

The Charlotte News

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THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 1921.

THE PEOPLE ARE TO BLAME

The new federal prohibition commissioner makes his first statement after assuming office in the form of an appeal to the American people to lend the government aid in the enforcement of the laws against whiskey-making and whiskey-selling.

This is touching upon a theme upon which this newspaper has oftentimes remarked. The real peril of prohibition does not rest with those who are the flagrant violators of the law, not with those who are seceded in mountain fastnesses making moonshine, nor yet with those who are the runners between the stills and the consumers.

There is a large class of people who would not think of violating any other law, but who seem to have no conscience at all when it comes to sneaking a little liquor away from a blind tiger. These people are not culprits. They are among the very best people in any community, but they believe in having a little whiskey around and so ardent is their belief that they propose to procure it by hook or crook so long as it is procurable.

The destiny of the prohibition law, it seems to us, lies largely in the hands of such people, with the men who are good citizens, leaders, perhaps, in their vocations and in the social, political and economic life of the country, men in whom their fellow-citizens have confidence, men of reputation and of character, but such men as will still buy liquor when they want it and think nothing of it.

So long as so many of this class of the American people are thus giving aid and lending countenance to the traffic in moonshine, it is going to be an exceedingly difficult matter to enforce the Volstead law or ever to have real prohibition in this country.

STATE IS BUILDING ROADS

The State road-building authorities are moving out. Information is that contracts are either awarded or are about to be awarded for the construction of nearly 500 miles of hard-surfaced roads. While 500 miles is not much in contrast with the 5,500 miles which are now included under State supervision, it must be admitted that for the brief time the State highway commission has been functioning, it is an exceptional showing.

And it is a fact to be encouraged over as well as surprised at that the procession is going on without being embarrassed by financial stringencies and restrictions of any sort. The council of state has informed the highway commission that the money will be available for the work to be done within the reasonably near future and the highway commission is proceeding on the assumption that the financial end of the burden has already been solved.

IT'S A FIZZLE SO FAR

The Harding administration is beginning already to reap the fruitage of a vacillating leadership in the President himself. Mr. Harding is trying to be President after a fashion that will not avail in times when the country demands strong-minded, fearless, resolute, iron-willed men to shape a policy and then lead their countrymen to it.

Three months have elapsed since the Administration took the reins of government and nothing has yet been accomplished. The inertia of the American congress, the leaderless appearance of things in Washington and the general incompetency of those who are positioned to accomplish something for the people have within these last few days become the subjects of impassioned partisan attacks from the democratic side of legislative halls.

It is all very pleasant to democratic palates to sip the delectable criticism which such men as Senator Pat Harrison and Senator John Sharp Williams are shooting toward the enemy, but it really is a serious situation that has developed in Washington when, with the country demanding constructive legislation, the main task of the Administration continues to be award of political pique.

Mr. Harding went into office on the crest of a stream of promises, not a one of which has as yet been consummated. He was to effect economy and we are told that jobs are still being created for the millions of republicans who voted in the hope of getting a job at the hands of the patronage dispensers. The tariff was promised those who wanted it and the effort to effect a tariff has produced discord and animosity in the party ranks.

The issue of a separate peace has split the republicans asunder again and on practically every question of paramount interest so far developed, a fight has arisen which defeated the hope of a favorable decision. Mr. Harding is going to find some of these days that if he is to become the sort of a President which the times demands, he will have to eliminate a lot of this soft-speaking, happy-go-lucky, shilly-shallying and get down to business, make himself the real head of the government, shape a definite policy for the benefit of the people and then plunge straight toward it. There are too many men surrounding him who have got the idea in their heads that they are presidents pro tem, or emeriti, or some other sort.

THE REACTIONARIES

Governor Morrison misses no opportunity to give a flailing to the reactionaries in the State and, as a general rule, reactionaries deserve some criticism, but we are rather disposed to believe that Mr. Morrison is taking them entirely too seriously, and condemning them without reasonable cause.

