

Editorial Page

Waynesville Courier

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FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 1914.

AFTER MR. WATTS.

Collector Watts stirred up a hornet's nest while in Washington last week. He had to go into the newspapers to deny statements of the Washington correspondent of the Greensboro News. The collector expressed the opinion that there is not such an overwhelming sentiment for a primary in the State and the newspapers are going after him. The Asheville Citizen refers to him as "Ante Deulavian Watts, the revenue collector for the western district of North Carolina," and seems to think the fact that Gov. Craig is for a primary is sufficient answer to Mr. Watts' statement that sentiment isn't so strong for it.

The correspondent of the Greensboro News intimates that complaint may be made to the President about Watts.

It is rumored, though they may not go that far, that progressive Democrats in North Carolina are planning to protest to President Wilson against the activities of his appointee at Statesville. These men, it is said, think Mr. Watts should be satisfied with holding one of the President's best appointments. Many of them even resent this. But they intend to ask that his political activities, which it is claimed is being directed against progressive politics, shall be stopped. At least it will be brought to the attention of Mr. Wilson.

Any complaint to the President about Mr. Watts will probably be time wasted. While The Landmark is of the opinion that the sentiment for a primary is strong, that the primary would be adopted if the people had an opportunity to freely express their opinion, it is also of the opinion that the primary is coming, by degrees, because public sentiment is forcing it. Mr. Watts does not fancy the primary and he and those who believe with him have been able to prevent its enactment thus far. The people have permitted this and they have themselves to blame, if they really want the primary, that it has not been enacted by now.

While The Landmark and Mr. Watts agree in few things politically, nobody who knows the collector will deny his influence or ability and he's generally candid about what he stands for. If the Asheville Citizen will ask its distinguished fellow citizen, Gov. Craig, his latter will testify that the collector is not antipathetic—at least so far as up-to-the-minute political methods are concerned.—Statesville Landmark.

PRIMARY WILL SETTLE IT.

"The next race in the Tenth will settle the contest," James E. Carraway, of Waynesville, said yesterday morning when he left for his home after spending a day in the city. The time for entries closed June 19 and only Congressman Gudgeon and Mr. Reynolds were entered. That means that the primary in the Tenth will be better than ever but more easily decided. It will be welcomed by the people, for no matter how much they think of their favorites, they want to end it this time.

"I have been hearing people say that there is great division in the Tenth. It isn't true. Either of the men if nominated, will carry the district. Of course there is a lot of feeling, but it is that of patriotism. The candidates and their adherents do not hate each other. When the primary is over the fighting will be over. I believe that.

Mr. Carraway spent for or five nights and days with the Gudgeon men at Waynesville and not having enough convention came down to the State meeting. It was all that he needed that week.—Raleigh News and Observer.

OUTLAWING WHISKEY

At the approaching session of the General Assembly of North Carolina a strong effort will be made to banish whiskey from this state. While the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors is now prohibited by law in North Carolina, yet the beverages which cheer but to ruin are easily obtainable by all who desire, and have the price. From convenient points in Tennessee and Virginia packages are sent into North Carolina in numbers that are astounding. Here at Waynesville the express office does a steady business of large volume, and upon any special holiday the shipments of whiskey here are immense. The same thing holds true of every town and city in the state. It is this that the General Assembly will be asked to stop.

The approaching session of the General Assembly will be the first one in this state in a position to pass an act of this nature that will be effective. Under the provisions of an act of Congress, the Webb-Kenyon Bill, a state can make it unlawful for whiskey to be shipped into its territory. This law has been tested and upheld in the United States courts. While it has not reached the United States supreme court there is reason to believe that tribunal will uphold the decisions of the lower courts. North Carolina can, therefore, really regulate the liquor traffic from adjoining states and stop it if the state so desires.

The sentiment for such action is growing stronger. It is apparent that by the time the General Assembly convenes public feeling will have been so crystallized that the legislators will have no difficulty in knowing what a majority of the people of the state want along this line. If North Carolina is to have prohibition the people want it to be of such a character that it will really prohibit. Destroying the saloon and putting half-pint bottles into the pockets of bootleggers for illicit sale is a condition that has grown monotonous. A large proportion of the cases upon the docket of the Superior courts of the state arise from just this condition. It is one that must be stopped. The legislature can now do it.

