

The Rocky Mount Herald

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WED J. GREEN News Editor and Manager
M. BULLUCK Assistant Editor

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ROBESON COUNTY CITIZEN UNION

Smithfield Herald

Interesting in the light of what has transpired in political circles in Johnston county in the past two weeks, is a movement in Robeson County, the sole purpose of which is to fight all forms of political corruption.

The author of the movement, W. K. Bethune, who set it up at his own expense explains the aim of the organization in the current issue of the "Robesonian," published at Lumberton, styled "Robeson County Citizen Union," the organization has more than a thousand members which have been drawn into it by special invitation. An excerpt from the by-laws expresses the essence of its purpose as follows:

"Each member of the organization pledges his or her influence and energies to be used against any citizen of the community who works for money at the polls on primary day or in general election. . . . Any member that accepts money for the support of any candidate shall be expelled from the Union. . . . No county office-holder or candidate for any office in the gift of the county shall be eligible for membership in the organization. . . . Any member that offers a voter money for his vote shall be expelled from the Union."

The organization, according to Mr. Bethune, has accomplished more in the five months since it was formed than it hoped to do in two years.

The very existence of such an organization is proof that in other counties in the state besides Johnston there is a political condition that is deplored by citizens of character. Robeson citizens have chosen a political union as a medium of improving elections and government. Johnston citizens have merely chosen a more direct method to attain the same end.

THE ENEMY NEVER SLEEPS

Recently we saw an account of the death of a two year old child with typhoid fever. This is one disease that man has well nigh conquered. For many years now the deaths from typhoid have dwindled, but like any other scourge of the human race this enemy never sleeps, and if the people allow themselves to be lulled by a sense of security into forgetting the precaution of regular vaccinations we may expect to see the death rate mount. Here again eternal vigilance is the price of safety. The enemy never sleeps.

"JUST THROW UP YOUR HAND"

The Gold Leaf Farmer, Wendell.

Have just read what was to us a most interesting news-letter. The writer invites all of us to come down on what he calls their street. He says, "If you don't care to stop, just throw up your hand—"

Somehow that idea took possession of us. I wonder how many of us do that as we dash across the country from place to place. What a real gesture of friendliness and comradeship is this simple matter of throwing up your hand as you pass. We think we will throw up our hands more from now on, and we recommend this to all our readers. At heart we are all friendly, so let's let our friends know it.

DEVICE FOR DISTORTION

The News and Observer

A news report of primary election irregularities stated: "The most flagrant irregularities disclosed by the probe were illegally certified absentee ballots." The need for the abolition or reform of the absentee ballot in North Carolina is well known. It has been well known for a long time. But nothing effective has been done about it. And as it continues as a device for the distortion of the will of the people it sometimes appears that not only are there in North Carolina some who are willing to use the absentee ballot to corrupt elections but that there are also men, more prominent and more powerful and presumably more intelligently interested in the welfare of the State, who are unwilling to remove a device which too often has been the tool of crooks. There is little basis for hope that petty politicians will not use the opportunity for corruption which has been disclosed in the use of absentee ballots in recent years in North Carolina if big politicians will not act to remove the danger which they know very well exists and from which it sometimes appears they are willing to profit.

Crookedness in elections takes place generally at the hands of little crooks in back rooms, but it generally takes place as a part of a system presided over by supposedly big men in legislative halls and government buildings.

ELECTION LAW CHANGES NEEDED

Scotland Neck Commonwealth

Looking back on the primary, and after reading reports from all sections of the state, we are of the belief that an honest expression of the will of the people is possible under the present election laws.

Why should men and women of education need or desire for others to enter the voting booths with them to mark their ballots? There is no excuse whatsoever for this. If a man or woman cannot read or write sufficiently to mark a ballot then the presumption certainly should be that that man or woman has no right voting—for in order to vote it is necessary to have a fair degree of familiarity with reading and writing, and also with interpretation of the Constitution.

The whole procedure smacks of bought votes or votes cast under pressure for this or that candidate—and in either case no honest expression of the will of the people is possible.

In Guilford county for several years, the former county chairman of elections, George C. Hampton, had in effect a ruling which required a man or woman desiring a marker in the booth to state to the judge of elections whether or not he or she were able to read and write. If the voter could read and write, he was not allowed to have a marker, it being absolutely clear that the voter was able to mark the ticket without assistance. This rule would, if adopted as a statewide measure purify our elections to a certain extent. But, to the everlasting shame of the General Assembly, when an attempt was made to incorporate this and other reforms into the law, the measure was allowed to die in committee—although every honest-minded man and woman must admit that under our present system there is no such thing as free and untrammelled choice of public officials by the people.

