

THE NEWS REPORTER
OF COLUMBUS COUNTY.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY
at
WHITEVILLE, N. C.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1924

"IF I SHOULD DIE TONIGHT"

(Ben King)

If I should die tonight
And you should come to my cold
corpse and kneel,
Clasping my bier to show the grief
you feel,
I say, if I should die tonight,
And you should come to me, and
there and then,
Just even hint of paying me that ten
I might arise the while,
But I'd drop dead again.

NO CONNECTION

There is no connection in any way between the News Reporter and the Columbus News, the two newspapers now in existence in Columbus county. We are giving our readers this information for the reason that there has been some misunderstanding over the county.

As Mr. Keziah, editor of the newly-organized paper, pointed out last week, the two are in no way connected; both are issued weekly under separate and distinct management, and do not work in coordination at all—as is the understanding of some of the people.

Mr. Keziah was editor of the News Reporter until recently when he sold his interest and began the publication of the Columbus News, which made its appearance on September 3.

By saying we are separate and distinct organizations, we do not mean that we are hostile organizations. The News Reporter and Columbus News are only competitors, each working for the interest of the people as well as working as a business proposition.

MORRISON OUR FRIEND

Governor Cameron Morrison said in his speech before the people of the county here on Saturday, "and they say I am doing this because of political ambitions of my own. But my countrymen, I tell you I am doing it because 'I love you!'" We believe him.

In our opinion Morrison is not one of these soft-soakers who sings our praises because he has some personal end to attain. We know him to be our friend because he is the only governor in the memory of the young men of this place who ever came to Columbus county except during the campaign. In the recollection of the oldest men of the county, it can be recalled that only one other governor ever came to visit us except on his campaign tour, and he came only one time.

But Governor Morrison has been to our county and made speeches to us on three different occasions since he has been the Chief Executive of our state. Last year he was our guest during the County Fair and made us a speech. During the present summer he came down with members of the State Highway Commission and rode through the county with our citizens, making Lake

Waccamaw the terminus where he delivered a short address in the Waggaman pavilion. About fifty prominent men of the county with their wives enjoyed dinner with the Governor and his wife at the Waggaman hotel. Then he came again this week to enlighten us on the State Port bill. And he did instruct us, and made us see clearly the great need that North Carolina has of developing her waterways for the good of everybody, and the particular good of the farmer.

He has no axe to grind. He doesn't want anything from us. He has a big heart, and he loves his state and his people. But if he should want anything, Columbus county would rally to the support of one who has come among us three times while in office as against the sole visit of one other Governor one lonesome time within the memory of man.

SPIRITUAL THINGS

The Columbus County Association of Sunday schools recently held a meeting in Whiteville at which time, W. M. Boice was made president, W. A. Thompson, vice-president, and F. M. Hester, secretary and treasurer. This is an inter-denominational organization working for the betterment of the Sunday schools over the county. These officers are members of the Presbyterian, Methodist, and Baptist churches, respectively.

It is pleasing to note interest being manifested in the Sunday schools for there is sometimes a tendency to overlook this work, thinking that only the preaching services are of importance.

The association wishes each week to have appear in the News Reporter a write-up of the following Sunday's lesson. It is with a high degree of pleasure that we run this for the association, and it is the hope of the management that many people over the county will profit by these articles which will be written by those well capable. Elsewhere in this issue the article appears, this week being written by Mr. A. D. Wessell, Jr., of Hallsboro.

THE KIWANIS CLUB

It is needless to argue that Whiteville does not need more community spirit. And we wouldn't go so far as to say that there are any other towns in the county who have enough of it. The people just naturally don't get together enough to know each other as well as they should.

There are those who care little for association and friendship, but such beings are few and far between. Most of us value friendship as one of the nearest things to our souls. It never has been intended that we be hermits. It must have been intended from the beginning that we mingle together, understand each other, and thus make a community a more pleasant place in which to live.

Journey over to our neighboring town of Lumberton and see how they get along there. It wouldn't take a detective to see the difference in the way the people of that county capital get along and the manner in which we pull together.

Surely we have our factions, our cliques, and everything else that any other modern town has. Maybe we have a few more of them than most of the towns of our inhabitants—not only among the men, but possibly among the opposite sex. There is

a way to bring us together, and if we want to use that method, it is up to us, for our friends in the neighboring towns of Raeford and Lumberton have expressed their willingness to help us get organized.

All we need is a Kiwanis Club. We don't believe it will die like some other organizations which we have ourselves let go out of existence. It is nobody's fault but the fault of the members that our Chamber of Commerce no longer does very much actively. Suffice it to say, it helped while it lasted. But this Kiwanis idea is a little different. However, it is run in different manners in the different towns.

