

THE MONROE JOURNAL

PUBLISHED TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS

VOL. 23. No. 66.

MONROE, N. C., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1917.

\$1.50 PER YEAR CASH.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAS COMPLETED ITS FIRST YEAR

In Review of Work Secretary Scott States Hotel, Street Work, and Hospital Came as Result of His Organization.

The Chamber of Commerce has rounded out its first year of existence. As the officers are elected annually, a meeting will be held Friday night at 8 o'clock in the Chamber headquarters for the purpose of electing a new crew. The present officers, who have lead the movement for better streets, a new hotel, and the hospital, are: T. P. Dillon, President; E. C. Carpenter, Vice-President; M. K. Lee, Treasurer; W. B. Love, A. M. Seerest, W. S. Blakeney, and R. A. Morrow, Directors.

In a lengthy review of the work accomplished by the Chamber of Commerce during the year, Secretary Scott states that the first thing secured for Monroe was a \$100,000 hotel. Next came better streets, followed by the hospital.

Secretary Scott will mail to each member a printed list of those who have been suggested for directors for the coming year with the request that they vote for six whom they believe the best qualified for the office. There will also be a blank space at the bottom of the ballot, and a member is at liberty to add the names of any candidate for director, but in no instance should there be more than six names listed on the ballot. A ballot box will be placed in the office of Mr. Scott and ballots can be deposited there on Thursday between the hours of 9 a. m. and 6 p. m.

REVIEW OF THE WORK

Secretary Scott's history of the Chamber of Commerce, and its accomplishments, follows:

"In June, 1916, several of the most progressive citizens of Monroe, men who had the interest and welfare of the city at heart, and who wanted to see the city grow and prosper, got together and organized the present Chamber of Commerce. After these gentlemen secured as much money as possible to maintain the Chamber they secured the services of Mr. Horace Smith of Richmond, Va., a professional organizer to assist them in securing additional pledges for the support of the Chamber, and through the efforts of the committee and Mr. Smith, enough money was pledged to start the Chamber, although there was not enough funds raised to put the Chamber on a high working plane like those in other of our sister cities in the State, for to run a Chamber of Commerce in a progressive city like Monroe it should have considerable more income than we have at the present time. While it is true practically every citizen has given the Chamber their moral support, very few have given it the financial support that it deserves, and but for the generosity of some of the larger merchants the Chamber could not have lived and accomplished what it has. Again a number of the subscribers have failed to pay the dues pledged. This is to be regretted as the year's work was mapped out on the promised income and everyone who has not lived up to their promise has held the Chamber back just that far.

"The Chamber's actual existence began September 1st, 1916, with a membership of 176, at which time the present secretary opened offices in the rooms of the Jackson Club, where offices were maintained until January 1st, when they were moved to their present location on the ground floor back of the Farmers & Merchants Bank. The officers and directors were: T. P. Dillon, president; E. C. Carpenter vice-president; M. K. Lee, treasurer; H. Y. Scott, secretary, and Messrs. W. B. Love, W. S. Blakeney, J. C. Sikes and R. A. Morrow, directors.

DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY

"The duties of a secretary of a Chamber of Commerce are about as varied as in any line of endeavor. He is called upon to do a little of everything; quite a good deal that the members and public in general never hear of, but his principal duties are to boost the city and use every method at his command to make the city more progressive, a better place to live in, and try to get new citizens; and that the Chamber has been a success along this line is borne out by the fact that the present is the only time in the history of Monroe that there was not a vacant house. This is conclusive proof that Monroe is growing. The Chamber regrets exceedingly that there are practically no new houses being erected as several families desire to locate in Monroe, and would do so at once if nice comfortable houses could be secured for them. It is only a question of time before some new homes will have to be built, and the Chamber earnestly requests that those who have in mind the erection of houses to start at once. Everyone realizes that material and labor are high, but there is no indication that there will be relief along that line for some time to come. Monroe is also large enough to make an apartment house a paying proposition, and the Chamber will immediately endeavor to have one erected.

THE NEW HOTEL

"The Chamber asks the question, Who in Monroe this time last year could have been made to believe that in a year a modern \$100,000 hotel would be in actual course of construction? This was one of the first things that the Chamber started out to secure and after several public meetings of the members and the directors of the Houston-Ready Company, the officers of that company advised that they had decided to erect a hotel

that would be a monument to the city and fill a long felt want.

