

The News and Observer

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Full Associated Press Reports MORNING TONIC

UNCLE WALT MASON H. C. OF PAPER. The men who make the white print paper are trying out a get-rich caper.

Hope it was a happy one Don't let your resolutions go into the discard today.

Joy! Tomorrow we have the Legislature with us! The song of the office-seeker: "I Am A Candidate."

It appears to be on the cards that Pancho Villa proposes to make this a Happy New Year for one V. Carranza.

No, Pauline, the Congressional "pork barrel" does not contain the results of a hog-killing time.

There will be a heavy wear and tear on the button holes in the lobbies of the Raleigh hotels today.

Some of the folks just hunted by last year's New Year's Resolutions had adopted them again.

"Peace hath her victories" but she does not seem to be winning them over in Europe.

We take it that around the State Capitol the present view is that "The salary's the thing."

It is evident that over in Europe before peace is some of the belligerents think that things will have to go to pieces.

If the people of Raleigh can't get rid of that ramshackle old market house building any other way why not ask the Legislature to take a hand in the game?

You may talk about "Ring out the old, ring in the new" all you please, but as Leap Year chances are gone till 1920 that the girls want to know is whether gold rings for an engagement!

But perhaps with the price of eggs on the high gear the chicken crop this spring may be larger. Editor "Jeems" Cowan, of the Wilmington Dispatch, the expert on Wrightsville Beach chickens is invited to furnish a forecast.

Breeding places for flies and mosquitoes are those old stables on South Salisbury street. It is said that the buildings have been condemned for many months. Why don't the City Commissioners get a move on and have things remedied before another summer and the menace of the flies a reality?

There's "Pete" and Henry and Gal-tin, each hoping that he will take a seat in the Chair of the Speaker. Now who will win?

STATEMENT TO THE PUBLIC.

Since the day that Mr. Daniels became Secretary of the Navy I have been the editor of The News and Observer and responsible for all its editorial expressions.

Attempts have been made to fix responsibility upon the Secretary of the Navy for the utterances of The News and Observer. In writing upon national topics as well as other topics I have been entirely responsible for the policy of this paper.

The attempt now to criticize him for what the paper says is no more justified than it would be justifiable to criticize Secretary Daniels for any other editorial in The News and Observer.

EDWARD E. BRITTON, Editor The News and Observer. O. K. FOR THE STATE.

The General Assembly of 1917, which convenes tomorrow, will enter upon its duties finding the State in excellent condition, its affairs having been managed with fidelity and ability by the men who have been put in charge of the conduct of the government and of the various institutions which belong to the State.

This is the usual story in North Carolina when a Democratic General Assembly gathers following two or four years of Democratic control of the State, for under the direction of that party those who have been put into position have been men who have had the ability and the energy to conduct the matters entrusted to them so as to win commendation for the excellence of the work done.

The financial affairs of the State are in fine shape, there being now a surplus on hand, while there are other funds to come in before there is a final accounting. In a large degree the various institutions have lived well within their means, while there has been a steady improvement in the class of work done in them.

The session of the General Assembly which begins tomorrow is expected to measure up to a high water mark of service to the people. There will be measures of the progressive kind before it, and there is the confident feeling that it will go forward in legislation which will prove of increased value to the people.

AN ABSENTEE VOTING LAW. That in all fairness to the voter there should be an absentee vote law should need no argument, for the justice of this is manifest on its face.

THE MEXICAN QUESTION. At all times in discussing the question of what this country should do with regard to Mexico in the varying aspects of attempted settlements of affairs with that country it must be remembered that the object of the United States is to see established in that country a stable government on strong constitutional lines caring for the interests of the people.

When The War Will End. New York World. Whatever Great Britain, France and Russia may do, there will be no peace until Germany accepts the terms of the Hon. Gossie Gardner, of Massachusetts, and gives him personal guarantees for the future.

THE STATE-WIDE PRIMARY. This week there will meet in Raleigh the first General Assembly of the State since the passage of the State-wide primary law, and there will be discussion of that measure during the session.

Changes that will make it stronger are needed, just as there is needed an election law which will further protect the people. That there is to be a fight to have enacted a law providing for the Australian ballot appears certain.

Tip on the Speaker of the House: On good authority we can state that the Democratic caucus will name the winner, and that it will be Murphy or Page or Roberts. We name them in alphabetical order.

State or county or city. It should be a law without red tape of the perplexing kind, one that can be readily understood and obeyed.

Justice for the Guard. The public is not going to be swept off its feet by the adverse criticism of the National Guard by officers of the regular army, for in all parts of the country there is recognition that the men who form what may be termed our citizen soldiery are patriots, that they desire to serve their country, that they have maintained for long years military organizations under circumstances which called for personal sacrifice, and in many cases for financial losses.

Given time, we believe that the National Guard could measure up to all the requirements made of it, and we agree with the New York World which says: "Regular army officers are disposed to be too hasty in proclaiming the National Guard system an utter failure," that paper saying further:

The National Guard regiments that were sent to the Mexican border last summer were the product of the Dick act, which was about to be superseded by the new Hay law. Yet in active service in the field the New York regiments won high praise, as Major General O'Ryan testifies, from officers of the regular army for their proficiency.

