

# THE MONROE JOURNAL

PUBLISHED TWICE EACH WEEK — TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

VOL. 25. No. 56.

MONROE, N. C., TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 1919.

\$1.50 PER YEAR CASH.

## THE NEWSPAPER AND THE TASK OF RECONSTRUCTION

Address Before the North Carolina Press Association at Wrightsville Beach by Roland F. Beasley, State Commissioner of Public Welfare.

Five weeks before the world butchers gaily summoned the nations to the shambles in 1914, I spoke on this very spot and to the same audience on the "Tyranny of the Status Quo." It was stated that great changes, like physical forces, gather, in ever increasing momentum as they move. The war has amply illustrated the truth of this statement. The short and merry war that was to extend the power of a brutal dynasty by the quick subjugation of neighbor peoples resulted in a world revolution which wiped that dynasty off the slate, annihilated the most powerful military machine the world has ever seen and in five years by successive stages changed the world's thought more profoundly than in any other five hundred years before.

Until the covenant of the League of Nations was signed, mankind had recognized only war as the final arbiter of disagreements, and throughout all recorded history, no other assembly of nations ever made a bona fide effort to substitute the councils of peace and justice for war for the government of the entire world. The world war, huge and disastrous as it was, may not have been too big a price to pay for this result. Yet it would not have been accomplished and the stage not properly set. That setting was the background of common sense and humanitarian instincts which had begun to reckon war as out of date, but from whose world-wide clutch no one saw any way of escape. Despicable as the German leaders showed themselves to be, may be they served the purpose of Providence in that they unconsciously gambled the whole hideous machine of military despotism against the conscience and intelligence of mankind, and lost their cast forever.

At last all peoples have been liberated. But peace and liberty, temporarily gained, can be retained only as realized and desired in the hearts of men. Europe must pass through a period of physical reconstruction. In America no such task awaits. Ours is not a task of reconstruction because we have suffered no material destruction. Ours is a spiritual and mental task. Of goods and wealth in all its forms we have sufficient for our needs and to spare, not only for the present, but of unmeasured quantity for the future.

## THE TASK OF ADJUSTMENT

The world is in a state of flux. America is the calmest of the nations, and we are far from calm. There is an indefinable restlessness. Public opinion is in a state of solution on every question and none can guess what any precipitation will be. I see no evidence of wide-spread malignancy. Most of our impulses are ninety-nine per cent good. We are groping, feeling, changing. Aside from the small per cent of selfish and malignant people, stirring, Americans are actuated by the most generous, the most humane, the most righteous impulses. What we need is good thinking, honest discussion, mutual tolerance, respect, kindness, and above all, self-restraint. New problems are in the air, and many conceptions long held infallible are following the way of all flesh. We are in the stage of newly adjusting human relationships. Of this there can be no evasion. The outcome will be happy in proportion to our desire to make it happy and our willingness to meet every situation fairly and candidly.

The preaching of this fact is the most important task of the press. The free press has always stood for liberty in the old acceptance of the term. It must now stand for a new liberty.

## THE FREEDOM FROM SELF.

No individual and no group can achieve liberty except by practicing liberty. Chattel slaves have nearly always acquiesced in their own slavery, and the man who is in some form of self-slavery usually boasts of his shackles. It is a peculiarity of psychology that a man should cherish his shortcomings. I have been speaking with pen or tongue to brother editors for twenty-five years, and I have never spoken nor written words that I intended to be more optimistic, more cheerful, more sure, than those of today. But there are dangers we should see and shoals which we must pass. America holds the future in the hollow of her hand, but she can take no gambler's chance. Safety lies in the self-discipline, the moderation, the honesty of purpose of the average man. It lies in the perfect freedom of the law, and the liberation of the spirit from shackles of class and clan and selfishness. Spiritual slavishness is a poor substitute for physical slavery. Surface undulations are easily detected. It is the duty of the press to see beneath and beyond them.

