OLD KENT

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Notes Illustrative of the Early Records
OF
KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND
BY
GEORGE A. HANSON, M. A.

SEC. 53. On the 20th day of April 1653 Oliver Cromwell forcibly dissolved the Long Parliament, at the request of the officers of his army; though, as he said, "it was what he had earnestly with tears besought the Lord not to impose upon him." Afterwards, at the pretended instigation of the same officers and moved by an impulse from on high, as he hypocritically claimed, he, on the eighth of June, issued a summons, under his own hand and seal, to about one hundred and forty persons of England, Ireland and Scotland, to meet at London, on the 4th day of July 1653. Upon these, when assembled, he devolved the whole authority of the State. Among the members of this assemblage was an individual named Praise-God- Barebones, a stationer in Fleet street, London, who made himself notorious by his fanaticism, long prayers, sermons, harangues and nasal psalmody. The peculiar gifts of Barebones gave a sort of comic celebrity to this convention and it is known in history as Barebones' Parliament.

To this Parliament Richard Bennett, by his agent Col. Sam Mathews, appealed to confirm the authority and acts of the Commissioners, Bennett, Clayborne and Curtis in their reducement of Maryland. Bennett's "petition was debated before the committee of petitions, and was by that committee dismissed." It will be borne in mind that Gov. Stone had resumed his office upon the condition that he and the other officers might "reserve and save to themselves their oaths to the lord proprietary, until the pleasure of the State of England be further known." The dismission of Bennett's petition was regarded as a triumph by Lord Baltimore's friends.

Richard Bennett, who was at this time Governor of Virginia, and William Clayborne, Secretary of State of the same Province, did not remain idle, for we find that "as late as December the 29th, 1653, the Council of State, upon the petition of Col. Samuel Mathews, agent for Virginia, referred the questions between Lord Baltimore and the people of Virginia concerning their bounds, with the papers, in the hands of the Committee of the Navy, to the Lord Protector; and two days after proclamations were ordered to be sent to Governor Richard Bennett, declaring the Gove rnment of the Commonwealth entrusted to Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector, and successive triennial Parliaments. Lord President Henry Lawrence at the same time stated that "his Highness has put into an effectual way the speedy resolutions of the questions between Lord Baltimore and the people of Virginia."

SEC. 54. On the 7th day of February, 1653, O. S. Governor Stone, in obedience to the instructions of Lord Baltimore, issued his memorable Proclamation, which led to the civil war which shortly afterwards ensued. The Proclamation recites: "According to the special direction and appointment of the right honorable Cecilius Lord Baltimore, &c. These are in his the said Lord Proprietary's name to give notice and declare to all and every the inhabitants of this province, and others, whom it doth or may concern, that whereas his said lordship understands, that divers persons inhabiting in this province have not sued out their patents in due time for the lands which they clayme to be due unto them here, nor have taken the oath of fidelity, (as they ought to have done,) according to his lordship's conditions of plantation, whereby they clayme such land. Yet his lordship, out of his good affection to them, is not willing to take such advantage, as he justly might, thereupon against them, without giving them first fair warning, by this proclamation, of their error therein, but is contented, that all such persons, who clayme any land due unto them respectively by virtue of his lordship's conditions of plantation dated the second day of July, 1649, shall, notwithstanding their said default, have the said lands granted unto them, as if no such default had been made. Provided always, that they doe respectively, within three months next ensuing, take the oath of fidelity, acording to his lordship's declaration bearing date the sixth of August, 1650, and his instructions, bearing date the 17th of February 1652, and also, within the said time make their rights to the said lands appear to his lordship's secretary here, and sue out their patents, and pay to his lordship's receiver general here, or his sufficient deputy, all such arrears of rent as are due to his lordship for the said lands respectively from the time such patents ought, by the said conditions to have been sued out by them respectively, and also pay unto his lordship's officers here such fees as of right belong unto them respectively for the same. And these are further also, in the said proprietor's name, and by his special direction and appointment as aforesaid, to declare and give notice, that in case such person or persons, so clayming and land due unto them as aforesaid, shall not take the said oath of fidelity, or not sue out their respective patents, or not pay the said arrears and fees respectively as aforesaid within the time aforesaid, they shall be forever after debarred from anyright or clayme to the said lands respectively, which (in that case) his lordship's lieutenant here, is, by his said lordship's special direction, required to cause to be entered and seized upon to his lordship's use. Given at St. Marie's in the said province of Maryland, the seventh day of February, Anno Dom. 1653. WILLIAM STONE."

