

Everything

Everything

EVERY WEEK BY AL FAIRBROTHER

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1917.

Another Hotel.

It goes without saying that Greensboro is going to have another hotel, a downtown hotel that will be right up to the minute. The meeting in this town yesterday of some well known and successful hotel men shows that the matter has already gone beyond the blue print period. The gentlemen in the city yesterday talked about nothing less than a hundred and fifty room house, and that means one big enough to take care of the downtown customers. The O. Henry is to be completed within a year, and we dare say that by the time it is completed another hotel, a big one and a good one, will be about ready to open its doors on the McAdoo site.

And that is what the town needs. Two new hotels are not too many. Citizens of Greensboro recall that only a few years ago Charlotte had the two old hotels, the Central and Beaufort. Every year with charming regularity these hotels were repainted and improved. Everybody thought the two hotels were sufficient, and for years there was nothing but a little talk about new hotels. But one day the Selwyn was proposed and it appeared. Then came the Stonehall and the Mecklenburg and some others, and the hotel business was flourishing in Charlotte. Greensboro has ever had, at least within the past fifteen years to our knowledge, ample hotel accommodations. The town is not only growing all the time, but travel increases. More traveling men would stop here if they could always feel sure of securing a bed. The Guilford and Clegg hotels have been fixed to their capacity and beyond for a long time. The Huffine has always done a big business and traveling men have gone to other towns because rooms could not always be secured. With two new hotels the town will take on new life and increased business. In fact, the coming of a new hotel with the O. Henry means more business for the O. Henry. No better news has recently been printed than that carrying the information that a downtown hotel was among the probabilities.

With The Experts.

The text book scandal has now reached the stage where expert printers are giving their opinions of the job. It is found that the quality of paper is cheap, that the workmanship isn't exactly what would be termed first-class, and altogether there doesn't seem to be much satisfaction. However, the text book scandal has always been on in this state and perhaps always will be on. Hundreds of book concerns have grown rich by putting things over on different states, and possibly North Carolina is no exception to the rule. The way to secure text books is to have the men furnishing them specify what is to come, and if the sample isn't what it should be, buy elsewhere. But it is understood that politics and hoodlums often play a part. Whether anything like those two Paramonts bobbed up recently in this state we do not know. All that is in evidence is that some people are not at all satisfied with what has been handed the state.

And it didn't take any nerve, at least not much, to pass a three billion dollar revenue bill. Three billions, and it will take several times three billions to finish up the war.

The "Act Of Treason."

District Attorney Hammer of the Western District asks us to give publicity to the definition of treason as defined by Charles Stewart Davison. Inasmuch as he tells what the "act" of treason is, and that it has to do with shooting off one's mouth, perhaps it is information worth while to many. It reads:

"But many people misconceive the scope and significance of the word 'act.' An expression of opinion is fully as much an act as is a blow. Any exercise of either bodily or mental power constitutes 'an act'—thoughts and words equally with deeds. So also the reverse—non-action when occasion demands the execution of mental or bodily power—is equally 'an act.'"

"There is also popular misunderstanding of the meaning of the word 'overt' when used in connection with the word 'act.' It is supposed by many to impart the idea of affirmative physical action, whereas its full significance is covered in law if the 'act' be a thing (something, anything) which admits of direct evidence. When used in connection with the word 'act' the extent of the limitation which the word 'act' imposes is merely to exclude 'thoughts.' For though a thought is an act, it is not an overt act. An 'overt act' can, however, be as well by words as deeds, or as well negative as affirmative in character, provided only that it be, as said above, a matter capable of being brought out by direct evidence of its having existed—that is, provided that it was a thing which had an outward manifestation at the time, as opposed, in sense, to matters which fall within the category of things which are merely intended or are contemplated or purposed. It must not be understood that mere words, however approbative of the enemy, necessarily constitute treason. But it must be borne in mind that the uttering, orally or in writing, of words is an overt act, and their utterance by a given individual may constitute the crime of treason. For example: A verbal or written statement of the government's forces in a certain place, or of its intention, constitutes an overt act. If information which aids or encourages the enemy be conveyed by the statement and the statement be made by one who adheres to the enemy this constitutes treason within the definition of the constitutional provision."

