

The Watauga Democrat ESTABLISHED 1848

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1931

The Groundhog Lied

Whether or not readers of The Democrat believe in the groundhog's ability as a weather prognosticator, that hibernating pig certainly fell down on its job Monday. For not a cloud darkened the sky and THE GROUNDHOG, or any groundhog for that matter, unquestionably saw his shadow. The populace trembled and started making preparation for the six weeks of bad weather which they felt sure must follow. But Tuesday dawned fair, and all through the day Old Sol beamed encouragingly. Came Wednesday, and no clouds yet; and as this paper is printed, spicetime zephyrs rustle through the leafless branches, an occasional bluebird chortles to his mate, the sky is azure blue, and it looks as if winter has been banished forever. Yes, the groundhog lied.

These, or a dozen other casualties

Merry Christmas! And how. But the doctor's cheery voice—his sunny smile, worth more than acres of hardware—more than made up for the doctor's business in to bring cheer to confer the blessing in sunny atmosphere; to lend assurance that is absolutely necessary to better the situation.

The doctor's dinner may be interrupted by telephone buzzers that are no respecters of persons; it is a wonder that he has any digestion; but then, it's Merry Christmas—why shouldn't things take on a little extra stir? The better the day, the better the deed!

Honor, strength, long life—to the family doctor! May he indeed have many, and always happier returns! May his gentle touch render comfort, his voice tranquility, his face and smile assurance. And, finally, when he surrenders his commission, may Heaven be his!

It's All a Great Plan

By FRANK HOUSER

The little boy before beginning work on his first wagon, engine or airplane formulates in his mind a plan by which he works. He knows just what his wagon is going to look like long before he chops down his father's best apple tree to get the wheels. The little girl knows how her doll will look in the new dress she is going to make for her even before she tears the back out of her mother's wedding dress to get the desired material.

During the Christmas holidays I had the pleasure of visiting one of the largest department stores in the State. I noticed that the counters were loaded with thousands of articles of every description, yet it took the clerk only a few seconds to find the article desired by the customer. A little wire connected each department with a little office up in the attic of the building. The customer's check was placed in a little cup and soon it was whizzing up the wire to the office and in a few seconds the correct change was in the hands of the customer. To see the working of this department store would convince any one that there was a plan behind its operation. The arrangement of the articles on the counter and the proper location of all the departments was not just a mere happening. The whole thing was operated by a plan made by some man or woman before the store was put into operation.

I look up into the Heavens and see a mass of fire suspended out in space 66,000,000 miles from the earth. I see the moon as it makes its daily journey around the earth in the same path that it has traveled for centuries. I see the planets Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, all traveling in the same direction and in a definite path about the sun. I see thousands of worlds out in space so far from the earth that they appear to be only sparks. These worlds all revolve just like a wagon wheel turns and at the same time they are whizzing through space faster than the flash of a light. Each of the worlds travels its own path and never collides with another. As I sit in amazement and see these great worlds all whizzing and whirling and tumbling through space I am convinced that the worlds of the skies did not just happen to arrange themselves so that each would travel its own path about the sun. I am forced to believe that the worlds do not collide with each other because they whiz through space according to the plan of the master mind of God.

Some scientists have advanced theories to prove that the earth was once part of the sun and that several billions of years ago it was flung off from the sun in the form of a glowing mass and that during all these billions of trillions of years it has been cooling off. They are logical, but when we call upon these same men to explain why it is that holds the planets out yonder in space they have no answer for us. When we ask them to explain why one tree will bring forth apples while another planted in the same soil will bring forth peaches or pears they have no answer. When we ask them why it is that one flower on a rose bush is red while another on the same bush is white, they have no answer. Occasionally some "jack-leg" will try to answer these questions by using some big word as long as a freight train, caboose and all, but when you have summed it all up there is but one answer: "It's all a great plan."

Terraces built according to plans given in Extension Circular 173 "Terracing Farm Lands," will control erosion and give good service report those farmers who have tried them out.

Notice! Caskets and other funeral supplies, hearse, ambulance and embalming service now at your command at Banner Elk, N. C. F. H. STINSON BANNER ELK

When the Next Cross Calls—Give!

By Albert T. Reid



News of the Week in the Legislature

Raleigh, N. C.—Rarely has there been so much interest created and so much oratory turned loose in the General Assembly of North Carolina as during the past week on the so-called act which fixes the policy of the legislative body as requiring the State to take over and operate the six-months school term, a measure which was adopted in both houses by substantial majorities. By its direction is given to provide a bill raising the necessary revenue from sources other than ad valorem taxes.

