

The News

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FRANK CARTER, Owner and Editor. CAROLINE LAND, Managing Editor.

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A Plea for Col. Cox.

If the Raleigh news writers had formed a conspiracy to injure Col. Albert L. Cox (which of course they have not) they hardly could have hit upon a more effective method of procedure than that they are now pursuing. In playing him up as the St. George who is to overthrow the Kitchen dragon in the Second Congressional district, (for which he is to qualify by taking up the residence of his distinguished father in Edgecombe County); as a potential rival of Congressman Pou, in the Fourth district, (where he now resides); as a contestant for mayoralty honors in the city of Raleigh; and, finally, as a gubernatorial dark horse, the news artists and space writers, whether intentionally or unintentionally, are "doing their dervedest" to make Colonel Cox a public laughingstock.

We hold no brief for Col. Cox, but we know him; and to know him is to admire his splendid qualities of head and heart. Genuineness, sincerity of character and modesty of bearing are among his distinctive qualities, and these fool pictures of him as the raging lion that is going up and down the state to devour the little lambkins of politics must needs be highly distasteful to him, as well as to his real friends and admirers. There is no office within the gift of the people of North Carolina that Albert Cox would not grace; to say this is to totally falsify the suggestion that he returns from the battlefields of France with a consuming lust for political spoil, wherever it is to be found. His whole career stamps him as the type of man most needed in our public life, and to doubt that high honors await him would be to impeach the intelligence and virtue of the state. The future opens up to him with rare promise. Nothing is so likely to mar it as the ridiculous over-exploitation of his political potentialities.

In virtue of his distinguished public services, Colonel Cox deserves to be spared the excess of sensationalism of which he is presently the victim.

The foregoing criticism has no application to the news story of Col. Tom Best, in the Raleigh Times, reproduced in another column, which is admirable from every point of view.

A Sad Waste.

In the course of a statement issued in Paris on Thursday, President Wilson says: "During the last few days the commission (on the League of Nations) has been engaged in an effort to take advantage of the criticisms which the publication of the covenant has fortunately drawn out."

Those are the President's words—"criticisms which the publication of the covenant has fortunately drawn out"—and in them is a very valuable lesson for a great multitude of people, but which only a few, unfortunately, will have the wisdom to learn. We refer to the multitude that rush pell-mell into blind, thoughtless acclaim of whatsoever may happen to emanate from the hero of their momentary worship. To such it means nothing that Moses rebelled against God, that David worked supreme iniquity, that the follies of Solomon rent his kingdom and cursed his posterity;—they flout all history, sacred and profane, in the invincible faith that at last both impeccability and infallibility are found wrapped in one flesh. It may have been McKinley or Roosevelt; it may be Wilson or Bickett—"the oracle have spoke"; hesitation is sin, dissent bloody treason.

What, pray, do these innocents think their head-pieces were given them for—to butt with or to think with? Has it never occurred to them that if God had intended one man to do all the thinking for a hundred million, He hardly would have thrown away so much good material in the production of 99,999,999 useless thinking apparatuses.

It is of the very essence of democracy, we conceive, that every man has the right to think upon every question brought forward for political action, nay, that it is his duty to do so—to think honestly and declare himself courageously.

The folks that threw so many con-
 ception fits because some other folks were not altogether pleased with the league covenant as drawn, and dared to say so, must feel rather foolish now that they are left high and dry by Mr. Wilson's statement that "the commission has been engaged in an effort to take advantage of the criticisms which the publication of the covenant has fortunately drawn out."

Let the Boys Parade.

The following is from Charity and Children:
 "Gentlemen of the Jury! Let us stop all this foolishness about the soldiers parading in every little town and hamlet in the state. The boys are tired. They want to go home. Every time they have to stop to parade they delay their home going by that much time. The boys themselves do not like it. They have told us so; and their wishes ought to prevail."

Editor Johnson has achieved, and well merits, so high a reputation for the sanity of his views on all public questions that we feel a good deal of diffidence in taking issue with him on the foregoing proposition. We do not question his statement of fact as to the wishes of the soldiers, but we are by no means convinced of the folly of catering to the popular yearning to envisage the war-effort of the particular community and the nobility and power of the new relation of its young manhood, by the only effective method of military parade.

Not the least of the compensations of war is the waking to conscious life of the spirit of patriotism that so easily becomes dormant under the sordid influences of a workaday world. In war is much that brutalizes and corrupts, but it likewise stirs the deepest springs of virtue and ennobles with high emotion.

