

"MY SON,  
deal with men  
who advertise,  
you will never  
lose by it."  
—Benjamin Franklin.

# The Daily Advance

WEATHER

Cloudy tonight and Friday. Probably rain. Moderate to fresh northeast to southeast winds.

VOL. V.

ELIZABETH CITY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 25, 1920

NO. 73

## FIGHT BETWEEN PUGH AND MEEKINS MAY BE CARRIED INTO THE COURTS

**Meekins Says Will Demand Apology And Retraction For Attack On Him In Last Week's Herald And Reiterates His Charges Against Pugh. Invites Latter To Give Him Chance To Prove Them In Court**

A cloud considerably larger than a man's hand, apparently portending another big libel suit in the courts of Pasquotank County appeared on the horizon Thursday morning.

In the letter Mr. Meekins advises Mr. Pugh that relative to the attack made on Meekins in the last issue of Pugh's paper, the Herald, "in accordance with the law as it is laid down in such matters, notices under section 2012 of Pell's revision are prepared and will be served on you and Jack Wells in due season."

But not satisfied with that, Meekins goes further. He reiterates the charge, made in a recent issue of the Independent, that in a speech made by Pugh in the Republican Pasquotank County convention in Elizabeth City Pugh "favored and advocated voting the more than 40,000 negroes in North Carolina eligible under the law to vote." If it became necessary and suggested that they be "quietly organized."

"If I have not spoken the truth," Meekins continues, "you can here and now either sue or indict me in the courts of the State \*\*\*\*\* and the burden will be on me to prove the truth of my charge."

Encouraging Pugh still further to bring suit, Meekins points out that when Pugh made the alleged speech Pugh was "then campaign manager for the Republican party in North Carolina," and that to publish anything of an officer or campaign manager which "holds him up to ridicule is libelous and therefore actionable. Could anything be more calculated to entail a Republican campaign manager's influence and neutralize his efforts than for him to publicly fix on himself his intention \*\*\* to quietly organize the negroes and vote them in this State?"

"Now be a sport," urges the Colonel, "and either sue or indict me."

This situation has grown out of a fight between Meekins and Pugh that has been long in the making. Pugh, perhaps seeing what was coming, recently acquired an interest and more recently became one of the publishers of the "Herald," a weekly newspaper that made its appearance here something less than a year ago. Simultaneously with the announcement that Pugh was at its helm the Herald became an "Independent Republican," newspaper and in this paper last week Pugh vigorously defended himself against the charge of saying in his speech in the Republican Pasquotank County Convention what an affidavit by Meekins and others published in the Independent had accused him of saying.

Col. Meekins letter to Mr. Pugh, in full follows:

(Advertisement)  
Hon. C. R. Pugh,

Elizabeth City, N. C.  
My Dear Pugh:

I have read the Herald of March 19th, 1920. I note everything you have to say concerning me, my alleged connection with "The Independent," and my alleged personal and political hypocrisy and viciousness. And with these utterances of yours I am dealing in accordance with the law as it is laid down and governs such matters. Notices, under Sec. 2012 of Pell's Revision, are prepared and will be served on you and Jack Wells in due season.

As a rule newspaper controversies profit but little. In the main they are more or less unseemly and rarely establish anything by way of satisfactory, concrete adjudication. Everything incident to a legal proceeding is involved in a newspaper controversy, except a final judgement; therefore there is no way of getting it off the docket satisfactorily.

With this in mind I regret that you saw fit to gratuitously attack me in your paper "The Herald." I am sure you would not have done so but for assuming your facts to be true.

Careful investigation would have disclosed to you no reason to attack me, unless, of course, you wanted to do that anyway just to "close your craw."

In order to give you a fair chance "to go home," I hereby explicitly charge that on February 21, 1920, in our County convention, in a public speech made by you, you favored and advocated "voting the more than 40,000 negroes in North Carolina eligible under the law to vote in the coming campaign if the same became necessary, and suggested that they be quietly organized." I further charge that the affidavit made by me and seven others, to which you refer in "The Herald" March 19, 1920, is in each and every respect meticulously accurate, and therefore true. There can be no question about the affidavit being substantially true, and it is as nearly verbatim as it is possible for intelligence and truthful recollection to reproduce.

