

THE COMMERCIAL

Marshall & Baird, Union City, Tenn.

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1914.

Entered at the post office at Union City, Tennessee, as second-class mail matter.

Announcement.

For State Senator.

ELKINS—We are authorized to announce that A. J. Elkins, of Weakley County, as a candidate for re-election to the Senate of Tennessee from the counties of Weakley, Obion and Lake, subject to the action of the Democratic party.

For Representative.

MCDONALD—We are authorized to announce G. R. McDonald, a candidate for re-election as Representative to the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, subject to the action of the Democratic party.

For Floater.

GRIFFIN—We are authorized to announce Dr. J. F. Griffin, of Tiptonville, as a candidate for Floater Representative for the counties of Dyer, Lake and Obion in the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, subject to the action of the Democratic party.

COCHRAN—We are authorized to announce J. L. Cochran, of Obion County, as a candidate for Floater Representative for the counties of Dyer, Lake and Obion in the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, subject to the action of the Democratic party.

The United Confederate Veterans' annual reunion will be held next year in Richmond, Va., the home of the Confederacy. The reunion was held in Richmond some eight or nine years ago, and the veterans enjoyed the pleasure of Virginia hospitality and historic surroundings immensely. A fewer number of the thinning ranks will enjoy another visit to that city next year, and also a visit to the Capital City of the United States, only 110 miles farther east, now very easily reached. Washington is rapidly becoming the residence city of the United States. Among the first, outside of those connected with the Government service or with Congress, to establish homes there were the Leiters, from Chicago, then Reginald DeKoven, of opera fame from New York, Thomas Nelson Page and others. Others followed and now they are coming by the scores to the most beautiful city in America to live. Real estate since the nineties has increased many times over in price, and the Government continues with its marble piles to make that a wonderful city. A visit there will be appreciated by the veterans.

Taking a ride this week, through the kindness of Dr. Turner in his car, we had a chance to see the wheat prospects in some of the localities west of Union City. Mr. Williams, editor of the Fulton Leader, was with us and he was charmed with the landscape of improved farms and broad fields of waving wheat, as fine as ever the eye looked upon in this county. The land, impoverished of some of its native elements, may not yield as much as it did twenty years ago or thirty, but its luxuriant growth and richness of color does not indicate anything short of a record-breaking crop. Mr. Will Nash, one of the best wheat growers in the vicinity of Jordan, is confident he will have a forty-bushel crop. Herman Dietzel has a fine crop, so also does everyone of the farms in wheat show the finest prospect. The farmers would appreciate a full crop this year, if the price is anything reasonable.

Still at It.

J. M. Embrey, of this city, has been brought into correspondence with some Italian imposter, under a very plausible pretext. The decoy was that the Italian was in prison and about to die. He was in possession of a fortune of \$400,000, which had been deposited in London subject to bearer's check. His story was that he had married a relative of Mr. Embrey and that he would leave a little girl unprotected, who, he asserted, was a niece of Mr. Embrey. This he claimed to learn upon investigation. Now he wanted Mr. Embrey to be constituted guardian of his niece, and to accept \$100,000 for his services. In the meantime he wanted Mr. Embrey to forward \$1,200 to defray the necessary expenses in having the little girl's effects forwarded and some matters attended to by a priest in closing up the affair. Mr. Embrey wrote that he would be responsible if these things were true, but that the \$1,200 must be advanced by those taking the matter in hand, and Mr. Embrey at the same time wrote to the U. S. Consulate asking about the identity of the author of the letters. To which he received a reply that this is an old bunco game which has been used ever since the Spanish war to extort money.

Chautauqua Program.

Mr. Perkins, advance man and advertising manager of the Redpath Chautauqua, is here this week looking after his end of the business for the meeting here June 9-15. The programs show that Union City is to have Kyril and his famous band again on Saturday. The band was here on Saturday last year. Now, in regard to this year, we want to lodge a protest.

place, the management of the chautauqua was under agreement to submit the program to the Business Men's Club. That was not done. The coming of the band, and that is the one great feature of the chautauqua, on Saturday last year disturbed our people greatly, because a majority of those who are engaged in business here in the city could not attend either of the performances on that day. We made no complaint, however, as somebody must have the band on Saturday, and our people took it that we could accept the situation with the anticipation that next year someone else would get the band date on Saturday. The next year is here and with it the band comes again on Saturday, according to the program, Union City, in other words, is to be the "Goat." We assume that the management put the band here on Saturday to save railroad fare. Perhaps so, but that reason is not sufficient to satisfy us. We want the chautauqua meetings for the pleasure they bring us, and if we cannot get them in that way, we do not want them at all. We have some equities, and if it is the intention to ignore us, and that has already been done in the matter of failure to submit the program, we should demand, even at the price of losing the chautauqua next year altogether, some consideration in this matter, and we promise it will be done, unless we get some concessions.

Bad Effects of Farm Tenancy.

A soil survey of Christian County, recently published by the United States Department of Agriculture, calls attention to the increase of the tenant system of farming in that productive agricultural county.

The experts of the department do not regard the increase of tenancy as a good omen from a farming standpoint. They point out that the careless methods employed under the tenant system are an important factor in soil deterioration; that the tenant frequently is assured of only one or two years' tenure, "which leaves him little or no incentive to follow the approved methods for permanent agriculture." Land owners, it is added, often are indifferent to the treatment of the soil, insisting only that their tenants shall be able to pay the rent. "With the short-term tenant system the land owner cannot expect the tenant to practice careful crop rotation, to adopt a system requiring the keeping of much livestock, to plow under crops supplying organic matter, or to adopt any of the methods, often laborious and without immediate returns, which are necessary in the proper management of the soil."

