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The Press invites its readers to express their opinions through its columns and each week it plans to carry Letters to the Editor on its editorial page. This newspaper is independent in its policies and is glad to print both sides of any question. Letters to the Editor should be written legibly on only one side of the paper and should be of reasonable length. Of course, the editor reserves the right to reject letters which are too long or violate one's better sensibilities.

Weekly Bible Thought

Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. O let the nations be glad and sing for joy; for thou shalt judge the people Righteously, and govern the nations upon earth.—Psalm 67: 3, 4.

A Matter of Public Concern

DESPITE the fact that the Tallulah Falls Railway serves a territory rich in natural resources and potential of great agricultural development, hard times seem to have been its lot in life. For years it has been operated under receivership because of inability to pay even the interest, to say nothing of the principal, on a loan advanced by the Southern Railroad twenty odd years ago for the extension of the line from Tallulah Falls, Ga., to Franklin.

The line was not regarded as a success even in the days before hard-surfaced highways caused a precipitous decline in passenger revenues. The extent of this decline is shown in the railway's reports to the Interstate Commerce Commission. In 1925 passenger revenues on the "T. F." amounted to \$40,046; in 1926, \$42,649; in 1927, \$27,994; in 1928, \$22,866; in 1929, \$12,503; in 1930, \$8,669. But these figures are hardly necessary. One has only to go down to any of the stations along the line and observe the empty waiting rooms and coaches (rather, it should be coach, for only one car is usually carried now for passengers.)

Freight revenues, the reports to the I. C. C. reveal, have declined from \$212,768 in 1925 to \$122,174 in 1930. This year, it is estimated by H. L. Brewer, auditor and assistant to the receiver, the "T. F." faces an operating deficit of \$51,000 unless there is an increase of at least \$100,000 in the line's anticipated revenues.

As to what the outcome will be, neither Mr. Brewer nor Mr. J. F. Gray, the receiver, will venture an opinion. Whether the Southern Railroad will advance money to make up the deficit and continue operation of the line is problematical. If this were the only short line in which the Southern were interested, or if it were one of a few, there probably would be little cause for worry. But short lines, valuable in the past as "feeders" to the trunk lines even though not self-supporting in themselves, are about as numerous with the Southern as legs on a centipede. The problem of the Tallulah Falls Railway is only one of many such problems in the eyes of officials of the Southern Railroad. Many short lines already have had to be abandoned and junked. Which will come next? Let us hope that it won't be the Tallulah Falls.

It is not difficult to see what the results of abandonment would be. An immediate decline in property values would be inevitable. Virtually all hope of industrial development would be cut off. The public would be at the mercy of bus and truck line operators, over whom there is no rigid control as there is over the railroads. Timber operations would suffer greater, perhaps, than anything else. Poles, lumber and cross ties, which bring in a large share of Macon county's income, would have to be hauled over the Covees to the Murphy Branch. This, in a great many cases, would be prohibitive.

The mica industries now established might be able to survive the blow, but there would be little likelihood that more money would be invested in this vicinity in the development of mineral resources.

Every county through which the railway passes would suffer a very considerable drop in tax revenues, meaning the necessity of increasing the amount of levy. This would affect every property owner and almost every business man and farmer.

The resort business would be about the only one not to suffer. It might even be benefited. But this business is not of sufficient proportions to offset other losses.

What is the solution? On paper it is simple; to put it into practice presents difficulties, but not insurmountable.

The one solution is more business for the "T. F." That can be brought about in three ways:

1. A tremendous increase in the timber industry, which in years past has supplied most of the outgoing traffic of the line;
2. Establishment of large manufacturing industries at Franklin and other points along the "T. F.;"
3. By everyone patronizing the line as far as possible.

There is no hope now of greatly increasing timber cutting activities. There is little or no market for acid wood. A few poles and some lumber is moving, but this is in limited quantities.

Industrial development will be slow. The country is suffering from over-production.

