

EVERETT SEES DAY OF PROGRESS

Mr. Everett called attention to the progress of other manufacturing industries of the state and told of the things in which this state and its towns and cities lead the south, the country and the world.

But in the development of its resource and the furtherance of its material progress, the state has not forgotten the things of the spirit, the secretary of state explained. He added:

"The folks of our counties and last year invested \$21,000,000 in public education and in the last three years invested \$25,000,000 in the enlargement and improvement of their plants for better school buildings. The little red school house on every hill, which Aycock saw in his dream is torn down now. They were but the mile posts along the way of a people's march to progress.

Catching the spirit of an awakened people the 1923 legislature, he said appropriated \$10,500,000, divided as follows: For pensions \$1,000,000; equalizing fund \$2,000,000; college \$1,500,000; insane and feeble minded \$1,250,000; public health, public welfare and public safety \$1,500,000; interest requirements \$2,000,000 for general expenses and operation of the judicial legislative and executive branches of the government this legislature, he said, reserved only \$750,000.

In addition to these expenses, he continued the highway commission last year spent \$1,250,000 for road maintenance and other current expenses. The highway commission's budget for this year, Mr. Everett stated, calls for appropriations for sinking fund requirements of about \$700,000; appropriations for interest requirements of about \$2,250,000; overhead expenses of \$250,000; and maintenance charges of \$2,500,000.

On June 1, said Mr. Everett, roads already built, under construction or under contract for construction embraced 1,275 miles of hard surfaced highway, 1,800 miles sand clay and gravel roads, or a total of 3,175 miles of improved roads, which with bridges, are costing the state about \$35,750,000. Of this amount, he explained, \$40,000,000 was raised by bonds, while the rest came from the federal government. He said \$25,000,000 remains to be used. He added:

"The growth of the automobile and gasoline funds points the way to a faithful performance of the legislative promise to the people to provide for the construction and maintenance of a state system of hard surface and other dependable roads, connecting by the most practical routes, the various county seats and principal town of every county of the state.

Speaking of the state's financial condition, Mr. Everett stated that the total state debt on January 1 was \$43,157,798, all of which, except \$785,598 was bonded, this amount being in notes sold in anticipation of the sale of bonds.

The bonded debt was divided by Mr. Everett as follows:

Road construction	\$19,552,000
Enlargement of state institutions	6,750,000
Refunding of old state debt	12,069,600

The expenses of running the State government and providing for its institutions was given as:

General fund expenses, including sinking fund and interest charges	10,500,000
Road expenses and maintenance, including sinking fund and interest	5,500,000
County and town schools	21,000,000

Answering a question asked by himself as to how this money is obtained, the speaker explained the state's tax system, pointing out that the legislature of 1921 re-established the right to levy tax on property for state's purposes and that the state relies on income, inheritance, privilege and other indirect form taxes which are collected through the commissioner of revenue and paid into the general fund.

"For the 25 months commencing with December 1, 1920 and ending

on hand resources of \$680,000.

"If one half of the estimated revenue for 1921 be credited to the first six months of this calendar year, we have earned enough revenue for the 31 months commencing with December 1, 1920 and ending June 30, 1923, to pay all the expenses of the period, and leave on hand \$366,000—truly a wonderful showing when we consider how rapidly our institutions have grown."

Explaining that the road fund is financed entirely by the taxes on automobiles and gasoline, Mr. Everett estimated that after making due allowances for interest, sinking fund and maintenance requirements for the next year, there should be a balance on hand at July 1, 1924, of \$5,000,000.

The speaker explained the workings of the educational system of the state and how it is financed. In this regard he emphasized the necessity of keeping open the institutions of higher learning to every youth in the state who has the capacity to digest what he gets at these institutions. He quoted former Secretary of War Baker, saying, "The chief end of democracy is education and the chief end of education is democracy. Limit the numbers here and the true spirit of democracy which pervades the campus gives way to class education which will not be tolerated in a free state."

In ending his address Mr. Everett gave a political touch. "In bringing you along this weary way," he said before quoting a short poem, "my mission has failed if I have not awakened in you a desire to know your state. If you know her you will love her, because our love is a living thing."

He quoted:

"A ship at anchor or in dock is at best only a bulk, a thing of wood and copper rivets."

"Helpless she bumps and lurches at the ground swell's whim."

"Her soul lies dormant."

"But when the winds blow and she tugs free, trembling beneath her topsail, when the wheel kicks, and the stays sing, and the low line burns the spool, then she becomes a ship."

"Each straining sail and quivering timber, the rudder's creak, the ropes screech, whipping through the gasket, tell of life as he along she tramples down the bow dash."

