WATER USERS HAVE GOOD COMPLAINT; FEDERAL LIEN WORKS A HARDSHIP

WATER users in the Carlsbad reclamation project are evidently having the same difficulty that farmers in other government irrigation projects are facing, namely, the embarrassing federal first lien on their land. The board of directors of the Pecos Water Users' association has adopted resolutions petitioning congress for legislation so that they may borrow from the government farm loan banks.

Experience with the reclamation projects has shown this to be true: The government under contract comes into complete possession of the projects and absolute control of water allotments for irrigating purposes and it further exacts from settlers a first lien upon their lands for the repayment of construction and maintenance charges and an additional lien for their water allotments. In some cases the first lien for construction and maintenance runs to about $60 an acre. That constitutes a first mortgage on the land and any other indebtedness has to give way to it.

The consequence is that when a farmer tries to borrow money for crops, equipment, house, or for whatever purpose, he finds that first lien standing between him and the bank or the money lending individual as a barrier. The difficulty is not peculiar to the Pecos project. It has been experienced in other reclamation projects.

The resolutions of the Pecos people characterize their experience thus:

"Above named liens operate unjustly, embarrassingly, menacingly and extremely dangerously to settlers in that they bar needed loans from all loaning individuals or corporations throughout the country, including farm loan banks. Federal farm banks are organized with the specific object of making loans to all deserving farmers competent to meet the loaning requirements of the banks, whether living on and owning lands in humid or irrigating country.

"Since the opening of this Carlsbad project, many newcomers had been acquiring farms by making initial purchase payments but subsequently, learning of the unjust conditions confronting them, deserted their land holdings, leaving them and forfeiting their payments rather than continue an apparently hopeless problem.

"Our settlers are operating under and contending against the hardships of high water charges, with usurious rates of interest on their purchases of home and farm necessities and with higher living costs than in most all other places in the country.

"Since the opening of this project, 75 percent of the water users for one reason or another found it necessary to take advantage of the permitted penal extension term, not only losing the five percent discount allowed for prompt payment but also paying to the government the unjust penalty of 12 percent per annum."

The same trouble with the government's first lien was encountered over in the Salt River valley of Arizona in the Roosevelt project. Farmers found they could not borrow money after the government had imposed its lien. Those who had already borrowed or had bought on the partial payment plan, found it impossible to get new loans. Up in the Pecos valley some thus situated have suffered foreclosure. The problem has been solved in Arizona by special state legislation permitting loans by the state on lands covered by the federal liens. Until that legislation was enacted, it was impossible for farmers in the Roosevelt project to avail themselves of the state loan fund. This fund will probably be inadequate, however, to care for nearly all the applications for loans on irrigated land.

Just why the imposition of the federal lien is necessary, it is hard to see. The government controls the water projects, including the distribution of water. The control is none the less real if the projects have been "turned over" to the water users' associations. Farms are worthless without water and it easily would be possible to withhold water from those who failed to make payments for maintenance or in repayment of construction charges. If the liens were removed, it would be possible for the farmers to borrow from banks or individuals.

But if the liens continue to stand, the water users are right in thinking congress ought to give them relief by legislation authorizing farm loan banks to lend on land mortgaged to the government.

With the home coming of American soldiers and sailors, it is contemplated to open up new reclaimed lands for the assistance of the former service men in securing homes and farms of their own. It is to be hoped congress will enact a settlement plan under which the soldier and prospective civilian settler can work out their problem of welfare and prosperity without the embarrassment above referred to.

Federal farm loans would be a great blessing to many farmers in reclamation projects. It would stimulate greater activity and better farming, enabling them to meet their water charges promptly and save 17 percent in so doing and it would also enable them to anticipate repayment to the government of the construction charges.

This is a matter in which the southwest is much interested. The farm lands coming under government irrigation will grow almost anything, but farmers have to get a start and most of them start equipped with little but strong bodies and a willing spirit. When they are burdened with debt at the beginning and are forced to pay high interest rates, the load is heavy. It is even worse when they cannot get extensions of loans. Congress should help settle this difficulty as a matter of simple justice. Now of all times it is better to have cheerful, loyal settlers on the land than sour, discontented ones.

