

THE CONCORD TIMES PUBLISHED MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS

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GOVERNOR VIC DONAHEY.

Who will get the Democratic presidential nomination?

There is no political question of more interest to members of the Democratic party. Too, there is only one question of more interest to Republicans, too, and that is the President's attitude toward a third term.

Governor Smith, William G. McAdoo, Governor Ritchie, Senator Glass and Governor Donahey all have been mentioned as possible candidates for the Democratic nomination, and followers of each think there is a chance for their candidates.

Little is heard in the South of Governor Donahey except that he is too powerful for the Republicans in Ohio. Six times has he been elected Governor of that State and several times he was elected when all other Democrats were defeated.

Wherein lies his power? What makes the people of Ohio support him?

Raymond Longyan, of the staff of Labor, writing to his paper from Cleveland, Ohio, says if one wants to know what America is thinking he must get away from Washington, adding "One trouble with the men who run the Nation is that they spend too much of their time east of the Alleghenies." He thinks the real heart of America is the great area drained by the "Father of Waters" and its tributaries.

Because Governor Donahey is a presidential possibility we quote the following written by Mr. Longyan after he had seen the Governor riding at the head of a procession of Christian Endeavorers at Cleveland:

Some thought Governor Donahey's address was a big for the Presidency.

Speech making is not Donahey's forte. His most ardent admirer will not contend he is an orator.

After listening to him one wonders what is the secret of his hold on the voters.

I put the question to a Cleveland newspaper man and here is his reply:

"No one owns Vic. All the corporations and the professional politicians in both parties dislike him. The plain people trust him. They believe he is honest and sincerely on their side. He is not a radical, but he insists on giving labor a square deal." On two occasions he ran on the same ticket with Atlee Pomerene, who was seeking to get back to the Senate. All the "interests" favored Pomerene and opposed Donahey, but Donahey triumphed both times, while Pomerene was slaughtered.

In this connection a politician told me this story of the 1926 election:

"The moneyed crowd were so anxious to elect Pomerene that they raised a 'jackpot' of generous proportions and turned it over to a certain newspaper owner who is generally supposed to be friendly to the Republicans.

"He used it in Cincinnati (Hamilton County). He bought up the local Republican bosses and they went down the line for Pomerene. In order to get results they told their followers to vote the straight Democratic ticket, which meant, of course, that they should support Donahey, the man the 'big fellow' didn't want.

"Pomerene lost, but the majority Donahey got in Hamilton County made him governor."

Donahey is prepared to steal Mr. Coolidge's "economy" issue.

According to the latest census report, Ohio citizens paid a smaller average State tax last year than the citizens of any other State.

Ohio's average was \$7.18 per citizen. In Indiana, next door to Ohio, where "Jim" Watson and his band of political guerrillas rule the commonwealth, the average is \$13.57. Machine rule is expensive rule!

ABOUT TAX REDUCTION.

While official figures are still lacking and will be so until property owners have had opportunity to confer with the Board of Equalization and Review, it is known from reliable sources that taxable property in Cabarrus has been considerably increased as a result of the recent revaluation and this leads to the belief that a reduction in the county tax rate will be possible for the ensuing year.

If the county has been able to operate at the present rate under the old valuation, and we understand that it has, then every effort should be made by county officials to operate at the same cost next year, so that the increase in taxable property will result in a tax rate reduction.

One report, and it seems to be founded on facts, indicates that the increase in real and personal property may amount to as much as 25 per cent. This total may be a little high, but conservatively the increase no doubt will amount to as much as 20 per cent. If this is found to be true, then there should be a corresponding decrease in the tax rate.

We do not argue, of course, that the county officials should do anything to retard progress along any line, but we do argue that where a tax rate cut is possible the people should have it. The tax payers want to have good roads, good schools and a progressive administration but at the same time they want those things at the least possible cost.

The revaluation has brought a general increase in valuation of property throughout the county, we understand, but for the most part the increase results from new found sources of taxation. That is, property not heretofore listed for taxes. Hundreds of acres of land, it is said, have been placed on the books for the first time this year. Many notes and other items of personal property also have been listed for the first time, it is said, and these items will result in additional revenue without regard to any increase in the valuation of property heretofore listed.

The tax assessors, as we understand it, have sought to equalize valuations more than to increase valuations. This has resulted in increases in some instances and decreases in others, but when the tax payers are shown that everybody is paying on an equal basis there will be little complaint.

