

HICKORY DAILY RECORD

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ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORTS

FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 1917

MAIN STREET MATTER

Several persons have suggested to the Record that it register a protest against the widening of Main street and the eventual elimination of the trees in Union park, but as the editor of this paper was at the meeting or council when the action was decided upon, and did not raise any objection at that time, this paper has not felt that it should protest now.

The need of a wider street is obvious, in the opinion of council, and the widening of the street was decided upon reluctantly. Hundreds of automobiles park in Main street, it is natural for persons with business down town to desire a convenient place for their automobiles, and they want to place their cars where they are easy to reach. Other cities have had to provide parking space in the center of the business district.

The objection to the widening of Main street is based on the destruction of the trees for the convenience of persons owning automobiles. They say that the park is a pretty spot in the center of town and should be prevented as long as possible.

Council of course is not averse to hearing objections. The members said the other night that the street would have to be widened about 10 feet in the interest of safety.

Work has not begun and if there is any way to avoid it, council will be glad to hear from citizens.

THE A. P. WINS

The New York court of appeals has granted the full prayer of the Associated Press, of which the Record is a member, against another news service restraining it from pirating news matter gathered by the Associated Press at great expense. So much of the exclusive news is handled first by the premier organization that it has been found profitable for another news service to pry operators and others at work on papers carrying the Associated Press dispatches to furnish news that it sends out over its wires. The Associated Press applied for relief.

No other news service is so highly regarded as the Associated Press and it has access to news that other agencies must take at second hand. Naturally it protested against securing news at tremendous cost and much pains only to have it swiped by an alleged competitor.

Other news services will continue to carry more wildcat stories, but the Associated Press will deliver the real news first, as always.

Persons owning automobiles should read the circular that accompanies their license tags. They are not to put on the new number until July 1 under penalty of a fine. Deputy sheriffs and other officers should see to it that this law is upheld. Another matter that officers should investigate is the automobile that carries the sign, "License Applied For." It is said that the state and counties are forced to lose thousands of dollars each year as a result of this device. Some people do not pay a license tax at all, while the great majority do so. It would be well to investigate such automobiles.

The administration's food control bill is destined to pass. The people back home are putting pressure on congressmen and senators and they can't stand squeezing. Food control is a good thing, and if there is any possible chance that the farmers will not make good money, minimum prices should be fixed. That would be fair.

The Houston Post says that a Houston pickle factory will buy all cucumbers under six inches. All over that length, this paper says, can be shipped to New England, where they are regarded as watermelons and eagerly sought.

The destruction of grain crops by sparrows is not much of course, but it is annoying. Some way of ridding the country of these pests should be devised.

Those suffragists who hope to gain admission to the electorate with their treasonable banners might read a lesson from the Foolish Virgins.

J. Frank Morris of Winston-Salem elected president of the North Carolina Retail Merchants Association, is one of those live wires to be found in every community. He will make a good executive.

Hickory is making a good start in its Red Cross campaign. If your name is not on the list, is there any good reason why? If there isn't the canvassers will be glad to enroll you.

The pro-Germans in congress should behave as Mr. Webb did—make their fight on the major issue, and being beaten, lend their strength to the American cause.

FOOD CONTROL AND CONGRESS

Springfield Republican.

We are about to witness a terrific fight in congress against the food control bill, according to the reports from Washington, and of course we shall see what we shall see. It would seem imperative, in any event, to have the issue decided within the coming fortnight, on account of the movement of the early crops now beginning to be harvested. If there is to be no control of foodstuffs, we might as well know the fact very soon, then each can look out for himself and may the devil take the hindmost.

Nearly every natural country in Europe is watching the situation closely, in deep anxiety over its food imports from America. Norway has sent a commission here to arrange for food supplies. Holland is almost on the point of threatening us with some sort of relation—perhaps on the wretched Belgians whom we feed—if its usual foodstuffs from America are not forthcoming.

Does congress realize that if the control of the food distribution agencies is not vested in the president and the markets are left completely at the mercy of competitive bidding, there will be such a wild scramble by the European states, big and little, which have commercial access to our ports, as we have never experienced before? The world's available wheat supply decreased by about 50,000,000 bushels in the month of May as compared with a decrease of only 12,315,000 bushels in the same month last year. The new crop in North America is known to be short, the latest reports from Canada not being encouraging. The present situation and the outlook are unprecedented in American history; there has never been anything like these conditions in our experience as a food-producing country. Such an emergency demands emergency measures.

Members of congress who have voted for the conscription of men's bodies in war assume a curious inconsistency when they denounce as an excessive grant of power such a measure of economic and social preparedness as food control. Which is the more dictatorial and tyrannical—to keep a food speculator within bounds or to take arbitrarily a boy and send him to a battlefield to be blown to pieces by a high explosive shell? Inasmuch as this congress has approved of the conscription of human beings, it ought not to gasp at the thought of government supervision of the commercial distribution of what they eat.

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Leave Hickory 8:30 p. m.
Leave Newton 7:20 a. m.
Leave Newton 9:20 a. m.
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