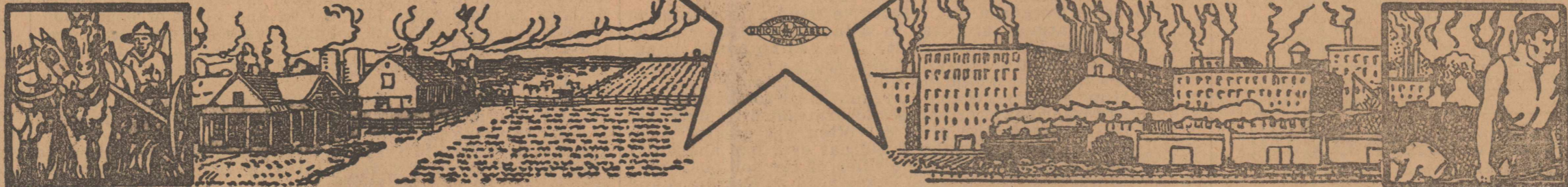


# The Ferguson Forum

WE ARE  
AGIN HIGH  
INTEREST



WE ARE  
AGIN HIGH  
TAXES

9-17-26  
1907 GUADALUPE  
AUSTIN TEX

VOL. X

TEMPLE, TEXAS, THURSDAY, NOV. 4, 1926

NO. 1

## Harris County Youth Wins First Place as Farm Club Worker in United States

Houston, Texas, Nov. 3.—Homer Sheffield, 16, of Crosby, was declared the outstanding boys' agricultural club worker in the United States.

He was selected as the winner in a national contest conducted by a farm journal of Philadelphia, according to a telegram received by the agricultural department of the Houston Chamber of Commerce.

Besides he was awarded a prize of \$500. The award was made on the basis of his work as a member and leader of the Crosby Agricultural Club.

The sandy-haired Crosby youth always has been a firm believer in a career on the farm. At 13 he was awarded a prize as the best poultry judge in Texas. He is serving his third term as president of the Crosby club, and at the farmers' short course at Agricultural and Mechanical College this year, he was elected president of the State Federation of Boys and Girls' club, the highest state honor in agricultural club work.

Two years ago he won a prize offered by the Santa Fe Railroad for excellent work and was awarded a trip to Chicago, where he attended the National Federation of Agricultural Clubs. Nineteen other Texas boys made the trip.

Purpose of the contest conducted by the farm journal was to prove that qualities of leadership acquired through club work could be applied to community affairs. In considering the contestants, 50 points were awarded for work done as a club member and 50 for qualities of leadership. Contestants throughout the United States submitted their

records in club work, and Homer Sheffield won out over hundreds of acknowledged leaders in various parts of the country.

Agricultural club work in Harris County is carried on through the agricultural department of the Chamber of Commerce. E. G. Eagleston is in charge of boys' club work.

Eagleston describes Sheffield as a boy of unusual alertness.

As an example of his acuteness in business matters, Eagleston cited his solution of the low cotton price problem. In this respect he did better than the majority of farmers and financiers who have discussed acreage reduction and other solutions of a situation that threatens ruin to the Southern cotton farmers, Eagleston said.

Homer raised two bales of cotton on five acres of his little farm. He sold one bale at the prevailing low price. When the price of cotton continued to fall and he could obtain but 10 cents a pound for his product, he worked out a new method of marketing his remaining bale.

He contracted with a mattress factory to manufacture 10 mattresses from the bale of cotton. These mattresses are expected to sell for \$250. Raising the cotton and manufacturing the mattresses will cost him \$100, leaving him a net profit of \$150. If he had sold his cotton at prevailing prices, he could have received \$50.

"We are watching that boy," Eagleston declared. "He is showing us what can be done when one takes advantage of his opportunities."

## Education That Will Bring Cotton Into Wider Use Is Proposed To Relieve Drop

Editor Forum: I should like you to read the following points in regard to the cotton situation and think them over.

A good many suggestions have been made as to how to stabilize the price of cotton, some of them good and some bad, very little has been said however, about educating the public to using more cotton.

Texas and all the south are cotton growing states and always will be and it is going to be very difficult to cut down the acreage to any extent. I have noticed a good many suggestions about the holding of cotton. To hold two or three million bales off the market and finance it co-operatively, as is suggested, would of course help to sustain the market, but it would not restore it, for this cotton would have to be sold at some time.

