

# THE DAILY FREE PRESS

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THURSDAY EVENING, JANUARY 15, 1920.

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.—Ps. 51:10.

The Buford's passengers seem to have been calmed considerably by the salt breezes.

A few years ago North Carolina occupied a place in the twenties among her sister states in agricultural production. Statistics given out for 1919 indicate that she assumes the commanding position of fourth place. Hurrah! for the Old North State, the best state in the Union.

As forecasted in Washington dispatches some days ago, the name of James I. Cowan, former editor of the Wilmington Dispatch, has been sent to the Senate for confirmation as Collector of the Port of Wilmington. No opposition is expected for "Genial Jeems" and congratulations will no doubt be in order within a few days.

"Jamaica ginger" is, according to the police records figuring more or less in the "drunks" haled before his honor, Judge Whitaker. The Free Press is informed that a considerable amount of extracts containing more or less alcohol is being sold which is not being used for flavoring custards, pies, etc. The Free Press is confident that the police will have the cooperation, if sought, of the reputable concerns which sell such preparations for legitimate purposes in seeing to it that purchases are not made in violation of the spirit and letter of the dry laws.

### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Superintendent E. C. Brooks of the State Department of Education, revealed some startling figures in his address before the North Carolina Press Association at Greensboro last week. He told of the survey of the teaching forces of the State now under way and estimated that of the approximate twelve thousand white teachers in North Carolina only two thousand had had the benefit of more than high school training, three

thousand had gone through high school and seven thousand who were now teaching the boys and girls of this State had never even finished high school or an equivalent course.

Dr. Brooks promised an educational program to be presented to the next General Assembly, which if adopted, will raise the standard for teachers and make the minimum requirements at least a high school certificate and will hold out an incentive for teachers to prepare themselves.

The Free Press believes that when the Department of Public Instruction outlines its program that the press and other leaders of the State will join in giving it support and affording the boys and girls of North Carolina a better opportunity to prepare themselves for life.

### JUDGE LYNCH'S RECORD

The lynching record for 1919, as compiled by the Tuskegee Institute, furnishes some interesting data and food for thought.

Very little basis is found for the common justification of mob violence. The rather surprising revelation is made that only about one fourth of the mob's victims for 1919 were charged with rape or attempted rape and that the gamut of crime, imaginary and real, and the flimsiest of pretexts, excited mobs to do their fellow men to death.

The record shows that there were 82 lynchings, 77 of which were in the South. The number included 75 negroes and 7 whites. One negro woman was murdered. Nineteen of the victims were charged with rape or attempted rape. Seven were burned; 3 of these were charged with rape, 2 with murder, 1 with killing a sheriff and against the other no charge was given. All the whites lynched were charged with murder; 13 of the negroes were charged with murder, 10 with attempted rape, 9 with rape. Others were charged with inciting riots, shooting officers, insulting women, incendiary talk, writing improper letters and robbery. One murderer was lynched when his sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. One man who shot in self-defense and another who was acquitted of the charge of shooting an officer were victims of mobs. One man was dealt with because he appealed from a ten year sentence for attempting the life of another.

Certainly those who would justify mob violence can find little consolation in the foregoing record. It is shown beyond a doubt that the lives of none are safe where lynch law is tolerated.

Had the law been permitted to take its orderly course in the 82 cases, there might have been some miscarriage of justice but it is certain that murderers and rapists would have been dealt with and that those who were guilty at most with misdemeanors would not have paid the supreme penalty.

When mobs are given immunity who knows when he will commit some fanciful offense and be dragged out to satisfy the gory appetite of a bunch of outlaws and three assassins?

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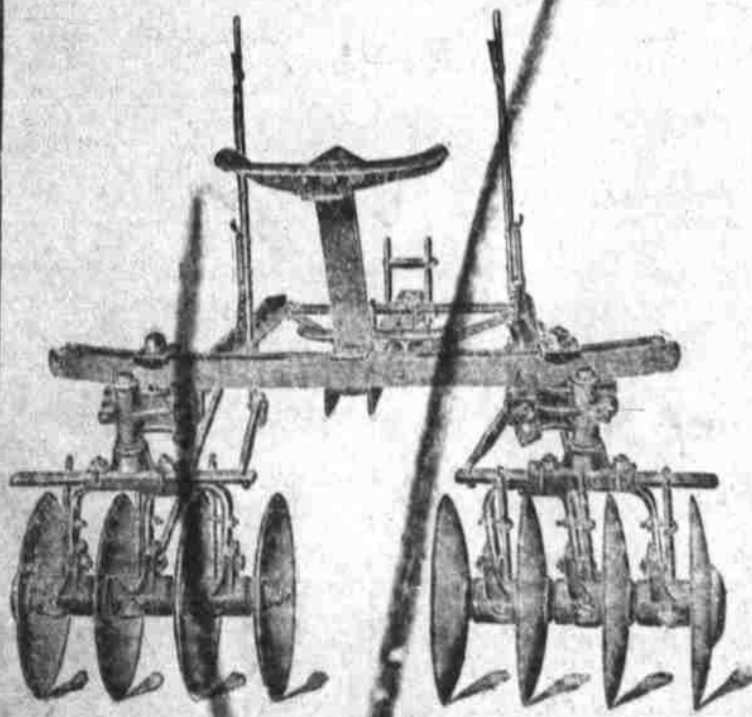
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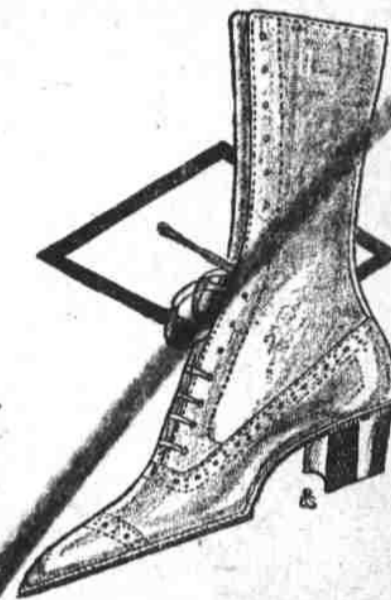
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