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# THE COMMERCIAL

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Union City Commercial, established 1870  
West Tennessee Courier, established 1877  
Consolidated September 1, 1917

UNION CITY, TENN., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1920.

VOL. 29, NO. 29

## COUNTY COURT APPROPRIATION FOR GIBBS LEVEE

### Appropriation of Two Thousand Dollars Allowed by the Court.

Confronted with appropriations piling up by the thousands and by the perplexing problem of taxation, the Obion County Court, at its quarterly session last Tuesday, recognized the work that is being done by the people of Union City and community and the liberality shown in the enterprise of constructing a first-class public highway from Union City to Gibbs, and conceded the point that the court must meet its obligations in constructing a suitable levee on that road in the Grove Creek bottom, and make an ample appropriation for that purpose. The resolution was therefore offered by Justice Bratton that an appropriation not exceeding \$2000 be allowed by the County Court for the said levee and that Jake Caldwell and Hugh Smith be appointed commissioners to superintend the construction of same.

A reception was given to the members of the County Court at the Elks Home and a dinner served by the ladies of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, one of the most substantial and wholesome and complete in every way enjoyed in Union City. Over thirty members of the court were present. Addresses were made by Dr. Turner, president of the Lions Club, by Dr. Henry Oliver and by Rev. R. A. Clark, all on the subject of good roads in Obion County and particularly on the Gibbs road, all very timely and convincing logic concerning the needs of good roads in Obion County. Judge Bratton supplemented these remarks with the thanks of the court to the ladies of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church for one of their famous dinners. To the ladies he paid the nicest compliments for the way they prove themselves more than equal to the demands of these occasions and for their delightful presence and attention.

After the speaking cars were left at the door and members of the court were taken out over the new road for a view of the work in progress and the development of the road as far as the work is completed.

It was indeed a sight to witness the long stretch of new roadway fifty feet wide and on a straight line from one end to the other. The party returned and the court convened with the result as above stated. The resolution did not pass without a contest, but no one opposed the main question—the construction of the levee. There was simply a difference of opinion as to the cost of same.

Dr. Turner announced before the meeting at the Elks Home was adjourned that the Lions Club would send a committee to Obion this evening to meet with Obion people relative to good roads, and Mr. Bob Fox has informed us that he will meet the delegation and entertain with refreshments. It is intended to visit other portions of the county on the same mission and announcements will be made from time to time of the movements of the committee.

### MAY TRY FITZGERALD PLAN

At a meeting of the cotton factors at the Chamber of Commerce, Memphis, Gerald Fitzgerald, Clarksdale, Miss., lawyer and banker, outlined his plan for marketing the enormous amount of low grade cotton now in the hands of cotton men throughout the South.

The plan is to offer the cotton to German manufacturers, giving them a fair profit for manufacturing the staple into low-grade cotton goods. Germany is the largest consumer of low-grade cotton, and it is the inability of German manufacturers to finance the purchase of raw material in this country that has brought about the stagnation in local markets. Mr. Fitzgerald points out that under present conditions a bale of cotton will cost the German mills approximately 21,000 marks, whereas, before the war and before the great slump in value of German money, the same cotton was sold for about 1,200 marks. He says the cheapness of the German mark as compared with our dollar makes it impossible for these mills to buy raw material in American markets.

### Training School Locals.

Miss Grace Naylor, of the Commercial Department, was absent a few days last week on account of illness. Miss Erdice Latimer was a visitor here Tuesday.

Marvin Owens, a 1920 graduate, has accepted a position with the Third National Bank.

Miss Dalay Long is back in school after a few days absence.

Miss Lois Curlin, of Woodland, was called home last Tuesday on account of her little brother's being run over by a heavily loaded truck. The child is in a serious condition.

Will Lannom, a former Training School pupil, who has recently entered the University of Tennessee, writes that a Tennessee Club has been organized in the university. Of the twenty-nine members, nine are from Union City.

Mr. F. L. Kerr, the assistant principal, tried to steal a march on the school last Thursday by quietly slipping away and getting married. As usual we had our eyes and ears open and every one knew what was going to happen before he left the school. The bride is Miss Ryda Bailey, a beautiful and accomplished young lady of Sharon. On his return to school he was met by a shower of rice.

The Literary Society will render the following program Friday afternoon.

Devotional ..... Gene Talley  
Violin solo ..... Rufus Massey  
Reading ..... Gertrude Adkerson  
Solo ..... Mary Kate Stalcup  
Current events ..... Billy Moss  
Locals ..... J. G. Smith

Debate "Should Football be abolished from High School." Affirmative, Oran Thornton and Clara Mai Mott. Negative, Bera Lee Forrester and J. L. Holt. Critic, Floy Kirby. After "cleaning up" Fulton last Friday, the football boys of the Training School proceeded to do the same thing to oysters Monday night. It has become the custom for Mr. Aydelott to give a supper every time a game is won, and we expect to have a supper after every game. "Win and Eat" is our motto.

To every one who enjoys a good game of football, the Training School invites you to come to the park Friday afternoon at two o'clock sharp and you will not be disappointed. We open this season here with one of the strongest teams in West Tennessee, Jackson. We expect a large crowd.

