

THE RED CROSS SEAL.

The Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company of this city believes in the Red Cross seal. The following letter from the State Board of Health is pleasant reading:

In transmitting the check of the company to Mrs. James R. Young, chairman of the Red Cross seal committee in Greensboro, Mr. C. C. Taylor, secretary of the company, has the following to say:

"I know of no more worthy cause to which any man or corporation can contribute than the work in which you are engaged now, namely, the sale of Red Cross seal stamps.

"Self-preservation is the first law of nature, and in view of the fact that 75 per cent of the sales of these stamps will be kept in the county of Guilford to fight tuberculosis it should commend itself to every one, and therefore I think every individual and business corporation should purchase as many as possible. I am, therefore, pleased to hand you the Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company's check for \$100, purchasing 10,000 of these stamps.

Many supreme courts have ruled that it was proper for corporations to use their money in this way, and it is a paying investment for any corporation that employs labor.

The Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company is progressive along many other lines, one of which we will mention at this time: It gives to every employe and policy holder an annual physical examination. In the examination of its employes last year it found two with incipient tuberculosis and paid their expenses at the state sanatorium for six months.

The Jefferson Standard is always progressive, but calls itself "a conservative with a move on." We are glad to print the above letter, and to note that credit is given the Greensboro company by the State Board of Health for its interest in the state work and liberal policy toward its own employes.

GERMANY WANTS PEACE.

That Germany is whipped is shown by the indications. She wants peace, she is eager, but naturally wants some terms favorable to her. This, however, the allies are agreed will never happen. There will be no peace until Germany is annihilated. She has violated all the rules of civilized warfare; she has shown her hand, and it is the hand of a ruthless demon wanting to dominate the world. This she cannot do. She is whipped already, and she knows she is whipped. It may take some time for her to admit the fact, but all the time the allies grow stronger. America has yet to throw her tremendous force of millions of men into the war. Germany knows that is coming, and so whenever there is a glimpse of peace or an opportunity to sue for Germany is ready. But she will find no peace until she surrenders, absolutely.

THE CHANCE.

The local story printed yesterday to the effect that control of the Carolina-Yadkin railroad had passed to members of the executive committee of the Norfolk Southern railway showed to Greensboro how to get another railway into this town and a railway worth while.

Naturally no one is talking railway while the conditions are so unsettled, but the conditions are going to be settled one of these days, and, when they are, for a few thousand dollars in bonds we can be on another main line, so to speak; at least, be connected with one, and that is all we want. The Norfolk Southern can be tapped by the Carolina and Yadkin by building twenty miles of track, and fourteen miles of rail will bring it to this town. What better picture do you want to cast your eyes upon? That looks very good to us.

THE FOLLY OF IT.

The man who thinks he can hit the market every day in the year and come out a winner, no matter how smart he is, is misguided. We read of a young man in Alabama who is going to spend Christmas in jail because he figured it out that railway securities were too low and bought on the market; just gambled, and found that the market wasn't going his way, and he took what cash he could find in the establishment and made false entries, and afterward repined in jail. He will go over the road. Cotton the other day was selling around thirty cents, possibly thirty, and many a man said it wouldn't do, and perhaps a thousand men thought it would. Some bought and some sold, and some made money and some lost.

The folly of gambling on the market is shown every day. Thousands and tens of thousands of men have gotten in bad; gone to the penitentiary; disgraced their friends and families and ruined themselves for life, only because they thought they could beat a game that cannot always be beaten. The gambling business is bad business, and yet we are all gamblers—but not gamblers to the extent that we go beyond our depth and holdly rob our employers to pay the bill. The man who planted tobacco last spring gambled; he took a chance on weather and a chance on prices, and he reaped a big crop and he won, and the tobacco farmer is rich. But he didn't buy tobacco already grown and stored; he simply went after Mother Earth and took a chance. The young man who thinks he will get rich quick by buying on margins; who thinks that the market is going the way he wants it to go because of war conditions or some other conditions, is only gambling—taking a chance where there is not much hope of winning. Better trudge along; better count the cents instead of the dollars and count some every day; better keep on slow speed and at the journey's end ninety in every hundred will have more than the fellow who hits it on high and makes it appear that he has a million, for some day he will have no million and be hopelessly involved.

