

LOCAL MINISTERS ASKING DAMAGES OF RALEIGH NEWSPAPER

Dr. J. R. Pentuff Asking Damages in Sum of \$25,000 as Result of Article in Raleigh Times.

COMPLAINT FILED DURING THE DAY

Complaint Says Article Referred to Plaintiff as "Immigrant Ignoramus" Other Complaints.

Damages in the sum of \$25,000 are asked in a suit filed today in Cabarrus County Superior Court by Dr. James H. Pentuff, pastor of the McGill Street Baptist Church, of Concord, against John A. Pentuff, O. Coffin and The Times Publishing Company of Raleigh, it being charged that an article which appeared in the Times of February 23, 1926, was injurious to the plaintiff as an individual, educator and minister.

The complaint charges "that by reason of said publication in said Raleigh Times... and by means of committing of several wrongs and grievances by said defendant, the plaintiff has been and still is injured in his good name, fame, credit, character and reputation both as an individual and professionally as an educator and minister of the gospel and brought into public ridicule, contempt, disgrace and disrepute with and amongst a large body of citizens to plaintiff unknown, the same being readers of said Raleigh Times and being persons who have read libelous and defamatory article in said Raleigh Times..."

"By reason of the allegation that plaintiff was so 'unmanly' and 'disrespectful' before the legislative committee that plaintiff was 'suppressed' by Chairman Connor, the character of plaintiff is injured both as an individual and as an educator and as a minister of the gospel by leading people to believe that plaintiff is in fact 'unmanly' and 'disrespectful'."

"By reason of the allegation that 'that there has not to our knowledge appeared in public within the memory of the present generation a more ignorant man than Pentuff, or one less charitable' and by reason of the further allegation that 'if Fuquay Springs will insist on taking the word of an 'immigrant ignoramus' against that of men of 'proven character and intelligence such as Drs. Vann and Poteat, we suppose there is nothing that can be done about it.'"

It is further charged in the complaint that the article affects the livelihood of Dr. Pentuff and has caused him and his wife mental anguish. It is further set forth that the plaintiff "five or more days before the commencement of this article, served notice in writing on the defendants... and the defendants have made no retraction or apology therefore."

"The article referred to, according to the complaint, follows, under the caption, 'Pentuff Re-enters Evolution Fight.'"

"We see by the Sunday morning paper of this city that Fuquay Springs under the leadership of one Pentuff of Concord has declared war against what it is pleased to term evolution."

"We can't say that Fuquay Springs does not know its stuff, but we do state without fear of successful contradiction that if it learned about evolution from Pentuff, it might just as well go back to the encyclopedia or some other authority for additional information."

"For Pentuff, if our memory does not play us false, is the same chap who tried to lead the legislative committee on education all about evolution at the last session of the General Assembly. He was supposed to be shedding light on the Poole resolution and its probable results. Beyond stating categorically that he had been president of a college or two of which nobody in the audience had ever heard and that science had disproved something that he called 'evolution' but had evidently never met, he contributed anything to the discussion."

"He was, indeed, so unmanly in his approach to the matter before the House, so disrespectful to those whom he deemed to be in disagreement with him, that the chairman of the committee, Representative Connor of Wilson, suppressed him."

"At Fuquay Springs, with none to check his observations or to make him justify his conclusions, we have no doubt that he convinced the more voracious members of his audience that he knew something about the subject on which he elected to converse."

"There has not to our knowledge appeared in public within the memory of the present generation of North Carolinians a more ignorant man than Pentuff, or one less charitable toward men who might honestly disagree with him. If Fuquay Springs will insist on taking the word of an immigrant ignoramus against that of men of proven character and intelligence such as Drs. Vann and Poteat, whom it has known all their lives, we suppose there is nothing that can be done about it."

"But it does the intelligence of the people of this Wake County community scant credit."

