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Give God the best—Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase.—Proverbs 3:9.

The Job Holders Are Quite an Expensive Luxury

One of the strongest arguments against government ownership of railroads or government ownership of anything else, is the expense of government operations. Because governments are handicapped with politics makes it next to impossible for government departments to do business at a minimum cost. The post-office department has off and on made creditable showings and in perhaps the outstanding example of efficiency in a government-operated business. But we doubt not that the postoffice department, if operated as a private business enterprise, would make a much better showing, and might give better service.

The trouble with government operation of anything is the job hunters. There are always so many of the faithful who must be taken care of. Private business concerns think nothing of reducing the number of employees in order to reduce expenses, but it is in the other way about with the government. New offices are constantly created and new jobs are made to order for those who must have them.

It is refreshing then to read now and then of successful efforts at reform of this, one of the weakest points in our system of state and national government. We are told that Governor Charlie Bryan, the brother of William Jennings and a man who is not averse to being made vice president or president if luck will have it that way, has succeeded in trimming appropriations for administrative government in his own state of Nebraska by a million dollars in a single year. If Brother Charlie can do that he is not a bad fellow, and he might be able to give a good account of himself if fortune should call him to higher public service. More than that, Governor Bryan has made it possible to reduce the tax rate in his state.

In North Carolina it would be a splendid record for an administration if it could succeed in cutting expenses, cutting out the dead timber and establishing the state departments upon a basis of economy and efficiency, whereby they would function properly and at the minimum cost to the taxpayer.

From another newspaper we get the following assertion about the stupendous cost of the job holders. We do not know that the figures are correct but they are staggering:

Figures from authoritative sources assert that nearly \$4,000,000,000 is paid out in the United States every year to public officials, active and retired.

These figures are not surprising when we know that nearly 5,000,000 persons are on the public payroll, federal, state and local.

Nearly one-half of the \$4,000,000,000 spent yearly by our government goes to officials and former officials.

Every taxpayer should understand that almost one-half of his taxes goes to support office-holders.

One of Mussolini's first acts was to divide 100,000 men from the public payroll.

Our trouble is that the job-holder is the backbone of every political party. Jobs are the currency in which party debts are paid. And this currency is at present inflated.

One Murder a Day for a Year

In North Carolina for the year ending July 1 there were 267 homicides, or killings. Three hundred and sixty-seven human lives taken in one year, and in the same year five convictions of murder in the first degree in the superior courts. A little more than one out of a hundred. On the face of it we would say there were too many killings and too few hangings.

Human life is too cheap and human souls are too soft on the subject of punishment. We have great faith in the efficacy of the hangman's rope. It may not prevent murder but it gets rid of the undesirable.

It is quite easy to work up sentiment for a criminal. Sympathy for his family or other considerations often causes good people to see darkly. Hanging would be small punishment for the young super criminals in Chicago who have figured in one of the most sensational cases of the year, but hanging would mean much suffering and anguish for the fathers and mothers of these boys. But does the state owe the fathers and mothers of these boys more consideration than it owes itself and the thousands of other fathers and mothers whose children will never be safe if murderers are not punished.

If North Carolina had had about one hundred respectable hangings in 1924 it would have had about two hundred fewer murders in 1925. Our modern methods of dealing with criminals run counter to the experience and wisdom of the centuries, and we are paying a frightful price for our folly. Lenity of law enforcement means more lawlessness. Impunity for the murderer means more murders. Sympathy for criminals increases crime.

Doubts Wisdom of Such Luxury

One citizen of the county and a taxpayer comes in and voices his opinion about the luxury of an expensive county home. This man says he thinks the county should provide for the aged and infirm occupants of the county home, refugees from the stern realities of life that they are, wholesome food and comfortable sleeping quarters. In other words supply decently the necessities of life. That they should be provided with automobiles for joy riding, luxurious baths, expensive gardens, golf courses, musical concerts and the latest in motion pictures is a Charlie Chaplin and Douglas Fairbanks, at public cost is going just a little farther than this man is willing to go.

Folks who go to the county home are failures in life. That is true in ninety-nine cases out of every hundred, and no county is called upon to provide for them better accommodations than they ever enjoyed before in their lives," says this man. "I am in favor of supplying them with every real comfort and necessity, and if they must have luxuries then let the privilege of supplying the luxuries go to those soft-minded folks who want to sleep over about them."

That man does not think well of the idea of selling the present county home and farm and spending a large sum of money to buy and build a new home, after the modern notion. Inmates of the county home who get lonesome, he says, do not have far to walk until they come in sight of the public road. There they can see the world go by.

