

CHATHAM RECORD

O. J. PETERSON
Editor and Publisher

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE:

One Year \$1.50
Six Months75

Thursday, September 11, 1930

There is no sense in a man's giving checks when they are no good. Better not pretend to pay the debt at all. The bankers are put to extra work and the payee may himself be embarrassed by checking upon an account based partly upon a bad check. But a few folks have been allowed to give them with impunity and never to pay them. There is a peck of bad checks in Chatham county, we suspect, against a man now dead and gone, and more people are apparently starting out on a similar course. It would be a good idea for the merchants of the county to publish a list of the names of the persons who are making a practice of giving worthless checks. The Record will give space at a low rate for such publication. If a man is poor let him do like the editor of the Record—live like a poor man, and work at something, whether he makes anything or not.

Joe Peele, who has been associated with his brother Herbert in the publication of the Elizabeth City Advance, becomes publisher of the daily at Edenton. It is hard to imagine Joe, whom we have known only as a big, chuffy baby, being editor of a paper.

The Elizabeth City Advance is authority for the statement that certain newspapers in the eastern part of the state which have been prosperous have been losing at the rate of a thousand dollars a month. The Record might at that rate last a week. However, the word "loss" is likely akin to the word "profit", as defined in modern times and so often commented upon in these columns. So long as everybody connected with a business is getting 1919 wages the business is probably doing its part, but the income is being improperly shared. While the Chatham Record, as such, has lost no money, the editor has lived on what was left after paying expenses of publication and necessary payments upon the fire debts. If we had counted in \$300 a month as the editor's salary the Record would be losing money too.

Since the editorial concerning the pension matter in Guilford county was given to the printer, State Auditor Durham has discovered that there were two Guilford pensioners by the same name and that the wrong name was cut off when one of the men died. The survivor is supposed to have moved to Virginia six months ago. It is gratifying to know that there is an explanation. However, publicity is the preventative and remedy for all such troubles. If the list of pensioners receiving checks had been regularly published, there is little doubt that the son of the dead pensioner in this case would have had this matter straightened out years ago, especially if the number of the pensioner's company had been published with the name. Economy in the use of printer's ink is one of the false economies of the counties, cities, and other subdivisions. The law is frequently disregarded, certainly right here in Chatham county, where the school board, the town governments, and other subdivisions fail to publish legally required reports of receipts and expenditures. The clerk of the court has been about the only official meeting the requirements of the law in that respect and he failed last year.

A. J. Maxwell correctly says that a hundred millions of dollars is more tax than the people of North Carolina can pay. But the way to reduce it is not to cut down the service purchased by the State, but to put the public hirings upon an equality with their paymasters. Cutting salaries, in plain words, is the only feasible means of reducing the cost of government. The interest charges and the sinking funds are, unfortunately, unavoidable.

ANOTHER PENSION FRAUD?

Developments in Guilford county indicate a stealing of pension money similar to that for which a former Sampson county clerk of the the court suffered imprisonment. Just as in the Sampson case, the development has begun with one dead pensioner's checks. When D. R. Lee of upper Sampson reported to this writer, then editor of the Sampson Democrat, the fact that the sons of two veterans in his township were receiving pensions for their dead fathers, the editor thought it must be an unintentional lapse, but to see how many such frauds existed on the part of sons, he got from the state auditor a list of the pensioners and began to count the dead men on it and was startled to see the number go to a score or more. Inquiry of the sons of some of these dead pensioners revealed the fact that no checks had been received by the relatives of the dead men since their death. That put the matter in its proper light.

If it had not been for the fact that the clerk of court, through friendship for the two or three Mingo sons of dead pensioners, had continued to turn over the checks to them, it would have been almost impossible under the circumstances to discover the fraud, though we were surprised that the state auditor did not become suspicious over the fact that no pensioners in Sampson county died.

The guilty clerk was not backward in saying that he was not the only clerk in the state who did not return such checks to the state auditor, and the developments at Greensboro indicate that he was correct in that statement, since already checks for one dead man have been found running back to 1922. However, it is not safe yet to lay the fraud to the clerk of the Guilford clerk, since he claims that a man professing the name of the dead man had been receiving the checks. Yet it is clear that no 75 or 80-year old man endorsed the check of which a picture was published in Sunday's Daily News.

