

The Franklin Press

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LYLES HARRIS.....Editor
J. J. MOORE.....News Editor
MRS. F. M. TESSIER.....Ad. Manager

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Political Slackers

THERE CAME into The Press office yesterday one of Franklin's thinking men—yes, there are one or two of this breed about. He talked on several things, but of course came very soon to the one topic of the day, politics. Some of his thoughts were of such a nature that it would seem well to pass them on to our readers.

One thing that he had to say was that he hoped that the Republicans would have too much pride to attempt to vote in the Democratic primary. And by the same token, that the Democrats would have too much party pride to allow any but Democrats to vote in their primary.

Another thing that he said was, "The men that want our public offices are men that we do not want." To this we said a hearty "Amen." Of course, this is a rule that is noted for exceptions. But at the same time it is all too true that it's a rule, nevertheless.

After this friend had gone, strange as it may seem, we got to thinking on this last remark. And the more we thought on it the more there seemed to be in it. The one thing that stands out in our mind more than anything else is this: When the capable men stand idly by and do not take part in the efforts of their party, or an interest in getting the best men in office, or do not make even a suggestion as to what is the best thing to do, on whose shoulders is the odium of useless mistakes to finally rest? It strikes us that, when our best men stand by and let things go wrong when it is in their power to help prevent it, that they are more to blame than the man that goes on and messes things up from one cause or another.

It is your duty, kind reader, and my duty too, to put forward all our best thought and effort in getting men into office—and keeping them there and helping them after they get there—that are capable of handling the affairs of our many governmental activities the very best that they can be handled.

Just to sum the thing up in one sentence. If our best and most successful men do not come forward with their best effort and help with the affairs of state, then they deserve all that they will get when bad management comes astalking around. They are in no position to criticize anything that is done, and they are darn poor sports if and when they do. Now whose move is indicated?

Useless Court Expenditures

COURT adjourned last week after a two weeks' seige, mostly on liquor cases. There were one or two important criminal cases and one or two important civil cases. About two thousand people were in town for the whole week of the criminal docket. There were also many in town for the first of the week on the civil docket.

As a means of lowering the cost of court, it seems that the important cases should be tried first. There are always more witnesses for these cases and also many others that are not witnesses that are interested from one thing and another. To try the small cases first and have all these people hanging around doing nothing, just waiting, waiting, seems to us to be a useless expenditure of time and money. It is poor management on the part of whoever has the arranging of the docket.

It possibly rests with the attorneys and the solicitor to arrange the docket. And it will not be possible to arrange everything just so and carry it out on schedule, but it stands to reason that there is no need for the small cases to come ahead of the more important ones. Our courts cost us a whole lot of money at best and anything that can be done to reduce the expenditure should be done by whoever is in authority to do it.

Women's Club Work

THE CLUB WOMEN of Franklin and Macon county are to be congratulated in their efforts to consolidate all their clubs and build a community house. They have already gone a long way towards success in this undertaking. Such an effort deserves, and is receiving the hearty co-operation of every one.

A community house would be a fitting memorial to the Macon sons that fell in the Great War. We understand that there is some money raised for this purpose. It could not be used more appropriately than to help in the building of the community house. It is respectfully fitting that the country ladies have a place to go and rest when in town. It is also fitting that the community have a reception hall of some kind where social and community affairs and dinners could be served. And further it would be a godsend to us to have a library where we could go to read the latest magazines and papers and discuss the questions of the day with friends.

Here is more power to our ladies. May their efforts be crowned with great success.

Religious Aspersions

IT HAS come to the notice of the editor of The Press that certain statements, casting aspersions on certain religious denominations, are being circulated and that these statements are being spread about as being the statements of the editor.

The editor wishes to take this opportunity to say to one and all that any such statements are not in keeping with the facts. They are not true and are either based on a misunderstanding of the facts or they are being circulated with malice by some individual who has for his aim some selfish motive. The editor holds every man's religion as his own and in the highest respect.

The editor does hold that church consolidation would be a wise move on the part of our churches, but as to which denomination and when and how is a matter that only the members of the several churches can work out for themselves if and when they care to.

False Prophets and Fake Panaceas

UNDER this heading last week we had an editorial that for some reason—mostly that we are human beings and prone to err—got by incomplete. There was one paragraph left out. Immediately following the remarks regarding the chasing of liquor cars passing thru, there should have been: "Bootleggers should always be chased and caught. It is not intended that they should have free range in this county; but the expense of policing a state road is a state duty and the state should bear the expense and not impose thus on any county, for this makes the border counties carry more than their share of the costs of liquor law enforcement." We hope that if any one judged this omission as meaning a plea for leniency or encouragement to the illicit liquor traffic, that the above will make our position clear on the question.