STREET IMPROVEMENT

"The next thing the Chamber started out after was better streets, and all one has to do now is to take a walk over the principle business and residential parts of the city and he will find as fine sheet asphalt streets as can be built. There was a great deal of opposition to the street work at first, but the property owners now see the advantages of it, and if the city can secure additional funds the good work will be kept up. There will also be installed on the principal business streets a white way which will naturally add considerably to the beauty of the city, and impress the stranger who comes to our city.

WATER SUPPLY

"One of the principal drawbacks in Monroe is the inadequate water supply. The quality of the water is the very best but the quantity is sadly lacking. The Chamber has gone into the matter thoroughly, but is of the opinion that same cannot be remedied until after the war is over. Steps then will be taken to give the city the necessary water supply. The scarcity of water is beyond doubt the principal reason that Monroe is unable to secure additional manufacturing plants. The secretary has been asked by several firms that had in mind locating in the south if we had an abundance of water, and when informed to the contrary they looked for a location elsewhere.

LADIES' REST ROOM

The Chamber has opened in the court house a ladies' rest room for the use and benefit of the ladies of the county who come to the city to shop. This room is neatly and conveniently furnished, and is in charge of a competent maid whose sole duty is to assist the ladies in every way. That the ladies from the county appreciate this is shown by the fact that since this room opened in January approximately 1,000 of them have taken advantage of it, and its popularity is growing daily.

FOOD CROPS CAMPAIGN

"One of the most important functions performed by the Chamber this year was the campaign inaugurated by them to impress upon the farmers of Union county the absolute necessity of raising more food crops on account of the scarcity due to war conditions. The Chamber had printed and posted over the county large posters impressing upon the farmers the importance of raising more corn, wheat, Irish potatoes and other food crops, and that this campaign was a success is borne out by the U. S. Department of Agriculture as they have advised the secretary that Union county will produce approximately 25 per cent more food crop this year than last. The Secretary has also been advised by the various merchants who sell seed and farming implements that this year was their banner year in the amount of goods sold.

GIRLS CANNING CLUB

"The secretary appealed to the board of county commissioners for an appropriation for \$300 to meet an equal amount that the state would give to support the Girls Canning Club, but the commissioners could only see their way clear to appropriate \$100, and the secretary was forced to raise \$100 by private subscriptions, and the Chamber gave the other \$200 so that a fund of \$600 would be available. The Canning Club is in charge of a very competent demonstrator, and has done good work, but \$600 is not sufficient to keep this important work up next year, and every effort will be made to impress upon the commissioners the importance of appropriating \$500 so that there will be \$1,000 on hand to carry on this work. Other counties in the state give more than that amount and Union county must not fall back for this work is of the utmost importance to the county.

GOOD ROADS

"The Chamber has advocated good roads for Union county from the very start of its existence, and its work is beginning to bear fruit. The secretary and other members of the Chamber have been before the county and road commissioners on numerous occasions and secured their help and support on matters that were of great help to the county and city. By far the most important step ever taken by the road commissioners was at the suggestion of the Chamber of Commerce. The secretary, and several active members of the Chamber, prevailed upon the board to apply to the Federal Government through the State Highway Commission for aid to the extent of \$5,000. To this Monroe township will add an equal amount and a modern highway will be built in the near future from Wingate to the Vance township line. It is indeed a pleasure to state that Monroe township has a board of road commissioners that are far above the average and who can be depended on to give the township as good roads as is possible. In fact they have ordered a steam scrape and drag of the latest model to help them in their work.

"The secretary has, after much hard work secured the aid of the road commissioners of Vance township and they have also applied for \$1,000 Federal Aid money to be used in making a permanent sand gravel road in the township on the Wilmington-Charlotte Highway. As that money will not be available for several months the road commissioners of Vance township agreed to work at once twenty-four men on that road for six days, provided the people of Monroe would raise \$150 and send the chain gang to assist them for two

days. There was no trouble in securing the money from the people of Monroe, and the road has been temporarily repaired until the Federal Aid money is secured.

