

CHATHAM RECORD

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Editor and Publisher

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE:

One Year \$1.50
Six Months75

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1930

Editorials

"Voluntary" Cut

Under the above caption the Greensboro News of Friday last publishes the article below. Our own editorial about the generous Union County Janitor should have reached the News before its own print was dry, and shown the News man that voluntary cuts are suggested closer at home, and by one who can apparently least afford the cut. But that is a pretty big "if" when it comes to the folk who are concerned chiefly with the size of their salaries. However, so long as it is only "if," and not "if and when," we accept it. Here is the article:

"Employees of the municipality of Kansas City have received 'suggestion' from the city manager that each and all of them assign to the city one week's pay each month until May 1 next, to avoid a municipal deficit. The offer of three weeks' pay for a month's work is probably in lieu of direct reduction in salaries or the number of employees. The suggestion that employees reduce their own and contribute the saving to the city treasury amounts to the same thing in the end but the camouflage of voluntary action on the part of the employee would come under the guise of patriotism, whereas direct reduction in pay and the number of employees by the city would present the situation in a different light.

"If the suggestion is accepted it will probably be prompted by the fear of direct action, which might be worse. The plan is passed to the consideration of O. J. of the Chatham Record. He might be able to put it over as a substitute for the general salary cut for all public officials for which he so earnestly clamored. A pledge might be passed around in official circles and if the signing once got under way—note the if—the plan might go through of its own momentum. Those indisposed to contribute one week's pay out of four for the public welfare might be afraid to refuse; whereas they might, on the quiet, be able to resist a direct and general salary cut."

But let us add that we prefer Mussolini's brand of cutting, who at one stroke cut all public salaries from the guardsman up, clipping off as high as 35 per cent from the larger-salary officials. A part of the folk out of their litters cannot pay salaries of the other part upon the 1919 basis. It is easy enough to save millions in taxes by cutting salaries. And when public salaries are cut, the clipping of big salaries and incomes in industrial and professional spheres should follow. Moreover, if wages of the agriculture and cotton mill workers, and others of the under dogs, cannot be raised, as they cannot, the cut should extend to the high-priced wages in the favored industries. A country cannot prosper with a part of the

consumers on a dollar-a-day basis, and a part on a \$7-a-day basis. There is no fair exchange of products possible, and business becomes stalemated. The same thing is true of nations whose per capita income is based upon, the one a luxury basis and the other a price basis.

We thank the News and Observer for producing part of our editorial entitled "Let Luck Be Eliminated." Editor Daniels should be able as few others to realize the truthfulness of Mr. Rosenwald's assertion that his good fortune is largely due to luck, or to the "breaks" he got. There is only one capital city in North Carolina, and that city can support only one morning paper. Mr. Daniels happened to be the man out of all the North Carolinians capable of making a real paper in the capital city to get the "break" at the right time. The consequence is, Mr. Daniels has made a great paper and his paper has made a Great Mr. Daniels, making it possible for him to wield immense influence in all departments of life and enabling him to become secretary of the navy. And what is more important it give him the inestimable opportunity of speaking to at least 1000,000 North Carolinians daily.

Of course, Mr. Daniels, like Mr. Rosenwald, had to have the qualities to cash in on his "breaks", but many another man could have played the part of the little oak seedling that becomes the great oak, overcasting all the vegetation about it, just as many another acorn that might have fallen where the great oak grows would have similarly developed. However, if "breaks" are to determine the fortunes of men, we are glad that Messrs. Rosenwald and Daniels were two of the fortunate ones, and that the latter occasionally helps us broadcast an idea that otherwise would be rather limited in its area of influence.

But, brethren, if we had his audience and his broadcaster we should tell the world a few things! But that is not saying he doesn't, but is only a vain cry of disappointment that such a "break" for usefulness hasn't come to us. Yet 25 years ago we might have become editor of a Tennessee daily, but we should never have been able to hold any job where we could not have been free to say even the fool thing. For what is in us will come out if it means financial and professional suicide. But Josephus is free; he is the whole cheese in the control of the great News and Observer—the greatest feature of his "break".

Thanks to Rowland Beasley for citing the fitting punishment of some fellows in the western part of the state who annoyed their neighbor by barking like a dog, or dogs. They were made to pay dog tax by the justice trying the case.

Those who think that money can be piled up indefinitely for loaning at usurious rates or as for that matter at any rate, have another think coming to them. The more folk who have money to loan, or to deposit in banks, the fewer there are to borrow. Also, the more complete becomes the monopolization of the industries by the few who have absorbed the wealth of the country, the fewer there are who have the security for loans and who would borrow, since only a fool will borrow except for the purpose of an enhanced income or because of urgent needs due to misfortune. Just let the immense insurance funds, the billions of endowments of every kind, continue to pile up and see where the expected interest is to come from. Our contention is that the world must live upon its annual production, using it up year by year, and that saving by the masses for the rainy day is an impossibility.

Loaning half the wealth of the world will be an impossible thing. Rather it may be loaned, but getting it back with interest is an impossible thing. The Record contends that the world is upon the wrong economic routing, and like any other wrong road the end is disappointing, but inevitable. But the events of the past year and those to come will teach this fact as no writer can. Yet the economically blind will try to bridge the ravine upon which the economic course of the world impinges and continue to seek the desired end by an impossible routing. Right now hundreds of millions of wealth that have been absorbed by those who didn't need it, to the discomfort of millions who did, are being dissipated. The inevitable is undoing the work of the worldly wise.

