

Polk County First, Second, Last and all the time. WATCH IT GROW!

POLK COUNTY NEWS

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Little Stories About Men and Affairs

BY ARON M. JONES

WHEN JAMES A. GARFIELD was president of Hiram College, a young man came to him one day and said: "I have plenty of money and I wish to go through the world in a hurry. He does not seem to be in a hurry. Can you arrange it?" "I can arrange it," answered Mr. Garfield, "but let me see you when God makes a mistake and he takes two hundred dollars to do it; when he makes a mistake, he takes two months."

GOOD INTENTIONS ARE THE things we all build when our better selves are in control. At the end of an all-things-in-tune day, we settle in our easy chairs with reading lamps soothing glow. A story just finished with a just ending. We want it to come out ending in a happy way and build them—dream structures. On foundations selected from our most sincere intentions we build our "Edifices of Good Intentions." Great massive arches of love supported by columns of self-interest. We build them up into halls of I'll-wait-awhile. We close that mortgage, con- sidering that church next Sunday. From our throne, the finished structure with an its-mine air, we go to bed. Next morning our eggs and paper we scold and rush officiously. Our heads in the dust, crumbled and forgotten.

BUT ITS BETTER TO dream and make than never dream at all. We could only cultivate our dreamy, better selves as we do in our farms and business. We are so overly willing to take the affirmative side of the debate "Is the world growing better?"

FLOWERS ARE USUALLY plant- ing in front yards. But in our alleys, we see each day a group of strolling musicians plant their instruments. They, into the beat of our work- ing occupations comes the notes of music—giving expression to romance, drama, tragedy and comedy. Low and high, each sounded tone describ- ing the expression of children's faces, the grandeur of rose-tinted sunsets, the solitude of old age, the ministry of friendship, mother love and the song of flowers. At first the notes creep inquiringly into the soul, hesi- tantly, questioningly—will they be welcome. Then as their presence is assured, they charge forward cap- turing the best there is in us. Out goes greed, jealousy, discontent; in comes greater desires to achieve, for the good that achievement can be. If more music could only come into more alleys of life.

THE OTHER DAY I met a porcu- pine dressed up like a man. Porcu- pines have a way of being very un- pleasant, they carry poisoned darts bristling all over themselves. You may never intend to molest them— they may just be passing and happen to brush into them and ouch! you con- tinue the rest of the day nursing a sore caused by contact with them.

THE PORCUPINE I met was a big fellow. I brushed into him coming out of an office building. I was in a hurry, had talked too long to a friend because, chatting with him is like sitting on a beach basking in the sun when the water is cold. Yes I bumped into the porcupine—did- n't intend to, of course. And imme- diately I was sorry although he was a human being just like myself and seems to me that human beings should be able to meet intimately accidentally without poisoning each other. But he swore and asked me why I didn't watch where I was go- ing. Changing from a human into a porcupine is a slow process. People are not born bristling with poisoned darts which are fed by ven- om from the inside. Bristles with poison on them are developed. His bristles were growing yesterday, and the day before.

If the fears of District Attorney Banton, of New York, are founded on existing conditions, and the growth of bucket shops and "blue sky" promotions are about to get un- der way. He believes that the present stock market boom is a fer- tile ground for the operation of un- scrupulous operators. To prevent another epidemic of these evils, he is preparing bills for presentation at the session of New York Legis- lature which will minimize the dan-

National Park Plans For North Carolina Pushed by Simmons

No Section East of the Rockies can Compare with "Land of the Sky" in Natural Beauty.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 10, Sen- ators and Representatives in Con- gress from North Carolina are tak- ing a great interest in the proposal to establish in that State a new Na- tional Park, probably in the Blowing Rock-Linville Falls section of the Blue Ridge Mountains. But they believe that every organized activity in the State should get to work, and that every individual of forward-looking mind should do all that can be done at once, and quick- ly, to see to it that the new Na- tional Park is established in North Carolina, and not some other State.

The recent visit to Washington of the committee created by the legislature has had a good effect in Washington and is apparently bear- ing fruit, to judge from remarks be- ing made. But Virginia, Tennessee and other States are actively orga- nizing their campaigns to obtain the National Park for their States, and Senators and Representatives of North Carolina believe that the whole population of the State should get behind the efforts of the commit- tee appointed by the legislature, and that North Carolinians, irrespective of section or community, should lend their heartiest support to the com- mittee, and other wise interest themselves, in accordance with whatever opportunity they have or can create, to see that the Park is created in North Carolina.