The most feasible solution lies in public cooperation, in every person along the line using it whenever possible. This alone may not increase revenues of the "T. F." sufficiently to wipe out the anticipated deficit, but it should serve to stave off a crisis until the time is propitious for other "cures."

For a decade or more there has been much talk of the possibilities offered by extension of the "T. F." through to Maryville, Tenn., or Knoxville. There has been considerable resentment because the Southern Railroad has failed to take advantage of this opportunity. The Southern has been accused of deliberately thwarting such a project in order to preserve round-about hauls. This is no time to go into such contingent issues. Extension of the line now is beyond question. Rail shrinkage, rather than rail expansion, is the tendency of the times. It is an inevitable result of modern road building and the growing popularity of motor-transportation.

The point is: Franklin and other communities served by the Tallulah Falls Railway must not allow it to be abandoned. They must not allow it to reach the point where it would be forced to diminish its service or to neglect its rolling stock and roadbed. Past differences must be forgotten and the present situation faced squarely and resolutely. Any other course would call to mind the old comment about "cutting off one's nose to spite his face."

Clippings

ANOTHER BANK REOPENS

Reopening of the Bank of Franklin is another sign that affairs in Western North Carolina are not as bad as they have been pictured by the pessimist. The Bank of Franklin was one of a number of institutions that closed for self-protection when the crash in Asheville came. Like most of the others, the Bank of Franklin was solvent but embarrassed because of the failure of other banks. Its reopening is proof of this fact.

Reopening of the Bank of Franklin is also indicative of the courage and energy of the people of that community. It is easy enough to make a go of things when prosperity abounds. It is making a go of affairs in the face of difficulties that furnishes a test for the people of a community.

Business conditions will continue to improve more and more as the banking business recovers from the terrible blow it received when the Central Bank and Trust company failed. Already here in Waynesville business has shown much improvement since the Citizens Bank and Trust company resumed business. Franklin will experience a like improvement. —WAYNESVILLE MOUNTAINEER.

A DANGEROUS SITUATION

The prolonged legislative deadlock at Raleigh is dangerous for other reasons than those which were pointed out by Governor Gardner in his address to the lawmakers during the past week.

It is true, as the Governor said, that the apparent inability of the legislature to function and to legislate in working out a revenue policy adapted to the changed conditions is tending to bring the Democratic party in North Carolina into bad repute; for the Democratic party is in full control at Raleigh.

It is true, as the Governor said, that the prevailing uncertainty as to taxes already levies its own tax upon the business and patience of the people; for confidence can not revive and business can not move forward while day after day there is confusion as to the sources from which the funds necessary to support the activities to which the state is committed.

The situation would be bad enough if this were all. But it is not all. The feeling which exists at Raleigh and which has become increasingly bitter and personal is spreading. It is rowing suspicion in the public mind. Its continuance threatens a legacy of hates and discords.

One of the reasons for North Carolina's notable progress during the past thirty years has been its relative freedom from such hates and discords. Demagogues have never been able to get very far in this state. Conditions have not favored their rise. But the kind of atmosphere which now exists at the state capitol is precisely that in which demagogery thrives.

There is still another reason for regarding the prolongation of the legislative deadlock as dangerous. It is as important as any of those heretofore mentioned. When over a period of many weeks men are subjected to sever and continuing strain, their tempers inflamed and their resentments aroused, no one can say what will be done when at last a break comes, as eventually it must.

This is quite conceivable that those who have been demanding the removal of all ad valorem taxation for the support of the six-months school term might win their fight and yet find themselves saddled with taxes payment of which would be even more disastrous to their communities.

A general sales tax, for instance, would take heavier toll from those communities least able to pay, than does the ad valorem tax.

It is equally conceivable that those who have been holding firm against any form of sales tax might be forced to witness the imposition of other taxes still more experimental and demoralizing in their effects upon business than a modified tax on selected commodities.

A radical increase in the equalization fund supported by money collected through ad valorem taxation imposed upon the wealthier counties and distributed to the schools in the poorer counties would be, for example, calamitous in its consequences.

