

The Federal Trade Commission--What It Is and What It Has Done

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While my knowledge of public affairs was limited, yet I thought I knew that the Federal Trade Commission was one of the most important industries in uncovering corruption and crooked methods, and in my opinion had been of greater service than any other governmental agency in laying bare the crooked methods of big business and letting the public look in and see how the people were being exploited by the greed of many different organizations.

Mr. Wilson made Joseph E. Davies, of Wisconsin, the first chairman of the Trade Commission. I knew the commission had broad powers in stopping means, but a better word would be "unfair competition," "price discrimination," "tying contracts," "suppression of competition through holding companies and other schemes to interfere with lawful trade movements, and had broad authority to make searching investigation into trade practices, such as its investigation of the meat packers. During the war it had important powers delegated to it by the President under the Trading with the Enemy Act.

I have found sufficient time to investigate the operations of the Federal Trade Commission. I have waded through two large volumes of reports of the Commission and read what has been said in the Senate debates.

While I do not know any of the members of the Commission, and have not conferred or consulted the commission, which is composed of chairman Thompson and Nelson B. Gaillard, former Attorney General John Garland Pollard, of Virginia, former Representative Victor Mardock and former Senator John F. Nugent.

Efforts to Kill It

I am firmly convinced after careful investigation that the friends of private monopoly desire to kill the Federal Trade Commission. They began their work by getting a Resolution through the Senate directing an investigation by the Senate Committee. A preliminary survey was made as a sort of "feeler" of public sentiment. Questionnaires were sent out to a large number of corporations and individuals that had been called upon by the Commission to justify their use of certain methods in trade. The replies to these questionnaires were a sad disappointment to the Senate Committee and to the enemies of the commission in general. The purpose of the Senate investigation was clearly seen by those receiving the questions and a vast majority of them let the Senate committee know that their sympathies were all with the Commission. Notwithstanding they had been respondents to formal complaints issued by the Commission, they had been dealt with fairly and in most cases they had stated that they had such just consideration that they could not condemn the Commission. It was then here plain that a straight, fair, manly fight against the commission would not achieve its death and the Senate investigation proceeded no further. If the Commission was to be destroyed it would have to be accomplished by the sneaking methods usually adopted by cowards.

What the Commission Is

Before saying more about the plans and methods of the friends of monopoly, or conversely, the enemies of the public good, it is desirable to describe what this thing is that the reactionaries and the pirates in trade consider too noxious to live.

The use of unfair methods of competition in commerce have always been a prominent factor in restraining trade and building up monopolies. This has been demonstrated on various occasions when combinations and monopolies have been hauled into court for violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act. A monopoly is a difficult thing to deal with. It is difficult to prove a conspiracy in restraint of trade. It is equally difficult to punish such conspirators or to destroy a monopoly. A monopoly, usually grows by degrees—it doesn't come forth fully dressed in a day. It starts by adopting and using an innocent looking method of competition having in view the injury of competitors. Another similar method is adopted and another, and another until all these innocent looking separate things suddenly arise in unison and all work together to strangle competition and the public pays the price that monopoly exacts. From experience in effort to destroy monopoly it was at least seen that instead of waiting until a monopoly is in action, and then setting out to destroy it, it was not the proper

method to pursue. Under these circumstances some far-seeing statesmen prevented the Federal Trade Commission from investigating the packers was being discussed and while the Democrats as a rule voted to permit the Federal Trade Commission to keep its eye on the packers and while speeches were made by Representative Joe Byrnes and others vigorously defending the Commission from the attacks made on it by Republicans, yet I did not then realize that one of the steps was being taken to wipe out the Federal Trade Commission.

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The great work of the commission as above intimated has been to see that business shall be conducted fairly to the end that the public may buy as cheap as natural laws will permit. Whenever any business man feels that his competitors are treating him unfairly or whenever any member of the general public believes that certain methods of competition are being used to the detriment of the public interest, the business man or the suffering public may apply to the commission to investigate the matter complained of and if it is within its jurisdiction, and if the public interest requires it, it shall file a formal complaint and call upon the alleged offender to justify his course.

Early in April 1921 the commission issued a brief summary of what it had done. Up to the end of March 31, 1921, more than 2,300 individuals and corporations had applied to the Commission to investigate certain methods of competition and if they were found to exist and if in the judgment of the commission the public interest requires it, to file complaints, try the facts and apply the law to these facts. Preliminary examination showed that nearly 1,300 of these applications related to matters in which there was no merit. They were dismissed without publicity. Nearly 500 more applications were at that time of investigation. The commission from its organization in March 1915 had at that time instituted formal proceedings resulting in 750 complaints; 463 of these formal complaints had been disposed of and 287 were pending. Of those disposed of, less than 100 were dismissed for lack of proof or lack of merit and in the other 367 cases the commission's "Order to Cease and Desist" was issued. Since that time the Commission has issued 28 additional complaints, making the total up to date 786.

