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Against the Resolution Ratifying the Governor's Gift to the Convict Familles, Delivered January 12, 1917, on the Floor of the Senate.

Mr. President: The Senator from Franklin: When the press of the State announced, just before last Christmas, that the Governor had gone into the treasury, and, without precedent or authority of law, took out over six thousand dollars, and had given it to the convict families of North Caroling, a thrill went through the mind of every thoughtful man in the State who read it—that a great mistake had been made, that someone had blunder-1. myself, was peculiarly thrilled at the announcement of this great, rash and careless act.

The thrill that pasced through my mind was akin to that of the feilow. who was somewhat of a wag, that visited the Mammoth Cave in Kentu-la one of the Wonders of the New World. That, at a tourist hotel nearby, a custom had grown up for the visitors to register, and, after seeing the Great Wonder, to write the impressions made upon them, after their names upon the hotel register. Upon his return to the hotel he wrote after his name:

"Oh! Mammoth Cave, what a

In summer cold; in winter Great God A'mighty, what a

wonder!' Then his stream of poetry failed

him, but he took a second thought and went back and added another line:

"Andrew Jackson, Hell and

Mr. President, we are now called upon by these resolutions to endorse and ratify this Christmas gift. Speaking for no one but myself. I can't do

We have a solemn duty to perform. The many times we have sworn to support the Constitution, the last one still fresh in our minds, taken at the beginning of this session, all urge us to be true to the State, and, above all, to ourselves. The Molly-Coddles have spoken in favor of the resolution, and put the reason of their support upon charity and humanity. I surrender and accord to no man upon the floor of this Senate any superiority in charitable or humane sentiments and motives, than I have.

But I submit that we can be charitable and humane to the utmost with our own funds, bu, we are the trustees and guardians of the State in dealing with the public treasury, and we are held to a strict accountability and we must be controlled by the law We must be just and honest before we surrender our trust funds to charity or to a maudlin sentiment. What would we think of a cashier of a bank who spent the surplus for charity, without authority and consent of the stockholders? He would at once lose his position in the bank, and standing in the community.

The law animadverts and penalizes the unfaithful administrator and grardian who misapply their trust funds even for charity.

The idea of a great Governor of a great State doing a thing like this. without authority of law, taking over six thousand dollars of your money and my money, for it belongs to the State, and we are a part of the State. and giving it to the least worthy in all our midst. But they say that of the 615 ten-dollar checks sent out, 205 cf them were returned uncalled for. Would that all of them had been returned, and this great scandal averted! He had the same right to take it all, as to take what he did.

But, they say we must ratify this transaction, or else the Prison Board would be put in a hole. But, if they are in a hole, they dug the hole themselves, and used over six thousand dollars of our money to dig it with.

Mr. President, I want to draw a parallel between this transaction and another one in our State's history. Sixteen years ago a majority of our Supreme Court, who were Republicans ordered the auditor to pay Mr. Wood \$1,200.00 salary due him. Impeachment charges were made against them. and proceedings had, which cost the State of North Carolina \$32,000.

In the prosecution of these charges, our late Governor made a reputation which landed him in the Governor's chair. And, as one of the last acts of his administration, he put his hand in the treasury and took out \$6,150.00, and literally gave it away. I have a copy of the original voucher before What a contrast between his conduct and the Judges of sixteen years ago, who thought they were doing right! And there are other men who are now enjoying high position by reason of the prominence they took in said impeachment trial, and I could

call their names, if I wished to.

ith the incomparable and valiant Jance, the majestic Jarvis, the wellbalanced Scales, the eloquent Fowle, the business-like Holt. the Granger Carr, the altrustic Aycock, the blus ribboned Glenn, and the patriotic Kitchin, and none of them would have dared do what our last Governor did.

Mr. President. The idea of the Chlef Executive of a great State doing a thing like this, whose chief duty is to see that the laws are executed by the rich and poor alike, and not to place a premium upon crime, by rewarding the felons, as he has done. It is one of the sad ironies of fate that the poor and humble are the first to feel the ADDRESS OF SENATOR PERSON heavy hand of the law, and the iron heel of the oppressor.

Goldsmith said several hundred years ago:

"The law is hard on man or woman.

Who steals a goose from off the common.

But turns the larger rascal

Who steals the common from the goose.'

Mr. President, I am proud of the party I belong to. It has a great history and, I believe, a greater future; but it must remain true to its best ideals and traditions by a strict adherence to the laws and Constitution, we have all sworn to protect and obey. Senator from Buncombe: President, the Senator from Franklin has injected Dan Russell into his speech in order to bring into disrepute 'the little Giant from the Mountains,' who did so much to rid the East from negro domination.

The Senator from Franklin: "Mr. President, I have not mentioned Dan hussel's name, nor referred to him directly or indirectly. The Senator from Buncombe brought his name into this debate, in order to give his argument an emphasis he could not otherwise give it. Since he has mentioned Russell's name, thank God! I have a recollection and memory that go back to the election of 1884, when I cast my maiden vote for the Presidency. I voted for that noble Roman and Dem ocrat-Grover Cleveland. late Governor cast his maiden vote for the Presidency also, and he and Dar Russell voted together, and they both voted for the Plumed Knight from the State of Maine. And the grand finale of his administration, which shall go down in history, was the launching of this forty-two centimeter mistake against the State of North Carolina and the best traditions of the Democratic party.

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