And these nights a blanket is necessary while you sleep, and this only the tenth of September. Looks like an early winter—but perhaps October has some hot days in keeping.

Came Free.

After all the talk and perhaps a million cubic feet of hot air wasted the Senate finally eliminated the proposed impossible zone system concerning newspaper postage. It is well. Under the proposed act every publisher would have been put to extra expense, not of postage, but in assorting his zones, and when it came to sending straggling papers it would have been prohibitive. The government calls each fraction of a pound a pound in weighing papers, and if a country publisher happened to have one subscriber in a California town it would have cost him four cents to send the one paper at pound rates, whereas for one cent he could have sent it by regular postage. If it happened to be a daily paper it would add to the subscription price at least three dollars a year for postage, and this, of course, would have been prohibitive. The only just way to measure the newspaper postage is to ascertain what it costs to handle it and then make a flat rate of so much per pound. If it costs two cents a pound instead of one, charge that much and relieve the publisher of the odium of being subsidized, which he isn't. The public will pay the postage whatever it is, and the public is willing to pay cost. So is the publisher.

One Good Law.

The Senate did a wise thing and the proper thing in allowing soldiers abroad to send their letters postage free. The people writing the soldiers can well afford to pay postage and will eagerly do so, but the soldier at the other end may not have opportunity to secure his stamps; he may not have the price; and then to give him the privilege of sending his letters free is a recognition. And whatever it costs those not in the trenches will gladly pay. That is one good feature of the Senate's revenue bill, if it has no more.

Peace Terms.

The air is full of rumors that Germany is about to submit some peace terms, and of course it is problematical as to what they will be. The wise ones who claim to have some inside information say that it will be along the lines suggested by the Pope, but perhaps with a little more to please the allies, and that it may be that from this proposition the world can commence to figure on getting together.

However, it would appear from recent revelations, notably the secret correspondence between the deposed czar of Russia and the kaiser, that the allies will not accept anything but the annihilation of the German empire so far as its autocracy is concerned. If the world is to be one great democracy, then there will be no place for kings and czars and kaisers, and it will take this war to dethrone them. There will be a day when peace must come. It may be within three months, it may not be within three years; but when it comes it will be on terms dictated by civilized mankind, and not by the suggestion of a demon, such as the kaiser has proven himself. America and Japan are to finish the war, and these two powers, fresh and strong, can dictate any terms of peace they desire. Germany is not in it.

The Concord Case.

The Concord case grows more mystifying. The theory that Gaston Means shot the rich woman hardly holds when it is known that by her death he is completely wiped out as a possible beneficiary of her will. Gaston Means was her confidential agent and only so long as she lived would his income appear. With his benefactress dead he is cut off the meal ticket which was his, and why he should want to kill the goose that was laying the golden egg will be hard to explain. But possibly in the wash all will be revealed.

The Right Kind Of Talk.

The New York Herald doesn't mince matters when it comes to talking of the slackers, the anarchists and the pro-German editors who got money from the Germans. The pro-German newspapers which reached in and received German gold are getting a little careful here of late, but the organizations like the independent workers of the world, so called, didn't stop, because their work was in secret. When the subscription lists of the pro-German newspapers found that the ready cash received from the German agents didn't compensate for losses of the list they crawled into their holes. But the defiant secret organizations still held out, and only recently have been run under cover. They will now be dealt with. The Herald in talking about these matters very forcefully says:

Whether they come from fellow seditionists or from paid attorneys, protests against the Department of Justice's "round-up" of the I. W. W. centers will receive scant attention at the hands of patriotic Americans. No other act of the federal authorities has more clearly represented the will of the American people. The I. W. W. has proved itself an organization defiantly criminal. Its members are the Ishmaelites of industry, the enemies of all honest workmen. From the beginning of this war, throughout the period of neutrality and on into the period of belligerency, the organization has inspired crimes against the laws and the peace of this country. Its programme has included destruction of forests and of food crops, the crippling of harvesting machinery and the burning of grain elevators, and a long list of other crimes dictated by desire to cripple the nation in its gigantic task of self-preservation.