While the school measure held the spotlight and consumed three-fourths of the meeting time of both bodies during the week, with three night-sessions, a side skirmish, dealing with the reorganization of the State Highway Commission, taking over the county roads and raising the gas-tax to six cents, was staged in the center of the stage this week, when Governor Gardner expects to bring it and the constitutional convention matter before the General Assembly.

The appropriations committees have been and will continue to be active for some weeks, hearing departments, institutions and agencies of the State which are seeking more funds for operations the next two years than the Advisory Budget Commission allowed in its recommended appropriation bill. The Finance Committee are considering the Budget Revenue bill, which increases the revenues about \$3,000,000, and will soon get onto the several sales tax bills which have been referred to it. From \$70,000,000 to \$12,000,000 in additional revenue will have to be raised to provide the State-operated schools, under the measure adopted, and a sales tax may have to be resorted to.

Proponents active for the school measure are inclined toward a sales tax at the same time saying power and tobacco companies should pay additional taxes, income taxes should be increased and a tax placed on stocks in foreign corporations. They were successful in blocking amendments which would provide the State operation of schools, when and if sufficient revenue could be found without placing undue burdens on any of the taxpayers of the State.

Opponents of the measure practically all of whom said they were not opposed to the State operating the schools, thought it sensible to make every effort to find the revenue before adopting a policy which they might not be able to carry through. Only one or two references were made to the loss of local self-government through State operation of the schools, by which county and local officials would lose all authority in school matters. The distress from the economic depression is considered the main reason for such drastic measures.

Close on the heels of enactment of the measure came a bill directing the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Equalization to prescribe a minimum scholastic standard for a six-months term, fix uniform salaries for superintendents, principals and teachers and all costs, determine the number of high schools in each county, create a central purchasing agent for the public schools, reassess and equalize the property values in all counties by May 1, 1932, and levy an ad valorem tax of 20 cents on the \$100 all over the State, to be paid into the State Treasury, the State paying the balance of the cost. County commissioners could add 20 cents for longer schools, higher salaries or other costs, and cities could supplement the term and teacher pay as much as they desire. The counties and districts would still have to pay their bonds and debt service.

County government would be further improved and cities, towns and special tax districts brought under financial control, as counties now are, by bills introduced, with administrative sanction. Uniform blanks

and bookkeeping systems would be established in all counties by the county government advisory commission and banks named as depositories would be required to furnish surety bonds or U. S. N. C. county or municipal bonds to cover deposits, thus insuring safety of public money.

Justices of the peace will be limited in number and restricted in activities if two bills introduced become law. One provides for election of two justices in each township and the resident judge may appoint one additional for each 20,000 population, all to take oath before the clerk of the court and serve for two years. Commissions of all justices now serving, appointed by the Governor or elected by the General Assembly, would expire the first Monday in December, 1932. The other bill would require all justices to secure all blanks for processes, writs, warrants, bonds, affidavits, judgments, summonses, claim and delivery, attachment and execution papers from and to make report of disposition of all actions to the clerk. They would have to secure certificates of the court clerk before sending processes out of the county in which they reside.

Another bill would allow county commissioners in any of the counties to establish county court, meeting monthly at specified times, to try and dispose of cases, below felonies and bind over in such cases, with judge, associate judge and clerk who shall be clerk of Superior Court, unless he declines, and with county-wide jurisdiction jury trials would be provided on demand of either side, and appeals taken to Superior Court. The bill would not interfere with present courts.

Passenger buses and other motor truck lines would have hard sledding if a batch of bills introduced, admittedly sponsored by railroad companies, are enacted. One would require a return of all property, tangible, intangible and otherwise, for taxation, including "rolling stock." Another fixes the method of securing franchises, separate compartments for complete regulation by the Corporation Commission. Still another limits the length, width, height and load of trucks, limiting trailers and semi-trailers to one and requiring them to operate within the line of travel of the truck they follow. Their speed, if the capacity is more than two tons, would be limited to 25 miles an hour.

Lawyers would be given greater leeway in Workmen's Compensation cases by a bill introduced. It would let them and their clients agree on fees, without control by the Industrial Commission and hearings would be the same as those in Superior Courts by service of summons and filing of pleadings by both sides and the losing party would have to pay all the costs.

Costs of foreclosure sales for taxes would be greatly reduced by the bill which would limit attorney's fees, or allowance for such fees in case of a

regular county attorney, to \$8 when not more than ten actions are brought; \$6 when not more than 20, and \$4 when more than 20 are brought.

