

# The Polk County News

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LOUIS LEHMAN, Editor

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### DOES RECKLESS DRIVING INVOLVE MORAL TURPITUDE

Of late the country has heard a good deal about "moral turpitude." It has been a phrase common to the legal profession for many generations. But not until Lady Cathcart was refused entrance into the United States on account of a divorce tangle has the term become more or less lay property.

How many offenses under the law involve this moral turpitude? Where does moral turpitude end and mere inhibition by law begin? Civilization recognizes that such crimes as murder, burglary, kidnaping, treason, etc., are inherently base and their perpetrators depraved to the extent to which the acts are committed. Coming on down to larceny, forgery, bad check writing, and fraud in its many elements, we find less serious (the none the less excusable) violations for which the law provides penalties. Civilized man believes these offenses to be wrong even in the absence of code or status.

Where, then, is the break moral wrongs and wrongs made so by law? Can anyone say? It is by force of public opinion and moral restraints that legislatures and courts define the rights of man. Is reckless driving of an automobile an act involving "moral turpitude?" Not unless the people are bold enough to pronounce it so, and unless public sentiment and conscience back up the declaration.

A few years ago no one would have considered the fast driving of a vehicle in the same category as felonies; yet with the present-day traffic problems all recklessness in the operation of a motor car is a serious thing to consider. And when the reckless speeder is classed as a felon along with the murderer, the thief, the traitor and the common crook—when intelligent men and women first slow down their own cars and then justly frown upon the criminally careless as they would upon the ransom seeker who steals their child—we will see less of these potential murderers charging up and down our public highways in their hell-bent rush to get nowhere.

We "ain't" thru yet. If sending thousands of pounds of steel, tin and rubber down a street or highway at 50, 55, 60, 65, or 70 miles and up an hour does not involve "moral turpitude," then Lady Cathcart is an angel, and Jesse James should rise from his grave and shout, "Folks, look how good I was!" Public opinion must assert strongly against this business of speed and recklessness! Community consciousness must be felt to a degree where it will not only be extremely unpopular, but extremely unpleasant to thus endanger the lives of human beings needlessly. And a good many people could well start at home in the solemn duty of speed reform! Excessive speeding does involve moral turpitude! It involves broken homes, broken limbs and broken hearts! It involves little children! It involves society as a whole and the community in particular. Let's be careful! There's nothing "smart" about reckless driving.

### VITAL FACTS ON WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

At the end of the first year comes the cotton wedding anniversary. The wife realizes that her silk hose won't jibe with husband's income, so she gets some cotton hose. But does she?

The second year is the paper wedding. Husband's paper is overdue at the bank, so he pays it off by giving more paper.

The third year is the leather anniversary. Father gets a nice leather strap (any old belt or razor strop will do) with which to impress junior that he is to mind. Father starts early.

The tenth year is the tin wedding. They trade in their tin lizzie for a new one.

The fifteenth year is the crystal wedding, so they get a crystal radio set with four sets of ear-phones.

The twentieth year is the china wedding, so they see China. Mother declares she never wants to miss any of those travelogue films.

The twenty-fifth year is the silver wedding. Along with silver in their hair, they realize that they have more silverware than silver.

The thirtieth year is the pearl wedding. Pearl spends Thanksgiving at home, and brings along a string of little Pearls.

The fortieth year is the ruby wedding. Ruby manages to get back to the old home from far-off Honolulu. Ruby has always been considered a jewel.

The fiftieth year is the golden wedding. Ruby and Pearl, and Junior, now the eldest, begin to scheme to get father's gold and what silverware he and mother have left. They find out that all is not gold that totters. This anniversary is also known as the gold-rush.

The seventy-fifth year is the diamond wedding. But who wants a diamond after waiting that long?

### NORTH CAROLINA FOR STEADY DEVELOPMENT

A boom is a blessing only when the cost of its inflation does not exceed the solid values that it leaves behind. California and Florida, the two states that have been particularly blessed and cursed with so-called booms, both have suffered the strain of inflation; but in spots where real values were, the sediment that was left became something real and worthwhile. But where no real worth was revealed in proportion to its advertised value, where only unscrupulous sharks sought to get rich thru undue influence, there was left in the wake of the storm sad tale of financially ruined men and women.

