

The Chapel Hill Weekly

LOUIS GRAVES Editor

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One Year \$1.50
Six Months 1.00
Three Months .75

Entered as second-class matter February 28, 1923, at the postoffice at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, under the act of March 3, 1879.

The State and Its Prisoners

"The feet of two Negroes have had to be cut off because of the gangrene resulting from brutal punishment inflicted upon them in a prison camp in Mecklenburg county and from the lack of decent medical service after the punishment. The outrage has stirred public indignation, and investigations have been launched. Capus Waynick, chairman of the highway and public works commission (which conducts the state prison and prison camps) is investigating. The state board of charities and public welfare is investigating. The legislature has appointed a committee to investigate not this incident alone but prison punishment throughout the state. The solicitor of the Mecklenburg district has asked the Governor to order a judicial investigation.

It is to be hoped that these investigations will bring about an improvement in the management of the state's prison camps. "It is our responsibility, and we are not going to have any whitewash," said Mr. Waynick when he appeared last week before the legislative committee that was inquiring into the case of the two Negroes, and we may be sure that Mr. Waynick will do all in his power to end the barbarities committed in the name of "discipline." But can he accomplish much in the face of the law that binds him? And by law we mean the appropriation law that makes impossible the employment of well qualified prison camp supervisors and camp physicians. It is not only rebellious prisoners that wear shackles. Mr. Waynick, the commander-in-chief of the prisons and the camps, an intelligent, conscientious and humane man, who would like nothing better than to have all the inmates fairly treated, is himself effectively shackled.

When injustice or cruelty inflicted by agents of the state is brought into public view, the root of it is usually found to be the state's parsimony. The quality of any service depends upon the quality of the men who perform it, and you cannot expect to get anything but poor service when your wage scale compels you to employ the lowest order of men for tasks that call for fidelity, judgment, and a sense of fairness.

The legislators who failed to provide adequate pay for prison camp superintendents and guards are the most obvious target for blame, but the fault goes back to the element sometimes described as "the best people" of the state. Tens of thousands of citizens, amply fed and sheltered, secure in their homes and their liberty, know little or nothing, except on a rare occasion when some outrage is revealed, about the life of prisoners. They don't want to know. It makes them uncomfortable

to contemplate such a foul condition. To introduce civilized methods into prison camp management would cost them something, and they don't want to pay it. "They" means you and me and everybody else who has had the advantage of an education and who is supposed to have a civic conscience. Complacent is the proper word to describe the attitude of most of us. Fortunately, our complacency is rudely disturbed now and then when some particularly revolting case of inhumanity is forced upon our attention.

"However appropriate the present flood of investigations may be to fix the measure of individual guilt in the brutal punishment and indefensible neglect which cost two Negroes their feet," writes Frank Smetthurst in the *News and Observer*, "no formal inquiry is needed to expose the essential cruelties of our prison system. Fairly benign regulations and theories are discounted in practice. Capable and conscientious men are placed in high executive positions with no way under heaven to discharge their responsibilities. Between the executives of the prison system and the point of personal contact of that system with the prisoner, intent has been strained frightfully thin through inadequate provision for a fair execution of the purpose to be both humane and practical."

After setting down the regulations for punishment—loss of privileges (such as smoking), reprimands, warnings, shackling, restricted diet, solitary confinement—Mr. Smetthurst says: "A casual reading of these regulations reveals that hell itself is the limit to which ignorance, indifference, instinctive brutality may go in their execution."

There you have it: the cause, "inadequate provision," the result, "ignorance, indifference, and instinctive brutality" in the men employed at the prison camps.

Serious Fault of Examinations

Headline in the Greensboro *News*: "Examinations Halt Carolina Athletics." At last, then, we have an unquestionably sound reason for abolishing examinations.

Latest Population Estimates

The latest estimate by the United States Census Bureau (as of July 1, 1934) puts the population of the United States, excluding Alaska and other outlying possessions, at 126,425,000. This is an increase of 3,650,000 over 1930.

The estimates for the Southern states are as follows (the figure in parentheses being the increase over 1930):

Virginia 2,446,000 (inc. 24,000), North Carolina 3,301,000 (inc. 131,000), South Carolina 1,750,000 (inc. 11,000), Georgia 2,911,000 (inc. 3,000), Florida 1,575,000 (inc. 107,000), Alabama 2,710,000 (inc. 64,000), Mississippi 2,057,000 (inc. 47,000), Louisiana 2,166,000 (inc. 65,000), Texas 6,073,000 (inc. 249,000), Arkansas 1,876,000 (inc. 22,000), Tennessee, 2,676,000 (inc. 60,000), Kentucky, 2,657,000 (inc. 43,000).

