

Sensational Charges Against

Supt. J. O. Alderman

(continued from page 7)

to get his boy out of the war. I said: "No, sir, not that I can see; your boy has been drawn and has been sent to the front and I see nothing but for him to serve." I have been asked that question many times; men have come to me and said "I will never vote another election ticket as long as I live." "Would you vote the Republican ticket and vote for Roosevelt?" I have spoken more harshly for war than Wilson did; if Roosevelt had been elected the United States would have been in the war from the beginning. I want to show you that there are things that you did not know. I stand right here and say that I do not know if there is a man or woman in this county who has urged food conservation as I have. Not that I would do anything I could for it. Now, had I not flopped over and said I was for it, could I have had as much success with my schools for food conservation? Now, I have not attempted to make a case because I did not know what you had; I have spoken only from the heart.

Mr. Pruden—I just want to say a few words before we leave. I just want to say, as you will remember I did in the beginning, that as far as the vote of the children on the subject of the war, it came to me second-hand.

Mr. Alderman, when was that sermon written out, before or after delivery?

A. Before its delivery, and I conferred with Mr. Elliott about it since.

Mr. Pruden. To your body there have been times to time reports of Mr. Alderman's improper statements about the war. They must have come to you because they came to everybody else; you heard and all of us heard much of his talk about the unconstitutionality of the draft, much after it was passed. I felt that it was proper for your body to take notice of it; I did not say so because I was not advised with it, but I did say that I thought nothing should be done about it. These things grew in intensity until they doled down men were talking about Mr. Alderman's unfortunate sermon and I still think it was unfortunate. We have this fact, however, that Mr. Alderman did several things after war was declared circulate a centric speech of Mr. Hannis Taylor, a speech that was almost responsible in its declarations. That is the present Mr. Alderman's attitude in the trade; he went to different places and talked to them about it; Dr. Griffin, to Mr. Spruill and to Mr. Phelps. We could not understand, I do not understand now, nor do you understand how it was that a citizen of this county, after the war had declared war, and men were going in battle and soldiers and sailors were going forward at the behest of the government, I do not understand how Mr. Alderman could have thought it his duty to have carried about Mr. Taylor's views about the war,—probing the only man in the United States to look such a position. There were a number of lawyers, any number of judges, any number of statesmen who answered his statement, who had expressed their views about it, who said that the United States involved in war had the right to send soldiers, and yet, not one word in any of Mr. Alderman's statements about these statements had said, but he goes rather to take up the statements of one man, a disappointed farmer, and go round this town and county and tell what this man said, and that after this man had gone to war. Nobody can continue what Mr. Alderman thought before the war, he had the right to choose a citizen, be he high or low, has the right after war has been declared and the president has issued his proclamation and the nation is actually involved in war, Mr. Alderman had not the right to take up such views of a body and go around and preach them. It does not make any difference, in fact, it was worse to give Mr. Taylor's views and state that he was one of the greatest lawyers of the country said these things,—and he said it before men drafted as soldiers. Dr. Griffin heard it, and Mr. Alderman did not hear him say Hannis Taylor, but he told him it was Hannis Taylor's opinion and says he did; he was expressing it as the opinion of a lawyer and told them that it was the opinion of a great lawyer that it was to Mr. Spruill; he says this old man was talking to a preacher, the superintendent of public instruction, and he said your boys do not have to do this law is unconstitutional. He said it to Mr. Phelps. The truth of the matter is that Mr. Alderman was thoroughly Germanized, everybody knew and when war was declared he kept and it was disloyal and these views did not to have been expressed, three gentlemen heard him and testified that they heard him say it; Dr. Griffin, Mr. Phelps and Mr. Spruill. Mr. Pruden swears that he heard many similar things in his presence in the presence of others. Now, as to this matter of tearing down the lists on the Court House, I have nothing to say about it; Mr. Alderman has said it and I accept his explanation.

As to his conversation with Mr. Pruden, Mr. Pruden said that he said simply to his remarks that this was a pity, and he said, "Not a pity, but a judgment sent by the Almighty for going to war with the Germans." If this is not giving comfort to the enemies, and if that was not the case, what was it? And he said, "A preacher makes a statement of this sort and says it is a judgment sent for an unrighteous war and men have given their construction of the sermon. They say that he said that France was at war to regain Alsace-Lorraine, and that is not true."

