

The Carolina Watchman

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Published Every Wednesday,
120 West Lanes Street.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE:
Watchman, 1 year, \$.75
Record, 1 year,75
The Progressive Farmer, 1 year, 1.00
All 3 for a year each, only \$1.50

Entered as second-class matter January 19th, 1905, at the post office at Salisbury, N. C., under the act of Congress of March 3rd, 1879. ©

Salisbury, N. C., Sept. 29, '15.

To get the full value of a palm beach and a straw lid now is the time to wear them.

The best time to prevent fires is twenty-four hours every day in the year and about ninety-five per cent. of the people know this.

Since we have got to drink Salisbury hydrant water for several years yet, it might be well to return to the "boosting" thereof.

Although knowing the bill authorizing the recent bond election was out of harmony with the State constitution, Mayor Woodson is still endeavoring to induce some one to buy them. The financial papers say he will receive bids up to October 1st.

The Raleigh Woman's Club is to have a baby contest at the State fair. Now don't that jar you? This is on a par with going out in the woods to see who can find the largest persimmon, the oldest rat or the most spotted owl. To produce real results it would be necessary to start about three hundred years before the baby is born.

The Rowan County Commissioners were everlastingly right in making protest before the State tax commission relative to the ten per cent. which it added to the already increased rate on the real estate of Rowan County. Taxes are too high, and when we say too high that is what we mean, regardless of relative values or rates elsewhere. The value of real estate is considerably less now than for several years, rents have decreased, many people have been out of employment and the present is altogether an improper time for an increase, besides all this, there has been no demand on the part of the people for the said tax commission, nor the things for which it stands, and therefore it should not have come into existence, but in this respect this new scheme is like many others.

Our law makers are in the habit of forgetting the people, forget that they are laying down a rule, not for a few favorites, a few well-to-do, or for prosperous times but for all the people, more than a majority or a party's strength, for all classes and conditions, a majority of whom are poor, to be enforced by the whole power of the State if necessary. The county will have to submit, but it is to be hoped we may learn something as a result. The WATCHMAN is inclined to believe the next representatives from Rowan will go to Raleigh with instructions to show the State Tax Commission, where to get off, possibly others.

For instance, let's side-step a little. There has been no demand on the part of the people for at least ninety per cent. of the appropriations made by the legislature and therefore they should not have been made, and further we suspect that the State would be just as well off with fifty per cent. less of the officials she now has and probably the same proportion of laws. The great mistake our law-making bodies are guilty of is, in listening to the advice of little committees, and often individuals, who are generally more accustomed to working a shell-game on the public and are consequently too short-sighted, narrow minded, officious and tyrannical to be a safe guide for a conclave of bats. There is an old saw that runs thus: No news is good news, so, since we have laws sufficient and to spare

we might adopt for future use the phrase: No law is a good law. The whole trouble however, comes from a lack of interest and intelligent activity on the part of the people. In other words, they should get together and see that we have public servants in reality and in truth, not public bosses. It is a strange trait of humanity, however, to note how much of a burden a community or state will bear and how long it will tolerate an injustice, rather than make an effort to rid themselves of it, provided, it is the result of so-called law. People prefer peace and plod along, with all the world's history before them pointing positively to ruin, or rebellion, yet go on until the last straw has been placed and the route has led them into a seething caldron of strife and destruction. It seems that no amount of logic, no amount of reasoning and no amount of urging availeth ought until the sobering influence of some great adversity has done its work. Yet we call ourselves intelligent, progressive, enlightened, etc.

What a great calamity now presents itself to our view as we gaze upon conditions in Europe, what suffering, what strife and how appalling the consequences, how lasting the effects and what little is to be accomplished, and what small satisfaction is to be gained thereby, ought to very forcibly remind us of the necessity of holding down bossism, officialdom and monarchical tendencies. The American people are the stockholders of our great government and if wise they will ever cling most tenaciously to the reins that guide the ship of State, for thus only will we be able to avoid the results of reckless and self-seeking drivers.

Epworth League's Meeting at Spencer.

The Epworth League of the Methodist church held a three-days' session at Spencer Friday, Saturday and Sunday, when an interesting program was carried out and a good attendance was present. The meetings were held in the Spencer Methodist Church, of which Rev. C. M. Pickens is pastor, and were presided over by the president of the League, Rev. E. L. Bain of Winston-Salem.

