

CHARLOTTE ENTERTAINS CAROLINA EDITORS, ANNUAL MEETING OF PRESS ASSOCIATION

The Address of Third Assistant Postmaster General Lawshe the Feature of Yesterday's Session—He Has a Heart-to-Heart Talk With the Newspaper Men and Asks Their Co-Operation in Enforcing the New Regulations—President Archibald Johnson, of Charity and Children, Calls the Session to Order and Presides at the Morning and Afternoon Sessions—A Number of Interesting and Instructive Papers Read at the Morning Session—The Visitors Given a Trolley Ride in the Afternoon and Entertained by the Young Ladies of the Presbyterian College at Night—The Programme For To-Day's Session Embraces a Number of Social Events.

As unpretentiously as they labor from day to day to fulfill their great mission, the editors of the State gathered yesterday morning in the assembly room of the Selwyn Hotel for their 26th annual convention. The first session abounded in promises that this would be the banner meet in the history of the association, in point of attendance as well as in point of the enjoyment and profit which is yearly derived from the gathering of fellow newspaper workers. President Archibald Johnson, of Thomasville, editor of Charity and Children, and one of the brainiest men of his craft set in the chair, and in his opening address, of The Concord Times, was in his place. The session being called to order, Rev. Dr. J. O. Atkinson, of The Christian Sun, invoked the divine benediction and matters of a routine nature were dispensed with rapidly. Mayor T. S. Franklin was introduced to make the address of welcome in behalf of the city. He said in part as follows:

MAYOR FRANKLIN'S WELCOME.

Ladies and Gentlemen: I remember when Charlotte was a mere little town with 4,000 inhabitants. I have seen it grow steadily into a small city and now into the biggest city in the State. (Applause). Then we had no industries and perhaps I might say that then we had not the best newspapers; but to-day the city is filled with varied and large industries and now we have the best newspapers in the State. The newspapers have accomplished more than any other single factor in developing this city. The City of Charlotte welcomes you and is glad to have you in her midst for a short stay.

WELCOME FROM THE PRESS.

On behalf of the press of the city Mr. W. C. Dowd, editor and general manager of The News, made the welcome address. He dumbledombed that the president should put me against that steam-roller out there—old Mary Jane was cavorting ridiculously. "It suggests to me that he thinks we are run down here by the same stuff with which he runs the hot air." He referred to the harmony which had been found among the local associations in providing entertainment for the visitors, and gave this as an evidence of the fact that the city appropriated the coming of the editors.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Following this came the annual address of President Johnson, which in full was as follows: Brethren of the North Carolina Press Association: We are all glad to meet under this hospitable roof in this splendid city. It has been sixteen years since we met in Charlotte. Then it was little more than a struggling village. It was far behind some of the towns it has since passed by with a smile. Now with apologies to Greensboro and Wilmington, it is the foremost city in our Commonwealth.

AN HONORABLE CALLING.

It is not given to every man to make his columns shine with the light of genius, but it is given to every man who enters this honorable calling to be honest and true. Fidelity to the State and loyalty to her traditions and her history, that battered veteran ancestor of truth in all things, though our own opinions and preferences perish in its light, are prerequisites to editorial efficiency. Disagreeing on many things we must all agree in striving to become exponents of whatever things are honest and pure and lovely and of good report. There is no scavenger quite so vile as the newspaper scavenger.

GROWTH OF THE PRESS.

Our horizon was limited and narrow then. The broad commercial unity of to-day was unknown. Railroads were short, disjointed and crude. The trains made their tedious journeys to the end of their runs, turned around and made them back again. Now the

great systems of the North are ours and the mighty steel highways belt the continent and bring us all together. In the development of the railroad interests, the South has found the chief source of her greatness, and although it was considered, aforesaid, disloyal and dangerous to say so, we owe a debt of gratitude to these vast corporations that we cannot measure. It is quite true the motives of the railroad magnates may not have been angelic, but we have reaped the blessing nevertheless. The newspapers, of all other institutions, have received their full share of development from the splendid service the railroads under the new order of things have given to the State. The Supreme Court has paralyzed State's rights. They tell us in its recent decision, but it has saved the railroads and a great many people would rather have the railroads than the eleventh amendment.