We repeat that county officials should exert every means at hand to lower the tax rate, and once this is done, we feel certain that additional property, not now listed, will be listed next year.

GEORGIA IMPROVING.

Georgia people apparently are tired of cowardly assaults by robed and masked figures in that State.

The conviction of the man Acree, principal of a high school and teacher in a Sunday School, of assault and battery in connection with the flogging of a woman and her son, ought to prove an incentive to that element determined to break up such practices. The conviction of this man at least gives the law-abiding element an opportunity to rear its head and show the world that everybody in Georgia does not belong to that class which is too cowardly to do its dastardly work except behind a sheet.

However, the flogging was not done by one man. The courts still have the important task of determining and punishing others. Acree sought to establish an alibi but when he elected to make a statement in preference to testifying under oath (and the Georgia law allows either) he weakened his case. The jury must have felt that the statements of a man are not to be carefully noted when the man prefers to merely make a statement in preference to testifying under oath. The man who tells the truth, The Statesville Daily says, doesn't mind testifying on a "stack of Bibles." That's the truth, too.

"The school man was one of a party of five indicted for the whipping," says The News and Observer. "Four of them are yet to be tried. It is probable that at least some of the others, maybe all, will be convicted. Acree could not have done the flogging alone.

"In him the crime was peculiarly obnoxious. Here was a man who, if anyone ought, should have personified good citizenship. Instead, he was all that good citizenship ought not to have been. The penalty might well take into consideration this fact in justification of greater severity.

"Every conviction of this sort is a matter for public rejoicing. It is a fine thing for Georgia that the tide has turned against this epidemic of outlawry. It is no justification that 'good men' thought that they were promoting law and order. The law is jealous. There must be no moral authority above it. Good men recognize this.

"Georgia is vindicating her honor."

FORD'S APOLOGY.

Henry Ford as a newspaper man proved himself an excellent manufacturer.

Now that law suits have sprung up from various sources as the result of the Dearborn Independent's attack on the Jews, Mr. Ford comes forward with an apology, the gist of which is that he did not know what was being put in his paper.

Newspaper men do not wonder, then, that he got in trouble. The same thing would happen to other publishers if they turned somebody loose on their editorial pages. It seems peculiar at least, that

Mr. Ford, who stresses organization so much, would be willing to head a business enterprise which received none of his attention.

Of course, he could not have missed the articles criticising the Jews if he had read his paper. They appeared regularly over a long period of time, and there was no cessation until and after the law suits were entered.

If Mr. Ford had given no more attention to his manufacturing plant than he did to his newspaper he would not be paying the biggest income tax in the world today. And if he didn't intend to give a reasonable amount of time to the project, he should never have entered the newspaper field. Running a newspaper is something more than owning a physical plant, and the editor must have something besides money. This has been proved conclusively, it seems to us, in the Ford case.

Mr. Ford didn't complete his apologies when he retracted the statement of his newspaper about the Jews. He owes something to the newspaper profession.

REFUTES OLD BELIEF.

Many times have we heard the warning that coffee is dangerous. Too much coffee says the old warning, is deadly, yet we find from a prominent coffee importer who has been talking to The New York Herald-Tribune that the American people consume each year some 121,000,000,000 cups, or at the rate of 75,000 cups a second.

The Charlotte News figures this amounts to an average of about 1,000 cups a year for every American and says despite the warning "the span of life in the Republic is steadily lengthening," "only the Cuban and Scandinavian drink more, and both are a healthy people."

Last year we imported nearly a billion and a half pounds of the green berries. About 70 per cent. of all this came from the red uplands of Brazil and most of the rest from Colombia and other lands about the Caribbean. Very little from Arabian Mocha, the classic home of the tree that is still known as Coffee Arabia. But little more comes from Java. Most of the coffee we drink is a blend of "Santos," with the "milds" of Northern Spanish America.

In 1926 we paid the rest of the world over \$32,000,000 for coffee. Only our rubber and silk cost us more.

None of the hundreds of millions of our imports trade is better spent. The Herald-Tribune contends.

"None brings more real satisfaction to the American home or contributes more to the smooth working of American life. More truly than the sunrise, it starts our day. And, quaffed from tin cups or sipped from gilded demitasses, it tempers the day's esperities and adds to its amenities throughout the land."

