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Gov. Morrison Withdraws Request for Prison Investigation

The Governor is Responsible and Has Started Machinery for Investigation of all Prisons and Prison Camps.

Resolution of State Prison Board and Letter of Governor.

(By Maxwell Gorman.)

Raleigh, May 15.—When Governor Morrison notified Mrs. K. B. Johnson, State Commissioner of Welfare, that he withdrew his request to that department to take charge of the investigation into prison conditions in North Carolina (State Prison and camps and county chain-gangs and jails) he was actuated largely because it had become apparent to intelligent observers here that the "strained relations" existing and growing were between Mrs. Johnson's department and the State Prison board, and authorities of the penitentiary, had become so "embarrassing" that the investigation should be directed differently—if it was desired to have a real investigation that would be able to secure co-operation and obtain the facts desired.

So the Governor took charge, as he is determined that the investigation shall be thorough and unprejudiced, and the prospects of getting the truth is materially enhanced by Governor Morrison's "bold" stroke, which the two Raleigh anti-administration daily newspapers allege "flabbergasted" them. No other "flabbergasted" have been noticed outside of the News and Observer and Times offices.

Some developments that had aggravated this condition included the invitation of Mrs. Johnson to outside "experts," and even including Dudding and his element of agitators to visit the State and take part in the investigation. These things led the State Prison Board to adopt a resolution last week which reads as follows:

"Be it resolved by the Board of Directors that the superintendent advise the various supervisors in charge of the State Prison farms and State Prison camps that no person or persons other than the Governor of North Carolina or a grand jury in session in accordance with the law, be allowed to confer with any prisoner or prisoners, under the jurisdiction of the State Prison authorities except in the presence of the supervisor under whom such prisoners may be confined; or in the presence of some employe of the State's Prison delegated by such supervisor.

"That in passing this resolution this board has no desire to in any way retard or interfere with any survey or investigation which may now be under way or which may be made in the future. That the passing of this resolution is only for the purpose of making an effort to see that justice is done to all.

"Be it further resolved, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to His Excellency, the Governor of North Carolina, the Chairman of the Board of Public Welfare and Charities, to the Commissioner of Public Welfare, and to each supervisor in the employ of the State's Prison."

The average citizen can see after reading the above how fruitless would have been the efforts of Mrs. Johnson to set her outside "investigators" and "experts" (Dudding is an ex-convict and an expert to that extent) to work. The Governor's interposition became necessary, and he is to be commended for action that will insure a more thorough and just

inquiry than Mrs. Johnson could have put on.

Governor's Letter to Mrs. Johnson

"My Dear Mrs. Johnson: I desire to withdraw my request for an investigation by your board into prison conditions in the State. I have decided that my own official responsibility about this matter is greater than I at first realized. I have, therefore, determined to assume full responsibility in the matter and to take far-reaching action without delay.

"Your board, under the law, can only make a report to me for submission to the next General Assembly or for my guidance and assistance. I have decided that I do not desire a report from you for the purpose of influencing my own action, and as the General Assembly will not meet for some time, I am unwilling to wait until that time for action.

"I have been giving serious study to the whole subject, and feel that I have both the legal power and the disposition to take action in the premises.

"Circumstances are such that I really think your investigation and report would embarrass me rather than aid me in the course I have firmly fixed my mind upon.

"I am thoroughly in accord with modern and progressive thought upon the subject of prison reform, and, under the law as it is now written, I am satisfied the whole system can be put in modern and up-to-date shape, I am going to exercise all the power I have, and I am quite sure it is sufficient to bring this about.

"Very truly yours,
"CAMERON MORRISON."

Attorney General Acts.

Attorney General J. S. Manning on Monday wrote to the solicitors and the chairmen of the boards of county commissioners of the State, asking that they investigate the prison conditions in their counties and districts in compliance with the request of the Governor, who Friday took the direction of the prison investigation out of the hands of the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare with the statement that the board's investigation would be more embarrassing than helpful.

The action of the Governor was the principle topic of conversation about the State departments, and while everyone was willing to admit the action startling to a degree nobody was willing to comment for publication. Mrs. Kate Barr Johnson, Commissioner of Public Welfare, maintained the silence with which she received the Governor's ultimatum.

The Board of Public Welfare will probably meet this week, following the return of W. A. Blair, chairman of the board, from New York. The Governor communicated his action to the members of the board so that it was not necessary for Mrs. Johnson to notify them of the new developments.