That may seem far-fetched, fantastically impossible. It has been done in other states. It is being done next door to us in South Carolina at the present time. And the policy there was adopted almost overnight, almost without warning.

We do not think that anything like this is going to be done at Raleigh; but we cite it as an illustration of the sort of thing that might be done in heat and passion if certain factions to this long controversy should succeed in wearing other factions out, in smashing all resistance, in embark-

ing then upon an expedition not simply to raise revenues but to punish others who have incurred their hostility.

Risks of this character are always present when a legislature has gone stale, when its members are wearied beyond endurance, when the sense of futility has taken possession of the minds of many of them, when they are sick and disgusted with their own fruitless efforts.

In the last analysis the battle that rages at Raleigh has to do with approximately eight or nine million dollars. That is about one-eleventh of the total taxes paid in North Carolina for state and local purposes. No matter what is done about this eight or nine million dollars the other taxes will remain and will have to be paid.

If the atmosphere in the general assembly had not become so surcharged with heat and feeling the legislature would have reached an adjustment of the whole revenue bill long ago and would have adjourned.

It can reach such an adjustment now if it will rid itself of bitterness, if it will take a broad and public spirited view of the obligation with which it is confronted.

That is what the people want done. They want an intelligent compromise which will clear the air and leave as little of animosity as possible in its wake.

Continued stalemate threatens the future of the state. The time has come to end it. —ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES.

AN AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT

Guy Cardwell of the Atlantic Coast Line reports on a recent visit he made to Scotland and Robeson counties, where an experiment is being made in diversified farming.

An investment company is undertaking to plant 12,000 acres of land on which are settled 300 tenant families, with a supervisor directing them. This supervisor was formerly a county agent of the agricultural extension service and is assisted by eleven overseers.

Formerly this area produced almost nothing but cotton and tobacco—mostly cotton. These will continue to be the principal crops. But there will also be considerable acreage devoted to food and feed crops, as well as other supplementary money crops. However, Mr. Cardwell was particularly impressed by the insistence upon a year round vegetable garden. Early this year the supervisor sent out a letter of instruction on this subject to the overseers. Extracts from it read as follows:

"This letter is for the purpose of again reminding you of the importance of the tenants' farm gardens for 1931, and also to urge you to begin immediately the selection of the very best spots of land obtainable for these gardens.

"Any tenant who does not care to cooperate in this work you are to advise that his services are no longer desired and that he will be expected to vacate at once. However, we sincerely hope that there will be no such unworthy tenants on any of our farms, and that only the fullest cooperation will be had.

"These garden spots are to be free of rent. We will furnish the fertilizer and seed and take the chances of collecting. The garden may be from one-fourth acre to three-fourths acre in size, according to size of family and number of plows operated."

The vegetables to be planted include the following: Tomatoes, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, collards, cabbage, snap beans, pole beans, lima beans, beets, okra, cucumbers, squash, pepper, cucumbers, turnips, onions and mustard. Further, as fast as conditions warrant, the tenants will be expected to own pigs, poultry and milch cows. Pure seed of known origin will be furnished for planting. The tenant homes and barns will be rebuilt or repaired and painted. And native shrubbery as well as bright, inexpensive flowers will make the grounds attractive.

This constitutes an interesting experiment in developing diversified agriculture. Promotion of many crops and a variety of interests will do much to foster the welfare of Southern farmers. They have suffered from business depression and over production of cotton. The more they can be induced to vary their activities and use intelligent methods, the better will things be in the rural districts of this section.

—ASHEVILLE CITIZEN.

CORNCOB

Few have seriously considered the corncob. Still fewer have delved into its possibilities. Yet for all its bucolic innocuousness the corncob has been found to be potent in a quality that immediately elevates its status from one of humility to a position of dreadful command. Two scientists experimenting at Iowa State College in search of a compound with which to brand hogs, discovered in the course of their tests with the corncob that it can produce a gas as poisonously deadly as the mus-

tard gas made famous during the great war. The modest corncob must have been slightly astonished at the impressive name given its new side line—that of chloroethyl-2-furfuryl-sulfide. Curiously enough another by-product of the corncob is charcoal, gas, which might be used in gas masks to counteract the effect of the poison gas.

