

A Self-Educated Man And Lawyer.

For many years there have been few lawyers in North Carolina of greater recognized ability than Jas. H. Pou, of Raleigh. Yet the man had no college education. He educated himself, his only other teacher being his father.

The trouble with professional men of all professions is that too many of them live on the hand-to-mouth mode with respect to the knowledge of their respective professions. In brief, too few of them are students. They wait till a principle of law or the letter of the law, for instance, is needed in a case and then set to work. But undigested and uncorrelated knowledge is of little use. It may be said that all knowledge is useful to all men, whatever their profession or occupation. Knowledge that may never be used directly may serve a wonderful purpose in orienting its possessor and enabling him to use wisely the knowledge directly required.

James H. Pou studied not only the law but dug deeply for the hidden waters in other streams of knowledge. He found much. Yet it is possible that his achievements would have been greater if he had had an early basis laid for later acquisitions.

He is being buried today, but he will long be remembered for his achievements before the jury.

The last few weeks have been fatal to a number of the state's strong men. The old war horses are falling by the wayside. Few are left who had attained any marked degree of prominence for their achievements thirty years ago, while those who were men of mark forty years ago are becoming rare indeed.

From north, south and west have come reports for the last two months of scorching weather, while here at Dunn the mercury has gone to the middle nineties only a few times and the heat on those occasions has been tempered by breezes. The first days of this week have been like late September or early October.

People Without Self-Restraint Are Not Men But Brutes.

That was a horrible affair up in Franklin county. It was bad enough for a negro to go crazy-wild and slash and kill. But any fool could adjudge him crazy. But here come along a group of white men who go as crazy as the negro and, presumably, without any brain disease. They take the crazy negro and treat him as brutally as he had treated his victims, and do it under the guise of righteous indignation. It is hard to believe that the human race will ever become really civilized. The negro was in the hands of officers and if he deserved punishment would have received it at the hands of the law. But a bunch of savages override the law and mark themselves with blood, and simply because they have too little sense to judge of causes and effects and no more self-control than the crazy negro had. They are on a par, and if the negro deserved the death they wreaked upon him, each of them deserves a similar death. Men without self-restraint are not men but mere brutes.

Dr. McDonald Says With Vigor "I Told You So."

If you recall the latter days of the legislative session, you possibly remember how Dr. R. W. McDonald, representative from Forsyth county, was almost ostracised—was even faced with a volunteer to

throw him out the window of the house of representatives if the body would give Mr. Cherry the job. The doctor, whose degree is that of a teacher and not of a physician, had seen what he deemed important legislation prevented by pleas that funds would be lacking. He had stated that there would be nearly a million dollars surplus at the end of that biennium which ended July 1. The budgeteers had said that the surplus would not reach more than the \$200,000 mark. The Forsyth representative arose and emphatically stated that the budgeteers and all others who thus figured were something or other of the uncomplimentary order. Then rose the commotion and the proffer of Representative Cherry to pitch the Winston-Salem man out the window.

But Doctor McDonald is telling them again. Any way it is counted, the surplus runs near to three-quarters of a million dollars and is so admitted by those who declared in May that it would not reach above the \$200,000 mark. On the non-accrual basis Doctor McDonald declares that the surplus would be away up toward two millions.

It is evident that the matter of the size of the budget largely influenced the course of legislation the latter weeks of the legislature. More than a half-million dollars would have provided the additional funds needed to give the teachers a full 20 percent. increase of salaries and to do several other things. It would possibly have caused a different levy of taxes in one or more cases, and maybe the omission of some levies.

Put it should not be overlooked that the half million larger surplus meant a whole lot more than that half-million. The very same tax sources that yielded the increased sum the last biennium may be expected to yield even more than a half-million additional in this millennium. Thus, at the very least figures, the legislature might have either reduced levies a full million dollars or increased appropriations to that extent if Doctor McDonald's figures had been accepted. Therefore, it is evident he has reason to crow and to re-emphasize his former words, which are to the effect that the budgeteers are inefficient or used the figures they did with a view to direct the course of legislation.

There was Doctor McDonald's charge, here is the surplus. There are the levies as they might have been if the surplus had been conceived in its full size; here are the laws and levies and appropriations as shaped under the figures presented the legislative body by the budgeteers, backed by the commissioner of revenue.

Clearly the whole state of North Carolina was concerned in the correctness of the figures furnished to guide her law-makers. Correct figures were lacking and we have a different outcome from the legislative machine than we might and should reasonably have expected if correct figures had been furnished.

Dr. McDonald evidently has nothing to apologize for now and no one can blame him, if he saw the situation as it has developed, for using hot language in that final clash. How would you have felt if you had seen the whole state's affairs shunted into a direction it should not go through figures that were missing the mark from one million to three million dollars?—He can well say now "I told you so."

A pasture demonstration on the dairy farm belonging to Dr. B. W. Kilgore of Wake County shows the value of top-dressing with 100 pounds of nitrate of soda to the acre.

Other Breaks in the Prohibition Laws.

If the framers of the hastily enacted liquor laws had had all the year to study up bills that would do as much harm as possible to the prohibition program without clearly repealing the Turlington law outright, they could hardly have succeeded better to that end than they did.

