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INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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THURSDAY, JULY 21, 1938

Knowledge Of Taxes

The treasury department is making a study of the advisability of lowering the income tax starting point and taxing the "little fellow" to a greater extent. This move would be designed to broaden the base of taxation.

Goodness knows that the base of taxation is broad enough. The trouble lies in the fact that too few people know it. If broadening the base of income tax would make people realize that they are paying taxes for the 1,001 varieties of government handouts it would be well worth while.

While the little fellow is not paying a direct income tax to the federal government, he is paying just the same. On practically everything he buys 10 to 50 per cent goes for taxes. The last percentage figure quoted in the preceding sentence has particular reference to tobacco. Few people know that for every dollar the tobacco grower gets for his 13 months per year work of growing a crop of tobacco that the federal government gets two dollars in taxes.

The Greensboro Daily News very aptly gives this information in the following editorial excerpts:

"North Carolina's record crop of last year, totaling 595,530,000 pounds, brought the growers approximately \$150,000,000. These figures, in turn, represented a major portion of the national poundage and income from tobacco.

"While this sum was going to the growers, however, about \$250,000,000 to \$300,000,000 in all, it is revealed that government exchequers, through levies voted by the identic statesmen who are committed to solving the sales problem, garnered a total of \$603,314,145, or twice as much as the growers received for the entire product of their acres and their labor. Of this amount, \$552,254,145 went to the munificent federal government and the remaining \$51,060,000 to state governments which are beginning to hope the overload tobacco gravy train. Thus it is seen what portion of the consumer's tobacco bill, and consumption is after all the ultimate detriment of tobacco demand and prices, goes into the pockets and the schemes of the big-hearted politicians.

But you can bet your bottom button that you won't hear anything about relief and stimulation from that angle from the boys and girls who rake in the shekels with one hand and pass them out so magnanimously with the other."

Government officials are continually hunting new sources of revenue and like to plaster on taxes where the least number of people (voters) will raise a howl. Something new would be efforts to reduce tax burdens and seek a balance downward on expenditures instead of upward on taxation.

Accident Prevention

The Fourth of July week-end has again focused public attention on America's ghastly highway problem. Over the holiday, more than 500 people lost their lives—the majority from automobile accidents.

As highway experts point out, there are three definite primary phases that must be considered and covered in any accident campaign that is to produce results. These are: Standardization of traffic laws and devices in the various states; elimination of accident-prone roads and intersections; education of the individual driver.

At the present time, driving practices that are legal in one state are illegal across the border. Dozens of types of warning signals, lights and signs are in use, and constitute a constant bewildering to them motorist who drives any distance away from his home town. Some state motor patrols are known to be strict in enforcing the laws; others

are lax. The result is a legislative and administrative chaos, that breeds accidents.

Eliminating the accident-prone location is strictly an engineering problem. A wide, smooth-surfaced road is not necessarily a safe road. And a large collection of control signals and signs at a corner does not necessarily make for safety either. Safety engineers have designed highways and intersections which make it impossible for cars to cross each other's path, which obviate the chance of head-on collisions by the use of lane separators of one kind or another, and which eliminate other hazards. Practice has proven that this work will cut the accident rate astonishingly. Here is where government, federal, state and local, can do an invaluable work which will benefit all the people.

As for education, the thing to be kept in mind is that sporadic campaigns are useless, and that continuity of effort is all-important. The great responsibility that falls upon anyone when he takes the wheel of a car must be constantly drummed into the public. Engineers, law enforcement authorities, educators and the general public must work together. Only then will the growing toll of highway deaths and injuries be lessened.

A Theory Disproved

Just 140 years ago, in 1798, a book was published which speedily became the "best-seller" of its time. Few books have had such a profound effect upon human thought as "An Essay on the Principle of Population as it affects the Future of Society," by the Rev. Thomas Robert Malthus. It ran into many editions and has been reprinted in many languages.

The argument of Malthus was that "the realization of a happy society will always be hindered by the miseries consequent upon the tendency of population to increase faster than the means of subsistence."

The Malthusian Theory dominated economic thinking and influenced statesmen for nearly a century. Wars were regarded as necessary to forestall universal starvation by reducing the surplus population. What Malthus could not foresee was that science and invention would so increase the production of agriculture that instead of population overtaking the means of subsistence the twentieth century would find a large sector of the human race struggling with the problem of how to dispose of agricultural surpluses.

