

EIGHT MEN SUFFER INTENSE AGONY AS JURY SAYS GUILTY

(Continued from page one)

there was never a question raised in my mind about anything we did," he said to friends.

The three, White, Talley and Owen, were fined \$1000 each and their proportionate part of the costs. Friends point out the fact that it takes a long, long time to wrest a thousand dollars from these hills, and longer still, perhaps, to save that amount out of a modest wage like White receives. So, it is pointed out, while these fines are small in comparison with others, when ability to pay is taken into consideration the matter is seen in a new light, and this fact must have appealed to Judge Holye Sink when determining the amounts of fines.

C. R. McNeely, stubbornly conscientious in his dealings with all mankind, devoutly religious, enjoying the confidence of all men with whom he has dealt, was the storm petrel of the administration of the board of county commissioners now under sentence. He was a member of the board and also acted as county accountant and purchasing agent. He was the only "full-time" member of the board, and, naturally, came in for most of the many efforts made during the two years to have the board do this thing, and that thing. Men who worked alongside Mr. McNeely during the two years he served the county declare that he was just as careful in his every transaction for the county as he was in the conduct of his own business. Mr. McNeely made enemies while serving in that capacity—enemies who have been heard to express the hope that McNeely would go to the penitentiary, or to Hell. Friends of McNeely declare that some of these enemies were made because McNeely would not purchase their wares for the county, when he could save money for the county by purchasing elsewhere.

These enemies have not been idle, and they are known to McNeely's friends—and McNeely's friends are numerous, being counted in every walk of life and in all churches, political parties and in town and county. These friends express belief in McNeely's honesty and integrity though a dozen imported juries declare him guilty. These friends declare that intention is necessary to make a criminal, and that McNeely has done no intentional wrong to Transylvania county, in their opinion, and that this opinion will prevail as long as life lasts.

J. H. Pickelsimer, one of the finest men in all the world, as testified to by practically all citizens of the county regardless of political or religious affiliations, was chairman of the board now condemned. He served a term as sheriff of the county, and in 1926 was elected chairman of the board of county commissioners, with A. M. White, republican, and G. T. Lyday, democrat, as co-members. The legislature of 1927 increased the number from three to five, naming C. C. Yongue and Jordan Whitmire, both democrats, as new members. This legislative action so changed the complexion of the board from what the citizens of the county in exercise of their franchise had determined, that Mr. Pickelsimer resigned from the board. In 1928 he was again elected, and under his administration the tax rate was reduced from \$2.75 on the hundred to \$1.94, declared to be the greatest tax reduction ever made in any county in North Carolina.

Joe Pickelsimer has lived his whole life in Transylvania county, and no more honorable man has ever lived here, regardless of the fact that an imported jury found him guilty of conspiracy. Joe Pickelsimer will be always a great man to his thousands of friends, with no criminal intent in his mind and no evil intentions in his heart. He has been successful in his life's work, and many have been envious and jealous of this success and have, no doubt, lent much aid in forging the chain that culminated in the rendering of a verdict of guilty by a jury from another county, so his friends assert.

Ralph R. Fisher
Fighting every inch of the way in

his life, from the time that wild blackberry vines reached out to scratch his naked legs as he worked on the mountain farm, on through the time he worked first in Silversteen's industries at Rosman where he and the owner of the plant became bitter enemies, the boy scrapped and fought his way. It was a battle for him to go to school, and circumstances were his enemies. When the World War came on, it was just the natural thing for Ralph Fisher to volunteer his services and fight in France with the same spirit that had dominated his life theretofore. When peace was declared, as to world war affairs, Fisher resumed another battle—that of becoming a member of the legislature, which he did in 1921. Later, he was a candidate for congress, and after that, as his practice grew and grew because of the numerous cases which he won at the bar, Fisher became a power. He was named chairman of the county committee for his party, and herein he had ample battleground.

