

THE REAL DUTY OF A NEWSPAPER MAN.

We have for the past few days thought upon the real work of a newspaper man, that is the work that really counts for most. Shall it be the purpose of the newspaper to build up or tear down, to discourage or to encourage people to make the most of their opportunities?

Answering the question from the broad standpoint of the highest development and the greatest good to the greatest number, which we feel is the correct premises, we say unhesitatingly that the newspaper should be above all things optimistic in its construction and a constructionist along safe and conservative lines. Again, some one will say that it is the duty of a newspaper man to "knock" whenever the necessity requires. We can't see it that way.

Does the carpenter straighten a plank by knocking it into shape? Not much. If he hammers on one end and there is much spring to the board the chances are the other end will spring up and hit him in the eye. But he does try to straighten the board by planing and dressing and putting it into a vise until he gets it straight.

Of course now and then he finds a board so warped he cannot straighten and so, under these circumstances, the only course to pursue is to throw the board aside. And so it is with some other propositions in life. If after patient handling you can do nothing, you simply have to quit the job; and yet after all how many of us let up before we have done the best we could?

But think of the spirit of optimism the editor of a paper must be able to maintain to keep the affairs of the community in good shape. Since example is better than precept he must be above all things set a good example. He must not be selfish in order to encourage liberality in others. He must always be an optimist in order to encourage in others a spirit of optimism. No matter how many clouds hover above his own horizon, or how much difficulty he finds in keeping himself or his own affairs in a proper state of equilibrium he must at all times be hopeful and faithful in order to encourage a spirit of hope and trust in others.

Wilson has the reputation of possessing the most hospitable people in the State, and strangers love to come here because there is something in the very air and a genial personality surrounding the folks that invites and holds.

The Times desires to encourage this spirit among our people for we want Wilson to be the best town in the State and its people the happiest, most contented and most progressive of all people.

A MUNICIPAL OBJECT-LESSON.

Considerable interest attaches to the 1911 budget for the city of Columbia which has just been issued by the council. The commission form of government, as is well known, is in force in Columbia and the experiment is being watched with closest attention by many cities in this section which are considering similar changes in method of municipal administration. When Columbia's present commission took charge of the city's affairs they faced a deficit of approximately \$65,000 bequeathed by previous administrations. "By the end of 1911," reports The Columbia State in a review of the budget, "Columbia will be out of debt besides having spent a large sum for permanent improvements. In detail the ordinance estimates the income for 1911 at \$449,455 and the appropriations at \$330,750, leaving a reserve fund of \$118,705 which will be available for permanent improvements such as street paving, a new jail, an incinerator, etc."

This gratifying reserve fund has not been created by undue parsimony, as is evidenced by appropriations of \$4,500 for new fire apparatus, \$6,000 for extension of waterworks and proportionate amounts for other steps in advance. It is due chiefly to the excellent business sagacity which has been devoted to municipal finances. Credit should be given to the commissioners as well as to the system under which they are working but even when this has been done that \$118,705 remains as an attractive object-lesson for communities which still retain the outworn aldermanic form.—Charlotte Observer.

If you will carefully count your expenses you will seldom have occasion to ask the bank to discount your note.

THE DOG QUESTION.

We are very glad indeed that the Farmers' Union has taken an advanced position on the dog question, and that the organization will advocate the enactment of a State dog tax by the General Assembly.

The dog question has been hard of solution in all ages of the world, for the reason that man loves his "purr," and in lonely hours has frequently found him the only source of comfort when all the rest of the world had turned its back on him. What must have been the feelings of "Rip Van Winkle" when even poor old Snyder, who had most likely lain out upon the mountain in cold and rain until famished from hunger felt he could remain by the side of his master whom he loved so well, no longer, and then wended his way home, failed to recognize him?

Rip expected a scolding from his wife because he had been used to that but when Snyder, who failed to recognize him, because of the lapse of years and the covering of hair upon his face, and the wear and tear of the elements, shrunk dimly away with every stamp of unrecognition, that was the straw that broke the camel's back and poor "Rip" wept.

And so it is today, there are so many who find a solace with their dog. We have a man in mind who actually talks to his dog and tells him all his troubles, and who is there who will not say that the dog knows his master's feelings, and even though he can not speak, there is an expression in his face or by the wag of the tail, a responsive touch that carries satisfaction and acts as a soothing balm.

But there are two sides to every question. The dogs are here, and as such have their rights, and the sheep and goats are here and also have their rights. The no-fence law says that a man cannot let his sheep and goats run at large, and why should an "onery purr" that is worth nothing except the measure of affection that his master has placed upon him, be allowed to enjoy more privileges than the cattle who are of real value to the community and especially to their owner who is keeping them where they belong, where everything should be kept.