"The government will only assist the first year on establishing highways, but Monroe township has the privilege of securing Federal aid for the next five years and next year a permanent road to Waxhaw will be built, and each succeeding year other roads, especially ones leading into South Carolina. The Chamber of Commerce sees the advantages of good roads and will use every effort to keep the good work up.

S. A. L. UNDERPASSES

"The Chamber has also appeared before the county commissioners and secured their promise to move, if necessary, the bridge over Bear Skin Creek between the two Seaboard underpasses on their line further down on the way south, and the city council has agreed to ascertain what the cost to the city will be to straighten out the road that goes under the railroad tracks so that the present dangerous driveway will be eliminated. After this work is completed there will be a straight driveway from the first underpass to the top of Benton Hill and not a dangerous curve as is now the case.

THE HOSPITAL

"The Chamber now states with a great deal of pleasure that the hospital is now an assured fact, and that actual construction will begin in the very near future. The Chamber, in connection with the directors of the hospital board, set aside June 18, 1917 as Hospital Day and started out to raise \$10,000. The various committees met in the Methodist church at 9 o'clock and started out, and by sundown the goal was reached. This was by far the biggest campaign ever pulled off in Monroe and shows what a determined bunch of workers can do if each and every one pulls together.

WAR CONDITIONS A DRAWBACK

"One of the greatest drawbacks that the Chamber has to contend with at the present time is the fact that the country is at war. We have advertised and used every effort to secure additional manufacturing plants, but it seems as if the people with capital who had in mind entering into manufacturing business were scared off on account of the war, and the present high cost of materials; but we are not in the least dismayed and intend to keep on working until Monroe has its share of manufacturing plants, and the day is coming when Monroe will be a large manufacturing center. All it takes is time and push.

FUND FOR ADVERTISING

"The Chamber regrets the fact that their income is not large enough to advertise the city and Union county as it should be. Money spent for advertising purpose is money well spent, and in our opinion the city council would be making a move in the right direction if they would make an annual appropriation to the Chamber. This is done in practically every city and has been found to be a success. This Chamber should spend at least \$500 per annum in good advertising, and it is only a question of time before it will have to do so if it expects to keep pace with the other cities and counties in this state.

PASSENGER DEPOT

"The Chamber realizing that the present passenger depot is a disgrace to a growing city like Monroe, is working hard to secure the desired improvements. This naturally is slow work for the railroads are not prone to spend money. The Chamber has succeeded in getting the Seaboard Air Line to extend the asphalt work on Main Street to their tracks, and have their promise to make additional improvements in the very near future. The railroad agrees with us that the improvements are needed but ask for a little more time on account of war conditions and the Chamber feels sure that it is only a question of time before Monroe will have modern facilities at the depot.

FARMERS HEADQUARTERS

"The offices of the Chamber is now the recognized headquarters of the farmers of the county. The county demonstrator has his office there and the farmers are continually coming in for information, bulletins and various other matters, and we try in every way to show them that we are their friends and that they are welcome. In fact, we try to live up to the old saying 'That the future of the city lies in the county.' We need the co-operation of our country friends and leave no stone unturned to help them out. The secretary has been appointed County Secretary by the United States Department of Agriculture without remuneration to assist the government in securing reliable data in regards to the food crops and in that position sends out hundreds of blank forms and other literature. Monroe, as everyone knows, is a growing city and there are a great many needed improvements that should be made, but we ask the knockers to stop knocking for a while and help the Chamber work out in a business like manner the things that Monroe needs. 'Don't knock your city, it's a good town, and it's your home.'

NO APOLOGIES TO MAKE

"Considering all things the Chamber has no apologies to make for the work it has accomplished in the first year of its existence. It is an undisputable fact that this has been the banner year in the history of the city, and it is now one of the best advertised cities in North Carolina, and we doubt seriously if any place in the South has made as many for-

GREENSBORO PREACHER CONFESSES TO DUAL LIFE

Rev. J. H. Bennett, Well-Known Methodist Clergyman Is Suspended Following Astonishing Revelations Made of Immoral Practices.

