

THE CHATHAM RECORD

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It is noticeable that the people west of Pittsboro are concerned that the new road toward Raleigh shall follow the short Jenks route and go into highway 50 near Cary, instead of Apex. Those folk think the people of Pittsboro deserve the shortest possible route to Raleigh.

There seems no question that the logical routing of the proposed P. and N. extension is across country from Charlotte through Randolph and Chatham. That route would develop a great area and in the long run would give a more adequate support to the P. and N. than a route parallel to the Southern would. But, unfortunately, it is not Pittsboro's to decide the matter.

If an American gunboat was justified in turning its guns upon Nanking when one American was killed by a Chinaman while the city was being occupied by a conquering army, what would China be justified in doing to Wadesboro, if it were so situated as to bring its guns to bear upon the town, when the whole Chinese population of that little city was butchered Saturday by one of its citizens?

Insurance Commissioner Stacey Wade has sent out a letter insisting upon extreme caution on the part of teachers and school officials during the commencement season, when the fire hazard is the most threatening in its consequences. He makes ten recommendations, including having building clean, aisles open, all ways of egress in working order, allowing no smoking in building, use of no inflammable decorations, etc.

The soy bean seed secured by County Agent Shiver for distribution will be taken up before long by the owners and sold in other sections where there is a great demand if the Chatham folk don't hasten their buying. They are on deposit with C. C. Brewer at Bonlee and G. W. Brewer, Pittsboro. You will have to pay more for seed beans if you fail to get some of these, and you cannot afford not to plant soy beans.

The big problem with country weeklies is to know how to balance county and general news to suit those who take dailies and those who do not. It would be easy to make a newsy paper for all if nobody took a daily. But when hundreds of ones subscribers take dailies to fill the paper with general news is to make it a rehash for them; while to confine the contents of the paper to county matters leaves the non-daily readers without adequate state and world news. Making a readable county paper now is a much more difficult task than before the situation indicated arose.

That man Marshall came back with a more difficult problem for Al. Smith to solve than that first presented. He accepts Smith's disclaimer that his allegiance to the Catholic church does not in any degree conflict with his allegiance to the U. S. Constitution; but quotes extensively from a text book used in Catholic schools and published only last year, which shows that the right of the pope to nullify state laws is still taught to the children of American Catholics. Smith had objected to quotations from remote dates, of the days of the illiberality of all churches, and Marshall has accepted the challenge and comes down to this very year. If the matter could have ended with Smith's reply to the first series of questions, the incident would have been favorable to the Catholic governor; but the argument has apparently only begun, and Marshall has maintained so dignified and generous an attitude to the Governor and his church that Smith could not in the beginning decline to make public reply and cannot now, without greater injury to his cause, refrain from further elucidation of the Catholic attitude. Doctrines that are being taught today in the parochial schools to American children cannot be passed over lightly as dead letter.

This writer's impression gained from an eight-years residence in Louisiana was, and is, that, whatever the theoretical teachers of the Catholic hierarchy as to the relation of church and state, Louisiana Catholics had no notion that they were in anywise under restraint in matters political, and he has said time and time again that it is his opinion that if the pope desired a revolt of the native-born Catholics of that state he would probably be gratified by undertaking to dictate their political action. And Al. Smith's answer is in line with that opinion definitely formed years ago. He cannot successfully explain away the vast volume of teachings and decrees that suggest the supremacy of the church over the state, but his statement of his own attitude does approximate the actual, as contrasted with the theoretical, attitude of the average Catholic citizen. "I recognize no power in the institution of my church," says the Governor, "to interfere with the operation of the constitution of the United States or the enforcement of the law of the land." There you are. Let the theory and the letter be what it may, American Catholics are true Americans, and so far as they are concerned, unless it be doctrinaires, they recognize no impediment to that political freedom. And if they recognize none, there is none. The Presbyterian creed still contains the dogma of infant damnation, but it would be hard to find a Presbyterian in North Carolina who will profess belief in the dogma. *Credo* means I Believe, but the Presbyterians do not believe their *Credo*. That illustrates the writer's conception of the attitude of the Catholics to the mooted doctrine of the supremacy of the church, and it is a fine thing for Al. Smith to make that attitude vocal. As some one suggests, Smith's letter is a declaration of independence of American Catholics. As the writer got used to voting for Catholics in Louisiana, having voted for Senators Ransdell and Broussard, he will have little difficulty in voting for Smith if he is nominated. The writer knows the spirit of Catholics better than he does their doctrines, and he learned to trust the former regardless of the apparently dead letter of the latter.