Others' Comments

WHAT W. N. C. NEEDS

MISS ELIZABETH KELLY, Franklin, tenth district member of the State Board of Equalization, says:

"Western North Carolina, in my opinion, needs more leaders who think honestly and clearly about what they are talking, and fewer who talk cleverly or otherwise without thinking. And, perhaps, more even than this it needs intelligent followers.

"One could elaborate indefinitely upon the above paragraph by citing instances of frequent occurrence in community, church, educational and political affairs. I shall mention two needs suggested by them.

First: A need for county officers who are honest and intelligent to the end that county affairs may be efficiently and economically administered. I believe that poor management, dishonesty, or bad business judgment on the part of county commissioners and tax collectors, either past or present, is largely responsible for the necessity for high taxes today.

Second: A need to realize the fact that industry and thrift are as essential to our physical and financial well being as they were to our fathers and mothers who practiced both."—Asheville Times.

"LOOK IN THE NEWSPAPERS"

FIVE-COLUMN space was taken recently in The Colorado Springs (Colo.) Gazette by Kaufman's, a local department store, to tell its reasons for using newspaper space almost exclusively for advertising. The copy, which was headed "Why Do We Use News?" follows:

"Have you ever wondered why you never see an advertising message from Kaufman's on a billboard, or in a street car, or on any outdoor medium save our corner benches?... Have you ever wondered why we do not send you 'ballyhoo' sales circulars? Why you sel-

dom hear from us over the radio?...in short, why we use the newspapers for our store news?

"The reason is simple. Newspaper advertising is the most economical way for us to reach the greatest number of prospects for our merchandise...We have found that by concentrating our expenditure in the newspapers we can bring our store news to the attention of the most people at the least cost and as often as every day. To use the other mediums to any great extent would be for us largely a duplication—and it is because of this and other of our efficiency methods of reducing operating costs that we are notable for reasonable prices...We ask you to look for our messages mainly in the newspapers."—Exchange.

SIMMONS ENTERS

AFLYING rumor had it a few days ago that Senator Simmons had reconsidered and would not enter the race for the Senate.

This idle talk has now been set at rest. Senator Simmons has filed his notice of intention to run and has complied with all the requirements.

Whether the contest will reach the stage of bitterness which has been freely predicted is still a matter of conjecture. Public interest has started somewhat lamely. In any event, the Democratic voters will have their opportunity to make a clear-cut decision between Bailey and Simmons. The action of the veteran Senator in filing makes that much certain.—Asheville Times.

Letters

MACON BOY'S EXPERIENCE WITH JEWISH RABBI

AT ATLANTIC Christian college at Wilson, N. C., the students cast votes to select the student minister whom they preferred to hear deliver an Easter sermon. Ray Moses, son of D. J. and Mrs. Moses of Ellijay, received the largest number of votes. This is Ray's senior year at Atlantic Christian college. Below is an extract from a letter to his parents:

"Perhaps I have written you about the Polish Jew rabbi who has been taking some courses here for a couple of weeks. He has employed me to teach him English one hour on each of three days of the week (50c a lesson). Yesterday he was complaining about silent letters in English spelling, such as k and e in knife. He said, 'and take the word calf, what for you have to put that hel in the middle?'

"He speaks five foreign languages, but still needs help on English. He said of a girl in the public speaking class, 'She have what you call the stage-fear.'

"He invited me to speak at the synagogue Friday night. You know the Sabbath begins at sunset Friday. My instructions were to speak from the Old Testament and to wear my hat while doing so. When Vernon Bryant and I entered the building, I took off my head-gear from force of habit, but put it back on when I saw that the rabbi and all others were wearing theirs. Vernon had not brought his hat along, so they quickly provided him with a black skull cap.

"There was something grand about thinking that the Psalms which all chanted in Hebrew had been going up in the same tongue from their fathers since the time of King David—nearly 3000 years.

"The rabbi spoke well, then introduced, 'Doctor Moses, a great friend of our people and a great friend of the Bible.'

"I felt like a fool to go up behind the pulpit with my hat on, and had a little qualm of fear while up, lest I should be disloyal to Christ by leaving His name out or should offend the Jews by teaching Christian doctrines. But I believe I steered between the two dangers. They liked my talk.

"Their books read from back to front. They chanted several prayers for the dead, being great believers in the restoration of the soul. A mourner stood up and chanted one of their special ceremonies—no word of reference to the departed one—only praises and honor to the God of Israel.

"They brought us back to the college in a nice car."

