

MOTTO—The Missouri Herald believing those at the TOP well able to take care of themselves, has taken its stand in the barricades of the COMMON PEOPLE, and its fight will be made for the BETTERMENT of those at the BOTTOM.

The Missouri Herald

WANTED—Correspondents. It shall be the purpose of The Missouri Herald to print the news from all parts of the county, and correspondents are wanted from every neighborhood. Good writers are furnished material, postage and copy of paper.

SHERRELL JIMMERSON APPEALS HIS CASE TO SUPREME COURT

Claims, Through His Petition, That He Did Not Get a Fair Trial, and was Forced Into Court Before Ready. In Meantime, Goes to Penitentiary.

"All I want is a new trial, provided another judge can be secured." Those are the words spoken by Sherrill Jimmerson as he stood in the circuit court room of the New Madrid county court house last Friday morning at 9 o'clock, after the jury which had tried him for the murder of Dr. L. H. Brannon had returned a verdict against him, sentencing him to life in the penitentiary, and when the judge asked him if he had anything to say. "I was forced into trial before I was ready."

That was his explanation. Judge Slate then proceeded to pronounce sentence upon the prisoner, remanding him back to the keeping of Sheriff Kerr. The sheriff left last Saturday with his prisoner for the Missouri penitentiary, and he is doubtless now behind the stone walls that mean his tomb while upon this earth—unless, his case having been appealed, shall be reversed by the Supreme Court. In the meantime The Missouri Herald is not advised whether Jimmerson will, or will not, try to secure his freedom on bond.

It is said the convicted man was the most composed person in the court room when the verdict of the jury was read, and when asked by the court if he had anything to say, he arose and spoke the above words in a clear voice.

From first to last the case proved to be a great legal battle. Both the prosecution and defense took every inch the law would allow them to take, and friends on both interested sides went their full length. Influence and "expense" money played no insignificant part, and how much of the real truth was suppressed, and how much revealed, how much error admitted, and how much failed perhaps neither the court nor the jury knew, or ever will know. Only what took place in the barbershop on the fatal morning of September 14, last, was permitted to be told in the jury's hearing. Jimmerson walked into the barbershop, drew his gun and shot Dr. Brannon as he lay in the front chair getting shaved. To this there were five eye-witnesses. All told substantially the same thing. Dr. Brannon, in his dying statement made in a Memphis hospital, told that Jimmerson shot him because he had refused to pay him \$500 demanded as blackmail.

That is the evidence the jury got. A clear case of premeditated, cold-blooded murder.

Jimmerson, through his attorneys attempted to prove that Dr. Brannon had been intimate with his wife, had broken up his home, and when he had remonstrated with him, the doctor had threatened to take his life, and that at the time he went into the barbershop he thought the alleged destroyer of his home attempted to make a move for his gun, whereupon he shot in self-defense. The jury had only Jimmerson's word for this, and the word of himself, wife and daughter as to the improper visits of the accused doctor to his home. But it was proven that at the time of the shooting Dr. Brannon was armed, having a few days before been made special officer, with the right to carry firearms, and that this step was taken mainly because of alleged threats Jimmerson had made against him. One of the balls from Jimmerson's gun struck the scabbard in which Dr. Brannon carried the official revolver, which, perhaps, saved him from instant death.

Dr. Brannon, in his dying declaration, admitted by the court, stated he did not know that Jimmerson was in town on the morning of the shooting, but the doctor's friends did know it, for they had been watching him, expecting trouble, knowing the doctor carried the official gun they had placed upon him. Immediately after the shooting Jimmerson was arrested and placed in jail at Caruthersville. He tried to gain his liberty on habeas corpus, but was refused the right

to make bond. He asked for a change of venue to New Madrid county. He again tried the habeas corpus route for bond there. Same result. He then asked that Judge McCarty be disqualified on the grounds of prejudice from hearing his case when it came up the first time, in February. This was done. Enters Judge J. G. Slate of Jefferson City. Judge Slate presided over the first trial, held the first of February, resulting in a hung jury as has been told, seven for conviction and six for acquittal. This verdict was brought in after the jury had been out 24 hours.

Judge Slate set the date of the next trial for February 27, the results being told above. The jury in the last trial were out 18 hours, but on what grounds and divisions, if any, that caused their delay, has not been made public.