It was further discovered in the Sampson case that the fraud extended to witness funds and trust funds, and that the solicitor had been slack in his examination of the clerk's books, as the required securities for trust funds did not exist and the fact should have been discovered by the solicitor, who at that time got \$20 for examining the books of the clerk. It also developed that the law which required that the clerk publish a list of all funds in his hands and the security which he held for them, if any, had not been complied with.

In this county, since our coming six years ago, such a report has been published till last winter, when if it was published, we did not publish it nor see it in the Siler City paper. Moreover, the laws require reports of funds received by all public officials of towns and counties, and of their disposition. But it is an obvious fact that the law is being generally disregarded. The publication of such reports will protect the people. Suppose that the Sampson clerk had reported certain trust funds loaned to himself or to a fictitious borrower, it is evident that the interested parties would have discovered the frauds. As it was, the funds of orphans were taken with impunity, until the almost accidental discovery of the pension frauds revealed the rascality of the clerk. But that did not save the funds, and one of the very men who was rather bitter against the editor for his insistence upon frauds in that connection before the revelations of the pension frauds was a considerable loser as a bondsman of the defaulting clerk.

If this Guilford matter shall serve to bring about an observance of the laws respecting publications of receipts and disbursements of funds by officials, it will have been of value to the state. We thought the Sampson case had had such an effect, but memories are short.

When prices vary largely with quality of the product, it is a wise man who strives for quality products. If you read the reports from the tobacco markets last week, you should have noted that Ben Herring of Pender county sold a load of tobacco in Goldsboro for 75 cents a pound. A thousand pounds of such tobacco along with the food and feed crops would make Ben and family independent for the year. In fact, the writer has known Ben's farm all his life, as he has visited it ever since he was born, it being the farm upon which his mother was reared, and the little place had made a comfortable living for three generations of Herrings, though many a year no such sum of money has been derived from a thousand pounds of 75-cent tobacco. The editor of the Record feels a pride in seeing this youngest grandson of the old home selling the finest tobacco in the state on the opening day of the markets.

We have always thought grandmother Herring's place one of the best in the world, and the price of that tobacco goes far to confirm our opinion and to establish the fact that Ben has inherited his father's skill as a farmer.

Probably as a result of the atmospheric disturbances accompanying the terrific storm which wrought such havoc in San Domingo, America's oldest city inhabited by whites, killing about 5,000 and destroying many millions worth of property, this section has received gracious rains. But if there is the supposed connection between the bezom of destruction in San Domingo and the delightful rains here, it would be difficult to consent to our Brown's Chapel correspondent's accounting for the latter. It is hard to conceive of a good God destroying a city to answer the prayer of a Sapling Ridge preacher. There is a vast difference between *post hoc* and *propter hoc*, or *after* and *because of*.

"PROFITS GUILTY."

