

FINE HOLIDAY TRADE IS REPORTED IN HICKORY

Local Merchants Solve Question of What to Give Loved Ones--Every Conceivable Gift on Display at Various Stores--Have You Seen Windows?

Reminds you of Christmas, doesn't it? Makes you think of the relatives and friends near and far that you would like to remember with suitable gifts if only you knew what to get. With the skies set for snow, you can't get the memories back, and you ask, "What shall I get?"

The Hickory stores answer all questions that Hickory people or any other people could ask. From one end of the business section to the other show windows are suggestive of the holiday spirit, and in every window there is a suggestion for man, woman or child. Just now, when many ladies are straining every nerve to finish making gifts for relatives and friends, and probably worrying themselves sick, a look at the show windows might mean a greater saving ultimately than the few dollars required to purchase useful gifts.

And once inside enters the stores--drug stores, furniture stores, clothing stores, dry goods stores, hardware stores, jewelry stores, book stores, grocery stores--aye, any of the stores, she will find any number of articles, either ornamental or useful, that would be appreciated as gifts by all members of the family

and all relatives and friends. These holiday articles would eliminate the all-day and nearly all-night sewing, and save doctors' bills, perhaps.

A large number of people are not making Christmas presents any longer. It is too straining on the eyes and nerves--and besides, the stores are brim full of selected articles that would please all.

Merchants say that never before has the holiday trade been so far advanced as it is this season, but there are a number of people who are holding back to the last. Maybe these people have not decided what they want to accompany their gifts, but they are not looking into the store windows in Hickory.

A day like this will bring them out. It reminds them that Christmas is only ten days off. It looked like snow and Christmas cheer.

A regular army of Christmas shoppers is visiting the stores these days, and already the biggest holiday trade of this time of the year has been enjoyed by the merchants. The big start was made the latter part of the week, and every day since patrons of the Hickory stores have been coming in to make selections.

LONDON LIQUOR LAWS BEING ENFORCED

(By Associated Press.)
London, Dec. 15.—It was not expected that the stringent law affecting the sale of alcoholic drinks would cause any excitement or disorder in the better sections of London, but in view of the previous protest meetings at the Smithfield Market and along the docks, the quietness with which the first day of the enforcement passed in Billingsgate and other rough quarters of the East End, was rather a surprise. Labor leaders had certainly taken a defiant attitude toward the board of control, but nothing occurred out of the normal.

Taking the whole of London, the reception of the rules has been favorable. When the public houses began the sale of alcoholic drinks at the noon hour the first day under the new regime there was not observed any increase in drinking until the period closed at 2:30. Nor was there any attempt to crowd in an unusual number of drinks during the two hours the bars were open in the evening. The sale of temperance drinks between the prohibited hours was slight. In a few quarters, where men are employed on all-night work, certain houses have been allowed to operate for a limited time in the early morning.

Among the curious results of regulation, the person who fails to lay in his private stock of whiskey or other spirits before 2:30 o'clock Friday afternoon, will have to spend a dry week-end, as he must wait until Monday noon. Even in the private rooms of a hotel, one who treats a member of his own family to a drink is liable to a heavy fine. The hours during which alcohol may be consumed in clubs is the same as in the case of public bars. Restaurants are not allowed to extend credit for meals at which intoxicating drinks are sold, and no special dispensation is done away with entirely. The extreme penalty for a breach of these regulations is six months at hard labor and a \$500 fine.

One of the most effective measures to promote temperance is the abolishment of credit at the bars. This struck savagely the business of giving credit to workmen. In the old days, men used to gather in the bar and drink on credit with the result they had little or nothing left out of their wages when paid.

It is not the intention of the control board to bring about prohibition, but to promote temperance. The work is supplemented by the Home Counties Public House Trust, which lately took over the control of a well-known saloon in a central district and plans to extend its influence. The place was remodelled so as to get away from the old idea of drinking in a palace and to introduce the club system with tables, reading matter and friendly games. Alcoholic drinks are sold, but the management receives a bonus on all temperance drinks.

Saloon men, in fact, are just beginning to realize that the profit in temperance drinks exceed those in liquors. There is twice the profit in a cup of tea than there is in a glass of ale. But heretofore the owners associated the sale of soft drinks with teetotalism and opposed their introduction.