These complaints include the use of a great variety of unfair methods of competition, many of them involving the fundamental principles of the honesty and fairness in the conduct of business. A few typical examples of the commission's work will indicate the extent to which the commission has gone in protecting the public. A great manufacturing concern was gratuitously giving samples to the customers of competitors; was delivering its product to competitors' customers without charging for them; was spying on the agents of competitors and was concealing the ownership of a company supposed to be independent. It was selling goods on condition that the purchaser should not buy the goods of a competitor. The commission ordered all these things to stop.

A combination of retail lumber dealers was annoying mail order houses dealing in lumber and other building material by making spurious requests for estimates and undertaking to influence credit reporting houses to give these mail order houses a poor credit rating; it undertook to induce lumber manufacturers to furnish material to such mail order houses by threatening to discontinue dealing with them if such were not cut off. This was ordered to stop.

RAMSEUR NEWS

Mr. I. H. Fourt and family, who have been living at Burlington for some time are spending a few days here at their home.

The Woman's Missionary Conference held here last week was well attended and the program was very instructive and inspiring.

The Missionary Society of the local church wish to express their appreciation to all the people of the community for their assistance in making the visitors feel at home while here and in making the conference a success.

Miss Vida Kivett, of Mayodan, is spending some time here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Kivett.

Miss Hester Dunn, of Wadesboro, is the guest of Miss Elizabeth Smith.

Miss Sudie Baldwin, of Laurinburg is with her mother, Mrs. J. P. Baldwin for a few weeks.

Presiding Elder A. W. Plyler was with us Sunday preaching and administering the Lord's Supper.

Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Watkins attended the Furniture Exposition at Grand Rapids last week returning Sunday.

Mr. M. C. Ferris and others went on a fishing trip to Richmond July 4th and enjoyed a good catch which they "fried" on the bank.

Mr. R. F. Finson and others made a trip to Lakeview and other points the Fourth.

Mrs. J. A. Marsh and others of High Point were here last week attending in the Missionary Conference.

W. H. Watkins went to Troy last Friday on business.

Rev. J. E. Woosley and his god wife and daughter, Olivia and Miss Beulah Norment all of Trinity, were here for the conference.

Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Moffitt are spending some time at Jarrett Va.

Mr. E. A. Baldwin and family, of Greensboro were visitors in town Sunday.

Mrs. Long, of Greensboro, and Mr. Coy Bowdin of U. S. Navy were the guests of Mr. J. C. Whitehead and Mr. W. E. Marley Saturday and Sunday.

The writer and his family spent the past week "vacating" in South Carolina. It may amuse you, to think of going South in July but the climate is little different from N. C. At this particular time we enjoyed a cloudy season which gave us a very pleasant climate. We left here early Sunday morning stopping at Patrick, S. C., for Sunday school. After a brief rest we drove to Orangeburg, fifty miles south of Columbia, arriving there at seven o'clock. We were graciously received and royally entertained for a few days by our good friend Mr. E. M. Grady and family, who were one time residents of Ramseur. These good people made us feel at home from the first moment and gave us a good time throughout the visit. Orangeburg is a town in a rich section of country about the size of High Point. There are many attractions for a Tarheel in that town and surrounding country among which are the government fishery, the sea moss and water lilies, the splendid swimming pool, the splendid avenues and attractive places of business etc. The cotton fields and water melon "patches" are good to look upon. We stopped a while with my brother and his new wife, at Columbia, where he is with a large furniture establishment. Columbia is a splendid town of considerable size and extensive business. Other good towns on our way were Camden, Cheraw, Rockingham and the "peach of a town," Candor. We got some good peaches there. We arrived at home late thankful for rest and good N. C. water. All we hold against S. C. is the miserable water. Our trip was very much enjoyed.

