

Only Eighty-Four Years Ago.

In these days of quick transportation by land and sea, when every other man owns an automobile and the fellow who hasn't one of his own rides in his neighbor's...

What's the Matter With Charlotte?

The city of Charlotte—the Queen City of North Carolina, has gotten the municipal government science down to a fine point when the city council can meet—once a month, is it?—and transact all the business coming before that august body in thirty-five minutes by the clock.

Food Problem Serious.

An effort to reduce the price of food stuffs to something like normal, in order that people of moderate means may be able to obtain the absolute necessities of life, has been begun in New York city by the various civic organizations co-operating with the labor unions and citizens who see in the continued upward tendency real suffering ahead for many honest wage earners and a class of the unemployed in danger of winding up in the bread line.

A Bit Too Hasty.

The New York Sun does not think much of the methods adopted for testing the constitutionality of the Adams eight hour law.

Would Be Suicidal.

What seems to us a sane and reasonable position regarding the proposed embargo on foodstuffs, as a means of meeting the present crisis, is taken by the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot, which expresses the belief that the government cannot be misled into the adoption of a policy so suicidal.

A man living at Summit, N. J., has brought to light from his collection of treasured relics a copy of the New York Courier and Enquirer containing a full and detailed account of the first trip made on the Harlem railroad over the mile of single track that had been completed from Prince street along the Bowery to Fourteenth street.

Exactly 35 minutes was the time taken by the executive board for transaction of all the city's business Thursday afternoon, timed by a clock at the city hall. During that short space of time very few matters came before the body and nothing of an important nature was attended to.

In this great land of peace and plenty, with reports of good crops and unprecedented prosperity, it doesn't seem reasonable that people should be deprived of proper nourishment because the prices of food stuffs are prohibitive.

Some of the most firmly established principles of American legal procedure have been conspicuously violated in the disposition of the litigation instituted in the West to test the constitutionality of the Adams eight hour labor law.

To impress such an embargo as is proposed would be to reduce the farmers of the country, including the hundreds of thousands of laborers dependent upon the agricultural interests, from unprecedented prosperity to a condition of comparative penury.

The Harlem Railroad Company with the Mayor, Corporation and strangers of distinction left the City Hall in carriages to the place of depot near Union Square where two splendid cars made by Milne Parker, each with two horses, were in waiting.

Following the reading and adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting Mayor Kirkpatrick read a request in which he stated that \$5.50 had been expended in decorating the city hall on Wilson day, asking that the money be refunded him.

When the people rise up in their might and demand the changes which would reduce the cost of living they can get what they want. I look to the women of this city to solve this problem. They are beginning to be interested, and as soon as they fully understand the situation they will force the hand of those in authority.

In the first place, the judgment is only a pro forma decision. It is not the outcome of careful and deliberate judicial consideration. In the case decided in the United States District Court by Judge Hook there is no pretense that the decision represents the result of any serious thought upon the momentous question involved.

Prices would, indeed, fall, but much greater would be the reduction in the ability of the great bulk of the consuming public to buy. Hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people who are now finding it difficult to make income meet an increased and increasing outgo, occasioned by advanced and advancing prices, would then be without employment and so without any income at all and consequently unable to acquire the necessities of life at any price.

The distance was not far from the old residence or farm of Governor Stuyvesant and could our worthy Dutch ancestors, Rip Van Dam and others, have beheld what was formerly their cow path, covered with iron railways on which elegant carriages were rapidly moving, they would have imagined that witches and warlocks had been at work, and spooks had whisked their old habitations in the region of fancy.

After the request had been read, Commissioner W. F. Elliott rose and stated that he did not know whether the auditorium should be rented to the convention or not.

At present producers haven't access to cold storage plants. They won't let them have facilities. Now, if there was a public terminal market with storage facilities, producers could store foodstuffs when things were cheap. What do you suppose would happen if the State of New York had such a plant and released for sale a lot of eggs when eggs were high and were being held by speculators for still higher prices?

