

The Cleveland Star

SHELBY, N. C.

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We wish to call your attention to the fact that it is and has been our custom to charge five cents per line for resolutions of respect, cards of thanks and obituary notices, after one death notice has been published. This will be strictly adhered to.

FRIDAY, AUG. 28, 1931

TWINKLES

Too many people consider honesty the best policy only when there's danger of being caught.

In a few more weeks we'll quit worrying about when prosperity is coming back and turn our attention to the college football half backs.

Be sure about this winter. Can all the fruits and vegetables possible, store away all the peas, and preserve everything of food value. Now is the time to assure yourself that you will not be in want before another summer.

Governor and Senator-elect Huey Long's cotton theory may be worth less than cotton itself but it got Huey back in the headlines following a pleasant vacation since he started that pot likker controversy.

Ramsay MacDonald may not come out on top of the heap in England's present crisis, but he has shown more courageous manhood and unselfishness than is ordinarily found in present-day leaders.

An eastern North Carolina newspaper termed snowfall in Connecticut this week as the "first of the year." Still ignoring us up here in western Tarheelia. Didn't it snow up about Mt. Mitchell a week or two back?

"Our Bob" (and as much your'n as our'n for that matter) Reynolds was picked up in High Point this week on a traffic charge as he began his campaign on a wet platform for the United States senate. All of which may mean nothing more than that Bob has started out in high gear. But as we recall it he rode in a second-hand flivver in his last campaign with the idea of meeting ordinary folks more on their level.

TWO TYPES OF FLOGGING

QUITE A CONTROVERSY has developed over North Carolina about the flogging of prisoners in the convict camps operated by the State highway forces.

The Star does not believe in any such method of punishment and neither do we believe it will be sanctioned or permitted, although there will be incidents when the brutal practice may crop out. But, in that connection, it is our belief, old-fashioned as it may sound, that there wouldn't be as many men and young men working at the road camps if a little more flogging had been done at home when they were boys. Which statement may cause some of the reformers to flock in upon us for making such an ignorant statement, but it is our idea there wouldn't be as many cynical reformers if more "sassy faces" had been slapped at the same time the embryonic criminals should have been carried to the woodshed.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

FREQUENTLY AFTER a communication to the editor is published in The Star someone takes occasion to say "I noticed that you said so and so in The Star," or "you had this and that wrong." These references are to statements or declarations made in the to-the-editor letters. A little observation should show that The Star is not expressing whatever opinion it may be, although the paper may hold the same viewpoint or may differ. If John Jones writes a letter to the editor and says that in his humble, or exalted, opinion, the earth is flat, why hold The Star to blame? Spin you globe in John Jones' face and tell him the earth is round.

There is a tendency, however, to fling taunts and insinuations in some communications to the paper. This should be restrained. The Star at all times welcomes letters from readers expressing their views. But keep them within the bounds of decency and dignity, say you say, disagree with what the other fellow does, thinks or says if you will, but do it in a gentlemanly manner without thumbing the nose, hurling bad names and you're-another charges.

THE LUKE LEA TRAGEDY

THE SENTENCING to prison by a North Carolina court of Luke Lea, colorful Tennessee publisher, financier and politician, for conspiracy to defraud in connection with the closing of an Asheville bank, is a tragic anti-climax to one of the most unusual careers in the history of the present day South.

The depression it seems caught Luke Lea "in the red" and trying to get back on the other side of the ledger. As a result he faces yawning prison doors. His fate just as it may be must bring a tinge of regret to those acquainted with the dynamic Tennessean. His was a life of activity, of fighting up and onward toward higher goals, but the collapse of a big financial institution, Caldwell and Company, started him downhill. What the end may be we cannot say, but behind the tall lawyer and publisher, at one time Tennessee's most powerful figure, is a record that is unusual. At 31 he was in the United States Senate. For more than a score of years it is said that there was only one governor of Tennessee that Lea did not pick. At that time Lea was overseas as a colonel of a Tennessee regiment. At St. Mihiel he won the distinguished service medal. When the war ended he became more

powerful than ever, a figure that was outstanding in the South.

What a tragedy it is! At the bar of justice, a remarkable political career, a successful venture as a publisher, and one of his country's highest war-time honors availed him not. He was only Luke Lea convicted of fraud no matter how many emotions his turbulent past might stir in the on-looker's breast.

GARDNER STEPS IN

GOVERNOR GARDNER'S statement about the cotton crisis comes nearer hitting the nail on the head from the viewpoint of the cotton farmer than does any of the theories and plans advanced by senators, would-be Solomons and some of the other Southern governors. Perhaps it is because Governor Gardner himself is a cotton farmer: he can understand how the farmer feels about it.