And in all of his fighting, the main enemies of his life and the ones he fought harder than any and all others, were T. H. Shipman and Jos. S. Silversteen, and the object of Fisher's greatest ire was the Brevard Banking company. Now, Ralph Fisher has been pronounced guilty by a Haywood county jury of having conspired with these same enemies, Shipman and Silversteen, for the purpose of assisting the Brevard Banking company, an institution which Ralph Fisher has cursed more persistently than any other institution in the community. In all the various turns that come up in court procedure which is hard to understand by the layman, this lining Ralph Fisher up in conspiracy with Shipman and Silversteen to the help of the Brevard bank is the hardest to understand.

When Fisher was pronounced guilty by a poll of the jury, Mrs. Fisher, faithful, beautiful, wife of the lawyer, fell in a faint and the sickening thud of her fair head on the hard floorboard unloosed the floodgates that had been holding back the tears, in welling eyes and men and women alike wept, as sobs were heard in many sections of the court room. Mrs. Fisher's frail, inert body was carried into another room of the court house. Fisher has steadfastly maintained that his indictment was the result of political and professional envy. He now stands convicted and under sentence, awaiting the action of the Supreme court. In the meantime, Solicitor J. Will Pless, Jr., prosecutor in the case, says Fisher is automatically barred from the practice of law until the Supreme court rules on the appeal.

Jos. S. Silversteen
"Well, I hope they are satisfied now. They have long been demanding their pound of flesh, and now they have it," was J. S. Silversteen's expression, denoting his reaction to the verdict of guilty, rendered by an imported jury. By "they" Mr. Silversteen explained that he meant those people who have been dogging at the heels of men here, demanding that somebody be crucified to satisfy the longing in the hearts of some people that somebody be punished. Mr. Silversteen has touched more lives and been "touched" by more people probably than any other man in the county. He is president of four or five industrial corporations in the county, and is at the head of the Red Cross and Associated Charities, or has been until a short time ago. Judge Sink was more lenient with Silversteen than with some others in the group, placing a fine upon him of \$5000, but giving no prison sentence like was given to Fisher, Shipman, Pickelsimer and McNeely. His many friends are happy that he escaped prison sentence.

Mr. Silversteen is a man of large affairs. He has connection with big institutions of the East. His home, Silvermont, is one of the most beautiful homes in Western Carolina. His industries at Rosman are about all there is to Rosman, and the town was built up around his plants and because of his plants. He has sent sick women to the hospital, and paid the bills. He has placed many children in hospitals for operations, and paid the bills. He has sent several boys and girls to college, and paid the bills. He has many friends and many enemies, but all admit that he is a man of affairs in this county. What effect this trial and conviction will have upon his interest in the county in the future is, of course, not known. His first bitter moment when the verdict

MANY BLAME PLIGHT OF EIGHT MEN UPON AN IMPORTED JURY

(Continued from page one)

bility for the situation now existing. "In as much as some of the most influential and prominent members of both political parties are indicted, it would be almost impossible for a jury of Transylvania citizens to forget the political aspects of the case, and for above reasons, your affiant seriously doubts if a jury of Transylvania citizens could ever arrive at any verdict of either guilt or acquittal, and for the above reasons believes that a fair and impartial trial cannot be obtained in this County, and that the ends of justice demand that a jury be brought from another County for the trial of the cause."

PUBLIC SERVICE IS TO SHOW FULL HAND

Copies of All Contracts Must Be Filed With Commission Next Month

Raleigh, Aug. 18.—The State Corporation Commission has issued an order calling on all public service corporations operating electric, artificial gas or telephone property in the State to file, under oath, and on or before September 30, copies of all written contracts and statements in full of all agreements, arrangements, understandings and practices in effect during 1930 and the first half of 1931 with all holding, managing or operating companies or those engaged in the selling of service of any kind.

The order is under authority of an act passed by the 1931 General Assembly giving the commission power, in its discretion, to call for this data, the object being to make certain such companies who are not dissipating or paying to holding or service companies an undue amount of revenues, by which the State might be deprived of its just amount of taxes imposed.

Companies are required to file statements of all fees, commissions or other compensation paid or payable by the companies operating in the State to any holding, managing, operating, constructing, engineering, financing, purchasing company or agency, including subsidiary and affiliated companies, for services or property during the 18 months, with the character of such services and the basis of payment.

was announced soon gave way to something else, as man after man who works for him came down into the bar, and took his hand, and said: "Chief, we are still with you, jury or no jury, verdict or no verdict."

