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THE INDEPENDENT

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CONGRESS MAY NULLIFY EVERY BILL OF RIGHTS

Two Infamous Measures Now Pending In Congress Violate Every American Tradition and Make Every Reformer a Subject For Incarceration

By W. O. SAUNDERS

I have sent a telegram to Hon. John H. Small, the Representative of this Congressional District in the Congress of the United States. Every reader of this newspaper who feels as I do about it should send a similar protest to their Representative in Congress. Here is the telegram:-

Jan. 20, 1920

Hon. John H. Small,
House of Representatives.
Washington, D. C.

If you favor Bolshevism then, by all means, vote for Sterling Bill S. 3317 and Graham Bill H. R., 11,430 The American people will not stand for the oppression that will come under these measures and Congress is inviting trouble. To many of us the dictatorship of a Burleson would be not less odious than the dictatorship of a Lenin. We will not stand for either very long. The American people are in no mood to be trifled with. The Reds have made inroads in America because so many Americans have lost confidence in you who are in authority. You will not restore this confidence by a ruthless attempt to tear up our constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech and of the press. Read this into the Record and put an ear to the ground.

Respectfully,
W. O. SAUNDERS

I haven't both the Sterling and Graham bills before me, but it is sufficient to quote Section 1 of the Sterling Bill, introduced by Senator Sterling of South Dakota, which has passed the Senate and is now before Congress. It may be passed by Congress before this newspaper goes to press. I quote Section 1 of the Sterling Bill, emphasizing its most dangerous feature in black face capitals:-

Be it enacted, etc., That it shall be unlawful for any person to advocate or advise the overthrow, or to write, or knowingly to print, publish, utter, sell, or distribute any document, book, circular, paper, journal or other written or printed communication, in or by which there is advised the overthrow, by force or violence of the government of the United States or of all government OR TO ADVISE OR ADVOCATE A CHANGE IN THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT OR THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES or resistance to the authority thereof by force or violence or physical injury to person or property, or by force or violence to prevent, hinder, or delay or attempt to prevent, hinder, or delay the execution of any law of the United States.

Under this infamous measure the advocacy of any change in the constitution of the United States would be made an act of sedition, punishable by a fine of thousands of dollars and imprisonment in a Federal prison. Under this bill Lincoln would have been guilty of disloyalty and every prohibitionist and every advocate of women suffrage would be a subject for incarceration.

The passage of this Sterling Bill will mean that you will not be permitted to express your disapproval of any phase of government. You will have your citizenship taken away from you if you ever again advocate an amendment to the Constitution of the United States. And if this thing is permitted to go on it is not unreasonable to expect that it will presently be made a felony for any citizen to advocate a change in the personnell of that war-crazed body styled the Congress of the United States.

And so that is why I minced no words in my telegram to Congressman Small. I verily believe that if the Sterling Bill is enacted into law the government of this country will not be able to build jails enough to hold all the people who will rebel against such oppression. The Sterling Bill is a patent endeavor to stop everybody in America from talking—and it can't be done.

Voices of a Dead Past

One day last week Secretary of State Lansing opened up the hermetically sealed, iron bound, copper riveted cabinet in which has been concealed the Declaration of Independence of the American Colonies. And lo and behold when that Declaration was exposed to the eye of a moving picture camera the following immortal utterance was again given to mortal men. That Declaration of Independence said:-

We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

The first amendment of the Constitution of the United States forbids congress making any law **abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peacably to assembly and petition the government for any redress of grievances.**

The Constitution of North Carolina, Article 1, Sections 2 and 3, expresses the same guarantees. I quote:-

Sec. 2. That all political power is vested in and derived from, the people; all government of right originates from the people, is founded upon their will only, and is insituted solely for the good of the whole.

Sec. 3. That the people of this State have the inherent, sole and exclusive right of regulating the internal government and police thereof and abolishing their Constitution and form of Government whenever it may be necessary for their safety and happiness.

Back in 1870 John Adams, an arch seditionist under the Sterling classification, wrote Article VII of the Massachusetts State Constitution. This Article VII of the Massachusetts State Constitution still stands and expresses the same sentiment as the bill of rights provisions in about thirty other state constitutinos. I quote it:-

Government is instituted for the common good; for the protection, safety, prosperity and happiness of the people; and not for the profit, honor or private interest of any one man, family or class of men: Therefore, the people alone have an incontestible, unalienable and indefeasible right to institute government; and to reform, alter or totally change the same, when their protection, safety, prosperity and happiness require it.

