

Mount Airy News

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MOON MADE OF CHEESE

It has been said that no matter how absurd a statement is somebody will believe it. To illustrate this fact with a striking illustration, it has been said that to proclaim that the moon is made of cheese will cause some folks to believe it. Be that as it may, it is very well known that to make any kind of absurd charge will find some who will subscribe to it.

All this calls to mind the persistency with which some folks here in Surry are proclaiming through the newspapers that the past election was an unfair one. It may have been, so far as we know, but how the other man is to know any more about it than we know, is what we would like to know. Two men, a voter and a marker, as he is called go into a booth together and no one anywhere near, and they two alone together mark the ballot. Now, if the voter is not able to mark his own ballot and must get it done for him how is he to know whether or not it was marked correctly and represented his sentiments, is the question at issue. If he has too little information to mark his ballot, just what kind of a witness will he make as to how it was marked, is the big question. Any statement he might go away and make would evidently have but little weight, for he is testifying about something about which he knows but little—marking a ballot.

All this is but leading up to the fact that there is no way to have a secret ballot for the man who is not able to vote his sentiments without help. There seems to be a growing sentiment in this state for a state-wide law in the nature of the Australian ballot. There should be, but the purpose of the system is to have a secret ballot free from all possible undue influences on the voter. That is the good point about the Australian ballot. But when a voter must have help it is no longer a secret ballot in his case.

The public mind seems to jump at a conclusion that any man who helps an unlearned voter to mark his ballot is in great danger of using his influence to cause the ballot to be marked as he would like to see it marked. And there is reason for thought along this line, for all men are human. We are prone to suspicion one another, especially when there is a fat office at issue.

If we are not able to trust each other and are fearful of turning any man behind the curtain with the voter then the next best turn in the case of the voter who must have help would be to appoint, not one marker, but a commission of three men who should sit together and mark the ballot of the man who wanted help, and thus not try to have it a secret ballot in his case, and do away with the temptation to suspicion each other and also to use any undue influence on the voter.

Of all the systems of balloting that we have known the Australian ballot is by far the best and most satisfactory.

The man who is not able to vote without help will be at the mercy of those about him so long as he remains in his condition, and the way out of the confusion is to find a way that removes his case far from temptation to play with his vote for selfish purposes.

THE MAN WHO THINKS

It must make the man who thinks tired see in every paper articles from men, and women too, trying to make the world think humanity has gone to the bow wows. These calamity folks should do some sober reading. They are looking at the world in a wrong light. They forget, if they ever knew, that man was made with instincts that have made him what he is and that these instincts are as much a part of him as his arms or his legs. If he goes wrong he is an automatic machine that naturally rights itself. The great mass of humanity is too busy making a living and caring for loved ones and doing uplift work for others to go wrong. The great mass of folks are so soundly made as to hold the ship in line and keep it true to the final port. There are silly ones who make ship wreck, and the world has always had them. But there are fewer of them today than ever before. The saving process that has brought us to where we are is ever at work and is slowly but surely weeding out the unfit and the weak and undesirable in human character.

Much is said about the many murders that are in our land. Men have always killed each other for crimes

against themselves or their loved ones. The very beginning of written history tells of a brother taking his own brother's life. So long as folk do violence to each other will they continue to take human life. These sentimental ones seem to never take note of the hard fact that many of the folks who got rushed off to their final destiny got what is rightfully coming to them for some of their outrageous conduct. We suspect that a very large number of the men, not all of course, but a very large number, who meet a violent death are worth but little to society and their passing is not a great loss to the world.

These folks who stand aghast at the crime record seem to not know that we are living at a time when the news gathering forces tell of most all the crime that is committed in all corners of the world. The total record looks large in the morning paper. But suppose it had been all gathered in the days when every man carried a gleaming sword at his side and was a law unto himself. We simply have ways now of finding out what is being done, and to the superficial onlooker it does look bad.

But beloved, a deeper look at life will convince any thoughtful one that humanity is on the upward way and that he is an automatic machine that rights itself as certainly as time goes on. There is no cause for alarm.

Sheriff Now Has Papers Against A. W. George

The papers in the case against A. W. George, of Elkin, which were reviewed by the Supreme Court some weeks ago have been returned to Clerk of the Court F. T. Lewellyn and no error found in the trial which means that the sentence of the Surry Superior court, carrying a term of five years imprisonment, will go into effect. Mr. Lewellyn at once issued the proper commitment papers and they are now in the hands of Sheriff C. H. Haynes, whose duty it becomes to convey Mr. George to the state prison at Raleigh to begin his sentence.

Since the refusal of the Supreme Court to grant a new trial to the Elkin banker strenuous efforts have been made by various parties to induce Governor Morrison to grant a respite in the case of Mr. George but so far the governor has taken no action for his relief, and it is expected that the next few days will see the order of the court put into effect.

THE WANDERING GYPSY

The papers tell that recently for the first time in history the language of the Gypsy people has been put into print in one of the countries in Europe. They have a language of their own and they have held on to it in all countries for centuries. While they speak the language of the country they infest they also retain the language of the tribe.

