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## COUNTIES NEED GOOD JUVENILE COURT SYSTEM

MRS. MARY SPRINKLE SAYS EFFEC-  
TIVE CHILDREN'S COURTS  
REDUCE EXPENSE OF CRIMI-  
NAL COURTS

### CLERK MADE JUDGE

North Carolina now spends millions of dollars each year for the prosecution and punishment of crime, but spends virtually nothing to prevent or curtail crime by means of an effective juvenile court system, according to Mrs. Mary Camp Sprinkle, head of the county organization division of the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare. For while the average county in North Carolina takes it as a matter of course that it must spend from \$18,000 to \$20,000 a year for the maintenance of its criminal courts, most of the counties object to appropriating as much as \$300 a year for its juvenile court.

To expect any results from the juvenile courts under these circumstances is ridiculous and equivalent to trying to get something for nothing. Mrs. Sprinkle says in an article in the latest issue of Public Welfare Progress.

"The State seems to be expecting results without first being willing to make an investment," says Mrs. Sprinkle. Yet there is no way of estimating how much the counties might save from the present cost of their criminal courts if they would but spend a little more on the juvenile courts. For experiences in other states show that efficient juvenile courts reduce the work and expense of the criminal courts by at least one half."

While the General Assembly 10 years ago set up a frame work for a juvenile court system, it has continued to remain nothing more than a frame work in most of the State, Mrs. Sprinkle points out. For this law provided that the clerk of the court in each county should act as the judge of the juvenile court. However, most of the court clerks already have all the work they can do and some left over, while many others are simply not interested in children, do not understand the psychology of children, especially delinquent children, and hence have no interest in their duties as juvenile court judges, according to Mrs. Sprinkle.

"Most of these clerks of court had the job of juvenile court judge legislated upon them without their desire or approval," according to Mrs. Sprinkle. "As a result, it is not to be wondered that most of them have no interest in the job and that little attention is paid to it. For they have inherited a job that they do not care for, that many of them are unfitted for and that in many cases they have no time for. So it is not surprising that the juvenile court does not seem to be getting results."

In order to make the work of the juvenile courts effective the judge must first of all be interested in his job and know something about children and how to deal with them, according to Mrs. Sprinkle. In addition each court should have an experienced probation officer, to follow up the cases and keep track of the children who are placed on probation. For the most important thing is to keep track of a child delinquent after he or she has been before the court. In some counties in the State the county welfare officers are helping to do this follow up work, but in most cases the welfare officers are too busy with other duties to do this work as it should be done. Besides, there are welfare departments in only half the counties in the State.

However, there is no doubt of the dollars and cents value of a well organized and functioning juvenile court, Mrs. Sprinkle says, who quotes from Judge H. G. Cochran of the Norfolk juvenile court as follows:

"Since the juvenile court was established here (in Norfolk) the amount of serious crime has been reduced by half. And of the approximately 8,000 juvenile delinquents who have been before the juvenile court, less than three-fourths of one per cent have ever been in the criminal courts of the city after they have passed the criminal court age. And of the approximately 3,000 felony indictments returned by the

grand juries of this city returned since the juvenile court was established, only 25 have been against persons who had ever been before the juvenile courts as delinquents."

Mrs. Sprinkle believes the juvenile courts in North Carolina can be made equally valuable if the counties will only invest enough in them to make them really effective.

—Elizabeth City Daily Advance.

## Judge Johnson 'Makes Good'

(Editorial in the Winston-Salem Journal, Jan. 1, 1930)

At the time Governor Gardner appointed Senator Thomas L. Johnson a judge of Superior Court less than a year ago, The Journal predicted that he would make a splendid record on the bench. From time to time since then we have been getting reports from him and all have been good. His work recently in his native county of Buncombe attracted highly favorable attention.

Judge Johnson is now closing his first term of Superior Court in Forsyth County. It is not an exaggeration to say that no judge in recent years has attracted more favorable comment in Winston-Salem. His decisions have been fair and impartial and he has shown a sincere desire to obtain all the facts and thus arrive at the truth in every case that has been before him here. Attorneys have been impressed with Judge Johnson's knowledge of the law and all those who have been in his court have felt that they were in the presence of an able jurist.