Here, then, is your opportunity. If I have not spoken the truth herein you can either sue or indict me in the courts of this State, and here and now for your convenience, waive service of notice required under section 2012 of Pell's Revision. In case you sue or indict me the burden will be on me to prove the truth of my charge, and not on you to disprove it. You will merely prove the publication of the letter and rest, and then the burden will shift to me to establish the truth of my charge as to "the negro stuff." In order to facilitate matters I here and now promise that, in the event you sue or indict me, I will admit the publication of this letter, and thus go right to the bat with the burden.

Be it remembered that at the time you made your speech, February 21, 1920, you were then campaign manager for the Republican party in North Carolina, having theretofore been chosen as such by the Republican State Committee. Indeed you were to open up at headquarters at Greensboro immediately after the State Convention on March 3rd, 1920, and continue until after the election. Does not Hon. John M. Moore lead say so in his letter of February 13, 1920? Be it further remembered that to untruthfully publish anything of an officer or campaign manager which tends to and does hold him up to public ridicule and scorn, is libelous and therefore actionable. Could anything be more calculated to entail a Republican campaign manager's influence and neutralize his efforts in North Carolina than for him to publicly fix on himself his intention directly or indirectly, to quietly organize the negroes and vote them in this State? If you had been speaking merely as an individual, then the question would be quite a different one. It would be personal and private, and not impersonal and public. Being your campaign manager your utterance about voting negroes or any other political matter necessarily more or less commits the Republican party, unless, of course, it repudiates what you say, as in the case at bar, of course it will.

Now, be a sport, and either sue or indict me, and thus give me the chance to prove by a jury's verdict that I have spoken the truth and concerning you, or at the same time give yourself a chance to prove me a liar. One or the other must be true; either you said it or you did not, and so far as the truth or untruth of the statement goes, it is immaterial who owns which newspaper, who turns up stones for you to fall over, or whether I am a dog or a sow. The question is finally, did you or did you not say it. I dare you to print over your own signature what you admit you did say about

## ANOTHER REASON CHOWAN COLLEGE

(By the Publicity Committee)  
This is really a plea for the girls of Eastern North Carolina. Fathers and mothers who have not known the benefits and delights of higher education are sometimes difficult to awaken. Many a girl has lost the opportunity for a good education, not from lack of means but because her parents were not near enough to any college to feel its influence, or to have those closely connected with it telling them continually of their duty to their girls, or explaining to them how easily they can send them to college.

Go to any college and you will be surprised to see what a large percentage of the pupils comes from the near counties. Go to these counties and you will see that a large number of the girls are college-trained—double less three times the number found in the counties not within easy reach of college.

## PASQUOTANK GROWING MORE COTTON NOW

Cotton production has been on the increase in Pasquotank County and in all this immediate section as a result of the high prices that have prevailed.

The bureau of the census of the United States Department of Commerce has just made public figures showing the total number of bales ginned in each of the counties of the State for the years of 1918 and 1919. The figures for the counties in this section follow.

	1919	1918
Pasquotank	4,489	3,952
Cambden	2,976	2,613
Perquimans	6,180	5,394

This increase is not statewide. Indeed, for the whole State there was a falling off in the crop in 1919 as compared with 1918, the total number of bales ginned in the state being 855,455 in 1919 as compared with 919,338 in 1918.

The increasing tobacco acreage in what have been the cotton producing counties of the State may be one cause for the falling off of the cotton crop in 1919. Wilson County ginned 29,825 bales in 1919 against 29,553 in 1918.

## COTTAGE PRAYER MEETING FRIDAY

The ladies of the third ward of the First Methodist church will hold their cottage prayer meeting in the home of Mrs. Ben Goodwin on West Church street Friday afternoon at four o'clock. Mrs. J. N. Winslow, leader.

## POULTRY ASSOCIATION MEETS FRIDAY NIGHT

There will be a meeting of the Pasquotank Poultry Association Friday night at the County Agents office for the purpose of working out plans to secure the state poultry show in Elizabeth City for the coming winter.

voting negroes in our convention on February 21, 1920.

Since "The Herald" says it will accord me space for constructive criticism I am sending this along with a request that it publish same. I am also sending copy to each of the local papers in Elizabeth City. May I add that this is the first time that I have ever, directly or indirectly, given the matter publicity, except within our own household. That the matter got into Democratic newspapers and Democratic mouths, you have only to thank yourself—first at Plymouth, N. C., on February 25, 1920, when you arose to the point of personal privilege and demanded to be heard at a time when no word had been said about you in the convention except by way of highest compliment, and for an hour washed dirty linen, including this "negro stuff,"—second at Elizabeth City March 19th, 1920 when you gratuitously attacked me in "The Herald" without any basis in fact, and without a successful effort to clear yourself of the matter in hand. You can not obviate the obvious—the more one tries the worse one gets.

