

# The Cleveland Star

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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.

MONDAY, AUG. 31, 1931

### TWINKLES

September makes it's bow in the morning and several of the pessimists would have us believe several months ago that we wouldn't be able to last it out this long.

With Jack Dempsey coming back maybe we'll have another prizefight with enough action in it to justify the extravagant and exciting descriptive methods employed by Graham McNamee in telling a radio audience how it is going.

An amusing suggestion in the many methods of relief suggested for the cotton farmer: From down in eastern Carolina comes the plan to tax the land to keep the farmer from growing too much cotton. And, as we remember it, it was that same section which raised such a howl, during the last last legislature, to take all taxes off land.

Reports indicate that the depression is not holding down prospective enrollment at colleges. Instead, a majority of the colleges report that they will have more students than ever. There is one evident reason for this: Many young men in prosperous times are lured away from continued education by the prospects of a good-paying situation. This year there are few positions of that type open and the young men are going back to school.

Now it seems as if some of the anti-Smith fund used by Bishop Cannon came from Republicans, and it is also intimated that some of the money might have been diverted to the bishop's own accounts instead of being expended to defeat the Democratic candidate. If the Nye committee brings out much more information of that type, one cannot blame the bishop for not desiring the committee to probe into his political activities.

### TEN YEARS GROWTH IN SCHOOLS

IN A RECENT "Ten Years Ago" column in The Star it was recorded that in 1921 the total enrollment in the city schools of Shelby was 1,125. A week from today when these same schools open there will be twice that number of children in school, or almost 3,000 youngsters. That is an unusual increase and one that should be borne in mind when we are inclined to kick about the cost of operating Shelby schools. It is impossible to educate and house 3,000 children for what less than 1,500 were educated and housed, and it is certain knowledge that it lacks quite a bit of costing twice that much.

### THE WHIPPING AFFAIR

IT IS UNFORTUNATE, The Star, along with many citizens, believes, that the Belwood school whipping had to be aired in a court room. Such emphasis of an incident of that type is not conducive to the best interests of a community. This paper does not believe a child should be unmercifully whipped, and at the same time it believes that there are occasions when whipping becomes necessary. We make no attempt to pass a verdict on the Belwood affair. The topic is mentioned here for the sole purpose of saying that if there is a division of opinion and disagreement in that section, which is one of the most progressive and best communities in Cleveland county, citizens should not permit the discord to continue. The sooner the matter is forgotten the better it will be. It is only natural in such incidents that there will be varying sentiments, but it should be remembered, too, that no minor affair should be allowed to cause any lingering ill-feeling. Life has too many discordant, and often unfortunate occurrence, to magnify them.

### FARMERS USE THEIR HEADS

THE MEETING of Cleveland county farmers held here last week to boost the use of cotton bagging brought out the fact that farmers are doing more thinking for themselves than they have in bygone years.

The farmers attending the meeting were whole-heartedly behind the movement to warp their cotton in cotton bagging, thus increasing the consumption of cotton which, in turn, should boost the price. But they reasoned in this manner: If we wrap our cotton in cotton bagging in order to increase cotton consumption, it seems to us that there are other ways and methods of increasing cotton consumption. The cottonseed meal, the hulls, the cow and chicken feed, the rice, the beans, the potatoes, and the lime, cement, etc., that we use should also be placed in sacks made of cotton. And so they should. The Cleveland farmers then went a step further and demanded, by resolution that all these products used by the farmer be bagged in sacks made of his major product—cotton. There is no reason why they should not be so bagged, and if the farmer will refuse to carry to his home anything not bagged in cotton which could be bagged in cotton, then it would not be very long before manufacturers would be placing those products in cotton bags. If wrapping all bales of cotton in cotton bagging will increase the consumption of cotton more than 200,000 bales it readily follows that the consumption of cotton would be greatly increased if all the products named above were bagged in cot-

ton. The farmer has the right idea. It will take time, however to bring about the cooperation necessary for the success of the movement.