It is scarcely to be expected that the ordinary farm tenant will concern himself much with the conservation of soil. He is, as a rule, interested in the soil only to the extent of what he is able to make out of it after paying his rent. It is not so easy to understand the indifference of the land owner. His soil is his capital and if he permits it to deteriorate he loses money both in land value and in leasing value.

Long leases are the exception. Most of the land owners do not care to give leases for a period of years and many of the tenants themselves do not want long leases. There are some tenants who seldom, if ever, occupy the same farm two years in succession. They have formed the moving habit and look forward to a change of location as a part of the program for the year. Long leases, or renewals of leases from year to year where the tenancy is satisfactory are much better for the soil as they enable the land owner to insist on proper rotations.—Courier-Journal.

Mrs. W. G. Harris and Miss Lottie Bennett, of Troy, were here as a committee last week to solicit subscriptions for the rebuilding of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church at Troy, recently burned. The ladies report fine success in the work. At Troy in a few hours the sum of \$650 was raised. They especially requested no personal mention of their visit here, and of course we would be mighty glad to comply, but cannot forego the pleasure of announcing the prospects of a new church building just across the way from a well remembered old homestead and hope this committee will continue until they have enough to build a bigger and better church than they had before. This was our church and our Sunday school for twenty solid years. It was our mother's church, and there will never be enough pulpit thunder and philosophy in the world to convince us that it was not as good as any church that ever existed.

The armored cruiser Montana, bearing the bodies of seventeen bluejackets and marines killed at Vera Cruz, and escorted by the presidential yacht Mayflower, dropped anchor at New York harbor at noon Monday. Services will be held at the Brooklyn navy yard.

Grade Crossings and City Growth.

The city of Philadelphia has entered into a contract with a number of railroads which will result in the abolition of many grade crossings described as "insuperable obstacles to the city's extension in one direction." The arrangement is characterized as "an important forward step in one of the most far-reaching movements ever undertaken by Philadelphia."

Grade crossings are objectionable for many reasons and are responsible for many evils. In Philadelphia, it seems, they are charged with retarding the city growth. This is a count which does not appear in the ordinary grade-crossing indictment, but Philadelphia is not the only city where it can be substantiated. A little reflection will convince any sensible person that a network of grade crossings may constitute a serious impediment to city extension.

The truth is that the malign possibilities of the surface crossing increase as one studies the subject. It is difficult to realize the full extent of the evil without taking into consideration the benefits that would accrue from its elimination. That it is a continual menace to life is the most weighty objection that can be urged against it. Aside from that paramount reason for its abolition there are other reasons that would be good and sufficient if none better existed.

City street perils multiply with city growth. The crossing that was tolerated in village days becomes intolerable with the augmentation of population and traffic. The locomotive in city streets is an anachronism. Besides being a menace it is a nuisance. It kills time and takes up room that is needed for other purposes.—Courier-Journal.

Last of the Jacksonian.

After struggling for nineteen months to keep its head above the hungry waves of the journalistic sea, the Jacksonian of Jackson has yielded to the inevitable and joined the host of experiments and wrecks in Davy Jones' locker. That it deserved a better fate is obvious to all who are acquainted with its history and who appreciate the splendid efforts of the young man who took hold of it when it was practically a wreck and guided its destinies for nearly a year and a half.

The Jacksonian never had a chance, being a victim of circumstances. It was launched in a goodly community that thought it wanted another daily paper, being hardly large enough for one. Unfortunately a genuine newspaper man did not come upon the scene until an adventurer had dumped upon the enterprise a second-hand job plant, which should not have been purchased. On top of this, a large part of the funds subscribed to the capital stock was worse than squandered.

The recent fate of the Democrat in this city, and now the suspension of the Jacksonian, taken in connection with the recent consolidation of the Times-Democrat and Picayune at New Orleans, and the sale of the Charlotte Chronicle, the afternoon edition of the Charlotte Observer, to the Charlotte News, indicate unmistakably that the newspapers of the South are becoming business enterprises; also that the day of the organ is passing, and soon there will not be one left to tell the tale of a peculiar phase of American journalism.

Samuel J. Stockard, who has edited and had charge of the Jacksonian since it was two months old, has displayed a brilliancy and versatility which have surprised even his friends. He has been loyally democratic, distinctively so, and and at the same has displayed a remarkable degree of conservatism and level-headedness, creditable to one who recognizes the responsibility of his position, in view of the supreme power of the press. Though Mr. Stockard may try some other line for a while, he will eventually return to the vocation for which he has shown such splendid qualifications.

The Sun will succeed to the business of the Jacksonian, both papers having become the property of the following gentlemen: G. H. Robertson, C. E. Pigford, T. B. Carroll, I. B. Tigrett, W. A. Ingram, Dr. J. L. Crook and J. W. Vanden. As some of these gentlemen were among the strongest friends and supporters of the Jacksonian, it looks as if a combination had been effected which will meet the newspaper needs of the community. Properly supported, the Sun ought to become one of the notable publications of the State. It is without a rival in its immediate territory and will have sufficient patronage to justify a good telegraph service, which, supplemented with a full local service, and correspondence from nearby towns, will make a paper representative and readable. The new paper will be strictly democratic, according to the program indicated by the State committee.—Nashville Tennessean.

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