

THE CHATHAM RECORD

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Editor and Publisher

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Because of the necessity of cutting the editorial space down by running the Missing Word Contest pages in the middle of the Record for the next twelve weeks, including this week, we will let the overflow of editorial matter run in a column on the front page. As that column contains some interesting reflections this week, we should like for you to turn thither and read them.

If the fertilizer companies had taken the same interest in the selection of a Commissioner of Agriculture the past few years that the printing houses of the state have in selecting the Commissioner of Labor and Printing the very devil would have been to pay. But nobody seems to have seen or, at least, objected to the alliances of candidates for the position with the printing houses of the state. The gentleman who this year has been forced into antagonism with the printing houses, four years ago practically made headquarters in the house of the state's largest contractor in that and previous years. This is only an instance. There is one candidate this year who has not sought such an alliance and who deems it wholly unethical. Peterson's first concern when elected Commissioner of Labor and Printing will be the state's interest, but that does not mean prejudicial action toward any North Carolina establishment or labor organization. It simply means an unbiased administration.

As some Smith men voted for the presidential primary and some anti-Smith men for it, it is hard to see just how Mr. Turlington's charge against the Smith folk in the executive meeting at Raleigh can hold, and thus also James A. Bell, a prominent lawyer of Charlotte and against Smith, yet voting against the holding of a primary, sees it. That gentleman gave Mr. Turlington a call down, but it will do little good. Some men seem so rabid this year that it is hard to stop them from slander and abuse. Hefflin, for instance, in the U. S. Senate outrageously slandered good and honest citizens of this state. Senator Overman made him admit that he had no proof to sustain his charges, but what does such a man want with proof? He was in the Senate and thus protected from prosecution. There is no reason for any man to forget that he is a gentleman because of difference of opinion, and we hope that people have reached that point in Chatham county where they can hold their views and respect those who hold different ones. If not, it is a serious matter, for respect for other people's opinions is one of the greatest evidences of one's own right to the respect of others. Let's not make ourselves fools about anything. Harmony, good will, and self-respect are of more value to Chatham county citizens than the choice of a president. Chatham folk can live and prosper under almost any president, but it will be poor living to have each other by the ears about matters of opinion.

Farmers, there is nothing more thoroughly demonstrated than that an application of nitrate of soda at cotton chopping time will give cotton that start necessary to thwart the boll weevil. Jus as well make some cotton, if it does cost more for fertilizer.

Tens of thousands of Baptists will resent the "pledge" of the Southern Baptist convention, which purports to deliver the vote of southern Baptists against a certain presidential candidate. We have never heard of a Catholic assembly of any kind, or of the pope, pledging the votes of its or his constituency in any American election. The Baptist convention, then, is out-poping the pope. Of course, Baptist policy does not recognize any such authority as the convention assumed, and no one is in the least bound by the "pledge." We are utterly surprised at the un-Baptistic conduct of the brethren. The one man who did rise to protest against the intermixture of state and religious affairs was later designated as a representative of Tammany, which added insult to injury.

We hope that Chatham county Democrats will vote solidly Saturday for the return of Mr. Pou to Congress. This may be his last candidacy, and it will be gratifying to him to have the fullest pledge of confidence and esteem this year from his old Chatham friends. Chatham, we should remember, furnished Mr. Pou his good wife, and the better half of the Congressman is ours.

It has been impossible for us to hear the eight fine addresses delivered by the counsel for and against W. H. Lawrence. It is an able array of attorneys and we could leave them with assurance to do their parts well while we went about the business of getting out the paper and finishing up the campaign.