Rev. J. H. Bennett, for two years pastor of the Greensboro Centenary Methodist Episcopal church, was suspended from his pastorate Sunday pending investigation of charges of immorality against him, says yesterday's Greensboro News. He has confessed his guilt of the charges, which were whispered for some time, his stewards hearing in its entirety the tragic and sordid story of his dual life. The presiding elder, Rev. J. H. Barnhardt, yesterday morning made the formal announcement to the people of the suspension of the pastor. The deposed leader departed Saturday night for Salisbury, leaving the city because of the breaking of the storm which was forecast.

One of the most dramatic moments in the life of the church occurred when Dr. Barnhardt broached the subject which lay on the consciousness of all. There was absolute silence in the crowded church. Dr. Barnhardt's reference to the misdemeanors of the pastor was not lengthy. He did not go into details, but the story had spread and everybody knew. The presiding elder said Mr. Bennett had been suspended pending an investigation of the charges of immorality. He continued with a view to clearing up and doubt, to say that he understood Mr. Bennett had confessed to his officers and that there was no reasonable doubt of his guilt. It was recognized that the investigation Dr. Barnhardt referred to could be only a matter of form.

"I would rather have buried him," said Dr. Barnhardt, his tense voice the only sound in the large auditorium.

The presiding elder extended his sympathy to the betrayed congregation and admonished the people how to act in the calamity.

The charges were like a bolt from a clear sky to the people of his church and of the city generally, where he had been highly esteemed. It is alleged that Mr. Bennett was discovered by policemen in a house of ill-repute in the southern part of town, and under circumstances which left him no recourse but admission of the truth of the situation. This occurred about a fortnight ago. A police report was made of the incident, and the minister was not summoned to the city court for trial under the Guilford county morals act, which is said to be broad enough to justify charges against him. He was instructed by the men who discovered him to appear the following day to take the matter up with the chief of police, and he obeyed these instructions.

Although a certain amount of secrecy was maintained by persons in position to know of the case, the rumors were circulated and reached the ears of one of the officers of the church. The stewards' action followed, although the control of the pastor of the church lies in the hands of the presiding elder, his superior officer. It was agreed that Mr. Bennett must discontinue his duties.

Saturday night Mr. Bennett was asked by a reporter if he had admitted his guilt of the charges of his stewards. He evaded the question for a few moments, and was asked flatly if he was guilty as charged, and after a pause he declared the stories circulated were false. "I have to go by places where immoral people live in my ministry," he said, "and the circumstances might have been suspicious." He was asked if it was true that officers caught him in the home of a negro woman named Dick, and he said he had no recollection of such an incident; and, declaring he would not be led into saying something he ought not say, he ended the interview. He admitted this to his officers.

ward strides during the past year as Monroe. The Chamber does not for one minute take the credit for all the good work done during the past year, but it does claim that the 'Chamber of Commerce spirit' has gone a long way to help things along, and if its income was not so limited it could do a good deal more.

"The Chamber wishes to express its full appreciation for the wholehearted way in which the local papers have co-operated with us. The editors are always willing to go the limit in helping the undertakings of the Chamber that are for the interest of the town and county.

"In conclusion, the Chamber wishes to thank each and every member for the help given, financially as well as morally. But to be frank, the Chamber is sadly in need of money to carry on its work. If you are already a member try and increase your dues, and also ask your friends to become a member. The Chamber of Commerce is making Monroe a better and cleaner place to live in. It is making it a more attractive and profitable place to do business in, its membership brings you in touch with hundreds of progressive and broad minded men, and you owe it to Monroe as a public duty to contribute to its development. A membership in the Chamber of Commerce means a share in the largest and most active agency for the advancement of the city's civic and material growth and spirit. If you are not a member notify the secretary or any member that you want to join today. You'll then have a reason to be proud of yourself.—The Monroe Chamber of Commerce, T. P. Dillon, President; H. Y. Scott, Secretary.

SEVEN MONROE MEN HAVE BEEN ALLOWED EXEMPTION

D. Carl Griffin, Who Failed to Pass Physical Examination at Camp Jackson, Talks Interestingly of the Union County Boys.

Mr. D. Carl Griffin, son of Esq. E. J. Griffin of Unionville, who was among the 116 men from this county who left last Wednesday for Camp Jackson, arrived home last night from Columbia after having been honorably discharged from the military service owing to slight physical disability. He had claimed no exemption, and was ready to go to France at the War Department's command.

