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TWO EDUCATORS PASS

In the passing of W. J. Ferrell of Meredith College and D. D. Dougherty of the Appalachian College at Boone, the state has lost two men who helped lay the foundation of educational progress in North Carolina. The work of the little community boarding schools was the leaven that raised educational enthusiasm in the state, and prepared a large group of men and women not only to appreciate their own slight opportunities, afforded by the zeal and enterprise of the sacrificing teachers of that day, but also to seek a means of extending the benefits of education to all the youth of the state. The teachers who supplied the schools when they were provided by the state, in hundreds of cases, can trace their inspiration and their preparation to the direct or indirect work of the pioneer school men of forty and fifty years ago, men who set up little boarding schools throughout the state and went out and made personal appeals to the young people to seek an education. The work of Ferrell and Stringfield at Wakefield, now Zebulon, was of more far-telling effect than any work that Mr. Ferrell, who died after years of service at Meredith, has done in apparently larger fields.

EDITORIAL ILLUSTRATED

The trouble at Gastonia in which the chief of police, O. J. Adderholt, was killed and others wounded, is certainly most deplorable. The day before that killing one long editorial in this paper was written, in which it is stated that the difficulties at Gastonia and Elizabethton are symptomatic of more than local causes. The Gastonia tragedy should add interest to the discussion of economic affairs in the article referred to.

The Record is publishing on another page an account of Bertie county's economical plan of keeping the county home and the jail, and commends it to the attention of the commissioners and people of Chatham county. The plan reduces total cost per inmate of both institutions to $5.00 a month when investment cost is counted. The investment cost of keeping the inmates of the Chatham county home is double that figure alone. Chatham will, or does, need a new jail and if one can be built and operated in such way as to reduce the cost of the operation of both institutions, the plan is worth considering.

Well, if Sister Hoover likes colored guests at her tea parties, the Record will try to reconcile itself to the situation. Tastes differ, as the fellow said that kissed the calf. However, we are sure that the incident is not setting well on the stomach of some of the Southern Hoover supporters. But just suppose it had been Mrs. Smith instead of Mrs. Hoover, what would the anti-Smithites be saying just now? — Heflin, f'r instance?

Bishop Hafey is reported as saying that a million-dollar school is no assurance that a pupil will get a million-dollar education. "The strength of the school," says the bishop, depends on the strength of the teacher." Correct; the bishop is simply saying in another way what Garfield said when he said that Mark Hopkins on one end of a log and a boy on the other end would be an university.

The administration has made a gesture at passing a farm relief measure. It is a law, but is only lacking the "relief" feature.

GENERAL ABILITY TO BUY KEEPS EVERYBODY BUSY

It has been previously shown in this series of articles that the sources of wealth in this country are not only rapidly passing into the hands of a small percentage of the people, but have already largely passed into their hands, and that this has happened because of the ability the capitalists have had, and still have, to fix profits without hazard above every conceivable item of cost and of deterioration. Thus the country is steadily being drained of its surplus and even of part of the capital belonging to individuals into the great streams of finance and industry, with the result that the masses of the people are losing control of their means of livelihood, and this is rapidly becoming a nation composed of a few employers and millions of hirelings. In the last article the protective tariff was ascribed as one of the chief causes of the amassing of the sources of wealth of the whole people into the hands of the few.

Yet the difficulty of discontinuing the protective system was recognized and it was argued that, in view of that difficulty, it is necessary, in order to restore the balance, to counterbalance the tribute being exacted from the agricultural element and those whose prosperity is dependent upon the prosperity of the farmers, by such a scheme as that of the debenture, killed by the house of representatives at the instance of President Hoover. It was conceded that the debenture is pure class legislation, but it was contended that the protective tariff system is equally class legislation, and that the former is essential to correct the ills produced by the latter. Yet Congress refuses to pass a debenture aid to agriculture, but is proceeding to raise the tariff rates on manufactured goods, on the assumed ground that the protective tariff has been the cause of the unparalleled developments in this country.

Such an assumption disregards the existence in a virgin state of unparalleled natural resources for the exploitation of a people of robust strength and untrammeled by European conditions. And this developing people were confronted with these virgin resources just at the time that modern industrial methods had gained sway. The tariff had nothing to do with the existence of the great coal fields, the water powers of New England which were first utilized for power for operation of factories, the cotton fields of the South, the great ore beds of the country, the vast grain lands of the west. Nor was the tariff in anywise responsible for the idea of laying pipe lines to convey oil, for the methods of converting iron into steel, for the inventions of an Edison, the supremacy of a Ford. Given the resources in excess, a population of initiative, and these at the opportune stage of development of industrial methods, and the country could not fail to develop. Hence, it is only assumption that attributes the prosperity, or rather the marvelous developments of resources, in this country to the operation of the protective tariff system.