Thos. H. Shipman
Verdict of guilty came like a slap in the face to Tom Shipman, for years and years the "key man" in Brevard. Affable, accommodating, big-hearted, ever ready to attend any meeting and make any donation necessary to carrying on civic work of the town, Tom Shipman is, perhaps, the best known man in the county. Thousands of people have hitched their chairs a little close to Tom Shipman, down there at the bank, when speaking lowly, most always hesitatingly, but their words in application for a loan. But few people in the county can be found who will say that Tom Shipman ever turned them down. There he sat, listening to the words of an imported jury pronouncing him guilty of conspiracy to harm the county in which he was born and reared, and to which he has given so much of his life and his means. Eyes that danced in merry good humor back before the crash were filled with tears that overflowed and coursed down his face as wife and daughter and friends gathered about him. He has more ordeals to suffer, in the contemplation of which his friends do not even try to see the end, and in which he must shudder at every thought. Lines crease his careworn face and, when, lost in thought, one can see him picturing the past and comparing it with the present, hesitating to think of the future.

Combined Influences Great
The above named eight men constituted an influence and embraced a worth to Transylvania county that cannot be estimated. They did something which a Haywood county jury said was wrong, and the court said they must suffer certain penalties for this wrong. While friends contend there could be no intentional wrong, and swear eternal allegiance to them, this in nowise affects the jury's finding and the law's administration of punishment. They lose, regardless of the action of the Supreme court, because they can never be the same again in this community. The verdict has been rendered.

But the eight men are not the only losers in this event. Transylvania county has lost more than it has ever lost at any time in its history. Whether the men were legally, morally, or technically guilty of conspiracy, and regardless of the intense suffering of each of the defendants, the loss of their leadership, their activities, the influence of the lives of each of the defendants in his respective community. And that is not all.

When men like Luther Talley, Alfred White, Sam Owen, C. R. McNeely and Joe Pickelsimer suffer the fate that has come to them, their friends question, wh is there of ability and character in the county that would have the commissioners' places? Removal of every industrial plant from the county would not have hurt Transylvania like this sad event has hurt, it is declared by one of the leading men of Brevard.

WRENN RELEASED FROM STATE PRISON

LEARNED PRINTING TRADE WHILE IN PENITENTIARY AND NOW TO START SHOP OF HIS OWN

(Continued from page one)

Raleigh, Aug. 18.—Clem Wrenn, serving a sentence for embezzlement and other irregularities as president of the Bank of Wilkes, Wilkesboro, had his sentence commuted by Governor Gardner to five and a half years and has been released. Wrenn had charge of the State's Prison print shop and made a splendid success of it, otherwise proving himself a model prisoner. He hopes to settle down with a little shop somewhere, with a business sufficient for a family livelihood.

His Parole was recommended by Executive Councils N. A. Townsend and O. M. Mull and then by Tyre C. Taylor, but Governor Gardner held out for five years of service, probably as a sort of object lesson to bankers generally. In fact, Wrenn's service was beginning to look more like persecution, since many think he was made the "goat" of the bank organization, and it was beginning to seem that he was also becoming the "goat" and example for all bankers.

Sam P. Christy, paramour and co-defendant with the State's most noted woman prisoner, Ida Ball Warren, like the woman, has been given a parole, after serving about 15 years of a life sentence, commuted from the death penalty, for murder of the woman's husband in Forsyth county. Sentiment against exacting the death penalty from a woman saved his life, as well as hers, and her parole a few months ago, was followed by freeing him.

All of these lawyers, in expressing their opinion as to the evidence, were dumfounded at the verdict as rendered by the jury. Citizens who followed the case closely are dumfounded at the verdict. Some of the leading men of the town have stated that they thought the case charging conspiracy to harm Transylvania county in order to help the Brevard bank was a "joke," and cannot understand the verdict at all.

The result of it all has just about ruined Transylvania county, according to the expressed belief of many citizens here. The combined influence and activities and connections of the eight men convicted constituted just about the most valuable asset to the county.