So far as the average American is concerned, Mr. Denby need have no investigation of Admiral Sims. He is abundantly well known and understood already.

AT LAST!

That the York and Mecklenburg commissioners are about to build a long-discussed bridge over the Catawba river will be a source of general rejoicing not only here, but over the stream as well. Two or three previous boards of commissioners had the problem to face, but multiplied hitches developed which have hindered this linking up of the two counties until this time when, with proper legislation and with means available, an agreement has been reached by which the structure can be built.

A SPECIAL SESSION

The Legislature which met only a few months ago lacked but a few hundred dollars of costing the State \$100,000, which, at least, is one substantial reason that Governor Morrison should think a long while before calling an extra session of that body. While we can readily appreciate the plight in which the cities of the State find themselves by reason of their limitation in finances, it does appear that some way ought to be developed by which they can struggle along for another eighteen months, or until the next regular session of the Legislature.

The mayors and city attorneys of the Municipal League are to hold forth in Raleigh Thursday when they are to confer about the proposition, chances being that they will urge the Governor to relieve them by calling a session of the Legislature, but the business men of the State are already pouring their protests into Raleigh, they are told, and urging the Governor to let the members of the Legislature stay where they are for the present.

WHAT WE FOUGHT FOR

Secretary Hughes can give Mr. George Harvey a few instructions as to what America went to war for if the eminent ambassador is in a frame of mind to be taught. Speaking Wednesday to his fellow alumni of Brown University, the Secretary of State, who has always been a devoted partisan to the cause of world-peace and whose animosity to the Versailles treaty and the league of nations is far less acute than others of his party, uttered sentiments which are almost synonymous with those expressed by former President Wilson. Mr. Hughes declared that the American people and betrayed the thousands of American soldiers who so valiantly participated in the world war when the ambassador said that this nation fought because it was afraid not to fight.

On the other hand, it is Mr. Hughes' belief that "our men did not go forth to fight for this nation as one of imperialistic designs and cunning purpose or to protect a land where avarice might find its surest reward. They offered their lives and all the energies of the country were harnessed in the supreme effort, because we loved the institutions of liberty and intended to maintain them, because we hated tyranny and the brutality and ruthlessness which found expression in the worship of force and because we found our fate linked with that of the free peoples, who were struggling for the preservation of the essentials of freedom. With them we made common cause, and, as from one end of the country to the other rang appeals in the name of civilization itself, the whole nation responded."

TYPHOID IMMITY

For the month of May only one case of typhoid fever in Charlotte was reported to the State board of health and only 123 cases throughout the entire State. Durham led the cities with six cases, Winston-Salem had three, Wilmington two and Charlotte and Raleigh, one apiece.

This is a remarkable showing, a remarkable testimonial to the anti-typhoid campaign which has repeatedly been conducted in this community and to which the people have been unusually amenable.

The State board of health is elated over the showing, because it was under its auspices that the vaccination campaigns have been conducted in the past and it is now calling attention to the fact that if it has been two years since you had a "shot" of the anti-typhoid vaccine, it is time for you to bare your arm and take another. It is better to take a thousand of them than to take a case of fever.

LISTEN TO THIS

There is only one objection we can see to politicians. It's the fact that in election they have funny dispositions. They always try to shake the hand of everybody in the land and whisper, "I'm at your command. I'll carry out your missions." They see you pass, and make a bow, and almost scrape the ground, and cry, "My friend, you made a vow, and you are honor bound to help me wallop Hiram Jinx and win the vote at all precincts—remember I will get you drinks when I am congress bound." Then they pass another guy who has a pious face and wants to keep the country dry. They cry, "I'm in the race to do away with rye and gin and even bottles it comes in. I am a man who battles sin and cleans out every place." They always tell the folks they meet that when they are elected and put down in a ruler's seat they'll do just as expected. But once they start upon their reign you never hear from them again about things about a public vein. Their aim has been deflected. The capital is filled with boobs from all of our great states who exercise their speaking tubes in useless hot debates. They stand upon the floor all day and argue on the price of hay and what they think an ox should weigh. They all have funny traits. Make a person understand that you are not affected when he comes up to shake your hand that he may be elected. Know a man you're voting for before you let him wield the law. Hesitate to shake his paw. His acts come unexpected. Harvey and Rear Admiral Sims have opened up our eyes with countless traits and brainless whims which foreign to the wise. Long ago they shook the hand of half the people in the land. It looks as they'll be canned. Statesmen bring surprise. Copyright 1921, By News Publishing Co.

