

# The State's Voice

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Issued Twice a Month

Subscription Price \$1.00 a Year

VOLUME III.

DUNN, N. C., MARCH 15,

NUMBER 5

## PEOPLE YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

### A Tar Heel Candidate for Federal Judge In California.

I knew that William Peden Hubbard had been in California these forty years during which I have not laid eyes upon him, but I did not know to what distinction he had arisen in the great city of San Francisco till the other day when in Clinton I had the opportunity of signing a telegram to Senators Bailey and Reynolds, asking those two North Carolina senators to urge Mr. Hubbard's claims for appointment as federal judge in California upon Senator McAdoo.

Yet when I learned that William Hubbard had been chairman of the California State Democratic Executive Committee and had been helpful to McAdoo himself in his aspirations and efforts for advancement in that state, it seemed rather a needless procedure to ask aid from Senators Bailey and Reynolds. If W. G. McAdoo doesn't push William's claims, he will fail to a most appropriate thing.

As said, I haven't seen William Hubbard in forty years, but I would vouch for his ability and his character to this day upon the very purity of his youth and the ability displayed then. It is just about as hard to turn a *silk purse* into a *sow's ear* as to do that often suggested impossibility of making a silk purse from a sow's ear. It is as unlikely to see a clean, upright youth of ability grow into a dirty, corrupt demagogue as it is to see a lying, sneaking youth become a man of probity. Yet both can happen. But I would vouch, clear across the continent and over four decades of fast flowing years, that William Hubbard is a man of character and a fit candidate for judge of any state's federal court or any other kind of court. I am inclined to write Mr. McAdoo direct and tell him about the noble youth of California's candidate for a federal judgeship.

### Championing the Child Labor Amendment.

I had the pleasure, a few days ago, of meeting Mrs. W. R. Absher of North Wilkesboro who is championing the Child Labor Amendment in its hazardous course in the general assembly. Do you know that she is a sister of our own commissioner of labor, A. L. Fletcher? And do you know that the father of Mrs. Absher and Mr. Fletcher, also Attorney A. J. Fletcher of Raleigh, has been a preacher of the Gospel for fifty-nine years? He is now seventy-six years of age and going strong. A book of his, the *History of Western North Carolina Baptists* has just come off the press. It is quite a volume, giving accounts of Baptist developments in the mountainous section of the state for a period embracing the years 1755-1926. Ira T. Johnston of Jefferson, N. C., the home of Representative Tam Bowie, will sell you a copy for \$1 or \$1.50, according to binding desired.

The aged minister is now serving the First Baptist Church of Kendrick, Va., as he has been doing for a stretch of forty years.

Mrs. Absher was formerly Miss Kate Fletcher. She is a charming lady and deserves a better reward for earnest labors in behalf of the child labor amendment than she is likely to get from the present legislature. But she can comfort herself with the reflection that even Massachusetts and other northern states have recently turned the amendment down. I was hoping to have a cut of the young lady to go with this introduction, but seem likely to be disappointed.

### Transylvania's Representative.

From the forests beyond, as the name *Transylvania* may be interpreted, comes to the present house of representatives a man long and well tried by his constituents, Mr. W. M. Henry. He came down from the Transylvania plateau first in 1905 and later in 1931, and at the latter date was one of the stalwart fighters for a sales tax to relieve home and farm owners of part of the then unbearable burden imposed upon them. He is in Raleigh again, and it will be interesting to see what attitude he takes in the coming fight against the tax by Representatives McDonald and Lumpkin. The sales tax is being championed this year by the element that opposed its passage four years

ago.

Mr. Henry says that Representative Sentelle is the only other man of 1905 in the house this year, and that was the first I knew of Mr. Sentelle's (or Dr. Sentelle, as Carl Goerch calls him) having been to the legislature so early in his career.

Mr. Henry is a farmer, growing apples on a small scale as a sort of side-line. He spent two years at old Rutherford College as a youth. He is chairman of the committee on Institutions for the Blind, and a member of the Finance, Education, and other committees.

### A Young Lady High School Graduate Beats Law School Men.

I went up to Wilbur Royster's office in Raleigh a few days ago. He had just received a birthday telegram in Latin from his son at Bell Buckle, Tennessee. The boy is a student in the famous old Bell school, and Mr. Royster says if he had to make a choice between his boy's going to Bell Buckle two years without going to college or going to college four years without attending Bell Buckle he would choose the former alternative. Mr. Royster is a linguist, formerly a teacher of Latin or Greek at the University, and values classical education at its true worth. Having dwelt in Greece for a period, he knows modern Greek as well as the ancient. He is quite sure that Plato could have understood the speech he made in Greek a week or two ago to a Greek assemblage, introducing Lieutenant-Governor Graham, so little has the Greek language changed in two thousand years.

The Greek language, whatever you may think of Latin, is far from being a *dead* language. Modern Greek is more like the Greek of Plato's day than modern English is like that of five or six hundred years ago. We hope we may get a copy of an early English equinox poem to publish in this issue or the next and from that you may judge what English used to be.

