

# DEMANDS REPEAL OF THE ABSENTEE BALLOT SYSTEM

Strong Letter Sent to the Legislature by J. M. Westall, Powerful Citizen

## RECITES WRONGS DONE THROUGH SCHEMING LAW

Future of N. C. Depends Largely Upon Repeal of Law, Says Big Democrat

In an open letter addressed to members of the North Carolina General Assembly, now in session in Raleigh, J. M. Westall, of Asheville, points out the need for changes in present election laws.

Repeal of the absentee ballot law, changing the provisions that permit voters to enter booths with voters, and safeguarding the control of registration books by registrars, are the principal reforms asked.

The open letter, which is being released in Raleigh this week coincidental with convening of the legislature, follows:

"To the members of the General Assembly of North Carolina:

"I wish to call your attention to the great need of making important changes in the election laws of our state.

"The greater part of our troubles have been brought upon us because the wrong men have been elected to fill many important offices in our towns, counties and state.

"Those who have had the election machinery in their hands have, in many cases, used the power delegated to them to corrupt our primaries and elections. By doing this they have succeeded in nominating and electing many weak men and some corrupt ones whom they could easily influence to do unwise and improper things.

"This state of affairs has become unbearable in my city and county, and we beg and demand that our laws be changed to make it very hard, if not impossible, to do again what has been done.

**Cleaning House**  
"We are 'cleaning house' now and we will not submit to such election outrages as have been committed in the past, and which have made it necessary to produce almost a revolution in Asheville and Buncombe county in order to put our house in order.

"We will not longer submit to the control of our elections and our public affairs by the men who have heretofore ruled, whether the power that afflicts us as state or local. We are tired of it. Yes, we are inflamed to the point of danger, and will not stand it any longer.

"I shall not in this letter attempt to name all the reforms I think are needed in the laws that govern our elections, but will name three of those most needed.

"First: The 'Absentee Ballot Law' should be repealed.

"Second: We should change the law which provides that one may have assistance in marking one's ballot in the booths at primaries or elections.

"Third: We should have changed the law that provides or allows party or factional control of registration.

"The primaries of our Democratic party are of great importance, as you all must know, and should be safeguarded by the strictest laws that can be enacted.

**Safeguard Primaries**  
"In my county, Buncombe, as in most counties of our state, those who are nominated in our Democratic primaries are almost sure to be elected. It is therefore of greatest importance to all citizens that we get the best Democrats as our candidates.

"The methods used to cast fraudulent votes as absentees, are well known to nearly everyone of you, I am sure.

"It is not so easy to commit such frauds now since some changes were made in the law in 1929, but it still can be used in several ways to serve the purposes of those who have misused it before. Its repeal is the only safe thing that can be done about it.

"The second matter is that of allowing one to assist the voter in marking his ticket. This opens the way for fraud and bribery. It defeats the purpose of the secret or 'Australian Ballot Law.'

"The third change needed is to provide some way to have a fair registration conducted by men who should be satisfactory to both political parties, and who will not make any effort to search out men of their party or faction and get them to register while they do not make it easy for those of the opposite faction or party to register.

"I know that the best men of my party have not offered and will not offer themselves as candidates in our primaries because of the persistent work of those who commit these misdemeanors and crimes and have committed them for the past twelve years and longer.

**Take Advantage of Law**  
"Because our laws are bad, it is easy to prevent honest, capable men being nominated, such men as for whom all good Democrats would vote. When a man who cannot be controlled by corrupt politicians offers himself he is sure to be defeated because designing men can take advantage of our election laws and defeat him.

"Buncombe county and Asheville have been ruined because the better citizens were helpless on account of the election abuses which have been prevalent for years.

"I voice the demand of 90 per cent of our citizens when I say that we must have these reforms in our election laws.

"Col. C. O. Sherrill, of Cincinnati, one of the highest authorities, and a North Carolina man by birth and rearing, said a short time ago in an address to us, that the state of North

## Oakland News Items

W. J. Raines, of Lake Toxaway, Ford Reid of Sapphire, and T. W. Reid of Brevard, motored to Bristol, Va., Sunday to visit Mrs. Raines' daughter, Mrs. Fred Hall, who has been in a hospital in that city. Mrs. Hall is recovering nicely from a recent operation.

The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Reid will be sorry to learn that their infant son is seriously ill at this time.