It is as easy to assume that the country has developed despite the protective tariff as because of it. And the former assumption would be confirmed by the experience of England under a free trade policy. At the beginning of the Revolutionary war, Adam Smith published his "Wealth of Nations." Manufacturing had already attained considerable headway in England, but the developments which were to make Great Britain the workshop of the world for a considerable period may be ascribed to the publication of that treatise and the adoption of its principles by William Pitt, though the latter, as Green tells us, was handicapped in the application of the principles of the "Wealth of Nations" to economic conditions in Great Britain by the "ignorance and prejudice with which he had to contend", and by the conviction of the trading classes that "commerce was best furthered by jealous monopolies."

The economic doctrines of Adam Smith are thus authoritatively summed up: "Labor, Smith contended, was the one source of wealth, and it was by freedom of labor, by suffering the worker to pursue his own interest in his own way, that the public wealth would best be promoted. Any attempt to force labor into artificial channels, to shape by laws the course of commerce, to promote special branches of industry in particular countries, or to fix the character of the intercourse between one country and another, is not only a wrong to the worker or to the merchant; but actually hurtful to the wealth of the state."

The development of the industries of England for a hundred and twenty-five years was based upon these maxims. They are absolutely opposed to the principle of the protective tariff, and when the writer questions the assumption that the protective tariff is the foundation of American industrial development, he is backed by this father of political economy. However, inventions and the unbounded application of power to industry have so modified conditions that labor does not hold the paramount position ascribed to it by Adam Smith. Of course, so long as machinery is not absolutely automatic, labor is as necessary as ever, but machinery now does the most of the work that labor had to do in Adam Smith's day, and the laborer's task is only to direct the machine. And that fact has made a new political economy necessary. But the principle of non-interference with the course of trade is unaffected, and either Smith was wrong then or is still right. And the protective tariff system has been diametrically opposed to Smith's fundamental principles.

But granted that the protective tariff system did enable American manufacturers to gain the American market earlier than it otherwise would, the time has come when practically every industry has a surplus above the American demands, and the prosperity of the industry depends upon finding a profitable market for the surplus. Not to sell the surplus is to cut down production and to throw labor out of employment. To sell it for less than cost is to further exploit the unrelated elements of the population for the safety and profit of the industrialists and their employees—a further exploitation of the resources of the agricultural element and the elements of population so related to agriculture as to rise or fall with the prosperity or impoverishment of the farmer.

The proposed new tariff bill clearly seeks to increase domestic prices of manufactured goods, not in order to shut out imports, but to increase profits to such an extent that the plants may be operated on a smaller scale or the manufacturers be enabled to run at full tilt with the assurance that profits on domestic sales will enable them to sell their surplus in foreign markets in competition with the so-called pauper labor products of Europe.

The South gained its industrial momentum after the manufacturing industries were firmly established in the North, and its competition with the established industries of the North was practically as intense, with both under a protective tariff, as that of the whole country would have been with the established enterprises of Great Britain, with both countries having free trade, or a tariff for revenue only. But granted that America as a whole is richer through the operation of the tariff, the thing the people are concerned with is the average welfare. Whether the tariff has made America the industrial country it is, is questionable, and even very doubtful; but even the proponents of the protective tariff theory would hardly deny that it has helped to bring about the great accumulations of capital that have so far dispossessed the average man of the control of his own means of livelihood. The increased wealth of the country because of the tariff, if any, has been largely appropriated by the capitalists. The owners of the factories of the country, as a rule, have grown richer; but it has been a hand-to-mouth process of living for the employees. A strike in any factory will make the families of employees objects of charity within three months at the most, usually three weeks. Of course, the exceptional failure is to be taken for granted. Poor judgment in locating a factory, bad management, attempts to popularize impossible articles, and many other things, including changing customs or fashions, have caused failure. But under normal circumstances, the protective tariff has usually assured a profit that played its part in the development of the great fortunes, which in turn have through interest or investment followed by other profits, pushed on the snow-ball process which is accumulating the wealth of the whole into the hands of the few. With world competition precluded and with actual or possible price-fixing in accord, the profits have been both certain and large, as the transfer of the wealth from the many to the few is in itself evidence.