A few more months of the reign of terror at Washington and it probably will be seditious to print, publish or utter the sacred words of the documents I have quoted. With one stroke of the pen the Congress of the United States thru the Sterling Act threatens to wipe out every Bill of Rights, brand the Declaration of Independence a mere scrap of paper and inaugurate an era of espionage any tyrrany that would put an imperial Russian, a Turk or a Jap to shame. As for me, I would rather rot in a Federal prison the rest of my days than submit: and being an independent American citizen with old fashioned American ideas of human rights that may be my lot until the American people are aroused and demand their rights.

(Advertisement)

PERSONAL PROPERTY UNDER REVALUATION

High Value Personal Property Must be Reflected on Tax Books — A Real Listing of Solvent Credits—Payment Cannot be Enforced if Not Listed—Personal Property Located in State Taxable in State, Including Credits of Nonresident Owners in Some Cases.

(Bulletin by State Tax Commission)

Personal property will be listed as of the first day of January, and will be actually listed between the first day of January and the fifteenth day of May.

Between these dates the County Supervisor will publish notice of a schedule of appointments in each township in his county to meet the tax-payers and receive their list.

Any citizen who wants to get it off his hands before these appointments can give in at any time to the County Supervisor at his office in the county-seat town.

How to Value Personal Property

At its actual cash value on January first.

The State is putting it up to you good and hard now, Mr. Citizen, to do the square thing. It has given you an exemption of three hundred dollars in value, has valued real property at its cash value, and guaranteed a proportionately reduced tax rate.

Personal property of practically all kinds has increased in cash value in about the same proportion as real property.

The tax lister is expecting you to have this standard of value in mind when listing your property—conservative actual cash value, January first basis.

He also expects you to have a good memory and return a complete list of all the personal property owned or which you may be under obligation to return as trustee in any capacity for another.

The administration of the revaluation act will be a great disappointment if it fails to disclose the listing of a vast amount in quantity and value of personal property, both tangible and intangible.

A Real Listing of Solvent Credits

The revaluation act anticipates a full listing of solvent credits. No citizen can hereafter satisfy his conscience by dodging this issue, for tax rates that confiscate income from solvent credits will no longer prevail against them. Any one who hereafter evades his legal obligation in this matter becomes a plain tax-dodger, and with the knowledge that a real effort will be made to locate him if he does dodge.

Credits Not Listed Can't be Enforced

It has for several years been written in our tax laws that payment of credits could not be enforced in the courts if the credit were not listed for taxes, but there was a loophole, in that credits were listed in a lump sum and not itemized. So a nominal sum could be listed, and this used to cover the particular credit on which recovery was sought. The revaluation act requires an itemized schedule of all notes, with name of the maker. Bank accounts may be listed in lump sum. Liabilities claimed as offset against credits listed are also required to be itemized. A. will list indebtedness to B. as an offset. That will give a check against B. if he fails to list his credits against A.

All Personal Property Located in State Must be Listed

Our Supreme Court has said that the legal fiction that personal property follows the domicile of the owner has no application to matters of revenue, and our tax laws provide that it shall not apply to tangible personal property, but that such property shall be listed where located.

There are vast quantities of personal property in the State belonging to nonresident owners. All such property must be listed where located, either by the owner or some one as agent for the owner.

