

THE DAILY FREE PRESS

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Published Every Day Except Sunday by the Kinston Free Press Co., Inc., Kinston, N. C.

Subscription Rates—Payable in Advance:
One Week \$.10 Three Months 2.00
One Month35 Six Months 2.00
One Year \$4.00

Communications received and not published will not be returned unless stamps to cover postage accompany same.

NEW YORK OFFICE—Metropolitan Building, No. 1 Madison Avenue, Mr. Robert W. Sykes, Jr., in sole charge of Eastern Department. Files of Free Press can be seen.

Entered at the postoffice at Kinston, North Carolina, as second-class matter under act of Congress, March 3, 1879.

After Six P. M. subscribers are requested to call Western Union and report failure to get the paper. A copy will be sent promptly, if complaint is made before Nine P. M., without cost to subscriber.

FRIDAY EVENING, JANUARY 28, 1916

Villa's new battle cry, "Remember Orozco," is about as appropriate as if the Colonel should say "Remember Taft."

That Virginia lawmaker who wants an annual session of the Legislature is evidently desirous of making his job a steady one.

Editor King of the Durham Herald consoles himself and his readers by reminding them that "At least, horse meat could not be tougher than some of the other kind we get."

The wanton destruction of the State's resources with no apparent thought of the morrow is akin to the foolishness that prompted the fellow of old to kill the goose that laid the golden egg.

The decision of the United States Supreme Court upholding the constitutionality of the income tax law would hardly be termed a "popular" measure. At least it concerns only the select few.

The Rock Hill Herald speaks of a man who lives in some North Carolina town as being a "curiosity." Is it possible that Rock Hill is so far behind the procession as to not have such a "critter" within its confines? (There are several of the species hereabouts.)

Regarding the delightful climate of the Old North State, about which several of our contemporaries are "raving," we would beg leave to suggest that a simple statement of facts without any embellishments will do the cause more service than any flowery claims which may be discounted. But to make matters brief we would add that the "climate is truly delightful."

It is unfortunate that a few over-zealous American soldiers should invade Mexico and run the risk of involving this nation in any unpleasantness with the recognized government of Mexico. The prompt action of General Funston in ordering the arrest of the officers who permitted the soldiers to cross the boundary in violation of his orders is commendable, and an example should be and, no doubt, will be, made of these men.

AN UNFORTUNATE CASE!

The trial of the young Jones County couple, which was wound up in Superior Court Thursday, when the jury, after but a few minutes deliberation, rendered a verdict of not guilty on a charge of illicit relations, was a particularly unfortunate one. There was apparently in the prosecution an attempt to stir up race prejudice, and it was the consensus of opinion of the Court, the bar and laymen, that the evidence submitted was not of a character to have warranted the prosecution. It is a serious matter to arraign innocent people on charges of immorality and publicly charge a young man and a young woman with crime, which there is not evidence to substantiate.

The evidence submitted in this particular case tended to show that the young man who, it was alleged, has a taint of negro blood, was of exemplary character, quiet, law-abiding, industrious and prosperous. There was evidence to show that he applied for license to wed, to the Register of Deeds of Wayne county, and also of Lenoir county, and that his request was not granted because there was some doubt in the minds of the registers as to the age of the young woman. After failing to be accorded the right to marry in their native State, this young

couple went to Norfolk, accompanied by a relative, and after being legally married were returning to their home, when they were apprehended by local officers, dragged before the Recorder, convicted of illicit relations, sentenced to the roads and to jail, respectively, and turned out on an appeal bond.

Even if they had been technically guilty, there is a serious question whether their prosecution would have been warranted, for it was clearly shown that it was their desire to become man and wife, and that they became such at the very first opportunity.

The jury did its duty and did it well, when it quickly set the stamp of disapproval upon the prosecution, but, unfortunately, the jury's verdict cannot remove the reflection and the prejudice that must of necessity have been aroused in the minds and hearts of the neighbors of these young people. It is to the credit of the level-headed men composing the jury, that they were not influenced by the argument of counsel for the prosecution in its endeavor to inject race prejudice and hatred where, apparently, there was no occasion for so doing.

The Free Press stands for the purity of the race and its perpetuation, but it does not believe that any good comes from such trials as this, the prosecution of which was little short of persecution. The whole affair was unfortunate, indeed.

