

CHATTANOOGA NEWS

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Carrying a bundle is but another way of manifesting the spirit of democracy.

It is not easy to discover anything patriotic in the conduct of the weather.

The conscription of ships now operating under private ownership has been suggested.

The blizzard has provided a new starting point for the recollection of the oldest inhabitant.

It seems to be largely a question of whether Germany is willing to consider herself just folk.

According to the Montgomery Advertiser, it is just one constitutional amendment after another.

The advice to burn wood is all right in a way. But locating some wood to burn would be more practical.

Explanations of the attitude of congressional candidates toward suffrage are more amusing than edifying.

More food must be sold.—Headline. There is not a minute to lose then. Everybody together on the salvage job.

Miss Roberta McAdams—recently elected to the dominion parliament—is the Canadian counterpart of Miss Jannette Rankin.

Occasionally a candidate who has escaped the draft announces his willingness to serve the community in some civil official capacity.

After reading Congressman Austin's speech eulogizing Miss Rankin, one might suspect him of being a bachelor, but he is innocent.

New Yorkers have discovered—or think they have—that a title guaranty company negro is hidden in their version of the Torrens law.

Italy's wine production for 1917 was more than 1,000,000,000 gallons. This ought to afford some compensation for the reverses experienced in the war.

An exchange carries an editorial on "Russia's Future." If the Kaiser's plans shall materialize, however, there isn't a-go-in' to be no future for Russia.

It seems that the letter of the "Joan" organizer to Attorney-General Thompson was intended to be everything but an offer of a share of the profits.

Danield Willard has apparently abandoned his former contention that the creation of another cabinet position would facilitate the winning of the war.

There are indications that politics in Tennessee will soon be looking up. A few warm days and a general thaw may start several things not now on the cards.

Senator Shields is reported to have found the political situation in Tennessee satisfactory, which is apparently a matter of mere concern to him just now than the war situation in Europe.

Some of the folks at home are wondering whether the accession of the president to the ranks of the constitutional suffragists will have any influence on the attitude of Tennessee's senior senator.

Morelizing on such murderous outbreaks as that of Capt. Whistler and its consequent disgrace to the American uniform unfortunately does not help the situation a particle.

Illinois flings out a record of 143 indictments and fifty convictions, twenty-one of the latter being penitentiary sentences, as a result of the East St. Louis riots. Suspend the rules while we exclaim, bully for Illinois!

The exercise of patience and good humor over the prevailing train service may not be easy or bring much comfort, but it's about the best way out of conditions which nobody can prevent. Every possible effort at relief is being put forth.

Englishmen, when elevated to the peerage, sometimes take on a more euphonious title than their baptismal cognomen. Benjamin Disraeli, for instance, became Lord Beaconsfield and the present Lord Reading was formerly Rufus Isaacs.

Secretary McAdoo has been termed the American Pooh Bah, and Secretary Baker is known to have several irons in the fire. But now we are told that Lord Reading, the new British ambassador, will not be required to give up the position or salary of Lord chief justice of England which he holds.

ANOTHER STATE RATIFIES.

By a vote of 56 to 10, the Kentucky house of representatives has ratified the federal amendment for nation-wide prohibition, and in the senate the amendment was also ratified in short order. And this occurred in the state of Henry Watterson and of Senator Ollie James. Evidently the hold of the Louisville liquor interests on Kentucky has been loosened. Despite the fact that state-wide prohibition has never been adopted in Kentucky, it is the third state to ratify the federal amendment. Mississippi, state of Jefferson Davis and of state's rights, was the first, and it took only fifteen minutes' debate in one of the houses of the Mississippi legislature for the ratification of the amendment. Virginia, state of Robert E. Lee, also has ratified it. We predict that all the southern states will ratify the amendments as fast as their legislatures meet. A few old fogies will shoot themselves black in the face that this is a departure from democracy and the theoretical principles of the party which has controlled in the south. This is all both Southern statesmen, led by Washington, Madison, Richard Henry Lee, George Mason, and others had most to do with the framing of the federal constitution. It provided that the views of three-fourths of the states on any question should impel the acceptance of the other fourth, even to the ratification of the constitution itself. The first ten amendments were framed by a southerner, Thomas Jefferson, and were known as the "bill of rights." This eleven involved the right of a state to be free from suit by citizens of another state, and was proposed by the south. The twelfth affected the electoral college. The thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth were the war amendments, but are now recognized even in the south as having been necessary, though the methods by which they were adopted were wrong. The sixteenth amendment was for the income tax and southern states voted to impose it on recalcitrant northern states. The seventeenth amendment was for the election of senators by the people and southern states so voted.