While, as newspaper men, our opportunities have mightily multiplied, and our influence has vastly extended, the



ARCHIBALD JOHNSON, Editor of Charity and Children and President of the North Carolina Press Association.

fundamental principles underlying our business have not changed. The condition Times grows in power and influence through the passing years, but its chief place in the profession it so adorns has been achieved by adhering throughout its history to the policy upon which it was based when it began its great career. The honesty, candor and integrity of the press are the corner-stones upon which the structure depends. A cowardly, time-serving, truculent press is as impotent as it is contemptible. The newspapers of North Carolina, in the main, are honest and courageous. They have always been so. We need, I think, to dwell much upon this theme at each recurring annual meeting. The business end of a newspaper is an important matter, and will receive this session its due share of attention, but each man has his own methods and must adapt himself to his own locality, but we all must stand together upon the rock of honesty and courage, if we stand at all.

THE EDUCATIONAL SITUATION.

The subject of education is so closely allied with the profession of journalism that I need hardly stop to urge our brethren to loyalty to our schools. We have had a wonderful awakening in North Carolina on this great question. Charles B. Aycock, the apostle of light, kindled in the hearts of the people a deep longing for the uplift of the childhood of the State. The seed he sowed bearing a rich harvest. The log school house is a rare thing now, and better teachers during longer terms are leading the children into the light. Every newspaper in North Carolina ought to be, and I believe really is, the friend and defender of education. We should find joy, brethren, in reaching out a helping hand to every boy and girl however poor and ragged to lift him over the rocks in his rugged way. It is no small part of our work to teach little feet to climb the steps and gain the summit above the clouds.

into the limelight. Horace Greely was the sun around which The Tribune revolved; nobody knows or cares to-day who is editor of The Tribune. Only one of the old-time captains of the press remains—Henry Watterson—and when he is gathered to his fathers The Courier-Journal will become a great impersonal purveyor of the world's events with silent and nameless tollers doing their work in the dark; and they will not be less useful or able than the grand old man whose name is known over the whole wide world. This is as it should be. We have come into a better day. The blameworthy egotism in the newspaper business tended not toward strength but weakness. It is better to be than seem to be. What I do develops and enriches me more than what I say. The editor who saves his life shall lose it. To the conceited and bombastic who love the glare and glory of popular applause, this obscuration of the editor's personality is intolerable, but to him who loves his work more than he loves himself is the finest stimulus to a perfect mastery of his business. It has come to pass that no man can wear the collar of the public service and the crown of journalistic success one and the same time. The recent distressing embroglio in Georgia in which a newspaper man was pitted against a politician resulted as might have been expected—the politician got the plum and the editor the black eye. The sacrifice of ambition upon the altar of service may seem a high price to pay, but to reach the top every penny of it must be paid.

"I hold it truth with him who sings To one clear harp in divers tones, That men may rise on stepping stones Of their dead selves to higher things."

As the editor decreases as a person or political factor, he increases immeasurably in his power for good. In order to mould the public policy and shape the public thought he must like the grain of wheat, be willing to fall into the ground and die, that his power may be multiplied. I have said all this in order that I might pave the way for this recommendation.

THE PROGRAMME FOR TO-DAY

- Morning Session
Place, the Assembly Hall of the Selwyn Hotel; time, 9.30 o'clock.
Essay—"How to Prevent Freight Discrimination Against North Carolina."—Maj. E. J. Hale, of The Fayetteville Observer.
Essay—"The Linotype in a Country Weekly Office."—Mr. H. B. Varner, of The Lexington Dispatch.
Essay—"Extent of Obligation of a Newspaper to a Party."—Mr. J. J. Farriss, of The High Point Enterprise.
Essay—"The Editor and His Subscribers."—Mr. R. F. Beasley, of The Monroe Journal.
Essay—"The Editor in Politics."—Mr. John M. Julian, of The Salisbury Post.
Miscellaneous business, resolutions, etc.
Special order 11 o'clock, election of officers.