Mrs. J. S. Ridge Dead

Mrs. J. S. Ridge died at the hospital in High Point Monday of this week. Mrs. Ridge had been in her usual state of health until about ten days ago when she was taken suddenly ill. Upon examination it was found an operation was necessary. She was taken to High Point where she underwent treatment for a few days prior to the operation which was performed last Thursday, which showed that the deceased had a far advanced internal cancer. Mrs. Ridge was married to J. S. Ridge about twenty-five years ago. To this union there were three children two of whom died in infancy—the other M. W. Ridge, who with his father survives. Also the following step-children: Cone S. and Grady Ridge, of Asheboro; Mrs. R. E. Betts, of High Point; and Mrs. Cleveland Presnell of Plant City, Fla. She is also survived by three brothers viz: John McCain of High Point; David McCain, of Back Creek; and Coyne McCain, of Asheboro. She was the daughter of the late Hugh McCain, Mrs. Ridge was a most estimable woman, a splendid neighbor, good friend, and a devoted wife and mother. She was reared in the Methodist Episcopal church but a few years ago when her son connected himself with the Methodist Protestant church in Asheboro Mrs. Ridge came to his church. In the absence of her pastor Rev. L. W. Gerring the funeral services were conducted by Rev. A. C. Gibbs, in the Methodist Episcopal church at 2:30 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, after which burial followed in the local cemetery.

The Durham Hosiery Mills, Inc., announced last week that their new silk hosiery mill will be put in operation the middle of this month. The mill will open with 150 workers, and increase work increases. Silk hose will be made exclusively.

PRESIDENT CALLS DISARMAMENT COUNCIL

ENGLAND AND FRANCE BOTH ACCEPT—GERMANY SEEMS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH THE IDEA

Both the English and French governments have accepted invitations from President Harding to attend a conference on the limitation of armaments to be held in Washington, probably late this year or early in 1922.

Premier Briand will probably represent France at the conference and Viscount Grey, who was the British secretary of foreign affairs when the world war broke out, may represent England. Prime Minister Lloyd George may come to the United States to attend the final moulding of the agreement.

PRESNELL-TREESE

A marriage of unusual interest to the people of this section of the state was solemnized in Richmond July 6, a home of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Treese when their daughter, Helen Corning, was married to Dr. C. L. Presnell, of this place. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Deyerle, pastor of the bride. The marriage vows were spoken before a lovely improvised altar of palms and lilies with pink shaded candles.

The bride was given in marriage by her father and was met at the altar by the groom and his best man, Dr. W. D. Pedigo, of Roanoke, Va.

She wore a traveling suit of dark blue tulle and accessories to match and carried a conventional bouquet of white roses and sweet peas tied with white tulle. Her maid of honor, Miss Bruce Ferneybough, of Richmond, wore a lovely gown of cream lace and chiffon and carried a bouquet of pink roses tied with pink tulle.

The ring was carried in a lovely white lily by little George Bayliss.

Immediately after the ceremony, Dr. and Mrs. Presnell left for a two weeks trip through the mountains of Virginia.

Dr. Presnell is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Presnell, of Asheboro, and a popular dentist of the county. He has many friends in Asheboro who wish him and Mrs. Presnell much happiness.

They will be at home in Asheboro after July 20.

PHONE SYSTEM RENOVATED

The entire telephone system has been "off duty" since Saturday afternoon at 7 o'clock. A new frame has been installed and various other improvements made. The phones are again working and it is supposed that the lines will be better. We do not mind the inconvenience of being without our phones for a few days, for it makes us appreciate service more, but we do hate to have our numbers changed. It is unavoidable, however, so there is no need to fuss. Now would be a good time to begin to call by number as soon as the new directories are out, the first of next month. It would insure better service. Let's do this.

ARCHDALE CITIZENS INTEREST IN EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Archdale claims to have one of the most progressive communities anywhere in North Carolina. They have demonstrated that this is true upon many occasions. They have a community club which does every kind of work—civic, home economics, health, educational and in fact it has been said they pay their pastor through their club. The following citizens were in Asheboro Monday having come to petition the Board of Education not to withdraw some special tax for the school which was reported to have been done at the last meeting of the board. Misses Mary and Annie Petty, Mrs. O. E. Wilson, Mrs. H. A. Tomlinson, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Ragan, R. C. Hassell, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Blair, Messrs. Eugene Marsh, J. E. Pless, S. H. Spoon, M. A. English, J. T. Weaver and Mrs. Ruth Reynolds composed the committee.

Asheboro Has a Laundry

One of Asheboro's new industries is the establishment of a laundry, which has been needed in this community for a long time. Mr. Robert Alfred first began the laundry here a few months ago. It was then only a damp laundry but is now doing washing and ironing. Mr. Alfred has sold the laundry to Messrs. Gurney and C. T. Brown who will operate it in the future. They are doing all kinds of work and making good prices to the citizens of Asheboro. The owners of the laundry are to be congratulated upon the establishment of this industry.

Mr. June Frazier to Practice Law

Mr. June E. Frazier, who graduated in the law course at Wake Forest college, a few weeks ago, and has since been licensed by the State Board, appeared in the Randolph Superior court before Judge F. A. McElroy, last Thursday, and was sworn in to practice law.