Some of them have their halls; others dine at the hotels. In Raeford one night each week all the members go to the hall and have dinner which is served by the various organizations of the city such as the Woman's Club, the Missionary Society, etc. The dinner costs each man seventy-five cents. In Lumberton they have their luncheons at the Lorraine hotel. Under no circumstances will they allow the meeting to last over one hour. Half the time is given over to business, and the other thirty minutes is left for fun and frolic. And it is wholesome fun which injures nobody—except to relieve a little of the false pride and dignity of some of the members. Furthermore, if a member is alive and on the earth or in the air over the earth, or the waters or tunnels under the earth, his absence is inexcusable. He is taxed with a fine for not being present, and in case of three successive absences, he is isolated by the Kiwanians—unless he has an excuse which no man could possibly doubt. That half hour for fun is arranged by a special committee which frames up the things they are going to do each time. No man is allowed to call another member by any name than his first name; the bank president has to roll peanuts across the floor; the Methodist minister has to pop his chewing gum; and they have to do all sorts of innumerable things which make them forget their cares, and learn to love each other more. They reach the point where you would have to pay them to miss the meeting rather than fine them for not being there to take part in the stunts.

It would be great if Whiteville had such an organization, and we hope that the time is not far removed from us when it will be in existence.

ABOVE PARTISANSHIP

When Governor Morrison asked for a referendum on the ship and water transportation measure, he not only lifted this question out of partisanship, but manifested his own faith in its merits by showing a willingness to let the whole people decide it. Following the adjustment of the General Assembly which submitted the measure, the Governor started out on a vigorous campaign in behalf of ratification. He opened his campaign at the home of his boyhood, Rockingham, speaking later at Laurinburg and Lumberton.

The Governor's fourth speech was made at Whiteville, last Friday, where he was accorded a sympathetic hearing. It is safe to say that he made converts of many who had previously been skeptical. Whiteville welcomed the Governor not only as speaker for the measure he is now seeking to put across but also as a participant in the Defense Day exercises planned by this community. The day was proclaimed by the Governor, following similar action by the President of the United States, and Whiteville was glad to welcome him as an active participant in its exercises. He is for preparedness, heart and soul, and does not hesitate to say so. He is against war, but not a pacifist. He believes in putting up a good scrap for any cause, if pushed to it.

A significant turn in the progress of the campaign for ports and terminals developed on the day the Governor spoke at Whiteville. In a statement that will likely turn many votes to the measure, Col. I. M. Meekins, Republican candidate for Governor, declared through the press throughout the state that he was for the measure and that he was going to vote for it. He indicated that he would speak in its behalf but for the fear that the enemies of the cause might make political capital of any such move.

Col. Meekins' statement, which is of general interest, follows:

"During the recent Special Session of the Legislature I gave out an interview favoring the reference of the Port Bill to the people. When I gave my interview I was unacquainted with the merits of the Port Bill. However, I thought it was safe to refer the question to the

people and I was not disposed to say anything which might be calculated to kill a bill designed for the best interests of the State without being convinced that the proposition, if carried through, would insure to the disadvantage rather than the advantage of the Commonwealth.

"Two weeks ago Colonel Albert Cox handed me a copy of the report of the State Ship and Water Transportation Commission appointed by Governor Morrison with request that I give the same careful consideration, which I have done.

"I think that the 'Port Bill' if carried by vote of the people will be a decided step forward in the progress of the State. I think the Bill is throughout meritorious and my hope is it may receive the sanction of the majority of the voters of the State. I shall vote for it. Moreover, if it were possible at this time, it would be my pleasure to take the stump, if invited so to do, and advocate, throughout the State, the ratification of the measure by the people. My inability to canvas for the Port Bill is obvious.

"I have chosen this method of making my position clear rather than declaring for the Port Bill in the course of one of my campaign speeches. My reason is I do not

wish to prejudice the measure by having enemies point out that I am seeking to make a political issue of it by interweaving the question in a political speech.

"My firm conviction is that no man who is a candidate for a public office of importance, whether he expects to be elected or not, has the right to withhold from the people at large his position, based on his conviction, with regard to any question affecting the interests of the people no matter if the question is 'purely an economic issue.'"

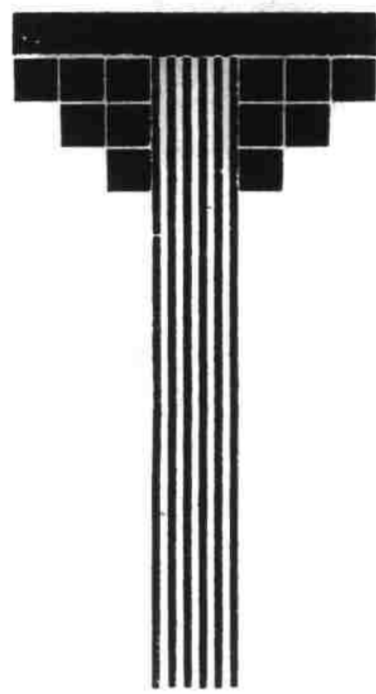
Only one horse-drawn conveyance passed through the gates of the Seneca county, New York, fair this year, while the number of automobiles amounted to more than 1,000 daily. Two years ago about the same number of both kinds of vehicles passed through the gates, while five years ago the number of automobiles was greatly in the minority.

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