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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1921

AFTER THE COURTS.

The usual talk in condemnation of the courts is going the rounds now, the grievance being that the murderers of young Brazell were not electrocuted at the time fixed by the court, but the time of such execution has been stayed by their giving notice of appeal to the supreme court. It is stated that these men have delayed the execution of the sentence imposed on them on a "technicality," and the courts get the blame.

In the first place, granting that the defendants should have been executed and an appeal should not have been allowed in their cases, it seems to us that a minute's consideration by those acquainted with the law, (and those who criticize the law and its administration by the courts should be acquainted with the law) would have reminded the critics that the courts do not make the laws. There is a provision in the statute law of this state that when one is convicted of any offense, he may, within ten days of the rising of the court, give notice of his intention to appeal to the supreme court, and within thirty days thereafter he may prepare his case and exceptions, and that after the notice is given and the case served, or until it is served, if the thirty days have not expired, the judgment of the court is stayed. Do the critics of the court contend that the courts should disregard the plain language of the statutory law of the state and electrocute a man while the law says the sentence is stayed? It has become a habit with a great many people to needlessly criticize the courts for matters over which the courts have no control. If there is ground for criticism in the cases referred to here, the criticism should be directed against the legislature which made the laws and not against the courts which merely administer the laws.

In the cases referred to it appears that the appeals taken may be with out merit. We do not know all the grounds of appeal, none of them in fact, but the accounts of the trial seemed to indicate beyond doubt that the defendants are guilty and should be punished according to law. But the tribunal to decide that is the same tribunal which passes on every other case in that jurisdiction. It has been deemed wise to provide that in all criminal cases a person shall not be deprived of his liberty, to say nothing of his life, until he has first been tried in the court of sessions, and then not until the supreme court says that the trial was legal and free from error. We believe the provisions of the law are wise. The law cannot deal with individual cases; a general rule must be made which protects the rights of all; and any man charged with crime has a right to a fair trial.

It is stated that the law's delays furnish excuses for mob law. Perhaps this is true. We think, too, that the criticism of the courts for undertaking to administer the law as it is written, and for undertaking to preserve constitutional rights in this country, is as much responsible as anything else for the contempt which some people express for the law. The people are taught to have no respect for the law and to distrust the courts, and are so taught by those who should know better. They are responsible for a good deal of trouble which is charged up to other people.

We do not deny that there may be provisions of the law which should be changed. The News and Courier suggests that there should be a speedy hearing of appeals in cases of this kind. To this we agree, provided the hearings are not so speedy as to disregard proper consideration of cases. It may be that in criminal cases there should be a provision that the

State may move on five day's notice to dismiss appeals on the ground that the appeals are intended for delay, or that the record shows no error which the court would consider. The court might be open to hear these motions at least once in every thirty days and the motions might be heard and disposed of as rapidly as possible. Perhaps it would do as well to require that a party intending to appeal procure and file with the Clerk of the Supreme Court a certificate from at least two justices that the appeal involves matters demanding investigation by the court. Perhaps better results still would be obtained by strictly enforcing the law as to serving cases, and then by having more frequent terms of the court for hearing appeals in criminal cases. Whatever measures are adopted, however, it will be found that none of them will be entirely satisfactory in all cases. The worst measure that could be adopted would be one which did not insure in every case a fair trial and full investigation of every case in which the State asks for the taking of the life of a human being.

THE FADING STRIKE.

A heavy blow was dealt the "Big Four" among the railway unions by the refusal of so many of the others—numbering fully one-half of all the railroad workers, it is estimated—to join the strike. These other unions had also taken a ballot, and the result was an overwhelming vote in favor of a strike. But their leaders declined to order a strike. There could be no clearer evidence that the vote was really one to place the decision in the hands of the chiefs, who were to exercise their best judgment. This applies as well to the heads of the Big Four; and all the indications now are that they are looking about for the best time and place and excuse to rescind their rash order to strike.