Notice to Subscribers

Postcard notices of subscription renewals due March 1 were sent out on that date. Many subscribers have responded to these notices. Some have not. If you are one of those who have received the notice but have not responded—and if you want to continue to receive the *Weekly*—we ask that you send in your check at once (\$1.50 for a year). If you are going to renew, isn't it just as easy to do it now instead of later and thus save us the trouble and expense of sending you more notices? Your cooperation in this matter will be highly appreciated.

M. C. S. Noble Is 80

(Continued from page one)

tem that North Carolina has today. The fruit of their enthusiasm and their toil—education for every boy and girl—is now taken as a matter of course by the great majority of the people of the state; only men and women who are growing old, who can remember those days, have a real understanding of how hard the struggle was—the struggle against poverty and inertia and against the conviction, held by many well-to-do and influential citizens, that "a man ought not to be taxed to pay for the schooling of another man's child."

Mr. Noble was born in Louisville. His family moved to New Bern, and his father joined the Confederate army. When New Bern was about to be taken by the Unionists the mother and children "refugeed" westward to Clayton. There in the spring of 1865 the 10-year-old boy sat on the porch and saw Sherman's army pass by. A few weeks later he was to hear his parents and the neighbors talking about the final chapter of the war—the surrender of Johnston on the Bennett farm near "Durham's Station" (the Durham of today).

One of his recollections is of an interview with Sherman himself. It happened that the General and his staff halted in front of the house in Clayton for their midday meal, and the General came to the porch and sat down and took the boy on his knee. In the course of their conversation he said:

"We've got to build a bridge a little way up the road. Suppose we just take this house down and use it for lumber?"

Mr. Noble recalls just what he replied:

"I'll be dad-limmed if you're going to tear my house down." This caused the General and his staff to shout with laughter. A moment later they mounted their horses and rode off, and the youngster continued to sit there and look at the procession: the squadrons of cavalry, the lumbering cannon-trucks, the wagon trains, and the plodding infantry.

He attended the Bingham school at Mebane, was at Davidson for two years, and was graduated from the University in 1879. He taught at Bingham's until 1882, and then he went to Wilmington to become that city's first superintendent of schools.

It was soon after that that he became associated with Alderman and McIver and Moses and Graham and a few other educational enthusiasts in the campaign to build up the public schools all over the state. Charles B. Aycock was drawn into their circle and became the spokesman of the movement on the stump and in legislative halls.

These teachers went about the state, whenever they could leave their regular duties, preaching the gospel of the public school. In scores of communities they stimulated the organization of groups friendly to education; they conducted institutes for teachers; they addressed societies and clubs; they exercised their arts of persuasion upon town councilmen and county commissioners; and they seized every opportunity to enlist the support of "key men" in this and that community.

Everywhere they went the great question was: money. The state had not recovered from the cataclysm of the war, and poverty was the general condition. Most men who owned any property were striving desperately to wring a living out of it, and an additional tax rate of only a few cents seemed to them

a mountainous burden. The colossal task of the crusaders was to induce the people to vote taxes upon themselves. Discouragements, instead of staying them, fired them on. Their labor and their zeal won converts; their gospel spread; and before they had reached middle age they saw the public school movement triumph. It is to those pioneers of the 80's, to their dream and to their action, that North Carolina owes its school system of today.

Recognition of his part in the campaign came to Mr. Noble in 1891 when he was chosen a member of the first board of trustees of the State Normal and Industrial College in Greensboro (now the Woman's College of the University). He was on the board for seven years, until he became a member of the University faculty, as professor of pedagogy, in 1898. He was appointed dean of the University school of education in 1913.

He was the editor of several text books in the course of his career as a teacher, and in 1932 his *History of the Public Schools of North Carolina* won him the Mayflower Cup, the prize awarded by the State Literary and Historical Society for the year's best book by a North Carolinian.

George Hamer's New Position

George W. Hamer, who since last September has been connected with the Alumni Association as associate editor of the *Alumni Review* has accepted a position as executive of the Tuscarora Council of the Boy Scouts of America, succeeding W. E. Pennington, of Goldsboro, who recently resigned. During the last year Hamer served as scoutmaster of the Chapel Hill troop of Boy Scouts.

Praises Raleigh Airport

Elmer G. Meyers, who aided the late "Merrie" Merrill as manager of the original Curtiss Field at Mineola, Long Island, has become the operator of the Raleigh airport, which was recently made over, under the C.W.A. and the E.R.A., at a cost of \$250,000. He is quoted in the New York papers as saying that this airport is the most ambitious and adequate aeronautical monument in the relief realm.

"Married out of Their Climate"

(Pinehurst Outlook)
Northern visitors, do what they will, are spending these early spring days remembering all the sad stories about bright colored fish taken from the sea and beautiful icicles brought into the house. The rule on both of these is the same—the fish stop being rainbows and the icicles melt.

