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Still A Mystery

The Tilley case, which has held the attention of the county, state and nation, is history and the death of Leoda Childress remains a mystery.

In non-suiting the case the judge did his lawful and moral duty as he saw the evidence given by the state in an effort to convict the foster family for the girl's death.

However, Solicitor John R. Jones and all officers who aided him in gathering what evidence could be found are to be commended for their diligence in trying to solve the mystery and trying to avenge the death of an innocent girl.

Despite the cost of several thousands of dollars, the public demanded that no stone be left unturned in an effort to solve the case and in our opinion an honest and strenuous effort was made by the solicitor.

So far as the public is concerned the death of the girl is a mystery but if she was murdered there is somewhere a guilty party that should certainly be punished and let us hope that something may turn up yet that will lead to the solution of the mystery.

Very few crimes stay in the dark forever to mortal man and if it should there is still the consolation remarked by some after the Tilley trial had ended, "Life's too short and eternity too certain for us to worry about the guilty party, whoever it may be, not being punished."

There was enough evidence brought out to throw suspicion on the members of the Tilley family, but, as the presiding judge pointed out, a lack of evidence to convince a jury beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendants, or any of them, are guilty. A verdict of guilty in the case would have called for the death sentence, according to the evidence presented, there could have been no compromise verdict, either first degree or acquittal.

Unless the girl committed suicide, which is highly improbable, there is a guilty conscience and a ruthless personality stained with the blood of Leoda Childress, deceased.

Under the heading, "Expensive and Futile," the Winston-Salem Journal Tuesday offered the following comment on the Tilley case:

After a plethora of publicity, speculation and conjecture had been aroused concerning the killing of Leoda Childress, Wilkes county girl, several members of the Tilley family with whom she made her home prior to her death were finally brought to trial. They went free when Presiding Jurist John M. Oglesby decided there was insufficient evidence to take the case to the jury.

A point sticks out. Leoda Childress died a violent death. Her end may have come as first suggested, by the suicide route. She may have met with foul play, as subsequent investigations tended to reveal. But the secret of her taking off appears to be as much a mystery as it was before a trial was held. Yet the county and State, which in the final accounting means the taxpayers, have had to pay the expenses involved in a costly trial, together with the costs attached to the preliminary investigations. This is about the only thing about the affair which is not veiled with mystery or confusion.

If this was only an isolated instance the people would have no reason to look askance at the present workings of our system of justice. But it isn't an isolated instance. Futile gestures like that of the Childress trial occur in this country with amazing frequency. What to do about it seems to constitute a question mark in red letters.

As we realize, government is not for profit. The machine of justice should not be stilled for the sake of saving a few paltry dollars. The institutions of a civilized state are more important by far than the question of a balanced budget or treasury deficit.

Yet futile gestures are often based upon insufficient groundwork in the field of investigation. Some times they are caused by the carelessness of grand juries in making indictment upon mere allegations that are not backed by evidence of tangible nature. And when such cases come to trial and "blow up," the law is often given a black eye, respect for it is diminished.

The remedy may be hard to find. Certainly much study is required. But it would seem to be a step in the right direction if solicitors were provided with more help and granted more time in which to investigate cases of this kind more thoroughly. Under the prevailing system, the press of the court docket makes it impossible for

the state attorney to prepare his cases properly. In the Tilley case, it will be recalled, however, that Solicitor John R. Jones labored diligently in an effort to probe the death mystery to its depths. He was handicapped in many ways, but showed persistence and determination in this endeavor to bring the truth to light. The futility of the effort may be chargeable to the law system now in vogue, to lack of co-operation, and other factors, but Solicitor Jones deserves much credit for the splendid fight he made. Defeated on the field of battle, his banner went down with an honor which does not attach to the penants of those who surrender without striking a blow.

The Tilleys were under suspicion and a court trial was necessary to thrash the matter out and give them the legal stamp of acquittal.

A Deserved Success

The erection of the new home for The Wilkes Laundry is a step in keeping with the progress of North Wilkesboro and its business interests.