It is easier to cut off five millions from the salaries of the various public employees in the state than to raise the full amount of funds necessary to keep salaries at the same level. Salaries in terms of land, stocks and bonds, and most manufactured goods and farm products are at least 25 per cent higher than they were three years ago. The lower levels have come to stay for a considerable period, and it is suicidal for the state and counties to continue to mulct the taxpayers to overpay public employees. Salary cuts in private enterprises will naturally follow cuts by the state and counties, and should do so. One of the first things the legislature should do is to repeal the law legally establishes the teachers' salary schedule, and let cuts, and heavy ones, be made in the salaries of the higher-ups in school work, and proportionate ones in every rank of teachers. The school bill is one of the biggest in the state, and millions can be saved by reducing salaries to a nearer conformity to the incomes of the parents of the children taught.

The Record considers that the school authorities have judgement enough to decide the school book question in accord with the interest of the people. Right now would seem to be a good time to get a mighty cheap contract, but almost any cost is justifiable if an arithmetic can be secured that will enable the children to learn something about the subject. For charity's sake let's attribute the lack of knowledge of arithmetic to the book. It may be all right, but something is wrong. If the text book commission cannot be trusted to do the right thing, let the whole bunch be ousted.

HARD TIMES A WARNING

Given the opportunity to express himself at a Thanksgiving service last week, the editor called attention to the fact that it was an occasion for giving national thanks for blessings received by the nation rather than for the giving of thanks for individual blessings. And in that connection, he stated that the nation should be thankful for the depression that has come upon it, since the hard times can emphasize, as no amount of preaching and writing can do, the fact that there is a deep-seated menace to the nation's continuous prosperity.

Pursuing the subject, he stated that God had poured out an abundance upon the country. The very frequency of the word surplus testifies to the bounteous giving, and that God has fully done his part. On the other hand, the people of the nation have so little sense that they have suffered God's bounties to become a curse. What an anomaly—eight millions of bales of cotton in excess of prospective use, millions of bushels of wheat and other grains, mills stopped for fear of producing more than can be used, and yet millions hungry and inadequately clothed!

Yet those who are supposed to do the thinking for the country are doing no more than looking for the broken places in the old economic system and trying to patch them! This, though the facts demonstrate that a new system is needed. The depression is absolutely inevitable under the age-old system or polity. It is the bursting of the boil that leads to a more normal state of economic health. The poison has wrought its evil effects and the economic body is throwing off some of them that it may again function in some degree of healthfulness. But the old germs are not to be entirely destroyed. They will multiply again, and again will the evil time come.

It is obvious to any man that looks with half an eye that a system based upon exorbitant profits and even moderate interest must have its cataclysms. Let half the wealth produce a mere two-percent of profit and half the money be loaned at 2 per cent interest and, not to consider the effects of compounding, the other half would be transferred to the holders of the first half within fifty years. Yet the country is

attempting to operate its enterprises upon a high-profit basis and billions are loaned at rates of four to 20 percent. It simply cannot be done without an occasional collapse which serves to destroy many supposed accumulations of money or wealth, to cancel many debts, and to redistribute, in large measure, the actual resources of the country.

The boil has burst. If these things are true, and it is true that the country has produced more than apparently will be used, and could produce as much more again, isn't it obvious that the hard times should serve to call attention of every man of half-sense to the fact that it is not God's fault, nor nature's, that millions are hungry today, but simply man's own blindness?

For a million years the apparently obvious fact that the blood circulates was not definitely discovered till Harvey's day. Man was indifferent to the matter, not comprehending the immense consequences to the bodily health of that circulation. Similarly, exchange of products has been going on for tens of thousands of years, and the same indifference to the consequences of vitiated channels of exchange has existed.

The economic system of the country and of the world is practically the same as it was when our ancestors first began to use tools. Under it, for thousands of years, the few have rolled in luxury and the many have groveled in poverty. Yet the nations of the world look upon it as something hallowed, something sacro-sanct. Only the radical has dared to question its efficacy.

Russia is the only country in the world that has deliberately planned an economic system. Yet the oppression of the many had gone so far in that country and the Christian church was so involved in that oppression that the experiment in Russia is so sadly complicated with the introduction of atheism and other godless policies that the result, however happy from the material standpoint, will be far from ideal. But such a far swing of the pendulum is all that could be expected under the circumstances. Hence, the importance of this nation's recognizing the true significance of the deadly depression while our religious institutions and our ideals are still intact and in good repute. For that reason, I thank God for the depression which should serve to awaken our people to the inevitable tendencies of the existing system, and can only hope that the nation will have sense enough to recognize the significance of the seeming evil times. God has done his part in giving his bounties and now has warned us of our own folly in not generally profiting by them.

And thus ended that expression on the recent Thanksgiving occasion.

Mr. W. T. Brooks made a good commissioner. Doubtless, he could have been elected again if he had sought the position. His place was taken Monday by Mr. Hester of Goldston, who won in the election by one of the very largest majorities given on that occasion.

If the forty magistrates elected all a quality Chatham will have no scarcity of dispensers of justice—if that is what they actually dispense.

A period of unrest usually comes when too many men are getting a rest.

Would You Know One If You Saw It?

If you ever came face to face with a germ, would you recognize it? Of course it is not likely that you ever will see a germ, unless you own a tremendously powerful microscope, for you would have to magnify one over a thousand times to make it as big as a pin head. But you should recognize the fact that these tiny germs can get into your blood streams through the smallest cut, and give you typhoid fever, tuberculosis, lockjaw, blood poisoning, and many more dangerous and perhaps fatal diseases. There is one sure safeguard against these dangers—washing every cut, no matter how small, thoroughly with Liquid Borozone, the safe antiseptic. You can get Liquid Borozone at Pittsboro Drug Co. Adv.

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