Miss Evand Sanders and brothers, Ray and Robert, entertained one evening last week in honor of their cousins, Misses Lora Bell and Louise Lyda. Those enjoying this social event were Misses Lora Bell and Louise Lyda, Iva Sanders, Inez Alexander, Lenay Sanders, Clarence Norton, J. C. McCall, G. Whitmore, Fred Owen and Louis Lyda.

Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Reid visited Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Reid Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Waite Reid and daughters, Miss Lissie, called on Mrs. Clarence Norton Saturday afternoon.

Otto Alexander of Brevard, visited home folks on Sunday.

Thad Guy was on the sick list Saturday night and Sunday.

Rev. and Mrs. Louis Lyda and children of Porterdale, Ga., spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. I. S. Sanders.

Mrs. Thad Guy and little daughter, Lucile, visited Mrs. L. F. and Mrs. Clarence Norton one day last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Reid left last Saturday for Miami, Fla. They expect to visit different points of interest on the way to Miami.

Mrs. Waite Reid did not return to Brevard Sunday afternoon on account of the serious illness of her little grandson.

Rev. Louis Lyda preached an excellent sermon at Lake Toxaway Baptist church Sunday night.

Mrs. Bud Nicholson is spending some time with her daughter, Mrs. Charlie Reid, at Sapphire.

Elzie Cash was in Brevard Saturday on business.

Arthur Miller of Sapphire, was a Brevard visitor Saturday.

Claud Reid called on I. S. Sanders last Friday.

Mrs. Lee Norton is in Brevard for a few days visit with Miss Lissie Reid, or rather, trying to fill the place made vacant by the absence of Miss Reid's mother.

## NOTICE

State of North Carolina  
County of Transylvania

By virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain deed in trust executed by Gus Roman and wife, Sultana Roman, to Ralph Fisher, Trustee, securing a note in the sum of \$2180.00, made payable to Leonard Simpson and wife, Lillian Byrd Simpson, which said deed in trust is recorded in Book 25, page 87 of the records of deeds in trust for Transylvania County, N. C., and default having been made in payment of said note, after same having become due and the holders of said note having called upon the undersigned trustee to advertise and sell the land herein described for the purpose of paying said indebtedness.

I will on MONDAY, the 2nd day of February, 1931, at 12 o'clock noon at the court house door in Brevard, N. C., offer for sale at public auction and sell to the highest bidder for cash the land described in said deed in trust, to-wit:

Adjoining the lands of Alfred Beddingfield and others. Beginning at a stake in the east margin of South Caldwell street, the same being a corner of the old F. L. DeVane property (now Beddingfield) and runs with the DeVane or Beddingfield line South 62 1-4 deg. east 165 feet to a stake in the line of the I. F. Shipman property (now J. J. Patton) formerly the Thrash line; thence with the said Shipman, Thrash or Patton line South 27 1-2 deg. west 67 ft. to a stake in the line of lot now belonging to Town of Brevard, but formerly to Mitchell and Mull; thence north 62 1-2 deg. west with the said town, Mull or Mitchell line 169 ft. more or less to the Mull, Mitchell or Town corner, a stake in the eastern margin of said South Caldwell street; thence with the east margin of said South Caldwell street North 25 deg. east 67 feet to the BEGINNING.

Being the same lot or parcel of land that was conveyed to L. P. Byrd by C. B. Glazener under deed dated Sept. 15, 1922, and recorded in Book 44, page 572 of the records in and for Transylvania County, N. C., conveyed later by said Byrd to Gus Roman and wife, which reference is hereby made to said deed recorded in Book 62 and at page 311 of the deed records in and for said county and state.

This sale is to the highest bidder for cash and will be reported to the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court as is done in sale of land by trustee if there is no raising of the bid within the time prescribed by law, which will be confirmed by the Clerk of the Superior Court and deed made to said successful bidder.

This 6th day of January, 1931.  
RALPH FISHER, Trustee.  
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Carolina is more to blame for the terrible situation in Buncombe county than we, the citizens, are. What he said is true, because our election officials are named by state officials and the state officials appoint the bank examiners, many of whom have failed in their duty.

"When we get fair and honest election laws we will correct all of our evils, because we have plenty of good men for whom good men will vote regardless of party.

"You can save us, and I believe you will not disappoint us."  
J. M. WESTALL.  
January 5, 1931.

