

Mount Airy News.

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PRISONERS IN GUILFORD

They have just held a term of court in Greensboro and the grand jury visited the prison camps and reported on the conditions they found. Guilford county works her roads with convicts.

The report made to the court is some indication of the prison conditions that we suspect will be found to exist in this state. One camp in Guilford county visited and reported on is of especial interest. First, the report said the camp was found to be in good condition. Mark that—it was in good condition, but further on in the report of this camp it was stated that there were no pillows on the beds and that the jury recommended that pillows be furnished for the convicts. Mark that—a tired man sleeping with no pillow. The report went on to say that they found one tent that allowed the rain to wet the bed clothing. They recommended that this tent be improved. And yet this camp was in good condition. Just think of it, a bunch of men forced to sleep in a tent where the rains poured through and soaked the bed clothing, and there in the dark and rain and no fire and no pillows the men spend the night and when day comes get up and march out to do a hard day's labor for the County of Guilford. And this right here in North Carolina, too, mind you. The report went on to say that the prisoners in this camp complained to the jury that the rations should be changed, that all was served was corn bread, peas and fat back, with no coffee for the reason that there was no way to prepare coffee. The interesting part of this is that the jury did not recommend that the rations be changed. One man was found working away as best as he could who had a sore leg and is in bad condition according to the opinion of the jury, and to their everlasting credit they did recommend that this man have his leg treated.

Another prisoner of this camp was found who had kidney trouble and the jury recommended that he have a doctor to attend him.

If all this had happened in Turkey or India or China it would be bad enough to read about. But why it fails to shock the public conscience of the whole state is more than we can explain.

Mark this, it is admitted that men, citizens of our state, are being forced to work in a convict camp right here in our midst, and they must sleep in beds with no pillows and some of them with no protection from rain. When morning comes they are made to eat corn bread, fat meat and peas, and the same food for dinner and the same for supper, and put in a long full day at labor of the most arduous kind. An yet a jury of citizens will come into a court of our land and have the impudence to say that they found this camp to be in good condition. The wonder to us is that the honorable judge who received the report did not get on his metal and say things. If all this happened in Guilford, which is one of the most advanced counties in the state, then one is made to wonder just what is happening in other counties.

WHY SUGAR IS HIGH

When you buy a pound of sugar and pay about twice as much for it as you paid a few months ago you naturally wonder why. The government has been investigating to find the reason. The investigation shows, so they claim, that some big banks in New York financed the sugar growers back in the years just after the war when sugar went to 20 cents a pound. These big banks got caught in the speculation they financed and had to practically take over the whole sugar business of Cuba. Most of our sugar is produced in Cuba. Now to get their money back these big banks have cornered the market and are able to make the price just what they please. They are simply trying to get back what they lost in past years when they speculated at the wrong time.

The people are advised by those who have investigated the business that there is no shortage of sugar and that the retail price should be around six cents a pound. They say that the way to bring the price down is to quit using so much sugar. Most families can do with half the amount they use, and if the county should resort to a boycott in a limited way for a few days the price would go back to what it should be. But so long as people pay the hold-up price and are content to keep on paying it the big bankers simply laugh and grow richer by the millions they are able to take from the people by being able to control the sugar supply.

ABUSING THE KU KLUX

It seems to be getting to be popular to abuse the Ku Klux, at least the politicians seem to think it is. The latest outbreak is caused by the treatment meted out by a hooded band of men to two women of semi-respectability in one of the eastern counties. No one seems to question the fact that the women were of doubtful morals and they needed all they got, but it is something awful for the Ku Klux to be engaged in such conduct. The very foundations of the state are in danger if one is to believe the orators who entertain, or try to, the folks who come to hear public matters discussed.

It may be that these orators are right, but we have an idea that the sober minded man who wants good morals and good living conditions to prevail in the land gives but little consideration to the danger signal that is being sounded all because some unworthy women get what is coming to them.

There are a host of people who would like to see the whipping post come into action again, and there are many cases of misconduct that could be cared for in a very effectual way if we only had the old order of the vicious age behind us.

We rightly did away with the whipping post, but we have not been able to find any effectual way to deal with a class of immoral people who, by a show of respectability, hold themselves above the law and from year to year debauch the youth and the aged, too, and manage to escape the arm of the law. It is this fact, we suspect, that makes the work of the Ku Klux seem to be a corrective force in the land for good and causes the Klan to get the endorsement of many good people.

A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

The progressive measures that have been carried on by our city for the past two years can safely be counted on to be continued for the next two years as a result of the re-election of Mayor West and his board of commissioners in this city Monday. The vote given Mr. West in his second election is nothing less than one of confidence and approval of his administration and a willingness on the part of the citizens for him to carry out the plans that he and the former board had made.

There is a large amount of work to be done within the next two years that is now in progress and some thought this work was in danger on account of the lack of interest in the election when this doubt entered the minds of our people this lack of interest ceased almost instantly and the polls were kept busy for several hours before closing by those who were voting for Mayor West and his board because they wanted to see the program of construction along all lines of city work carried out as already planned or contemplated.