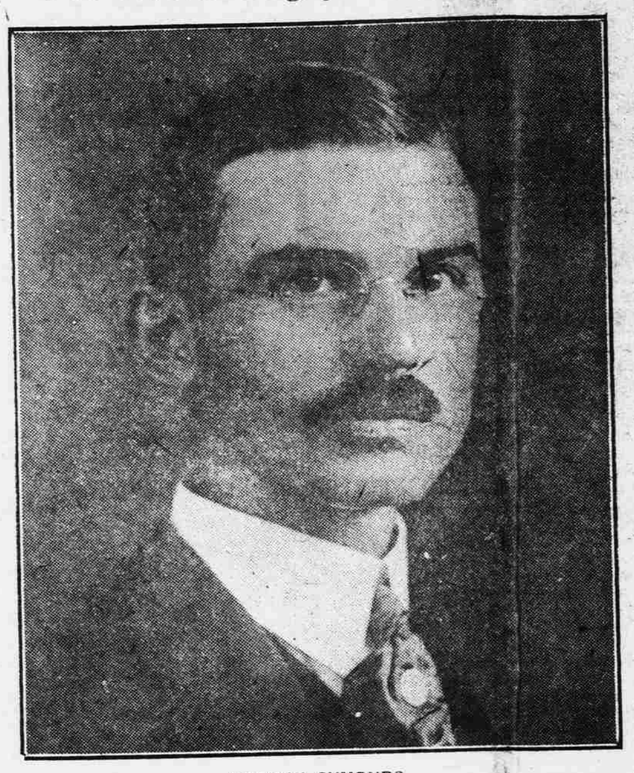
Solvent Credits of Nonresident Owners to be Listed in Some Cases

The general rule that personal property follows the domicile of the owner does not even apply to solvent credits in many cases. (Redmond v. Commissioners, 87th N. C.) If the owner maintains an established business in this State, with an established agency, all credits incident to such agency in this State, and extended in the course of such business located in this State, have a taxable situs here and must be so listed. In all cases of nonresident corporations doing business in this State, report of such credits will be made to the State Tax Commission and certified to the county in which agency is located.

Who Are Residents of the State

Our tax laws establish a definition of citizenship for purposes of taxation that is clear and simple: "When a person has two or more places in which he occasionally dwells, his residence shall be the place at which he resided the longest period of time the preceding twelve months."

No More City Jobs For Him



FRED W. SYMONDS

MR. SYMONDS came to Elizabeth City from Rahway, N. J. in July 1919 to accept the office of City Manager at a salary of $2,400 a year. The Board of Aldermen recently requested his resignation, telling him they wanted him to get out in 30 days. He asked them to let him out sooner and he goes to Durham, N. C. as an assistant consulting engineer to an organization that offers him a salary in keeping with his civil engineering ability. In meantime he has turned down offers from a number of cities wanting City Managers. Waltham, Mass, with a population of nearly 75,000, offered him $5,000 a year. He declined the offer. He says he will not work for a city again at any price. He failed as a City Manager in Elizabeth City because his ideas and peculiar abilities were too big for the town. It is probable that the city will now find a man little enough. The matter of appointing a new city manager is in the hands of a committee of Aldermen compased of J. B. Leigh, J. R. Bowden and C. M. Cooper. It is understood that P. C. Cahoon, a member of the Board of Aldermen, is favorably mentioned for the job.

THE BIG REASON WHY CHOWAN COLLEGE SHOULD COME HERE

A committee of seven from the Board of Trustees of Chowan College are in Elizabeth City today to investigate Elizabeth City as a possible location for their college. The committee arrived here yesterday afternoon and was entertained by the Chamber of Commerce. Ministerial Association and interested individuals, the entertainment culminating in a banquet at the Masonic Hall last night.

Chowan College seeks a new location for one all important reason. Chowan College wants to enter a new era of greater usefulness and wants to get into a real town where its light will not be hid under a bushel. That town should be Elizabeth City. Elizabeth City is the only town in the Chowan and West Chowan Baptist Associations that can support a big college. Elizabeth City is the commercial metropolis of ten northeastern North Carolina counties and with the coming of good roads will in five years be the commercial metropolis of other counties.

Men will send their daughters to school in a town where men like to do business.

Women will send their daughters to school in a town where women like to do their shopping.

Parents everywhere in northeastern North Carolina would prefer sending their children to a school in Elizabeth City, because they like to come to Elizabeth City themselves.

And the Baptist denomination, jealous of its future strength and influence needs this college at Elizabeth City. The Baptists can take a lesson here from the Roman Catholic brethren. Catholics build their biggest institutions where they will attract the greatest notice. In other words they advertise. The placing of Chowan College at Elizabeth City would be the biggest advertisement for the Baptists in the Chowan and West Chowan Associations.

Aside from all that, Elizabeth City needs Chowan College.

ELIZABETH CITY MAN TO SELL AIRPLANES

Reg. Lambert Will Put in An Agency Here Before the Rush Begins

Elizabeth City is to have an airplane agency. W. R. Lambert, manager of the Betsy Motor Co., agents for Dort and Nash automobiles, is in correspondence with the Curtis and Wright airplane companies with a view to securing an agency for one or both of these makes of airplanes at Elizabeth City.

