

# THE MONROE JOURNAL

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One Dollar a Year.

## THE PASSION OF AMERICA.

**Dr. Sikes, Declaring that Equality is the One Great Passion of the American People, Makes Fine Address at Unionville—Other Features of Commencement—The Medal Winners.**

"As wealth was the passion of Egypt, art the great accomplishment of Greece, power the ambition of the Romans, and conquest the ruling principle of England, so Equality is the great moving passion of America," declared Dr. E. W. Sikes in his address at the annual commencement of Union Institute last Friday. Dr. Sikes is a favorite before that audience and his speech last Friday was up to the high standard he has set for himself as a public speaker. It was sound sense throughout without a single oratorical flourish, or a single sentence of copious words and little thought that characterizes so many commencement addresses. Equality of opportunity, equality before the law, an equal chance for every child to make the most that he is capable of, is the American idea of equality. And to bring about conditions that will as near as possible produce such equality, popular education is the greatest remedy that has ever been proposed. Equality does not mean that all men shall be alike, do the same thing in the same way, wear the same clothes, nor walk in the same social circles, but it does mean that every one shall be guaranteed the opportunity to do the best that his endowments entitle him to do.

Tuesday night the winners in the silver medal contest by the primary students were Mary Secrest and James Helms.

On Wednesday night the Franklin Society debated the question, "Resolved, That our nation will fall as other great nations have fallen." Messrs. E. A. Russell, O. S. Hamilton, A. J. T. Simpson and C. A. Burris were the speakers, and Mr. Burris won the medal.

On Thursday night the Phi. Society discussed the query, "Resolved, That North Carolina should levy a special tax to run her schools at least six months in the year." The debaters were Messrs. H. C. Simpson, L. A. Price, B. F. Deese and T. L. Helms, and Mr. Price won the medal.

Besides the literary address on Friday, the following young men and young ladies gave declamations and recitations: "Power of the Ideal," Carl Griffin; "Alameda," Miss Velma Brewer; "Elsie's Child," Miss Ruth Helms; "The Roman Sentinel," Miss Sarah Smith; "The Fate of Reformers," R. A. Brooks; "Royal Manhood," W. T. Austin; "Engineer Connor's Son," Miss Rilla Braswell; "The Ride of Lillie Servosse," Miss Ruth Secrest; "Sheltered," Miss Virgie Price; "Be Not Content With Little," J. S. Simpson; "True Heroism," Vann Secrest; "The Boy Hero," Miss Eva Price; "The Little Newsboy," Miss Inez Benton; "The Mothers of Men," T. L. Helms; "Beyond Crossing Cimeters Lies Paradise," Wilson Brooks; "The Going of the White Swan," Miss Letha Hamilton; "Absalom," Miss Ethel Guin; "My Mother, My Country, My God," Marvin Smith. Miss Ruth Secrest and Mr. J. S. Simpson won the medals.

A large audience was present and the commencement was in every way a successful event.

## Richmond Crackers to Atlanta Pen.

On the Seaboard train that passed through Monroe Friday night were Fred Cunningham, alias Eddy Fry, and Frank Chester, alias "Little Dick" Harris, who pleaded guilty of the charge of robbery of the Richmond, Va., postoffice on the night of March 27, when \$85,000 in stamps was taken from the safe, and who were sentenced to serve ten years in the Atlanta penitentiary.

The prisoners occupied a drawing room in one of the Pullman cars and were guarded by three United States marshals. They appeared to be taking it easy.

## Fifteen Years for Assaulting Young Ladies.

Wadesboro Messenger and Intelligencer. Manuel Patterson was found guilty of assault on Misses Corie and McKinnis Byrd, young ladies of Lilesville township, and given 15 years in the penitentiary. During the trial of this case the court house was cleared of every one except the court officers and lawyers. The assault took place three years ago while the Misses Byrd were returning to their home from Wadesboro in a buggy. Patterson threatened them and attempted to pull them from the buggy but was frightened off by their screams.

## SHIP SUBSIDY DEFEATED.

**Investigation Shows Too Much Personal Interest—Aldrich's Retirement Not So Certain—Democratic Hopes Looking Up.**

Washington Correspondence. Washington, April 23.—Senator Aldrich's announcement that he will not be a candidate for re-election is being regarded with increasing suspicion here in Washington as a manifest political trick.

It is doubtful if a single one of the genuine progressive Republicans really believes that the Rhode Island boss intends to relinquish his control of legislation a moment sooner than he has to. Even a few "regulars" have privately expressed the belief that Aldrich might consent to a re-election, basing this conclusion upon what they characterize as the "enormous pressure" which will no doubt be brought to bear upon Aldrich to cause him to change his mind.

