

The Stanly News-Herald

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WEEKLY LETTER OF THE DOINGS AT WASHINGTON

Breezy Notes of Things Political, and a Review of the Legislation of Interest

NEWSY NOTES ON POLITICS

(By David F. St. Claire.)

Washington, September 27.—The Republicans are now tasting the bitterness of their great success at the polls last year. And the American people are also. There is neither party government nor leadership of the party ostensibly in power here. The President is not leading his party, or, if he is, the party and the country are not aware of it.

In the Senate the group spirit reigns as absolutely as it does in a menagerie. There is a group or bloc for everything in time and space. There is the famous irreconcilable group—the bitter-enders—which was born to preserve the complete isolation of this country from all the balance of the world. There is the farmer's group, the dry group, the wet group, the New England group, the Middle Western and the Pacific Coast group.

The Republican majority of twenty three in the Senate has greatly strengthened these various groups and drawn tighter their lines of division. The Democratic minority has of course joined these various groups, but the minority party is more adhesive as a party than the majority is at this moment. For example the irreconcilable group has only about four Democrats in it, while it has at least 12 Republicans. The Republicans in the Senate are not legislating or attempting to legislate as a party though the country is holding them responsible for legislation as the party in power.

This situation, where there is neither leadership in the senate nor in the White House, makes everything uncertain. There has never been so much doubt or confusion as now reigns here. Congress is sick and tired. Even after a month's recess the senate returns to its task more weary and irritable than ever.

Moral Tragedy of Prohibition

The senate's irritation bursts forth and flares up over the search and seizure amendment to the Volstead prohibition law like long imprisoned fire. The atmosphere of the senate gives the strongest sort of evidence that prohibition has reached its crest and that public opinion is convinced that the law cannot be rigidly and effectively executed. Unless the law is so enforced, prohibition is simply a farce. On this question the discussion in the senate presents a moral tragedy of the American people. The country is flowing with liquor.

What is to be done? Whatever is done, politics must take advantage of it and each party is going to see that the other party does not beat it to the top of the ladder. The wet group in the senate has plans matured to launch a measure for 4 per cent beer and light wines and the revenue tax from these beverages is to furnish the money for the bonus of \$2,000,000,000 for the soldiers. No other way to get the bonus is now seen and every man who enlisted but never swelt gas nor went near a trench can have 40 acres and a mule or two mules and a tractor or a corner grocery if the country is allowed to drink without being searched and seized.

The plan of the wets is to throw prohibition to the winds by offering the politicians this easy way to the bonus. But there is uncertainty. Dries are a grim, determined set of folks. They have not made the country dry, but they say they can if allowed to go into the pantry and the closet and look under the

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FIRE DAMAGES HARRIS BUILDING ON SATURDAY

Loss is Estimated at About \$25,000, of Which Most is Covered by Insurance

A NEAR FATAL ACCIDENT

Those Albemarle residents who were still asleep at five o'clock on Saturday morning, were aroused by the fire alarm to find that the flames had rather a destructive hold upon the beautiful Harris Building on West Main Street. Before the local fire fighters could get to the scene of the fire and start effective work, the flames had gained such a hold as to cause considerable damage before they could be gotten under control, the total damage having been estimated at from twenty to twenty-five thousand dollars.

From all indications, the fire originated in the dental office of Dr. T. P. Nesbit, whose office fixtures and furniture were a complete loss. Dr. Nesbit's office being located on the second floor on the north east corner of the building, and a breeze having been blowing from the north east, the flames were driven into the heart of the building on the second floor, crossing the hall and into the law office of Brown, Sikes & Brown, where almost complete destruction was wrought to the furniture and library of this law firm. Considerable damage was also done to the offices of Drs. L. V. Dunlap and J. F. Laton, and great water damage also was done to these offices.

