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Tuesday, December 13, 1910.

THE "COVER FIRE."

Some recent discussion of the proposition of a "curfew" law for Asheville brings to mind some facts of interest concerning curfew. The word has its origin from the French *couvre feu*, meaning cover fire; the custom of putting out the lights and covering the fire at sunset, in summer, and at 8 o'clock, in winter, was introduced into England by William the Conqueror. Fire and plague were twin terrors in those days; the buildings were of wood, thatched as to the roofs and as inflammable as the tempers of their inmates. The means for fighting fire were crude and ineffective. In the day time, when people were awake and alert, it was a serious matter, and at night, when, after the deep potatoes of those days of riotous living, men slept a sleep from which nothing short of an earthquake aroused them, it was the one unconquerable calamity. Therefore the custom, introduced by the Normans, and characteristic of their frugality and caution, became martial law in England during the reign of the Norman conquerors.

In New England the custom was adopted with a double purpose: protection from fire and the gathering of the people, especially the young folks, in the early evening into their homes, safe from any convivial impulses that might be fanned into flame by the breezes of the night, the mystery of moonlight, the sitchery of starlight and the shy touch of young hands in the deepening twilight.

The custom is, practically, obsolete in this land where personal independence is the measure to which beats the throbbing pulses of young America.

In northern Michigan, near the shore of Lake Superior and nestled beside a copper-colored lake called Torch lake, is a busy village known as Lake Linden. Here the curfew bell rings at 8 o'clock even on summer evenings, and children, at its warning sound, hurry indoors, without question or delay. The custom has doubtless held here because the town is essentially French. Walking through the narrow streets all the signs—merchants, saddlers, druggists or cobblers—are as French as if the city were across the ocean in France. The language most spoken, and more universally understood than English, is what is known as Canadian-French, a patois that is made up of a corrupted French with Indian trimmings. Black-eyed, black-haired girls with smooth, brown skins, trim figures and the vivacious manners and gestures of the Gascon, walk the streets with slim, handsome youths as dark almost as Indians, picturesquely dressed in dark flannel shirts with flowing scarlet ties, buckskin trousers and leggings. It is a little bit of France, and with a love of all that pertains to the mother country the people still cling to the curfew law.

"A FEDERALIST DEMOCRAT."

Chief Justice White is evidently a denatured Democrat. You could hardly call a pronounced federalist a near-Democrat.

The present Democratic party in the United States had its beginnings in the anti-federal party of the time of the constitutional convention, and its very basic principle was implied in its name. Its leaders were such men as Thomas Jefferson, Edmund Randolph and George Clinton. It originally demanded merely an established league of independent republics. It is a curious fact of history that the anti-federalists, as well as the federalists, at that time expected future advantage by construing the terms of the written instrument to suit themselves. Under the leadership of Jefferson the party called itself in 1792 the Democratic-Republican party, and shortened that soon to the title Republican, for about 36 years, since when it has been known, for 43 years, as the Democratic party.

The differences between the parties, as touching the nature of the relations of the States as a union, are fundamental. Out of them grew the momentous struggle called by federalists the war of rebellion and by anti-federalists by a variety of names. Since the distinct line of cleavage in the very nomenclature of our history,

It is a common saying that these questions were settled by this war, but as a matter of fact it is impossible for a principle to be changed by a war or any number of wars. The tariff question, which has been the real political divisor of late decades, is distinctly and essentially a question of federalism; and the war did not settle it. It has been an essential line of cleavage between the two parties, and it threatens today to rend the Republican party into irreconcilable factions and, for the time being at least, to ruin it.

THE NAPIER AND QUASTER CASE

The Napier and Quaster trial in Greensboro, under an indictment returned in Asheville, charging two men engaged in the theatrical business with violation of a federal statute directed against the "white slave" traffic, has brought out a mass of testimony which, while unfit to print, has been described in a general way by the Greensboro newspapers and correspondents. It is a sordid story of the depravity of a certain class of men engaged in promoting a certain sort of entertainment for the public. Judge Coble in his argument for the government set forth as a state of fact that a part of their business was to produce immoral spectacles, that it was Quaster's business to prepare women for this work, that if they were modest it was his business to destroy their modesty, so they would exhibit themselves for money.