Governor McLean refuses to pardon Tom Cooper, and that former prominent banker and politician has to serve his eight years on the roads after serving a term in the Federal penitentiary. But there have been worse offenders than Tom Cooper who have not had even one severe dose of punishment. Cooper will have to wait the coming governor who is not a banker as is Governor McLean, who naturally looks upon sinning against a bank and its depositors as particularly heinous.

Prohibitionists in Washington have organized the "Church Service Association" for the purpose of aiding properly constituted officers in enforcing the prohibition laws of the country. The view is taken that prohibition enforcement will never be what it should unless the public in general back up the officers of the law.

Readjustment and readaptation are necessary consequences of progress. Ever since the invention of the spinning jenny sent the first spasm of growing pains through the old economics system, similar spasms have been recurrent. Invention, discovery, the opening of new lands, or, in short, practically every step in the world's march of progress the past two hundred years has been attended by distress among the groups whose means of livelihood have been supplanted by more efficient processes or whose products have been undersold by those of virgin fields.

The spinning jenny and the power loom took the bread from the mouths of thousands who could not immediately readjust themselves to the new regime. The steam engine, the steam boat, and the locomotive left trails of suffering among those whose former trades were superseded. The automobile cramped the business of the wagon and carriage makers and the mule breeders. The development of the great grain fields of the west brought the prices of grain, pork, and beef to such low levels as to forbid successful competition by the people of the older sections of America and all European countries. The waning turpentine industry of eastern North Carolina was given its finishing blow by the development of the virgin forests of Georgia.

In every case, a group suffered till readaptation could be effected. Eastern North Carolina, for instance, never saw a harder time than in the transition period from turpentine forests to broad fields of cotton and corn where the pines once furnished the cash crop. Now the very section which prospered for years growing cotton on the great flats formerly occupied by pines, see the dry belt of Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, and California superseding it in the production of the fleecy staple. Competition is becoming as impossible as in the days of the waning forests of Robeson, Bladen, Sampson, Harnett and other eastern counties and the virgin forests of Georgia.

There is no use in whining. Readjustment, readaptation, is necessary. Attempt at competition in the grades of cotton which those dry areas produce so easily is as futile as an attempt of the old home loom to compete with the modern factory. But the period of readjustment is bound to be a hard one. Yet no sensible person can deny that it is a step in world progress if the formerly practically useless arid areas of the southwest can produce the world's supply of cotton. The fertile soils of the old cotton belt are freed for the production of other products, for timber if nothing else. But readaptation will come. New wants will arise. Blacksmiths were practically put out of business by the prevalence of the automobile, but in their place a ten-fold crop of garage men has sprung up. Growing pains are real pains, but growth is beneficent. Government ointments cannot cure transition pains. The market necessarily belongs to those who can produce at lowest cost, and rightfully so. Others must readjust themselves to the actual conditions. And it would be well if the same necessity was world-wide instead of being confined to the boundaries of this country by the tariff walls, for the sooner every section of the world, under modern production and transportation methods, has found that which it can produce and market cheaper than any other section, has been given free access to the world's markets, and those sections which have uneconomically competed with it have been allowed to work out the readjustments which will enable them to make the largest possible contribution to the world's welfare, the better for humanity in the large.