Governor's Statement to the Public

"The sentiment of the public upon this matter has arrested my attention, and I am ready to proceed vigorously to consideration of the whole question and to take action. The responsibility is upon me, and I think my power is ample under the present law, and I have decided to withdraw my request to the Board of Charities and Public Welfare for assistance in the matter.

"Since I have been Governor so many large questions have exacted my thought and effort that I possibly have not given the attention to reform in the penal institutions which its importance required, and I was under the impression that the legislation enacted during the administration of Governor Bickett, when the entire subject was up for consideration, as satisfactory to the people.

"If, when I have finished what I contemplate doing about the matter, the public is not satisfied with results, then other agencies may take the situation in hand.

"I have decided that until the next General Assembly meets, the responsibility is ultimately mine, and I propose to discharge my duty the best I can. I ask the public to await results before indulging in criticism.

"I am thoroughly in accord

with modern and progressive thought upon the subject of prison reform, and, under the law as it is now written, I am satisfied the whole system can be put in modern and up-to-date shape, if it is not now in such shape.

CO-OPS WIN IN VIRGINIA CASE

Tobacco Grown on Lands of Members Must Be Delivered.

Raleigh, May 10.—The Tobacco Co-operative association has won a far reaching decision in a jury trial at Charlotte Courthouse, Va., before Judge Hundley when the association received verdict of five cents per pound liquidated damages, attorney's fees and court costs for tobacco grown by a non-member minor son of a member of the association.

Today's victory of the tobacco co-operative in its first case before a jury is only second in importance to the recent decision of the North Carolina supreme court upholding the contract of the association in that the right of the association to market all tobacco grown upon the land of its members is upheld in the Virginia court.

In holding a member of the association liable for tobacco grown by a non-member the court today strengthens the statement by association officials that the association expects each member to deliver every pound of tobacco grown upon his land, whether the member has tenants or share croppers or whether he makes his own crop, in 1923.

Similar rulings in favor of other co-operative associations and recent news of the decision of the Kentucky court in the case of Garrett Watts and from Oregon in the case of August Lentz have further strengthened the organized Virginia and Carolina growers in their contention that the co-operative associations have prior claim to all tobacco grown on the lands of members.

Macon County Agent Made His Salary.

When J. M. Gray, assistant director of extension for the State College and State Department of Agriculture, went to Macon County sometime ago to take up the matter of having a county agent employed in the County, he found some opposition. The farmers wanted the work but the County Commissioners couldn't see how it would pay. So badly did the farmers want an agent, however, that nine leading men volunteered to sign notes of \$100 each to help defray the expenses of the work and if at the end of the year, the agent did not show at least \$900 profit by his work, they would pay this amount to the county as a reimbursement for the county's part of the agent's salary.

John V. Arrandale was secured as farm agent and he went to work on January first of this year. The other day, he held a cooperative sale of poultry. The results show that 2,377 chickens were sold from 198 farms. The fowls weighed 9,967 pounds and were sold for \$2,085.67. Most of these fowls were simply culled from the general flocks found over the county. The average price offered for them locally was five cents a pound for the old roosters and 15 cents a pound for the best hens. John Arrandale secured an average of about 21 cents a pound on the whole lot, and at one sale showed in actual dollars and cents that he was at least \$900 to his folks.

But he is planning another sale for May 23rd when he hopes to do better because he will probably have more birds to sell. More people are now interested in culling out their old stuff and saving the best birds for use at home.

Along with his other work, County Agent Arrandale has started three cream routes in the county.

"Birds of a feather" not only flock together but they are more profitable than mixed breeds. Get rid of the mongrel fowls and use only pure breeds, suggests the farm extension workers of another State. The same is true in North Carolina.

Kite flying is one of the chief sports of the adult Malays.

UNITED STATES CANNOT STAND ALOOF.

Pres. Harding's World Court Policy Will Not Observe Other Issues.

Washington Correspondence.

Washington, May 14.—The latest view attributed to President Harding that isolation is no longer possible is set forth by the Washington correspondents in attendance at a recent White House conference. To quote the New York Times:

"In the President's view, all the peoples of the globe were now in contact. When a man could fly across the American continent in twenty-seven hours, when the countries of the world were connected by radio and cable, the President could only be convinced that the idea of a nation living in a shell and having nothing to do with other nations and with international problems was so ridiculous as not to be thought of. Mr. Harding, it was repeated, was certain that no President would leave the White House with the honest conviction that the United States could remain aloof from the rest of the world."

President Harding said in his New York speech that his present world court policy was in harmony with the platform declarations of his party for a number of years, which he cited.

