

### THE MONROE JOURNAL

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A notice to discontinue The Journal is unnecessary, as we understand that you do not want the paper when you do not renew your subscription.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 1920.

Wanted: Social Service Workers.

Some evidence that the world has not gone pleasure mad is produced when women like Mesdames J. E. Stack and J. Frank Laney labor for months to secure music for the inmates of the county home. Monroe women have always manifested a deep interest in the comfort and pleasure of the unfortunates in our charitable institutions, and some of the older inmates, like "Lindy" and "Rush," could relate touching little incidents of their devotion if they only had the power of coherent speech. One instance that we have in mind is only equaled by the ministrations of the Good Samaritan in Biblical times.

Monroe has no slums, but there is a great opportunity for social service work right now in these days of prosperity, and we know of no better way for intelligent, Christian men and women to receive more real pleasure than in engaging in this sort of endeavor. A night school is needed. There are dozens of boys and girls over the compulsory school age who need instruction, and who would attend a night school. Then there is the chain gang. Because they have transgressed the laws is no reason why men should be chained during their leisure hours without a single form of recreation. Sunday services should be provided for them; there

certainly are Christian leaders in Monroe willing to devote two hours a month to this form of social service. The church choirs ought to send a few singers out to the camp each Sunday. Similar services might be provided for the inmates of the county home.

The old Associated Charities should be reorganized. There are few indigent people in Monroe, but there are always one or two families in need. Several such cases were unearthed by the community Christmas tree and relief fund committee. One woman, with a sick boy under her care, was found in very needy circumstances; and a mother, with four or five young children, was discovered working in the cotton mill at night, being forced to leave the children to their own devices during her working hours. At that her pay was so scanty that the children oftentimes were forced to beg food from the neighbors. An Associated Charities secretary could give these two cases prompt attention, and ever be on the alert to relieve distress among white and black.

#### An Antidote for Mob Law.

North Carolina would do well to adopt in a modified form the South Carolina law assessing a penalty of \$2,000 against the county in which a lynching occurs, the money to be paid to the widow or estate of the victim. Only in North Carolina's case. The Journal would have the penalty increased to \$5,000, and make the officers, who allow the mob to get possession of their prisoner, liable for \$500 or a \$1,000 of the assessment. Perhaps the mob, which has little consideration for human life, might then have some regard for its pocketbook.

In 1919 seventy-seven lynchings occurred in the South, or 18 more than in the previous year. This comparison leads us to believe caustic editorials and occasional official proclamations against the practice no longer exercise much of a deterrent effect, and that it is necessary for the South, if it really wishes to put an end to lawlessness of this sort, to adopt more stringent methods. We know of no better way to curb the lawless element than charging them a healthy sum for their crimes. The law in South Carolina appears

to be a good antidote for lynchings. Last year in that State, long considered the seat of terror for the colored race, there occurred only one lynching. North Carolina had three.

In nine cases out of ten, it is generally conceded, the officers are in sympathy with the hellish purposes of the mob, and seldom show any resistance. When they find themselves liable for a stiff penalty, they will display unusual heroism. The country would ring with courageous denunciations to the mob, and an instance where the law will not be allowed to take its course will be extremely rare.

Like the mob, the officers will be very responsive to the chidings of their pocketbooks. Education and appeals to the reason of the mob are ineffective and the North Carolina legislature should consider a bill similar to South Carolina's or some measure equally effective, to put an end to these occasional transgressions of law and order.

#### The McNeely Claim.

(From The Charlotte Observer.)

People of the whole State will watch with keen interest the outcome of the claim filed with the State Department by Mr. W. R. McNeely, of Union county, for thirty thousand dollars damages against the German government for the death of his son, Consul Robert Ney McNeely, who was drowned in the Mediterranean Sea on his way to Egypt when the steamer "Persia" was torpedoed, December 20th, 1915. The evidence in the cases shows that is a just claim and, therefore, it may be presumed in advance that the German government will have to pay it finally, though, of course, she will exhaust every means to avoid it.

The cloak and suit industry of New York, numbering 45,000 persons, faces strikes for higher wages, which is certain to mean exorbitant prices to the public unless checked. Male operatives now earn about \$75 a week, hushers \$50, and women workers from \$25 to \$50.

It is reported that 100,000 immigrants are expected on incoming vessels this month. Nearly 50,000 arrived last month and nearly 8,500 have landed the last 48 hours.

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