In 1798 practically all of the people of America were tied directly to the soil for their subsistence. In 1938 fewer than 10 per cent are required, by the direct application of their labor to the soil, to feed themselves and the other 90 per cent of the population. The 10 per cent not only feed us all, but feed us better than any people had ever been fed in Malthus' time. Moreover, the 10 per cent of the people who work on farms are enabled, by the application of modern machinery and scientific methods, to produce so much more than we can consume that we have seen in very recent years such horrifying spectacles as the deliberate destruction of food-stuffs by Government edict and the payment of bounties to farmers, not for producing food but for refraining from producing or marketing it.

It is certainly permissible to wonder what the Rev. Mr. Malthus would have thought of that state of things. Surely he would have said that a nation blessed with such a profusion of food must have achieved the "realization of a happy society" with which he was chiefly concerned.

We have it on high authority that such is not the case, that one-third of the American people are ill-fed. They clearly do not lack food because population has overtaken production. Why then, need people go hungry? If there is famine in the midst of plenty, what's wrong with the picture?

How much easier our work would be if we put forth as much effort trying to improve the quality of as most of us do trying to find excuse for not properly attending to it.—Geo. W. Ballinger.

In tasks requiring mental activity, the hardest part is in getting started.

Our reputations are made by what people say of us behind our backs.

Snobbery is the pride of those who are not sure of their position.—Berton Braley.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Joshua's campaigns did not result in the entire conquest of Canaan. The Israelites occupied some regions more or less completely, in others they were joint possessors with the former inhabitants, and in a large area, including some of the best part of the country, the Canaanites remained in control and enjoyment.

During the centuries which followed Joshua, there was no united organization of all the tribes, but time and again as a crisis developed it would be met by the nearby Israelites, usually galvanized into heroic action by the inspiration of some courageous leader. As we pointed out in a previous lesson, these periodical deliverers were called Judges. Our lesson this week considers the heroic faith of Gideon, generally recognized by all as the most outstanding of the Judges.

Gideon lived in a disturbed period. The Israelites were harried by the Amalekites and the Midianites. Swarms of the latter descended upon them from across the Jordan and stole their crops and cattle, and other possessions. Finally, Gideon realized that he had been chosen by Jehovah as the agent for deliverance. He began by promptly destroying the altar to Baal in his community, and insisting upon repentance and worship of the true God.

Gideon summoned the members of nearby tribes to gather under his leadership. He made trial of Jehovah, using a fleece of wool, and God patiently convinced him. Then Jehovah put Gideon's faith to a severe test, advising him so that over two-thirds of his men departed for home, leaving only ten thousand. These were further selected until only three hundred remained.

"One lesson we may learn from this thinning of the ranks," says Rev. Alexander MacLaren, "namely that we need not be anxious to count heads, when we are sure that we are doing God's work, nor even be afraid of being in a minority. Minorities are generally right when they are the apostles of new thoughts, though the minorities which cleave to some old fossil are ordinarily wrong. The prophet and his men were alone and ringed around with enemies, when he said, 'They that be with us are more than they that be with them'; and yet he was right, for the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire. Let us be sure that we are on God's side, and then let us not mind how few are in the ranks with us, nor be afraid, though the far-extended front of the enemy threatens to curl around our flanks and enclose us. The three hundred heroes had God with them, and that was enough."

Spying upon the Midianites, Gideon discovered that a general fear existed of him and his followers. To utilize the slender resources of man-power at his command, Gideon resorted to a trick. "A stratagem often used in ancient warfare was now arranged," says Cunningham Geikie. "Dividing the band of heroes into three companies, Gideon gave each man a trumpet, an empty earthen pitcher, and a torch to be concealed in the pitcher until the right moment. He had been encouraged by an incident of the previous night. Gliding in the darkness into the camp of the Bedouins, like the English Alfred into the camp of the Danes, he heard a Midianite predicting, from a dream he had had, the destruction of the host, and his own name had been mentioned as the leader they dreaded."

When the battle developed Gideon's plan proved entirely successful. The Midianites were defeated and slaughtered. They were pursued until utterly shattered with a destruction so great that Isaiah later referred to it as on a par with that of the Egyptians at the Red Sea. By requiring Gideon to depend upon so slight a human force, Jehovah made sure that the Israelites would realize their dependence upon him.

