

THE CHATHAM RECORD

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Editor and Publisher

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It would seem that Siler City will justify its name. The "city" is steadily growing. The latest acquisition is an oil refining plant to cost \$35,000. Also the Rose company announces the opening of their handsome Five and Ten-Cent store. The number of Rose stores is rapidly growing. One is opening at Clinton. Sanford has had one for two years.

County Agent Shiver is giving our readers much valuable and interesting matter in his farm department. We regret that the section was omitted from last week's Record.

The winter has been a very pleasant one thus far, and if the ground hog should go back into his hole for forty days, the season on the whole would not be a bad one. However, it would be hard to find a period when the weather changed oftener than it did the last two weeks in January. The changes seem to have averaged at least two a day.

Our printers have made a bad slip twice recently in counting the papers, and it has happened that some subscribers missed each time. The forms were thrown down before our complaint got in, and it was impossible to get more papers printed. We are very sorry, and hope it will not happen again.

Sweet clover, kudzu, lespedeza and other legumes are making some counties in North Carolina anew. Mr. H. G. Beard has taken the kudzu seed sent the editor by Mr. Ashcraft of Monroe, and will plant a demonstration plot. But we should like to see a few farmers plant regular patches this year. Mr. Shiver gives information about sweet clover in this issue. It seems to be marvelous soil builder and forage plant. Rowan county is leading, it seems, in sweet clover growing in North Carolina. Rowan will have a thousand acres in the wonderful legume this year, it is estimated.

Now there is agitation for the teaching of all about North Carolina in the schools, and that is significant of the modern teaching. Instead of merely helping the student sharpen his axe, the teacher is expected to help him cut all the wood he is ever expected to cut. The paper, the magazines, the moving pictures, all are doing their best to show up North Carolina, while tens of thousands of boys and girls of student age have visited more points of interest in the state than scarcely one in a hundred of the mature citizens visited in former years. There is very little wisdom in paying high salaries for teachers to teach what the students can readily learn for themselves, and will learn if they wish to, and if they don't wish to, you cannot teach it to them. The one big task of the teacher is to make help the student to learn to think, and such has as a study of North Carolina statistics is not the thing to develop the thinking apparatus.

The trouble with the former teaching of the effects of alcohol is that the law required the teacher to teach it in every grade, and the thing became monotonous. The Record would be glad to see the subject taught one session, say about the 6th or 7th grade, in a student's school life. Let the facts be taught without exaggeration and without much one year or one time, and that will do more good than sickening teacher and students with a yearly repetition of them. That would mean one book each year on the subject instead of seven to eleven, all saying the same thing.

ROOM FOR ECONOMY

The average man who can support a family in fair comfort on \$1200 a year should wonder why it takes \$595 to provide room and instruction for a student at the University, of which the state pays \$398 in direct appropriations and in interest on investments; or \$561 at State College, of which the state pays \$362; or \$697 at N. C. College for Women, of which the state pays

\$329; or \$514 at E. C. T. C., of which the state pays \$298; or \$515 at Cullowhee, of which the state pays \$292, etc. At the Appalachian Training School at Boone, run by our old chums B. B. and D. D. Dougherty, the cost per pupil is only \$286, of which the state pays only \$144, or a difference in total cost of \$309 less than the total cost at the University. In fact, the total cost per student at the Appalachian Training School is \$112 less than the part of the cost by the state at the University.

In addition to the costs indicated above the student must pay his board, buy his books, and pay for all the frills and furbelows of the modern student life. Accordingly at the University, the total outlay, for a four-year course per student mounts up to \$3500 to \$4000, and if anybody thinks that this is paying the state or the average student in terms of dollars, he, we believe, is very much mistaken. If it is paying in terms of morals, that is yet to be proven.

But the excessive costs are not confined to the college. It costs for instruction alone in the high schools of the state from \$6 a month in a few counties to \$13 a month per student—for mere instruction, mind you. And that looks pretty high to the fellow who for years ran his own school and was glad to get \$3 or \$4 a month for high school tuition, with the teacher put to the cost of drumming up the school, furnishing the building, wood, janitor, and every expense attached to the school. Mind you, the schools in which the cost of instruction runs from \$6 to \$13 a month has provided a comfortable building, fuel, janitor's service, and trucks to haul the students to the school, and the teacher is not put to a bit of worry or cost in collecting his salary.

