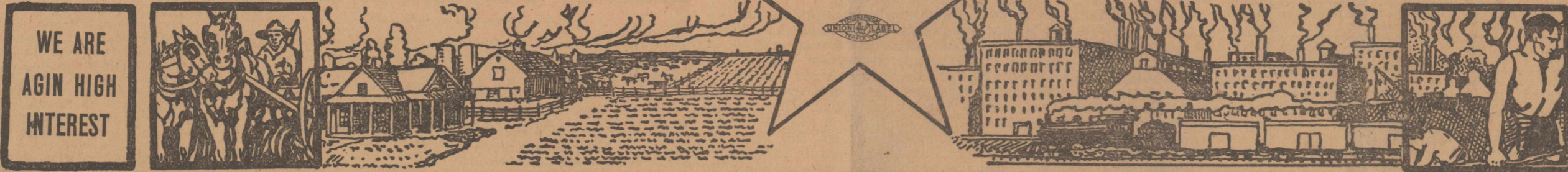


The Ferguson Forum



WE ARE AGIN HIGH INTEREST

WE ARE AGIN HIGH TAXES

WINKLER E. W. 1907 GUNDEL PIPE AUSTIN, TEX.

Prison Board Officials Correct Statements made By T. K. Irwin In Talk to Welfare Conference

Huntsville, Texas, March 15.—Frank O'Rourke, secretary of the State Board of Prison Commissioners, has sent the following letter to T. K. Irwin, State Representative from Dallas county:

"Newspaper dispatches from San Antonio state that in an address delivered before the Texas Conference of Social Welfare Workers on March 11, you made the statement that there had been more men escape from the Harlem and Bassett Blakely State farms than from the Pat Neff honor farm during its existence.

"I wish to correct you and to state that the Pat Neff honor farm average for escapes was 4.6 during the entire period of its duration; whereas the average for the Harlem and Bassett Blakely farms for the same period was 1.25 and 1.57 per cent, respectively.

"The population of the Pat Neff honor farm averaged eighty-eight men a day, with a total of forty-nine escapes during its twelve months of existence, while during the same period the Harlem State farm daily average was 321 men, with a total of forty-four escapes. For this same period the Bassett Blakely farm averaged 143 men a day, with twenty-seven escapes.

"You also stated that of the first seventy-four men that were placed on the Neff honor farm, none escaped. I wish to state that seven of the first contingent sent to the farm did escape, four of them escaping in one month after the Pat Neff honor farm was established.

"You further stated that the men for the honor farm were selected by three men. This is also a error. The men for the Pat Neff honor farm were selected by Commissioner H. W. Sayle and the farm managers of the various white camps, and all of the men that were sent to the honor farm were approved as trustworthy by the entire board of prison commissioners at their regular meetings.

"I do not know where you obtained the statistics that were published in the newspapers, but I want to correct you as well as the impression you left in the minds of the newspapers of the state of Texas, and give you and them the facts.

"I am forwarding a copy of this letter to several of the leading newspapers in this state in order that they may put this matter before the citizenry of this great commonwealth of ours in its proper light."

J. A. Herring, chairman of the Board of Prison Commissioners, also has sent a letter to Mr. Irwin, Mr. Herring's letter follows:

"My attention has recently been called to what purported to be a speech made by you in San Antonio, in which you attempted to deal with the Pat Neff honor farm and the cause of its breaking up.

"You are supposed to have said that the head of the penitentiary system was not in sympathy with this farm, and selected men to be sent to it for the purpose of letting them run away. You stated further that of the seventy-six men originally selected by some man, whose name you did not call, who was in hearty sympathy with the farm, none of those men ever escaped, but a bunch selected by the head of the penitentiary system, fourteen escaped in one day. This statement is untrue.

"I am the chairman of the Prison Commission, and probably am the man to whom you refer as being the head of the prison system. For your information, I desire to state that I never at any time selected any man for the Pat Neff

NICKEL PLATE ROADS TO BE RETURNED TO OWNERS

New York, March 16.—Stock of the various railroads involved in the Nickel Plate merger, which has been held on deposit pending a final decision on the plan will be returned to holders on or before May 1, 1926, the Nickel Plate deposit commission announced today.