### A COMMENDABLE MOVE

THE REDUCTION of admission prices to the Cleveland County Fair the last of next month was a wise move upon the part of fair officials. Somehow we have the idea that it will be greatly appreciated by the thousands and thousands of people who look forward each year to this big agricultural event. This year adults and children will be admitted day and night for twenty-five cents each. A quarter with times as they are equivalent to a half dollar, the former admission price, a few years ago. Fair officials realized that and announced the reduction. In doing so, however, they pointed out that the fair program, from beginning to end, would be equal if not superior to those of previous fairs. In other words, those who attend this fall will see as much, if not more, for twenty five cents as they did heretofore for twice that sum. Come to think it over, there are few places and few times where anyone can come nearer getting his or her money's worth out of a quarter than a day at the State's largest county fair.

It is a time when people are cutting out as many needless pleasures and extravagances as possible, a period when economy is the watchword, but the fair is something few people will mark out of their budget or should mark out. One trip through the exhibit halls, where all displays boost an improved form of agriculture, is worth several times the cost from the educational standpoint, not to speak of the many free amusements and other entertainment. And it's about time now to make your plans to take in as much of the event as possible. The opening day is less than a month off.

### PUBLIC IS ENTITLED TO KNOW

RECENT COMMENT by The Star concerning publication of actions of public office-holders should not be construed to mean that it is in Shelby and Cleveland county alone that it is some time difficult for a newspaper to secure desired information. Neither should that comment be interpreted as meaning that officials here have at any time attempted to keep any actions secret. It was a mere reminder, in the nature of friendly advice, to office-holders that for their own best interests the people should be kept informed as to what is going on in public office.

Elsewhere newspaper encounters similar difficulties at times as is shown by the following remarks made by The Gastonia Gazette, after noticing The Star's comment:

To illustrate: The Gazette has never been present at a meeting of the Gastonia city school board, or at a meeting of the county board of education. Nothing in the way of what transpires at these meetings is published except what the officials choose to give out. Salaries are fixed and policies determined that the public knows Nothing about.

On the other hand, a reported from The Gazette is always present at all meetings of the city council and of the county commissioners, even at all the executive sessions. If there are certain things that ought not to be printed, the reporter respects the wishes of those in authority insofar as he does not violate the trust reposed in his newspaper by the public. He is generally the judge of what ought to be printed and what ought not to be.

The Gazette is making this point, because just at this time, there has been a lot of talk about schools, budgets, taxes, salaries, etc., and a lot of it could have been avoided if the newspaper had had free access to the records and minutes of the school board meetings.

Public officials cannot ignore the public. They are servants of the people. The public is depending on the newspaper to get the news. And if officials refuse to give the news, it will react against them and that right soon.

### Mr. Harris Asks Some Questions Of The Star And Is Answered

To The Editor The Cleveland Star: You seem to be pretty well informed. You say that the officers are not entitled to a per diem and not allowed 50c for summoning themselves. Tell me where you found that law. Tell me why that per diem is on the back of each warrant along with the other officers' fees. You say that the officers have been collecting illegal fees. They have been collecting that per diem for a number of years. These bills were passed on by the commission and passed by them. You say it's not right to jerk a man up in court and put a big bill of cost on him. I say it's not right for a man to disturb his country and put the burden on the officers. You say the officers can quit if they choose. I say that people can stay out of court if they will try. You say that the employer don't like to pay big bills of cost for their men. There is nothing compulsory about it. One man will kick about his man being caught and if another man has a fellow that bothers him he's tickled silly to see the other fellow caught. It all depends on who's ox is being gored.

The laws were made for the protection of the people. If a man wants protection he has the right to ask for it. No one has a right to refuse it for him. The sheriff was elected by the people to serve the people. The people decided who would be sheriff. Our sheriff was elected by a good majority, not because people thought he was a better man than his opponents but because he was experienced and a good enforcement officer. The good

officers have been doing their duty. And they should be praised for it instead of kicked. A lot of them work for a living and serve the people while they rest, making many trips that bring them not a penny. Many cases that they have one man cannot handle and when it comes to dividing fees between several officers it looks little. When they get \$2.00 for arrest and 10 cts. mileage for taking a man to jail then go back the next day to take him out and try him. Everybody can't live in town. Some people go for miles to go to town. The good officers should be paid and praised for their work. I don't think that the sheriff should be advised as to what to bring into court. Let the judge decide on the cases. It's the people's court, the people's law and the people's sheriff. Another thing a lot of witnesses go as much as 15 or 20 miles to the recorder's court for 50 cents fee. The recorder's court has been clearing from \$20,000 to \$30,000 a year for the county for several years. You don't hear any kicking on that. The officers are responsible for most of that. I know one instance where the officers were responsible for more than \$1,200 going into the county treasury in two days. Let us praise and help them in their charity work instead of picking on them on every side.