The Archangel Mutiny

THE refusal of a company of American soldiers on the Archangel front to return to the fighting line and their continued refusal until they were appealed to by the colonel of their regiments is a remarkable revelation of the attitude of the men toward fighting in Russia.

It was mutiny—no use to call it by any softer name. The dispatches relating the news did not at first so refer to it, but mutiny was to be read between the lines. The fact that the men yielded only to the pleadings of their colonel to uphold the traditions of the American army is proof that it was mutiny. Proof, too, that other companies, perhaps other regiments, looked upon the mutinous company sympathetically or an order would have been issued instead of an appeal.

The enlisted men of the disaffected company—the officers do not appear to have been implicated—argued with some reason that they should not be sent back to the front to fight the Bolsheviki. They pointed out that they were draft men, mustered into service for the specific purpose of fighting Germany. Germany was defeated. The purpose for which they were selected was achieved. There was no war in progress now, since there had been no declaration of war against Russia or the Bolsheviki. Therefore, there was no reason why they should risk their lives in further fighting under the circumstances as related.

One cannot condone a mutinous spirit among American troops further than to say that when they do most infrequently object to orders there is generally a very good reason for it. One recalls the demonstrations of national guard troops on the border, some of whom refused to drill. They were worn with monotony, irritated by storms, grieved by letters of families suffering want in their absence and they realized there was no real reason for keeping them on the border because the regulars were sufficient for ordinary patrol work and because they knew, as everyone else came to know, that the administration would not send them into Mexico. They wanted to go home and there was no reason why they should not have been at home and at work at that very moment. However, the disaffection was limited to a few regiments in which the percentage of men with dependents was probably highest.

And there is no reason why these Americans at Archangel should be where they are. They suffer from cold and monotony but that is minor, after all. The fact is, there is officially no war against Russia or the Bolsheviki and, anyway, the forces that have been sent to Archangel by the allies are so small that not only can they make no considerable headway but also they are in actual danger of extermination. They ought to be at home. Of course, they will be brought home, when the government gets around to it, provided the Bolsheviki don't rise up and kill them first.

Washington somewhat patronizingly refers to these men as "draft men" and comments on their "low morale." Draft men fought in France as well as anybody else and will do so anywhere. The present circumstance is no test of morale. The same men, in what they considered a fair cause, would doubtless fight to the death. That is the test of morale.

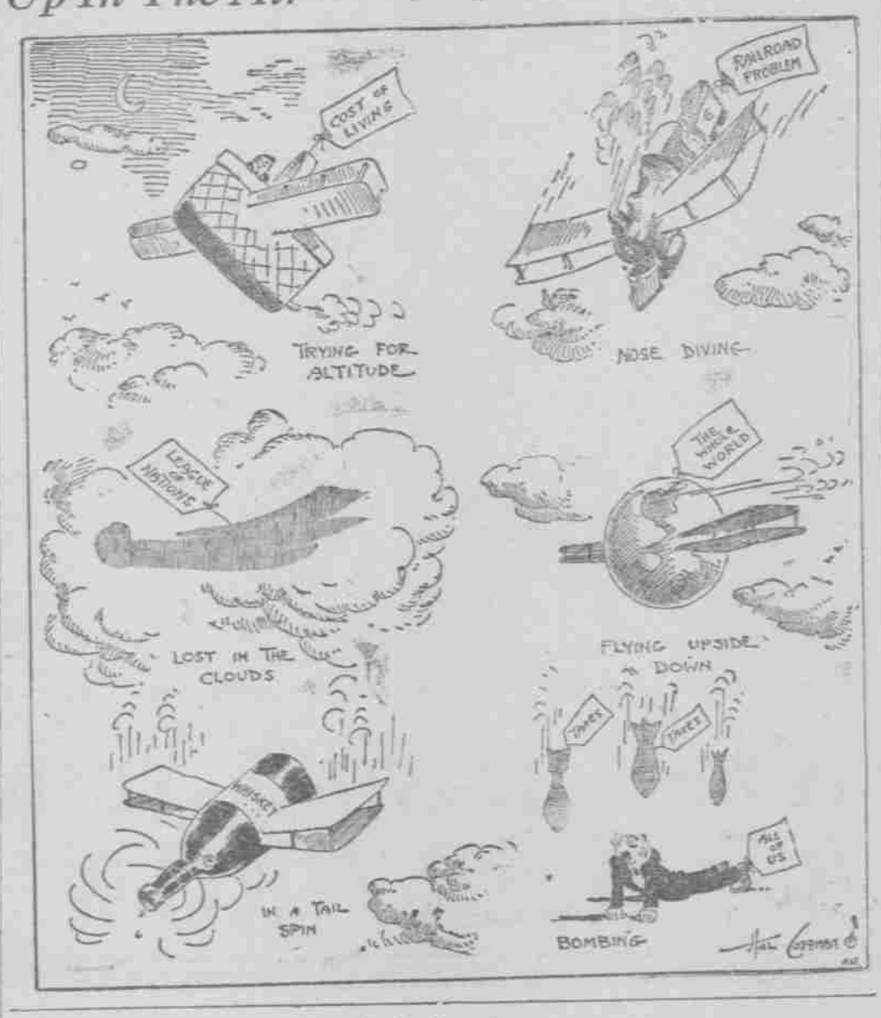
Zapata has been killed again and it will probably be several days before he gets back to fighting with his old energy.

