.

Texas is certainly playing in hard luck. The statement is sent out that recent frosts and cold weather have virtually destroyed the Elberta peach crop in that State.

The thoughts of those who are consumed with a desire to look nifty in the "Easter Parade" are turned towards the weather bureau this day. The question of the hour among these is, "Will it be fair tomorrow?"

The fingers may do all the clamoring that they wish to do, but the vast majority of Americans are ready to extend a vote of confidence to President Wilson for his "watchful waiting" policy.

Raleigh wants all the improvements for which it can raise the money, but it does not want the City Commissioners to run the city into debt to make these and then "holer" for bonds.

It is not the expenditure of money for improvements at which the people of Raleigh kick, but it is the unwise expenditure. And there is a feeling among the people that there was much money that was unwisely spent in putting the city waterworks in shape.

Of course no one believed that President Wilson had given out any such interview as that reported by the Frenchman. The President has a program of "watchful waiting" which knocked out the statement the moment it appeared.

Reports are that Senator Hoke Smith has stated that this year for the first time in half a century Georgia will raise more food stuffs than the State consumes. That's fine for Georgia.

Cash business. That sounds good. Along that line the Yanceyville Sentinel has this to say: "Several business men have remarked that this is a fine year for doing cash business. The people are not asking for credit promises—

The Panama Canal is doing business right along. During the month of February there passed through the canal ninety-two vessels carrying 424,694 tons of freight, and the tolls collected amounted to \$402,218, bringing the total of canal dues collected up to date to \$2,292,218.

The Raleigh and the Durham variety of "blind dogs" seem to think that underground hiding of booze is the safe way, but the officials have caught onto that game as well as to the special under-the-table special compartment. The next every fifteen days will give the officers a better chance to get at those who would violate the new prohibition law of North Carolina.

BUSINESS MOVES FORWARD.

It is not a matter of talk that business in this country moves forward in increasing strides, but the reports from all sections of the country testify in actual facts to the better conditions which have come to us.

Having the actual reports to sustain his statements Secretary of Commerce Redfield at yesterday's Cabinet meeting in Washington stated that business conditions throughout the country showed a steady improvement and presented extracts from various reports which reflected these better conditions in many lines.

The indications are that this country has seen the worst from the effects of the war in Europe and that we are now to go forward in a steady improvement of our business life. The strength of America has been shown by the way in which it has met conditions imposed upon it by a war which has had, which is having, an influence upon the entire world.

The war in Europe has presented new conditions to the various business enterprises of this country, and these new conditions are being met most admirably. That in the final conclusion of the matter we will be put in a better condition in the future because of the war is a matter which is not to be doubted.

Secretary Redfield would not state that there is a steady improvement in business unless he had the facts to bear out this statement. This is a country of resources so vast that it is not surprising that it has so soon found its bearings in this crisis of war. And aiding in every effort to have this country go forward is the constructive legislation of the Democracy, which made it possible that in the shock of the war our financial affairs could not be overturned.

TEN "WORTH WHILES" FOR FARMERS.

Advice, as has been often said, is cheap, but if there is not advice given by those who have experience, by those who know, how are the uninformed ever to be informed, unless in the many-times sad field of experience. Those who have been along the route, those who have given study to causes and effects are in position to offer advice that is worth heeding.

While that bulletin is issued for the benefit of farmers it gives "Economy Plans" full of advice of value to others besides farmers. These ten "Worth Whiles" as to economy—each one of them worthy of commendation—give advice as follows:

- 1. To cut out all luxuries, especially liquor, tobacco, new buggies and automobiles. 2. To cut out some unnecessary, such as tea and coffee and meat three times daily. 3. To save on food for ourselves by means of an all-the-year garden, certain easily possible substitutions and a ration more carefully balanced to preserve health and strength. 4. To save on food for our animals by means of balanced rations as worked out by experiment stations, substitutions of cheaper feeds and permanent Bermuda grass-bur clover pastures. 5. To save on foods for our plants by means of winter legumes, summer legumes and winter grain and legumes. 6. To save on dress by dressing a little less fashionably, a little more simple. 7. To spend money on the house and the wife for a water supply. 8. To spend on the orchard for pruning and spraying. 9. To establish and maintain a logical and practical system of farming in accordance with Dr. S. A. Knapp's "Ten Commandments of Agriculture." 10. To co-operate with your neighbors in organizations, in breeding better livestock, in buying food supplies, fertilizers and livestock, in owning and using farm implements, in beginning cream and egg routes, in selling farm and garden produce, in boosting your community and living up to your talk about it, and in a quiet cheerfulness that approaches all tasks with a faith undimmed and a courage undimmed.