NOT FOUND WANTING.

Secretary of State Robert Lansing contributed to the front page of the government's daily newspaper, the Official Bulletin, a Thanksgiving thought which is worth reading, not only on Thanksgiving Day but all the days of this long and terrible war. He said:

If we measured our national blessings by the materialistic standard of physical comfort and prosperity, which has been in recent years so potent in our thought as a people, the observance of Thanksgiving Day this year might seem almost a mockery, for we are engaged in the most destructive and terrible war of all times. But a new conception of national blessings has come to the American people, a conception in which the spiritual is exalted above the material, in which the life of the nation is placed above the life of the individual. No greater blessing could have come to the republic than this awakening to the fact that patriotism is more to be prized than wealth and that the loyal service and self-sacrifice of a people are the only sure protectors of national existence.

When we consider that thousands of stalwart young Americans, inspired by love of country and by a deep sense of duty, are today in the trenches or near the battle front in France, and that thousands upon thousands of others are in the camps in this country making ready to do their part in the struggle against the enemy which menaces our liberty and the liberty of all mankind, we ought to be grateful to the Supreme Being that so splendid a spirit of devotion animates our citizens and stands guard over our national life.

Whoever feared that as a people we had given ourselves over to selfish materialism need no longer fear. Material interests are submerged beneath the tide of patriotism which has swept over this land and which has found its fullest expression in the indomitable spirit of those who have gone forth to fight for their country wherever duty calls.

This is a time when we as a nation should give thanks to the Almighty for having revealed to us the spiritual blessings which are ours. He has blessed us with knowledge that the soul of the nation has been put to the test and has not been found wanting; that the people of this great land are united and patriotic, and that they have consecrated themselves to unselfish service with a supreme faith in the righteousness of their cause and in the God who rules the destinies of nations.

The above is worth reading, not once but several times. "The soul of the nation has been tried and not found wanting." That is the idea, and every man must keep this fact well in mind. Every man must help. Every man must give to that nation his whole, unstinted support. Loyalty is what is wanted now.

HARDLY SEEMS POSSIBLE.

The kleptomaniac, or shop-lifter, has long been considered in the mercantile world, and almost every big store is known to have its floor walker or detective, whose business it is to keep a strict watch over customers who handle goods displayed on the counters. The shop-lifting business seems to be a growing industry, if the following article from Woman's Wear is a sample of what is going on:

All of the large department stores of Columbus, Ohio, have entered into an agreement with a secret service agency to furnish them protection during the next three months.

This action has been taken in anticipation of unusual efforts on the part of shop-lifters this winter, as well as the usual amount of petty theft that is continually going on.

The detective agency will furnish a corps of expert store operatives who will check up each store daily, both as to honesty and as to efficiency and courtesy of salespeople.

During the holiday season an extra force of Bertillon men will go from store to store and arrest on sight any known criminals who are found. Such crooks will be warned to leave the city immediately or suffer the penalty of imprisonment on their past records.

This protective service was arranged through the Columbus Retail Merchants' Association, and by handling it collectively a very reasonable rate was secured.

Railroad companies employ detectives to watch their cars on the side tracks; banks have detective agencies, and now department stores are coming and putting on a detective force, and the allied retail merchants are helping to pay the bills. It would seem as we progress in all our work of civilization that the shop-lifter and sneak-thief would gradually pass out, but it seems that they multiply instead. It is an easy matter for a merchant to lose his profits if a few people each day pick up this or that and secrete it on their person and walk out. This is easily done during a holiday rush, and for this reason the Columbus merchants are going to try to stop the business. And a very good idea it is.

The fuel situation seems to get no better, and those who are frightened continue to buy more coal than they really need. Agitation will cause a run on the bank, and agitation has certainly caused a run on the coal mines.

The Waste Basket yawned again in this print shop today and received three letters, one from a half-witted person who has made several attempts to break into print without a number. However, the waste basket must have something to do.

The rabbits were perhaps very thankful today because of the weather conditions.

HOW IT WILL WORK.

The war-savings plan provided for in the last bond act, of September 24, 1917, has been formulated and announced by the Treasury department and goes into operation Monday, December 3.

The plan puts it easily in reach of every American citizen to save money and at the same time aid the government by supplying it with the sinews of war.