Aldrich does not say anywhere that he will not accept a re-election. He says he will not be a "candidate." It would be no surprise to Senators who know Aldrich if the words "I am not a candidate" for re-election, should turn out after the fall congressional elections to have been but another of his famous "jokers," with which the Payne-Aldrich tariff law is overloaded.

The corporation interests served by Aldrich can best maintain the excessive tariff rates, which give them monopolies on American markets and make it possible for them to collect enormous profits from consumers, through a Republican administration. Therefore it is but natural that Aldrich's primary object at this time is to keep the Republicans in power.

What move on Aldrich's part could relieve the Republicans of so heavy a responsibility in the approaching congressional elections as the announcement of his retirement? Realizing that his long representation of Big Business has earned for him the enmity of the American people, and that his name is to be one of the main issues in the fall campaign, it is but giving due credit to Aldrich's resourcefulness to assume that he figured it out he could not serve the special interests better at this time than to announce his retirement, if such announcement would help the Republican party over dangerous shoals.

The ship subsidy bill is beaten so far as this session of Congress is concerned. It goes to destruction on the rocks of scandal. The Merchant Marine League, the organization which is backing the bill providing for the annual payment of \$5,000,000 of public funds to a few private ship owners, is being exposed before a special investigating committee of Congress as being backed by men who would profit directly or indirectly through the passage of the proposed legislation. These men, most of whom are millionaires, have contributed to the funds of the league, and the funds have been used to turn to attack and terrify members of Congress opposed to the subsidy grab. Although officers of the league testified contributors to the league treasury were interested in the passage of a ship subsidy bill merely as American patriots anxious to see the merchant marine built up, a cross-examination of the very witnesses who made such assertions brought out the fact that two of the vice presidents of the league were directors of the steel trust, and that another vice president was the general manager of a Newport News, Va., shipbuilding company, concerns which might easily profit through the opening of the pork barrel by the passage of a ship subsidy measure.

"The Democrats are nearer to electing a President of the United States than they have been since 1892," says Governor Claude A. Swanson of Virginia, who recently completed a tour that extended to the Pacific coast. "Not in years have the Democrats shown so much activity, so much desire to shake off lethargy, to hold harmony banquets, and to get together as is manifested in all sections of the country at this time. With such a spirit pervading the leaders and the rank and file of Democracy, taken together with the dissen-sion among Republicans, I can see no other result than a Democratic House and a Democratic President in 1913."

President Taft still refuses to relent in his opposition to a congressional investigation of either the sugar underweighing frauds or the sale by the government of valuable sugar lands to the sugar trust. The first resolution introduced by Representative John A. Martin of Colorado, providing for an investigation by Congress, was smothered to death. Mr. Martin has now introduced a second resolution. He alleges that the sugar trust has been allowed to acquire 55,000 acres of the richest sugar lands in the Philippines, and that the validity of this transaction is open to most serious question, in view of the fact that the law of the Philippines expressly declares that not more than 2,500 acres of land shall be sold to any single corporation. Sanction was given to the transaction by Attorney General Wickesham, who was a former member of the New York sugar trust law firm of Strong & Cadwalader, which firm Mr. Martin declares was directly concerned with the alleged illegal sale. President Taft's brother is still a member of this firm. Whether the President can much longer prevent a sweeping investigation of the entire scandal is extremely doubtful.

Offices of stand pat Republicans resemble mail order houses these days. To head off impending defeat, the stand patters are burdening the mails with millions of packages of garden seeds, farmers' bulletins, maps, speeches and horse doctor books. Not a few of the regulars are uneasy as a result of the recent election in the thirty-second New York district, in which Havens, the Democratic candidate, changed the 1908 Republican plurality of 10,167 into a Democratic plurality of 5,831.

## DISASTER TO COTTON CROP.

**Millions of Acres of Young Plants Lost By the Cold.**

**Snow and Sleet and Low Temperatures Through the Great Belt Play Havoc—No Seed to Replant.**

Atlanta Dispatch, 25th. With millions of acres of young cotton destroyed by the cold weather which today overspread the entire cotton belt with the unusual April accompaniment in many sections of snow and sleet, the South has suffered its most disastrous financial setback perhaps since the civil war. Besides cotton, young vegetation of every description suffered from the freezing temperatures and fruit was more or less damaged in every Southern State except Florida.

Reports received tonight indicate that the cold snap has not abated in Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, northern Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and even further west and for much of this territory a heavy frost and freezing temperatures are predicted for Tuesday morning. In Atlanta and throughout the northern half of Georgia, except near the Atlantic, the thermometer has been below forty degrees above zero all day, with falling temperatures recorded tonight.