DEFENSE TALKED AT CONGRESS TODAY

(By Associated Press.)
Charleston, S. C., Dec. 15.—"National Defense" was the subject of discussion before the Southern National Congress here today. Secretary of the Navy Daniels arrived here today to be the chief speaker on "The Navy in National Defense."

Assistant Secretary of War Breckinridge arrived today to represent Secretary of War Garrison on "The Army in National Defense."

The women's auxiliary was to hold its second session tonight. Mrs. Joseph Daniels was here today to be one of the speakers, at the night session.

While the congress will be in session until Friday, which has much work outlined in various conferences already discussed as to the next meeting, it is under way.

Baltimore, it was announced, will be one of the chief contenders for next year's meeting. (Baltimore will not be elected at the present convention, but will be chosen at a meeting in Washington early in 1916.)

Officers expressed gratification at the large attendance on the sessions, a number being turned away last night from the auditorium. A large number of women have attended all the sessions.

ANOTHER SNOW HEADED FOR HICKORY

Before the linotype has finished with this copy--which could not be held back because of other articles to follow--snow may again be falling in Hickory. The skies were snow-covered at 6 o'clock, with every indication that in five minutes or an hour, the ground would be covered with the white flakes.

The temperature was too low in the night, when it registered 20 degrees above zero, but by 7 o'clock the weather had moderated five degrees, and had set for snow. That's the way it looked to the local weather man, and "our oldest inhabitants."

Last Saturday's fall of 11 inches was off the middle of the principal streets, but was still clinging to the edges of the streets and sidewalks. The wind which yesterday rushed around the corner to class one in its chilly embrace, lay low, like Brer Rabbit, or the ancient freshman, if you prefer, and gave the bracing air a chance to act as a tonic. Over the hills, before the clouds became too thick, one could observe the white mantle--if one cared to go from home to borrow trouble.

It felt like snow and it looked like snow.

MERCHANT MARINE AND NAVY WOULD HELP SOUTH

Secretary Daniels Tells Southern Commercial Congress Both are Needed if South's Products are to be Sold Abroad--This Section Suffered Loss.

(By Associated Press.)
Charleston, S. C., Dec. 15.—The south as a beneficiary of the navy was discussed by Secretary Daniels today before the Southern Commercial Congress.

"Not only has the south contributed to the power and glory of the navy in the way of herring and salmon, but he said, 'but her interests are bound up with a strong navy.'"

After pointing out that the south has suffered severely for lack of ships to carry her produce across the seas during the present European war, the secretary said:

"The south cannot raise cotton and tobacco if the country is not to maintain a merchant marine, for the bulk of these products go abroad. But along with a merchant marine goes an adequate navy."

GRAFTERS WERE DENOUNCED IN PARIS

(By Associated Press.)
Paris, Dec. 14.—Delayed—During the debate in the chamber of deputies today severe criticism was made against the war department and the companies selling munitions. It was insisted that the persons selling munitions and supplies with an aeroplane company which was not found to exist.

The deputy scored as scavengers those who sold goods at an excessive profit for private gain.

REPUBLICANS TO GATHER IN CHICAGO

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 15.—The Republican national convention will be held in Chicago June 7, a week before the Democratic national convention in St. Louis.

The selection of Chicago as the convention city was one of the last acts of the committee which finished its work late yesterday. Only one ballot was taken. Chicago received 50 of the 52 votes cast. St. Louis received seven votes, being behind San Francisco, which received 18.

Before adjournment the committee on arrangements was left the matter of mapping out the preliminary plans.

Arguments for and against the incorporation of the plank in the Republican platform for a federal amendment were heard. The committee took no action on any war or the other

MARKETS

NEW YORK STOCKS

(By Associated Press.)
New York, Dec. 15.—The feature of today's trading which was otherwise marked by considerable diaphragms, was the sale of several lots of Anglo-French bonds without restriction at 94 1/2, a fraction under the price offered by the syndicate. Special stocks, like Mercantile Marine, preferred, and Studebaker, added substantially to yesterday's advances. United States Steel was bare steady at its outset, but denoted activity later. In other divisions of the list no gains of importance were noted.

NEW YORK COTTON

(By Associated Press.)
New York, Dec. 15.—The cotton market was less active early today. After opening at an advance of one to two points, prices eased back from last night's closing figures. The market soon steadied on covering and January advanced from 12.04 to 12.10, March from 12.28 to 12.55, and May to 12.56, with active months seven to twelve points higher during the early trading.

