

# TANEY COUNTY REPUBLICAN

Vol. 24. No. 26.

FORSYTH, MISSOURI, THURSDAY, MAY 22, 1919.

Four Pages.

## Commencement Week Exercises

### Freshmen Entertain

The Freshmen were the first of the High School classes to give the series of plays that are to terminate the successful school year in a blaze of glory. The house was packed in spite of a rainy night, and the Freshmen set a high standard for the other classes to shoot at.

The program consisted of two short plays. The first was the "Two Puddifoots". It was a roving farce comedy from start to finish, and kept the audience in a gale of laughter. Blunt Martin acted the part of "Buffles", Blawie Martin as "Peggy", Lydia Ray as "Mrs. Figsby", and Vernon Davidson assumed the role of "Puddifoot Sr.", Gordon Brown as "Puddifoot Jr." and Esther Johnson that of "Caroline", the niece of Buffles, whom Buffles was trying to get a husband for, and for whom he had selected "Puddifoot, Jr." Whether Puddifoot, Sr., was Puddifoot, Jr., or vice versa, was a tangled web, and which only the end of the play solved, when Mrs. Figsby, Clementina, the somewhat aggressive sweetheart of Puddifoot, Sr., in days gone by, makes him her own after years of seeking, and leaves Caroline to Puddifoot, Jr.

The second play, "When Love But Holds the Key," opened in the bachelor apartment of Gwendolen Hartly, played by Sibyl Parrish, and Flora Kemp, the latter role assumed by Ida Moran. It is moving day, and the house is in disorder. There were two other characters, Earl Hicks as Mr. Perkins, and William Hull as Arthur Manesty. There were some amusing scenes from Manesty being locked into Perkin's room, and making his escape down the dumb waiter into the bachelor girls' apartment, and held up by her with a revolver in one hand and a rolling pin in the other. How the bachelor girls determination not to marry was overcome is detailed in the play.

Vocal solos and duets, characterized the last play, all being well received.

The Freshmen were congratulated on their success by the Sophomores in rousing cheers, and replied in kind by the Freshmen. All the actors in both plays had their parts well in hand, and showed that they possess a great deal of talent which augurs well for the future.

### The Sophomores.

Tuesday night the Sophomore class occupied the boards and kept the audience entertained for nearly two hours.

Zin Yandell, as Aunt Jane, told of her experiences while on a visit to some of her old friends in New York—very remarkable experiences, too, which led her to conclude that she would much rather live in Taney county than New York, although she admitted that electric lights were very convenient.

The first play was a concrete illustration of the rapidly with which news will spread—especially false news. Bartley Fallon, the unfortunate man, was impersonated by Cleo Smith; Mrs. Fallon by Zin Yandell; Red Jack Smith by Chester Arnold; Mrs. Tarpy, the deaf old lady who kept a fruit stand, Hazel McPherson; The new magistrate, Roy Smith; Joe Muldoon, the policeman, by Georgia Phillips; Tim Casey, Rachel Church; James Ryan, Florence Blofeld; Shawn Early by Georgia Phillips; Mrs. Tully, Zona Church. The unfortunate Bartley Fallon, who was also a helpful sort of a fellow, started, at the suggestion of Mrs. Tarpy, to take a hayfork to "Red" Jack Smith, who had gone to the five acre field to make hay, carelessly leaving his fork in front of the fruit stand; he is seen hunting Jack and the conclusion drawn is that he is on the war path; next that he has killed him; failing to find Jack, Bartley brings the fork back to Mrs. Tarpy, who refuses to receive it; the magistrate appears and after questioning Bartley orders

Muldoon to handcuff him; about this time Jack Smith, who had been some place else besides the five-acre field, appears on the scene and the magistrate, who has had a great deal of experience with criminals in the Andaman Islands, also orders him under arrest assuming that he is a confederate of the murderer, impersonating the victim in order to give the criminal time to escape. It being impossible to find the dead body, because as Jack says, "I ain't dead," the whole farce ends.

A piano duet by Icy Reese and Ruth Harned filled with pleasure the time before the next play.