The body may thrive on the fruit of daily toil, but the soul needs an occasional look-in through the pearly gates. The folks in "the little towns and hamlets" have done the myriad services of civilian support of the nation's war effort; they have lengthened their hours of labor; they have planted Victory Acres; they have cultivated War Gardens; they have contributed to Red Cross and other funds; they have bought Thrift Stamps and Liberty Bonds—they have pulled the plow of labor, self-denial and anxious thought; why not throw them a little wisp of Victory fodder?—why not let their poor, strained eyes float off in tears of joy and pride as they see their very own in the habit and paraphernalia of world salvation, as they hear the roll of drum and rhythmic footfall that were good music on the golden streets?

Isn't it worth a few millions of cost to the nation and a few days' delay to the soldiers to make the light of Heaven to shine in so many care-furrowed faces, to grave upon the heart of youth patriotic memories that will never fade?

The published accounts of New York's welcome to her Twenty-seventh Division and of the events in Raleigh in connection with the home-coming of the 113th Artillery Regiment are all the evidence we need that something of real value to the nation and to the lives of its citizens would be lost if such opportunities for patriotic demonstration were denied.

Let the boys parade! If we will but save them from the selfishness that prefers their own comfort to the happiness of so many, that they alone can give, they will have compensation for the sacrifice now and to the last day of their lives.

And they will never cease to thank us.

Interlude

Old Mothers.

I love old mothers,—mothers with white hair,
 And kindly eyes, and lips grown soft-ly sweet,
 With murmured blessings over sleeping babes,
 There is something in their quiet grace
 That speaks the calm of Sabbath afternoons;
 A knowledge in their deep, unfaltering eyes,
 That far outreaches all philosophy.
 Time, with caressing touch, about them weaves
 The silver-threaded fairy-shawl of age,
 While all the echoes of forgotten songs
 Seems joined to lend sweetness to their speech.
 Old mothers!—as they pass with slow timed step,
 Their trembling hands cling gently to youth's strength.
 Sweet mothers, as they pass, one sees again,
 Old garden walks old roses and old loves.

—Charles S. Ross.

Sundown.
 Hills, wrapped in gray, standing along the west;
 Clouds, dimly lighted, gathering slowly;
 The star of peace at watch above the crest—
 Oh, holy, holy, holy!
 We know, O Lord, so little what is best;
 Wingless, we move so slowly;
 But in thy calm all-knowledge let us rest—
 Oh, holy, holy, holy!
 —John Charles McNeil.

Press Opinion

An Unjust Law.
 Morganton News-Herald.
 There has been, in our opinion, a very grave mistake made in a law that brings about such a result as is reported in the following news item from Winston-Salem, appearing in Tuesday's daily papers:

"W. F. Davis, a carpenter by trade, was given a term of four months on the roads this morning in the city court on the charge of permitting his nine-year-old son to become a delinquent. The prosecution was under the new State law making the parent responsible for the conduct of minor children. After the conviction of the father the boy was taken in charge by the court, and will be sent to the Children's home in Greensboro. Davis, in his testimony, stated that he had tried every means possible to correct the boy, who wouldn't go to school. He admitted that he had chained him in the home to prevent him from going out and getting into trouble. Davis has six other children, but this one is the only one placed in the unmanageable class."

If that report is correct, and we have the word of a lawyer that there is such a law as is stated, such a state of affairs deserves serious consideration. It is a reversal of the old Biblical law of the visitation of the sins of the father upon the children. It is an indubitable fact that some parents are responsible for the misdeeds of their children, because of the training, or rather lack of training they receive, but is it not carrying punishment a step too far to make the entire family suffer in such a way as is described above, because of the delinquency of a minor child? The mother and those other six children will come in for their share of punishment while the father is serving the sentence. Instead of taking such steps as this other schools like the Jackson Training school should be established and these wayward boys brought within the uplifting influence of their training.

Such a howl of protest should be made against such a law as that no judge or jury would dare carry out its provisions.

Wilson's Weakness.

Charity and Children.

