

## The Franklin Press

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LYLES HARRIS.....Editor

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### Behind Prison Walls

ONE OF the tragedies of a decadent prison system was brought home to Macon county last week, when the news of the death of Ida Dills reached here. She was the wife of Allen Dills of this county. With her husband she was sentenced to a long term of imprisonment at Raleigh for the killing of Dave Waldroop in 1928. In the prison, Mrs. Dills gave birth to twin girls, one of whom died at the time the mother did.

Why the birth of children should be allowed in the State penitentiary is beyond comprehension. Time was when prisoners were herded together in prison confinement under unspeakable conditions. We have gone a little way from that day and time, but there are yet unsolved problems in penal system as the incident at Raleigh shows. There are physical reasons that make birth of children undesirable in the surroundings of a penitentiary, but the stigma of having been born behind prison walls should not be forced upon no child.

### Highway 28

WHEN in Asheville a few days ago, we had a long talk with Mr. Stikeleather, state highway commissioner. He assures us, and asks us to tell the people of Macon county, that work would begin on the hard surfacing of this road east of Franklin as soon as the weather permitted in the spring. This road will be concreted to the foot of the mountains. From there on gravel will be used to make the road to Highlands an all year road.

The work will continue on from Highlands to the Transylvania line. This will open up to the summer travel to the southeast and will be one of the most traveled roads in this section of the state.

On highway 28 west of Franklin Mr. Stikeleather says he will do something that will put this road in shape for all year travel. Just what this will be and how far he will be able to carry this work, he does not know at present, but he assures us that we can rest assured that he will do something, and just as much as he possibly can.

### A County Agent Service

COUNTY agents can perform a great service to agriculture by carrying to the country school house meetings and the farm firesides the correct interpretation of what the Federal Farm Board is seeking to do under the Agricultural Marketing Act, C. B. Denman, member, Federal Farm Board, said in an address prepared for delivery today (December 5) before the annual meeting of the National Association of County Agents in Chicago.

The Agricultural Marketing Act, Mr. Denman said, proposes to put the farmers in the same position enjoyed now by other industries which is to "determine their profits through control of production and marketing of their products." Success of the Farm Board's program, he added, "will depend upon the understanding the farmers have of the possibilities of the law and their willingness to help themselves to its benefits."

Mr. Denman told of what is being done to set up national commodity sales organizations by the amalgamation or federation of existing co-operative associations of the particular commodity.

"When a commodity has been designated and a national marketing association set up to handle that commodity, when its management has been approved by the Federal Farm Board and its financial position in the industry made secure and to the farmer dependably assuring," Mr. Denman said, "then that association should attract the rank and file of farmers who produce that commodity wherever located. You can without reservation tell your farmers to put the marketing of their crop into whatever local unit that will have the sale of that crop made under control of the national agency."

Mr. Denman said the consumer has nothing to fear from the Farm Board's program, explaining that the consumer will be protected

ducer is offered much hope in the program of orderly and efficient marketing through farmer owned and controlled organizations.

"To help the farmers produce efficiently and economically; to market as, when, and where needed throughout the whole of a market season; to free him from any and all bonds that have compelled his products to be offered in the world's markets as soon as it is harvested; to match demand with proper supply, is the plan and purpose of the Farm Board," Mr. Denman continued. "The law seems to vest us with power and funds ample for such a program. Many crops are not marketed by the farmer without any thought of the market demand but because of economic pressure. Mortgage due dates can be given as the best reason why cotton and other crops are sold in a short period. Certainly mills run all the year and cloth is sold throughout the year. We hope to change the calendar of marketing for the farmer so it will keep apace. Storage must be provided for non-perishables so seasonal surpluses may be kept out of our great show windows of trade and not cause glutted markets. For surpluses of perishables, ways and means must be provided for making by-products at the source of production rather than paying transportation to great centers and see a product bring less than its carrying costs."

Mr. Denman said his vision of agriculture in the future is "each agricultural commodity under control in marketing by the farmers themselves, prices stabilized and production based on demand at a price fair to the producer and yet attractive to the consumer."

### Others' Comments

#### THE PROBLEM OF HAITI

PRESIDENT HOOVER shows the influences of the years which he spent in England in his fondness for commissions. That is the traditional British way of dealing with a problem that stubbornly refuses to yield to settlement. In the past eight months Mr. Hoover has appointed more commissions, we think, than any President has ever named in a similar period; more, perhaps, than any President has ever named all told. And now he proposes another commission to determine what can be done in the case of Haiti, where our Marines have been since 1915 and where more Marines are being rushed at the present time to quell the trouble that has arisen following a strike of customs service employees and the declaration of martial law throughout the so-called republic.