Stamps, which are the government's certificates of indebtedness, are to be sold in two denominations—thrift stamps, which cost 25 cents each, and war-savings stamps, which cost from \$4.12 to \$4.23 each, according to the month in which they are purchased.

With the first thrift stamp the purchaser is given a thrift card with spaces for 16 stamps. When 16 thrift stamps have been purchased and affixed the thrift card can be exchanged for a war-savings stamp by paying the difference between the \$4 thrift stamps represent and the current value of a war-savings stamp, which in December, 1917, and January, 1918, will be \$4.12, and thereafter 1 cent for each succeeding month during the year 1918.

With the first war-savings stamp obtained by purchase or exchange the owner is given a war-savings certificate containing spaces for 30 war-savings stamps. If the 30 spaces are filled during December, 1917, or January, 1918, the cost to the purchaser will be \$4.12 for each stamp, or \$92.40 for the full certificate, and on the 1st day of January, 1923, the government will redeem the certificate at \$100, giving the holder a net profit of \$7.60 for the use of his money.

Although these investments do not mature until January 1, 1923, provision is made whereby upon ten days' written notice after January 1, 1918, such certificates will be redeemed by postmasters at their cost to the purchasers plus 1 cent a month on each war-savings stamp on the certificate.

The thrift stamps do not bear interest, but the war-savings stamps bear 4 per cent, compounded quarterly. The certificates will be dated January 2, 1918, and mature January 1, 1923.

Under the plan an amount as small as 25 cents can be invested in a government security, and as soon as \$4 has been thus invested an interest-bearing certificate of the United States government can be secured.

The stamps and certificates can be obtained from post offices, banks or trust companies, at most railroad stations, stores, factories and many other public places.

Having the entire wealth of the United States back of them, and being redeemable as above stated, there is no danger of any depreciation in value of the certificates.

GETTING BACK.

The Congressmen are now going back to Washington. Major Stedman leaves tomorrow and Monday congress goes to its grind. The session may adjourn for the holidays, it always does; but it will be short. Some of the wise ones predict that the session after the first of the year will last long into the summer, while others are of opinion that it will be cut short.

There will be little politics played in the next session. It is understood that the country is at war and congressmen of all parties are loyal. Therefore there will be no politics, no attempt to put this party or that party in the hole; but a united front will be found ready to back the government to the limit in the prosecution of the great world war. There will be much war legislation. Transportation and conservation and control of many things will be considered, but whatever comes up it will be found that there is a solid congress back of the President. This is no time to talk to the galleries and no time to split hairs. Every citizen under the flag is interested in a successful termination of the war, and it doesn't make any difference whatever to what party a man belongs. It is a Nation's fight, and undivided a Nation is behind the President.

MILITANTS OUT.

The releasing of the militant suffragettes from the Washington jail came as a surprise to the deluded fools who imagined they were posing as martyrs. Some of them pretended they did not want their freedom—but a sorry lot of junk it was.

Thanksgiving Day found them out of jail, but they will perhaps return to their folly. The President doesn't mind them—it is simply a joke as he sees it, and yet a tragedy. To know that a woman can make such a complete fool of herself, as these women did, rather suggests that maybe it would be unwise to grant the ballot to the sex. But when it is remembered that there is a percentage of fools, idiots and imbeciles in all parties the scene looks different. These militant suffragettes number but few women compared to the many millions in the country. That they were released from custody is perhaps best. Cruelty to animals would suggest their freedom.

The city is buying a little wood as we jog along. It is costing around four dollars, a cord delivered, and there will be no wood famine in this town this year; no danger of freezing to death, and no danger of getting wood at cost.

WINTERS TO WASHINGTON.

Mr. S. R. Winters, a cracking good newspaper man and a capital good fellow, who for many years has conducted the bureau of the News and Observer at Durham, has been called to Washington to represent his paper in the national capital. Winters has many friends, and here is hoping he will like his new position. We regret to see him leave North Carolina—but he will come back.

A smart Aleck professor named Whipple, teaching a school of journalism in Virginia, talked too much and has been forced to resign. He was a pro-German yawpster, and he got his in apple pie order.

THE NEXT CONGRESS.

