THE * COMET

GY H. LYLE .....Owner

T. L. ANDERSON
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THE IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS.

The people want these proceedings threshed out in the open. They want to know, and they have a right to know, what is going on. They want absolute justice done and will be satisfied with nothing less. The accused officials of Memphis are fully entitled to the presumption of innocence until their guilt is fully established.—The Lynchburg Banner.

The Banner should not allow itself to become unduly alarmed. While it is insisting so strenuously on the presumption of innocence for the accused Memphians it might likewise assume, until the contrary appears, that the Legislature will act conscientiously.

As a matter of fact there is nothing in the contention of the Banner for publicity. If the Banner really means what it says it should also shed a few tears over the fact that its county grand jury also works behind closed doors. The House is now, in effect, performing the ex parte functions of a grand jury. There may be many reasons why the interests of the State demand privacy at the present stage. If an impeachment or impeachments should be found and come to trial before the Senate, then as in any other court the proceedings should and no doubt will be open and subject to the scrutiny of every citizen of the State.

We do not know whether the accused are guilty or not, though for the good name of the State we hope they are not; and while the grand jury of the Commonwealth is deliberating we will not indulge even in a surmise.

The Legisalture is, for the time being, a tribunal of the State, entitled to respect and to a presumption of impartiality, as ordinary tribunals are.

Since the writing of the foregoing the investigating committees of the House of Representatives have made their reports. The action of the House upon them, by a vote of 86 to 0 as to Judge Edington and 86 to 1 as to Attorney General Estes, should satisfy the Banner and be a vindication of the action of the Governor in calling the extra session.

VOX POPULI.

The election of the 25th marked the close of a heated campaign in Washington County over the question of the work-house levy, the real issue having been whether or not the county should commit itself to the work-house and direct levy method of general road construction. A large vote was polled throughout the county, and the issue was decided against the work-house.

The outcome should be cheerfully acquiesced in by the County Court and the work-house supporters, regardless of any technical question over the validity of the levy already attempted to be made. No one should be blamed for taking a conscientious stand either for or against the work-house in the election; but majority rule is a fixed principle of our plan of government, and now that the people have spoken any further resistance to their decree would be grave error.

The work-house plan is eliminated. The proper step now is for all factions to get together in a spirit of forbearance, and with due consideration for each other's rights and wishes work out a new plan on a just basis. We must have a system of roads at once or fall hopelessly behind more progressive counties. Get together, move together, pull together—city, towns and country. United we stand; divided we fall.

If the Democratic party in Tennessee goes upon record as favoring the restoration of officially protected lawlessness in the cities of the State it might as well quit business. The party will rally to Gov. Rye, the champion of law and order and decency in Tennessee.—Hamilton County Herald.

Two bull's eyes with one shot! As The Comet has previously said, "The time has passed in Tennessee when any man can be elected governor on a platform that does not ring true on prohibition and law enforcement."

Shelby county sends a delegation to the Democratic State Convention uninstructed, but required to vote as a unit; and Hamilton county indulges in a perfunctory endorsement of Gov. Rye, loaded down with a demand that the lawless officials of the cities be no longer hindered by the ouster law. The Memphis News-Scimitar sneeringly mentions that "Memphis is being inflicted with this wave of alleged 'political betterment,'" and the Chattanooga Times solemnly assures the laboring man that "the principle of the ouster law came from Russia." The same old bunch! One and one make two, and two and two make four—even to a hill-billy democrat 'way up here among the mountains.

Monday afternoon taps sounded for the sixth year of the Daily Staff's existence.—The Johnson City Staff.

Too bad! For the sounding of taps in the afternoon usually means a dead soldier laid away. We trust that the report is erroneous, though it seems to come with authority; and that investigation will show that only retreat should have been sounded.

The Bristol Herald-Courier offered a goat, wagon and harness to the boy bringing in the largest number of tin cans in the clean-up campaign. The winner collected 13,276 cans. These ought to supply the goat for a year at least.

