

The Mountaineer

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A REAL COMPLIMENT

The following comment from the editorial columns of the Asheville Citizen relative to Haywood county gives some idea of the high regard in which this county is held by outsiders who are familiar with conditions throughout the state.

In speaking of the condition of affairs in the county in commenting on the recent special edition of The Mountaineer the Citizen editorial says:

Celebrating the completion of Haywood County's new \$240,000 court house, the Waynesville Mountaineer has gotten out a special edition which is a credit to it and to Haywood County. The new court house, which will soon be occupied, is built of North Carolina granite, is handsomely designed and admirably planned, and, what is of great importance, is declared to be absolutely fireproof. Nothing is of more importance in a public building of this character than that the papers and records which it conserves shall be safe against destruction by fire.

The historical articles by W. C. Allen which the Mountaineer features in this edition will be prized by those who are interested in the history of this mountain region. It is hard to think back to the first log court house which was built in Haywood, when the county, in 1809, was carved out of Buncombe. There is at least one man in Haywood, Mr. Jeff Hyatt, who can still remember that rude temple of justice, which was still standing for some years after the Civil War, although it was then used for other purposes. The red brick court house which the present splendid granite structure replaces was built in 1884.

We have greatly enjoyed reading Mr. Allen's articles and we are glad to know that he is now engaged in writing a history of the county. We are moved to wonder, however, just what he means when he describes Haywood as "one of the average counties of North Carolina." We wish that it were. Its farmers own their own land, tenantry is almost unknown within the county, there is a splendid diversification of crops, the importance of livestock is well appreciated and the industrial development of the county is advanced and varied and even more important in the value of the output than agriculture. Our feeling would be that if the other ninety-nine counties of North Carolina came even within hailing distance of averaging up to Haywood this State would today be the envy of America and the world.

Mr. Allen is, we think, much too modest when he speaks of Haywood as "an average county." But we like his modesty.

VICTORY IN SIGHT

That the next national administration will be Democratic is now almost an absolute certainty against the Republican party due to the since turned the Republican party due to the unfortunate condition in which the country now finds itself, but the Democratic party appears to have struck the popular chord both in its selection of a standard bearer and in its outspoken attitude on the matter of the prohibition amendment. These two facts and their vote gathering influence cannot be overestimated. That hundreds of thousands of voters will be attracted to the Democratic party because of them is undisputed.

In the selection of a leader the Democratic convention picked by far the most popular candidate and one in whom the country has the utmost confidence. At the same time a sinister influence that has been the cause of party disaster and political tragedy twice in the past eight years has probably been silenced forever. Millions of Democratic voters who loyally supported Alfred E. Smith and who saw their own local friends and leaders go down in defeat as a result of that campaign, and millions more who recall the New York Democratic convention of eight years ago when McAdoo, the choice of the great majority was blocked in his bid for the nomination, and all of these recalling the loyal support accorded Mr. Smith by Franklin D. Roosevelt found it hard to reconcile themselves to Smith's opposition to the extent of being a candidate. Now, however, in the light of his assurance of whole hearted support of the Democratic ticket and especially of Mr. Roosevelt, much will be forgiven him. The Roosevelt choice appears to have been exceptionally satisfying to the tremendous majority of Democrats in every section of the nation. The final step which brought about the

naming of Mr. Roosevelt as the party candidate, coming as it did from the California and Texas delegations, and the selection of Garner as a running mate afforded a climax that welded the support of every section to the Roosevelt banner and gained popular approval throughout the nation. Probably no other trend that the convention could have taken would have been as popular with the people as a whole and had such a far reaching effect in securing for the party the support of all factions.

Regardless of what those who have been leaders in the temperance and prohibition movements think or have thought, the time had come when the prohibition amendment and its tragic failure could no longer be ignored. The nation as a whole has for years been clamoring not only for the people as a whole, but for the leaders as well as for the parties as organizations to be truthful and frank in dealing with the situation. Opinion has reached a point where he could no longer be flouted. In taking the bold stand that it did the convention by a master stroke gained the confidence and respect of all the people whether wet or dry in their opinions.

The tragedy in the matter of prohibition reform lies in the fact that prohibitionists themselves, leaders in the cause, failed to recognize the fact that they were on dangerous ground eight years ago. At that time the prohibition leaders themselves could have brought about the much needed reform in the law had they only been willing to have acknowledged facts and by so doing they could have directed the actual work of reform to the best advantage of their nation as a whole. Continuing to ignore the failure of the prohibition experiment they have allowed things to grow steadily worse until the point was reached where the extreme element in the party has seized control and taken over the task of accomplishing their desires. It is to be hoped that whatever result comes out of the effort, the best course will be selected. However, if such is the case prohibition leaders need take little credit for the accomplishment. Their chance came years ago. Now whatever comes will be the result of actions of those who have finally seized control by sheer force.

