

The Charlotte Observer.

J. F. CALDWELL, Publishers. EVERY DAY IN THE YEAR. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1908.

THE REMOVAL OF THE REVENUE OFFICERS.

It has been stated in the news columns of this paper that there has been issued by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue an order which will remove from North Carolina the majority of the United States Internal Revenue officers doing service in the State after the 1st of January.

The immediate effect of this order, in all likelihood, will be that the manufacture and sale of whiskey will largely increase in North Carolina. The reason for this is that moonshiners have a very wholesome fear of Uncle Sam's officers, but are inclined not to take the State's officers very seriously in the matter of punishing bootlegging.

In the May election the people of North Carolina by a large majority vote, decided to give prohibition a trial, and it is clear as the non-day sun that they expect to have the law enforced and they will not hold those county officers guiltless if they do as they have been doing in the past.

For some months revenue officers have reported that, despite their best efforts, the illicit manufacture of liquor was on the increase and it is evident enough that the withdrawal of the revenue officers will further stimulate its production.

The Observer, while entirely quiet on the subject during the prohibition campaign—after having stated its views in opposition to the bill submitted by the Legislature to the people—after the election admonished obedience to the order of things and observance of the law to go into effect January 1st at the mandate of the voters.

At this time soon come to pass. Uncle Sam will withdraw his revenue forces after January 1st, and the local liquor laws must be enforced by local people, without the aid of the government at Washington.

In a word, after the first of next month it will be up to the sheriffs, and up to this time few of them have manifested any interest in the State prohibition laws. For saying this before we were accused of advancing the aged and hackneyed proposition that of "trying to discredit the law."

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Richmond is in a very fair way to annex Manchester, across the James. If the annexation comes off, Richmond will gain about twelve thousand inhabitants in addition to those gained by a previous extension of limits.

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North Carolina was undoubtedly first at Bethel, that is to say, in shedding blood for the Confederacy. It was South Carolina, as everybody admits, which led in holding slaves and beating on the struggle.

THEAT EXPLODED "SCANDAL"

There was never the slightest cause for suspecting any one connected with the United States government of wrong-doing in connection with the purchase of the Panama canal property from its French owners.

What may have happened in France after the money had passed from the United States government's hands into the hands of the duly appointed agent of the French courts was a matter concerning which, chiefly in consequence of Attorney Wm. Nelson Cromwell's evasions before the Senate committee on interoceanic canals, there was a good deal of speculation.

But Mr. Cromwell, declaring that his evasions were only apparent and were really due to honest ignorance of the subject two years ago, has since made as full a statement as any one could possibly desire.

This statement is borne out in every detail by the records of both the United States government and the French court. It appears that not one dollar went to any American citizen and there cannot have been any "American syndicate."

Among the names of 6,000 security-holders receiving payments not one was the name of an American. The relations between the old and new Panama canal companies, for a long matter of conjecture, have been made reasonably clear.

The Roosevelt administration cannot be involved in any "Panama scandal" for the simple reason that no such thing occurred at any stage of the proceedings.

Though having its home in the national capital, The Washington Herald is in no sense an organ of the administration, and it is a very judicious newspaper.

The so-called Panama scandal, says The Herald, is a product of sensational journalism. It was exploited in the midst of a political campaign for whatever damage it might do to the reputation of the Republican presidential candidate.

And this appears to be just about the sum, substance and conclusion of the whole matter.

THE MATTER OF BETHEL. In the matter of North Carolina's firstness at Bethel The Charlotteville Progress, interbutting between The Petersburg Index-appeal and The Observer at the moment when hostilities had been referred to a later date, shows itself an anything but innocent bystander.

The Progress admits that Henry Wyatt, the first Confederate soldier killed, came from North Carolina with a North Carolina company. The assertion is made, however, that Wyatt was a native of Albemarle county, Virginia.

The Index-appeal is out of court unless it can successfully combat the admission made by The Progress.

HUNTER ROOSEVELT'S CONFIDENCE. President Roosevelt tells the Smithsonian Institution that if it will send field taxidermists or animal-skinners along with him on his African hunting trip "the collection which would thus go to the National Museum would be of unique value."

A DELIGHTFUL CONCERT AT PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE

Students Christmas Concert Proves One of the Most Pronounced Successes of the Year—A Large and Appreciative Audience Witnesses the Performance of Varied Types of Skill and Training—Young Ladies, Beautiful in Beauty and Fascinating in Costume, Appeared With Flowers, Stormed With Applause and Awakened Admiration in Ladies and Gentlemen Alike—The Programme and Those Who Participated.

The students' Christmas concert given in the Presbyterian College last night at 8:30 o'clock, was attended by a very large and appreciative audience. It was a musical evening, the memories of which will linger delightfully with all who were present.

Miss Elizabeth Chambers, wearing a lovely gown of pale blue satin, sang "The Star" and "The Song of the Lark" with beautiful voice and excellent taste. She received lots of flowers.

Miss Virginia Wall played Mendelssohn's scherzo and played it very prettily. She looked very dainty in a blue gown and was graceful at the piano. She received applause in abundance and flowers also.