What Jefferson and his political following sought to establish was the rule of the people. If three-fourths of the people of the various states want such legislation as prohibition or woman's suffrage, they have a right to amend the constitution and enact it. Otherwise we would live under an autocracy of vested interests and privilege represented by a small minority of states which could prevent remedial legislation. The federal constitution, unlike our state constitution, can be and has been amended. This is healthy and wise. Whenever three-fourths of the states are so deeply interested in legislation as to take this method they voice the sentiments of the people. There is the right of the three-fourths of the states to combine for an amendment and to enact it just as there is the right of the one-fourth to defeat it. All these are states' rights, but they go no further. States in a minority less than one-fourth have no right to prevent such legislation, either in morals or legally. The three-fourths have the unquestioned and democratic right to impose their will on the others, else we would not have a republic, but anarchy, with inability to secure government by law reflecting the popular wish.

CANT SPEND IT ALL. Another fault, or virtue, as you may esteem it, is laid at the door of Secretary Baker. He has not been able to spend money as fast as congress calculated. The Louisville Evening Post has the following the say on the subject: "The New York World analyzes the government's expenditures for war purposes, and shows that, with the single exception of loans to our allies, we are spending money less rapidly than was anticipated a few months ago. It was estimated, for instance, that during the first twelve months of war the enormous sum of \$8,790,000,000 would be needed for the army, but for the first six months only \$1,311,000,000 were spent. The probabilities are that during the year not one-half of the sum provided for can be used. If the war goes into a second year, however, we will probably be able to spend money as rapidly as it can be found."

The cost of war may have been one thing which influenced the famous remark of Gen. Sherman. At any rate, war is an enterprise in which economy makes a rather poor showing. In discounting the effect of the congressional investigation of the war management, one newspaper recently intimated that the penuriousness of congress was probably at the bottom of the trouble. But the above quotation puts a different face on the situation.

As before remarked, economy is practically impossible in war. What is undertaken must be done with a prodigal hand. But even war is not an excuse for profligate waste. No country may wage war at a profit, but waste and graft will the sooner undermine the most plethoric treasury. That Secretary Baker has spent less than was allotted to him is to his credit. It bespeaks an effort to get the worth of the money paid out. He may have exhibited grave faults, but this isn't one of them.

Central Labor union has elected an able and conservative leader in the person of Finney T. Carter to be its president. We congratulate the workmen of the city on their choice. It makes likely that all the elements of production in the city will co-operate in the broadest manner and this is what is needed at the present time.

JUDGE MOON'S EXPLANATION.

We believe that if Judge Moon had been more constantly in Tennessee during the last twenty years and had followed personally several efforts to amend our state constitution he would have more fully realized the difficulty, nay, the practical impossibility, for the women of Tennessee to secure the vote by following the route he suggests—action by the state government. An amendment to the state constitution would be necessary to secure full suffrage for women, and this must be passed at two succeeding sessions of the legislature, the first by a majority vote, the second by a two-thirds vote, and then must receive a majority of all the votes cast for representatives in a general election. Experience in voting on amendments to the state constitution has shown that a large percentage of voters who cast ballots for candidates do not vote on the amendments. All these votes are counted in the negative and the result has been that during the life of our state constitution, forty-eight years, not a single amendment has been adopted.

Despite his vote in opposition, Judge Moon in his address before congress emphasized the very feature of the argument for suffrage which was referred to by President Wilson. If anything, our representative made an even stronger statement of the justice of woman's suffrage than did the president. He said: "Logically, no man can deny that a woman is entitled to all the rights and privileges, including the right of suffrage, that men enjoy; nor has man the moral right to determine whether it is best for women to exercise the right to vote or not. Women should be permitted to determine for themselves that which they think is best for them. For men to determine that women ought not to vote is to destroy the equal justice to which the sexes are entitled."