It is a Democratic year. A time of glorious victory to be followed, we believe, by such administration of the nation's affairs as will bring a return of contentment and prosperity to the people of the nation.

THE TASK AHEAD

North Carolina Democrats have through the primary named their candidates for various state and county offices. For the first time in a number of years a second primary was necessary in order to select these candidates, yet there appears to have been very little bitterness aroused. True the result in some cases was more or less unexpected. Even the supporters of Robert R. Reynolds had no idea his margin of victory would be such a landslide, nor did any one expect to see the vote of Fountain increase as it did. But there are always surprises in politics.

The result is the will of the majority of the Democrats of the state and should be promptly accepted as such. The task that lies ahead of the party calls for the united support of every element. With victory from the presidency down within the party's grasp there is no time for the indulgence of petty personal bitterness. Before every Democrat in the state is presented one supreme duty, that of supporting the nominees of the party.

For many years humorists have made the party a target for sarcastic attacks because of the tendency to certain elements within the organization to go off on a tangent and refuse to support certain nominees in both state and national elections. This was particularly true of the last presidential election when discredited members of the party indulged their personal feelings of opposition to the presidential candidate and made the election of Hoover one of the greatest land slides in the history of our political parties. The time has come when we should have learned a lesson. As a general rule there is never just reason why a real Democrat should refuse to support the nominees of his party.

In the coming election the Democratic party is confronted with the gravest task in its history and more depends upon its victory in November than ever in the past. Regardless of the culpability of the Republican party in connection with the present business depression and economic condition of the nation, the great mass of people who have lost confidence and faith to the extent that they are panicky have more or less placed the entire responsibility on the party in power and therefore believe with all the sincerity of their souls that deliverance lies through the success of the Democratic party. The election of a Democratic administration will do more toward changing the present pessimistic attitude of the people than any one other thing that could possibly happen. A return of the Hoover administration would only serve to increase the despondency of the people as a whole.

If this nation is to quickly return to normalcy there is no better course than through a Democratic administration. While large numbers of Republicans realize this and will vote the Democratic ticket this year it cannot be expected that they will turn the tide to the Democrats without the aid of members of the party in the battle of ballots. If this is to be a Democratic year, and the affairs of the nation demand that it be, then no Democrat should sulk in his tent but every man should discharge his full political duty by casting a ballot for the straight Democratic ticket from the presidential nominee to his local township constable.

Thus will victory be assured and the nation cured of many of her ills.

THE STORY OF MONEY

By Dr. Frank H. Vizetelly, Managing Editor Funk and Wagnells New Standard Dictionary of the English Language.

As a medium of commerce, money is mentioned in the 23rd chapter of Genesis, when Abraham purchased a field as a sepulcher for Sarah, according to some Bible chronologists, about 1860 B. C. Homer referred to brass money in 1184. B. C. Tradition credits the Lydians with having invented the coin. Their currency was of gold and silver. Both were coined by Phaidon, tyrant of Argos, about the year 862. B. C. At Rome, money was coined under Servius Tullius, in the year 573, B. C. The historians are not altogether sure of their ground, for one tells us that the most ancient known coins are of Macedonian origin, and date from the fifth century before Christ. Well, on the New Standard Dictionary we were permitted to reproduce a Babylonian standard, from Lydia, that dated from about 700 B. C. To the editors of that work, this was the earliest coin known. The Lydians were reputed to have been the first people to stamp money. They indented or impressed their coins by stamping or hammering square incuses into them; but the Thebans did the same. In the first period of Lydian coinage, electrum, consisting of three parts of gold and a native alloy of one part of silver, was used. The weight of the coins conformed to the Babylonian silver standard. Later the Phoenician silver standard was used concurrently with the Babylonian, particularly in the sea-trade with the western coast-towns. When Croesus abandoned electrum, he produced a gold coin weighing exactly a gold stater by reducing the Phoenician weight one fourth, and by treating the Babylonian standard in the same way he obtained the Greek gold stater of Euboea.

According to the Parian chronicle—an Athenian chronicle engraved on Parian marble—Phaidon, King of Argos, was the first to establish a mint in Greece. This he founded on the Island of Aegina, and the silver coinage of this mint is almost as ancient as the electrum coinage of Lydia. To the Greeks we owe the introduction of engraved dies to take the place of the rude punches of the Lydians.