PROFITEER IN BREAD, SENATOR CAPPER SAYS

Washington, June 16.—Profiteering on the part of the bakers of the nation's bread was charged by Senator Capper, Republican, Kansas, in speech at last night's session of the Senate, during consideration of the packers' regulation bill. A vote on the bill will be reached late today. "With a maximum cash decline in price of wheat of nearly 38 per cent in the year ending May 15 and a maximum decline in the price of flour of 40 per cent," said Senator Capper, "the size of the crust the bakers of ten of the public varies from half the price of the public decrease of but 9 per cent in New York to a maximum reduction of only 21 per cent in Boston."

COMMUNICATIONS

FAVORS MARKET HOUSE

Editor The News: Your editorial indirectly against a market house in the News of June 11th issue entitled, "The Case of the Truck Man" is so contrary to general opinion and your own as expressed in your columns of recent times in the past, and so decidedly against both the farmer and the consumer that one can't help being surprised and taking notice.

The solution of the whole problem of proper local marketing of trucking stuffs and all farm products for the farmer is the market house. It is a success every where it is conducted right and the people would not think of doing away with it. By "conducted right" is meant first a market house and not a market lot and this market house should be centrally located, well arranged, sanitary and have all the conveniences and police protection such an institution should have; a special officer is usually appointed and is called the market inspector with police powers. The trial made several years ago on an open lot with the hot sun beating down, when it was not raining, proved success here, as well as the way different people are patronizing a box car at the present time. Furthermore, the market house is an inducement for the farm wife to exert herself and add to the farm's vegetables, fruits etc., such things as a greater variety of dairy products, jellies, dressed fowls, pies, home-made mince meats, and many other things, some of which this market never heard of for the lack of encouraging the making and selling of these food stuffs.

Undoubtedly the merchants have decided they do not want a market house but how far they would go in opposing one is another question but they looked at it in the right light, they would invest money in it, for a market house would help wonderfully to build up Charlotte.

Let Charlotte become known as a good place to eat in the proper sense of the word and then "Watch Charlotte Grow." It is a well known fact that agriculturally we are away behind, so let's pull for getting out of the rut, instead of deeper in.

DR. ALEXANDER EXPLAINS.

The expected has happened. In sending out a circular letter telling the farmers something about the Federal Farm Bureau, the officers of the North Carolina Farmers Union and section chiefs from certain sources. But we were not the first to expose the origin, inspiration and backing of this new so-called farmers' organization. It, along with other farm organizations, has been subjected to investigation by the banking and currency committee of the House of Representatives, Louis T. McFadden, chairman. His investigation was prompted by a demand made by the Farmers' National Council, Washington, D. C. The Farmers National Council is the legislative representative of some six or eight farm organizations, and was appearing before the banking and currency committee of the House urging certain legislation for financial relief of the farmers of the nation. Mr. Benjamin C. Marsh, secretary, was asked by Chairman McFadden what organizations he represented, and how the Farmers National Council was financed. Mr. Marsh requested the committee to submit officials of all the farm organizations to appear before the committee and propound that question to all alike. This was done and a public hearing followed. Several State Unions, including Virginia, Kentucky and North Carolina from the South, several State Granges, the American Society of Equity, the Federal Farm Bureaus, and other organizations, were represented. The facts brought out in these public hearings are published in pamphlets and can be obtained by writing your member of congress, or Chairman McFadden, Washington, D. C.