I do not mean that Mr. Alderman meant to be untruthful, but history shows that it was not true; forty years had passed and no effort had been made to recover them and here he states that Alsace-Lorraine were the cause of the war so far as France was concerned, and that the Dardanelles was the cause of the war so far as Russia was concerned, and he ought to have known differently; and that as far as England was concerned it was her treaty relations with Belgium; and while Mr. Alderman states that those were the causes—is it proper that he should have made any such statements and are you surprised that the witnesses should have understood him to be intensely pro-German? I have nothing further to say and I want only to say in conclusion that it was a proper thing for you to have brought forward this matter for investigation; it will do good, it will teach people that the honor of a country is a sacred thing and that men who are not loyal to it in spirit and in truth shall not be.

Mr. Vann—in this matter I only want a few minutes. I am a member of the Council of Defense and we shall be on the lookout for anything that may be seditious and disloyal. When war is on many a man says and does things without thinking about the consequences; it is too late after they have been done to try to recall them. Mr. Alderman does not begin to know the estimate he is held in here and at large. Mr. Alderman is here before this Board for investigation for the improper and disloyal position he has taken. Nobody wants to take his office from him, he has been very capable. It is not that Mr. Alderman would do any bad thing, not that he would do any thing to property in this country, but when he sets in motion the sentiments which he has expressed some one else may be encouraged to take these words and bring about trouble and this is the thing that often causes trouble. Look at Italy today; retreating because of some sedition within her borders, an enemy at home. Mr. Alderman does not know of the harm he has done in this community and as a public officer he owes it to this county and board to offer his resignation; it is his duty to do this and it is your duty to demand it of him. I say he is a splinter in the body politic and the public is demanding of you that you shall demand of him his resignation. I am not saying this because I have any feeling of harm to the man, but I demand for the people of this county that you shall demand of him his resignation of this office. He says that he was pro-German before the war. Has he said to you that he has ever changed his feelings? he said that he could not adjust himself at once, although his country had declared war. Did he tell you that he had changed? The same feelings that he had he has still, and I x x x if he has said one word that he had changed his opinion. Did he try to correct the damaging statement about the constitutionality of this draft law, telling them that a great lawyer had said this. Wait for the Supreme Court to pass upon it. That is what Germany wants, and while we are waiting Germany is killing our men. A. I want to say to you of all the people in this county, has any one else gotten Mr. Hannis Taylor's pamphlet. What does that mean? It means that Mr. Alderman is known as a pro-German and when anything is to be sent here to promulgate these things Mr. Alderman is the one who receives them; they know to whom to send them. Why didn't he tell them what other lawyers said? He didn't preach that doctrine. I tell you, gentlemen of this board, this county is not satisfied that a person holding office should go about the country teaching such things, and we are not to sit still and let our superintendent go about the country and sow seeds of discord and disloyalty in the minds of the little children in the country. And while I do not like to refer to it, I will do so, for everybody knows that Mr. Alderman is pro-German, because it is common report about what happened about his daughter who would not march under the flag in the 4th of July parade. Like father, like children. I am not telling you that as more than hearsay. It is for the good of this county that the public shall know that such seditious addresses as he has been making ought to be checked. I declare to you as a loyal citizen, barring perhaps a very few, are in sympathy with this and want to do everything to prompt patriotism, and when such things come up it is our duty that it should be taken at the roots and torn up. That is the position which I take and that is the position which this county demands of you. I tell you right now that if you do not take the positive position in this matter that is incumbent upon you the county will not acquit you. Say to Mr. Alderman that this office which you have you have forfeited because you have not been loyal to the cause of your people. I have nothing to say in regard to his position about the Germans before the war, but since war has been declared it was his duty as a good citizen to have forgotten all that and Mr. Alderman has not done that and you know that there is an undercurrent in this county that Mr. Alderman is the most pro-German of any person in this county. I want to say that I do not believe that he would do anything to further the German cause, but he does not know how far reaching his influence may be. The work is so insidious, that occupying his position and entertaining the sentiments he does he may be used without really knowing it; that wisdom of whom he speaks is wise enough to use just such men as Mr. Alderman when he does not know anything about it. And I want this board to feel that wherever there is a man who can use such a position, that he should be removed from it.

