

TAKES ISSUE WITH NEWS.

Rev. W. R. Savage Thinks the Allens Should not Have Been Executed.

Editor News.—For the last ten years past I have been a subscriber to your valued paper and an interested reader thereof, appreciating in particular its ably edited columns, but, as in the profession to which I have the honor to belong so in yours I imagine, mistakes are some times made, mistakes of the head rather than of the heart, and in a short editorial in The News for April 1, you use these words regarding the Allens, referring to them as "a band of desperadoes who richly deserved all they got." Commending the Governor of Virginia for not allowing himself to be "swayed from the path of duty and justice by maudlin sentiment and large influence that was brought to bear on him to save the Allens."

Now, Mr. Editor, you will find that throughout the country districts, particularly the mountain counties the sentiment, though not in favor of freeing the Allens, father and son, was decidedly against their being executed, judging that they should have been dealt with as were the others and sent up for life, or a long term of years at least, their guilt no greater, their crime the same.

Unquestionably capital punishment is a crime against Christianity, for the teachings of the Master are all decidedly against it, and we live in a Christian age. To convict a man on circumstantial evidence is also an awful crime, convicting him to die, in which case judge and jury are "guilty of man-slaughter." May the day soon come when capital punishment will be abolished, for it is not only inhuman but does not stop crime. Until that day let us have fair judgment given all men, and if, in accordance with an existing law, which is not only anti-Christian but against public sentiment, an unfortunate fellow pays the death penalty, in all Christian Charity and in consideration for the feelings of those who mourn their precious dead and to whom the life of a son or a brother is as precious as to those who have not the burden to bear of disgrace and the public finger of scorn pointed at them, in Charity's name let us desist from striking at them when their bodies are in the grave, and their souls God knows where.

It is an awful thing to take the life of any man, even a good man, but to take the life of one who, as far as we know, according to human judgement, is not prepared to meet his God is terrible beyond expression!

This is not "maudlin sentiment" but from the heart of one who believes that in the worst character on earth there is a spark of good which if approached by love and tenderly nurtured can be fanned into a flame of reformation that will cleanse the mind and redeem the soul of man.

Surely, to accomplish this end and "save his soul alive," instead of putting him to death he must be sentenced to the penitentiary or the State farm or the roads, that with life there may be hope and reformation and future clean living, for surely the forgiving power of the Almighty is not limited to a certain set of crimes.

Thanking you for your patience with me.

I am in all Charity and good will.

Truly yours,
W. R. SAVAGE.
Blowing Rock, N. C.
April, 14, 1913.

ANOTHER ONE SURRENDERS. (Landmark.)

Isaac Rash, a young farmer of Union Grove township, against whom a warrant was issued some time ago, charging him with illicit distilling, called at the office of Sheriff Deaton Friday and gave \$500 bond for his appearance at the next term of Superior Court. Rash said he had found that it was useless to try to evade the law; that he realized he was in the wrong and had decided to plead guilty when his case comes to trial. The officers had made several efforts to arrest Rash, but he always gave them the "dodge." Recently Sheriff Deaton sent Rash word that he didn't intend to give him a chance to work a crop this season unless he submitted to arrest and gave bond. Rash answered the sheriff through a friend to the effect that it was imperative that he should work a crop this year and rather than be molested by the officers he would arrange the bond, and he kept his word.

Rash was a partner with Grover Mitchell, the young man who was captured at a still in North Iredell several months ago and received a sentence to one year on the roads at the last term of court. The young men's excuse for blockading is that their fathers made liquor regularly in the days before it was prohibited by law and that they and their people are just now being forced to recognize the authority of the law which forbids that it be made. The father of Rash is now indicted in the Federal court for distilling and it is believed that he, like his son, will plead guilty.

The Need of Good Roads.

Editor News—If you will allow me space in your valuable columns I will say a few words about the Good Roads, as I notice this is being discussed in your paper every week. I am a Watauga boy 18 years of age and I am studying the question of Good Roads with much interest, the more I study the more I want to study this question. If every citizen in Caldwell, Ashe and Watauga could see what Good Roads would mean in our counties, as I think I can see the need of them, our counties would prosper as they have never prospered before. No county in North Carolina could do any thing more appropriate, neither could they do any thing that would be more benefit to our counties, than to make good roads. If good roads do cost something they are the cheapest in the long run. We people of Watauga, Ashe and parts of Caldwell pay out more for wagon repairs caused by bad roads every year, than the little tax would be in five years. Let every citizen in these counties join together then work together and say we will have better highways.

With best wishes to The News,
A WATAUGA BOY.

A newspaper is in no sense a child of charity. It earns twice over every dollar it receives, and it is second to no enterprise in contributing to the upbuilding of a community. Its patrons reap far more benefits from its pages than its publishers, and in calling for the support of the community in which it is published, it asks for no more than in all fairness belongs to it, though generally it receives less.—Ex.