The fire, being located near the middle of the building, made it almost impossible for the fire fighters to get it under control. The result was that the second floor of the building was almost a complete loss. A large hole was burned through the second floor and heavy damage done to the Snuggs Drug Store and the dry goods store of D. Riff. The local fire company put up a good fight, and in attempting to get at the flames they broke the windows of the north end of the building and a number of the men got on the inside in their attempt to smash doors and partitions that water might be put directly on the flames. Among those who got on the inside were Messrs. J. E. Gantt, and city manager, Widenhouse, the latter having come very near suffering a fatal accident. While making his way across the hall in the dense smoke he ran into the large hole made by the fire and fell through. Fortunately, he caught to the ceiling with his hands and managed to pull himself up again and save himself from what might have been a fatal fall into the drug store below. He was not burned, and suffered no injury except a slight bruise on the jaw.

Most of the damage done by the fire was completely covered by insurance, but as Mr. A. P. Harris, the owner of the building only carried \$8,000 insurance, it is thought that his loss will amount to considerably over the insurance carried. Dr. Nesbit, whose office furniture and fixtures were completely destroyed, estimates that his damage over and above his insurance carried will amount to from two to three thousand dollars. The drug store of Mr. Snuggs and the dry goods stock of Mr. Riff were amply protected by insurance, although the damage to both these stores was quite heavy.

It is very fortunate for Albemarle that this fire did not break out two weeks ago, for at that time the town was almost entirely without a water supply. The recent rains, however, had placed ample water in the city lake, and this was very timely under the circumstances.

While the flames were being brought within control between five and six o'clock, the owner of the building, Mr. Harris, was

WANTS TO STAY HOME: WILL BE CONTENT AS GIRL

Youth Who For 21 Years Posed as Girl Soon Tires of the Fleishpots of World

THEN COMES HOME TO MA

Did you ever hear of a sure-enough boy being reared as a girl, who was brought up in company with girls, who wore dresses, long stockings and other things that girls wear? Well, down on the little Island of Ocracoke there lives just such a one, and we can prove it by a young lady well known in Albemarle who makes Albemarle her home, because she has seen him and knows him personally. Some time ago he decided he wanted to be a man for awhile, so left Ocracoke dressed as a man, then 21 years old. For two months quite a lot has been published in the newspapers about him. Now the New York World has taken notice and in a recent issue publishes the following article concerning him, written from Norfolk, Va.:

A strange story of a boy raised to manhood as a girl without any one but his mother suspecting his real sex comes from the isolated Island of Ocracoke. Charles C. Williams according to reports has found after a brief struggle with the world that he would prefer life at home as a girl to the struggles and temptations of the city.

When Williams was born his mother was so disappointed that he was not a girl that she dressed him as a girl and called him "Vera." "Vera" had light hair, was of fair complexion, and as "she" grew up developed into a decidedly good-looking "girl." For the first twenty-one years of his life Williams lived on his island without ever having crossed the waters to the mainland.

Ocracoke supports about 500 persons, most of whom have lived all their lives on the island but it is said none of them except Mrs. Williams knew that "Vera" was a boy. Williams, himself, was perfectly satisfied with his lot until, when he was twenty-one, his mother took him, dressed as a young woman, to the mainland. There, according to the story told, he bought a magazine and from it and his observations of the city folks, learned that Ocracoke was after all, a little place.

In the magazine was the advertisement of a mail order house, and when he got home Williams sent to it for an outfit of man's clothing. When it arrived, he cut his hair, took the money he had earned by sewing and rowed to the mainland in a small boat. From here he wrote his mother, telling her he was "tired of being a girl." In return Mrs. Williams told him his real name was Charles.

Baltimore was selected by Williams as a starting place for his life as a man, but after two months of it he is back at Ocracoke and glad to be there. During his absence he worked in a restaurant, and while he was there he says he saw enough to make him love Ocracoke more than ever, more than enough to make him return to the island and his skirts.

Girls for companions, sewing and the other domestic virtues for occupations, and the name of Vera, all will be accepted gladly if he can have with them the simple life of Ocracoke's fisher folk.

See Otis Skinner, America's most talented character actor in "Kismet," the enormous epic of the screen, at The Columbia on Thursday and Friday nights.

figuring with Contractor D. A. Holbrooks for reconstruction work on the building, and before sun up a force of hands was on the scene cleaning out and making ready for starting work of rebuilding after the fire.