But it was not Mr. Royster himself I started out to write about. He introduced me to his stenographer, Miss Heloise Denning, and when she had gone to another office he told me of her achievement in being one of 32 out of 84 applicants who stood the recent examination for law license to pass the examination.

Miss Denning, who by the way is a niece of that good Harnett county citizen Mr. Webb Denning, of Angier, came to Mr. Royster's office after her completion of the high school course four years ago. She has never been to any regular law school but has acquired the knowledge that enabled her to beat a group of 52 largely composed of men who had studied at college law schools—and no telling how many of the 32 who actually won't passing grades—probably the most of them. Think of only four of the Wake Forest sixteen passing when it was formerly noticeable for a Wake Forest man to fail to pass!

Apart from Miss Denning's own ability and application, it would appear that the examinations being given by the new regime under the North Carolina Law Association are based more upon problems arising in actual practice than from fundamental principles taught in college. Wonder if that is a healthful practice? Fundamental principles are of basic importance, and aid in understanding the problems that arise in practice, while the problems that thus arise do not, one would judge, help to acquaint young lawyers with basic principles.

Anyway, if I wanted law license I should be inclined to try Mr. Royster's office and his twice-a-week night classes rather than the college courses.

### Alleghany's Warden.

Alleghany county, the home of the Dough-tons, has sent down another old-timer. W. P. Warden, a native of the county, is 67. He is a farmer, growing the grains and raising cattle. Despite his coming up in reconstruction days, he was fortunate in securing an academy education. He seems a sensible fellow despite the fact that he confesses that he has never been married. He is a member of the committees on Agriculture, Salaries and Fees, Etc.

### "The Red Fox's" Son.

One of the characters of North Carolina during the last third of the 19th century was John Q. Bryan, universally known as the "Red Fox" of Wilkes.

The "Red Fox" had been an out and out Union man during the war, and "out and out" means all it implies and possibly more. The Wilkes man raised something on the order of a regiment and joined the Union forces, operating mostly in Tennessee, I assume. But on one occasion he led his regiment back home, captured Wilkesboro and raised the Union flag over it.

He was a member of the convention which framed the present constitution in 1868, and returned to the general assembly an even dozen more times in his long career. Of course he was a strong Republican; nevertheless he was much liked by his Democratic compatriots for his wit and humor and good sound sense.

The "Red Fox's" war cub, T. S. Bryan, born in 1864, is the representative from Wilkes this session, as he was in 1915. He is an intelligent farmer and a staunch Republican. His education was secured in his home village, Trap Hill, which used to boast the possession of "Fairview College," and has had a good school continuously since shortly after Mr. Bryan's birth. Mr. Bryan has held jobs under the Republican administrations from brandy gauger on up to the secretaryship under Congressman Romulus Z. Linney, the "Bull of the Brushies."

He is superintendent of the Methodist Sunday school. He is a Mason, being master of his lodge. He is also a committeeman of the Trap Hill High School, but doesn't have to work very hard at that job these days of centralization.

He is one of the tallest men in the general assembly and at 70 is straight and slender. He is nearly as old as his father was when he died at the age of 72, but the son seems likely to swing along toward ninety. If Wilkes is to have a Republican representative, the writer is hoping to see the Trap Hiller down again in 1937. And the State of Wilkes does seem eternally sold on Republicanism.

### Halifax's Two Representatives.

Halifax has two representatives in the house. Halifax now has two rather distinct factions. W. H. Thorne, from the northern end of the county, Airlea, represents one of them, and L. W. Leggett, of Hobgood, the other. Halifax, accordingly, is one county whose people should all have a voice in legislation. But the trouble is that one voice would nullify that of the other. But the Thorne faction has the advantage, since Senator Allsbrooks is of that faction.

Mr. Thorne is a merchant. He has had former legislative experience, as he was senator in 1905. And that means that he is getting along in years. He is another of those good old 65 fellows, old enough to have a maximum of judgment, and young enough to have the energy to use it. As a youth he had the privilege of a year at old Trinity College.

Mr. Leggett is a graduate of Wake Forest College. He is a lawyer, but does not work hard at the job. Mr. Leggett lives down in the country of "planters," and I bet he has a big farm or two down there. He is a most genial gentleman, different enough in looks to make him easily identifiable. There are scores of them up there at Raleigh that look so much alike that I cannot keep them identified with eyes obscured by cataracts, but I can spot L. W. Leggett.

### Family Came When Southern Pines Was Young.

Mr. E. W. Ruggles as director of the State College extension work in the state, holds quite an influential position. He is not one of Arnold McKay's "missionaries," but a native of North Carolina and an alumnus of State College, class of 1922. But his parents came from New Hampshire, and here lies quite a little romance.

In the village of Littleton, New Hampshire, a lad and a lass attended the same school. The former was several years the older and when

(Continued On Page Two)