All of which may serve to explain why the corncob pipe of yesterday was so generally snuffed with suspicion.—WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Life is made up, not of great sacrifices or duties, but of little things in which smiles and kindness and small obligations given habitually win and preserve the heart and secure comfort.—SELECTED.

Horne's Homilies BY TROY F. HORNE

LET US PAY THE PAPER BOY

Who ever head of such a thing
In our native land, where the sweet birds sing
And the hills are filled with peace and joy
Of anyone not paying the Paper Boy?

It grieves my soul with much despair
A meaner thing I can't compare.
So, now, good folks, pray tell me why—
When the Paper Boy does not lie—

That you will do him such a wrong
As to say, "I'll pay you later on."
He needs his change as bad as you
To help his dad and mamma through.

Then why not pay him all his dues
To show him you appreciate the news
He brings to us each morn and night
For goodness sake let us treat him right—

And be so clean to him and nice
That we will always have the price
To prove our manhood to the youth.
In the name of high heaven let's tell the truth.

CARD OF THANKS

This is to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to those who showed us kindness and sympathy during the illness and death of our dear son and husband, MRS. PAUL CHEEK AND FAMILY.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to express our deep appreciation and heartfelt thanks for the many acts of kindness rendered during the illness and death of our son and brother and for the beautiful floral offerings at the funeral. MR. AND MRS. M. A. CHEEK AND FAMILY.

Legal Notices

NOTICE

North Carolina, Macon County.

Whereas power of sale was vested in the undersigned trustee by deed of trust from A. P. Raby to J. M. Raby, Trustee, dated 23rd February, 1929, and registered in the office of the Register of Deeds for Macon County in Book No. 31, page 158, to secure the payment of \$2,000, as evidenced by four notes of \$500 each, the first of which was due March 1, 1930 and one note on the first of March of each succeeding year thereafter for three years, said notes bearing interest from date at the rate of 6% per annum, and said deed of trust stipulating that if default should be made in the payment of either of said notes or the interest upon same or the taxes upon said property, that all of said notes should become at once due and payable, and default having been made in the payment of said notes and the taxes upon said property, the full amount of the indebtedness secured by said deed of trust, principal, and interest, together with the taxes due upon said property, is declared to be due and payable, and the holder of said deed of trust having requested the undersigned trustee to exercise the power vested in him by said deed of trust;

I will, therefore, by virtue of the power of sale by said deed of trust in me vested on Monday the eighth day of June, 1931, at twelve o'clock noon sell at the courthouse door in Franklin, N. C., at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the following described property:

First Tract: Being Section No. 104, Grant No. 938, beginning at a white oak on the right hand fork of Cowee Creek, runs South 80 poles to a hickory on top of the mountain, the Southwest corner of said grant; then east 80 poles to a black walnut in the Walnut Cove; then North 101 poles, to a stake and pointers, the northeast corner of said section No. 104; then west 80 poles to a stake, the northwest corner of said section;

then south 21 poles to the Beginning, containing 50 acres.

Second Tract: Being part of State Grant No. 1809 beginning at a locust stump in the line of section 104 and runs north 77 poles to a stake and pointers on top of Rocky Knob Ridge; then with the high summit of said ridge, north 84 west 34 poles north 43 1-2 west 34 poles; west 12 poles; south 69 west 14 poles; north 71 west 12 poles; north 35 west 10 poles; north 60 west 38 poles; west 18 poles to a chestnut on top of said ridge, corner of J. M. Dalton and J. L. Dalton and Arthur Osborne land; then south 29 west 9 1-2 poles to a pine; south 21 west 10 poles to a pine; south 28 west 28 poles to a black oak; then S. 10 west 20 1-2 poles to beech; south 22 west 12 poles to a stake; south 34 west 4 poles to a stake; south 56 west 6 poles to a black gum; south 12 1-2 E. 6 3-4 to birch; south 2 east 14 3-4 poles to a stake; south 14 E. 15 1-2 poles to a stake South 36 E. 10 poles to a stake, South 27 E. 25 1-2 poles to a lynn at the head of a branch; south 2 1-2 W. 20 poles to a chestnut and a S. oak; then north 76 E. 172 poles to the Beginning, containing 132 acres.