Suffrage, therefore, is a natural right and if any class of men were denied it they would resist the injustice violently. Our representative has not, in our view, voted in accordance with his avowed expressions. But now that the federal congress seems likely to submit the matter to the states, it is no longer a question of the manner in which suffrage shall be extended to women, but whether it shall be extended at all. Any one who favors doing this simple act of justice, as Judge Moon seems to do, should not hesitate in using his influence for the ratification of the amendment by the legislature.

Judge Moon also is sadly misinformed as to the sentiment of his district. Democrats of the Third district do not think that the president has declared for an undemocratic measure and one not identified with the progress of the age for which the democratic party south as well as north avows its stand.

ADAPTATION OF STRATEGY.

The Washington Post is of the opinion that something might be gained by adapting allied strategy to the Teuton plan of campaign, which has apparently been to attack, one after another, the weaker points in the allies' defenses. It thinks that there are several vulnerable places in the Teuton armor which might be pierced if the pains were taken to carefully search them out. This coincides with the view sometimes expressed in other quarters that it might be worth while to attack other lines than the apparently impregnable western front.

The Post seems to think that the possibilities of diplomacy—especially American diplomacy—and propaganda work have not been exhausted, and mentions Austria-Hungary and Turkey as being susceptible to this form of attack. It is known that these two countries are weary of the war and the prospect of detaching them from their alliance with Germany is probably worth considering. It is possible that the president had in mind the weakness of Austria, arising from its heterogeneous mass of antagonistic peoples, when he made his demand for racial autonomy. Cultivation of the popular disension would be distinctly weakening to the Hapsburg empire, according to the Post.

It is suggested that the work of American schools in Turkey has made that country more or less friendly toward us, and that this friendship, in connection with Turkish war losses, might make the approach more easy and the consideration of a change of alliances more likely. Direct publicity work in Turkey, with whom we are not yet at war, and indirect appeal to the rival partisanship of the different races and peoples of Austria would, in the Post's opinion, be almost certain to produce good results. It is pointed out that this method of attack is one of Germany's favorite weapons which might be effectively turned against her.

The suggestions seem plausible and, inasmuch as they do not involve any alteration of military plans, might be worth considering. It is a successful ending of the war—not the method—which is the supreme aim.

One man's arbitrary assertion is perhaps almost as good as another so long as it is not put to the test. The effect of suffrage upon feminine character, however, of which we have heard so much, may not remain a matter of speculation a great while longer. Whether it will make women unwomanly, as even Judge Moon seems to fear, will probably become definitely known within a few years. It seems, really, that there is already enough in the way of concrete illustration to determine the matter, but some of us learn slowly. We are hopeful of the situation, however. Society has survived the opening of higher institutions of learning to our girls and the contamination of a few minutes spent in casting their ballots will probably prove no more destructive. The world will be, by so much, safer for democracy.

MAJ. GARDNER'S DEATH.

The death of Maj. Gardner will be universally regretted in this country. He was a character of man who proved his faith by his works, a practice which is not yet too common. For several years, while yet a member of congress, he led the way in the constant agitation for greater military preparedness, if, in fact, he did not coin the term. He was inseparably associated with the crusade. He was likewise what might have been termed a jingo during the progress of negotiations with Germany which eventuated in a declaration of war. He constantly urged vigorous and hostile action. But when the Rubicon was crossed he did not abate his enthusiasm. He did not, Mark Anthony-like, sink out of the procession to let others do the necessary fighting. He promptly resigned his seat in congress and made every effort to get to the scenes of action. One might not always agree with him, but it was hard to withhold admiration. His passing is a distinct loss.

THE TENDER SPOT.

There was a suggestion of humor in the discussion at the Russo-German peace parley of the German protest against Russian revolutionary propaganda in Germany. The German representation that this was a potential violation of the spirit of the armistice was promptly met by Trotsky with the statement, in substance, that it was not meant as an unfriendly demonstration, and that Germany might reciprocate in kind if she felt like it.

For one thing, it made apparent Germany's sensibility to an appeal direct to the people, and for another, it illustrated Russia's confidence of being proof against any reactionary teaching among the Russian people. Moreover, it provides eloquent proof of the frankness and guilelessness of radical Russian diplomacy.

Regardless of its outcome the parley between the new Russian democracy and German autocracy will have much of interest for students of the war's developments.

SENATOR HIRAM JOHNSON.

