

HERALD SERVED WITH NOTICE OF ACTION FOR LIBEL

J. B. Vincent Objects to Statements Contained in Herald's Article on the New Hope Election Printed Last Week

STATEMENTS MUST STAND AS MADE BECAUSE TRUE

Following the publication in the Herald last week of the article headed "New Hope Election Still in Doubt" the Herald Publishing Company was served with a notice from J. B. Vincent, of the district in question, that he contemplates action for libel against this company.

You will take notice the undersigned intends to bring a civil action against you, together with others, or against you separately, as he may elect for damages for libel upon him by you by reason of your publication in the edition of April 28th, 1916, of the Roanoke Rapids Herald of the following article and statements therein, to wit:--

"NEW HOPE ELECTION STILL IN DOUBT" "Those opposing the special tax for improving school facilities have, it is charged, resorted to bribery and black hand methods in their eagerness to carry their point. One voter in the district has made affidavit before a magistrate of the County that he was offered a suit of clothes to vote against the special tax, and this serious charge is almost certain to come before the grand jury of the June Term of Court.

Various voters in the district received prior to the election black hand letters written in red ink threatening the lives and property of the recipients, should they vote for better schools." Rosemary, N. C. This the 1st day of May, 1916. J. B. VINCENT The law in regard to libel actions is that notice must be given the offending newspaper of contemplated suit for libel and if, during the ten days following the receipt of this notice, the newspaper shall retract the statement claimed to be libellous, no suit or action may be brought. Libel is a serious crime and if through inadvertence we had printed statements derogatory to any person which were not true or not susceptible of proof, we would not hesitate to retract such statements and to apologize

for their having been made. In the case of J. Burkett Vincent, however, we regret that we can retract nothing. The statements we made, to which he objects, are literally true. "One voter in the district" has made "affidavit before a magistrate" that he was offered a suit of clothes to vote against this special tax. We reproduce the affidavit in question on this page and from its perusal one may easily gather the reason for J. B. Vincent's exhibition of spleen for he is the man charged therein with the attempted bribery.

Various voters, and by "various" we meant and mean two voters, in the district did receive blackhand letters, and we reproduce the letters in question on this page, in the full belief that by so doing the writer of these letters will be apprehended and indicted. Just why Vincent should threaten to bring suit against the HERALD is inexplicable to us. He had full knowledge at the time he gave us notice of action, that every word of the alleged libel cited in his complaint was true. His idea of what it takes to constitute libel is certainly different from ours.

So the HERALD'S answer to Mr. Vincent's notice of action is the proof of every word it printed! Whether the affidavit in question is true or not is a matter to be decided by a jury, not by it, and the HERALD will reserve opinion on this point at present.

We do believe that the charges of attempted bribery and terrorism in the New Hope-Hockaday School Election of April 25th should be thoroughly investigated and the party or parties who have attempted to introduce the cowardly methods of the Italian Mafia into the law-abiding county of Halifax should be ferretted out and properly punished.

For The State Senate

I hereby announce myself as a candidate for the State Senate subject to the action of the Democratic Primary Election which will be held on June 3. The support of the democracy of Halifax county will be appreciated by me. W. L. LONG.

W. B. HALE SWEARS THAT J. B. VINCENT ATTEMPTED BRIBERY

State of North Carolina Halifax County Before me a Justice of the Peace in and for the said County and State. Personally appeared W. B. Hale and being by me duly sworn, and says, during the week of April the 10th to the 15th A.D. 1916, J. B. Vincent of said County and State offered me a nice suit of clothes to vote against the Special School Taxation now pending in the proposed District of New Hope and Hockaday School Houses in Roanoke Rapids Township, wherein an election is to be voted on by the people on the 25th day of April A.D. 1916. W. B. Hale this April 24th 1916 Witness: J. T. Stainback Justice of the Peace

GRAND JURY OF HALIFAX COUNTY, ATTENTION! BRIBERY IS A CRIME

(REVISAL OF 1905, CHAPTER 81) 3386. BRIBERY OF VOTERS. If any person shall at any time before or after an election, give or promise to give any money, property or reward to any elector in order to secure his vote, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

METHODIST LADIES AID ENTERTAINS

The Ladies Aid Society of the Roanoke Rapids Methodist Church was delightfully entertained on last Friday evening at the residence of Mrs. A. L. Bain. The house was beautifully decorated for the occasion and a large number of members and friends of the society were present.

The guests were delightfully entertained with readings by Misses Hearne and Waller and music and songs. Miss Hearne read "That Old Sweetheart of Mine" Miss Waller's selection was "St. Peter at the Gate". Delicious refreshments were served by the hostess.

The entertainment was given in celebration of the Twelfth Anniversary of the Ladies Aid. A silver offering was taken at the door for the purpose of helping to buy new parsonage lots on Jackson Street.

The Rosemary Concert Band were in Garysburg Tuesday where they rendered a musical program at the Commencement of the schools of that Section.

Several of the members of the local lodge of Odd Fellows were in Weldon Monday evening where they assisted the members of Weldon Lodge in decorative work.