The two statements taken together constitute an indictment of the faithlessness of the party to its platform declarations. President Harding apparently holds widely different views as President than he did as Senator. If the Republicans had said in 1920 what President Harding now says concerning nonisolation and our duty to the world instead of uttering a lie about international co-operation what a different phase the whole question of our international relations would present.

While the primary and relatively unimportant step which President Harding has taken in the matter of international co-operation in his advocacy of the World Court evokes much discussion, it is certain that it will not be permitted to overshadow the many outstanding issues in the presidential campaign.

Democrats throughout the country will see to it that the broken platform pledges of 1920 to reduce the high cost of living and prosecute the profiteers, the infamous Fordney-McCumber Tariff law costing the people \$4,000,000,000 annually, the proposed Ship Subsidy, the violation of the Civil Service Act, Newberryism, and Daughertyism, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing scandal, the restoration of foreign markets to our farmers, shall not be permitted to be obscured or lost sight of, while at the same time giving due attention to the great question of foreign relations.

Wilson and Harding On the Screen.

Recognition and reprobation of popular coldness toward President Harding were voiced by Mrs. Virginia White Steele, of Washington in addressing the semi-annual convention of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women in Baltimore a few days ago. Mrs. Steele is vice-president of the Republican Voters' Association of the District of Columbia, which is directly under the tutelage of the Republican National Committee.

Beginning with a reproach of her fellow-Republicans for their lack of enthusiasm, Mrs. Steele declared that there was no proper deference to President Harding. When the picture of former President Wilson was thrown on the screen in Washington, she said, there was vigorous and spontaneous applause. When reference was made to President Harding or to his administration, Mrs. Steele said, it seemed to take great effort to start even weak and desultory handclapping.

Mrs. Steele's subject was, "The Achievements of the Republican National Administration." Her audience was not very responsive until after she had lectured the women about Republican indifference to the President. Thereafter mention of his name was met with a mild demonstration.

Record for Safe Travel on Trains of Southern.

Figures just compiled by the safety department of the Southern Railway System show that a high degree of safety for passengers was accomplished during the year 1922 when the Southern handled a total of 17,668,605 passengers without a single fatality to any passenger as the result of an accident to a train or negligence on the part of the railway.

A total of 177,084 passenger trains were operated during the year and the average distance traveled by each passenger was 62.17 miles. Had one passenger ridden the entire distance that these passengers were carried, he would have traveled more than 44,000 times the distance around the earth.

Four passengers were killed as the result of their own acts in violation of the safety rules established for their protection. Of these, two fell from moving trains, one attempted to board a moving train and fell under it, and one jumped through the window of the coach in which he was riding.

"These figures," says a statement issued by the safety department of the Southern, "show that, while the Southern has attained a remarkable degree of efficiency in protecting the passengers who ride on its trains, no refinement of protective features can insure the safety of persons who carelessly or deliberately violate the common laws of safety and the rules which have been established for their protection."

Whitsett High School Closing Exercises.

Cor. of The Gleaner.

The Whitsett High School closed a successful year's work with the commencement exercises of last week. Large crowds were present for every exercise, and the weather was delightful for every day.

Tuesday, May 14, was given over to the recital in music under the direction of Mrs. R. K. Davenport. She presented the following pupils on her program: Pearl Perrett, Lucile Whitsett, Rebekah Lowe, Jewell Greeson, Macy Johnson, Rosa Huffman, Emily Hinchshaw, W. T. Whitsett, Jr.

Wednesday the lower grades gave a play, and also other exercises directed by Miss Phoebe Henrich.

The High School students on Thursday presented a play, "Home Acres," which was heard by a large gathering.

Friday was given over to the graduates of this year, six in number, as follows: Glenn W. Wheeler, Alexander Phillippe, Jr., Pearl Perrett, Jennie Huffman, Theodore Huffman, Jewell Greeson.

The graduates held a delightful class exercise, followed by the literary address which was delivered this year by Dr. W. T. Whitsett, who spoke on "Those Who Use and Those Who Lose."

He showed how all live through the same period of days, the same hours of the day, yet some make such fine use of time that they become useful, noted, and distinguished, while others lose out in the race because they are not awake to improve every opportunity as presented. The address was filled with apt illustrations of the theme.

Prof. H. W. Smith, the principal, is being congratulated for the excellent year's work just closing.

Protecting the Cheaters.

Ohio State Journal (Rep.).

The entirely disinterested, not to mention grand old Republican National Committee now makes it plain to any reasonable man that the tariff has absolutely nothing to do with the price of sugar, but still it does seem sort of funny to protect 'em while the actual cheating is going on.

