

Mebane Leader

J. O. FOY, Editor and Owner

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Thursday, February 2 1911

SOMETHING WORTH CONSIDERING.

We may need a state building very much, in fact sufficient to warrant our General Assembly to expend one million dollars for it. It may be necessary to increase the Governor's salary to six thousand dollars per year, in order to enable him to live in that style and manner befitting our chief executive. In order to pay our Judges adequate salaries it may be necessary to increase their pay to two thousand, and five hundred dollars per year. That the feelings of the Southern tariff Association may not be wounded. It might be well to abandon an insurance investigation. That the Standard Oil Company may be permitted to enjoy without molestation, or hindrance the monopoly of the illuminating oil business in this state, we might permit Judge Stronach court of Raleigh a tribunal of last resort. That railroads might be permitted to earn sufficient money to pay dividends on watered stock it might be the proper thing to permit them to continue excessive freight rates to the injury of local business. That the Southern Express Company may enjoy its annual dividends of 30 per cent upon largely watered stock they might be allowed to go on with their robber rates. In order to maintain educational facilities for our higher institutions of learning for the benefit of five thousand young men and women, it may be right to expend three quarters of a million of dollars, and then in order to give a half million of the children of the rural districts of the state a moderate educational showing we may expend two million.

All of these things may be permitted with, a frown, or a smile, but when a state through its Legislative body permits every, Tom, Dick, and Harry, who perchance may be a principal of some public school to select and adopt any class of school text book, suited to their capricious whims, selecting at fair, or unfair prices to be paid for by the parents of poor children, then there is a fearful wrong inflicted. First these books are sold at extortionate prices, second the great variety of them made possible for the reasons stated operates as an intolerable burden upon a class of people who by no means are able to bear it. But it is the price of what little education the state gives to this class which goes as an exacting extortion to the book trust. Many of these people are too poor to afford comfortable clothes for their children to wear to school. Will the great state of North Carolina continue to be a party to this great wrong, or will it remedy it? The people pause for a reply.

Superintendent of Public instruction makes the following recommendation in his biennial report to the Governor. We quote briefly from this report, but some conception of the injustice and impractical operation of our public school law may be gleaned even from this.

"Under the present text-book law, the subcommittee, composed of professional teachers, is directed to consider only the merits of the books and to report their ratings according to merit, and are forbidden to consider price, the expense of changes to the taxpayers and the patrons of the schools, and other practical considerations of that

sort. The Text-book Commission, composed of the State officers constituting the State Board of Education, only one of whom is a professional teacher, is directed to consider the price, then the expense of changes and other practical considerations, and are in no sense bound by the report of the subcommittee, except by the general direction that they shall give due consideration to that report. The difference in viewpoint of these two separate boards—one an exclusively professional board, instructed to consider and report on the professional merit of the books only, without any voice in the final adoption, and the other a nonprofessional board, upon which is specifically imposed the duty of considering also the price, the expense of changes in books, and other such practical considerations—has necessarily produced variations between the recommendations of one board and the adoptions of the other that have given opportunity for misunderstandings and criticisms that, in my opinion, can be avoided by the consolidation of the two boards, so that each may better understand the viewpoint of the other and in the final adoption may wisely view the matter from both viewpoints."

Why not have one set of text books for the entire state. It would be the most practical solution, and then buy them as cheap as they could be bought.

There are some things so small, and so contemptible that we dislike to dignify by taking notice of them, and perhaps it were better to let this pass with like treatment, but we so much hate an untruth that the temptation is too great for silence. We regard an insinuating misrepresentation equivalent to an asserted falsehood. Under the heading "An other endorsement" the Burlington Dispatch publishes a communication signed "Voter" who favors putting the county officers upon a salary basis, which of course "Voter" has a perfect right to do, but my paper has done nothing to justify the reference made to it in the following paragraph.

"Is it true that the News, Gleaner and Leader are opposed to this bill? If so, on what grounds do they oppose it. Please let us know."

We do not know the position of the News, or Gleaner upon this question. They may have committed themselves, but we do not remember to have noticed it, but we do know that the Leader has never stated its position pro, or con upon this matter, nor does the Editor of the Dispatch have to become "a mind reader" to know this, and know it as an unquestioned fact. So any assumption of our position is gratuitous.

We are not required by any known newspaper ethics, or legal dispensation, to commit ourselves upon every proposition, or theorem the Dispatch might advance, and why could not the Dispatch man have been fair enough to have credited us with this much.

WOOLEN TRUST VS. WOOLEN TRUST.

"The head of the Woollen Trust, chief and practically sole beneficiary of Schedule K of the Payne Aldrich Bill of Abominations, which schedule even President Taft himself has declared to be 'utterly indefensible,' is one William M. Wood was the principal speaker before the Algonquin Club, of Boston, the other night, and during the course of his address he gave voice to certain remarks, between which and certain utterances made by him to the Ways and Means Committee several years ago and certain financial statements issued under his authority the Philadelphia Record makes a comparison which is both interesting and instructive.

