

# THE CHATHAM RECORD

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Editor and Publisher

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Kinston has become famous for the freak stories reported by Mr. McDevitt, correspondent of a number of the state's papers, but here is the report of the death of a man whose character is as unique as any of McDevitt's freaks. Writing at Kinston, the correspondent says:

A friend of the destitute passed on when Fred Pulley, "barbecue man," died here recently. Acquaintances are telling of Pulley's kindly feeling toward tramps and others down and out. Many asked for food at his place in the edge of the business district. None was ever refused.

Pulley never swore an oath in his life, it was said. His smile was famous. He greeted the penniless beggar with a smile and served him as graciously as the patron able to pay.

No man needs a finer tribute.

The average enthusiast over the old "blue back" missed the point of its excellence. Few, if any, learn the spelling of a sufficient vocabulary in school, and even the celebrators of the "blue back" do not follow it in such words as "wilful" and "skilful." If they remember that the "blue back" spelled them that way, the printer will not have it so. The excellence of the old book consists in its natural methods of teaching phonics, and enabling pupils to pronounce the great number of words spelled phonetically. There is no better, nor quicker, method of teaching a child to pronounce words for himself than the old-fashioned process of having the child spell through the blueback "in the book," that is, to spell and pronounce the syllables and the whole word. The old-fashioned method was incomplete in that it was not followed by rapid drills on pronouncing the columns of words without the spelling. The writer must have passed from the blueback to the National Fourth Reader, for he remembers no earlier reader, but does distinctly recall reading in that book of rather difficult selections the story of Prince Arthur and Muriel, taken from Shakespeare's King John, and the tale before he was ten years of age could read it with appreciation, though three months a year was the limit of his schooling up to that time. His little sister who died before she was five could pronounce the words in the blueback, with possibly a few non-phonetic ones. She could have read through one of the modern third readers in a few days if she had such a book. The "blueback" is more valuable as an aid in the teaching of reading than of spelling.

The editorial paragraph about the "blueback" suggests the frequent abuse of the present system. It is remarkable that the child learns to spell and pronounce at all under the unskillful tutelage of many primary teachers. The last time the writer entered a primary room he heard the children distinctly pronouncing the vowel "u" with the sibilant or aspirate sounds of the consonants. The following is not an infrequent analysis of the sounds of the word bat: "bu-a-tu." The "blueback" teaches a child unconsciously the sounds of the letters, though he could scarcely give the sounds apart from the word if asked. But when he has pronounced such a string of words as, say, "bab, b-e-tad, b-g, bam, ban, bat," he just naturally knew how to fix his vocal organs to pronounce a "b," and that is all there is to the pronunciation of a mute, since the very word "consonant" signifies that the letter has no sound except in conjunction with a vowel, and that is the reason that the primary teacher has difficulty in teaching the sounds of the mutes without the accompanying sound of "u." It is certainly a bright child that ever gets "bat" out of "bu-a-tu."

The Dunn Dispatch speaks of a man as "once a native" of Sampson county. But we recently noticed recently in a larger paper a reference to Mr. Hoover as a "native" of California. Slips will occur, but any boy who has studied Latin as much as a year would be less likely to make such a slip than the modern fellows who have seen no use in studying a dead language. Latin is not dead; it is

rather like a great oak which, to be sure, has been cut down, but from its wide-spreading roots have sprung many shoots. Half the words in the big English dictionary, it is estimated, are Latin words or derived from words, and "native" is one of them, meaning "born." Then, it is not likely, as suggested by the reading of the article mentioned, that a man was once a native of Sampson and later became a native of Wayne.

## A PRACTICAL EDUCATION

How can a fellow keep from writing editorials when one suggests another? We have just written a paragraph about Latin, and here is an article in the Monroe Journal about a Georgia farmer who made 12 bales of cotton on five acres, from which he cleared nearly \$1400 and, in addition, secured prizes amounting to \$1250 and a trip to Mexico for the best cotton crop in Georgia. He also netted \$1900 from a flock of 800 hens besides having the benefit of a great quantity of valuable fertilizer. But the point is, the farmer, W. H. Camp, is not a graduate of the Georgia agricultural college, but of Emory, and his course consisted of "Latin, Greek and English, well mixed with mathematics. Little of the modern 'practical' education in that course! All that course did for the man was to make him a thinker and enable him, if he should see fit, to learn anything anybody else knows, either by direct observation or from books.

The modern idea is to teach in the schools, at the expense of the taxpayer, what any sensible man can learn for himself in half the time, especially if he has a trained mind. We recently called attention to the agitation for a course in the public schools on the resources, developments, etc., of North Carolina. That is an instance of trying to do in the schools what an education will do for its possessor in short order so soon as he thinks it worth while. Our former illustration was the attempt of the school not merely to help the student sharpen his intellectual axe, but to have him cut his life's quota of wood under its direction. In most cases, we fear, the axe is left unsharpened, and the teacher-directed wood-chopping is done with a dull axe and without the interest of the pupil.