The convicted men have received piles of mail—letters from men and friends with which each has long done business or had connection, all of which convey one central thought—that there can be no criminal action among men who are not criminal. These letters come from all over the county. The verdict has caused county officials to fear, as evidenced by the remarks of some present commissioners.

Solicitor Pless was assisted in the prosecution by Pat Kimzey, attorney for the liquidating agent of the Brevard bank, and by Felix Alley, Waynesville lawyer. It is said on the streets that the state employed Mr. Alley to assist in the prosecution.

Transylvania county stands puzzled and all but paralyzed. Already stricken many hard body blows from the economic enemy, the community is now further and more seriously crippled because of the verdict which removes from the scene of activity the leadership of those whose leadership had been most powerful in the section.

In severest criticism of the verdict, however, it is stated by most of the citizens that the Haywood county jury, knowing nothing about local conditions, faced with evidence that was confusing at times to many men in the court room familiar with the county's affairs, overloaded with exhibits, and, probably, unconsciously swayed by the general sentiment prevailing as a result of so many bank failures, did the best they knew in the confusion of things. But the verdict has established firmly the conviction in the community that a state is committing grievous wrong against citizens of a county when the state demands an imported jury to sit in judgment upon the fate of good men, for all agree that some of Transylvania county's best and finest and most upright and honest citizens were convicted when the Haywood county jury returned its verdict last Saturday.

(Continued from page one)

Pickelsimer was given two to five years and fined \$5000. McNeely was given two to five years and fined \$5000. Silversteen was fined \$5000. White, Talley and Owen were given fines of \$1000 each.

Appeals were taken in all cases, and will be heard at the December term of Supreme court.

The verdict rendered by the imported jury from Haywood county was the most unpopular and unbelievable verdict ever rendered in a Transylvania county court, judging from the criticism of the verdict heard from the moment it was rendered. Many attorneys were engaged in the case for the defense, including J. Bat Smathers and G. Lyle Jones of Asheville; McKinley Edwards of Bryson City, Newt Moody of Murphy, F. D. Hamrick of Rutherfordton, Jake F. Newell of Charlotte, R. B. Overton of Canton, and Hamlin, English, Mitchell, Breese and Gallo-way of Brevard. This staff of defense counsel was absolutely content with the state's evidence, being thoroughly satisfied, they said, that Alex Kizer's testimony on cross examination showed clearly that the commissioners were acting in regular and legal manner in issuing the note; that same was necessary, as it had been necessary in the past to issue tax anticipation notes.

All of these lawyers, in expressing their opinion as to the evidence, were dumfounded at the verdict as rendered by the jury. Citizens who followed the case closely are dumfounded at the verdict. Some of the leading men of the town have stated that they thought the case charging conspiracy to harm Transylvania county in order to help the Brevard bank was a "joke," and cannot understand the verdict at all.

The result of it all has just about ruined Transylvania county, according to the expressed belief of many citizens here. The combined influence and activities and connections of the eight men convicted constituted just about the most valuable asset to the county.

The convicted men have received piles of mail—letters from men and friends with which each has long done business or had connection, all of which convey one central thought—that there can be no criminal action among men who are not criminal. These letters come from all over the county. The verdict has caused county officials to fear, as evidenced by the remarks of some present commissioners.

Solicitor Pless was assisted in the prosecution by Pat Kimzey, attorney for the liquidating agent of the Brevard bank, and by Felix Alley, Waynesville lawyer. It is said on the streets that the state employed Mr. Alley to assist in the prosecution.

Transylvania county stands puzzled and all but paralyzed. Already stricken many hard body blows from the economic enemy, the community is now further and more seriously crippled because of the verdict which removes from the scene of activity the leadership of those whose leadership had been most powerful in the section.

