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E. W. G. HUFFMAN Editor
S. HOLMES PLEXICO Business Manager

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"If the choice were left to me whether to have a free press or a free government, I would choose a free press."—Thomas Jefferson.

FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 18, 1931

POPULATION DATA

CITIES AND TOWNS

Salisbury	16,951	Gold Hill	156
Spencer	3,129	Granite Quarry	507
E. Spencer	2,098	Rockwell	696
China Grove	1,258	Faith	431
Landis	1,388	Kannapolis	13,912

TOWNSHIPS

Atwell	2,619	Morgan	1,327
China Grove	8,990	Mt. Ulla	1,389
Cleveland	1,445	Providence	2,589
Franklin	2,246	Salisbury	25,153
Gold Hill	2,642	S. Irish	1,251
Litaker	2,562	Steele	1,142
Locke	1,904	Unity	1,406

ROWAN COUNTY 56,665

**NEWTON D. BAKER FOR PRESIDENT;
A PARTY'S OPPORTUNITY**

Events continue to indicate the probability of a Democratic victory at the polls next year. Democrats have already captured the House; the Senate is controlled by a coalition. Recent by-elections reflect a steady trend against the administration.

It is almost an unwritten law that when the party in power loses control of Congress midway in the president's term it loses the presidency itself two years later. A situation approximating this has now developed. The barometer of Democratic hopes rises accordingly as the year before the contest nears its end.

To win success, however, even under these promising auspices the party must deserve success. To deserve success it must have an intelligent, constructive platform. It must have a candidate capable of appealing to the intelligent liberalism of an electorate no longer satisfied with platitudinous nonsense.

America faces in immediate prospect several years of painful economic adjustment. The man who steps into the White House in March, 1933, if he be fit for the responsibility conferred on him, must be a leader with understanding vision and experience. He must personify the nation's aspiration for a fairer distribution of the blessings of life.

This period immediately ahead will in many respects be more trying than the period of the war, whose unhappy child it is. It calls for political leadership as able as that fortunately given us for the war.

The economic balance of the world is upset. Nerves are tense and raw. America, isolated by geography, is enmeshed with the world economically. As long as Europe remains militarist and suspicious, America's own frontiers are not immune.

The war of arms gives way to the war for gold. With the United States and France holding more than half the monetary gold and the rest of the world struggling for the life blood of trade, national jealousies are easily kindled. Germany, disarmed at Versailles, plays with Russia whose millions of soldiers, armed and obedient, constitute a menace to western Europe. France, sensing the peril, lines up her allies as a bulwark against the east.

America's potential leadership to help the world out of economic turmoil will be effective only if America chooses her own leaders carefully.

In one sense leading a nation in war is a simple task. The scepter is emotionalism. People are asked to respond to a single grand emotion, that of saving their country from the dangers that threaten it.

Nothing of this advantage awaits those who are to lead us in the new battle. The nation will not be united behind a single impulse. Toes must be trod on, years-long relationships shaken up, settled convictions as to social privilege disturbed.

The president of the United States is the nation's natural leader in policies affecting its welfare at home and abroad.

A candidate for president is handicapped, perhaps hopelessly, unless his party gives him a suitable platform on which to make his appeal. For the character of the platform indi-

icates the sentiment which rules the party councils. Unless the candidate can have the support of his own party organization throughout the country he is doomed to failure from the start.

So the task for Democrats next year is to frame a declaration of principles in tune with the vibrant aspirations of forward-looking Americans of all parties; and to name for the presidency some citizen who is known everywhere to embody these principles in his public life.

The Democratic platform adopted at Houston in 1928 was a disappointment. In its declarations on the tariff and on foreign relations, in particular—basic issues in these days of delicate balances—it flew the flag of hesitation and compromise when a clear expression of purpose was called for.

On such a platform no party could go anywhere. Nowhere the party went.

Since Houston the country has entered a new era. The economic smash of 1929 was not foreseen in the 1928 campaign. Mr. Hoover was elected on the promise, sometimes expressed but more often implied, that a Republican victory would insure America another four years of the Coolidge prosperity.

Though depression is not, for the most part, a fruit of party policy, the promises of the last presidential campaign rise now to curse the promisors. It offers Democracy its best opportunity since Roosevelt split his party.