BRIEF NEWS ITEMS OF STATE-WIDE INTEREST

Digest of Happenings of Week Gleaned from the Files of Our Exchanges.

NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 23.—Delegates to the convention of the United Mine Workers of America were called in today by President John L. Lewis to take action in two Kansas strike cases that he said would declare the union holds its men to the fulfillment of their contracts with operators.

Washington, Sept. 23.—North Carolina is destined to play an interesting part in Ku Klux Klan investigations. The resignation of Major Bruce Craven as grand dragon and the "disbandment" of the Klan in the state is being given serious attention by the department of justice.

San Francisco, Sept. 24.—Alfred Semmacher declined to repeat aloud from the witness box today the details of Roscoe (Fatty) Arbuckle's description of his treatment of Miss Virginia Rappe, at the revel which preceded the girl's death, and instead on a piece of paper wrote the facts which he showed to the attorneys and to Police Judge Sylvain Lazarus, who is hearing the murder complaint against the film comedian.

Raleigh, Sept. 24.—Ex-Governor Locke Craig's fine classic in behalf of commutation for T. J. Harris, well-to-do Ridgecrest merchant, who is under the death sentence for slaying a wealthy Alabama churchman F. W. Munnish, failed to move Governor Morrison today, and Harris must pay the death penalty for his crime on October 20.

Washington, Sept. 23.—The senate, after a continuous session of nearly eight hours, adjourned today with the prospect that further consideration of the anti-beer bill would go over for several weeks. Opponents of the measure, in the face of a night session, forced by the dry leaders, were successful in their obstructive tactics. Sen. Sterling, republican, South Dakota, in charge of the measure, finally moved adjournment.

Goldboro, Sept. 23.—Fire of undetermined origin destroyed the Fremont hotel at Fremont, 11 miles north of Goldboro, last night. The loss is estimated at \$5,000, partly covered by insurance. The building was a two-story wooden structure, and it burned very rapidly. No one was injured, but a number of guests who had retired for the night, had narrow escapes. Fremont is now threatened with a water famine, and its citizens became frantic for a time last night for fear the flames would spread to adjoining buildings and the town would be wiped out.

Asheboro, Sept. 23.—The water situation at this place has become so acute that the mayor is urging the people to avoid any waste of water in any public places, and that house keepers see to it that no water is wasted in the homes. A very deep well used by one of the factories has been tapped, and will supplement the town's water supply for the present. Even with this, it will be necessary to use the most rigid economy until there is rain. It has been nearly a month since the people were requested to use water judiciously, and while there have been several small rains, they have not been heavy sufficient to help the pond from which the supply of water for the town is drawn.

Concord, Sept. 23.—The joint convention of the tenth and eleventh districts of Odd Fellows was held with Cold Water lodge No. 62, Thursday afternoon and night. The convention was at-

NEWSPAPERS TO PUT ON DRIVE FOR SUBSCRIBERS

"Subscribe For Your Home Paper Week to Be Observed Week of October 7

HAVE HELPED EVERYBODY

Since the beginning of the war in Europe in nineteen hundred and fourteen, drives have been very fashionable. There were Y. M. C. A. drives, Knights of Columbus drives, various and sundry Red Cross and Liberty Bond drives, to say nothing of Eastern Relief and Chinese fund drives. In fact, there were so many drives that the people at home, to use the language of The Hendersonville News, were almost "driv" crazy. During all these drives the press of the United States joined freely and gave space for reading matter of various kinds free of charge. In fact one of the most powerful factors in all these great drives were the newspapers of the United States from the country weekly to the Metropolitan daily.

Now that all other drives have been made, apparently, the newspaper publishers of the country have decided to put on a "drive." The week beginning on November 7 has been set aside as "Subscribe for Your Home Town Paper Week." The Stanly News-Herald is going to observe this week and calls upon every friend in the county to assist in making this week a great success. We have always thrown open the columns of this paper and have given ample space for all good causes. The News-Herald has tried to support every move for the uplift of Albemarle and Stanly County. We have boosted our section when boosting looked almost like a hopeless proposition. The different churches of the county have grown and been placed in better financial condition, the trade territory of the town of Albemarle has been more than doubled within the past two years, industries have sprung up and prospered, miles and miles of the finest public highways have been built in our county during the past two years, and our educational system has at last been placed substantially on its feet.

