

The Cherokee Scout

The Official Organ of Murphy and Cherokee County, North Carolina

BRYAN W. SIPE, Editor-Manager
MISS H. M. BERRY, Associate Editor

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SOME THINGS THE SCOUT WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN MURPHY AND CHEROKEE COUNTY

In Murphy

1. An active Board of Trade or Chamber of Commerce.
2. More Manufacturing Industries.
3. New Passenger Stations—A Union Station.
4. More Improved Streets.
5. Regular Library Hours.
6. A Reading Club.

In Cherokee County

1. A System of County Roads Supplementing the State Highways.
2. More and Better Cattle Raising and Dairying.
3. More Fruit Growing.
4. Scientific Poultry Raising.

THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK

THE Federal Reserve Bank for this district, which is located in Richmond, Va., has just issued its annual report of the operations of the bank for the year 1923, which outlines somewhat in detail, the revenues and expenses of the institution for the past twelve months. From this report it is noticed that the current expenses of the bank for the year 1923 were materially less than in 1922, which in turn were very much less than in 1921, notwithstanding the fact that the volume of business of the institution had materially increased from year to year it being greater in the year 1923 than in any previous year. The report contains a labyrinth of figures signifying nothing to the uninitiated, but the following interesting facts have been segregated from the report, because they reflect the increasing business prosperity throughout the South.

This bank, with a capital stock of a little less than six million dollars and a surplus fund of a little more than eleven and a half million dollars, which represents an increase of more than ten million during the year. Deposits by member banks increased by nearly five million dollars.

The profit and loss statement of the bank also presents interesting data: The total gross earning of the bank amounted to just under three million dollars, while the current expenses amounted to just over one and a third millions. Over three hundred thousand dollars were paid out in dividends and the United States Treasurer collected over three hundred and fifty thousand as a franchise tax.

This is a tremendous institution and its service to this part of the country, and the service the eleven other Federal Reserve Banks render to their respective areas, is hard to estimate. It furnishes a means whereby the circulating medium can be increased or decreased at will to accommodate the member banks, and in turn accommodate the commercial, industrial, and agricultural interests of the country. It is an institution that accommodates alike the banks and serves as a federal depository. It is under strict government regulation and any excess profits it may earn are paid to the federal treasury as a franchise tax. These banks are barometers of the business conditions in the country, and the fact that the Richmond bank has prospered signifies that the Southeast is in a healthy condition. The outlook for the year 1924 is better than for any year since the close of the war, according to the Richmond bank officials.

RIGHTEOUS LAWMAKERS

A HOLY desire seems to have possessed the present Congress. It seems bent on getting at the bottom of things, or else it has been thrown into a panic by the desire to do something spectacular to get into the public eye. It is questioning everything. Appointing investigating committees seems to be the order of the day. The most absurd investigating committee seems to be the one appointed to investigate all forms of propaganda, including the publicity regarding the Bok Peace Award.

This country was founded upon the proposition of free speech, free press and the right of freedom in the worshipping of the Almighty. Whenever the National Congress undertakes to stifle discussion among the people, either through the newspapers of the country, or through any other form of printed matter, it is violating this basic principle. In giving out the statement about the appointment of the propaganda investigating committee the impression was left that a sentiment for some particular measure, the bonus, or the plan for World Peace, etc., might be created and that Congress might be influenced by it and caused to pass a measure inimical to the best interests of the country.

Either one of two things possessed the minds of the particular congressmen getting through the resolution to appoint this committee, either they have little confidence in themselves and their fellow members, or, they do not want the people to express themselves on public questions and, therefore, aid in the formation of the country's laws. If either of these assumptions are true, there is something wrong with Congress. If the members of the national law making body do not have enough stability of character to withstand any evil propaganda that may be circulated over the country and may come back to them they have no business occupying high offices. If they are afraid they will be trapped by some organization into passing unwise laws, likewise they do not have much business in Congress. It is no doubt true that much propaganda in favor of things out of the ordinary is being circulated over the country. But who shall say that the status quo in government and the social structure is right to the exclusion of everything else? This is a country in which the majority is supposed to rule. If a majority can be found in favor of something new, then it is time to adopt that new thing. So let the propaganda be continued. It is through public discussion, the public press, the pulpit and other mediums of exchange of ideas that all progress and change in the past has been wrought. We are not yet ready to stop growing as a nation. Let the propagandists continue their work.

The other postulate can hardly be true. Surely no member of Congress wants to limit freedom of speech in America, whether that speech be written or spoken. To stop propaganda would be to limit it to that extent.

To return to the starting point. Congress has either become a holy of holies, or else it has gone off at a tangent because of pressure from some corner.