Other bills introduced and of general interest follow: Increase State Highway Patrol from 37 to about 125; provide funds for its operation by license tax of \$1.25 for first and \$1 a year for renewals, and \$5 a year for chauffeurs. Raise maximum rate of tax on incomes from 6 to 10 per cent., remove the constitutional exemption and leave exemption to the legislature. Provide ready method of abolishing special taxes in special tax districts. Require quarterly reports by State Highway Commission to all county commissioners or appointments and expenditures of highway funds to their respective counties. Increase pensions of disabled Confederate Veterans from \$365 to \$600 a year, payable monthly. Reimburse counties from State Highway funds from allotments to the counties, on basis of area and population, cash loans, donations and amounts spent by the counties or highways of the State highway system.

Refund proportionate part of license fees paid for plates for automobiles burned or otherwise rendered inoperable. Prevent erection of electrical or mechanical signs on State highway system except as approved by the motor vehicle commissioner. Provide that certificate from the Commissioner of Revenue as to ownership of an automobile with certain license number and involved in damage or injury be prima facie evidence of ownership of the car and that it was operated by or at the direction of the owner. Big increase in the license fees charged peddlers and those engaged in selling bankrupt or fire stocks or goods.

A NEW IDEA

(Ashe County Journal)

Over Watauga way they have advanced the idea of "prosperity checks"; that is checks requiring at least ten endorsements before being acceptable at the bank on which they are written or any other bank in that county. The check is made out for ten dollars, certified, and then starts on its round paying debts, buying merchandise, etc. So if Bill owes Jim and Jim owes Sam, a check may go to each of the three, pay the debts of each and Sam can go pay somebody he owes. The idea was originated by Roger Babson, noted statistician, who figures that a check circulated rapidly will pay off debts and bolster up trade with benefit to all who receive it. This information comes to us by way of The Watauga Democrat, Boone newspaper, which also reports that interest in the plan is growing and that a number of the checks are now making rounds. No doubt the plan will prove effective and result in the straightening up of a number of old accounts.

Bishop Rondthaler

THE STATE'S most prominent religious worker is dead. Rev. Edward Rondthaler, Bishop of the Southern Moravian Province, passed to his infinite reward last Saturday and on Monday the revered remains of this 89-year-old minister, educator and humanitarian were consigned to Mother Earth in "God's Acre," church burying ground in Old Salem. For fifty-odd years his voice had been lifted each Easter morn within the holy precincts of that historic cemetery as he repeated the beautiful Moravian litany; and hundreds of thousands of pilgrims, representing all faiths and creeds, have journeyed far for the inspiration which the service afforded. In this manner, the name of Rondthaler became prominent throughout the land, but that which immortalized him in the hearts of all mankind was his unselfish labors for the Master in many climes, the countless acts of charity he performed, and the force of his inspired efforts for the common good.

Shortly before death claimed him, Bishop Rondthaler said: "I have loved to be among the poor, so it has come to pass that I have been privileged to sit beside the bed of the leper at Jerusalem, and to bury the heathen Indian among the mesquite bushes of the hot California Desert. I have seen the sad lot of the Mexican peon and have preached beside the loom of the European weaver, making at that time his 25 cents a day for fourteen hours of labor. I have preached and taught much among colored people. I have rejoiced in the great charities of Christendom, some of them at the time of my visits in the earliest stages. I have rejoiced in a new South in a rejuvenated North Carolina, in growing Christianity, especially in Good Samaritan care over those who can least care for themselves. I am eighty-nine years old, and still permitted to be engaged with all my usual tasks, and thank God for it."

Since Bishop Rondthaler began his work in Salem, that serene village which several years ago was united with the neighboring hamlet of Winston has grown into North Carolina's foremost industrial city. The Sabbath stillness of Salem Square center of activities for the annual of parishioners, is pierced by the screech of factory whistles and thousands of busy workers crowd the streets. A history of Winston-Salem is a history of Rondthaler, for the twin grew together—he lending his support throughout the years to the institutions and agencies which have brought about the marvelous transformation.

Lenoir's New Bank

THURSDAY of last week Lenoir's new bank, the Union National, opened its doors to the public, and on that day more than eighty thousand dollars in deposits enriched its coffers. The new institution replaces the old First National, which was closed due to heavy withdrawals and frozen assets on December 13th. A group of Caldwell County's leading citizens held a meeting, formulated a plan of organization and began work. Five weeks later the Union National, boasting a capital stock of \$150,000 held by sixty-seven substantial business men and women, made its debut. No strings were attached to the deposits, word was sent out that those who wished to withdraw funds might do so. But few demands were made, and today the new bank is doing a fine business, and the people of Lenoir are standing behind it. Watauga should rejoice with Caldwell County in this marvelous achievement—for as long as loyalty of this kind exists in the hearts of North Carolinians, the future of the State is secure.

