

THE * COMET

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THE COLONELCY ELECTION

At the election held on last Tuesday at the Nashville mobilization camp, Capt. W. N. Hughes, Jr., U. S. A., was elected colonel of the reorganized First Tenn. Infantry Regiment, the federal law allowing army officers to accept such commissions in certain instances without forfeiting their commissions in the army.

The selection of officers of the regular army for field officers in the National Guard should be the exception rather than the rule; for there are many competent officers in the Guard who are ordinarily entitled to first consideration, and it will discourage them in attempting to prepare themselves if they see the best positions going habitually to professional soldiers.

During the Spanish-American war Capt. Geo. Leroy Brown of the army was appointed colonel of a Tennessee regiment; but at that time very little had been done to develop the Guard of the state or to train its officers, and the appointment was proper.

In the present instance the objection is largely removed by the fact that while not appointed to the army from Tennessee Capt. Hughes is a Tennesseean by birth and seems to be the choice of a majority of the line officers who would serve under him; but an undesirable element of uncertainty is introduced by the fact that the President can at any time require him to relinquish his command and return to the regular service.

Capt. Hughes was elected by only a small majority over Col. Halbert, who commanded the regiment when it was mustered out by Gov. Hooper. So heated had become the contest that prior to the election, the Governor notified the electors that if Captain Hughes were elected he would adhere to a previous decision not to commission any employee or attaché of the Adjutant General's department to any elective office of the National Guard, believing that there is in the Guard sufficient material to fill the position, and that a member of the Guard and resident of the state should be chosen. Notwithstanding this warning the Hughes followers continued their support and he was elected. A number of officers have petitioned the Governor to issue the commission but he has not announced his decision.

The situation is unfortunate, Capt. Hughes is a capable officer and is well liked by the Guard officers with whom he has served as Federal advisory officer and it is said that he has not been personally active in the race. If the Governor yields and commissions him he will, no doubt, make a good colonel; but we believe with the Governor that there is in the Guard sufficient material for such positions.

SAM TAYLOR FOR SHERIFF

At a mass meeting of democrats held at Jonesboro last Monday to make a nomination for sheriff to take the place of W. O. Nelson, who found it impossible to make the race, Hon. Sam R. Taylor, of this city, was unanimously chosen as standard bearer and accepted the honor. The party could not have made a wiser choice. Mr. Taylor is not only one of the most progressive citizens of Johnson City, but is one of the best known men in the county. It is seldom the voters of any county get an opportunity of voting for a man so well qualified to hold a public office and Washington county will show its appreciation by making Sam Taylor sheriff at the election in August.

J. NORMENT POWELL

The news of the death of J. Norment Powell on last Sunday morning at a Richmond, Va., hospital, was received with profound regret. Only 38 years of age at the time of his death Mr. Powell had already taken high rank at the bar. He was a brilliant and well balanced lawyer, and but for his untimely demise would have added to his already enviable reputation. Although a strong advocate he never forgot to be courteous in the most heated debate. Genial and affable without being unduly familiar he was liked by all. A Virginian by birth and election, much of his time was spent in East Tennessee. His death is a loss to the bar and citizenship of both states.

THE POLITICAL POLICY OF CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP

Expediency the Criterion of Christian Conduct

Dr. John M. Crowe said some things Sunday morning to a representative audience in Munsey Memorial Methodist church, and speaks through the Comet to a larger audience than the greatest good to the greatest possible number may be accomplished.

The discourse was based upon the passage in Matthew XVII:24-27 taking for his text the concession-words of Christ to Simon Peter in verse 27, "Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them."

Jesus, with his disciples, had come to Capernaum, called "his own city," the home of Simon Peter, at the time when the Temple money was due. Very naturally they asked their townsman, Peter, "Doth not your Master pay tribute?" Peter answered, without thinking, "Yes."

An old law, centuries old, met the disciples and their Lord, an annual payment to support an institution of national worth, but one in which those disciples had lost faith, had outgrown. It is the old, old story. Antiquated legislations, obsolete institutions, come to us with imperial authority, ignore our new ideals, demand payment, and we must yield or suffer. We must pay the war-tax whether we believe in war or not, Simon Peter, like most of us, was half right and half wrong; may be, more wrong than right. The Bible is true to fact. It unveils a man's vices as well as his virtues. Peter, as usual, blundered. But he stumbled that we might not stumble.