The words of the defendant quoted above reverts to the action of his attorneys before the last trial and conviction. On Friday before his trial began on Monday his attorneys went to Jefferson City and filed a motion to disqualify Judge Slate from presiding over the second trial, and also renewed the same petition at New Madrid when the same came up there, last week, but the Judge overruled the motion on the ground that it would be "setting a precedent, which might lead to hindrance and delay in future criminal prosecutions."

The attorneys for the defendant, in preparing their petition to the Supreme Court, allege that the records of the trial court show great numbers of reversible errors, and are confident the case will be remanded for a new trial.

JUDGE GOTCHER?

That is what Ed tells the people of the county he wants to be—judge of the probate court. To effect his announcement will be found in another column of today's paper.

Ed is first.

While others were talking and scheming, with listening ear to the keyhole of Pemiscot county politics, Ed lunged in and broke the ice.

He, therefore, makes a big splash in the political pond, its placidity heretofore being undisturbed by even the ripple of minnow or alligator-gar.

The writer has known Ed Gotcher for twenty-seven years or longer, during which time he has almost continuously served the public in some capacity, always acquitting himself with credit and honor. He has for a number of times, under different sheriffs, filled the office of deputy, and in a race for the non-qualification for the office only missed election by a few votes. He has also been constable, city marshal and serving the public as surveyor and other minor capacities.

Few men in the county are better and more favorably known than Ed Gotcher. He is just plain, honest Ed to all, everywhere and all the time, and a man in whose hands the estates of orphans would find safe and sympathetic keeping.

Ed announces his candidacy for the consideration of the Democratic voters in the coming primary election, promising, if nominated and elected in the general election, to fill the office to the best of his ability, which means that nothing more could be desired to comply with the requirements of this, one of the most important offices in the county.

BASEBALL

Spring is here! Jesse Gwin is warming up for the baseball season, which will soon be here. Next Saturday the umps will yell "Play Ball," when Milwaukee of the American Association plays St. Joseph of the Western Association at Caruthersville.

Boost your best for Hayti.

TO BUILD 10 MILES CONCRETE HIGHWAY

Poinsett County, Arkansas, Will Let Contract Soon.

The Commissioners of the Ozark Trail Road Improvement District of Poinsett county, Arkansas, will take bids on Tuesday, April 4, at Marked Tree for surfacing the Ozark Trail from Marked Tree southeast to the Crittenden county line with concrete. The length of the road to be surfaced is about 10 miles and the work will cost about \$300,000.

The Ozark Trail district lies in the southeast corner of Poinsett county, east of the St. Francis river. The main road, which is the one which will be surfaced with concrete, begins at the St. Francis river bridge in Marked Tree and follows the south side of the Kansas City branch of the Frisco railroad to the north line of Crittenden county. At the county line the road joins the new road recently built by Crittenden County Road Improvement District No. 7, which is on a direct line to Memphis. The Ozark Trail road is all completed excepting the concrete surfacing. By letting contracts in April it will be possible to complete this road this summer, which will make a hard surfaced through highway available for trucking and heavy hauling between Memphis and Marked Tree.

The concrete surfacing on the Ozark Trail will be 18 feet wide and eight inches thick, and will be reinforced by steel embedded in the wearing surface. This is the same type of construction used on the Memphis-Marion highway, which has been pronounced by government and other prominent engineers to be among the best concrete roads in the United States. The Morgan Engineering Company has made the plans for the Ozark Trail Road and will have charge of the construction work.

The Ozark Trail has been classified by the State highway department of Arkansas as one of the primary roads of the State and a substantial sum will be contributed by the federal government to help pay for the cost of the concrete surface.

The commissioners of the Ozark Trail District are: Louis Ritter, Marked Tree; John Emrick and D. D. White of Tyroneza. T. C. Brigrance of Marked Tree is secretary.

NO OVERCROP OF COTTON

Fifty-fifty will be about the proportions of the corn and cotton crops planted in this territory according to a number of planters we have interviewed. Some will plant more cotton than corn, while others will plant more corn than cotton, but the average seems about half and half. While apparently the price of cotton will be better this year than last it is to be hoped the people of Pemiscot county have learned their lesson that cotton is an expensive crop to make and gather, and that it pays better to raise corn, hogs and cattle.