If the party of Woodrow Wilson uses the opportunity to lead the country out of the morass of economic stagnation into which world-wide affliction and bad political management have led it, the party will deserve well of posterity. If it tries to use it merely for party advantage, it will merit and probably receive the condemnation of thinking men.

Let the platform, then, be broad, liberal and intelligent.

Let the candidate be one experienced, clear-sighted and able, one capable of inspiring a nation to high endeavor.

Political logic forces to national attention the supreme availability of Newton D. Baker. His nomination to oppose Herbert Hoover when the now president-elect seeks the customary second term will be a triumph of principle over mere party expediency. To an extent not true of any other political leader of the day he represents the intelligent liberal and progressive aspirations of millions of his fellow Americans.

This was said more than three years ago, shortly after the election of Mr. Hoover. Developments since then at home and abroad add emphasis to the truth of this declaration.

Newton D. Baker is not a candidate for the presidency. He has no organization. He has entered no state primary for delegates.

Yet with the single exception of Gov. Roosevelt of New York, Mr. Baker is the most talked-of man in the Democratic party as a presidential possibility. The movement in his favor grows in many states.

What is said here in favor of Mr. Baker as a candidate is said not in hostility to any other candidacy. It is said only in cordial recognition of his many distinguished qualities.

It is the universal testimony of those familiar with Mr. Baker's conduct of the War Department that it marked him an executive with phenomenal ability, excellent tact, indomitable industry and a breadth of vision rarely found in political office. Try as it would, the anti-Wilson regime that followed could find no scandals in Mr. Baker's conduct of the department.

With the retirement of President Wilson Newton D. Baker returned to Cleveland, impoverished in purse but enriched in the qualities that distinguish the leaders of men. The years of his freedom from politics have been years of ripening talents, and of growing recognition wherever men talk together of their country's welfare.

This recognition becomes more outspoken as the time approaches for the election of delegates to the national convention early next summer. The more thoroughly the qualifications of other possible candidates are examined the clearer becomes Mr. Baker's conspicuous superiority.

The last two Democratic candidates for president came from New York and both were badly beaten. Next year's nomination belongs to the west, South or the midwest provided this section has a candidate to offer the convention who fills every requirement in this critical period.

In Newton D. Baker the man and the occasion meet. In him is to be found not only political and economical leadership but, in a broad sense, that spiritual leadership which the character of the times require. His nomination next year would throw a beacon light to every liberal and progressive group in America.

One of the supreme obligations of the next president of the United States is to tell the countries of Europe, with whatever diplomacy the occasion requires: "You shall not precipitate a general war. Civilization will not stand it!"

Days We'll Never Forget



THE WATCHMAN TOWER

To the People of Salisbury:

An opportunity to help effectively, but at a trifling cost, in the fight against the ravages of tuberculosis, is presented in the campaign for the sale of Tuberculosis Christmas Seals, to be placed on letters and packages. They are decorative, in harmony with the spirit of the season, and every one bought helps to save lives and restore health. Let all, who can, take a part in the war against tuberculosis.

GOVERNOR MATTHEW ROWAN.

To the Residents of Salisbury:

The members of the fire department and the cause for which they are working, to bring Christmas joy to a lot of children who cannot receive a regular visit from Santa Claus, deserve the co-operation of all in their appeal for discarded toys. As for several years past, the firemen are using their spare time in repairing the old toys they can gather, to be distributed to the children who attend the Salvation Army's Christmas tree festivities. It is urged that you look about your home and get together all toys that are not in use, then telephone the fire department.

GOVERNOR MATTHEW ROWAN.

Dr. J. S. Forbes, President, The Civitan Club, Salisbury, N. C.

My dear doctor Forbes: Congratulations to you as president, and to the members of the Civitan club, upon the grand banquet held last week. Inspired by an excellent talk by John Paul Lucas, much good was accomplished. Such meetings are testimonials to the true spirit of the work and the objectives of your club, whose motto is "Builders of Good Citizenship." Building up of a closer relationship between the farmer and the folks in town is always an admirable undertaking. I commend you heartily.

GOVERNOR MATTHEW ROWAN.

Hon. O. Max Gardner, Governor of North Carolina, Raleigh, N. C.