Atlanta awoke this morning to find snow-covered houses and thermometer down to thirty-one, an experience never before recorded after the first few days of April. Snow fell as far south as Selma, Ala., Columbus, Miss., and Columbus, Ga., and in north Georgia, Tennessee and parts of north Alabama and Mississippi the fall ranged from one to four inches. Cotton seed oil mills in this State and Alabama today were appealed to for seed for replanting purposes and State officials implored the mills to crush no more seed until the farmers have been supplied. It is doubtful, however, if sufficient seed can be secured, even at the record prices being offered, to replant one half of the area of young cotton destroyed by the cold.

At Columbus, Ga., tonight one cotton seed oil mill announced that their entire supply was at the command of the planters and would be sold at \$1 per bushel. Today a car load of seed was shipped from that point to the Mississippi delta and many telegrams were received from all sections of the South asking for an allotment of seed supplies.

## The Excitement World Wide.

New York Dispatch, 25th. Not since the big break of January last has the New York cotton exchange experienced so much activity and excitement as today. It was a time of triumph for the bulls, whose already strengthened position as regards the old crop was sensationally stimulated by reports of disastrous weather in the South affecting the coming crop. This led to rumors that the bull campaign was to be carried on throughout the end of the current season and possibly into early new crop deliveries, as it was in the season of 1902-03 when, after Sully's successful deal in May contracts, Messrs. Brown and Hayne, who are prominently mentioned in connection with the present bull movement, carried the bull campaign through into July, August and September. It is urged in this connection that even if the South finds sufficient seed to replant the entire area damaged, the cold snap has made it look like a late crop and that mills consequently will be dependent upon old crop supplies for the correspondingly longer period.

In this connection the following interesting story is from the pen of Mr. Robert Lee Carter, who is writing from New York:

"The cotton market of the world is on the keenest edge, and that there will be spectacular fireworks, not only in New York but in Liverpool, Hamburg, Bremen, Havre, to say nothing of the great Southern markets next week, is certain.

"One fact seems to stand out beyond all others. The market is worse oversold than it has been in years, and it will be impossible for the cotton sold to be delivered.

"Estimates of the amount of the

bear shortage reaches extraordinary figures. One man, whose information is regarded as reliable, said that houses in this city were short of millions of bales which have been sold to spinners all over the world. How will it be delivered? This is the question which the men who hold the cotton can answer least of all, it is said. The bears, it is pointed out, who had controlled the market, had plenty of time in which to cover their shorts had they not been overconfident. Instead, they cherished the belief that they could break the market whenever it suited them or seemed necessary for them to do so.

"The situation is now regarded by many to be bigger than any bull group that exists. It is simply a matter of nature net supplying a sufficient crop of cotton for the needs of the world. At present there are 2,500,000 bales of cotton in the country, and on this the mills of the world will have to run for months to come.

"Patten, who is in Chicago, feeling the situation to be well in his hands, will not hold out for exorbitant price, it was said today, but is willing to let the cotton be held up at a fair profit. His present position, it was pointed out, was due, not to chance, was not the result of office speculation, but of a study of the weather map.

"The whole trouble," said a bull operator, is that the bears have bought cotton in the South and hedged in the market. It amounts to the same as saying that for every one hundred bales they purchased, they sold two hundred bales. Now they must make good."

"In the meantime the bears are scouring the country for actual cotton. Not only have they bought back some 50,000 bales from England, but the New England and Southern mills are being scoured to secure shipments of cotton to New York for May delivery in order to break the market. I understand they are meeting with scant success in this effort, the mills being loath to let their cotton go, in view of the uncertainty of being able to get it back at all."

## Death of Mr. John C. Blakeney.

Mr. John C. Blakeney, one of the oldest and best known citizens of Monroe, died at his home here at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon. His death was caused by a tumor in the side, from which he had been suffering some two years. He had been confined to the home since last Christmas.

The funeral will be held at the home this afternoon at 4 o'clock.

The deceased was sixty-eight years old last November. He is survived by his wife, who was Miss Sallie Bennett of Anson county, and by his three children, Messrs. M. F. and Bennett Blakeney and Mrs. C. D. Meacham. He was a member of the Methodist church and services will be held by Dr. Chreitberg.

Mr. Blakeney came to Monroe about thirty-eight years ago. He went through the army with a company from Chesterfield, his native county, and after the war began life as a merchant, at a point about where Peachland now is. Later he went to Mecklenburg and did business awhile, then moved to Norwood in Stanly county. From there he came to Monroe and conducted a mercantile business for several years, selling out about 1888. He was a most quiet, honest man who attended to his own affairs, and never criticized others for doing the same.

