

The Advertiser

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S. E. BONEY, Editor.

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LAURENS, S. C., DECEMBER 1, 1909.

"LET ME HANG, JUDGE."

Down in Colleton county last week was held a trial that has interested the people throughout the entire state. John W. Messervey, who had shot and killed two state constables, was called upon to explain to the state why the killing had occurred. Messrs. Fishburne and Altman, regular officers of the law, had seized a barrel of alcohol that Messervey was attempting to take from the express office, it being consigned to him and he having arranged with the express agent to get it at this particular time—while Constable Altman was at supper. However, his reckoning was wrong for Constable Fishburne had been apprised of the matter and was on hand to assist Altman.

When the two officers attempted to seize the alcohol, Messervey shot and killed them; hence, his presence in the courts of justice to explain the killing. The defense was that the defendant shot to protect his own life; that the officers were just about to shoot him for resisting arrest. Evidently the jury did not believe the tale, for the verdict was guilty of manslaughter. The sentence of the court was that he be confined to the state penitentiary at such labor as he was able to perform, since he was crippled, for a period of twenty years.

It was when sentence was passed that an unusual scene was enacted in the court room. According to the correspondent of The News and Courier the defendant broke down and cried and called upon the judge to let him hang. "Change it to hanging, judge; let me hang, judge; there is no use for me to waste my life up there for I'm not guilty; I'd rather be dead." And the newspaper man went on to describe the scene, saying that it was pitiful indeed to see this man, a cripple and with just one eye, crying and sobbing and begging to be hanged.

Yes, we agree heartily with our brother in the profession; it must have been a pitiful scene, and one calculated to move the hearts of many. Messervey is, we understand, about thirty, and when his sentence is completed, if it ever shall be, there will be little left, in years and usefulness for the condemned man. It is pitiful, yes, to hear a man begging to be hanged.

Messervey sits in judgment in his own case; he declares himself innocent even though a jury of his peers have declared him guilty. He admits the killing of two human beings, and his explanation failed to satisfy those who sat in judgment against him. But of course he has poor opinion of the law; he was once convicted of selling liquor against the statutes of the state. He served a term on the chain gang; he said that was unjust, and even went so far as to say that no justice could be got out of the courts. In this statement we are persuaded to agree, particularly in Messervey's own case. From the testimony we are almost constrained to believe that if justice, full and complete, had been done in the case, this same John W. Messervey would in the course of thirty days hang by the neck until dead.

But about the pathetic scene that the correspondent has so beautifully and well pictured. Of course, it was pitiful; and we guess our heart would have been somewhat touched, had we beheld it. But, must the law take into account the pathos of a scene in the court room? Many sentences are doubtless much lighter just because the conditions are such that a pathetic scene is enacted. Judges are human and their hearts must often be stirred by the events that transpire before them. But must the law reckon with these feelings?

Why not recall the pathos of those scenes in the homes of the two murdered men? Picture the events of that July evening around the hearth stone in those two homes, when the kindly neighbors brought the sad news that the husband and father of each had been slain by the hand of a violator of the laws. Think of the reason behind this scene in the court room; why was it necessary; who caused it? In whose power was it to prevent such a scene? We are too much inclined

to forget the wrong that has been done and sympathize with the living who are suffering or are about to suffer the consequences of their own deeds. Mercy? Yes, we should judge mercifully; but mercy and laxness have fostered crime in this old state of ours.

"Let me hang, judge". No, Messervey will not hang, but the law says that he must serve a term of twenty years in the penitentiary.

"There is no use for me to waste my life up there." No, Mr. Messervey, your life is not to be wasted. You have committed an offense against the laws of South Carolina, and those twenty years "up there" will be spent in satisfying the law's demand. You are indebted to the state for this; besides, you are adjudged unfit to have that God-given liberty that was once yours and that you have abused.

"PROHIBITION'S REAL LEADER."

Following the actual state fair, there is always a great deal of political talk, some of immediate moment and some pertaining to campaigns yet a year off. As usual this year, the political pot began to boil when "the leaders got together in Columbia."

