

HICKORY DAILY RECORD

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ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORTS FRIDAY, DEC. 1, 1916

HELPING BELGIANS

We have heard a great deal about serving humanity in the last few years, but little has been done in that direction. It now appears that the American state department is preparing a solemn protest against the deportation of Belgian citizens to Germany to work in munition factories and to do other forms of labor.

That is nothing less than slavery, and slavery of the worst type. Germany has no more right to seize Belgians, separate them from their families, and subject them to actual slavery than any man in Hickory has the right to seize his neighbor's children and put them to manufacturing poison to destroy life.

If the conscience of the world is not stirred to its depth by this latest act, then the world has become so used to wickedness that it is willing to suffer anything.

We are glad the state department will take a hand.

The result of the Carolina-Virginia game was not a surprise to us. We knew the Tar Heels would come back sooner or later, and we are here to say that while the university will not win all the time it will be in position to make every team realize it has played to win.

During the Democratic celebration in Ashboro automobiles picked up a few thousand tacks, which did damage amounting to about \$1,000, and somebody turned in a fire alarm in order to stampede the parade. All of which was a poor piece of business.

After a while it will be more difficult to convict a white man in North Carolina than for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle. It is a pretty safe proposition to kill a man in this state, but it still is considered bad form to murder a woman.

The Columbia State has raised over \$500 on the \$300,000 debt piled up by the national Democratic committee, which shows that South Carolinians have on their Democracy straight.

A large proportion of the American people never had anything but respect and admiration for Germany before the European war, and it is not the fault of the American people that their feelings have changed.

Assuming that the majority of people in North Carolina could not afford to exchange gold pound for pound for turkeys, that old hash saw should not be reheated this time.

The experienced gentleman who remarked casually that life is one modified thing after another will not win a peace prize because he was too busy with his own troubles.

Inasmuch as the American government professed such a liking for Villa a couple of years ago, it should not be hard for us to get on friendly terms with him again.

Those people who have been wondering what American newspapers will print after the European war ends must have overlooked Mexico entirely.

The American troops on the border had turkeys for Thanksgiving dinner, and it looks as if the boys might have sent a box home.

Now, if the Hon. Champ Clark will tell us where to get those laying hens the public will forgive all his foolishness.

In our humble opinion, it will require many prayers to cleanse the soul of the man who plunged Europe into death.

Days like that of Wednesday cause one to forget all about the ninety and nine ideal days of the fall and winter.

Less than a month until Christmas. Now is the time to begin your Christmas shopping in earnest.

Speaking of hens, they are generally a flock of deadbeats.

And this is Friday, instead of Monday, if anybody else should forget it.

Readers doubtless observed that good eggs can stand a boycott.

The Storage-Egg Problem

Louisville Courier-Journal. The commissioner of health in Chicago says that Mr. Wertz, a cold storage magnate, who has 72,000,000 eggs, must throw them on the market January 21.

"My advice," says Dr. Robertson, "is to stop eating eggs until he begins to market them."

That would be perfectly satisfactory to Mr. Wertz, but not satisfactory to the consumer.

If the 72,000,000 eggs were stored last spring, as alleged, they will be rather bad eggs by January. They may stand the candle test, but hardly will they stand the test of the discriminating palate.

If a boycott—always of remotely probable effectiveness because only Chinese seem able to establish and maintain boycotts—could be effective at any time as a discourager of the practice of selling eggs ten months old as "fresh" ones, it would have to begin in January, when the cold storage eggs begin to flood the markets.

There will be no boycott, of course at any time, and without the advice of the health commissioner of Chicago many persons will eat down their consumption of eggs during November and December every year. If cold storage were used to save perishable foods for distribution during periods of natural scarcity the number of storage eggs would begin in October and the supply of stored eggs would be sold off between that time and the beginning of the heavy production in February. The consumer then would get storage eggs in the autumn and early winter, and fresh ones in the late winter and early spring. The only way, seemingly, to bring about that state of affairs is to establish small country town storage plants where farmers can store their eggs in spring and early summer, when they sell for little, and market them when they are high.

Small cold storage rooms in existence, with ice plants, which are well distributed, would give farmers an opportunity to hold eggs when they are plentiful and get twice as much for them in the fall as they could in the spring. There would be no possibility of the storage of all of the fresh eggs in the spring. Only very provident poultry owners would store. The effect would be to make eggs somewhat higher than they are in the spring and summer and somewhat fresher in winter and early spring.

Poultrymen produce eggs in large quantities in December and January, and a fair amount of them in November, but there are not enough poultry farms to meet the winter demand. Cold storage ought to serve to level the price of eggs throughout the year and give to the consumer in the fall the nearest approach to the fresh egg that artificial preservation makes possible. But as long as storage facilities are central-

ized and storage remains a capitalist's enterprise and a speculator's opportunity for a "killing" it has the opposite effect. It makes eggs almost prohibitively high in November, December and early January and feeds very bad eggs to the hapless consumer in late January and in February and March. It forces the farmers to take storage buyers' prices for fresh eggs in the spring. Consumers in cities are at that time buying as "fresh" storage eggs almost a year old.

In the distribution of storage plants lies in the consumers' hope.

MUST MAKE ALLOWANCES

Columbia State. The refusal of the British government to grant a safe conduct to the ambassador designate of the Austro-Hungarian empire to the United States of course is annoying, perhaps rather worse than annoying. But it is nothing over which a big nation should grow angry. It is just another of those petty incidents, all of them in violation to a greater or less extent of the laws and customs of nations, which have allowed in the train of a war that has upset every preconceived notion.

In the end it is altogether likely that the British foreign office will consent to the safe passage of Count von Tarnow and that the incident will be closed with the presentation of his credentials in Washington. But the effect of it, as the British should see, is distinctly deleterious to their cause. But for the greater nature of German treacheries, those of the British would long ago have alienated the greater part of American sympathy.

But, choosing between two nations, one of which has murdered citizens, while the other has merely inconvenienced them, Americans whose sympathies might have been evenly held between the belligerents have very generally given their moral support to the cause of the entente. How much this has been weakened by the course of the allies toward commerce and mails can not be accurately measured, but the reduction must have been considerable.

But, America's particular interest



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considering this war, that it is no mere question of tilting with blunted lances; this is "a entrance" a fight to the death—or at least the warring people think so. It is small wonder, then, that the ordinary niceties of international parley have been lost to sight in the smoky dust of a world in battle. It is regrettable that this should be true, but it is none the less natural and to be expected.

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