THE MEXICAN SITUATION

NO GRAVE danger is impending from the Mexican situation, but the stand that the Government has had to take in the matter may be the source of annoyance to Americans living along the border line. The government thought best to sell the Obregon Government arms to put down the revolution in Mexico, and has recently granted the central government permission to transport troops over United States soil to reach strategic points in its own country. The rebels will not look upon this act kindly. Until the revolution is settled, Americans living near the Mexican border will probably be in danger from bands of revolutionists. This fact will probably make it necessary for the government to maintain a regiment of troops in the southwest ready to repel any flurries across the border line.

"Johnny," said the teacher, "if coal is selling at \$16 a ton and you pay the dealer \$64 dollars, how many tons will he bring you?"

"A little over three tons, ma'am," said Johnny, promptly.

"Why, Johnny, that's not right," said the teacher.

"No, ma'am, I know it ain't right," said Johnny, "but they all do it."—Judge

A Cricket's Soliloquy

By Carl William Bailey

It used to be, in olden times—
Days that are passed and gone—
I chirped and sang in mirthful glee;
Joyfully ever was I prone.

I sang all day in meadow and field,
And mingled with my clan;
I chirped and spread a note of joy
To flower, creature, bird, and man.

My song, of course, was the same old song,
At twilight, sunlight, dusk, and rest;
Others softer, sweeter have I heard—
But, still, I did my very best.

And, as the shadows began their falling,
Then stealthy I would creep
Beneath the family hearth at night,
And sing myself to sleep.

The hearth was big, rough, but homey,
And hither I would fare,
Nestle close among the logs and cracks;
And I always had a welcome there.

Sometimes in my songs I'd pause,
While I nestled snugly there,
And I heard a kind and gentle voice
Offer up the evening prayer.

And I heard the gentle, loving mother:
"Now, good-night," she said,
As she fondly caressed her little tots,
And kissed them off to bed.

Then all was quiet, except the clock,
Whose tick-tock seemed prolonged;
And while I wondered, waiting there,
I again picked up my song.

I've sung my lays through all the days,
Through hours of gloom and light;
I've done my best, though it was small,
To make the world more bright.

And, since the old-time hearth's no more,
In its cracks I cannot creep,
I'll crawl beneath a sod or stone,
And sing myself to sleep.

SAFETY AND CARELESSNESS

ONE-HALF of the world has to look after the other half. The basic instinct of the human being is self preservation, yet because of carelessness countless thousands are killed and wounded every year in the United States. All the big corporations carry accident insurance on their employees and are constantly warning them to be careful, yet accidents resulting from carelessness occur every day in the year. Every able bodied, active person wants to cling to life as long as possible, yet it becomes necessary to constantly warn individuals not to take chances with their lives.

A recent bulletin issued by the safety department of the L. & N. Railway, detailing numbers of accidents, resulting directly from carelessness, and in violation of warnings given by the railway company, emphasizes the need for the exercise of greater care on the part of individuals. One-half of the world is constantly warning the other half to be careful, yet accidents continue to happen daily—accidents due entirely to carelessness, or the adventuresomeness of people.

Ernest Seton Thomas has a series of lantern slides which he has collected in his long career stalking and studying wild animals. Two pictures, that of a dog and a fox, have been superimposed upon one another in the same slide. The dog and the fox are shown running side by side in the snow. The fox lifts his feet straight and over the snow, leaving clean tracks; while the dog only partially lifts his feet, allowing his toes to drag in the snow from one track to the next. Mr. Thompson's comment on this picture is that the dog, since it has been domesticated, has gotten lazy like its master. After all, we wonder if many of the accidents are not due to laziness.

YEAR MAKES GOOD START

BUSINESS activity in Murphy has gotten off to a good start and if continued at the present pace, this will be by far the most prosperous year in the life of the town. Several new business establishments have just been completed, a number of others are under course of construction, and many dwellings are being planned. A number of public projects that will stimulate business in the town may be looked for when spring opens up.

Mrs. Gray—I understand your husband can't meet his creditors.

Mrs. Green—I don't believe he wants to, especially.—Boston Transcript.

THE HOME PAPER IN VERSE

TODAY, so far as appearance goes, the chief difference between the country paper and the city paper is in size. The country paper, being in the main a local paper, does not need the space that the city daily requires for its general news and features. But today the country papers make use of many of the same typographical devices and pictures that the city paper uses. This word is needed to introduce a fine little poem by an unknown writer, who speaks of the older type of country weekly which too often was poorly printed and edited:

'Tisn't filled with cuts and pictures nor the latest news dispatches;
And the paper's often dampened and the print is sometimes blurred.
There's only one edition, and the eye's glance often catches
Traces of a missing letter, or at times a misspelled word.

No cablegram or special anywhere the eye engages;
The make-up is perhaps a trifle crude and primitive.
But an atmosphere of home life fills and permeates the pages
Of the little country paper, printed where you used to live.

How the heart grows soft and tender while its columns you're perusing,
Every item is familiar, every name you know full well.
And a flood of recollection passes o'er you while you're musing
On the past, and weaves about you an imaginative spell.

