

# THE UNION TIMES.

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## THE ROAD LAW.

With Commentaries by Supervisor Scott.

EDITOR UNION TIMES: Please allow me space in your columns for the purpose of giving to the people of our County a synopsis of the road law and how it will be operated. In the first place our public roads will all be kept up during this year by taxation and every able bodied male citizen between the ages of 16 and 50 living outside of incorporated towns and cities except Ministers of the Gospel, teachers and students while actually in school, are liable to road duty, and either must pay to the County Treasurer the sum of two dollars or work six full days upon the public highways. The said sum of two dollars shall be paid on or by the 1st day of March of each year, and if not paid by said date all those who wish can still have the right to pay up to the 15th of March, by paying a penalty of 50 per cent, which would make the tax three dollars.

After the 15th of March there is no further option and any one who neglects or refuses to pay said commutation tax, by said date his name will be placed upon the list of delinquents and he will then be forced to work out the six days upon the roads under a contractor. The roads will be laid out in convenient sections and each section will be worked either by letting it to the lowest bidder or by hiring a competent man to supervise the working of them and pay him a stipulated sum by the day. I am of the opinion that the latter plan is by far the more preferable way of having them worked and I hope we may be able to adopt that plan, but under the law as it now stands we could only let them to the lowest bidder but myself and quite a number of the County Supervisors throughout the State have asked the Legislature now in session to so change that part of the new County government law as to make it optional with the Supervisors and County Board of Commissioners to either hire a competent man to supervise the working of the roads or to let them to the lowest bidder as they may think best. My advice to all is to pay your commutation road tax, but I will say for the information of all those who may not pay their tax that we will endeavor to deal with them fairly and as leniently as the circumstances of the case will admit. We will always try to allow them to work roads most convenient to them when we can, and we will not require more than two or three days work on the roads during the months of April or May and the remainder of the six days will be required during August or September.

I would have written an article for publication upon this subject long before this time but I have been patiently waiting and hoping that the Legislature would make some changes which have been asked for by a large majority of the county supervisors of the State. The changes alluded to above are those that were thoroughly discussed before the road congress, which met in Columbia last October and the supervisors of the State and many others agreed unanimously that they were needed and if made would materially improve the road law. As the president of the road congress I was authorized to appoint a committee of five from the county supervisors of the State to meet the Legislature while in session, and I was made chairman of said committee. We met in Columbia and memorialized that body with a copy of the changes which we adopted in the road congress and which we hoped would be made, but so far it seems that they have taken but little cognizance of our suggestions.

As to the question of minor boys being subject to road duty, there can be no doubt, for the Legislature has positively refused to exempt them, though in my judgment it is both legally and morally wrong to impose road duty upon a minor boy. It is taxation without representation. They can exercise no rights in the matter of suffrage. They are prohibited from holding public office or serving as jurors. They can exercise no rights or powers in the construction of the political economy of their country. The tax upon the boy is not truly a tax to be paid by himself, but must be paid by the father. Hence it is unequal taxation. There are numbers of men all over this county and State who are fathers of as many as three minor boys who are

subject to road duty and themselves not over the road age; and those men have to pay to the road fund eight dollars besides the one mill road tax or he and his sons must give to the county twenty-four days in working upon the public highways, and in seven-eighths of such cases they neither own a horse nor vehicle. Is this justice? Is it reform? I think not. But we can't all get justice at all times. Respectfully,  
J. B. T. SCOTT.

## The Porter Academy.

Contributed.  
Among the visiting clergy at our recent convocation should be mentioned the Rev. A. Toomer Porter D. D. of Charleston head and founder of the Porter Academy there, whose record of twenty nine years as an educator of boys is most remarkable. The inception of his noble work, was still more remarkable. The text "A little child shall lead them" being his inspiration, Dr. Porter felt called at the grave of his son Toomer, to this noble work. Then the wise unselfish wife did very much to sustain, and further every move.

Dr. Porter educates boys for full pay for two hundred dollars yearly or will take them on much easier terms; indeed, many go free, especially Clergymen's sons. No one is asked what church he belongs to. With the higher education many are fitted for a college course before leaving this good Dr's care, and all are taught what becomes a christian gentleman. Dr. Porter's great desire now is to place on a firmer foundation while living, this school, the loving work as it is of earnest prayer, and faith unbounded. Begun too, where skies were dark here in S. C. if the Porter academy situated on the old Arsenal ground with its lease from Government for ninety nine years by act of congress, can be endowed sufficiently to pay the teachers, the rest might be secured from the host of most liberal friends, hitherto aiding it.

A very business like scheme, this truly remarkable man has devised, which is to issue bonds of different denominations payable twice yearly. Twelve of these were taken in town, and we hope many more will be, to gladden the heart, and strengthen the hands of this man of faith.  
C. P.

