

# THE DAILY FREE PRESS

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THURSDAY EVENING, JANUARY 27, 1916

The Colonel is seemingly unable to get the stand-paters to stand pat on any get-together proposition which will insure him the nomination of the "fusion" this summer.

Wonder if the committee, which arranged the program for the State Forestry meeting in New Bern meant anything personal to Britton in not advertising the oyster roast which followed the illustrated lecture Tuesday night?

The proposed taxation of mail order houses should meet with the approval of every community in the United States. A levy so large as to prevent the mail order octopus from grinding the life out of the small local merchant should be welcomed.

The fact that Mrs. Wilson is advertising her Washington home for sale is indicative that she has confidence that the President will either continue to occupy the White House for another term or that they do not propose to make Washington their home when his tenure of office shall be at an end.

The Greensboro Record had better be careful about criticizing the claims of some of the towns of the State with reference to their population or else somebody will be unkind enough to remind the Record of Greensboro's forty thousand claim a few years ago when in reality she only had about fifteen.

### SHUNNING THE VERY APPEARANCE OF EVIL.

Technical delays and obstructions in the operation of the law are unquestionably responsible for the commission of much crime. Where justice is speedily meted out in punishment of offenses the tendency to repetition is not so evident. It is well enough for the lawyers, judges and the people to discuss and endeavor to remove the obstacles and insure quicker trials and less red tape, but on the other hand there is no good reason why such faults of the law's operation should be made the scapegoat for mob action. It is more deplorable when a community suffers the shame of a lynching that its representative citizens should endeavor to condone the action of the mob and justify it on any ground. Certainly when leading lawyers and the Chief Justice of the State join in such attempts at justification the situation is bad. The lawless become bold in the assumption that their acts are excused by influential men.

It is so easy for the attitude of a man in high position to be misunderstood when he undertakes to give any latitude or make any justification for the law's violation that such men should refrain from giving public expression to views which may have the "appearance of evil."

### WHERE THE RESPONSIBILITY LIES.

Elsewhere in today's paper is published a city ordinance enacted by Council in March, 1914, which makes it a misdemeanor for any parent or guardian of a child within the city school district to knowingly send or permit the child to go to the public schools when such child has been exposed to any contagious disease. The ordinance makes it mandatory upon the superintendent to exclude all children who have been exposed until they can present a certificate from a practicing physician that all danger of contagion is over.

This ordinance is not being as carefully observed as it should be, according to the information which comes to

The Free Press. Parents are quite careless and frequently children are sent to school when their brothers or sisters are suffering from some contagious disease. Not only is this the case, but they are permitted to mingle freely on the streets, in the moving pictures and other gathering places. Regardless of the existence of the law, it is natural to suppose that parents would have that fellow-feeling for their neighbors' children to want to protect them in every way that they could. That disposition is not always in evidence, unfortunately. Whether it is due to thoughtlessness or to a lack of consideration or utter disregard for the welfare of others, we know not.

The law is being published at the request of Superintendent Caldwell, who desires to emphasize its existence and importance. The Free Press would much prefer emphasizing the moral responsibility that rests upon every citizen who is exposed to infectious disease, and who is conscious of that fact, rather than the legal responsibility. It may be well enough to lay stress upon both. Certainly, those who do not recognize their moral responsibility should take warning that they are subject to prosecution and conviction on a misdemeanor charge when they violate the provisions of the law and send their children, who have been exposed, to endanger the lives of hundreds of their schoolmates.

### "PERSONAL USE" PLAN HAZARDOUS.

That there are cases where it is impractical for an arresting officer to first get a warrant before detaining a suspected person was well emphasized by Judge Oliver Allen in the Superior Court Tuesday afternoon. He was commenting upon the remarks of Judge Connor, when the latter criticized the police officials here and in general at the December term of court. At that time Judge Connor rather took to task the officers for their apparent over-zealousness in apprehending violators of the anti-liquor laws in that they were put under arrest when alighting from the trains from Virginia and other supply points without process of warrant. At the same time, Judge Connor took occasion to define the quart law, giving it as his interpretation that the statute did not prohibit a citizen from bringing in his personal baggage, any quantity of liquor.

Unfortunately, this declaration of Judge Connor was taken by many of those prone to violate the law as a license, and the number wending their way to Virginia points prior to Christmas was noticeably increased. Judge Allen supports the opinion of Judge Connor with reference to the quantity of liquor, but lays particular emphasis upon the fact that any citizen bringing in more than the prescribed amount takes the risk of having to explain, Judge Allen pointed out to the officers that when they were satisfied in their own minds and from the general reputation of the suspected person that liquor was being brought into the State for illegal purposes that they were not running, in his opinion, much risk in detaining such suspected persons, even though they had not been vested with the authority of a warrant for the arrest.

