

The Franklin Press

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In Passing

Tourists are crowding into Western North Carolina now as never before at this season of the year. It was hoped that when the present Chamber of Commerce was organized here that Franklin would get her share. For some reason the officials of the newly organized chamber have not "got going" as was hoped. The reasons, while not yet made public, are, beyond all reasonable doubt, extremely valid. There are two things necessary at this time on this local problem. One is for us to vest ourselves with patience and the other is for each individual of this community to take an active interest in affairs of the Chamber of Commerce and render all assistance possible to the board of directors whenever it should be desired.

Several people have shown a god bit of concern over articles that have appeared in The Press recently, both editorially and otherwise. They seem to think that said articles have exposed them too drastically, much to their discomfort. Well, there is this about it, if any of our people do not want the glare of publicity turned on their actions, then they should not commit acts that will be a discredit to themselves if they become publicly known.

Over in Transylvania county last week the writer saw two things that, to him, is a greater indication of farm prosperity than anything that he has seen for a long time. An old man was cleaning off a ditch bank. A girl turned some cattle, milk cattle and dry cattle, in the field. The cattle went straight to where the man was at work and rubbed against him. He petted them all a little and then pushed them aside and went on with his work, but they stayed around and kept asking for more. The other has to do with livestock also. Two men were coming out of a field with two teams of well cared for draft horses. One of the teams was hitched to a wagon and the other was walking behind the wagon and the second man was walking behind them. Just as they came on the highway, one of the large living vans of a highway work crew was passing. It looked very terrifying to both teams. The man who was driving the wagon droned out a soothing word or two, but never tightened his reins. The man walking behind the free team walked up between them from behind and placed a hand on the hip of each horse with a low "Now, boys, I'm here." Both teams, the trembling with fright, walked slowly around the van without even on jerk or side step. The sight was good to see—men loving their livestock. There would be no "farm problem" were all livestock treated as were these.

Why not an electric railway from Anderson, S. C.,—the nearest point to the South on the P. & N. Railway—on up thru Walhalla, Clayton, Franklin, Bushnell, Maryville, Tenn., and on into Knoxville? The Duke interests, the Georgia Power company and the Mellon interests are all said to be closely connected in a business way. One great inducement to these or any other people to build a road thru here would be for the counties thru which the right of way would pass to give the building company a free right of way. There is an old survey already run all the way. There is a line now from Anderson to Walhalla; also from Clayton to Franklin; then again from Bushnell to Fontana and from Maryville to Knoxville. Just a short link in three places and, there you are. Our Chamber of Commerce could do worse than to invite representatives from all the towns concerned to meet here for a discussion. Will they?

There is another thing that has the appearance of possibilities. Dr. Hurty, in addressing the Georgia Press Association a few days ago—Dr. Hurty, by the way, is a widely known industrial chemist, doing some investigation on the paper makers' problems—said in the course of his address that the future paper mills would be situated in the mountain sections where clear water is obtainable at all times, and close enough to the pine growing section where cheap pulp wood is obtainable. Wood can be freighted to the water, but the water has to be used where nature put it. The advantages of this section should be put forward. Will some trade body please investigate?

"No Spitting" signs may be had free from The Press office for all that will post them up where the public may have a chance to see them.

Had some time to kill in another town one day last week. The Standard filling station being the cleanest looking place anywhere around about, I went there. While there got into conversation with one of the Standard officials. He told me that his company regarded Franklin as the best town in its class in the district and also that Steve Porter is the best service man. That is how Steve is advertising his town. (No, Steve, you will not get a bill for this).

Transylvania has 14 boys' and girls' summer camps. Macon has two. Page the Chamber of Commerce.

What about Franklin becoming mountain host to Clemson college?

There are only two graduate summer universities in the U. S. A. Both are in the North. Franklin, why sleepest thou?

When County officials get to where they can, and do, ignore the law, what are the rest of us to think and do? It would be enlightening, to say the least, to see a financial statement of the County income and expenditure. It would keep a large number of us from wondering.

Mrs. Pennie Hughes, of Rose Creek, wants Uncle George Stiwinter to tell her where she can buy a Baptist bible, as she says she has never read one. Mrs. Hughes also wants Rev. M. A. Love, to tell her where in the bible she can find that Christ joined the Baptist church.

Mrs. George Nichols, of Prentiss, writes that a woman book agent sold her seven books on religious subjects that were not as represented by the saleswoman. The teachings of the books, according to Mrs. Nichols, are pernicious, and she believes that such book agents should not be allowed in any community.