## UNDERSTANDING & INTERPRETATION.

Therefore, the first effort of the editor should be to properly understand and interpret the fundamental spirit of the time and to seek to give his readers a perspective from which they and he may consider and place the many questions of detail which constantly come up for consideration. No editor has the right to be asleep. However small or large his field, his

place is one of leadership, guidance and inspiration. He must throw himself into the spirit of the times and be its living exemplar. He has been from ancient times the guardian of the people's rights. He must become the guardian of their duties and their opportunities. At no time previous has the impulse for service been so great as it is today. He must keep alive the spirit of public service and apply it to the complex questions of community life. He can not do this by nagging, by brawling, by sneering, by belittling, by fawning. It must be done by counsel, by correct interpretation, by friendly discussion, by keeping always in view the fact that with the few exceptions of the vicious and the selfish, men go wrong more from ignorance and lack of understanding than from purpose. Theology has given way to ethics and every-day religion, and worthy leaders have never had so fine a field as today. The everlasting bedrock for human relationship is the principle of the golden rule, and never before has the chance for its realization been so open. Freedom is still the issue. But it is freedom from littleness, from a slavish attitude of mind that takes snap judgement and obstructs the better way. The editor, like nations, can influence the world for long only through his spiritual and mental forces.

## PROSPERITY AND PERMANENCY.

In spite of the drain of war, this country is more prosperous than ever. Our barns are full. Yet if we think only of tearing them down and building larger, our souls will be required of us no less surely than was that of the misguided man of scripture. The soul can not take its rest in a gross materiality. It is not the things we have nor their abundance which will give permanency and peace and happiness, but the use that is made of them. It is no longer a question of material prosperity with us. It is henceforth a question of the relation of men to those things and to one another. No man can separate himself from the community in which he lives. He ascends with it the scale of happiness, and it rises in proportion to the opportunity it provides for all to rise with it. This truth is evident, unmistakable. The man who manipulates a crooked deal is coming to be regarded on the level with him who jimmies a safe. Private and public initiative everywhere is concerned with service with making better communities, and consequently a better world.

None but fools discount material prosperity, and none but fools think this the end and aim of life. It is but a means and instrument of achieving life. We can not change high thinking and simple living into high living and cheap thinking and long get away with it. But we can use high thinking to direct and control good living, and thereby achieve the good of both. I plead not for austerity but for the right use of our abundance. Justice, opportunity, and service are the watchwords of the hour. Self-restraint, friendly intercourse, and mutual tolerance in the conflict of classes, are the instruments that must take place everywhere.

## ONE DANGER THREATENS.

Instability, unsond thinking, the general restlessness and unsettled state of public opinion, combined with the marked and meritorious impulse for better things, makes the warring against vicious propaganda timely. There is now a struggle for the control of public opinion. We have seen whole nations cowed by organized propaganda. This is a time when the complete freedom of the press is essential. And mere freedom is not sufficient. The press must be free only, but enlightened and devoted to the true welfare of the people as never before. Slandering and organized propaganda have entrenched themselves upon the leadership of the press. Beware of it and utilize carefully every effort that is made upon the public. It is easier than ever before to buy public opinion in the sense that the public mind can be reached and turned more completely in unsuspected ways. The public mind can be lashed into a frenzy quickly. Right now there is a dangerous effort to suppress freedom of opinion and expression. It is not the few anarchists and Bolsheviks in the country that are dangerous, but the men who would make them a pretext to stifle progress and sober thinking. Beware of frenzy and manufactured opinion. If men are to be free, it must be because they know what freedom is, because they are capable of self-control and discipline, and not because a few fanatics may be imprisoned or some anarchist drawn and quartered. The better world we hope for must be won by acting justly as well as by demanding justice. The world that would break the speed limit is not the spirit most needed now.

## RIGHT DOWN HOME.

Most of the men here assembled belong to that division usually called the country press. It is one to which many of us have belonged with pride and to which some of us cling from choice. The locality is your field. To those who are hungry for service a veritable feast is spread before you in your own community and among those whom you touch in friendly intercourse. None but the live and sensible editor has so great a field. Let me summon you to the highest realization of usefulness in interpreting the spirit of things in a small way. If you are narrow and partisan and inconsiderate, your opportunity is gone. Nor do you need to be a dollar-a-day man any more, for energy and wisdom and enterprise will

## TED SULLIVAN, FAMOUS BASEBALL MAN, VISITS MONROE

Was Guest of Mr. Wade Blakeney, Son of Mr. P. B. Blakeney—Sullivan's Mother Was a Blakeney.