SEC. 55. "By the Lieutenant, &c., of Maryland.—Whereas the right honorable the Lord Baltimore, lord proprietary of this province of Maryland hat given express charge and command to myself and his other officers of justice to issue out writs within this province in his lordship's name as formerly, being a provision granted to him by his patents, whereby sovereign dominion, faith and allegiance, is reserved to the Commonwealth of England, and in that respect the making out the writs here, according to his lordship's direction as aforesaid, cannot any ways derogate from our obedience to that commonwealth in chief under GOD, nor our engagement taken thereto, which we must and ought to be very careful not to infringe. These are, therefore, to give notice to the Commissioners for the Isle of Kent county, and to all other officers of Justice within this province, whom it may concern, that they are required by his said lordship to issue out all writs in every several county within this province according to his lordship's said direction, his commands therein, as they will answer the contrary. And further, these are, in his lordship's name, to will and require the said Commissioners for the said Isle of Kent county, that they be careful, as far as in them lies, by raising of convenient forces for that purpose within the said county, to prevent any mischief from the Indians, of whom, as I understand, there is at present great occasion of suspicion.

Given at St. Mary's this 2d day of March, Anno Domini 1653.
WILLIAM STONE.

Certainly there was no political poison in the aforegoing proclamations to excite the ire of the Puritans or the apprehensions of the "Keepers of the liberty of England." The cause of offence was that Gov. Stone deemed it wise and proper to require of his councillors the oath prescribed by his lordship, and annexed to his last commission of the council, dated 12th August 1648. That oath contained this clause, " and I do further swear that I will not by myself nor by any other person directly or indirectly trouble, molest, or discountenance any person whatsoever in the said province professing to believe in JESUS CHRIST and in particular no Roman Catholic for or in respect of his or her religion nor in his or her free exercise thereof within the said province so as they be not unfaithful to his said lordship nor molest nor conspire against the civil government established under him." This the intolerant and bigoted Puritans declared "was in plain words to countenance and uphold anti-Christ."

1654-55.

SEC. 56. It appears that Gov. Stone did not receive intelligence of the Revolution which had taken place in England until the month of May following; and thereupon he issued his Proclamation:

"By the lieutenant governor of Maryland. A PROCLAMATION,—Whereas I have lately received certain intelligence, that the government of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland, by a lord protector and successive triennial parliaments, is already there established, and that Oliver Cromwell, captain general of all the forces of that Commonwealth, is declared lord protector of the said Commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and the dominions thereunto belonging for his life, and whereas the government established here under the lord proprietary of this province according to his patent therof is subordinate unto and dependant upon the aforesaid government of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland in chief and under GOD as one of the domains therunto belonging, I have therefore with the advice of the council for this province thought it necessary, and do hereby in the lord proprietary's name make publication of the premises strictly charging and commanding all and every person or persons of what quality or condition soever inhabiting, residing or being within this province to take notice thereof and to conform and submit themselves with all due obedience and subjection to the government to established as aforesaid in chief under GOD, and all sheriffs and other public ministers and officers whom it may concern are required to cause this proclamation to be forthwith published in their respective counties and other usual places for that purpose within this province, to the end that none may have cause to pretend ignorance in this behalf.

Given at St. Mary's the sixth day of May, Anno Domino 1654.
WILLIAM STONE."

"Further likewise the inhabitants of this province and others whom it may concern are required to take notice, that in commemoration of this present solemnity I have thought fit to grant a general pardon of all offences committed in this province since the last general pardon with such exceptions and in such manner as shall at the publication thereof at the next Court be made apparent.