In severest criticism of the verdict, however, it is stated by most of the citizens that the Haywood county jury, knowing nothing about local conditions, faced with evidence that was confusing at times to many men in the court room familiar with the county's affairs, overloaded with exhibits, and, probably, unconsciously swayed by the general sentiment prevailing as a result of so many bank failures, did the best they knew in the confusion of things. But the verdict has established firmly the conviction in the community that a state is committing grievous wrong against citizens of a county when the state demands an imported jury to sit in judgment upon the fate of good men, for all agree that some of Transylvania county's best and finest and most upright and honest citizens were convicted when the Haywood county jury returned its verdict last Saturday.

ORR REUNION TO BE DRAWING CARD FOR BIG THROUG SUNDAY

Several Thousand Expected To Attend Event Near Hendersonville

ELABORATE PROGRAM IS ARRANGED FOR THE DAY

Picnic Dinner, Music Speeches, and Other Attractions Will Be Enjoyed

Plans are complete for the annual Orr Reunion to be held Sunday, Aug. 23, at the Orr Camp two miles east of Hendersonville on Highway No. 28. R. K. Orr and Everett Orr, in charge of arrangements for the day, announce that several thousand people are expected to be present, making this year's reunion one of the most outstanding so far held.

Music, speeches and a picnic dinner at the noon hour will be features of the day. Morris Orr will have charge of the music, consisting of quartets, string band and other numbers. The history of the Orr family from 1726, at which time the pioneer John Orr, married, and a few years later brought his wife to America from Scotland, will be traced in an interesting manner by J. M. Orr. Among other speakers of the day will be Oliver H. Orr and James F. Barrett of Brevard.

A picnic dinner that is expected to be one tremendous spread will be enjoyed by the Orr descendants and their multitude of friends at 12:15, when the great tables in the grove of the Orr Camp ground will be spread with viands from as many homes as are represented at the gathering.

The Orr family counts among its tree many of the outstanding citizens of Western North Carolina, being especially active in the public life of the immediate counties of Henderson, Buncombe, Transylvania and Polk.

RACKETEERING J. P. KNOCKED OFF ROOST

Raleigh, Aug. 18.—Revoking the commission of G. W. Foster as justice of the peace of Guilford county because of substantiation of charges that he had made a "racket" of his office, brings forth intimation that Governor Gardner will have practices of justices looked into a little closer generally, and have solicitors check up on those named by the Governor, elected by the people, or appointed by the General Assembly.

Foster, it was charged, and in part admitted, in company with a deputy sheriff, would snoop around side streets and parking places watching for petting parties. Finding one, he would agree to receiving certain supposed costs and fines without bringing the couples to trial and thus resulting in publicity for the couple. It worked well, because of the dislike the couples have for publicity about such incidents. Greensboro, it is stated, will be a safe place for petting parties, at least for a time.

average annual income received by the textile graduates of North Carolina State College who have stayed in the industry is considerably above the average earnings of college graduates throughout the country.

Checkerboard Chatter

Volume 1 August 20, 1931 Number 36

Published in the interest of the people of BREVARD and TRANSYLVANIA County by the B & B Feed & Seed Co.

Some men never appreciate astrology until they come in contact with a rolling pin.

We are closing out our stock of Boquet flour, plain and self rising, at the bargain price of 24 lbs for 49 cents.

Some folks do not get their smile started right until about the middle of the day and by this time have everybody around them started wrong.

It seems that two

Scotties were playing golf: One of them had a stroke of apoplexy and the other one charged it against his score.

Check over these prices and compare the quality of our feed with other feed—we offer:

- Cotton Seed hulls 75
- Cotton Seed Meal 1.30
- Purina Lay Chow 2.20
- Purina Corn & wheat Scratch 1.95
- Pure Coffee 3 1-2 lbs 50
- 75-lbs Multigood Shorts 1.05
- 100-lbs Standard Wheat mid... 1.40

Lots of folks were in our store Friday

and Saturday, taking advantage of our Two-Day Specials. This Friday and Saturday we are offering 25 lbs. of salt at 35c, and 100 lbs at \$1.05.

He who steals my purse steals trash, but he who filches the right of way at the highway intersection yesterday robbed me of something which enriched him only to the extent of a few seconds but left me madder than a wet hen.

B & B Feed & Seed Co.
Brevard, N. C.
The Store with the Checkerboard Sign