The 250 New Mexicans who have petitioned Tom Gable for jobs will, of course, back pedal at full speed now that they find there is no provision for salaries.

The United States is the world's banker and it looks like the other nations were inaugurating a run on the bank.

An automobile park for motor tourists comes first. Some day, to be up with the times, El Paso will have to have a downtown landing place for the airplanes of suburbanites.

Up In The Air - - - - - By Hal Coffman



Little Interviews

Churches See Chance For Raising Missionary Funds Points Out Duty of All To Help Starving Europeans

"YOU say that the Protestant churches are out to collect $400,000 for this work along with other reconstructive work after this great upheaval, the war and all?" asked Rev. L. Vermillion. "Well, if they are, they will get it, for in my opinion there never was in the history of the world such a missionary opportunity as now. This great upheaval in the lives of men, I do not mean as manifested in the great war alone, but I mean that upheaval which has touched to the bottom of the very souls of men; they are looking about themselves, they are groping for the fundamentals as never before, for the realities. All this has put men to thinking, and they are thinking hard, quickly, for they seem to feel intuitively they must catch hold of something real, substantial, for there is no time to be lost in this turmoil. So, to my mind, men are using their heads, and their hearts are open to receive the gospel of Christ and it behooves the churches to make it real, substantial, with schools, churches, hospitals, etc. Already these churches are strategically located in all the civilized countries so they have bases of operations. The vast sum mentioned will be a tremendous factor in putting the gospel of Christ before men while they are thinking deepest and are grasping for truth and things real."

* * *

"I am not a knocker, and I do not mean to 'roast' any one; this is my own idea," said Thomas McAlloy. "If these people that will not give anything to help the starving people in the European countries could be in their places for a few weeks, they would be only too glad to give, when their time was up. Most of the 'tightwads' say that it is not any of their families that are starving, but that is no excuse. It is just as bad to let anybody starve, if you are in a position to help them, as it is to let one of your family starve. They are mistaken when they say it is not of their own people, for all in the world are kin. We are all human beings, and every one had a common ancestor."

* * *

"In establishing the school garden at Beall school, we are doing it as a sort of demonstration to show the people of El Paso what can be done on vacant lots and for the purpose of giving children education in home gardening," said R. J. Tighe. "There are now in Texas 150,000 children enrolled in the school garden army, with 800 teachers directing the work. Attempts are being made to increase the million and a half in the United States school garden army of last year to 4,000,000 this year. The vegetables raised by the children here will be used or sold by them. If the experiment proves successful, the school garden idea will be extended to other schools in the city."

* * *

"I have been a Salvationist for the last 30 years," said Adjt. R. McClelland, "and now I have decided that we have always been too modest. Before the war we were very little known, but since the men have been returning from Europe they take every opportunity to speak in our favor. Most of them seem to remember the pies and doughnuts that were furnished them by the Salvation lassies. In Denver we recently had a striking example of the appreciation of some of the returned men when they organized into a squad and helped us raise more than $50,000 on tag day. They were so enthusiastic in the work that they halted all automobilists as well as pedestrians and enabled us to collect the set amount in one day."

When A Fellow's Friends Talk About The Car He's Just Bought

By K. C. B.

