



Everything



BY AL FAIRBROTHER

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AS TO LESSONS OF ELECTION

Chief Justice Calls Attention to Abuses.



SEVEN OPINIONS filed by the Supreme Court on Thursday the Raleigh Times sees decisions in two cases of widest interest and importance. First of these is on the appeal of the convict

guard who was convicted and sentenced for the brutal whipping of one of the prisoners in his charge, which affirms the lower court and leads Chief Justice Clark to declare in a concurring opinion that county commissioners have no power to authorize the punishment of convicts by the lash, whether the Legislature attempts to give them such power or not. The other, by a divided court, holds that there is no limitation in the Constitution of the poll-tax to two dollars and of its application to purposes of education and charity alone.

The decision as to convicts in the opinion of the Times editor, is the probable precursor of legislation which will establish a definite working code for the government of those who have the helpless prisoner in charge. Old-time methods must, he insists, give way to higher regard for humanity. Ancient abuses must be corrected. That the conscience of the people will in the future be unable to sleep in the face of the unwritten story of the camps, and that "the state is responsible for the care of the prisoners whom it condemns to involuntary servitude," is the result of a growing sentiment in favor of prison reform, which has long been a hobby with the editor of the Record. "Whether they are confined in state or county institutions, it is the whole people that is responsible for the manner of their treatment," declares the Times. "It being understood that there is a violation of law when the prisoner is abandoned to the mercies of the jailer, there is need of a law which will make the honest attempt to solve the hard problem of mercy with justice. One thing that is certain is that where there is want of mercy, there is lack of justice. Whether by an effective prison control board or otherwise, the question presented by this case is one of the pressing matters to which the legislature must attend.

Importance of the poll-tax decision is even more far-reaching in economic and political effect. If the poll-tax may be advanced above two dollars to apply to other purposes than education and the poor, in order to meet the required proportion between poll and levy, the result will in all probability be the abolition of the poll-tax. The state could face such a contingency with equanimity on the part of the people. The tax itself is far from equitable. The case with cities—Raleigh has a poll-tax of \$7—has long been a sore point. The fact that those who have property are taxed on both their poll and their possessions does not help the poor to whom the seven dollar tax is a burden almost unbearable; that he should be charged on the head because of what someone more fortunate owns in property, the tax on which brings upon him the heavier blow, is a condition that is rapidly becoming intolerable. The poll-tax required as to voting is of a different color, but yields to the same argument. With a high state poll-tax, we would establish a property qualification for the ballot, in addition to the educational qualification. Means can be found to guard the qualifications of the electorate without imposing upon it such an arbitrary restriction.

"The effect of the Supreme Court decision is to pass—so far as the lay mind is concerned—what is virtually an amendment to the Constitution. The constitutional restriction having been removed, it is a matter for statute to guard against the danger of its removal."

The Hunger Cure.

Nothing like seeing the silver lining to the cloud when the cloud comes. It is now being claimed on good authority that the "hunger cure" for stomach troubles has proven a sweet boon for Germany, transforming an overfed nation of dyspeptics into a race of healthy people. This by way of preparing Americans for the new treatment if the prices on food stuffs continue to advance.

The president puts the blame of the high cost of living on the middle man. But the particular middle man has not been located.

Some alarm is being expressed over the exodus of negroes from the South, it being estimated that about 120,000 have left for Northern cities during the past few months. The charge that this was done to swell election returns falls flat in face of the real fact that there is a crying demand just now for that class of labor in munition plants during the absence of the white foreigner.

Two divorces in Guilford in one day all goes to prove that we are a progressive community.

South And West Will United in The Future.



THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT sums it up in this way: "Some of our contemporaries are already prating learnedly and dogmatically about 'the lessons of the election.' The returns are far too incomplete as yet to admit of an analysis close enough to determine

the currents and cross-currents of sentiment which affected so differently the political action of the people in different sections of the country. That New England should have been controlled by the influences and interests which have dominated its politics for fifty years offers no occasion for surprise and upsets no reasonable expectations. That the Southern States stand firm in their allegiance to the democratic party is explicable on various grounds. That New York should have swung back to its place in the republican column can be readily accounted for. But why should the same economic issues that decide Pennsylvania's party alignment fail to similarly impress West Virginia? What causes Indiana to be irresponsive to the considerations which proved controlling in Ohio? Why should certain foreign elements in the East have combined against Wilson and his gains have been so great in those republican states of the West where those elements form so large a percentage of the electorate? These and many other like questions constitute the puzzles of the recent election. They can not yet be answered with definiteness.