Congress will give the President the authority to name a commission to Haiti, of course, and will earnestly hope that a plan can be evolved for getting the United States out of the island. We confess that we are not hopeful that any commission can offer a solution of the Haitian problem that will work. The difficulties that must be overcome are inherent in the conditions that exist in the island.

Haiti has an area of 10,695 square miles, which means that it is just about one-fifth the size of North Carolina. The name means "high land," and it is eminently fitting. The island rises abruptly out of the Caribbean Sea to a height of three or four thousand feet. One mountain peak is 10,000 feet high. The average height of the principal mountain range is 7,000 feet. These vast copper colored masses are a lovely sight viewed from the sea; and Port au Prince, the chief city, nestling at the base of these mountains, is beautiful beyond description as one enters the harbor in the dusk of a tropic night.

But the mountainous nature of the country makes the policing of Haiti exceedingly difficult; and Haiti is constantly in need of policing and has been these many years. A French colony from the latter part of the seventeenth century until the revolution of 1791, when Toussaint Louverture massacred the foreigners, Haiti set up the first negro republic in 1804. Its history since that time has been a constant succession of revolutions, nearly all of them marked by bloody excesses. From 1910 to 1915 there were seven presidents, each of whom took office by overthrowing his predecessor. It was after the last of them, General Sam, had been put to death during the funeral of 200 political prisoners who had been massacred in jail that the United States Marines occupied the country. That was in 1915, during the World War, and if President Wilson had not acted the intimation was that one of the European countries meant to do so.

The Marines have been in Haiti for fourteen years. They built a splendid road across the mountains from Port au Prince to Cape Haitien. They trained a native constabulary and made other improvements. But they have not been able to establish conditions making for governmental stability and the reason is that the task is almost impossible. It is absolutely impossible on the basis of a republican form of government.

The heart of the difficulty lies in the fact that out of Haiti's total population of about

about 230,000. These latter are mulattoes, descended from former French settlers. There are only three or four thousand whites on the island. Between the negroes and the mulattoes the bitterest enmity exists. Most of the blacks are very poor. Their average income is only four or five dollars a year. Life is easy in the mountains, however. It is not even necessary to till the soil—and very little of it is tilled. One can subsist on the fruits and vegetables that grow wild.

On the other hand, many of the mulattoes are people of means. Some of them are wealthy. They are superior in intelligence, not a few of them have been educated in France, many of them have travelled. They are contemptuous of the blacks and the blacks loathe them. The struggles for power that go on unceasingly are, broadly speaking, struggles between these two elements.

Obviously no commission can formulate any plan that will change these fundamental conditions; and while the fundamental conditions remain what they are only some outside force such as the United States Marines, can keep the peace. President Borno, who recently announced his intention of retiring next April, has been in office since 1922. Except for the presence of the Marines he would have been ousted long ago and would probably have shared the fate of many of his predecessors, unless he had made good his escape from the country. The blacks despise him.

There is only one question for President Hoover's proposed commission to report upon in fact. That question is whether the United States has any obligation to continue indefinitely to keep the peace in Haiti. Unless we stay there we can be very sure that the people of the island will go on slaughtering their governments as they did before we went there. Shall we say that that is their affair and leave them free to continue their butchery?

Under the treaty which we made with Haiti in 1915 we accepted certain responsibilities and these we have tried to fulfill. But the time is approaching when we might retire from the country. We shall have to determine our course of action against that time, and undoubtedly the American people would like to see the Marines permanently withdrawn. If they decide that this shall be done, however, they should do it with their eyes wide open to the consequences in Haiti and not under the delusion that Haiti is capable of maintaining a responsible government on her own account.—Asheville Citizen.

### Letters

Clarksville, Ga., Dec. 7, 1929.

Editor Franklin Press,  
 Franklin, N. C.

Dear Sir:

I have read with much interest the letters in The Press for the last few issues, especially those of Uncle George Stiwinter, Sheriff Ingram and George Johnson.

Macon county is my native county. For that reason I am interested in any movement for the betterment of the good people of Macon. I know Mr. Stiwinter is honest in his views of how things should run in the county. When I lived by Uncle George he was a justice of the peace. And I am frank to say that if the citizens of Macon or any other county would only assist their officers instead of criticising them, they would help the enforcement of law.

I would not feel that I was a good citizen to take an oath to uphold the laws and constitution of my state, then willfully refuse to assist the officers in carrying out the laws. The way to have good officers is to stand by them in the enforcement of law.

Uncle George passed a very severe criticism upon the preachers and church. The world and the devil have always been mad at the church. They put to death the Head of the church, and have been hunting for the blood of the members ever since. We admit that there a great many persons who have their names on the church books, but I wish to say for the benefit of Uncle George that not anyone who has his or her name there that lives as the world lives is a member of the church. I go farther to say that ever real church member is a saved man or woman. No real saved person, one that has been born again, will deal in liquor or any other sins. And I am not a holiness either.