It is my position in the matter, without meaning any harm to Mr. Alderman, without any personal feeling to him at all, that you ought and the county demands of you that you demand of him his resignation of his office.

Mr. Frank Wood—I do not want to undertake to add anything to the arguments that have been so well presented

by Mr. Pruden and Mr. Vann. Mr. Alderman made some reference to being turned down by some citizens with whom he wished to cooperate. I take that to refer to me.

(Mr. Alderman. No, sir, it did not refer to you.)

As Chairman of the Council of National Defense I have been very much interested in this. My suspicions were first aroused against Mr. Alderman by the report that he had torn down the lists from the Court House door. The next thing my attention was called to was his constant appearance before the examining board. Wherever the young men were gathered together, there he was. Dr. Cason and Dr. McMullan both spoke of this to me. I was told that he was talking disloyalty. I heard that Dr. Griffin had heard him make certain statements. Dr. Griffin has testified as to what he heard and that Mr. Alderman asked him if he had heard him making a fool of himself.

(Mr. Alderman. That was purely a matter of pleasantry.)

Mr. Wood—Pleasantry? The next thing that aroused my suspicions was that Mr. Pruden had heard him make some statements. I went to see Mr. Pruden and he told me almost identically word for word what he told here this afternoon. I heard a good deal of talk about it. I went recently to a meeting of the Council of Defense at Raleigh; we were called there in regard to measures that should be taken especially in regard to food conservation, and in the instruction in these meetings the first man mentioned was the superintendent of Public Instruction in the counties as the man who could most aid us. I remarked to Dr. Hill, the Chairman, that our superintendent by a note of sympathy with the cause of the government and I did not feel like asking him, and he said at once "Don't have him get rid of him." I went to Mr. Page, the and told him the same thing and he said, "E. J. no means have him." I came home and asked Mr. Cade, who had been most efficient helpful in the service, and that is why Mr. Alderman was not asked to give his assistance. I have gotten a great deal of help from Mr. Berryman which should have come from Mr. Alderman. I do not think he is the man to fill the position and I hope he will be removed.

Mr. Alderman—I knew nothing of this and it has been absolutely impossible for me to make preparation. I would like to review the matter and I have taken a few notes. I said I had a letter that I would like to put in evidence. Mr. Pruden said that there were two men who made statements about the sermon. Mr. Elliott, the pastor, states that it did not impress him as pro-German at all. The assistant pastor makes the same statement. Not for one minute had it ever entered my mind that in preaching that sermon there was anything like help for the Germans.

Mr. Pruden, always a gentleman, but a lawyer carrying his point, states that I said that France went into that war because of Alsace-Lorraine. I did not say that, nor did I say anything about England. I said that Russia desired the Dardanelles as an opening which was a perfectly legitimate proposition. I stated also that Germany was trying to grab the Dardanelles and in that sermon I so stated, and I cannot see why a proposition like that would make me favor the Germans. I did not for a moment say that France went into this war because of Alsace-Lorraine; I said that for years France had wanted to regain it. I can put the history before you for that and that was the reason Europe had maintained an armed camp. I was simply drawing a contrast between the material and spiritual, and I stated that Germany was making the seas unsafe and that for that reason America was fighting for the freedom of the seas and that now she was fighting for world democracy. Now, these two letters from these two pastors state that they saw no leaning to the Germans in it.

Now, the only thing that seems to be a strong ground for Mr. Pruden and Mr. Vann, let me say that that paper was not sent to me. Some one told me that they had seen such a statement by Mr. Hannis Taylor, and I had years ago known him through being his sister's pastor and also his aunt's, and I thought a great deal of her, and Hannis Taylor has represented this country in Europe, and when someone told me that there was such a statement by him in one of the New York papers, I said I would like to read it. I had always honored him, and it was along a line that I was interested in. Now, there have been only three places brought up here where I talk about Hannis Taylor with Dr. Griffin, Mr. Phelps and here. I was not aware of what might have been said contrary to Hannis Taylor's statement when I read it, and when I heard of his making that statement I was anxious to see it, and I went to say here and now that not one word did I continue to talk about Hannis Taylor, and as soon as I had seen that Judge, and others stated other views I dropped Hannis Taylor like a hot brick and I do not think you will find a man who will say so. It seems to me that that ought to answer. It was in the first part of the year and why I spoke about him at all was that several asked me did they have to go to war, and I said, "There is only one thing so far as I can see that would keep you from it," and then I spoke and said on two or three occasions, and "that is if Hannis Taylor should be true and it is unconstitutional, but if it is constitutional you will have to go." Let me say along this same line. I have told numerous men who have come to me about it that it was our war and we must fight it out.

