

THE WAR DAY BY DAY Fifty Years Ago.

Jan. 12, 1864—Flour was selling at \$200 a barrel in Richmond, and beef was \$2.50 a pound—Question of Subsistence an Acute One, and the People in Fear of Famine.

(Written expressly for The Herald.)

Fifty years ago today flour was selling at \$200 a barrel in Richmond, Va., and beef at \$2.50 a pound. The question of subsistence had become acute, and the people were in fear of famine.

GOSSIPS SCORED BY REV. J. S. MONTGOMERY

Pastor Brands Inanities of Idle Talk "Hell-stew of Lies and Deceits."

"A hell-stew of lies and deceits" was the brand placed upon the inanities of the gossip-monger by Rev. Dr. James Shera Montgomery, pastor of the Metropolitan Memorial M. E. Church, in his sermon last night on "The Busy-Body."

WOMAN AND THE HOME

Evening Wrap Developed In a Soft Black Satin



An evening wrap developed in soft black satin, trimmed with velvet. It fastens at one side with fancy buttons, but is cut in one piece. Five yards of 54-inch material and two yards of 36-inch velvet are required to make the coat.

Woman Guardian of Over Seventy Thousand Girls

By MARY B. MULLET. (Copyright, 1914.)

Although Mrs. Luther H. Gulick has four daughters of her own, her interest in girls does not stop with this particular quartet. Something like 70,000 others, scattered all over the country, are the objects of her very special concern.

AN ATTRACTIVE BEDROOM.

In these days of moderately low ceilings the deep borders seen on some of the wallpapers are not only wasted, but ruined. And, what is more, they spoil the effect of space, which is an asset in every room.

LITTLE SUGGESTIONS.

A chiffon blouse may be cleaned at home by covering with powdered ammonia, rolled up tightly, and left for a day or two. Shake out the powder and hang in the air, and the blouse will look clean and fresh.

Practices What She Preaches.

Mrs. Gulick not only preaches out-door life; she practices it as well. She herself can do the things she urges girls to accomplish. She swims, dives, canoes, camps out. She is intensely interested in the symbolism which is so picturesque a feature of the Camp Fire Girls' costumes and ceremonial.



THE SPOTSWOOD HOUSE, RICHMOND. (From a War-time Photo by Brady; Negative in the War Department Collection.)

Famine prices in the Richmond markets were reflected by the advanced rates in the hotels of the city. At the Spotswood, the finest hostelry in Richmond, it was no unusual thing for an ordinary meal to cost \$50.

ute and frank journal kept by a government employe, under the title "A Rebel War Clerk's Diary," it is possible to follow day by day the course of famine prices in Richmond, and the effect of famine conditions, in the winter of 1863-4.

"I am reminded daily of the privations I used to read about in the Revolutionary war," wrote the war clerk on January 7. "Then there were used, now we use pins, for buttons. My waistbands of pantaloons and drawers are pinned instead of buttoned."

No Christmas Cheer. To take out a living the war clerk's family put their shoulders to the wheel. One son started an evening school. One daughter taught French in a family in the country.

"It was a sad Christmas week," wrote the diarist. "My two youngest children decked the parlor with evergreens, crosses, stars, etc. They have a cedar Christmas tree, but it is not burdened. Candy is held at \$8 a pound. * * * A few pistols and firecrackers are fired by the boys in the streets, and only a few, I am alone; all the rest being at church. It would not be safe to leave the house unoccupied. Robberies and murders are daily perpetrated."

"I shall have no turkey today, and do not covet one. It is no time for feasting." At few Richmond tables in 1864 were new clothes, new linen, or new dishes seen. When a young officer, Lieut. Minor, who had been in Canada on an expedition, returned home in January the war clerk noted that "he brought his family a dozen cups and saucers, dresses, shoes, etc., almost unobtainable here."

On January 7 the diarist noted that a dozen cups and saucers sold in Richmond for \$169.

Nobody had new clothes and it had become a custom to buy and sell second-hand clothing at auction.

On January 13 "an old pair of boots, with large holes in them," sold at auction for \$7. "It cost \$125 to find a pair of boots."

On January 20 the war clerk "bought a pretty good pair of second-hand boots" at an auction for \$17.50, only to find that they were too large.