PRESIDENT GETS \$260,000.

Many Items Other Than Salary Figure in Expenses of the White House.

The Pathfinder.

The statement that the total salary and allowances made to the President come to \$260,000 a year has caused people all over the country to throw up their hands and exclaim, "That can't be right." But it is right. Little publicity is usually given to this subject and probably not one well informed person in a thousand has any idea of what the White House really costs the country. Most people suppose that the expenditure stops with the President's salary.

The actual amount appropriated each year depends on Congress and the figures vary somewhat from year to year. For the coming fiscal year the authorized expenses as provided for in the legislative, executive and judicial bill are in round numbers as follows: President's salary, \$75,000; clerk hire, \$70,000; contingent fund, \$25,000; President's traveling expenses, \$25,000; household expenses, including horses, automobiles, etc., \$25,000; fuel, \$6,000; care and repair of greenhouses, \$12,000; printing invitations, etc., \$3,000; lighting White House and grounds, etc., \$9,000. Total \$260,000.

While this seems a large sum to the ordinary citizen it must be remembered that a great deal is now expected of our President, and the people don't like it if they chesepare too much. Martha Washington hung out her own clothes in the White House East Room; Dolly Madison churned her own butter when "First Lady of the Land," President W. H. Harrison bought a cow for \$30 and helped drive her home. Many similar stories are told of the White House, but such economies would be out of the question in these times.

The Nation had hardly got well launched when President John Adams complained that the President's salary of \$25,000 a year was too small, and steadily the amount of money spent for the White House has been increased. The lavish entertainment which is expected is what costs most. There are three State dinners a year scheduled and these cost about \$2,500 altogether. Then there are an average of about three formal dinners and luncheons a week. Then there are numerous receptions, garden parties and other functions, and in all cases the President has to foot the bills either out of the regular allowances or his own pocketbook.

Cow Had Hydrophobia.

(Statesville Landmark.)

A cow belonging to Mr. M. S. Hedrick of the Loray community developed a desperate case of hydrophobia Friday and was killed Saturday when her case was positively diagnosed as such. Thursday it was noticed that the cow would not eat and realizing that something was wrong her milk was not used. Friday the cow became vicious and was placed in a stable for safety. Saturday she grew worse and foamed at the mouth as she desperately dashed back and forth in the stable, kicking, pawing and butting her head against the wall. Veterinarian Nicholson of Statesville was called to see the cow Saturday and immediately diagnosed her trouble as hydrophobia, whereupon she was killed.

PROPER TAXATION.

Correct Assessment Would Remedy Much Evil. Comforts Cost Money.

A news item some months ago contained the information that the state of North Carolina faced a deficit. The Town of Lenoir is embarrassed for lack of funds, and the Graded School is in deep water. What is the reason? As we see it, although unfamiliar with the law, it is on account of a faulty system. Caldwell declines to make just returns because Burke is assessed at a minimum and so on throughout the state. Each county board fears that their county may pay a larger proportion than its neighbors. The result is that Caldwell has bad roads, inadequate schools, etc. A kind of "cutting off your nose to spite your face" policy. In addition to the results just mentioned there is another which many men do not seem to consider, viz: The larger the assessed valuation the smaller the rate necessary to provide the required income, and conversely. To produce \$20,000.00 for running a town if the assessed valuation upon real and personal property is \$2,000,000.00 the rate would be only 1% but if cut to \$500,000.00 the rate will be 4%. An investor seeking a location to put his money, a home seeker, a manufacturer or a merchant will take the former every time. Capital is never invited by high rates of taxation. The policy appears to be "penny wise" if wise at all and clearly "pound foolish." There is a fallacy which seems to prevail in many quarters in regard to a large population of "non-tax payers" as a matter of fact none such exists. Every man, woman and child is directly or indirectly a taxpayer in the town. Remove the population of so-called non-tax payers and what would result? The mills and factories would cease for lack of operatives, the retail stores would close for lack of patronage, the banks would shut their doors for lack of loans, the land values would sink to well-nigh the vanishing point. Every one who lives in a house, eats, or is clothed pays a tax, and usually a larger proportionate rate than the merchant who directly pays the tax, for in his "expense" he includes the tax on his stock. Remove the 3000 so-called non-tax payers from Lenoir and how much would your now valuable business block be worth? About as much as a big hay-barn in the country. The people make the town. The people make the business. The people enhance land values. Why is a Trade and Tryon corner in Charlotte more valuable than the Bank corners in Lenoir? Just because there are 20 times as many people there to do business. The very best asset this town has is its excellent school. A few weeks ago the writer paid his town taxes \$15.51 one third each for the school, the special street improvement, and the town general. We surely need streets, we need a fire department, sewerage, water and town officials, but I submit that the school is producing a better value than either of the other two and I do not undervalue the other departments either. Modern civilization costs money, and the only way a community can benefit by the advantages it has to offer is to pay the price. The hut-dwell-

BETTERMENT WORK.

