

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.

## Caruthersville Suffers \$150,000.00 Fire Loss

### DEATH RODE THE WHITE MULE TRAGEDY AT GAME SATURDAY NIGHT

Corbin Alexander Shot Through Head by William Bennett. Instantly Killed. Bennett Claims Self Defense.

Down the rocky highway westward, a rider whose name was Death, sat on the back of the "pale mule" and journeyed to Gametown Saturday night.

The next day coroner and undertaker had their jobs.

So he has journeyed before. So he will again and again—so long as there is any "white mule" to ride. Once, some ten years ago, he rode a "red mule" over the same road, between the same city and village, but was the same Death, with the same scythe grasped in the same bony hands—as pale as when he rode the animal of white descendency. But that is a story of the past. It is only to be recalled now because men, women and whiskey, the three elements that go hand in hand to enact the darkest tragedies of humankind, when one or the other or all are evil bent.

"Jink" Nichols, the victim, has gone back to the dust. The Dosiers and the Fishers after a short stay in the jail and the pen—where? That need not matter. Nichols, improperly, it was alleged, addressed Fisher's sister. The man was intoxicated. It was just after dark, and all had just arrived at the little crossroads town on their way homeward. The victim, stabbed to his heart, fell in the doorway of one of the little stores where he sought to escape his assailants.

### THE REPUBLICAN NINE YEARS OLD

Our neighbor on the other side of the fence—the wrong side—The Republican, Caruthersville, comes to us this week festivating over its ninth birthday, a mighty long time for one so hereditarily afflicted to live in this formerly Democratic atmosphere. We believe The Republican was started by a Mr. Frank Abernathy, and printed it on a job press, one page at the time, the same press that printed Hayti's first newspaper. So, some of us have encountered the same trials and tribulations mechanically, if not spiritually—and politically.

The Republican was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Smith not many annals after its ingress into this domain of Democratic domination. It was from the start, with Mrs. Kathryn Yater Smith, editor, and J. S. Smith, the Devil and the Lord knows what else, greatly improved. It has been a good, clean honest newspaper all the time, except one respect—politics. That is rotten—as rotten as it thinks our ditto. But at the same time, The Republican has had an independent tendency, which has caused certain streaks and stripes of its clientele not to take its epistles as Biblical. This, in our opinion, has made it better.

Such a practice ought to improve even a Democratic newspaper. We have half a notion to try it sometimes, when we see some crook hanging to the end-gate of our bandwagon. We wish The Republican continued success, meaning, of course, financially. It's politics, we hope will go like an overinflated toy balloon. The Republicans here are getting so overpoweringly numerous that they really need a newspaper or some organ of publicity to defend their blinded waywardness, and they are entitled to have it, provided they pay their subscriptions in advance which is more than some of the vaunting Democrats do for their own disseminators of truth. Somehow, some way, the Republicans are getting as numerous and firmly set in this county as an abandoned field Johnson grass, and if there can be no way found to uproot them the field will soon be about as worthless. If that be true, and if our well-meaning but misled neighbors sowed this iniquitous seed in our tranquil midst, we withdraw all of the good we may have said of it, and lost by prolongating we might slip into error, we here abruptly periodize.

### GOLDEN WEDDING

Mr. and Mrs. Jas. T. Jackson went over to Humboldt, Tenn., last Sunday where, on Monday, they attended the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. T. Jackson, parents of our Mr. Jackson. This couple were blessed with ten children, all of whom were present except one, and surrounded by these and 150 friends, the marriage ceremony was again performed.

Fifty years! A long, long road, and yet we doubt that this couple, with a happy family will look back and think the time was over-long. Happiness and contentment go a great way in making us forget the ills of life.

—Masonic, Odd Fellow, Elk, and other fraternal emblems, or rings, pins, lapel buttons, charms, etc., at Turnbaugh's Jewelry Store, Caruthersville, Mo. 19-20

he tells the truth, it appears there was little else that he could do, as regrettable as that was.

In preliminary trial held yesterday before Esquire Watkins at Caruthersville Bennett was held under \$5000 bond, which he probably gave.

### ABSENCE OF HARDING PROVES EMBARRASSING

Washington, March 15. — President Harding's absence is embarrassing the Republican leaders in Congress, who are being inundated with complaints at the jam of legislation and the apparent inability to get through any of the measures that the business interests are demanding. They know that the president was worn out and that his brief vacation can have no effect one way or another in the flow of congressional action, but they are afraid the country has not a similar realization, and with an election coming on and the political skies none too bright, it makes them uneasy. From every part of the Union demands for action on pending constructive legislation are pouring into the White House and Congress. A great clamor for speeding up the tariff bill has set up within the last few weeks.

The American Protective Tariff League has lost patience and started a nation-wide backfire movement to hurry up the Forney bill. "Please burn the wires and burden the mails with your petitions and follow up with personal work," Wilbur F. Wakeman, treasurer and general secretary of the league has urged the members in a letter to its members and friends. "Ask every friend and connection to cooperate."