This the 14th day of May, 1931.

J. M. RABY, Trustee.

M14-4tc-CFM-J4

then south 21 poles to the Beginning, containing 50 acres.

Second Tract: Being part of State Grant No. 1809 beginning at a locust stump in the line of section 104 and runs north 77 poles to a stake and pointers on top of Rocky Knob Ridge; then with the high summit of said ridge, north 84 west 34 poles north 43 1-2 west 34 poles; west 12 poles; south 69 west 14 poles; north 71 west 12 poles; north 35 west 10 poles; north 60 west 38 poles; west 18 poles to a chestnut on top of said ridge, corner of J. M. Dalton and J. L. Dalton and Arthur Osborne land; then south 29 west 9 1-2 poles to a pine; south 21 west 10 poles to a pine; south 28 west 28 poles to a black oak; then S. 10 west 20 1-2 poles to beech; south 22 west 12 poles to a stake; south 34 west 4 poles to a stake; south 56 west 6 poles to a black gum; south 12 1-2 E. 6 3-4 to birch; south 2 east 14 3-4 poles to a stake; south 14 E. 15 1-2 poles to a stake, South 36 E. 10 poles to a stake, South 27 E. 25 1-2 poles to a lynn at the head of a branch; south 2 1-2 W. 20 poles to a chestnut and a S. oak; then north 76 E. 172 poles to the Beginning, containing 132 acres.

This the 14th day of May, 1931.

J. M. RABY, Trustee.

M14-4tc-CFM-J4

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as executor of Daniel Carpenter, deceased, late of Macon County, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 11th day of May, 1931, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement. This 11th day of May, 1931.

R. M. LEDFORD, Executor.

M14-4tc-J4

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator of Paul Cheek, deceased, late of Macon County, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of May, 1931, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement. This 13th day of May, 1931.

ALEX CHEEK, Administrator.

M14-4tp-J4

NOTICE

North Carolina, Macon County.

The undersigned, will on the 23rd day of May, 1931, at the courthouse door in the Town of Franklin, North Carolina, at 12 o'clock M., sell to the highest bidder for cash the following described real estate, to-wit:

In Sugarhook township, Macon county, North Carolina, adjoining the lands of J. T. Rogers and Robert Rogers, and being all the land contained in a deed from J. T. Rogers and wife, Elisebeth Rogers, to John M. Peck, of date the 6th day of May 1920, and of record in deed book E. 4 at page 521, Office of the Register of Deeds for Macon County, North Carolina, containing forty-one and one-fourth acres.

This sale is being made under a power of sale in a deed of trust from John M. Peck and wife, Ellie Peck, to Claud Houston, of date the 23rd day of November 1929, to secure the sum of One Hundred Dollars, default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured thereby, to satisfy said indebtedness, interest and cost.

This the 21st day of April 1931.

J. FRANK RAY, Trustee.

A23-4tp-JFR-M14

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator of Mr. and Mrs. Wilford Downs, deceased, late of Macon county, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of April, 1931, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement. This 25th day of April, 1931.

RAY DOWNS, Administrator.

A30-4tp-M21

NOTICE OF SALE OF LAND

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in that certain deed of trust executed by Paul Newman and wife, Freda Newman, to Commercial National Bank of High Point, and Central Trust Company of Charleston, West Va., Trustees, dated November 1st, 1927, and recorded in Book 31, at Page 503, in the office of the Register of Deeds for Macon County, North Carolina, default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured, and demand having been made for sale the undersigned Trustees will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash in front of the Court-house in Franklin, North Carolina, at 2:00 o'clock P. M., on the 8th day of June, 1931, the following described property, located in the City of Franklin, North Carolina.

