

THE COMMERCIAL

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1915.

Announcements.

For Trustee.

BRATTON—We are authorized to announce S. R. Bratton as a candidate for Trustee of Union County, subject to the action of the Democratic party. Election August, 1916.

JACKSON—We are authorized to announce W. E. (Ellis) Jackson as a candidate for Trustee of Union County, subject to the action of the Democratic party. Election first Thursday in August, 1916.

Our Own Interests.

A few weeks ago the city of Memphis instituted the buy-at-home movement and since that time has organized one of the strongest business men's leagues in the South. Quite a number of other towns and citizens are organizing and conserving their business forces. They are not organizing corporations or monopolies, but co-operative societies for the mutual benefit of all the commercial and industrial classes, not one against the other, but for the business man, the working man and the farmer. Memphis had a competitive campaign for members to the organization, something like the campaign now on in Union City by the Moose lodge. In fact the idea came from the Memphis people. The idea is to stimulate and patronize home enterprise and to encourage loyalty to our home institutions. That is in the main the mission of the business men's clubs. Union City has such a club, but for lack of interest it has been allowed to retrograde until the membership has dwindled from over two hundred a few years ago. Union City practically initiated the movement of these organizations and then looked on while others took it up and left us behind.

What is now wanted is to revive the interests of the Union City club, and when this is said it is not meant that the club comes back again with nothing new to offer. There is a proposition before the club which is of vital interest to every business man and citizen in and around Union City. There are a number of propositions that will be worth much to our city and county under a renewal of activities of this club in the proper channel, and these things are now suggested from a council of the best men of the clubs of the West Tennessee League.

A leading slogan of the movement is home enterprise and loyalty. What does it profit a man if he takes the money earned by his own citizens and spends it with strangers many miles away for those things which he can buy at home? Does it not disrupt and disorganize the business conditions at home and leave the people dissatisfied, the community entangled, neighbors estranged and finally a decline of business and civic interests altogether? There is no other way to view the matter.

What the club wants is to overcome these conditions and bring about a normal and mutual relation of business and civic interests. There are a number of things that need our co-operation as well as the interests of our business men. Our farmers need us and our mechanics, and they all need to join in the movement for a get-together of all the varied interests and for the benefit of every one of them.

The club here meets next Tuesday night, and every citizen in Union City should be present and hear these matters discussed. Remember the banquet takes place on the first meeting night in March and you will want a ticket. Come and help plan for the occasion and make it one of the biggest successes in Union City.

Two Things Coming.

A man said the other day that he was paid a wager of five dollars made that the bars in the hotels of Memphis would never be closed. The bars were closed and the bet was lost. This shows that sentiment is gradually changing about Prohibition, and that men, who have been ridiculing the idea, are gradually learning to admit the truth. Prohibition is coming and with it woman's suffrage, just as sure as God made little apples.

Come to think of it why should any Democrat object to woman's suffrage. Democracy means universal suffrage and that no man should undertake to abridge his neighbor's franchise. Democracy means individual sovereignty, and the fact that women are not allowed to vote is merely a sentiment which custom has crystallized into the fallacy and injustice of our present system. To say that intelligent women should be classed with ignorant negroes and criminals in the extension of suffrage is without doubt a premise or a position of the most unreasonable nature.

Woman, the weaker vessel, under

savagery was a slave, under the varied changes from barbarism to civilization she has been forced to obedience and to drudgery, and now that she has evolved to the level with man almost shall we deny her the next and last step of equality in fact and in law?

There is no valid excuse for withholding the ballot from women.

But, as stated in the outset, the time is coming when woman's suffrage will be universal, and should by all means be first accepted by Democracy, of which it is, in the very nature of things, a part.

As Tolstoi said in his prophetic dream, the day is coming for a universal democracy, and with it the emancipation of womankind as an equal with her male companion.

Lincoln McConnell.

A large audience heard Mr. McConnell, the third number of the winter course, last Monday night, and were greatly pleased with his work.

Mr. McConnell is with the Redpath people and that is always a guarantee of talent. He has got it and knows how to use it. He is versatile but not limited to the ordinary accomplishments of an entertainer. His versatility serves him to command the use of humor, pathos and point to embellish and invigorate one of the strongest lectures ever heard on any platform.

The subject was "Dead Lions," prefaced with the story of Sampson slaying the lion. Sampson was on his way to accomplish some object, and the lion was in his road. This did not deter Sampson from the accomplishment of his mission, so he slew the lion. Afterwards passing that way Sampson saw the carcass of the lion converted into a hive of bees and honey. This was the foundation of a riddle, which Delilah beguiled Sampson into disclosing to his enemies. But this was only an incident of the theme. The point was that Sampson let nothing on earth interfere with his object.

From this the speaker drew the picture of success and failure in life. He spoke of the pool-room habitue, designated "fool-room," and the common excuse that the loafer and pool player never had a chance. He never had the ambition, and ambition, the speaker said, consisted of something more than desire. It meant purpose and action.

Edison was a failure in school and Clark, the commentator, was a dunce at 16, but they both woke up and determined to slay the lion—to conquer the problems of life and they did it. Mr. Newens, who charmed an audience in Union City a few weeks ago, was a driver on a milk wagon in Chicago, and, concluding life a failure in his youth, went to the Chicago River bridge to suicide, but the water was so muddy and threatening he formed a resolution to return and make a man of himself.

Every man cannot be a giant, but he can succeed at something honorable. The student is the person who digs out his problems, the failure he or she who depends upon the assistance of others to get through with their studies. Ambition is not only aim and desire but purpose to hold and grip the advantages of life in the pursuit of something valuable.