In the course of an interview discussing prospective government ownership of railroads, after indulging some of his choicest sarcasm at the expense of the arguments for private ownership, Senator Hiram Johnson, of California, declares:

"Whether we will eventually have government ownership will depend upon the next few months of government administration.

"If this administration is sympathetic with government ownership, of course the result is not uncertain.

"And what will remain will be the settlement, in one fashion or another, of a just compensation to be paid the owners.

"Today, in my opinion, is the crucial period.

"Successful government operation now, with just guarantees—fair to the railroads' owners and holders of legitimate railroad securities, but fair also to the people and to the policy—will make certain government ownership.

"Unsuccessful government operation, or pledge or payment by the nation of exorbitant sums, will retard for a generation what seems now at hand.

"I am in favor of just compensation to the owners and holders of railroad properties, stocks and securities—but only just compensation.

"While paying 4 per cent. to the man who buys from his slender store a Liberty bond, I would not pay double or treble that sum to the holder of railroad securities.

"Government operation now, with fidelity and justice to the people and to every private interest, logically and inevitably will lead us to government ownership."

It is comparatively easy to agree with much that Senator Johnson says. But laying down an outline of principles and working it out into practice are processes which sometimes do not readily harmonize. Everybody will agree that justice should be done, for instance, but unfortunately there sometimes creep in differences over details.

Senator Johnson is what might be termed a merciless critic of the railroads. Allowance, therefore, should be made for his bias in estimating the value of what he has to say. His great prominence was largely achieved through a successful fight which he made against the railroads of California. This fight was no doubt made necessary by the arbitrary arrogance and lack of vision of railroad managers.

But the basic policies upon which Senator Johnson and others loudly proclaim the success of government operation were the very things which were forbidden to the roads under private operation, at the instance of the same Senator Johnson and others. We believe that pooling and co-ordination and rate-making were proper subjects for regulation under private operation, but this created an inherent difficulty in the way of efficiency. Pooling and co-ordination, however, are keystones in the arch over which government operation expects to build its success.

Let us be fair with the railroads. Let us not blame them for inability to respond to our demands in the face of obstacles which we have placed in their way, however necessary these latter may have been. The government removes them as the very first step in its program.

It is our opinion that government ownership of railroads impends. We trust it will be successful. We know it can bring about many reforms in the matters of efficiency and economy of operation. We hope that it will not involve other evils to neutralize its good effects, as we sometimes fear will be the case. We shall be glad indeed if what is gained by elimination of duplication and overhead expense,

and by unity of operation will not be lost through the manipulation and incompetency of political control and management.

We shall expect Senator Johnson to assist in working out a plan whereby railroad efficiency will not be clogged by employes selected because of their success as ward-healers—whereby every worker, from section man to director-general, shall be employed purely on his merits. Thus far, he has had nothing to say concerning this vital feature. We are listening, senate.

We shall hope the government railroad policy as it affects one part of the country—the south, for instance—will not be a political issue in another part. But it may happen just that way.

And the same way with railroad improvements.

And then too, there is an army of employes not under the civil service. They will prove an awful temptation to the politicians.

Let us hope that the policy adopted may be an American policy, as far as possible removed from the domain of practical politics, not a democratic or republican policy. It will be a matter for congratulation if promotion in the railroad service shall continue to come as a reward for hard work instead of activity in the interest of this or that political candidate. The spoils policy will not improve the efficiency of railroad operation.

TO THE EDITOR

(Communications in this department represent the views of the writers. All matters of public interest may be discussed freely.)