The following men, according to Mr. Griffin, have been exempted by the District board: Messrs. Roy Blair, Walter Lindsey, Hayne Johnson, Eustace Collins, Grady Nash, Frank Fairley, Frank Nassiff, all of Monroe, and John Fred Stegall, who lives on route 3.

Mr. Blair, said Mr. Griffin, has been allowed exemption only until December 1. He is an engineer on the Seaboard, and the temporary exemption is probably allowed until the case of all engineers have been disposed of. Mr. Lindsey, who is also an engineer, has been exempted permanently, he having failed to measure up to the physical requirements. Mr. Nash has been allowed a permanent exemption for physical and dependency reasons, while Mr. Fairley has been exempted to the first of the year. Mr. Johnson has been allowed permanent exemption, and so has Mr. Nassiff. Mr. Stegall has been exempted until the first of the year in order that he may gather his crop.

The above statements are not official. Mr. Griffin gave them to The Journal from memory, and it is possible, as he admitted, that he might be in error about some of the men. There may possibly be others who have received exemption, but no one here has received an authentic list.

The Union county men arrived at Camp Jackson at 9:30 Wednesday night. The trip to Columbia was without incident. The men passed away the time between here and the South Carolina capitol by singing "Home Sweet Home," and "Nearer My God to Thee," at the stations, bringing tears to the eyes of the many ladies who met the train. These songs, however, did not express the real feelings of the men. They were in good spirits all along the route, and they sang the two well known songs simply for the affect they had on the people who gathered around the train at each stop.

On their arrival at Columbia, said Mr. Griffin, they were met by the fifteen Union county men who left for Camp Jackson Sept. 5. Mr. Hamp Price, who was among the first to leave, is in the military police service. Mr. Joel Collins, who was also in the first contingent, started a barber shop Monday, and is doing well. Several of the others in the first bunch have been made sergeants and corporals, Mr. Griffin stated.

The 116 men were assigned to the 317th Field Artillery, 156th Brigade. There were about 20 men from Union county in each barrack, six in all. They were aroused at 5:45 Thursday morning, marched up for reveille at 6 o'clock, and at 6:15 taken to breakfast. After completing their first meal, the men were set washing dishes, and later sent to the barracks to clean up. Later in the day they were given the physical examination, which was followed by vaccination for both typhoid and smallpox. The men, said Mr. Griffin, were sick following the double dose of vaccination and none were able to lie on their right side that night.

Uniforms have not yet been handed out to the Union county men. Their measurements were taken yesterday, but it will probably be a week or more before the boys are attired in khaki uniforms.

It may be a week or more before the men who have been exempted arrive home. There is so much red tape connected with the release of the men which will cause delay, said Mr. Griffin. Those who have been exempted for physical reasons, however, are at liberty to come home immediately.

The boys are not having a picnic by any means, the Union county man said, but they are in good spirits. Sunday was a blue day for most of them, as there was nothing to occupy their time. They just lay around camp all day long.

EVERY "PACIFIST" SPEECH IN EFFECT TRAITOROUS

Declaration of Secretary McAdoo in Address to West Virginia Bankers' Association.

White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., Sept. 21.—America has entered the war against Germany so that "freedom and democracy shall be made supreme throughout the world." Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo said in an address here tonight to the West Virginia Bankers' association. He attacked the pacifists, declaring that every pacifist speech in the country is in effect traitorous, and announced that the government intends that they shall be silenced.

Referring to pacifists' attempts to bring about peace during the civil war, Secretary McAdoo said that had they been successful America would have been a divided nation which could not have presented itself as a solid and united people "as the only remaining bulwark against the victorious march of militarism in the world."

Wise is the man who declines to take his troubles too seriously.

STATE CONCLUDES CASE AT MEANS' PRELIMINARY HEARING

At First Day of Sensational Murder Case, Experts Testified That Woman Couldn't Have Killed Herself As Described.

Concord, Sept. 24.—The state concluded its case at the preliminary hearing here today of Gaston R. Means, on a warrant charging him with the murder of Mrs. Maude A. King, without giving any hint of a possible motive. It confined itself to an effort to show "probable cause" which would be sufficient to bind Means over to the grand jury.