The wealth has been created, but it belongs to the few, and the many, however comfortably they are living, are living on a hand-to-mouth basis. But as suggested before, there has been the large unorganized agricultural class, with its related elements, to exploit. But that exploitation will early have run its course if the exploitation cannot be stopped.

But if it shall be stopped, either the factory workers or the manufacturer themselves must lose the usual winnings from their former victims. Yet the advantage to industry will counterbalance the loss. The chief trouble right now is the lack of buying power throughout the world. The high prices charged the exploited groups under the tariff have curtailed consumption on their part; while the disregard of the tariff system for the welfare of the peoples of other countries has helped to keep down production in the world as a whole, with the result that it is impossible to sell surpluses in other countries at a profit, if indeed for cost. The world still needs billions of dollars worth of American goods that it cannot buy, and in a measure because of the fact that American consumption of the products of other countries is not what it should be for the physical well-being of Americans as well as for the encouragement of production in those countries with its consequent increase of trade with America. Even here in Chatham county there is need today for a million dollars worth of new homes and furniture, textile and food, which our people are unable to buy.

Suppose that the debenture scheme were in effect and $50,000 should as a consequence be added to the incomes of Chatham county people. It is readily seen that the most of it would be spent for goods, thus enlarging the demand and giving work to people who are now not usefully employed, who themselves would then become larger consumers.

What is needed is for everybody in the world to be usefully employed and able to exchange his product for what he needs of the other man's product. In that case, poverty would be banished. And certainly it is not an inconceivable thing for everybody to be employed. But so long as free exchange of goods is forbidden by tariffs, so long must many fail to produce what they might and as many fail to secure what they need for their general welfare.

If, as granted, the tariff under the circumstances cannot be safely discontinued, and if it is one of the instruments which have helped to transfer the sources of wealth of the whole country to the hands of a small proportion of the people, while the masses have become hewers of wood and drawers of water, a policy of gradual reduction, accompanied by a counterbalance, such as the debenture aid proposed for agriculture, should be adopted.

On the contrary, we see the debenture plan killed by Mr. Hoover and his Congress, while preparations are being made for a lift of tariff rates to a level never known before. The farmers have asked for a loaf and they are receiving a stone—biff!

A strange idea our statesmen have—that the robber can steal more and by some process the robbed can become richer!

Self-restraint and self-constraint are two of the greatest qualities of character. Yet the educational processes of today seem to disregard them. Self-expression (whatever the self) is sought as an end. On the other hand, every task must be made pleasant. Self-expression unlimited in the child destroys self-constraint; while the sweetening of every task begets anything else than a willingness to constrain one's self to the distasteful or difficult. There would seem little remedy for lack of self-constraint. It is too difficult a task to make folks do things; but in the case of lack of self-restraint, there is a possibility of applying other restraint. Maybe you cannot make the horse drink after you have led him to water, but you can keep him doing a lot of things he would like to do. And that seems to be the situation with society now. Family and state must lay heavy restraint upon those who have been so unfortunate as to deem that their will and their whims are right because they are their will and whims. Every child should be taught to keep from doing some things even if there should be no harm in the things per se, and to be constrained to do some distasteful, but useful, things. The old Puritan customs made character, as foolish as were some of the blue laws, and the hard lines of the pioneer families helped. Self-constraint and self-restraint would solve the problems of this, or of any, country.

Congressman George Pritchard got in the neck—he wasn't invited to Mr. DePriest's musicale, he and Vestal of Indiana being the only Republican congressmen slighted. The latter's wife is alleged to be busying herself in an effort to have Mrs. DePriest blackballed by the congressional club. Mr. Pritchard, it is remembered, wouldn't have an office assigned next door to that of the colored congressman.

Our friend and former school boy, Herbert Peele, editor of the Elizabeth City Advance, seems to have made a most excellent host for the press association last week. Our chiefest regret at not going was because of the fact that the meeting was at Herbert's home. By the way, he was elected vice president of the association and should be in line for the presidency next year.

Eight "farmers" are to get their "relief" by appointment to the farm commission provided for by the law last week. The jobs carry a $12,000 salary. Those fellows will be tickled, but we haven't seen any Chatham county farmers laughing their heads off about the passage of Mr. Hoover's farm relief bill.

If the Democratic party is to be a close corporation, too good for Rascob or Smith, let it die—or rather bury it, for it is already dead. The Southern tail, likely to be trimmed of part of its electoral weight, need not expect to wag the national dog.

The recent White House tea party may go down in history with that of Boston.

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