The growing confidence that there will be no strike is due to several causes. One is the gratifying firmness with which the public stood up against yielding to threats. Whichever way the union leaders turned, they encountered a stone wall of unpopularity. Furthermore, the authorities announced their position. Mayors and Governors made ready to exercise their full power. The Federal Administration let it be known that it proposed to utilize every lawful agency to prevent the strike, or to defeat it if attempted. Finally, new energy and decision were from some source—presumably Washington— injected into the Railroad Labor Board and it took hold of the affair with vigor not before displayed.

All these things combine to convince the public that the strike order will be recalled before October 30. Its original issuance was a blunder. This is now tacitly confessed by even the leaders of the unions. If they persist, they will be marching to an assured disaster to their own cause. The wisest and most popular thing they can now do is to submit to the Labor Board—that is, to the law—and call off the strike.—New York Times.

PREACHING AT MIDWAY.

There will be preaching at Midway Baptist church Sunday afternoon at 3.30, by the Rev. L. A. Burrough, of Cannon, Ga.

Supreme Court Takes Recess.

Washington, Oct. 25.—The supreme court recessed today to November 7 after handing down a few opinions of minor importance.

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THE ECHO

NOT THE LAW'S FAULT.

James Louis Petigru, native of Abbeville, born the poorest of poor boys but gifted with transcendent genius, became South Carolina's greatest and ablest lawyer.

The late Attorney-General Leroy F. Youmans once told ex-Governor D. H. Chamberlain this story about Mr. Petigru.

That great lawyer, accompanied by his client, with all his genius argued a case before the Supreme Court of South Carolina.

The court decided against him.

As they left the courtroom, which has been the scene of other miscarriages of justice, his client said with feeling, "The law is all wrong."

"Sir," replied Mr. Petigru, "the law is all right, but the judges are such damned fools!"—Greenville Piedmont.

LUMBER CUT DECLINED DURING YEAR OF 1920

Washington, Oct. 25.—The lumber cut of the United States in 1920 was 33,798,800,000 feet, which is 2.2 per cent less than in 1919, and 27 per cent less than the peak in 1907.

The average price of lumber at the mill increased to \$38.42 per thousand, which is a rise of 150 per cent since 1910. The aggregate value of the cut is \$1,299,000,000. These are the highest annual valuations ever recorded, but do not indicate present conditions. They merely reflect the extremely high peak in the post-war lumber prices which was passed in the first quarter of 1920.

These are the principal statistics obtained by the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture, in its 1920 canvass of American sawmills. They are based upon reports from 15,978 active mills out of 23,243 estimated to have been in operation. Several thousand mills cutting less than 50,000 feet were not tabulated, though allowance was made for their cut. Comparisons with 1919 are published by permission of the Bureau of the Census, United States Department of Commerce.

50 EX-SOLDIERS BRING \$1.00 EACH

Washington, Oct. 25.—Fifty army cots, each containing an unemployed ex-service man, a mattress and a blanket, were sold for \$1 each Saturday afternoon by Urban J. Ledoux, champion of the unemployed.

Two inspectors and one captain of police looked on while the Rev. Albert H. Zimmerman purchased 50 cots with this stipulation:

"That the buyer must secure a job for the unemployed man on each cot, which job shall pay at least 40 cents an hour, or \$3 a day, or \$18 a week."

"With the help of God, I will take

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Reasonable Prices.

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these cots, with all stipulations," Let the railroad men strike—the preacher was the dramatic declaration of Zimmerman, winding up a short address.

And so Ledoux's widely advertised "auction" was a success. "This one on me" is not what it useter be.

Be Glad You Saved Your Money

It is much better to be glad you saved your money than to wish you had. Start saving NOW. Practice the habit of systematic saving. You will be glad many times later on. A STANDARD pass book is waiting for you.

Series now starting.

\$10 a Month for 80 Months will net you \$1,000.
\$20 a Month for 45 Months will net you \$1,000.
\$40 a Month for 24 Months will net you \$1,000.

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W. H. WHITE, President OTTO BRISTOW, Secretary.

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