Given at St. Mary's the day and year above said. WILLIAM STONE."

SEC. 57. In this Proclamation Gov'r. Stone ignored the existence of Bennett and Clayborne, as Commissioners. They retaliated by the following manifesto of July the fifteenth:

"Whereas we have lately received commands from his Highness, the Lord Protector, to publish the said platform of government; and that all writs and proceedings should be issued in the name of his Highness; to which though we desire this government to be conformable, yet the said Captain Stone and Mr. Hatton have lately associated unto them divers counsellors, all of the Romish religion, and excluding others appointed by the Parliament Commissioners, have and do refuse to be obedient to the constitutions thereof and to the Lord Protector therein; and have, in the name and by the special direction of the said Lord Baltimore, made proclamation and exacted an oath of fidelity from all the inhabitants of the province contrary and inconsistent to the said platform of government, which said oath nevertheless, and the law here commanding the same and many other laws, are likewise, by the report of the said Committee of the Council of State, declared to be contrary to the laws and statutes of the English nation, which is an express breach of his patent," &c., &c.

A few days after, Mr. Leonard Strong says, "the said commissioners, in quite and peaceable manner, with some of the people of Patuxent and Severn, went over the river of Patuxent, and there at length received a message from the said Captain Stone, that the next day he would meet and treat in the woods; and therupon being in some fear of a party to come from Virginia he condescended to lay down his power lately assumed from the lord Baltimore, and to submit (as he had once before done) to such government as the commissioners should appoint under his highness the lord protector."

SEC. 58. On the 22d day of July 1654, Richard Bennett and William Clayborne issued their Proclamation from "Patuxent River." I quote the concluding paragraph:

"It is therefore ordered and declared by the aforesaid commissioners that for the conservation of the peace and publick administration of Justice within the aforesaid province of Maryland Captain William Fuller, Mr. Richard Preston, Mr. William Durand, Mr. Edward Lloyd, Captain John Smith, Mr. Leonard Strong, Mr. (John) Lawson, Mr. John Hatch, Mr. Richard Wells and Mr. Richard Ewen or any four of them, whereof Captain William Fuller, Mr. Richard Preston or Mr. William Durand to be always one, to be Commissioners for the well ordering directing and governing the affairs of Maryland under his highness the lord protector of England, Scotland, Ireland and the dominions thereof and in his name only and no other, and to proceed therein as near as may be to the laws of England to appoint and hold courts for the administration of justice and right in such places and at such times as they shall think meet and necessary and any of the commissioners of quorum to issue out writs, warrants and subpoenas &c., &c., as also that they summon an assembly to begin on the 20th day of October next for which assembly all such shall be disabled to give any vote or to be elected members thereof as have borne arms in war against the parliament or do profess the Roman Catholic religion, and the said Mr. William Durand is hereby appointed to be secretary to the said commissioners and to receive the records from Mr. Thomas Hatton, and Captain John Smith to be sheriff for the ensuing year. Dated at Patuxent river in the Province of Maryland the 22d day of July, 1643.

RICHARD BENNET,
WM. CLAIBORNE.

Recordum verum.
Teste. Wm. Durand, Sec.

Sir—You are hereby required to deliver the records of this province and all the papers concerning the same unto Mr. William Durand or whom he shall appoint to receive them from you. July 22d, 1654.

RICHARD BENNET,
WM. CLAIBORNE."

To Mr. Thomas Hatton, these.

Council Proceedings, 1636 to 1657.

SEC. 58. A. It is probable that all the gentlemen named in the above proclamation were Puritans. Some of them, we know, were members of a malignant conventicle, which had been ferreted out of Virginia by Gov. Berkeley. They repaid the toleration and protection of Lord Baltimore with base ingratitutde, and like the viper in the fable struck the bosom which had warmed them into life. Mr. Durand was the first elder of the Puritans on the Severn. Mr. Edward Lloyd was the first Commander of Anne Arundel, appointed by Gov. Stone 30th July 1650; Mr. Leonard Strong was subsequently the agent of the Maryland Puritans in England, and the author of "Babylon's Fall in Maryland."