Macon county has as noble a set of officers as can be found anywhere. And it is the duty of every citizen to help them. Brother Johnson would do a righteous deed to stand up like a man, and call the officers when law is violated in his community. I think my home county should be very thankful, and send up a prayer daily for the wise leadership they have in their county commissioners. I have known these men, at least two of them, since I was a small boy. J. O. Harrison will never advise anything against the interest of his people. We think he is wise in regard to not putting any more taxes on his county. I taught in Macon four years ago. In that community were parents who were not able to provide books for their children. They did not have good mattresses and all the conveniences we give our prisoners. I think we should treat our unfortunate prisoners humanely, but I do not think here, there or anywhere else, we should burden the poor

law-abiding citizens to put the criminals in a palace.

Mrs. Mashburn expressed my feelings in her letter. All over the Southland we are living a hundred years ahead of our ability. There is enough labor wasted in Georgia and North Carolina towns by boys and young men loafing around garages to produce enough wheat and corn to bread the states. Take the advice of your county agents. Go back to the farm; teach the boys to till the soil, and our crimes will lessen. We won't need to build so many jails and court houses.

I love Macon county people. They are my kith and kin,

Yours for progress,

M. A. LOVE.

Franklin, N. C., Dec. 9, 1929.

Dear Mr. Editor:

Be good enough to allow me space in your most readable paper upon a subject possessing perhaps but a moderate degree of interest to your masculine readers; yet of an essential nature to the feminine world. It is the one word FASHION!

Man's interest—it appears—extends so far as the strain on his pocketbook—with perhaps, at times, the attracting of his attention. For women, the meaning carries with it beauty, self-assurance, health, comfort, facility and change—if in the latter there comes new advantages for development and freedom.

Now does this radical and sudden change in the 1930 fashions bring to us these features? Decidedly no! To put it to the test, how many women, if any, welcome this change? It might be said in behalf of our sex that never was there a time when femininity disliked more to relinquish the present style. Have we not in defense of the short skirt agreed that it affords health-giving freedom, sanitary advantages, along with many other helpful features. If so, why exchange for the long skirt, the silhouette waist line, and the many accessories accompanying such attire—the bustle—artificial hair—corset—big sleeves—large hats—long gloves—hoop skirts, etc.?

This question comes squarely before us: Need we women be the mark in backward civilization following so soon upon the emancipation from our many ancient hindrances? Need we answer to the beck and call of these tyrannical directors of style and a few leaders in the industrial world?

The merchant, too, suffers along with us, though the propagandist would have us follow his statement to the contrary. If by adding a few inches to the skirts (as is said) will increase the yardage and benefit the manufacturer, there can be no objection in this. But, when the long and trailing skirts make dust cloths of material it is time for the practical women to object.

I often wonder why it is that we women so complacently accept these changes with as calm consent as the expectant and inevitable change in seasons. Spring—summer—winter—fall—and with them as many prices as is in nature. Surely, we do not consider this a feminine privilege? If so, how nice it would be to wish it off on the men for a while! Why do not they be philanthropic and help out the poor manufacturer and the Parisian masters of style? Men hew to the line with good sense too faithfully to be beguiled. Knowing this, the dictators put nothing over on them!

What finer opportunity than now for our little colony of Macon county women—collectively though few—to stand firmly for our intellectual and material rights? While we may never enjoy the distinction of a Carry Nation, or be as distinctive as some of the White House fashionables, yet we can have the distinction of standing for an IDEAL.

It is a step in the right direction and will lead to future advantages. Think upon our freedom for all time—independent of the slaveries of constant and harassing change. "Let's not be like dumb, driven cattle!"

Hurrah! Hurrah! Fat—Lean—Small—or Tall—of Rank and File, let's say TO SMASH WITH THE HOOP SKIRT!

Away with the style,

MISS S. J.

Franklin, N. C., R. F. D. 1.

December 9, 1929.

Editor of The Press:

Please allow me space in your paper for a few words of explanation concerning an article I sent to The Press a short time ago. In a conversation with Mr. Ingram I find that he misconstrued some of my letter, and I wish to state that it was not my intention to insinuate on Mr. Ingram. If our sheriff was in any way responsible for anything that I mentioned I did not know it, and did not mean to convey that idea. Now I hope this is a clear explanation.

Respectfully, GEO. M. JOHNSON.

Tellico, N. C., Dec. 9, 1929.

Mr. Lyles Harris,  
 Franklin, N. C.

Dear Editor:

We would like to see an itemized account from Alex Angel about his chicken raising through The Press.

Yours respectfully,

MRS. ROBERT RAMSEY.

Editor's Note: We are sure that Mr. Angel will be glad to furnish this information for Mrs. Ramsey and the readers of The Press.