

CHATHAM RECORD

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Editor and Publisher

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Bible Thought and Prayer

BEGIN THE DAY RIGHT—Cause me to hear Thy loving kindness in the morning; for in Thee do I trust; cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto Thee.—Ps. 143:8.
PRAYER—Gracious God, so cleanse us by Thy Spirit that every morning we may behold Thy face with Thy righteousness.

Chatham has apparently made about five-twelfths of a fair cotton crop and about a third of a fine crop.

This is a year when courage and caution combined will be demanded. The law of averages is in favor of a fine crop year. There should be one good one in seven. Yet it may not come, and it will not do to count the chickens before they are hatched. However, it is important that a fine setting of eggs be prepared. People will simply have to live hard and work hard; cut expenses, but not in vital matters. Land should be well prepared and plenty of fertilizer used. But The Record wishes to suggest again, in time this year, that the poorer land be used for cotton, and enough nitrate of soda used to keep the cotton growing till September 1, and no more, if one can gauge the amount. This will leave the better land to be planted in crops that are sure. Poor land treated as suggested, we believe, will make as much cotton as the richer land when boll weevil prevail. As for The Record, it will try to survive and keep ahead of the game by saving when possible. We shall always undertake to give the county news and a liberal editorial section, but when business does not justify a full-size paper, we shall cut the size and thus save the few dollars that we fail to make. If everybody paid subscriptions promptly, a shortage in advertising would not mean a loss to the paper, but we have to take things as we know them to be.

The Christmas trade at Pittsboro was exceedingly good, better than this writer had ever seen it. The up-to-date groceries and the live advertising by them account for the improvement in a great measure, we are sure. The Progressive Grocery, Poe and Moore, and the Cut-Rate Grocery, the firms that told the people what they had and how cheaply they were selling it, did record-breaking businesses. The other stores, doubtless, got part of the benefit of their advertising. As we have said, Pittsboro can become the trade center of a population of 15,000 to 20,000 people if the merchants will carry the goods at the right prices and then tell the people about it. People are trading here now who were not seen in Pittsboro stores a year ago. But to reap the full benefit, no picayunishness should govern the advertising policy of our merchants. The Record goes to every community in Chatham county. It does not go to every home, but does not have to do so to get the news abroad. For instance Poe and Moore sold salt to a colored man from over in the Merry Oaks section because he had seen the salt bought by a neighbor and heard the price from him. The Record wants to help build up Pittsboro as the trading center of the county, but it needs the co-operation of every merchant in the town. What was seen here Monday and Tuesday of last week, when everybody was thought to be "broke," indicates what may be achieved by a consistent scheme of advertising.

My voice is my money. Oh, well, one can be happy without money.—The Pathfinder.

The editor of the Record congratulates his friend Harrison Fisher of Clinton upon his appointment as attorney for the eastern district. When we returned, twelve years and a half ago, to Clinton from Louisiana we found this young man who had grown up in our absence a young lawyer who had already served Sampson county in the legislature. Later he was elected senator. We learned to know and respect him, and that he has a similar feeling for this editor is evidenced by the fact that he is a subscriber to this paper—for the sake of the editorials, he kindly says. Fisher is one of the cleanest and safest men we know, and he succeeds a good man. It is interesting to note in this connection that E. L. Gavin, attorney for the middle district, was also a young practicing attorney at Roseboro in the same county of Sampson in 1917. He soon afterwards removed to Sanford, where he made rapid advancement. These two Sampson boys may be guaranteed to watch carefully the interest of the government in their responsible positions.

Our friend, Ike London, in his paper, asserts that a wise administration of Democratic affairs will not drive any one from the Democratic party, and looks askance at the proposed opposition to Senator Simmons. But that is saying that the Senator's own administration of party affairs for which he received a reward of thirty years in the senate was not a wise one, and we consent. The Record has unhesitatingly stated that Mr. Simmons was the author of fusion and confusion in North Carolina. It was he who had the final say in the disfranchisement of the majority of white men in Sampson county, for instance, unless they should do as they did, form a new party organization. The less said by the partisans of the Senator about opposition to his candidacy for the senate driving people from the party, the better for his cause. His record has been writ in big letters. The writer knows that period by heart, and has averred, and avers now, that Mr. Simmons was rewarded for putting out the fire started by himself. Thirty years is manifestly a sufficient reward for that service.

CHRISTMAS AT HOME

Much comment has been made by state papers about the fact that more people spent the past Christmas quietly at home than has been the custom for several years. Of course, there was a lot of visiting; Christmas is always an occasion for family gatherings and reunions. But there was in evidence this year more disposition on part of folks just to stay at home and spend the day with the family. Those who found it necessary to be on the highways observed much lighter traffic than they had anticipated and fewer accidents were reported than had been expected. In fact, most of the accidents of the Christmas season occurred Sunday and Sunday night before when the sleet and frozen pavement made driving hazardous. This is a restless age; folks are always hurrying somewhere or coming back. It is a fine thing if the spirit of peace that is supposed to pervade the earth at Christmas time has been effective enough this year to keep folks contented at home.