Sincerely yours,  
I. M. MEEKINS

## INTEREST GROWS IN SERVICES

**Rev. J. M. Ormond Speaks Inspiringly To Large And Responsive Audience Each Evening**

Interest in the Evangelistic services at the First Methodist Church is growing by leaps and bounds. Wednesday night's meeting drew a great congregation that filled the large auditorium.

Mr. Hufty again demonstrated his mastery of the art of leading a large assembly of worshippers in song.

Mr. Ormond, the pastor, was at his best in the sermon, which was an earnest and passionate appeal for self-knowledge. The sermon was inspired by Belshazzar's experience on the occasion of the great feast when an inevitable hand wrote the words on the wall, which, when interpreted, struck terror to his soul, for they told him that he had been "Tried in the balance and found wanting." The speaker said that God had made it possible for every soul to weigh itself, and that one man's scales could not be used by another. He argued that every person must finally, somewhere, stand accused and condemned before the one Judge who deals eternal justice,—his all knowing self, and urged that the hour be not postponed.

There were moments when the ticks of the clock hanging on the balcony of the church were the only sound audible. "Such a moment was that in which the preacher said, 'What are you and what am I when stripped down to our naked souls?' The thing of vital importance is not what we think we are, not our reputation in the world, but what we really are. What are we when alone? What are we when the world is not looking on? What are we in the darkness, when the curtains are drawn and the lights are out? That is the supreme test. What does God see when He is peering all our shams and hypocrisies, look into our very souls? That is what should most concern you and me. Are our hearts clean, our souls right? If not we are already on the downward path, and the crash may come when we least expect it. The great king of old, secure as he fancied behind the mighty walls of Babylon, looked with scorn upon the little army of Cyrus. But that army penetrated to the very heart of the citadel he thought invulnerable. So you and I may be thinking that the little worldly habits and ways of living of ours are insignificant. But it is just such things that undermine the characters of men, and finally bring them to pain and sorrow."

The success of the evangelistic services at the First Methodist church speaks well for both minister and people, and is prophetic of a wonderful future for the church.

## WANT WILSON TO DECLARE HIMSELF

Washington, March 25.—Democrats and Republicans today cheered the statement made in the House by Representative Humphreys, Democrat, of Mississippi that President Wilson should announce that he is not a candidate for the third term.

## Admiral Fletcher Is First Witness

Washington, March 25.—The naval court of inquiry appointed to investigate the removal by Admiral Sims of Rear Admiral Fletcher from command of the naval forces at Brest October, 1917, convened today with Admiral Fletcher as the first witness. Sims and others will be called for later.

## SPENCER COMPANY BUSY

The Spencer Company is already busy in its new quarters in the Hilton Building, although the failure of goods to arrive has delayed its formal opening. This new firm carries high grade suits and furnishings for men and already its classy appearance has attracted much attention. The first advertisement of the new firm appears in this issue of The Advance.

## Expect Campaigns Soon To Liven Up

Raleigh, March 23.—With the Democratic primaries less than ten weeks distant, candidates for offices are expected to liven up their campaigns in dead earnest during the coming week or two. There is, of course, very little livening up to be done by candidates for State offices, with the exception of gubernatorial aspirants, for the simple reason that no opposition has shown itself and there is little if any probability that the present state officers will be forced to contest for the nomination. They will, however, have their hand full fighting off the Republican opposition which at this time gives promise of being the strongest in the majority party in North Carolina has ever had to face in recent years.

The gubernatorial race, a triangular contest, is to be worth all that it costs the average voter to see. During the past week the contest took on plenty of life. The Page stock is said to have gone considerably above par in the western part of the state early in the week when Marse Bob spoke in Mecklenburg, Gaston, Lincoln and Iredell counties. So fast did the Biscoe man's trip react that his state campaign manager, Charlie Ross, who had previously intimated that he would not make any claims whatever, Saturday was persuaded to give in and predict that in Cam Morrison's home county of Mecklenburg Mr. Page will give a flattering vote. In the two townships in Mecklenburg, where the Page campaigners have done some straw balloting of their own, Mr. Ross allows Morrison and Gardner only ten percent of the votes.

