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Raleigh Host To M. E. Conference

Separate Courts for Cities — Tax Suits Against Railroads Won by State; Opinion by Judge Connor; Million Dollars Involved.

(BY MAXWELL GORMAN.)

Raleigh N. C., Nov. 15, 1922.—The "shouting Methodists" are with us this week. The North Carolina Methodist Episcopal Conference, constituted of some five hundred preachers from all over eastern North Carolina, which means also several more central cities and counties, including Raleigh, is holding its annual conference here this week. Old historic Edenton Street M. E. Church is the host church and the sessions, which are being held in the beautiful and spacious church auditorium, will continue through next Sunday.

Next to the Missionary Baptists, the Methodist Episcopal is the largest numerically and strongest otherwise in this State, and these two denominations combined (and between which there are the warmest feelings of brotherhood and co-operation) outnumber all other church memberships combined. A number of the Methodist ministers here this week are being entertained in the private homes of Raleigh Baptists. Bishop Collins Denny is presiding.

The meeting of the North Carolina Conference Historical Society Tuesday night, a forerunner of the conference, was addressed by Rev. J. T. Gibbs of Warrenton. Mr. Gibbs, who is a former pastor of the Edenton Street Church of Raleigh, holds the record for the longest consecutive service as presiding elder in the Southern Methodist Church. He spoke on "Twenty-five Years of Presiding Eldership."

The conference proper opens at 9 o'clock Wednesday morning with the administering of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, Bishop Denny presiding. At 3 o'clock on the first day, Rev. Walt Holcomb, a widely known evangelist, will preach the first of a series of three evangelistic sermons in the Edenton Street Church. The other sermons, Thursday and Friday, will be preached at the same place and at the same hour.

Wednesday night the conference will observe the anniversary of the Sunday School Board, at a session beginning at 7:30 with a report by L. L. Gobbel, Sunday School field secretary of the North Carolina Conference, and Miss Georgia Keene, superintendent of elementary departments of the Sunday schools of the North Carolina Conference. These will be followed by an address by Rev. W. C. Owen of Nashville, Tenn., Sunday school secretary.

On Thursday night, when the conference will observe the anniversary of the Board of Church Extension and the Epworth League, the Epworth League of Edenton Street Methodist Church will present a pageant, to be followed by an address, the speaker not yet having been announced.

Annual Trinity Banquet

The conference's annual Trinity banquet will be held Friday night in the City Auditorium, and Dr. E. C. Brooks, formerly a member of the faculty of Trinity College and now Superintendent of Public Instruction in the State, will be toastmaster. From the auditorium the delegates will return to the church, where Bishop Denny will deliver the address on the occasion of the anniversary of the Board of Education.

A special program by the children of the Methodist Orphanage will be presented to the conference delegates who will be guests of the orphanage Saturday afternoon. Saturday night, with the conference observing the anniversary of the Board of Missions, Rev. A. D. Wilcox, mission secretary, will make his report, and Dr. A. J. Weeks, editor of The Missionary Voice, of Nashville, Tenn., will speak.

Ministers of the conference will occupy the pulpits of Raleigh churches Sunday morning, with Bishop Denny preaching at Edenton Street Church. At 3:30 Sunday afternoon the annual memorial service will be held.

Monday morning the conference appointments will be read.

Separate Additional Courts For Cities.

The congested condition of the superior court dockets in Wake, Guilford, Mecklenburg, Buncombe, Forsyth and perhaps some other counties in which the larger cities of the State are located, has been of such long standing and proved so expensive to both counties and litigants that a movement will be in evidence when the Legislature meets in January to provide additional terms of court to care for the situation. Separate courts of the same jurisdiction as the county superior court will probably be asked for a half dozen of the larger cities of the State. This would also mean additional judges.

In a memorandum attached to its report, the Wake county grand jury has complained of excessive jail costs and recommended that a criminal term of court be set for the first week of August each year, bridging the gap from July to September. Also, the grand jury recommended that provisions be made in addition to regular terms of court, whereby on the Monday midway between criminal terms the judge holding court in the district may call the criminal docket and dispose matters not requiring a jury. Such a system, the grand jury stated, would save the taxpayers of Wake $1,800 annually. The memorandum met the approval of Judge C. C. Lyon, who commented favorably on it from the bench, and instructed the clerk to send copies of the memorandum to the County Commissioners and to Wake County's representatives in the General Assembly.