Miss Anna Della Joyner, wearing a blue gown, sang Becker's beautiful "Spring Song," to which her clear soprano voice was admirably adapted. She received generous applause and pretty flowers.

Miss Louise Parks, a very pretty young lady, wearing a very pretty white dress, played Chaminade's Air de Ballet, and played it with great talent. She plays with dash and spirit, and it is no wonder she was so tremendously applauded and received so many flowers.

Miss Hazel Elliott, another very pretty girl, wearing a becoming gown of pale yellow, entertained the audience with a reading, "How the La Rue Stakes Were Lost," and she displayed great talent as an elocutionist. Her enunciation being clear, her good looks and expression and diction excellent. She was enthusiastically applauded and received many flowers.

Miss Myrtle McKee, wearing a blue gown, played Mikorski's walse Brillante, and played it in a charming manner, having the ease and liberty of the real musician, good technique and pretty taste. She received some lovely pink roses and applause.

OTHERS WHO TOOK PART. Miss Mary Smith, petite, dainty and clad in pure white, gave two readings: (a) King John (Act I, scene II), and (b) Diddle and Dumps, two selections so opposite in character as to display the versatility of the talented elocutionist who was very charming as she repeated the classic lines of Shakespeare and the irrepressible as she recited the humorous dialogue of "Diddle and Dumps."

Miss Perry Griffith, wearing blue, played Bartlett's "Grand Old Flag" and "The Star-Spangled Banner," always a popular piano selection, and Miss Griffith played it well, bringing out all the melody and executing the various trills and runs with artistic effect. She received a profusion of sweet peas.

Miss Marie Torrence, looking very pretty and sweet in pure white, sang "The Nightingale," by Ballen and she showed decided talent. Her voice is musical, clear and sweet, and she sings with lovely intonation. Her accompanist was very fine, playing well and looking pretty—Miss Melva Carr. Miss Torrence brought down the house and received lots of flowers.

Miss Sue McKeown played an impressive "Rheinhold," and looked very attractive in pale blue. She is a good pianist, playing with excellent taste and accurate technique, and her touch is very pretty. She received lots of carnations and applause.

The programme was brought to a close by "A Romance," by Rubenstein, sung by the college masquerade, such a beautiful array of young ladies that the audience applauded their appearance for several minutes before they began to sing. They were accompanied upon the organ by Mr. Henry Anderson and upon the piano by Miss Carr.

AFFAIRS AT FORT MILL, S. C.

Fort Mills which have been idle for months to resume January 4th—Local Talent Gives Theatrical Production—Churches of the Town Establish Union Prayer Meeting.

Fort Mill, S. C., Dec. 17.—Last night's local amateur theatrical production presented the play, "The Honor of a Cowboy," to a good house in the town hall. The work of the company was quite creditable to those taking part in it.

A fancy bazaar was also given yesterday in the town hall under the management of the ladies of the Home Missionary Society of the Presbyterian church. Cakes, candy, needles and fancy work were offered for sale. A substantial dinner, with oysters, was also served. The funds realized in this way will be applied to charity in the town and community and several needy families will be aided over hard times by gifts from those taking part in the bazaar.

This town has probably been harder hit by the panic than any town in the Carolinas of which the writer has knowledge. Both mills of the Fort Mill Manufacturing Company have been at a standstill for four months. For the most part, the citizens of the mill villages have moved away and the loss has been seriously felt by all business interests.

The cotton crop has been more completely gathered up to this time than for several years past. Very little is now left in the fields. While some of the most prosperous planters are holding for a better price the great majority of the farmers in this community has sold the greater part of their crop, notwithstanding the lower prices which have prevailed.

A development in religious circles which is worthy of mention is a union prayer meeting conducted by the churches in this direction into a united effort and thus far the plan has worked well. The Baptists and Presbyterians are working together in these meetings and it is hoped that the Methodists will also join in.

NIGHT-RIDER JURY CHOSEN. Two Unexpected Surprises Sprung by the State Hasten the Hitherto Sluggish Trial—One of the Jurors Accepted Wednesday Proven to Be the Father of a Night-Rider.

Union City, Tenn., Dec. 17.—Two unexpected surprises sprung by the State on the second day of the trial of the eight alleged night-riders, indicted for the murder of Captain Quentin Rankin, resulted in the completion of the jury this afternoon, and will shorten the time of the trial.

The State caused consternation as soon as court opened by filing an affidavit, signed by all the attorneys for the prosecution, charging that J. H. Russell, the first of the two jurors chosen yesterday, was the father of a night-rider, and had been sworn into the outlaw band by one of the defendants now on trial.

When the next witness was announced and examined, the defense attempted to challenge him peremptorily, but the court overruled the point that the defense, having used 25 empty challenges, had exhausted its legal number and two more. Attorney General Caldwell admitted that the defendant was admitted to 24 challenges, but said that when on a joint trial the defense did not specify on behalf of which defendant it made the challenge, it was presumed to have made each challenge upon behalf of each defendant.

ARMY OFFICERS REBUKED. General Order Issued by War Department Rebukes It into a Colonel and a Captain For Appropriating Public Property to Unlawful Uses.