Prohibition Poll Complete Shows Eighty-One Per Cent. Wet

18 PT HEAD... G. G. M. 0-0... Cleveland, March 23.—The greatest newspaper referendum in history is complete.

Final tabulation of the returns on the poll taken by 375 newspapers throughout the United States, which co-operated with Newspaper Enterprise Association service in taking the gigantic straw vote on prohibition, shows a grand total vote cast of 1,740,062.

The final vote on the three questions which the newspapers submitted to the voters of the country stands as follows:

For retaining the prohibition amendment as it now stands with strict enforcement, 329,274.

For repealing the prohibition amendment, 545,839.

For modification of the prohibition law so as to allow sale of light wines and beer, 864,949.

Grand total vote cast, 1,740,062. Dries and wets may differ justly as to what these figures really mean, but here are the outstanding points revealed by the detailed tabulations:

Those favoring modification polled 49.7 per cent., slightly less than half the total.

Those for outright repeal of the amendment represented 31.3 per cent. of the total.

Those for the retention of the present amendment with strict enforcement of the Volstead act as it stands polled 19 per cent. of the ballots.

Thus the wet strength amounted to 81 per cent. of the vote.

A comparison of these percentages with those of the Literary Digest poll on the same questions in 1922, with a total of 922,383 votes, is interesting. In that poll, the dry strength represented 38.6 per cent. of the total.

While the modificationist percentage was 40.8 per cent. Those favoring repeal ran last with 20.6 per cent.

Big Cities Overwhelmingly Wet. Cities from the great metropolitan center of New York down to some of the smallest towns that support a daily newspaper, participated in this poll, and thus it is the only one which may be said to give a truly representative cross-sectional view of opinion in the country today.

The big cities without exception voted overwhelmingly wet, the majority in some places being more than fifty to one. Almost as large dry majorities were piled up in several of the smaller communities.

Seventy-eight cities showed a clear cut dry majority. The largest city in this class was Winston-Salem, N. C., with a population of 69,000.

In thirty cities, the dries had a plurality; but the combined repeal and modification vote exceeded the dry total. But in seventy-nine cities with populations of 150,000 or less.

Modification Vote Exceeds Dry. The modification vote alone was greater than the dry total. This is considered one of the most significant features of the poll.

The wets carried all states except Kansas and South Carolina. In six other states the dries had a plurality, but not a majority. These were Arkansas, Kentucky, Maine, North Carolina, Oklahoma and West Virginia.

In Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Tennessee and Texas—six states—the wet majority was 2 to 1 or less, but in all others, the majority was greater.

The largest vote was polled in New York state, where the total was 206,354. The wet strength was about 15 to 1. The only city that failed to go wet was Bencon.

Washington, March 23.—(AP)—A complete draft of safety measures designed to reduce traffic accidents which last year took a toll of 28,900 lives and approximately 600,000 injuries in the United States was taken up today at the first of a three-day session of the second national conference on street and highway safety.

Secretary Hoover, in opening the conference, attended by about 1,000 delegates, including representatives of governments of forty-three states set here at the request of President Coolidge, emphasized the need of uniformity of laws as between the states, and uniformity of traffic ordinances as between cities in the same states.

The model motor vehicle code of three laws, as suggested by the committee on uniformity of laws and regulations, was endorsed by the secretary as "perhaps the outstanding concrete accomplishment" of the two years work of the conference.

Answering those who doubt the wisdom of uniform traffic laws, Mr. Hoover called attention to reports of a study recently made, indicating that accident hazards in states having modern vehicle codes are less by 25 per cent to 30 per cent than in states not having such laws.

These figures, he added, appeared to be supported by data gained from the experience of automobile insurance companies.

He advocated drastic penalties for the deliberate law violator declaring a belief that "much of the solution of the present high accident rate on our city streets and rural highways lies in the enforcement of the law by the police, and by properly organized traffic courts."

