

THE COMMERCIAL

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1914.

Announcements.

For Trustee.

JACKSON—We are authorized to announce W. E. (Ellis) Jackson a candidate for Trustee of Obion County, subject to the action of the Democratic party. Election first Thursday in August, 1915.

The County Fair.

The directors of the West Tennessee Fair Association met at the office of the secretary, J. W. Woosley, last Monday afternoon, and called a meeting of the stockholders of the association to be held at the City Hall in Union City next Monday afternoon, Nov. 23, 1914, at 1 o'clock. There has been a great deal of discussion about the future of the fair and the time has come when the stockholders should all get together and decide the matter. President Farris and the directors are all anxious to have a full attendance, so that a proper expression may be had in regard to everything connected with the fair—its finances, its future management, and, in fact, to decide whether or not we shall have any fair at all in the future. All these things should be discussed freely and fully and understandingly.

There are those who probably believe that some changes should be made. These men should be present and state their views. One share of stock entitles its owner to as much weight of opinion as any other share. Everyone of the stockholders should come. As far as this paper is concerned we believe in the fair and most of our readers are familiar with our views. Another thing, we believe that the fair has been well managed altogether. There are a few things we might have changed. We take no stock in such things as the John L. Sullivan project, and might as well be candid about it. If that week had been one of most beautiful weather instead of flood and Sullivan had stimulated crowds every day the aftermath and after effects on the following meetings would have been very depressing, and on account of that we say, with no aspersions for anybody, it was fortunate for the fair that the rain disposed of the matter. Slugging matches and boxers have no place at a county fair. On the other hand we did believe in the air machines. Balloons and flying machines are as much a part of county fairs as the merry-go-round and no fair is complete without one of these or a Ferris Wheel. The first flying machine was a failure, so was the next, but had they been successful the fair would have been greatly benefited in increased gate receipts and nobody could have objected to the exhibition. Outside of these things the management has been very conservative, and to the credit of the present management no fair was held this year. The two thousand dollars or more, it is estimated that the fair saved this year by suspension have balanced the losses on both Sullivan and the air machines.

The loss estimate is made, based on the losses at other fairs. Humboldt, it is understood, lost about two thousand dollars. Trenton lost \$2,500. Corinth lost \$2,500. Jackson lost some and but for suspension on the last day would have lost probably three thousand. Do not know what success Fulton had with her meeting this fall, but do not think any money was made. The horsemen say that the entire western and southern fair circuits were a drag this year. Many suspended and many others lost money. Now, getting down to the real ins and outs of the fair, there has been no actual loss here. The capital is \$10,000, all paid in. The debt is approximately \$6,000, and the property, grounds and improvements, have cost that amount of money. Therefore assets and liabilities are about the same, estimating the improvements at actual cost. One thing more, and this has been the real and the only disadvantage the fair has labored under. Union City people, our own people, have never given the fair a respectable attendance. No better attendance from the county and adjoining country could have reasonably been expected. The crowds from the country have been large, exceedingly large, but from Union City limits the crowds have been exceedingly small, and thereby hangs the tale of the Obion County fair. If anybody has got a way to get the Union City people out to the meetings that man should be called at once to take charge of the fair. Last year a door-to-door canvass was made in Union City and each person, and family, was invited to come and help swell the crowds and, above all, to encourage the fair by their presence, but they were not

there. A few, of course, but only a few.

The Obion County fair—that is what it should be called—the West Tennessee Fair is a misnomer. The Obion County fair has been more benefit to Union City than any other enterprise of a like nature we have ever had here. We are speaking now from a substantial as well as moral benefit. It is worth a dozen chautauquas, and nobody likes the chautauqua any better than we do. It would pay Union City business men alone to have the fair every year and make good the deficit of the meetings by popular subscription or assessment.

A county fair is not altogether a commercial enterprise, and should not be expected always to make a profit, or even to pay expenses. Lots of men can manage their own private business successfully, but no man should be expected to conduct a fair with plenty of fine live stock and county products with dividends and surplus. If he did it would require his entire attention, and the man who neglected his own business for the fair would be a fool.

We put it this way. A good fair will cost much money, and in bad years, very often, more than it pays. That is the history of county fairs, makes no difference who the management is, and that generally speaking will always be the history of county fairs.

But with it all the kind of fair we have been having here is a benefit to Union City notwithstanding the cost, and we believe it is a benefit to the country around us. It should be a greater benefit. There should be more interest in a larger agricultural exhibit, a larger mechanical exhibit, a larger merchants exhibit. The Woman's Building is always good. The live stock exhibit last year was the best ever seen here at a county fair, and the races were good. No county fair is complete without pacing and trotting horses. On the other hand the county fair is not simply a race track, notwithstanding some of the horsemen may so think. With nothing but races the county fair would not last longer than a June frost. Without trotting and pacing it would be the same way.

We would like to see a county fair like the last one here, but improved with larger agricultural exhibits, mechanical exhibits and merchants' displays. It is not the right time of the year for a poultry exhibit, but plenty of standard and thoroughbred live stock, our usual Woman's Building display or better, a good musical band organization, plenty of riding devices, including merry-go-round, Ferris Wheel, miniature railroad, but cut the blackleg gambling machines, the five-legged calf, the snake den and the plantation show. They are not worth a continental (excuse us) darn.