Seemingly he is right when he says that the plan of Governor Huey Long of Louisiana, which is supported by Governor Blackwood, of South Carolina, is "unsound." To prove his point he brought in an angle that the others in the hurried eagerness seem to have overlooked. Suppose State legislatures in the South do force cotton farmers not to plant any cotton next year, what of the result? Last year more than 45 percent of the world's cotton production came from 12 foreign countries. The legislatures of the Southern States could not force the foreign countries to keep their planters in the shed, and with the South having no cotton to sell the foreign growers would have the opportunity of supplying the complete demand and likely at a good price. In such a situation the Southern farmer would be nothing more than the goat.

Governor Gardner is right again when he says it is a national problem. Each cotton-growing state might pass some law about cotton. Likely there would be a different form of legislation in each state and utter confusion. One state—and it's human nature—would think "Well, the others are cutting their crop down so we'll shoot the works and make the money."

If there is any legislation, and The Star doubts if the situation can be handled in such manner, it should certainly be a uniform national policy that would hold all cotton-growing states to the same regulation and at the same time assure cooperation of the foreign countries.

The more we think over the proposal of state legislatures to force farmers to abandon cotton next year the less we think of it. Imagine telling a Cleveland county farmer who owns his own land, who has purchased his own seed and who has paid the taxes on the land not to put out a single cotton seed! Who believes a jury of 12 men would sit in the Cleveland county court house and convict a farmer for that act?

A suggested method of taxation would be far better. But, after all, we are inclined to think it is one of those things the farmer may have to work out for himself as best he may. The only prospective hope we see is for the farmer, who realizes that he cannot make money on cotton next year, to shift his own acres to something else and let the others do what they please. The farmer who plants no cotton, but gets in sufficient food and feed crops for his own consumption, truck and other things to sell will always get by. But as long as he thinks he should plant cotton because his neighbor does and may make some money just that long will he be a helpless bit of driftwood in the uncertain stream of circumstances and conditions beyond his control.

We See By The Papers That—

The Greensboro News commenting upon the slaying of children by New York gangsters and the bitter denunciation of such murderous methods by North Carolina editors, opens a new avenue of thought.

Down this way we have a spasm when an innocent bystander chances to step "on the spot" in New York, but we seem to be hardened to the fact that on an average Sunday in North Carolina we kill more people on our highways than the racketeers bump off in a week.

Some time ago Miss Beatrice Cobb publisher of the Morganton News-Herald, took a crack at prohibition enforcement. Some of her contemporaries interpreted her comment as favoring repeal. In a later editorial she upsels the interpretation. She isn't, she says, in favor of abandoning "the noble experiment."

But she adds the thoughtful observation that temperance should be emphasized more than prohibition. The teaching of temperance, she believes, will come nearer accomplishing the aim of prohibition than the present loose-handed method of enforcement.

"The things we don't know," opines The Gaffney Ledger, "are the things that worry us most."

But most of us don't seem to know it.

The Rutherford County News started a flow of comment recently when it deplored the fact that some of the visiting sheriffs at Rutherford for the state convention of sheriffs saw fit to take on a few "nips". The comment was wide and varied, some noting that sheriffs are much like other humans and are wont to celebrate a little freely when in convention assembled, but all condemned the drinking by men whose duty it is to return home and arrest other men who do likewise. The Rutherford Sun, however, took another viewpoint from that of its home-town contemporary, saying that although some of the officers did take a few drinks it was not good

manners for Rutherford folks to mention it as the officers were guests of the county.

Perhaps the host should overlook eccentricities (?) of visitors, but we wonder if a one-gallus visitor in Rutherford with several drinks aboard wouldn't get a little more attention than mild newspaper criticism?

A columnist of the Yorkville Enquirer has learned that along a certain highway route in Georgia the motorist may stop at filling stations and call for coffee—the liquid when served, in a coffee cup, being several fingers of white corn. That columnist should be careful; he may start a Java motorcade through Gewga.

Eight purebred Guernsey bulls have been bought by farmers in Edgecombe county during the past eight months. Plenty of feed is being grown and farmers are increasing dairy herds, says County Agent H. W. Taylor.

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SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY. Pursuant to an order made by M. R. Weathers, recorder of Cleveland county, in the case State vs. Jake Patterson, said Jake Patterson having been convicted of transporting intoxicating liquors by means of One Ford Coupe. Under said order the undersigned will sell at public auction sale at the court house door in Shelby, N. C., on the 28th day of September, 1931, at 12 o'clock noon or within legal hours, the following described property: One Ford Coupe motor No. 1487882. Terms of sale, Cash. This the 26th day of August, 1931.

L. M. ALLEN, Sheriff. 21 Aug 28

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Cotton Plan Of Surratt, Cleveland Farmer, Being Given Commendation

Answers Queries Made As To Possible Defects In His Reduction Idea.

Charlotte, Aug. 28.—Encouragement and commendation for his plan to solve the present cotton problem has been received by W. C. Sarratt, Cleveland county farmer.