Greensboro was decided upon as the next place of meeting and the officers named for the ensuing term are as follows:

President, Rev. E. L. Bain, Winston-Salem; Vice President, H. E. Walter, Asheville; Secretary, Mrs. Katherine Browning, Greensboro; Treasurer, Rev. C. W. Pickens, Spencer; Superintendent, Junior League, Miss Bertha Bennett; Epworth Era Agent, A. W. Cline, Thomasville; Superintendent Knights of Ezrah, F. T. Scarborough, Greensboro; Superintendent Girls of Epworth, Mrs. C. C. Ansbaue.

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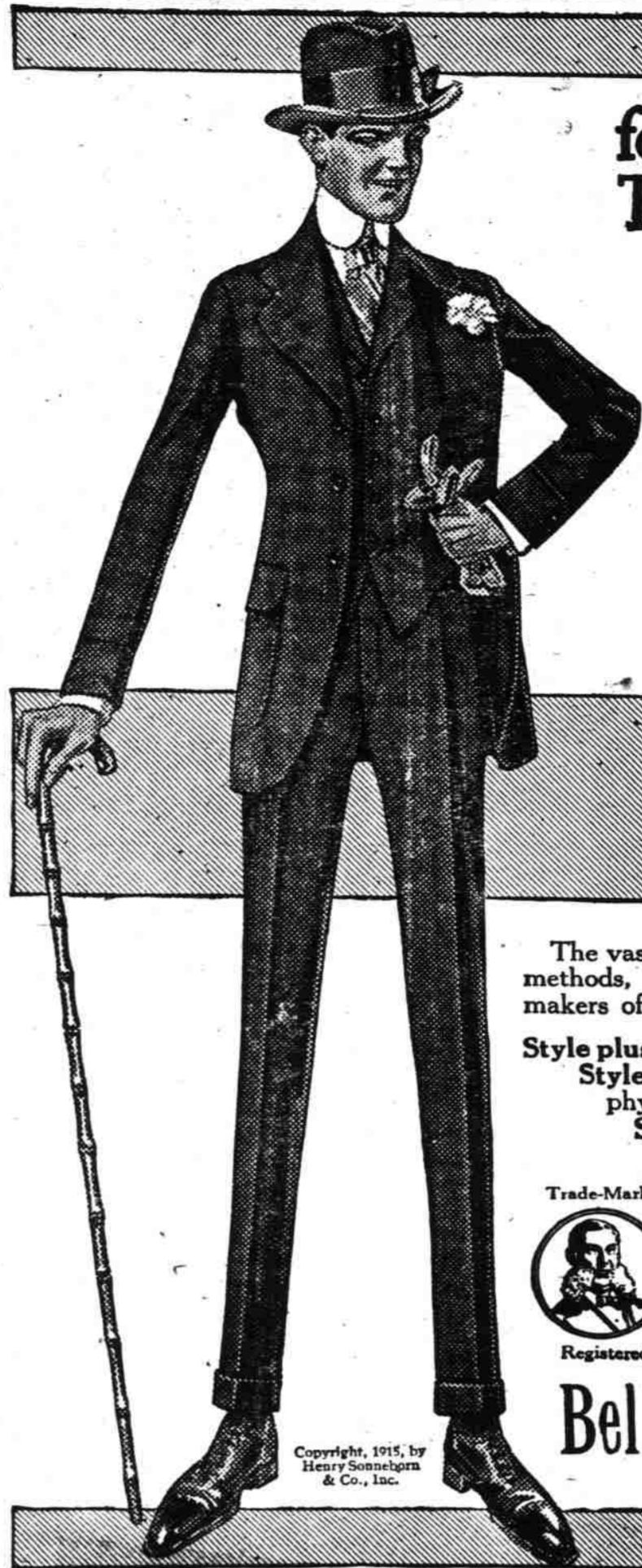
Old Johnson Third Member of Family to Die Unnatural Death.

Spartanburg, S. C., Sept. 22.—Ott Johnson, a farmer residing on T. F. Anderson's place near Reidsville, this county killed himself as he sat in the door of his home late today by discharging a dou-

ble-barrelled shot gun into his forehead. Johnson is said to have been ill for some time and despondent. He was 88 years of age and is survived by a widow and two daughters. Coroner Turner said tonight that this was the third inquest he had held in the Johnson family

within the last year and a half. During the past summer George Johnson, a brother of the man who ended his life today, accidentally killed his infant daughter when a whip with which he was chastizing an older child flew out of his hand. More than a year ago a sister ended her life.

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