

THE DANBURY REPORTER

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REMINISCENCE.

At four o'clock in the evening of November 27, 1893, two young men occupied a room up-stairs in a building opposite the court house in Danbury, which still stands. The precise moment this story begins, one of the men, long and slim, sat by the stove parching peanuts and reading the Charlotte Observer. Whether with nut or peanuts, I am unable to say, but occasionally he yawned. The other man, a short, stocky-built fellow, stood at the window watching the first flakes of snow scurrying by on the wind, and quoting snatches of dismal poetry. Below from Gid George's tavern floated revelry, where Mode Manning, Andy White and Joe Ashby were parting over the drinks. A mule tied to the court house fence switched its tail, and under the eaves of the temple of justice a cow sheltered itself from the chill November blast.

A few years later the short, stocky-built fellow was Governor of North Carolina, while the long slim young man was on the Superior court bench. You have guessed right—it was Bickett and Stack. That little 16-foot room east of the court house has sheltered more than one man destined to lead in the affairs of men. A few years before, here Glenn waited clients and fame, and both eventually came.

The first time I ever saw Judge Stack he was trying to get up a fight between two dogs. Of course he wasn't Judge Stack then, but just Stack. Stack was one of the most noted and most interesting characters who ever lived in Stokes county. He was for a number of years a central figure in our village life, and of our county. He was in every game of marbles, every Sunday afternoon swimming stunt, and every watermelon fiasco that ever happened in this section. Stack and Bickett were the life of the circle that formed about Capt. Taylor's cosy sitting room fire in the evenings, where we played set-back and talked politics. I can hear the hearty laugh of Capt. Taylor (God rest his soul). Stack was the despair as well as the delight of the many interesting characters of the mountain of those days—John Will Baker, Matt Overby, Charley Lunsford, Bill Hall. Those who survive, and the children of those who have passed away, still talk of Stack, who was their favorite.

Stack learned me to gamble. He wagered me 50 cents that Corbett would whip John L. Sullivan. I accepted the bet, borrowed the money and lost. That cured me of gambling, and I think it cured him, too. I guess he thought it was a good time to quit while flush. Much of what little superficial learning I ever picked up, I owe to Stack. He learned me to be a great lover of Dickens and Shakespeare. I suppose if anybody ever read those two books and nothing else, he could not be counted an ignorant man. Stack got lots of his fine sense of humor and the ridiculous from Dickens, and his great sympathy with human nature from the "bard of the Avon." Stack could quote pages from Shakespeare, and when Everett King and the writer of this reminiscence ran the Hornet, Stack wrote parodies from Shakespeare, and applied them to local celebrities. Everett and myself had to defend our sanctum more than one time as a result of those terrible diatribes, and if there had been any assets connected with the Hornet, I am sure there would have been serious libel suits. Stack was always interested in local affairs, and was generally the seat of every commotion that disturbed the community. He adapted himself to every situation, and was equal to every emergency. He was one of the most many-sided men I have ever known. He was a natural-born newspaper man, and is one of the most entertaining writers in the State, if he takes a notion. He could always do anything that anybody else could do except one thing—he never could sing a tune. He often tried, but I don't think ever succeeded.

One day while I held a job on the Greensboro Telegram, Stack called in and told me good-bye. He was leaving Danbury, and had 13 thousand hard Stokes county dollars in his pocket. That was going some for those days, when a dollar would buy two or three bushels of wheat. The Federal Reserve banks had never been thought of, and Stack's success in the practice of law a few years in Stokes was a sign of the success that he was afterwards to attain in a greater and richer field. But here he laid down the mudsills, here built the character that a few years later would bring him honors, fortune and fame.

Judge Stack, who is now a guest at Piedmont Springs, is now one of the eminent jurists of our great State, whose judgments are respected for their wisdom and common sense, and whose opinions are widely quoted. His many Stokes county friends, among whom he is always welcome, rejoice with him in his success.

N. E. P.

CO-OP NEWS OF INTEREST.

The statement made by a high official of the co-ops that any individual member who demands a final settlement on his 1922-1923 crops can get it, will be read with absorbing interest by Stokes county members of the association. The business methods of the co-ops are more and more swinging around right.

DANBURY DISCOVERED.

When Cleopatra received unwelcome news she caused the messenger to be stilettoed and dropped into the Nile. While the compliment which Prof. Blair pays us is unpleasant, it is not doubted. Rather than pitch Blair in the Dan, let us look around for the responsibility—wherever it is—and having been found, its conscience will be punishment enough. For whoever is to blame for the crime against the children of this community will be silhouetted in a halo of sinister light for all time to come.

TOBACCO.

A letter received from Mr. T. R. Pepper, who is running a warehouse at Mullins, S. C., says that tobacco is selling high at that point, with prices tending upwards. He advises the farmers of Stokes that the crop everywhere is short, and that the probabilities are with our superior quality of product we are in for good prices this fall.

Reports from all sections of Stokes indicate a light crop with bright color.

THEATRE.