SEC. 58. B. The Commissioners were prompt in summoning an Assembly; which was "holden at Patuxent, the 20th October, 1654, by commission from his Highness the Lord Protector, &c." All the Commissioners appeared as members and at once passed "The Act of Recognition," recognizing and ratifying their own authority.

Among the most notable of the forty-six "Acts of Orders" of this Assembly are the following: No. 3. "Declaration, that every free Subject of the Commonwealth, shall have Liberty to petition against Grievances, &c." No. 4. "An Act concerning Religion. Hereby it was Enacted and Decreed, That none who professed and exercised the Papish, (commonly called the Roman Catholic) Religion, could be protected in this Province, by the Laws of England, formerly established, and yet unrepealed; nor by the Government of the Common Wealth of England, &c., but to be restrained from the Exercise thereof, &c. That such as profess Faith in GOD by JESUS CHRIST, though differing in Judgment from the Doctrine, Worship or Discipline, publicly held forth, should not be restrained from but protected in, the Profession of the Faith, and Exercise of their Religion; so as they abused not this Liberty, to the Injury of others, Disturbances of the Peace, &c. Provided such Liberty was not extended to Popery or Prelacy nor to such, as under the Profession of CHRIST, held forth and practiced Licentiousness. No. 16. "An Act concerning a Register of Births, Marriages and Burials" (which was repealed by the Act of 1657, chap. 2); No. 45. Declaration against Lord Baltimore's Proclamation, for taking the Oath of Fidelity; No. 46. "Order, that no Suits commenced before the Reduction of this Province to the Obedience of the Common Wealth, shall receive Damage by such Alteration."

This last "Order" rescues this Assembly from the charge of pecuniary corruption; but like one single ray of sunshine, in a dark and noisome cavern, it renders visible, and all the more glaring, the black and hideous intolerance and bigotry of its Puritanical members. (17)

(continued next week)



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Just a Little Smile

SHORT CHANGED

A restaurant keeper quietly helps to ease depression by supplying food to the hungry. An old man has been one of his patrons for several weeks, always arriving about noon to gather generously-given provender. A day or two ago the old man grew confidential with the dishwasher in the restaurant. He was sore about not having received as much that day as on previous occasions. He looked at his basket, mopped his brow with the left sleeve and remarked:

"Eddie kind o' fell down on me today!"—Indianapolis News.

Away From the Brickbats

"I want," said the house-hunter, "a small place in an isolated position—somewhere at least five miles from any other house."

"I see, sir," said the agent, with an understanding smile, "you want to practice the simple life."

"Not at all. I want to practice the cornet."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

In the Interest of Harmony

"You disapprove of the custom of handshaking?"

"Not at all," replied Senator Sorghum. "I like it. But I don't quite admire the tendency of a crowd to pick on one man when they might be shaking hands among themselves."

When Fiction Fails

Young Author—The art in telling a story consists of knowing what to leave unsaid.

Married Rounder—It doesn't make any difference, my boy. My experience is that she finds out, anyway.—Sydney Bulletin.

FULL SPEED AHEAD



Spectator Monk—So you always ride the giraffe in your races.

Jockey Monk—Yep, we have often won by a neck.

Doing His Bit

"Just what have you done for humanity?" asked the judge before passing sentence on the pickpocket.

"Well," replied the confirmed convict, "I've kept three or four detectives working regularly."

Something Else

"A test shows the modern girl can shed her dress in three seconds," says an exchange.

Yeah? But how long does it take her to shed her coat of paint?—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Blonds Prefer Letter Writers

"So Hilda's broken it off with Bobby. I wonder if she still keeps his lovely letters?"

"No. As a matter of fact, they're keeping her now."—Sydney Bulletin.

The Way Out

Mrs. Subbubs—Are there any questions you would like to ask, Nora?

New Maid—Yes, ma'am, just one. Where do you keep the timetable?—Life Magazine.

