

The Reidsville Review



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REIDSVILLE, N. C. TUESDAY, MAY 1, 1917

ISSUED TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS

THE OPINION OF ONE OF BIGGEST TAXPAYERS

MR. H. R. SCOTT OPPOSES SELLING ELECTRIC PLANT

Mr. H. R. Scott, one of Reidsville's largest tax payers, was asked by one of the editors of The Review what he thought of the proposition to sell out the local electric light plant. Mr. Scott dictated the following reply to our question:

"You request my opinion as a taxpayer upon the propriety of selling the town's Electric Plant on the terms now being discussed. I answer: While I never like to take an active part in the Municipal elections I must say emphatically that I am opposed to such a sale. I have heard no satisfactory reason advanced in favor of the sale. There appear to be many good reasons why the sale should not be made. The card issued in the interest of Mr. Thompson and those on the ticket with him for Commissioners, states that the sale cannot be 'Consummated' except by a direct vote of the people. True—but I understand that every man on this ticket for Commissioners is in favor of the sale, and being so, it elected, they could, and no doubt would, do much to bring about the sale. As I see it, therefore, I am compelled to oppose that entire ticket for Commissioners. The Plant has been nurtured by the Town from poverty until it is a valuable asset. Let us be careful not to sell our 'Birthright for a mess of pottage.'"

The Suppression of News

Few people would have the hardihood to ask a judge to have a grand jury indictment pigeon-holed, or secretly dismissed, as a personal favor, with the object of saving the accused person from public humiliation. Yet there are still people to ask editors to suppress news—or to color it to the advantage of those figuring in it.

If the people generally could understand that the newspapers are quite as important factors in our lives as the courts—that the responsibility of an editor to the public is fully as sacred as that of the judge—there would be little effort made to have legitimate news suppressed.

To ask a judge to exercise bias is to commit "contempt of court." To ask an editor to suppress the truth about actual events is to commit contempt of public opinion.

The newspaper which would suppress real news in the interest of the individual would betray its trust, violate the obligation to society which it solemnly assumed on the day of its birth, and would thereby forfeit its place as the guardian of public interests, an would become a menace, rather than a factor of useful service, to its community, says the Editor and Publisher.

The surest safeguard against tyranny is full publicity of proceedings, whenever these have a public interest. The best safeguard against injustice to the individual is the publication of the truth about any event which he figures. When, because of personal considerations, an editor fails to do this, he breaks faith with his public.

The editor is the historian of his day. He must record history as it is made, in both large and small things. It always happens that some of this history will be humiliating, shameful—that in the printing of the news of the day some people will be pitied. It is to be regretted that the events happened—but the historian must put them into records.

\$20.00 Reward

The above sum is offered to any person or persons for information given leading to the arrest and conviction of any person, firm, or corporation for violating during the Municipal Election of Reidsville, N. C., to be held on May 1st, 1917, any of the provisions of the election laws of North Carolina as contained in Chapter 81 of the Revisal of North Carolina for 1905, with amendments thereto.

TOWN OWNERSHIP LEAGUE
Reidsville, N. C., April 26th, 1917.

If a contract is made with the Southern Power Company for current and at any time within the ten-year limit the people want to let the Public Utilities Company come in, there is nothing to prevent it.

VOTE FOR

JOHN BURTON, J. E. SMITH, DR. J. W. MCGEEHEE, W. S. ALLEN and D. A. HENDRIX.

THE NEWS IN BRIEF SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE

The faculty of the State University has voted to give full credit for the remainder of term to students leaving for the training camp at Fort Oglethorpe before the end of the term.

Postponement of the International Christian Endeavor convention which was to have been held in New York July 4 to 9, is announced. The postponement is on account of the war and is for a year or more.

Prof. Hammel of Greensboro city schools tells the Record that there are 519 vegetable gardens in Greensboro where last year there were none, and all planted by children of the city schools. Six teachers of the school supervise the work.

The Spanish government's note to Germany regarding German's submarine campaign contains a paragraph stating that if Germany continues in its determination to sink all vessels in order to defend its life, Spain must take a like step to defend her life.

A dispatch from from Peking, China, says at a conference of provincial and military governors, at which the premier presided, it was voted unanimously that China should enter the war against Germany. A canvass shows that Parliament is overwhelmingly in favor of China declaring war, but President Li Yuan Hung is still undecided on the question.

Hope that any of the 120 men thought to be entombed in the Hastings mine, near Trinidad, Colo., Friday, may be rescued was abandoned by rescue crews. The men were caught behind a wall of fire which followed an explosion in the main slope and cannot be reached. Rescue squads were slowly working their way through the smoke filled slope to the main workings.

