

The Franklin Press and The Highlands Maconian

Published every Thursday by The Franklin Press At Franklin, North Carolina Telephone No. 24

VOL. XLVIII Number 41

BLACKBURN W. JOHNSON.....EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

Entered at the Post Office, Franklin, N. C., as second class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One Year	\$1.50
Eight Months	\$1.00
Six Months	.75
Single Copy	.05

A Federal Building for Franklin

MANY years ago a congressional appropriation was obtained to build a postoffice in Franklin; but the building never materialized, we have been told, because of the lack of local cooperation.

Numbers of times since efforts have been made to get a federal building for the town, but the necessary congressional approval was an elusive will-o'-the-wisp—always just beyond reach.

Now it seems that Franklin really has a good chance of obtaining the much needed postoffice. It no longer is necessary to wrangle an appropriation from congress. The Public Works board created by the last congress has the money and the authority to erect federal buildings where it deems such buildings are justified and the work is needed to boost along the National Recovery Campaign. No longer is it necessary to place a town's name on an appropriation list for politicians, jealous for other communities, to shoot at.

It is necessary, however, for a community to be as one in its desire to obtain a federal building. The Public Works authorities could hardly be expected to take the trouble to iron out local differences so that it could spend money in the community.

It is gratifying that the business men of Franklin have gotten together in a determined movement to obtain a postoffice building. Erection of such a structure would supply jobs for many unemployed men, to say nothing of furnishing a permanent improvement for the town, an improvement which it sorely needs and deserves. Then, too, it would help all along the line of recovery, for it would bring freight for the railroad, which needs all the freight it can get if it is to continue in operation; it would aid local building supply dealers, in all likelihood; and it would turn more money into local circulation.

Congressman Zeb Weaver, of Asheville, is doing all he can to help Franklin get the new postoffice. In fact, it is understood that he already has submitted the request for the building to the proper authorities in Washington and has met with encouraging response. It may sound all very simple this business of getting something out of Washington; but it requires seeing a lot of officials, who usually are hard to see, pulling a lot of strings, writing a lot of letters and doing a lot of just plain hard thinking and hard working.

The public is too prone to feel it has done a man a favor by electing him to office, too much inclined to assume that during his term he should be criticised rather than commended. But congressmen, like other beings, thrive on commendation.

We think it is time to express a little public appreciation to Zeb Weaver. He deserves it. Then, too, there is nothing like a bunch of nice letters from back home to convince a congressman that his constituency isn't squabbling behind his back. Let's all write Mr. Weaver and thank him for what he is doing. That will manifest the kind of cooperation we need to obtain a federal building.

A Nice Situation

FRANKLIN'S financial statement, published last week in compliance with the Local Government Act, reveals an enviable state of affairs. It is a statement that should bring joy and pride to every town taxpayer.

Despite the fact that the town did not increase its tax rate, as many other communities were forced to do in dark 1932, it lived within its income last year (the fiscal year ended June 30.) This alone was an achievement worth bragging about, but let us peruse the statement further.

It shows that the town has only \$54,000 bonded indebtedness, exclusive of the \$341,500 power plant bonds, which have been taken over by the Nantahala Power and Light Company. Against this \$54,000 bonded indebtedness it has a sinking fund of \$19,115.25. It also has \$14,400 in federal government bonds in a vault, working all the time to make money for the town and to save it for the taxpayers.

The town's receipts for the last fiscal year were \$21,382.89; its disbursements, \$21,309.00, leaving a balance on hand of \$73.89, a small balance; but nevertheless, a black one instead of a red one.

This was enough good news for one time, the town authorities must have figured, for they did not tell the whole story. Besides all the assets outlined above, the town has quite a few thousand dollars due in taxes receivable and also a claim on \$50,000

in a frozen Cleveland, O., bank, which some day may be worth more than paper.

But taxpayers need not take all this as an indication that it is no longer necessary to pay town taxes, because the reason why the town is in such excellent financial condition is that it has followed a fairly consistent, business-like policy in its collection of taxes, as well as in other matters.

It is a nice situation, and we hope the town can remain in it.

The Prohibition Forum

Discussion Increases

THE friendly debate started in last week's Press-Maconian between the editor and his hitherto silent partner, his Mother, is gaining momentum. The preliminary barrage seems to have stirred considerable talk over the repeal issue. Free and frank discussion is helpful in approaching any public problem. Without it, democracy would be an utter failure.

Many verbal comments have come to our ears and, the editor is forced to confess, they gave the decision in last week's editorial round to his opponent.

Now, let's have some more letters from Press-Maconian readers. Only one came in this week, but it was a good one, even if it did not agree with the editor's opinions.