Individuals may suffer while the transition takes place, but the world profits. But in the instance of the readjustment necessary in the upper cotton belt, the transition should not be any more painful than that of the supplanting of blacksmiths by garage men. The cotton grower, unlike the turpentine man, does not have to clear his lands anew, supply himself outright with teams and implements and gain experience in the general principles of farming. His readjustment is easy. The world's demand are multiplying and every day becoming more varied, and every acre of his land that cannot be made to produce field crops profitably can be reconverted into profit-producing forests much more easily than the primeval forests could be converted into profitable fields.

But a period of readjustment is a period demanding thought as well as work. The thinker in the south is he who will first work out his salvation.

THE SITUATION IN CHINA

It would be difficult for any one to state definitely the status of affairs in China even if he knew it. The nations concerned have received a reply from the Cantonese government to their demand for apologies and reparation for the killing of citizens of America, Britain, and Japan at Nanking. The apology was given, but it was suggested that an international commission be appointed to place the blame and the suggestion made that the commission also inquire into the bombardment of Nanking by the foreign war vessels. Since the delivery of the demand of the foreign nations, there has been a setback to the formerly victorious Cantonese army and the northerners have driven them back across the Yangste Kiang River; while a disruption in the Cantonese government has also occurred. The outcome of the whole business is problematical.

The cream station recently organized in Anson county by H. M. Baugoz is selling about \$600 worth of cream each month.

THE SCHOOL ELECTION

The Record is perfectly willing for the people to decide for themselves whether they want the county-wide eight-months school term. But a few of the facts may be useful to them.

At present, the law requires that every child in the county be given an opportunity to secure a high school education. Certain communities have established high schools, have gone to great expense for buildings and equipments, and to extend the school term two months above the required six months term. Other communities have not shared in those expenses, but are sending their children to those schools, getting the benefit of the house, seats, heat, and the two months extra term at the cost of the communities who are footing the bill. That is not just. And that is the chief argument, as we see it, for a county-wide plan. And if such a plan is not adopted, it is certain that children outside the special tax districts will have to pay tuition for the extra two terms, and that the tuition fees will have to be high enough to pay the children's share of the building taxes as well as their part of the cost of teachers.

On the other hand, the Record sympathizes with those who think a six-months term long enough for country children, whose help is needed on the farm and who get in that work a discipline that is of as much value as that attained through a longer school term, if not of greater value. Besides, it is more important to improve the quality of the school than to lengthen the term, and to do both will require more funds than estimated to be necessary by the proponents of the county-wide plan.

Moreover, while the tax limit for the purpose of equalizing the town and country opportunities is 50 cents, it should be understood that this is additional to the 40 cents to be levied for the support of the six-months term, making the two extra months of school cost those not in special tax districts more than the six months' term costs them. Everybody, in other words, will have to pay a ninety-cent tax, but this takes care of the building fund, so that if a county district needs a new building it should get it without any additional tax.

The high school districts, as now constituted, will pay a lower total tax than now, but the people whose total school tax is now less than 90 cents on the hundred dollars will have to pay more tax than now. On the other hand, if they do not help pay the county-wide, it is certain that they will have to pay tuition fees if they take advantage of the eight months terms in the town schools.

Nothing else would be fair, though hundreds of pupils have been getting by at the expense of the town districts. At present, for instance, the tax in the Pittsboro district is \$1.15 on the hundred dollars; yet scores of pupils have been coming to this school from territory that does not pay any special school tax at all, thus getting every advantage for 40 cents on the hundred dollars that the people of this district get from their \$1.15, or that the people of Goldston and Siler City get from even a considerable rate. But it is not safe for those folks to count on sponging longer on the town districts. The towns will have to vote even higher taxes than they now pay if the present condition continues. But instead of doing that, it is practically certain that a tuition charge would be made for those coming to the town schools from territory that is paying only the 40 cents on the hundred dollars, that is, for the two extra months.