Mr. Frazier is a son of Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Frazier, of this town. He is a bright young man with prospects of a successful future.

RANDOLPH SUPERIOR COURT PROCEEDINGS

Fenner Smoke Convicted of Second Degree Murder

After The Courier was published last week, the following cases were disposed of by Randolph county superior court, with Judge P. A. McElroy presiding and Solicitor Clemmt prosecuting for the state.

Fenner Smoke was found guilty of second degree murder in connection with the killing of Will Rush about two months ago and sentenced to 3 years on the public roads.

Oscar Little, Mrs. Oscar Little and Truman Dorsett, charged with breaking into Waggoner Clothing Co., Randleman and stealing, were acquitted. John Little and George Vuncannon were found guilty on the same charge, Little being sentenced to 5 years in the penitentiary and Vuncannon to 2 years on the public roads.

George Holder plead guilty to a forcible trespass and was taxed with the costs.

Benson Cranford, colored, was found guilty of larceny of an automobile and sentenced to work on public roads six months.

Edna Robbins was sentenced to 3 months in jail for keeping a disorderly house; and Mattie Prevost, a 14-year old girl, on the same charge was sent to Samaritan reform school for women and girls.

E. S. Kivett, Howard McPherson, Thomas Garrett, Ally Cooke, Vester Cooke, and Tom Overman plead guilty to gambling and were sentenced to pay \$25 each and one-sixth of the cost. John Steed was found guilty of indecent exposure and sentenced to work on public roads 12 months.

Henry Grubb was found guilty of manufacturing liquor and sentenced to 18 months in jail, with privilege of being hired out at end of first nine months.

Will McPherson and Gurney McDaniel were convicted of receiving and retailing liquor and sentenced to work on Cabarrus county roads for 12 months.

Sam Johnson, alias Sam Hill, was found guilty of manufacturing liquor and sentenced to roads for 18 months.

STILL CAPTURED NEAR LIBERTY

Guy Henson Arrested as Probable Operator

Deputy Sheriff J. M. Reece, of Liberty, came into town yesterday afternoon, bringing a still of about 60 gallons capacity accompanied by Guy Henson charged with having operated the still. The moonshine outfit was discovered by Deputy Reece yesterday morning a few miles from Liberty, in the northeastern part of the county. The still was not in operation when found, but Henson, a young white man, approached the still and seeing the officer, made for the "tall timber." However, he was intercepted and brought to town along with the still. Henson waived examination and was put in jail to await the action of the courts.

BIRTHDAY DINNER IN HONOR OF TWIN SISTERS

On last Sunday at the home of Mr. Claude Burrow who lives about a mile and a half north of Asheboro a birthday dinner was given to Mesdames. Nathan Burrow and Mac Tilly, twin sisters. The occasion was a most enjoyable one as it was a complete surprise to the honorees. The members of each family had arranged for the gathering and neither of them had an idea of the celebration. The bountiful dinner was spread on the lawn near a splendid well. All of Mr. Burrow's children were present and Mrs. Hattie McFarland and Mrs. Myrtle Miller, of High Point, daughters of Mrs. Tily were present with about seventy-five guests.

Death of Two Aged Citizens

Dr. Richard Eames, a native of England, educated as a mining engineer and chemical geologist in Berlin, died at his home in Salisbury last Tuesday in the 90th year of his age. He was the first man to discover iron ore in the Lake Superior region. He came to Salisbury in 1850.

Mr. F. M. Stone, of Granville county, but for the past eight years a inmate of the Masonic and Eastern Star home, died there last Tuesday, at the age of 88 years. Mr. and Mrs. Stone were the first persons to enter the home when it opened in 1913. Mrs. Stone died about ten months ago in the home near Greensboro.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTES

Township Conventions were held in New Market and Back Creek townships last Sunday. Splendid programs and much interest was manifested at both. Good attendance.

Concord township convention will be held at Mt. Tabor next Sunday, July 17th. A good program has been arranged and the public is cordially invited.

On the fifth Sunday in July, conventions will be held at Shiloh in Liberty township and at Level Cross church in Level Cross township.

Among those addressing the New Market convention last Sunday were President Binford, of Guilford College and Clerk of Court Wright, of Asheboro. C. F. Durham, of Worthville, also made a splendid address.

The county convention will be held at Liberty this year, beginning with Monday evening service, August 2nd, and closing Tuesday evening, August 23rd. Announcement later.