SERVICE AND MERIT.

When there is advancement in life made by men because of service rendered, there is always gratification among those who know them, and there is always a pride of State when there has come such recognition to one of its sons.

A promotion of this kind has just come to Mr. Goodwin D. Ellsworth, born in Duplin county, North Carolina, a man who has a very large acquaintance throughout the State, who for twenty years has been in the service of the United States government, a man who has made advancement because he is efficient and capable.

It is with gratification that North Carolinians see promotion come to sons of the State, and all who know Mr. Ellsworth will congratulate him, for they recognize that the advancement

has come because it was deserved. The record of Mr. Ellsworth in the past is a guarantee better than a bond that he will fill his new position with satisfaction to the government and with credit to himself.

THE MENACE OF THE AUTOMOBILE.

Three times this week, and early in it, this paper has given accounts of automobile accidents in North Carolina, in two cases death resulting and in the third serious injuries. There is upon this country an automobile menace to life which deserves the closest attention in the way of seeking preventive measures for the protection of life and limb.

Manifestly there is reckless, careless and inefficient driving of automobiles in this State as there is over the country generally, and there is manifest from this that there should not alone be laws more drastic everywhere to control this, but that there should be greater diligence in the enforcement of the laws. We are inviting danger so long as there are not greater restrictions placed upon the driving of automobiles.

Examples of the need of a stricter enforcement of present laws may be found on the streets of any city every day, in some cities these examples being more emphatic than in others. Instances of the narrow escape from injury, perhaps death, are as numerous as can be. The devil of speed seems to spring into being with the possession of an automobile, and with some people at the driving gear the devil seems more insistently at work.

Self protection seems one of the forgotten things to many who ride in automobiles, for it is an oft-told tale of injury and death to those in the machines as well as to those who are crushed and mangled beneath these twentieth century juggernauts. Those whom the people have put in authority are negligent of their duties if they do not so punish dangerous automobile driving in such a degree as to lessen it, negligent also if they do not make regulations to control the menace and see to it that there is a strict enforcement of all such regulations made to control reckless or careless or incontinent drivers of automobiles.

GIBSON PICTURE FEATURES.

Commencing with tomorrow the News and Observer is going to give for ten successive weeks some special picture features which are certain to prove attractive, for they are drawings by Charles Dana Gibson, and it is only necessary to state that they are Gibson pictures in giving testimony that they will be attractive. These ten pictures are under copyright by Life Publishing Company, and they will be printed under that copyright. These are such as to merit framing or passepartouting, each in size a half page of this paper. The first of these Gibson drawings will appear tomorrow, the others in the series of ten to appear on succeeding Sundays, the complete list being:

- 1—Serious Business. 2—The Announcement of Her Engagement. 3—"Ladies and Gentlemen." 4—The Reason Dinner Was Late. 5—The Same Old Story. 6—Just Before It's Too Late. 7—Advice to the Mentally Feeble. 8—Among the Foreign News. 9—All Sorts of Pups. 10—Four-Leaf Clover and Good Luck.

Spirit of the Press

"Real News" Wanted.

Reidsville Review. "Real news" is wanted in the office of the Jonesboro News, which says: "The friends of this paper will please hand us in news items when they are fresh. We prefer not to publish a birth after the child is weaned, a marriage after the honeymoon is over, or the death of a man after his widow is married again." A hint to the wise is sufficient.

Grateful Every Day.

Charity and Children. It makes one exceedingly weary to hear people who never smelled gunpowder talk about the pusillanimous policy of the government in its attitude toward Mexico, as well as Germany and Great Britain. Those who want to join Col. Roosevelt's regiment can do so, but the millions of America have more sense, and are grateful every day for a man in the White House whose head is level.

Another Leonard Bill.

