

CHATHAM RECORD

O. J. PETERSON
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Editorials

ABOUT TWO THOMPSON
SCHOOL BOYS

In addition to our own brother, who came up from Savannah to attend the reunion of Thompson School students at Siler City, the editor of the Record was particularly interested in two other Sampson county boys who foregathered with the former students, namely George A. Smith, of Charlotte, and T. E. Battley of Hamlet. The former came to Siler City as poor as one could well be, worked his way through as janitor. Today he could buy out probably half of his school mates. Unable to find a position when he had graduated at Thompson's he began selling books, and he sold them. Soon he and his brother-in-law, Mr. Robinson, went into the book business on the whole-sale and hired hundreds of agents. As the business developed, the firm bought Bibles, for instance, by the carload, and horses and buggies by the carload. At one time they had 80 men driving the firm's horses and buggies in various sections of the south, besides scores of other agents afoot with regular subscription books.

The men with the turn-outs carried a supply of books and delivered as they went, and as buying in such quantities secured an exceedingly low price for the firm, and they were not in the business for their health and put on a booming percentage for the firm's share, the boys grew in financial strength. As an indication of the business acumen of our friend George Smith, note that the very day the Titanic sank he mailed out a thousand postal cards to prospective agents of the book that he knew would be written about the sinking, and the harvest of sales of which he knew must be reaped within the next three months. Tens of thousands of others followed as fast as possible. It is probably that boys now control a half-million dollars worth of assets, but when the prices of books valued during the war and it became impossible longer to secure justifiable profits, they quit short off. In the meantime, George had studied law and secured license, and while he is not as eloquent as your Tillet and other shining lights of the Mecklenburg bar, you may bet George is getting money for his practice.

It was a great pleasure to have George Smith in the editor's home Friday night and to return somewhat of the hospitality shown the latter when in Charlotte six years ago. The old Thompson School brother of ours had been George's teacher, and George boasted in his little talk at Siler City that he was not only a student of the Thompson School but also of a Thompson student, who had started him on the education road.

Well, we had read of T. E. Battley, knew that he aspired to the congressional seat held by the late Congressman Hammer, but had never dreamed that he was a Clinton-born chap. But at Siler City we were informed by Mr. Battley that he was born in Clinton and lived there till he was 12 years of age. As the family came after the war and left when the writer was only seven years old, the name of Battley failed to register on the mind of the Buckhorn tot. His father, besides running a mercantile shop, was also a pictur' taker, and for forty years there drifted about a picture of the writer in his mother's arms—by the way, the only good-looking picture ever made of this subject. The last time, too, that we recall seeing it, it was as clear-cut as if made forty or fifty days instead of forty or fifty years, and was the only picture that ever showed the writer the countenance and form of his mother in those halcyon days of her early motherhood. It was a tinsy, and if all the pictures taken by the elder Battley endured as did that one, he was a sure-enough pictur' maker, as his son is a sure-enough farmer and dairyman.

Mr. Battley broke the monotony of reminiscence and appreciation of Mr. Thompson and the Siler City people by reading a manuscript in which he showed his perfect agreement with the writer in the contention that the political and economic doctors have not correctly diagnosed the economic disease, but are merely applying poultices to the

parts affected by the mere symptoms. The seventh district could have done worse than to send this whilom Sampson lad to Congress on the death of Mr. Hammer.

A BIG-HEARTED JANITOR

The teachers and school officials and other public servants in North Carolina are getting in actual value several times the amount secured by their predecessors only a few years ago, and every day the value of their income is enhanced as the prices of what they must buy decreases.

It is stated that four million of dollars of new funds must be raised by the next legislature to maintain institutions of the state upon the present basis, despite the fact that the budgetary appropriations have been cut twenty percent the past year. The most of this sum of four-millions can be saved by a cut in salaries, merely reducing the incomes of state and county employees in a measure of conformity with the incomes of those who must furnish the money to pay them.

Our own school principal expresses a willingness to see teachers' salaries cut. He knows that the people of this county have not made a living for six years, six bad crops being followed by general depression. But the following letter from a school janitor in the Monroe Journal breathes the spirit of the old-time school man, such as typified by J. A. W. Thompson, whose work was so lauded at the reunion of his old students the other day. Read the following from a man who makes \$30 a month and consider what would happen in this country if the golden rule impelled all men and women as it does this humble employee of the school Board of Union county.

Editor of Journal: I understand there are about 1,500 children out of school in Union county, on account of hard times. I have been thinking over the matter and have come to this conclusion: Let's call upon the salaried officers and teachers and janitors of the schools to give of their salaries at least 5 per cent for this work. They are the only persons who can stand this much-needed charity. The farmers and merchants are "shot" and it would not be right to call upon them for help. I am the janitor of Wesley Chapel high school. I get only \$30 per month, but I am willing to donate 5 or even 10 per cent of my salary to get the children of my district in school.