Harold S. Battenheim, editor of the American City Magazine, told the conference that a canvass of nearly 500 police chiefs showed them almost unanimously in favor of limiting the speed capacity of automobiles to forty miles an hour, while Fred W. Johnson, director of the Citizens Safety Committee, of Philadelphia, urged manufacturers to establish a "board of safety control" to stress safety factors in building motor cars.

CONFERENCE IS HELD DESIGNED TO REDUCE TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Complete Draft of Safety Measures Taken Up Today at Conference on Highway Safety.

23,900 LIVES LOST LAST YEAR

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The Myers' suit for \$50,000 was for injuries received last year in a bus wreck. The trial opened March 8th and continued through yesterday when it was given to a jury. This is believed to set a record for length of hearings in this county.

With Our Advertisers. The Banny bread is made by the Blue Ribbon Bakery of Charlotte, and is delivered fresh here every day.

Now is the time to see Florida at its best. The present price of Hollywood-by-the-Sea tours has been extended to April 1st. Price \$57.50. See Miss Helen Marsh, 304 Cabarrus Savings Bank building, or phone 921.

After today all women's Oxfords and pumps at the old J. E. Love stand will be sold for \$1.95. All children's shoes, pumps \$1.00, silk hose 65 cents and fashionable hose \$5.75. See quarter page on page seven today.

Last time today at the Concord Theatre, Norma Shearer and Lew Cody in "His Secretary," a Metro-Goldwyn picture. Wednesday only "The Reckless Lady."

Series No. 57 in the Cabarrus County B. L. and S. Association is now open. Running shares 25 cents.

Nunn and Bush ankle fashioned oxfords at Richmond-Flower Co. Get your clothes cleaned now for Easter. See ad. of Bob's Dry Cleaning Company.

See "Twelve Reasons Why You Should Use a Buck" in new ad. of the Concord Furniture Co.

Star Theatre WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY THOMAS MEIGHAN and LOIS WILSON in "Irish Luck"

The story of a New York traffic cop who won a free trip to Ireland, and stirring adventure not included in the itinerary. A Victor Heerman Production—A Paramount Picture

Last Showing Today "HANDS UP" With Raymond Griffith... Just a Real Good Picture

The song "Queen of My Heart" is said to have made four substantial fortunes, and in one year to have earned \$200,000, yet under the title of "Old Dreams" it had been on sale for years before it "caught on."

BELOVED CHINESE MERCHANT HANGED AT LIVERPOOL TODAY

Executed for the Murder of His Welsh Wife and Their Two Daughters, Doris and Cecelia.

SHOT THEM DEAD IN THEIR HOME

Lock Ah-Tam Was Known by His Countrymen All Over the World—Crimes Were Without Reason.

Liverpool, March 23.—(AP)—Lock Ah-Tam, benevolent Chinese merchant, beloved by all who knew him, was hanged today for the murder of his Welsh wife and their two handsome daughters, Doris, 20, and Cecelia, 17.

The crimes were committed apparently without reason during a celebration in his home. After he had shot them dead, Lock Ah-Tam calmly called the police on the telephone and told what he had done. He was immediately arrested.

The murderer was 52 years old, and was known by his countrymen throughout the world. He came to England twenty-two years ago, became enamored and married a Welsh girl. He became wealthy through his business transactions, and was powerful but mysterious. Thousands of his needy countrymen were aided by him. He was well known in Chinatowns of New York and San Francisco. Whether he was affiliated with one of the big Chinese societies is not known, but he was influential in many countries. When he was arrested Chinese in Europe and the United States raised a large fund for his defense. Sir Edward Marshall, one of England's most distinguished lawyers, defended him. He advanced the theory that his client's mind had been unbalanced by business worries, but nevertheless he was found guilty.

"I am ready to meet my fate," Lock Ah-Tam said last night with calm stoicism to Percy Loud, a local politician who organized a petition for reprieve.

"Tell everybody who signed the petition," the condemned man added, "that I am extremely grateful to them. I am content and happy. I am aware that I have done wrong, but I shall shortly join my loved ones, and they will understand."

