

CAPTAIN ASHE IN QUIZZICAL MOOD

Incorporated in our article on Halifax County history last issue was the address delivered by Dr. T. W. M. Long upon the occasion of the unveiling of a marker at Halifax to the memory of Willie Jones and John Paul Jones. Therein Dr. Long embodied and approved the tradition that the naval hero took the name Jones because of his friendship for the Willie Jones family.

As John Baptista Ashe married a sister of Mrs. Willie Jones it is apparent that Captain Ashe has an unusual interest in the matter, apart from that of the historian of the State. It was Mrs. John Baptista Ashe who made the cutting rejoinder to Col. Tarleton, Lord Cornwallis's famous cavalry commander, when he had sneeringly stated that he would like to see Col. William Washington, a boorish Patriot cavalry leader. Mrs. Ashe's retort was that he could have had that satisfaction if he had only looked behind him at the battle of Cowpens, where, the tradition goes, Washington chased the dandy-Britisher from the field.

Captain Ashe Apparently Doubtful of the Authenticity of the Tradition.

From the following questions launched by Captain Ashe in a communication to *The Voice*, it is apparent that he is not only dubious as to the authenticity of the tradition, but that he bases his doubt upon the solid ground of impossibility of time and place of such an association as that upon which the tradition is based. The editor of *The Voice* is glad to print Captain Ashe's Socratic rejoinder, but must leave the defense of the authenticity of the tradition to Dr. Long. Captain Ashe's letter follows:

Captain Ashe's Letter.

"My Dear Friend:—Where was that meeting you describe between Willie Jones and the nameless stranger?"

"It has been said that that meeting was at 'The Grove,' where Willie Jones lived—and then Mr. Jones took the stranger in hand and created the unusual character known to history as John Paul Jones.

"John Paul Jones came to this country, I think, in 1773. He did, along with a friend (a nephew of the wife of Benjamin Franklin), visit 'The Grove.' But that 'Grove' was in Virginia.

"Now, he was engaged in naval work—when? I

suggest 1774. Look that up.

"Next, when did the 'Grove' residence of Willie Jones come into use? The father of Mrs. Willie Jones owned that land. He died. After his death, Willie Jones married the daughter. After the marriage he built a residence for her on the land belonging to the estate of the wife's father—the Montford estate.

"Suppose you write to the clerk of Halifax County Superior Court and ask when the father of Mrs. Willie Jones died; also the date of the marriage of Willie Jones to the daughter—Miss Montford—and when did Willie Jones obtain permission to build the home known as the 'Grove.'"

"Next, when was John Paul Jones appointed to a position in the navy? You can find that out.

"In Mrs. DeKeven's Life of John Paul Jones is a letter written by the naval hero to Benjamin Franklin, telling why he had taken the name of Jones. I assume you prefer the facts.

"Respectfully, S. A. ASHE."

Evidently, it is the purpose of Captain Ashe to suggest through the questions proposed that the records show that John Paul Jones was in the navy before the 'Grove' at Halifax was even built. Dr. Long is in Halifax County and can discover the answers to the proposed questions. It will be news to me, however, if it turns out that Willie Jones had to secure relief or permission to build the 'Grove.' If such a record can be found, it will be another indication that there is nothing new under the sun. City people today must get building permits, I believe, but out in the woods even in this year two of the New Deal, people can still build out in the woods without asking anybody's permission. However, if the Montford estate was still unsettled there might be some record left of the agreement under which Willie Jones built his mansion upon lands belonging to the estate. I am quite sure that Dr. Long, a descendant of Willie Jones, brother, who himself is given credit by one of the authorities quoted by Dr. Long as providing the name Jones to the naval commander, will be only too glad to make such investigations as are possible in establishing or overthrowing the tradition that the United States' first, if not greatest, naval hero assumed the name of North Carolina's most active Revolutionary patriot.

Trade Balances and War Debts

(continued from page one)

gold. What then? Who profits? With respect to the debts due the American government, as distinguished from those due American citizens, we hear the cry that America owes her citizens for the price of the Liberty bonds. Let us suppose that the debtor nations could and would send fifteen billions in gold over here and settle all war debts. What would be the difference in its inflationary affect upon our currency and that of our own government's producing the money needed to pay off the Liberty bonds? Not a bit, if the gold should be actually used to pay off those bonds. Cutting the value of the dollar half in terms of gold has not really affected its purchasing power. The number of dollars in circulation determines what one of them will buy, and not what it is exchangeable for in the marts of the world in terms of gold.

Payment of the Debts Would Only Inflate Our Own Currency.

America does not want more goods even as a gift nor more laborers even working for nothing. And those who have followed the currency agitation for forty or fifty years, know that every influence has been expended to keep down the amount of money in circulation. If our circulation could be doubled by the payment of the debts, every dollar in America would actually be cut in two in value. That hasn't been true in the case of revaluing the dollar in gold. But just try doubling the number of dollars in circulation and see what would happen. With the value of all dollars lessened, the payment of the debts would not amount to a cent. The government, to be sure, could pay the Liberty bond indebtedness, but it would be paying them with dollars that buy only half as much as the present fifty-cent dollars buy. But why pester the poor European countries longer? If we want plenty of cheap dollars Uncle Sam can get them. Simply turn the printing presses loose and print as many dollars as the gold held would justify under the usual custom and he would have the money to pay his Liberty bond debts, and every dollar in America would be worth just as much as it would be if the same sum were paid into the American treasury by the war debtor countries.

The payment of the government debts means only the inflation of the American currency, and it can be inflated without harassing the debtor nations to their ruin.