There can be no doubt that influential men in the organization are or have been in German pay. It is to be hoped that as the result of this raid the Department of Justice now is in possession of documentary proofs of the sources of the organization's support. The American people have a right to expect, and do expect, that to those found guilty of crimes committed in the name of the I. W. W. no undue leniency will be shown by the courts. This is no time for hair splitting or legal technicalities to hamper justice. This country's first interest is in her splendid sons who are giving their lives for her preservation; its interest in the traitorous nondescripts who are seeking to stab her and her soldiers in the back is that there be meted out to them the punishment that fits the crime.

The hope is that the Department of Justice will proceed speedily, and that by the first of the year every pro-German agency will have been swept off the face of this continent. Thousands of secret service men are employed and valuable records are being obtained. The German plots in other countries are coming to light, and all of these things will be against the kaiser when peace is finally proclaimed.

If there was ever anything rotten in Denmark, certainly something is decaying in Sweden.

Death For The Agitators.

Treason is punishable by death, and to give aid or comfort to the enemy in times of war is treason. Those who are agitating, those who are sowing seeds of discord, like the independent workers of the world and all such organizations, should be speedily shot. Talking about this end of it, the Asheville Times says:

Speech is free in this country, even now in the time of war, but it must be remembered that there is no such thing as speech without responsibility. Every man can be held liable for the consequences of his word as well as his act. This is as true in public agitation as in private conspiracy. Officers of the law know this to be true and must not overlook it.

Disorder has come from the effort to suppress meetings of peoples opposed to the war, and serious attention should be given the fact that these disorders have come, with serious result in some instances. Those who address assemblages and in their talk attempt to stir mutiny, thwart the administration or prevent enlistment, make their purpose clear by their talk. The intent to obstruct the prosecution of the war by speech is a defiance of the law as clearly as though the opposers were in action. The spoken word is evidence of intent. Such meetings have been called "disorderly"—this belittles an occasion which is much nearer to treasonable, and rather than attempt to "break up the meeting" the offenders should be arrested and given an opportunity to disprove the charge of treason.

No guarantee of free speech operates in the case of agitators—if it appears that they are giving "aid and comfort" to the enemies of this country, and if this can be proven by two or more witnesses then they may, upon conviction, be punished.

There are doubtless plenty of witnesses to be secured in the great cities where these soap-box orators sow seeds of discord. Examples must be made, and doubtless will be made.

Going South.

There were in Greensboro yesterday and last night several thousand soldiers. Something like sixteen train loads passed here yesterday carrying the soldier boys to Southern camps. Some of them wanting exercise paraded the streets yesterday morning, and a fine looking body of men it was. When the kaiser fully understands what America is doing now with the intention of doing for him he will perhaps hurry up that peace proposition which it is said he has in keeping.

And now the store windows give us a glimpse of the Fall wear—but a day like yesterday was a little warm for a display of furs.

Wait until we get the spiral stairs for the school houses. And a tower or two, to set things off.

Bargain Days In Crime.

The action of Governor Bickett in allowing the man Summers to pay a thousand dollars fine, instead of serving three years in the penitentiary, has caused many people to become very indignant. It has been argued that such official action gives mobs the real right to form and operate. Summers was found guilty of manslaughter, and the court sentenced him to three years in the penitentiary. That was a light sentence if guilty, and a severe one if not guilty. The Governor had no moral right to say that a thousand dollars in cash would buy freedom. It was to say that if the offender didn't have a thousand he must serve his time, and the Governor in giving his reason for commuting the sentence only said that to pay a fine of a thousand dollars would meet the purposes of the law. In other words, the man found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to the penitentiary for three long years, if he happened to have about him a thousand dollars could go free. Was ever before such a startling statement made? Manifestly it was up to the Governor to find that Summers wasn't guilty and set him free without taking a thousand dollars, or let him serve his time as a convict. That is the proposition, and that is why we have had something to say along this line, and why we shall have more to say.

But that isn't all. We received the following letter from a well known Charlotte citizen, one who sees the injustice of the Governor's first action. The letter reads:

Charlotte, N. C., Sept. 8, 1917.

Col. Al Fairbrother, Greensboro, N. C.:

Dear Colonel: These are bargain days. I enclose clipping from the Observer, which shows that the Governor, has reduced the price of crime from \$1,000 to \$500. They will soon be selling in the ten-cent stores. Yours very truly, OSMOND BARRINGER.