It is found that the needs in each department of our work, the school, the civic and the cemetery especially, are urgent just now, and the importance of united effort of school and town is very apparent if the Association accomplishes what it has mapped out for itself. As a proportionate division of all funds handled between these different departments has been agreed upon so each department will reap the benefit of all moneys raised.

To encourage the girls of our town to love beauty and order the Civic Department offers four prizes to the four girls who put forth the most effort and have the prettiest flower beds. Two prizes to be given to the girl under fourteen years of age and two to girls over fourteen. The beds will be inspected the first of September by a Committee chosen by the Association.

The association has decided to begin an active canvass to secure members, both active and honorary. And that a fee of twenty-five cents per year be asked from active members and fifty cents per year from honorary members. A free trip to Hickory or its equivalent in money will be given to the boy or girl who is most successful. The names and money are to be given to Miss Callie McNairy or Mrs. M. M. Courtney.

CIVIC COMMANDMENTS.

1. Thou shalt honor thy city and keep its laws.
2. Remember thy cleaning day and keep it wholly.
3. Thou shalt love and cherish thy children and provide for them decent homes and playgrounds.
4. Thou shalt not keep thy windows closed day or night.
5. Thou shalt keep in order thy alley, thy backyard, thy hall and stairway.
6. Thou shalt not kill thy neighbors' bodies with poisonous air nor their souls with bad companions.
7. Thou shalt not let the wicked fly live.
8. Thou shalt not steal thy children's right to happiness from them.
9. Thou shalt bear witness against thy neighbor's rubbish heap.
10. Thou shalt covet all the air and sunshine thou canst obtain.

THE COMMITTEE.

So Would He.—Fair Visitor.—"My gracious, what a room! And look at that mirror! I'd just like to see myself dressing in that!"
New Bell Hop.—"Yes, ma'am, so would I."

er on the mountain side exists on a few acres, but he neither contributes to civilization nor does he receive any of its benefits. He cannot read, he does not write, he wears next to no clothes, he makes as little use of his God-given faculties as possible. His neighbor in the valley clears, irrigates, fertilizes the land; builds a house, installs the modern conveniences, uses modern implements and grows wealthy. He pays for his education and pays in using it but he profits thereby. In the town and city we do the same on a larger scale, it costs, but we likewise profit, and the profit far surpasses the expense. The progressive pays large and receives more—the reactionary pays little and receives less. Be progressive.

C. T. SQUIRES.

NEWS ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Interesting Reading Matter of Local and National Affairs in Condensed Form.

There is a special law for Catawba and Lenoir counties making it a misdemeanor punishable by fine or jail to kill hieffer calves.

Statesville has organized a Council of Boy Scouts. The objects of the organization are to teach boys many useful things and train them in the way of becoming useful men.

The body of the late Robert F. Simonton, who died in Statesville about 37 years ago was moved one day last week and through the glass of the metallic coffin, the body appeared to be in a state of good preservation and was easily recognizable. Even the clothing was in tact and well preserved.

A negro delivery boy was caught in attempting to rob a store in Statesville last week. Some money had been missed from the cash drawer and the manager of the store made an investigation and found that one of the rear windows had been opened. Following up the clue he noticed one of the windows was unlatched after closing time Thursday evening. A policeman was stationed in the store and caught the thief when he entered the store by the window. The boy implicated a companion who was also arrested and lodged in jail.

Pull together, brethren. We are all here for the same purpose. Then live and let live. The best way to build up a town is for each and every man to pull together and not strive to rend and tear down. All the residents of a town are partners, not opponents. In all likelihood the more business done by your rival the more you will do. Every merchant who treats his customers honestly and fairly will get his share and the more business that can be secured by united effort, the better it will be for all.—Saturday News.

Daniels Is Right.

Joseph Daniels, Secretary of the Navy said the other day: "The public officer who does not like suggestions and criticisms has no business in the public service." Daniels is everlastingly right. When The News criticizes public officials, the stock in trade answer to this is, that The News is a Radical sheet. If a democratic official does wrong some people will swear it is right, not because of the question of right or wrong but because a democrat did it. Democrats do some things wrong as well as Republicans and when we think they do wrong we are going to say so. If a machine democrat does not like this it will take that much less to do him.—Catawba County News.

It is stated that an Arizona mule stops kicking when the Lord's Prayer is recited to him. It perhaps so amazes the mule to hear an Arizona man pray that he forgets to kick.—Exchange.

An Eastern paper says that the Mississippi River does not intend to hold levees this Summer. That's true. The levees intend to hold the Mississippi, and that's better.

The Lenoir News \$1. the year.