The announcement made by Sen- ator Simmons of North Carolina a few days ago, to the effect that North Carolina should have the park because the State is already equip- ped with a magnificent concrete highway system, because there is no other section of the country east of the Rockies which can com- pare in natural scenic grandeur with that of North Carolina, and because of accessibility, has created interest among Senators and Representa- tives, and a number of them are in- quiring as to the prospect suggested by Senator Simmons that he will aid in organizing a large group of Sen- ators and Representatives to visit the State, to view the proposed sites for the park.

Preliminary drafting of the report of the committee, headed by Con- gressman H. W. Temple, of Penn- sylvania, to recommend to the Sec- retary of the Interior a suitable site has begun, and it is certain at this writing that the claims of North Carolina are to be very carefully considered and fully reported on.

Grantland Rice Visits Land of The Sky

Grantland Rice, after resting at the Biltmore Forest Country Club, at Asheville, from his high pressure football writing of the past month, has returned to New York. He was accompanied by Frank Crownings- shield, editor of Vanity Fair, A. A. Boyden, former managing editor of the American Magazine, Mrs. May Wilson Preston, nationally known illustrator, who is now working on a series of illustrations for the Sat- urday Evening Post, and Mrs. Rice.

While here he showed his aptitude for a number of sports, golf and hunting proving to be as much his meat as football.

In New York

"Whatcher gwine tuh do when yuh get back to North Carolina, Mose?"

"I's gwine tuh walk right in tuh de Battery Park Hotel, order me ah regular Christmas dinner rear back and enjoy de singin'."

"Nigger you'se sho gwine tuh hear de singin'—an' it'll be a Heavenly Choir, too!"

Careless Management Causes Counties Trouble Says Greensboro Editor

Official Business Loosely Conducted Owing to Lax Supervision of Commissioners It is Asserted

(Clark's Comment, in Greensboro Daily News)

Suit has been filed in a county in this State for the recovery of tax funds to the amount of about \$14,000 alleged to be due by a former sheriff. The sheriff is dead and the suit has been filed against his estate and his bondsmen. Some of the bondsmen are dead and their administrators are made parties to the suit. It is distinctly stated that there is no charge against the integrity of the deceased sheriff nor against the county commissioners with whom he made settlement which was suppos- ed to be final. The explanation is that "mutual mistakes" were made. In other words, the sheriff presump- tively paid the county what he thought was due, or what the commissioners demanded. A recent audit of the county's affairs, it is said, discloses the error.

This is probably a fair sample of county government as administered in the average North Carolina coun- ty. The commissioners occupy the same relation to the affairs of a county as he board of directors to a corporation. They levy the taxes, assess the shareholders in the cor- poration their proportionate part of the funds necessary to carry on the business of the corporation. It is their business to see that the money assessed against the stockholders is collected and accounted for and they approve and pass on disbursements. In other words, the county board of directors (the commissioners) is re- sponsible for the receipts and dis- bursements of the corporation—the management of the financial affairs of the county. The position is a highly responsible one, more impor- tant to the county's welfare, than any other office. But it is usually filled indifferently; that is little attention is given to the business qualifications of the commissioners. If good bus- iness men accept the office the dis-

position is to treat the position in- differently. They can't spare the time from their private affairs that is really necessary to get an insight of the county's business. Time and study would be required for that. Like most boards of directors the commissioners follow the line of least resistance. They pass on what is brought before them, as best they can, but more than often without ex- act knowledge of the business they have been set to guard and for which they have accepted responsibility.

Evidently the commissioners of the county in which suit has been brought against the estate of the dead sheriff, didn't know what they were doing when they made settle- ment. Both sides are acquitted of any intentional wrong doing. But it was the business of the commis- sioners to know. As a result of their ignorance and negligence the dead officer's estate, his bondsmen, must defend a suit; and if there is judgement against the defendants, somebody will have to dig up quite a sum of money.

But that county isn't an exception. That is the common custom as to the management of county affairs. Per- sons who observe the management in the average county can see that; and some who have made a careful examination of the conduct of coun- ty business in this State have found such negligence the rule rather than the exception. It is not un- common for shortages to develop that are as much of a surprise to the commissioners as any body. In some counties sheriffs have been found many thousands in arrears in settlements, some of them business men of high standing, thought they had made full settlement and got all that was due. How many times such cases have passed without dis- covery and the taxpayers suffer the loss of thousands, nobody knows, and nobody will know so long as the

Uncle John's Jest

THE BOLL WEEVIL HAS HIS LITTLE FAULTS BUT HE DOESN'T WEAR A SHEET AND OPERATE AT NIGHT.