Messrs. Manning, Featherstone, Lyon and Blease are the "probables" for governor. It is by no means certain, though, that either Mr. Manning or Mr. Lyon will offer for this office. And now, that Mr. Blease has been elected mayor of Newberry, he may be satisfied for a time at least with his political honors. Maybe?

The Advertiser will support Mr. Featherstone for governor; first, because we believe he is the ablest man so far mentioned; and second, because he is a Laurens man. We have always believed in his ability as a lawyer, and his equipment to handle business affairs of large proportions. A great deal is being said about "a business governor"; the Columbia State, some days ago had an editorial article on the subject. As a business man and one altogether fitted for the duties of the office we believe Mr. Featherstone to be superior to any of those thus far announced.

Under the heading of this article, are the views of this paper expressed in the issue of February 12th, 1909.

Rapid changes have taken place in the South Carolina political situation during the past ten days. The senate has passed the resolution calling on the Democratic party to hold a primary on the whiskey traffic question, and before this article is printed the house will probably pass a similar resolution. Rumors are afloat that Governor Ansel will be opposed by a straight prohibition candidate, and there seems to be some doubt as to what Governor Ansel's platform will be, though, justice to him requires the assumption that he will stand for local option. We do not advise a prohibitionist to enter. Our platform is local option, including the option of licensed saloons, and we believe that the vexed whiskey traffic question will never be settled until the people consent that each separate county and city determine for itself how the traffic shall be regulated. Many believe that a period of state prohibition will be the quickest way of reaching that desirable conclusion. Gov. Ansel has made an excellent chief executive and it was fortunate for the State that his candidacy was available for the registering of popular condemnation of the infamous state dispensary in 1906.

If the prohibitionists must have a candidate their candidate ought to be Mr. C. C. Featherstone, for two reasons, either of which alone should be sufficient to influence them to concentrate upon him. In the first place Mr. Featherstone completely outclasses any prohibitionist in South Carolina in all-around ability and equipment. They have no man who is his equal as a ready, vigorous, aggressive and resourceful stump speaker. On the stump he can hold his own with any man in South Carolina, and few men can hold their own with him. He is a successful and practical business man; he is one of the strongest lawyers in the state; he has had experience in the direction of large affairs; his reputation is unspotted; he has common sense. He is no half-way man in anything and, regardless of his views in the liquor traffic, he would administer the affairs of the commonwealth in a wise and successful manner. We know of no man who has less of the fanatic in his temperament, and as governor his course would be directed by the same broad-gauged judgement that would make him the successful head of a plantation, a bank or a railroad.

In the second place, Mr. Featherstone has done twice as much for the cause of prohibition as has any other living man in South Carolina. When the prohibition campaign of 1898 was about to collapse Mr. Featherstone seized its fallen banner and the race he made for governor was one of the most remarkable in the recent history of the state. The people discovered then that he was a man of power, and in spite of the domination of the state dispensary he lacked only about three thousand votes of defeating the late Gov. Ellerbe, who had also the second-term sentiment in his favor. In 1900

Mr. Featherstone exerted himself to the utmost to bring about the election of the late Col. James A. Hoyt, and during his whole career he has been not only a consistent but a working prohibitionist. Frankly, we have not the greatest faith in the political sagacity of a prohibition party. The prohibitionists often take the wrong step when the right step is plainest and easiest, and if they choose any other leader than Mr. Featherstone, he consenting to be their candidate, they will richly deserve defeat for their want of ordinary discernment.

The Advertiser has not a word to say about Gov. Ansel, except that he has made a good record, but The Advertiser would support Mr. Featherstone should he be induced to enter the contest, regardless of the opposition to him. We would support him, although he does not represent our views on the whiskey traffic question. While this proposition is shaped largely by personal considerations we could not take it were Mr. Featherstone not exceptionally fitted for the leadership in the affairs of the state and worthy of the confidence of all intelligent voters and taxpayers.