Let each district take the matter in hand and see after their own district. This plan would work and I firmly believe every salaried officer, teacher and janitor in the county will gladly share in this proposition and hereby see every child of age in the county is put in school. The farmers are living on the basis of 10 cents cotton, while the salaried officers and teachers are living on the basis of 20 cents cotton. So let's start at the head and go way down the line and voluntarily give to provide for these children who have not the means to provide for their attendance in school.

Who is there among us who would not gladly do this? Let me call upon Supt. Gaddy to take the lead in the matter and let him call upon every salaried officer, teacher and janitor in the county and the trick will be done. Let's go to it! Respt.

T. C. UNDERWOOD.

Just when the editor felt ashamed of the smallness of the paper circumstances had forced him to get out for several weeks, came a cheering letter from our good friend Capt. S. A. Ashe, the oldest scholar and newspaper man in the State, expressing hearty appreciation of the Record and saying that it fills the bill and that while he does not see many papers he hopes others are like it, a wish we might make with the exception, as Paul expressed it to King Arippa, these bonds of poverty and scanty business. Capt. Ashe, referring to the economic editorials, suggests that there should be laws preventing overproduction, and cites the case of coffee in Brazil, where the government has more than it can hope to sell. But if the economic system of the world was such as to keep all the people busy and fairly sharing in the proceeds of industry, the people of China alone could make that Brazilian surplus of coffee evaporate like the dew of the morning. There are doubtless more people in the world who cannot enjoy a cup of coffee than do, and the surplus would largely disappear as sweetening, the silver surplus in coffee spoons, the aluminum of Mr. Mellon's Baden town in coffee pots. There is no such thing, as a surplus, or would not be, if the world were efficiently busy and a fair exchange of products were possible. Capt. Ashe in his 91st

year is strong intellectually and that his skill as a writer has not been lost is indicated by his recent story of "The First Day at Gettysburg" as published in the "Confederate Veteran."

The W. C. T. U. has again decided to fall back upon the pledge of total abstinence as a support of its temperance program. The Record knows that the sentiment for prohibition and the backbone of the sober element in this country today are due to temperance agitation that appealed to the good sense and conscience of the individual, and is inclined to think that the W. C. T. U. is to be congratulated upon its return to the old procedure. The boy or girl who decides to shun drink will never be bothered by the prohibition law, and the chap who is never convinced that it is safest and sanest to avoid alcoholic drinks will get it in spite of all the laws that can be made, or thus it appears. This writer somewhat startled his Sunday school on the last temperance Sunday by saying that he does just as he pleases, that he knows no laws barring him. The prohibition law is non-existent so far as his personal indulgence in drinking is concerned. He drinks when he pleases, buys as much and as often as he pleases; moreover he steals when he pleases. He knows no laws as barriers—the most of them he has no desire to break, if he knows they exist, and others he sometimes breaks without feeling their restraining influence. And when a youth grows up without any moral inhibitions, he breaks just any law that happens to stand in his way. A judge states in the Literary Digest that of 4000 criminals tried by him only three were attendants of Sunday school. Evidently, then, the person's conscience and character is the determining factor in his conduct, and proper training is worth more than a library of laws. The man without personal inhibitions is absolutely lawless.

The Chatham Record has, time and again, shown how the wealth, particularly the natural resources of the country, is rapidly being monopolized by the few, while the great majority of the people become hirelings or tenants. Yet it was surprising news, even to the editor, to see it authoritatively stated that the Norfolk Southern Railway owns one sixtieth of the land in North Carolina. We have shown how a most conservative estimate of the profits of the Ford Company would buy North Carolina, lock-stock and barrel, in a comparatively few years, but if the wealth of the state already absorbed by the corporations and big capitalists, including all property mortgaged to the hilt, were eliminated, comparative little left for the Ford Co. to buy. The absorption in the whole country has already gone so far that thirteen percent of the people own 77 percent of the wealth of the country. In the case of the Norfolk Southern it is very probable that the actual value of the holdings of the company is largely covered by bonds held by those still higher up in the ranks of the monopolists. But our statesmen (?) are busy trying to patch up the old economic bottles instead of recognizing the necessity for new bottles for the vintage of the machine age. Russia's revolution grew out of conditions such as are rapidly developing in this country, and the thought should give pause to every thinking man in the land.