From the individual standpoint, the American creditors of debtor countries or their citizens would profit by the payment of the debts to them. But as a matter of fact it would be collected from the American people. Any increase of our money supply means a proportionate decrease in the value of existing dollars. Let Europe pay American investors five billion dollars and it be put in circulation here and every dollar in America would be cheapened—that is, it would take more of them to buy a given amount of goods or to employ a definite amount of labor. America wouldn't be profited at all. Yet the debtor countries would be financially ruined.

The Difference in Spending at Home and Abroad.

You see rantings about the extravagances of the French or the Germans, or the Japs, at home—so much being spent for armament or for maintenance of the army. That is possible while it would be impossible to pay the debts if those expenditures were stopped. The French have the material and the labor to do all those things at home, but no way of converting that material and labor into gold to pay debts abroad.

Therefore, unless America is willing to call a halt upon production and give up its foreign trade and a goodly part of its home trade, and let the debtor nations have the markets, we cannot expect the debts to be paid. And if they were thus paid, the latter end would be worse than the former. Once Spain thought she was rich when gold and silver were pouring into her borders from the virgin mines of America. But that inflow of gold and silver was her ruin. Money cannot take the place of an active industry, and the worst thing that could happen to America would be for us to call a holiday and let Europe feed and clothe us till those debts should be paid.

The horse is dead, but he was not nearly so large a horse as we thought him, and if he were alive we should have no use for him in the world. So let's bury him and have the fuss about him stopped and everybody get busy.

But when we are busy, let's remember my dictum of three years ago, which then sounded like heresy, that a perpetually favorable trade balance against the rest of the world on fair terms of trade would mean the absolute gift of that balance to the nation. It is time to clear the slate of the past actions, and to put into effect a fair exchange of goods between the nations.

Down with the tariff barriers. Up with a just

standard of values for goods of all countries. Let the labor and skill content of an article and not wage scales and money values determine the exchange values of goods.

Pitt's New Representatives

I had met Attorney John Hill Playler once or twice in Raleigh, but I met him again the other day at Snow Hill as one of Pitt County's representatives in the next session of the legislature. Mr. Playler lives at Farmville. He won over his opponent by the handsome majority of 2175 votes. Pitt's other representative will be M. O. Blount. I'll bet no other county in the State could have sent a man named Playler to the legislature. Well, John Hill, I'll be seeing you perform next winter.

This paper costs only \$1.00 a year. Any sensible readers will find it a big bargain.

STATEMENT

SUPREME FOREST WOODMEN CIRCLE OMAHA, NEBRASKA

Condition December 31, 1933, as Shown
by Statement Filed

Balance from Previous Year	\$26,671,385.05
Income—From Members	\$2,629,015.91
Miscellaneous	\$1,772,735.81
Total	3,577,558.66
Disbursements—To Members	\$1,804,817.75
Miscellaneous	\$943,161.11
Total	2,747,978.86
Business written during year—Number of Policies	12,937
	11,099,558.61
Business in force at end of year—Number of Policies	103,576
	99,213,779.00

ASSETS

Value of Real Estate (less amount of encumbrances)	\$ 538,280.97
Value of Bonds and Stocks	26,261,248.01
Cash in Company's Office	23,723.86
Deposited in Trust Companies and Banks not on interest	467,499.08
Deposited in Trust Companies and Banks on interest	19,780.97
Interest and Rents due and accrued	448,283.02
All other Assets, as detailed in statement	402,562.83
Total	\$28,161,263.01
Less: Assets not admitted	3,768,213.11
Total admitted Assets	\$24,378,050.50

LIABILITIES

Death Claims due and unpaid	\$ 959.34
Death Claims resisted	26,952.00
Death Claims reported, but not yet adjusted	121,126.54
Permanent Disability Claims	56,514.26
Salaries, rents, expenses, commission, etc.	12,000.00
Advance assessments	47,800.00
All other Liabilities, as detailed in statement	55,807.58
Total Liabilities	\$ 321,268.75

BUSINESS IN NORTH CAROLINA DURING 1933

Policies or Certificates in force December 31st of previous year, Number 1,568;	\$ 1,462,967.00
Policies or Certificates issued during the year, - Number 125;	103,050.00
Policies or Certificates in force December 31, 1933, - Number 1,443;	1,340,162.00
Losses and Claims unpaid December 31st of previous year, - Number 3;	2,288.00
Losses and Claims incurred during the year, - Number 43;	17,781.00
Losses and Claims paid during the year; Number 39;	15,293.00
Losses and Claims unpaid December 31, 1933, - Number 3;	2,288.00
Premiums and Assessments collected during the year in North Carolina,	32,970.00

MRS. MARY E. LA ROCCA, President.
MRS. NEVA ALEXANDER TALLEY, Secy.
MRS. ETHEL HOLIWAY, Treasurer.
JAS. A. BLAHA, Actuary.
Home Office: 33rd and Farnam St., Omaha, Neb.
Attorney for Service: DAN C. BONEY, Insurance Commissioner, Raleigh, N. C.
Manager for North Carolina: Home Office.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, INSURANCE DEPARTMENT, (Seal) Raleigh, July 9th, 1934.

I, DAN C. BONEY, Insurance Commissioner, do hereby certify that the above, is a true and correct abstract of the statement of the Supreme Forest Woodmen Circle, a Fraternal Order, of Omaha, Neb. filed with this Department, showing the condition of said Order on the 31st day of December, 1933.

Witness my hand and official seal, the day and date above written.
DAN C. BONEY, Insurance Commissioner.