ASKING FOR AID

Editor The News: Rays at the street car company, apparently being the order of the day, will you give a poor sufferer space for a few observations? Several weeks ago a strike of the street car men occurred, which was viewed in many different ways by different classes of people of this city, but which in its demoralizing effects has been no respecter of the viewpoint of the citizens. Conditions have gone from bad to worse, until the situation has become unbearable. It seems we are furnished a different excuse almost every day for the numberless accidents and the lack of service. The city commission meets and "roasts the company from every angle," and the refrain is echoed from Lookout mountain to Missionary Ridge and from Riverview to Chickamauga by a chorus of outraged people. And what will the boys in khaki at our gates—citizens of other states—say of the "tyranny of Dixie," when they are forced to submit to this intolerable street car service or dig down in their pockets for \$1 for auto fare every time they visit the city? Coming into the city Friday morning about 6:45 in a friend's auto, we picked up a couple of sufferers at Ridgely Junction, who told us they had waited one hour and thirty minutes on a car, and none was yet in prospect, and this at a point where the two "super-service lines"—Oak street and Missionary Ridge—join. On reaching Warner park we saw a flock of cars about five. I think on National avenue, and at East End and McCallie stood two more. We did not stop to inquire what the trouble was, but the operators of the cars appeared to be entirely satisfied with the situation as it was. This is typical of all lines and at all times. "Bad weather" was the first excuse. True, the weather was bad, but it has been worse in winters before, and somehow we don't remember any such condition of the street car service in years gone by. As we passed scores of people, workmen men and women, standing shivering in the snow and ice, I thought: What a welcome sight 'twould be to these people if a car should round a curve, manned by old "B" Thwaites, with John Harrison's cherry counter ice in the rear window, and his bright "good morning" that somehow made bad weather seem more bearable in days gone by. And what if we knew that, following them on schedule time—were cars manned by Billy Hartman, Jess Crowder, Bob Bowlin, Tom Hill, "Reddy" Buck or any of the scores of old war-horses that have carried us safely to our work—on time—for many years. I am sure I should be awakened from my dream by the auto's sliding to a swerve to one side to dodge a transient street car. How long will this continue? The city commission is apparently powerless to stop it. The newspapers are silent, editorially, as the tomb. Mr. Editor, your newspaper wields a powerful influence for good in the community—it reflects the voice of the people. Will any one deny that the voice of the people is crying for relief from this abominable situation? Can't you help?

W. G. ALLEN. Dayton, Tenn., Jan. 12, 1918.

NEWSPAPER WAIFS.

"Pop, what's a synonym?" "It's one of them words that you get for a salary for doing nothing. Anything else you want to know?"—Baltimore American.

"Say, John!" "Well?" "Did you feed the furnace?" "You could hardly call it feeding. I did give it a little light lunch, so to speak."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Neighbor—"Got much money in your bank, Bob?" "Bobby—" "Gee, no. The depositors have fallen off something fierce since sister got engaged."—Boston Transcript.

"Have you made any resolutions or turned over a new leaf, or anything like that?" "No," replied the man with the serene smile. "No need of them. If I have any lingering vices I feel that I need only wait for somebody to introduce legislation that will make them impossible."—Washington Star.

The Workers and the War. (San Francisco Chronicle.) The national labor leaders deserve well of their countrymen, and the industries at this time in the nation received should do much to better the relations between workers and employers.

We are all in a fight together, and all must stand or fall alike by the outcome. The employing class is giving very generously in money and effort, and there are few well-known families which have not sons who have volunteered for service in the trenches. All recognize that the nation needs and must have in one form or another all the profits which war demands make possible, and they give them without complaint.

With labor working in the same spirit, it is certain that a spirit of comradeship will develop, which will be as valuable to workers and employers as it will be distasteful to a certain class of agitators who live by promoting trouble.

There is no sense in continual class warfare, by which the whole social structure is imperiled and whose mistakes fall most heavily on those least able to endure them.

Wages should be and are being made to conform to existing conditions, which bear as heavily on employers as on employed, but as Mr. Gompers says, stopping work on essential industries at this time is little less than treason. In case of unreasonable employers, the pressure of public opinion will be more effective protection to workers than strikes, which at this time are equally harmful. Except as to wages, neither employers

THE JARR FAMILY

By Roy L. McCardell

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"I wish I were a young man's darling rather than an old man's slave," Clara, Mrs. Jarr, said to her husband.

"You are lucky," "I think," remarked Mr. Jarr, coldly. "If you had a young husband instead of an old one he would enlist if he had any spirit, and if I didn't enlist he would be drafted."

"Won't they draft old husbands for anything?" asked Mrs. Jarr. "Such a silly question!" "I thought men past active military age might be taken into some of the war departments. Now, my husband knows all about wooden goods, and there is always something in the newspapers about uniforms or blankets for the soldiers."

"I don't believe you would care a bit if any husband of yours, old or young, did go off to war," said Mrs. Jarr. "But what would you do if such a thing did happen?" "I'd be very unhappy, I suppose," said the visitor. "But if I didn't go abroad to be a nurse I'd probably go on the stage. I've always wanted to be an actress, and they say that the theaters will be kept open all through the war so the public will be cheered up."