The claim is interesting considering Mr. Ross' disinclination to lay any claims to everything in sight. He is of the opinion that both of Marse Bob's opponents who are claiming 7,500 majorities in the ninth district and Messrs. Morrison and Gardner live in that district—are going to be badly mistaken when the ballots are counted. While the Page supporters who are more or less in the family are not saying as much, Charlotte campaigners for him are willing to wager that Mr. Morrison will fall short by a forty-five per cent margin of carrying Mecklenburg county. Manager Ross of course is not ready to make the claim and the Charlotte candidate's supporters laugh at such a claim, which they say is unthinkable.

The appointment of Mr. Morrison's campaign manager, which has been delayed for many months because of the Charlotte candidate's bereavement, is daily expected here. Upon his last visit to this city ten days ago Mr. Morrison stated that he expected to return to Raleigh within a very short time, name his campaign manager and establish headquarters here. So his supporters here are expecting his return and the announcement of his manager within the week. The fact that he has not made public the name of his manager is not evidence that Mr. Morrison has been resting on his cars. On the contrary he has been hard at work and in addition to managing direct to the voters with his candidacy, having spoken at more places during the past two weeks than either of his opponents.

In the eastern section of the State during the past few weeks the Charlotte candidate is gaining ground, according to reports from that section to the State capital. And even Mr. Gardner's friends admit that Mr. Morrison's strength in the eastern counties apparently strengthened itself here of late. This is accounted for by the Gardner men with the statement that "Cam or Cite have gone to work."

## WOULD ATONE FOR GREAT WRONG DONE

Jackson, Miss., March 25.—Will Purvis, whose sentence of death was commuted to life imprisonment after the mouse slipped when he dropped from the gallows, was today handed a warrant for \$5,000 voted him by the legislature for the "great wrong done him."

Purvis was exonerated of the murder charge after two years in prison.

## FIRE AT ASHEVILLE

Asheville, March 25.—Fire today destroyed a wing of the Manor Hotel, causing the loss of \$100,000.

## WORKMEN'S ARMY WILL BE FORMED

**Cabinet to be Remodeled, Mines to be Socialized, according to an Agreement Between German Government and Workmen**

Paris, March 25.—The German government reached a definite agreement today with Ruhr Valley workmen where hostilities have been in progress, according to news reaching semi-official circles here.

A workmen's army is to be formed, the cabinet is to be remodeled with labor represented, the mines are to be socialized, counter-revolutionary organizations are to be dissolved and food supply systems are to be improved.

## FIGHTING RESUMED

The Hague, March 25 Fighting in the Ruhr district of Germany where it was understood that a truce had been effected has been resumed, according to the Telegraaf.

Spartacist forces are nearing Wesel, the newspaper says, and a Muenster dispatch says that the Red army's strength is now 120,000 men.

## Kidnapped Boy Still Missing

Lexington, Ky. March 25.—Altho E. R. Little, Lexington capitalist, has announced that the \$25,000 ransom demanded will be paid, his seven year old son, Paul, still the captive of the kidnapper who fired him away yesterday.

## Crusade Leads Lawson's Arrest

Boston, March 25.—Attorney General Allen's crusade against promoters who have been exploiting silver stocks has led to the arrest of Thomas W. Lawson who surrendered to the police today in answer to the warrant charging him with violating the state law regarding filing information about the stock issues.

## Public Invited To Revival Services

Great crowds are turning out to hear the pastor evangelist, G. T. Lumpkin, at Blackwell Memorial Baptist Church. Dr. Clarke says: "He is one of the finest evangelists I ever heard. This is an opportunity for the city and county to hear some great preaching. Every day at three and seven thirty o'clock for two weeks."

## DYNAMITED DIPPING VATS

Tuscaloosa, Ala., March 25.—Authorities today are searching for what is believed to be an organized band which dynamited eight cattle dipping vats near here in the last two weeks.

## ACT AS LONGSHOREMEN

Charleston, S. C., March 25.—Business men today took off their coats and acted as longshoremen in unloading the steamship, Lake Clear, tied up here by the longshoremen's strike.

## Farm Light and Motor Company

Is Name of New Firm Here

The Farm Light and Motor Company is the name of a new firm here with headquarters at the corner of Fearing and Road Streets.

The members of the firm are D. R. Scott, L. A. Armstrong and A. J. Armstrong and the firm handles electric washing machines, vacuum cleaners, electric irons, and so on; installs the Lallely Electric Light and Power Plant and sells the Commonwealth five passenger touring car.

## FOR REGISTER OF DEEDS

I hereby announce my candidacy for Register of Deeds of Pasquotank County, subject to the action of the Democratic primary in June. Your support will be appreciated.  
W. F. Pritchard, Sr.