Governor Gardner proposes a commission, we believe, to inquire thoroughly into cost and efficiency of the schools, and the above suggestions imply that there is plenty of room for such an investigation.

E. C. Brooks, Jr., of Durham threw a brick into the education machinery that was pulling for a state-wide 8-months school the other day by asking if the most of the additional money would not have to be expended in lengthening the terms of negro schools. It was so admitted. But if education is such a good thing that families must go hungry and farms be sold to provide it, the negroes should have their share of the blessing. What is good for a white child should be good for the negro child, and he needs good buildings and well educated teachers too. Many of the negro school buildings at present are a disgrace, and it will take a considerable sum to modernize them.

It seems likely at this writing Congress will force Secretary Mellon to accept 24 million dollars additional prohibition enforcement funds. The bill passed the senate, largely by the vote of the Democrats, and Smith supporters at that. The House has been anxious to get it, but Friday took steps to overcome an objection by Secretary Mellon to the effect that the bill as written wouldn't allow him to use the funds for some of the most needed efforts at enforcement. The Democrats of the House will probably vote almost solidly for the measure, and if prohibition is not given a real chance to show itself effective, it will be the fault of the Republicans of the House or President Coolidge, who has the veto power. The additional appropriation will be almost twice the whole appropriation of previous years. With the enlarged sum it will be possible to increase the enforcement forces by sea and land.

President Coolidge spent about 60 hours on the railroad in reaching Florida and return to Washington in order to make a six-hour stay in the Land of Flowers, where he made the address at the dedication of the Bok singing tower and bird sanctuary. The singing tower contains a carillon of 61 bells, whose music may be heard pealing out over many miles. The founder came to America as a poor immigrant child, became famous as editor of the Ladies' Home Journal, and rich enough to retire several years ago. Mr. Bok was present at the dedication.

THE COMING PROBLEM

It seemed that North Carolina already had a 30-year supply of lawyers, but 117 more secured license last week, or more than one to each county in the state. Chatham and Sampson, we know, have all the lawyers they need, and the most of them are in their prime, good on the average, we should say, for thirty

or forty years. What is to become of the fellows if they continue to multiply? But the same question may be asked about every profession and trade except that of physician.

In medicine the requirements are so high and the expense of preparation so great that the youngsters for the most part, shy round the profession. The schools are supplied with young men in their prime as superintendents and principals: the counties have their quota of farm agents, and the most of them in their prime; the consolidation of industrial enterprises, in a measure, decrease the demand for higher placed men; the actual machines are so simple that a man of ordinary sense can learn to operate one in a day or two, and the less sense the operator has the better satisfied he is with the job, since it takes up all his mental energy and is not so monotonous as the work is to a man of greater capacity. The highway building campaign has turned a horde of youngsters into engineers (?), and very few more can expect immediate employment in that field. The railroads need fewer engineers, firemen and conductors, as the trains lengthen. The chain stores are minimizing the chances of the youngster entering the mercantile business on his own, but does supply openings for managers of the chain stores. Few more filling stations are needed, and the host of the automobile mechanics is composed largely of men in their prime. And the farmers now on the land, with improved methods, can make twice as much as they are now making.

And thus it seems that we are going to have a lot of educated youth and nowhere for them to work, except as they, by superior merit, crowd out the older ones. In England, today, there are millions who can find no work to do, and are fed by the government. And it may be that the government dole will be the solution of the problem arising in America because of the increased efficiency of machine, men, and lands. It is no question of producing enough, but of taking care of the tens of thousands who will not be needed to help produce all the market demands.

The six-hour day in industry and the self-maintaining small farms are, apparently, factors in the solution.

Some of the proponents of ballot reform do not seem to relish that old Grecian Senator Simmons' bringing gifts. The Record called attention last summer to the fact that the hoary politician had either reformed or was merely playing the old game of taking whatever grist is most suited to his own mill. A secret ballot is no more needed now than it was twenty-five years ago, if so much. This writer, after seeing how a man dared to vote any other than a Democratic ticket in Robeson county 27 years ago was humiliated, began agitating for fair elections. At the same time he was refusing liquor advertisements. But he finds it unnecessary to say much about either fair elections or temperance legislation since it has become popular to advocate those things; that the silent ones of auld lang syne can do the talking and writing now. And Senator Simmons has come out for honest, or fair, election!