The county officers are regarded as a political asset to the dominant party in the county; and the main consideration, generally speaking, in the administration of county affairs is politics rather than business. For that reason every effort to place the affairs of a county on a strictly bus- iness basis meets the combined and strenuous opposition of the local politicians; and as the legislators are usually a part of the local political machine it is easy to see that they are not going to exert themselves to do anything about it.

Lots of people who pose as rail- road presidents when they go visit- ing in other towns are really nothing more than section hands when they are at home, observes Jim Rion.

Married men wrote all the wed- ding marches. That's what makes 'em sound so slow and sad.

Now that women can vote they don't want to—Let's pas a law com- pelling them to smoke.

Shop Early Mail Early

Help the Postal Clerks in Their Effort to Spend Christmas at Home

Last year, through the generous cooperation of the press, the movies and other advertising mediums, Christmas mailers were induced to dispatch their Yuletide presents earlier in the month than ever before in the history of the institution of gift exchanging in the holiday season.

As a result, the spectacle of the last minute rush of former years, with its attendant heartbreaking la- bor on the part of wearied and nerve worn store clerks and postal clerks and postal employees, was avoided.

This year Postmaster General New and First Assistant Postmaster General John H. Bartlett have deter- mined to make an even better record and to banish for all time the suffer- ing undergone in past years by those engaged in the sale or transporta- tion of gifts. They hope to make "Shop Early" and "Mail Early" a habit with the American people.

Mailing early does not mean De- cember 1 or before but if everyone could get their holiday tokens in the mail between December 10 and De- cember 20, the post office could ask no more.

Particular attention this year will be paid to greeting cards. Despite the success last year it was noted that the last minute mail consisted largely of cards. Possibly many of them were return greetings to friends, heard from on a previous mail, but overlooked on the original Christmas list. Unlike parcels and letters containing money orders, cards, of course, cannot well be marked, "Do Not Open Until Christ- mas." Therefore, it is possible that the many mailers hold them until the last to insure delivery on Christ- mas Day.

Christmas is Coming

Believing that the energies of pos- employees should not be sapped to the last degree for any avoidable reason, and intent upon securing for them the same Christmas privileges enjoyed by others, Postmaster General New asks the hearty co-opera- tion of the public. The last minute or zero hour has been moved up so that all employees may eat their Christmas dinners at home. Rural carriers will deliver no mail at all on Christmas Day and clerks and car- riers in the city offices will stop promptly at noon.

Four Black Oxen Pulled The Covered Wagon Thru Bagdad Driven by a Sheikh

Here's a very moving-picture story When "The Thief of Bagdad" broke "The Ten Commandments" by steal- ing a "White Rose" from "The En- chanted Cottage," "Three Women" telephoned the "Arm of the Law" and the "Outlaw" was "Cornered," These "Meddling Women" whose mouths were "Open All Night" for "Gossip" also told "Dorothy Vernon of Haddon Hall" that "The Sheikh" took "The White Sister" for a ride in "The Covered Wagon" which was drawn by four "Black Oxen."

When "The Riders of the Night" returned they reported that "The Madonna of the Streets" was en- gaged by "Potash and Perimeter" in "Hollywood" to tell the "Secrets" of "The Forbidden City." Hearing of this "Slander" the "Hunchback of Notre Dame" feared that such a "Turnoff" would injure the "Reputa- tion" of "The Sea Hawk" whose "Bad Habits" of acquiring "Dang- erous Money" were "Common Knowl- edge." The idol whose "Feet of Clay" had been hidden from all "Men" harkened to "The Voice from the Minaret" and with a hasty scrawl to his friend, "Monsieur Beaucaire," he retired to his "Golden Bed" there to dream of "Rosita" his "Argentine Love."



I strutted my stuff through November And ruffled it over the yard, I'm fat and I'm prime and I'm guessing How I'll look on a menu card, For Christmas is coming.

Park-Belk Company's Spartanburg Store Link In Gigantic Chain

Tremendous Purchasing Power of 36 Store Chain Makes Possible Mill to Consumer Selling

The success of Parks-Belk Co. is due to two primary elements in the organization and conduct of these modern stores, the fact that they are conducted along the most modern lines of organization and collective buying and then the service in the retail stores is of the highest order. This makes a tour of this store necessary to every shopper within a radius of many miles.