In primeval days, barter was the means of commercial transactions between the various races. The commodities that served as money varied in time and place. Tin was used in ancient Syracuse and Britain; iron in Sparta; cattle served in Rome and Germany; platinum in Russia; lead in Burma; nails in Scotland; silk in China; cubes of pressed tea in Tataria; which is a region inhabited by the Mongols, a Tartar dynasty known as the Manchus, having reigned over China; salt in Abyssinia; slaves among the Anglo-Saxons; tobacco in the earlier settlements of Virginia; gold-dust in California during the craze of forty-nine, a medium also used in Australia; precious stones in Africa, side by side with shells, glass beads, firearms, and fire-water; codfish in Newfoundland; wampum and shot in Massachusetts; logwood in Campeachy; sugar in the West Indies; and soap in Mexico.

The brilliantly colored cowry-shell common in Africa was used also by the natives of Bengal and Siam. But the moneys of the civilized races have been made mostly of gold, silver, copper and bronze. The shekels of silver of which we learn from the Bible as having been small bars, and from these bars pieces were chipped to fit the occasion. The oldest coins extant were made in 800 B. C., but tradition claims a Chinese square bronze coin as in circulation in 1120 B. C. Rude and shapeless, these early coins were generally decorated with figures of animals, nymphs, deities, and the like. Even while the very fine work of the Greeks was in circulation—and their coinage has not been surpassed for beauty of design—metal pins, spits, and skewers were accepted by the Greeks in payment for their products. Wooden and metal coins circulated side by side in Rome in the year 700 B. C., and leather and metal coins were in circulation in France as late as 1360 A. D.

Just as cattle are accepted by the primitive tribes of Africa when husbands go around seeking wives, herds of cattle and crops of grain served the same purpose in other parts of the world. Brass money was in common use in Rome before 269 B. C., when silver was coined by Fabius Pictor. The coinage of gold there was begun in 206 B. C. Iron money was current in Sparta and iron and tin were the common means of currency in Britain.

In the early days of Rome, the heads of the deities or of such persons as had received divine honors

were impressed upon the currency. Julius Caesar was the first to obtain permission of the Senate to place his effigy on the coins, and this example was followed by others who succeeded him. But in Carthage the head of Dido or of the moon goddess appeared on the Carthaginian stater, a silver coin dated from 400 to 336 B. C. The head of Palus, wearing a crested Athenian helmet was stamped upon the tetradrachm of Thurium, another silver coin of the same period; and the head of Persephone, wearing a wreath of grain, was stamped upon the silver decadrachm of Syracuse, a coin issued by Dionysius and artistic refinement in coin-engraving that marks the acme of realistic art of early days. The smallest Jewish coin in circulation in Jerusalem was the lepton, a copper coin so-called on the authority of the Theophylact. This was the "Widow's mite" referred to in the Gospel according to Saint Luke, (XXI: 2). In those days the people were forbidden to bring into the Temple coins that were not Jewish coins.

Moneta was the name given to currency by the Romans to indicate their silver it had been coined in the temple of Juno-Moneta (269 B. C.). We get the word money and the word mint from Moneta, the surname of Juno, in whose temple at Rome coins were minted. Money has been made of leather, bone, shell, and even pasteboard. As late as 1574 some of the coinage of the Netherlands was pasteboard. Platinum coins were struck in Russia by order of the Czar Nicholas. Tin was coined by order of Charles II. of England in 1684. Gun-metal and pewter were used by his brother James II.

The introduction of copper coinage in England came about through the want of an authorized money as small change, a need long felt but complacently ignored. At one time farthings, halfpennies, and pennies were struck in silver, but the farthings were so small and thin as to be losses rather than gain to the traders. It was due to this that the larger copper coins known as Abbey-pieces or Uremberg counters were issued by the great monastic establishments and by traders who exchanged each other's tokens at sight. The Abbey-pieces were as large as our silver dollar. They generally bore a religious inscription in Latin around them; the Nuremberg counters bore a counting table on one side and an emblematic device on the other. These were coined in large quantities at Nuremberg, Germany, by one Hans Krauwinkel and were imported into France and England.

The first gold coin of England was struck in 1257, and gold florins in 1337, when Edward III. introduced a gold six-shilling piece and a gold noble of the value of six-and-eight-pence. It is to the coinage of this gold piece that the English lawyers' fee, six shillings and eight-pence, traces its origin. Edward IV. was the first to introduce the figure of Michael and the dragon on English coins. This he did in 1465. The symbol was a forerunner of that of St. George and the dragon. The English sovereign or pound was first minted of gold in 1489; the shilling first coined in 1503. Irish shillings were struck in 1560; milled shillings in 1562. The guinea, to-day no more than a monetary unit, was first coined in 1665 and its value was 20 shillings. Later issues were of the value of 21 shillings. Spade guineas were so called because they bore a spade-shaped shield upon them.