## PAY YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

# STRANGE, WEIRD TALE TOLD OF SEEING SHADOWY FORM OF JIM AIKEN ABOUT TOWN

Strange, weird tales are going the rounds among the colored people of the town, while many, many white folks are discussing the matter with equal breathless interest.

It is said that the shadow of Jim Aiken, once a leading negro here, has been seen recently flitting about in many sections of the town. At first, this report was given sympathetic hearing, as people believed it to be only the imagination of one or two easily excited colored people. Now, however, white men of good standing have added their evidence to this unusual story, and declare that they have seen the shadow of Jim Aiken with such clearness that they looked and looked hard for the bulky form of Jim himself, so thoroughly were they convinced that the long shadow moving swiftly and silently along the streets, alleys and the railroad track could be cast by no one else other than Big Jim himself.

Jim Aiken, king of the colored people and well liked by the white people, was killed one day, years ago, by the explosion of a fire extinguisher as he was helping to push the fire truck to a burning building in Frog Bottom. His tragic death caused real suffering in the community, and from time to time it has been reported that Jim's spirit messages have reached a few of his closest friends here. Not until recently, however, has it been reported that Jim's shadow has been seen walking and stalking about the places of his old familiar haunts.

Three or four of the town's best colored citizens are said to have been talking in a car parked on the fringe of Frog Bottom one day recently.

The afternoon sun was nearing the western horizon, and the long shadows cast their lines across Frog Bottom. All at once the conversation ceased, for a man's shadow was seen slowly moving alongside the car, and all the men were gazing intently at the shadowy form. It was so clearly that of Jim Aiken, in form, in looks, in characteristics, that the men were horrified and all but paralyzed.

The shadow passed on, it is said, and the men looked at one another, without speaking for some time. Directly one said: Oh, God, that was Jim Aiken's shadow! The others agreed.

Others report having seen the shadow down at Greasy Corner, walking about as if in deep thought, and on each occasion the shadow approached the church nearby and was swallowed up in the larger shadow of the church building.

Others report having seen Jim's shadow walking down the railroad tracks at the overhead bridge, going on to the bend in the roadway. Several others have reported seeing it in different places, and all reports agree as to the description.

That it is the shadow of Jim Aiken no doubt is left in the minds of those who have seen it. Just why Jim's shadow should be moving about Brevard now brings on many explanations. Some of the colored people are firm in the belief that it is because of the ungodly manner of living of many people now, their sins and their indifference to the church and to all good. It is said by these that Jim himself is back in the spirit to warn his people to flee the wrath to come.

## METHODISTS ADOPT MANY PROPOSALS

### New Year Resolutions Call for Much Support of Church By the Membership

At a church conference and social get-together meeting held last Thursday evening, the membership of the Brevard Methodist church adopted the following resolutions, as prepared by the pastor, Rev. J. H. West:

Resolved, That we are going to be better men, women, boys and girls than we were last year, God being our helper.

Resolved, that we will endeavor to practice the doctrine of the Golden Rule in our religious, social, political, and business relationships.

Resolved, That we are not going to indulge in excuse making, for not doing our part in building up the religious and worthwhile community interests.

Resolved, That we are going to be boosters and not knockers, pullers and not kickers, Optimists and not pessimists, constructionists, and not destructionists.

Resolved, That if we are not leaders, we will be followers. That we are going to pray and praise more and criticize less.

Resolved, That we are going to be charitable toward other denominations and their organizations but not at the expense of our own church and her organizations.

Resolved, That we are going to dig up our church vows, look them square in the face, and for one year at least, endeavor to keep them, by the help of God.

Resolved, That if in any thing the old year condemns us, that we are going to so live and love and serve that the New Year may witness in our behalf.

Resolved, That we are not going to displease God and violate our own conscience, when facing any worthy task, by saying "No" when we should say "Yes."

Resolved, That we take an inventory of our liabilities and of our assets for the new year, and be sure that our assets are sufficient to take care of our known and unknown liabilities.

Resolved, That we are going to give the Stewardship of Life, Time, and Money, serious and unprejudiced thought during the year.

Resolved, That in the matter of the church's support during the New Year, we are going to give the Weekly Payment Plan and its advantages prayerful consideration.

## HELP FARM TO MARKET ROAD

By O. H. Benson

It is estimated that the Federal government spent \$1,750,000,000 in the building of roads on a national basis in 1930. This is \$250,000,000 more than was spent in 1929.