Well Known

"Have you a speaking acquaintance with the woman next door?"

"A speaking acquaintance? I know her so well that we don't speak at all."—Tit-Bits Magazine.

MORE NEARLY EXPRESSED



"Politics makes strange bed fellows, it has often been said."

"'Bunk' fellows would express it more nearly, don't you think?"

Vice Versa

Sergeant—If anything moves, you shoot.

Negro Sentinel—Yassuh, an' if anythin' shoots, ah moves.

Warm Reception Waiting

"So you were going to a fire," said the speed cop sarcastically to the motorist he had stopped.

"W-well, not exactly," said the motorist breathlessly, "but I'm trying to prevent one."

The speed cop nodded grimly.

"And how were you going to do that?" he asked.

"Well, the boss said that's what he'd do if I were late again, and I was hurrying to get to the office in time," explained the motorist.—Answers Magazine.

PROCESSING TAX IN EFFECT

(continued from page 1)

a member of the permanent county wheat committee. The later to handle all the business incident to the carrying out of the plans, its duties to be announced later. The permanent committee will be known as the Kent County wheat Production Control Association.

A meeting of the above named committee has been called by County Agent McVean for next Tuesday and public meeting will be held in about two weeks at which time complete details of the processing tax regulations will be explained.

Man Not Weather Regulates Wheat Production

The present condition of the wheat crop of the United States which is forecast as "exceedingly low" and the resulting jump in wheat prices seemingly lends color to the belief among farmers that nature rather than man determines the wheat output. Notwithstanding, the U. S. Department of agriculture states that the idea is mistaken and proceeds to giv proof by revealing the data on wheat acreage, yield and production from 1890 to date. The records reveal in very definite terms that acreage mainly governs the production in the long run.

During the last forty years production increased 80 per cent while acreage increased 60 per cent. The difference is due to increased yields per acre which is a man-made factor reflecting the improvement of varieties, use of better farm practices, of pest and disease control.

Acreage and production from 1890 to 1930 moved upward together. Taking the country as a whole, the production per acre was surprisingiy uniform from year to year. From 1905 to 1930 the average yield was 14.5 bushels per acre. The highest average yield was 17 bus. the lowest 12.2 bushels. Seasonal influence affecting yields had obviously a small influence as compared with the acreage in determining the volume of production. Locally and seasonally the effect of the weather and of insects and disease often seemed preponderant. But these influences varied in opposite directions from year to year and canceled out, whereas the influence of a growing acreage remained constant.

The Department of Agriculture insists that it would be a dangerous mistake for farmers, in view of the immediate crop and price situation to forget the world wheat situation and seed even so much as a normal acreage this fall. We now have three times a normal carryover. In spite of the short crop in 1933, there will still be twice the normal carry over to depress prices in 1934. (Other article has figures that relate here on mimeograph. A normal acreage if seeded this year will mean an enormous surplus.

The facts indicate that a reduced acreage and a reduced production is the only sound practice to recommend if prices on next year's crop are to be adequate orp rotmfki teRa 1s zhoz adequate for profit making. The Department offers farmers a reward for contracting to reduce acreage next year and in 1935.

Farmers have the opoprtunity to reduce acreage and to increase greatly the chances for profit making wheat in '34 and '35. The success of the plan is in the farmers hands.

With no export market in sight, there is no prospect of satisfactory prices for wheat in 1934 and 1935 if acreage and yield are increased and wheat becomes more of a drug on the market than it was with the 1932 crop.

To Receive Adjustment Plan

The following information was revealed by Mr. McVean in an interview this week:

Kent County wheat growers will soon have the details of the plan of the Federal Government for adjustment of wheat production, according to J. D. McVean, County Agent. It is the aim of this program, he says, to bring the buying power of the proportion of the wheat crop roughly 50 per cent. to 60 per cent. as human food in the United States up to that of the pre-war period. Adjustment payments are offered on the 1933, 1934, and 1935 crops in return for contracts to reduce acreage in the 1934 and 1935 crops. A processing tax has been imposed on the milling of wheat, effective July 9, to provide funds for the plan.