The Free Press has before pointed out that there was little danger of a reputable and law-abiding citizen being held up by the officers without due process of law, and this paper has endeavored to impress upon the public the fact that Judge Connor did not intend to let down the bars, so to speak, and convey the impression that the intent of the prohibition law could be evaded on any "for personal use" grounds. This law, as other laws, gives the defendant the benefit of the doubt and places the responsibility upon the prosecution for making out the case. At the same time, there are, The Free Press believes, few if any crimes in this State which will be misled by any such claims when they are made by those of bad repute, and of known tendency to violate these statutes.

The liquor laws are strong enough and the would-be violators might as well take into consideration a road sentence when they plot and plan to get by on any pretext. Very fortunately, the courts are evidencing their determination to enforce the law, and the work sentence is becoming more general in cases of convictions.

## WHAT OTHERS SAY

### PRESIDENT IS CAPABLE.

Greensboro Daily News: "A serious task for the President, if he intends to meet Mr. Bryan on his own ground—ground which the latter has been industriously cultivating for twenty years."

## WHAT OTHERS SAY

### THE MILLS OF THE LAW.

Raleigh Times: "While the public mind is more than usually interested in the general subject of enforcement of the law and its organized opposition as illustrated by the Goldsboro lynching, it might be of interest to take note of the industry with which our esteemed North Carolina Legislature proceeds to give us laws to break.

"In an authoritative compilation of such figures, we find, for instance, that in the year 1915, North Carolina was, as usual, at the 'head of the table' even in the matter of laws passed. In that year, the gathering of State law-tinkers at Raleigh foisted upon us at great expense no less than 1,498 statutes.

"In the same year the next highest competitor in law carpentry was Pennsylvania, with 1,003 laws, while other States ran far behind, with only four, three and sometimes two hundred laws to show for their labors.

"The average North Carolinian would be hard put to it to name ten of the goodly company of fourteen hundred statutes of all kinds which the Legislature spent two very busy months wrangling over. Yet in all probability he breaks one or two of them as regularly as he cracks an egg.

"Whatever may be the solution of the serious question of the number of murderers who exercise a lust for killing and then 'come clean'; what we shall do best to discourage the spirit of mob violence; where shall be found the necessary point of educational attack in the interest of effective law administration, one thing is certain, and that is that we are not going to secure additional respect for laws that are in the way of being violated by the foolish expedient of putting out a flood of new laws to suffer the same fate."

### Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

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and Better.

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### SHERIFF'S SALE.

By virtue of the Mosley Creek Drainage District Assessment Roll No. 2, of Craven county, in my hands for collection for the year 1915, and in default in the payment according to the provisions of the existing law, I have levied on the following named persons, and will sell the same at the courthouse door in Kinston, N. C., at 12 o'clock, on Monday, the 21st day of February, 1916, to satisfy said assessments and costs on same.

Cobb, Stephen, 58 acres, Lenoir county, \$2.55, \$45.14.  
Hargett, Joe, 8 acres, Lenoir county, \$2.55, \$5.63.  
Kilpatrick, Lewis, 4 acres, Lenoir county, \$2.55, \$4.08.  
Spivey, Moses, 305 acres, Lenoir county, \$2.55, \$246.14.  
Tilman Joe, 70 acres, Lenoir county, \$2.55, \$71.60.  
Tilman, Alex., 15 acres, Lenoir county, \$2.55, \$8.29.  
Thomas, Caroline, 6 acres, Lenoir county, \$2.55, \$4.85.

R. B. LANE, Sheriff Craven County. 1-18-Dly, 30days

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## MIKE THE MESSENGER

HE LOOKS FOR AN OPENING—AND FINDS IT.

BY WALT DESMOND.

No 170

I'M GETTIN' TIRED OF DIS MESSENGER STUNT—I AINT HAD A KIND WORD SINCE TH' SERIES STARTED—I GUESS I'LL LOOK FER A NEW JOB!

MEBBE IF I GO IN HERE AN' MAKE A NOISE LIKE A SPORTIN' EDITOR I'LL MAKE A HIT WID TH' MAIN SQUEEZE!

DEALER IN HORSE GOODS

SAY BOSS—HAVE YOU GOT AN OPENIN' FER A YOUNG FELLOW WHO IS SOUND IN WIND AN' LIME—WIDOUT FAULT OR BLEMISH—AN' WID STAND WIDOUT HITCHIN'!

NO—BUT I THINK YOU'LL FIND AN OPENIN' AT THE END OF THE HALL

DIS REMINDS ME OF DEAR OLD PITTSBURG—TH' GLOOM IS SO THICK I COULD CUT IT WID A KNIFE!

I WISH NOW I HAD WAITED FER TH' ELEVATOR!

I CAN'T SAY DAT I'M FOND OF PRACTICAL JOKES LIKE DIS—BUT STILL I FOUND WHAT I WUZ LOOKIN' FOR!