

THE GAZETTE-NEWS

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Monday, January 11, 1915.

DOES ASHEVILLE WANT IT?

Does Asheville want a commission form of government? During the present session of the General Assembly, that seems to be the most important question to be decided by the citizens of Asheville; and it is a question that they must decide, and that promptly.

The Gazette-News believes that the people want such a form of government, and is therefore interested in seeing something done. The paper therefore wishes to make one or more suggestions that may facilitate matters and bring about some action that will secure an expression on the question, either positive or negative.

The first, and what appears to us the most plausible, suggestion is that committees from the Board of Trade, the Merchants' Association, the Central Labor Union and other prominent organizations should be appointed to form a central citizens' committee that could call a mass meeting and find if the people want a commission government.

Even if every voter in the city wants a commission government, nothing will come of it unless there is co-operation and a popular expression for it. These suggestions, therefore, appear to us in order. There is nothing so democratic as a mass meeting to decide such questions; but it must be representative of all factions, and people in all walks of life to make it effective.

OUR BUSY LEGISLATURES.

The legislatures of every state in the union but five are now in session, or will be some time during the year. It is appalling to think of the total legislative output of those forty-three bodies. And yet, if precedent counts for anything, it will not be so bad as we expect. In some mysterious way the average law-making crowd manages to get away with its work surprisingly well. It is what the Boston Transcript calls "the state's perennial miracle."

With the New Year for patron saint, the great and general court of Massachusetts will go once more into action. And then once more the public will see a mystery in process; it will watch a body, from whose uneven membership, imperfect machinery and cumbersome practices the most miscellaneous things might be expected, proceeding on its way without

wrecking the state, and achieving in the end a sum of good results that not only outweighs its mistakes but also keeps Massachusetts in the van of progress.

There is much improvement needed, of course, before our legislatures attain genuine efficiency. There should be fewer bills introduced. Measures should be prepared so that the courts will have less trouble interpreting them. There ought to be more co-operation between the two chambers than there usually is, and between them and the executive. There ought to be less special legislation, and more uniformity in the policies and methods of the various state legislatures. But there is a steady advance noticeable along these lines.

The average legislator's intelligence and public spirit is considerably higher than the average citizen's, in spite of our cynical jests. And the best sentiment of the best citizens has a way of registering itself in legislative acts—a little slowly, but no less inevitably, even when the law-makers themselves are indifferent or hostile.

PLANT FRUIT TREES NOW.

Notwithstanding the enormous size of the apple crop in the United States this year—the largest of record—apples were no cheaper in this section than heretofore, or very little cheaper. The prime apples retailed at about five cents. Besides, many of the best apples were imported just as they have been for the past several years. The reason for the price and for the importing of the fruit did not lie in the fact that we did not have an abundance of apples in Western North Carolina. It was because we did not have enough good apples. To be sure, there are some very good apples shipped out of this section nearly every year; but others, generally of the better grade, are shipped in.

With such excellent climatic and soil conditions there is no excuse for Western North Carolina's not producing enough of the best grade of apples to supply the local demand. And while we are ever in favor of good prices for apples, we think five cents is too much to pay for one. The best of oranges can be bought here for that, and the express has to be included in the price. It would be much better all around if all our apples could be sold at a good price. As it is, a great many apples are so poor they cannot find a market.

Now is a good time to put out apple trees, and it is also a good time to begin thinking about pruning up the old trees that will not now produce merchantable fruit.

TREASON TO OUR INDUSTRY.

In the midst of our new and patriotic enthusiasm for American-made goods, for ourselves and the world, it is necessary to chronicle a shameful act.

Pittsburgh has been planning a "Made-in-America" exhibition. It was a logical and admirable thing to do, and Pittsburgh, as a great manufacturing city and center of a vast manufacturing section, was a natural place to hold it. Now comes word that the exhibition has been given up.

Why? Because the manufacturers who were expected to participate "did not want the fact spread abroad that their goods were not made in Europe."