## Sometimes Caution is Investing.

Shrewd fishermen do not always know what kind of pole is best. This thought is suggested by the remark of the late Peter Washburn, the man who gave soldiers' monuments to Abbot and Foxcroft. A Dexter bank official approached Washburn, who was well known to be a man of means, with a suggestion that it would be a good thing for him to put some of his money into western mortgages, which bore a high rate of interest. The old man scratched his pate for a moment and then blurted out, "I don't like to fish with such a long pole." The force of the metaphor and of the incident is heightened when it is remembered that Washburn was one of the many victims of Judge Hile of Foxcroft and lamed him \$10,000 on his "town" notes. Perhaps in that case the fish pole was too short for safety.—Lewiston Journal.

## Inexorable.

"I never felt so provoked in my life," said the girl in blue when telling of her experience the next day.  
"What was the matter?" asked the girl in gray. "Your new gown was all right, wasn't it?"  
"Oh, yes."  
"And your new hat is certainly a beauty."  
"I realize it."  
"Then what was the matter?"  
"Why, I wore them both for the first time last night, and George hurried me so that we reached the theater before the curtain had gone up for the first act."—Chicago Post.

## Fighting Power.

The old Constitution could, with her best guns, at 1,000 yards pierce 22 inches of oak about the thickness of her own hull at water line. The five-eighth inch steel covering at Atlanta's water line had nearly the same resisting power as the Constitution's 22 inches of oak. The Atlanta's 6 inch guns will at 1,000 yards bore through a surface having 20 times the resisting power of her own or the Constitution's hull at water line. At the same range her 8 inch guns pierce 14 inches of iron.—President E. Benjamin Andrews in Scribner's.

## COURT WEEK.

Judge Townsend presiding. Charge to the Grand Jury.

Court convened Monday morning promptly at 10 o'clock, Judge D. A. Townsend presiding. This is the first court Judge Townsend has held in his native county since his election. It is useless for us to say anything about Judge Townsend, as he is well known here and deservedly very popular, as he is everywhere he has been and especially where he has held court. His charge to the grand jury on Monday was plain, comprehensive and impressive. He told them that they were the grand inquest of the county, a position honorable in itself and bearing greater responsibility than that of the judge on the bench. Their province was to see that violations of the law were presented to the court. The judge and the petit jurors could do nothing, the whole court would be at a standstill, unless the grand jury should give them something to do.

He told them that their duties were divided into three classes, to wit:

1st. To present bills of indictment against persons charged with violations of the law.

2nd. To examine the offices of the county and its public institutions and see that they were kept in good condition and in accordance with law.

3rd. As the grand inquest of the county it would be their duty to report all violations of the law that might come to their knowledge, and diligently inquire into the same and see that the offenders were brought before the court.

He spoke at length on these three points. He laid special stress on the third. That duty, as he said, requiring more manhood and backbone in the performance, and being attended with worse consequences when neglected. They, the grand inquest were the protectors of the weak, the women and the children of the community. Strong men would bring their own grievances before the court, but these weak and helpless ones would have to suffer in silence, in many cases, unless the grand jury came to their aid.

There was another class of cases under this last head, namely, violations of the law which concerned no other person especially, but the community at large. It would be their duty to report all such and bring them before the court. Their oath was very specific, they should not let low friendship, or relation, or any other consideration keep them from reporting all the lawlessness that came to their knowledge.

The proceedings of the court will be found on the inside.

## DISCIPLINE IN THE NOSE OF TIME.

A War Story With a Moral for the Seventh New York Heavy Artillery.

It was the major's turn to "make a talk." He hit at the end of his mustache for a few minutes while the assembled company impatiently murmured, "Come, major," and one of the younger officers, "Some thing about the war that came under your own experience."

"We were lying before Deep Bottom, and the rain was falling in torrents," said the major. "In all my campaigning experience I never saw the equal of that down-pour. And, what was the worst of it, there was no way of avoiding or dodging it. We had to stand out in the open and take it. Some of the command, however, had proposed in the manner known only to veteran troops several shelter tents and had rigged them in position by staking their muskets in the ground for poles. I was then detached from the regiment and was acting as assistant adjutant general on the staff of the brigade commander. I happened to pass just about the time when the troops were making themselves comfortable. The company was pretty near us, and we at headquarters were looking for a brush, so I made bold to direct the attention of the regiment commander to this serious breach of discipline.

"It will never do to permit those guns to remain in that position," I said. "If the Johnnies make a dash, they will gobble us all."

"But," observed the colonel, "there will be the devil to pay if I order those guns taken up."

"It is in violation of regulations to permit them to remain where they are," I observed.

"You are right," declared the colonel. He gave the command for the regiment to fall in—taking position behind an old breastwork, a

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little to our left and front. The drenching rain was heavy enough, but it was gentle compared with the flood of profanity that broke loose as soon as the troops heard the colonel's order. As they were forming I went up to the men of my old company and said that they ought to be ashamed of themselves, that they did not know how soon they would be summoned before their Maker, that they knew perfectly well they were violating regulations, and that they were in the presence of the enemy.

