

LETTER FROM SHERIFF POWELL

Writes More About What He Saw on His Washington Trip, Dealing Mostly With His Visits to Mount Vernon and Arlington. Flays Criticism of His English in Former Letter.

Messrs. Editors:

A little criticism about the electrically lighted bulls, mentioned in my Washington letter, makes me state that the bulls were not lighted, only their stalls and lot. I guess my critics had the benefit of an almost finished education (and mostly free), while I walked three miles for mine and it was paid for. (Not a single free day in it). I have never posed as a Professor of anything. I have always acknowledged my lack of etymology, syntax and prosody. If some of my critics would spread some of their attainments in public, it might be they are only wall flowers, of a cheap variety. I trust that they understand now, that they were just bulls, and mighty fine bulls.

I am going to try to tell you a little more about my trip to Washington, as bad as my syntax is. I took a trip by car to Mount Vernon, George Washington's old home and tomb, about 10 miles from Washington, on the Virginia side of the Potomac river. The approach by car is in the rear of the dwelling. A beautiful lawn reaching to the house. Every-thing indicated a well kept typical Southern plantation, with its "great house," detached kitchen, negro quarters, outhouses, barns and shelters, etc. The broad acres stretch to the westward and must have been a beauty, even in anti-revolutionary times. The low-pitched, two-storied dwelling, in a good state of preservation, with its long, broad massively columned front porch, narrow doors and winding stairs and medium rooms and small windows, suggestive of possible defense, overlooking the gentle slope to the beautiful Potomac river in front. The furniture within, in barred door rooms, are just as Washington left them. The old, almost triangular, piano, short-necked violin, guitar and dulcimore, showed his love of music, while the maps on the wall and globes indicated his world knowledge. A brick walk leads to the tomb, a hundred yards down the hill, near the boat landing, and, of course, is the picture of beauty and solemnity. It is the great mecca for the English speaking world. Only recently visited by distinguished foreigners, who placed wreaths thereon, with bared heads. I returned via steamer up the river, touching at Alexandria. The scenery is very charming all the way. Dr. Atkinson met me, by agreement, at the landing, and he at once set me to meandering, zigzagging and gyroscoping over the city.

A trip to Arlington, (the beautiful confiscated home of our own beloved Gen. Robert E. Lee), was enjoyed to the limit, and my great regret is that his ashes could not rest under the shades of his chosen vine and fig tree. It is too sad to contemplate, and it may not be the patriotic thing to discuss at this time. Only Federal soldiers can be buried here, of which there are many, all with a stone to mark the grave. Some fine and expensive monuments to distinguished officers are seen. Admiral Dewey and Schley among them. Our own great Cavalry Chief (who so often spread terror among Sherman's bummers), Joseph Wheeler, of Alabama, rests here and sometimes I wonder if those blue-coats will stand when Gabriel calls. I 'speak, if they can, they will "fly the coop." I had rather gaze on the fine monument to Stonewall Jackson at Charleston, West Virginia, or the recumbent form of Gen. R. E. Lee at Lexington, Va., than any in Arlington. The most beautiful monument in granite and figured Southern sentiment is here, and erected by the Daughters of the Confederacy. It is so expressive of Southern love and sentiment that it is universally admired and commented on. Sir Moses Ezekiel, the designer and sculptor, a native Virginian and himself a Confederate soldier, died in Rome, Italy, last March. His death bed request was that he be buried in Arlington, which request the War Department has granted. This monument cost \$50,000, the final payment of which was made three days before his death, by check, and it is confidently hoped that his remains will finally rest here. Everything at Arlington is grand. My limited syntax would only make a mess of a description. To describe Gen. Lee's old home is a man's job. I trust some one will do so. It is worth while to visit there when in Washington. While in this reverie, I will state that I crossed the "John Cabot Bridge," that Jefferson Davis was so instrumental in building, his name along with other distinguished designers and builders having been engraved thereon. Jeff Davis gave the Federal authorities so much trouble in the Sixties, that

THE SONG OF THE PLOW.