THE CONGRESSIONAL PRIMARY

Mr. S. F. Chapman of Asheville in a recent communication to the Asheville Citizen suggests that the district primary called for the fifteenth of August to nominate a democratic candidate for congress in an irregular proceeding and one without binding force, beyond the confines of the rules and regulations laid down in the party plan of organization.

We do not know what plan Mr. Chapman has in mind to solve the problem left by the Tenth district convention, which adjourned without having made a nomination. It is possible that he has in mind some method of selecting a candidate that is better than the one proposed. At any rate we beg to take exception to his suggestion of any irregularity.

The district convention had two functions, under the democratic plan of organization. One was to nominate a candidate. The other was to name a district executive committee. The first function the convention found itself absolutely unable to perform, after vainly endeavoring so to do for four days. The second function was performed, regularly and in order, as we believe no one will deny.

Now, as to the action taken with regard to the primary called for the middle of August, we maintain that this was also regular. The newly elected executive committee met, before the adjournment of the convention and drew up a tentative plan for a primary to name a candidate. The plan of the committee was approved by the convention, and adjournment followed.

Under the plan of organization of the party, if Mr. Chapman will refer to that document, the executive committee of any congressional district has the power to call a district-wide ballot primary if the committee finds that such may be necessary or desirable. This is what the Tenth district executive committee did. The only manner in which the committee's action differed from the plan laid down in the plan of organization was in having its work approved by the district convention.

Under the circumstances it does seem to us that there has been nothing irregular, or nothing materially differing from party rules. An extraordinary occasion demanded extraordinary measures, it is true, but even in the rush and confusion of the last few hours of the most remarkable convention ever held in the Tenth district sane counsel prevailed and the customs and precedents of the party were closely followed.

Moreover, there is no denying that the mass of the people of the district are satisfied with this manner of selecting a candidate after the convention had failed in its mission. With two candidates the people will go to the ballot boxes in August and vote for their choice, and whoever is successful then will be supported in November. All that remains for the executive committee to do at its meeting this week is to perfect the details for holding the primary.

UPPER CRABTREE NEWS

The farmers are getting along nicely with their work. Most of them are over their corn the third time.

We are having a large Sunday School. We are glad the people are taking so much interest.

Several attended the children's day at Hyder Mountain Sunday reported nice time.

We want all the church members to be out Sunday as we are going to call a pastor.

Miss Mildred Platt returned to her home in Statesville last week after spending a month here so at this.

Several are expecting to attend the singing at Thickey next Sunday.

The wedding bells have been ringing around here. Mr. Boone Rogers of this place and Miss Maness Medford of Iron Duff got married Sunday June 7. We hope them a long and happy life.

Miss Gussie Medford spent the day

with Miss Ruth Walker Sunday.

There will be singing at this place Sunday evening.

Miss Maude Duckett took dinner with Misses Mammie and Herma Bryson Sunday.

We would like to hear from more of the writers. What has become of Tar Heel of Florida, Grey Eyes of Rock Springs and all the rest? Write again. Gypsy, your letter was just fine last week.

PANSIES.

A "DELICIOUS" EPIDEMIC

A typhoid fever epidemic, said to have started by a "delicious" salad course served at a luncheon at Sealand Neck last week, was assumed alarming proportions, as it is said that 18 out of 23 who attended the reception have contracted the disease. Will the Waynesville Courier please copy?—Canton Observer.