Ted Sullivan, half owner of the Chicago White Sox, and the grand old man of the great American pastime, spent Saturday and Sunday here as the guest of Mr. Wade Blakeney, son of Mr. P. B. Blakeney. In the winter of last year Mr. Blakeney met Sullivan while attending A. & E. College at West Raleigh. The Union county boy had come out second best in a 100 yard dash participated in by boys from all parts of the state. Sullivan, who was then visiting the various camps and colleges over the country delivering lectures, was present when the names of the winners in the event were read. His attention was caught by the fact that the name of the contestant who had come out second in the race was Blakeney. The baseball magnate's mother was a Blakeney, and so he sought out the Union county lad by that name and introduced himself. A warm friendship developed, and Sullivan promised to visit Mr. Blakeney at his home some time.

Saturday he arrived to make good his promise, stopping off while en route to his home at Elizabeth City from New Orleans. While here Sullivan learned that his mother was of the same family as his young friend. He left Sunday afternoon for his plantation near Elizabeth City.

While here the general base ball gent talked of his plans to carry the New York Giants and Chicago White Sox to South America at the close of this season for a series of exhibition games in the big cities of that continent. He had planned this for 1917 but the entry of the United States into the war prevented it. He is very optimistic over the outcome of the venture.

The Charlotte Observer said of Sullivan in a recent issue:

There is not a figure in connection with organized baseball that has attracted as much attention as has Sullivan. He began his career in 1891 as manager of the old St. Louis Browns. He started Charles Comiskey, now owner of the Chicago White Sox, in baseball. Sullivan and the present baseball magnate were old college pals.

Sullivan has been honored by great men of many nations, being known the world over as one of the greatest of baseball men. He took the Giants and White Sox on a tour around the world some years ago, bringing glory to the two great teams and himself.

## Press Comments on "The Turn in the Road."

The picture throughout is crowded with big thoughts on the great human question of the day. It pulls the heart-strings.—Los Angeles Record.

A most compelling story, a clever admixture of drama, melodrama and comedy with a cast of exceptional strength and good photography.—Los Angeles Times.

This picture attractively presents a strongly constructed story with a fast theme. King Vidor "strikes home" to the hearts of his audiences by the very simplicity of his drama.—Los Angeles Herald.

A wholesome story touching the passions and virtues of a clean-cut group of people . . . presents problems and offers cheering solutions . . . likely to remain stamped upon the minds of every audience.—Los Angeles Examiner.

Cotton mill workers in Albemarle are on a strike and the mills have suspended work. It is said that the strike is a demand for recognition of the Union.

now bring reward in the local newspaper field. Study your community problems and lead the community. You can't drive it and you can't fool it. Understand the really important movements and questions and apply them to community needs. Use your mind and conscience and the people will reward you with their honor and confidence. Be a thoughtful leader, not a mere windy booster. Have you tried to digest the big things that are on in North Carolina and translate them to your people? Does your paper radiate the suggestion of happiness, of friendliness, of community unity and progress? If not, you are missing your opportunity both of service and profit. The people want to know, want to understand, want to do. Show them. They will pay you for it.

The last legislature responded to the sentiment of the times in five marked lines of legislation. They were for good roads, better schools, tax reform, public health and social welfare. Do you understand and write intelligently on these subjects and properly interpret this legislation? What do you think of the road law, of the honest valuation of property, of the control and eradication of vice diseases, the State-wide privy law, the juvenile court law, the boundless possibilities of the work of the County Superintendent of Public Welfare, of the determination to provide health and care and opportunity for every neglected wayward and dependent child in the State? Back your local welfare agencies, stand behind your Chambers of Commerce, help your school officials. These are your tasks in the readjustment the world is demanding. Lift your banner of service before the people, and please God, you will have played a part second to none in making a new world.

