

The Davie Record.

"HERE SHALL THE PRESS, THE PEOPLE'S RIGHTS MAINTAIN, UNAWED BY INFLUENCE AND UNBRIBED BY GAIN."

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Anything But Innocent.

Hickory, Feb. 14.—Persons who resided in the vicinity of the Weslie Wycoff murder in the lower edge of Catawba county many years ago, were amazed by the recent stories sent out from Raleigh as to "Aunt Sarah" Wycoff, alleged victim of circumstantial evidence, receiving information several months before her death that somebody else had confessed to the crime for which Bob McCorkle, negro, was hanged in Alexander county. Those who do not care to read further may set it down that "Aunt Sarah" however well she might have behaved during her long term in State prison, was no innocent and modest woman during the days that she reigned on a throne of immorality.

T. A. Sherrill, well-known Hickory man, lived within two miles of the Wycoff home, knew Weslie Wycoff and his wife and Bob McCorkle personally and got all the news in the court and out of it as to the character of the woman she was. Discussing the case with your correspondent, Mr. Sherrill said that if the officer, spurred on by public opinion as they are today, had made half the effort to clear the mystery in the Wycoff case, probably a white man would have been hanged and "Aunt Sarah" still would have gone to prison. The negro on the scaffold muttered something about others as guilty as he, but he never gave his white friend away. He did not deny shooting Weslie Wycoff.

The case was tried twice, the second time in Alexander county, because of feeling in Catawba in the matter. McCorkle was found guilty of murder and the Wycoff woman as an accessory before the fact. The chain of circumstances was conclusive.

To begin with the court had a very bad woman as one of the principals. Her immorality was generally known and it was practiced at the home of her husband, and good-natured but worthless fellow, whose force of character did not commend him to anybody.

Some white men in the community whose name has been mentioned privately a thousand times, was believed to be at the bottom of the murder. He wanted Weslie Wycoff out of the way and his unfaithful spouse was a party to the conspiracy. The evidence showed that ended in his murder at his barn, where he was lured. The correspondents all get the facts straight about Bob McCorkle, Mr. Sherrill said, because that was such an interesting detail that it appealed to them. It was that that McCorkle carried a single-barrel muzzle-loading shot gun with him everywhere he went and everybody in the country knew it by the sound. He carried a pistol in his coat also, and when he removed his coat he left it close by, always placing it near him when he went away for a distance. McCorkle was impudent but not regarded as mean.

When his gun went off on that fatal night a man sleeping in the neighborhood was awakened and remarked to his wife, "That's Bob McCorkle's gun." By means of comparing paper wadding shot from the gun with paper found in his pocket, the authorities were able to positively connect McCorkle with the case. He refused to make confession on the scaffold, but he admitted that somebody else was in

The alleged confession, to which reference had been made on more than one occasion, was never made in the opinion of Mr. Sherrill. No names were given and no dates and no mutterings of an old woman who had caused much trouble in her neighborhood, were seized upon to tell the world that an innocent

Lincoln and Harding.

While Senator Harding's inauguration as President of the United States is designed to follow arrangements of Abraham Lincoln's inaugural, there are features of 1861 that fortunately will be missing in 1921.

Instead of veterans of North and South marching side by side as they will next month, the only military forces in the inaugural parade of 1861 were the sappers and miners. The rest of the U. S. troops in the capital were stationed in different parts of the city to provide against emergencies. As the nation hovered on the brink of civil war, the great fear of the authorities was that effort would be made to interfere with the ceremonies.

If President Harding follows Lincoln's first inaugural address in compass, he will do it in less than 3,000 words. In that space Lincoln made his plea for the Union and declared his intention to maintain it.

Four years later Lincoln's second inaugural was overshadowed by the procession of victories. The crowds were smaller than those in '61. Veterans marched in the parade and there was a brilliant array of officers in the city. A much commented on feature of the parade was a battalion of colored troops and a colored lodge of Masons. Philadelphia was represented by several fire companies with engines and two hose companies.