I have three suggestions, which I believe would stabilize the price of cotton:

First: Jute is one of the principal competitors of cotton. Immense quantities are imported to this country to be used in the manufacture of bags, cotton bagging and other purposes and I am informed that if cotton was used for this purpose instead of jute that it would utilize several million bales. The department of commerce at Washington, D. C. informed me that the imports of burlap in 1925, amounted to 625,815,937 pounds, valued at \$85,027,954.00.

I recently noted an article in the Dallas News, reading as follows: "Sugarland, Ft. Bend county, Texas, Oct. 11. The Imperial Sugar company, of Sugarland, on Monday placed an order with two Texas bag concerns, for cotton sugar bags. This order will require 2,500 bales of cotton. For years most of the sugar has been packed in burlap imported from India. The packing of the entire output of the Imperial Sugar company in cotton bags, would require six or seven thousand bales of cotton annually. T. D. Ulrich, vice president, and general manager of the sugar company, in replacing the order said: "If the merchants and other consumers of sugar will specify cotton bags to help the farmers, our company will pack all its sugar accordingly." His suggestion is, that the price of cotton be boosted by increasing the demand."

Second: If educational work was done to cut down the use of silk to one-half and cotton used in its place, this would utilize a large quantity of cotton. I recently read where the society ladies of Boston, Mass., and the people of Ennis, Texas were using and recommending the wearing of cotton dresses instead of silk. Educational work along this line should be done to encourage others to do the same thing.

Third: If each farmer would set aside 20 per cent of his cultivated land, especially land that has been in cotton for a number of years and where root rot has been the worst this

year and leave this fallow for one year and the following year, plant in regular crops and would continue to set aside 20 per cent each year so as to give the land an entire rest, I believe this would help.

A better idea would be, if this 20 per cent of the land was set aside and planted in cover and leguminous crops and these plowed under in the spring, they would help to get rid of the root rot and at the same time enrich the land and put it in better condition for succeeding crops.

A few years ago, the raisin growers of California were in the same boat as our cotton growers in the south are today, they could not sell their raisins and everybody who handled them were losing money. They got together, however, and did a lot of educational work in the newspapers and magazines all over the country, telling people all about raisins and how to use them and in this way, created a new demand, so that today, I understand that raisins are sold by the producers on a profitable basis.

The south has lost this year, millions of dollars on cotton, and I think if a fund of one million dollars was created by taking subscriptions from growers, dealers and others over the southern states and placed in the hands of a competent committee, to be used for publicity and educational work, so as to create a new demand for cotton, this work, being done through the newspapers and magazines all over the United States, that money spent in this way would bring the desired results.

Of course, it would be a big job to carry out any of these ideas, but I believe that educational work, through the medium of the Press, would do a great deal towards having ideas of this kind carried out.

If others would do the same as the Imperial Sugar company, the Boston ladies, and the people of Ennis, it would only be a short time until the price of cotton would be back to where it belongs with the increased consumption.

In order to do our part, we are arranging to put out all of our seeds in cotton bags, in place of burlap, provided we can get the bag manufacturers to make the kind of bags we require, which we think we will be able to do.

If merchants and farmers would insist on everything they buy that is put up in bags, that the bags should be made of cotton and if they were to use cotton bagging for their cotton, we believe that the price of cotton would soon adjust itself, with very little expense to anyone.

Cotton bags after being emptied can be used by the farmer for a great many purposes where burlap cannot be used and although cotton bags may cost more than burlap, yet in the long run, on account of the other uses it can be put to, it will really be cheaper than burlap.

ROBT. H. NICHOLSON.  
Dallas, Texas, Oct. 30, 1926.

## Agreements In the Jackson Case

There was an agreement to recommend leniency by the governor in the case of Murray Jackson, convicted in the Williamson county flogging cases and sent to the penitentiary for a five year term, or there is an issue of veracity between Senator A. E. Wood of Granger, one of Jackson's attorneys, and Dan Moody and other lawyers who assisted in prosecuting Jackson.

In a letter April 14, 1926, and addressed by Senator Wood to Hon. Joe Burkett, this agreement among the lawyers for the defense and prosecution in the Jackson case is definitely admitted and set out by Senator Wood. Senator Wood in his letter says with reference to Olen Gossett, one of the defendants in the flogging case who pleaded guilty and received a sentence of one year: "An agreement was reached between the attorneys representing the state and the defense whereby Gossett pleaded guilty and received a 1-year sentence in the penitentiary." The senator recites a like agreement made in the case of Dewey Ball and then writes to Mr. Burkett as follows: "IT WAS AGREED that in case the court of criminal appeals should reverse the Jackson case he should receive the same privilege, but in case the court affirmed his case, the district attorney (Dan Moody) and the attorneys appointed to prosecute Jackson would recommend to the governor that his sentence be commuted to one year in the penitentiary."