Highway Commission Answers Moody

Chairman Hal Moseley, of the Texas Highway Commission, has answered the letter of March 4 written by Attorney General Dan Moody in which the attorney general criticised certain road work specifications in calls for bids by the commission. The chairman of the highway commission discusses in detail the various proposals and specifications, and these are largely technical. But the highway chairman makes plain the attitude of the commission upon interference with matters wholly vested in the highway commission. Here are several extracts from the letter written by Chairman Moseley:

"I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of March 4.

"Your communication questions the judgment of the highway commission in advertising for bids on a second surface treatment of the roads formerly treated by the American Road company.

"The question of what should be done to preserve the highways that were given a single surface treatment by the American Road Company was taken up in December with Mr. Hank, then highway engineer, and after our conversation he was instructed to have a careful inspection and report made on the condition of the various highways. This survey and report was made by an engineer of experience and an employe of the highway department. I also discussed the matter with Mr. Cox, the maintenance engineer, and Mr. Kemper, acting highway engineer, and from the information these engineers gave me the decision was reached that something should be done at once.

"The specifications were prepared using our standard specifications and such additional requirements as we deemed necessary to fully protect the state of Texas. * * * "As to the specifications requiring the contractor to furnish at least ten asphalt machines on these contracts: There had to be some way devised to eliminate the undesirable contractor. One without any practical experience and perhaps without any organization at the time bids were advertised and this method was adopted since the commission is compelled to award to the lowest and not the lowest and best bidder. * * *

"We can not accept your conclusion that bituminous surface treatment is worthless as a road material. We know that it is not anything like as good as other and much more expensive materials but as an economical method of preserving roads until we can afford to pay for better types it has its value, and to condemn it altogether as you would have us do would deprive us of a type of road economical of construction and maintenance.

"The highway commission, Mr. Attorney General, is charged with the responsibility of the construction of new highways and with the maintenance of the existing highways, and it is not our intention to delegate any part of that authority to anyone. So far as the legal matters are concerned, we will be glad to seek your advice, but the question of policy and methods of construction are still vested in the highway commission."

Members of Texas Farm Bureau Cotton Association Get Advance of \$17,000,000 for This Season

Dallas, Texas, March 17.—Members of the Texas Farm Bureau Cotton Association have received more than \$17,000,000 in advances to date this season, Harry Williams, secretary-treasurer, announced Tuesday as checks for \$2,652,318.02 were sent out during the day.

"That co-operative marketing is placing members rapidly upon a cash basis is indicated in the distribution of checks just mailed," John T. Orr, president and general manager, said. "Of the several millions of dollars sent out Tuesday, 75.27 per cent went direct to the members and only 24.73 per cent direct to the banks of the state to be applied on mortgages and other obligations of this nature. This is the largest per cent of any distribution going direct to the members.

"Several years ago practically all of the distributions were sent to banks but with each subsequent distribution such percentage has lessened and the percentage to the members directly has increased.

"This is an outstanding benefit of cotton co-operative marketing that many have overlooked, and stresses the value of the periodic distributions throughout the year. Through these periodic distributions, such as was made Tuesday, members of the association receive funds at seasonable times of the year and are able to plan their farm operations accordingly, lessen the necessity of a long-time, interest-bearing mortgages, resulting in the members rapidly getting upon a cash basis."

Kluxers Drop Robes and Flee When Shot at by Their Victim

Royston, Ga., March 17.—One man is dead and two were seriously injured, one perhaps fatally, as a result of a shooting affray here on the night of March 10, which was precipitated by the visit of a band of 50 or more white robed men to the home of H. L. Bigby, lumberman.

Sheriff T. H. Moss expressed the opinion that the members of the band, who had surrounded Bigby's house, became confused when he opened the door and began firing and shot each other and Bigby.

Walton Adams, well known farmer, who was killed, and Ben Harrison, who was seriously wounded, are believed by the sheriff to have been members of the band.

Bigby is in an Anderson, S. C., hospital, shot through the head, and little hope is held for his recovery. The sheriff said the band had visited Bigby because of alleged attentions he paid to a married woman here.