Lincoln's second inaugural address was done in a thousand words but the following part of it is still echoing in American thought as pertinent to the world's affairs of today:

"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, and care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

On this great day the president's thought as the thought of the nation was with its generals. The great news on the day that Lincoln was inaugurated the second time was that General Sherman had captured General Early, occupied Charlottesville, Va., and was last heard from at Staunton, where nine years before a war president to be Woodrow Wilson, was born.

THE EDITOR'S PANTS.

Lives of poor men oft remind us, Honest toil don't stand a chance; The more we work we leave behind us

Bigger patches on our pants. On our pants once new and glossy, Now are patches of different hue; All because subscribers linger

And won't pay up what is due. Then let us all be up and doing; Send in your mite tho it is small Or when the blasts of March shall strike us,

We shall have no pants at all.

Democracy With a Big "D"

While prices and wages are coming down, salaries of the State officers are advanced \$1,000 each. This does not seem to us to consistent or sound economy, but such is life in this fair democracy—Wilkes Patriot.

A person had been convicted on circumstantial evidence.

J. W. Blackwelder, of Hickory, to whom Warden Busbee wired when the old woman died also bore out Mr. Sherrill's statement as to the facts in the case. Mr. Blackwelder said he preferred to let the public forget the affair, but he was astonished at the importance given the old woman without any apparent investigation.

THE BURIED NEWSPAPER MAN.

Case E. Galley was the printer's name;

'Twas on the Brownville Bugle where he won his fame; Kept things buzzing like a June bee hive.

He kept the whole town talking—he was that alive.

Pushed a pencil like a lightning streak.

He hadn't any time 'to stop and play bezique;

Speeled to the merchants on the cost of print;

To get his bills collected made him hump and sprint.

Fumed over copy that looked like Greek;

Called on the advertisers several times a week;

Chased after items that "wan't worth shucks";

He often did a dollar job and lost two bucks.

It was his duty to keep informed. If he failed to tell an item his subscribers stormed;

And thus he worried till he reached the grave.

His business was his master and he its slave.

He lay in his coffin, stiff, cold, dead,

But when they broached his burial, he raised his head,

Gasped these final words to his poor wife,

"Don't bury me now—I've been buried all my life."

Business Men Optimistic.

In the face of continued slumps in prices as industrial and trade deflation progresses, it is noticeable that there is an encouraging note of optimism by leading manufacturers and business men. The period the country is now passing through was discounted in advance by men familiar with the operations of economics. Some of the merchants throughout the country were reluctant to "take a lass" and at once enter upon the lower price for levels merchandising, and it is not surprising that this should have been the case. Most merchants had stocked up heavily with high-priced goods and unseasonable weather last fall. But business men now realize that they were guilty of an error of judgment in proceeding on the assumption that high-level prices would hold up through the present winter. Bitterness against the Federal Reserve Board which followed its action in "tightening up" on money has given way to a realization that this was the only effective way of stopping inflation of prices and of reducing them to a level on which a resumption of industrial and trade activities could be based.

There is yet much to be done in the work of readjustment, but a beginning has been made, and there is reason to believe that recovery is now getting under way. Predictions that workers would refuse to accept new conditions are now seen to have been unfounded.

Nothing is to be gained by enlarging on the condition of unemployment, but all should join in the spread of optimism, for a great deal will depend on the state of mind in which the country approaches solution of the industrial problem. The principle of psychology functioned in bringing present conditions about it should operate to help in overcoming them.—Winston Journal.

Deprivation.

Sam Gompers says labor faces a year of solemn portent." Yep. Lot of 'em are going to have to work minus silk shirts and automobiles.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

A man knows by the friends he keeps, and a woman by the friends she gives away.

A Day of Reckoning.

