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A STRONGER JUDICIARY—

A group of lawyers in North Carolina are sponsoring a bill that would give broader powers to a trial judge. A bill has been introduced in the legislature looking to the restoration of the common law right and duty of the judge in a jury trial to express his opinion on the facts, contending that this is an essential of the "ancient mode" of jury trial guaranteed by the constitution and that our statute depriving the judge of this function is one of the causes for the depreciation in public opinion of the value of the jury system.

F. W. Thomas, writing in the Asheville Citizen, calls upon the sober-thinking business men of the State to get behind the movement that will give the trial judge more latitude in expressing his opinion on the weight of the testimony, and giving him the right to suggest to the trial jury what it shall find. He refers to the judges today as "dignified dummies on the benches," so far as the ascertainment of the facts is concerned.

Those who have followed up to any appreciable extent trials in courts of justice have at times been shocked at the verdicts brought in by juries. Many times a plain miscarriage of justice seems apparent. Mr. Thomas believes this is partly due to the statute which prohibits the judge giving his views as to the weight of the testimony, and the lack of a proper understanding by the jury.

Often, no doubt, that is entirely true. However, so many times the conscience of the individual juror and his inward attitude towards the law an accused is being tried for to a large extent guide his verdict, and no amount of facts or persuasion can change the man in his views. There are instances not so infrequent when persons charged with criminal offenses are allowed to get off with a nominal verdict simply because the men on the jury are not inclined to back up the law which the defendant had broken.

In civil cases it is often necessary for the judge to go more into detail and give the jury specific instructions, on account of the jurors' lack of understanding of the law and facts. The broadening of the judge's powers in this particular would certainly help to lessen the chances of miscarriage of justice.

After all, one of the surest and best ways to make our courts stronger and to guard diligently against errors and verdicts directly opposite to good government is to pay stricter attention to the selection of juries. Jurors may not necessarily be highly educated persons, but they should be good citizens; and they ought to be generally regarded as persons of integrity, common sense, and favorable to law enforcement.

OFFICE CAT



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Publication of Ahsokie's ordinances in the last issue of this sheet has caused many citizens to sit up and wonder why all the law. "Whew", one fellow ejaculated when he had looked over the imposing list, which he said were more numerous than any set of laws he had ever seen. But, he didn't know what he was talking about, for along came a councilman and explained that the list published hardly equalled the former town code, and was about 30 per cent of the usual length of small city codes.

"Why don't you enforce some of them", another inquired. "Yes, why not enforce some," answered the commissioner. "It's as much your business to see that they are enforced as it is mine. The town's police head is the fellow to whom you must look for enforcement, and he must have the sentiment of the folks behind him before he can make any headway at carrying out the law."

In fact, everybody in Ahsokie knows law enforcement here is lax at the very best, and there has not been any tendency on the part of the police officer to rigidly enforce laws. But, it is also true that many citizens of this very town discountenance any attempt to enforce laws, that is a great many of them. There is disrespect for the law by some, and it is these fellows for which a special ordinance should be framed and executed.

The "smoothing over" process has been much in vogue in this town when enforcing the law would have done the thing up right. The CAT believes the majority sentiment in Ahsokie favors law enforcement, and thinks there is plenty of room for improvement in the police regulation of the town.

Since Mr. Vann of Como has directed his fire at the CAT and Mr. Eley, the former member of that duo would advise him that the motion to which he refers would necessarily be lost, if the Speaker had previously voted as a member, and there was a tie vote. Even that does not parallel the example in Hertford County where only six commissioners were on the board. The House has a membership of approximately 125, and could invoke the double voting power with better grace. However, the CAT does not believe it would do it. It would be a lost motion, Mr. Vann. At least, that's my answer to your question.

"I would like to see your people begin producing a larger amount of truck and vegetables for market," said Mr. E. E. Conger of Edenton in a recent interview with the CAT. "The section around Elizabeth City made wonderful success at it within three years, especially in the production of peas which have been a great revenue producer. Your lands I believe, can be adapted to peas, potatoes and other truck, and the production of these articles would add greatly to the revenue of your farmers", the Edenton man continued.

Junius, who bought an expensive automobile last week, was bragging to some of his friends about the wonderful purr in the motor. He lifted up the hood and found the Office Cat underneath it.

Speaking of rare coins—they're the only kind we have after Christmas.

HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED
(By Amos Tash)

I can remember when a plunk quite a lot of kick to it; when you could take an old, thin dime and go and have a fancy time. I can remember when two-bits would shock a bell-hop into fits, and when you could produce a half and even make a barber laugh.

I can remember when a plunk and would purchase for you quite a hunk of porterhouse or let you go and have a seat at some good show. I can remember when two bucks would buy for you a brace of ducks, and when, if you could show a "V," you were in good society.

And I can e'en remember when I proudly flashed a new-laid ten, and on a modest twenty-five for one whole month I'd stay alive. And when a bird had fifty beans he had a fortune in his jeans. A hundred berries was a price beyond the dream of avarice. I've seen the tides of commerce flow. I've seen those moneys come and go. They used to be a husky bunch and e'en a nickle packed a punch. Yes, I remember when a jit had quite a lot of kick to it. There's just one answer to be told—I must be getting pretty old.

Judge: "Why do you want your name changed, madam?"
Applicant (Pathetically): "Please your Honor, It's Lizzie Tinford."

The Episcopal bishops say the behavior of the young comes from their desire to be natural. Ain't Nature grand!

They claim the bobbed hair craze is creating a demand for switches. Hair, or hickory?

When a woman hater marries it's apt to make him the same—only more so.

Little Bo-Peep, she lost her sheep.
How careless not to mind 'em
For Bo-Peep had no HERALD ad
That would help her to find them.