IT DIDN'T GO OVER SO WELL.

Some time ago Secretary of the Treasury Mellon announced plans to retire \$1,687,000,000 in Second Liberty Bonds bearing 4 and 4 1-2 per cent. interest by exchanging these for a new series at 3 3-8 per cent.

This plan caused great rejoicing in administration newspapers. The Secretary was warmly praised and his plan sent to all sections of the nation.

The proposal was called an achievement "beyond the grasp of most laymen," a "well-matured plan," and "a monument to the wise and conservative administration" of the "greatest Secretary of the Treasury since Alexander Hamilton." One of the Secretary's most ardent admirers predicted "a still more brilliant operation next year."

But the administration and its newspapers did their acclaiming too soon. Since the first outbreak of enthusiasm what have you seen about the plan? Nothing, for the "well-matured plan" has failed.

Despite the eloquent pleas of Under Secretary Mills over the radio, and despite an extension of time for an exchange of old bonds for new, only \$243,000,000 of the Libertys were offered for conversion. In addition, there were cash subscriptions for the new issue to the amount of \$250,000,000. This leaves \$1,204,000,000 in bonds maturing in November which are yet to be provided for.

When the case charging several Wake County men with flogging another man was called in court something was said about postponing action because of the cost. Judge Sinclair declared that he didn't care anything about the cost and he was right. North Carolina can't afford flogging cases no matter what the cost. If the State is not ready that's a different matter, but there should be no delay or postponement because of any financial consideration. Our courts should operate with as little cost as possible, but they should operate effectively. There has been few more serious cases in the State in years than this one from

Wake. North Carolina should not tolerate floggings at the hand of masked men. Get the men in court and prison regardless of the cost, is Judge Sinclair's attitude, and he is eternally right.

CHURCHES SHOULD ADVERTISE.

Walter Irving Clarke, national publicity director for the Presbyterian Church, recently sent some good advice to the mid-winter meeting in New Jersey. For the benefit of church officers we will reprint what Mr. Clarke said:

"Pastors who have regularly used newspaper ads. find that they are a good investment. The church advertisement should strike a happy medium between crude sensationalism and cold dignity.

"A church that cannot afford much money for promotion may join with other churches in the community in a united newspaper appeal, using liberal effective display space. If the church will pay for live newspaper advertising will pay the church."

ABOUT TAXES.

Few families in North Carolina, according to a tax review by Paul W. Wager in The University News Letter, have household property worth more than the \$300 allowed by the State.

Few families, says Mr. Wager, "ever feel that they have more than three hundred dollars of this sort of property." The excess for the whole state in 1925 was \$26,645,269, or about \$47 per family.

Mr. Wager says people take this attitude perhaps, because this form of property does not aid directly in producing income. "Nevertheless," he asks, "is it quite fair to exempt the library of a teacher and the tools of a plumber and then tax the team and plow of the farmer?"

As might be expected, the urban counties have more personalty per inhabitant on the tax books than the rural counties, eight of the ten leading counties being urban. The people in these ten counties have on the average five and one-half times as much taxable property as the people in the ten poorest counties, the two averages being \$398.70 and \$73.10 respectively.

Forsyth county leads with \$852 per inhabitant or \$4,260 of taxable personalty for a family of five. This is a thousand dollars a family more than in Durham county, its nearest rival, and \$2,625 a family more than in Durham County, its nearest rival, and \$2,625 a family more than its neighbor, Guilford. Are Forsyth people so much richer than the rest of the people of the state, or does the county's low tax rate offer a partial explanation?

As already pointed out, Durham holds place with \$649 of personalty per capita. This is almost double the amount per capita in Mecklenburg, Gaston, or Guilford.

The state average is \$211 and there are only twenty-two counties above this average. Eighteen counties have less than \$100 of taxable personalty per inhabitant. None of these counties had in 1920 a census-size town. The excessively rural counties have little to tax except land and buildings, or real estate. Consequently the tax rate is usually high in these counties.

SAME OLD STUFF.

Senator Heflin made a speech in Asheville the other night and because he was not allowed to speak at the radio station and broadcast his charges and criticisms to all parts of the State, he charged that the station is owned and controlled by Catholics.

That's old stuff. Whenever men in public life haven't got anything really to say they just switch off on this Catholic charge, hoping thereby to gain popularity through religious hatred.

