

Henderson Daily Dispatch

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TIME TO COUNT NOSES.

The purpose of the two editorials in the last issue of this paper, dealing with certain deplorable conditions in the moral life of this city and community, was to direct general public attention to the actual existence of the same. While a great many persons hereabouts have for months past been well aware of the presence of these unwholesome conditions and degrading influences in the community, it could not be taken for granted that anything like all the people were in possession of such knowledge.

Realizing that the day of reckoning must eventually come, the Daily Dispatch has for months past been keeping a close eye on the conditions to which it now calls attention, and from a considerable store of private, confidential information, more or less of a general than a detailed character, now in its possession, together with more that has come to it by the voluntary acts of others since Saturday evening, is candidly of the opinion that those conditions were not overstated or exaggerated in the two editorial articles to which reference is above made. It is certain, also, that a very considerable part of the community has not been blind to all these matters.

Those who may have taken the pains to give the two editorial articles a careful reading, as we sincerely hope and believe many did, it must have been plainly apparent that the Dispatch had carefully avoided even the semblance of an attack upon any person or persons except the shadowy characters to whom it directed public attention. Neither did it directly or indirectly charge any person or persons, nor yet the officers of the law, with responsibility for those conditions. This was no part of the purpose of either editorial article in question.

While these matters are now more than likely to receive the airing out that has long been coming to them, it is the firm purpose of the Daily Dispatch to be governed throughout by principles of fairness. In this respect it will endeavor to follow the usages of the courts and presume anyone and everyone innocent until he may have been proven otherwise. No attack upon the good name or character of any good citizen or official will be permitted. The sole object is to rid the entire community of the vile characters who publicly disgrace it by their presence. Aside from these, the Daily Dispatch desires to make it perfectly clear in the outset that it is not after anybody's scalp.

But as was anticipated when the two articles in point were written, some at once jumped to the conclusion that officers of the law were being publicly attacked in these columns. That was no part of our purpose. Only once was there the slightest reference to officialdom, and that was purposely intended, but not as an attack or criticism, however. It was merely the statement of what the paper conceived to be a fact.

Responsibility for the presence of evils in a community does not always rest with the officers of the law, although a great many persons appear to think it does. And rarely, if ever, does it rest entirely so. Officers of the law, in this free country, are but the servants of the people, not their masters or dictators. In order to make the enforcement of law effective, the officers of the law must first of all have the united support and earnest co-operation of all the good, law-abiding people of the community, and it must be given without stint or hesitancy.

It may be that the chief reason for the presence of these lewd and

immoral women in our community, by the scores as alleged by some, is that the people themselves have remained largely oblivious or indifferent to the situation and have made little or no effort to inform the officers of the law of their presence or to give the officers their co-operation and support in any move that might have been or should have been instituted to secure their punishment or removal. How about this side of the question? It may be that for this very reason these lewd characters have for months continued to corrupt and demoralize the community "with little or no molestation from official sources."

In a brief interview with Chief of Police Williams and Sheriff Bell Saturday evening, both emphatically and earnestly expressed their absolute readiness to investigate any case of this sort which might be reported to them by any responsible person and to take energetic action wherever the facts appeared to justify the same. Both asserted that they would be only too glad to come into possession of any such information from responsible sources. And it is inconceivable that in an enlightened, christian community like this there would be found any officer of the law who under any circumstances would show himself derelict in a matter of this sort. To do so would be to publicly impeach himself in the estimation of all good citizens.

In thus emphatically and unequivocally stating their official position and disposition with regard to any and all cases of lewdness or other violations of the law of whatever nature which may from time to time be reported to them, the Chief of Police and the High Sheriff of the county would appear to have put the matter squarely up to any citizen or person who may have personal knowledge or can produce good evidence of the existence of bad joints or places of evil doing. The proposition seems to be a perfectly fair one.