"You'd have to be chaperoned, wouldn't you?" asked Mrs. Jarr. "I inquired about that," was the reply, "and I found I could club for a mother."

"Club for a mother?" echoed Mrs. Jarr, as though the term implied an assault on a relative. "Club for a mother?" "Why, yes," replied the other. "I could not expect to receive a large salary at first, so I would club in, with several other young actresses to have a mother in common."

"We'd pick some respectable looking woman of good appearance who could dress the part well, and she could accompany us when we were taken to carousals, so that none of the ladies who were mothering left their diamonds in the washroom, see that taxi drivers did not overcharge us—in short, to be sober, reliable and make herself generally useful. These, I believe, are the usual duties of a mother to young ladies on the stage."

"I'm sure it's all very confusing to me," Mrs. Jarr admitted. "But I do not position to speak out, but in such instances the best plan is frankness and concession."—Editor The News.

Warm Letter On a Cold Day. Editor The News: I am surprised when I say that our Mr. Hull and your Mr. Moon had voted against woman suffrage. These two gentlemen stand high in congress. They both represent highly cultivated constituencies. Both claim to be good democrats and claim to support the president in his worldwide war for democracy. Both are married men, and by their votes say their wives are not their equals. Shame on such politicians. The voters of the state, 10,000 American ladies as the zero weather is today to me, while I write this article.

Senators and members of congress of the Old Volunteer state, rise above such petty politics; move forward with the times; vote for suffrage and the United States prohibition amendment, so that the brewers can't rule our elections, ruin our sons and force our daughters to marry worthless, drunken sots.

Let Gov. Rye or Mr. Cates beat Senator Shields, who forsook 45,000 good and true men who followed him and pledged him upon the supreme bench when he said the judiciary should be free from politics, then to throw down the judicial robe and plot with our legislature to beat the senator's seat. He occupies what his name is called. Cates from making a good governor? Judge Lynch has made good, so has Ben McKenzie. Let us re-elect them, and Mr. Stewart for chancellor. I don't know Mr. Stewart, but if he is made of the same kind of clay that moulded his daddy, he will do. I knew him sixty years ago, when he was itinerating in the Holston conference. He is a man who would go for a chancellor. I will quit. It is 4 degrees below zero.

W. G. ALLEN. Dayton, Tenn., Jan. 12, 1918.

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Patriotism is at a low ebb in Pike-county, and the statement in the Bledsonian that the town has neither mayor nor recorder and only two aldermen.

"Hawks and owls pay pretty well for all the chickens they eat" in the rats and mice which they catch, according to the McMinnville Standard.

"The American farmer is facing a stupendous task and one which it will require superhuman effort to fulfill," is a very timely remark of the Paris Post.

Says the Morristown Gazette: "One thing that will forever write the year 1917 down in the history of the world was the passing of Jerusalem into Christian hands."

This heartening message was perpetrated by the Memphis Commercial Appeal: "Mississippi is drafting a dog law and the growers are taking sheep's eyes at it."

Remarks the Knoxville Journal and Tribune: "When you get to a country out of war it will be time enough then to decide what our duties may be to other countries."

The Memphis News-Scimitar is some optimist, as witness this remark: "Things are looking encouraging. Russia is soon expected to be in condition to hit us for another loan."

The Hardeman Free Press declares that "President Wilson is like the lightning. He never has to hit the same spot twice." In which case he should be swatting the Kaiser once good and hard.

"Don't kick because you are not exempted from the draft. You should be proud to know that your country thought well enough of you to call you to the colors," is a form of consolation offered by the Tullahoma Guardian.

The Cleveland Herald has made the pleasing discovery that "this seems to be one year in which not many people are asking to run for office. Have the blizzards nipped that promise to Bradley county crop of candidates?"

The Athens Post reports this one: "An Athens man says when his son, who is away at school, returns home, he's going to put him to collecting; that if he is half as successful collecting for dad as he is collecting from dad, he will be able to squeeze not only blood but money out of a turnip."

In expressing its gratification over the action of the county court which makes possible the completion of the Dixie and Memphis to Chattanooga highways through Rutherford county, the Murfreesboro News-Banner says: "We lift our sombrero to the gentlemen of the Rutherford county court in congratulations over this splendid act."