

HERALD SERVED WITH NOTICE OF ACTION FOR LIBEL

J. B. Vincent Objects to Statements Contained in Herald's Article on the New Hope Election Printed Last Week

STATEMENTS MUST STAND AS MADE BECAUSE TRUE

Following the publication in the Herald last week of the article headed "New Hope Election Still in Doubt" the Herald Publishing Company was served with a notice from J. B. Vincent, of the district in question, that he contemplates action for libel against this company.

In the case of J. Burkett Vincent, however, we regret that we can retract nothing. The statements we made, to which he objects, are literally true.

You will take notice the undersigned intends to bring a civil action against you, together with others, or against you separately, as he may elect for damages for libel upon him by you by reason of your publication in the edition of April 28th, 1916, of the Roanoke Rapids Herald of the following article and statements therein, to wit:--

"NEW HOPE ELECTION STILL IN DOUBT"

Those opposing the special tax for improving school facilities have, it is charged, resorted to bribery and black hand methods in their eagerness to carry their point. One voter in the district has made affidavit before a magistrate of the County that he was offered a suit of clothes to vote against the special tax, and this serious charge is almost certain to come before the grand jury of the June Term of Court.

Various voters in the district received prior to the election black hand letters written in red ink threatening the lives and property of the recipients, should they vote for better schools."

Rosemary, N. C. This the 1st day of May, 1916. J. B. VINCENT

The law in regard to libel actions is that notice must be given the offending newspaper of contemplated suit for libel and if, during the ten days following the receipt of this notice, the newspaper shall retract the statement claimed to be libellous, no suit or action may be brought.

Libel is a serious crime and if through inadvertence we had printed statements derogatory to any person which were not true or not susceptible of proof, we would not hesitate to retract such statements and to apologize

I hereby announce myself as a candidate for the State Senate subject to the action of the Democratic Primary Election which will be held on June 3. The support of the democracy of Halifax county will be appreciated by me. W. L. LONG.

For The State Senate

W. B. HALE SWEARS THAT J. B. VINCENT ATTEMPTED BRIBERY

State of North Carolina Halifax County Before me a Justice of the Peace in and for the said County and State. Personally appeared W. B. Hale and being by me duly sworn, and says, during the week of April the 10th to the 15th A.D. 1916, J. B. Vincent of said County and State offered me a nice suit of clothes to vote against the special school taxation now pending in the proposed District of New Hope and Hockaday's School Houses in Roanoke Rapids Township, wherein an election is to be voted on by the people on the 20th day of April A.D. 1916. This April 24th 1916 W. B. Hale Justice of the Peace

GRAND JURY OF HALIFAX COUNTY, ATTENTION! BRIBERY IS A CRIME

(REVISAL OF 1905, CHAPTER 81) 3386. BRIBERY OF VOTERS. If any person shall at any time before or after an election, give or promise to give any money, property or reward to any elector in order to secure his vote, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

METHODIST LADIES AID ENTERTAINS TOWN COMMISSIONERS HOLD MEETING I. O. O. F. ANNIVERSARY SERMON DELIVERED

HERALD'S DIRECTORS STAND PAT

Refuse to Back Down on Account of Threatening Action. Order Completion of Work of Securing Evidence and Submission of Evidence to the Public.

J. B. VINCENT'S CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

As soon as practicable after the receipt of notice of contemplated action for libel by J. B. Vincent the Directors of the HERALD PUBLISHING COMPANY held a special meeting to discuss this action and the steps to be taken by the HERALD in connection therewith.

following Directors being present: Dr. T. W. M. Long, S. F. Patterson, C. A. Wyche, W. L. Long, J. W. House, J. T. Chase, T. M. Jenkins.

After a full discussion of the action and an examination of the article cited and the evidence held by the HERALD, the Directors present voted unanimously to make no retraction whatever, and issued instructions to the editor of the HERALD to secure affidavits from the recipients of the blackhand letters and to publish facsimile copies of affidavits, letters, and the affidavit charging J. B. Vincent with attempted bribery, in the next issue of the HERALD.

Notice Advertisment mail at the Roanoke Rapids Postoffice. Mr. Jim Butler, Mrs. Buta Drumgo, Mr. Jimmie Gregory.

\$50.00 REWARD WILL BE PAID FOR Information Leading to the Arrest and Conviction of the Party Who Wrote This Letter

By an order from the Executive Council of Dark Street Devils, you are commanded to find an excuse to keep you away from the polling place in special election on the 25th. As you are a colored man you will find it much healthier to remain away. So take the advice of the D.S.D. and keep out. This thing must go through without your vote. You probably have never heard of the Dark Street Devils and if you do right you may never hear from us again, but if you do not obey orders, you will need the attention of your Dr. or undertaker when our silent desperate club has given you another call. You may expect this call at or about one week after you have broken our commands or sooner. We are a powerfully organized Night Riding Band who are fighting to overthrow graft, Extravagance and political frame ups in the administration of the affairs of this County and else-where. If you want an acquaintance of a closed nature just disobey us, we will get U. You may look for the Black mask and this sign.

Warningly yours The Dark Street Devils By order from the inner shrine of J. Simbo, Council Grand State of North Carolina County of Halifax This is to certify that on the 24th day of April, 1916, I found the attached letter, signed J. Simbo, Council Grand in my mail free delivery mail box at my store in said County and State R. J. Mayo Acknowledged and sworn to before me a J.P. this 2nd day of May 1916 Hannibal Shearin J.P. C. B. Moore, of Henrico, was in town Monday on business.

What Woman in New Hope-Hockaday District Wrote This Letter?

You are commanded not to vote next Tuesday under penalty to be imposed by members of Rapids Club of Dark Street Devils. We will fix U if you do. So take warning and save yourself trouble. Warningly yours The D.S.D. Club By order of J. Simbo Council

State of North Carolina County of Halifax This is to certify that on the 24th day of April, 1916, I found the above letter on a bench in front of my shop at my residence in said county and state. Acknowledge and sworn to before me, a Justice of the Peace in and for said county and state this second day of May, 1916. Hannibal Shearin J.P.