All who use the public highways are favorably inclined and interested in this great expenditure and we are hopeful that the "powers that be," both national and local, will give their leadership to the program of helping farm families who are off the main auto roads in the country to get a little bit of road building for the marketing of their food products. Here is the injustice of much of our former road building. The factors controlling the expenditure of government funds have given preference to roadways between towns and cities without any regard to the relationship of these roads to the farm market problems of the nation. And against this fact we all know that the farmers pay their proportionate share of all road taxes as do the people who live on the main highway and use them. There are 6,250,000 farmers and over 5,000,000 of these are on good roads. Most of the year their roads are muddy, full of ruts or snowdrifts.

## Pisgah Forest News

On January 7th about 12 o'clock in the night the Grim Reaper entered the home of one of our most respected citizens and claimed as its victim John Radford, who was in his 60th year. He leaves to mourn his loss, his wife and two daughters: Mrs. Manley Arkington and Miss Aurie Radford; two sons, Deller and Harvey Radford, besides a host of friends and relatives.

Mr. Radford's death was not unexpected, because he had been in ill health for some time, suffering with paralysis.

He was a father in all that name implies. Death is always sad, no matter what the circumstances, but when it comes into a happy home and calls away the father, when all seems so peaceful and happy, we are made to wonder sometimes why it is necessary that this in the case. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."

The deceased was a member of the Baptist church and remained faithful until death. He attended services whenever his health permitted. He was laid to rest in the Davidson River cemetery. Pallbearers were Elzie and Dewey Burns, Jess McCall, John and Clay Stepp, and Clyde Sentell, all relatives of the deceased.

Miss Minnie Galloway spent Sunday with Miss Annie Leverett.

The sick list in this section this week includes, Rebecca Patton, Henry Sentell, Jessie Mackey, Tina Hedrick, Mrs. Jack Arkington and baby, Charlie Allison, Will Stepp and Jim Carter.

Miss Mary Barnett was a recent guest of the Hamiltons at Connettee.

Mrs. Jim Carter received the sad news Sunday of the death of her son, "Mrs. Samuel Johnson, of Avery's Creek.

Glenn Bryson is employed at Cashiers Valley.

Community prayer services will be held at the home of Mrs. John Radford on Friday evening.

Community singing, which is held each third Sunday afternoon, will be held at the Baptist church Sunday afternoon, beginning at 2 o'clock. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mackey, on January 13, a son.

## Unintentional Suicide

Many people are slowly poisoning themselves just as surely as if they drank iodine every morning for breakfast. They are daily absorbing the toxins, or poisons, created by accumulated waste matter in their constricted digestive systems. Sooner or later disease will conquer their weakened bodies.

If you have headaches, coated tongue, bad breath, no appetite, bilious attacks, you are probably suffering from self poisoning caused by constipation. A relief for this condition is Herbine, the vegetable cathartic which acts in the natural way. Get a bottle today from

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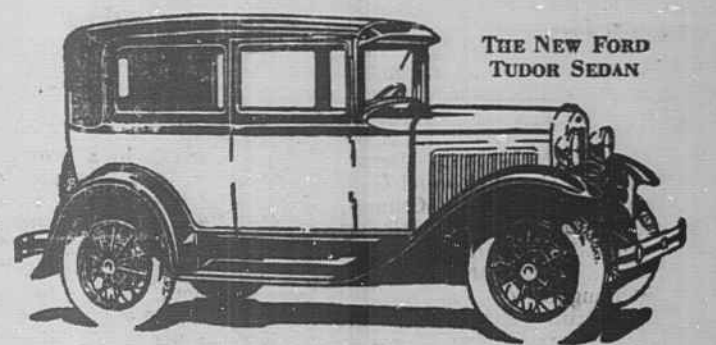
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Its substantial beauty of line and color is apparent at a glance. Long, continuous service emphasizes the value of its simplicity of design and the high quality that has been built into every part.

The new Ford accelerates quickly and it will do 55 to 65 miles an hour. It is an easy-riding car because of its specially designed springs and four Houdaille double-acting hydraulic shock absorbers. It has fully enclosed four-wheel brakes and the added safety of a Triplex shatter-proof glass windshield. Operation and up-keep costs are low and it has the stamina and reliability that mean thousands of miles of uninterrupted service.

See the nearest dealer and have him give you a demonstration ride in the new Ford. Check up every point that goes to make a good automobile and you will know it is a value far above the price.



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