That is the situation. If the country folks want only a six months term, the 40 cents and the county's share of the state equalization fund will give it to them. But such as want eight months should know that if this election does not carry, they cannot longer get an eight-months term for their 40 cents. If only a few want the eight-months term and they are in reach of the eight-month schools, of course it will be cheaper for them to pay tuition fees than for all the folks in their territory to be taxed an additional 50 cents on the hundred. Take your choice. The Record will not worry however, the thing goes. It is your business.

But when a county-wide tax is voted to get the benefit from the corporations, remember that the Carolina Power and Light Company, for instance, is neither white nor black, and that it will want to see its money spent legally in act-

ually providing all the children of the county, black as well as white, the full eight-months term under conditions that compare favorably with those now existing in the better schools of the county. All the children include black ones as well as white ones, and if this election is carried, we shall want to see the negroes provided with decent school houses and given good opportunities, for if a good school and a long term is good for the state when the whites have it, it will be better when both races have it.

Tom Murphy is right in the editorial quoted in this issue from the Greensboro Patriot, when he writes that common sense is the prime requisite in government as well as in other matters. Those who sought to revolutionize county government and put it on a "business" basis have played the mischief. There is no common sense in dictating the same routine for each of the hundred counties of North Carolina in the matter of the time for the payment of taxes. Chatham county bankers would not unflinchingly sell all the property held under mortgage this year if the terms of the note were not met to the day. In 1920 a large part of the property of the state would have been sold under the hammer if the rule laid down in the recently enacted county law had prevailed. And if the law is really enforced, a third of Chatham county is likely to come under the hammer in June. For three long years this county has had hard luck. But the people have made a brave fight. Now, when it is hoped that another harvest may see them through the difficulties of the past three years of short crops and one of low prices, the decree comes that every man whose taxes for 1926 is not paid by May the first shall have his land advertised for sale and the sale must be made in early June. County commissioners know the situation in their counties. Any year you please conditions will vary in the 100 counties of the state. One year some counties can pay promptly; another year, it may work exceeding hardships for the taxes to be collected on the dot. But, good or bad times, the sheriffs cannot get the lists ready for advertising according to legal schedule this year.

If the Davis trial had been held in Pittsboro it would have been impossible for it to be reported by telegraph, and the news sent out by mail would have been two days old when printed. Thousands of words were sent by wire from Sanford, but it couldn't have been sent from Pittsboro, even at the double-toll rate. We need a telegraph office here, not a phone line charging telegraph rates. Three or four weeks ago we sent a telegram from here at eleven o'clock to Warsaw, making a suggestion to our printer that would have saved us \$18.75. It arrived too late to do the work and we lost the \$18.75 and the price of the telegram. If there had been a real telegraph office here the operator would not have had to wait till he could catch the Moncure agent free enough to take the message over the phone, but only long enough for him to set a switch, if even that should be necessary, which probably wouldn't be. Pittsboro should have a better mail service and a telegraph service that is a real service and that does not collect double tolls.

State College Students War On Immorality
Raleigh, April 1—State College's war on immorality continues.

Student Vigilants with the praise of President E. C. Brooks ringing in their ears have declared the campus will be kept pure. "Things are no worse than in other days, but folks have thrown off false modesty enough to allow publicity to be given the facts," a student leader said. "The trouble is with the old fellows who get terribly alarmed at the tremendous knowledge the younger generations have," declared Dr. Carl C. Taylor, dean of the graduate school. Dr. Taylor scoffed at suggestions that the younger generation was going to the devil "just because light had been turned on something formerly kept in the dark." "The most wholesome generation of wives and mothers of the world has ever known will come from the girls of today who have a vast knowledge of the fundamentals of life," said, adding that "College boys and girls are not worse than the generations that have lived before. Their strongest safeguard is their knowledge of life."

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