## AVIATORS HELD FOR RANSOM

Two Americans Held by Mexicans for \$15,000 to be Paid by Aug. 18—Otherwise They May Pay the Death Penalty.

Marfa, Texas, Aug. 17.—Letters purporting to be from Lieut. Paul H. Davis and Harold G. Peterson, American army aviators, missing since last Sunday, were received here today at military headquarters. The letters stated the aviators were being held by bandits for \$15,000 ransom somewhere in Mexico and were threatened with death unless the ransom was paid.

An official statement was issued at military headquarters in El Paso Sunday night signed by Brig. Gen. James B. Erwin, district commander, announcing that Maj. L. A. Walton, commander of the aero unit at Fort Bliss, had received a message from the two missing aviators saying they had been captured by Mexicans and were being held for \$15,000 ransom. The ransom must be paid by August 18, according to the message.

Prompt measures were taken by the State Department to obtain the release of the two aviators. The Mexican government was called upon for "immediate adequate action" and the attitude displayed towards this request will have much to do towards determining future relations between Carranza and this government.

There have been several conferences at the war department at which the situation resulting from indications upon American officials were discussed. Secretary Baker refused to divulge the character of the dispatches sent to Mexico, saying "As soon as it is safe to do so, I will issue statement."

The action of the state department was announced in the following statement:

The department's announcement said:

"The department of state has telegraphed instructions to the American embassy at Mexico City to immediately call upon the Mexican government for quick action to affect the release of Lieut. Paul H. Davis and Harold G. Peterson of the United States army air service, captured by Mexican bandits near Candelaria, Texas, while patrolling the border and threatened with death on failure to pay \$15,000 ransom.

"The instructions pointed out the seriousness with which the United States government views this situation and called for immediate adequate action. The department also directed the American counsel at Juarez, Mexico, to take all possible steps with the Mexican authorities there to secure release and protection of the officers.

"The attention of the department was called to the Davis case last night by Representative Barber, of California, and telegraphic instructions were rushed to the embassy and the consulate. The officer's father, Dr. Warren B. Davis, of Strassmore, California, was advised of the steps taken in behalf of his son. The governor of Minnesota telegraphed to the department today regarding the two lieutenants and was advised of the steps which the department had taken. Peterson is son of S. C. Peterson, of Hutchinson, Minnesota.

Only an hour or two after the department issued its statement in the case of the two aviators, it made public dispatches telling of the kidnaping of Dr. A. Goenaga, an American citizen and a native of Porto Rico by Mexican bandits under Valentine Reyes. The dispatches said that Dr. Goenaga was being held for ransom in the vicinity of Mexico City. A letter received by an American from the doctor under date of July 22 said that the rebels threatened to kill him unless a ransom of several thousand pesos was paid by August 15. The department said that it had no further information except that the Mexican foreign office advised the American embassy at Mexico City yesterday that troops had been sent to rescue the American.

Two other attacks on American life and property in Mexico came to light during the day. One was an attack on a truck train of the Alvarado Mining and Milling company in the vicinity of Minniez with slight injury to Leslie M. Webb, an American employee of the company. Last Thursday bandits raided the Texpan refinery of the Penna-Mexico Fuel company, an American corporation, and made away with 25,000 pesos.

Sam G. Peterson, father of Lieut. Harold G. Peterson, who is held for ransom by Mexican bandits, has conferred with state officials. He announced that he has decided to raise the amount of ransom himself and not depend upon others for the safety of his son.

"I appreciate the fact that others have already raised the money required, according to reports," he said, "but I am going to get it myself and be sure that there is no mistake. It is a question of having a required amount of money at a certain time, or my only son will be killed. So I am going to get the money myself and be sure there is no misunderstanding."

Special officer Glenn Young captured eight notorious blockaders and desperadoes in Johnston county last Saturday night. They had defied all laws, not only resisting arrest for desertion, but were engaged in manufacturing blockades whiskey. The eight arrested make a record of 648 dollars captured by Young. He gets them single-handed except for the assistance of a Belgian police dog.