BECAUSE IT was the first time
I'D EVER bought a car.
I WAS excited about it.
AND WHEN I'd meet anybody.
I'D TALK about the weather.
AND HOW the shows were doing.
AND HAD he bought oil stock.
AND HOW was his wife.
IF HE was still living with her.
AND DID he forget.
TO SET his watch ahead.
AND THEN I'd yawn a little.
AND PUT my hand over my mouth.
AND SAY I'd just bought a car.
AND THE first time I did it.
THE MAN said.
"WHAT MAKE did you get?"
AND I told him.
AND HE said.
"MY GOD!
"WHOEVER STEERED you on to that?"
AND I asked him why.
AND HE started to tell me.
HE'D NEVER driven one himself.
BUT HE had a friend.
AND JUST then.
SOMEBODY ELSE came along.
AND THE man said.
"WHAT DO you think of this city?"
AND THEN he told him.
ABOUT MY car.
AND THE second man said.
"YOU'RE IN luck, boy.
"IT'S A mighty good car."
AND HE'D never driven one himself.
BUT HE had a friend.
AND THEN I left them.
AND DOWN at the office.
THERE WAS Jimmy Montague.
AND WINSOR McCay.
AND BILL McStay.
AND I dropped in there.
AND WE talked a little.
AND WHEN there was a lull.
I MENTIONED to them.
THAT I'D bought a car.
AND I told them what make.
AND RIGHT away.
THEY STARTED taking it to pieces.
AND THROWING the parts.
ALL OVER the place.
BUT, BEFORE I left.
THEY'D PUT it together again.
AND SAID it was all right.
BUT IF they were buying cars.
THEY'D BUY such and such a car.
AND EACH one of them.
CHOSE A different car.
AND WHEN I left.
THEY WERE taking the other cars apart.
AND I didn't wait.
AND THAT'S the way it went.
FOR THE rest of the day.
AND WHEN I got home.
I TOLD my wife.
AND SHE just laughed at me.
AND SAID.
"OUR CAR has an engine, hasn't it?"
AND I said yes.
"AND IT has four wheels?"
AND I said yes.
"AND IT looks all right?"
AND I said yes.
"VERY WELL, then!"
SAID MY wife to me.
"COME IN to your dinner."
I THANK you.

-:- More Truth Than Poetry -:-

By JAMES J. MONTAGUE.

THE GOB.

ASHORE he seems always a stranger—
A person who doesn't belong;
There's a look in his eye that is wistful and shy,
As he quietly swishes along.
He seems to be seeking for gold-braids
To order him back on the job;
What right has he here in a world full of cheer,
A deck-swabbing, brass-shining gob?

HE LOOKS at the city with wonder,
The city he once knew so well,
Like one half afraid he'll be caught in a raid
And landed, biff! bang! in a cell.
He may be a lion for courage—
You can gamble he usually is—
But his look seems to say, as he goes on his way:
"So this is a city! Gee whiz!"

BUT once get him back on his vessel,
And once get the vessel to sea,
Set his feet on the deck and his cap on his neck,
And a far different fellow is he.
Ashore he's a fish out of water,
A timid and blundering swab,
But give him a grip with his toes on a ship,
He's a hero—which means, he's a gob.

FOR A WHILE.

We'll free the Filipinos,
And the little umber chaps
Will be as free as they can be
Till grabbed off by the Japs.

DANGEROUS PRECEDENT.

The soldier who shot a doctor to prevent an operation perhaps took the only way, but most surgeons will disapprove of his course, nevertheless.

The Young Lady Across The Way

WE asked the young lady across the way if she considered 6 percent a fair return on an investment and she said her father preferred 12 but she supposed a good deal depended on the nine of each percent.

The Victory Garden

HOE, GARDENERS, HOE!

HOE for the garden's sake, says today's bulletin from the national war garden commission of Washington. It is not necessary to hoe deeply about an inch being enough. Hoe every seven days at least, and always after a rain or watering to break up the crust which forms.

Hoeing should start as soon as the eye can follow the green rows. Sometimes it can be started before, particularly if rain and sun have caked the dirt over the seeds before the sprouts get to the surface. In that case break the crust carefully with the garden rake. Do this in the morning when the ground is moist with dew. Write to the national war garden commission for a free copy of the garden book, enclosing 2 cent stamp for postage.