The Editor of The Times was subjected to some criticism last summer when he advocated the shutting up of the dogs for fear that they might run mad and bite some sweet little child or person who are of greater value than all the dogs in Christendom, though we are aware of the fact that there are some human beings upon whom it would be as hard to place a financial value as some dogs, for unfortunately we have dropped into the error of measuring values by the money standard.

Now we can look at this question absolutely unselfishly, because there are three grown dogs at our house and four more that arrived there a short while back. So you see we are seven and that is some dog, ain't it? But we keep them all on the premises, notwithstanding the fact that our friend Killeter and our alderman, too, in response to the pleadings of those who wanted more liberty for their canine property, had the law changed.

We really believe that the dogs of the country should be amenable to the same law as the cattle, and should not be allowed to run at large except in company with their masters, and not always with their masters unless they are in condition to restrain them. We have a case in point that illustrates the last utterance for an animal imbibes the spirit of the man to a large extent.

Just before Christmas, and you know a negro usually takes about a week holiday at that time, some negroes from Wilson went hunting in the pastures of Mr. J. D. Farrior, near this city, and having partaken of Christmas cheer, they ran over the pastures looking for rabbits. The rabbits were not there, but the goats were, and thinking they had as much right to have some fun as their masters, and not being able to understand why there was no game coming to the bag, for results only count, and understanding is the only thing necessary in order to handle any proposition, the dogs went after the goats and destroyed the entire flock.

Now we believe in the largest measure of liberty to both man and dog, provided neither hurts himself or his neighbor. We are in favor of shutting up a man if he injures some one else, and so are we in favor of shutting up the dogs if they injure the property of others, and we cannot raise sheep unless dogs are prevented from running at large.

In Virginia, a great sheep State, there is a law that provides a tax for every dog. This money is kept separate and apart from other funds and is known as the sheep fund, and from this fund sheep owners are reimbursed whenever they lose as the result of incursions from dogs.

IT'S ALL IN THE MAN WHO TRIES.

Charles H. Markham, who was recently elected president of the Illinois Central Railroad at forty-nine years of age, heads what many people believe to be one of the best railroads in the world, something over 7,000 miles of track, an army of 40,000 employees; the only double track route between Chicago and the Gulf, and a maker of 7 per cent dividends. Mr. Markham has educated himself. In fact, it is not recorded that he ever attended school. In 1881, not very far back, this cool surveyor of results and prospect was swinging a pick and shovel and putting ballast under the track of the Santa Fe road. While he worked he was studying the railroad situation, and his start literally at the foundation enabled him to figure the game out from the place where many railroad men say the railroad shows its strong or weak points—the track and roadbed.

STILL ENLARGING THE HOUSE.

(Charlotte Observer.)
Never but once has the House of Representatives voted for a diminution in its membership. That was in 1841, and such was the aggrieved feeling among States which lost representation that the House has been consistently increasing its membership ever since. After the census of 1900 the House census committee opposed enlargement, but the House itself over-rode this report, States like Maine and Virginia, which would have lost representation, combining with States which had much to gain. The census committee of the present House will report in favor of the enlargement from 391 to 435, with the avowed desire to prevent loss by any State. Whether this Congress or its successor undertakes the work of reapportionment, the result will doubtless be about as here indicated. But the time cannot be distant when either continued enlargement will become impossible or the desks which already make the House hall excessively large will have to yield place.

A NEGRO BANK.

We have before us a nicely printed pamphlet concerning the Mechanics Saving Bank of Richmond, an institution owned and operated by colored men.

The building is a handsome affair and the deposits aggregate nearly a half million dollars.

GOING UP SOME.

Arch Hoxsey, the intrepid American aviator, belonging to the Wright team, recently recaptured the world's altitude record. During an exhibition at Los Angeles, Hoxsey soared to a height of 11,474 feet, breaking the record made by the Frenchman, Legagneux, who recently attained a height of 10,499.

Wake county certainly takes a foremost position on the "Good Roads" proposition. As a result of a conference of prominent men from every section of the county, the Legislature will be requested to make an appropriation of \$300,000 to macadamize all the roads of the county.

FAMINE IS SEVERE.

Thousands of People Suffering Pangs of Hunger.

Washington, Dec. 31.—An affecting picture of the ravages of the famine in China is afforded by a report to the State Department by the American consul at Nanking, inclosing extracts from the Shanghai newspapers. The consul says that the famine is even worse than that of three years ago, since it affects a larger territory (seven counties in the northern part of the province of Kiangsu), and a greater population, in this case numbering 2,500,000 persons.

The famine is owing to serious floods last summer, which utterly destroyed the autumn crops. The roads are filled with refugees, who in many cases, in their desperation, are robbing and plundering the villages where food-stuffs and money are to be found.