This is our idea about county fairs. But let the stockholders come and say what kind of a fair they want and we are with them, boots and baggage. The majority should rule, and let them come and do it right now.

Dr. F. M. McRee is a candidate for State Commissioner of Agriculture and one of the applicants for that position under Governor-elect Thomas C. Rye. This position was held for eight years by Middle Tennesseans and four years by an East Tennessean. West Tennessee has been disregarded altogether in the appointment of Commissioner of Agriculture. This statement is not made to boost Dr. McRee. A farmer all his life, a citizen of the highest character, honorable, clean to the core, he is equipped and qualified in every conceivable way for this one of the most important positions in the State. Dr. McRee knows farming from the ground up. He knows the methods. No man stands higher in the State, none better known. In public life there are none more active, and these are the real reasons why he should have the appointment. It would be hard to find a more suitable man, in fact, it is extremely doubtful if there is a single one in Tennessee as well adapted to the duties and responsibilities of the office as Dr. McRee. Besides, Dr. McRee would undoubtedly give the position a dignity and command the respect it has never yet reached. This is said without reflection on any of the predecessors, and no man will entertain any who knows the genial Obion County citizen. Dr. McRee is endorsed by some of the best citizens and public men of the State. He is personally endorsed by General Bennett H. Young, general commander of the Confederate Veterans, and the whole people of his own county are for him. As we look at it, there is no use going any further about the appointment. Dr. McRee is the man, the right man, and he should by all means have the place.

There were 195 killed in and about coal mines in the United States during September, against 173 a year ago.

We Are Making Progress.

The reserve banking system is now a fact. There is machinery to give "elasticity" to currency which men have talked about for a generation.

The reserve banking system will be of tremendous value to the commerce of the country, but it does not do away with the necessity for labor and does not enable a man to get something for nothing.

For this reason it will be disappointing to the ne'er-do-wells, and some of our politicians will go on advocating financial measures before the plain people which they hope will produce votes.

After being closed three and a half months, the cotton exchanges of the world are again open.

Under the Lever bill one can no longer tender junk when actual delivery of cotton is demanded under a future contract. If a man buys cotton now he can demand a delivery of the merchantable product.

Tenders of seven grades can be made. The differences, instead of being arbitrarily made by the New York Exchange, must be controlled by market conditions. If there is a dispute about the grade the matter is not settled by the cotton exchange, but by the Department of Agriculture.

The Secretary of Commerce in an address says that the worst has passed in the business of this country. He is buoyant with hope.

England and France are buying from this country great quantities of material for feeding men and beasts and for killing men and beasts.

The balance of trade is sweeping into our favor. We are paying our debt to Europe, not in gold, but in shipments of products of the farm and factory.

So far we in the South have not felt directly the quickening forces of the foreign demand, but England and France and the other nations having access to the sea must clothe their soldiers and their civilians.

England has already taken Australia's wool supply, which will not suffice even for the purposes to which wool is usually devoted, and England must buy some cotton in America.

Our Southern lumber men have been hit hard. They had an enormous export business, but they never whimpered. They are a game set. They have contributed as much to the Belgians as any other group of business men. Demand for lumber will increase.

Argentine sends word to New York that the republic is in the market for certain American products.

In a few days a convention of business men from all parts of the country will be held in Memphis to consider South American trade.

By next spring there should be lines of ships out of New Orleans, Mobile and New York carrying our goods down the Atlantic and through the Panama Canal and down the Pacific into all the corners of the group of republics in the southern half of the western continent.

England was determined to go to the end. Yesterday, without the bat of an eye, England voted \$1,000,000,000 for war purposes. Great quantities of the money secured from this war loan must come to the United States.

France and England are working jointly in their financial policies. They are able to pay for what they need, and they will be bigger customers of the United States next spring than they are now.—Commercial Appeal.

Finis Garrett.

As soon as Congress adjourned Finis Garrett came home and went right on the stump speaking for the Democratic ticket, making several speeches in this Congressional district. We believe Mr. Garrett's speeches over the district did much to solidify the Democratic vote, and that his coming home did much good for the party. He emphasized the fact that two and four years ago there was some reason for some Democrats to go off and vote with the Republican party, but that this year there was no reason whatever for the independents to vote a Republican ticket, for the party in its platform declared emphatically for the temperance and law enforcement planks they had been calling for for four years. We know that his speech here did good, and we feel confident that wherever he spoke he made votes for Tom Rye. Finis Garrett is a brainy man and a fluent speaker, and whenever he gets on the hustings there is a generous outpouring of the people to hear him. Some of these days the Mail man will see him Governor of the State of Tennessee. He is a man that stands high in the councils of the Democratic party both nationally and in the State. May his shadow never grow less.—Martin Mail.

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At 10 o'clock Monday morning the Federal Reserve banks opened for the first time, and at the same hour the Cotton Exchanges of New York and New Orleans, closed by conditions growing out of the European war, reopened.

A White Paper issued by England says the Government will ask Parliament for \$1,125,000,000 additional for war purposes and that the regular army will be brought up to 2,186,000 men, not including 600,000 territorials.

Although no definite action has been taken yet by Secretary Bryan it is probable that a joint agreement will be entered into by the United States and South American republics in regard to the observance of neutrality.

An international clearing house to settle the credit and debit balances of all nations is a sure outcome of the present war, according to an address made before the Investment Bankers' Convention.

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