Senator Sam Hobbs of Sampson has got through the senate his bill to muzzle the Agricultural Department on the matter of crop guesses. Senator Hobbs told them that the South lost \$300,000,000 through a guess of Secretary Jardine's in the price of cotton two or three years ago. His bill cannot muzzle the Washington folk, but he pointed out that Frank Parker, by predicting a record strawberry crop and a whopping strawberry crop, had caused great losses to berry growers, and it turned out that the crops were not large. Mr. Parker, who has headquarters at Raleigh but is paid by the U. S. government, got himself into hot water by telling the committee that it could do nothing with him, as he was paid by the U. S. government. But they could, and changed the bill to make it read that no one who occupies space in the state buildings at Raleigh can lawfully publish crop predictions. So, if the bill passes the house, Mr. Parker will either have to get a private office or keep shy of publication of crop guesses.

The usually correct Greensboro News has slipped twice recently with regard to their illiterate voter. The News thinks the constitution makes no allowance for any such animal. But the Grandfather clause, which so effectively cut out the negro vote, permits all illiterates who were registered under the clause before

the expiration of the limit in 1908 to vote as long as they live, if we understand the law. But no women were registered before 1908, and all illiterate women who have voted have voted by courtesy, regardless of the constitution, which is a small matter between friends.

An English physician has suggested that criminals condemned to death be permitted to volunteer for experiments with cancer. The physicians say that experiments with animals are unsatisfactory. Dr. Dreher, doubtless, would have volunteered, and being a physician could have studied his own case constantly.

Let us have a real secret ballot law, or let the old-time method continue. Keep helpers out of the books, and then a person will vote his choice if he can determine it, and if not, the odds will be even between parties in the general election, and the candidate in the primary. A candidate would better risk a guess than the likelihood that the helpers are loaded against him.

We note by the Standard Oil advertisement appearing in this paper that it and the editor are the same age. Unfortunately, the editor is not quite so rich as his contemporary.

The peculiar appearance of the sky Friday and Saturday preceded disturbances of the radio Friday night and Saturday night, but whether the latter was a case of mere post hoc or of proper hoc we are not prepared to affirm.

Attorney Dameron of Burlington has been chosen assistant judge of the Alamance Recorder's court. Mr. Dameron is one of the original Republicans of Sampson county, one of the very few who did not pass through the Populist gate. We are glad of the recognition given him, for there is not a more clear-cut gentleman, we dare say, in Alamance county.

One of the leading Republicans in this central section candidly states that he believes Smith would have been elected president if he had not been a Catholic. Said Republican says that he was in the midst of the campaign and he knows what dope was used and what was effective. Some one might page Mr. Cramer, who informed Mr. Hoover, upon the latter's inquiry as to why North Carolina gave him its electoral vote, that it was due to the industrial revolution in the state, or words to that effect. The same Republican leader predicts that, since the Democrat party has virtually given up the tariff contention, there will be now more independent voting than ever before.

It is said that Mr. Hoover will probably retain seven members of the present cabinet for a while at least. That looks sensible, as he professes to be following the Coolidge policies. Besides it gives him a chance to take as long as he pleases in selecting his permanent cabinet. But understand, we are not worrying about Hoover's cabinet. We are expecting him to be the whole cheese.

It seems that the safest way to do one's killing is to do it in public. That man down in Nash county came off clear; "Cap" came off free here in Pittsboro, but Lawrence is in the penitentiary, and that Louisiana couple, despite their protests to the very last that they were innocent, were hanged. There is nobody, except Lawrence, who can say whether he is guilty or innocent, and it seems that was the situation in Louisiana with regard to Dr. Dreher and Mrs. LeBoeuf. Better quit executing folk if a large proportion of those executed must be killed on circumstantial evidence. There is some hope for Lawrence, if he is innocent, but none for Dr. Dreher and Mrs. LeBoeuf. They will remain dead even if some one confesses that he committed the crime for which they were hanged.

The Record believes that those Chatham county farmers who are preparing to plant clover should thoroughly investigate the merits of sweet clover. Mr. Shiver tells us how to plant it in this week's issue. Sweet clover, lespedeza, kudzu and the soy bean can remake Chatham county farms.

January was the best subscription month we have had in a long time. When the subscription money comes in sufficiently to help pay bills it is possible to make headway despite short advertising due to pinching times. We trust that many renewals will come in this month.