Read by Wm. Laurie Hill, Before the Press Association of North Carolina at Morehead City, June 27-28, 1917.

List! What is it we hear at the dawn's early light— As old Nature awakes, at the sun's early rising? He scatters his beams,—so effulgent-ly bright— Bringing largess and light, so delight-some, surprising. 'Tis a song full of cheer—and it rings true and clear, The Plowboy is happy, has nothing to fear. As turning his furrow, he breaketh the sod— Feeling sure of his harvest, as part-ner with God.

Oh! how barren the sod as it bakes in the sun, Until mellowed by alchemist touch of the plowing. The plow-point shines bright in the shimmering light, While through the green trees, the soft winds are sighing. Happy all the day long, joining labor to song: The Plow boy forgetful of right or of wrong, Sings with nature; is glad! where, so merry a lad? Why not join in the chorus and with him be glad?

The world is awaiting the song of the plow. And the bread-line is waiting the yield of the Furrough. And the half empty garners are waiting now, The harvests that come with some distant tomorrow. So let Freemen be glad, though a world be now mad, And things look as though they had gone to the bad. Our Jehovah is just, and we look toward the light, For the song of the Plow, is the proof of our might.

Let the song of the plow be the song of today, Making glad our old Earth with the yield of tomorrow. "The Lord of the Harvest," is having His way— Nor need we be seeking Disaster or Sorrow. The bullet of lead on its errand hath sped, And leaves on its journey both living and dead. But there's Comfort and Joy in a good loaf of bread: By the Song of the Plow—hungry millions are fed.

they had his name chiseled out of the bridge. President Roosevelt, during his incumbency, had it restored, and whatever else we Southerners may say and think of him, we take off our hats to him for this act of justice to a Southern gentleman and patriot. Smithfield, N. C., July 4th.

COMMANDER ARTHUR B. HOFF



Commander Arthur B. Hoff, U. S. N., has been placed in charge of the New York division cable censorship, established by executive order of President Wilson.

AMERICA By Samuel Francis Smith. My country, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, Land of the pilgrims' pride, From every mountain side Let freedom ring. My native country, thee, Land of the noble free, Thy name I love; I love thy rocks and rills, Thy woods and templed hills; My heart with rapture thrills Like that above. Let music swell the breeze, And ring from all the trees Sweet freedom's song; Let mortal tongues awake, Let all that breathe partake, Let rocks their silence break— The sound prolong. Our fathers' God, to Thee, Author of liberty, to Thee we sing— Long may our land be bright With freedom's holy light; Protect us by Thy might, Great God our King!

APPOINTS STATE COMMISSION.

To Recommend to Next Legislature Laws on Tax System. Members of Commission and Who They Are. State Fish Commission Reappointed.

Raleigh, July 2.—Governor Bickett appointed this afternoon as a State tax commission, to recommend reform in the State taxing system to the next General Assembly, the following: Henry A. Page, Aberdeen; J. Z. Greene, Union County; James H. Pou, Raleigh; Frank A. Linney, Boone; and W. Vance Brown, Asheville. The governor and chairman of the corporation commission are ex-officio members of the commission, the governor to be chairman. In making these appointments the governor has brought into the taxing system councils and degrees of progress and conservatism to be found in the State. Mr. Page, as a banker, farmer and progressive publicist with a well known legislative record represents a large following. J. Z. Greene is State organizer and lecturer for the North Carolina farmers union and editor of "Our Home," a farm paper well circulated. James H. Pou, brother of Congressman Pou, is a leading lawyer representing numbers of the largest corporations having business connections in the State and owner and developer of much real estate, including extensive farms, represents the conservative business interests, being a man of recognized sagacity and business and legal ability. Frank A. Linney, prominent Republican, candidate for governor in the last campaign against Governor Bickett, is a successful lawyer in touch with the business interests of the mountain people of his section and the Republican school of thought as to taxation. W. Vance Brown, of Asheville, is a native of New Zealand, has lived in this country for thirty years, is largely interested in mining mica, being a mineralogist. He is a special student of taxation and as a delegate to a national tax association conference in 1916 read a paper on taxation that came in for nation wide attention. The commission is to recommend complete revision of taxing system—as to segregation and all the other taxation problems looking to the most equitable application of taxation to the people of the State. The appointment of the State fish commission for his administration was announced this afternoon by Governor Bickett, who has recently spent a week making personal investigation into the fisheries interests in the coastal and deep river sections. He says he found the present commission appointed by Governor Craig are able, progressive men intelligent and alive to the furtherance of the fisheries interests, an asset of the State. So he decided to continue the present commission, with the addition of S. P. Hancock, of Beaufort, to succeed W. M. Webb, who has resigned. Mr. Hancock is a former sheriff of Carteret County. Reappointments to succeed themselves are Ed Chambers Smith, Raleigh, chairman; A. V. Cobb, Bertie County; each for four years. The other member of the board whose term has not yet expired is E. H. Freeman of New Hanover County who holds a commission to 1919.—Charlotte Observer.