No matter how strong a man may be he has his weak points. President Wilson is one of the three foremost men in all the world, but his one weakness is his failure to take others into his confidence and thus lighten the great load he carries and at the same time win the leaders of thought to his cause. Moses was inclined to do the same thing. He tried to bear all the load of governing and judging the people of Israel, but Jethro, his father-in-law showed him the folly of his course, and urged him to throw part of the burden on other shoulders and thus save himself from nervous prostration and at the same time develop leadership among his people. Mr. Wilson did not show the Senate the consideration to which it was entitled. In fact he showed the Senators no consideration at all, but took the whole burden of preparing the plan of the League of Nations, so far as America was concerned, upon his own shoulders, and those of the small group of men he had appointed and whom he completely dominated. Partisans of the President say that he has more influence in Europe than in his own country, and this is true, but the reason is easy enough to understand. He made the Senate mad because he completely ignored it, and when he returned with his papers he found a sullen body unwilling to accept the conditions, and 39 of whom pledged themselves to vote against his plan. These men are wrong, if they stubbornly stand against the proposition simply to wreak vengeance on the President, but human nature is human nature any where and all the time. A little tact on the part of Mr. Wilson might have won a sufficient number of these stubborn opposers to have put the matter over, but some changes must now be made or the Senate will refuse to ratify the constitution of the League of Nations. The selection of William H. Taft instead of Thomas B. Gregory as the President's personal advisor, would have been a great stroke. A President and an Ex-President at the peace table, in perfect harmony, would have been a wonderful advantage in advancing the view point of America with the European statesmen. But nobody over there ever heard of Gregory. Mr. Wilson should have called an extra session of Congress to pass the bills that failed in the last Congress, and he was implored to do so by many of the ablest leaders of his party, but there was nothing doing. We have no doubt all will end well. The League of Nations will be established, but with a little more diplomacy on the part of the President it might have been done easier and earlier.

Will Hardly Succeed.

Statesville Landmark.
 The organization in New York of an association for the avowed "prime purpose" of making the eighteenth amendment to the constitution (the prohibition amendment) "forever inoperative" seems absurd to most people in prohibition territory, but we can hardly appreciate the fierce opposition to prohibition in those States in which prohibition has not been adopted by a vote of the people, but where it is to become effective through the action of other States. And we of the South are a little embarrassed in criticizing this action on the part of the morally stunted, because we have deliberately made one amendment to the constitution inoperative and we can and do justify that action as one of absolute necessity for the preservation of our civilization. However, we do not believe the organization to make the prohibition amendment inoperative will get very far or amount to much except probably in localities. The prohibition sentiment is too strong and growing to be overcome. But naturally the views of the residents of the big cities where the opposition to prohibition is strongest, are colored by their environment, just as the view in prohibition territory may be somewhat colored by environment.

THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION—TAXATION

Revaluation Act Non-Partisan and Non-Political—Guarantee Against Excessive Increase in Taxes—The Organization for Revaluation.

By A. J. Maxwell.

None of the features of the revaluation act is more remarkable than the manner of its passage by the General Assembly. An ordinary revision of the Machinery Act for the quadrennial assessment of real property usually occupies several days of discussion in each House, and generally sharp division over some of its provisions. The revaluation act—well understood to anticipate a radical departure from past practice, and without an amendment being offered—except incidental ones offered by the committees which prepared the bill. This showed unanimous recognition for the necessity of the undertaking, as well as complete confidence in the work of the committees which had carefully formulated the plans for carrying it out.

Non-Partisan and Non-Political.
 The manner of its passage, with support of members of both parties, as well as the provisions of the act, declare its non-partisan and non-political purpose. It is a helpful indication that a fundamental economic reform of this great importance can be undertaken without partisan disagreement upon the main question or upon the details of the measure for carrying it out. The act gives representation to the minority party in each county by providing that one member of the County Board of Appraisers and Review shall be appointed from the minority party, and it also provides that any undue political activity by any appointee under the act shall be cause for summary dismissal.

Guarantee Against Excessive Increase in Taxes.

The act carries its own specific guarantee that its purpose is to provide more equitable means of raising revenue, and not to unduly increase the tax burden. When real estate was revalued in 1915 the total increase in valuation was 25.72 per cent. In 1917 the increase was 32.54 per cent, and in 1918 30.38 per cent. These increased valuations did not result in any reduction in tax rates. On the contrary the tendency of tax rates have upon an average during these years been higher. The revaluation act provides specifically that not more than ten per cent increase in revenue shall be raised upon the revaluation at actual value in 1920 than will be raised under the old assessment this year, by the State or by any county, city, town or special tax district. So the net increase in taxes under this reassessment will be less than the increase made in any reassessment year in twelve years.