Lexington Dispatch. It has just leaked out that Representative C. H. B. Leonard introduced in the Legislature and came very near securing the passage of a bill authorizing the women of Lexington and Thomasville to vote on all municipal questions. This can be done without constitutional amendment, it is learned, and probably will be done in many of the progressive towns of the State within the next few years. It was only recently that it was discovered that the Legislature has this power under the Constitution. Mr. Leonard's bill passed the House and passed two readings in the Senate but was killed on a recent reading. The bill was discussed at a recent meeting of the Civic League and every woman present, except one, was highly in favor of it.

The Man Behind

(By Wall Mason in Judge.)

THE man behind the rifle is cutting lots of hay; for wage which is a trifle, he ambles forth to slay. In atmosphere of danger, among the pools of gore, he shoots some festive stranger he never saw before. Then he receives a medal from Kaiser, car or king; with feet on ladder pedal, the birds his praises sing.

But contemplate the farmer, who his broad acres rules, who has no use, for armor, but puts his sons in mail. He hitches Buck and Charley to sower or to drill, and goes to sow his barley on yonder fertile hill. The winter is a general the farmer's busy now, so let us straightway honor the man behind the plow.

The man behind the saber throws all his time away; he slices up his neighbor for most unseemly pay. The man who goes a-killing his unknown fellow-men should draw more than a shilling, a kronor or a yen; if all the wealth of Croesus on him kings should bestow, for backing grants to pieces, his wage would be too low. The agents of destruction, we see him forward jaunt to kick up row and ruction, when peace is what men want. To earn his paltry gliders, a country he's defaced, destroyed the dreams of builders and laid the cities waste.



prune and jimson weeds.

While foolish men are carving with saber and with sword, he will equip the starting with good, rich table board. While silly dubs are shooting, afraid an awful din, he'll go a-callyhooping, to bring his harvest in. He needs the soldier's widder, he scotches the orphan now; oh, pause, then, and consider the man behind the plow!

New News of Yesterday.

(By E. J. Edwards.)

HOW TWO PRESIDENTS' WIDOWS WERE PROVIDED FOR.

IN a chat which I had with Cyrus W. Field on the day after his return from a visit to Europe, in 1877, he spoke reminiscently of some of those who were associated with him in the century, which resulted in leaving the first Atlantic cable between Newfoundland and Ireland.

Mr. Field seemed to be especially tender of the memory of Marshal O. Roberts. There were times, he said, when it seemed as though the project must fail. Men of science were opposed to it; some of the great engineers pronounced it impracticable. A great deal of the capital had already been expended, and there came a time when the question had to be decided one way or the other. "Shall we go on with this work?" Marshall O. Roberts and Peter Cooper, with Mr. Field, held that the cable should be laid no matter what the cost and the company should be maintained no matter what the discouragement.

"Mr. Roberts was as noble a man as I ever met," said Mr. Field. "He became very wealthy, but there was never an intimation that he obtained a dollar by any unfair method. I suppose no one will ever know how much he gave in private benefactions. I know that he contributed to the support of a man who had been a violent partisan and a member of the party to which Mr. Roberts did not belong. He gave this man a life lease of a comfortable house in New York City, and in addition was one of those who provided a sufficient income for him. I happen to know of one gift which he made which was very timely. Mr. Roberts was one of the merchants of New York in whom President Lincoln placed great confidence, often consulting with him. The relations established between the President and Mr. Roberts were very cordial. Almost immediately after the death of the President, Mr. Roberts, who surprised I think, that Lincoln had saved very little, caused a considerable sum of money to be sent privately to Mrs. Lincoln, doing that because he was certain that there must be immediate demands upon her purse. He was gratified to learn that this gift did put an end to certain immediate financial embarrassments."

At that time, I could not have dreamed that Cyrus W. Field would, within a few years, lead a movement to provide the widow of another President with a sum of the income from which would be sufficient to give her comfortable support. Yet such was a fact. Within a short time after the death of President Garfield, Mr. Field made inquiries which justified him in undertaking a benefaction of which the nation approved. He knew that when Garfield became President he was possessed of only a small property, and he did not serve long enough in the Presidency to have accumulated anything to speak of. Mr. Field therefore called upon a few friends, who gladly responded to his appeal to provide a fund sufficient to yield a comfortable income for Mrs. Garfield. So it happened that two men who were in intimate association in the building of the Atlantic cable contributed to the financial relief of two women who had been widowed because some one had murdered their husbands who were Presidents.