Verdict of \$14,000 AGAINST KIRK LINES

Verdict Returned at Charlotte in Case of Guy A. Myers.

Charlotte, March 23.—(AP)—A verdict of \$14,000 damages was returned in the suit of Guy A. Myers against the A. B. C. Kirk Bus Line of Salisbury, and others in Superior Court here today.

The Myers' suit for \$50,000 was for injuries received last year in a bus wreck. The trial opened March 8th and continued through yesterday when it was given to a jury. This is believed to set a record for length of hearings in this county.

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Wet and Dry—But They're Friends



Mrs. Florence P. Kahn, representative from California, is an outspoken opponent of the Volstead act. But here she is (left) shaking hands with one of her best friends, who is none other than Miss Laura Volstead of Granite Falls, Minn., daughter and law-partner of the author of the national enforcement act.

HARTSELL NOT CHOSEN TO DELIVER KEYNOTE

Chairman Dawson Denies Salisbury Rumor That Concord Man Will Speak at State Convention.

There is nothing to the report, said to have emanated from Salisbury, to the effect that Hon. L. T. Hartsell, of the Concord bar, will serve as temporary chairman of the State Democratic convention.

Chairman John G. Dawson, of the State executive committee, denied the report from Raleigh Monday and at the same time friends of Mr. Hartsell were denying it.

Everybody agrees that Mr. Hartsell could handle the assignment in excellent fashion, but it is said that another man has been selected, his name to be made public in the near future.

Concord first heard that Mr. Hartsell would be the keynote of the convention in the Toim Best story in The Greensboro News of Monday.

Mr. Hartsell was out of the city Monday so the report could not be verified here. However, the statement by Mr. Dawson settles the matter.

The Raleigh News and Observer of March 23rd carries the following story concerning the matter:

John G. Dawson, chairman of the State Democratic executive committee, yesterday stated that the published report said to have emanated from Salisbury that former State Senator Luther T. Hartsell, of Concord, would be named as temporary chairman of the Democratic State convention were incorrect. Mr. Hartsell is understood to have been equally in ignorance of the reports.

"I have mentioned the matter to Mr. Hartsell and have authorized no one to do so for me and shall not do so," stated Mr. Dawson. "Mr. Hartsell is well qualified to serve as temporary chairman and make the keynote address, but another man has already been agreed upon and I expect to make the announcement within the next day or two," stated the chairman.

The convention will meet in Raleigh on Thursday, April 29th, and the selection of a temporary chairman has given Mr. Dawson considerable concern and has been the subject of conference with a number of party leaders. It is conceded that the selection will be made from the west as the party has been rather liberal with the east in recent years, the national committeeman, the State chairman and the governor all coming from that section.

FOURTH VICTIM OF AUTO ACCIDENT DIES

Raymond Green, 12 Injured Saturday at Aquadale, Died Yesterday.

Albemarle, March 22.—Raymond Green, 12-year-old son of Walter Green, one of the three men killed Saturday afternoon in a street crossing collision of Aquadale and who was the last survivor of the tragedy, died at Talley Brunson hospital here this morning.

The body was buried at Silver Springs cemetery, in the Aquadale section this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, and as at the one yesterday at the same church when the other three victims of the wreck were buried, a large crowd was present. More than 1,800 automobiles, it is said, were counted at the funeral of and the two Green brothers Sunday afternoon.

Rowan County Joins in Chicken Shipment Plan.

Salisbury, March 21.—Recently Rowan county joined in the plan to ship chickens by car lots to market centers north. During the past week three car loads of poultry left here. More than 160 farmers furnished chicken the total pounds of the shipment from Rowan being 16,788. The shipment averaged \$20 to each farmer participating.

Reid Succeeds A. M. McDonald.

Raleigh, Mar. 22.—Revenue Commissioner R. A. Doughton this afternoon named J. Calvin Reid as the state revenue department's new district deputy for the Mecklenburg-Gaston tax district. He succeeds the late A. Morris McDonald of Charlotte.