Censorship on all cables touching the United States and on telegraph and telephone lines into Mexico will be established shortly by Executive order. There is no plan for extending the censorship to lines of internal communication. The chief object of the order will be to prevent the transmission to Mexico, South or Central America, of information that might be of value to Germany.

The "efficient and satisfactory" manner in which the American line steamships are armed and manned by officers of the United States navy was highly praised in a letter written by President Franklin to Secretary Daniels. "The work reflects the greatest credit on the Secretary, on Admirals Benson and Usher and the assistants in charge of the work, and it makes me feel proud of the American navy," Mr. Franklin stated.

The extent of the German losses in the recent desperate fighting along the Aisne is partially disclosed in an official statement on the capture of 130 guns, of which considerable number were of heavy calibre. The German losses in men are estimated at more than 200,000, with the probability that the total reached 235,000. These figures include killed wounded and prisoners. The number of German prisoners aggregated approximately 20,000.

President Wilson has approved requests from France and Italy for immediate financial aid, and from \$200,000,000 to \$300,000,000 will be loaned them by the United States within the next few days. "In the case of Italy arrangements already have been made for the transfer of the money. While the amount has not been divulged, it is understood to be between \$50,000,000 and \$100,000,000. France will get between \$150,000,000 and \$200,000,000. Before the end of the week the loan should be in Ambassador Jesserand's hands.

That Submarine Story

Many men read about the submarine being shot some thousand yards away, and many men were inclined to regard the narrator of that story as a trifle excited. It may have been that the submarine was shattered, but in our time we have hunted for ducks on the lakes and when we saw a didapper—one of those little black birds—for the fun of the thing we would blaze away at it, and its sudden disappearance always convinced us that we had killed it. But it didn't take long for the little cuss to appear and disappear again and again. We are not discrediting the captain's story but we feel that had he not been in such a hurry he might again have seen the periscope bobbing up through the water. However, in times of war strange stories are related. And then after the war is over about fifty years they become still stranger to hear one of the old veterans relate them.—Greensboro Record.

President of the Edna Cotton Mills Gives Out an Interesting Interview

One of the candidates for commissioner on the "selling out" side has been showing around a letter received from Richmond, written by a prominent Reidsville gentleman visiting in that city, in which letter Mr. W. S. Forbes of Richmond, the president of the Edna Cotton Mills of Reidsville, is quoted to the effect that under certain conditions his company would double the capacity of the plant here. This letter has been used to convey the impression that one of the contingencies to enlarging the mills was the selling out of the electric plant and franchise to the Public Utilities Company.

One of the editors of The Review on Saturday talked with Mr. W. S. Forbes over the long distance telephone. Mr. Forbes was asked if the statement was true that he had expressed an intention of enlarging the mills here in case the town sold out its electric plant.

Mr. Forbes stated that in conversation recently with some Reidsville gentlemen he had told them that the stockholders of the Edna Cotton Mills were well pleased with the showing made by this property; that but for the present high prices on cotton mill machinery and equipment—due to war conditions, and with assurances on the part of the Town of Reidsville that a reasonable tax rate could be maintained, his company would gladly proceed at once to enlarge the plant to 60,000 spindles. In answer to a question, Mr. Forbes stated that the electric power question was not mentioned in the conversation with the Reidsville gentlemen. He, in fact, knew nothing about the proposition to buy out the town's electric plant and questioned the editor about the content now on in the present municipal election. Mr. Forbes was asked if he had any preferences in buying current from the town or from the Utilities Company. His answer was that he would prefer to deal with the town rather than an outside corporation if the town was in position to give as good rates for power as the outside corporation. That he much preferred co-operating with the town, as their property here was a part of the town and what was to the town's interests in matters of municipal policy was likewise to the interest of the Edna Cotton Mills.

THE GREAT WAR WILL BE WON BY THE FARMERS

Editors The Review:

In this great time, when every citizen must do his part, the President has made his chief appeal to the men who live on the land. He is right in doing so, for the safety of our country just now is in the hands of our farmers. What I mean is not merely our safety and the safety of our Allies in the matter of food. I mean the safety of the United States against foreign invasion hangs on the decision of the farmers of the forty-eight States.

The two great weapons in this war are arms and starvation. The war against German arms will be won or lost in France—the war against starvation will be won or lost in America. The Kaiser cannot whip the French and English armies and the English

navy while England has food. But it is still possible that the German submarines may be able to keep food enough from reaching England to starve her into submission.