Prosecution of Deposed Klucker Goes Over.

Counsel for W. V. Guerard, former king kleagle of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, charged with embezzlement of approximately $4,000 of funds belonging to the klan, having served notice on the prosecution that it would be necessary to secure certain depositions from Atlanta, this removes the case from the range of trial at the special term of Wake the present week. The case will be continued until December.

The bill of particulars asked for by the defense and furnished by Solicitor Norris is devoid of the sensation which, it was anticipated, would follow a more detailed revelation of charges against the klansman. The bill in detail names the person who, it is alleged, turned over money to Guerard, and the amounts, as alleged in the indictment, the former king kleagle failed to remit in each case to the Atlanta headquarters.

State Wins Big Tax Suit.

Through its State Revenue Department the State of North Carolina has won the big suit in the U. S. Court in which the railroads sought to delay and avoid, in part, the taxes due the State. Judge Connor has just filed his decision in Raleigh.

The opinion holds that the five railroads operating in the State must pay $145,000 annually in contested income taxes levied by the State.

Million Involved.

Original suits brought by the Southern Railway, the Atlantic Coast Line, the Seaboard Air Line, the Norfolk Southern and the Atlantic and Yadkin in October, 1921, involved more than a million dollars in contested taxes, over and above the amount agreed by the railroads to be just. A three judge court, composed of Judge Edmund Waddill of the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, Judge Henry C. Connor of the Eastern District of North Carolina, and Judge James E Boyd of the Western North Carolina District, refused last March to grant the railroads an interlocutory injunction restraining Commissioner of Revenue A. D. Watts and other State and local officers from collecting $775,578 in advalorem taxes due the counties and local units and $209,081 in franchise taxes due the State. A stay of proceedings, however, was granted in June, pending an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States, where the cases have been set for argument on November 20.

In its original opinion, the three-judge court held that the question of the validity of the income taxes had not been properly raised by the pleadings and that phase of the matter was made the basis of separate units. The first suit of the Southern Railway was brought in the Western District of North Carolina, but all of the income tax suits were brought in the Eastern District.

Elaborate Presentation.

Judge Connor heard argument in the cases on June 13, and has devoted much time to consideration of the cases. His opinion contains an elaborate presentation of the law bearing upon the subject.

The opinion proper of the court is contained in one paragraph, the remainder of the decree being devoted to a presentation of the contentions and the law bearing on the subject. After setting these forth, Judge Connor says:

"It is adjudged and decreed that the plaintiff is not entitled to have the defendants enjoined and restrained from performance of duties imposed upon them by the statutes of North Carolina relative to administering, assessing, levying and enforcing or collecting income taxes against the plaintiffs; that the bill is dismissed and the plaintiff be taxed with the costs, to be taxed by the clerk."

By agreement of counsel the necessity of a three judge court was eliminated in the income tax cases and the cases were heard by Judge Connor on the final hearing. It is considered certain that an appeal will be taken directly to the Supreme Court of the United States by the railroads, and the question of granting a stay in the collection of the taxes pending that appeal will probably be the next question to come before the court.

FAKE EYE SPECIALIST.

Pretends to be Working Under State Board of Health.

Raleigh, Nov. 11.—For the past several weeks a man claiming to be an eye specialist sent out by the State Board of Health has been operating in and around Wilson. He has given the name of Martin in some places, is about thirty years of age, and is traveling in a Chevrolet coupe.

The activities of this man have just been reported to the State Board of Health, and Dr. W. S. Rankin declares him an impostor and fraud, in that the State Board of Health does not now have, and has had, no such field worker.

Apparently this man is working the same sort of fraud that has been practiced before in this State, particularly last year in some of the western counties. The more illiterate people are usually chosen as victims, and confidence is gained by the claim of being a representative of the State Board of Health, sent out to make free examinations. Then usually some medicine for the eyes and cheap glasses are prescribed, and as much charged as can be obtained. In one case reported this was $25.

"In nearly every town and city of the state," said Dr. Rankin in discussing this fraud, "there are competent and reputable specialists who will give adequate service to those needing it and at reasonable fees. The public should beware of traveling eye specialists who are nearly always impostors and quacks, and should be sedulously avoided. Sales of glasses or alleged treatment made on the basis of claims to be a representative of the State Board of Health is obtaining money under false pretenses, and the State Board of Health will prosecute such frauds whenever sufficient evidence is furnished."