We will publish all the printable letters space permits. Please be as brief as possible and write only on one side of the paper. Address communications to The Prohibition Forum, The Press-Maconian, Franklin, N. C. Letters should be signed, but the writer's name will not be published if he or she so requests. To appear in next week's issue, a letter should be delivered or mailed to this office not later than Monday.

For Repeal

BY BLACKBURN W. JOHNSON
WHEN ardent prohibitionists run out of facts and logic to support their contentions they prate of "idealism" and "righteousness," inferring that they possess a monopoly on these worthy attributes. All who differ in opinion with them are agents of the devil—at least, that is what the fanatical "bone dries" would have us believe. With assurance born of bigotry, many of the anti-repeal zealots openly proclaim: "Prohibition is bound to succeed, for God is with us. He is guiding us in this great fight to save civilization from perdition."

When we hear such statements as this we are moved to smile and to recall a passage from Stephen Vincent Millet's fine epic poem, "John Brown's Body." The poet pictures the immortal Abraham Lincoln, whose reverence for the Divine Being no one can sincerely question, as the Civil War president paced the floor, cogitating over a momentous question in regard to plans for pressing the war against the South:

x x x x x What is God's will?

They come to me and talk about God's will
In righteous deputations and platitudes,
Day after day, laymen and ministers.
They write me Prayers From Twenty Million Souls
Defining me God's will and Horace Greeley's.
God's will is General This and Senator That.
God's will is those poor colored fellows' will.
It is the will of the Chicago churches,
It is this man's and his worst enemy's.
But all of them are sure they know God's will.
I am the only man who does not know it.

And, yet, if it is probable that God Should, and so very clearly, state His will
To others, on a point of my own duty,
It might be thought He would reveal it me
Directly, more especially as I So earnestly desire to know His will.

The will of God prevails. No doubt, no doubt—
Yet, in great contests, each side claims to act
In strict accordance with the will of God.
Both may, one must be wrong.

We do not mean to insinuate that our worthy opponent in this friendly debate should be classified as a bigot, a fanatic or a zealot—far be it from the writer's intentions. Would that all of the enforcement authorities and that, after a while all the moonshiners and bootleggers will be put in jail and the country will become really dry.

The population of the federal prison was recently reported as three times what it was in 1921, but the country is a long way from being dry. It is common knowledge

that whisky is more readily obtainable now than when prohibition first became law. Bootleggers and moonshiners crop up like mushrooms. The only way to decrease their number is to take the profit out of their business by having controlled distribution of alcoholic beverages under a system which has proved effective, such as the Quebec system.

Effect on Youth
One of the saddest outgrowths of the prohibition era is the deplorable attitude that it has developed in the minds of boys and girls, even children. Before the 18th amendment was adopted, temperance was making great strides in the schools of the land. Children were learning the evils of excessive drink and they instinctively shunned a drunkard. Yes, we admit that in the days of the saloons men sometimes became so disgustingly drunk that they fell in the gutters. But they were viewed with disgust and pity and were an effective example to the younger generation not to tread in their footsteps.

But now, many high school boys and girls think it is smart to drink. In fact, it is widely viewed as a social distinction to sip cocktails and carry a hip pocket flask.

This is not mere talk for the sake of argument; facts bear it out. The Wickersham commission's report reveals that during the last half of 1930 there were 990 boys and girls of high school age held in federal jails for violating the prohibition law.

A Sad Experience
This has been the nation's experience during 13 years of prohibition—increasing crime, deepening disrespect for law, with plenty of whisky available despite the expenditure of billions of dollars to stamp it out, and the loss of billions more in surrendered revenue.

This, we submit, is conclusive proof that prohibition has been not only a dismal failure, but also a harmful deterrent in the great cause of temperance, real temperance, which implies voluntary control, not governmental lack of control.

Yet the prohibitionists still pursue the illusive wreath of a "bone dry" nation, loudly talking of "idealism" and "righteousness." The trouble is, most of them are too self-righteous to recognize "righteousness" when they meet it in the road, and the rest of them are so imbued with "idealism" that they lack the proper sense of "realism" that is necessary in dealing with any problem. Idealism without realism is like a star behind a cloud; it shines, but it doesn't give light.

Now, Mr. and Mrs. Voter, don't let any prohibition spell-binder befuddle your judgment with talk about "idealism" and "righteousness." Your own conscience is a better guide for you than the other fellow's, be he politician, paid dry propagandist or a wearer of the cloth. Before you go to the polls on November 7, weigh the evidence for yourself, face the facts squarely and do not allow false sentimentality to influence your decision.