Special Session to Fix Tax Rates.

As a further safeguard and assurance, it is provided that the reassessment, when made, shall not be used until approved by the General Assembly, nor until the tax rates have been adjusted to the new basis of valuation as above indicated, and that the rates when so adjusted shall in all cases become the maximum rates until the General Assembly authorizes an increase. This provision anticipates that there will be a special session of the General Assembly, upon call of the Governor, about the first of July, 1920.

District Supervisors.

The State Tax Commission is to divide the State into ten districts and appoint a supervisor for each district. The district supervisors will be given employment for at least a year at a salary of \$250 per month and actual traveling expenses, to be paid by the State. They will be expected to give their whole time to the work. They will divide their time between the several counties in their districts, cooperating with the county assessing officers. They will be the direct means of contact between the State Commission and the assessing officers, and it will be their duty to see that the work is being done according to law, and

according to the same interpretation of the law, in each county, and will be expected to determine this by specific and detailed investigations as assessments are being made in the several counties.

County Supervisors.

The State Tax Commission is to appoint a county supervisor in each county, who is to be the executive officer in charge of the revaluation work. No township lines are recognized. All the property within a county is to be assessed by the same authority, under direct supervision of the county supervisor. He appoints his own clerks and assistants. The compensation of county supervisor is graduated with reference to the total value of real and personal property listed in his county, from \$100 to \$250 per month, according to the following schedule:

In counties of less than \$3,000,000, \$100 per month.
 Between \$3,000,000 and \$6,000,000, \$150 per month.
 Between \$6,000,000 and \$10,000,000, \$200 per month.
 Between \$10,000,000 and \$15,000,000, \$225 per month.
 Over \$15,000,000, \$250 per month.

County Board of Appraisers.

The county supervisor, or one of his assistants, is to inspect each piece of real property in the county, and to require the owner to give a statement under oath and in detail as to its quantity, quality and value. Blank forms for this purpose are to be furnished by the State Tax Commission, and are to cover such inquiries as in the judgment of the Commission are necessary to disclose its real value. These statements, when complete for a township, are to be placed before the County Board of Appraisers, and it is this board which fixes the value. The county supervisor is chairman of this board and its two other members are to be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, and confirmed by the State Tax Commission.

Appointments to be Made First Monday in April.

Appointment of district and county supervisors is to be made by the State Tax Commission during the months of March and April. The Board of County Commissioners in each county is to appoint, at their regular meeting the first Monday in April, two members of the County Board of Appraisers and Review, one from each political party. These appointees receive \$5.00 per day when the Board is in session, and the same mileage as members of the Board of County Commissioners.

Distinguished Guest.

Perhaps the most distinguished visitor our county has ever had is Countess Hillyar De Caen of France, who is the guest this week of Lieutenant Ralph Jordan and his mother, Mrs. M. J. Jordan at Gulf.

It was while in the aviation service at Tours that Lieutenant Jordan met the Countess. It was here that she won from the American aviators the title of "Little Mother," for most truly has she played the part for the past four years. She helped in so many ways to make the hardships easier to bear; she used her money, opened her home to the boys, wrote letters for them back to home folks when they did not have time to write, served them delicious refreshments and made it seem as much like home as possible. Several months ago, because of strenuous work, she found it necessary to take a rest and so came to America. For sometime she has been in Los Angeles, Cal. When she left France Lieutenant Jordan invited her to visit his parents before returning. He did not then know that it would be his good fortune to be at home when she arrived.

Since leaving Los Angeles Countess De Caen has been visiting mothers of the aviators whom she mothered in France.—Siler City Grit.

(Mr. Jordan is a cousin of our townsman, J. M. Brown.)

Important Expansion to Take Place at A. & E. College.

The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the State College met at the College on Wednesday, March 26th. The Committee provided for some very important expansion in the work of the College.

Among other important steps taken was to provide for the erection of an Agricultural Extension Building, to cost \$100,000, where the extension forces of the College may carry on their work. It will also provide a home for the Experiment Station forces. Both of these important agencies receive much of their support from the United States Treasury, either directly from the Treasury, or as an offset from the State Treasury in accordance with the Smith-Lever law. The amount, something like \$240,000 dollars is appropriated annually to be administered by the college.