Outside of the court room, too, Judge Johnson has made a most favorable impression in Winston-Salem. In an address before the local Kiwanis Club yesterday he won many new friends and admirers in this city with an eloquent and vigorous presentation of his views on a vital problem confronting the State, which is now called upon to deal with the disciples of communism in certain industrial centers. Judge Johnson's uncompromising stand for the supremacy of law made a winning appeal to the representative group of local citizens who heard him.

Many who have seen him in action in Winston-Salem are not surprised that Judge Johnson is being mentioned for Governor in various sections of the State, or that he is seriously considering entering the contest for the State's highest office. He has long been a popular Democratic leader in Robeson County, having been a member of the bar of Lumberton for more than twenty years, and his record on the bench is extending his popularity into many other counties of the Commonwealth.

## MARS HILL BANK MEET

At a well represented meeting of the stockholders of the Bank of Mars Hill Tuesday, a 12% dividend was declared. The meeting was pleasant in every way and the workings of the bank said to be entirely satisfactory to the stockholders. Mr. N. S. Whitaker was elected cashier to succeed Mr. L. Z. Eller, resigned. Mr. Eller will enter the insurance business.

## Increase in College Enrollment Abating

Washington, D. C.—The high tide of increase in attendance at institutions of higher education which has been rushing on since the World War seems to have very much abated, the Commissioner of Education states in his annual report to the Secretary of the Interior.

An estimated increase of 2 per cent, the smallest since the World War, is reported by institutions on the approved list of the Association of American Universities. It is possible, but by no means certain, that a period of stabilization is near at hand, it is reported. Collegiate enrollments in the United States are now decidedly higher proportionately than in any other country in the world. The rate of increase in the enrollments in high schools, from which are drawn most college students, has been slackening for three or four years. It is thought that changes in agricultural and industrial conditions may have affected college enrollments. —Scottish Rite News.

## THE PUBLISHER'S COLUMN ABOUT VARIOUS MATTERS

### "THE INS" vs "THE OUTS"

REFERRING to county or town politics, whether it be in Madison County, Buncombe, Henderson, or where, it would be about as well if the old names, democrat and republican, were declared obsolete. Even in state and national affairs, who will come forward with a definition of the two parties that will entirely differentiate the two? Principles and platforms that were espoused by one party at one time are practically adopted by the other at another time. After all, the spirit of selfishness governs most men who aspire to office and party lines are split worse as we enter this political year than many may conceive. Sores were made in the last campaign that have not healed and instead of letting them alone until they can heal, another chafing is starting that will be more painful than the first. We repeat what we said last week—that election years come too often for the good of the people. And the fights, animosities, and mud-slinging do not result in bettering conditions. It seems to us to be more a matter of the "outs" wanting "in" and the "ins" wishing to stay in. The old saying, "to the victor belong the spoils," seems to be the ruling factor. The people have been fed on promises until they are losing faith in such promises. A man aspires to office and promises the people that he will if elected do certain things when very often he should know that it will be impossible for him to fulfill those promises, however much he might wish to do so. Those in office are discredited because conditions are not satisfactory, when perhaps they have had little or nothing to do with the making of those conditions and are doing all in their power to serve the people as best they can. In a speech before the editors of the weekly papers of Western North Carolina recently in Asheville, Mayor Gallatin Roberts declared that in all his experience, he seldom if ever found a dishonest public official. It makes no difference what their party affiliations, it is to their own interest as well as to the interest of their constituency, to be honest and administer the duties of their offices to the best of their ability, which they are sworn to do. It is true that an official may become indifferent or he may be incompetent to begin with, or after too long tenure of office, he may become arrogant or otherwise objectionable, and should be replaced by one who will give better service, but for some demagogue to try to make the people believe that there is a machine or ring of dishonest officials, that are wasting the people's money needlessly and thereby try to ride into office on the prejudices of the people, should be relegated to the past dark ages. This paper holds no brief for any man or set of men, but it does detest underhanded, character-besmirching, sneaking, crooked methods of obtaining office. Let the campaign this year be conducted on a high plane and let the results of the election be accepted gracefully and peacefully whether it results in a victory for "the Ins" or "the Outs".