## Recent State News.

While standing on the porch of her father's home at Bridgewater, N. C., Mrs. Katherine Dobson of Morganton was instantly killed when lightning struck the house Saturday afternoon. Her father, Mr. W. B. Branch, was also instantly killed, although a little daughter of Mrs. Dobson standing a few feet away was unharmed.

A flaming meteor fell early Saturday morning at the summer colony at Nass Head, N. C. The glare of the strange object could be seen for several hours and the odor of burning sulphur was noticeable for a long time. It was described as a mass of molten metal about the size of an automobile body. No damage resulted.

It is reported that on Friday afternoon of last week on the road from Laurinburg to Jackson Springs, a horse and two mules were killed by lightning. It is said a negro was riding a horse and just ahead of him two other negroes were driving a team of mules to a log wagon. The sun was shining and there was no cloud near, when lightning killed the horse, the two mules, split up the wagon tongue, but did no serious injury to the negroes more than a severe shock.

Today Gaston county votes on a bond issue of \$500,000 for road improvement.

Secretary Carter Glass will address the State Bankers Association Thursday, the 21st. The Association meets in Greensboro.

The strike of the street car men in Charlotte is apparently no nearer settlement than the day it began, Saturday, the 9th. The car men have rejected proffers made by President Taylor of the Southern Public Utilities Co. and stick to their original demands.

Isaac Crews, a young man from South Boston, Va., was drowned in Loch Lily near Roxboro Sunday afternoon when his boat capsized.

Gipsy Smith, the noted English evangelist, delivered two addresses at Asheville yesterday. The meetings were considered the largest religious ones ever held in Western North Carolina. It was necessary to call in policemen to hold back the crowds.

R. B. Avant, a mill man of Kannapolis, was killed yesterday when crossing a Southern track at Concord.

The city commissioners of Asheville have appointed a "high cost of living" committee, which is headed by Judge T. A. Jones. The committee held three sessions last week and put many of the local retailers on the stand. Results of the inquiries have not yet been disclosed.

President Taylor of the Southern Public Utilities Co. has announced that he expects to have the street cars in Charlotte running by Thursday, and in Winston a few days later. It is not known whether new men will be put on the cars or not.

The "Crawford," first steel ship built at Wilmington, will be launched on Labor day. The program for the day includes addresses by Senators Overman and Simmons and Governor Bickett. The "Cape Fear," Wilmington's first concrete ship, was launched August 2.

## BUCK PRIVATES ORGANIZE

Branches to be Organized in Every State of the Union and a Woman's Auxiliary is Planned—Society Characterized as a "Great Movement for the Heroic Dead."

The Buck Privates' Society organized at Montabaur by members of the First Division, announced recently that headquarters in the United States would be opened in Chicago late in August with Edward M. McGuire, national field representative, in charge. Branches are to be established in every State in the Union, according to present plans, a dispatch from the A. E. F. in Germany says.

Private Paul F. Collins, Battery D, 6th Field Artillery, of Los Angeles, Cal., is president of the society, which has several thousand members. All headquarters of the society in the different States will be known technically as "dugouts." A woman's auxiliary is also planned, which will include in its membership all women who served with the American expeditionary forces, such as welfare workers, telephone operators and nurses.

As its platform the society has adopted these planks: Broader educational work; cleaner politics; compulsory schooling for all the boys under sixteen years of age; to make bigger and better Americans and to interest ourselves in industry, commerce and labor.

The society is characterized as a "great monument for the heroic dead of the A. E. F." and it is planned to make fathers and mothers of men who died in action in France honorary members. One of the duties of members of the society will be to make an annual visit to the homes of soldiers who died on the battlefields of the world war.

## Pat's Red Nose Saved Him.

Pat O'Flaherty, very palpably not a prohibitionist was arrested in Arizona recently charged with selling liquor in violation of the prohibition law. But Pat had an impregnable defense. His counsel, in addressing the jury, said:

"Your Honor, gentlemen of the jury, look at the defendant."

A dramatic pause, then:

"Now, gentlemen of the jury, do you honestly think that if the defendant had a quart of whisky he would sell it?"

The verdict, reached in one minute, was "Not guilty."—The Odd Lot Review.