Mr. Lambert admits that he doesn't expect airplanes to sell like hot cakes all at once, but he believes that the airplane will be as popular as the automobile in a few years and he wants to get in on the ground floor of the business before the rush begins.

HEAD CRUSHED BY LIMB OF A TREE

Lemuel White, Newland Township Farmer Dies in Norfolk Hospital

Lemuel White, a well known farmer of Newland township, this county died in a Norfolk hospital Monday, Jan. 19 as a result of injuries inflicted by a falling tree while he was working in the woods near his home Thursday, January 15.

Mr. White was felling trees. A falling tree crashed into another tree, a limb broke and the falling limb struck Mr. White on his head, laying his skull open. He was rushed to a Norfolk hospital, but there was no hope for him.

The deceased was about 40 years old and is survived by a wife and several children.

RAW FURS, such as coon, mink and muskrat higher than ever; and now is the time for trappers to sell. Don't be mislead by unreliable quotations. For top market prices, honest grading and spot cash bring your furs to W. C. GLOVER, Elizabeth City, N. C.—adv. cJ23-1t

(Advertisement)

YOUNG EYESIGHT IN OLD AGE

You can't grow younger; but you can enjoy good sight to a ripe old age, if you change your glasses as the advancing years demand.

My eyeglass service is based on long experience, modern equipment and progressive methods in optometry.

This entitles me to your serious consideration, if your eyes need glasses.

DR. J. D. HATHAWAY
Phone 999 :: Eliz. City, N. C.

BRAMBLETON:— 30x150 foot lot on principal street and best residential section in Brambleton; 10-room 2-story house and bath, electric light, gas, cellar, attic, rift pine floors, furnace heat; all modern conveniences, possession 30 days; $1,850 cash, balance long and easy terms. This property is worth $1,000 more than the price asked. W. J. GRIFFIN INVESTMENT CO., 615 Board Trade Bldg. Phone 27946, Norfolk, Va. cJ23-2t

BILLY SUNDAY WON HIS CROWD

Famous Evangelist Came And Conquered Elizabeth City

By JULIAN W. SELIG

Rev. "Billy" Sunday amazed, amused and thrilled an audience of over one thousand people here Monday afternoon in a sermon delivered at The First Baptist Church. Not displaying all the characteristics for which he has gained nation-wide fame, such as running back and forth and leaping up and down the platform with the agility of a trained athlete, Rev. Sunday hurled forth epigrams and pithy sayings with the rapidity of a trip-hammer. Never did he fail to make it known that he was the devil's greatest enemy and he conveyed the general impression that he was the chief exponent of righteousness. Admitting early in his sermon that it is never too late to be converted, he laughingly remarked that all of us are ashamed to look back too far. He laid down in plain, unvarnished words the duties we owe to ourselves, our children and our neighbors. Smiling one minute, looking very sober the next, the audience were with him from the very beginning.

Choosing as a text: "Is it well with thee? It is well with thy husband? Is it well with thy child?", he launched forth in his original style, telling why it is necessary to follow Jesus Christ if one seeks good health and happiness. He urged upon his hearers to ask God for forgiveness before it is too late, to make amends for their past wickedness before the undertaker backs up to the door. He gave striking examples of the influence of association and his remarks at time brought forth sounds of approval as well as an occasional "amen" by some of the congregation who were greatly touched by his oratory. Rev. Sunday urged the necessity of a curfew law in all towns, stating that children could learn more devilment between the hours of seven and ten at night than any other hours of the day. In speaking of the boyhood and girlhood of today he said: "We have got boys today that haven't sprouted long breeches that know more about the devil and sin than did old Methuselah when he was 969 years old. And we have got little frizzle-headed sissies that haven't sprouted lonk skirts yet that know more about devilment and sin than their grandmothers knew at 95."

In speaking of Christianity in the modern home, he dwelt upon the laxity with which the parents of today raise their children in regards to the church. He pointed out the fact that in some professed Christian homes, prayers were never said. To quote "If your child goes to heaven or is kept from the downward path to Hell, it is because some other person has taken more of an interest in his welfare than you have. You let your child grow up in ignorance of the teachings of God. It is always some outsider who tells the child the necessity of constant prayer. How many homes today have a daily family prayer? Only a few."