If we don't pay them in money, pay them in compliments.

T. B. HARRIS.

### Star's Viewpoint.

Mr. Harris apparently resent the Star's attempts to keep the facts straight in regards to the con-

trovery about fees of deputies and other officials. The Star does not care to engage in a controversy with him and readers likely are of the opinion that the space could be better used. The paper, however, does not desire to have its position misinterpreted. Mr. Harris, formerly a deputy himself and among those left off the force when it was reduced by Sheriff Irvin Allen, is inclined to insinuate that The Star has it in for the officers. Such is not the case. Far from it. It is the opinion of this paper that Sheriff Allen is one of the most efficient and active sheriffs in the history of Cleveland county. He has under him deputies who are leading citizens of the county and admirable men. There are some on the force who are frequently criticised by citizens but Mr. Harris or no other has seen The Star encourage that criticism. Perhaps there are men on the force who decrease the popularity of the sheriff, as he is considered responsible for his men, but that is the sheriff's business.

The only comment about officers made by this paper was anent the fee controversy. Shelby's best attorneys have interpreted the law as not permitting "per diem" fees for arrests in the county and one or two other fees which it has been customary to add to the court bill of costs. The Star referred to those matters because it certainly is not proper for a law enforcement officer to infringe upon the law he enforces. It is not contended by anyone that officers did this knowingly and intentionally. But since the law has been interpreted it should be followed. Neither do we say that officers are overpaid. If they are entitled to more they should have it, but upon a salary basis or some fixed schedule. The fee system is steadily losing favor, because it opens up too many avenues of possible expense and leaves the door open, for enforcing the law to gain remuneration by additional fees instead of enforcing it for the sake of law and justice. The "per diem" blank on the back of warrants, attorneys inform, is to cover the expense of officers who go out of the state or make extended trips for prisoners or to act as witnesses.

As to the trivial cases referred to: So far as this paper knows no one gave Sheriff Allen orders to have his deputies stop arresting people for minor misdemeanors. The Star does recall, however, that the sheriff himself stated recently that unless so many arrests for trifling matters did not stop he would make an announcement saying that he would refuse such prisoners unless commitment papers came along when he thought the violation such a slight thing that it should not be bothered with. It is a matter of general knowledge, too, that superior court judges and judges of the county court have frequently kicked cases, little spite affairs and minor matters, out of the court because they were considered too trivial to take up the court's time. Likewise, at the last legislature Senator McSwain and Representative Edwards in passing an amendment to the county court law added a section stating that too many little cases were brought into the court and that when the judge had a mind to he could dismiss trivial charges and put the costs on the prosecuting witnesses.

Mr. Harris should take note of these things before making insinuations. The Star at no time has unduly criticised any law enforcement officers and the record shows that for years, many years, this paper has upheld officers of the law and just enforcement thereof. If he desires to go into the criticism of arrests in trivial matters, he might discuss it with Sheriff Allen, County Judge Weathers, Senator McSwain and Representative Edwards. Officially and unofficially they have had more to say about the matter than The Star. That statement, however, should not be taken as passing the buck. The Star still contends, and will contend, fees not provided for by law should not be collected—by deputies or anyone else. Perhaps the interpretation of the statute as given to The Star is wrong. As this paper understood it at the time such controversies are ordinarily cleared up by the clerk of court. If there is doubt about the interpretation, why not have the clerk consult the county attorney and have his interpretation published?

Those who insinuate without any basis for it that The Star would in any way handicap the officers of the law do not understand, it seems, that there is another side. This year at least a score of substantial Cleveland county citizens, and surely one leading citizen has pretty much the same opinion as another, have come to The Star with this and that criticism of some officers. One criticism made, and by a man who has never been arrested in his life, is that officers carry so many guns and black jacks that a visitor would think this a dangerous place in which to live. Another criticism frequently heard is that officers are occasionally a bit rough in making arrests and handling prisoners. The most frequent criticism is that many arrests are made for trivial acts that would not have been noticed in bygone years. But The Star, knowing the officers' side, has attempted to explain to the critics that officers do not have a bed of roses and that there are occasions when some situations cannot be handled with gloves. Some of the

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