Plans are materializing for a \$5,000 theatre at Danbury, to be built at once. One hundred stockholders of Danbury and a radius of ten miles around are being enlisted, no one to own more than one share, which has a par value of \$50. The plan looks to be entirely practicable, and with so many stockholders, the success of the project is assured. The program is for an up-to-date high-class show at least once a week at night, and if this is given it will receive a liberal patronage, and will pay handsomely.

The people of the territory mentioned are in need of wholesome recreation and amusement, and are able and willing to pay for it. At last reports the committee soliciting stockholders had enlisted more than half the stock, with many others eager to subscribe.

This is a day of good roads and automobiles, and it is no trouble to get a crowd together on short notice. The theatre building proper will be about 40 by 70, with balcony, and will seat 400 people. It will be lighted with electricity, and be modern in all its appointments and arrangements.

MRS. VANDERBILT BACK FROM EUROPE

Will Now Turn Her Attention To Getting Things Lined Up For the Coming State Fair—Many New Suggestions.

Raleigh, Aug. 26.—Mrs. Edith Vanderbilt, president of the North Carolina State Fair, has returned from a two months trip to Europe, and will now turn her attention to getting things lined up for the big event of the Fair in Raleigh.

During her absence from America, Mrs. Vanderbilt picked up numerous suggestions for improving the Fair, and these she will pass on to the general manager. She returns to find preparations well advanced, and there is every indication now for one of the most successful fairs in the history of the state.

Not only have the various department heads gotten their preparations for the fair well under way, but the general manager has also been able to secure a comprehensive line of attractions for the midway. These have been contracted for and will provide plenty of amusement for the crowds.

More than five thousand automobiles were admitted into the fair grounds last year, and it is expected that a great many more than this number will come this year, as the roads leading into Raleigh have been improved in every direction. These roads practically put the fair within the reach of the people of all sections of the State, according to Mrs. Vanderbilt.

Mrs. Vanderbilt naturally has been greatly gratified to find the arrangements for the fair making such satisfactory progress and very much pleased to learn of the bright outlook. "Bigger and Better" is not to be an empty phrase with her, for that has been her platform for each successive year that she been at the

head of the fair.

She has also been gratified to learn that there are to be more fairs in the state than ever before. The more the better the State Fair will be, she declares, for all of them are working to the same end. The better the other fairs are, the better the State Fair will be, she says.

LEGISLATURE HAS FINISHED ITS WORK

Was In Session Only 17 Days—Port and Water Transportation Measure Was Outstanding Piece of Legislation Enacted.

Raleigh, Aug. 25.—Since the adjournment today at noon brought the special session of the general assembly to a close on its seventeenth legislative day.

Called into extraordinary session to act upon the report of the ship and water transportation commission and correct errors in the sinking fund amendment act, preparatory to expected ratification in the November election, the assembly performed those two duties and, in addition, enacted over 400 of the nearly 600 public and local bills introduced.

The port and water transportation measure is accepted as the main piece of legislation enacted by the session. If the people approve the act in the election, it will supply the machinery for inaugurating a port and water commerce development program, with an investment of \$7,000,000 in terminal facilities of deep sea and inland ports and a contingent fund of \$1,500,000 for the operation of state owned ships.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

Besides correcting the error in the sinking fund measure, the special session added another constitutional amendment proposal to the three adopted for submission by the 1923 legislature. It provides for an increase of per diem for members of the general assembly from \$4 to \$10. The special session killed bills submitting three other constitutional amendments, one extending the term of county sheriffs and coroners, the second providing for a judicial redistricting and abolishing of the rotation system for judges and the third putting a reduced tax rate on money on deposit in banks and realty mortgages and deeds of trust.

As the result of legislation by the 1923 regular session, supplemented by that of the special session, the people of North Carolina will vote on the following proposals in the November elections, besides expressing their choice on candidates for national, state, congressional and county offices:

To inaugurate port and water transportation development program. Machinery provided by special session.

To authorize an appropriation of \$2,000,000 to aid World War veterans acquire farm lands. Machinery provided by 1923 regular session.

To amend the constitution so as to increase per diem of members of general assembly to \$10. Submitted by special session.

To amend the constitution to make inviolate the sinking fund for state. Submitted by regular session, but discovery of error in provisions of act necessitated its repeal and enactment of a new measure by special session.

To amend constitution to limit the bonded indebtedness which the state may incur. Submitted by regular session.

To amend the constitution to exempt from taxation mortgages and deeds of trust on homes. Submitted by regular session and submitting act amended by special session to change rate of

interest on exempted mortgages and trust deeds from 5 1/2 per cent to the legal rate.

Mrs. J. Gilmer Korner Addresses Club Here

Mrs. J. Gilmer Korner, of Kernersville, who is spending some time at Piedmont Springs, was an interesting and entertaining guest of the Fine Arts Club at a special meeting at the home of Mrs. E. P. Pepper Tuesday afternoon of this week, at which time Mrs. Korner spoke on present day topics of club work. Refreshments were served by the hostess and Mrs. N. E. Pepper.

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