The first clock is said to have been produced about 900 A. D., by Gerbert the Monk.

APPROVED BY USE

Words Really Incorrect Properly Part of Language.

Charles A. Dana Unquestionably Right in His Contentions, but He Has Been Overruled.

Charles A. Dana (of the old New York Sun) had no patience with slovenly writing. He knew his Greek and Latin and half a score of other languages so well that the derivation of an English word came to him almost instantly, and he objected to its misuse. The plea that a word was in common use did not appeal to him. He did not heed the dictionary definition. He knew the origin of the word as well as did the maker of the dictionary.

He objected to saying of a middle-aged man that he was in the prime of life, for the reason that "prime" is from the Latin word "primus," which means first. A man in the prime of life must be a very young man, he said, a man in the first part of his life, writes Chester S. Lord in the Saturday Evening Post.

Likewise, he stirred us up one day by criticizing the use a writer had made of the word "manufactured" in describing something made by machinery. "'Manufacture,'" he said, "comes from the Latin 'manus,' the hand, and 'facio,' I make; manufacture means to make by hand, not by machinery or in any other way."

He objected to the use of "dexterity" in the sense of skill, adroitness, aptitude, either physical or mental. "Dexter" is the Latin word meaning the right, and correctly speaking, "dexterous movements" means right-hand movements, was the plea.

"Where is your Latin?" he asked a writer who had said that a political convention had indorsed a candidate. "You cannot indorse a man; you indorse a note or a document by writing on its back. 'Indorse' is from the Latin 'in,' on, and 'dorsum,' the back. It is incorrect to use it in the sense of a general approval." Some one spoke up to say that under that strict meaning you might indorse a man by hitting him on the back with a club, and the critical lesson ended in laughter.

These criticisms of Mr. Dana's were made and heeded forty or fifty years ago. But like many other words of Latin origin they have come into general use in the ways to which he objected. Usage is amplifying the service of many Latin roots, is giving them wider and more general meaning. "Dexterous" and "dexterity" have come by common consent to mean alert, nimble, physical or mental service of various kinds. We use the word "manufacture" for the making of anything, by machinery or chemical processes or almost any way. We indorse men's sentiments or conduct, the action of conventions or anything to which we wish to give the stamp of approval.

"Prime" is in constant use to express vigor, beauty, power, fullness of perfection, maturity.

These uses attest the constant change, the expansion of our language. There is less inclination to hold the language to rigidity of root meaning.

Word to Parents.

A child's nature should be allowed to unfold in the sunny atmosphere of love and trust. By studying his needs, parents can help to bring out the best in him, thus forestalling that coldness and lack of sympathy which we regret to see between parents and those adult children whose attitude toward life is embittered because, when they were young and affectionate, they were subjected to the chilling effect of the consciousness that a little sister or brother always stood first in their parents' affection.—Exchange.

Russian Atrocities.

The cheka, according to Bolshevik official figures, executed 1,766,118 persons before being renamed the supreme political administration last February. The total includes 6,775 professors and teachers; 8,800 doctors; 355,250 other intellectuals; 1,243 priests; 54,650 officers; 260,000 soldiers; 59,000 policemen; 12,950 landowners; 192,350 workmen; 915,100 peasants. During the civil war the Bolsheviki have had more killed than all Russia during the great war.

Center of Interest.

A room may be successfully arranged about some central object as a center of interest. In a living room the fireplace is easily and naturally made that central object. If preferred, a beautiful piece of furniture, such as a fine cabinet or a highboy may be given the position of prominence. A fine picture, a window affording a delightful view, or open-door book shelves filled with enticing books may serve as the pivot about which the interest revolves.

ONE OF MAN'S OLDEST ARTS

Velvet Has Been Made Since the Earliest Days of Which History Has Record.

The art of velvet making was practiced in the legendary days of Indo-China. It is one of the oldest of arts, since it was the first imitation of man's first garment, fur. Even after spinning and weaving had become known, the ocellated pelt of the great felines killed in hunting was the dress for important occasions, and the most beautiful of ancient fabrics shows that the ambition of the weaver was to surpass his model and copy the fur of the animal in something finer by far. The discovery of silk substituted soft threads for hair, and the threads took the dyes as no fur could take them.

