

Scraps and Facts.

Gabriel Hanitauz, president of the Franco-American commission...

The Yorkville Enquirer.

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YORKVILLE, S. C.

TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 1915

The United States Supreme court has handed down a decision in which it holds the "grandfather clause" of the Oklahoma constitution to be a nullity.

Men may make laws; but unless those laws are based upon right and justice they will not stand.

After several weeks' consideration, according to a Washington dispatch, the Federal reserve board has decided to authorize the Atlanta branch in New Orleans.

The files of The Enquirer of fifty years ago, show almost as much space devoted to the "European war" as is devoted to that subject today.

Just now the cotton growers of York county are too busy with the work of killing grass to give a great deal of effort to the matter of building co-operative warehouses.

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With all the practical and scientific information that is now being preached from one end of South Carolina to the other, and being placed within easy reach of everybody, it is wonderful that the people are taking no more interest in cattle raising than they have shown up to this time.

Of course, it is not to be assumed that the preaching has been entirely without effect. Quite a number of progressive, up-to-date farmers in different localities have taken hold, and there will be more; but the wonder to which we have referred is that there is so little general interest in the subject.

While under conditions as they existed fifteen or twenty years back, it was not surprising that it was so difficult to get anybody to take an interest in this subject, and it is surprising now that the actual practical interest that is being taken is so small.

But somehow, it is almost impossible to believe that this state of affairs is going to continue. Almost every farmer in this country, whether white or colored, is able to figure out that no matter how many or how few cattle he now has he can add to the number with a good prospect for a profit.

This is true whether a farmer be a renter or cropper or whether he owns his own land.

We are not holding out the idea of cattle to anybody as a get-rich-quick proposition. We do not believe in get-rich-quick propositions and we do not take much stock in people who do believe in such propositions.

As to the refusal of the grand jury to do its duty in this matter, there is very little to say, except that in Charleston, as in many other parts of the state, grand juries as well as petit juries are drawn more with reference to how they will act with regard to certain matters than with reference to other considerations.

As matters stand in Charleston now, a grand jury is more apt to present the governor for interfering with the liquor sellers than it is to present liquor sellers for violating their oath, and that is about all there is to it.

If there is any way to break up the liquor traffic in this state, it is by putting the city under martial law, we do not know, and as long as the people are not conducting a business which the state claims the right to conduct, we have not got a great deal of confidence in the efficacy of martial law.

Former President Taft has made a number of suggestions to the New York constitutional convention and one of them is to the effect that it may be worth while to tighten up somewhat as to the "freedom of the press," so as to permit legislation that will restrain the newspapers from taking such license as is now allowed in cases that are to be settled by the courts.

It is not to be denied that Mr. Taft is one of the ablest and most patriotic men in the country, and neither is it to be denied that the newspapers exercise a very great influence on judicial procedure, more especially in the large cities; but somehow it seems to us that this is a very dangerous proposition with which Mr. Taft is dealing.

While it is a fact that irresponsible newspapers may do a great deal of harm to the rights of the individual, while it is a fact that such papers as such harm, it ought to be remembered that not all newspapers are irresponsible or even careless. The common rule is, especially in large cities, that there can generally be found papers that will look into both sides of most questions, and where competition is sharp, there is no one thing any newspaper likes better than to discover and show up errors made by a competitor.

As a common thing, newspaper men have a pretty good eye for the right and wrong, and most experienced newspaper men whose papers depend upon the public for support, prefer to do right rather than wrong, under most circumstances. The public is pretty generally a pretty good judge of right and wrong and can be depended upon to choose the right as against the wrong, especially in matters in which it is particularly interested, and because of the relationship of the courts to the rights of the public, including the rights of the individual, it seems to us that it is well enough for the public to have pretty close contact with the courts affecting those rights.

While the courts afford the only means we have for the actual adjudication of the rights of individuals, it is hardly to be denied that under some circumstances and in some cases the courts fall under the more or less complete control of designing and disreputable individuals who make no hesitation in making judgments a matter of barter and sale for money, prestige and power; and when such conditions have been built up, it is no quicker way of arousing the public than through newspapers, even though newspapers have to be established for the purpose.

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