

THE MONROE JOURNAL

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THE "JOKER" IN THE ROAD BILL

The Journal is presenting in this issue a copy of Representative Limerick's road law which will be voted on at a special election next Saturday, April 23rd. It should be read carefully as the road issue is a vital one for this county. With few exceptions the bill is identically the same as the Redwine law, under which we are now operating. These exceptions, briefly stated, are: 1. All road authority, such as the construction and maintenance of roads, is vested in the county boards of commissioners. 2. The commissioners are authorized to appoint one or more road supervisors from each township, and shall accord them what powers they shall deem best. 3. The commissioners shall appoint a county engineer and other necessary assistants at whatever salary they may fix. 4. The chairman of the board shall be paid a salary not to exceed \$1800 a year. In most other respects the wording of Mr. Limerick's bill is the same as the Redwine law.

The most radical difference in the two laws, however, is the limitation placed on the authority of the township supervisors. The present supervisors, or "electors," not only control road maintenance in their respective townships, but have a voice in the management of all the roads; both of which powers are denied them in the Limerick bill unless the commissioners deem it best that they shall continue the exercise of their present prerogatives. The supervisors are also appointive whereas at present they are elective.

This limitation placed upon the authority of the supervisors, it seems to The Journal, is the "joker" in the bill. It robs the townships of what little authority they possess in road affairs, it tends to make the county unit plan more "top heavy," as Senator Price would say, and it is an excessive grant of autocratic power to the commissioners—not that it would be abused by the present estimable and highly efficient board, but that it is dangerous on account of the unknown quality of succeeding boards.

But like everything else, successful road management depends on the type of executives in charge, and since we have the assurance that either Mr. Secrest, chairman of the board of commissioners, or Mr. M. K. Lee, road elector-at-large, will be at the head of the road work regardless of the outcome of the election, for the present we find no cause for concern.

ON SERVING ON THE JURY

Since the Ross will case, according to Mr. Cansler, was comparable to the famous suit of Bardell vs. Pickwick, it must be admitted that the predicament of Dr. Pascal Abernethy, one of the jurors in the notable trial, bore a startling similarity to that of Thomas Griffin, the chemist, who was on the Pickwickian jury, except that in his case service probably meant the death of a horse or cow, he being a veterinarian, while Griffin was a chemist, dealing in deadly acids and potent medicines, and whose absence from his shop endangered the lives of sick people.

Dr. Abernethy protested at being required to serve, but Judge Ray, who presided, was obdurate. So did Griffin. "I beg this court's pardon," said the Dickens character when his name was called by the clerk, "but I hope this court will excuse my attendance."

"On what grounds, sir?" said Mr. Justice Stareleigh, presiding.

"I have no assistant, my Lord," said the chemist.

"I can't help that, sir," replied Mr. Justice Stareleigh. "You should have one."

"I can't afford it, my Lord," rejoined the chemist.

"Then you ought to be able to afford it, sir," said the judge, reddening; for Justice Stareleigh's temper bordered on the irritable, and brooked no contradiction.

"I know I ought to if I got on as well as I deserved, but I don't, my Lord," answered the chemist.

"Swear the gentleman," said the judge peremptorily.

The officer had got no further than the "You shall well and truly try," when he was again interrupted by the chemist.

"I am to be sworn, my Lord, am I?" said the chemist.

"Certainly, sir," replied the testy little judge.

"Very well, my Lord," replied the chemist, in a resigned manner. "Then there'll be murder before this trial's over; that's all. Swear me, if you please, sir," and sworn the chemist was, before the judge could find words to utter.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE

Latest Happenings In and Around Monroe.

Dr. Guernsey and Elder W. H. Norwood will attend the meeting of Presbytery at Ramoth church April 19-21.

Monroe lodge No. 244, A. F. and A. M. will hold free schools of instruction every Thursday evening at 7:30 o'clock. All Masons in the county in good standing are invited.

Mr. Frank Courtney, of Lancer Creek township, and Miss Odessa Caskey, of this township, were married Sunday at the home of the officiating magistrate, Esq. S. A. Helms.

The school at Corinth will close Friday night, April 22. Exercises by the students will begin at eight o'clock. Music will be furnished by the Benton Cross Roads band. The public is cordially invited.

There will be no services, except the Sunday school, at the Presbyterian church on Sunday next. The pastor will be away from home, going to Rich Square, N. C., where he will preach the commencement sermon.

The meeting of the Winrate grange which was to have been held Saturday at 2 o'clock has been postponed until Saturday week at the same hour, on account of Mr. DeLaney, the speaker having been unexpectedly called to Washington.

Although he was defeated for re-nomination, Alderman J. Dunham Bundy won added laurels as a politician in the municipal primary Saturday afternoon when he was discovered selling ice cream cones on the street while the Italian proprietor of the cart was in the court house casting his vote for him.

Robert Vernon McGee, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. O. V. McGee, died Saturday evening in a Charlotte hospital, and funeral services were conducted here Sunday afternoon, Rev. E. C. Snyder officiating. The little fellow, who was ten months old, is survived by his parents, and little sister, Mary Cason McGee. The parents have the sympathy of hosts of friends in their sad bereavement.