### PLEASE WRITE THE NEWS

WE have correspondents in practically every section of Madison County and parts of Buncombe, and some of them write regularly, but at times so many of them fail to report from their communities. We do not care for such long letters except from the larger places like Mars Hill, Hot Springs, Walnut, Weaverville, Leicester, but we would be pleased to have a few items from all the points covered. Remember that people all over the United States are anxiously reading the paper every week to see what has happened in the community where they once lived. Be faithful and let them have the news whether you think it worth while or not. They will appreciate your service as will also the publisher of this paper. Let's have many short letters next week, and we shall be pleased to have longer ones from the larger centers.

### THE TAFTS TO BE IN ASHEVILLE

IT is announced through the daily press that Chief Justice Taft and Mrs. Taft are to be guests at the Grove Park Inn, Asheville, for his health. He has entered a hospital in Washington for about a week, after which they will come to Asheville for their first visit to our neighbor city. Asheville is making every effort to welcome these distinguished guests and it is hoped that his stay in our mountains will renew or restore his health. Mr. Taft is one of the few outstanding men of his day. Having risen above party lines, he is admired by members of all parties, having been appointed to his present position by President Woodrow Wilson. It is to be regretted that a bladder trouble weakens him at this useful period of his life, he being only 72 years of age. Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, age 89, will serve in his place on the Nation's highest tribunal during his absence.

### POLITICAL TROUBLES IN PENNSYLVANIA

FIVE schools in Pennsylvania County are said to be closed, three at Brevard, on account of differences between the commissioners and Board of Education resulting in the schools being without fuel. The commissioners have a purchasing agent, expecting that the Board of Education purchase fuel through this agent, which they refuse to do. With their horns locked, the schools have no fuel and are closed. Is it possible that in this day of enlightenment such a condition could exist? What next?

### BAILEY vs SIMMONS

THE papers throughout the State are having much to say with respect to Senator Simmons being opposed in the next election by Mr. Josiah William Bailey of Raleigh. We predict that this will be a close race but our opinion is that if Mr. Bailey defeats Senator Simmons, it will be more because of the age in years and service of Senator Simmons than because of the stand Senator Simmons took in the last election. Bailey is an unusually bright, intellectual and gifted orator and is perhaps the strongest opponent Senator Simmons could have had.

## JANUARY TERM CRIMINAL COURT

The January term of court convened Monday, Jan. 6, with Judge Cameron F. Macrae of Asheville presiding. This being a new term, having been added at the last session of the Legislature, a number of defendants were called out.

The docket contained 133 cases, including 5 murder cases; the remaining cases consisting of defendants charged with larceny, violation of the prohibition laws—mostly the latter. The cases of State vs John Davis, Arnold Landers and Sampson Landers, who are charged with murder, were continued until the February term court, due to the crowded docket at this term. The defendants are at liberty, having made bond for their appearance.

The case of State vs Herman Anderson for the murder of Ambrose Randall will be tried January 9th. This defendant is confined in jail of Madison County.

The defendant, Moody Ray (col.) was called out and capias ordered issued.

Will Swaney was given 90 days suspended sentence and ordered to pay costs for the offense of violation prohibition laws. The defendant is in jail, being unable to pay cost.

Clarence Rice and Tom Rice, who were given 4 months on roads at a former term of court, appeared to begin their sentence.

Hubert Moore, Thelma Fowler and Furman Fowler pleaded guilty to illegal possession of whiskey and prayer for judgment continued for 2 years on payment of cost.

Clarence Brobeck was granted an absolute divorce from Mary M. Brobeck.

Pearl Sprinkle was given an absolute divorce from Charlie Sprinkle.

John Robinson pleaded guilty to illegal possession of whiskey. Judgment was suspended for two years upon defendant paying cost and conditional that he not violate the liquor laws during the two years.

Walter Nash pleaded guilty to larceny and jail breaking and was given 12 months on roads.

Corporal Chandley was fined \$50.00 and cost for carrying concealed weapon.