The man who succeeds is an optimist. The pessimist never had a chance. Optimism is not egotism. Egotism says I am, optimism says I will. Egotism is the counterfeit of optimism. An optimist is a man who believes in the Great Creator and the divine plan of human existence. The agnostic is a pessimist and a failure in life.

The interests of Christianity and human endeavor are identical, and these facts were brought out in one of the most graphic and interesting lectures ever heard here. Mr. McConnell captivated his audience.

The Fee Bill.

Last week we published the text of the fee bill without comment. The Commercial always tries to have an opinion, whether it is worth anything or not. But unless one tries, as Lincoln McConnell says, he never amounts to anything. One of the things that is eating and sapping the foundations of good government, destroying the essence of Democracy, is public extravagance and graft. Our county officers are not grafters. They are working under a system that was equitable and fair when it was devised, but it has outgrown these conditions. The fees that accrue to the officials in the big counties of Shelby, Davidson, Hamilton and Knox are altogether out of reason, but those who hold the offices in the smaller counties are not overpaid to any considerable extent.

Yet with all this the system needs revision. But in revising it something else needs to be done besides the elimination of the fee system and the substitution of salaries. This does not reach the heart of the trouble. The people are not relieved in the adoption of this bill, but the State treasury is benefited by it alone, the source from which the biggest graft originates. To turn the fees back into the State treasury and pay out of it the salaries of the officials, does not help the people or the taxpayers a nickel, but causes a fund to accrue in the treasury for bigger graft and extravagance by the Legislature and the lobby.

Unless these fees, or the excess of the fees over the salaries, were converted into a fund for paying the State debt, this bill would be to add confusion to the present system instead of relieving and simplifying matters. It would do more than that. It would necessitate the election or appointment of an additional officer for each county to audit the books of the county officers and see that the reports of fees collected were properly executed and returned. The substitution of the salary plan would cause a lack of interest in the collection of fees, and probably a decline in the revenues thus collected.

There are a number of things to be done before the fee bill is adopted. A commission should be appointed, in the first place, to devise a thorough and practical plan of collecting these fees so that the people of the State would be benefited by the change instead of the State treasury. That was the original intention, as we understand it, of the campaign against the fee system. How this may be done we do not propose to say. It will have to be done by a commission of men who are more capable of the work than has been displayed by the authors of the Ashcroft bill.

It has been said that the bill was introduced for the purpose of influencing other legislation and without any serious intention of having it passed. If that is so it is probably already dead, but to adopt it in the present form would be very premature, to say the least of it.

Railroad Assistance.
"If it benefits the community, it benefits the railroad," was the motto of the N., C. & St. L. system under the long and successful administration of Maj. J. W. Thomas. On a larger scale and broader basis the old and popular policy seems to have the hearty approval of the newly elected president, Col. John Howe Peyton. In the early spring of 1914 he established in "the barrens," a poor, worthless section of waste lands around Tullahoma, a demonstration farm. It was well supplied with implements, stock and laborers, presided over by a young man farmer, who understood soil needs and plant culture. Put on the job in March he produced last year on ten acres an average of 1,500 pounds per acre, the finest sample of tobacco marketed in Tennessee this season. Corn, crimson clover and rye were also produced in satisfactory quantities and quality the highest. On another plot a splendid growth of alfalfa is growing. And all this was done and is being accomplished in one of the poorest counties in the State, the average assessed valuation of Coffee County farms for 1914 being \$2.62 per acre, and can be purchased at from \$6.00 to \$20.00 per acre.

In addition to the above farm Mr. Peyton has procured lands at or near Dickson and also at Martin, over in Weakley, and will have experts in charge at both places during the coming season. Down in Fayette County, we notice Mr. Peyton and his able corps of industrial assistants are co-operating with the corn club boys, and have recently authorized the free delivery at Somerville of 100 tons of crushed lime rock, which will be distributed through the county demonstration agent at that place. Quite an expensive undertaking: bringing the work to the farmer, locating at points where most beneficial; demonstrating the farm work to the farmer and giving every possible effort to benefit the communities and show the interest the company has in the progress and development of the country it serves. Being a member of a party of a dozen West Tennesseans, the writer had the pleasure of spending a few hours at the Tullahoma farm a few days ago. It was a pleasant and instructive trip.

Hon. G. R. McDade, of Troy, was a visitor here Monday, and informs us that he has drafted a bill which makes an exception of Reelfoot Lake in the general legislation concerning the shooting of game. By the provisions of this bill hunters on the lake will be allowed to continue their vocations for profit with the proper regulations, and that he has been assured of its passage. This will relieve those who have been under the impression that they would be cut off entirely from their work as hunters and fishermen.

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Notice to Creditors of Henry A. Wise, Deceased.

Jas. H. Wise, Adm'r. et als. vs. Mary Lee Wise.

In Chancery Court at Union City, Tenn.

All persons having claims or demands against the estate of Henry A. Wise, deceased, are hereby ordered to come forward and file such claims or demands by petition in this cause accompanied by proper cost bond on or by the First Monday of March, 1915, or the same will be forever barred and excluded from the benefits of this proceeding. This order will be published for four consecutive weeks in The Commercial, a weekly newspaper published in Union City, Tenn.

This Jan. 16, 1915.

43-4t GEO. A. GIBBS, C. & M.



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H. P. TAYLOR

N., C. & St. L. Ry.

N. C. & St. L. TIME TABLE.

Leave Union City.

EAST BOUND
No. 5...7.45 a.m. No. 3...3.05 p.m.

No. 93...9.55 p.m.

WEST BOUND
No. 52...6.47 a.m. No. 4...12.50 p.m.

No. 92...7.10 p.m.