Mexico Enthusiastic Over Cotton Experiments.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Experiments in cotton growing in the State of Tamaulipas, Mexico, have resulted so satisfactorily that planters there are very enthusiastic over the prospects of cotton becoming one of the most profitable crops of the State, according to United States Consul Clarence A. Miller, at Tampico.

In the vicinity of Columbus, Tamaulipas, cotton was grown this season for the first time. Special seed was imported from Georgia. The production was one bale, and in some cases more, per acre. No trouble was experienced with the boll weevil, but some damage was done by the army worm.

Plans are being made for planting a much larger acreage next year, and more seed will be imported from the United States. Experienced cotton planters from Oklahoma and other States express great faith for the success of cultivation of cotton in this district.

Chases Rabbit, Kills Companion.

Lexington, S. C., Dec. 30.—Another name was added to the list of Christmas hunting fatalities with the death of Cleo Price, aged twenty years, accidentally shot by Quinton Oxner, aged sixteen years, on Monday. They were chasing a rabbit down hill, when the hammer of Oxner's gun caught in his clothing, discharging the weapon. Price was in front.

WILL A COMMISSION PULL THEM OUT OF THE HOLE?

We regret to note the division in the ranks of the Democratic representatives in Washington. Selfishness and desire to boss seems to predominate, and the result may end in disaster to the party because the country has its eye upon our leaders and will give them a trial between now and the next Presidential election. If they are found wanting the Republican scheme of selecting a commission to handle the tariff, which is merely a subterfuge arranged to profit by the differences among the Democrats will be accepted by the people who naturally desire to be relieved as early as possible from the burdens that afflict them.

We hope the Democrats in Congress will be able to arrange their differences and get to work and do something of real value besides fuss among themselves, fearing one will gain an advantage over the other.

You must be unselfish if you accomplish anything for your country or your people.

WE WANT SOME OF IT.

To Prof. Paul Ehrlich, of the famous institute at Frankfurt-on-the-Main, Germany, credit belongs for the discovery of a new substance which will drive from the human being every known disease. Dr. Samuel W. Lambert, dean of the New York College of Physicians and Surgeons, noted physician and leader in his profession, made known to the public the new find. Dr. Lambert says:

"This new substance which has just been brought into existence, will drive from the human body all germs of every known disease. Its quality was discovered by accident by Prof. Eitner, while experimenting with the famous '606,' a specific which Prof. Paul Ehrlich discovered this year."

INTERNATIONAL RAILWAY COMMISSION.

The railway traffic between the United States and Canada is becoming so complex and intricate that it has been found necessary to recommend the appointment of an International Railway Commission. As the result of a long series of conferences between Judge Martin A. Knapp, chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission, and the Hon. J. P. Mable, chief of the Railway Commission of Canada, an agreement has been reached to recommend to the government of the United States and the Dominion of Canada, the creation of an international railroad commission which shall have supervisory authority over the railway rates in operation between the two countries.

Athens, Greece, Dec. 30.—There was a violent earthquake in the Province of Elis yesterday, causing heavy damage to buildings. The government has dispatched troops.

LOEB IS NOT A JEW.

But If He Were He Would Be Proud Of It.

New York, Dec. 30.—William Loeb, Jr., collector of the port of New York and former secretary to a President of the United States, practically admitted that he had been denied membership in that most exclusive of ultra Republican clubs, the Union League.

While Mr. Loeb is not discussing this phase of the situation for publication his angry friends are saying that one or another of these three reasons is responsible for the snub: The belief that Mr. Loeb is of Jewish descent; a desire to hurt Theodore Roosevelt by hurting his man Friday; resentment against Loeb because of his rigorous treatment of rich men and women caught smuggling.

A reporter called to Mr. Loeb's attention the fact that several years ago one of the Seligman's was refused admission to the Union League, and at once several prominent Jews resigned as members on the ground that racial prejudices were being invoked to make the club all Gentiles.

"It has been said," added the reporter, "that you were of Jewish ancestry. Do you think that report may have had anything to do with the attitude of the membership committee?"

"That is about the only reason that I can assign," said the collector. "If I were of Jewish blood I would be proud of it. But I am not. I am of pure German blood, and I am proud of that, too."

"Bath Tub" Trust Wants Mercy.

Washington, Dec. 30.—Plea for clemency, it is reported, will be made to the Department of Justice by the indicted members of the so-called "bath tub trust" through their attorneys at a conference here today. Frank H. Watson, United States Attorney at Detroit, where the indictments were found, has been notified to be present. Edwin T. Grosvenor, special assistant to the Attorney General, who conducted the civil suits which have resulted in practically putting the trust out of business, will represent the government. A small battalion of lawyers representing the nearly 40 of the defendants also will be present.

THE SOUTH THE BEST PLACE AFTER ALL.