Sam Robinson pleaded guilty to illegal possession of a small amount of whiskey. Prayer for judgment continued for two years upon payment of cost and conditioned that defendant will not violate the liquor laws.

Fred Payne, charged with larceny of a pistol, the evidence being heard, the Judge directed a verdict of not

## RENEW NOW AND SAVE MONEY

Don't fail to pay for your News-Record in January. By doing so, you get extra credits. This means YOU, unless you have already paid. Ten days of the month already gone. Remember this offer holds good only in January. Quite a number of people have already taken advantage of this offer. Read the proposition elsewhere in this paper. THREE MONTHS EXTRA FOR EVERY DOLLAR PAID ON SUBSCRIPTION TO NEWS-RECORD IN MONTH OF JANUARY. Every dollar paid in January is worth \$1.50 any other month. Save money by paying up well in advance in January.

THE PUBLISHER.

### DR. ANDERSON ILL IN ASHEVILLE

IT is with regret that this paper notes the serious illness of Dr. J. G. Anderson of Aston Park hospital in Asheville, due to an operation for appendicitis. Dr. Anderson, principal stockholder in the hospital, and a physician of large reputation, is a native of Madison County. He has many relatives and friends in Madison who wish for him a speedy recovery.

We are glad later reports are to the effect that he is recovering.

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guilty. Bruce King, charged with larceny of a spring from a trailer, was discharged, there being no evidence to go to jury.

Clayo Blue, charged and convicted of damaging the jail while confined therein, was given 8 months on roads.

A. J. Brown and Tommy Meadows were released, the court holding that there was no evidence of the defendants breaking into a house as charged.

Elisha Rice and Loyd Rice, charged with manufacturing liquor, were called and failed to appear, and bond ordered forfeited in sum of \$1500.00.

Will Jones, charged with having whiskey on hand for sale, was found not guilty by the jury.

Willis King, indicted for CCW and A. D. W., was called and failed to answer and capias ordered issued for defendant and sci fa issued to bondsman and that defendant given bond in sum of \$1000.00 for appearance to February term court.

Cora Anders pleaded guilty to sale of liquor and was sentenced to Farm Colony for Women to be discharged when deemed necessary by the authorities in charge.

Zack Ramsey was found guilty of VPL and was given 8 months on roads.

Crawford Raney was found guilty of VPL. Judgment withheld until later in term.

The case of State vs Herman Anderson, charged with murder of A. Randall, is on trial at this time, and further proceedings will appear in next issue.

## TWO MADISON MEN GASSED

Floyd Buckner and Barnum Lewis  
of Big Laurel Buried Wednesday

The bodies of F. M. Buckner, age 40, and Barnum Lewis, age 20, of the Big Laurel section of Madison County, who were found dead Sunday morning at Memphis, Tenn., arrived at Marshall on No. 12 Tuesday and were taken by truck to their homes, interment following Wednesday. The two dead men and Ervin Lewis slept in one room of a tourist camp at Memphis and their companions, Phil Wallin, Lloyd Rice and Elisha Rice were in another room of the same camp. The next morning when ready to continue their journey, those in one room failed to respond to the call. Two were found dead and the other unconscious. The first theory that they had been poisoned by liquor bought in Tennessee proved false. The coroner's inquest later revealed that they had died of gas escaping from the heater in the camp. Ervin Lewis and Phil Wallin returned with the corpses, while Lloyd Rice and Elisha Rice, who were fleeing their bond to court in Marshall, continued their journey to Mexico.

### DEFINED

BACHELOR—Guy who didn't have a car in his younger days.

HOUSE WARMING—Last call for wedding presents.

PRUNES—Plums with inflammatory rheumatism.

CANNON—A long hole surrounded with steel.

GOLF—Cow pasture pool.

DETOUR—The roughest distance between two points.

DUST—M u d with the water squeezed out.

NAKED—A synonym for sun-t.

PUNCTURE—A little hole which develops 10 miles from a garage.

WIND—Air in a hurry.

SCULPTOR—A man who makes faces and busts.

BILLS OF FARE—A list of eats, distinguished from menu by the figures in the right hand column.

—The Pathfinder.

Pike's Peak is always covered with snow, but you never hear Pike speak of it.