Now, as to whether I have changed my opinion: I thought I had made it plain that it was all over. I said that I had died hard, and I thought that I would mean that I had died. Being a man of strong opinion it was hard for me to flip right over, but as I have stated and read and as I have seen conditions, I have myself ceased to have the same feelings towards Germany and her allies, and I thought that the fact that I stated that I had died ought to answer that. Mr. Vann says that I have not stated that

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had had any change. He says that I was used by the Germans. Let me say that if there has ever come into my possession since America declared war any article or paper from a German source, I am not aware of it. The only papers that I read other than religious papers are the News & Observer and the Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch. Now, you say have I changed, what is my attitude? I want to say in the outset that I think it is untrue that Viola did not march in that parade; it is news to me. Why in the world she did not because of pro-German sentiment, I cannot see why it was, and I think it is a mistake, but it is certainly news to me. Now I want to say that all of my children here where I know what they are doing have bought Liberty Bonds. I suggested and urged them and I talked about it myself and the only reason that kept me from it was the financial inability to do it.

Mr. Vann said that I have the same feelings now that I had before the war was declared. I affirm to you under oath that I have not and it is not simply because of this action, but here is the testimony and this is based on actions that I performed before I knew of this investigation being under foot. I was in the schools the first week of school and, as these affidavits will testify, I gave my whole influence for the cause of food conservation. Had this been done after I knew there was anything of this kind on, it would have been different, but I did this work before I knew of any such thing and I leave these affidavits in answer to Mr. Vann's charge that I have not changed my sentiments. The affidavits have been taken since, but the work was done before I knew there was anything of this investigation, and I leave these affidavits to show my attitude.

I have not referred to Hannis Taylor since the first week it came out and as soon as I knew that there were statements from other men I did not mention it, and I want to affirm here under oath that I have not paraded that paper over Chowan County and while I did say that that was spoken of here I did not carry it outside anywhere.

It is growing late. There is not a man in this house who loves the children of Chowan County better than I do there is not a man in this house that has done less to prejudice their minds against America. I am not conscious of one particle of prejudice against the children. Now, you heard Mr. Pruden retract a report that he had heard about taking a vote of the children on the war. I say that I have never done such a thing. There is not a man who loves the children of Chowan County better than I do and there is not a man who has championed the cause of food conservation more than I have, and I affirm under oath that I have not urged any man not to go to war. I have a son who is not capable of carrying arms I have urged that boy of mine to take up the Y. M. C. A. work in France as he knows some French, and he may go. I did not introduce him as a witness, but he has been urged by me to take up such work as that, and not within the last five days since the subject was brought particularly to our attention here by a Y. M. C. A. speaker, but I urged it weeks ago.

As I said in the outset, I am not a man that changes in a minute, and I would not say these things that I am saying now.—I'd rather die than come before you and beg your good will, but here is the testimony of my change. I would not for a moment say that I can do the work that an you can. I would not for a moment say that I have the ability to lead as you have, but I do say that if I have the opportunity

of being a pro-German as you say, and I do not deny it,—before the war, I say if that was the kind of man I was, and if I go into the schools and impress upon them the need of winning this war, it strikes me that I am more able to insist upon that and to win them to the war, than any man that has been anti-German and pro-Ally, and I have been using the last month of this power of mine, such as it may be, to enlist the children of Chowan County, in behalf of this war. Only the other day I was in a meeting in which certain ideas were advanced the question of food conservation, and I asked that I be permitted to back-stand the lady that was presenting it. I said we want to conserve wheat and sugar so as to send these articles of food to our soldiers and the allies I stated that Italy was in desperate need of sugar, and I gave them geographic reasons as to why these things were so.