### Democrats and Shipping.

The United States is now the second maritime power in the world. In 1914 the United States had 755 ocean-going vessels, aggregating a little over 2,000,000 gross tons, of which 80 per cent were engaged in coastwise and Great Lakes trade. Only 10 per cent of the country's foreign commerce was carried in American bottoms and the shipbuilding industry was stagnant.

In 1920 on June 30, the United States had 3,040 ocean-going vessels, aggregating over 11,000,000 gross tonnage, and 42 per cent of our country's foreign commerce was carried in American ships.

### The Covenant.

The Covenant of the League of Nations is omitted from the Republican textbook because it is "too long" or not interesting.

The Covenant is not a lengthy document; it takes less than ten pages of the Democratic textbook. It is about as much as ten pages of an ordinary novel.

Steps are being taken to make it easily possible for every American voter to obtain a copy of the Covenant of the League.

### Republican White Book.

The German White Book. It will be remembered, omitted the Czar's letter to Emperor William and other documents of great importance, on the alleged ground that they were not "interesting."

Did the Republican textbook omit the Covenant of the League of Nations because it was not considered "interesting."

### Mr. Sweet Potato Man

I am sure I have the best place in the city to store sweet potatoes for the winter. If you have a crop, come and let me explain my plan to you. All to whom I have spoken say it is the best arrangement they have seen.

29-1fd  
SAM'L D. WOOSLEY.

## ALF TAYLOR AND THE FORCE BILL

If there are any Democrats in Tennessee who are thinking of voting for Col. Alf Taylor for Governor, they should first get acquainted with his record while serving as a member of Congress of 1890, when the infamous "Force Bill" was up for consideration before that body. They should acquaint themselves with that gentleman's opinion of the South and his vote and acts while a member of the Fifty-first Congress.

The Federal Election Bill, commonly known in the South as the "Force Bill," provided for the elimination from the officials of the various States all power to control the elections held in them. It provided that a Chief Supervisor of Elections should be appointed for every district by the Judge of the United States Circuit Court, and this Supervisor should in turn appoint three supervisors to control the elections in every precinct of the various States. That these supervisors might be able to enforce their demands, it was provided that they should have a guard of United States Deputy Marshals, unlimited in number, to stand around the polling places and see that everything was carried on to suit the whims of these Federal Supervisors. These men also had the power to go into the homes of the people prior to election days and investigate their registration, and if foreigners, to ascertain whether they had been properly naturalized, etc. When the polls were ready to count, these supervisors were empowered to count the ballots and certify the results to the Chief Supervisor, who in turn would certify the results to the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives at Washington, who must, under penalty of fine and imprisonment, receive the results announced by such supervisors, and must ignore any results certified to by any Governor of any State, which did not harmonize with the certification of these supervisors. Its purpose was to intimidate the Southern voter, and enable the Republican party by force of arms to control the election of Southern Representatives in Congress. It was to enable them to steal the election of Congressmen just as they stole the electoral vote from Tilden and gave it to Hayes in that memorable contest.

Benton McMillin, then in Congress from Tennessee, said it was "the most far-reaching and revolutionary proposition ever presented. It is centralization run mad." He also pointed out that it would require the services of about 350,000 men at a cost to the Government at each election of not less than \$12,000,000.

Representative Coleman, Republican, of Louisiana, opposed the bill as being a very expensive political blunder, and sectional in its operation.

Representative Ewart, of North Carolina, a Republican, said: "It is as damnable, illogical, inequitable and vicious a piece of legislation as was ever attempted to be placed upon the statute books of this country. It is a sectional measure designed almost entirely for the South."

### WHAT DID TAYLOR SAY?

Col. Taylor, then in Congress, said: "In the district I represent, ALTHOUGH IN THE SOUTH, fraud and intimidation in elections are unknown. Gentlemen on this side of the House have shown the frequency and enormity of these outrages; have shown to what depths of degradation and dishonor our boasted elective system has been dragged; have demonstrated the absolute necessity for this law, and their arguments stand unanswered to this good hour, and their statements are unassailed."

### HIS OPINION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

"But the Democratic party, true to its history, ever ready to array itself against all measures of reform, . . . comes forward in solid phalanx to oppose and attempt to defeat this bill, . . . which is to punish ballot box thieves, bribe-givers, and bribe-takers."

### TAYLOR SAYS IT WAS NOT STRONG ENOUGH.

"It is not the bill some of us wanted. Some of us wanted an even stronger law, . . . but we yielded and accepted this bill. It may not accomplish the purposes for which it is intended, but it can and will be made

stronger and more effective in the future if it fails now."

"THE DUTY OF THE HOUR."  
"Mr. Speaker, what is the duty of the hour? The duty of the hour is for the representatives of the people to invoke by law the strong arm of the Federal power and let it be wielded until every man, black or white, in every city, town, township, parish and precinct in every State, shall be as free as the air that floats . . . and protected in the exercise of his franchise."

(See page 6920, Congressional Record, Fifty-first Session.)

While Northern misguided Republicans derided the conditions existing in the South at this time it was shown in the debate on this bill, and which was not disputed, that in fourteen Northern States in 1888, 3,386,399 Republicans voted, electing 126 members of Congress, while in these same fourteen States 3,074,165 Democrats voted, electing only 47 Congressmen.

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