That is what Senator Wood wrote and if the English language has any meaning there was an AGREEMENT to the effect named by the senator or somebody has done some wild guessing. Moody and other lawyers for the prosecution have denied this agreement and censured Governor Ferguson for her action in the Jackson case. The governor gave out last Saturday at Austin a statement which embraced Senator Wood's letter. This statement was reported in Associated Press dispatches and the letter of Senator Wood reciting the agreements was given in full in those dispatches.

The Associated Press dispatch concerning the governor's statement carrying an Austin date line October 30 contained the following:

"Governor Ferguson issued a statement Saturday on the Murray Jackson case from Williamson county, involving the Ku Klux Klan flogging of R. W. Burleson in 1923, and she included in it a copy of a letter from Senator A. E. Wood from Granger, addressed to Senator Joe Burkett at Cisco and dated April 14, 1926.

"In her statement Governor Ferguson said the letter from Senator Wood is on file with the Secretary of State and 'is written on the stationery of Senator Wood and signed by him, and speaks for itself.'

"The statement reproduces the letterheads, address of the letter and reference to Murray Jackson.

"The governor further stated that 'letters setting up the agreement which Mr. Moody denies was entered into were also written by W. W. Hair of Temple, W. E. Wofford of Taylor and A. M. Felts of Elgin. All of these parties were attorneys for Mr. Jackson. These letters are on file with the Secretary of State and open to the public for inspection.'

"Senator Wood's letter to Joe Burkett at Cisco, dated April 14, 1926, reads:

"I desire to apologize to you for not writing you before today, but on account of matters over which I had no control, I could not write you sooner. This case was tried in the criminal district court of Williamson county in September, 1923. The grand jury returned indictments against Dewey Ball and Olen Gossett. At the January, 1924, term of said court and while the Murray Jackson case was on appeal, the Olen Gossett case was called for trial.

"An agreement was reached between the attorneys representing the state and the defense whereby Gossett pleaded guilty and received a one-year sentence in the penitentiary. At the time this agreement was made an agreement was also made that Dewey Ball, if he so desired, could enter a plea of guilty and receive one year. Later in the term Ball pleaded guilty and received one year in the penitentiary.

"It was also agreed that in case the court of criminal appeals should reverse the Jackson case he should receive the same privilege, but in case the court affirmed his case, the district attorney and the attorneys who were appointed to prosecute Jackson would recommend to the governor that his sentence be commuted to one year in the penitentiary.

"I have not conferred with any of the attorneys representing the state in the prosecution, but am sure they will join in a request to have his sentence commuted.

"I represented Murray Jackson at the time of the trial of his case. He is not a criminal. I would be very glad, indeed, to see him pardoned at this time."

## C. C. McDonald in Vigorous Way Denies Statements by Ex-Partner to Committee

Austin, Texas, Nov. 3.—The latest denial of alleged testimony heard by the legislative investigating committee comes from C. C. McDonald, of Wichita Falls, who was named in the statements made by his former law partner, H. F. Weldon, before the committee. Weldon had testified before the committee Friday, October 29 concerning an alleged conversation with McDonald in which conversation, Weldon had said, there was talk of splitting earnings on road contracts with Former Governor James E. Ferguson.

Mr. McDonald in positive and unqualified terms denies that he ever discussed such a matter with Mr. Ferguson or any one else. Mr. McDonald sought an opportunity to go before the committee and have his contradiction of the Weldon testimony entered in the record but the committee had decided to take a recess until November 8 at which time he may appear and testify.

Weldon is a former law partner of McDonald and at the time of his appearance before the committee still continued his office with McDonald, although the partnership had been dissolved. In his statement denying what his former law partner is reported to have said, Mr. McDonald expressed the hope that Weldon now will change his office. Mr. McDonald also says that if there had been any doubt of his wisdom in terminating his partnership with Weldon that doubt now is completely dispelled.