Watauga's Legislator

WATAUGA County is represented in the State Legislature by a lawyer, one of only fourteen fillers of the soil to sit in that august assembly during the session of 1931. Roby Greer is adapting himself to the role of legislator in a very pleasing way, has been named to serve on several of the most important committees of the Lower House, and is considered more or less an authority on taxation by many of his fellow-soldiers. Each Friday night he drives from Raleigh to his home near Blowing Rock, dons the habiliments of an agriculturist, and works like "fighting fire" until Monday evening, when he starts on his return trip to the capital. In characteristic Greer style, he has thrown himself into this new work, and reports from Raleigh are to the effect that he is making good, his vote on several measures of State-wide importance indicating that he has the interests of his constituency very much at heart. Watauga's destiny is most certainly in capable hands.

First One: "Yesterday I stepped into the middle of the street, held up my arms, and stopped a runaway horse." Second One: "That's nothing. To-day I held up two fingers and stopped a taxi."

A Big Deal

THE Farmers Hardware and Supply Company is to be congratulated upon having acquired the building and stock of the Boone Hardware Company, thus amassing the finest and largest stocks of hardware in the western part of the State. While the outgoing firm had wide friendships and splendid patronage, and while the organization will be nessed in the community in which it lived, the newer concern deserves high credit for its enterprise. During the six years of its business life, the Farmers Hardware Company has shown a remarkable growth. Its sales receipts have increased in spite of business depression in other parts of the country; its officials are business men of wide vision, and they promise the country they serve the best there is in them. In return the newer and larger establishment which they operate should command the united support of every individual in the county. The Democrat extends congratulations and bespeaks for the progressive firm continued and increased prosperity.

"The Way of Life"

By BRUCE BARTON

This is the story of two men who are now about forty-five years old. The graduated in the same class at college. One of them came to New York and took the first job he could get, which happened to be in the stock room of a large corporation. He lived in an attic, did his own washing and bought tooth and nail. After a while, as the business grew and older men dropped out, he was promoted, until now he is a vice-president. He has a home in the suburbs, and a fine family, and is accumulating a comfortable fortune.

The other young man was equally attractive and talented, but he had a different idea. Said he: "I'm not going to be tied down. Why waste the best years of my life in a stuffy office? I'll wander around and see the world while I am young; there will be plenty of time to work later on."

Well, he has wandered around the world. He has been to interesting places, had romantic adventures, met unusual people. Now he is through with his travels, and at forty-five he wants to settle down. But, though the older man has tried to help him, it is almost impossible. He knows no trade, has mastered no tools, has no business experience to offer. He is out of life, and he can't get in.

He thinks that Fate has played him a mean trick. He envies the success of his friend, and he is tending to grow bitter.

All of which suggests that much of the trouble in human affairs comes from trying to beat the game— from trying to get out of life more than there is in it.

"The gods," said Emerson, "sell everything to men at a ruin price." They sell business success, but the price is several tough years of work. They sell pleasure and adventure, but the price of these is also measured in years.

They sell the thrill of speculation but the price is that few win and many lose; and even the winners of ten sacrifice their nervous systems and their health. They sell family life, and they sell divorce.

Any man may choose the thing that he wants to buy, but no man may choose them all. And whoever makes his choice, and then wakes up to regret that he did not choose otherwise—is in tough luck. We can be sorry for him, but we cannot do much to help.

The Family Doctor

By DR. JOHN JOSEPH GAINES

"MERRY CHRISTMAS" Something very unusual for the busy doctor—a holiday. When Christmas rolls around and the stockings are hung in front of the fireplace, and the world drops asleep, and the fond anticipation for the morrow tempers the dreams of tonight—then the doctor must do his part to make the season enjoyable. He must bring cheer to the sick-room, in the very spirit of his Master, the Great Physician, whose birthday this is. For the true physician loves humanity with a great, overwhelming passion; he may not say so, for he prefers deeds to words. . . he goes about doing good.

And little Jo is sure to have a relaps right here when, of all time he shouldn't. Brown's young wife too—just seemed like that hemorrhage was bound to occur at this of all times! And old man Pender, octogenarian—an embolism of the coronary artery—the family on tip-toe about it! Aunt Polly Wingo—she had to tumble over the baby's rocker—maybe an intracapsular fracture, O,

"A Fortunate Calamity" See Next Week's Paper