Another Parable
Every barrier built at a dangerous place on the highway says "Don't." We have heard the story about the town that kept an ambulance at the foot of a dangerous precipice on the road leading into the town. Travelers who fell over the cliff were tenderly nursed or decently buried. One day a wise man who survived the experience of the fall, painfully made his way to the office of the mayor and suggested that it would be wiser to build a wall to prevent the traveler from falling than to keep the ambulance at its foot. The intention of the 18th amendment was that of a protecting wall against a precipice that the experience of centuries had proven to be an expensive and fatal place in the road.

In effect, to the mind of many of us, the repealists are saying: "We must not have laws that say 'Don't.' It is bad psychology. It makes grown-ups and high school boys and girls drink liquor—for example—when, if it were perfectly legal they would not want to do it. It is better to legalize the sale of liquor so the government can get the profit instead of the bootleggers."

(We are not told how to reconcile these contradictory arguments. We suppose the government's profits are coming from the medicinal sales when grandfather has a sinking spell and needs a few spoonfuls.)
The Nullifying Amendment
Should amendment 18 be repealed, one unpleasant legal "don't" will be removed. This will be accomplished, not by removing the amendment from the Constitution, but by inserting a nullifying amendment, which will be significantly numbered "21." Will this action indicate that, as a nation, we are now full grown and strong enough to resist the harmful thing without the restriction of the legal "don't?" Will we then be so possessed with an added "self-respect," "integrity," and respect

for other laws as to effectually discourage the gangsters and bootleggers? We hope so. At any rate, the 18th amendment will still be there, writ in the constitution, symbol of our good intentions.

In the event of repeal, will it not be a way of saying, "We have tried a 'noble experiment' and it has failed; let us try one not so noble?"

The writer of this column is glad to receive the strong support of Mr. Luther Anderson. His most interesting letter follows:
Prohibition Forum:
May I write briefly concerning certain points presented in the well-written article by the editor in last week's Press-Maconian. After the admirable defeat he suffered at the hands of the "silent partner," in the editorial debate, I feel that I am pouncing on a man who is already down. We all can see very clearly whence comes his inherent ability as an editor.

Mr. Editor, your parable of the open well is a very apt one and was skillfully applied to support your position. I, however, draw a different lesson from that story. Those of the wet persuasion are maintaining the open well around which the children play, and are objecting to any effective measure being taken to remove the danger. They would do nothing more than say, "Don't go too near, don't fall in." But the wise and careful mother like Mrs. Johnson, would erect a curb around that well, high enough to render the yard safe. Just now the repealists, (and among them many well-meaning men and women) are engaged in destroying the foundation on which that curb should be built.

If their zealous efforts were employed in perfecting that curb instead of undermining the foundation it would, in time, become an effective safe-guard.

Mr. Editor, you refer to the "speak-easy" as a "blind tiger." I heartily agree to the old and appropriate name. The aid of all good people should be given in destroying the blind man-eaters. Under present laws we have a weapon with which the suffering citizen can fight and vanquish the "blind tiger" that shows its hideous head in his community. Repeal those laws, legalize the liquor traffic, and you still have tigers—

Against Repeal

BY MRS. J. W. C. JOHNSON
THE day of heated controversy is past. When an issue vital to every individual must be settled one way or the other for a whole nation it is inevitable that there are "good men and true" on different sides. It is hoped that this friendly discussion of the prohibition issue as it now confronts the nation will bring out certain significant facts that will be both informing and helpful to the citizen who wishes to vote not only with a view to present expediency, but with vision to build for "nobler modes of life, with sweeter manners, purer laws."

We confess that there are some disagreeable things that we will have to put up with for awhile longer. "Don't" laws are in this category. The story told last week by my fellow debater about the children and the open well was not altogether convincing. It might have been good psychology not to tell the children not to fall down the well, but most parents love their children too much to trust the psychology of suggestion in face of such a danger.

Once when we moved to a place with an open well, my father promptly sent for a carpenter to build a cover to the well so the children couldn't fall in.

That strong cover over the well typifies what the 18th amendment was intended to be—a protection to the alcoholic citizen and his innocent victims against the dangers of an open well.

Murders Increase
There were 147 murders in North Carolina in 1919, a woefully large figure; but in 1932 there were 283 murders in North Carolina. It is a dark page in the state's history.

Since national prohibition became effective, thousands of men and women have been treated for alcoholism in the state institutions for the insane—treated at the state's expense.

Yet the anti-repealists try in vain to prove that prohibition has decreased the consumption of liquor and lessened crime!

Police records of 375 communities in various sections of the country reveal that "arrests for drunkenness are three times as many as in 1920."