It is emphasized by Mr. McVean that the new plan does not interfere in any way with the sale of this year's crop of wheat. Growers are advised that they may sell their wheat at any time, at any place, and in any way that they desire, and it will not influence their eligibility for adjustment payments, if they desire later to accept the plan for reduction of acreage. Allotments for production will probably be based upon average production for the three year 1930 to 1932, and not on this year's crop.

The following figures are given by Mr. McVean, as indicating that the supply of wheat is still far above the effective demand. Our present carryover is nearly 360 million bushels. Our average crop for the last five years has been 844 million bushels. Each year we consume about 625 million bushels for food, feed, seed and miscllaneous. In the last 12 months we exported about 35 million bushels. Now, if we assume the possibility of exporting in the next 12 months 50 million bushels, and if we also assume a crop this year as low as 500 million bushels, it would be necessary to dig into the surplus to the extent of about 175 million bushels. This would still leave a July 1, 1934, carry over of about 185 million bushels, which would still be double the normal carryover.

It is evident therefore that controlled production is a logical solution of the wheat problem.

It is the belief of Federal authorities that wheat production must be cut down to meet demand. The cut is to be made voluntarily in each region, State, and by each individual farmer. It is the aim of the Government to make it profitable for the farmer to make this cut. Details of the plan are to be explained to Kent farmers, at meetings and otherswise, in the near future.

Just a Little Smile

HOME WORK

A couple of men had been out pretty late the night before and they were comparing notes the following day. "My wife lectured me for half an hour. How did you get along with yours?"

The other man groaned miserably. "You got off light," he said. "You don't know what it's like to be married to a schoolteacher. She didn't say much when I came home but she looked me in the eye and made me sit up till I had written out 'I must be home every night by nine o'clock' 100 times on a slate."—Pathfinder Magazine.

Discordance

"What do you think of the professor's idea that we ought to regard beer merely another kind of soda water?" asked the traveling salesman.

"It can't be done," answered Cactus Joe. "I never in my life met a man who could enjoy a pretzel with soda water."—Washington Star.

Precaution

"Why do you open the door of the patient's room every time I sing?" asked the dentist's wife.

The dentist replied: "I want the people who are waiting to know that it isn't a patient."—Pathfinder Magazine.

Up to Date

"Miss Youngleigh must be much older than she pretends to be."

"How is that?"

"I asked her if she had read 'Aesop's Fables' and she said: 'Yes, as soon as they appeared.'"—Frankfurter Illustrierte.

WOULD HAVE FOUND OUT



"Wonder why Wall Street was ever so called?"

"Ever gone up against it, old man?"

Truth Telling

Elderly Sister—So Mr. Goldkatch said I had teeth like pearls? And what did you say?

Young Brother—Oh, nothing; except that you were gradually getting used to them?—Brooklyn Daily Eagle.

Usual Way

Aunt—The first thing Maud did with her legacy was to buy a dozen new hats.

Uncle—Ah! I was afraid the money would go to her head.—Stray Stories Magazine.

Nasty

Egbert—The dentist examined me and told me I had a large cavity that needed filling.

Herbert—Did he suggest any particular course of study for it?—Pathfinder Magazine.

Rare as Raw Meat

"What's so rare as a day in June?" quoted the poetic one.

"An evening that my daughter spends at home," growled the old-fashioned dad.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Not So Odd

"I think it's a disgusting state of affairs when one reads of comedians earning more than cabinet ministers!"

"Oh, I dunno. On the whole they're funnier!"—London Humorist.

WRONG SURROUNDINGS



"That picture is one I painted to keep the wolf from the door."

"Indeed! Then why don't you hang it on the knob where the wolf can see it."

Something in Common

"You say your son plays the piano like Paderewski?"

"Yes. He uses both hands."—Everybody's Weekly.

Betrayed

"Say, what do you mean by telling Smith that I was a blockhead?"

"Why, it isn't a secret, is it?"—Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.

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