For the convenience of those appealed to in reaching congressmen a special "roster of the Sixty-seventh Congress" is presented to them. Frank D. Wickham, president of the league, has come to Washington to organize a lobby to influence members of the House and Senate. He is here to serve all who are interested in a protective tariff. Mr. Wakeman frankly asserts that he is here to wake the administration.

"Please personally canvass members of Congress, especially members of the finance committee of the Senate, in favor of an early and effective measure."

Before this alarm call to action was sent out from every quarter protests were coming in. Senator Simmons, ranking Democrat of the finance committee, said today that never before since he entered Congress more than 20 years ago had he seen such a deluge of communications on a tariff issue. He declared that the Republicans are afraid to move one way or another.

The Republicans admit they are between the devil and the sea. Their supporters are divided into hostile camps over the proposed American valuation and every fellow is looking out for himself. The farmer has indicated that he will hold the G. O. P. to strict responsibility for any tariff legislation that is detrimental to him and his. But in the face of this, those seeking protection would leave the tiller of the soil out.

### GETS NEW FIRE ENGINE.

Blytheville, Ark., March 15.—The Blytheville fire department is the proud possessor of a brand new \$13,000 engine with an automatic pumper and all necessary equipment for fire fighting. The blaze quencher has arrived and the city will fittingly celebrate the red monster's debut.

The new engine has a capacity of 6,000 gallons. It is a six-cylinder, 75-horse-power machine with triple combination pumper. Thirteen men will be in the brigade which will operate the new apparatus.

Chief L. G. Thompson announces that the old fire engine will be retained and used in emergency runs. Fires in Blytheville should now be conquered in short order.

—Are you going to get a new bonnet for Easter? Buckleys have some nice spring hats.

Mrs. Maggie Baird of Troy, a niece of Mrs. Elizabeth Gibson, came to attend the funeral.

### RETAILER IS HARD HIT BY BUSINESS CHANGES

Our attention was directed to the following article by one of Hayti's leading merchants, who says he knows the statements therein are true:

If there is any class of people who have been hard hit by the recent change in conditions, it is the retail merchant. We hear much of the distress of the farmer, and the strain the bankers have been laboring under is of knowledge to all. But have you heard of any general movement to assist the retail merchant in these times of stress? Yet no line of business has been hit harder than that of the local retail merchant, the man you meet every day and the one who supplies your daily needs.

When the slump in prices came, it was the retail dealers who carried the load. The manufacturers and jobbers were hit hard, it is true, but they were in many cases short on supplies and their loss, while heavy, was not in proportion to the small retail dealers. In spite of this well-known fact, the retail merchant has not only not come in for any special consideration, but has been heaped with a lot of unmerited abuse.

How many times one has run across such statements as "wholesale prices have come down, but the retail dealers do not seem to have found it out?" We have met with this statement in trade journals and daily papers. It has appeared so often that many have accepted it as true. Yet if any purchasers of family supplies will compare the prices paid today and those paid two years ago, they will know that it is far from the truth.

During the past year the invoice price of goods on the shelves of the retail merchant has been reduced from 20 to 40 per cent. On a \$20,000 stock this means a loss of from \$4000 to \$8000. It means that the merchant has taken a loss of that much on his goods. Is it any wonder that many merchants have been forced to the wall?

What is more, the overhead cost of doing business is greater than it was before the war. Wages of help have not fallen to that of the pre-war period. Rents in many cases are higher, and fuel and lights are higher. All these things combine to make the retail merchant's path anything but a rose strewn highway.

If help comes to the farmer, indirectly it will come to the merchant but in the meantime he is struggling to keep the business world afloat by making sacrifice sales and taking his loss without any hue and cry. So just remember the local merchant has his troubles and is still your friend—that he is doing his share to bring about better conditions and help the old world back onto its feet.

It will take time, but we believe things are slightly on the upgrade, and if every one will do his part and go to work all will be well. Prosperity will not come to a few. It must come to all, and the man who insists on excessive wages while condemning the merchant who is trying to save his business life, is not going to profit by his stand.—Manson (Io.) Journal.

### LEARNING FAST

Mr. Godsey, the St. Louis Star's feature writer, who has been in our city (Caruthersville) and vicinity for the past several weeks, left yesterday for Charleston to be away several days boosting Mississippi county territory including ALL surrounding towns and hamlets this time.—Democrat-Argus.

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Certain, who have been living at Blytheville, Ark., for several months, are soon to return here to reside.

—Turnips, sound, sweet and juicy; just out of the hill, at Buckleys.

### Two Brick Buildings Destroyed in Heart of Business District. Famous Bridgwood Building No More. Loss Greater Because of Lack of Waterworks Efficiency.

#### COURTHOUSE CONTEST TO BE TRIED SOON

After a long sleep in the pigeonholes of the Federal Court of the eastern district of Missouri, the Pemiscol county courthouse contest case is to be tried soon, as is indicated by the appointment of Judge "Pat" Dyer, a retired member of the bench, to hear the case, Judge C. B. Faris, on account of his retained citizenship and property interest in Caruthersville, having disqualified himself for this purpose something like a year ago.

The case has been filed at Cape Girardeau, but so far no date has been fixed for its hearing.