Asia kept the art of velvet making secret for centuries, till exchange states. No one were velvet but royal personages, and it was for the most part seen only in the processions of the rajahs. Even in these times the Chinese and the Japanese rasp their threads with knives in order to give the tissue the aspect of real fur. Indian velvet rippling with pearls as large as birds' eggs, diamond dewdrops and cloudy, red corundrum, was seen in the processions of the durbar.

The Arabs were the first to exhibit velvet to the lands bordering on the Mediterranean. The first caliphs were simple, pious, and savage people; they were not tempted by Asiatic luxury. But the Islam that came after the caliphs drove its roots into the heart of the ancient world and invaded the Aryan lands of the Hindus and the Ganges. The Arabs boasted of their commercial zeal. Their caravans of camels crossed the desert and wound through the mountain passes of Iran, carrying rare tissues, jewels, and perfumes and now and then a carefully protected piece of velvet lay under the folds of a praying-rug.

The splendid court of the Abbasside caliphs loved the silken pile of fabrics of India. Bagdad was a city of silk and velvet, and the conquerors of Africa and Spain contrasted strangely with the iron-clad warriors of the Cross. In all the ages velvet was held sacred by the Mussulmans. At Medina, in Damascus, and in Stamboul, they employed it to drape the tombs of their caliphs and their saints; and when their warriors set out to die upon the fields of battle that part of their trappings that did not gleam was covered with velvet.

Showy Dress Illegal in Olden Days.

Lace and embroideries were prohibited by order of the general court of Massachusetts in 1634. Many people were tried and punished for wearing ostentatious apparel. In Northampton, in 1676, 38 women were brought up at one time in court for their "wicked apparel." Not only did the law makers and courts try to stop the increase of showy clothing, but also the ministers took up the refrain and preached against the display of finery.

Earle, a leading historian of this period, says: "After a while the whole church interfered. In 1679, the church at Andover put it to a vote whether 'the parish disapprove of the female sex sitting with their Hats on in the Meeting-house in the time of Divine Service as being Indecent.' In the town of Abingdon, in 1775, it was voted that it was 'an indecent way that the female sex do sit with their hats and bonnets on to worship God.' Still another town voted it was 'the Town's Mind' that the women should take their bonnets off in the meeting and 'hang them on the peggs.'"

Cures Tomato's Ills.

Following our example set in the United States, the British government is adding an experimental station at Turner's Hill, near London, to eliminate disease in tomatoes. So successful is this station that most of the enemies of the tomato have been vanquished, at an estimated saving to growers of about $220,000 a year, it is said.

Thirty-five years ago the first glass houses for the cultivation of tomatoes were built in the Chestnut area of the valley of the River Lea, near London. This district now presents a vast array of glass houses, being in the center of a thriving industry.

It sends tomatoes, not only to London, but to the north country manufacturing cities of England, and to the continent. Agents in the Worthing and Chestnut districts make good livings insuring the glass. After one of the heavy hailstorms which occasionally visit the British isles, insurance companies are called upon to disburse large amounts to replace broken panes.

Otherwise Occupied.

One morning a neighbor accosted Gertrude:

"I wonder if your little brother could go on an errand for me?"

Gertrude thought it over for a second and then said: "He might manage to go by and by, but not right away, 'cause he is busy just now getting spanked."

AGE MATTER OF COMPARISON

Actual Passing of the Years Really Has Little to Do With Coming of Decrepitude.

John R. Voorhis, presiden of the board of commissioners of New York city, recently celebrated his ninety-third birthday by doing his usual day's work. He arose at 4:30, his usual time, and after his usual hearty breakfast walked as usual to his office more than a mile away.

Being ninety-three doesn't mean anything unusual to this man whose span of life has been two-thirds as long as that of the American republic.

Age is, after all, remarks Thrift, greatly a matter of comparison. A few days before Mr. Voorhis' birthday he said that, while walking briskly to his office one morning he noticed a seventy-five-year-old man, a feeble bobbling also the street, totter with every step, on ending so he a terrible time to navigate even at the slowest pace.

"It was a great pity," commented Mr. Voorhis, on this sad spectacle, "to see such a young man so nearly disabled by old age."

Yes, it's largely a matter of comparison.

At sixteen, forty is old age; at ninety-three, seventy-five is youth. The actual years count for naught. More and more we find this out.