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Racy of the Soil

A Wise Step.

Wadesboro Ansonian. Mr. E. C. Griggs has completed a large warehouse for storing cotton and other farm products. This is a wise step, as many people in the South allow much of their products to waste. Mr. Griggs needs this warehouse very much, for it contains now 200 bales of cotton that will stay right there until the price advances.

How's This.

Oxford Ledger. A man owns a small piece of land on the National Highway a few miles north of Oxford, had offered it for \$1,200 and it went begging at that price. Nobody wanted it. Since the National Highway comes along by the place the owner has many prospective buyers in sight and the price is now \$2,500. Even good roads prospects pay.

"Stack of Fodder" There.

Ruskin Correspondence in Biadan Journal. A Mr. Cowan invited Mr. J. O. Ellis to White Oak one day last week. On arriving at Mr. Cowan's he was asked to go with him over in a field where a Miss Burgum came from behind a stack of fodder and she and Mr. Cowan were united in marriage.

Smile and Be Happy

OF COURSE.

Daughter sends you a thousand kisses and wants a hundred in return. A hundred kisses? Don't be absurd, John. A hundred dollars, of course.

THEATRE PROSPECTIVE LOOK.

What a pathetic face that young fellow has! His eyes seem reproachful.

Yes. He pulls in more tips than all the other waiters combined.

HER INGENUITY.

If Miss Lark made no reply when you proposed to her, on what grounds is she suing you for breach of promise? She claims that her silence gave consent.

IN WALL STREET.

There are two ways of buying stocks. One is to buy outright. The other is to buy in wrong.

As I Was A-Sayin'

"Hey, come back and get your change," said the man at the stamp window.

A customer of the Postoffice Department had bought some stamps and walked off without getting the change that was due him. "Lots of people do that every thing," said the stamp clerk. "I don't know why it is, just absent-mindedness I reckon."

"I can see a steady improvement in business," said Mr. G. L. Paddison, of Burgaw, who has been traveling in various portions of the State. "Yes, a good deal of cotton is being sold but I think that the main reason for better business conditions is the feeling of confidence that exists. Nearly everybody that I have talked with is in a more hopeful frame of mind than they were a few months ago. This feeling of confidence, prevailing so widely and so beautifully, means more business, for people are disposed to do business when they are in a cheerful frame of mind."

"One of the best reasons I know why children should be told stories in correct English," says Mrs. Edna Lyman Cotton, who spoke Thursday evening to the State Library Association at Meredith College, "is that they may get a better supply of adjectives. It is pitiful how much work one poor little slang word now has to do. Recently I listened to a group of students on a university campus and they made use of the word 'peach' in at least twenty-five different capacities, applying all the way from an emotion to a pretty dress. 'You people of the South,' she said, 'have a better opportunity of getting pure and beautiful English than do the people of the North, where the tides of immigration pour in from all quarters of the globe and are being assimilated into the American body politic. In the South you are one people; in the North we are many peoples, of many wonderfully 'brands of English speech.'"

"That word 'peach' is probably of more use to the baseball fan than anyone else. The first 'peach' is always a 'peach,' if the batter lays it to the far corner it is a 'peach,' and he may make a 'peach' of a slide into second and get ahead of a 'peach' of a throw from deep center. Finally, if the game was not 'rotten,' it too, was a 'peach.' Great is the 'peach' crop."

The North Carolina Tax Commission is pleased with the quality of the men who have consented to serve as county tax assessors. Some of the best men in their counties have been appointed to this responsible duty.

"It really affords a splendid opportunity," said a gentleman who was discussing the subject, "for a man to be of service to his county and to his State. These county assessors can exert a powerful influence toward quality in taxes—something that just people who have given the matter thought believe to be a very needed thing in this and other States. These men will have a chance to work a real reform. 'I think the county assessor plan will stick this time and the same authority. 'Four years ago the plan was adopted and two years later it was abandoned. Something was learned from the experience and the plan will be applied this time with the benefit of the experience obtained previously.'"

"The principal objection to the plan seems to be that the counties feel that the State is trying to encroach upon affairs that are strictly local. But the fact of the matter is that the State is vitally interested in the counties and the counties interested in the State and there ought not to be any resentment on the part of the county authorities at the appointment of the county tax assessors by the State. I don't think there will be this time."