He also added a secret organization had recently sent Bigby warning to cease his attentions to the woman. Bigby is a married man. His wife who lives at Honea Patch, N. C., is said to have visited him several times since he has been here.

No arrests will be made in the case, the sheriff said, unless formal complaints are filed.

He said the identities of other members of the band had not been established as all were masked.

White robes were found about hte Bigby residence, discarded by the fleeing members of the band.

Noted Financier of New York Is Head of San Pedro C. of C.

San Pedro, Cal., March 16.—Frank A. Vanderlip, New York financier, who recently became a resident of the Palos Verdes district here, has been elected president of the San Pedro Chamber of Commerce. He accepted the position.

Fiddlers in Florida Rival Nero as Fires Rage Around Them

Palm Beach, Fla., March 13.—Nero had nothing on the West Palm Beach Municipal band. Almost every time they "fiddle" something burns.

On March 13, 1925, the band was playing "There'll Be a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight" at the Athletic Field here. As it played, the Breaker Hotel burned.

Tuesday, as the band was playing "Keep the Home Fires Burning" at Orlando, a \$25,000 warehouse burned a block away.

The following day, the band played at Lake Toia. As it struck up the strains of "Red Hot Mama" fire burst forth in a private hospital across the lake.

Fire Chief Alfred P. Sadler said the band should be equipped with asbestos uniforms.

Senator W. S. Moore Is Named District Judge by Governor

Austin, Texas, March 17.—State Senator W. S. Moore of Gainesville Monday was appointed district judge of the Sixteenth Judicial District, vice Judge C. R. Pearman, deceased.

Appointment of Mr. Moore leaves a vacancy in the Ninth Senatorial District, comprised of the counties of Cooke, Grayson and Fannin. However, the coming election will fill the place, since Senator Moore drew a short term.

Mr. Moore has accepted the place and tendered his resignation as senator upon his qualification as Judge at Gainesville.

Mr. Moore has practiced law in Gainesville for twelve years. He gained considerable publicity during the last legislature when he led several fights on the senate floor and sponsored the anti-open muffler law.

Reasons for Supporting Ma Given By Coleman Voter Who Has Been 43 Years a Resident of This State

Editor Forum:—Mrs. Ferguson's announcement for governor has carried cheer into the hearts of hundreds of thousands of men and women of Texas. It has lifted the campaign upon a proper basis and given the people an issue worthy of thought and action. There will be something more than mere "wrist slapping and peace at any price fixing" in this campaign. It is to be the same old, old battle with democracy on one side and would be aristocracy on the other.

The "Ferguson issue" is in no sense one of mere personalities as some few rather persuasive editorial writers would have us believe. Neither have the Ferguson enemies been caused by any wrong thing the Fergusons have done. The "Ferguson issue" is one of fundamental statesmanship as well as Christian ethics. And their enemies were caused by the right things, the really worth-while things the Fergusons have done.

If James E. Ferguson back yonder during his term as governor, had seen fit to ignore the cause of the people and neglect his pledges made to the people he might today have for his friends some of his most bitter enemies.

Let us repeat a little history that will illustrate this fact. When James E. Ferguson was governor he found that many big landlords of Texas were not satisfied with the regulation rent of one-third of the grain and one-fourth of the cotton, but were charging in addition an unconscionable bonus, in some instances as high as twenty to thirty dollars per acre extra. Now Mr. Ferguson, though himself a big landlord, said this practice of charging a bonus was wrong and unjust to the tenant, and upon his own initiative had passed what is known as the Land-Tenant Law fixing the rental charge at "one-third and one-fourth," and fixing a penalty for any bonus charge whatever. This cutting out the bonus graft made Mr. Ferguson some of the most bitter enemies among that landed class, who look upon the real farmers as mere beasts of burden whose duty it is to bring the country wealth into the coffers of the city rich.

A six months term for rural schools had been the dream and campaign pledge of most all candidates for governor since Texas had been a state. But it was left to the mind and heart of Jim Ferguson to give this very great and just boon to the village and country schools. When he came to office, he found the rural schools in a deplorable condition, little one-room schools running from three to five months in the year, with under paid teachers hawking their vouchers and discounting them, in some instances, as high as 25 per cent. Mr. Ferguson said this was wrong. And again on his own initiative had passed what is known as the state Aid Law giving the weak schools the right to combine and also making an appropriation sufficient to run all schools for the length of six months or better.