"One fact, however, is sufficiently demonstrated to make it certain that there is to be a readjustment of political formations with the West and South in sympathy of feeling and concert of action against the reactionary policies of that bourbon republicanism which has its citadels in the financial centres of the North Atlantic and New England states. The great communities beyond the Ohio and Mississippi rivers have broken the thralldom that so long bound them to the chariot wheels of a system of privilege and monopoly of which they bore the burdens without sharing in the fruits. The shibboleths that were potent once to hold them steadfast in error have lost their magic and the impulse of progress stirs their giant limbs to let the dead past bury its dead and to throw off the dead weight of passions and prejudices whose reason for being expired before the present generation of Americans was born. A new grouping of political forces is portended in the near future and it will follow the path of natural and geographical affinity, of mutuality of interest. The future of Democracy lies with those sections which produce the gold bearing harvests of the country, not with those who only take toll of them."

And now they are all explaining how it happened in the cast of Mr. Britt.

It's an ill wind that blows good to nobody, and the public suspense was a harvest for the American newsboy, who took the tide at its flood, and laid the foundation for a fortune if many other such opportunities come his way.

Few people thought to vote for the amendments, but enough remembered to carry them, according to the returns.

And now we must wait a week to be officially informed that Woodrow Wilson was elected president. Some of us will have forgotten there was an election by that time.

The tense situation in regard to the national ticket has almost obscured the local and state election, but it is pretty generally understood in the Fifth district that Major Charles M. Sedman goes back to congress for another term.

Montana, formerly regarded as a state of toughs and outlaws, sends a woman to congress, the first of the sex to enjoy that distinction. All of which goes to prove that Montana is not so bad as it has been painted.

When Germany gets her full fleet of merchant sub-marines running maybe the high price of many articles will fall a peg or two. It wouldn't take Germany long to flood this country in certain lines of merchandise.

We are waiting to see if it's all Buncombe.

Nan Patterson has shown up again—as correspondent in a divorce suit, of course. That is about the only way she can keep her memory green.

A subscriber wants to know why we do not give quotations on eggs and farm products. We understand that some of our readers have weak hearts and they couldn't stand the shock.

The pressure has been relieved!—French Wood Hogs! Well that depends upon which end of the board you are holding up.

HON. CYRUS WATSON



IT WAS with genuine sorrow that we learned Saturday of the death of Hon. Cyrus Watson, of Winston-Salem, notice of his passing having reached us just as we were going to press.

We had been often entertained and instructed by his logic and eloquence, and along with thousands of others in North Carolina never missed an opportunity of sitting within reach of his voice when announcement was made that he was to be among the speakers on any public occasion. While strong and forceful his wit was unailing and his fund of good stories inexhaustible. A citizen and patriot of the highest type; one who honored the profession to which he belonged; fearless in his advocacy of what appeared to him to be right, he was a pillar of strength to the cause in which he enlisted and could always be counted on to bear his part of the burden in state and nation.

As one of the few who had lived through the reconstruction period in the South and who had kept pace with the new century, he combined the wisdom of experience with an appreciation of the present and confidence in the future.

A strong man has left us.

Industry, Not Politics.

Discussing the migration of negroes to the North and its alleged possible bearing upon election returns, the Raleigh Times quotes the New York World—democratic organ—as saying:

It is undoubtedly most of all an economic movement, a magnetic attraction toward the great cities where the money is and where the opportunities for amusement are and the advantages obtainable in highly developed communities. But it is a movement also full of interest as regards its ultimate political and social influences.

The Times takes a similar view and proffers this advice to the deluded ones: "It is to be hoped that the Democratic authorities will go slowly in carrying out the announced program of a Senatorial investigation to include such matters as the alleged colonization of negroes for election purposes in Indiana and Maryland, to the end of unseating the three republican senators who have been elected on the face of the returns from those states. A campaign conducted for partisan purposes to bolster the democratic majority in the senate could not fail to have a bad effect in the long run.