North Carolina does not want these ill-created values. Ad-

## KEEP TO THE RIGHT



Advertising of communities is as laudable as advertising of goods if it is ethical and honest. What North Carolina wants, and what we are all striving for, is the steady development that consumes capital in proportion to the ability of capital to turn resources into the products of human consumption. This may result in a house, a plow, a factory, a skating rink or a bin of grain—matters not which, so long as every dollar invested and every hour of labor applied are commensurate with fair returns of sound investment and honest toil.

North Carolina and Polk County are normally sound. Our people are a determined lot when they put their shoulders to the wheel. We want no gangsters whose aims are predatory. And it is because North Carolina is enjoying solid values that these roving nomads are likely to continue their ways among us. Every honest real estate dealer in North Carolina will join in keeping them out, for they hurt business, they prevent real prosperity. If North Carolina can remain level-headed and continue the good start it has made, we will see a period of growth and expansion that is based on something more substantial than the ballyhoo of the financial charlatan.

Any business, organization, institution or individual claiming protection under law owes a solemn duty to support the law. That includes about everybody.

### STRAINING AT A GNAT

Something must be done to make it less easy for people to get liquor and something has been done. Not only are Americans kept from learning where the vile stuff is gettable in this country but where it may be procured in England when they are there. A guide book called the "Key to London" has been forbidden entry into this country because it contains an advertisement telling where certain cherry brandy may be bought in London.

The hold up is based on the provision of the National Prohibition Law which makes it illegal to advertise where liquor is sold or how to make it. The "Key to London" tells where liquor may be bought in London therefore it breaks our law. What difference that the law was intended to lessen liquor selling in this only and that the lawmakers did not care how much selling there was in England? The law reads thus and so—therefore enforce it. What are we paying our law enforcement officials for unless it is to detect such gross violations of Prohibition?

Apply the law as it is written—somebody must have something to do. Look over the newspapers and magazines published in other countries which come to this country and if they have an advertisement of any liquor selling confiscate and burn them. Watch for the London paper that shows the advertisement of the tavern known as "The Crown and

Garter," or "The Clown and Camel," with the cuts showing foaming beakers of nutbrown ale. Destroy the Petit Centime, of Paris with its advertisement of a rotsiere where vin blanc is served.

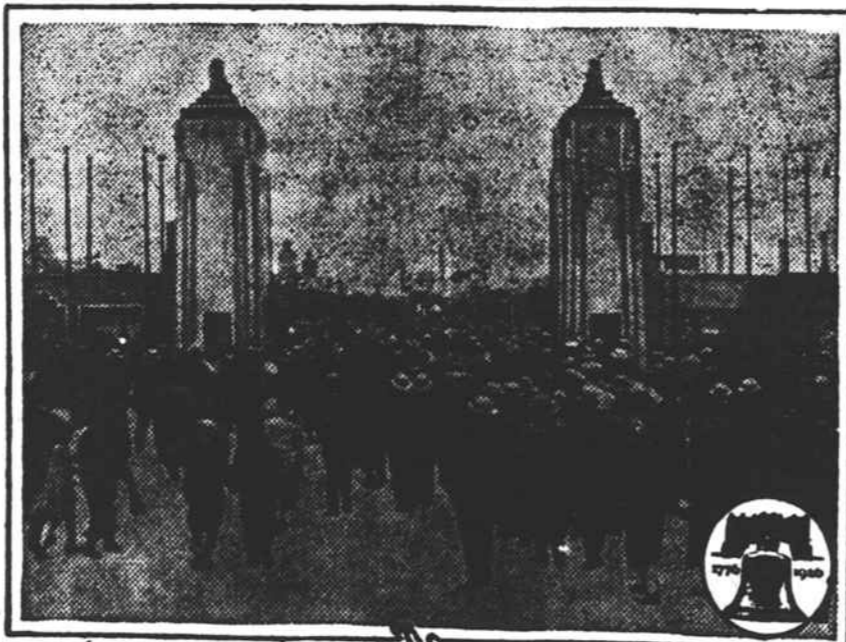
Of course there will be carping critics who will say that already every person old enough to imbibe knows that liquor is buyable in England. They will point out that by their very remonstrance in American newspapers Prohibitionists themselves advertise that liquor is sold on foreign shores. They will say that it is absurd to pick on a foreign guided book—well, let them say; they will laugh at this straining at a gnat—let them laugh. The law is the law isn't it?