Reversing the Verdict

There comes to light a great lesson on the social policy of christian citizenship. When they came into the house Jesus put Peter on the witness stand and made him revise and reverse his former answer. "What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take tribute? of their own children or of their subjects?" Peter saith unto him, "Of their subjects." Jesus saith unto him, "Then are the children free." The impulsive disciple had been rather too hasty. He had just confessed that Jesus was the Son of God. The Temple tribute was due the house-service of the God of the Son, kings never tax their own children, as a matter of legal right Jesus was exempt from paying the tax. But here is his policy, waiving a personal right in order to conciliate popular sentiment, and assigns his reason for so doing, "Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them." His divine Lordship comes to the rescue of human emergency, Peter is sent back to his old trade to fish; for the tax money; in the mouth of the caught fish is the coin, enough to pay both of their debts.

Three Truths Claim Attention

First, It is Highly Politic to Honour the Institutions of our Country. Secondly, If Necessary, Waive a Personal Privilege to Avoid Collision with Existing Institutions. Thirdly, Christian Citizens can Afford to be Generous in their Concessions to Public Sentiment.

Ours is a christian nation, though not a nation of christians. As the Jewish Temple was a national institution and sustained by popular sentiment so the Temple of American Liberty is a national organization and sustained by popular sentiment. Take the vital sap from a tree and in root and branch it rots to death. Take public sentiment from the tree of our national life, and it is doomed.

I stand in my place today to put Christ and his christianity where they organically belong in the building of a nation. Hear me patiently and thoughtfully.

Christ never antagonized the recognized institutions and authorities of his day and country. He denounced all moral evils at the heart of society, but he never opposed the ordinances of the Temple, the Constitution of the Sanhedrin, or the political power of a foreign despotism. And yet he wrought the ruin of all corrupt organizations in Church and State. He gripped the public mind with those deep truths of ethical worth, of social value, and so changed the soil of society as to uproot the old theories of human errors and evils, and planted the trees whose fruits are for the healing of the nations. He feared not the frowns of kings nor the thunders of opposing dynasties, and yet kings have feared his frowns and dynasties are biting the dust. Roman heraldry, Grecian chivalry, Hebrew bigotry, and Pagan idolatry have felt the diplomatic touch of His transforming principles and are bringing their tributes to His cradle and their trophies to His cross.

The Loyalty of Expediency

Jesus proclaimed to an erring, warring world that whatever is morally wrong can not be made legally right. That is one thing man has been too slow to learn to his own undoing. Christ proclaimed the freedom of the sons of God, in that they were the heirs of all things worth the having. Their Father was the Proprietor of the universe. They were the sons of the King of kings. And yet, they were to obey civil rulers because civil rulers are in the hands of their God. Jesus paid his taxes. The temple was a divine institution. It was not

a tax of a heathen despot, to support a pagan temple, or to carry on the horrid trade of war. He only surrendered a personal privilege. No temporizing policy ruled His life. He could have lived and died in the warm bosom of the world's adoring love had He been governed by the idea of not giving social offence. He loved principle more than praise, and lived a pauper's life that He might die the Prince of Peace. He wove the theocracy of Judaism into the democracy of Christianity, and established the Republic of a redeemed humanity.

The christian citizen is the only man who can make judicious and generous concessions to public sentiment without sacrificing a principle. And why? The spirit and motive that sway true souls are radically different from those that sway the world. Christ knew full well that the paying of the Temple-tribute would not compromise His cause with the Moslem institutes. Not the men who make the greatest parade of their personal principles and battle for what they call their personal rights are the most magnanimous men, love-worthy and trust-worthy. Nay, verily. The smallest souls in morals are often the severest censors. Two principles are running this old world—Law and Love. Two classes of persons make up the citizenship of this earth—the Rebels and the Loyalists. Laws are enacted for the rebels and by the loyalists are governed. Your temples of justice are built on the granite rock of Sinai's law but your temples of mercy are built on the rock-ribbed hill of Calvary's love. All law is fulfilled in love, and all true love is ever loyal to what is expedient. The law of force rules the planets, the law of love rules among freemen, the law of fear among pagans, but the law of expediency reigns in the christian commonwealth. No legal edicts are needed to guide and govern an honest life.