"The Road Agent", a western incident. Harry Ainsley, (Chester Arnold), a mining prospector, finds Mercedes, (Zin Yandell), his wife crying. He questions her, is finally satisfied that she is merely sad because she is going away for a short time in business, and leaves, promising to return in a few days, he has hardly left when Sam Stuart, the sheriff, (Rachel Church), comes in locking for Bill Clark, (Florence Blofeld), a road agent and hold-up man, formerly husband of Mercedes, supposed to have been killed two years before. She knows nothing of his being alive but Sam almost convinces her that he is but leaves her, believing that she knows nothing. The sheriff is gone but a short time when Bill Clark himself breaks into the house and finding Mercedes, commands her to hide him. She tells him how to escape and just as he leaves the sheriff returns and tries to learn something. About this time shots are heard and soon the word comes that Bill had been shot. Harry returns, having lost a wheel a few miles toward the railroad and come for repairs, also to have a few more words of love with his wife. She tells him that she has been the wife of the bandit but he tells her that is all over, and everybody is happy.

As a finale, Hazel McPherson as Sallie Grindstone and Georgia Phillips as Johnnie Overalls showed forth a specimen of Cooncreek Courtship that was funny enough to make a wooden man laugh.

And all was over with the Sophs.

### Junior Play

The Juniors covered themselves and the school with glory on Wednesday night at the High School auditorium when they gave their class play "The Heart of the Shamrock." It was a beautiful melodrama, and every part played deserves special mention, as each and every one played their respective parts splendidly both in interpretation and delivery.

The play, as may be guessed, is an Irish play and a very appealing one. Father O'Neil is the head of a family consisting of two brothers, Bob, the Sheriff, and Laddie, the wayward one, May, a young lady supposed to be engaged to Laddie, but secretly caring for Bob, Joan, a spoiled, reckless girl whom Laddie loves, Gad, a frolicsome young man, and Mrs. Donovan, the housekeeper, a middle aged widow, but matrimonially inclined. Grizzly Adams, a cowboy, completed the characters. The play developed the very human, but generous hearted priest, and told of the recklessness of Laddie, encouraged by the selfish Joan until he rides to join the outlaws, on the night they are captured or killed, but gets winged in the hand by his brother, Bob, before joining them. Bob thinks Laddie one of the bandits, and, after capturing him in Father O'Neil's church has a struggle between duty and May's pleading to let him go, in which his love for May and her pleading saves the day. The regeneration of Laddie and the remorse of Joan, and the union of Bob and May makes a pleasant ending for the play. The cast of characters was as follows: Father O'Neil..... Roy Burns Bob..... Jesse Williams

Laddie..... Joe Alexander May..... Icy Reese Joan..... Anna Phillips Mrs. Donovan..... Taney Hankins Gad..... Ruth Harned Grizzly Adams..... Silas Bennett

### Commencement Program

The Annual Commencement exercises of the Forsyth High School was held at the Church on Thursday night. Supt. Crawford made a few remarks, and introduced the graduate of the evening, Robert Gideon, who delivered a well prepared oration, "Our Duty to the Republic." This was well written and well delivered. The leading thought was brought out by sketching the cause of the downfall of the ancient empires of Persia, Greece and Rome. He declared that history showed that the downfall of these empires were caused by decay from within, from internal corruption, and outside forces only completed what was already prepared for decay within. He appealed for a patriotic citizenry that would tolerate no red flag, or any other flag than the Stars and Stripes.

Icy Reese and Ruth Harned favored the audience with a piano duet.

Prof. Irion of the Springfield Normal gave the address of the evening, and it was a splendid, practical address. He appealed for high schools to fit graduates for their chosen work whatever it might be, and not educate them with no end in view, where there is a break while they seek around to see what work they shall enter. They should have decided that long before their graduation, and have been pursuing a course along those lines. He also appealed for better equipment for schools so that better work could be done. Co-operation of teachers and patrons, and harmony, were also noted as prime essentials toward success in schools. We believe we voice the feelings of Forsyth people when we say we hope to have Prof. Irion with us again.

R. C. Ford in behalf of the Board of Education and the faculty, presented the diploma to Robert Gideon, the only graduate, speaking as follows:

Five years ago, this summer, when the Board of Directors of the School of the Ozarks, broke faith with us, and removed that school from our midst, we told them they were making a very grave mistake; that they were compelling us to put in a high school, and that if we did, we would have the best school in the county. That fall we opened the Forsyth High School. We, at that time had no equipment, no library, in fact we had nothing except teachers and pupils. The building was only partially seated. Thanks to our teachers and pupils, that year we succeeded in getting accredited as a third class high school. The second year with but little better equipment the school jumped from a third to a first class school. Something as I am informed had never been done in Missouri, by a small community. Year by year the school has improved, and we want to have it continue to do so. Tonight we are closing our fourth year. During the past three years we have maintained the high standard set by the State Superintendent, and with each succeeding year hope to make the school grow better and better.