The federal statute under which these men were indicted for transporting women from one State to another, for immoral purposes, was not generally known until this indictment was found here, and its provisions, as was pointed out in The Gazette-News, are very strict in verbiage, so that if a man accompanied a woman of bad character across a State line, paying her fare, he would be subject to fine and imprisonment.

Judge Lloyd yesterday afternoon directed that a verdict of "not guilty" be returned, and in an extended decision he held that the immoral acts proven came within the cognizance of the State laws and if congress contemplated regulating the morals in States, it was encroaching on the State's right of exercise of its exclusive police power.

Whatever may be the ultimate decision as to the legal aspects of the case, the bringing out of the facts ought to have a salutary effect on the public conscience.

KEEPING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

The sweeping decision by the North Carolina Supreme court this week knocking out the exchange of mileage for tickets at stations, has caused many references to the effort of the legislature to change the law. Almost without exception the papers say that the measure passed the house and was killed in the senate by a tie vote, which the lieutenant-governor broke. The fact is, says the Greensboro Record, Senator Barringer of Guilford introduced the measure in the senate, but the committee to which it was referred made an adverse report, but when it came up Senator Barringer fought so hard for its passage that when the vote was taken it was a tie, which the lieutenant governor broke and killed the bill. "The error is that it never passed the house at all. Representative Conner of Wilson introduced it in the house some time after it was killed in the senate, and it met a quick death. The roads had lobbyists on hand from Washington and everywhere else and they succeeded in getting a majority of the members so mixed up on it that they did not know what they were doing."

The Raleigh correspondents are the source of the error the Record points out, if it is as the Record says, and we presume it has looked into the facts. The Gazette-News, among many other papers, accepted the Raleigh dispatches without question.

THE SUPREME JUSTICESHIP.

Chief Justice John Jay of the United States Supreme court (1789-1795) was a New Yorker. John Rutledge, who succeeded him (appointed but never served) was from South Carolina. Oliver Ellsworth (1796-1806) came from Connecticut. The great John Marshall of Virginia served from 1801 to 1835. Roger B. Taney (1836-1864) was a Marylander. Salmon P. Chase (1864-1873) was an Ohioan, as was Morrison B. Waite (1874-1888). Melville W. Fuller, appointed in 1888, was from Illinois.

It has been 109 years since a native of the southern group of States was appointed to this high office; an office that in all the history of the government, has been held, prior to this time, by but two men from this section—classing Maryland as a border State. New England has never had a representative in this office, nor has the far west. The only far western State that has ever had any representation at all on the Supreme bench is California (Stephen J. Field, 1863-1897, and Joseph McKenna.)

The oath which Mexican presidents take—or the Mexican president takes—is longer and more rhetorical than the one taken by Presidents of the United States. It was Dr. Manuel Flores, the Mexican speaker, who administered it to Gen. Porfirio Diaz last week. "I hereby promise," said the aged president, "to protect and to

cause to be protected the constitution of the United States of Mexico, with any additions or changes that may be made in it; the law of reform, and those that may arise from it; and to discharge loyally and patriotically the duties of president of the republic with which the nation has entrusted me, seeking in everything only the welfare and prosperity of the Union." At Washington, on March 4, the chief justice's part in the function ends with the administering of the oath. The Mexican ritual is different; there is a prescribed response. "If so you shall perform your oath," said Dr. Flores to Gen. Diaz last week, "the nation will reward you; if not, it will require an accounting." It might, but would it get it?

The corn meetings held in Asheville last winter were poorly attended, hardly a corporal's guard being present. The meeting of next Monday, unless weather conditions are very bad, will, we believe, bring out a large crowd, gathered from all parts of the county, and illustrate strikingly the advance in interest in less than a year.