Since the establishment of The Wilkes Laundry ten years ago by its enterprising owner and manager, J. A. Jones, it has grown into a flourishing business that is truly a deserved success, buikded upon the true ideal—service to the city and community.

Expansion of the laundry made it necessary that larger and more commodious quarters be provided and a handsome brick building on Main street is the result.

In erecting this building The Wilkes Laundry did what we have been trying to bring to the attention of the people—trade at home. As far as was possible all the materials used in the building were purchased in this vicinity and local labor was used throughout.

It is just such public spirited interest by our business men that has caused a mere stopping place to grow into the present city of North Wilkesboro—the business Mecca for Northwestern North Carolina.

Street Repair

The increase in the general fund levy for North Wilkesboro for the coming year is for necessary work on the streets, which we term wise economy.

Parts of many of our streets are in a deplorable state of repair but may be saved by expending a small sum for repair, small in comparison with the original cost.

Rural residents in former days when driving an automobile would like to get to town to drive on the smooth pavement but it is just the reverse now. The roughest parts of the highway are in the towns.

It is economical to levy enough taxes to repair the streets. The expenditure for street repair will save the streets, which have cost a pretty sum. This action reminds one of the old proverb, "A stitch in time saves nine."

Sunday School Lesson

By REV. CHARLES E. DUNN

Amos Denounces Self-Indulgence. Lesson for August 19. Amos 6. Golden Text, Amos 5:14.

The lesson text is a fiery denunciation of rich oppressors who, with a false sense of security, "lie upon beds of ivory" and "sing idle songs" in complete indifference to the misery of the poor.

If Amos were alive today I should wish from his lips a more temperate expression of the selfishness of our wealthy magnates. But I should expect him to be searching and severe. For while the men of power today are not quite so ruthless and pleasure-loving as those of Amos' age, they are, nevertheless, the slaves of egoistic impulses. Robber barons we may call them who pattern their conduct after the notorious model made infamous by the feudal lords of mediaeval Europe.

One of the major factors in the present devastating depression is the striking inequality in the distribution of wealth. Two hundred corporations, managed by a small group of executives, control the vast business resources of our country. These corporations have been conducted with such reckless individualism that we are now in the grip of suicidal social anarchy.

There are still some 11,000,000 adult workers in the ranks of the unemployed. About 40 per cent of the farms in the country are mortgaged, these mortgages composing the major item in a colossal farm debt of eleven and a half billions. Over a million persons without homes are wandering about the country like waifs.

And yet there are many who squander unearned fortunes in luxurious ease and even gilded vice. In the face of appalling need there are profiteers still able to pile up wealth for showy display. To be sure, many men of large holdings are conscientiously eager to dispose of their property for the largest public good. But there are enough unscrupulous capitalists to justify another Amos.

Senator Johnson Plans to Run on Four Tickets—News item. Suggested campaign slogan: "Now's the time for all good parties to come to the aid of the senator."—Buffalo Courier-Express.

Business has climbed about 40 per cent from the depression low. Which is rather clever of business when you consider how the professors greased the pole.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

This Week In Washington

Washington, August 13 (Auto-caster)—The big worry in Washington while the President is away is the labor situation. The abortive attempt at a general strike on the Pacific waterfront, the shootings in the labor war in Minneapolis, the dozens, nearly a hundred, of smaller strikes in other parts of the country, are being interpreted here as warnings of more serious labor troubles as soon as the weather gets too cool to go fishing in comfort.

What the Administration is afraid of is that the labor situation will get out of the control of the more intelligent and conservative labor leaders, if it has not already got away from them. With all the grumbling among employers about the American Federation of Labor and its "craft" unions, there are few who do not prefer that method of labor organization to what is often called the "communist" type of organization, in which all of the workers in any given industry, regardless of what particular trade they work at, are organized in "one big union."