The idea of collective buying and the conduct of a number of stores conducting one large central buy- ing establishment where the out- put of mills is taken over is a crea- tion of the hour and the fact that it has met with such success proves that it has taken its place in latter day merchandising. This gives the ad- vantage to a buyer who understands style, materials and prices as he makes them a continual study and comes in contact with world trade. Thus the stock of this store is not purchased by a casual buyer who goes to the fashion and market centers oc- casionally while making purchases. This business like method gives this store the advantage of offering its goods at prices that cut out the mid- dleman and are a great saving to the people. Quality and style are not sacrificed to price as the buy- er sees that all stock comes to a standard. He is an excellent judge of stock by his continual contact with everything in the line.

The services at Parks-Belk Co. is the very best. The sales people are all specialists in their departments, thus being able to offer valuable sug- gestions as well as answer all ques- tions with that knowledge of experi- ence that relieves the purchaser of all doubt and uncertainty. They are very courteous and no matter what the size of the purchase, you will find it entirely satisfactory.

The Parks-Belk Co. is distinctly a department store and all the stock is systematically arranged in depart- ments for the convenience of the cus- tomers. Every facility for its prop- er display has been provided and thus shopping is made easy.

The policy of Parks-Belk Co. has always been the retailing of good quality merchandise at one price to all. No matter whether you call in person, over the phone or have their personal shopper send you my mail what you want you will always find it is satisfactory to do business with them as they always make all goods satisfactory.

The manager of each store of the Parks-Belk Co. has an interest in the store and is a resident of the town in which the store is located and takes an interest in the affairs of the city in which he lives. The great service this store renders the people makes it of great economic value to the community and thus they are rendering the public the highest type of mercantile service.

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The Pulse of Today's Business

Charles Schwab sees prosperity ahead. He says that business in general will experience greater pros- perity during the months just ahead than in any previous years. He is of the opinion that, "If you have capital to invest in industry, do not hesitate. We are assured of a safe and sane government, and the fu- ture of this country offers greater opportunities than at any other per- iod. Endowed as it is with incom- parable resources, this country is go- ing to be the workshop of the world." Speaking of his own industry, he believes that "Steel production this year will reach 40,000,000 tons com- pared with 1,000,000 when the busi- ness was started."

The National Industrial Confer- ence Board declares that state and local taxes are assuming dangerous proportions. From 1912 to 1923 to- tal net indebtedness of state and local governments in the United States increased 128 per cent. In the first ten months of 1924 there was an increase of \$310,000,000 in their long-term bonds compared with the same period of 1923, and plans for new financing, which received popular approval at recent election, call for additional issues of \$600,000,000. Net indebtedness of state and local governments now exceed the tremendous figure of \$10,500,000,000, compared with \$8,697,000,000 in 1922 and only \$3,322,000,000 in 1912.

People are paying larger initial installments on the automobiles they now buy than they did a few years ago, according to recent com- pilation by the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce. The aver- age outstanding note on automobile time sales is now \$252. In 1920 the average note outstanding was \$377. In 1921 it was \$298 and in 1922 \$276. One explanation of this yearly de- crease is, no doubt, the fact that more people each year are turning in their old cars as part payment on the new one. This old car constitu- tes part of the original payment and less cash or smaller deferred pay- ments are required.

American claims for war damages amounting to more than \$250,000,000 have been admitted by the allies. The United States will, therefore be entitled to collect this sum in ad- dition to the \$300,000,000 cost of oc- cupation in Germany. Of course, being entitled to collect and actually collecting are two distinct proposi- tions. Most nations that are debt- ors to this country because of our assistance during their war needs would like to forget the obligation.

France, however, just recently made a gesture at French settlement of some of her obligations to the United States. Finance Commis- sioner Clementel admitted in debate in the Senate that they had agreed payment of American claims for war damages would be settled out of pro- ceeds of the Dawes scheme of repar- ations. If payments are received in this manner, America will have again evidenced the shrewdness for which its business men are noted by lending a creditor sufficient assis- tance to help him get on his feet so he can meet his obligations. By attempting to force collections with- out first lending this aid, collection might have been impossible.

President Warren S. Stone, of Brotherhood of Locomotive Engi- neers, says: We are going into the greatest stock boom that the world has ever known. There will be 30 or 40 big foreign loans made in the next year or year and a half. They are dressing up old stocks and bonds in new clothes and selling them to the public. This is going to go on until they have got all the gold, drained out of the country and got most of the suckers' money, and then we are going to have another period of depression."

1924 DECEMBER 1924						
SUN.	MON.	TUE.	WED.	THU.	FRI.	SAT.
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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28	29	30	31			