In at least the great majority of cases where the law is violated, officers must first have tangible information or evidence to that effect before they may act in their official capacity, unless the officers themselves happen to be in possession of personal knowledge of such matters. Most certainly no officer is justifiable in acting upon indefinite information or the statements of ever so responsible a person which are made more in the nature of generalities than otherwise. Upon proper information from others or their own personal knowledge, officers of the law may under certain conditions raid or search places or premises. But this cannot lawfully be done in a haphazard sort of way.

As we see it, the situation is squarely up to the citizens of the town and county to go to the officers and tell them what they know about violations of law, places of lewdness, disorderly persons and houses, blindtigger joints, and any and all places of evil doing. How many citizens of Henderson and Vance county have heretofore taken the pains to do this without those particular cases receiving proper attention from the officers? And how many more who may happen to be in possession of such information will now come forward and make the facts known to the officers? It seems about time to begin counting noses.

LISTEN TO COL. FAIRBROTHER.

All good-hearted, good-natured, fir-minded persons, who really desire to do unto others as they would have others do unto them, most certainly will take the time and pains to read the following editorial from Colonel Al Fairbrother's pen. And all who really want to be patriotic in these trying times to the extent that they are perfectly willing to abide by the rules of the Government should do likewise. Colonel Fairbrother goes right down to the milk in the cocanut. Listen to him:

HEART TO HEART.

Many of the people who take newspapers think that they come just so. That all you have to do is to press a button, and presto! like the eggs from the magician's hat, newspapers fall by the thousands and boys wearing seven league boots cover the whole city with them in three minutes by the watch.

They do not understand that newspapers are made by skilled workmen; that it takes time and plenty of time to set the type; to assemble it; to stereotype the pages; to get them on the press; to count out the papers; to set the boys in motion. They do not seem to understand that telegraph news cannot be put into type until it arrives over the wire, and they are often cock sure that boys are on the streets with papers hours before they get to the home of the subscriber.

And then they telephone and threaten to "stop the paper" unless the boy is there earlier in the day;

they insist that they want the paper at a certain hour, no matter whether it has been printed or not.

In ordinary times of peace when the world is idle and there are plenty of workmen it may perhaps be justified to find fault if the boy is late. Of course it make no difference to the subscriber if a linotype machine gets out of commission; no difference if the press breaks down; no difference if the power goes off; no difference about a man or two being sick—the paper must come and is expected, and the publisher admits that he ought to get it to those who want it. But in war times the publisher doesn't promise anything. Three times three times has every man left this shop either for good or for part of the time because of war or because of something. Linotype operators have gone to war; blacksmiths who had served only the part of an apprentice have been called in to handle the intricate machines and done them incalculable damage; machines have been idle, and yet, if the paper wasn't on time the telephone made merry music and the indignant citizen paying ten cents a week for a paper that costs three times that to produce it was raising the devil at the other end of the phone.

All this has happened. And a still worse dose is liable to happen. It is a hard matter to secure help; it is a hard matter to print a newspaper like a publisher would like to print it, and the subscriber must be content, and if not contented he should stop his paper and not worry the life out of a force of over worked men trying to do the best they can. The publisher wants subscribers. It is his means of paying out; of making a newspaper. Without subscribers he cannot run his business—therefore he does all he can. This should be realized by the thinking person. And in these war times he is doing more than he thought he could do.

The other day a man stopped his paper in this city. A business man, he calls himself, and said he knew this all right about paying in advance—that the publisher was attempting to get some money. If the publisher needed the money, he told our circulation man, he would loan it to him, but he didn't propose to pay in advance. That man by talking like he talked interfered with the prosecution of the war. Because the Government has held that newspapers were essential, placed them on that list, and this business man of Greensboro was interfering with a business deemed essential just now. He was insisting that the Government had nothing to do with the payment in advance. The editor of this paper upon his return from San Francisco last Sunday visited Washington Monday and talked over the situation—got the official dope on what he had to do. And the thing that must be done we were officially informed was to make all people pay in advance. Failure to do this would mean that we couldn't get white paper.