CHICAGO WHEAT

(By Associated Press.)
Chicago, Dec. 15.—Storms in Argentina had a bullish effect on the wheat markets here, but not of an asting sort. After opening 3/4 to 1/2 higher, with May at 1.17 1/2, prices were scored further slight gains and then reacted to about yesterday's finish.

COTTON FUTURES

New York, Dec. 15.—Cotton futures opened steady and closed steady.

Active months	Open	Close
January	12.06	12.10
March	12.28	12.36
May	12.53	12.58
July	12.64	12.71
October	12.23	12.31

HICKORY MARKETS

Cotton	12 1/2c
Wheat	\$1.40

REFORMED CHURCH PHILATHEAS

Every member of the Philathea class of the Reformed church Sunday school is urged to be present next Sunday morning at the usual hour.

A special self-denial offering is to be taken and proceeds to be sent to the Reformed church orphanage at Crescent.

Let every member be present with an offering, unless provisionally detained at home. The empty stockpiling fund and other ideas will be brought before the class and discussed. A record breaking attendance is hoped for at this last meeting before Christmas.

12-15-15. Class President.

MISSION STUDY CLASS

The Mission Study Class of the M. E. church met yesterday afternoon with Mrs. S. C. Cornwell. Twelve members answered to roll-call. The class is studying Korea during the winter months. After the meeting the hostess served sandwiches and coffee.

LABOR'S FOR DEFENSE

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 15.—Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, today told President Wilson that organized labor is ready to give its support to the defense of the nation, and should be allowed a voice in making preparation.

Mr. Gompers asked the president to appoint a representative of labor on the commission to be named to confer with the authorities on munitions and armor plates.

Since the war started, Mr. Gompers said, belligerent nations had included representatives of labor in every department. President Wilson said he would take the matter under consideration.

NEW AUTOMOBILE WHEEL FOR MARKET

An automobile wheel with steel spring spokes that reduces the friction caused by the moving of the wheels and that beats the wooden spokes in every respect--this is the invention of Mr. Jerome Bolick, senior member of the firm of Jerome Bolick Snos company buggy manufacturers of Conover. The wheel is on display in the First National Bank, Hickory, having been brought to the city yesterday by the inventor.

Mr. Bolick showed the wheel to a Record man and told of the years that he has spent on the invention. For 27 years during odd moments he has been projecting with the wheel, and at last has brought it to a stage where he is ready to place it on the market. An advantage it possesses is weight. It can be fitted on any machine, and will work smoothly on all kinds, the inventor said.

Mr. Bolick probably will organize a stock company for the manufacture of wheels and already one Hickory man has offered to take stock in the corporation if the plant is moved here. Mr. Bolick said he was open to a proposition but if he did not secure a good one he would continue the business at Conover.

The Conover inventor and manufacturer has been in the vehicle business for years and the Bolick buggies are popular throughout the south. Some of the wheels have been running continuously for a quarter of a century, Mr. Bolick said.

American Farm Crops and Animal Products Worth Nearly 10 Million

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 15.—Secretary Houston's annual report made public yesterday places an estimate of \$9,873,000,000 on the value of American farm crops and animal products for last year, a valuation without precedent. This, however, probably will be eclipsed by the present year's showing.

This valuation is an increase of about \$83,000,000 over the value of 1914, hitherto the highest ever recorded. The increase occurred in the face of a decline in cotton from 12.5 cents a pound for the 1913 crop to an average of 7.3 cents for 1914. The total value of the 1913 cotton crop, estimated at \$846,000,000 was \$285,000,000 more than the 1914 crop, although the latter was fourteen per cent greater in quantity.

Of the tremendous flood of exports which began near the end of the fiscal year covered by the secretary's report, many hundreds of millions represent farm products.

"Between August 1, 1914, and February 1, 1915," the report says, "exports were \$1,157,000,000 and imports \$771,000,000, giving a favorable balance of \$386,000,000. Of the total value of exports, \$622,000,000 represented agriculture and only \$455,000,000 non-agricultural commodities, chiefly manufactures."

"The total agricultural exports in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1915, practically the first year of the war, were \$1,470,000,000, with an increase of \$355,000,000, or 32 per cent over the average of the five years 1910-1914."

"What is needed more, perhaps than anything else, the Secretary says, is an increase in meat animals. To that end, the department has extended its activities as far as its funds would permit. Elimination of common livestock diseases, from which losses are said to be enormous, would result in a material increase of the meat supply.