Washington, Dec. 17.—A stinging rebuke on two army officers is contained in a general order issued by the War Department to-day signed by Gen. J. Franklin Bell, chief of staff, publishing the action of the President in the cases of Col. Daniel Cornham and Capt. Charles G. French, both recently tried by court martial at Fort Wayne, Mich., in connection with the use of forage. The court sentenced Colonel Cornham to suspension from command for one month and to be reprimanded.

Exactly What This Paper Thinks. To the Editor of The Observer: If you editors would cut out some of these things with "accepting positions" some of the people would be greatly pleased. Sometimes when we read the correspondence to some papers, and more especially the country papers, we get such things as "The Hon. So-and-so called or passed" and that "Professor 2 x 4 attended church Sunday," and every little school teacher is made a professor, and the professors are some-times made D.D.'s and every politician is Hon. So-and-so. We think all such stuff ought to go with "accepting positions."

DR. THOMPSON CALLED DOWN.

Flattery Language is Subjected to the Scrutiny of Cold Feet—Last Chapter in the Hookworm Discussion. To the Editor of The Observer:

Having amicably adjusted a misunderstanding with some boys afflicted with an excess of Christmas (a disease unknown to physicians but familiar to all teachers) I turned for relief to The Charlotte Observer and read Dr. Cyrus Thompson's second Epistle to the Provincial, touching the hookworms, and its pedagogy, flowers, humor, prescience, money and hookworms, and in which in one breath he exonerates from all implication of sanity my recent suggestion that the proof is not yet complete that the children of the South are affected with listlessness worth mentioning.

I have for some years been seriously interested in the subject, and have been reading all obtainable literature about it; but I respectfully submit that the general impression made that vitality in the South is at a low stage, and on account of the hookworm, is not yet proven. I only maintain that we should not get unduly excited over something that is by no means in a sufficiently definite form for the general public to grasp. This same excitement broke out about ten years ago, though it was then called "the lazy worm." Meantime, Dr. Stiles has evidently accomplished an investigation satisfactory to the magical fraternity, but which is far from being clear to others.

In conclusion, I submit that: 1. The children of the South are not more deficient in vitality than are the children of other States.

2. The relation of the hookworms to the deficient vitality that does exist is not clear.

3. The statistics as to the comparative death-rate in the South are conflicting and not conclusive.

4. The relation of the death-rate to the hookworms is not established.

5. The formula for the eradication of the hookworms, if so simple and effective as claimed, should be made public.

6. The discussion should be confined to the medical fraternity or be made clear to the public. BRUCE CRAVEN.

SANTA CLAUS LETTERS BARRED. Postmaster General Will Not Renew the Order of Last Year Because the Privilege Was Abused and is Considered Generally a Bad Practice.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Postmaster General Meyer to-day announced that he would not renew his order issued in December, 1907, permitting delivery to charitable organizations of letters addressed to Santa Claus.

NUMEROUS complaints have been made to the Postmaster General by many charitable organizations that owing to the large number of such letters taken by the various charities while the order was in force, it was not possible to investigate each case, and that the presents given out fell into the hands of unworthy persons. The practice also was objected to on the ground that it tended to make beggars of children.

The Postmaster General has directed postmasters to treat the "Santa Claus" letters in accordance with those sections of the postal laws which provide that letters bearing fictitious addresses shall be sent to the division of dead letters unless the address of the sender appear upon the envelope in which case the letters will be returned to such addresses. It is estimated that more than fifty thousand letters are addressed by the children of the country to "Santa Claus" annually.



Six Days Till Santa Claus "Do Come"

Today and To-morrow will make a big gap in all Holiday lines. Get busy, Christmas shoppers, before what you want is sold. We have it now, but maybe not to-morrow.

MAKE SOME ONE HAPPY. It costs but little—no more than you can afford, size up your own pocketbook and we'll furnish the gift from a 5c doll or horn to a Diamond Boach for \$400.00.

WE ARE SELLING JEWELRY. And more than ever, Busy, Busy—yes, busy in this department. Getting in more novelties for Xmas each day. No cheap western fake stuff here—we guarantee every article sold, and our Cut Glass, silver deposit ware and sterling silver tableware is making favor for The L-L. Co.

OUR 10c MISSION CHAIRS. They are real cuts. The high arm chair and rocker are so cute for 10c. Then the Doll dining set—a table and 4 chairs for \$1.00. The tall white doll chair for 25c, the little doll Piano stools 35c, the tool chests the foot-balls, the trains and trains with tracks up to \$7.50; the magic lanterns and moving Picture shows up to \$7.50, those nodding head animals, mechanical toys, writing desks.

AND THE ROCKERS. at 25c to \$3.00 and the Morris chairs for \$3.50 to \$6.00—all are fine gifts for the little folks.

CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENTS. Tinsel Cord, Bells, Fancy Candles and lots of other ornaments for Xmas trees.

DRUMS 10c TO \$2.50. It's the biggest and best line drums we've had.

BOYS WAGONS 50c TO \$7.00. And Automobiles up to \$14.00, and Tricycles, Velocipedes, Doll Carriages, Wheelbarrows.