An adjournment until tomorrow was taken immediately after the state finished presenting witnesses, the defense requesting time to confer before announcing what steps it would take.

Among the witnesses who testified for the prosecution today were two experts who declared that in their opinion it would have been a physical impossibility for Mrs. King to have shot herself in the manner in which she received her fatal wound near here early in the evening of August 29, last. Means, who was the business agent of the wealthy widow, was with her at target practice at Blackwelder springs when the shooting occurred and he told a coroner's jury that she shot herself accidentally.

The hearing was held before Magistrate C. A. Pitts, counsel for Means declining to have him examined before Magistrate A. B. Palmer.

NEGRO THREATENED BY MOB TAKEN TO RALEIGH

Charged With Attack on White Girl at Dunn—Crowd at Town Prison Held at Bay By Officers With Guns—Men Followed Car.

Dunn, Sept. 22.—Rufe Cagle, negro, twenty-six years old, was arrested at Linden charged with attempted criminal assault on Miss Adelaide Jeffreys here last night and has been carried by auto to the penitentiary at Raleigh. The negro was arrested late this afternoon after being tracked through the swamps near Linden by the aid of bloodhounds, and brought here.

A mob intent upon lynching was in process of formation when Sheriff Turlington and Chief of Police Bass decided to carry him away. A part of the mob had already formed at the doors of the town prison when a strong force of officers arrived with a high powered car. Forming a line they drew revolvers and unlocked the doors, holding the mob at bay. In a few seconds they had the prisoner aboard and underway. Members of the mob yelled "Shoot him boys," and a fusillade of bullets followed the speeding car, but no one was hit.

Several auto loads of infuriated men followed the car with the prisoner but it is not thought here that any overtook it. It is certain that the negro would have been lynched had darkness found him in the Dunn prison. Two brothers of Cagle were released when proof of their innocence was assured. Cagle prayed incessantly from the time he was put in prison until he was taken away.

COTTON BEGINNING TO MOVE

Many Sales Have Been Made on Local Market in Past Few Days.

Cotton is quoted today on the local market at 24 cents. The price may not have been much encouragement to the farmers to sell, but the crop has commenced moving. Several bales have been sold today, while small lots have been drifting in for the past week. On this date one year ago local dealers were paying 15.85. Seed today is quoted at 90 cents.

Some of the recent sales were: J. E. Richardson, weight, 436; price, 24 1-4; total, \$105.69. C. W. Griffin, weight, 453; price 24 1-8; total, \$109.25. H. F. McRae, weight, 498; price, 24 1-4; total, \$119.98. H. M. Furr, weight, 462; price, 23 1-2; total \$108.53. Carl Fincher, weight, 353; price, 23 1-8; total, \$81.59. G. L. Gordon, weight, 431; price, 22 1-2; total, \$96.93. E. C. Griffin, weight, 470; price, 22.25; total, \$104.58. H. B. Rollins, weight, 436; price, 21.10; total, \$91.96. T. L. Brown, two bales, weight, 520 and 476; price 20 1-8; total \$206.15.

J. M. Polk, weight 523; price, 24 1-4; total, \$111.10. Alex Hicks, two bales, weight, 449 and 529; price, 23; total, \$224.94. H. L. Price, weight, 476; price, 23.85; total, \$113.49. J. E. Freeman, weight, 423; price, 24 1-4; total, \$102.88. J. R. Parker, weight 478; price, 24 1-4; total, \$115.91. G. C. Pressley, weight, 476; price 24 1-4; total, \$115.43. S. R. Mcmanus, weight, 492; price, 24 1-4; total, \$119.27. D. W. Jordon, weight, 427; price, 24 1-4; total, \$103.55.

Ten Charges Sustained Against Gov. Ferguson.

Austin, Tex., Sept. 22.—The senate high court of impeachment, trying Governor James E. Ferguson late today sustained 10 of the 21 charges brought against him. Senator Bailey of DeWitt sent up a resolution that on Tuesday, September 25, at high noon, the senate formally pronounce judgment on the governor. He moved that the resolution reported to the senate be laid on the table until called up. Recess was then taken until Monday.