The title of the case is Harriet C. Brittin vs. S. E. Juden, presiding justice, of the county court of this county, and T. R. Cole and E. W. Shade, associate judges, and Frank Baird, county court clerk. But the real suit is the people of Pemiscol county vs. Caruthersville, of whom Mrs. Brittin, while a non-resident, is a large taxpayer, and since not residing here could only take action through the Federal courts, and for that purpose instituted suit more than a year ago.

It will be remembered the people of the county brought suit in the circuit court, and failing to get a hearing, appealed to the Missouri Supreme Court, and by that court the case was thrown out of trial, because, as it found, "a special election could not be contested," a most remarkable conclusion in a state whose people supposed they had the protection of the law in casting their ballots.

So the case has never been tried and never will be if the defendant's attorneys can find any technicality, or other means to suppress the evidence as they are now claiming that Mrs. Brittin is not paying taxes in the amount as to qualify her to bring suit—that and other things, will constitute the first round of the battle, as, if losing, the people of the county are determined to appeal to the tribunal of last resort before yielding their rights to the result of that shameful election.

None deny that the county needs a courthouse, but the county does not, and never will, need one that cannot be had honestly.

Even if the people of the county should lose, and the courthouse be built, this suit has been of great financial benefit, for at least \$50,000 could be saved on the price of building material over what could have been saved at the very peak of high prices, when the election was "carried."

#### BAPTIST CHURCH.

Miss Aretta Beswick, Field Secretary of the Baptist Women's missionary work of Missouri, presented the interests of the work and the general work in the State at the morning service last Sunday. Her message was much enjoyed and appreciated.

Rev. O. L. Wood, state secretary of the Missouri Baptist General Association, accompanied by Dr. Foster, pastor of the Caruthersville church, and others from that city met in council with the members of the Hayti Baptist church Sunday afternoon. Steps were taken for a forward movement in the building and church life. All cordially invited to attend all the services.

W. C. SCOTT, Pastor.

—Have a good two-mantle gasoline desk or hanging lamp for sale. Costs little to operate, and just the thing for farm use where electricity is not available. For sale cheap. Apply at this office.

Mrs. Clara Stanfield of Chaffee attended the funeral of Mrs. Gibson in this city last Sunday.

—Babe Ruth wears Royal Tailored suits and base ball uniforms; why not you? Measures taken at Buckleys.

#### THE HEART OF THE BUSINESS DISTRICT OF CARUTHERSVILLE IS IN ASHES.

The Bridgwood corner building, around which the tide of daily traffic turned, is no more.

Fire of unknown origin early Wednesday morning was discovered in the rear part of the Comet store, occupying the Bridgwood building, and soon developed into the most disastrous conflagration that ever befell our sister city.

Two two-story buildings were burned, besides the great damage done adjacent property. And the tongue of fire, swayed by a stiff breeze lapped across the streets doing considerable damage to the front of several buildings that adds greatly to the loss.

Among the heaviest losers were: The Comet Store, \$10,000; Bridgwood heirs, \$25,000; Philip Hamra, \$60,000; Ellis Barbershop, \$2,500; T. F. Ford, confectionery, \$2,500. These figures are not authentic, and only approximate the total and do not include the losses of damage to adjoining property which will run very high. Nor does the above list contain the estimated loss of a tailorshop and several other small businesses that we have no account of.

The buildings suffering the greatest damage across the streets were the Cunningham Store Company, the New York Store, the Citizens Trust Company and the First National Bank. These were damaged mainly by injury to plate glass fronts, some of which were broken entirely out.

All the property destroyed and damaged was protected to a certain extent by insurance, and when adjustments are made, it is safe to predict that out of the ashes of the old will rise larger and finer buildings, as is almost the unbroken history of cities that have reached the size and progress that Caruthersville has.

#### MAN'S LEG BROKEN

Dell Stephens, brother of Joe Stephens, Foust Route mail carrier, happened to a very serious accident Tuesday evening when the team he was driving became frightened, ran away and throwing him out of the wagon broke his left leg just above the ankle.

Mr. Stephens is a married man and with his wife and children are moving to the Sparks farm near Pascola. He was driving a team of mules and when near the northeast corner of the Grammar School the mules took fright and ran away. Mr. Stephens was thrown out and the wagon ran over his leg with the above result. He also suffered other minor bruises.

He was carried in a nearby residence and Drs. Rhodes and Limbaugh sent for, who gave prompt surgical attention, but at best it will be some time before the unfortunate man is able to return to his labors.

#### THE RIVER

The river is rapidly rising, with no mark set for its final stage, due to the recent heavy rains that have fallen over the watersheds of its headwaters. Both the Missouri and the Ohio are rising, and there appears enough water in sight to give this territory a flood stage, it now being running over the banks in all the low places. The levee is in good shape except a section near Stewart which is being newly built, and with careful watching there should be no danger there. The erosion of the bank in the vicinity of the Baird farm is still as serious as ever, but the levee, for the present, is a safe distance from that point, so we are informed.

—Monthly dues of the Hayti Building & Loan Association are due upon the 29th of each month. The secretary can be found in the Keystone building 18th to 21st inclusive.