My dear Governor: Unless I misjudge the sentiment of the people of the state, they generally approve your position with respect to the exercise of executive clemency toward prisoners, as outlined in your recent public statement on the subject. While indiscriminate exercise of the pardoning power of the governor of course would not be approved, I believe that you can render a service of inestimable value to society in the judicious and cautious use of the parole, as an inspiration to prisoners to conduct themselves properly and to make good after they have been given their freedom, subject to continuing good behavior.

The hope of parole is calculated to encourage many to strive to gain their freedom by exemplary conduct.

Once they have been freed under parole, the ever-present realization that they can be summarily returned to prison for misconduct has a stabilizing and restraining influence in many cases to keep them law-abiding.

Society is better served with a truly reformed criminal free and earning his own living than kept in confinement at the expense of the taxpayers, once he has served a reasonable proportion of his original term in prison.

Such I understand to be your views, and I believe they are sanctioned by the majority of the thoughtful citizens of the state.

GOVERNOR MATTHEW ROWAN.

COMMENTS

FIE, FIE YOUNG MAN!

To the Editor: In answer to "Not a Salisburian's" letter, I say that she must be a flat, flat tire.

What does she think a fellow goes out with a girl for? To sit and count stars? Most certainly a young man is going to paw over his female companion, and while I don't sanction immorality I can see no harm to "petting."

Until a boy meets a girl he really loves and intends to marry he is going to use all the others for a good time.

Don't forget that you're only young once!

"THINKER."

VERILY, THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GENTLEMEN AND SHEIKS.

To the Editor:

May it please the girl that sent in, "She doesn't like the Salisbury sheiks," to know that there are many gentlemen in Salisbury (not sheiks).

It is the girls privilege to choose the boys with whom she cares to associate; if in doing this she chooses the ungentlemanlike type, she has only herself to blame. May I also say, a girl that considers herself a LADY will not permit an uncouth person to make such advances neither would she allow such an ungentlemanlike boy

Smilin' Charlie Says



Pretense is usually a dangerous thing but there's nothin' wrong with playin' Santa Claus to a lot o' poor kiddies

to see her again.

From the letter; "of course, if you belong to that almost unheard of class of girls who come from decent homes you will not relish what I have been through."

Judging from this you do not consider your own home decent, then surely you do not expect decent boys to retire to a "lowlly place" for a pleasant evening. May I suggest that you make your home a decent one, seek gentlemen for your boy friends in preference to the rabble you have been going with, look for the good and not the evil then you can expect to associate with decent boys.

A SALISBURY BOY.

SHE CAN'T MAKE THE BOYS BEHAVE.

To the Editor:

I read the letter of "Not a Salisburian" and was very much amused. It has always been my experience that the conduct of the fellow depends upon the girl herself. I don't blame the young lady for objecting to being mauled; certainly, any decent girl doesn't relish such attentions, but still a little convincing on the part of the girl generally brings results.

In my estimation, Salisbury fellows are just as good or as bad as others. As for the Salisbury girls—well, one finds different classes of girls everywhere.

Perhaps if "Not a Salisburian" would be a little more careful in choosing her company she and we Salisburians would be better off.

A TRUE SALISBURIAN.

Gloomy Scale Insect Kills Maple Trees

Soft maple trees of North Carolina are being killed off rapidly by the spreading infestation of gloomy scale.

"Many beautiful maples all over eastern North Carolina and in parts of the piedmont are dying rapidly because of the ravages of gloomy scale," says C. H. Brannon, extension entomologist at State College. "If control measures are not put into effect at once, hundreds of these beautiful trees will not survive another season. If the trunks, branches or twigs of these trees are examined, the scale may easily be observed with the naked eye. It appears as a dark mass of small bumps which may easily be scraped off with the knife blade. Those who are in doubt as to the identification are invited to send specimens. The scale is here to stay and is rapidly becoming worse."

The best control method used by Mr. Brannon is to apply a good oil spray to the tree during the winter or dormant period. The regular lime-sulphur spray mixtures on the market and most of them need only to be diluted with water to be ready for use.

Mr. Brannon advises owners of soft maples to get a good oil spray at once and apply while the trees are still dormant, being careful to cover the entire tree with the application. The best oil is of no value unless carefully applied. Do not spray when there is danger of freezing during the next few hours.