In every country where civilization is found the Gypsy is a pest to the land. They wander about and carry an air of mystery about them. They are all fortune tellers and claim to have powers that are not possessed by other people that enables them to see into the unknown. It may be for this that they are tolerated by other races. Certain it is that they have contributed nothing to the good of the race in all the centuries that are behind us. If there is any good at all from their presence in a country it would be hard to name it unless it is that they furnish amusement of a kind, for many people delight in being faked and in having their fortunes told.

In the light of all this it would be in order for our next legislature to forbid the presence in the borders of the state of any of these wandering bands. It would not be putting it any too strongly to say they are robbers who live off the country and give nothing in return for what they take from the people.

Death of Well Known Citizen

Ben Alex Freeman, a resident of the Pine Ridge section of this county, passed away Tuesday of last week at his home after a short illness following a complication of diseases. Uncle Ben was known all over the county and took much interest in public affairs. He was always found in the heat of the fight during the elections and was an ardent supporter of the movements that are for the betterment of the farmer. While he was unlettered he could make an entertaining speech before an audience. During any public gathering at Dobson, if Uncle Ben was seen present he had no peace until he had something to say. And always he was able to get off something original in his remarks. His wit and humor were hardly surpassed and he could always command the attention of his audience. He was about 70 years old at the time of his death.

KIWANIS CLUB PLANNING INCREASED ACTIVITIES

Officers for 1925 Elected—Much Accomplished by Club in Past 12 Months

At the last meeting of the Kiwanis Club held in the dining rooms of the Blue Ridge Hotel election of officers for the ensuing year was held and plans laid for carrying forward many movements looking toward the development of this city and section. The election resulted in the selection of practically the same officers as served during the past year. The official list now consists of Edw. M. Linville, president; Dr. Moir S. Martin, past president; J. B. Sparger and E. C. Bivens, vice-presidents; Geo. E. Snow, secretary and treasurer; G. C. Lovill, district trustee; and a board of directors consisting of E. H. Koehntzky, E. H. Dixon, H. M. Foy, Dr. E. C. Ashby, John Sabotta, J. D. Sargent and W. J. Byerly.

During the past year the club has sponsored many movements and joined in with other organizations on matters affecting the good of the city and community. Perhaps the most outstanding feature of the year's work that has been accomplished by the club is the rapid change that is being made in the appearance of our cemetery. For years many have advocated the ownership of Oakdale cemetery by the city, but this was not consummated until a committee from the Kiwanis Club membership got behind the movement and soon thereafter the cemetery stock was purchased by the city. It is now operated and controlled by a Cemetery Commission composed of Edw. M. Linville and E. H. Koehntzky representing the citizens of the city and members of the town government. Mr. Linville, as chairman of the Cemetery Commission, has had active management of beautifying the cemetery and the program of improvement he has mapped out will be continued until Mount Airy will be able to point to the resting place of her loved ones with a satisfaction that it will compare with those of any other city.

During the year the Club has rendered valuable assistance in furthering the good road work of this section. Its members, together with other citizens of the city, have been heartily behind the Lakes-to-Florida Highway and their untiring efforts in behalf of this project is partly the cause of the association adopting a route that passes through Mount Airy.

The club has sponsored school athletics, a part of the program in this activity calling for a cash contribution to maintain an athletic director at the high school. The boy scout troop of the city is financed by the club and every year the boys are given a camping, all of which is taken care of by the club.

Club Women Visit County Home and Jail

A group of eight members of the Mount Airy Woman's Club visited the County home and jail last Friday carrying Christmas cheer in the form of oranges, apples, candy and magazines to the inmates of these institutions.

It was news to the committee, and probably will be to our readers, that two baby boys, orphan brothers 3 and 5 years old, are inmates of the home. Surely somewhere in the county there is a home where these little fellows would find a welcome and a foster dady and mother to love and care for them if only this story falls into right hands, if not an effort will be made to place them in an orphan's home. There are 43 inmates in the home all of whom are more or less dependent.

The ladies found 19 prisoners in the county jail and here received requests for copies of "The Christian Herald" and "The Saturday Evening Post." People having these papers or magazines might lift the gloom of prison life a bit by passing them on to prisoners who would appreciate them.

Warehouses To Close For Holidays

The warehouses of this city will close on Friday of this week for the holiday season. Sales will again be resumed on Tuesday, Jan. 6th.

Schools Close Friday Noon

The local schools close Friday at noon for the holidays and will open again January 5, 1925. A few of the out of town teachers will remain here but the majority will have to spend the holidays with friends or relatives.

Young Lady Trying To Find Her Father

Atty. W. P. Carter is in receipt of a letter from California asking assistance in locating John William Smith, or J. Will Smith, who would now be a man about sixty years of age, who went to Arkansas years ago and was married to Miss Grace Lynch and later returned to this state leaving the young wife in Arkansas. A daughter now grown survived the mother, and is trying to find her father whom she has never seen. Any information should be sent to Atty. Jan. W. Barber, 208-9 Laughlin Building Long Beach, Cal.

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