Afternoon Session

The particular event of the afternoon will be the automobile ride which will be given the visitors. The machines will gather in front of the First Presbyterian church at 4 o'clock and tickets will be given the members of the association and their wives and daughters assigning them to the proper cars. The trip out will be by way of Mint street to the Dowd road and on to Dixie and Shopton. Crossing to the Pineville road, the return trip to the city will be commenced. One of the county convict camps will be inspected near Steele Creek church and the visitors will be shown just how the macadam roads are being built. Specimens of road which have been in use 10 years and such as are of recent construction will be pointed out. Returning to the city, the new auditorium in which the coming State convention is to be held will be visited and inspected. The trip will cover approximately 25 miles.

This evening at 7:45 o'clock the veterans' choir will sing at the Selwyn some of the old-time hymns.

At 9 o'clock the informal smoker at the Southern Manufacturers' Club will be given. This will bring the convention to a close.

to say, our North Carolina newspapers have not gone into spasms. There is each year a brilliant and glittering throng of brethren from the North, with pity in their hearts for the poor, who make their way through the South, halting for a brief period at Tuskegee and giving Booker Washington an approving smile; then, gathering up their garments, sail back to New York City with consciences void of offence toward all men. These men mean well, but they do not understand the spirit or the traditions of the South.

There is a growing spirit of independence among the newspapers of the State of which I am delighted to speak. I believe in parties. A newspaper, like an individual, ought to stand for something. But an editor can be true to his party without being its slave. Newspapers must have self-respect if it would command the respect of others. What a man believes in his heart he should speak through his columns. The editor will be discussed later on, but I desire to call attention to the growing tendency toward candor and sincerity in the editorial expressions of the North Carolina press.

It is also pleasant to note the appearance of healthy financial conditions of our newspapers. None of our number have gone into the hands of a receiver, nor have we cut off a single hour from our day's labor. It takes something worse than a White House man to fire a North Carolina newspaper man. Since the government has put us on a cash basis, whether or no, I am inclined to think the outlook more hopeful still. The new postal law was enacted to help rather than hurt the newspaper business, and I think we shall all feel its benefit and be convinced of its wisdom before we meet again. The dead beats had abused the privilege accorded the real newspapers, and forced the government in self-defense to find a way to confine its benefits to those for whom they were intended.

From time immemorial the newspapers have waged a relentless warfare upon the trusts and now we find ourselves in the iron grip of the most heartless of them all. There are several of these giant combinations, but they are all one in method, purpose and aim. This monstrous paper trust has a monopoly of honest men. I think we shall all feel its benefit and be convinced of its wisdom before we meet again. The dead beats had abused the privilege accorded the real newspapers, and forced the government in self-defense to find a way to confine its benefits to those for whom they were intended.

Mr. Herman Ridder, the president of the American Newspaper Union, a letter to the President, gives some very startling statements with regard to the rapacity and wickedness of the gang of robbers who are holding up the newspaper fraternity and growing fat on the earnings of honest men. No matter what house a publisher may approach for quotations, he is told the same story. Prices are predetermined and competition is destroyed. I quote a paragraph or two from Mr. Ridder's luminous letter which appears in the Easter number of the National Printer-Journalist.

"PUBLISHERS' SUPPLY PDEDETERMINED."

Publishers who apply for quotations realize that in some intangible way the source of their supply has been predetermined and that the price they are to pay has been prearranged for them. In each case the publisher finds that all bids but one are at a prohibitory price and that the one which has no remedy against the supply in inferior paper. Unity of action on the part of the manufacturers and uniformity of prices are obvious. Publishers who make inquiry of one mill discover that the others have been advised of the inquiry. A secret bureau of information is at work. New selling agencies, representing an aggregation of previously independent mills have merged the output of those mills. Various mills have been shut down for various periods upon various pretexts. We allege and expect to be able to prove that some of these mills were shut down to starve the paper market and to create a paper famine. We would earnestly recommend

that the North Carolina Press Association take this matter of resistance to this scheme of glittering and serious consideration and formulate some plan by which we may unify and stimulate all our members to do their utmost to destroy this monster whose shadow is cast over this whole country.