MAKING TOMORROW'S WORLD

By WALTER WILLIAMS, L. L. D.
Dean of the School of Jurisprudence of the University of Missouri



Ghent, Belgium.—Town-planning is not a modern invention. Only the purpose of the planning has changed. Towns were planned yesterday for the glory of the gods and the enjoyment of the few, for show or for safety against invasion. The town planners of today are working on other and totally different lines. Almost within the decade has developed the town planning which takes into account the great majority of the people who dwell in the towns. The new town-planner is a practical democrat. This was the central and significant thought of the First International Town Planning Congress held in this quaint, historic city of Ghent, Belgium, in the Palace of Congresses of its beautiful exposition. Town-planning involves house-planning. Plans are futile unless workable. The provision of funds and the direction and control of expenditure were discussed. And because town-planning takes into account in its largest vision the city's suburbs and the country side, even far removed, there was report of farm dwellings and farms, of the provision of houses in country as in town. The gathered experiences of a dozen nations, through official representatives from their chief cities, were presented. Conspicuous was the object lesson presented in an exhibit by a learned St. Andrew's professor, in picture, chart and model, of the changing plans of towns, from the glorification of the Caesar, the church or the state, Berlin or Rome or Washington, to the good of the men and women and even of the boys and girls, who were the residents.

Takes Parks to the People. We have built our towns not to fit us but to fit our neighbors' eyes. Cathedral and castle and capitol, bou-

subordinated to the interest of the community. The crowded housing, which the greed of real estate promoters so frequently brings about in small as well as large towns, is not permitted under the new town-planning legislation. Society has rights which even the real estate agents must respect. Cities, which were formerly built for the power and the glory of the overlord, and, more lately, for the pocket of the landlord, are to be constructed for common, ordinary folks, the class to which most of us belong. Life is to be preferred above mere property.

Now all this can not be brought about in a day. The building of Rome took longer, whatever its planning or lack of planning required. Progress, remarkable progress, has been made. The Ghent Congress showed that much has been accomplished in less than a decade. The reconstruction of Vienna, the workingmen's houses in Germany, the making over of certain poorer quarters in Paris and Brussels and Ghent, Garden City, near London, and other city suburbs in Great Britain, are examples of the new but widespread movement for better housing for town and country.

Better Housing Progress in England.

Great Britain, where conditions of life are more nearly similar to those in the United States, contributed the results of its recent experimental legislation. This legislation, in substance, was designed to simplify and cheapen the existing procedure for acquiring land for housing purposes and to deal with insanitary areas and unhealthful dwellings, to require landlords to keep rented houses in proper repair, and to provide for town planning. Under this act 140 British towns have adopted schemes of town planning to guide their growth and development. Farm land to the amount of 160,000 acres has been purchased and upon it have been installed 13,000 smallholders. Ninety per cent of this state acquisition of land was not by compulsion but by voluntary agreement with landlords. Ninety-eight per cent of the 13,000 smallholders rent the land. Only two per cent bought it from the state, the others preferring to be tenants of the county councils, to which is entrusted the local administration



Healthy and Happy Children.

levard and avenue and park, contrast sharply with dwelling houses. Edinburgh has Prince's Street, most beautiful, but has—or had—also North Canongate. Paris has the Champ Elysees and the Avenue de l'Opera, and all the sparkling boulevards, but also the sidestreets of Montmartre and Belleville. London has St. James' Park and Whitechapel. The same was true of every city yesterday and is true today. The town-planners hope for change tomorrow. Parks and broad avenues and plans with noble monuments may be beautiful and desirable, but if the space which makes them possible is taken from the living-rooms of the people, they become, to him who sees beneath the surface show of the city, undesirable and hideous. Parks are a city's lungs, the breathing places for its people, but one may not live at his best if he breathes only on Sunday afternoons. So the new town-plan, as the people, particularly the little people, can not come to the big park far removed, takes the park to them. Town-planning and building of towns and country houses are taking on a new and totally different aspect.

Landlords Subordinated.

In Great Britain the Conservative party, when in power some twelve years ago, passed through Parliament the Small Dwellings Acquisitions Act. The Liberals, by the Housing and Town Planning Act of 1909, added to the provisions of the earlier act the feature of town planning, for the first time in British legislation. France, Germany, Belgium and other substantial countries have made large progress, though not always on the same lines. Speaking generally, the new legislation sanctions loans by states and municipalities for the acquisition of land for the provision of parks, the erection of dwellings and other purposes. The interest of the landlord or the owner of real estate is

British could employ, if necessary, compulsory powers to purchase land in considerable blocks, erecting cottages, four to an acre, thereon and make the scheme profitable at 75 cents a week. This estimate included, in addition to \$750 for the cost of the cottage, \$250 for the land. After due allowance was added for loan charges, repairs, insurance, and supervision, the total annual cost to be met was set down at \$160 per group of four, which works out about 75 cents a week for each.