## MONROE MERCHANTS FALL FOR COOPERATIVE GROCERY SCHEME

The President of the Proposed Business Is Now Held For Embezzlement in Birmingham—Mr. Vann Funderburk Got His Money Back.

Recently a smooth tongued talker called upon the retail grocery merchants of Monroe in an attempt to interest them in a co-operative grocery business, which the visitor said was soon to be opened in Charlotte by a Birmingham company. The oily-tongued one wished to sell stock in the new business to Monroe merchants and it is said that several of them fell for the scheme.

Now word comes that the branch of the business which was to have been located in Charlotte will not be opened on account of the fact that George A. Shaw, president of the Birmingham company, has been placed under arrest charged with embezzlement.

According to information obtained, Mr. Vann Funderburk was one of the Monroe merchants who became interested in the proposed business and subscribed for stock. Later he became suspicious of the proposition and demanded that his money be returned, and calling attention to the fact that a legal investigation would follow if this was not done. A check for the amount he had invested in the company reached Mr. Funderburk in a few days.

According to the Charlotte News of recent date the promoter secured \$17,500 from Charlotte grocers, before an investigation was started. The News said regarding the operations of the promoter in Charlotte:

"The Merchants' Wholesale Company which was promoted as a co-operative grocery enterprise and which was to have opened soon at 25 South College street, will not open now, according to information obtained today, because the president of the company, George A. Shaw of Birmingham, Ala., is under arrest for embezzlement.

"Several weeks ago a representative of a firm which claimed to have a series of co-operative stores in various parts of the South, with headquarters at Birmingham, came here and interested a number of Charlotte grocers, most of them retail men, in the organization of a local company and proceeded to raise the capital stock. Seventeen thousand dollars of a proposed capital stock of \$25,000 was raised, it is said, when one of those who had subscribed \$500 began to be suspicious and began to look into the proposition.

"This man recovered his \$500, but others in Charlotte who have subscribed have not yet recovered their money. They have employed an attorney, however, and it is understood to be their purpose to take any action possible toward recovering the whole amount of their subscriptions.

"A telegram has been received here from the chief of police of Birmingham, saying that Shaw is under arrest, charged with embezzlement."

## GERMANS ATTEND SALES

Huns Purchase Old Material Used by Third Army on Rhine—Doughboy Is Auctioneer.

Old material used by the Third Army on the Rhine is being disposed of rapidly. German civilians alone recently have been buying from 25 to 40 carloads of salvaged material each day, says a recent dispatch.

Germans assemble in Coblenz, or other towns where auction sales are held, some coming from Cologne, from Mayence, and others as far as Frankfurt-on-Main, Cassel and other parts of unoccupied Germany.

At a recent sale in Coblenz, with a German-speaking doughboy as auctioneer, 125,000 leather jerkins were sold to the Germans for 2,000,000 marks (The recent army exchange on marks is 250 marks for one franc.) The same day 30,000 raincoats, many of them having been used by American soldiers during the war, were sold for 250,000 marks.

The Germans buy anything offered by the Americans, particularly any articles containing leather or rubber. Ten thousand American-made gas masks were sold a few days ago to civilians who planned to make use of the rubber for commercial purposes.

More than one hundred tons of harness, some of it German made and abandoned after the armistice, were disposed of at a recent auction sale near Coblenz.

Forty thousand pairs of American field shoes, many of which had been worn and torn in the march of the doughboys from Luxembourg to the Rhine in December, were sold in lots at a special sale.

## Find Lord Mayor's Keys.

Boston, Aug. 16.—Two ancient keys to the Lord Mayor's mansions in London, recovered at Camp Devens from the baggage of an American army officer, were in the possession of the Army Intelligence Department today.

The keys, each about ten inches in length, were found in the officer's bedding roll. The officer himself has not been at Camp Devens and it is thought his baggage was sent here by mistake.

How the keys came into his possession was not made known here. Army officials at the Northeastern Department declined to comment upon a report that the keys had been handed to General Pershing on the occasion of his visit to London as a symbol of the granting of the freedom of the city and were missing when it came time for them to be returned to the Lord Mayor.