MAKING THE HIGHWAYS SAFER

The Durham Herald points out that "already several bills have been introduced in the General Assembly for the purpose of making the highways more safe for travel," and quotes Frank Page, former highway chairman, as saying that 90 per cent. of the accidents of North Carolina highways are due to "inefficiency, poor judgment and recklessness of the drivers."

One of the bills introduced in the assembly provides for a minimum fine of \$200 for a person to be convicted of driving a car while intoxicated. Another provides for a driver's license, that license to be issued only upon examination as to fitness to drive a car. There are other bills in the making, it is understood, and quite likely the Assembly will have a difficult job of working out a general bill that will meet the requirements of the situation.

The High Point Enterprise points out that during the past year there were 4,300 major accidents on State roads. Applying the estimate of Mr. Page, it would appear that 3,870 of those accidents could have been avoided by a control of the drivers' weaknesses. "In those accidents of the State roads," says the High Point paper, "600 people were killed and many injured. Thirty-five per cent. of the victims were children under 14 years of age."

"The property loss was estimated at five million dollars."

"With these statistics in mind, Mr. Page advocates a strict driver-licensing law and a constabulary to enforce the law and other traffic regulations."

"The State should license sober, competent and careful drivers and it should proceed as rapidly as practicable to weed out the holders of licenses who fail in any of these qualifications."

"Last year 768 drivers were convicted of using the State highways while drunk. Mr. Page observed. It is reasonable to presume that several times as many drunken drivers escaped arrest and conviction."

"It might be interesting to know how many cases of drunken driving there were, but of more importance, perhaps, would be information as to how many of the 768 convicted were allowed to resume their places at the wheels of automobiles."

"The State issues a license to every individual who applies for it and who can pay the price. The public bears the consequences of this wholesale and unregulated release of incompetents."

"In developing his condition that the human element is the present weakness in traffic, Mr. Page asserts that the automobile makers have perfected the machine so that it is safe under almost any ordinary conditions with a skillful driver at the wheel. The roads have been improved and marked so that they have been relieved of many of their natural hazards. Yet the great total of accidents and casualties continues to mount."

"Sooner or later the State must do what Mr. Page proposes. A strict licensing law will not suffice but such a law and a police force to make it effective ultimately may be expected to render the highways of North Carolina reasonably safe."

Members of the Legislature, it seems to us, should carry their economy program a little farther than consideration of financial affairs. They should give the State some law or laws that would result in economy in human life. It is well and good to save dollars here and there, but how much better is it to save human lives, and we could save many of these with a system of highway patrolmen.

SMITS'S MOTIVES

We are told by Washington newspaper men that Southern members of Congress are seeking a motive for the sale of former Governor Smith's campaign utterances, with some of the Congressmen inclined to believe that the author is just as anxious to get his messages to the American people as he is to pay off the part debt through the sale of the books.

In other words, they believe Mr. Smith is so anxious to get his views about prohibition before the American people that he is willing to lose what profit he could have gained through the sale of the books.

And we believe this is far-fetched because persons who are opposed to Governor Smith won't buy his books, and they can't read what they haven't got.

It is true that many Democrats who don't want the prohibition law changed in any manner voted for Governor Smith and will buy and

read his book, but the reading of it won't make them advocates of his modification program because they already have heard his arguments and haven't changed their minds.

But they love their party and want to have a part in paying off the debt, so they are willing to pay the \$2. And still others who disagree with him as to other issues he raised and sponsored in the campaign, so they are going to buy his book so as to have a permanent record of his campaign.

Will Rogers, who can put into a humorous letter more sound logic than the average writer can put in a serious discussion, answered the prohibition question accurately in a recent letter addressed to Mr. Smith and published in the Saturday Evening Post. In his letter he told his friend "Al" that while America may drink wet it votes dry and the votes, not the breaths of the voters, are counted.

Governor Smith no doubt does feel he is right about the prohibition law, but we can't see as his primary object in offering his speeches to the public. The former Governor has always been perfectly frank about his motives and we see no reason now for him to try to beat about the bush. If he wanted to get books before the public as a means of strengthening his position we believe he would say so. He didn't use generalities in the campaign. He was much more frank about his attitude toward prohibition than was Mr. Hoover, and certainly not what the election is over and he is through as a Presidential possibility, there would be no reason for him to use trickery in any cause.

Governor Smith no doubt feels that he is being held responsible to a degree at least, for the deficit of his party, and he wants to do what he can to wipe out the debt.

(Please Turn to Page Eight)

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