ENGINEER J. A. DOWELL KILLED NEAR CHURCH HILL

BRISTOL, Tenn., March 29.—Engineer J. A. Dowell was instantly killed by being caught under the tender of his engine, when the locomotive was derailed near Church Hill, in Hawkins county, at 10:45 o'clock this forenoon, and rolled down a bank, carrying with it six loaded coal cars. It was reported here that a section of rail had been removed, and that for some cause the train was not flagged. Officials of the road reported, however, that they had not been fully advised as to the cause of the wreck, any further than to have received positive news that the engine and six cars had been derailed, and that Engineer Dowell had met instant death.

The wreck occurred on the Holston River Branch of the Virginia and Southwestern railway, and the derailed train was en route from Appalachia, Va., to Bull's Gap, Tenn.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

I hereby announce myself a candidate for Sheriff of Washington county, subject to the action of the Republican primary, April 15th. Your vote and influence will be greatly appreciated. Respectfully,

JOHN H. MILLER.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

I hereby announce myself a candidate for Sheriff of Washington county, subject to the Republican primary April 15th. I will appreciate your vote and influence.

Respectfully, D. M. WALTERS.

I hereby announce my candidacy for renomination for Trustee of Washington county, subject to the will and action of the republican party in primary on April 15th. I will appreciate your vote and influence.

J. W. WEEKS.

OFFICIAL VOTE AS CANVASSED MONDAY

The official canvass of the votes cast in the workhouse tax levy election, held on Saturday, March 25, was made Monday by the election commissioners at Jonesboro. Below is the detailed vote:

	For.	Against.
1st district	181	3
2d district	49	106
3d district	65	49
4th district	181	14
5th district	120	84
6th district	92	22
7th district	83	16
8th district	137	121
9th, 1st ward	43	650
9th, 2d ward	26	1029
10th district	16	190
11th district	94	91
12th district	147	55
13th district	180	1
14th district	269	3
15th district	325	33
16th district	113	3
17th district	165	6
18th district	80	72
Total	2366	2548

Majority against workhouse, 182.

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS.

By direction of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, the time for paying taxes for 1915 has been extended to the first Monday in April—April 3rd.

After that date 5 per cent penalty and interest at the rate of one-half of one per centum per month will be added. No further extensions will be made. State and county penalties are even higher.

WM. R. POUDER,
City Treasurer.

CURRENT COMMENT.

Make Good Roads and Keep Them Good.

The policy adopted and that is being pursued in Indiana respecting road building is a sensible one. It is not alone to make good roads, but to conserve and keep them good a reasonable length of time. The Courier-Journal tells of a man in that state who hauled "more than 2,500 pounds in a wagon with tires less than three inches wide," being fined $2.

That tells the story. They have a law against hauling a load of that weight in a wagon with tires less than three inches wide. It would be impracticable to make such a law in regard to roads that were not good ones, but in the case of a good road it is a reasonable law.

Country roads and city streets are the sufferers from loaded wagons with narrow tires. With wider tires for loaded wagons roads would remain good much longer, and so would streets in cities, especially such as are macadamized streets.

One of the troubles in Tennessee has been the failure to macadamize them properly at the start, and then failing to pay proper attention to the keeping of them in reasonable repair. One of the besetting sins of this country is that of waste has been seen especially in connection with the construction and the keeping in repair of the public roads.

The failure to pay reasonable attention to the conservation of the public highways, many that have been graded and macadamized, in a way, have remained passable roads no longer than a few years, many of them a very few. The money spent in grading and macadamizing has been practically wasted.

The law in Indiana is a good one to think about, and where the roads are really good ones, such a law as is found there is one that serves the general public interest.—Knoxville Journal and Tribune.

Rye Accepts Challenge.

The issues between Gov. Rye and the disgruntled element which has set about to embarass him in the approaching Democratic State Convention are clearly drawn.

In a statement issued yesterday by Mr. Lit J. Pardue, campaign manager for Gov. Rye, the gauge of battle as described by the Hamilton County Democratic Convention is accepted.

The Hamilton County Convention endorsed the administration of Gov. Rye with such evident lack of enthusiasm and in a manner so contradictory to the manifest opinion of the convention that the endorsement was formal and empty. By an overwhelming vote it adopted a resolution demanding the repeal of the ouster law and characterized it as contrary to Democratic government.