The motive of the Attorney-General is natural, but it has carried him too far when he insists upon a decision in the court of first instance which is only a decision in form. It has heretofore been an invariable rule in appellate courts that they will review only actual determinations of the courts below, not fictitious judgments rendered solely to expedite appeals.

The present situation may be, and unquestionably is, far from satisfactory, so far as concerns the consumers, but to attempt to relieve it by the imposition of an embargo would be only to make a bad matter worse for the consumers, while inflicting a heavy and stupidly useless punishment upon both the producers and the country as a whole.

When asked why, Commissioner Elliott stated that in view of the fact that it was to be used for a big ball the plans might conflict with the recent "Stewart law."

It is planned to organize a demonstration of 50,000 housewives to present to Mayor Mitchell a protest against high food prices.

In the second place, if a statute is susceptible of any reasonable construction which will uphold its validity it is the duty of the courts thus to construe it. Admitting that it is important that a review of the eight hour law by the Supreme Court should be expedited, and therefore that a speedy decision in the District Court was desirable, the District Judge, if he had to jump at a conclusion, should have acted upon the presumption in favor of the constitutionality of the law and pronounced it valid.

Playing For Even. James West, the Egg King of Chicago, is not giving himself any concern about how many suffer for lack of food, if he is correctly quoted in the dispatches, of which this is a sample:

In those days as in these, it will be observed, there was the doubting Thomas—the kicker, the man who didn't want the streets torn up, the men who thought the old way was good enough, and the man opposed to progress on general principles.

Take it here in Greensboro, where our commissioners meet every day, and it is hard to limit the sessions to the time allotted for discussion of public questions. There is always a demand here and a suggestion there, and enough public interest to call for a daily report in the newspapers. It is to provide for such demands and to consider such suggestions that we have commissioners, and why shouldn't they be made to earn their salaries?

All labor unions in the country are being asked to endorse the action of the American Federation of Labor's executive committee in calling upon the President to order such an inquiry.

The methods adopted in getting the courts to pass upon the Adams law are almost as bad as the methods used to compel Congress to pass it. We shall be surprised if they receive the approval of the Supreme Court of the United States.

"Seventy million eggs?" he repeated, when told the New York Mercantile exchange reported he had that many. "I have more than that. I have more than 20,000 cases of eggs in Chicago alone. And what are they going to do about it?"

That is the way the taxpayer looks at it and he feels that, inasmuch as he is paying the bills, he has a right to say what disposition is to be made of his property.

United States Attorney Marshall admitted that the local Department of Justice is investigating the rise in food prices. If enough evidence is gathered to justify an investigation, Mr. Marshall says, Washington will decide which district in the country is to undertake the burden of an omnibus proceeding instead of allowing the various districts to carry on disjointed actions on their own hooks.

No Cause to Kick.

Colonel Bob Gray, of the Raleigh Times, "calls" the sporting editor of the Richmond Journal who tried to say something mean about the Tar Heel boys but who appears to have been knocked out in a collision with Mr. Syntax. This is the story:

"Did any one accuse me of being a manipulator last year when I got stung along with the rest? Not so that you would notice it. Why does the public set up a howl for help this year and not last? This is the broker's year, and as for me, I am going to sit tight and watch the price climb up and the public can pay. I am going to square accounts for last year."

Promoters of a tuberculosis sanatorium for Guilford county are planning to go before the board of county commissioners Monday with definite plans for the construction and maintenance of the proposed institution and attempt to show wherein our people are neglecting their duty in failing to make provision for the class of unfortunates which has created the urgent demand.

But Charlotte appears to have solved all her problems and presents to the world the finished product in town building. Wonder what has become of Booster Kuester?

The Pity Of It.

The other day on the train we saw a man making a melancholy journey to Arizona—going there to get well, he said. He had with him some Doodle Bugs, no doubt of that, and he told us his tale of woe. A fellow feeling always makes us wondrous kind, therefore we were confidential. He carried a thermometer which he was continually putting in his mouth; he had a half dozen ex-ray photographs of his left lung; he had a jug or two of different kinds of dope—emulsions and cod liver oil and the Lord knows what.