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Spirit of the Press. The Philadelphia Record is another paper which speaks out in behalf of the National Guard. Stating that the Adjutant General of Massachusetts, irritated by efforts of regular army officers to discredit the militia, says that he is ready to "take any six companies of the Massachusetts National Guard and march and shoot them against any six companies in the regular infantry," it declares that the same claim could be made for the Guardsmen of Pennsylvania and some other States, further saying in regard to the matter: "It is poor policy in the advocates of universal military service or a big reserve army to run down the National Guard. This has already caused a reaction which may block their plans. Generous recognition of the excellent services of the Guard would lessen the friction which has already risen at Washington over the too often offensive tone adopted by members of the General Staff in advocating their special policies."

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pected. We think that he is absolutely in error as to his position in seeking to have the forces under Gen. Pershing withdrawn. This country will keep them in Mexico just so long as it appears that their presence is necessary to safeguard American lives and American interests.

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RACY OF THE SOIL Golden Eggs.

Reidsville Review. Miss Mollie Carroll, near Reidsville, has a Rhode Island Red pullet that was too small for a broiler June 1. About October 1 the pullet began laying and has furnished a nice, fresh egg every day since.

A Pig Producer. Mooreville Enterprise. Mr. J. F. Wiggins was in Saturday and reported a very unusual happening at his place. He has a brood sow that has delivered thirty pigs in eleven months, and twenty-eight of the pigs lived and made first-rate porkers.

TAR HEEL BRAINLETS

In these strenuous times of high cost of living they are going to reduce the salaries of baseball players. Look like it would be just the reverse of that.—Greensboro Record.

A luncheon used to consist of a dab of this and a dab of that, but most of the dab has been cut out here of late.—Wilmington Star.

What has become of the old-fashioned farmer who kicked when he couldn't get 8 cents a pound for liver pudding? The new-fashioned farmer is getting 16 cents, and liver pudding is scarce at that.—Fayetteville Observer.

SMILE AND BE HAPPY

ORIGIN OF FUEL. Teacher—What is the difference between egg and nut coal? Johnny—One is laid by a hen and the other by a squirrel.

ALWAYS ATTRACTIVE. I have some most attractive stock to sell. Yes, I suppose so. Anyhow I've never seen a stock certificate that wasn't a beautiful thing to look at.

THIS WINTER. Did the water pipe burst? Yes, and the landlord charged extra because it makes a rink.

FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH. First Walter—What were the last words of Walter No. 14? Second Walter—Don't give up the tip.

A Monstrosity By SAVOYARD

Privilege is the bane of governments, and by privilege is meant a special advantage conferred on one interest at the expense of another interest just as worthy. The tax on oleomargarine is a case in point and it is a not unimportant factor that works to increase the cost of living in our country at this time. The authority to levy a tax is conferred on Congress by section 8, of Article I, of the Federal Constitution, which reads: "Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties and excises to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."

Possibly it was in 1660 that the genial, attractive and worthless scamp, Charles II, became King of England. Though his people had cut off his father's head, young Charles enjoyed the day he was crowned more of the loyalty of his subjects than any other individual who ever ascended the English throne. The dogma of right divine prevailed all over the continent of Europe and took on what looked like new life in England. Privilege was rampant, and the King could make a favorite of anyone he chose.

All the lawyers in Philadelphia cannot discover one bit of difference between the pension paid Barbara Palmer from the public purse of England and the privilege granted to the Butter Trust by the oleomargarine tax, so far as the principle of the thing is concerned. Indeed, the oleomargarine tax is the more vicious privilege of the two. Charles and his mercenary mistress lived two centuries and a half ago, when prerogative was an accepted attribute of royalty. Under the law he had a right to do as he did do; but there is as little law as there is justice in this oleomargarine tax that makes the unlovely Butter Trust a favorite of our government.

Representative Aswell, of Louisiana, is seeking a repeal of the outrage; but the voracious trust is vigilant and expects to make its hold on privilege the firmer. Mr. Aswell, in an interview the other day, said: "The Butter Trust is trying to have a bill passed fixing a standard of color so white as to prevent the use of peanut and cotton-seed oil, and to destroy the flavor by prohibiting the use of butter in oleomargarine. This would destroy the business and deprive the people, mostly poor persons, of more than 150,000,000 pounds of food supply. It would not add a pound of butter to the supply, but would materially aid the Butter Trust in further increasing the price of butter."

Before oleomargarine can legally be sold it must bear the government stamp that it is sound, healthful, wholesome, free from disease, and prepared under sanitary conditions. Why tax that article of wholesome food? You would as honestly and as wisely tax sweet potatoes to relieve Irish potatoes of competition, or peaches to get them out of the way of apples, or mutton to make beef dearer, as to tax oleomargarine to raise the price of butter. "Why this monstrosity was not repealed in the Underwood tariff is a mystery to me." Washington, December 20.