Two additional departments were provided for, a chair of highway engineering and a chair of farm mechanics. The demand for highway engineers due to recent national legislation is unprecedented. State College will provide every facility for training North Carolina young men for this important work. The chair of farm mechanics is also intended to meet one of the urgent needs of the time. The course will include thorough instruction in motors, tractors, labor saving machinery, farm and home conveniences, and many other branches needed by the farmer who desires to make his home comfortable and modern.

News of the County

KIRK SCHOOL.

Mr. Charles Kirk, of Holke county, is spending a few days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. P. Kirk. Mr. Kirk says that the Government has taken all the land around the State Sanatorium and that he and the other parties who reside in that territory are now looking for new locations. Mr. Kirk says the Government Agents stated that the land might be needed in connection with Camp Bragg within the next sixty days.

Mrs. D. P. Kirk has been on the sick list for several days.

Mrs. Lawrence Burris spent the week-end with her sister, Mrs. C. A. Shaver.

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Miller visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jap Bell on last Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Efrid were guests in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bell on last Sunday.

The teachers and pupils of the Kirk School gave another box supper on last Saturday night for the benefit of the school fund. About \$63.00 was realized from the sale of the boxes and the voting contest. The proceeds from the two suppers amounted to about \$85.00 and will be used to paint the school house and improve it in general. The teachers and young ladies of this community are to be highly commended for the interest they have taken in these suppers.

GOLD HILL ROUTE 1.

A fine shower of rain fell Thursday morning and all were glad to see it.

Mr. M. L. Arey, who has been visiting homefolks, has returned to his work in Baltimore, Md.

The school at Cannupp Hill closes this week. Miss Lee Barne, of Rowan, taught the school this session.

The farmers of this section are preparing their land for another corn crop. Wheat is looking fine.

Private Wm. H. Wagoner, of Richfield Route 1, who has been in several hospitals since being wounded on the battlefields of France, Sept. 29th, has recovered enough to come home on a 20 days' furlough to visit his father, A. Wagoner and other home folks. Private Wagoner was attached to the British Army. The first time he went over the top was at Ypres, Belgium and second time was at St. Quentin, France. At St. Quentin he got a very bad wound in his head and throat with a bullet. Glad to know that Mr. Wagoner is getting along so well. Mr. Wagoner says that he and Private Milton Miller, of New London, went over sea on same ship and were wounded same day and both returned to the U. S. on same ship, were in the 29th Division and both used to play base ball together. When Wm. returned home the other week his home folks set him a nice 30th year birthday dinner. This scribe says these two soldier boys were lucky, but the best luck they both had was to get back to the good old U. S. A. alive.

P. H. Wagoner, while visiting his father the other Sunday had the pleasure of meeting his cousin, W. W. Morgan, of Kerto, Calif., and had a long talk with him. Mr. Morgan has been out west several years. He holds a position with an oil company. He and wife are visiting his father, Mr. J. N. C. Morgan, of east Rowan.

BLOOMINGTON ROUTE 6.

The farmers are preparing for another crop. Wheat and oats are the finest in this community we have ever seen for this time of the year. We hope to have an abundant fruit crop; it looks good so far.

You had better begin to look out girls, we know of some new Fords being purchased.

Rev. G. W. Stanly filled his regular appointment at Canton last Sunday and preached a very interesting sermon to a large crowd.

There were two funerals at Canton last Sunday, a Mr. Edwards, of Albemarle, and the infant of Mr. Luther Hinson.

Yes, the Blue Eyed Boy lives in a very lively neighborhood and a very industrious one also. The people have hog and hominy but few visitors. Paper and ink are too expensive to let the public know every time we send the kids across the road to borrow some beans.

Yes, we guess we could tell Union Grove correspondent something about farming that would help him along thro life if the craw fish would let him put it into practice.

Come along Locust, we certainly enjoy reading your letters. They are always full of pep. We expect in the near future to take a trip around the world and get a peep at all our correspondents. So wash your faces, put on your Sunday clothes and wait at the gate till we arrive. Be sure not to dine till we come.

BLUE EYED BOY.

ALBEMARLE ROUTE 6.

The health of this community is good at this writing, we are glad to note.

Mr. Lonnie Smith made a pleasant call at Mr. T. D. Kelly's last Saturday night.

Mr. N. B. Efrid and son J. E. Efrid made a business trip to Concord Wednesday.

Come on Blue Eyed Boy with your items, we enjoy reading them.

We are pleased to know that Mr. John A. Speight has come home from the camp to stay.

MAMA'S PET.