### DR. KESLER'S PLAN

Because of the constant flow of applications for admission to the orphanage, Dr. M. L. Kesler, head of the Baptist Orphanage at Thomasville, reported to his board of trustees at the annual commencement, that he works constantly to make the most thorough investigations of every application, in order to see whether there is not some relative who might take care of the child.

For several years he has worked in close cooperation with the Children's Bureau of the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare in making the investigations, sending every month lists of the applicants.

## THE STORMING OF THE GATES



This picture is typical of many such scenes enacted daily at the main gates of the Sesqui-Centennial International Exposition in Philadelphia where the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence is being celebrated. The "shot" was made from outside the gates and shows the long sweep of historic Broad street, the main artery of the exposition. To the left can be seen one of the capitols of the Palace of Liberal Arts and Manufactures which covers nearly eight acres of grounds and which houses some of the finest exhibits ever seen. The Exposition will continue until December 1.

### ANOTHER OUTRAGE

(From Spartanburg Herald)  
It is the duty of the Veterans Bureau to reduce to a minimum the agonies of those soldiers who, being mentally ill, or under its care for treatment.

It is the announced intention of the Bureau to take such action as will multiply the agonies of these men. In a Washington dispatch outlining General Hines' plan to take into court every World War veteran who is held as mentally ill, to determine his sanity or insanity, there occurs this paragraph:

"Many patients in St. Elizabeth's Hospital in this city under this program will be brought into the public eye for the first time. Application of this program may necessitate revealing the identity of a certain prominent official of one of the largest government departments, who recently suffered a mental disorder."

Thus in the announcement of the new plan a confession of the unnecessary sufferings it will inflict upon helpless men.

Under the old order, a veteran who had become mentally sick or, to use the commoner word, insane could be sent to a hospital for treatment without having to go through the grisly business of being set up on a witness stand, there to answer the questions of lawyers for the entertainment of a morbid audience and the information of a jury of laymen who under no possible circumstances, could be competent to pass on an individual's sanity if his condition proved to be at all difficult of diagnosis.

But, as General Hines' new scheme is described, there is to be no escape for any mentally sick veteran from the sickening publicity, and often the ghastly farce of courtroom procedure. Whether he wants to or not, he has got to be haled into court and have his pathetic condition exposed to a cruel world.

"That 'prominent official of one of the government departments, who recently suffered a mental disorder,' will, for instance, have to be dragged into court. The privacy he now enjoys will be destroyed. If he recovers his sanity, he will have always behind him that court record marking him as having been 'insane.' This sort of thing is outrageous cruelty. It is barbarity itself when it is realized that often a mental patient is put into a worse condition through having to endure the agony of the court procedure.

There is only one sane, merciful and constructive way to deal with the mentally sick, whether they are or are not wards of the Veterans Bureau. That is to give them the privilege of a hearing in court or before a board of alienists when they desire it as a means of disproving their insanity. They should never be dragged into court against their will when they admit their illness and want it treated.

## NEWSY TOPICS

Beware of the modern wolf in sheik's clothing.

The big job is to find an all round man who is foursquare.

After all the blocs and special interests are classified and indexed there isn't any "public" left.

The laboring men produce the things that the rest of the people sell to one another to make a living.

Newspaper advertising started in the year 1652, and we predict that it will still be going strong in 5216.