It takes 3,630 tomato plants, set three by four feet apart, to plant an acre. Do you have your supply ready. Ask the home demonstration workers of the State College and Department of Agriculture.

LIME PAYS WITH CLOVER.

A Striking Demonstration in Use of Lime in Alamance.

In a former issue THE GLEANER printed the substance of the article below. So this is a twice told tale, but a good thing cannot be repeated too often. The results were so apparent that the Agricultural Extension Service at Raleigh makes the statement over as follows:

"It would pay any farmer who is interested in soil development and soil building to visit a demonstration being conducted by Mr. Julian Sellars on his farm near Mebane, where he shows the value of lime in growing clover," says W. Kerr Scott, County Agent of Alamance county. Mr. Sellars planted a 15 acre field to wheat and clover last year, liming half of the area and leaving the other half unlimed. Mr. Scott states that the lime was applied with a wheat drill, going over the ground twice. About one ton was used to each acre, applied on top of the ground just before sowing the clover seed in the spring of 1922.

On a recent visit to this demonstration, Mr. Scott found that the clover on the limed half of the field was up to a fair stand, was dark green in color and showed a healthy growth. At this time the clover is about six inches high.

On the unlimed half of the field, there are a few scattered, pale yellow bunches of clover all in a very unhealthy looking condition. This clover is only about three inches high and there are more weeds than clover in this portion of the field. Very few weeds are to be found in the limed part. Mr. Scott says that the entire field received exactly the same treatment in every way except that half was limed and half unlimed. The date of sowing both the wheat and the clover was the same.

Mr. Scott believes this to be one of the most valuable and striking demonstrations that he has seen in the county this spring and that it gives a fair indication as to the need and value of agricultural lime, especially in the growth of legumes.

Money Saved By Use of Paint.

"Of all the general neglect of implements, buildings, etc. credited to farmers all over the country," says E. R. Raney, Farm Engineer for the North Carolina Extension Service, "there is probably no one item that would reduce this great annual loss, which goes into millions for the whole country, more than a good liberal and judicious use of paint.

"We see every day farm homes and surrounding buildings over North Carolina that would be improved at least 50 per cent in general appearance by a good liberal application of paint. This is not confined to old buildings that have never been painted or to buildings on which the paint has about all disappeared," continues Mr. Raney, "but in many cases where homes have only recently been completed they are left unpainted. Paint should always be a part of the construction program and the house not considered finished until it is painted. What would you think of an implement dealer or manufacturer who tried to sell you a machine in which you could see all the rough castings, straps, etc., just as they came from the foundry without paint? The very best machines even to your 1923 model automobile would present a rather rough and crude appearance just as that new unpainted home does in comparison to one that is properly painted."

Mr. Raney states further that paint will not only improve the general appearance of buildings, but by keeping a good coat on both buildings and machinery it will greatly lengthen the life of these by preventing the wood work from becoming soaked with water and rotting, and the metal parts from rusting.

Workers of the State College and State Department of Agriculture find that good purebred brood sows have larger litters, which grow rapidly into pork, use less feed per pound and gain more in doing so.

Farmers and Wage-workers Paying For Trust Prosperity.

Depreciation of the farmer's and wage-worker's dollars as a consequence of the rapid rise in the cost of living is disturbing Republican politicians who realize that their talk about the "return of prosperity" is not very persuasive so long as agriculture and labor are not sharing it. Chairman John T. Adams of the Republican National Committee is one of those of his party to whom the political effect of this shrinkage of the dollar is apparent.

"There is still much to be desired because of the discrepancy between the selling dollar and the buying dollar of the farmer," said Mr. Adams in a formal statement. Dr. Irving Fisher, Professor of Economics at Yale University, calculated that the purchasing power of the dollar had decreased to 59.5 cents on April 1, 1923, compared with 1913. This represented a decline of 63 cents in its purchasing power since January 1, 1923.

The farmer and the wage-worker are paying for the "prosperity" of the profiteers for whom the Republican Fordney-McCumber tariff was enacted. All consumers' commodities have grown dearer while the average wage and the price of agricultural products has either remained stationary or risen only slightly. It is this fact that Chairman Adams slurred so adroitly when he was singing his paean to prosperity.

The distinction of being the first woman to be awarded the coveted Du Pont fellowship in chemistry has been won by Miss Gilberta G. Torrey, assistant in the chemical laboratory at the college for women, Western Reserve University.

Feeding the pig is simplified if you have one of the new circulars issued by the Agricultural Extension Service to guide you. Ask the editor of the College and Department of Agriculture at Raleigh for your copy of F. 12.

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