WHAT OF 1930?

(From The Hamlet News-Messenger)
The end of the year affords good opportunity for retrospection, for the studying of experiences through which we have come and assimilation of some of the lessons that are contained in them. Likewise the beginning of another year is the proper time for prospect and plans. No sensible man will undertake to build a house without some sort of blue print or plans to go by; no traveler will set out on a journey for some particular destination without first charting his course. So no man or firm should begin a new year's business without some objective and some sort of chart to follow toward the end desired. Conditions are changing so rapidly that many details must be omitted from the chart, and

others must be modified from time to time.

Looking back over the year just closed and the two or three that preceded it one may discern certain tendencies in business that ought to help in planning for the future. There is a fundamental economic law which revolves around a condition variously known as the "point of diminishing returns," "the saturation point," and the "peak of the market." All these terms mean practically the same thing.

The years 1927 and 1928 were peak years for automobile production. Economists predicted that the saturation point would soon be reached. The past year proved them right; more automobile concerns failed last year than for many years past. For 1930 manufacturers of all the higher priced cars expect considerable curtailment in production and sales. The peak has been passed.

The years 1926 and 1927 were the peak years for long term real estate loan businesses. Along with this, and to some extent allied with it, insurance business was good. The amortization over long periods of time of real estate indebtedness, had a marked influence upon the development of deferred payment plan purchases in many lines—particularly automobiles, radio and furniture. The result of this is that almost every home owes more than it can immediately pay; and as much as it can ever pay unless employment conditions improve. And there is little prospect of the employment situation improving unless the manufacturers can sell more of their product. Thus is developed another vicious circle, and another saturation point in deferred payment sales in almost all lines.

This situation, unpleasant as it is to contemplate, still has much encouragement. There can be no doubt of the fact that the deferred payment plan has raised the standard of living, has made possible comforts and luxuries to the middle classes that otherwise they could not have hoped for, and has made possible the purchases and furnishing of homes by many who otherwise would have continued as tenants. Neither can there be any doubt about the fact that the system has been abused and stretched beyond its point of service and so has enslaved with debt many families that otherwise would have been independent. Perhaps its most disastrous influence has been to make many people regard debt lightly, and so has softened the moral fibre of the race. So it is a good thing that the turning point apparently has been reached, and there will probably be less of that kind of business this year.

Perhaps the policy of retrenchment will not reach so far as to keep many families from buying an automobile or a radio or needed furniture; but almost surely it will influence many to drive the old car a year longer, to put up with a radio that hasn't quite all of the latest dew-dads on it, and to revarnish the old chair and bedstead rather than buy new ones. If this prediction is true the dealers in some of these lines, who have been living in affluence, will likely not prosper so well this year; but to offset that the grocers and dealers in necessary clothing will have their inning and will find collections better.

Speaking of grocers and clothing folks collecting accounts calls to mind a lesson that they should learn from the experiences of the past few years. Credit is a commodity of incalculable value, but it has been debauched so that both the creditor and the debtor treat it with contempt. The successful business is that which buys and sells for cash all commodities that will be consumed or dissipated rapidly in use, and sells for credit only those commodities which in ordinary use will maintain their value and stand as security for the purchase price.

Automobiles, furniture and radios will still be sold on the installment plan, though not so extensively and with as little investigation of the purchaser's ability to pay—because a purchase money mortgage can be against them. But the tendency is to get away from selling eatables and other

merchandise that is consumed or dissipated, except for cash.

The conditions above discussed are general, applying to Hamlet as well as to almost every community in the country. There are certain purely local conditions that call for consideration. One hears repeatedly that there is no money in Hamlet, that everybody is broke. Truth of the matter is, there is plenty of money here. It would surprise many people to know where it is. The folks who have lived high and kept up the appearance of reasonable wealth are not in as good shape as they used to be and they are talking hard times. But there is another element, folks who have always lived close, who even in good times talked poor, and they still talk that way, but stuck around in unsuspected places they have money. There are people in Hamlet right now borrowing money from men who have never earned as much as the borrower. But (there is nearly always a "but" to spoil the picture) it is also true that the folks who have a little money now are those who have never done anything for their community, have never invested in any community-developing industry, have not added anything to taxable values or supported the social, educational and religious institutions; and now that the men who have generously supported the things that made Hamlet a good town are in need, they take advantage of their condition to further enrich themselves. That's why money seems scarce; that's why it is hard to promote anything for community improvement, social or industrial. The task of the rest of us who haven't any money is to try to educate these people in the duties of citizenship and neighborliness. If that can be done money will circulate again and times will be good in Hamlet.