If the submarines win, the first line in the Kaiser's term of peace will be the English fleet. With the English fleet in his possession, the Kaiser will be master of the world.

What will happen to us then? Every man who stops to think knows the answer. We shall have money, food, labor, land—everything that is desirable in the world except the power to protect what we have. Experts estimate that it will take us nine months to get ready to meet a German army of 150,000 men, with modern artillery. Under such circumstances, would the Germans treat us better than they have already treated Belgium and France?

Even if the armies of our Allies should crash the German military power this summer, before the shortage of food can reach the point of want, the world would still need vast quantities of American food. But if they do not, only one course can make us safe, and that is to grow food enough on our farms for ourselves and our Allies, and to put ships on the sea to carry the food, in spite of the submarines, to the men who are fighting our fight.

If the war lasts beyond the summer, it will be the American farmer who will overcome militarism and autocracy, or allow them to spread and control the world, ourselves included.

This is no financial picture, but sober fact. Many a man will make light of it until he comes to think it over, but I venture to say that few will treat it lightly after careful thought. It is no more impossible than the great War itself appeared to be, before it began.

It is true that we can greatly increase the available food supply out of grain now used in making liquors, and by reducing household waste, but when these two things are done, and done thoroughly, they will not be enough. The final decision will still rest in the hands of the men who raise our food in the first place.

The clear duty of the nation is to guarantee the farmers a fair price for their crops when grown, and a reasonable supply of labor at harvest. The clear duty of the farmer is to raise food enough to win this war for democracy against Kaiserism.

No such responsibility has ever rested on any class of men since the world began as rests today on the farmers of America.

Sincerely yours,
GIFFORD PINCHOT
Milford Pike Co., Pa., April 26, 1917.

Wonder if the "Sellers Out" ticket for Commissioners would entertain any other proposition or offer for the electric plant and franchise than that made by the Public Utilities Company? We wonder! Other companies are in this business also.

OPPOSE GRANTING 60-YEAR FRANCHISE

Vote the following Commissioners Ticket. Every one knows how they stand:

- J. ED SMITH
- DR. J. W. MCGEEHEE
- J. H. BURTON
- W. S. ALLEN
- D. A. HENDRIX

MRS. H. C. HARRIS CALLED TO HER FINAL HOME

The death of Mrs. H. C. Harris, which occurred at an early hour on Friday morning, came as a great shock to the Reidsville people. On Thursday she went about her customary duties apparently well but on Friday she was found sitting in a chair to which she had apparently risen only a little while before, dead.

The quiet going was the end of a beautiful life, unobtrusive and simple in its every detail—gentle, patient, self-sacrificing, Christlike—a home-loving woman whose heart was centered there and yet one whose influence reached beyond. There is no home in Reidsville, high or low, where sorrow has come that has not known some ministry and comfort from her household.

She found her greatest happiness in self-oblation and service to her Master and to her loved ones.

The exquisite and countless floral offerings which filled the room where in she lay were but faint attestation of the love and esteem in which she was held and a lovely but small return of the myriad generousities emanating from her household. The funeral services were conducted from the house on Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock. Elder Gold of Wilson and Elder Denny, both ministers of the Primitive Baptist church officiating. Interment followed at Greenview cemetery where her husband was laid to rest six years ago. Deep sympathy is felt for the bereaved son and daughter who loved her, but to them will come the comforting knowledge that

"God doth His own in safety keep,
He giveth His beloved, sleep."

The pall bearers were: A. P. Montgomery, C. H. Fetzer, Scott Fillman, C. C. Butler, R. P. Summers, J. B. Gardner, Dr. J. S. Wells and Dr. M. B. Abernethy.

The flower bears were: Lindsey Ellington, E. F. Hall, Luther Sands, W. S. Allen, J. D. Huffines, J. A. Walker, T. E. Richardson, Wm Young, W. D. Hightower, M. P. Cummings, T. S. Reid, L. T. Smith, G. M. Trent, R. G. Gladstone, Manton Oliver, W. J. Irvin, J. F. Wray, Abe Womack, Jeff Penn, J. B. Pipkin, Rob. Boyd, J. A. Fetzer, A. H. Motley, L. P. Clark, L. M. Sharp.

Mrs. Harris was a native of Caswell county. She was 64 years old, and had resided in Reidsville for the past forty odd years. She is survived by two children, Mr. Wm. C. Harris and Mrs. A. S. Galloway of Reidsville, also two sisters, Mrs. P. D. Gold of Wilson and Mrs. Dameron of Reidsville. She was the widow of the late H. C. Harris, for many years one of Reidsville's leading tobacco manufacturers.