To the Algonquin Club Mr. Wood said:

Not one new important woollen mill had been built in Massachusetts for a period of over forty years until the McKinley law was introduced. Under that law the industry got upon its feet only to be struck down again by the ill-starred Gorman-Wilson tariff.

Ten years ago, in 1900, Mr. Wood was treasurer of the Trust of which he is now president. At that time there was published by the Industrials Information Company a report on the American Woollen Company, designed to open and stimulate a market for its shares. Prior to the organization of the American Woollen Company Mr. Wood has been the head of the Washington mills, which employed as many hands as any other four mills among the twenty-six that were combined into the Trust. The report of the Industrials Information Company, presumably

based upon information furnished by Mr. Wood himself, said:

In regard to the relation between the protective tariff and the business of the American Woollen Company, it may be said that the Washington Mills, which is the most important concern operated by the American Woollen Company, was started under the first administration of President Cleveland, and despite the vagaries of the tariff for the next twelve years, it prospered and succeeded in an unparalleled degree. The fact is that with the progress that has been made in woollen machinery and the increased skill of our American operatives the woollen business of America is rapidly reaching a position where even a return to the conditions similar to those existing under the Wilson bill would not seriously impair its profitability.

When this latter statement was issued the object was to market the stock of the Woollen Combine and so the public was correctly told that the industry was quite independent of tariff protection. Now the purpose is to retain in the tariff law the schedule which even President Taft has declared to be 'utterly indefensible,' and so the contention is insisted upon that withdrawal or even lessening of the duties would send the woollen manufacturing business in the United States straight to the demerit bow-wows. This is the utterance accommodated to the end had in view.—Va Pilot.

IT WILL NOT STAY SETTLED

You must settle a thing right, or it will not remain settled. It does not matter about the reason, but the fact is that justice Stronach of Raleigh signally failed to settle the matter relating to the Standard Oil monopoly in that city right. Perhaps he settled it as he saw it by the dim light of a sputtering lantern whose wick was fed by the 'unrefined.'

Without attempting to go into details, about this matter we are wondering why other towns are submitting to the same imposition that Raleigh has without an effort to correct the trouble? Was Justice Stronach's court the last one of resort? and is the fact that he heard the matter, to be used to estop further proceedings? If there is no law in North Carolina to prevent the Standard Oil Company from crushing out competition, from monopolising the oil business of this State, then there should be one made.

Is their methods of aggrandisement to be tolerated to the prejudice of a great state? Is it because the Standard oil company can afford to pay for exclusive privileges that it enjoys so much in North Carolina? Our leading politician may shout, 'down with the trust' but when the trust comes up with its bags of gold, they the self assumed guardians of the people's rights, stand by and see new fetters riveted upon the toilers limbs.

The Legislature of North Carolina is in session, and if we have no law to prevent monopoly, such as the Standard Oil Company would create, then it is full time they were getting busy and make one.

GRAVE SITUATION.

The Durham Herald of last Friday said that the small-pox situation in that city was more grave than ever. It appears to us that the small-pox situation in Durham has been handled by men in no sense equal to the occasion, and now there is grave possibilities of an epidemic. The city officials have been too weak, they have permitted a lot of ignoramuses to prevent an active energetic campaign of vaccination, the only effective means for stamping out small-pox.

The small-pox situation has been handled badly, much to the regret and injury of the good people of Durham.

RUINING OUR FOREST.

The tariff on lumber it seems to us has been a very mischievous thing. Of course our land owners have got something more for lumber on account of it, but the principal beneficiary of the law was the mill man, who came to our state to make fortunes by denuding our forest. The tariff on lumber has been a very unwise thing, it has tended to encourage the cutting out and completely destroying our finest forest. Lumber is growing scarcer, and scarcer in the south all the time. The government has

put a high premium upon the destruction of our forest, when the job has been completed, then the bars will be let down, and we will settle the bill by paying high prices for Canadian lumber.

A GOOD BILL.

The bill before the Legislature, requiring that our superior courts shall be opened on Tuesday of the week, instead of Monday as hereto is an excellent one, and it is a wonder that this matter has never been looked into before. To have farmers to leave their business early Monday morning and ride ten and fifteen miles to reach court and then after getting there find that the session would not be opened before the afternoon, or the next day, was a hardship that these people should not have been subjected, especially so where perhaps the laziness, or

indifference of a Judge was responsible for it. There was rare instances when a Judge fined himself for his tardiness, but it has been by no means rare when they fined poor farmers who perhaps for good reasons was unable to answer to the call of the court crier promptly on time.

Two or three hundred men away from pressing farm duties standing around a Court House all day Monday, waiting for a tardy Judge to open court has not been an unusual thing.

Mark Hanna was the father of the shipsubsidy scheme, and it is a bad one at best. So many of Marks evils have been able to live after him.

The voice of the people may sometimes be the voice of God, but it seems that it is money which has been doing the talking in this Country for the past ten years.

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