The Atlantic Coast Line has reported net earnings of ten million dollars, the past year, three million more than the year before. A petition, signed by 7,000 of its employees, is before congress asking that the road be allowed to increase freight rates. If that is done the Coast Line ought to earn a real neat little sum next year.

If the Government did not spend so much money for legitimate expenses it would be possible to pay those who did not fight to save the country twice as much for saving it as they are now getting, in the way the Charleston News and Courier figures it out. Yes, and a lot of money is otherwise diverted.

In South Carolina the counties where the boys are not organized into corn clubs, under the leadership of the county superintendents of education, are the exception, rather than the rule. This condition is going to react powerfully on that State in a very few years.

The country continues to go Democratic. Speaker Cannon yesterday appointed another Democrat, R. J. Speer of Georgia, to a \$5000 place, that of house committee stenographer.

It is an off day when Woodrow Wilson does not produce an epigram or a near-epigram. One of his latest sayings is that he is starting on a voyage for the fun of navigating well.

Miss Frick, a Minnesota cooking school teacher, has won fame by announcing that mashed carrots are a successful substitute for eggs in puddings. Break it gently to the hens.

The Chamber of Commerce of Elizabeth City is endeavoring to promote an oyster convention, to be held there. It will probably be a regular talkfest, however.

Few can appreciate a chestnut until they have attended at least three formal dinners in the same town.—Charleston News and Courier. What a pig it is.

Senator Tillman says frankly that he will never quit until they pry him loose. However, he merely confirms an opinion quite generally entertained.

The committees of the two houses on disposition of useless papers are what you might call the official office boys of congress.

Nevada has practically doubled its population in the past few years. People are now, you might almost say, frequent out there.

A trust magnate is known by the company he keeps.

Hunter Sharp has found something.

ASHEVILLE BUSINESS MEN REQUESTED TO CO-OPERATE

Governor Sanders Desires Asheville's Help in Landing Panama Exposition for New Orleans.

The committee of Louisiana business men, who are charged with the responsibility of securing the Panama exposition for New Orleans in 1915, continue to put in their efforts at all places where they think results will follow. It is of especial interest to the southern people and western North Carolinians to get this exposition, since such a large proportion of the summer tourist business comes from New Orleans and the far south. Governor Sanders of Louisiana has sent to the board of trade a letter asking that the Asheville business men use their influence with the wholesale houses in the north with which they do business to get them to write their representatives in congress to work for New Orleans as the "logical point."

Earthquake Shocks Feil.
 St. Louis, Dec. 11.—Nine earthquake shocks were felt between 8 and 7 o'clock this morning. Center of disturbance 200 miles southwest of lower California coast.

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 Manufacturer of Spectacles and Eyeglasses
 51 Patton Ave. Opp. Postoffice.

FOR SALE
 3 4-room houses, good lots, \$750 each.
 4 4-room houses, in the city, \$800 each.
 For rent—11-room house and 11 acres land in West Asheville at \$20 per mo.

S. D. HALL
GRADING WORK IS PROGRESSING WELL

Asheville Electric Co. Hopes to Have West Asheville Line Open by Spring.

The work of grading the electric railway line to West Asheville is progressing well although the unfavorable weather has been a handicap at present. The company is getting a splendid line up the hill from the new bridge, in fact much better than was first expected. The maximum grade is about 4 per cent, with only two curves, and these are not sharp. Of course no date for the opening of the new line can be set yet, for the bridge is not completed. With favorable weather conditions it would require a few days more of concrete work to complete the structure. The Asheville Electric company is now grading on Roberts street, where it has to make a considerable fill and expects to get the work done as soon as possible so that the West Asheville line may be in operation early in the spring.

It is the intention of the city to pave Roberts street, its entire length since this street is to become a highly important one as being the avenue of approach to the new bridge. The board had the matter under consideration last Friday night, but after discussion, action was postponed until Friday night. The board seems to be of the opinion that the street should be paved as soon as possible; but of course no paving can be laid until spring; neither has the city available funds for a water and sewer line at present.