I have been a citizen of Texas for forty-three years, and most of that time I have been connected with the country schools either as pupil, teacher or trustee, and I know that nothing in the way of legislation during that time has given the thrift and help to the country schools as has the state aid law.

But strange as it may appear to a civilized people, no sooner did Mr. Ferguson begin to advocate "state aid" than his enemies began to trumpet up charges to impeach him. And the very fact that Jim Ferguson put through the "state aid law" caused him to lose the office of governor. There is no question about this. We have the sworn testimony of an opposing witness to this effect.

With these two beneficent laws, the state Aid for public schools, and the Land Tenant for the small farmer and tenant I can not see how any country man or woman can find it in his heart to oppose Ma and Jim in this election. Economic and educational advantages or the two great levers that lift the world to its highest civilization, and in this Jim Ferguson stands pre-eminent among the statesmen of Texas. Deny it who can.

Not only did Jim Ferguson in the time he was allowed to occupy the governor's chair demonstrate constructive statesmanship of a high order, but he proved himself a business man of extraordinary ability in bringing the penitentiary out of the hole and putting it in the clear to the sum of near a million dollars. In this he exercised humane treatment and Christian ethics; as he also did in taking the insane, blind, deaf and dumb out of fire traps and jails and putting them in decent surroundings.

These are only a few of the reasons why the country people have always stood by Mr. Ferguson.

And we are today standing more firmly, if possible, behind Ma. We want Ma because in getting Ma we get Jim also. And then we want Ma just because she is Ma, and has given us a great administration, one that the people of Texas can always be proud of. She has again brought the penitentiary out of debt, put the state upon a cash basis, unrobed the "night prowlers," introduced Christian ethics in dealing with prisoners, enlarged the institutions for the unfortunate, cleared the jails of the insane and was giving the people of Texas a great road system that would have been an honor to the state, if she had not been interfered with by political enemies.

J. B. LAWS,

Coleman, Texas.

Uphur County for Ferguson.

Editor Forum:

I do not know at this time just what the issues of the campaign are to be, but I feel sure that a certain element will put forth every effort, as they have always done, to defeat the Fergusons. While on the other hand there is an element in Texas that will do all they can to uphold Mrs. Ferguson in her race for governor. Thereby they will express their appreciation for her husband Ex-Governor James E. Ferguson.

I believe that Mrs. Ferguson should be elected again. First because it is a well established domestic custom that one should hold the office of governor of Texas for two terms. Then I believe that Mrs. Ferguson should be re-elected governor because it was through her that we who believe in a government of the people, by the people and for the people saved Texas from the hands of a few by defeating Felix D. Robertson, the avowed klan candidate two years ago. Then again

(Continued On Page Three)

State Treasury Has Biggest Balance on Hand in Six Years

Austin, Texas, March 17.—The sum of \$20,205,950, representing balances in all of the different funds of the state government, is now deposited with the state and reserve depository banks, it was announced by W. Gregory Hatcher, state treasurer, March 12. This is the first time in the history of Texas that so much money has been in the treasury. The nearest approach to this amount was the sum of \$17,000,000 in 1920 and \$15,000,000 in 1925, Hatcher stated. These funds are deposited with the state depository and the reserve depository banks of Texas.

He called attention to the fact that warrants were being sent out from his office for the available school fund, amounting to \$6,000,000 and that this amount, together with other heavy withdrawals, would probably reduce the funds on hand to \$12,000,000 or \$15,000,000 within the next week or ten days.

TO CANDIDATES—

The Forum is the best medium for making known your candidacy as it is read more closely than any other paper in all Texas. Political announcements of candidates for office in the 1926 campaigns will be published from now until the July primaries at the following rates:

Precinct offices	\$10.00
County offices	\$15.00
District offices—	
judges, district attorneys, etc.	\$25.00
State offices	\$50.00

Cash must accompany notice.

If you put your announcement in the Forum the voters will see it.