There are many things that are not understood, one of which is: why a man will belabor himself and spend his time and money and worry his friends and beseech the voters to get elected to an office, municipal, county, state or national, as he says, in order that he may serve and save the people and their rights and protect them from impositions and burdens, and as soon as it is announced that he has been elected he sets in motion all his powers and forces to increase his fees or salary and perpetuate himself in office. Many times this is done in open violation of the express provision of the law and constitution. He knew what the duties and fees or salary of his office were when he was a candidate. He said nothing about a raise in salary then.

Usually there are many others who are competent and willing to serve at the salary fixed. If a man does not want an office at the fees or salary provided he should not become a candidate or if elected should resign. The people are already suffering under the burden of taxes for the govments. The men who promised to serve and protect them should not be allowed to extract from the people additional fees or salaries, that were not contemplated when he was elected. All persons so attempting should and will be taught by the voice of the people that the day of reckoning will soon come for such officers.

Furthermore there are many hundreds of thousands of good, competent and well qualified citizens of the United States who would gladly and honestly and competently fill the many offices and positions in the U. S. Government, if allowed to do so, such as R. F. D. carriers, R. R. mail clerks, office inspectors, clerks in the various departments at Washington, and thousands of others places when the work is from two to eight hours now favored and secures the place and the many must return to their labors in the factory, shop, store or farm and toil day in and day out to raise money to pay the salary of their more favored rival. The demagogue and officer who has pledged himself to protect the common herd, and the office holder secures legislation which after a few years of service for retirement of a successful office seeker after a few years of service, at one-half, or full pay for life at the expense of the taxpayers and the burdened class. This office holder thus spends the remainder of his days in idleness at the expense of the toiling masses and without regard for the thinly clad and hungry women and children of the land, and never arises to suggest a pension or retirement or even a short vacation for the weary and worn business man or the farmer, or the laborer. No they must continue to be hewers of wood and drawers of water so long as sufficient reason and strength remains and then when the fatal day comes they must fall upon their own resources or that of their friends for subsistence. It is not right. A halt should be called.—Montgomery's Vindicator.

The Editor's Reward.

Good old "Deacon" William C. Palmer, when retiring as editor of the Jewell county (Kansas) Republican, said in his farewell to his readers: "I have put more than 36 years of my life into the paper. Some folks say a man is a fool to put so much into a little country newspaper; but I say they have been brief and happy years and that they have brought me a great reward—the reward of enjoying every one of them, the reward of happiness in my work and the reward of having a conviction that I was trying to serve a community and a people for whom I have a deep and sincere affection. What greater things has this world to give any man than these?"—Enterprise, Wilmot, S. Dak.

When Congress is not in session there's an imperative demand that it meet and do something and when it is in session there is a holler for it to quit talking and go home.—Exchange.

EFIRD'S DEPT. STORE

Winston-Salem, N. C.

25c. Striped and Solid Color Cheviot Shirting, one week Special	10c.
50c. 8oz. Duck	25c.
33c. Amoskeag Dracs Gingham all colors	15c.
5c. Tobacco Plant Bed Cloth	2 1-2c.
\$1.50 Boys' Wool Knickerbocker Pants, all sizes	65c.
15c. Remnant Sea Island 1 to 5 Yard Lengths, at per yard	5c.

If You Buy It At "Efird's" You Buy It For Less.

The Worm Has Turned

"the days of war-time prices have made their farewell kiss and every price ticket in this store has been turned upside down this time."

Yes, people, the worm has turned—the prodigal son is back—and it's your inning.

No longer need you kneel to head waiter prices for a seat near the orchestra—and it's a wise man who saved his money when the dollar was only worth 40c. FOR NOW AND HERE HE COMES INTO HIS OWN WITH FLYING COLORS.

This is the news that greets you today from your favorite clothing store.

Davie county people always given a hearty welcome.

BOYLES BROTHERS COMP'Y

Trade St., Winston-Salem, N. C.