The fourth annual show of the Asheville Poultry and Pet Stock association came to a close last night and today the exhibitors are busily engaged in removing their birds. The show was a success although not the success that was anticipated.

LOGICAL REMEDY FOR ECZEMA

Many different remedies have been tried for Eczema and other skin diseases. But it is now known that the only possible cure is a mild, soothing liquid made up of Oil of Wintergreen, Thymol, Glycerine, and other ingredients so carefully compounded that each ingredient has its proper effect. This compound is now made up in the D. D. Prescription. Ten years of success and thousands of cures show the merit of this wonderful compound, but the most convincing proof is a trial of the remedy by any eczema sufferer.

D. D. will prove to you that you can be cured. The very first drops will give you instant relief. Get a trial bottle today. Smith's drug store, Pack square, opposite Public Library.

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 Let the children come to the Photoplay often. It will do them more good than a world of candy or a library of story books.

The Photoplay is entertaining for everyone. No matter if you have traveled far and wide you will always see new sights and refreshing scenes at the Photoplay, Asheville's modern 30 minutes play house. Visit the Photoplay once and you'll come often. Remember the location, 28 South Main street.

The Photoplay is not only a source of amusement it is a great educator as well. When you visit the Photoplay you are instantly transported to the great cities of the world, to the burning desert of the west, to the snowy wastes of the north or to the mystic lands of the far east. You see the world as it really is without any stage settings or fake scenery. No photograph can possibly give an idea of the world like the motion picture. For the motion picture is a reproduction of life itself in those strange places.

LET GEORGE DO IT.
 Wear those ready-made clothes. There is economy in wearing clothes made to order, you do not have to get so often. They look better when they are old. They wear better because you have better material. Fuller makes them that look right when you buy them, and stay right when you wear them. With the closing of the year our busy season closes. On an order given now you will receive a liberal discount. Patton Avenue, opposite Postoffice.

GIFTS THIS YEAR WILL BE OF THE PRACTICAL SORT

And Shoes and Slippers are coming in for their share of the gift problem.

Not before in many years, in fact, NEVER have we shown such a beautiful supply of handsome slippers for men, women and children, in price ranging from 75 cents and a dollar for children to \$4.50 for men. We invite you to call and see them.

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 For Saturday, Dec. 10th
 Florida Oranges (Sweet), 2c each, in any quantity.
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Christmas Suggestions
 We mention a few useful and beautiful presents from our large stock of furniture and house furnishing goods. For the sitting room—Leather, Golden Oak, Mahogany and Reed Rockers, Rugs of all kinds and sizes to suit anything, Morris Chairs, Tables, Clocks and Pictures. Bed Rooms—We are showing a large stock of Chamber Suits, Brass and Iron Beds, Odd Dressers and Wash Stands. For Dining Room—We have a handsome lot of Side Boards, China cabinets, tables, Leather and Oak Chairs in large quantities, Library Tables, Couches, Book Cases, Ladies' Desks, Comb Cases and Hall Racks. For Kitchen—National, Regal, Our Choice and Progress Ranges. These are excellent ranges which we are offering at prices that sell them. Also Kitchen Cabinets, Cupboard Safes, Tables, and Linoleum, Oil Cloth.
 Don't forget the little folks. Plenty of Rockers, High Chairs, Baby Walkers and Velocipedes, Hand Cars and Wagons, Doll Carts, also Baby Carts. Many other useful articles that we would be glad to show you. Our prices are below the average. Come and select now. We will deliver any time you say. Terms: Cash or Credit.
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 Men and Boys at prices enormously reduced. Big drive in Suits and Hats to close out.
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 Don't forget the little folks. Plenty of Rockers, High Chairs, Baby Walkers and Velocipedes, Hand Cars and Wagons, Doll Carts, also Baby Carts. Many other useful articles that we would be glad to show you. Our prices are below the average. Come and select now. We will deliver any time you say. Terms: Cash or Credit.
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