—Renew your Herald subscription

CARUTHERSVILLE WOMEN ENTER POLITICS

Four Women Leaders Announce for City Aldermen.

In the four wards of the city of Caruthersville women have entered the aldermanic race in the coming city election, their names being: Mrs. Albert Bigham, first ward; Mrs. C. O. Gill, second ward; Mrs. Anna Lacey, third ward; Mrs. Frank Dillman, fourth ward.

For some time we have read of the ladies taking over the politics of the municipalities, but always it was way off yonder. Now the innovation comes to the doors of our neighbors, and in due time we shall see what we shall see.

As to the ladies named above, their capabilities and fitness is unquestioned, and should they be elected, as undoubtedly they will be, the interest and betterment of the town will have their earnest attention. Their election should at least bring a purifying element to Caruthersville's municipal government it has never had before. That is the mission in this world of all good women, and since they have had devolved upon them the duty to vote, no one can deny that they should not also have the right to hold office.

This should bring the matter of town betterment home to the ladies of Hayti. They also have a duty to perform, and since having had added to their limitless other prerogatives the right to vote, that right carries with it the duty to vote. What are the ladies of Hayti intending to do about it?

A SERIOUS ACCIDENT.

Thursday evening of last week while arranging the supper table Miss Algatha Raybuck accidentally pierced her hand with a needle. Miss Raybuck had been sewing in the dining room during the afternoon and had stuck a needle in the table cloth, which was forgotten. When, in preparation for the evening meal, she was brushing the table with her hand, she struck the needle, same penetrating to the bone of the thumb joint and breaking, over half of it being left in the flesh. Local physicians advised her to go to Cape Girardeau to a hospital and have an X-ray made of the hand, and accompanied by her uncle, Ora McCain, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Finch and Mrs. Elmer Hosea, she left on the night train for that city. Friday morning Dr. Walker of the St. Francis hospital, after locating the needle, which was stuck in the bone, removed it, several stitches being necessary to close the wound. The party returned home Friday afternoon. Miss Raybuck still suffers considerably, but is somewhat improved.

Charles Dorroh of the Caruthersville Hardware Company, en route from Memphis, changed cars here Tuesday for his home town.

Little Juanita Kirby is now improving, after having been ill for the past ten days with pneumonia.

BOOSTER CLUB BOOSTS, PRAYERS, TALKS, SUGGESTIONS

New Booster Club Composed of Men and Women Meet at High School Auditorium.

The Booster Club met at the High School Auditorium Wednesday evening and spent a couple of hours in boostic verbosity. No use to look in your dictionary for "boostic." It is not there. If the book of words set the limit for newspaper expression it would be difficult for these panders of publicity to always convey their thoughts and ideas to the reader in full comprehensibility.

It is easy to find "boost" in the book of English words. It is just above the word "bootlegger," with which we are all more or less familiar. But to save the trouble of a search, here is Webster's definition: BOOST: (Of uncertain origin) To lift or push from behind; to push or raise up; to raise; hence, to assist over OBSTACLES, or to ADVANCE; as, to BOOST a candidate; to BOOST prices.

So even this word does not cover, fully, the purpose of the Boosters, as we infer their present purpose to be. Its meaning fits our case exactly, as closely as the glove fits the hand, when it means "TO ASSIST OVER OBSTACLES; TO ADVANCE;" but when it stands for "BOOSTING PRICES," good night! And if it also means "TO BOOST TAXES," let's legislate it out of our vocabulary. If the people should find that to be the meaning and purpose of the word the next meeting of the Booster Club would be composed of vacant seats and vocal void would take the place of euphony. So, when we extract from this word its meaning, "TO ASSIST OVER OBSTACLES; TO ADVANCE," let us put down a period (.) or a post, or something, that will tether it to the radius of our desperate needs.

The attendance was small, as if numbers of those mostly interested desired to have their neighbors go out and "assist over obstacles and advance." That has always been the trouble with Hayti—wanting much for little action, leaving the work for "George" to do. Talk about hooks and crooks! The spirit of lag on the part of those who grumble of graft, high taxes, and evils without number, hits the town a harder lick than all the social and political parasites combined, for these on account of limited number, would be powerless to do harm were the better class to array against them. Perhaps, though, the number present on this occasion, was as many as could be expected, considering the weather and the publicity given.