A Distinctive Difference

"All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient," said a divine thinker. Here you find an infallible guide to moral conduct in politics, in business, in the social life, in christian life. We are called to train ourselves to see more than the merely good because law prescribes it, but to see the every best because love requires it. Any law against my playing cards or attending a dance? None whatever. If it is not unlawful and is pleasant past-time why may I not indulge in such worldly amusements? There are plenty of real pleasures untainted by sinful self-indulgence, that do not lead to gross sins, and as a christian it is not expedient to do some things. I should not take advantage of my natural liberties to do those things the best lives condemn and which may cause some weak life to sin. Mere expediency is sufficient for right-minded citizens. Laws, national or international, were not in the way of a war with Mexico, ignorant, impoverished, misruled Mexico, but was war expedient? We have ten laws for the infancy of race-life, only two for the guidance of the christia life, ten under law and two under love. Why? The higher the life the less need of laws, the more it is sensitive to the proprieties and decencies of conduct. Expediency shuns the very appearance of evil. Why? Let the Teacher of the ages tell us why. "Lest we should offend them." "No man liveth unto himself." I am here for the good of others, and so are you. Me and mine induged the Germans to fight. Thee and thine saved an American fight in Mexico. Within the realm of all law reigns the principle of expediency that is the guardian of personal integrity and the criterion of all righteous government. Woo by loving expediency, warn by legal enactment, win by the enforcement of law in love, for the God of law is the God of love and rules in justice and in mercy among the persons and the nations of men.

THE DEUTCHLAND

The arrival at Baltimore of the submarine Deutchland from Germany after a successful voyage across the Atlantic should give us something to think about. Opponents of preparedness have been wont to refer often times to the natural barrier which the Atlantic is alleged to afford; but now the Atlantic has been crossed by a submarine merchantman, and where the merchantman has gone the war vessel can go also.

Just what effect this merchant submarine venture will have on the European blockade remains to be seen; for the character of these vessels necessarily limits the size of the cargo and make transportation expensive. A large fleet of such vessels would be necessary to afford much relief to the blockaded states. With increasing numbers would come not only the expense of construction and maintenance, but greatly increased danger of destruction from hostile operations. One or two such vessels might escape for a long time, but with large numbers frequent losses would occur.

THE REASON FOR HIGH COST OF PRINT PAPER

(New York Commercial)
An explanation of the reasons for the high cost of paper is contained in a statement sent to customers by an Ohio company.
The prices of pulp, rags and other sources of fibre have increased enormously, while labor has gone up. Who formerly the mills worked their men in two shifts of twelve hours each, many of the large mills worked three shifts of eight hours each.
Paper materials used in the United States have come from other countries largely for many years. Sulphite pulp importations in 1912 were 354,000 tons, in 1913 373,566 tons, in 1914 458,156 tons and in 1915 294,521 tons. This year in January and February the imports were about 30,000 tons, which is about normal. In March they dropped to 15,000 tons, in April to 9,270 tons and in May to 3,982 tons.
The average price of sulphite on the dock in this city before the war was \$1.00 a hundredweight for unbleached and \$2.65 for bleached. The price today is \$4.50 for unbleached and \$7 for bleached. Besides this, the paper makers lose 10 per cent more on these prices, as they buy sulphite 90 per cent dry and paper is sold 100 per cent dry.
Other items of import for paper making, such as rags, old papers, old and bagging, have been shut off or cut down by the war. More than 80,000 tons of these materials were formerly imported each year.
Exports of book paper have increased enormously, and this adds to the demand and takes out of the country paper which might be used in manufacturing paper. In 1914 more than 20,000,000 pounds of book paper were exported and in 1915 more than 44,000,000 pounds. Today book paper is being exported at the rate of more than 85,000,000 pounds a year, and since the first of the year have been increasing at the rate of 1,000,000 pounds a month.
Paper mill felts, wires and other articles have also increased in price. New machinery and repairs cost more because of manufacturers having to pay the prices established by the munition orders. Casein glue has advanced in price several hundred per cent, and the aniline situation is intense. The blue coloring required in making white paper was not worth notice when anilines were worth 4 cents a pound, but now aniline costs several dollars for each ton of paper.
The manufacturers are not inclined to add to their equipment, as to do so would take 18 months, by which time the war may be over, and the briskness of business may have subsided. Before the war the book paper mills seldom ran at capacity, but in 1916 they actually averaged 102 per cent of their rated tonnage.
Shut pulp mill in Norway has been shut down on account of a general strike, and this will decrease by 50 per cent the imports of sulphite from Scandinavia for an indefinite period.