Farm Income

THE FOLLOWING paragraphs are taken from the editorial columns of the Southern Agriculturist:

"Experts of the United States government have just issued a report which states that the farmers of the country received \$12,500,000,000 for their crops in 1929, and that this sum is \$85,000,000 more than they received in 1928.

"As the census bureau states that there are approximately 6,000,000 farmers in the United States, we find that the average receipt for each farmer is a trifle over \$2,000, while the average increase is a trifle over \$14.

"All this indicates that farming as a whole is not in the deplorable condition that calamity howlers would have us believe, and it also indicates that if farmers will take advantage of the co-operative measures outlined and supported by the federal farm board the gains of 1930 over 1929 will far exceed those of 1929 over 1928.

"Of course there were thousands of farmers who failed to receive the average of \$2,000 for their crops in 1929, while there were thousands of others who received far in excess of that figure. The latter will take good care of themselves, so it is up to the former to see that they get their share of what the public will pay for farm crops this year.

"There is no agency on this earth nor in the heavens above that can help them, unless they try to help themselves, and the first step in self help is an effort to correct mistakes of the past in farm practices, eliminate waste, live at home, and work as hard at farming every day of the year as the paid workman of the city labors in order to hold his job."

Others' Comments

DR. FRANK SILER

NORTH Carolina Methodism owes much to the Rev. Dr. Frank Siler as a preacher of eloquence and power, as a builder of church-

es and as an administrator. But in nothing is the debt of the church and the state larger and more lasting than in the work Dr. Siler did for the education of women in the earlier days of that movement in North Carolina.

Himself a teacher, he preached throughout the mountain counties of the state the gospel of education before he accepted a minister's commission to preach the Gospel. Because of his contagious enthusiasm and his personal appeals, scores of young women went to college instead of ending their educational training at the high school stage. And many of them prepared themselves for teaching.

Early in his career as a minister Dr. Siler's talents as an organizer and administrator were recognized by the church conferences. He built some of the largest Methodist churches in the state; he held important executive positions in the conference.

A man of tremendous energy, of lovable personality, tolerant and charitable in his judgments, Dr. Siler was widely known among the people of this section, particularly. He wrought well for his church and for all the people of Western North Carolina—Asheville Times.

Letters

CONGRESSMAN ABERNETHY WRITES

March 18, 1930.

Editor The Franklin Press,
Franklin, N. C.

My dear Editor:

I am enclosing herewith copy of my speech in Congress on the bill which I introduced to "Provide for the payments to the States of amounts equal to a part of the sums collected as internal revenue on tobacco in order to foster education and road construction and other purposes."

This bill was introduced by me after careful consideration of the entire matter. I have reasonable grounds to believe that if I can get the people of North Carolina back of this proposed legislation that we can make some headway in getting some relief from the outrageous tax on tobacco.

The practical workings of my bill as it would apply to North Carolina are as follows: In North Carolina substantially eighty per cent of the tax paid by property owners on land and personal property are for schools and road construction. Under this bill which I have introduced, the federal taxes returned to the State of North Carolina would be used in taking care of the schools and roads, and the people would be relieved of burdensome taxation.

This is a matter of such vital importance that I hope you will read this speech carefully, and if you can consistently give the proposal your support it will be very helpful. It is quite an undertaking, but I believe if the people of North Carolina back the matter that we can make much headway. I will thank you to send me a copy of your paper containing any comments you care to make in the matter.

Sincerely yours,
CHARLES L. ABERNETHY

Editor's Note. We believe that the bill referred to in the above is worthy of the earnest consideration of all thoughtful citizens of this County. A copy of the bill is on file at The Press office, or any one may get a copy by writing to Congressman Charles L. Abernethy, Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON LETTER

By FRED HOLMES, Washington Correspondent of The Franklin Press

Washington.—What is "diplomatic immunity," any way? A lot of us here in Washington would like to know.

For centuries monarchal subjects have had it pounded into them that "the King can do no wrong." We are told that this does not mean that the particular specimen of the genus Homo who has had a throne wished upon him is not subject to the usual temptations of the flesh or those of a more or less perverted mind, but that the spirit of sovereignty which he is supposed to embody is outside the pale of human malfeasance.

Therefore, it may be assumed that an ambassador—who, please remember, is the personal representative of his sovereign—"can do no wrong." Add to this that mutual understanding which has been given that much-abused title of the "Comity of Nations" and you will appreciate why an ambassador can assassinate our Secretary of State and "get away with it."