United States Census Bureau statistics show that the number of husbands divorced because of intoxication increased 133 per cent between 1922 and 1929. Yes, and the women have been drinking more, too; for the number of wives divorced because of intoxication increased 96 per cent during the same period.

Each year the federal prisons have become more and more crowded, largely because of prohibition convictions. The drys point to this with pride, claiming that it shows the efficiency of the enforcement authorities and that, after a while all the moonshiners and bootleggers will be put in jail and the country will become really dry.

The population of the federal prison was recently reported as three times what it was in 1921, but the country is a long way from being dry. It is common knowledge

that whisky is more readily obtainable now than when prohibition first became law. Bootleggers and moonshiners crop up like mushrooms. The only way to decrease their number is to take the profit out of their business by having controlled distribution of alcoholic beverages under a system which has proved effective, such as the Quebec system.

Effect on Youth
One of the saddest outgrowths of the prohibition era is the deplorable attitude that it has developed in the minds of boys and girls, even children. Before the 18th amendment was adopted, temperance was making great strides in the schools of the land. Children were learning the evils of excessive drink and they instinctively shunned a drunkard. Yes, we admit that in the days of the saloons men sometimes became so disgustingly drunk that they fell in the gutters. But they were viewed with disgust and pity and were an effective example to the younger generation not to tread in their footsteps.

But now, many high school boys and girls think it is smart to drink. In fact, it is widely viewed as a social distinction to sip cocktails and carry a hip pocket flask.

monster man-eaters—not blind, however, I would rather fight two "blind tigers" than one "tiger" that can see.

Just now the dripping wet, who have done most to nullify the prohibition laws and support the illegal liquor traffic, have become the most vociferous in denouncing "speak-easies." They are shouting louder than the prohibitionists or the better element of the repealists who, like yourself, Mr. Editor, desire to promote temperance. Just as a test, let all those who have used the law to abate a "speak-easy" or other place of illegal sale, hold up their hands. I do not see many uplifted hands, and not a single wet hand in the lot. With all their hue and cry against "speak-easies" and bootleggers I can not find one of this vociferous rabble who had abolished or helped to abolish one such nuisance.

What is the next "noble experiment" to be after prohibition is repealed? What is your plan, friends of repeal, under which the liquor traffic is to operate? Tell us, please, before we vote on this issue. Let us know what we are about to receive. You have had plenty of time to formulate a plan. America has been settled over three hundred years, and alcoholic liquors have been one of the great draw-backs from the first. You have had three hundred years in America and three thousand years in the old world to show a successful plan of legalized control. Point us to it.

We have had national prohibition since 1920. Because it has not cured all the evils in thirteen years that have grown up in three hundred years, it must go into the discard. You will not have the saloon again. Tell us what kind of tigers you are going to unleash.

LUTHER ANDERSON.
Franklin, Route 4.
October 9, 1933.

Rainbow Springs
Miss Ruth Roper and Mrs. Russell Schaeffte visited the Cherokee Indian Fair Thursday of last week.

P. J. Danielson and his son-in-law, Mr. Pitts, motored to Buck Creek Ranch to pay a short visit to Bill Latham Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Storie and daughter, Nina, and Mr. and Mrs. Pitts and family attended the Cherokee Indian Fair on Thursday last week.

Matthews Cole and Gene Chatterine have returned home from a business trip to York, S. C.

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Culbertson and family went to Canton last Sunday for a short visit to their daughter, Pauline, who is a student at Canton high school.

Births
Mr. and Mrs. I. N. Moses, of Ellijay, announce the birth of a son, Andrew, on Friday, October 6.

On Friday, October 6, a daughter, Mary Jane, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Laddie Crawford, at their home on Cartoogehaye.

Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Bates announce the birth of a son at their home in Smith Bridge township, on Monday, October 9.

Mr. and Mrs. George R. Parrillo, of Franklin, Route 4, announce the birth of a son, George, Jr., on Saturday, October 7, at Annet Brothers' hospital.

Top-dressing wheat with nitrogen fertilizer gave an increased yield of 66 bushels an acre in a demonstration conducted in Catawba county.

Wilkes county dairymen are digging trench silos and remodeling old barns as a part of the new program of dairy farming in that county.

A number of Jackson county farmers are planning to harvest black locust seed this fall because of the healthy demand and the excellent crop in the mountain area.

FOR

Alex Moore

TO ANSWER

Many Republican voters would like to have Mr. Moore, candidate of the 18th amendment forces in Macon County in the November election, answer the following question:

"DID YOU VOTE FOR ROBERT R. REYNOLDS FOR SENATOR LAST NOVEMBER, OR DID YOU VOTE FOR JAKE NEWELL?"

(Signed) A GROUP OF REPUBLICAN VOTERS