The Greensboro News has saved us the trouble of writing the following paragraph, but we added there is less money to pay for them, and that Chatham during five bad crop years has skunk its forests of cedar poles and cross-ties. Says the News paragrapher:

"Reports from several southern states tell of farmers selling logs, poles, posts and firewood to supplement their incomes this fall." The reports might have gone farther and told of their having done so every fall, winter, spring and summer; less now than formerly, because there are not so many logs, poles, posts and firewood left to sell.

Many hunting dogs have been stolen in Chatham County in the past few weeks. Some have been recovered in other towns, and the evidence tends to show that all the thieves did not come from other towns but that there are some thieves in this county as well, or as bad. Stealing a neighbor's dog to sell in another neighborhood makes even the dog ashamed of his human neighbor.

"THE BUILDERS"

James Cordon

In the book of Nehemiah we find this story:
The walls of Jerusalem had been broken and torn down. There lived a Jew by the name of Nehemiah,

who was much troubled when he heard the sad news that the wall had been destroyed.

Nehemiah was determined to have the wall rebuilt. He asked the support of the people and the King in helping him rebuild the wall. The King agreed to help him in this great piece of work. The work on the wall had begun, but in all great deeds you find enemies who try to hinder your work. It was something from within which stirred Nehemiah on, though his enemies would laugh and try to discourage him in his work.

There are many ways to make people laugh, but there are only two kinds of laughter, the laugh of joy and the laugh of ridicule. The former makes life run smoother, while the latter is the kind that hurts and stings. This laughter is used in making fun of people and few can withstand it. Nehemiah could and did; he also withstood the sneers of his enemies. A sneer is lower and more degrading than the laugh of ridicule.

Nehemiah's enemies did not succeed in discouraging him by making fun of his work, they only caused him to have more strength and faith in God and in his work, so they then turned to force, but all in vain.

We can deal better with our enemies when we can see them, the invisible enemies are the ones that are most dangerous. In the study of Science we find that the little germs that we can not see are the most harmful.

Nehemiah's enemies sent him a friendly message, saying for him to meet them, that they wished to talk to him, but Nehemiah said that he was doing a great work and did not have time to see them. They sent numerous messages begging him to come, but Nehemiah resisted the temptation to go. Under all obstacles and difficulties Nehemiah continued his work till the wall was finished.

We are all builders like Nehemiah, but, building the walls of Life. We are forming our characters now, the little things we do each day go to make up our character. The habits we form while young, good or bad, follow us all our lives, therefore we must form a strong character while young, since, "The boys of Today are the men of Tomorrow."

"The underlying principles of character are: integrity, obedience to law, clean living and singleness of purpose."

You cannot build a character in a few days, neither could Nehemiah build his wall in a few days. We have many temptations in building a character, for example some students want to study and others will laugh and make fun of them. The one who can stick to his purpose through ridicule is building real character.

How we spend our time now, studiously or lazily, will be an index to our lives in the future.

If we go through school cheating this will lead to doing little dishonest things after we leave school. You may think by cheating that you are putting something over on the other fellow, but you are only hurting yourself and setting a bad example to others.

Girls can demand the respect of boys by setting a good example for them.

A person has to consider the rights of others, "No man can live unto himself alone."