Telling of the influence of a mother's love and how elastic this love is, he told of his early childhood days in Iowa, of his father answering the call to the Civil War and of his never returning to his fireside. He told of his days when he played professional base-ball with the Chicago White Sox and how this act almost caused his mother to loose influence over him. And it was while he was still playing ball that a voice from Heaven, told him of his transgressions and urged that he go forth as an apostle preaching the cause of Christianity and righteousness to his neighbor. It was this description in which Mr. Sunday was at his best, completely swaying the large congregation from tears one moment to laughter another. His description of a visit to his childhood home where he formerly went hunting, or milked the cows, or did the family chores, was in itself wonderful and gave his hearers a chance to see what a command he had of effective picture wording, as well as modern slang which he often made use of.

While not diverting from his chosen text, he occasionally illustrated a story from actual events which he knew to be true and in these illustrations he always made it a point to get a good knock at the use of whiskey. Never did he fail to deliver John Barleycorn a good blow when he could possibly get the chance. And by his mannerisms, by his magnetic appeals, and by his earnestness of expression he firmly convinced all his hearers of his great sincerity of purpose.

DISTRICT HIGHWAY NOT TO BE BUILT VERY SOON

Fact That It Cant Be Built Under Present Act As it Stands is Finally Admitted by a Member of The Commission

What has become of the Ferebee District Highway, that wonderful concrete road which was to have been built from Edenton to the Virginia state line, via Elizabeth City, Shawboro and Moyock? The answer was anticipated by this newspaper months ago but is now admitted by a member of the District Highway Commission. This member tells this newspaper that the District Highway Commission is convinced that it will have to secure an amendment to the Ferebee Act before it can raise sufficient funds to build the road. And so, until that amendment can be secured at another session of the legislature the District Highway Commission can only mark time. In meantime the tax payers in the five counties embraced in the district will pay 10 cents on each $100 valuation of their property for a road that may be built if they will consent to having that tax increased.

The District Highway Commission sees only one possible other way out. Some of the Commissioners believe that the increased valuation of property under the Revaluation Act will provide the revenue for the building of the road. Under the District Highway Act the limit of taxation is fixed at 10 cents on the $100 valuation and 30 cents on the poll. That limit was based upon the tax values of 1917 and did not anticipate the revaluation of property in 1920. Right here an interesting question arises:-

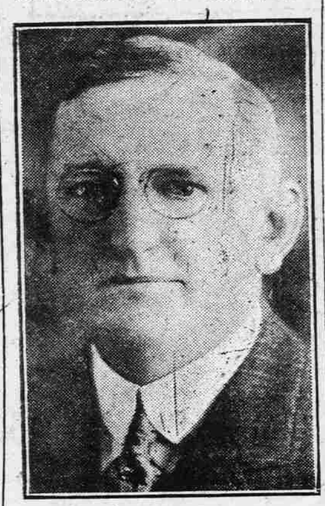
The State of North Carolina in calling for an honest revaluation of property pledged the people of the state that their taxes would not be perceptibly increased under the revaluation. A special session of the Legislature was promised in order to secure an adjustment of the tax rate to fit the new valuation of property, The total property valuation in the five counties in this district highway project was about $17,000,000.00, based upon the tax books of 1917. Under the revaluation of 1920 the total of taxable property in this district is confidently expected to treble the values of 1917.

John Smith whose property was listed at $1,000 in 1917 is now paying $1.00 of tax money on the Ferebee District Highway. John Smith's property will appear $3,000 under the revaluation of 1920 and he will pay $3.00 of his tax money on the Ferebee Highway, unless the Supreme Court holds that local tax assessments must be adjusted to the Revaluation, just as the state has pledged to adjust all other taxes to the Revaluation.

No one is standing in the way of the Ferebee District Highway. The sponsors of the project and a lying press tried to make the public believe that some one was holding it up. The bluff having served its purpose for a season the public has since been left in the dark, neither Senator Ferebee nor the District Highway Commission vouchsafing any information as to why they don't proceed to build a road.

