

HICKORY DAILY RECORD

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A COWARDLY INCIDENT

At Chadbourne, in the eastern part of the state, last Wednesday night a negro man, who is good enough farmer to be appointed farm agent by the state and federal governments, was called out from his home by some 40 masked men, placed in an automobile and carried a few miles into the country and flogged. A sack was thrown over his head, but was removed so that he could find his way home after the Anglo-Saxons, superior folk, had beaten him until they believed he had enough.

They accused the negro man of advocating the Dyer anti-lynching bill and the probabilities are that he did explain what it meant to some of the other negroes.

The masked men have said nothing. The negro man was educated at Hampton Institute and has studied farming. He is intelligent and the correspondent of the Greensboro News, which first reported the incident, says that he was not "uppity," but knew his place and kept it.

We suppose there is a ku klux klan in the Chadbourne section. There is no evidence that the klan did this thing. Klansmen ought to feel outraged that 40 masked men, with the license numbers removed from their cars so that there was no chance of identifying them, should invade the home of a negro man at night, carry him off and whip him. In places people will say the klan performed this cowardly piece of business. Klansmen ought to resent the suggestion; and what is better, they ought to find out who the guilty persons are, have them apprehended and punished.

That was a feat too low-down for intelligent white men.

NO USE TO WORRY

The Record will concede without argument that it has not regarded the ku klux klan as seriously as have some of its contemporaries and several of the governors of the various states. For the most part, members of the klan, it is sure, are good citizens, possessed of intelligence that will rank up with the average. On numerous occasions the Record has expressed the opinion that masked men, whether klansmen or not, would commit acts of violence that would make it hard for the better element of the organization to endure. There would be public sentiment to contend with.

This newspaper does not approve of invisible empires that go about in the darkness under cover of masks.

If there is good work to be done—and the klan has done some good work—it can be performed as effectively, the Record is sure, by men who have nothing to conceal as by men behind masks. What this country needs are law-abiding citizens, resolved on breaking up vice.

But the Record does not believe that this country needs an extragovernmental agency. This paper believes that the klansmen, who see wrongs that need righting, in time will find that they can accomplish more in a manner that is not objectionable to the majority of the people, even in the south, and that the organization will disband. This paper has seen nothing to worry it much.

Between Hickory and Morganton and between Newton and Statesville, to judge by a Central highway map in the Greensboro News Sunday, are the longest gaps for which no provision has been made. Catawba county lost its Central highway opportunity when it stood for the Newton-Maiden link. The link between Newton and Statesville should be built as soon as possible. It is part of a great state scheme that should not be lost sight of here. The highway to Morganton also should be built.

Most Santa Clauses these days are figuring on the age-long problem of making two dollars do the service of a dozen.

TALK OF HELP

There is a good deal of talk about helping Germany, and something may be done. The best course for the United States would have been for this government, along with England, to guarantee France from attack for five years; insist on reduction of French military forces, and use every possible means to bring the two republics closer together. That could have been done. English support could have been counted on. There would be no talk now of a billion dollar loan to Germany, of French invasion of the Ruhr, and of other eventualities. It was failure to cooperate that is responsible for the present situation—and even those who were favorable to Germany have sense enough to see it now.

American participation in European affairs may be necessary to save both Germany and France from anarchy. H. G. Wells in a recent address expresses the conviction that they are both headed for destruction.

In the next few weeks we shall see whether this administration, which is voicing its sentiments quite freely at the Lausanne conference, intends to do anything constructive for Europe, the United States and the world.

The Asheville High school defeated New Bern at Chapel Hill Saturday, 12 to 6, on a field that was nearly all mud and water. The New Bern lads played well until the fourth quarter and the whistle saved them from defeat. It was agreed to play another period, in which the mud-bath worsened the lowlands in battle. It was the first time in three years that a western team has won the coveted honor.

This is the sort of weather that makes one think of hardsurface roads. They are the only good roads, but the others are holding up well, considering the weather they have encountered.

Asheville is on a building boom, and in this respect is keeping pace with the most forward towns in the state. Hickory must do a little more building next year than this, which has been a busy one in many respects.

Dr. Chas. Lee Smith, president of the Edwards and Broughton Company, has resumed the controversy with the state department of labor and printing over the rejection of the North Carolina reports. The head of this large concern, which has a good reputation throughout the south, charges that M. L. Shipman and Lawrence Nichols, his assistant, have sought to prejudice his business and charges in effect that his company has been discriminated against because it backed the printers in their demand for 44 hours a week. It would be easy enough for state authorities, were they so inclined, to harass a printer they do not like. But Messrs. Shipman and Nichols, whatever their feelings as individuals, are not handling private matters, and it makes no difference to them officially whether the Edwards and Broughton Company operates an open or closed shop. The state pays them to attend to their duties, which are said to be defined by statute. It also appears that the state is paying the chief justice something for annotating or proofreading or whatever it is called.

The Turk must feel rather safe to be flaunting the allied powers, but the Turk has not obtained possession of the oil fields yet.

WILSON AND SHANTUNG

Leansville Courier-Journal. Woodrow Wilson is vindicated by Japan's withdrawal from Shantung. At Paris in 1919 Shantung, including the garrison of Kiaochow, that had been seized by Germany as indemnity for damages in the Boxer rebellion of 1918, was awarded by the treaty of Versailles to Japan.

The award was accompanied with the distinct understanding and explicit assurance that Japan would at the proper time retire from China and return Shantung to the Chinese. When Mr. Wilson became a party to this agreement, vials of wrath were emptied upon his head. Phrases like "the crime of Shantung" were bandied about by the unthinking and yawned repeatedly in the senate by Lodge and his partisans. Wilson had sold out China to Japan—that was the cry.

To all this the president made the simple answer that "he had faith in Japan" and in Japan's promise that the mikado's government would at the proper time restore Shantung to the sovereignty of China. This faith of Woodrow Wilson's in

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ZANE GREY WESTERN PICTURE PASTIME TODAY

"The Last Trail," one of Zane Grey's celebrated novels, has been adapted for the screen by William Fox as one of his special productions for this year, will be shown at the Pastime Theatre today and tomorrow.

The name of Zane Grey is in itself a salesman for either readers of fiction or followers of motion pictures, and the superb manner in which Fox has adapted his filmed novels by Grey promises an entertainment well worth while in "The Last Trail." In addition, the direction of this picture was by the hands of Emmett J. Flynn, whose probable work on "A Connecticut Yankee" and "Shame"—both big Fox specialties—has placed his name in the very front rank of screen directors.

The leading roles in "The Last Trail" are enacted by Maurice Flynn, Eva Novak and Rosemary Theby. A spectacular masterpiece is said to be the breaking of a huge dam and the resultant flooding and destruction of a village in the valley below.

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