"I know my rice stick out, being covered by my skin only for the want of sufficient food," was his entry for February 3. "This is the case with many thousands of nonproducers, while there is enough for all if it were equally distributed."

The Course of Prices. The course of price is indicated in successive entries in the diary. Thus, on January 8:

"Beef was held at \$2.50 per pound in the market today—I got none; but I bought twenty-five pounds of rice at 40 cents (a pound), which, with the meal and potatoes, will keep us alive a month at least. The rich rogues and rascals, however, in the city, are living sumptuously, and spending Confederate States notes as if they supposed they would soon be valueless."

January 11: "A dwelling house near us rented for \$6,000 today."

January 14: "Flour sold today at \$200 a barrel, butter \$3 a pound and meat \$1

a bushel, bacon at \$6 a pound, and all other things in proportion. "A negro (for his master) asked me today \$40 for an old tough turkey gobbler," wrote the war clerk. "I passed on very brisly. Sugar sold today in large quantities at \$3 a pound; rice at 55 cents. A gold dollar sold at \$18 Confederate money."

On February 18 sugar was selling at \$10 to \$12 a pound.

On February 22 the public offices in Richmond were closed in honor of Washington's Birthday. "It was a fast day, meal selling for \$40 a bushel," wrote the war clerk. "Gold brought \$20 for \$1."

"Gold is still mounting up and so with everything exposed for sale."

"When will prices ever come down?" asks the writer, but he adds, "We shall probably end the war this year and independence will compensate for all. The whole male population pretty much will be in the field this year and our armies will be strong. So far we have the prestige of success."

The burden of living fell more heavily on the married than the single employes of the Confederacy, although board was \$200 to \$300 a month at the hotels. A man who owned a horse paid \$15 a day for its keep at one of the city stables and \$5 for a single feeding.

"We were paid today in \$5 bills" is the entry for March 2. "I gave \$20 for a half cord of wood and \$9 for a bushel of common white cornfield beans. Bacon is yet \$3 a pound, but more is coming into the city than usual."

On March 6 the price of a turkey was \$9. "Chickens were \$12 a pair."

"Relief must come soon from some quarter," the war clerk wrote, "else many in this community will famish."

Six Spools of Thread, \$24. A woman's notes of Richmond prices are to be found in the diary of the wife of James Chestnut, Jr., a Confederate officer. On March 7 she wrote: "Shopping and paid \$30 for a pair of gloves, \$20 for a pair of alpaca, \$24 for six spools of thread, \$2 for five miserable shabby little pocket handkerchiefs."

When Mrs. Chestnut put on mourning for her husband's mother she paid \$25 for a black alpaca dress and a crape veil, the whole purchase with bonnet and gloves coming to \$60.

"Before the blockade," she wrote, "such things as I have would not have been thought fit for a chambermaid."

Tomorrow: Vance's Raid Into East Tennessee. (Copyright, 1914.)

DECEMBER FIRE LOSS, \$99,099.

Department Responded to 151 Alarms During the Month.

December fire cost the District \$99,099, or 33 per cent of the total insurance on the property involved. These figures are given in the report made to the commissioners by Frank J. Wagner, chief of the fire department.

There were 121 fire alarms responded to, and of this number twelve turned out to be false alarms. The inspectors of the department visited 2,372 business establishments.

"BOY SCOUT SUNDAY" NAMED.

Ministers Have Been Asked to Preach on "Service" February 8.

In order to spread the influence of the Boy Scout movement, February 8 has been set aside as Boy Scout Sunday, and all ministers have been asked to dwell in their sermons that day on "Service," the watchword of Scoutdom.

The appeal for the observance of "Boy Scout Sunday" has been sent out from the national headquarters of the organization. February 8 is the Sunday preceding the fourth annual meeting of the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

In all the churches where there are Boy Scout patrols the scouts will attend the services in uniform with their scoutmasters, and the ministers are asked to outline the aims and accomplishments of the organization.

Missionary Society's Supper.

The annual supper of the Washington District Woman's Foreign Missionary Society will be held at Foundry Church Tuesday, January 27, at 8 o'clock. The speaker of the evening will be Dr. Lichten, pastor of Grace Church, Baltimore. Mrs. Court Wood will give her report of the general executive committee meeting recently held in Toledo, Kansas. Miss Elizabeth Pierce will act as toastmistress.

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