Currency Terminology.

Our currency terminology is derived from various sources. The five-cent coin, long designated as a "nickel," because it is of nickel alloy, has in recent years become known as a "jitney." The dime has a more ancient lineage. Its remote ancestor is the Latin term "decem," signifying ten. In early times this Latin term was adopted in England via France and the Norman conquest. The spelling was corrupted into "disme." In those days the church was supported chiefly by tithes consisting of one-tenth of each man's income, so disme came to be used for the word tithe. Long after the spelling was changed to "dime."

The term "quarter," signifying 25 cents, grew out of a practice of necessity in the early days in the West. There was hardly any fractional currency in circulation. The standard silver coin was the old Spanish pillar dollar. When small change was needed the dollar was taken to a blacksmith shop and cut into halves, quarters and eighths. The eighth fraction of the dollar was so small that it came to be known as a "bit," and that term is still used for one shilling on the Pacific coast.

How He Escaped.

"And you are ninety-five years old," she exclaimed. "How wonderful! You look so well, so strong, so young. How have you managed to do it?" "My method is very simple," the venerable gentleman replied. "I have never let any of my friends know it if I didn't happen to be feeling well, consequently I've never had to take any of the things they would have recommended if they had known I was ailing."—Pickup.

Natural Wonder.

Dorothy for the first time in her young life saw triplets.

She stood perfectly spellbound for some time and finally exclaimed: "Oh, mother! Come quick. Look at the twins and a half."

Life Boat to Carry 150.

A motor life boat being built in England will have driven by engines 150 horsepower and will be able to carry 150 persons. 50 of these [illegible]

The Poet Laureate.

For many centuries in England the poet laureate was an official attached to the king's household. He was originally called the "king's versifier." In modern times the honor is usually conferred upon a poet of some distinction and is held for life. He has no compulsory duties to perform, but he is expected to compose an ode of honor on special state occasions. Great poets have held the office, including William Wordsworth and Lord Tennyson.

Believe It or Not.

A big game hunter had just returned from the hills and was recounting some of his adventures.

"The most astonishing experience I had," he said, "was when I fired my last bullet at a bear and missed him."

"Did the bear give you a chase?" asked one of the listeners.

"No. You see he knew me by reputation and was so surprised at my missing him that he fainted dead away."—American Legion Weekly.

Preachers to Race.

A London (Eng.) minister has been denouncing his colleagues as "too effeminate." One of them has taken umbrage at the remark and challenged the offender to a 20-mile hike to see who is and who isn't "soft."

Where to Get Soil for Inoculating Nitrogen-gathering Crops.

The Progressive Farmer.

To inoculate crimson clover, use soil from land that has successfully grown crimson clover, red clover, alsike clover, white clover, or hop clover. Soil from a field that has grown any one of these crops is inoculated for any other one of the group. In other words the same kind of nitrogen-gathering bacteria live and work in the nodules on the roots of each of these clovers. Therefore to inoculate for crimson clover this fall, you don't have to have soil from a crimson clover field. Soil from a field of red clover, alsike, white, or hop clover will do as well.

To inoculate for alfalfa, you need not necessarily use soil from an alfalfa field. Soil from a field of bur clover, sweet clover, black medic, or button clover will do just as well. Each of these crops is inoculated by the same kind of bacteria.

Where you sow vetch, you will need to inoculate with soil from fields where any of the varieties of vetch have grown successfully or from the row in the garden where the English peas grew.

The burs of bur clover carry plenty of bacteria for inoculation. But if the seed are treated by the boiling method to quicken germination, the bacteria must be protected by being washed off beforehand with a small quantity of cool water. Then after treatment this wash-water must be poured over the seed again to return the bacteria to them.

Our readers know that the nitrogen-gathering bacteria must be present if a legume crop is to succeed. Inoculated soil is close at hand more often than one would think. Study the groups listed above. Remember which crop will inoculate for those you want to sow. One of those may be growing on your own place, or your next door neighbor may have it. Don't sacrifice the crop for failure to inoculate.

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JOHN J. HENDERSON
Attorney-at-Law
GRAHAM, N. C.
Office over National Bank of Alamance

J. S. COOK,
Attorney-at-Law
GRAHAM, - - - - N. C
Office Patterson Building
Second Floor.

DR. WILL S. LONG, JR.
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