It has been conservatively estimated," the report continues, "on the basis of data for thirty years, that the annual losses from animal disease amount approximately \$212,000,000. The indirect losses, which also are great, cannot be estimated at all. The direct

loss ascribed to each disease is as follows:

"Hog cholera, \$75,000,000; Texas fever and cattle ticks, \$40,000,000; tuberculosis, \$25,000,000; contagious abortion, \$20,000,000; blackleg, \$6,000,000; anthrax, \$1,500,000; scabies of sheep and cattle, \$4,600,000; glanders, \$5,000,000; other livestock diseases, \$2,000,000; parasites, \$5,000,000; poultry diseases, \$7,750,000."

The citrus fruit industry of the Gulf States, the report asserts, is seriously threatened by citrus cankers, a highly infectious bacterial disease. While the greater number of infected centers in Texas, Mississippi and Alabama have been eliminated, complete eradication of the disease from Louisiana and Florida, the department believes, will require large expenditures for at least two years.

The potato situation, the report states, continues serious. There is practically no potato available for fertilizer and indications are that the supply for that purpose will not be increased materially next year.

Recommendations for legislation made by Secretary Houston to congress include the following:

Legislation designed to promote better handling and storage of farm products and the raising of Louisiana grades and standards, including a permissive warehouse act, a cotton standard act, a grain grade act, and provision for a market-news service.

A land-mortgage banking act intended to inject business methods into handling farm finances and to place farms and securities upon the market in a responsible way.

Assistance to communities near the national forests in road building and similar improvements through a plan involving the advancement of funds for these purposes to be charged against the state's future share of receipts from the forests.

Authority to grant water-power within the National forests for fixed periods.

More effective control over the production of hog-cholera serum. A plan involving the establishment by the Federal government of a station for testing all serum intended for shipment in interstate commerce, is outlined.

GRAND LODGE TO MEET

Raleigh, Dec. 15.—The North Carolina grand lodge of Masons will convene in the grand lodge temple here Tuesday, January 12. The indications are that F. P. Hobbogood, Jr., who was chosen as grand master at the last session, and has been out of the state for the past six months, will not be present, and that the office of grand master will devolve upon Deputy Grand Master B. Andrews Jr. Hobbogood surrendered the active grand mastership last June to take up his duties as special counsel for the federal government in Wyoming, his headquarters being at Cheyenne.

Acting Grand Master Andrews says the indications are that the attendance at this session of the grand lodge will be very good, although there are no unusual issues to be discussed. Members of the grand lodge are apprehensive that Grand Secretary John C. Dewry, will not be able to attend. He is now undergoing treatment in a Baltimore hospital, and while he is improving, he will scarcely be able to undertake his duties this session.

ASK PARDON FOR BROOKS

Raleigh, Dec. 15.—United States Marshal Charles A. Webb and Thomas S. Rollins were here from Asheville yesterday making a special appeal to Governor Craig that he pardon A. H. Brooks of Asheville who is under a six-year sentence for manslaughter in the killing of H. B. Huggill. They represented to the governor that the pardon is being urged by the solicitor of the district, members of the jurors, and 100 or more well-known citizens. The plea is made that the trial was not fair and impartial and that the killing was under circumstances that would warrant the verdict and six-year sentence. Brooks has served twenty months.

SAFE CONDUCTS FOR RECALLED ATTACHES

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 15.—The British embassy received today from London authorization to issue safe conducts to Captains Boye and von Pappen, the German withdrawn naval and military attaches. The conducts are unconditional. It was thought once that they might be required to give their paroles not to engage in the war.

HOPEWELL FIRE WAS NOT INCENDIARY

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 15.—Preliminary report from the department of justice agents who have investigated the recent conflagration at Hopewell in an incendiary and practically disposed of the matter so far as the department is concerned.

DOCTOR BELSER DEAD

Physician Who Came Here From Michigan Died Last Night.
Dr. Martin L. Belsler, who came to Hickory two weeks ago desperately ill, died last night at 11:30 o'clock without having seen any improvement from a severe case of Bright's disease. He was 45 years old, was a graduate of the University of Michigan and was said to be a very fine physician. Mrs. Belsler and a trained nurse were with him and yesterday Mrs. Belsler's brother, Mr. Geo. S. Smetz of New Washington, Ohio, arrived.

The body was prepared for burial by the Shuford undertaking establishment and was shipped to Ann Arbor today for burial.