We once heard an old farmer say that if a man uses his head and works every day he can work he can make a fairly good crop every year. It seems now that this is going to be a poor crop year but those who work hardest and use the most intelligence will make the best crops—as usual.

Of course there is such a thing as pure blind luck, but a very large percentage of the good things that are attributed to good luck are the result of some sound thinking and much intensive effort.

PUBLIC OPINION

ELECTION FRAUDS

To the Editor: In the light of what has been disclosed in connection with alleged election frauds in Guilford and Johnston Counties, it is perfectly clear to everybody that some teeth with a genuine bite in them should be put into our election laws. If a few of the election thieves were to be sent to the State Penitentiary for terms of from 10 to 20 years at hard labor, I am sure the boys would think twice before they would attempt to steal an election.

The affair in Johnston County was particularly reprehensible, because, had an investigation not been instituted immediately and the swindle discovered, the candidate elected by the citizens of that county would have been defrauded of his seat in the State Senate. The investigation should go right on, and every person who had a hand in this very apparent election steal should be indicted, and, on conviction, sent to prison, and not given any kind of suspended sentence.

There has been too much smoke in regard to election frauds in North Carolina during the past decade for there not to have been some fire. There are thousands of good Democrats in the State today who still doubt that the last gubernatorial race was on the up and up. Just because we are Democrats is no reason why we can't discuss these things right out in the open.

The wicked absentee ballot voting law, a very fine tool for thieving politicians, should be repealed as soon as the Legislature convenes. Absentee votes figure in every investigation of election frauds. The law was enacted when thousands of North Carolina citizens were in training camps, or overseas during the World War, and there is no

longer need for such a law. Nobody our politicians perhaps do not know now wants the law except the manipulators of elections. While some of that the war is over, that should be no reason why we should have a law that can be used to advantage by election thieves.

ROBIN O. KING
Raleigh.

BETTER GRADING FOR COTTON

A modern, \$20,000 cotton-classing building will be erected by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture immediately "to give the state better grading services which will inevitably result in better prices for cotton," Commissioner of Agriculture W. Kerr Scott announces.

The cotton-classing building, to be located in Raleigh, will be a part of the State Warehouse System of the Department of Agriculture.

During the past year, the warehouse division has classed approximately 75,000 bales of cotton without cost to the farmer and plans are now under way to increase the marketing services rendered the cotton farmer.

Effect of war on Japan's exports marked but not serious yet; imports dangerously low.

George Wallis, farm superintendent of the Biltmore Dairy Farms in Buncombe county, has planted 70 acres of Sudan grass at the rate of 50 pounds of seed an acre to provide summer grazing.

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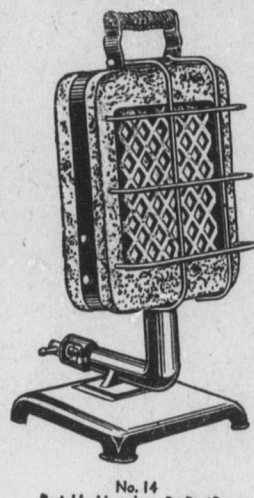
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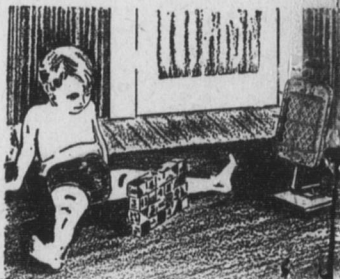
For baby's bath — for Grandma's nap — for the den, or basement or attic playroom — banish chills instantly with the beautiful sunlike rays of a Portable Humphrey Radiantfire.

It's a great little heater. Sturdy. Strong. Yet light enough to be picked up and connected to any gas outlet. And a good gas fitter can put connections where you want them with little trouble or cost.

Out on the sun porch it's as handy for the cool evening as an electric fan is for the hot one. In a cold kitchen, set it up on the floor, a bolt table or shelf out of the way, and the problem is solved.

And keeping warm isn't the half of it. A supply of radiant infra-red heat to turn on whenever there's an ache or pain to be soothed is another valuable use for the Humphrey Portable.

The heater is 21" high with a heavy drawn sheet steel base 8" x 10". Total weight only 14 lbs. It is equipped for hose connection. By moving the hose connection, it is ready for soft pipe connection. Finish is walnut brown with plating trimmings to harmonize with other home furnishings. Come in and see it on display.



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