But just think how long Methuselah might have lived, says Ras Wooten, if there had been somebody to remove his tonsils, and his appendix.

PERFECT EXAMPLES

Teacher: "We borrowed our numerals from the Arabs, our calendar from the Romans, and our banking system from the Italians. Can anyone think of any other examples?"

Willie: "Our lawn mower from the Smiths and our vacuum cleaner from the Thompsons."

There is always something. If you are riding on the train just about when you get to a place where you think you are going, you see something interesting, you pass a string of box cars a mile long. If it is an open air meeting, about the time you think the speaker is going to say something a fool passes with the cut-out open. We insist, there is always something.

The bungalow type of architecture is now quite prominent among statesmen. A bungalow is a house without an attic.

There was one test to which the patience of Job was never subjected. He didn't have to teach his wife to run an automobile.

"Can I be of any assistance?" asked the sympathetic motorist of a man who was looking unutterable thoughts at a disabled car.

"How is your vocabulary?"
"I'm a minister, sor."
"Drive on."

The optimist hopes to inherit a million; the pessimist starts a savings account.

If the crusade to prevent the tipping of hats during cold weather succeeds it will be the first anti-tipping campaign that ever did.

CARFARE

For hours they had been together in her Parlor. The moon cast its tender gleam through the window on the young and handsome couple who sat strangely far apart. He sighed, she sighed, finally:

"I wish I had money, dear," he said, "I'd travel."

Impulsively, she slipped her hand into his; then, rising swiftly, she sped out of the room. Aghast, he looked at his hand. In his palm lay a nickel.

The paragrapher with one wife who criticizes doubtless wonders how Solomon managed his writing.

No wonder the bride's mother weeps. She, better than any other, knows what is going to happen to the groom.

MR. VANN WANTS SOME INFORMATION

MR. EDITOR—I see in the News and Observer of January 24th that there was a roll call vote in the legislature on the McKimmon bill and that the Speaker of the House was the first man to vote. Am writing to ask that you, or some of your subscribers who claim to know parliamentary law, would tell through your columns, what would have been the way out, if there had been a tie and the speaker confined to one vote and have ruled that there was a motion before the house and he could not entertain any other, and have ruled further, that the member could not withdraw the motion after it had been voted on? It looks to us, (we are from Missouri) that the legislative proceedings under such conditions would need some-

thing like our old-fashioned law, which Judge Manning, whose judgment (on a point of law) is worth all of the county combined (except the lawyers) says will hold and which has been practiced in our county (and has never brought any serious trouble) to let their speaker vote twice and get them out of the mud. It seems that our legislature has not learned much about parliamentary rules which Mr. Eley says are practiced in Congress, or it may be that they like some other way better and find it more convenient and equally efficient.

At any rate, I am asking that you, or someone, make it clear to us as to what legal course the Legislature could have taken to clear up the situation.

An early reply is the wish of,
T. E. VANN,
Como, N. C.

Weak Back

Mrs. Mildred Pipkin, of R. F. D. 8, Columbia, Tenn., says: "My experience with Cardui has covered a number of years. Nineteen years ago... I got down with weak back. I was run-down and so weak and nervous I had to stay in bed. I read of

CARDUI

The Woman's Tonic

and sent for it. I took only one bottle at that time, and it helped me; seemed to strengthen and build me right up. So that is how I first knew of Cardui. After that, ... when I began to get weak and 'no account', I sent right for Cardui, and it never failed to help me."

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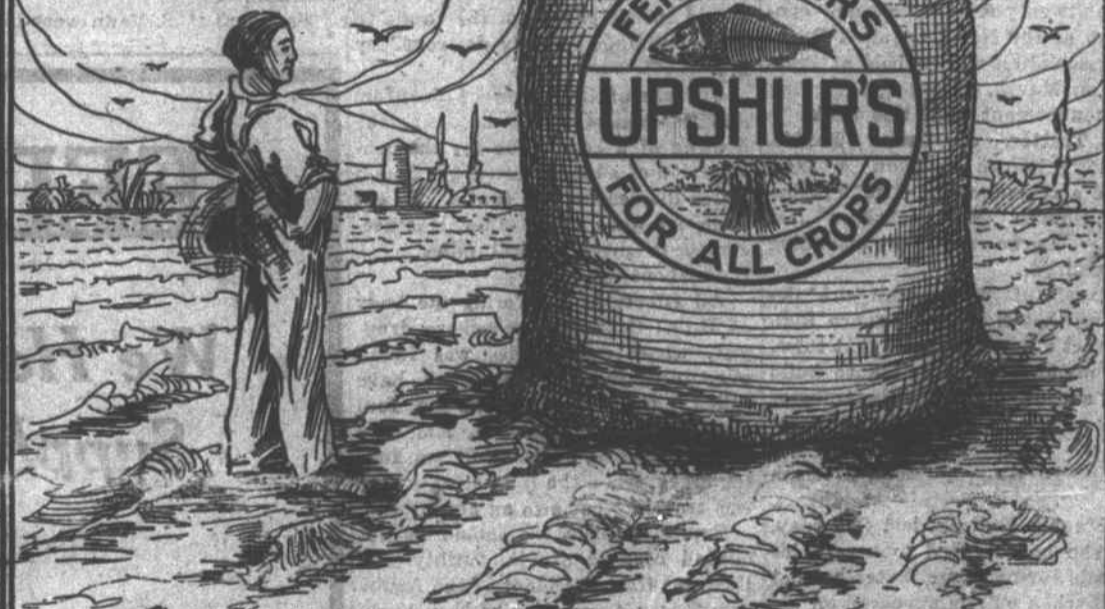
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