L. L. Lefler, president, acted as chairman, explained the object of the meeting—to devise ways and means to make Hayti a better town to live in.

The meeting was opened by prayer by Rev. W. C. Scott, after which according to programme, brief and impromptu talks were made by several on subjects assigned them.

Prof. O. E. Hooker, superintendent of the schools, made a very able and interesting talk on school needs and management, being followed on a kindred subject by K. V. Propst of the grammar school, which also covered interesting points, as well as being delivered in an interesting way. Next came John T. Buckley of the school board, and laid down a barrage of elucidation upon the business management of the schools that would place educational institutions in a class second to none, the pride and the glory of Hayti. Rev. A. B. Culbertson was next on the program his subject being, "What is here to attract non-residents to come and settle among us." This, in the opinion of The Missouri Herald, was the most important subject of the evening, and while the able minister used but a few words, his shot went straight through the center spot at every fire. As a tax-paying citizen he spoke from experience, not theory. O. B. Davis spoke next on co-operation of the people with local government. His remarks were well to the point, impressing the citizenry that they, too, were responsible, by their action or inaction, for the good or bad government we sometimes have. P. S. Ravenstein made

a talk on taxes, which he seemed, by his remarks, to think analogous with death, and for that reason impossible to avoid, or to escape, no matter who held the strings of the public purse. C. S. Reynolds closed the remarks of the evening with a short talk on general topics germane with the general idea of boosterism, which were very fitting for the time and place.

The theme that ran through all the talks was the needfulness of betterment of the moral, financial and progressive interest of the town and community, but very little was said, except by innuendo, as to ways and means to bring about such accomplishments.

The sentiment was practically unanimous that a reduction of taxation was needful, and could and it should be accomplished.

All expect to pay taxes. No divisions on that, no more than there is that all must some time or other settle the claim of death. One is as inevitable as the other. But the very unavailability of escape from death only is the more reason that we should guard with more care the slender, brittle thread. The same principle applies to taxation. We must pay and pay heavily, at the very least. It is, therefore, our supreme duty to make the burden as light as possible. And any man who says it matters not who carries the key to our public chest, our taxations will be no less, will not, in the least, by so saying discourage the people from trying for alleviation that is making this a community of paupers. When it costs men more to own property than it does to rent, tax levying has already added the last straw that has broken the back of the "beast of burden." He balks. He kicks. Paws the air. Nothing but relief can return him to "normalcy."

CIRCUIT COURT.

The March term of the Pemiscot County Circuit Court will convene March 20, and there being an unusually heavy docket, will carry on until April 27, but there will be a recess from March 31 to April 10, allowing 10 days for jurors and witnesses to attend their private affairs.

It is said the docket contains a total of 367 cases, 82 of which are criminal actions. There were filed 28 divorce suits, and there are a large number of actions to collect taxes. There are also a large number of cases involving bootlegging and wildcat distilling, which go hand in hand.

With Circuit Court running to the last of April, those who have to attend as litigants, jurors and witnesses, will be hindered greatly right at the most important season of agricultural requirements which again demonstrates the fact that courts are costly and bothersome, not only to those who seek justice, or injustice, as the case may be, but to those who must turn the crank that rolls the millstones that grind the grist.

If only those who wanted courts and need the attention of the courts were so bothered, it wouldn't matter if there were never any recesses or vacations, but it "ain't that way."

BARN BURNED.

A barn belonging to John Austin near Canady was burned to the ground last Friday night. A little feedstuff was saved, but the fire was discovered too late for the flames to be extinguished. We have been informed that the loss was a great one. It seems as if some enemy of Mr. Austin was bent on doing him some harm, for several weeks ago a fire was discovered in another barn of Mr. Austin's, but was extinguished before any material damage was done. This time Mr. Austin put a bloodhound on the culprit's trail, which was followed as far as Braggadocio and lost.

—Tiny asparagus tips, Del Monte spinach and fruits at Buckley's.

Wanted: Correspondents

The Missouri Herald wants to cover the news of Pemiscot county in each of its editions. We want to print the news and facts that will be interesting to all our readers. We want the NEWS from each neighborhood. We want to set aside a regular county correspondent's page, and we invite the "live wires," old and young, to assist us to make such a page a "big go." We will furnish you paper, postage and a copy of paper weekly. While this will help us it will also help your neighborhood.