What 1930 holds for Hamlet depends largely upon the people of Hamlet themselves. If we choose to sit around and discuss hard times and money scarcity, we will only intensify the feeling of pessimism that has too much prevailed. If, on the other extreme, we stand on the house tops and yell to all and sundry that times are good in Hamlet and that things are as they ought to be, we will make ourselves ridiculous and will retard application of remedies to the real ills which we suffer. The middle course is the one which experience suggests that we should follow.

We are bound to recognize that local business ought to be better; but we must also go a little further and see that it can be made better by our own efforts. On part of the householders there should be more respect shown to indebtedness, economy should be practiced in every detail and accounts paid up as rapidly as possible before any new ones are made. On part of the merchants they should be more careful in extending credit, and by making it harder to obtain they will enhance its value to the customer. On part of all of us there ought to be a spirit of determination to work, to keep up our end of the log and to co-operate with each other in community building enterprises. This spirit will make 1930 prosperous and happy; lack of it will find us in worse state next year than we are now.

Land for Taxes

(Greensboro News)
The Chatham Record is visioning the county in its corporate capacity as a land owner and suggesting what may be done with the real estate. Under the tax law of 1927, making foreclosures of tax sales compulsory, if there are no individual buyers the county is required to take title to the land. For its own county of Chatham the Record is suggesting that the lands be cultivated under the supervision of the county agent, and county home superintendent, probably as demonstration plots for field crops, pasturage and timber growing, county convicts being utilized for the purpose. Which might be worked out to good effect in some counties and not in others. Would depend on the efficiency of the management and other conditions. Probably in most cases the best purpose could be served by offering the lands in small lots at cost and interest, encouraging home ownership; and in many instances former owners who couldn't be convinced that their lands could be taken away from them if they didn't pay taxes, would probably buy it back. But then it is possible, if not prob-

able, that there will be no county ownership of land to worry about. Maybe after an actual demonstration, seeing that it can be done, land owners will hereafter make it a point to pay taxes without waiting for costs to be taxed that double or treble the amount, which provokes a mighty wail. Another alternative is that the legislature will pass a law providing in effect that any land owner who makes oath that he is unable to pay taxes on his real estate may go tax free. In some of the counties the lawyers are resorting or otherwise calling on the county commissioners to nullify the tax laws of 1927 by stopping the foreclosure proceedings. There is the usual story of hardship and hard times and the plea to wait a year. They have already waited two years, some of them longer. The sole desire of a chronic delinquent is time—all the time he wants. Hence the suggested provision for release, permanent and effective, for those who think they can't—meanin' they don't want to pay nor try to pay. The amount of the delinquencies can be added to the tax bill of those who pay. That's the real remedy that's being offered.

NO HEARINGS ON RAIL MERGERS THIS TERM

Press dispatches from Washington quote many other senators and representatives as agreeing with Senator Overman that there is little likelihood of congress reaching consideration of the interstate commerce commission's plan for consolidating railroad systems at this term of congress.

NOTICE OF SALE

By virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust from A. B. Noell and Sadie Noell, his wife, to the undersigned trustee, dated Feb. 16th, 1928, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of Chatham County in Book of Mortgages H. A. Page 765-6, default having been made in the payment of the debt secured thereby, and the holder of the notes thereby secured I will at the court house door of Chatham County, on

Monday, January 27th, 1930, at 12:00 o'clock noon offer and sell to the highest bidder for cash the following described real property.

Bounded as follows: North by J. L. Womble, East by L. E. Cole, South by R. L. Johnson estate, West by B. Noe, containing 80 acres more or less. For further description see Book G. A. Page 68 in the office of Register of Deeds of Chatham County.

This December 26th, 1929.
MARY E. BLAND,
Trustee.

The Best Purgative for

The Mark of Genuine Aspirin

BAYER ASPIRIN is like an old friend, tried and true. There can never be a satisfactory substitute for either one. Bayer Aspirin is genuine. It is the accepted antidote for pain. Its relief may always be relied on, whether used for the occasional headache, to head-off a cold, or for the more serious aches and pains from neuralgia, neuritis, rheumatism or other ailments. It's easy to identify Bayer Aspirin by the Bayer Cross on every tablet, by the name Bayer on the box and the word genuine printed in red.



THE BANK OF PITTSBORO

PITTSBORO, N. C.

The Oldest Bank in Chatham County

Wishes You

A Happy and Prosperous New Year

A. H. London, President
J. L. Griffin, Cashier.

THE BANK OF MONCURE

MONCURE, N. C.

A Happy and Prosperous New Year