Ninety-One Marriages

In the first three weeks of April ninety-one marriage licenses were issued in this county—a record breaker for April, we are informed by the officials. Of course the conclusion of many is that these men who rushed to the register of deeds office to secure papers for marriage were slackers, but we never did believe that. All the months of all the years show that men and women get married. Because a small per cent. of men took advantage, as they supposed, of the married man's privilege to escape war and not get married we must not conclude that every man getting married these days is doing it to escape the soldier's duty. The order sent out by the War Department to the effect that the man who has gotten married since the war was declared would be treated the same as a single man hasn't, so far as we have noticed, stopped the rush for the license. There have been scores of men who had already enlisted married before they assumed their new duties—a little romance, maybe, but nevertheless true love.

It is the world's way to question the motives of most men. Let a man start something for the betterment of the race and some low-browed fellow will declare he is doing it for his own self-exploitation. Let a man give fifty dollars to the needy poor and some man there is to say that it was done for advertising purposes. Let a live wire do many things and his motive is at once questioned, whereas the citizen is sincere and honest in what he does. Those who have deliberately rushed their marriages in the hope of escaping the soldier's duty will not escape, and, now this is known, we hope the manly man who walks up with his Dulcinea del Toboso and asks the parson to tie the silken cord will not hereafter be called a slacker. He is a hero.—Everything.

The Daughters of the Confederacy will meet at Mrs. E. F. Hall's on South Main street Wednesday afternoon at 4 o'clock.

Miss Marietta Stockard returned to Washington Sunday.

SELLING PLANT AND GRANTING FRANCHISE

- 1.—That our citizens will have to pay more taxes.
- 2.—That our people who use electricity in their homes and their businesses will have to pay more for it than it now is costing them.
- 3.—That the present profits of from \$10,000.00 to \$11,000.00 now yearly being made and going into the treasury of the town of Reidsville and used in keeping up our streets and defraying the general expenses of the town will be taken away and go into the treasury of private corporations who are in the business for the money they can get out of it and not for serving the best interests of the general public.
- 4.—That the Town of Reidsville will be sold out body and soul for 60 years to come to a private master (corporation) whose character and reputation in its business dealings has been questioned and criticised by our courts and at whose mercy we will be for years to come.
- 5.—That fire insurance rates will be increased.

PROMINENT CHARLOTTE MAN ADVISES AGAINST SELLING OUT

The following letter has been received by Mr. D. L. Blackburn from Mr. C. M. Scott of Charlotte. Mr. Scott is the Southern agent for the Good Roads Machinery Company and a gentleman of the highest integrity and good business judgment. Mr. Scott says:

"In regard to the franchise, I am not well posted on such matters; but from what I have seen and learned of same I would not grant anybody a 60 year franchise on anything. I should regard such action by a town or city as in the class as I do a man or woman who has valuable property, and deeds it to some one who promises to take care of him the remainder of his life, but who after getting the deed kicks the grantor out in the world to live the best he can.

"It certainly is not good business to give any firm a valuable concession for sixty years; for in giving the concession they give with it the right to do as they please, or the privilege of ever afterwards 'pulling' the givers for anything that they may see fit to demand. Of course they will do this, but it is generally smuggled into the contract by the applicant and his lawyer in such a way that it will not be detected by the grantors until the grantee gets up and shows that what they are asking for is embodied in the contract, and the grantor finds to his sorrow that the courts uphold the claim of the grantee. A franchise of 60 years is the same as forever to perhaps 90 per cent. of the residents of your town, and to almost a hundred per cent. of all who will vote on it in May, and I certainly think that it would pay them to keep the plant that they have.

"The same company that you mention tried in this city a few years ago to freeze out a private owner on gas, electricity and street railways, but the owner did not freeze. They tried cut rates and bluff, etc., but the owner held on and finally they gave him two and one half million dollars, which was double what it cost him, and he got this price by just being too smart to be buncoed out of it for little or nothing."

Mass-Meeting

A mass-meeting will be held tonight (Monday) at the Town Hall at 8 o'clock under the auspices of the Town Ownership League. This meeting will be addressed by a number of prominent business men of the town. The public is cordially invited to be present.

Seats will be provided for the colored voters of the town.

There will be nothing said or done to offend any one. Our desire is to enlighten the voters; our wish is that each voter may vote as he sees it to the best interest of our town.

TOWN OWNERSHIP LEAGUE