WHO IS THE BOSS?

Our esteemed contemporary, the Manning Times, rather surprises us with the bold declaration that there is a man in Spartanburg who controls the political situation in South Carolina, and any aspirant for the governor's office must secure his endorsement, if he hopes to win.

There might have been a day in this state when one could dictate as to the disposition of public favors, but if we guess aright that day has passed. Who is the political boss, that our friend refers to?

Well, well! It has just dawned upon us. Possibly it means that the Rev. J. L. Harley, of the Anti-saloon league controls the situation. Why were we so slow to guess? Great is the power of the league in this state; and its mandates must be obeyed. Col. Featherstone, get down on your knees before the lord and master of South Carolina politics, or forever "hang up your hopes" for the governorship.

No, dear friend. The prohibitionists in this state are not bound to the Anti-saloon league; while the league may have given valuable assistance to the cause, it is by no means master of the situation. The league may have accomplished some good, and doubtless has; and as we have often said, in spite of the lack of wisdom on the part of Rev. J. L. Harley; but the league does not control the politics of South Carolina.

The prohibitionists of the state have been fighting a long and hard struggle and their efforts will be rewarded. There is glory enough for the old-time prohibitionists, for the new converts, and for the members of the league. Col. Featherstone devoted his efforts to the cause long before the league was ever heard of in these parts, and the people of the state know it.

From the Associated Press correspondence at Union, S. C., we have the very latest in good English: "The negroes had flown."

Oh, you Cross Hill chicken fighters.

Cook won glory for discovering the pole; now the man who will discover Cook will thereby write his name on the list of immortals.

Advertised Letters.

Arthur, Miss Morie; Andrews, T. W.; Cunningham, Miss Daisy; Fuller, Mattie B.; Gilhouse, Geo.; Hillyrun Henry Joly, Emma; Kerr Sam G.; Martin, Ellen, (2); Mills Jno. B.; Patterson, W. M.; Patterson Moggie; Randall L. W.; Sweeney, J. N.; Stacey, Hulse; Thompson, C. B.; Wallace, O. N.; Wilson, T. O.; Young, Sebum; Young, Jillie; Yarbrough, Ella.

The above letters have remained unclaimed in the post office at Laurens S. C., for the term of two weeks ending Nov. 27th, 1909. Persons who desire any of them can get theirs by calling at the Genl. delivery window; state that said letter or letters have been advertised and pay one cent.

Respectfully,
Geo. S. McCravy, P. M.
Nov. 28th, 1909.

Note of Thanks.

Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Hunter through the columns of The Advertiser, wish to thank each of their friends for the kindness shown their daughter, T. Craig Hunter in the "Great Popularity Contest", and we invite you all to call round and share the results of the contest with us, though we may be rocking in the comfortable "Rocking Chair". Long live The Advertiser!

Roper Family Reunion.

The members of Mr. L. H. Roper's family enjoyed a happy reunion in this city Thursday, at the home of Mr. C. H. Roper, the eldest son. Those present, including the twenty-three grandchildren, were Mr. L. H. Roper, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Roper of Laurens, Rev. and Mrs. L. M. Roper of Spartanburg, Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Roper of Laurens, Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Roper and Mrs. D. B. Roper of Fountain Inn, Mrs. B. F. Roper of Laurens.

OUR SPECIAL NOTICES.

For Sale—One house and lot in town of Mountville, will sell for cash or exchange for farm property. Also several houses and lots in city of Laurens, and quite a number of farm lands very cheap. Call on Anderson & Blakely if you need any property or have any to sell.

Copyright Flour, is a flour of Quality, when you buy Copyright you should feel satisfied. You have bought the BEST value money can buy.

For Rent—Dwelling and Farm of 40 acres, located on South Harper street. Property formerly owned by Mrs. Tallulah Irby. Now having house thoroughly repaired & painted. Would sell the dwelling & lot. Apply by letter, T. D. Darlington, Laurens, S. C.