Mr. Sarratt's plan would place a state tax on production, the rate of the tax to be on a sliding scale, dependent upon the amount of cotton planted and grown.

Legislation to prohibit 1932 planting would have the effect of encouraging increased production in foreign fields, while the tax plan would keep these productions in uncertainty, he argues. His communication follows:

"Having found no direct adverse reaction in the press to my article about cotton and what should be done about it in your issue of August 18, I have put it up to landlords in person and most of them, when it is explained in detail, will say it is a correct and practical solution of our cotton business and financial puzzle.

Asks Counter-Question. "Some, however, came back, asking what will we do with our tenants in 1932, not raising any or very little cotton under any turn that might come about under Sarratt plan. I counter by asking what in the devil will we do as it is. That answer should come first.

"This almost invariably puts them in a semi-conscious condition. I

give them a dose of my plan and 93 per cent will recover. About one per cent are in a storm pit and not much interested. Four per cent will die anyway and prefer that the world die with them.

"Prices as they are and will be with no action taken will not nearly pay cost of production, and in most cases will leave unpaid 1931 debts to landlords, time merchants, banks, taxes, etc., with nothing to carry the farmers through the winter of make another crop.

Sees Little Cost. "With my plan in operation and bound to work fairly, accurately, and without cost except calling each law making body of the cotton producing states together for a few days, which would be negligible in comparison to the many millions that would be salvaged in each cotton producing state and the hundreds of millions in the combined cotton producing area that is now pouncing on the rocks.

"Any financier, banker, business man or intelligent farmer will tell you that it would be sure to raise the price of cotton at least to cover the cost of production. Debts contracted in 1931 to the landlords, time merchants, bankers, taxes, etc., would be paid, and in most cases leave enough to go through the winter. Many could finance themselves, or partly so, to make the 1932 crop.

Other Crops Cheaper. "It would take less cash for the tenant to make other crops than

cotton in 1932. The same with the landlord. However, it will be slightly higher for the landlord to try to make 1932 cotton crop, as repairs and replacement will have begun to be needed.

"We should make no law to prohibit production. That would make our liberty, and the constitutionality would be at least questioned. If it should be legally provided, we would have been at the expense of extra sessions with no result except delay, which would cause further confusion and, instead of being on the rocks, we should have gone to the bottom.

"It would be better to tax for privilege like other business. It would sound better here and abroad. The Sarratt plan would have practically the same effect on production here, but not on foreign production. It would be a fog screen for foreign planters for 1932 and would keep them guessing as to what we intend to do about it until it was all over the excess used, and we had gone back to the same old game in 1932, better fixed, wiser and with the live-at-home idea well rooted. Then we would not be compelled or care to raise such surplus cotton crops again soon, and we would get cost and a legitimate profit for what we did raise.

"It is essential that there should be a fixed minimum tax, increasing as production rises. The government indicated yield is the proper place to get the base for the sliding scale. The sliding scale is what does the work. It is the regular raw head and bloody bones to the planter that tries to figure to beat the game as well as the speculator. The speculator on the short side and the farmer's side. Figure to plant or

speculate on the short side and it will come to you like raw head and bloody bones when you and I were young without any Maggie."

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF MISSIONARY METHODISTS

The annual conference of the Missionary Methodist church in West Shelby began Thursday, August 28 with a large crowd of ministers and delegates present. Preaching at 7:30 o'clock. Everybody invited to attend.

Rev. H. C. Sisk.

P. A. Seese, efficient poultry extension specialist of State college died in Rex Hospital, Raleigh, on August 16, following blood-poisoning arising from an infected foot. Mr. Seese was at work one week before he died.

Up to March 1, 1931, the Duke university libraries had received and accessioned 233,865 bound volumes and 24,399 pamphlets. Many thousands of volumes and pamphlets have not yet been accessioned, and other purchases of books, periodicals, and brochures are in Europe awaiting shipment.

The new chemistry building at Duke university has a floor area of 557,000 square feet. Here graduate work will be carried on in scores of individual laboratory rooms.

Duke university students have 100 clubs, societies, fraternity chapters, and other organizations representing many academic and social activities.

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29 x 4.50/20	4.85	9.70	7.35 4-Ply	14.70	4.35	8.70	
30 x 4.50/21	4.85	9.70	7.45 4-Ply	14.90	4.45	8.70	
28 x 4.75/19	6.75	13.50	8.30 4-Ply	16.60	8.35	16.30	
29 x 5.00/19	6.85	13.70	8.50 4-Ply	17.00	
31 x 5.25/21	7.35	14.70	10.25 4-Ply	19.50	
32 x 6.00/20	9.85 4-Ply	19.70	11.50 4-Ply	23.00	
33 x 6.00/21	10.35 4-Ply	20.70	11.65 4-Ply	23.30	

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