Putting women into the armies won't soften war. Even if they wouldn't shoot they'd talk the enemy to death.

You don't see many political parades on foot any more. A pedestrian's life is too short to risk to save the country.

The saddest thing in modern home life is the old phonograph spending its quiet, declining years listening to the radio.

Cheer up about disrespect for law! When the Constitution gets two more Amendments it will be old enough to assert its own rights.

It wouldn't be so bad if the price of an automobile included the pretty castles and estates painted into the background of the ad.

One good thing about that Washington barber who sings instead of talks: it is easier to applaud when he gets thru than to keep answering back.

There's a difference in the theories of government revenue. People pay taxes because of their valuables, and fines because of their worthlessness.

One of the biggest questions before the country today is when to discard a suit of clothes. You can still wear it and save money, or you can make more money by buying a new one.



One of the greatest needs of the United States is a large number of politicians or statesmen who are intellectually interested in good government, and who have a passion for public service. The kings and their history furnish us with a lesson.

A feature of monarchy that is little thought about, is that the real object of monarchy has seldom been government. It has been the self-interest of the king and the courtiers. The control of the government has merely furnished the means to gratify that self-interest. Had the object of all kings been good government, they would have made sacrifices that would have led to good government, but few kings have ever chosen that path.

When a man is a bron artist, or musician, or writer, he will make personal sacrifices to the point of starvation to express his message and make his impression upon the world. The world's great men have done this in such numbers that the mere recital of the names of them would require a catalog. But ask the Kaiser to sacrifice every dollar he took to Holland and get down on a bread and water basis to give to Germany his ideas of good government. Would he do it? Ask King George to live on a par with a common soldier or a day-laborer, in order to impress the world with his ideas, as Tolsty did, and Socrates, and Jesus. Would he do it? There have been some monarchs who have—Alfred the Great for instance,—but how many, all told?

We did not escape from this evil when we struck off the shackles of monarchy. We invented new shackles of our own. Our rulers are mainly interested not in good government but in the use of power to advance a private interest. Congress is supposed to be filled with men who rep-

### CORRUPTING ELECTIONS

(From Asheville Citizen)  
It is not the illegal use of money for improper political purposes but its legal use which is most to be feared in primary elections, Colonel Theodore Roosevelt is quoted in Thursday's Citizen as telling a Republican club. This was in connection with his denunciation of the vast sums of money spent in the Pennsylvania and Illinois primaries. The Roosevelt position can be strongly supported. For every vote bought in violation of law several are acquired by means which do not counter the letter of the law, but which do offend the spirit which brought about the enactment of the law. This is the sentiment that elections should be the free expression of the will of the people. This sentiment favor an equality of opportunity among candidates—to secure this opportunity the primary was substituted for the convention.

This sentiment considered that the primary would give the poor candidate as good a chance as the rich one—it visioned the voters walking to the polls thinking only of the merits of the candidates—the rich candidate's money giving him no advantage over the poor one. But we find in practice that money is an influential factor in elections, and instead of walking many voter come riding to the polls in hired cars—not hired by them, however. And we note that they are supporters of the candidate of means.

Don't understand us to say that these supporters were bought—most of them were not. But were not their votes bought without any sale by them? We think there is some argument to support the claim. Take a look for example at the news story that in Charlotte a man described as a "ward boss" has brought suit against a former candidate, claiming that several hundred dollars are owing him for services rendered election day.

These services consisted in employing "ward workers" and providing automobiles to carry voters to the "get out the vote"—and get it out right, of course. It was thoroughly understood that unless workers went after some voters and transported them luxuriously to the polls they would not vote. Not caring enough about the election to attend of their own motion they naturally could be easily influenced to vote as the "workers" suggested.

There was no bribery so far as the voters went, but were not the votes of these indifferent ones really bought? Money certainly influenced the election—and against the candidate lacking means. He did not have the money to get his share of the indifferent voters. Money counted against him in the election as much as if the voters had been bribed. The only consolation to him is the thought that he was not cheated—if he had possessed the means he too would have hired workers and

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