When Congress reassembles Monday, after a recess of fifty-five days, it will begin what promises now to be the busiest session of either the first or second administration of Woodrow Wilson. The excitement and tense situations of the special session, or "war Congress," will not be witnessed; yet the new Congress will be called upon not only to provide adequate machinery and funds for running this stupendous war, but will engage in all the important details and domestic matters or "general legislation" of peace times.

It is well enough that the two principal political parties have agreed to lay down their party grievances for the united prosecution of the war, for the congressional line-up is almost evenly divided. The Congress will have 215 democrats, 211 republicans, 2 progressives, 2 independents, 1 prohibitionist, 1 socialist and 3 vacancies. Two members—Representatives Heintz of Cincinnati, Ohio, and La Guardia of New York city—resigned to fight Germany. The third vacancy is caused by the death of Representative Martin of Chicago. All three were members of the republican party.

Questions of grave concern in the conduct of the war will demand the co-operation of Congress. It is estimated that \$12,700,000,000 will have to be provided for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1919. This does not include any additional bonds for loans to the allies; neither does it include any additional sums for the current fiscal year. It has been estimated that \$3,000,000,000 more will have to be provided either through bonds or taxation for the current year.

Expenditures now are so big that some way is sought for a more economical administration. Last session efforts were made by Chairman Fitzgerald, of the committee on appropriations in the House, to eliminate that committee temporarily and appoint one joint committee of republicans and democrats to look after appropriations and prevent waste. The plan was defeated before it reached the floor of the House. Chairman Pou, of the rules committee and the representative of the Fourth North Carolina district, is preparing to submit a proposition of this nature. He would make the chairman and ranking republicans of the several committees having power to appropriate funds members of a committee to supervise expenditures. The latest suggestion is to create a big committee of 35 members from the republican and democratic parties. Subcommittees would look after particular departments. The entire committee would scrutinize estimates and expenditures and cut down wherever necessary.

Doubt exists, even among the people wanting this plan, as to whether it can be brought about or not. It is revolutionary and would deprive chairmen of individual committees of some of their power, in the view of opponents of the plan.

Early in 1916 agitation began for universal military training for the young men of the Nation. This was on the program in the preparedness campaign of that year and committee hearings were held, but little progress was made. A bill was introduced in the Senate during the special session, but was never taken up. Efforts will be made to put this on the legislative program at this session, in connection, perhaps, with provision for additional armed forces. Several suggestions have been made for putting universal military training in operation.

Representative Caldwell, of New York, would make every boy nineteen years of age go into a training camp six months yearly until twenty-one years old; then automatically he would become subject to military service, but not before that time, and would continue subject to call, perhaps, until the age of 31. This plan is similar to the one outlined in the Chamberlain bill introduced last session.

Western states are demanding some legislation at this session in the interest of irrigation and oil-leasing projects. One of these measures would take certain oil, coal and other mineral lands from the public lands and allow them to be leased to private individuals for development.

Secretary of the Navy Daniels, it is believed, will wage vigorous opposition to this on the ground that these public lands should be conserved for the Government. This contention will win some strength as a war argument, for the Government has a big demand for coal and oil in driving ships over the seas to whip Germany.

House leaders promised the prohibitionists last summer that an opportunity would be given to vote on the submission of a prohibition amendment to the Federal constitution. This was adopted by the Senate last session, and only the fact that the program for the House was limited to war legislation prevented a vote there. The prohibitionists, furthermore, will be several votes stronger this session than last.

Southern industries will be benefited if the Webb export bill becomes a law. It has "hung fire" on the Senate side two years. The South, however, is not the only beneficiary, for it applies to the entire country. The Webb bill would suspend the operation of the Sherman anti-trust laws so American manufacturers could make certain combinations for reaching trade abroad.

The question of aliens subject to draft will be settled early this session, it is believed. In some sections foreigners, because they are now exempt from the draft, have taunted American boys called to the colors, and disturbing relations have been created. This is true of New England and the middle West especially. The fact that the State Department opened negotiations with the allies about the status of male citizens in the United States held up legislation in the special session that would compel men to join either their home armies or the American army. The result of the negotiations will be held before the Senate, it is thought, in the form of treaties. These will eliminate the disturbing situation and

place aliens on a footing to correspond with Americans in military liability.