For sale or Rent—Storehouse in Mountville, S. C. W. W. Werts.

Salesman Wanted—To look after our interest in Laurens and adjacent counties. Salary or Commission. Address The Harvey Oil Co., Cleveland O.

Wanted—A live hustling man to represent us in this section in handling monuments and cemetery work. We have a good proposition for the right man. References required. Address Owen Bros. Marble Co., Greenwood, S. C. 16-31

For Sale—Controlling interest in a well established furniture business, satisfactory reasons for selling. Apply to B. K. Humphries at the Caine & Pitts Furniture Co. 17-11

For Rent—Two up-to-date store rooms, several offices, splendid dwelling newly re-covered and freshly painted inside and out; in two blocks of square. W. H. Dial. 31

Professional Horse-Shoer—For blacksmithing and horseshoeing come to my shop. I have a professional horse-shoer employed; he beats the world. General blacksmithing and repair work done.

ROBERT L. WHITLOCK,
Mountville, S. C.

Registered Berkshire Boar—Ready for service. Fee \$2.00. D. E. Todd, Laurens, R. F. D. No. 1. 21-pd

Notice—Don't fail to read the special offer of 25 per cent reduction at present on Farrand Pianos.

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For Sale—128 acre farm with dwelling, tenant house and other improvements, located 2 miles east of Reedy River Power company and known as the Cunningham place. Price \$25 per acre. Andrew C. Phillips, Laurens, R. F. D. No. 6. 41

COLLEGE STUDENTS ENTERTAIN.

Boys Give Their Friends A Jolly Good Time—Proceeds \$35.00.

Clinton, Nov. 29.—The college students gave one of the jolliest entertainments ever seen here last night at the college. The affair was modelled on the carnival. A short play, a fortune teller, barkers, fortune wheels on which people won roses, a burlesque shooting gallery, and a burlesque art gallery, an ice cream and cake parlor, were the features.

Mrs. Mazyck, Miss Fronde Kennedy and Miss Tallulah Neville helped.

The proceeds amounting to about \$35.00 go to the Y. M. C. A. and will be used to help send a delegate to the national conference at Rochester, N. Y.

Bottling Works Sold.

Mr. W. H. Gilkerson, Jr. of this city has sold his interest in the coca cola bottling works to Mr. C. W. Ellis of Greenville, who will in the future conduct the business in connection with the plant in Greenville. However, there will be no apparent change in the business here, for Mr. Guy L. Watson, who has been the efficient manager for some time, will continue in that capacity.

185 Barrels Flour

guaranteed first patent at prices to move it, we need the room.

See us for your Christmas Goods and Cake Materials, full line everything kept in a first class Grocery Store and everything fresh.

J. W. Payne & Co.

The Cash Grocers.

Dial—Gray Block.

Sow Vetch and Alfalfa

Get fresh seed from me. A full line of Fountain Syringes

Dr. Posey's Drug Store
Laurens, S. C.

The Best Gift You Can Give.

You Cannot Make a Present to Those

Near and Dear to You on

Christmas Day

that will be more appreciated by them than a good portrait of yourself. Why worry? One dozen pictures will take care of one dozen friends or relatives. That much off your mind.

The Nichols Photo is the best

Come to-day

We deliver when promised regardless of weather.

Nichols Studio

LAURENS, S. C.

J. W. & R. M. Eichelberger

We desire to call your attention to the fact that we have on hand a full stock of the best grade of Lime, Brick, Cement, Plaster, Crushed Stone for all Concrete and Paving purposes. Also the best grade Blue Gem and Jellico Lump Coal delivered promptly anywhere in city.

The best Dry Pine and Oak Wood, cut for stove or fire place at reasonable prices. Give us a trial order and you will become one of our regular customers.

We appreciate and give all orders large or small our personal attention.

We make Drayage a Specialty.

J. W. & R. M. Eichelberger

Old Santa Claus

Has arrived and will make his headquarters at my store.

He will be opened up and on display on

Saturday

J. L. Hopkins