"Then too a soul is reborn—the composite, a complex soul of a ship which she has taken from those who built her and who sail her."

"For sometimes men lose their hearts to their ship, and their souls as well, and the ship absorbs them, moulds them and makes them hers, until men and ship become one."

"So down the sea they go together, one heart, one soul, until the end."

Then Mr. Everett drew a comparison:

"For 50 years men said, 'Look at North Carolina, God bless her, there she stands! The barnacles of corruption had fastened to her sides, the mildew of despair was rotting her sails, the dust of decay and of death covered her decks. But with the birth of a new century, a new spirit was born. The state can preach no religion, she can hold to no dogma, but she can and does take the philosophy of the man called Jesus, and translate it into terms of life and love and an equal chance for all."

"And so a soul is reborn—the complex, composite soul of a state, which she has taken from those who built her and those who sail her."

"For sometimes men lose their



THE BEST BOOK

THE soft-toned clock on the library mantle struck twelve, and the little boy chusing a butterfly, and who lived in a frame, was just stepping out of it to run on the broad shelf below, when he stopped.

Someone was talking. It was the magic hour, but Little Boy had always been the only one who took advantage of it. He looked about the room—no one was in sight. He must have been mistaken.

But no, there it was again! "I tell you I am the best book to read," said a voice. Little Boy looked at the books in the case that reached around the sides of the room. Yes, it was the books. They were quarrelling.

"I have a much handsomer binding than you. I am quite new, so of course I shall be the most popular."

"You can never tell the worth of a book by binding," said an old book.



"I Am 'Alice in Wonderland.'"

with a worn cover as it slid out of the case a little way to be better heard. "I am the book that is best loved. I am sure of that."

"Oh, just hear that old book," said a bright new one leaning far out of the case. "Why, my dear old book you are as old-fashioned as the hills. I have a story that makes people sit up all night to read."

"Yes, and as false as is your imitation leather binding," said a real leather-covered book. "You are fiction. Not a word of truth in you. Don't brag."

"I have facts, real true things from which people can gain knowledge when they read. I am the most popular book here, I am sure you will all agree."

"Goodness, hear it talk," said a shrill voice and another book leaned out so far it tumbled on the floor.

"Ha, ha," laughed the other book, "you are where you belong, on the floor. You are full of wise sayings, but so old no one ever looks at them these days. Every one knows them."

Out from the case leaned a red book. "You seem to forget that people wish to be amused," it said, "and when they open my cover they begin to laugh. I am full of funny sayings and jokes, so you all can stop your quarrelling, for I am the most popular book here."

Little Boy stood listening. He was afraid the books would all tumble out, they were so excited, when out from a book jumped a little girl and, bowing to all the books, she said, "I am ashamed of you! The idea of quarrelling about which is the most popular!"

"Don't you know that there are all sorts of people in the world and that they all like different books? If they didn't, there would be only one book and then where would you be, for you must know that grown-ups and children all love to read about me."

"It is Alice," said the clock in a soft voice to Little Boy.

Little Boy had never had a playmate; he began to smile. "Alice," he said, "do come and play with me. Perhaps we can catch the butterfly."

Alice turned around. "Oh, I can't," she replied. "Don't you know who I am? I have to be in the story or there wouldn't be any. I am 'Alice in Wonderland.' Did you never hear the story?"

"No; tell it to me," said Little Boy.

"I will have to go back into the book," said Alice. "But if every one will be quiet I will tell the story."

And all the books in the big case, knowing Alice told the truth, slid back into their places. The clock ticked very softly while she told Little Boy her wonderful experiences.

And every night after that at the magic hour Little Boy left his frame on the wall to listen to the story of "Alice in Wonderland," for, just like all folks, big or little, he is never tired of hearing it.

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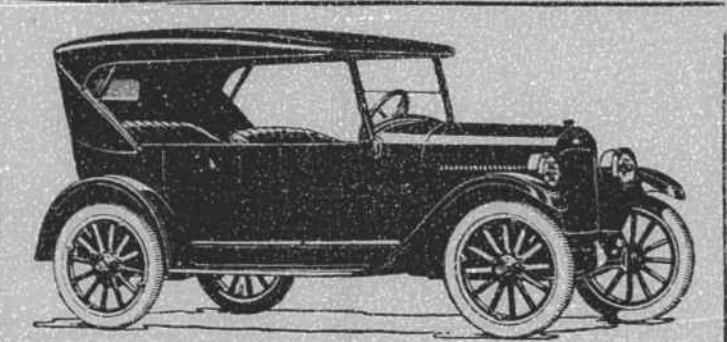
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"So down the sea of their destiny they go together, one heart, one soul—until the end."



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