Still, we have no idea that Richmond itself and the people thereof bear the University of North Carolina any ill-will for wanting the game played now and then on home soil. It would seem that the Journal has recently hired a new \$7.50 a week sport expert, who must bluster a bit while his mustache annoys him by its failure to put in its appearance.

The public might just as well prepare for the highest prices we ever had. The egg crop is 881,000 cases short of last year and the demand is greater.

Object Lesson in Government.

As an object lesson in the workings of the initiative and referendum the State Journal cites the recent case in this state of the constitutional amendments. The point is well taken when it says:

He was well along. The bugs had made deep inroads in his path, and it was plain to be seen that he would come home in a box. He told us the doctor advised him to go. He had left a wife and three children—had mortgaged his home to get enough ready cash for the journey and the sojourn—and thus he went alone to die. And he was told by the doctor that when he arrived he must not worry.

In fact, the game meant more money to Richmond than to any other interested party. As for the fans, all admit that they did not always see the class of football which North Carolina would have liked to have exhibited, but the gates opened both ways and nobody held any of the dissatisfied in the park.

These are the kind of fellows the government should go after and go after hard. If he lost money in his speculations last year it was his misfortune and he was only one individual, easily taken care of if thrown upon the charities of an unsympathizing world. In "playing for even" he is depriving children and invalids of the necessities of life and has no moral right to put money in his own coffers by such disregard of the life and welfare of the millions at his mercy.

The committee appearing before the board will be one of the strongest ever presenting similar petition, the idea being to have two representatives for every voting precinct in the county together with large delegations from Greensboro, High Point, Jamestown, Guilford College, and wherever there is organized effort of any kind for community betterment. The sanatorium will be urged not as a matter of charity or sentiment, but on the more practical grounds of profitable investment and self-protection. This not to suggest, by any means, that our people are lacking in sentiment or sympathy for the afflicted, but merely that it is to be worked out as a business proposition in which the whole county will draw large dividends in restored health and industrial activities.

Those who consider the initiative and referendum of great value as an aid to government would do well to consider the history of the constitutional amendments recently adopted. Here were several very important changes in the law which had to be referred to the people. Two years ago they were submitted and the people voted them down by a substantial majority, not because there was any real objection to them, but because they did not take the trouble to understand their purpose and effect. They have just been submitted a second time and adopted by a good majority but a strikingly light vote. This light vote means that the people do not want to be troubled with such matters, even when they are of very great importance in the government of the state.

True many physicians now have awakened to the fact that climate has nothing to do with it; many have found that the right kind of treatment at home is far better than the same treatment away from home. But not all. There is still a melancholy journey going to the southwest for treatment—and that country is nothing in God's world but a clearing house for the cemetery.

Still, we have no idea that Richmond itself and the people thereof bear the University of North Carolina any ill-will for wanting the game played now and then on home soil. It would seem that the Journal has recently hired a new \$7.50 a week sport expert, who must bluster a bit while his mustache annoys him by its failure to put in its appearance.

Some Common Sense.

The young man who ran over and killed a citizen of Salisbury was found guilty of manslaughter. In passing sentence Judge Frank Carter, and a big Judge, too, didn't send the unfortunate man to prison. He simply ordered him to pay a certain sum of money to the widow of the man he killed; pay the court costs; and appear at court each session for five years to show and prove he had drunk no whiskey. It strikes us that there is some common sense in this. The man who is running an automobile certainly has no malice against his victim. It is accidental—and the only reason for punishment is the fact that the man was drunk. So in order to make a good citizen of him Judge Carter gives him a chance. The widow of the dead man gets something out of it; the state has lost no money and the man must cut out his booze or go to the penitentiary. That is about all that Society could wish within reason demand. Judge Carter may be peculiar in some things, but it looks to us that he carries a level head and sees things as they should be seen.