The greatest discoveries are usually found to be the simplest after their truth is once revealed. Nothing has done more to further the science of farming than the discovery of the fact that if you keep stirring up the soil around a plant it grows and produces better. Therefore there can be no better advice for the gardener than this: Keep hoeing, hoe some more and then some.

Frequent hoeing will save much water and is better for the plants. The reason for this is that the dust cover or "mulch," as it is called, which is formed by the breaking up of the surface soil into fine particles, keeps the moisture in the soil down around the roots of the plants from evaporating. Hoeing keeps the soil moist and mellow. Hoe, gardener, hoe! That is the work which will make a bounteous yield.

SEARCHLIGHT.

This is the time of the year to exterminate mosquitoes by draining all stagnant pools, or by pouring oil on them, or by stocking them with small fish. Do not let water stand for days in barrels, tubs or horse troughs.

14 Years Ago Today

From The Herald of This Date, 1905.

A DISPATCH from Amsterdam shows that a fight is now in progress near Anambas Islands (east of Malay peninsula). The dispatch adds that five Dutch warships are near the scene of the battle. A land battle is probable at any time.

David Braham, the well known composer and orchestra leader, died at his home in New York city.

Gen. J. F. Grand, grand secretary of the sovereign lodge of Odd Fellows in the United States, died in Baltimore today.

Reports from Frederick, Okla., show that president Roosevelt and his hunting party are meeting with excitement. President Roosevelt captured a wolf alive, sigle handed, this morning.

Little Chris

"MOTHER," said Little Chris, when she told him he had a cold and would have to go to the doctor if he didn't keep out of the cold, "if you take me to a doctor, don't take me to one what gives castor oil; that boy up the street goes to a pushin' doctor what pushes you in the back with his fingers; take me to that sort of a doctor."

In Flanders Fields

IN Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from falling hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold on high.

If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

—Lieut. Col. John McCrae.

An Austin telegram states that a conference committee agreed on the Kennedy gross receipts bill, striking out the 5 per cent tax on foreign loan companies.

The Elks at a meeting last night authorized their building committee to proceed to close the contract for the Central school building to be used as a clubhouse for the Elks.

The new street car company has cut down its forces materially. No more night shifts will be used. The new company has completed its tract on Overland street, from Anthony to Utah, and on Second street to Oregon street; on Mesa avenue from the S. P. tracks to San Antonio street.

The Elks are preparing an amateur minstrel show to be staged at the new Myar opera house April 26.

H. J. Simmons, general superintendent of the Southwestern, has gone to San Antonio.

AUTO SHOW HEAD TO BE AT COMMERCE CHAMBER

Space has been set aside in the chamber of commerce for the automobile department. C. M. Barber, manager of the coming automobile show, will return to El Paso in two weeks and take active charge of the show and will make use of the desk and materials furnished by the chamber of commerce.

Manager Karl Roberts, of the chamber of commerce, has placed at the disposal of the automobile association the use of the chamber of commerce office force, stationery, stenographic assistance, etc. This is the beginning of the departmental work of the automobile trades' affiliation with the chamber of commerce.

PORTLAND ROUNDS UP WHITE HORSES FOR SHRINE MOUNTS

Portland, Ore., April 12.—As an inducement for holding the 1920 session of the imperial council of the Mystic Shrine in Portland, the Rose City, the potentate of Al Kader temple has authorized one of the most unique moves in the history of the northwest. He is having a count made of all the white horses that can be located in the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana, and if he can find enough of the animals he purposes to offer to corral them at Portland for the use of the mounted patrols.

DR. FREEMAN, ARIZONA PIONEER, DIES IN WEST

Tucson, Ariz., April 12.—Dr. M. P. Freeman, of this city, pioneer of Arizona and Nevada, died Friday at a Long Beach sanitarium, according to news received here. He had been in ill health for several years. Dr. Freeman was formerly president of the Consolidated National bank, of Tucson, and for a number of years was chancelor of the University of Arizona. He began life as a telegraph operator and accumulated a considerable fortune in Arizona in mining and banking. He was a 32d degree Mason.

CHARTERS WILLARD BANK.

Washington, D. C., April 12.—The treasury has issued a charter to the First National bank, of Willard, N. M. The capital stock is $30,000.