"The movement itself has been pronounced for nearly thirty years and its impetus is shown with each report of the census for the preceding decade.

"It were folly to attempt to make of the recent acceleration of this old movement a political weapon in the hands of a ruthless majority. The effort to do so could not fail to bring about a reaction of feeling which is now generally in sympathy with the democrats. The party majority in the senate, and Kern and Taggart, of Indiana, and Chilton, of West Virginia, would be dear at the price of a sacrifice of confidence—to say nothing of the resulting irritation in the House, where the democratic majority is microscopic, if existent.

"The movement of the negroes in increasing numbers is a matter of deep concern both to the South, which needs their labor, and the North which must soon or late recognize in them a social problem more difficult even than the South found it at its worse; but politics, for all its sins, was never yet powerful enough either to start or stem the tides that flow as the demands of industry draw or repel them."

Greensboro is interested in the progress reported by Dr. Turrentine in raising the amount necessary to erect on the college grounds a new and up-to-date dormitory. The Greensboro College for Women is as much a part of Greensboro as the ground upon which the city is built, and certainly in this case "time does not wither nor custom stale."

Raleigh is talking about a public library for negroes. Slow, Greensboro already has one.

ABOUT SHOE STRINGS

Part Played By This Household Necessity.



IT IS refreshing to know that there is one newspaper man in the muchly stirred and politically divided city of Asheville who can think and write upon some other theme than the Britt-Weaver controversy and the issues growing out of it. To be able to write entertainingly on such an unpromising subject as the humble shoe string is an indication of real genius. Yet that is just what "Observer" does, after announcing that this great household necessity has gone way up—but not yet out of sight—the price jumping from 40 cents to \$1.25 a gross.

As everything having to do with women suggests just now the name of the most talked about woman in America since the announcement of her election, the Asheville scribe gets the name of the representative from Montana mixed up with the high priced shoe string problem, and incidentally discovers that the new celebrity is distantly related by name to Mayor J. E. Rankin, of the mountain city, who, he says, admits the relationship, but fails to account for her republican politics.

"Shoe laces were invented by the evil one," he claims, "for the purpose of trying men's tempers and souls. When a shoe string wants to break it always breaks just as the man of the house is tying his shoes and making a last desperate effort to catch the car for the office, where efficiency and punctuality are patented trade marks. That shoe string will give perfect satisfaction until an emergency arises. It then fails its owner and shoe strings, strong as the statement may seem, are responsible for more back-sliding than a Ford motor car.

"The German is the only nation on the face of the globe which has risen to the equality of the shoe string's possibilities for evil." The German soldier is equipped with two buttons on his pants, for the Germans call trousers pants, where all other soldiers are furnished with but one. The logic of this is at once seen. The soldier is far from home and his wife's needs. Embarrassing situations have been caused by the giving way at an inopportune moment of a suspender button on a soldier's pants, for no soldier could be expected to gallantly charge the stricken field while in that precarious situation. So German efficiency suggested two suspender buttons where only one was before, and so, too, it has suggested the carrying of an extra pair of shoe strings in the soldier's pants pocket.

"As shoe strings are mingled with the romance and the glamour of battle, so, too are they mingled with the romance and glamour of love's young dream. It is a scientific fact that more young men have succumbed after tying the shoe laces of the girl who has picked him out from the many, than from any other cause. Shoe strings, therefore, play a vastly important part in the world's affairs, and their increasing value is a matter of public moment. Shoe strings hold together the shoes of the soldier, and of the book agent. The \$14 high shoes of the fashionable miss would be worthless without the humble shoe string, and the tattered and worn shoes of the street waif still boast of a memory of the same humble shoe string. The banker and the man of affairs, and the day laborer and the tramp, all need shoe strings. Without shoe strings the world would be slipshod and slatternly, therefore the modest shoe string is a moral factor. Everybody needs shoe strings, almost from the time he tumbles into a world of trouble and strife and uncounted and miscounted ballots until that day when he starts on his search for the great adventure.