People insist on considering the elective franchise as a privilege, and they seem to think that the electors are eagerly awaiting that privilege; but such is not the case, as the history of our constitutional amendment shows.

Naturally we did not take from our new made friend the hope that seemed to be his—we gave him what information we had on the subject and the section into which he was going and when we shook his hand and said good-bye—we saw the grafters down there plucking him—and saw the box on its homeward journey. The doctors should not send such men into strange lands.

Well, let us hope that what is in the air in this regard will materialize into a fact—and let Christmas witness world wide peace. That would be the day to fix things up.

The Epstein Trial.

The sensational Epstein trial which was to have been on this week at Goldsboro, where Hymen Epstein is being tried for his life for killing Leonard Edwards has been postponed. The reason is the old one. Hard to get a jury.

With all the fuss being made over the contagion and spread of the Great White Plague, Guilford and every other county in North Carolina should be prepared to guard itself against this dangerous enemy, and it should be supported by all the taxpayers rather than by a few public spirited individuals.

Well, the way to make them appreciate and exercise the "privilege" is to build up two strong parties so evenly matched that both sides will be compelled to put up their best men and the citizen who is really interested in seeing his side win will see the necessity of doing his duty as a voter. The way it is now in the solid South there is little incentive to go to any great trouble to express a choice. The man with democratic leanings but not directly interested feels that the party majority is perfectly safe without him, and the republican realizes that there is no chance for him, so what's the use to waste time on a forlorn hope. In the great turbulent and progressive West, where the result is uncertain, they put ginger into the campaign and the people respond.

To Avoid The Rush.

The postmaster general sends word to all good people to do their Christmas mailing early. It used to be urged to do your shopping, but now Uncle Sam comes in and wants all patrons to send their packages as long before Christmas as possible. But it will not do much good. The man who receives a Christmas package two or three weeks before Christmas doesn't get the thrill that's coming to him. And the one sending the gift generally tries to time it in order to get it there the day before Christmas. What Uncle Sam should do, but he doesn't, because there are no business methods in his work, is to anticipate the rush and put on extra men and extra cars—like private individuals would do, and take care of the traffic the day it comes, no matter how much it may be.

Well, let us hope that what is in the air in this regard will materialize into a fact—and let Christmas witness world wide peace. That would be the day to fix things up.

Under our wise laws a man who has read about a murder case or expressed an opinion without knowing the facts is not eligible to determine the case. What is generally wanted is a man who cannot read and who is so indifferent as to what transpires in his own neighborhood that he never even heard of a tragedy that shocked a whole community. Looks like intelligent men should be called to jury duty; put under oath and let the case proceed. But that would not be according to the so-called "science of law."

And It Didn't Snow.

Many had hoped for a slight sprinkle of snow instead of the rain for this blessed Thanksgiving Day—but the London fog was on—the day was not what we wanted. And yet we are thankful that it was no worse.

The death of Jack London, war correspondent, story writer, and withal a literary genius, leaves a hole in the world of letters that will be felt around the world.

And another thing the post-master general suggests which would be a contradiction of human nature is to send the package a couple of weeks in advance and write on it "not to be opened until Christmas." Imagine a woman getting a package two weeks before Christmas and telling her not to open it until the glad day. Why if she couldn't open it the minute she received it she couldn't sleep a wink.

Well, let us hope that what is in the air in this regard will materialize into a fact—and let Christmas witness world wide peace. That would be the day to fix things up.

A Minister Replies.

A Hillsboro minister takes issue with the mayor of that town regarding the effect of Mr. Ham's preaching on the citizens of his community. The Record is pleased to print the minister's article and let those interested form their own opinions.

In the first trial of Epstein the jury could not agree and a new trial was ordered which will commence Monday.

Raleigh is ready for the North Carolina Teachers Assembly and Raleigh cannot have anything too good for the North Carolina teachers.

Keep your money at home—a good slogan—but if you do look not on the Christmas catalogue when it comes along about now.