Mr. J. G. Rogers, one of the poll holders, denies that scores and scores of negroes participated in the municipal primary Saturday. "Eleven, not over fourteen," said Mr. Rogers yesterday afternoon, "votes were cast by the negroes. Many negroes endeavored to vote, it is true, but they were denied the privilege when they admitted they were republican in politics." The assertion is being made that thirty negroes voted for two candidates in ward four alone. Mr. Rogers' statement show that this was impossible.

Mr. Peirce Rogers, of Altan, who was in Monroe yesterday, admitted that he was sponsoring a movement to secure an election on the proposed issue of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars worth of road bonds. He said he had twelve or more petitions urging the commissioners to give the people an opportunity to vote on the bonds in circulation and that they were being largely signed. He personally had several petitions in his pocket containing nearly a hundred signatures. They have about twenty-five days in which to file their petitions, and before the commissioners can allow the election, they must have the signatures of twenty-five per cent of the qualified voters.

The country is still hearing from former Governor Bickett, Union county's native son. In a recent address delivered at Hampton, Va., he said, in addition to many other choice bits of wisdom, that "the negro who has to get an order from a white man before he can buy a sack of meal or a side of meat is almost as much a slave as the man who had to get a permit before he could leave his master's land." He was speaking before students of the Hampton Normal, the negro institute. In the north as well as in the South, Governor Bickett said further, white men often failed to deal justly with the negroes, but he urged patience on the part of the black race. He also denounced the Ku Klux Klan.

Mr. W. H. Boyte, a native of this county, who moved to Florida several years ago, was dragged from his buncy last night, says an Orlando, Fla., dispatch of April 15, while returning from a ride with his wife and children, taken to a lonely spot six miles from town, stripped, severely beaten with a piece of rubber hose and tarred and feathered. Boyte told the authorities that, after the handful of men in the mob had beaten him, they warned him to leave the state within 48 hours and threatened to administer 40 more blows unless he would make a statement that his prosecution of R. L. Wilder, recently convicted of misconduct toward five young girls and sentenced to jail, had resulted from malicious motives. This Boyte said he refused to do, even after the threat had been supplemented with a declaration that he would be branded with a hot iron if he did not comply. The mob then applied a coat of tar and feathers and left him to walk home. Boyte was picked up by the sheriff a few miles from town.

The Ross will case cost the taxpayers of the county approximately \$575 in jury fees and incidental expenses, estimates Mr. R. W. Lemmond, clerk of the court. This is in addition to the other court costs which will be borne by the caveators, losers in the case. Each of the twelve jurors received \$45 for attendance during the fifteen days and mileage and expenses for the first day. Their effort to break the will cost the caveators over a thousand dollars, it is estimated. There were about a hundred witnesses in attendance on an average of at least six days which, with mileage, will amount to around \$750; the clerk of court and sheriff's fees were in the neighborhood of \$200; while it is believed that they had to pay those alienists who testified about \$400. However, it is reported that attorneys for the caveators took the case on a contingent fee, and this being true, the cost will fall upon them. Attorneys for the propounders, a person in the position to know figures, will receive a total of \$4500, at least \$1500 of which will go to Mr. E. T. Cansler, of Charlotte.

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NEW MILLINERY

Big New Lines of Summer Sport Hats Just Received \$2.50 to \$7.50

The Monroe high school base ball team will cross bats with the strong Bingham Military academy team here Wednesday and Thursday of this week in what promises to be the hardest fought games of the present season. Bingham is considered to be one of the strongest prep schools in the state and you know what the Monroe boys can do. The game Wednesday will be called at 3:45 o'clock and on Thursday at 3:00 o'clock in order to permit the visiting team to catch the afternoon train.

LATEST STATE HAPPENINGS

Varner Verdict Is Set Aside and New Trial Ordered by Boyd.

Judge James E. Boyd in United States district court at Greensboro Monday set aside the verdict recently rendered in the case of Mrs. Florence Varner against her husband, of Lexington, for reasonable assistance. Judge Boyd ruled that the verdict was "clouded," and Mrs. Varner will have another opportunity to acquit herself of the awful charges made by her husband, H. B. Varner, one time candidate for Congress in this district.

Zeb V. Taylor, president of the Charlotte street railway and Southern Public Utilities Company, and a prominent figure in the state, died suddenly on James B. Duke's private car near Fredericksburg, Va., while en route to New York city.

Governor Morrison, back from New York where he went to procure a loan for road construction in this state, reports that North Carolina's credit in New York is better than Morgan's or Rockefeller's. The \$50,000,000 hard surfaced road project, he says, will not have to wait for money.

He'll Say They Are.

"Are the blue laws enforced around here," asked a tourist of Blackpowder Bill of Holster, Ariz.

"You're darn right," retorted Bill. "Only last Sunday Quick Andy shot a tenderfoot and, by gosh! they up and arrested him."

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