In my judgment there is nothing more practical or important before the newspapers of the country to-day, for we are face to face with a foe that will not parley or compromise, but that demands the earnings of the fraternity and will hear to nothing less.

Speaker Cannon has decided to "investigate" and that proves the injustice and inequity of the methods of this trust; but a united, determined, persistent and uncompromising effort on the part of all the newspapers of the country will mean not an "investigation" but annihilation. Let us all stand shoulder to shoulder in opposition to this most offensive and insatiable of all trusts.

I trust we are entering upon what shall be a session of unusual profit and pleasure. Accepting with pleasure the courtesies of our kind friends among whom we sojourn and who know so well how to make life sunny and sweet, let us not be lured away from our duties here, but make the meeting tell for our own good and that of others.

Like ships that pass each other on the wide and lonesome sea, and then break their onward way through the billows, we pause a little while from the grinding toil of the year and sa-

lute one another, returning to our work with our hearts teeming with happy memories. To me, this annual reunion of my fellow workers, this elbow touch with those who like myself are striving to make the world a little better because we live and labor, is a very helpful as well as a very happy occasion, and I always feel like poor Tiny Tim whose heart was so brimming full he could only blurt out the childish sentiment that has become immortal: "God bless us every one."

MR. GREEN'S PAPER.

Mr. J. Z. Green, of Marshville, editor of "Our Home," read a thoughtful and effective essay on the subject, "Independent Editorials in Country Weeklies." "When it is remembered that my humble newspaper career began in the woods and exists now in one of the smallest towns in the State that has a newspaper, I claim I have as much right to the distinction of being a country editor as anybody in the State," said he. "I am not the least bit envious of the great city dailies which have a distinct field of their own. They can not fill the mission of a country weekly any more than a country weekly can fill the mission of the city daily."

PARTISAN PAPER AN AUTOMATIC MACHINE.

"The editor who runs a strictly loyal partisan paper is up against a proposition that demands nerve. In this age of divisions and sub-divisions of party factions, representing widely divergent political creeds, an editor must have the nerve to change his political principles just as fast as his party changes, and no oftener. He is bound to go with the faction that gains ascendancy, otherwise he is not loyal. He must make of himself an automatic machine that adjusts itself agreeably and harmoniously to the constantly changing party creeds, even though it embraces but one principle that he loves and three that he hates. With all due respect to those who claim that the best welfare of the country demands partisan service from a class of people who are supposed to be moulders of public sentiment, I give it as my opinion that editorial work of that kind, to the exclusion of more important and practical things, produces mental stagnation and discourages the independent research and individual judgment to deal wisely with the great questions that affect popular government and material prosperity.

NO DEMAND FOR PARTY SERVICE.

"The constituency of country weeklies is such that demand comes for editorial work on a broader and higher plane than that which is occupied in mere party service. If we

measure up well to our duties and opportunities, we will carefully refrain from playing upon the prejudices of country readers in such a way as to aid any politician who wants to use them. There is, however, a wholesome and healthy demand for independent editorials that appeal to thought and judgment—editorials that are products of impartial research and observation. Country readers are learning more and more that prosperity and success come more through the creative and constructive ability of individuals than through legislative bodies. No class of people on the face of the earth have promised more and done less for the development of the moral, industrial and financial interests of the country than the machine politicians, and yet some of us persist in giving our readers a big dose of partisan editorials every day in the year, in season and out of season.

VALUE OF COUNTRY PAPER.

"When properly edited upon a broad and independent basis, a country weekly can be a great factor in encouraging development and progress to a rural community. It is the silent influence that touches every member of the home. The country editor can help to mould an intelligent and progressive public sentiment, if he works along independent lines and gives more consideration to the real things of life than to the empty game of politics. Viewed from the high plane of independent journalism, it need not concern us how any individual reader votes. It is enough for us to discuss economic questions in an impartial way. We

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