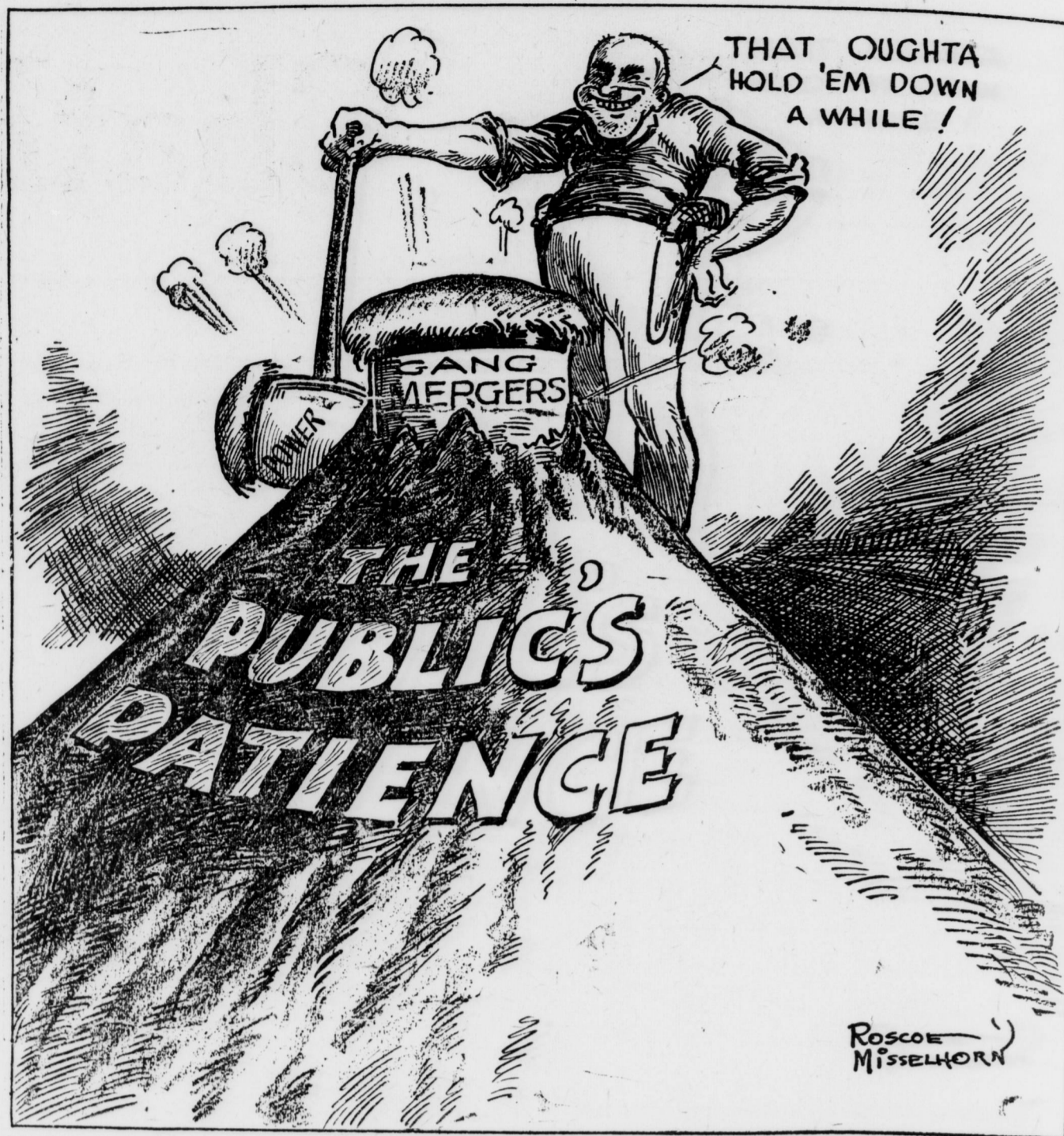
Every temptation which we resist goes to make up stronger characters which can stand the test of Life.

Reputation is what people think we are, but character is what we really are.

A LOVING TRIBUTE

The passing of Mrs. Elizabeth Perry Quackenbuck, widow of the late W. J. Quackenbuck, in the evening of October the twenty third

"DUE TO EXPLODE SOON"

DID YOU EVER
STOP TO THINK?By EDSON R. WAITE
Shawnee, Oklahoma

Charles A. Guy, Editor of the Uubcock (Texas) Avalanche and Journal, says:

"It has often occurred to me that the practice of community building—or rather the practice of engaging in it—has never struck close enough home to that great group of our citizens, covered in the blanket characterization of 'the man in the street.'"

"That occurrence has led me further; has caused me to ponder over the condition in order to reach some direct reason for its existence. 'In every city, village and hamlet in our country we find as bulwarks of the chamber of commerce, commercial club or whatever the civic vehicle happens to be called, the same little group of business men. This same little group bears the burden for the whole of the community in the expenditure of efforts, time and finances. The 'average citizen,' who profits and whose family profits indirectly from the varied labors of the few, doesn't seem to feel that he, too, is responsible for helping make his town just a little better than it is.

"The cause of the trouble, as I see it, is that the average commercial organization does not realize that, beyond the few merchants who are vitally interested in civic development, there are scores of other men who could and would help—if properly approached and cultivated. Generally speaking, the chambers make little effort to interest, in actual cooperation, anyone outside the 'faithful few' and as a result the term, 'Chamber of Commerce' is foreign to many who reap great gain from its activities.

"Man-power is as valuable in civic endeavor as it is anywhere else. From the psychological point, it is priceless in welding community thought—in the making of that intangible treasure, 'public opinion.' If our Chambers or Commerce will see the light, make a little room for the 'average citizen' and give him an occasional opportunity to be heard, the individual, the city and the Chamber itself will be broadened until all are vital parts of the community in which they flourish."

Business, as well as all the rest of us, this year will be looking for Santa Claus.

All the world's a stage, said Shakespeare. Some of it is as thin as a movie screen.

SATURDAY, NOV. 22,
ALL DAY.

We will have in our store a trained foot expert from the personal staff of Dr. Scholl, of Chicago.

If you have any kind of foot troubles bring your feet to see this expert. All his examinations and Pedo-Graph pictures of your feet is free; won't cost you one cent.

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