Almost each week brings to light a new abomination. Two courts in the liquor-store counties have recently discovered that there is no effective prohibition of transportation and possession of blockade liquor for sale. Before conviction it must be proved that the liquor is for sale—a hard job in many cases. The Turlington law places the burden of proof upon the possessor—he has to prove that liquor in his possession is not for sale—a pretty hard job too. The Turlington law, too, makes no discrimination in the matter of transportation, I believe. It is illegal to transport liquor for any purpose.

But the county laws were not the chief of the evils of those crazy days in the legislature. The bars were let down for the sale of wine anywhere in the state and no protection provided against the fortification of such wines. True the law says that the wines must be of the strength developed under natural fermentation. But the new breed of temperance advocates in the state—those who think that the more liquor offered for sale the less drinking—find it easy to raise the alcoholic content of wines to as high as forty percent, and anything passing for home-produced wine has free sale in the whole state—no tax upon it.

A dealer can secure a barrel of wine and a few gallons of blockade liquor, mix them, and sell them under the nose of the Federal revenue officer, paying only a light tax on the mixture as wine. Ten gallons of whiskey thus used would be a saving of \$20 in Federal tax.

But another shameful consequence results from those crazy bills. Any paper in North Carolina may advertise those wines. Furthermore, any paper may advertise brands of liquors and wines produced anywhere in the world, according to a rendering of the law by Attorney-General Seawell. Thus, if the Dunn Dispatch cares to do so, it is permitted to picture to your boys and girls the alleged delights of this or that liquor in the most seductive terms. The state has provided for the teaching of the evil effects of alcoholic drinks. Now comes along this law and permits the two hundred papers in North Carolina to picture the displays of wine and to chant upon the delights of the aged whiskeys. Any paper may carry matter that utterly nullifies the teaching required by law of the schools, and do it in a more attractive way than the text books can set forth the evils of drink.

But the darkest hours are those before dawn. Even now there are evidences of breaking day. The people of Lucama, for instance, are stoutly opposing the establishment of a Wilson county liquor store in that town. They declare that drunkenness has increased since the opening of the Wilson store.

It is probable that the prohibition cause could not have been helped more by any other means than by the crazy proceedings of those last days of the legislature. A condition is likely to arise that will disgust all people of any sense of decency and thus enable the state to establish prohibition upon a really effective scale.

The developments in the various phases of government work in North Carolina are emphasizing the importance of our Harnett citizen Charles Ross's job. One week we find him in Georgia informing the Crackers about the progress of affairs in North Carolina; another week we learn of his going to Washington to share in a consultation about the scenic highway in western North Carolina. His is no small job, and it should be gratifying to Harnett county folk that he seems to be creditably performing its duties.

At The Ebb of Life

(Elizabeth City Independent)

Youth and middle-age laugh at a little group of old men who gather in Old Man Garrett's wheelwright shop on Colonial Avenue every week-day morning and afternoon. Youth and middle-age wonder at pathetically small group of elderly men who meet every morning for a brief prayer service in an upper room of the Y. M. C. A. building.

Presently youth and middle-age will grow old; and then, suddenly, some day a realization will dawn upon the one grown old that death has slowly but surely reduced his once large company of friends to a pathetically small circle that is narrowing year by year. Youth and middle-age can make new acquaintances, form new contacts, find new human interests from day to day. But one grows old and it is too late to find new friends, make new contacts, develop new interests. And the new generation is in a hurry and has little time to pause and converse with an old codger who speaks the language of another era and is wedded to a homespun philosophy that is archaic to our modern times. And so, when late life a man slows down and begins to reflect upon the few human ties left to bind him to this uncertain life, his heart hungers for companionship and he draws closer and closer to the remaining few who understand him and can sympathize with his point of view.

The few old men who gather in Old Man Garrett's wheelwright shop in the morning and afternoons are not subjects for youthful and middle-age mirth; nor the few old men who haltingly climb the Y. M. C. A. steps every morning for a brief half hour of song and prayer. They are hungry souls who see life and all its former meanings slipping away from them, as the shore slips away from a castaway on a raft drifting toward an inscrutable horizon where the sun is going down.

Books In Greene

More North Carolina county commissioners would be intelligently serving their counties if they followed the example of the Greene county board of commissioners in providing for a regular monthly appropriation for the aid of the Greene county library. The \$30 a month which the commissioners of Greene have put in their new budget for the library will not add appreciably to county expenses, but it will add appreciably to the opportunity for enlightenment in the county. In ten months of operation the little but effective library in Snow Hill has circulated 9,000 books among people in every section of the county. Nearly three thousand books have gone into the hands of children. What the results of this opportunity to read good books will be in Greene nobody can foretell, but it is safe to say that the results will be a magnificent return in human enlightenment and human pleasure on the small appropriation which the commissioners are making. Other counties and other county commissioners would serve the people and the State if they followed the example of Greene.—Exchange.

Including lespedeza in the crop rotation has doubled the average yields of other crops on the farm of J. B. Huggins of Lanes Creek township in Union County.

Remember you have not sinew whose law of strength is not action; not a faculty of body, mind, or soul, whose law of improvement is not energy.—E. B. Hall.