Of all the shameful things that we have ever heard of American industry, this is the most shameful. The public would like to know the names of the manufacturers who insist on perpetuating the old cheat of giving honest American-made goods a foreign label, cultivating a false and pernicious standard of value, throttling the patriotic public demand for home products and stifling the new movement for the conquest of the world's markets.

"We would like to know the history of that advertisement of an Asheville laundry, 'Don't Kill Your Wife: Let the Laundry Do the Work.' It is the most distinctive advertisement of a year; was it accidental, or 'done a-purpose'?"—Greensboro Daily News.

It was done a-purpose. "Get the idea?"

The Legislature is already active against the dogs of Duplin. Shall we look for more protection for the 'Possums of Perquimans.

It seems Shuster uter have a different opinion about Philippine independence.

Now all with a long pull and a strong pull for the Western Training School. Certain "forces" are already busy against it, we understand.

Maudie Adams has certainly had larger audiences but we doubt if she has ever had a more enthusiastic one will greet her tonight.

RIPPLING RHYMES

SHOVELING COAL.

Shoveling coal, shoveling coal, into the furnace's crater-like hole! Thus goes the coin we so wearily earn, into the furnace to sizzle and burn; thus it's converted to ashes and smoke, and we keep shoveling, weeping and broke. Oh, it's a labor that tortures the soul, shoveling coal, shoveling coal! "The house," says the wife, "is as cold as a barn," so I must emigrate, muttering "damn," down to the furnace, the which I must feed; it is a glutton, a demon of greed! Into its cavern I throw a large load—there goes the money I got for an ode! There goes the check that I got for a poem, boosting the joys of an evening at home! There goes the price of full many a scroll, shoveling coal, shoveling coal! Things that I need I'm not able to buy, I have shut down on the cake and the pie; most of my jewels are lying in soot, gone is the money for ashes and smoke; all I can earn, all the long winter through, goes in the furnace and then up the flue. Still says the frau, "It's as cold as a floe, up in the Arctic where polar bears grow." So all my song is of sorrow and dola shoveling coal, shoveling coal!

WALT MASON. Copyright, 1914, by The Adams News-Paper Service.

PRESS COMMENT.

That National Park.

Says the Asheville Gazette-News: "Apparently Colorado is to have a national park, established by the federal government, within its confines. Apparently, too, North Carolina could have—or had a chance to have—a national park in the mountains of western North Carolina, just as well as Colorado. Apparently, again, the only reason that Colorado is going to be favored in this way is because she asked for it. We of Asheville have had a great deal to say about attracting to our resorts those tourists who have been accustomed to spend their outlays in Europe, but it seems we have taken it for granted that our mountains ought to bring them with their rugged scenery alone. This ought to be true, and is with a great number of visitors who have been coming from year to year; but it must be remembered that the resort places of Europe are developed to a degree not attained in this country; and while we are not suggesting that we ought to carry out our resort attractions along European lines, none the less their further development along some line—if distinctive all the better—is absolutely necessary if we are to make our mountains pay the highest dividends. Above all we want ways by which the tourist may reach them by foot and on mule-back. These modes of transportation appeal to certain of our visitors, but we doubt if those who travel yearly in Europe would take to it.

"With the positions of influence which our congressmen and senators occupy in the national legislative scheme it ought not to be very difficult to get as much as Colorado seems likely to receive. Mr. Bryan, too ought to help us out. Already we have lost valuable time and it behooves us to get busy.

"Another thing: Colorado is not depending on the federal government to do it all. The state is building roads. There is always a disposition to help those who help themselves—witness John D.'s methods of giving to colleges."

This rather plaintive piece seems to indicate that something is dragging. What is the matter with the Appalachian Park association's program? There is nothing clearer than that the available part of the Pisgah Forest purchase—little enough there is of it—and all similar areas purchased under the Weeks act, should be taken over in fee simple by the government and given the status of a national park. The far west already has national forest parks—and the roads in them were not built by the states, for that matter. We think that the heart of the men in the United States forest service is right, toward this thing. This is a North Carolina project, a southern project, and a national project. As the Gazette-News says, our North Carolina delegation in congress is powerful. The south in congress is powerful. The entire eastern part of the country will be the especial beneficiary of this program. Unless we are greatly mistaken there has been established a reciprocal basis between the eastern and western conservationists. The secretary of state has especial knowledge of the conditions and necessities. The secretary of the navy is surely "right." What, then, is the trouble.