BRITISH EMBARGO ON LEATHER

No Justification Apparent for Reports That the Prohibition of Imports Is to Be Modified.

The British embargo announced on February 23, 1917, prohibiting imports of shoes and leather into the United Kingdom is still rigidly enforced, and although there were reports a few weeks ago that the embargo might be modified, at least to the extent of granting special licenses for certain quantities of goods, nothing has been accomplished, and the general opinion at present is that if the embargo is lifted at all during the duration of the war it will not become effective before the end of this year or early in 1918. The leather and shoe manufacturers here feel that a modification of the ruling would be only fair to the producers in this country, who, on account of booking large orders for shipment to Great Britain, made purchases of supplies of raw and finished material at high prices to make up these goods, only to have their delivery stopped practically over night without warning or prior notice. As has been previously stated in these columns, the British import prohibition has been directly responsible for considerable weakness during the past few months in leather values, and especially in such varieties as glazed kid and sole leather, which have been especially affected. Exporters with stock bought for British account and unable to make shipments naturally sought an outlet among buyers at home, and, owing to the period of pronounced dulness in the domestic trade that has lasted for a lengthy period, many of these "export lots" were thrown on the market for whatever price they would bring, with the result that oak sole leather, bends that formerly brought from 85c. to 90c. per pound were sold at from 65c. to 70c., while in glazed kids some sales have been made at about half of previous top market rates. These sacrifice sales have naturally affected the entire market, with the result that tanners have been obliged to make liberal concessions to move goods. Late advices from England state that, while supplies of leather there are not abundant, there is apparently enough of everything to go around, and that notwithstanding the justice of the American manufacturers' position and the sincere desire of British buyers to take all the goods that were ordered, these facts have little weight so long as British authorities do not consider imported leather and shoes necessary for military purposes or indispensable for civilian use. These officials were slow to place the restrictions on imports and it is expected that they will take a long time in removing them. The reports from England are that the variety of leather in best supply is glazed kid, and that sole leather is more or less readily obtainable in weight below army requirements, with full prices being realized.—Dun's Review.

REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK, AT SELMA, N. C., AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS JUNE 20, 1917.

Table with columns for RESOURCES and LIABILITIES. Resources include Loans and discounts, U. S. bonds, and Total. Liabilities include Capital stock paid in, Surplus fund, and Total.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, County of Johnston, ss: I, G. W. Evans, Cashier of the above-named Bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. G. W. EVANS, Cashier. Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 2nd day of July, 1917. S. V. PITTS, Notary Public. (My commission expires February, 1919.) CORRECT—ATTEST: C. A. FITZGERALD, W. E. SMITH, P. C. WORLEY, W. A. EDGERTON, Directors.

To The Taxpayers of Johnston County. The Board of County Commissioners will meet on Monday, July 9th, for the purpose of revising Tax Lists and values returned by the several List-takers, and also to hear objections to the value of their property. No complaint as to values will be heard after July 9th, 1917. By order of Board This July 2nd, 1917. W. T. ADAMS, County Auditor.

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