"Shoe strings, therefore, are used to tie shoes and hearts and packages of laundry when the ball of string cannot be found as is most generally the case. Shoe strings are as necessary as shoes, and shoes as shoestrings. Shoes were invented first and then shoe strings were invented. When high shoes were invented longer shoe strings followed. With higher prices for shoes came higher prices for shoe strings. Higher skirts were followed by higher shoes and these by higher shoe strings. And so on. For these few reasons and many others, Miss Rankin, related to Mayor Rankin by name, will insist upon an immediate congressional investigation. In the meantime the only people in the world unconcerned over the advances in the price of shoe strings is a new baby, who doesn't know enough to care, or the Holland girl who wears wooden shoes, or the Holland girl's Asheville sister's brother, who disregards fashion's dictates and in an emergency uses a piece of white string."

In the case of Mr. Hughes thirteen appears to have been an unlucky number.

The Greensboro Chamber of Commerce recommends a system of water meters as a saving of water to the city. It will also result in a saving of money to the average consumer.

VOTING A DUTY

Thinks All Should Be Made To Vote.



THE RALEIGH State Journal expresses the belief that a mistake was made by the founders of our government, in not making the exercise of the franchise compulsory instead of leaving

it to individual conscience and desire. "At this time," it says, "when we consider it so tremendously important who is elected President, it does seem a little strange that this important matter should be left entirely to those who care to take a hand. It is hard to understand why practically every civic duty should be enforced by statute, while the most important of all should be a privilege to be exercised or not as the citizen sees fit. If a man shows himself to be a very bad man by being convicted of a felony, the laws say to him that he shall not vote. We assume that the purpose of this is to purify the electorate and not to punish the felon by withdrawing a privilege. But would it not be well at the same time to say to the good man that he must vote, whether he wishes to or not? A good man added to the electorate would be as helpful as a bad man taken from it.

"By considering the elective franchise a privilege we encourage corruption by providing several ways to buy a voter. If he is going to vote one way and cannot be bought to vote the other, he may be bought to stay at home and not vote at all. If he is busy with his own affairs and does not intend to vote, he may be bought to go and cast his vote. If he is going to vote, of course he may be bought to vote in a way different from what his judgment and conscience dictate. So under the privilege system there are at least three ways to corruptly influence an election. If voting were considered a civic duty, like jury duty, payment of taxes, and the like, there would be only one way to buy a man. He could only be bought to vote differently from the way he otherwise would.

"Now here is our idea of how we got started wrong. Thomas Jefferson and his associates, who arranged our scheme of government, were great students of the subject and were particularly familiar with the thought of the French philosophers. The great fight in France then, which afterwards culminated in the French Revolution, was for the privilege of participating in the government. To those people the idea of privilege was so strong that it never occurred to them that the right to participate in government could ever be regarded in any other light. And this was the idea that guided the founders of our government. But experience has shown us that in almost every closely contested election enough people stay away to have changed the result, had they voted. Of course, if those who stay away were the worse class of citizens, it would be all right, but such is not the case. The worst class may always be counted on as voting, and it is usually the better class who stay away."

All Have A Part.

Over at Durham the Salvation Army is making an effort to build a home where unfortunate people who are adrift in the world, and who chance to pass that way, can be given a helping hand in the way of food and shelter while agencies are at work to secure for them needed employment to get them back on the right track.

Prominent and well-to-do citizens of the town have responded liberally, as they always do, but the idea of the promoters is that every man, woman and child shall have a part in this worthy charity. And so the proposition was made that every school child, irrespective of age, sex and color, be asked to contribute one penny each. The school authorities took kindly to the plan and the result of the penny collection totaled \$52.19. The local papers state that the children were much interested and that the colored schools were as eager to do their part as the whites.

Last week a similar collection was made among the Trinity College students, these being asked to contribute five cents each. The total was something over \$35.00.

While these sums are small in themselves and will not go far toward building or maintaining the proposed home, the spirit of the thing is fine and we like it. Every child who has given his penny will feel a personal interest and a personal pride in trying to help some ship-wrecked brother. It is the kind of spirit that needs to be cultivated—the spirit of the new age, of community conscience, which no longer asks the old, old question: Am I my brother's keeper?

Durham is considering the question of a city manager, and every progressive town will come to it before they get through.