WORTHY RESPONSE TO RIGHTEOUS CALLS.

The Free Press is gratified that Kinston has responded so generously to the call of the Jewish people of the war-stricken lands, sounded through the proclamation of the President of the United States at the suggestion of the Senate.

America has received many distress appeals from the unfortunate people, whose very means of livelihood has been taken from them. To America's credit may it be said that she has heard the calls, and that none has had a deaf ear turned upon it. The calls have been from various sects and religions, Jew and Gentile, Christian and heathen, but they have been from down-trodden and starving people to a people whose larder, by the Grace of God, has been kept full, and the spirit of brotherly love has been manifested without regard for religious differences or lack of religion. The calls are those of humanity, and well it is that they have been answered, and that they will be answered until the stricken people shall again be self-sustaining.

BIENNIAL SESSIONS QUITE SUFFICIENT.

A Virginia legislator has presented a joint resolution in the lower House of the State Assembly to amend the constitution and provide for an annual meeting of 45 days of the Virginia General Assembly. He further proposes that general legislation shall be attended to one year, and private, local and special matters on the alternating years, with the proviso that general or special legislation may be taken up out of its turn upon the approval of nine-tenths of the membership of the Legislature.

We don't know how the Virginia folks will regard this situation, or how its Legislature will act upon it, but, certainly in North Carolina the biennial session is sufficient to supply us with a multiplicity of laws, the majority of which the general public never even hears about, and the average lawyer never becomes conversant with.

From the layman's point of view, fewer and more comprehensive laws would be far better than the unending grind that is turned out every session of the Legislature.

There is one feature of the Virginia legislator's plan which is worthy of more than passing thought, and that is his suggestion to separate the local and private laws from the general laws. In fact, it would be well, and it has been agitated in this State, to divorce entirely the multitudinous petty local laws from the legislatures and clothe the local commissioners with authority to handle those matters, which really amount to little more than detail work, and which concerns comparatively a small portion of the people.

At any rate, the Virginian's idea will be regarded with some degree of interest until it is disposed of one way or the other by the action of the Assembly.

An Alabama mob lynched a young negro a few nights ago who, it was alleged, attempted to rob a small country store. The story is that he was being carried by his captors to jail when the mob overtook them and hanged the black to a nearby tree. Wonder what reason the friends of these murderers will assign for the atrocious act?

WHAT OTHERS SAY

COLOR OF THE PAPER.

Norfolk Ledger Dispatch: "Nearly all of the newspapers of the country are now being printed on paper of a natural color, that of the spruce from which it is made. This is a direct result of the war. Among the aniline dyes which were used in the spruce paper used by newspapers the blue-white, artificial color of most of us are accustomed to. Depreciated of that dye, the pig paper mills must now supply us with paper as it comes from the wood.

"While the natural color may not present as an attractive appearance as the white paper, there may be some consolation in the fact that that some oculists claim that the natural color is less trying to the eyes."

OIL IS A RIGHT SURE RELIANCE.

Birmingham Ledger: "A few days ago the commissioner of agriculture, in one of his valuable weekly letters, cautioned Alabama farmers not to expect to get rich on peanuts in a year. That is a good warning to all farmers. For fifty years they have tried to get rich on cotton, but none have gotten rich and few have become prosperous with cotton. This is largely because the buyer fixes the price of cotton. A change in farming methods has been forced on Alabama by the visitation of the boll weevil.

"Among the substitute crops suggested are peanuts, and last year a few made money with them. A great many men can make money this year with that nut, and will do it, if the oil from the nut is suitable for the purposes now supplied by cotton seed oil. The money value of the crop depends on that. The Birmingham Ledger thinks the cash from the peanut will come from the sales of nuts for oil, when the cake

is a secondary product.

"Of course the nuts are valuable for hog food; but there are not enough hogs to eat a large crop. When the oil mills want the crop the farmer will get cash, and his vines will be cured and the hulls fed to cattle.

"The peanut is a good prospect and a few acres may help the farmer materially and cannot hurt his pocket. We take Commissioner Wade's warning to be given merely to protect the farmer from over production. If the oil market is tight, the crop is materially cut by weevils and weather, the demand for oil will be strong. Alabama can make large peanut crops."

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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.
Hargrett, 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.

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