The government has had wheatless days and heatless days. It now is having paperless days so to speak. It wants to see all newspapers run, but it prescribes how they shall run—and the man is a fool who stands around and tells the publisher who is trying to be loyal that the government has nothing to do with it. The Record wants all the subscribers it can get. But those who subscribe must meet the rules of the government. They are not our rules—they are rules made to make it possible for all newspapers to run—and every loyal citizen should gladly come across, pay his money and see to it that in the war period his home paper was able to print the news and boost Liberty Bonds and do other essential chores to send the — to his death. Do you understand?

Already the Allies have brought Bulgaria down upon its knees, and if America and the Entente will only keep it up for a while longer, Germany itself will after a while begin to inquire in a very interested manner what terms of peace or surrender they likely would be granted.

King's Daughters to Meet.
The Whatsoever Circle of King's Daughters will meet Tuesday afternoon at 5 o'clock in the Chamber of Commerce.

Consult Dr. Rapport

At Henderson at the Vance Hotel Wednesday, October 2nd. If you suspect falling sight there is no way in which you can profit by putting it off. Eyes do not get better without help. Have your glasses fitted by Dr. Rapport and you will have the satisfaction of knowing they are correct in every way.—Adv. GL 2t D 26 3t.

Quit Doing Your Bit—
and Do Your Best—

IN THE

FOURTH LIBERTY LOAN

Vance County Will Go Over the Top

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

SAMUEL WATKINS DEPT. STORE

DEMOCRATS SELECT KITTRELL CHAIRMAN

Advisory Committee Will Be Appointed To Help Conduct of Campaign

When the Democratic executive committee met in session Saturday afternoon, following an informal session a week previously, it confirmed the tentative action of the first meeting. J. C. Kittrell was elected chairman and H. A. Dennis was made secretary, both officials to serve permanently. A committee of three to have direct charge, with the chairman and the secretary, in conducting the campaign, will be appointed by Mr. Kittrell, during the next few days.

Plans for the campaign that is to be started in earnest after the close of the Liberty Loan drive are to be worked out by the committee that is soon to be announced. What these plans will be, other than probably several speeches about over the county, is uncertain as yet.

Miss Pauline Edwards, who is teaching at Lumberton, is spending a few days in the city with her mother, Mrs. K. W. Edwards.

IMPRISON POLES UNTIL LOST BELLS ARE FOUND

Zurich, Sept. 28.—Several Polish Roman Catholic priests, together with leading members of their congregations, have been imprisoned by the Germans because they concealed church bells to prevent their confiscation by the German military authorities. Warsaw papers report. None of the prisoners have been brought to trial. They were merely told that they would have to remain in jail until the bells were found.

One Class of Fuel Not Scarce.

While the State Fuel Administration is warning of probable fuel shortage during the coming winter, there is one class of fuel that will be plentiful beyond a shadow of a doubt. That consists of the houses in which we live and the buildings in which we transact our business and store our chattels. The pity of it is that this waste could be stopped by a "stitch in time." This newspaper is doing everything practicable to awaken the public to its opportunity for self-preservation and patriotic conservation of resources by preventing the careless fire. It's the little commonplace danger that needs attention. Think it over.

SPANISH INFLUENZA INVADES HENDERSON

Several Cases Reported By Local Physicians, But None Are Serious

Spanish influenza, which has tormented the armies in Europe, and which later crossed the Atlantic in some way, and more recently has broken out in some of the large training camps in this country, has made its appearance in this city, according to local physicians. The number of cases thus far discovered are not sufficient, however, to be called an epidemic, and it is the hope of the doctors that such may not be the case.

Some Henderson young women who are in school at Raleigh have contracted the disease, but their condition is not regarded as serious.

Patients in the city or the county who have developed cases are getting along satisfactorily, it is reported.

The doctors say that Spanish influenza is merely the old-fashioned gripple, and that persons who have it suffer almost exactly the same.



A Word on Shoe Comfort

To produce absolute comfort, a shoe must be modeled along orthopedic lines by a shoemaker who possesses an intimate knowledge of the physical construction of the foot. The leathers, workmanship and style must be flawless.

Our shoes for men, women and children are perfect fitting. They are correctly modeled of selected leathers, and stocks are so large that a perfectly comfortable fit is assured everyone.

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