At this late date an admission is made by a member of the District Highway Commission that another session of the Legislature will have to be appealed to before the Edenton-Virginia highway can be built. The question now arises, will the Representatives of the five different counties in the District line up for an amendment to the bill? And that is a question indeed. Chowan always was reluctant to go into the scheme. Currituck and Camden went into it almost as reluctantly. How will they feel when asked to put up more money? Still others are beginning to ask the question, what will Virginia do? Here is a project to build a hard surfaced road from Albemarle Sound to the Virginia State line, the city of Norfolk being the objective; and no one has any assurance from the Virginians that they will join us at their state line and build a hard surfaced road into Norfolk.

NEARLY UP TO AMIEL'S



DR. HERBERT D. WALKER

AMIEL said that "The model doctor should be at once a genius, a saint and a man of God." No one has ever accused Herbert Walker of being a saint, but he is something of a genius and as much a man of God as any of the rest of us. He is one of Elizabeth City's most popular and successful physicians and surgeons. He is popular because he is kind, cheerful, courteous and full of fun. And he is successful because these radiant qualities carried into the sick room work greater wonders than pills— the not in the same way.

ELIZABETH CITY MAY GET SUNDAY REVIVAL

Billy Sunday Thinks He Will Play The Bush League Towns Soon

Billy Sunday may come to Elizabeth City and hold a four or six weeks revival. At least one Elizabeth City minister approached him on the subject and Mr. Sunday indicated tha the might be glad to consider the proposition seriously. He stated that he believed it only a question of a year or two before he would have exhausted the big cities in the country and would have to fall back upon the smaller cities.

And then Mr. Sunday stated that he really preferred work in smaller cities; that less effort was required in addressing audiences of 4,000 or 5,000. His work of speaking day after day and night after night to audiences of 15,000 to 20,000 is telling on him and those who observe him closely suspect that he will be a total nervous wreck if he doesn't quit his present pace at an early date.

Just as he was leaving Elizabeth City Monday Billy Sunday waved a hand to Rev. J. M. Ormond, pastor of First Methodist Church of this city, and said: "I'll be with you in about a year." It was intended in a spirit of pleasantry and jest, but some think they detected a note of earnestness in his vioce and a wistfulnss in his eyes.

4 YOUNG BOYS FINED FOR CRAP SHOOTING

That is the Favorite Sunday Afternoon Pastime For Scores of Elizabeth Youth

Four white boys, ages 15 to 16 years, were caught in a Crap game back of the Albmearle Steam Laundry in this city Sunday afternoon, arrested, tried in the Recorder's Court Monday morning and fined $5 each. Their names are not published, because this newspaper does not like to hold young boys up as criminals before the community. But the information as to their arrest is given so that every parent can have an eye to his own boy. The boys who were treid in the police court here Monday come from good families.

The boys who were caught in that game Sunday were only four of scores of boys who spend their Sundays shooting crap, smoking cigarettes and indulging in profanity; always in hidden, out of the way places where their conduct passes unnoticed. The crap shooting evil has grown to such an extent that of seven boys caught in the act of stealing in the past few months, six have confessed that they stole to get money with which to shoot crap. The seventh, a little chap of six years, told Secretary Gilmore of the Y. M. C. A. that he often acted as a picket for crap shooters, warning them when the police came near.

NAVY RECRUITING OFFICE READY FOR RAW MEAT

The Navy Recruiting Station at Elizabeth City is now open and ready to enlist any young able-bodied American citizens between the ages of 18 and 35 years who desire to take up a position where there is very opportunity to learn a trade and travel and see the world and be paid while doing so. Further in formation will cheerfully be given to any one interested in the navy if they will call or write to the Navy Recruiting office, 2nd floor Court House Building. The office is open every day except Sunday, between the hours of 8:30 a. m. and 5 p. m.

CHEERING WORDS FROM INDEPENDENT READERS

More than 100 subscribers of this newspaper renewed their subscriptions last week. Many of them wrote encouraging words for the editor and for the paper. A well known minister wrote:

"I am for you for Congress, because I believe in a man that has convictions of his own, and let me tell you the world is beginning to demand such in all professions of life."

From many counties came the word, "We are wearing the Saunders campaign button." And, speaking of that button, Leiut. Governor O. Max Gardner writes:

"Your unique notice of the expiration of my subscription to the "Independent" has just been received and I can not resist the temptation to take advantage of your offer of renewal. I am, therefore, enclosing my check.

"Your campaign button is very attractive and I am very much inclined to place an order with the same company."