Mr. Blakeney was the son of the late John Blakeney of Chesterfield, who lived to be eighty-five years old and was one of the most prominent citizens of that section. The deceased was about the fourth or fifth in direct line in this county to bear the name of "John," and the name went on back to Ireland whence the family came to this country among the first settlers. He was of the second set of his father's large number of children, and two of these remain, Mr. George Blakeney, a prominent citizen of Paris, Tex., and Mrs. Mary Blakeney, also of Texas. None of the older children are living and of the younger ones only four, Messrs. R. E., P. B. and W. S. Blakeney of Monroe, and Mrs. Sloan of Mecklenburg.

## Paul Gilmore May Eleventh.

Manager Kidd has booked for the eleventh of May one of the best entertainments that Monroe people have had the chance of seeing this season—Gilmore and his fine company. He has never been here before and goes to no town this size without a stated guarantee.

## NEAR BEER MAN INDICTED.

**Charged on Two Counts of Permitting Minors to Enter His Place. Asks for Jury Trial and Juries are Drawn and Summoned and Dates Set for Trial—Other Cases in Recorder's Court.**

Mr. G. S. Fort, late of Anson county, proprietor of the near beer saloon in Monroe, was arrested by Chief of Police Laney last Saturday evening on a charge of allowing minors to enter his place of business. He gave a cash bond of \$150 to appear in the Recorder's court for trial Monday morning. There are two warrants. One charge relates to Mark Blakeney, son of John Blakeney, colored, and the other to another minor in the person of Allman Davis, colored. A town ordinance makes it a misdemeanor with a fine of fifty dollars for the keeper of a near beer saloon to allow a person under twenty-one years of age to enter a near beer saloon. It also says that the minor so entering shall also be fined twenty-five dollars.

When the cases were called Monday Fort was on hand with his counsel, Mr. Frank Armfield, and the prosecution was represented by Williams, Lemmond & Love and Redwine & Sikes, and Allman Davis, one of the boys claimed to be under age and indicted for going in the place, was represented by Mr. H. B. Adams, Jr. Mr. Armfield asked for a jury trial in both the cases against Fort, and jurors for each case were drawn, or rather twelve men for each case from which a jury of six must be selected to try the case. One case was set for Wednesday morning at ten o'clock, and the other for next Monday at ten o'clock. The case against Davis, who was working as a porter in the saloon, was set for next Monday. When Davis was arrested he had nearly three quarts of whiskey on his person.

The trial will attract a big crowd. Yesterday morning when the cases were called a number of the leading men of the town were present. There were so many prominent church people of different denominations that some one remarked that it looked like there was a union meeting in the court house.

Other cases tried by the Recorder since last Tuesday were:

Hattie Morris, assault and battery; 20 days in jail.

Lizzie Wiggins, assault and battery; 40 days in jail.

Will Smith, larceny; 4 months.

Y. M. D. Morgan, allowing stock to run at large; costs.

Doss Haywood, assault and battery; \$15 and costs. Doss explained that there had been a little "family row" in which he had used the strap on his wife and step-daughter.

Bud Poor, disorderly conduct; \$4 and costs.

## The End of a Lewd Picture Fiend.

New York Dispatch, 22nd.

Albert Walter, a degenerate youth of 19 years, who gloated over lewd pictures and was crazy about women, must die in the electric chair for the murder of Ruth Wheeler, a pretty 15-year-old stenographer. After only one hour and fifty minutes of deliberation a jury in the court of special sessions found him guilty of murder in the first degree at 10.30 o'clock tonight, bringing to a close a trial marred by its swift movement and its testimony of horror.

The boy's counsel said with eloquence this afternoon that Walter was too tender-hearted to harm a cat but twelve men decided tonight that he had strangled Ruth Wheeler and thrust her while yet alive in his fireplace, soaked with oil, her crumpled body writhed and burned. With the same wax-faced indifference that he had shown throughout the trial Walter evinced no emotion when the verdict was announced. With almost inhuman complacency he has been asleep in his cell—and sleeping soundly—while the jury was deliberating on his fate. This was made known by a court attendant who said that he had to rouse the prisoner to bring him into court. He will be sentenced on Wednesday.

## Death of Mr. J. T. Griffin.

Mr. J. T. Griffin died of pneumonia, near Indian Trail, on the 20th. He lived near Oak Grove. He was 38 years old and a good man. Funeral was conducted at Oak Grove by Rev. J. H. Bradley and the body was buried by Houston Camp, Woodmen of the World, of which he was a member. Houston Camp appointed a special committee, consisting of P. O. Whitaker, J. E. Little, W. R. McCorkle to draw suitable resolutions of regret at the death of Mr. Griffin.