WEEK'S SOCIAL EVENTS

Mrs. Laurin Cranford Entertains

Mrs. Laurin Cranford gave a most delightful party at her home on Sunset Avenue, Thursday afternoon. Tables were arranged on the lawn east of the house and auction and ruck were played at six tables. Punch was served as the guests arrived by Mrs. Jesse Pugh and Miss Mary Bulla. At the conclusion of the games the hostess served a delicious ice course. About forty guests were present to enjoy Mrs. Cranford's hospitality, which is always delightful, but this party proved unusually pleasant in every detail.

Miss Hadley Entertains

On last Friday morning at her home on Sunset Avenue Miss Ruth Hadley entertained in honor of Misses Lula Daley and Lettie Hylton. The porch was attractively decorated in cut flowers.

Four tables were arranged for ruck. In a cake contest the prize a lovely framed verse, fell to Miss Vivian Cranford which she presented to Miss Hylton.

Miss Hadley assisted by Misses Cranford and Loflin served tea and sandwiches to: Misses Lula Daley, Lettie Hylton, Foy and Alberta Ingram, Ethel Johnson, Golda Hayward, Lena Hilliard and Elizabeth Skeen.

Party at Maplewood Heights

On last Monday evening Miss Gladys Pugh and Miss Elsie Julian entertained the younger set at a delightful party from 7:30 to 9:00 at their home near Millboro. Interesting games were played after which tempting refreshments were served by Misses Edith and Ollie Julian and Lena Nelson.

The invited guests were Misses Mabel Aldridge, Helen Nelson, Mabel Redding, Vina Lee Nelson, Mary Brown and Violet Nelson, and Messrs. Jack Aldridge, Jr., Paul Allred, Reg. Hayes, Carl Julian, Jake Redding, Ray Pugh, Walter Curtis, Wade and Glenn Routh, and Erwin and Joe Nelson.

Miss Edna Holder was hostess to the members of the Hero Story Sunday school class of the Methodist Protestant church last week. An advertising contest was the unique feature of entertaining. Advertisements which are seen in magazines were cut out on the curtains in the sitting room. The advertisements were numbered. The guest found little trouble in guessing the names of the advertisements as they were wide awake young ladies. A prize was awarded to the most successful contestant. After which cream and cake were served.

Miss Cranford Entertains

Miss Vivian Cranford entertained on last Friday evening in honor of her house guest, Miss Lula Daley, of Danville, Va. The guests were met at the door by Mrs. C. C. Cranford and Mrs. E. D. Cranford who showed them into the drawing room.

Cards were filled out for progressive conversation for an hour the guest engaged in a magazine contest Miss Alberta Ingram and Mr. Dan Burns was the prize a lovely Djer Kiss set which they presented to Miss Daley.

Miss Cranford assisted by Misses Ruth Hadley and Alberta Ingram served banana split and cake.

Those present included: Misses Lula Daley, Lettie Hylton, Golda Hayward, Ruth Hadley, Adelaide Armfield, Ethel Cox, Carrie Britain, Alberta Ingram and Messrs. Eugene Morris Jr., John Hunter, Tom Wilts, John Foushee, Jeffries, Dan Burns, William Underwood, June Frazier, Irving and Hebert Richardson.

House Party at McCrary Farm

Miss Virginia Redding has been for the past few days giving a house party to the following young ladies at the McCrary farm four miles west of Asheboro: Misses Etta Reid, Wood, Sarah Carson and Adelaide Armfield. Mrs. Redding and Dr. T. Carl Walker have been chaperoning the party. A delightful camp supper was given on the lawn Tuesday evening to which a party of young people of the town were invited. The party will return to Asheboro today.

Party at Cedar Falls

One of the most delightful events of the season in the social life of Cedar Falls was the party given by Miss Reta Thomas Friday evening at her home.

The house was attractive with quantities of summer cut flowers which were arranged in the reception hall and dining room.

After a delightful hour over the games which were played with unusual interest, the hostess assisted by her sister Miss Hallie Thomas, of Asheboro, served ice cream and cake.

Those present were: Blanche Wrenn, Harvey Cross, Sallie Borgas, Ernest Hare, Eula Hayes, Barry Trogdon, Margaret Wrenn, Murry Hoover, Hallie Thomas, Clyde Craven, Myrtle Thomas, Louis Callcut, Reta Thomas, and Ted Walker.

Frank H. Flier, Philadelphia capitalist and chewing gum manufacturer, and Miss Willie Jenkins daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Jenkins, of Gastonia, were married at the home of the bride last Saturday. Rev. W. A. Lambeth, of High Point, officiating.

Mr. Flier has a beautiful country home near Thomasville where he and Mrs. Flier will probably spend many times.