The facts brought out by this investigation show that the first Farm Bureau were inspired and organized by all local in character; that county, state and national organizations were inspired and promoted, not by the farmers but by the Federal Government through its agents of the Farm Extension Workers. This fact was admitted by Dr. A. C. True of the Federal Department of Agriculture. Dr. True also admitted that the Department did not cooperate with any other farm organizations than the Farm Bureau.

Dr. True is director of States' Relations Service, Federal Department of Agriculture. He was asked by a member of the banking and currency committee "Did you find them (the Farm Bureaus) already in existence and did you increase both the number and strength of them, or the original organizations to a large extent upon the inspiration and suggestion of your department?" Dr. True answered, "The latter is true." He was then asked why his department had used and helped to organize the Farm Bureaus more than it would help to organize the Grange and the Farmers' Union? Dr. True answered, "Because the Farm Bureau organization was a general organization, having no restriction connected with it as regards membership, except that which might grow out of the payment of mutual dues. In other words the Farm Bureau is not a farm organization. The word 'farm' ought to be stricken out of its name. All classes are eligible to membership; and I know of many living in town and engaged in other occupations who are members of the Farm Bureau. In fact, if the whole truth was known, it would most likely be found that a majority of the members of the Farm Bureau organization are living in towns and engaged in other business than farming. Most certainly the great bulk of the funds for the Farm Bureau are furnished by the Federal Department of Agriculture and BIG BUSINESS. The Department has a director of Farm Extension in all the states; and there are two thousand County Demonstration Agents and eight hundred Home Demonstration Agents; all on salary paid by governments; and all of them are behind the Farm Bureau organization. And the Farm Bureau is being supported by contributions from BIG BUSINESS; as much as ten thousand dollars and fifteen thousand dollars being furnished to put over the organization in a single State. I happen to know that Sears, Roebuck and Company of Chicago have quite a large sum of money in this Piedmont section as much as a thousand dollars in a single check. I know the firm that handled the check for the Federal Farm Bureau is also buying successful leaders from other farm organizations by the payment of big salaries, as much as ten thousand dollars per annum. And it has tried to get some others and failed. And all the local workers in this movement are being paid for their services. And no doubt Mr. Sapiro of California was paid for his services."

And let me state here that it is absurd to argue that the cotton and tobacco will accomplish for cotton and tobacco all that the citrus fruit growers are accomplishing for citrus fruits. The conditions are not the same, the cases are not analogous at all; and the means or instrument that solved the problem of the citrus fruit growers will not and can not solve the problems of the cotton and tobacco growers. The problem of the citrus fruit growers was purely one of distribution, shipping fruits only where there was a demand for them. But more than half of the cotton crop is exported and nearly half

of the tobacco crop. The prices are determined by the gambling stock exchanges of the world; and these exchanges are controlled by, and operated largely in the interest of the MONEY POWERS. Cotton and tobacco also constitute the raw material of two of the largest manufacturing enterprises of the world. Citrus fruits do not. Cotton and tobacco are also produced largely on credit and call for large amounts of money in marketing. This is not the case with citrus fruits. The men who control the money and credit of the nation will continue in the future as in the past to control the business of the nation and the prices of cotton and tobacco. And this marketing pool of the Farm Bureau, like the holding propaganda of the American Cotton Association, is a scheme of BIG BUSINESS to make the farmers carry the cotton and tobacco crops, bearing all the expenses and taking all the risks during the period of reconstruction in bankrupt European countries. If there was a probability of this plan enabling the farmers to fix the prices of these crops, then the movement would not have the support of either the Federal Department of Agriculture or of BIG BUSINESS. The Federal Government is now simply the agent of PRIVILEGE.