The statement issued by Mr. McDonald in denial is comprehensive, emphatic and vigorous, as are all the utterances of Charles McDonald. Here it is in full:

"I was astounded to read in today's press the purported testimony of Judge H. F. Weldon before the investigating committee. I never knew Mr. E. S. Hoyer except by and through Mr. Weldon who had a dog in Hoyer's kennel or both had dogs in the same kennel in Dallas when Weldon's dog died and he went down to its funeral. He came back with a story of a big retainer in sight but he later said it blew up and I never heard of it again until I read his testimony. I never talked to Mr. Hoyer or to anyone connected with the Callahan Construction Company or the American Road Company about any road contract in my life. Neither of said companies or Mr. Hoyer individually paid me a dollar or ever agreed to pay me a dollar on any road contract and I never discussed any such contract with Governor Jas. E. Ferguson at any time. I never agreed to pay Mr. Ferguson a fee or to split a fee with him at any time or place and he never asked me to pay him a dollar and I have never paid him a dollar.

"Mr. Weldon seems to be peeved about the dissolution of our law partnership. If there was ever a doubt as to my wisdom in terminating it that doubt is now completely dispelled. But he officed with me from the spring of 1925 until the day he testified and has used my library and furniture free of charge. Our letter heads have never been changed. If every word he said were true he would be disclosing a confidential matter between law partners in which event his act would be more reprehensible than mine.

"Mr. Weldon says no one ever knew of this conversation except the two of us and we agreed never to mention it and he never has and he does not know how the committee found it out. Only one conclusion can be drawn and that is that I told it and I am wondering how many people in Texas would believe that.

"Again he says the fee was to be split three ways. Well when he dropped out what became of it? That would have left Jim and I fifty-fifty, and certainly if I would go into such a deal for one-third I could stay in for one-half. His statement is without foundation in substance or fact and will come as a distinct shock to the bar of Texas which has such a high standard of legal ethics. If Mr. Weldon will now vacate my office and permit me to continue the practice of law with Mr. Anderson and Mr. Friedman I will at least feel that my loss of confidence in him and his veracity has not been entirely without its compensations."

## Writer Who Tells Parents How to Train Girls Finds Own Daughter Is a Bandit

Rock Island, Ill., Nov. 3.—Mrs. Charles Nichols, who writes magazine articles advising parents how to raise their children under the pen name of Vashiti Dale, has decided that it is better to take more time with her own child and spend less on literary theory.

This conclusion was reached after her 16 year old daughter, Beulah, disdained her mother's theory, went on a gin party with a newly made man friend, and ended up as a flapper bandit.

The girl held up and robbed W. H. Mahney, 75, at his home and at the point of a gun made Maloney turn over a suit of his clothes, compelled him to cut her bobbed hair shorter, and fit her out with a cap.

Then she stripped before the astonished septuagenarian, left him a suit of silk lingerie as a souvenir and set out to see the world garbed as a man.

She caught the first freight train out of town and after a day spent in Galva, Ill., returned on another freight train to her home and was welcomed by her parents.

Now, Mrs. Nichols, while not defending the actions of her daughter, places much of the blame upon her own shoulders. She declares that she owes it to the world to tell other mothers of the experience she has been through and is preparing a series of articles with this in view.

In her articles, Mrs. Nichols says: "My daughter adores dancing. What normal, healthy girl does not? And we should have made it possible for her to satisfy this normal desire in a normal, healthy way. We should have given parties for her at home.

"Thus we would have assured ourselves that her associates were all that we desired them to be and we would

have known that Bacchanalian orgies and joy riding were neither thought of nor desired. In short we should have realized that our standards were too old fashioned to fit her and we should have modified them accordingly.

"Unless we understand fully the real nature of human progress as it applies to our children and, understanding it, become broad enough to interpret and live it, then we as parents are failures."

## Predicts Outlay on Texas Water Plans Over \$100,000,000

Austin, Texas, Nov. 3.—More than \$100,000,000 will be expended in the next 10 years in the control and utilization of Texas streams, according to a statement in the biennial report of the State Board of Water Engineers.

The board's report shows that during the two-year period just closed, the engineers have topographically mapped 4,570,000 acres of land in searching for reservoir and dam sites.

The board tentatively set Nov. 29 as the date for hearing on a large irrigation project of the Rio Grande. It contemplates irrigation of 60,000 acres in Maverick County at an aggregate cost of \$3,556,112. The district organized some time ago, voted \$50,000 for the preliminary investigation. The main canal is to be 55 miles in length, starting at the proposed diversion dam 40 miles above Eagle Pass and terminating 15 miles below. The plans were brought to Austin by T. S. Wyche, Eagle Pass, secretary of the district board.