You can see the old home village once again in fancy, seeming
To be clasping hand of neighbor, and of friend and relative;
And their faces rise before you as you're idly, fondly dreaming
O'er the little country paper printed where you used to live.

Letters From The People

Editor The Scout:

The letter appearing in your paper under date of January 18, signed by Mr. T. L. Weese contained erroneous statements which reflect on my integrity as a citizen. In order to correct this misimpression, a number of citizens from my community who are acquainted with me and my dealings with Mr. Weese, have voluntarily made the following affidavits, which I hope you will publish in your paper, in order to clear up the misunderstanding that has arisen.

POLEY BELL.

The affidavit follows:
State of North Carolina—Cherokee County.
Personally appeared before me the undersigned T. G. Gladson, T. H. Cole, and wife, Lizzie Cole, each one for themselves being duly sworn, says:

That on the 22nd day of January, 1924, they were over at the County Home and saw Mr. T. L. Weese and wife, Nancy Weese, and while with them there was some mention made about the statement which appeared in the Cherokee Scout concerning J. N. Bell and heard them say: That after they turned the Copper Hill property over to Mr. J. N. Bell that they had received about one hundred and ninety dollars in cash and that the said J. N. Bell kept them twenty-two months and took care of them and furnished their supplies. That the said T. L. Weese and wife, Nancy Weese, further stated that the said J. N. Bell did not urge or mention to them about coming to the County Home, and that they left his house of their own accord and while J. N. Bell was away, and that they both now have personal effects at his home. That we have seen the property and have an opinion of the value of the same and that in our opinion the said property is worth from \$300.00 to \$350.00. That we have no interest in the matter and make this affidavit by request.

T. G. GLADSON,
T. H. COLE,
LIZZIE COLE.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 22nd day of January, 1924.
J. H. McCALL,
Notary Public of Cherokee County, N. C. (My commission expires 2nd day of February, 1925.)

The Fat Man's Corner

Uncle Bob—Well, Frankie, what are you going to do this vacation?

Frankie—Last year I had mumps and chickenpox. This year I don't know what I'm going to have.—Toledo Blade.

Smith—I wish I had one of the crisp rolls that mother used to make.

Mrs. Smith—Yes, and I wish you had one of the crisp rolls that father used to carry.—New York Sun.

New Boarder—I wouldn't stay in this place. I looked into a closet, and there was the family skeleton!

"You're wrong! That's our oldest boarder, and that closet is his room!"

Blinks—They used to say the Lord took care of fools and drunks.

Jinks—That was before fools and drunks began to drive motor cars.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Mrs. Newbride (telephoning)—I'm afraid you sent me duck eggs this morning instead of hen's eggs.

Grocer—Duck eggs, ma'am, I don't keep any duck eggs.

Mrs. Newbride—But I tested them. I dropped them in water and they floated.—Boston Transcript.

"Pa, what is this single standard they talk about?" asked Clarence.

"It's the women's demand they're giving the same privilege of making fools of themselves the men enjoy, my son," replied his dad.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

"This is elegant grape-juice, Coland. May I ask where you got it?"

"Four years ago the field hands wouldn't drink it, so it was stored in the attic. I ran across it the other day."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Black—He is one of the most altruistic men I know.

Jack—What has he been doing now?
"He spent all the afternoon telling hair-raising stories to a couple of bald-headed men."—Jack o' Lantern.

Rich Caller (who is making the rounds of the tenement district)—Well, I must go now. Is there anything I can do for you my good woman?

The Other (of the submerged)—No, thank ye, mem. Ye musn't mind it, mem, if I don't return the call. I haven't any time to go slummin' meself.—Chicago Tribune.

Clerk in book store—I think you'd like this book, madam. It's our best seller.

Customer—Yes, I know. I bought it the other day and was completely sold.—London Humorist.

The Amiable Plutocrat—But riches don't bring happiness.

Unamiable Pauper—But I ain't looking for happiness. All I want is comfort.—Baltimore Journal.

The following terse excuse was sent by Mrs. Gilhooly to the teacher: "Please excuse Mike for absence from school yesterday. He got wet in the a. m. and sick in the p. m."—Country Gentleman.

"Is that a new runabout Frank has?"
Heaven, no! He's known her since yesterday.—London Mail.

A motorist meeting an old colored man trudging along the dusty road generously offered him a lift.

"No, sah, thank you, sah!" said the old man. "Ah reckon mah ol, laigs will take me long fast enough."

"Aren't afraid, are you, uncle? Haven't you ever been in an automobile?"

"Never but once, sah," was the reply. "and den Ah didn't let all mah weight down."—Pathfinder.

Husband (as wife shifts gear)—That reminds me. I must stop at the boiler factor on the way home.—Judge.

"Haven't you any superstitions?"
"No, I think they bring bad luck."—New York Sun and Globe.

"Is Bodwell a good musician?"
"Very. He knows when to quit."