Our Asheville contemporary, being in the thick of it, ought to do some Sherlocking and find out.—Greensboro Daily News.

Republicans Get "Toe-Hold." The republican party is again getting a "toe-hold" in North Carolina, where twenty years ago it was strong enough to send a republican to the senate. On November 3rd the people of the 10th district in that state elected to congress one of the ablest republicans in the South, former Third Assistant Postmaster-General James J. Britt of Asheville, who defeated the incumbent, Congressman J. M. Gadsden. Mr. Britt was born in Johnson City, Tenn., fifty years ago. At the age of eleven years he went to work on a farm at \$3 a month. In 1888 he came to North Carolina, where he taught school. In 1900 he settled

in Asheville and began the practice of law, which he has continued with success. In 1904 he was a delegate to the republican national convention which nominated Roosevelt and Fairbanks. In 1905 he was appointed assistant U. S. Attorney for western North Carolina. In 1909 he was appointed special counsel for the post-office department, later was made special assistant attorney general of the United States, and in 1910 was appointed Third Assistant Postmaster-General, in which capacity he drafted the present parcel post law. Congressman-elect Britt has a family of eight children, but will not follow the example of his predecessor, who carried his son on the payroll as private secretary, while the young man was attending college in North Carolina, or that of Senator Overman, who has appointed his daughter messenger of his committee. In fact, Mr. Britt has announced that he will not appoint any of his relatives to official positions. Mr. Britt is a man of sterling qualities and excellent ability, and will put North Carolina on the republican map. Republicans believe there is a chance of sending four republicans to congress in 1916, and believe that the next senator elected from that state, possibly Mr. Britt, will be a republican.—The National Republican.

Secluded. Harry—is Jones in business for himself? Larry—I guess so. He never advertises.—Town Topics.

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WORK LESS It Pays Cook With Gas

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SOUTHERN RAILWAY Premier Carrier of the South. Schedule Figures Published as Information Only and Not Guaranteed EFFECTIVE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1914. ARRIVES FROM-- Eastern Time DEPARTS FOR-- Eastern Time

STREET CAR SCHEDULE IN EFFECT NOV. 24, 1914. ZELICO AND RETURN 6:00, 6:15, 6:30 a. m. RIVERSIDE PARK 6:15 and every 15 minutes until 11:00 p. m. DEPOT via SOUTHSIDE AVENUE 5:30 a. m. and every 15 minutes until 1:15 p. m.; then every 7 1/2 minutes until 5:45 p. m. then every 15 minutes until 11:00 p. m.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE DIFFERS IN THE FOLLOWING PARTICULARS Car leaves Square for Manor 6:00 a. m. returning 6:15 a. m. Car leaves Square for Depot via Southside Ave. 6:00, 6:15, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 a. m. Car leaves Square for Depot via French Broad Ave. 6:15, 6:30, 6:45, 7:15, 7:45 and 8:15 a. m. Car for Depot leaves Square 8:45 a. m., both Southside and French Broad. First car leaves the Square for Charlotte Street at 6:00 a. m. and every 30 minutes until 8:30, next 8:45. First car leaves the Square for Riverside 8:30; next 8:45. First car leaves the Square for West Asheville 8:15, 7:00; next 8:30. With the above exceptions, Sunday schedule commences at 8:00 a. m. and continues same as week days.

Don't Overlook This One Best Bet Whatever else you do tomorrow be sure and set aside at least 10 moments of your time in which to make an inspection and as a result a selection from the biggest, brightest bargains in Kuppenheimer Clothes Note the prices: \$30 Suits and Overcoats are Reduced to \$24.00 \$25 Suits and Overcoats are Reduced to \$20.00 \$20 Suits and Overcoats are Reduced to \$16.00 Keep the saving. R. B. Zageir 8 S. Main St. "Just a Whisper off the Square"

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