Model Cottage for 62 Cents Weekly.

The model was shown of a cottage in Surrey, England, actually built and rented to three young women earning their living. This cottage has three bedrooms, parlor, kitchen, pantry, bathroom, coal-cellar. A framework of block weatherboarding was used for the external walls. Between this and the plaster interior is an air space which is said to make the house warm and dry and perfectly weather-proof. It cost, land included, \$500 and rents for 62 cents a week.

Better housing on the farm may not, of course, check the movement of population to the city. Perhaps it is neither necessary nor desirable to retain upon the soil, under today's condition, so large a proportion of the population as yesterday. The more rural conditions are improved, the better the wages and the housing, the higher the education at the school, the less will the farm-laborer be satisfied with the country as it is. So better farm conditions, through Housing Reform and in other ways, brings an increased betterment of all rural life conditions for those who remain and, with better conditions, fewer hands are needed. It was not a far cry, therefore, when the Town Planning Congress heard one speaker emphasize the need for a more comfortable rural life and for a more intensive agriculture.

A Slum Life Story.

Over against the progress of the new attack upon the old slum, as shown by the Ghent Congress, may be put a story told a few evenings before at a London club. Miss B., an old maid with much money and nothing to do, became interested in slum work. She rented rooms in a London slum district, gave tea and cake—the British climax of afternoon hospitality—to children who came and presented material for any garments they would make. One little girl worried Miss B. She looked so poor and ill and miserable. Finally the Good Samaritan decided to invite the child to her country home for a week's holiday, an invitation accepted with delight. The soon returned under every provision for her comfort, a pretty bedroom, toys and playmates and books, food and flowers. The child of the slums could stand it only four days. She wanted to go back to London the second day, she cried all the third day and neither food nor fruit nor flowers could tempt her on the fourth. She invented excuses to induce her benefactor to take her back to her tenement dwelling—she dreamt her mother was dead, she had sprained her foot, her father had written that her baby brother was ill. The truth was that her small Cockney soul fairly sickened for the sights and smells of the slums and that a ha'penny worth of chips eaten from a scrap of newspaper tasted to her sweeter than a well-cooked omelette served in a china plate. "They are all the same," said he who told the story as argument against the new crusade against the slum, town-planning for all the people, "they are all the same; you can do nothing with them—dress them, feed them, pamper them, it is all the same, they will fall back into the gutter and regard you as an enemy for trying to lift them out."

"It is not an effort to lift men from the slums," quietly replied the St. Andrew's professor, "it is an effort to abolish the slum, so that no one will be born therein. For if there is no hog-wallow, even the swine cannot return to it."

Heaven, if the town plans of John the Beloved are realized, is to be a shameless city—not a country-place—a city in which there will be neither sorrow nor crying nor pain, for the former things of yesterday will have passed away. And this city, near at hand on earth, the zealous, optimistic town-planners of Ghent all see, at least "in their mind's eye, Horatio!" (Copyright, 1914, by Joseph B. Bowles.)

Cannot Fix Age of World.

The age of the world implies fixing the date of the creation, and scientists do not attempt to do that beyond saying that it must be reckoned by millions of years. Many Bibles are printed with the year 4004 B. C. in the margin of the first chapter of Genesis, indicating that as the date of the creation of the world. It is only within comparatively recent times that science has demonstrated beyond doubt that the world existed millions of years before the period formerly assigned as the date of the creation, and that its occupancy by man covers a period hundreds of times as long as that formerly accepted as the age of the world itself. The prehistoric period means the period antedating written history. Human records by means of hieroglyphics which, as now known, reach back far beyond the period formerly accepted as the date of the creation of the world.