Congress adjourned in October, with the House and Senate seething over charges of disloyalty. The House had witnessed for three weeks the Heffin statements that he could name members of the House whose conduct was suspicious to him. In the Senate an investigation by special committee was ordered into Senator La Follette's St. Paul speech. This special committee will meet some time next week. Col. W. J. Bryan is expected to come from Asheville to testify. A tilt between him and La Follette is in prospect.

Some concern is felt over the Austrian situation, and from several sources demands have been made that the United States declare war on that country, as a German ally. It is not believed the President intends to ask that before he has more proof of an overt act than at present. That remains to be seen, and he may take occasion to refer to that situation in his message to Congress Tuesday.

WHAT ABOUT OTHER THINGS?

Colonel Robert Gray, of the Raleigh Times, harks back to ye olden time and lives again the scenes of his youth—well, say forty years ago, when he was quite a boy. He sharpens his lead pencil and sits down and writes about brown sugar. Brown sugar, the sweetmeat of childhood of ye aged—the kind mother used to make the pie—never approached in this pre-digested and altruistic age. Hear him:

Now that we are faced with the possibility of having to experiment with "long sweetening" in lieu of the sugar that is being doled out in pound packages on condition that one buys a drum and a hobby-horse, may one ask what has become of that useful confection, the old-fashioned brown sugar?

It is still possible to buy sugar that is not white, but it were a slander to say that it resembles in looks or remotely approximates in quality the substance that one used to get out of the bag to spread on the biscuit that one took to school. In all except name the two things are related only by the most distant ties.

The old-style brown sugar was more of a paste. It came in lumps; it spread thickly and smoothly. To the hungry boy it was sweet with a meanness that no other sugar possessed and that candy did not have. It was nourishing, staying, toothsome. Whereas the present "brown sugar" is an off-color relative of the effete granulated type, that was fit for coffee but not for eating, for ladies and little girls, perhaps, but not for men in embryo who had learned to hitch up their trousers and step forth as if they meant to do something, whether or no.

But it is a nice thing to do, to take these excursive flights in fancy and go back to the old days—the old days that will never come again. The old doys and the old songs are cherished, and with them the brown sugar. But while the question is before the house, what has become of some other things that once held the boards and did a chore worth while? You never see any of the old-fashioned butter scotch, that saccharine compound with a little butter on the side, done in tissue paper and guaranteed to melt in your mouth while you wait. You never see exposed for sale any of the old cakes of maple sugar, five for a nickel, and the real thing just from a Vermont sugar tree and fashioned by a revolutionary sire. The cocoanut candy that tickled the palate of the kiddie thirty years, good stuff it was, has gone into the lumber room of time, sidetracked and sidewise wip down the curve, and like Old Father Grimes, we never shall see it more. Then, too, we used to have the candy pullings and mix the taffy in the golden curls of the girl we loved the best; and popcorn balls sweetened with the pure old blackjack molasses adorned a thousand tables—but never again.

All right for Colonel Gray to bring back the memories, naturally sweet, of brown sugar, but there are other things which have disappeared, and in his search warrant they should be included. Where are they? The echo answers, where?

THOROUGHLY OPTIMISTIC.

The New York Herald doesn't seem to fall for coal shortage stories; it doesn't seem to want to get the New York folks excited. It calmly and boldly writes and prints this editorial:

Don't worry as you look at that dwindled little coal pile on your cellar floor this morning. The order giving priority to shipments of coal to the northwest has been cancelled, and fuel for both household and factory use is on the way to New York. The railroads in the six months ended with October moved eighteen per cent more anthracite than in the corresponding period of last year. There's no scarcity, merely a matter of distribution, and consumers here may now be reassured.

Seems to us that a big paper like the Herald would turn in an error and advocate a Muny Cippal woodyard. That is what is needed, and the Herald knows it.

Naturally the bone-dry law makes it bad on the man who had planned a Christmas egg-nog—but after all, it will be better for him the next day. Compensation is a law, and the bone-dry law is another.

Of course the Liberty Stamp campaign will be a big thing, and each man is expected to come across in the course of a year with twenty dollars. That would bring about the two billions wanted.

Now that the pumpkin is again to be glorified and brought into its own, the pumpkin pie, long an emblem of all that is sacred, will take a still higher place.