It is interesting to notice that men are often called to great service from ordinary tasks. Gideon was threshing wheat, Amos was tending his herd and fig trees, and Elijah was ploughing when each received his divine mandate. There are doubtless countless avenues of service open to men and women today in more or less limited circumstances, and surroundings, if they would only capitulate on a faith in the dependability of God's support to any good cause.

NOTICE

In the Superior Court North Carolina, Wilkes County, Town of North Wilkesboro vs. L. Fred Harris, (col.), Rebecca Kilpatrick Horton (col.), R. E. Faw, Jr. and wife, Mrs. R. E. Faw, Jr., Annie and Connie Green, P. D. McGinnis and wife, Mrs. P. D. McGinnis, Mrs. Verdie Robinson and husband, R. J. Robinson, Grant Ferguson and Mrs. Grant Ferguson, Nellie Little and husband, Frank Little, (col.), Phoebe Hoskins estate, (col.), Bill Hoskins, admr. of estate of Phoebe Hoskins, W. A. McLean, heirs, and Mrs. C. C. Faw, and Mrs. F. C. Forester and Miss Hattie McLean, Sam A. Lovette and wife, Mrs. Sam A. Lovette, and J. B. Williams, secretary of Building and Loan Association, M. G. Steelman and wife, Mrs. M. G. Steelman, J. B. Williams, secretary of Building and Loan Association, and C. C. Faw and Mrs. C. C. Faw, and J. B. Williams, secretary of Building and Loan Association.

Notice is hereby given that actions entitled as below set out have been instituted in the Court for the purpose of securing judgments for the sale of the real estate described in each separate action as herein below set out, and for the application of the proceeds of such sale to the discharge of the amounts due the plaintiff on unpaid tax sale certificates and unpaid taxes for the year 1935, as set forth in each separate complaint, the said tax sale certificates having been issued to the plaintiff by the Tax Collector of the Town of North Wilkesboro, Wilkes county, and said certificates now being held by the plaintiff against the defendants named as follows: TOWN OF NORTH WILKESBORO, vs. L. Fred Harris, colored, Lots 1, 3 and 5 in Block 114, Lot 23 in Block 30.

Rebecca Kilpatrick Horton, colored, Lots 2 and 4, in Block 48. R. E. Faw, Jr., and wife, Mrs. R. E. Faw, Jr., Lot 1 in Block 128, Lots 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15 in Block 127. Annie and Connie Green, Lot 25 in Block 30. P. D. McGinnis and wife, Mrs. P. D. McGinnis, Lots 4 and 5 in Block 411. Mrs. Verdie Robinson and husband, B. J. Robinson, Lots 48 and 49, Kensington. Grant Ferguson, colored, and wife, Mrs. Grant Ferguson, Lots 1 and 5, in Block 110. Nellie Little, colored, and husband, Frank Little, Lot 8 in Block 60. Phoebe Hoskins estate, colored, Bill Hoskins, administrator of estate of Phoebe Hoskins, Lot 4 in Block 105. Sam A. Lovette and wife, Mrs. Sam A. Lovette and J. B. Williams, secretary of Building and Loan Association, Lots 5 and 6 in Block 104, and Lots 15, 16 and 17 in Block 410. M. G. Steelman and wife, Mrs. M. G. Steelman, Lots 2 and 4 in Block 40, and J. B. Williams, secretary of Building and Loan Association.

C. C. Faw and Mrs. C. C. Faw, and J. B. Williams, secretary of Building and Loan Association, 1/2 of Lots 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 in Block 34 and Lot 27. And notice is further given that all persons claiming any interest in the subject matters of any of the above entitled actions must appear before the Clerk of the Superior Court of Wilkes county, at his office in Wilkesboro, North Carolina, and set up or defend their claims in six months from the day of _____, 1938, or at any time before final order to make deed is made, otherwise, they will be forever barred and foreclosed of any and all interest, claims, liens, etc., which they may have in and to the above described property and in and to the proceeds derived from the sale thereof.

This the 6th day of July, 1938. C. C. HAYES, Clerk of the Superior Court of Wilkes County 7-28-4(T)

A lesson from the gradual elimination of Gideon's army can be applied to the church today. It is full of many faint-hearted members, deficient in faith and vision. We have often wondered if the church in its eagerness to gain physical numbers hasn't loosened up a little too much upon the tenets that church members live according to faith and the teachings of their Savior.

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