The fish-and-icicle affair this year revolves around the shrubs and flowers of the Carolinas. Northerners, losing their hearts to them, have been bearing off slips and seeds to Westchester and New England for years. The Lochinvar gardeners did well with the transplanted beauties for many seasons. But the plants had married out of their climate. It took the cold winter and blizzards of 33-34 to end the honeymoon. That winter, the first real one since the visitors went northward, illustrated some of the great Kipling spirit in nature about the north being the north and the south being the south. (Both Lochinvar and Kipling are a little awkward here, with their insistent harping on east and west, but they'll have to do until we locate the minor poetry editor). Anyhow, that winter blighted the brides.

Now the New Englanders are looking wistfully at the plants again. That little shrub, now, would look fine by the doorway. But the burnt gardeners are learning something about the deeper truths. If you want to see bright colored fish, you have to go swimming. If you like icicles, stay outdoors with them. If you're all for the trees, shrubs and flowers of Carolina, you'll have to come down and court them here.

International spies must be resourceful. Sometimes one has to try several stores before finding a picture post card of the fort.—*Detroit News*.

Baseball Prospects

Hearn Faces Hard Task; He Has Lost Many of His 1934 Players

"Coach Bunn Hearn will have to build his team almost from the ground up," says a bulletin from the University News Bureau about the baseball prospects for this spring.

"Losses from last year's team, which won 20 out of 21 games played, include three infielders, two brilliant pitchers, and a well-nigh irreplaceable catcher. The outfield, however, remains intact; a veteran is available for every post."

The pitchers on the squad are Fred Crouch, Leo Manly, Bryant Spiers, Latcher Webster, Oil Yeager, Bunn Hearn, Jr., Irby Wright, and Ike Jeans. Guy Fletcher, 1934 freshman pitcher, was ruled ineligible in the summer and has signed with the Detroit Tigers. To replace Norman McCaskill, the catcher now with the New York Yankees, Jim Tatum or Eddie Shapiro may be shifted from the outfield.

The University's season will open April 8 with the University of Michigan game in Chapel Hill.

D. A. R. Meeting

There will be a meeting of the Davie Poplar chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution at 3 o'clock tomorrow (Saturday) afternoon at the home of Mrs. Isaac Manning.

By Bus to Chinese Turkestan

From Suiyuan in northern China to Sinkaiang, or Chinese Turkestan, the distance is 2,917 miles—forming one of the longest transport routes served by motor bus. Four to five months are required for the trip by camel; yet the Ford units now traversing it make it in twelve to thirteen days; and a Ford truck holds the record—nine days.—*The Ford News*.

North and South Carolina, it seems, have not observed anybody dying of thirst.—*Chicago News*.

Ogden Mills says he is not in the race for president. To be filed under the heading of useless information.—*Detroit Free Press*.

A Poster Contest

Announced by the Dogwood Festival Committee; Open to All Corners

The Dogwood Festival will conduct a poster contest, open to all corners. The design must include the dogwood tree or flower, but not the cut branch, or flower as in a vase. The conventional dogwood flower may be used. The posters must be of regulation size, 22 x 28. Crayon, water-color, pencil, ink, or oil may be used. Children may use cut-outs. There will be a dogwood medal for the best poster and one honorable mention in each grouping. Posters should be sent to Harper Barnes, Dogwood Festival Committee, Graham Memorial, Chapel Hill, N. C., before April 22. For information, communicate with Mrs. Earle Plyler, Mrs. E. G. Hoefler, or Mrs. J. B. Linker.

Mr. Saunders Works

Shipp Saunders, the Latin professor, turning away from the intellectual life for a little while, did some physical work this week. He grubbed and chopped among the undergrowth on his lot (where he may build some day) in the Gimghoul woods. Now he is going away for a week's rest.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Hundley wish to express their deepest gratitude for the many expressions of sympathy during the illness and since the death of their son, Harold.

MANURES FOR SALE

For sale: stable manures. Order by mail or telephone 3727. L. L. Conner, R.F.D. 3, Chapel Hill.

PUPS—CANARIES—IRIS

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TODAY, FRIDAY
MR. & MRS. MARTIN JOHNSON
in
"Baboona"

TOMORROW, SATURDAY
RANDOLPH SCOTT
in
"Rocky Mountain Mystery"

CAROLINA

MARY ASTOR
ROGER PRYOR
in
"Straight From The Heart"
SUNDAY

FRED MacMURRAY
ANN SHERIDAN
in
"Car 99"
MONDAY

KAREN MORLEY
EDWARD ARNOLD
in
"Wednesday's Child"
TUESDAY

"PAT" PATTERSON
LEW AYRES
in
"Lottery Lover"
WEDNESDAY

DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS
MERLE OBERON
in
"The Private Life
Of Don Juan"
THURSDAY

EDMUND LOWE
VICTOR McLAGLEN
in
"The Great Hotel
Murder"
FRIDAY

JACKIE COOGAN in RANDOLPH SCOTT
"Home On The Range"

SATURDAY
March 24th & 25th
"Gold Diggers of 1935"