EL PASO GOES AFTER THE SANATORIUM FOR WOODMEN

The chamber of commerce of El Paso has wired R. H. McDill, state manager of the Woodmen of the World, that El Paso is interested in the proposed million dollar sanatorium contemplated for erection in Texas, and that this city will gladly assist in any program which might bring the institution to El Paso, in the matter of securing favorable site, water and so forth. A message to this effect was sent Friday afternoon by president Bassett, of the chamber of commerce.

Mr. Bassett states that he does not know, as yet, what the conditions are attendant upon bringing this institution to El Paso and he will be unable to make comment until he has been officially advised.

The project is considered one of the biggest fraternal undertakings ever engineered by a fraternal group. The sanatorium will be for Woodmen of the World afflicted with tuberculosis and treatment will be given free. It is understood that half of the amount needed for the sanatorium has already been supplied.

100 WOODMEN DELEGATES WILL VISIT IN EL PASO

The chamber of commerce received a telegram Saturday morning from G. E. McDonald, representing the New Mexico and Arizona jurisdiction of the Woodmen of the World, advising that approximately 100 delegates attending the meeting at Roswell will visit El Paso on the morning of the 20th. Entertainment for these delegates will be arranged by the entertainment committee of the chamber of commerce, and a committee from the local Woodmen of the World.

A conference will be held Sunday afternoon, April 20, at 3 o'clock at the chamber of commerce between Mr. McDonald, T. R. Lovelady, representing the El Paso Woodmen, and John H. Regan, representing the chamber of commerce.

TEXAS LACKS FUNDS TO CALL ELECTION ON CONSTITUTION

Austin, Tex., April 12.—No money has been appropriated to pay for the publishing of a proclamation calling the election to determine whether or not a constitutional convention shall be held, according to an opinion of the attorney general.

A resolution adopted by the 36th legislature calls this election for the first Tuesday in November at which time several constitutional amendments will be voted upon, but the opinion is that there are no funds available for the calling of the election on the constitutional convention. It is expected that the matter will be straightened out at the special session.

ZACH COBB SAFE SAYS WIRE RECEIVED HERE

A telegram was received Friday from Mrs. Zach Cobb at Washington by Fred R. Stevenson to the effect that she has received word from her husband, and that he is safe. Mr. Cobb was reported kidnaped by bandits at Laredo several days ago. The telegram received by Mr. Stevenson was in reply to inquiry wired to Mrs. Cobb.

WILL DRAW FOR SPACES.

During the Auto Dealers' dinner to be held tonight in the Sheldon cafe, the drawing for spaces at the auto show to be held here in May will take place.

-:- Rippling Rhymes -:-

By WALT MASON

Watching and Waiting

WATCHFULLY we all are waiting; how will things come out at last? Will the Germans quit their hating and live down their ugly past? Will they see that hate's an error, will they fully realize that to rule the world by terror isn't possible or wise? Will the German love his neighbor in the golden days of peace, or be anxious to belabor t'other fellow with a crease? Oh, I do not trust the German, though he act like Sunny Jim, though he hand me out a sermon or put up a pious hymn; he is great at talking virtue, he has morals by the stack; but he'll take a club and hurt you if you chance to turn your back. I'm afraid the German's hating with more passion than before; while he cringes he is waiting for another whirl of gore. Now he is of humble seeming, speaking in remorseful tones; but I fear he's always dreaming of more corpses and more bones. He is ready with his pledges, he will spring them with a will; but the German always hedges when he comes to pay the bill. "I'll be true and good," he belches, "I'll be pure, already yet;" but the German always welches when it's time to pay a bet. Oh, I hope he'll be a winner, that his virtue won't grow faint; but I never trust the sinner who becomes a sudden saint.

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Old Judge Rumhauser — He Knows When to Believe A Witness. - - - - - - - By Tad

EL PASO HERALD

DEDICATED TO THE SERVICE OF THE PEOPLE, THAT NO GOOD CAUSE SHALL LACK A CHAMPION, AND THAT EVIL SHALL NOT THRIVE UNOPPOSED.

H. D. Slater, editor and controlling owner, has directed The Herald for 26 years; J. C. Wilmarth is Manager and G. A. Martin is News Editor.

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