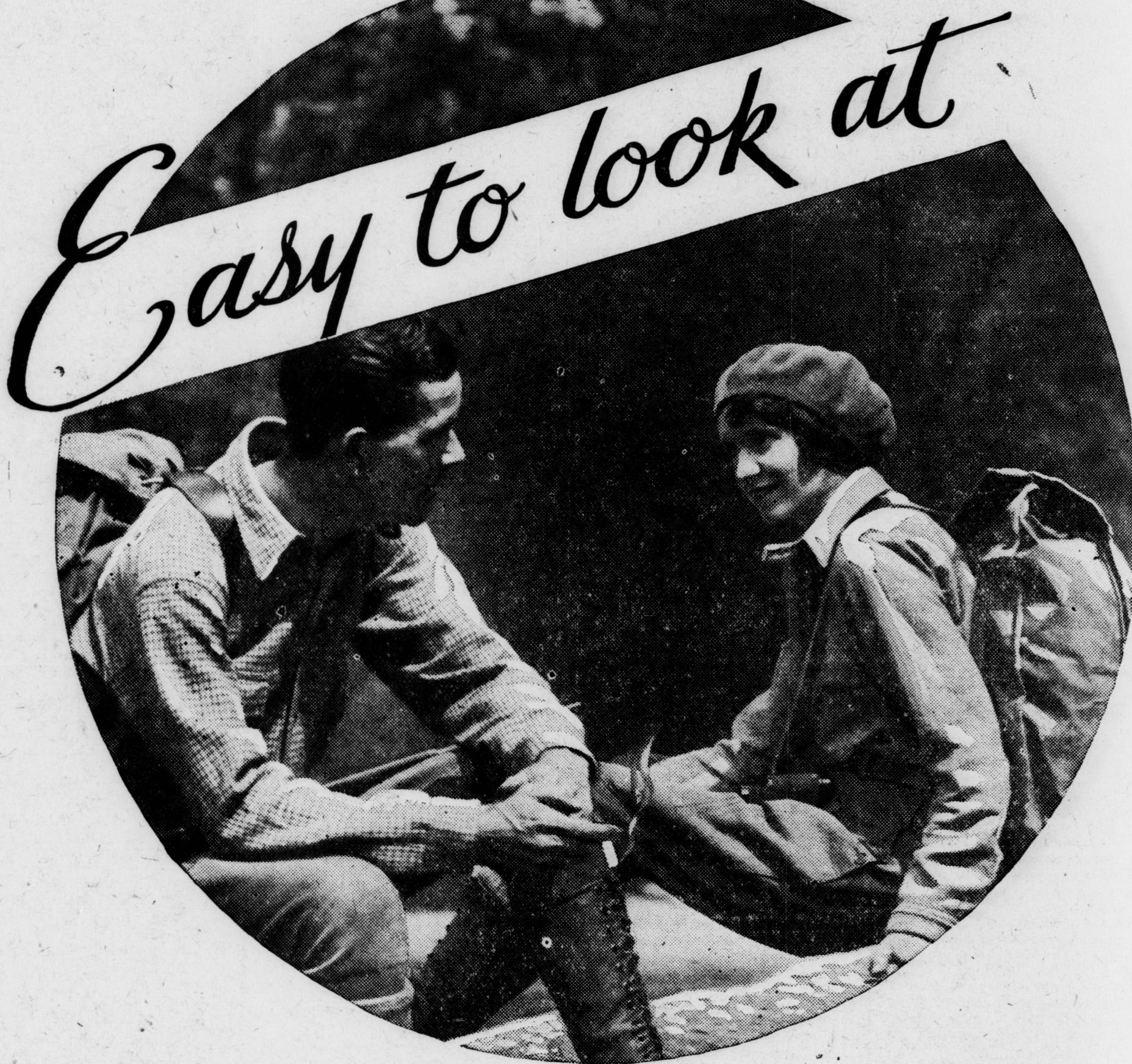
Last year we wrote a considerable series of articles on economic situation, in which the key to the evils existing was found in the word "profit" as now defined, or rather in the application of the definition. When any number of concerns have the power to collect from the public a greater sum than that covering a fair rate of interest on investments, coverage of deterioration in plants, insurance and the actual cost of labor and superintendence, then it becomes possible for such concerns in the long run to drain the country of its wealth.

For instance, under the Franklin price-list used by commercial printers, every possible item of cost is covered and then 20 per cent added for "profit." Necessarily if every business should collect 20 per cent above every cost, including interest, insurance, and deterioration and liberal allowance for labor and superintendence, it would be only a

matter of a few years when those people like farmers who cannot fix prices would be drained of their last cent. We showed, 18 months ago, in the series of articles mentioned, what was happening and what has happened is entirely in accord with what we predicted as inevitable. The Atlantic ocean could be sopped up with sponges enough, and there is no lack of "profit" sponges sopping the wealth of the world.

The four great tobacco companies have sopped up the wealth of both the growers and the consumers. The profits, clear money above legitimate costs, doubtful costs, calculated, too, upon a most liberal basis, of the four companies almost equal the total sum paid farmers for the tobacco crop. But we must stop, the subject is inexhaustible.

Aunt Lucy Jackson, one of our oldest colored women and most respectable, has returned from an extended visit to her daughter in Boston.



JUST as natural loveliness is pleasing to your eyes, the natural mildness of Camel Cigarettes is pleasing to your taste.

Camel is an amazingly mild smoke. Yet it is never flat—never tasteless. All the mellow aroma of the choice tobaccos in the Camel blend is preserved and enhanced through every step of manufacture. There's no over-processing with its resultant insipidity — no doctoring, for none is needed.

Modern smokers have recognized the difference between *mildness* and *flatness*. They're swinging to Camels—choosing a cigarette that's naturally mild—enjoying the real luxury of smoking.

CAMELS

Easy to smoke



"EASY TO LISTEN TO"—CAMEL PLEASURE HOUR
Wednesday evenings on N. B. C. network, WJZ and
associated stations. Consult your local radio time table.

© 1930, R. J. Reynolds
Tobacco Co., Winston-Salem, N. C.