"Well, gentlemen, my words of reprobation were hardly out of my mouth when we heard a few scattering shots directly in our front from our pickets, and then, before the command to load could be given, we got as lively a volley from a Confederate regiment as ever I heard. The Johnnies had expected that the rain would drive us to shelter, and had arranged this dash across an open field immediately in our front in the expectation of catching us napping. The forming of our regiment at this most opportune time, however, upset their calculations, for before they could get away we fired two rattling volleys into them, which drove them back faster than they came.

"Had the muskets of the regiment been stuck in the ground when the Johnnies made their dash the entire command would have been surprised and captured. As it turned out, no casualties occurred, as our troops were protected by the breastworks. But the lesson was not lost on the regiment. It carried a wholesome moral, for I seldom after that heard profanity from the Seventh New York Heavy artillery."—New York Sun.

## A Legend of Agincourt.

For many centuries we English have plumed ourselves upon the victory of Agincourt. Indeed it is from King Henry V's address to his soldiers on that occasion, as given by Shakespeare, that the motto of this journal is taken, "Familiar in their mouths as household words." But the French have an account of the affair not so much to our credit. It was arranged—according to this fable—by the two leaders that only the nobles on each side were to fight. King Henry V then artfully ennobled his whole army and hence got the best of the enemy. Shakespeare unwittingly gives a little contempt to the legend when he makes the king declare in the above mentioned address, "Be ye never so vile, this day shall gentle your condition."—Household Words.

## A Gentle Critic.

One day while Millais was engaged in painting his famous picture, "Child Obedient," among the reeds and rushes on the banks of the Tay, near Perth, a voice came from over the hedge:

"Man, did you never try photography?"

"No, never," replied Millais, painting slowly.

A pause.

"It's a hantle quicker," said the voice.

"Ye-es, I suppose so."

Another pause. The final thrust was:

"An it's mair liker the place!"

## The Spread of Knowledge.

"The spread of knowledge everywhere is remarkable," commented a woman, with some irony of manner. "I am used to having my children confront me with all sorts of unholly wisdom. My 7-year-old the other day picked out a bright penny from several in my purse on the ground that it was less likely to have 'little germs' on it, but it was even more of a shock to have a new housemaid explain a brief absence from her post with the word that she was 'relaxing' upstairs. When I inquired further, I found that she knew Delsarte better than I did and practiced the system as opportunity offered. I shall not object if she performs her required duties, but it would be embarrassing if she goes into Delsarte poses indiscriminately. Suppose she were attacked with a 'letting go' mood while she was hand-dishing the soup! But what am I to expect next? Do you fancy the furniture boy will be found manuevering his nails?"—New York Times.

## CONNECTICUT'S WILD ANIMALS.

One of Them, According to a Naturalist, Was a Pretty Good Mermmaid.

"The Wild Mammals of Connecticut" was the title of an interesting paper read by Judge Sherman W. Adams before the Connecticut Historical society recently. Since prehistoric periods the mammalia of the state have included, in addition to the land animals, seals, whales, walrus and other water animals, making, as had been supposed until 40 years ago, 55 genera and 252 species, but further investigation shows 65 genera. In prehistoric times proboscideans of large size inhabited the state, and fossil remains of them have been found in New Britain, Cheshire and Stratford.

The animals that never were found in Connecticut were the bear, prairie dog and opossum. Of the three species of cats one or two are now extinct, but one species still exists, the wildcat, one having been killed in Litchfield within a few years that weighed 35 pounds and five having been killed in Essex during the year 1895. In 1694, 30 shillings a head was offered for panthers, which killed sheep and otherwise disturbed the farmers. In 1647 the wolves killed cattle to such an extent that 10 shillings per head was offered to aid in their extinction. Many wolves were killed in the state, and they were hunted and killed in packs. Many have been killed in the state since the episode of Putnam's wolf den, in some instances men having to leave church to meet them in self defense.

Bears have been extinct in the state for some 50 years, but one was killed in the main street in Hartford in 1776, the occasion being a regular bear hunt, which was much enjoyed by the people who watched it from buildings, some of which are now standing. The skunk still remains in Hartford county, and is sometimes called the "devil's child." Beavers were so abundant in 1640 that their skins were used for currency, and in 1740 wharf rats were so numerous in Wethersfield that a reward was offered for their destruction. Moose were in Connecticut early in its settlement and deer abounded.

Of aquatic animals there was a great variety, the seals being plentiful, and the seal hunters who went after fur seals in other parts of the world learned their trade hunting the hair seal in our own waters. In 1647 whales and porpoises were abundant, and a grant was given to whalers to capture whales in the sound. In recent years porpoises, the social whale or blackfish, the grampus, and possibly the narwhal have been found in the sound. In 1710 a party of fishermen reported having seen an animal on the rocks off Branford with head and breasts like a woman, and with the lower part shaped like a mackerel with a forked tail. "This very much resembled the descriptions of the mermaid," said Judge Adams.

Notwithstanding the great rarity of wild animals, there was none in the state that could be domesticated with profit or convenience to the settler, and his domestic animals were all of imported stock.—Hartford Courant.

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