The enclosed clipping reads:

Sheriff N. W. Wallace received a telegram from Governor Bickett yesterday reducing the fine of Dr. J. W. Summers from \$1,000 to \$500. The fine and costs in the case were due yesterday. Doctor Summers paid the fine, but the clerk had not completed making up the costs and these were not paid.

Doctor Summers was sentenced to three years in the penitentiary for a criminal operation performed upon a young woman who died in a hospital here. From time to time he was respited by the governor and finally the jail sentence was taken off altogether. He is prohibited from practicing his profession in the state for a period of three years.

And so it happens, it would seem, that not having a thousand dollars handy, five hundred likely plunks would meet "the purposes of the law," and by that token we take it if the doctor, who should have served his term like other criminals have served their terms, hadn't happened to have the five hundred, then twenty-five, and finally, as Barringer suggests, a ten-cent proposition would have done.

Of course there is nothing for the average citizen to do. There is no redress, no appeal from such autocratic power as the Governor possesses. For some reason, God only perhaps knows, the Governor takes a man found guilty of practicing the art of abortion; a man doubtless notoriously known as such a practitioner, because the chief of police of Charlotte and the City Physician of Charlotte opposed the consideration of a pardon for Summers, and turns him loose, trying to make it appear that Summers cannot "practice his profession" for three years. If his profession was that of an abortionist he never had any license to practice it, and therefore the Governor took nothing from him in that regard.

Small wonder that mobs now and then form in North Carolina and deal out justice to criminals. Small wonder that men who think say the courts are often corrupt and that if some one has a pull it is impossible to secure justice. Governor Bickett had no moral right to proceed as he has proceeded in the Summers case. And all over this state there has been criticism of this action. And if the Observer story is true, and we do not doubt it, this last act of reducing the fine to an amount to suit the doctor's purse—well, there is no use to attempt calm discussion of such a travesty.

Results.

The merchants who advertise in The Record, the biggest advertisers, tell us they get satisfactory results from the use of our columns. When we tell them that our circulation is increasing, that we are weeding out the dead-heads and building a list of substantial readers and that the list is daily increasing they believe it. That much for having character. It doesn't take an audit bureau and affidavits to convince the citizens of Greensboro that The Record's circulation is large enough to justify the rate charged advertisers. The Record is growing these days, and it is gratifying to the management. The afternoon paper is the paper most used by local advertisers, because the afternoon paper circulates in the vicinity where the local advertiser looks for customers. The morning papers, being state wide, spread over more territory, but they do not render service with all their list to the local advertiser. For instance, if a man has the bellyache in Wilmington he isn't going to come to Greensboro to get paragon. He must buy his dope of a local dealer. That's as plain as a mole on the nose of a pretty girl.

The King Mystery.

Concord is coming in for some advertising because of the King murder mystery. The plot continues to deepen and it will take some time to clear the mystery. It is said that brothers of the murdered woman are hurrying to Concord and that lawyers and detectives are being imported. The woman had much money, and the plot will develop, no doubt, that her money had something to do with the mystery.

Of Immense Magnitude.

The suggestion that railroads could not handle the show trains and that passenger service might be interfered with when the movement of troops commenced caused many people to think that there was undue excitement in railroad circles. But the following figures given out by the American Railway Association confirm all stories to the effect that the railroads would be up against the biggest proposition ever encountered by them:

Altogether 687,000 men will have to be transported to the various cantonments that the Government is building to house the new national army. The movement will start September fifth. Between that date and September ninth the railroads will complete the entrainment of 200,000 men, or approximately 30 per cent. of the total number scheduled to be moved to the various training camps.

It is expected that a second movement of approximately 200,000 men will begin on September 19th, continuing for four days thereafter, and a third movement of the same size on October 3rd.

Some conception of the magnitude of the task confronting the American Railway Association in preparing schedules that will assure the safe and prompt transportation of these armies without interfering with regular traffic may be gleaned from the fact that to move merely one field army of 80,000 men requires 6,229 cars made up into 366 trains with as many locomotives and train crews.