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth efforts were made to substitute a legitimate copper currency for the pseudo-money had become common in her time. Then Abbey-pieces were common, for the privilege of coinage had been universally usurped and all sorts of tokens were placed into currency.

American currency owes its origin to Robert Morris, born in England, and who came to America when he was thirteen years old. He was the first to introduce the subject of a National Mint to the United States. Staunch patriot that he was, Morris was the financier of the American Revolution. He reported to Congress a plan for the establishment of American coinage, and chiefly through his efforts, seconded by those of Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton, a mint was started. An act establishing it was passed by both Houses of Congress and received President Washington's approval on April 2, 1792. During the Confederation, each State had the right to coin money, but

only according to the standard of ounces, weight, and value required by the central government. For the most part a plot of an old still house stone, was purchased. There a plain brick building was erected, the cornerstone of which was laid by David Ritner, house, Director of the Mint, July 1792. It was occupied for about four years. The operation of coining currency began in October, when silver half-dimes were first minted.

The first metal purchased for coinage was six rounds of old copper which was coined and delivered to the Treasury in 1793. The first deposit of silver bullion was made by the Bank of Maryland on July 18, 1793. This consisted of coins of France amounting to the value of \$50,000. The first return of silver coins to the Treasury was made October 15, 1793, and the first deposit of gold bullion for coinage was delivered in gold gobs by Moses Brown, a merchant, Boston, Massachusetts, February 1795. On July 31 of that year, the first return of gold coinage was made and consisted of 744 half-eagles. The first delivery of eagles, which consisted of 400 pieces, was made on September 22, 1795.

Before the emblems on the silver dollars were determined, an acrimonious dispute occurred in the House of Representatives over the choice of an eagle as the national emblem, but it was designated as the King of the by naturalists, and therefore not suitable symbol for a nation established as a free and independent public. The opposition was twofold. Judge Thatcher, who suggested that perhaps a goose might suit gentlemen better, for it was a rather humble and a republican bird, might be serviceable in other respects, also, as goslings might be stamped upon the dimes. Immediately there was a tumult, for this humorous rejoinder was taken as veiling an insult and a challenge to a duel followed. Judge Thatcher promptly declined to accept it. "What" said the bear "will you be branded as a coward?" "Certainly, if the honorable member pleases to," replied Thatcher. "I ways was one, and he knew it, or never would have risked sending challenge."

To those who have followed the workings of the 18th Amendment, may be interesting to note that in money was at one time paid to operators of the mint. Subsequent to the allowance of drink-money was discounted, and in its place an increase of \$3.00 extra wages per month was allowed for the three summer months during which the operatives continued to work in the mint. The regulations of this establishment were strict. No spirituous liquors might be brought there. Profane language was prohibited; smoking was forbidden. The coining-presses must be locked every night after work was done, the keys placed in the custody of the Chief Coiner. When artificial light was necessary the watchman must carry a dark lantern for a naked light as from an open candle, was forbidden. The watchman was empowered to have a musket and a bayonet, pistols and a sword, kept in his order, but to be inspected once a month by an officer whose duty it was to see that the arms were discharged and then reloaded. Up to the year 1836, the work of the mint was entirely by hand, then steam was introduced, to be replaced, within a short time by electricity. The United States Mint contains a rich collection of ancient coins, as well as a number of merchants' tokens once in circulation. There are some private coins that were struck in Georgia, North Carolina, and also in the following the discovery of gold in California and Colorado. The first of these privately issued gold pieces were struck by Templeton Reid, an assayer, who in 1830 established himself near the gold mines in Lumpkin County, Georgia, and converted gold from the mines into coin.

Coins minted at the different United States Mints bear what is known as a mint mark, with the exception of coins minted at Philadelphia. The mint mark is a letter that stands for an abbreviation of the name of the city where the mint is located.

The Philadelphia Mint is one of the finest in the world; the catalogues, coins, tokens, and medals in the museum collection there forms a volume of 650 pages, large octavo, printed by its late curator, now edited by Dr. T. L. Camparette, now a friend of Dr. T. L. Camparette, now a friend of Dr. T. L. Camparette, now a friend of Dr. T. L. Camparette. It contains many examples of old coinage, some dating from 600 B. C., but it is well to observe the fact that coins were not dated until the 16th century, and that their ages were determined only by the legends they bear. The Kings of Macedonia claimed Hercules as their ancestor, and instead of bearing crown, the dem, and the purple, they wore a skin of a lion which is shown on

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