SOME RELIEF FROM FLOOD WATERS AND OFFICES SEEM SAFE

At Oil City, Pa., Waters Are Receding Rapidly and Some Business Has Been Done Today.

ICE GORGE STILL IS BIG MENACE

River Men Do Not See How Flood Waters Have Escaped Through Ice—Rains Did Little Damage

Oil City, Pa., March 23.—(AP)—Flood waters in the Oil City business district had receded greatly today giving the city temporary relief at least from the menace of high waters. Practically all the water which backed up Oil Creek in its sudden rise yesterday afternoon moved out during the night, leaving only a portion of Seneca Street and other lower sections submerged. The main ice gorge in the Allegheny River, the primary cause of the flood, continued to hold.

Tain which fell last night had stopped, but the sky was overcast, bringing a prospect of a further downpour today. There was also a sharp drop in temperature from 50 degrees at midnight to 38 degrees at daybreak. Observers had feared that continued high temperature, together with rain, would break up the ice gorge north of the city, and back more high water into the streets.

River men afforded no possible explanation for the recession of most of the flood waters, with the ice still solidly jammed in the river. One was that the water might have found a weak spot in the ice below Oil City and was seeping through. The other was that the water was backing up Tionesta Creek, a tributary, which was cleared of ice last night.

THE TARIFF COMMISSION INQUIRY GETS UNDERWAY

Defense of Present Operation Made By F. W. Taussig, of Harvard.

Washington, March 23.—(AP)—The Senate investigation of the tariff commission got underway today with a defense of the bi-partisan selection of its membership and discussion of the propriety of commissioners to hold private conferences with persons interested in commodities under consideration.

F. W. Taussig, Harvard professor, and first chairman of the commission, who was appointed by President Wilson, was the first witness called, and declared the bi-partisan personnel satisfied the public.

Chairman Robinson questioned him as to private conferences with outside interests, and he gave it as his opinion that a member of the commission should be allowed to confer with anyone, but that the information gained should be submitted to the commission.

He asked to be excused from answering another question by the chairman as to whether it was "sound" to clothe the President with authority to raise or lower the tariff, declaring that was going into the field of politics.

Replying to further questioning he declared he did not believe the principle of protection should be applied except under unusual conditions; that freedom of trade should be encouraged between countries.

Prof. Taussig, however, contended that a commissioner should no more participate in a case in which either he or his family was interested than should a judge.

Gives List of Alleged "Law Breakers".

Harrisburg, Pa., March 23.—(AP)—Governor Pinchot today made public a letter to Secretary of the Treasury Mellon, accompanying a list of what he termed "law breakers in Philadelphia who are now withdrawing alcohol under Federal permits." The Governor did not make public the list, but said it contained the names of 81 permittee manufacturers and of ten distillers and others.

Samarand Building is Burned to Ground.

Rockingham, March 22.—One of the buildings at Samarand, a state institution for wayward girls, located 30 miles north of Rockingham, burned to the ground Sunday night about 8 o'clock. It is understood the fire originated from a moving picture machine.

German Reichstag Approves Government's Course.

Berlin, March 23.—(AP)—The reichstag today approved the government's course at Geneva by a rising vote.

SAT'S BEAR SAYS



Partly cloudy tonight, slightly colder in extreme west portion, possibly light frost in central and west portions; Wednesday fair. Strong south winds this afternoon shifting to west.

Advertisement for Cabarrus County B. L. & Savings Association. Text includes: 'I represent a system of full returns from every dollar— a system of wise expenditures and regular savings. I endorse the "building and loan" plan because it is a safe plan, ideal for the thrift program of every man. Series No. 57 Now Open. Running Shares 25 Cents Per Share. Prepaid Shares \$72.25. NON-TAXABLE. Cabarrus County B. L. & Savings Association. OFFICE IN CONCORD NATIONAL BANK'.