WASHINGTON LETTER

By FRED HOLMES, Washington Correspondent of The Franklin Press

WASHINGTON, April 26.—Each member of the House of Representatives is responsible to a constituency, and if he desires to succeed himself he must please a majority of that constituency. The founders of our government instituted the Senate as a check upon the House, in that a Senator was to represent a State, not a constituency, and in this stand upon any public question he was not influenced by the thought that explanations might have to be made to John Doe and Richard Roe to avoid retirement to private life.

True, many a State Legislature was purchasable when a constituency was not, and so many Senators with a background of electoral scandalism were seated that we repudiated the science of government promulgated by our

forefathers and decided to elect our Senators by direct vote of the people.

Maybe it was a wise move. Many think so. Many do not. When President Hoover nominated Charles Evans Hughes to be Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, the Senate indulged in a squabble over his confirmation. Why? Was there any reason why Mr. Hughes did not qualify. No. A fight was waged against him as an appeal to an electorate. And for the same reason a fight is being waged against confirmation of President Hoover's nomination of Judge John J. Parker, of North Carolina, to be Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

The Senate judiciary committee has reported adversely the nomination of Judge Parker. This was not unexpected, although the size of the vote, 10 to 6, was a surprise. A greater surprise, however was the declaration of the Senate committee to hear Judge Parker in reply to his attackers after he had expressed a willingness to appear before the committee. Those members of the committee who voted against Senator Overman's motion to invite Judge Parker to appear and testify, justify their course by pointing out that Judge Parker did not request the committee to hear him, but merely expressed a willingness to come before it should the committee desire him to do so. The difference between Judge Parker's expressed willingness to appear and a request to the committee that he be permitted to appear is the difference between tweedledum and twedledee. Probably it never occurred to Judge Parker that a committee which had before it the testimony of adverse witnesses would not care to hear him after he had declared his willingness to come to Washington and testify.

Judge Parker has been attacked before the committee, and apparently successfully, because he handed down a decision in which he followed the ruling of the Supreme Court itself. Because this case involved the "yellow dog" contract, hated by the United Mine Workers of America and organized labor generally, it has been argued that Judge Parker is in sympathy with that form of contract which pledges a mine worker not to join a union. But the committee has no real knowledge of Judge Parker's position on this matter. The Supreme Court has upheld the validity of such a contract in another case. With that determination of the law before him, Judge Parker, a member of the Federal judicial circuit, decided a case in accordance with the law. The Senate committee may have difficulty explaining why it was not willing, or even why it did not desire, to hear what Judge Parker had to say in regard to this case and his own view of the principle involved in the "yellow dog" contract.

It was predicted in this column that the nomination of Judge Parker would be confirmed in spite of the strenuous opposition to him, but the nomination having been laid before the Senate with the disapproval of the Senate committee by such a decisive vote, it would be surprising if the Senate reversed the decision of its committee. However, the issue is now squarely up to the Senate itself. His friends, it is said, propose to carry on the fight to have him confirmed. President Hoover has shown no signs of withdrawing the nomination, nor has Judge Parker indicated that he would be pleased to have his name recalled. The result of the fight against Judge Parker will doubtless be known before these lines are in type, but whether confirmation or rejection is the outcome the fight reflects no credit upon those who instigated and engineered it.

It is difficult at times to determine accurately whether Senators are hitting at an appointee of the President or at the President, through his appointee. Members of the Senate committee have been leading "coalitionists." They have sought, Republican Progressives and Democrats, to embarrass the administration in the past. Here apparently, was a case which has afforded them another opportunity to strike at the administration. It is true that several of the so-called regular Republican members of the committee voted adversely to Judge Parker in the committee. But they have been credited with seeking to shelve issues that might be unpopular with some of the voters. They have been left in a position to do this more readily, perhaps, than if they had taken the testimony of Judge Parker himself.

Chief Justice Hughes was assailed because it was known he was a man of courage who would apply the Constitution without first obtaining the advice and consent of Senate bosses. Now Judge Parker is attacked because he is a strong and upright judge.

Senators who may be inclined to sacrifice an honest and acceptable judge in order to win votes for themselves should think twice before they make that blunder. The great majority of voters are not won by such cowardice and demagoguery. The people are keeping the Supreme Court in high respect, and are deeply resentful of the mud-slinging tactics employed by senators who seek selfish advantages at the expense of the judiciary. It is quite possible that this resentment would manifest itself in the defeat of senators who lacked the courage to resist the malign attempts to prostitute the courts. Certainly any senator who would deliberately vote to fill the Supreme Court bench with charlatans and sycophants deserves defeat.