Why does not the Federal Department of Agriculture publish the data on cost of farm production which Dr. Spillman gathered over a series of years while he was chief of the Bureau of Farm Management? This would let the public know that staple farm crops have been produced at prices below the cost of production, if men, women and children, workers on farms, are to be allowed anything like a fair wage for their labor. Except for two or three years of war prices, the farm workers of the South have labored for a bare living. But when Dr. Spillman requested permission to publish this cost data, the Secretary of Agriculture refused to grant it and said "It is not the farmer's business to know what his products cost; it is his business to produce."

This to the American Cotton Association the facts in its origin, financial supporters and membership will show that it was not a farmers' organization. It was in the first convention, when the organization was launched, that a convention declared for an export, finance corporation, and "Governor" Harding of the Federal Reserve Board promised the backing of the Reserve Banks. The convention, on the demands of the farmer delegates, agreed to continue class organizations as independent units but have them cooperate on all questions of common interest through state committees and national committee. These committees were appointed, and the majority of them were not farmers. Later on these committees met and abrogated the action of the convention by abandoning the export, finance corporation, and changing the plan of organization and preparing and sending out constitution and by-laws for an entirely new organization composed of all classes and money was put up to finance the movement and expert organizers employed and offices opened in Atlanta to put over on the farmers a so-called farmers' organization headed and financed by other classes, and in which all classes were eligible to membership and solicited to join. This movement probably served its purpose in making the farmer "the goat" in carrying the cotton crop last fall and winter. Later on the South Carolina organization launched the finance corporation.

The purpose of the circular letter given for dropping the finance corporation was that Harding told the committees that the Reserve Banks could not back a marketing association. We heard an explanation to why the committees had changed the plan of organization adopted by the New Orleans convention.

This is not intended as an attack on our home bankers and manufacturers. I believe they are largely the victims of an infamous monetary and banking system that allows a few men to control and monopolize the credit and credit of this nation. One of the leading cotton mill men of the Piedmont section told a friend of mine that he would have bought cotton last fall at 35 cents and sold yarn against it, if he could have gotten the money; but he could not get the money to do it. A prominent banker of this section told a farmer friend that the banks had been coerced into the policy of restriction, which he denounced unqualifiedly. But he said, "we bankers don't dare make a public protest for fear that we will be squeezed." He said the people must make the fight to break up this gigantic monopoly of money and credit. And I believe that one purpose of those behind this Farm Bureau movement is to arouse the hopes of the farmers in other directions and turn his attention away from the real cause of all social and economic evils, knowing that in the end those who control the money of the nation will monopolize the credit of the nation and the business of the nation, including prices on all staple farm crops and prices on all manufactured commodities. Capitalism is moving every agency to prevent the working masses in field and factory, office and store, from getting together at the ballot box. A prominent democratic lawyer said to me recently, "the people will never get out of the ballot boxes or bullets, and every real friend of democratic government will use all his power and influence to use the ballot before the people in desperation resort to bullets."

The purpose of the circular letter of the Farmers' Union and of this article is simply to tell farmers the truth; and then they can and will do as they please.

H. Q. ALEXANDER.

INGROWN NAIL

Toe Nail Turns Out Itself if You Toughen Skin.

A noted authority says that a few drops of "Outgro" upon the skin surrounding the ingrown nail reduces inflammation and pain and so toughens the tender, sensitive skin underneath the toe nail, that it can not penetrate the flesh and the nail turns naturally outward almost over night. "Outgro" is a harmless, antiseptic manufactured for chiropodists. However, anyone can buy from the drug store a tiny bottle containing directions.

F. D. A.

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INGROWN NAIL Toe Nail Turns Out Itself if You Toughen Skin. Priced \$9.95 and \$12.50

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F. D. A. A READY FRIEND IN TIME OF TROUBLE ATTESTED BY LONG RECORDS OF "MONEY FOR ASHES" ALEXANDER'S F. D.—THOS. L. Insurance. Always Protects—Never Sleeps. \$1.00 One lot of trimmed Hats. Values to \$10.00. Now— \$3.98 Special prices on all trimmed Hats for these three days. BELK BROS.