The expressed purpose of the action of the Hamilton County Convention was to light the torch which would spread a political conflagration throughout the state. One speaker, who appeared to voice the sentiment of the convention, declared amid great applause that "Tom Rye is not writing the platform of the Democratic party."

Gov. Rye is not presuming to write the Democratic platform. He has said that he will accept the nomination only on condition that its enunciation shall be an emphatic declaration in keeping with his convictions.

He stands for the vital principles proclaimed by the Democratic Convention of 1914. He opposes any backward step in the enforcement of law. He proposes to stand by the record he has made as Governor and offers no apology for having exerted the influence of his office for the creation of a decent regard for law.

It is for the county conventions and the delegates to the Democratic State Convention to say whether they prefer to return to the days of contempt for law with open and notorious violations, ballot box thievery and machine domination, or they will stand by Gov. Rye's administration in his application of the ouster law to faithless officials and his stand for what is decent and honest in government.—Nashville Banner.

Villa in Mexico.

A coward in a corner will fight. Villa in Mexico is no coward. He is no braggart. He is no quitter. He realizes that he is up against it, and this has actuated his deeds of desperation.

At the opening of this, to be continued in our next series of revolutions, Villa has been the conspicuous figure in Mexico. Like many other great commanders in the wars of the past, he is illiterate. He has no education, no social polish, nothing to commend him socially.

He was a mountain guide at one time, but his principal business has been that of a highwayman. The special art of the bandit seems to have been his birthright. Villa is by instinctive inclination a marauder, but along with this he has acquired the natural tact, discretion and ability of a general.

Where commanding men is concerned Villa is the best equipped man in Mexico.

Carranza is a scholar, a gentleman, a man of intelligence and polish, but as a general there is nothing in Carranza to show that he knows anything about directing a war, about commanding men or about indicating what the Mexican troops shall do.

After all it is not worth while to discuss these details. It is up to Uncle Sam to come in and bring order out of chaos. This he can and will do, but not until due tribute has been paid to the United States will the American people be satisfied.—Memphis Commercial-Appeal.

Greece has not engaged in war, but she is already "broke," and the government is unable to pay even its messenger boys. Switzerland is not engaged in the war and yet that brave country has been subjected to losses by unnecessary waste of millions of dollars. Other neutral countries have suffered, and while the United States has profited largely in some ways, we have lost enormously in others. The neutral countries are in the attitude of the innocent bystander in a Kentucky feud.—Memphis News-Scimitar.

Maybe Carranza's offer of a reward of 40,000 pesos for the capture of Villa would arouse more enthusiasm and earnest search if folks could be assured as to what a Carranza peso is worth.—Chattanooga Times.

General Villa

JOHN REED, WAR CORRESPONDENT, SAYS HE IS BORN MILITARY LEADER

(By Robt. Mountsier.)

No ordinary punitive expeditionary force can ever find Francisco Villa unless he is betrayed! So declares John Reed, who knows Villa better than any other American alive. Reed spent five months with the Mexican revolutionary leader, eating with him in his home, riding with him on his train, going with him in the saddle on his campaigns and attending his councils of war.

"American army officers," continued Reed, famous writer, and war correspondent, "have said again and again that Villa is a born military leader, and that's just what he is. He knows northern Mexico thoroughly and will lead our soldiers, no matter how many we send, a chase before he is taken dead or alive.

"If he is accompanied by men who possess the bravery of those I saw storm Gomez palace they will not be afraid to attack even an overwhelming force should Villa think it best for them to do so.

"When the pursuit is on Villa's men will undoubtedly scatter and come together later in the mountains and harass the invading troops. It is doubtful if Villa will risk any kind of open battle against well-armed American troops. I should not be surprised if he were betrayed by some of his officers. It is unlikely that any of his peon comrades will betray him.

"Villa once told me most of the educated men he had known had betrayed him, so he did not trust educated men. He was born a peon, and for twenty-two years was a bandit beloved by the peons.

"He was the Mexican Robin Hood, taking cattle from the rich to feed the poor and raiding haciendas to put an end to unjust conditions prevailing on them.

"But Villa is not a romantic, noble, Christ-like figure. He is a rough frontiersman who does not spare his enemies.

"Villa is the best rider, shot and dancer in northern Mexico. He is especially fond of gambling and dancing and loves to get into the ring at a bull fight and try his luck.