I know and see that there is a feeling here, but I want to affirm once again that whatever may have been my past, fortunately I have here the testimony of my present and I am willing,—ever willing—to stand upon my deeds and the truth and I defy any man in Chowan County to do more in the schools of the County for this end which I have taken up here and which I am heartily championing so far as my ability may go than I.

Notice of Foreclosure

Under and by virtue of a deed of trust executed to me, as trustee, by the Farmers' Educational & Co-operative Union of America, Macdonia Local No. 2184, on December 29, 1912, registered in book No. 25, page 299, in office of Register of Deeds of Chowan County, default having been made in the payment of the notes secured by said instrument, I will sell, for cash, at public auction, before the court house door in Edenton, N. C., on Saturday the 17th day of November, 1917, at 12 o'clock M., the following described real estate, with improvements thereon, situate in First Township Chowan Co., North Carolina:

Beginning at a true stake on West side of Macdonia Road at Miller's line thence westward along Miller's line 44 yards to an iron stake; thence northward parallel with the said Macdonia Road 55 yards to a Gum; thence Eastward parallel with Miller's line 44 yards to a Gum on the Road; thence Southward along the said road 85 yards to Miller's corner, place of beginning, containing one-half acre more or less.

This 17th day of October, 1917. W. S. PRIVOTT, Trustee. H. B. LEARY, Attorney.

Administrator's Notice.

Chowan County North Carolina. Having qualified as administrator of Mrs. Lydia L. P. Pruden, deceased, late of Chowan County, notice is hereby given to all those indebted to the said estate to make immediate settlement to me at Edenton, N. C., or to Belvidere, N. C. All those having claims against the same will present them to me within one year from the date of this notice, or the said notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. Wm. C. CHAFFELL, Administrator of Mrs. Lydia L. Pruden, dec'd. This 29th day of October, 1917.

Norfolk Southern

OPERATE PASSENGER TRAINS FROM NORTH CAROLINA INTO TERMINAL STA. NORFOLK, WITHOUT TRANSFER

M.B. The following schedule figures published as information only and are not guaranteed.

TRAINS LEAVE EDENTON

SOUTHBOUND 11:31 p. m., daily, NIGHT EXPRESS for Fayetteville and Charlotte, Pullman Sleeping Cars for Raleigh Newbern and intermediate stations. 12:30 P.M., Daily, for Raleigh, Goldsboro, Beaufort and intermediate stations. Parlor Car service to Washington and Newbern.

NORTHBOUND

4:49 a. m., daily, Night Express for Norfolk. Pullman Sleeper. 2:00 p. m., daily, Express to Hertford, Elizabeth City and Norfolk. Pullman Car service. 2:25 P. M. Daily for Hertford, Elizabeth City, Norfolk and intermediate points. 7:00 A. M., Daily, except Sunday, for Suffolk—arrive Suffolk 9:30 A. M. 10:00 . A. M. Daily except Sunday for Suffolk and intermediate stations

For particulars apply to W. S. Harnsey Agent at Edenton.

J. F. DALTON, G. F. A. Norfolk, Va.

Notice JUDICIAL SALE.

Under and by virtue of a decree of the Superior Court of Chowan County in the case of J. W. Pruden, Administrator with the Will annexed, of Harriet Johnson, deceased, against Albert Johnson and John Upshur, I will offer for sale at public bidding, for cash at the Court House door in Edenton, N. C., at 12 o'clock M. on Saturday December 8th, 1917, the following real estate in the town of Edenton, N. C., to-wit: That lot of land and buildings thereon, where Harriet Johnson lived and died, bounded north by Gale street, East by the lot formerly owned by Daniel Smith, South by Daniel Smith and West by the same. This November 8th, 1917. J. W. PRUDEN, Administrator with the Will annexed of Harriet Johnson, deceased.

Administrator's Notice.

North Carolina, Chowan County. Having qualified as administrator of Mrs. J. W. White, deceased, late of Chowan County, notice is hereby given to all those indebted to the said estate to make immediate settlement to me at Edenton, N. C., Route 1, box 64. All those having claims against the same will present them to me within one year from the date of this notice, or the said notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This 15th day of October, 1917. J. A. WHITE, Administrator of Mrs. J. W. White, Deceased.