INEQUALITY OF TAXATION

There are not many people who are unwilling to pay their fair share of the expenses of government economically administered. It is when the tax payer is called upon for more than his fair share, that the reasonable one makes a kick. If he believes, and has good reason for the belief, that another owner of property equally as valuable as his own is assessed for less, the reasonable man objects.
The theory is that every man shall contribute to the cost of government in proportion to the value of his property subject to taxation. But it is often a theory that is lost sight of in practice. Tax dodging is not to be defended in any instance; but in the loose manner in which tax laws are administered in many states, is found an excuse for tax dodging. Begun once, persisted in, conscience becomes calloused, and not troublesome to its owner. It is something like the voter who is willing for a candidate to pay his poll tax for the sake of his vote, that once done the way is but a step to the seeking of an open bribe for the vote one casts.
It is believed there are few states in which the subject of equal taxation cuts a larger figure than it does in Tennessee. We dare say there are many readers of the Journal and Tribune who can point to individual cases where there is no color of equality in the assessment of property for taxation. Assessments may not be made as a matter of favoritism, often it is the result of ignorance. The assessor may not know no better, and the board of equalization may know no better. Or it may be the result of carelessness, whose whose duty it is to know do not take the time nor the thought necessary to know.
Occasionally one hears of a taxpayer who tells an assessor that he has placed the value of his taxable property at a figure below what it should be, but where one of that sort is heard of there will be a hundred who will complain of a too high assessment, and some of these would not call for less than double the amount at which their property is assessed.—Journal and Tribune.

KINGSPORT, TENN., NEWS ITEMS

Dr. C. E. Bacon was in Kingsport Monday.

Rev. J. K. Haynes, of Erwin, was in Kingsport Tuesday.

Robert Ford, of Church Hill, was in Kingsport Monday.

Dr. Hanley and wife motored to Bristol Sunday.

Thomas Gardner, of Bloomingdale, was in Kingsport Saturday.

Rev. Samuel G. Ketrin, of Bloomingdale, was in Kingsport Monday.

Carl Hinson, wife and children, of Charlotte, N. C., are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Stewart.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Green were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. B. G. Nunnely while in Kingsport.

Mrs. Victor Patton has returned home, after a pleasant visit to relatives in Jonesboro and Johnson City.

Out of 10,500 visitors and 4,000 local people in Kingsport July 4th it was necessary to arrest but one person.

Mr. A. F. Hoos, the bustling insurance agent, made a trip to Johnson City the first of the week on business.

Charley Ritchie was over from Johnson City Tuesday calling on our merchants.

Mrs. C. V. Patton, of Knoxville, is the guest of Mrs. Samuel Patton on Holston avenue.

B. Nail is sporting a large boil on the back of his neck, where he collar button ought to be.

J. M. Dobyns was over from his farm Monday. Mr. Dobyns reports good crops in his vicinity.

Mr. A. G. Fritz, of Holston Heights, is spending a few days with his family in New York City.

Mr. Ludwig Aull, of the Clinchfield Club, spent Saturday and Sunday visiting friends in Johnson City.

C. C. White, of Cooper Bros. Department Store, was in Johnson City Sunday, calling on his best girl.

W. B. Poling and B. H. Kinkead, of Kingsport Furniture Co., made a trip to Bristol Tuesday.

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