Let's grant immunity to the ambassador; he can be reached by a State Department request for his recall. But how far down the line of the ambassador's official family is this immunity to extend and apply? If his second assistant spittoon cleaner commits burglary or arson, is he "immune?"

Recently Juan Polich, naval attache of the Chilean Embassy, while driving his car home from a visit to the Naval Academy at Annapolis collided with a light roadster, seriously injuring Paul Edward Hammond. The police said they had talked with witnesses of the accident who asserted that the Chilean

representative was operating his car at an excessive rate of speed and had gone by a red light.

Senator Kenneth McKellar, Democrat, of Tennessee, after he had read of the accident, concluded that immunity from arrest in such cases should be taken from the diplomats, and introduced a bill under which foreign diplomats in Washington might be arrested for traffic violations. Maybe the Tennesseean goes just a little bit too far. The Chilean Ambassador wasn't driving the car, nor was it suggested that the car was being driven with his authority. It must be said that we are all very much inclined to agree with Senator McKellar when he says that "I do not think that foreign representatives on duty here should be allowed to disregard the traffic ordinances, or any other laws that Americans must obey." The funny part of it is that it is not on record that any real "foreign representative" ever disregarded a traffic or any other ordinance or law. The question is, what are you going to do with those of his scullions who do?

The result of the Senate's two-day struggle over the question of censorship of foreign books imported into this country was a compromise which represents a slight—and only a slight—advance in the direction of liberality and broadmindedness. The gain was a recognition of the point made by Senator Cutting, Republican, New Mexico, that the decision as to whether a book or pamphlet was or was not obscene or seditious should not be left to customs officials but should be determined by the courts. An amendment to the Smoot censorship proposal to the tariff bill was adopted providing that this question shall be determined by proceedings in a United States District Court.

The debate on the subject consumed about twelve hours. It provided many spirited passages between Senator Cutting and Senator Smoot, and it afforded opportunity for Senators from South Carolina, Tennessee and Florida to grow apoplectic in their vehement support of American womanhood and the American home. The calm raillery and sophisticated self-possession of Senator Cutting to the explosive vociferous downrightiness of Senator Smoot gave entertainment to Senators and to those in the galleries alike.

When Senator Blease of South Carolina openly favored lynching for the man who dared to "lay his hand on a woman," and Senator Trammell of Florida, shuddering at the possible entry of uncensored foreign literature into this country, saw America "feeding her youth to the crocodiles," it began to seem to onlookers as if the contest on the floor was like a battle between the educated and the primitive. The discussion swept through the ages, gathering in everything from the Old Testament to the writings of Brigham Young, and brought at last from Senator Smoot such a tribute to the Mormon church that he admitted that when he "lost his virtue" he would not feel worthy to belong to it longer.

There is little doubt that before these lines are in type a tariff bill will have passed the Senate and shortly thereafter will be on Mr. Hoover's desk. Of course, after having been passed by the Senate, it will have to go to the Conference Committee, where regular Republicans will have a decided majority and where the power of revision is limited to the range between the rates established by the original House bill and the rates in the bill as finally passed by the Senate. Wherefore, good night to the original Hoover recommendation for limited revision.

The breakdown of the Progressive-Democratic coalition which, while hostile to the President, was working in his direction, ended that already hopeless chance. The bill as now rewritten is the work of the Grundy group which, disregarding the Presidential wish, declared from the first for general revision. Obviously interest is keen as to what Mr. Hoover will do about it.

However, it may be taken for granted that the President will make no statement until the bill reaches him for action. Those close to Mr. Hoover are convinced that his judgment in not doing this has been sound all the way through. It is contended that no statement he could have made would have changed the Senate situation to the slightest extent, and it would be foolish to think so. Precisely the same people who have attacked him for "lack of leadership" because he did not state his position as to detailed rates would, with the same violence, have attacked him for usurpation of Congressional authority, and an effort to set himself up as a dictator had he done so.

Opinion is divided as to whether women are as yet capable of competing with men in an open market for labor. It might be unwise to withdraw such regulations as minimum wage laws because of the depressive effect it would have upon wages paid to shopgirls and others in positions where the supply of labor is far greater than the demand. But it seems that States which are interested in protecting their citizens against exploitation should extend their legislation to men as well as women. When a family of children is faced with starvation, work under unfavorable conditions is better than no work at all. Restrictive laws that impose unfair competition upon women in such circumstances have outlived their usefulness.