"He would walk up to the infuriated animal and with his double cape slap him insolently across the face and for half an hour would follow the greatest sport I ever saw.

"Sometimes the sawed-off horns of the bull would catch Villa in the seat of the trousers and project him violently across the ring.

"I do not think his personal ambition is very great and the manner in which he accepted a medal for personal bravery throws light on this phase of his character.

"The ceremony took place in the audience of the governor's palace in Chihuahua, with officers in smart uniforms faced with black velvet and gold, officials in full dress and on the gilded throne chair and under a canopy of crimson velvet, Villa in an old plain khaki uniform with several buttons loose and his face unshaven.

"The orators spoke in the high-flung extravagant periods necessary to Mexican oratory, describing Villa's personal bravery and calling him 'The Friend of the Poor,' 'The Invincible General,' 'The Inspirer of Courage and Patriotism' and 'The Hope of the Indian Republic.'

"Through it all Villa slouched on the throne, his mouth hanging open. Finally Col. Serven stepped forward with the medal. Villa put out his hands eagerly, like a child for a new toy. He could hardly wait to open the box and see what was inside.

"Villa looked at the medal, scratching his head, and then the great crowd, reverently awaiting his words, heard these from his lips:

"'This is a hell of a little thing to give a man for all that heroism you are talking about.'

"Villa has two wives, or, at least, he had two when I was with him, one a patient, simple woman who was with him during all his years of outlawry and the other a cat-like slender girl.

"Once I asked him if women would vote in the republic he planned to establish. 'Why, I don't think so,' he said, startled. 'What do you mean—vote? Do you mean elect a government and make laws?'

"I said I did and that women were already doing it in the United States.

"'Well, if they are doing it there I don't see why they shouldn't do it here. But women can't consider anything for its right or wrong. They are full of pity and softness. Why, a woman would not give an order to execute a traitor.'"

When Reed said women could be more cruel than men Villa put his statement to a test by asking young Mrs. Villa what should be done with three men who had tried to destroy a bridge of military value to his army.

Mrs. Villa said: "Shoot them."

Villa chuckled delightedly and for days afterward went around asking the cooks and the chambermaids whom they would like to have for president of Mexico.

Time to plant cabbage now. Bruce Wholesale Plant Co., Valdosta, Ga., has 35,000,000 Plants ready. Why wait? Order today.

MANY LIKE THIS IN JOHNSON CITY

Similar Cases Being Published In Each Issue.

The following case is but one of many occurring daily in Johnson City. It is an easy matter to verify it. You cannot ask for better proof.

Mrs. W. Deakins, 304 W. Maple St., Johnson City, says: "About twice a year, I had an attack of pain in my back along with a dull ache, lameness and stiffness. At such times the kidney secretions passed irregularly. Whenever one of these spells has come on, I have used Doan's Kidney Pills and they have never failed to relieve me. They are a fine kidney medicine."

Price 50c, at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mrs. Deakins had. Foster-Milburn Co., Props., Buffalo, N. Y.

Fused Alumina.

"Alundum" is the name given to a fused form of alumina. It is extensively used in the manufacture of crucibles and other vessels for which a refractory material is needed.

CHEROKEE.

John Anderson, the lumber dealer, was a business visitor in Johnson City last Saturday.

Mr. John W. Feathers and wife were visiting Mrs. Butler last Sunday.

Spears Greene of Johnson City was visiting friends here recently.

Rev. George Phelps preached a fine sermon at Union Sunday.

Mr. D. E. Fine, our tax assessor, was in Johnson City last week on business. Mr. Fine has made a splendid assessor for the county and his friends hope he will be re-elected. He deserves an indorsement on his record.

John A. Scott, the merchant, was in Johnson City on business Monday.

John D. Leach of Johnson City was visiting relatives here recently.

E. E. Scott was here from Embreville last Saturday.

The many friends of Sheriff Pritchett here are real glad that he got the postmastership at Jonesboro, as he has a host of friends here.

TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS.

Communications intended for the Comet must be made as brief as possible. Letters must bear the names and addresses of the writers as an evidence of good faith, but the names will not be published without the consent of the contributors. Under no circumstances will anonymous communications be printed.