Mr. Smetz said that the people of Hickory had been very kind to his sister and her husband and they appreciated the attention. Those who knew Mrs. Belsler liked her and there was more than passing sorrow at her distress.

SIXTY PER CENT OF BIG LOAN TAKEN

(By Associated Press.)
New York, Dec. 15.—Sixty per cent of \$300,000,000 of the Anglo-French bond issue, handled by the Anglo-French syndicate, have been taken for investment, according to an announcement by J. P. Morgan & Company today. This leaves \$200,000,000 yet to be disposed of.

MARKETS

(By Associated Press.)
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REFUSES DANIELS' OFFER

Capital Club Will Not Sell at News and Observer's Price.
Raleigh, Dec. 15.—The Capital Club members in special session last night declined to accept the proposition of Joseph Daniels to purchase the club building corner Martin and Salisbury streets as a home for the News and Observer which has been burned out twice since Mr. Daniels became Secretary of the navy. The offer was \$45,000. The club has a \$20,000 bonded debt, but values its plant at much more than the price offered.

A committee was appointed to propose a remanaging of the club for remodeling the first floor for stores and better adapt and furnish the club quarters.

PASSENGERS SAY SEVERAL HUNDRED ITALIAN SHIPS WERE LOADED WITH TROOPS

(By Associated Press.)
New York, Dec. 15.—The announced policy of France and England of searching vessels at sea for Austrian and German subjects was further evidenced by the news that the Spanish steamship Montevideo was twice held up and examined during her voyage from Spanish ports to New York, where she arrived today. Off Cadiz the ship was stopped by a French cruiser and held for four hours while officers inspected the papers of the passengers. Everyone proved his citizenship and nobody was taken off.

Another time the ship was held up, and then a British cruiser held up the ship and examined the passengers. They were warned to carry with them a birth certificate as well as a passport.

Several passengers on the Montevideo, who had been traveling in Italy, said they had seen several hundred ships taking on troops in the harbor of Toronto, giving color to the reports that Italy is sending an expedition to Albania.

BULGARIANS HAVE NOT CROSSED GREEK BORDER, ATHENS GOVERNMENT SAYS

(By Associated Press.)
Paris, Dec. 15.—The Greek government officially denies that Bulgarians have entered Greek territory, and it is considered in official quarters here that an advance in Greek Macedonia is improbable, says a Macedonian dispatch from Athens.

The presence of Bulgarians in Macedonia would arouse national indignation and the situation arising from the retreat of the allied troops and the approach of Bulgarian troops is not changed.

"The Greek government is following closely the course of events and is ready to take the initiative in the event of pursuit, which is regarded as impossible."

Pity Poor Greece.

Greece's situation diplomatically has been complicated by the request of Germany to know whether the Athens cabinet does not look upon the use of Greek territory by the neutral allies as a breach of her neutrality, and this inquiry is considered to foreshadow German participation in the pursuit. However, it is not believed here that the Germans have many troops in that part of the Balkans, their main forces having been diverted to Rastibek when the Russian threat of an invasion of Bulgaria seemed probable of fulfillment and that therefore the entente troops for the present only have to fear the Bulgarians, as the Austrians are still being occupied in Montenegro and Albania, where the Montenegrins and Serbians are keeping up a stubborn resistance. It has again been reported that the Italian have landed an army on the Albanian coast to go to the assistance of the Serbs and Montenegrins.

On Gallipoli.

There has been more fighting on the Gallipoli peninsula. The Turks there claim to have repulsed an attack against their left wing at Seddul-Bahr. The Turkish official accounts say nothing new has occurred at Kut-el-Amara, where the Turks are operating against the British who retired from the Bagdad region. This is taken in military circles here as an admission on the part of the Turks that their attacks on the British position on the Tigris river have failed.

The previous reports of the losses the Turks inflicted on the British when the British retired down the river are declared in private information now reaching London to have been exaggerated. For example, the various vessels which they captured turn out to have been a tug-boat and two barges.

The Italians are still hammering away at the Austrian positions around Gorizia.

In East Africa.

The appointment of Gen. Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien to the supreme command of the forces operating in East Africa means that the British are taking steps in an endeavor to clear the Germans out of the only colony that remains to them, except a small part of the Kameruns. The Germans are in strong force in East Africa but General Smith-Dorrien with the army that is being raised in South Africa, the troops who are already there and those who are going from home, hopes to complete his new job in short order. The commander, like the men under him, is experienced in African warfare.