It argues a poor intellect, it would seem, for a man to come to a conclusion about the innocence or guilt of a man from mere hearsay evidence, and maybe that all on one side. Yet 19 out of 65 talesmen examined declared that they had come to the conclusion that Lawrence is guilty. One, at least, was of the opinion that he was innocent. Yet it may take hours and possibly days for the jury after they have heard the evidence to reach a conclusion. It must be an unfortunate thing to have a mind that is warped by whatever one happens to hear. Truly such a man is not fit for jury service at all. Either he would likely make up his mind for all time on the presentation of the state's evidence, or would accept the last thing that he heard as conclusive. Probably some would decide on the first evidence and some of that kind of fellows on the last. But as for weighing evidence, such a man can hardly be conceived of as competent. It is a pity that such men cannot be marked and kept off all juries.

The editor of the Record was very much pleased last week to meet Dr. Chas. Gage, the noted chemist who has done such magnificent work at the Carolina Coal mine. We showed some time ago how he had discovered that there is nearly a million dollars worth of fertilizer material in the dump of refuse from the Carolina mine. And the mine is already profiting by the demonstration. Many cars of the material are being shipped in the raw state to the fertilizer factories. A new manager coming about the first of April has also added to the effectiveness of the mine force, Dr. Gage informs us, and the mine is now paying a definite and highly satisfactory profit. With regard to the 42 convicts recently sent to the mine, Dr. Gage tells us that the most of them are experienced miners and not only were not forced to come but chose to do so. Dr. Gage, who is a Ph.D. of Goettingen University, Germany, and has done much pioneer work for the industries in various parts of the country, says that Chatham is a rich county and that its latent, or potential, wealth is bound to be developed. He is also interested in the development of the sugar beet industry in this state. He analyzed the soil for the pioneer beet growers in Idaho, and the industry has since gained great headway in that state. He has declared the soil of eastern North Carolina a genuine sugar beet soil, and in cooperation with the Atlantic Coast Line R. R. Co., has secured purebred beet seed for three demonstrations in the state, one at Sanford, one at Clinton, and one, we believe, about Rockingham. It turned out that the editor's own brag farmer cousin at Clinton is the experimenter in good old Sampson, and if anybody in North Carolina can make a success of beet growing Billie can. To talk with Dr. Gage is to gain an enthusiasm for Chatham and the adjoining mineral section that makes one glad that he is here. Boys, the old county will be a good place to come to one of these days, as it is reputed for so long to have been a good place to be born in and to leave. Talk to Dr. Gage and then see if you don't hurrah for Chatham.

The Lawrence trial has so monopolized the minds of Chatham folk the past two weeks that they probably gave little attention to the precinct meetings Saturday afternoon. It was hard to get many folk to the Pittsboro meeting, but a few met and selected an uninstructed delegation to attend the county convention. It is not known at this writing how the question of presidential preference vote was met in most of the precincts.

Again President Coolidge has vetoed the McNary-Haugen bill, and we may hear something drap in the western farm states. The farmers want relief. The President's reason's for the veto were very strong and tersely expressed, and he may have done the proper thing. Nevertheless, the farmers demand a fair show. If something cannot be done for them to increase prices, then they should have something undone for others to lower the prices of what they buy.

The Record was glad to have a call Monday from Mr. W. H. S. Burgwin, one of the three candidates for lieutenant-governor. He has the name of his famous uncle W. H. S. Burgwin, who was so long a prominent figure in North Carolina affairs. But another uncle is more definitely and notably associated with Chatham county history. It was his uncle Col. H. K. Burgwin who was colonel of the famous 26th regiment and when killed in battle was succeeded by our own hero, Col. John R. Lane. The latter's picture adorns the walls of the Northhampton legislator and farmer who is now asking the votes of Chatham county Democrats. Mr. Burgwin is running against two mighty line gentlemen, Col. Langston and R. T. Fountain, but they will have to run some if they beat the Northhampton gentleman in Chatham county. However, Col. Langston as a teacher at Goldston in his youth will be remembered probably by many of his old friends.

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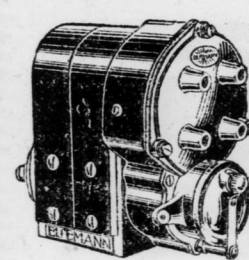
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