It is true that during the past year we have had some drawbacks. First the call of our country took away from us some of our pupils. Then the influenza came and almost broke up the school. But despite these drawbacks the school has survived, and tonight we have one young man, who although he heard the call of his country, and joined the colors, served his country until the close of the war and received his honorable discharge; has met the requirements, made the grades and now is entitled to receive at the hands of the faculty and Board the diploma I hold in my hands. Robert Gideon, it is with pleasure that I, in the name of the Faculty and Board, hand you this diploma. It is an evidence of the energy, perseverance and thorough-

ness you have shown. May it ever be a reminder to you to go forward and complete the building of your educational structure upon the foundation you have so worthily laid in the Forsyth High School.

And now to the Faculty, on behalf of the Board, I desire to extend our thanks for the untiring way in which you have performed the duties so heavily cast upon you. May you ever be able to keep up the good work you have so well and patiently done for our boys and girls.

There was but one graduate this year, but from now on there promises to be good sized classes of graduates each year.

The audience was dismissed after singing the Star Spangled Banner.

### Work of new Congress Planned by Majority

Republican majorities in both house and senate are planning constructive legislation for the special session which will create prosperity, promote domestic and foreign trade, expedite industrial initiative and development, enhance good feelings toward capital in the ranks of labor, and place the nation in an adequate state of defense against future trouble. Their plans include the following:

Enactment of a tariff law which will cover the difference between the cost of production and living at home and abroad.

Shifting the burden of taxation from the American consumer to the foreign producer and distributor.

Elimination of useless bureaus and bureaucratic methods which have grown up under the guise of the necessity of war and have exceeded their functions.

Paring every executive estimate to the bare necessity in order to provide economical and efficient administration.

Returning the railway, telegraph and telephone systems to their private ownership under federal control, so that the people may no longer be taxed to cover extravagance in governmental management.

Universal military service for every youth eighteen years of age during three months of the warm season, when schooling will not be interfered with. Development of the American navy in such a way as to meet the destiny of the nation during the next decade.

Extension of suffrage to all women in every state by amendment to the constitution.

Enhancement of the method of collective bargaining between capital and labor by which both interests will be protected and amicable relations between them fostered.

Removal of all restrictions upon the farmer, so that he may compete on an even basis in world markets without indirect taxation for the benefit of the cotton planter.

Subsidy to labor in ship building and management so as to provide a great American merchant marine.

Investigation and exposure of extravagance, wasteful and criminal methods of administration in no matter how high places found.

Revision of the military regulations so as to prevent further injustices to enlisted men by the courts martial and equalize benefits in regular and national army.

### The Sucker Crop

According to the carefully compiled statistics of the Capital Issues Committee and vouched for by the government, the net little sum of \$500,000,000 is spent every year by the American public in buying fake oil stock and other certificates. Now, half a billion dollars is a considerable sum of money, even in these days of war debts when we talk in terms of billions with the same intimacy as the average citizen once regarded the now contemptible million.

Why good honest ordinary every-day kind of folks whom one would ordinarily regard as being very level-headed will fall for all the get-rich-quick easy-money stock selling schemes put before them, is beyond understanding. In the words

of this same authority, "never before in the history of the country has wildcat practice been so flagrant from coast to coast today."

The cynical remark to the effect that there is "a sucker born every minute" does not altogether explain it. Vast fortunes have been made and will always be made by the man who promotes or develops a new field of industry. Observing this, the small investor immediately desires to try his luck in the usually vain hope that his 100-to-1 chance of some profits will win. Good, sound, sure, legitimate stocks are not only too slow but do not present a single thrill or chance.

This half a billion annually dumped into the pockets of the promoter of worthless paper is rather due to a wild desire to take a sporting chance and gamble a little in a gentlemanly or ladylike way than to marking any great mental deterioration on the part of the American public.

The amusing part is that while the crop of suckers and the original gold brick boob are supposed to live in the country, the buyers of wildcat oil stock and other stocks of no value are almost invariably residents of the city or town.—Ozark Countryman.

### Postmaster-General Burleson

The dissatisfaction throughout the country with the policies and methods of the Postmaster-General has become something more than a tempest in a teapot. Although fighting has ceased the war is not technically over, and Mr. Burleson is managing the telegraph and telephone systems of the country, as well as the transportation of mail, under war legislation which is still in effect. For the first time in the history of the telephone, we believe, a State-wide strike was declared in Massachusetts. It was so serious and got so far beyond the control of Mr. Burleson that the State officials of Massachusetts asked if the management of the telephone in that state could not be delegated to them. I have now been settled by granting all the demands of the employees. Why he demands were not granted in the first place by Mr. Burleson without going through all the turmoil of a strike has not yet been explained.