The Asheville Citizen paid its respects to Mr. Heflin in no uncertain terms, and then it offered this explanation about the radio station:

"The broadcasting station in Asheville is owned by the chamber of commerce. It is supervised by a board, not a member of which is a Catholic. Its manager was formerly in charge of the great Methodist assembly at Lake Junaluska. The sole basis for Mr. Heflin's preposterous charge is that, quite properly, the manager would not turn the station's facilities over to be used for the broadcasting of a political speech."

The Senator is one of those misinformed and warped people who think everything that can't control is controlled by the Catholics. Or at least, they try to make the people believe this.

The Senator is one of those people who has intimated that in his opinion the press of the nation is controlled by Catholics. Nothing could be farther from the truth, and anybody really in touch with conditions knows it is not true.

The man who goes about stirring up religious prejudices is the man who

makes stirring up class hatred his chief mission in life. The Senator from Alabama apparently hasn't reached the point where he can tell that you can't scare the people with the Catholic cry any more. That old cry has been worn out, and worn out by people who have gained a niche in public life and don't know what to do with their new position.

MUST BE HIDING SOMETHING.

Republicans in Delaware county, Pennsylvania, are determined to keep certain ballot boxes from the Senate Investigating Committee. The committee resorted to the law but failed and now the Republican bosses announce that the ballots will be destroyed under law by September 20th unless some law can be found to aid the committee.

The law gives the Republicans the right to destroy the ballots but under the circumstances it does seem that they would hesitate to do this. Certainly the whole matter has brought up a question of law violation and if the Republicans have nothing to hide wonder why are they so determined to keep the ballots from the committee.

If everything in the election, which determined a Senatorial seat, was honest and square why are the Republicans opposing the committee? Why should they want to keep the ballots from being counted?

Their very action leads to the conclusion that they are trying to hide something, and that something no doubt would be beneficial to the Democrats.

People of Cabarrus county realize that it takes money to run a county government. They do not want Cabarrus county to gain the reputation of being a backward county, but at the same time they want to see economy and business principles in the management of affairs. They want to have progress and are willing to pay for it, but at the same time they want this progress along economical lines. The amount of taxable property in Cabarrus has been increased and it is to be hoped that the county officials can find a suitable way to reduce the tax rate for the new year. This can be done, we believe, without sacrifice. We have managed to get along during the past several years without going into debt and we should be able to do this hereafter even if the rate is cut. The increase in the total value of property put on the books is not announced, but it reasonably can be estimated at 20 per cent. That is rather a handsome increase and should result in a lower rate next year.

That it is possible to cross the State of North Carolina in an automobile from dawn to dusk has been demonstrated. There are few, of course who want to make the trip, but the experiment demonstrates the value of hard-surfaced and otherwise improved roads. It's more than 500 miles from Morehead City to the Georgia line near Murphy, but the distance was covered from dawn to dusk with 20 minutes to spare, and the man making the test said he did not violate the speed law of 45 miles an hour.

JUDGE JAMES WEBB SUFFERS ATTACK OF MORAL NAUSEA.

Whatever may be thought of his action in principle and on a strict construction of judicial duty, there will be general sympathy for Judge James Webb in the exercise of an arbitrary power to save himself the gripe of nausea in hearing another "sensational" vice case.

Mecklenburg court recently spent days on days hearing the disgusting details connected with the alleged wrongs done an amateur prostitute by a combination of "prominent" business men and doctors. There was a perfect array of legal talent, intense excitement, detailed reporting of gutter intrigue in the press. The court room was the busiest and the community, supposedly one of the busiest as well as most pious in the South, apparently ceased its activities to follow a performance that was from the beginning to end suggestive of the bawdy. When Judge Webb found defendant, prosecutrix, witnesses and legal lights all wound up and panting to trail a similar spoor, he balked. As the Associated Press has it, he "said the case was too dirty to hear so soon after another notoriously odorous case of like nature heard at the last term of court."

As said above, the action of the court may be criticized, but it is in all respects humanly understandable. When it comes to the pass that a community is so fed up with ennui that it can be lost in interest over the collapse of a love affair between the proprietor of a boot-black and shoe-shine shop and his "lady customer," it is high time that it have its mouth washed with hot soap. Just how far a judge duly engaged in hearing indictments ready for trial should go in attempting to deprive the people of their favorite dish is an open question.