TOWN COMMISSIONERS HOLD MEETING

Proposal to Extend Fifth Street to Corporate Limits Voted Down. Night Policeman Resigns

The Board of Town Commissioners held their regular monthly meeting in the Mayor's office of the town of Roanoke Rapids on last Tuesday night. Mayor J. W. Taylor presided and the following commissioners were present: J. T. Chase, W. P. Taylor, J. T. Stainback and W. E. Woodruff.

Routine bills were read and passed for payment. The secretary submitted an estimate from Engineer Dresbach, of Greenville, on the cost of extending Fifth Street to corporate limits of the town on the West. The estimate conservatively figured showed that the cost of the proposed extension would amount to more than three thousand dollars. The estimate was ordered tabled indefinitely.

A. L. Clark was asked to attend to the matter of selling cemetery lots and issuing deeds therefor, his salary therefor to be fixed at the next meeting of the Board.

The resignation of Officer Jackson as night policeman was received and accepted by the Board, Recorder House being instructed to appoint a man in his stead subject to confirmation at the next meeting of the Board.

I. O. O. F. ANNIVERSARY SERMON DELIVERED

Rev. Robert L. Carroway, of Stonewall, N. C., delivered an eloquent sermon last Sunday morning in the Rosemary Methodist Church in commemoration of the ninety-seventh anniversary of the founding of Oddfellowship in the United States.

Carolina Lodge No. 225, I. O. O. F. attended the services in a body and quite a number of Odd Fellows from Weldon were also present, in fact, the church was crowded with members and friends of the order.

Mr. Carroway's sermon on the "Brotherhood of Man" was a masterly plea for a greater and wider spirit of fraternity on the part of every human being and his eloquent handling of this theme impressed and held his hearers from start to finish.

Mr. Carroway filled the pulpit at the Rosemary Methodist Church again on Sunday night by special invitation.

Recorders Court

Only one case came up during the week. Kenny Collins charged with being drunk and disorderly. Collins was fined \$5.00 and costs.

C. B. Moore, of Henrico, was in town Monday on business.

HERALD'S DIRECTORS STAND PAT

Refuse to Back Down on Account of Threatening Action. Order Completion of Work of Securing Evidence and Submission of Evidence to the Public.

J. B. VINCENT'S CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

As soon as practicable after the receipt of notice of contemplated action for libel by J. B. Vincent the Directors of the HERALD PUBLISHING COMPANY held a special meeting to discuss this action and the steps to be taken by the HERALD in connection therewith. This meeting was held in the office of the HERALD PUBLISHING COMPANY at 10:00 A. M., May 2nd. President J. T. Chase acted as Chairman, the

following Directors being present: Dr. T. W. M. Long, S. F. Patterson, C. A. Wyche, W. L. Long, J. W. House, J. T. Chase, T. M. Jenkins.

After a full discussion of the action and an examination of the article cited and the evidence held by the HERALD, the Directors present voted unanimously to make no retraction whatever, and issued instructions to the editor of the HERALD to secure affidavits from the recipients of the blackhand letters and to publish facsimile copies of affidavits, letters, and the affidavit charging J. B. Vincent with attempted bribery, in the next issue of the HERALD.

Notice Advertisment mail at the Roanoke Rapids Postoffice. Mr. Jim Butler, Mrs. Buta Drungo, Mr. Jimmie Gregory.

\$50.00 REWARD WILL BE PAID FOR Information Leading to the Arrest and Conviction of the Party Who Wrote This Letter

By an order from the Executive Council of Dark Street Devils, you are commanded to find an excuse to keep you away from the polling place in Special election on the 25th. As you are a colored man you will find it much healthier to remain away. So take the advice of the D.S.D. and keep out. This thing must go through without your vote. You probably have never heard of the Dark Street Devils and if you do right you may never hear from us again, but if you do not obey orders, you will need the attention of your Dr. or undertaker when our silent desperate club has given you another call. You may expect this call at or about one week after you have broken our commands or sooner. We are a powerfully organized night riding band who are fighting to overthrow graft, Extravagance and political frame ups in the administration of the affairs of this County and else-where. If you want an acquaintance of a closed nature just disobey us, we will get U.

You may look for the Black mask and this sign. Warmingly yours The Dark Street Devils By order from the inner shrine of J. Limbo, Council Grand

State of North Carolina County of Halifax This is to certify that on the 24th day of April, 1916, J. B. Vincent, of said County and State, signed the attached letter, signed in my moral free delivery in my box at my store in said County and State. R. J. Mayo Acknowledged and sworn to before me a J.P. this 2nd day of May 1916. Hamibal Shearin J.P.

What Woman in New Hope-Hockaday District Wrote This Letter?

You are commanded not to vote next Tuesday under penalty to be imposed by members of Rapids Club of Dark Street Devils. We will fix U if you do. So take warning and save yourself trouble. Warmingly yours The D.S.D. Club By order of J. Limbo Council

State of North Carolina County of Halifax

This is to certify that on the 24th day of April, 1916, I found the above letter on a bench in front of my shop at my residence in said county and state.

Acknowledge and sworn to before me, a Justice of the Peace in and for said county and state this second day of May, 1916.

Hamibal Shearin J.P.