Till the Georgia Tech can produce its graduate who can beat Mr. Camp raising cotton or producing a profit from hens, we feel that we shall have to consider Mr. Camp's education a practical one. By the way Mr. Camp was not very well and had to hire all his work done in the cotton.

## THE VATICAN STATE

The pope has at last a little state to play sovereign over. But this is not significant of a possibility of his grasping the rule of the world, or even of the United States. On the contrary, it suggests the silliness of those who fear the claim of the pope to temporal power, since he is courtously given the privilege of erecting a little state of a few city blocks dimension in Rome, whereas the popes ruled a large part of Italy for 1100 years. The sovereignty was taken away from him in 1870 upon the unification of Italy and was taken away from him by Catholics, and Italian Catholics at that.

There is no question that the pope would like to have domain again, but even Italian Catholics are opposed to such temporal domain and will not have it. Then, how foolish it is to think that a comparatively few Catholics in America, born and bred under a free government actively participating in the affairs of government, would, if they could, throw America under the domain of the pope, or could if they would! Not only did the Italians take away his domain but the Catholics of France, Mexico, and other countries where they are in overwhelming majority, have entirely separated state affairs from the Vatican. Clearly, then, whatever the pope would like, Catholics here and abroad, have no desire to see him dominating governments, and there has been no country in which the pope has exerted less influence in the state than in Italy, right where he reigned for 1100 years. Al Smith was no exception. When he declared that his attachment to the pope would have no bearing upon his activities as president should be elected.

It is to be feared that the reduction in taxes by the addition of another cent on gasoline tax for the use of county roads will not result in the relief sought. Chatham's taxes will be reduced to the extent of \$85,000, but the benefit will be largely to the railroads, the power plant, and other enterprises which have no income regulated upon a high basis. Practically every payer of tax on land

has a car, and the extra cent's tax upon gasoline will, in many cases, overbalance the reduction in taxes upon his land. The reduction in the tax will amount to a relief of something like 20 cents on the hundred dollars, or less. That on a farm assessed at \$3,000 will be \$6.00, and it takes only 600 gallons of gasoline purchased in a year to add that additional amount to the cost, or little more than eleven gallons a week. The holder of \$1500 worth of property will balance his tax relief by the purchase of 5 1-2 gallons a week. The C. P. & L. Co., which pays about a fifth of the taxes of the county, since it uses comparatively little gas, will save a handsome sum; so will the railroads. But the doctors, truck drivers, deputy sheriffs, etc., will have it soaked to them. But, fortunately, the joy riders will have to pay for part of the relief afforded the railroads and the power company. It should be some satisfaction to the railroad companies to realize that the cars racing along the highways paralleling their tracks are helping pay the tax from which they have been relieved.

It is evident that if the property tax should be largely abandoned for a sale tax, the corporation commission should immediately get busy and reduce the electric power prices, the railroad ticket prices and freight rates. The present prices of electricity and railroad service are supposed to provide for the payment of liberal taxes. In case the property tax should be greatly reduced, the entire burden would fall upon the people they would still be paying rates to the railroads and power companies that are justified only by expectation of a heavy tax-burden.

## 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

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Fletcher's CASTORIA

a system of highway patrolmen.

## ADVISES SPENDING

When a man becomes successful in any particular line, he is usually considered qualified by the average American citizen to offer advice upon any subject, regardless of its relationship to the specialty in which the success had been made.

Henry Ford, however, would be generally acknowledged as qualified to give advice as the accumulation of wealth, but just before Christmas, a dictum of his attracted much comment. Mr. Ford was talking to newspaper representatives in a Washington, hotel and offered some advice to young men which read in part as follows: "No successful bo ever saved any money. They spent it as fast as they got it for things to improve themselves."

Notice however, that the advice Mr. Ford gave did not commend the reckless waste of money or the indiscriminate expenditure of it un-

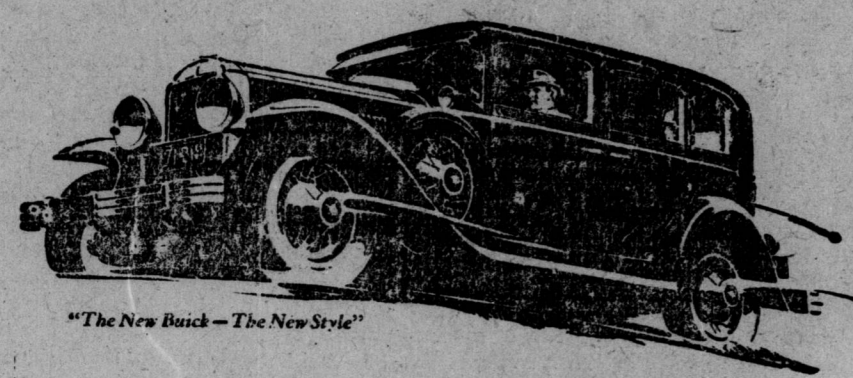
wisely. He merely meant that a young man who invested in an effort to improve himself would eventually accumulate money. Few people will contradict his thesis.

## President's Host



Howard E. Coffin, at whose salubrious estate on Sea Island, off the coast of Georgia, President and Mrs. Coolidge were Christmas and New Year's guests.

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