BEGINNING at an iron stake

on the South side of Palmer street, Claud Russell's N. W. corner, the same being South 45 West 231 feet from the intersection of Main Street and Palmer Street, and runs South 45 West with the South side of Palmer Street 165 feet to a stake, S. A. Munday corner; thence South 45 East 255 feet to a stake on the South side of the Branch in S. L. Rogers' line; thence North 41 East 218 feet to a stake, J. F. Palmer's corner; thence North 45 West 144 feet to a stake; thence with Claud Russell's line South 49 West 65 1/2 feet to a stake, Claud Russell's corner; thence North 39 1/2 West 93 1/2 feet to the BEGINNING.

This the 1st day of May, 1931.

COMMERCIAL NATIONAL BANK OF HIGH POINT & CENTRAL TRUST COMPANY OF CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA, Trustees.

D. C. MacRae, Attorney, High Point, N. C.

M7-4tc-M28

NOTICE OF SALE

By virtue of power of sale contained in a deed of trust from J. H. Maynor and wife, V. L. Maynor, to the undersigned trustee, for Mary E. Johnson, securing the sum of \$500.00, 1st note for \$250.00 due December 20, 1930, and 2nd note for \$250.00 due December 20, 1931 with interest thereon from date, which deed of trust is dated December 20, 1929, and registered December 21st, 1929, in Book No. 32 page 133, office Register of Deeds for Macon County, North Carolina, and default having been made in the payment of the first note above described and the said Mary E. Johnson under the terms of said Deed of Trust having declared all said \$500.00 due, and by virtue of the demand from the said Mary E. Johnson that the lands described in said deed of trust be sold under the power of sale contained therein to pay said debt with interest and cost, I will on Saturday the 6th day of June, 1931, between the legal hours of sale and at the courthouse door in the County of Macon, State of North Carolina, and town of Franklin, sell at public auction for cash to satisfy said sum of money so secured by said deed of trust, the following described land:

Lying and being in Macon County, State of North Carolina, Beginning at a chestnut Lyle's corner, said Chestnut standing near and back of stable of Dan Lyle, runs thence East 76 poles to Cabo's corner, North 11 poles to white oak, North 45 East 14 poles to a chestnut, North 45 East 18 poles to a chestnut, North 45 East 14 poles to a chestnut, North 26 1/2 East 10 1/2 poles to a chestnut, North 10 West 13 poles to a chestnut, North 2 1/2 West 18 1/2 poles to a chestnut, North 5 East 15 poles to Black Jack, North 10 East 19 poles to a chestnut, Mrs. Harrington's corner, North 61 West 19 poles to a Black Oak, North 70 West 14 poles to a black oak, North 64 West 11 poles to a black oak, North 72 West 20 poles to a black oak, North 47 West 14 poles to a black oak, West 40 poles to a chestnut, North 5 poles to a chinquapin, East 10 poles to a hickory, North 16 poles to a white oak, East 14 poles to a stake, Lyle's corner, South 160 poles to the Beginning, containing 90 acres, more or less.

This the 5th day of May, 1931.

MCKINLEY EDWARDS, Trustee.

M7-4tcRDS-M28

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator of Mrs. A. I. Anderson, deceased, late of Macon county, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 2nd day of May, 1931, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement. This 2nd day of May, 1931.

W. A. ANDERSON, Administrator.

M7-4tc-M28

EXECUTRIX NOTICE

Having qualified as executrix of J. Henry Slagle, deceased, late of Macon county, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 2nd day of May, 1931, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement. This 1st day of May, 1931.

HARVE L. BRYANT, Administrator.

M7-4tp-M28

on the South side of Palmer street, Claud Russell's N. W. corner, the same being South 45 West 231 feet from the intersection of Main Street and Palmer Street, and runs South 45 West with the South side of Palmer Street 165 feet to a stake, S. A. Munday corner; thence South 4