At the banquet of the "Greater Charlotte Club," and by the way, Charlotte is a great city and her enterprising folks are a fine example to follow—Mr. Richard Edmonds uttered a beautiful sentiment.

Remember that as Mr. Edmonds truly says, we are only husbandmen here below and trustees of what is put in our hands by the Great Giver of every Perfect Gift whose servants we are. Shall we be unprofitable servants like the one who kept his talent in the napkin, or shall we go forward and make the most of the materials in hand and our opportunities as they present themselves?

"Men who have studied the wealth-creating resources of the world," said Mr. Edmonds, "great engineers, great geologists, great authorities on agriculture, on climatology and on pomology, will tell you that nowhere else on earth is there a region so wonderfully endowed by nature as the land we call the South. Here are riches of minerals, of timber, of waterpowers, of agricultural potentialities and of climate combined into the harmonious whole, which give to this section advantages of which earth has no duplicate. As Southern men we are trustees for the world for this rich heritage. Unless we utilize these resources for the creation of employment, for the turning of these buried treasures into living wealth, bringing blessings to mankind, we shall prove false to the trust committed to us."

"Who saves his country saves all things,
And all things saved shall bless him,
Who lets his country die, lets all things die,
And all things dying curse him."

New Bern, N. C., Dec. 30.—John Weddell, the seven-year-old son of Alderman J. H. Weddell, was run over yesterday afternoon on Hancock street about 5:30 by an automobile owned by Mr. C. W. Munger and driven by a colored man. One wheel passed over the boy, who was placed in the machine at once and taken to a doctor's office, where it was found that the left leg was broken between the knee and ankle.

'CSE-HE-BANGED-AT-EM.

(With apologies to the author of Casabeanea.)

By G. W. Beik.

I.
The dog stood by the single bird,
For all the rest had fled;
The gentle breezes scarcely stirred
The broom straw near his head.

II.
Yet silently and still he stood,
Awaiting the command,
For he was trained from puppyhood
Thus motionless to stand.

III.
"Hold, hold," the youthful sportsman yelled,
As he puffed up the hill;
His brand new Hammerless he held,
And vowed that bird to kill.

IV.
"He on," he cried, the dog stood there
As motionless as brass,
His keen nose pointing straight to where
The bird hid in the grass.

V.
A step or two the sportsman took,
So eager for a shot,
And then a bunch of straw he shook,
But still the bird moved not.

VI.
"He on," impatiently he cried,
And fiercely stamped his boot,
The dog moved on as if he tried
To give him time to shoot.

VII.
A flutter—then a thundering sound!
That bird—oh, where was he?
Ask of the woodlands far around,
But, please, sir, don't ask me.

Wilson, N. C., Dec. 24, 1910.

CRAZED BY BROTHER'S DEATH.

Disastrous Termination of Christmas Celebration in Bedford County.

Roanoke, Va., Dec. 30.—Edward Roy, aged forty, is dead, and his brother, John Roy, aged forty-three, is said to be mentally unbalanced and in a serious condition, at their bachelor home in a remote section of Bedford county, as the result of a Christmas celebration. The two brothers lived alone, and were inseparable. After drinking a quantity of whiskey, the men built a roaring log fire in the wide fireplace of their home and went to sleep while sitting in chairs near the hearth. Edward Roy fell into the fire during the night and was horribly burned before his brother was aroused sufficiently to rescue him from the flames. Edward Roy was treated by Dr. A. Thurman, but died of his injuries. John Roy, upon seeing his brother's corpse, is said to have lost his reason, and is being cared for by neighbors.

E. B. Novill Appointed Enrolling Clerk

Raleigh, N. C., Dec. 30.—Secretary of State J. Bryan Grimes has appointed E. B. Novill, of Cherokee county, as enrolling clerk for the approaching session of the General Assembly. He has served as enrolling clerk now for a number of sessions, and his experience and efficiency have come to be regarded as almost indispensable. The work of the enrolling department has been under the immediate supervision of the Secretary of State since 1901, and this change has developed quite a saving for the State, it is said, in addition to bringing about a system that has brought the work of the department to a high degree of accuracy. In economy the State is said to be getting the bills enrolled in duplicate and with much greater accuracy and more accessible volumes than ever before.

Schooner a Total Loss.

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 30.—The four-masted schooner Martha E. Wallace, from Fernandina, to New York, which stranded near Lookout Inlet on the North Carolina coast, has proven a total loss, and wreckers are stripping her.

glnia has 51.1 people to the square mile, according to census figures. The figures for other Southern States follow: Kentucky, 57; Tennessee, 52.7; West Virginia, 50.8; South Carolina, 49.7; North Carolina, 45.3; Georgia, 44.4; Alabama, 41.7; Mississippi, 38.8; Louisiana, 36.5; Arkansas, 30; Texas, 14.8; Florida, 13.7.