Attorney Kohloss Locates Here

Attorney G. L. Kohloss, of Salisbury, arrived in this city last week and will practice his profession here. Mr. Kohloss is a young man and received his law course at Chapel Hill. He is a son of R. A. Kohloss, who is so widely known as one of the leading prohibition officers connected with the Federal government.

Attorney Kohloss will have an office in the new Jackson building, but is now temporarily located in the office of the Mount Airy Insurance & Realty Co.

Princess Chrysanthemum

A beautiful musical play will be given in the Broadway theatre Monday May 14, by the members of the high school chorus for the benefit of the school athletic club and to purchase music supplies.

A matinee will be given at 4 p. m. admission 25 and 50 cents, and a night performance at 8 p. m. admission 35 and 50cents.

Birmingham Man Enjoys The News

Birmingham, Ala. May 2.—Will you please change my paper to new address. Am very anxious to get my paper every week. I enjoy reading it.

Yours truly J. I. A.

AMENDMENT TO POSTAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Office of the Postmaster General, Washington, April 24, 1923.

Order No. 9002.
 Section 772, Postal Laws and Regulations, is amended to read as follows: "Rural carriers shall open and examine boxes of patrons only when signals are displayed to indicate that they contain mail for dispatch. When the mail is collected from the box the carrier shall lower the signal, whether he has deposited mail in the box or not."

"2. The signal on a box is not to be raised by the carrier when he deposits mail therein."
 John H. Barlett,
 Acting Postmaster General.

Mayor West Re-elected

The election in this city Monday for city officials did not go off so quietly as some of the campaigns in the past, although the regular ticket nominated by the Democratic convention was elected by a safe majority. The convention was held on Friday night at which the names of A. V. West, W. G. Sydnor and Dr. M. S. Martin were placed before it for consideration. Out of a total of 75 who attended the convention Mayor West received 47, a majority over the other two, and was declared the regular nominee of the convention. The other candidates named by the convention were: C. A. Shelton, commissioner-at-large; W. I. Monday and R. B. Short, commissioners, first ward; W. F. Carter, Jr., and J. W. Fulk, commissioners, 2nd ward.

Some of the supporters of Mr. Sydnor were not satisfied with the convention in which their candidate was defeated and one of these "citizen conventions" was held in the city hall Saturday night and Mr. Sydnor was endorsed for Mayor and plans made to make it interesting for the regular ticket if they could not elect their choice. And they succeeded in getting up more than the usual interest. Besides nominating a candidate for Mayor the convention Saturday night wanted a change in the commissioners in the 2nd ward and named E. A. Randleman and C. C. Stewart. This last convention seemed to be satisfied with the other commissioners.

Voting was light up to about two o'clock on election day when the West supporters began to think that the Sydnor ticket was ahead in the ballot as it then stood. And from then on until the polls closed the old time politicians of the city closed their doors and went to the polls; from then on the West ticket made steady gains for the inexperienced boys leading the Sydnor organization were unable to cope with the leadership that came on the ground when there was a possible doubt as to the result of the West ticket. In a few minutes an organization was perfected and men and women were canvassing almost every house in the city for supporters of the regular Democratic ticket. When ever a place was found where the lady of the house would consent to go to the polls and vote word was immediately sent to headquarters and a car was there in ten minutes. This work kept up for several hours and when the polls closed the Sydnor leaders knew they were beaten by better and more experienced politicians.

The final vote follows:

For Mayor—A. V. West, 370; W. G. Sydnor, 270.

For Commissioner at-large,—C. A. Shelton, 586.

For Commissioners, 1st Ward—W. I. Monday, 313; R. B. Short, 320.

For Commissioners, 2nd Ward—W. F. Carter, Jr., 233; J. W. Fulk, 176; E. A. Randleman, 116; C. C. Stewart, 79.

The newly elected officials met in the city hall Tuesday and effected their organization. All the present policemen were reelected, also R. V. Deyerle, city tax collector, F. M. Poore, treasurer, E. C. Bivens, attorney; M. F. Patterson, fire inspector; and Bud Brannock, fireman. Thos. Aahby was appointed as list taker to list the property for taxation for the city.

Mayor West announced the various committees as follows:

Finance—W. I. Monday, W. F. Carter, Jr., R. B. Short.

Street—R. B. Short, C. A. Shelton, W. F. Carter, Jr.

Fire—C. A. Shelton, J. W. Fulk, R. B. Short.

Police—W. F. Carter, Jr., W. I. Monday, J. W. Fulk.

Sanitation—J. W. Fulk, W. I. Monday, C. A. Shelton.

Sewer Construction—W. F. Carter, Jr., chairman; balance of this committee composed of entire board.

Dr. Woltz Secures New Office.

Dr. J. L. Woltz has rented the offices over Kapp's hardware store and will move into them as soon as they can be put into condition which will be about June 1st. In his new location Dr. Woltz will have five rooms which will greatly aid him in his office practice. As soon as he gets moved Dr. Woltz expects to take a post graduate course and specialize in diseases of women and children. During the coming summer he will be assisted in his office by his son, Grier, who is now studying medicine in Atlanta, Ga.

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