There has been very general complaint that the efficiency of the Post Office has deteriorated. The last straw appears to have been laid upon the back of a suffering public by the suppression of some news telegrams of faked for transmission by the New York "World." These telegrams contained criticisms of Postmaster-General Burleson, and the Western Union Telegraph Company would not accept them. The Postmaster-General now says that the suppression was done without his knowledge or approval, under a regulation which existed in the days of private ownership. It appears that there was a regulation against libelous matter; but criticism of public officials has not, until the present war period, been considered even by the telegraph companies as libelous.

Mr. Burleson has issued a quoque statement saying that the general criticism of his course is due to a conspiracy of the newspaper and periodical publishers, who object to the higher second-class rates and the zone system of postage, which he has advocated and introduced. He even goes further and attempts to shift the responsibility for the present unsatisfactory second-class regulations to the shoulders of ex-Justice Hughes, who he says, as chairman of a special commission, advocated an increase of second-class rates. He implies that advertising has become such a feature of American newspapers and periodicals as to be a detriment instead of a benefit to the public. In this connection, it is a little interesting to note that his fellow Cabinet member, Secretary Wilson, of the Department of Labor, has issued a proclamation publicly urging American merchants and manufacturers to advertise, and saying that advertising is a public service.

It may be said in reply that the majority of newspaper and periodical pub-

lishes in this country do not oppose an increase of second-class rates if that is necessary to meet proper expenses. What they object to is the zone system of postage, which promotes sectionalism.

The chief dissatisfaction with the present administration of the Post Office Department has reached such a pitch that some influential members of Mr. Burleson's own political party have asked for his resignation. In contending that he has been a failure as a public official it is not necessary to prove that his administration of the mails, the telegraph, or the telephone has been either unjust or inefficient. His principles and theories may be as philosophically right as a mathematical demonstration, but the fact still remains that he has got the country by the ears and has created everywhere a sense of extreme irritation. One of the important functions of a Cabinet officer is to manage the country as well as manage his own Department. No matter how upright the general manager of a corporation may be, if he irritates his workmen so that they strike, his office employees so that they cannot do their best work, and his customers so that they dislike to deal with the company, the President and Board of Directors are pretty likely to ask for his resignation.—The Outlook.

### The Alliance With France and England

The representatives of the United States, France and England now in Paris have made a treaty of alliance whose purpose is to protect France.

The treaty says that if France is attacked the United States and England are to come to her rescue.

"Well, well," says Mr. Average Man. "I thought the League of Nations was supposed to do that very thing. I supposed this new league was to prevent war and protect its members from attack."

"Oh, yes, say the diplomats, "but we are afraid the league isn't going to work, and we want to be sure that France is protected."

"But how about the other countries?" persists Mr. Average Man. "What if some of the forty small countries are attacked? Why don't you give them the same protection as France? Suppose Belgium is attacked—what then? You admit that you are afraid the League of Nations isn't going to work when you make an alliance inside of it to accomplish the very same purpose which the league was supposed to accomplish. Why do you discriminate in favor of France and against the smaller countries, which need protection the most?"

"My dear sir," the diplomats reply, "you are not an idealist. We can't waste words with you."—Wichita Beacon.

### Consider the Goat

Nobody loves a goat. In fact being the goat is a slang expression based on the old Hebrew law of turning loose the scape goat to carry another man's sins. Yet beside giving the goat all he wants to eat we still have to hand it to him on other scores. As one prominent agronomist after a careful study of Ozark conditions once expressed it, the grass proposition in the Ozarks is nothing difficult. The grass will come all right and make good pastures if you can get control of the sprouts. So, instead of having a grass proposition, we have a sprout proposition. Give us grass and any rolling, hilly, rocky piece of land in the Ozarks can compete with the highest priced land in America in the production of beef. To get grass we must first get rid of the sprouts and the goat does that better than any human agency providing he has a little care and hay during the winter and is handled with intelligence.

The man who learns to care for goats also learns at the same time to care for other and more profitable kinds of livestock. So, while no one loves a goat, he is the forerunner of fat steers dotting the Ozark slopes and therefore is worthy of our respect and commendation. He has an unpleasant odor, he will on occasion butt, he is not exactly beautiful except in full fleece—but he's our friend.—Ozark Countryman.