The News-Herald takes a peculiar interest in this unprecedented progress along all lines and feels that it has done its full part in assisting in the great work. In the meantime, the Stanly News-Herald has never failed to raise its voice in behalf of the cause of the farmers of the county.

Since we feel that this paper has been of some help to many causes worth while in Stanly County, we make no apologies for inaugurating a drive during subscription week, and we feel justified in asking that every family in the county rally to our standard and give us a subscription for the coming year, especially when we guarantee for the sum of \$2 to put into the homes of the county one of the best semi-weekly newspapers published in North Carolina. There are, according to best estimates, at least 12,000 heads of homes in Stanly. At least 10,000 of these heads of homes ought to be subscribers to their local paper, and not half that amount really are. If this paper is what it claims to be, and what it ought to be, what greater blessing could happen to Stanly County than for it to be put into from three to five thousand additional homes before the middle of next November? For the benefit of every good cause in the county, as well as for the benefit of the

tended by more than 100 delegates, the largest attendance the district meeting has had in several years, and those present declare in point of interest the meeting was the best held in 20 years.

LUTHERAN CHURCH HAS WORKED OVER S S ROOM

Sunday School Room of That Church Thorough Remodeled and Improved

IS AN ATTRACTIVE PLACE

The congregation of the First Lutheran Church has just finished improvements on the Sunday School room, which afford much greater conveniences as well as comfort for the Sunday School of that church. When the church was built, the Sunday School room, which is in the basement of the structure, was provided with a wood floor, and the walls were merely plastered. As a result, being below the ground surface, the floor gave way, and decayed, and the walls became dampened and presented a disagreeable appearance. This was all torn out and the walls of the room were provided with a tar and concrete preparation, over which was placed a coat of plaster. The walls will now remain dry and look as bright as though above the ground surface. A solid concrete floor has also been prepared with a drain pipe, so that the entire floor can be washed when necessary, and the water drained. The room has been furnished with a sanitary drinking fountain and other conveniences. The heating plant has been overhauled and put in first class condition. These improvements together with a fresh coat of paint, make the Sunday School room of the First Lutheran Church a very attractive place and thoroughly sanitary in every way.

JEWELRY STORE MOVED TO LEXINGTON

The jewelry store formerly located on West Main Street, formerly known as "Russell's" has been moved to Lexington. Mr. H. C. Miller, who has been all the while owner of one-half the business, recently purchased the interest of his partner, Mr. Russell. He continued to run the business for a short while, but owing to the fact that Albemarle has in the F. E. Starnes Jewelry Store one of the largest and most complete jewelry stores in the state, in addition to the first class jewelry business of W. J. Rowland Company Mr. Miller decided there was a better opening in Lexington, hence his decision to move the business to that city. A strong company has been organized, consisting of the following gentlemen, who now own the Lexington Store: H. C. Miller, F. E. Starnes, L. O. Parker, C. M. Criscoe, W. J. Rowland, Dr. Charles I. Miller, R. L. Miller, of Badin, and Charles Parker, of Salisbury. This will make the new concern one of the strongest financially in the state. The new Lexington store will be known as the Starnes-Parker-Miller Company, and it will be under the management of Mr. Miller, who has moved his family to Lexington.

publication itself, we are going to make a supreme effort to double our circulation before the first of December. This is no small job, and can not be done without the help and co-operation of our good friends all throughout Stanly. However, with just a little assistance from each friend, we can make "Subscribe for Your Home Town Paper Week" a great success, not only for The Stanly News-Herald, but for the welfare of the entire county. If you are already a subscriber, get ready to renew your subscription for another year, and urge upon your neighbor to subscribe. If you are not at present a subscriber, decide here and now that you have enough pride in your home town and county to subscribe for and support your home paper, and see that your name is on the list at once.