The truth is that these disgusting trials have become so numerous that the courts are increasingly resorted to for purposes of blackmail, and the processes of justice prostituted to ends of slander and revenge. Even more serious is the education in vice that these packed court-room matinees and the reports of the experts in sex crimes afford to a youth whose chief peculiarity is that it sees in these sordid tragedies nothing of warning but everything of incentive to an imitation its conceit counsels can be so modified as to avoid disaster.

The more serious truth is that in our zeal for statutory morality we have elevated mere examples of grossness of conduct in the individual to a false position of importance as crimes against the State.

Maybe some ingenious cornborer expert will find a way to get the worms' mail at weeds instead of corn.—Indianapolis News.

Detroit now boasts a body of water that's wet on one side and dry on the other.—Detroit News.

NO EXPENSE TOO GREAT FOR PUNISHMENT.

Raleigh Times. "The question of expense has been discussed in Wake County Court eleven defendants awaiting trial upon the trial they demanded that the remark followed the expression of conviction at this term and to put the county to the expense of the trial was entered.

Judge Sinclair is eternally right of costs should not worry anybody whatever they may amount. He is faced by years. The real expense of flogging is what the county has to pay for the cost of the trial. The remark followed the expression of conviction at this term and to put the county to the expense of the trial was entered.

E. A. (Dolly) Jones, a woman taken from his home and he was spirited away and mobbed and knowledge and sympathy of the perjury in the creation of alibis in the case of men who go to express community prejudice but that fact should only serve to will undoubtedly come to the rape of penitentiary by the precedent to be followed in the more serious cases. If they are permitted to have a long succession of such cases of such a problem.

As to costs, the County Commission case strangely quiet and discomparison with the liberality of other occasions. Did not their expenditures made by the State to track down bootleggers, the instance including a creek and a dam. If such an expense in the case of a demagogue can be justified, why not even greater tenacity and expense of a high crime bringing the same disrepute and subjecting it and to continuing peril!

No, it is not time in this case the expense."

Rather, the chief bother should be the ability of surrendering to the too much to fight it!

DEPEW'S PHILANTHROPY.

High Point Enterprise. Usually the advice of the lot of driven, and their interests those marching along the road of Chanuncy Depew's philanthropy is interesting and should be followed. He has conquered an hereditary disposition and has lived long and peacefully terminated early in life that brings that worry and pessimism with the Depew says his grandfather was of the "blues." They wanted the early graves. That's literally true and. Many of us are fearful of fortune which we think are courageous enough under the same.

In a North Carolina doctor's many repair who think the organic condition is a will something like the following:

"I am an old man and have seen most of which never happened. Many of the troubles which never occur but their tragic effects because of their unreality.

Depew tells the world on his day anniversary that contractions habit. Think of the pleasant challenge the unpleasant to do the optimism is not natural. He has people complain, fear and worry did to them and what they expect he resolved to look for the picture. Soon happy thinking him. This is not pollyannism but a high-hearted adventure. Depew blows, but they did not defeat him on his will until it gave him an environment. He did not care happy incident but decided to be courageously of all life held for

REFUSED TO SIGN.

Statesville Daily. One Acree, principal of the of Stephens county, Ga., and a member of the religious denomination, has been convicted of robbing a hooded and lashed her into convulsions defendant school teacher and attempted to establish an alibi. That when he went on the stand he an "unsown statement." It was courts permit a defendant to testify sworn, if he so elects. The necessity in such cases is that the cross-examination. But the jury takes the chance of leaving the jury that by avoiding the oath sworn, says isn't worthy of belief. It didn't believe Acree's statement and was helping a neighbor doctor who the woman was whipped by the who broke into her home in cover of darkness. If he had may believe he would have sworn Bibles.

A HOPEFUL SIGN.

Durham Herald. The verdict of guilty against the by the Georgia jury is the return of law to its proper that has been seen since the assaults sprang several years ago Georgia jury returns a verdict a wearer of mask and robe charges it is time to feel encouraged. That because of the frequent repetition of Georgia, it would be a conviction, and the better verdict of guilty for Georgia, was a surprise, and the country, was because of it.

All that is required to lead is to have officers with sufficient appreciation of their moral and to society to get busy. Where the of a lower legal responsibility without fault is with the ten in nine out of ten of the findings part in the failure of the results.

Cutting the price of government probably attracts more attention drop in the price of a loaf of bread. Press.