Meanwhile, in addition to moving the 687,000 recruits for the national army, the railroads have been asked to supply transportation for the 350,000 members of the national guard to their training camps. This national guard movement has already started and will continue in increasing volume until all have been moved.

It would take some time for three hundred and sixty-six trains to move, and while these are moving for several days it means, perhaps, that the ordinary passenger will be obliged to walk. The army has the right of way.

The election is coming along, and people who vote for an increase of school tax understand it is to pay teachers and not to buy spiral stairs. The City Commissioners have employed their teachers and the people must see that they are paid.

The Man With An Idea.

It is now being related that George Pullman one time went into a cobbler's shop to have his shoes repaired while he waited, and noticing the cobbler at work, saw him pull down a shelf from the side of the wall and take therefrom some supplies. The idea struck him as being a possible chance to make a sleeping car safe for passengers, and he set about it, and from that evolved his sleeping car, which has made billions of dollars and given comfort to billions of passengers on the railways.

The idea is that the cobbler planned a shelf for the purpose of taking care of a dollar's worth of material; but Pullman, with a broader vision, took it and adopted it, and made himself rich and famous. The cobbler didn't look ahead. He saw nothing beyond the wall on which he put his shelf, while Pullman saw all the world as a possible customer. And so it is as we journey on. One man thinks out something worth while, but he stops in front of his own door. The cobbler, instead of Pullman, was entitled to what followed, but the cobbler didn't keep on looking. The great truth is portrayed in the proposition that:

"A grasshopper sitting on a sweet potato vine. And a turkey gobbling under the behind. And yanked him off that sweet potato vine."

So all of us who have ideas, who see things, should not close our eyes right now, but look ahead, peer into the future, get the horizon extended, and maybe we could gather our own fruits.

And these are the happy school days. The kiddies started this morning.

At Random.

AS IT WAS.

The boy stood on the burning deck— Till a quarter after four, And then he took a lifeboat. And paddled to the shore.

MISS BIRD.

An interview with Miss Bird, who is in jail waiting to be a witness against some young men whom she claims doped her, tells the reporter that she doubts whether or not there is a God. She doubtless hasn't been looking for Him very long, and until she does she isn't going to see Him.

CANTALOUPE.

The cantaloupe season is about over. Be it said for the benefit of the cantaloupe family that once or twice this season the real thing was on the market.

YOUR PART.

Every man can do something in the work of this world-wide war. Even a nickel thrown into the tobacco box at the Greensboro Drug Company will give a soldier a little solace. Fill the box again, and then fill it again.

AS IT WAS.

The boy stood on the burning deck— And said: "If I must choose, I'll take The Daily Record. For its news when news is news."

CUT IT SHORT.

It is the hope of the several committees that when the railroad officials come here to locate the depot the Spelling-binders will cut short their orations. What we principally want is a depot, and oratory can come later.

THE FIREPLACE.

This morning as we write there is a blaze in the fireplace, and the warmth sent out feels mighty good. Wearily lies before the grate and dreams of the winter that is coming. His dreams are pleasant, as he doesn't have to pay the coal bills.

MUTT AND JEFF.

The big handbills announce that Mutt and Jeff aren't here. The theatrical manager of the pretty pictures, who had them come here, but Mutt and Jeff are all right and will furnish the laugh. Always better to start off with comedy—the tragedy comes soon enough, anyway.

AS IT WAS.

The boy stood on the burning deck— He said: "If I must choose, No man should be a lithograph. Hung in a picture frame."

THE BILLBOARDS.

Since the city has gone into the billboard business and has been selecting some sites for the pretty pictures, there has been an objection has been filed, but when a property owner concludes that he wants a billboard on his premises, just so he doesn't interfere with traffic, he can erect the billboard. That has been decided.

PRETTY SOON.

Colonel Clyde Cheek, manager of the Municipal Theatre, opens up the season with "Mutt and Jeff," and naturally that will draw a full house. "Cheating the Cheater" is the next big play, and then, ladies and gentlemen, the next thing on the program will be something else.

BETTER CUT IT OUT.

They say chewing tobacco will go up in price. For as long as we can remember the same piece has sold for ten cents. No matter about prices of the raw material, the ten-cent plug has always been in evidence. Wonder why it doesn't vary?