Along Old I. W. W. Lines That type of union was the principle of the old Industrial Workers of the World, which was beginning to stir up a lot of before the world war. The war labor trouble in the West just put a quietus on the activities of the I. W. W., but in the threat of a general strike there is seen a revival of that idea of a "vertical" union, and it is frankly not to the liking of the men who are trying to keep the government machine running smoothly. Nor do they like the attitude of the American Federation of Labor, in leaning toward the vertical union idea, as in its efforts to unionize the automobile industry.

There is a lot of discontent among the leaders of organized labor, too, over what they regard as betrayal by the Administration. The Federation accepted "clause 7a" of the National Industrial Recovery Act as giving it a free license to go into any shop or factory and organize the workers into a union under Federation auspices. They have found that is not the case, and some of them are pretty sore.

Labor and Its Vote There is talk about the need of putting restraints upon unreasonable labor groups and their demands, but Government officials hesitate to take any step which might alienate the labor vote. That is a much larger group, naturally, than the employers, and every worker's vote counts for just as much as that of his boss. But there is a good deal of fear, inspired by floods of letters and personal protests that are beginning to reach the ears of those high in Administration circles, that the public will begin to regard labor disorders as one of the direct fruits of the New Deal, and one not at NRA in process of formulation, all to the public's liking.

There are revisions of the and it is regarded as certain that there will be much simplification of codes, less one-man arbitrary power to "crack down" on industries which do not give up readily, and the abandonment of hundreds of the minor "service" codes like the one under which a New Jersey pants-presser was sent to prison because he pressed a suit for only 35 cents where the code called for a 40-cent price! The effort of the Government to reach into every human activity, in short, is gradually being abandoned. There isn't enough money to hire the necessary policemen to enforce any such system of close espionage.

At the same time, gigantic plans, not yet fully disclosed, are being worked out for submission to the next Congress. They include everything that can be thought of in the control and development of national resources on a scale as wide as the nation itself. Just what is to be done with every acre of land and every drop of water is included in the plan. Part of it is a revision of the underlying scheme of the Agricultural Adjustment Act.

Instead of making crop reduction its main purpose, the AAA is working toward crop adjustment, trying to find some formula whereby the majority of the farmers, who receive less than \$1,000 a year from the sale of their products, can get a bigger slice, while those more prosperous will have some of their profits whittled down.

The Tree-Belt Plan The biggest scheme so far definitely decided on is the tree-belt plan of preventing future droughts in the regions lately practically ruined by lack of moisture. A belt of trees 100 miles wide, stretching north and south from Canada to Texas, is to be set out in strips seven rods wide and a mile apart. The idea is that this will not only serve to precipitate and hold moisture in the ground but that it will keep the best part of the arid-land farms from being blown into the next state or across the continent. Ten million dollars

has been allocated to start this work. The inflationists are still busy, and cautious observers here look for stronger pressure toward an inflated currency than has been seen yet. But the enthusiasts who thought the new Housing Act was going to put five million workers in the building trades back on the job right away are finding that that just ain't so. James A. Moffett, the able young business man who has been put in charge of this, recognizes impossibilities when he sees them and is soft-pedalling the enthusiasm over this project. "Some" relief by next year in the building industry is all he will commit himself to.

Labor Hears Debate On Basic Law

Asheville, Aug. 13.—A debate on the proposed new state constitution, with Dr. Clarence Poe, of Raleigh, editor of the Progressive Farmer and the Southern Ruralist, taking the affirmative, and former Lieutenant Governor Richard T. Fountain, the negative, featured this afternoon's session of the State Federation of Labor here.

Fountain outlined that the new constitution removes all limitation from taxation by the legislature and abolishes all local constitutional offices, giving the General Assembly the right to authorize that the Governor name these officers.

It also gives the Governor veto power, he objected, and would centralize education at Raleigh.

It permits the state judicial council to make rules for the superior court instead of the legislature.

Poe argued that those opposing the adoption of the proposed new constitution were working into the hands of special interests desirous of keeping the old laws.

Congressman Robert L. (Farmer Bob) Doughton, of the House ways and means committee, in an address this morning praised the interest manifest by labor in good government and its efforts to improve living conditions for workers.

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