CODE OF ETHICS

(North Carolina Press Association.)

The primary function of newspapers is to communicate to the human race what its members do, feel, and think. Journalism, therefore, demands of its practitioners the widest range of intelligence, of knowledge, and of experience, as well as natural and trained powers of observation and reasoning. To its opportunities as a chronicler are indissolubly linked its obligations as teacher and interpreter.

To the end of finding some means of codifying sound practice and just aspirations of American journalism these canons are set forth:

I. Responsibility.—The right of a newspaper to attract and hold readers is restricted by nothing but considerations of public welfare. The use that a newspaper makes of the share of public attention it gains serves to determine its measure of responsibility, which it shares with every member of its staff. A journalist who uses his power for any selfish or otherwise unworthy purpose is faithless to a high trust.

II. Freedom of the Press.—Freedom of the press is to be guarded as a vital right of mankind. It is the unquestionable right to discuss whatever is not explicitly forbidden by law, including the wisdom of any restrictive statute.

III. Independence.—Freedom from all obligations except that of fidelity to the public interest is vital.

1. Freedom of any private interest contrary to the general welfare for whatever reason, is not compatible with honest journalism. So-called news communications from private sources should not be published without public notice of their source or the substitution of their claims to value as news, both in form and substance.

2. Particularly, in official comment which knowingly departs from the truth does violence to the best

spirit of American journalism; in its news columns it is subversive of fundamental principle of the profession.

IV. Sincerity, Truthfulness, Accuracy.—Good faith with the reader is the foundation of all journalism worthy of the name.

1. By every consideration of good faith a newspaper is constrained to be faithful. It is not to be excused for a lack of thoroughness or accuracy within its control or failure to obtain command of these essential qualities.

2. Headlines should be fully warranted by the contents of the article they surmount.

V. Impartiality.—Sound practice makes clear distinction between news reports and expressions of opinion. News reports should be free from opinion or bias of any kind.

1. This rule does not apply to so-called special articles unmistakably devoted to advocacy or characterized by a signature authorizing the writer's own conclusions and interpretations.

VI. Fair Play.—A newspaper should not publish unofficial charges affecting reputation or moral character without opportunity given to the accused to be heard; right practice demands the giving of such opportunity in all cases of serious accusation outside judicial proceedings.

1. A newspaper should not invade rights or feelings without sure warrant of public right as distinguished from public curiosity.

2. It is the privilege, as it is the duty of a newspaper, to make prompt and complete correction of its own serious mistakes of fact or opinion, whatever their opinion.

VIII. Decency.—A newspaper cannot escape conviction of indecency if while professing high moral conduct, publication is made of what is not demonstrably for the general good, such as are to be found in details of crime and vice. Lacking authority to enforce its censure, the journalist has no right to express the hope that deliberate pandering to vicious instinct will encounter effective disapproval or yield to the influence of a preponderant professional condemnation.

SEEKS PRESERVATION OF THE LONG LEAF PINES

Troy, Aug. 27.—Miss Alma Warren recently wrote the state forester, Dr. J. S. Holmes, asking what can be done to stop the reckless destruction of the long leaf pine. She called attention to the fact that a large percentage of the passing cars are decorated with the great boughs or smaller trunks of these trees and that if this practice continues it may not be long before the long leaf pine is an extinct as the dodo. Why plant Wilson oaks and dogwoods along the highways, she asked, if we cannot preserve the priceless trees that are already ours.

Dr. Holmes thanked Miss Warren for calling attention to this practice and urged a campaign of education and publicity along this line. Already Natural Resources the home organ of the forestry department of the state, has taken up the matter and it is expected that helpful results will be obtained.

VAST SUMS FOR U. S. HIGHWAYS PAID BY CAR OWNERS

Motor vehicles are now paying a fifth of the highway funds, and there is a marked tendency to collect a larger portion of the highway support from owners and users of automobiles. After careful survey and analysis of all the various sources of highway funds the bureau of public roads, United States department of agriculture, finds:

In 1914 out of a total highway income of \$240,252,784 the collections from motor vehicles amounted to \$12,222,021, or 5.1 per cent of the total.

In 1921, seven years later, the motor vehicle owners and operators paid \$118,942,705 in motor vehicle fees and \$3,695,449 in gasoline taxes, which together equaled 16.6 per cent of the total income for highway purposes.

A similar compilation of payments made by owners and operators of motor vehicles for license and permits in 1922 shows a total contribution on their part of \$122,970,292. In the same year the gasoline taxes levied by 25 states amounted to \$26,812,226. The motor vehicles, accordingly, contributed a total of \$229,782,518, or 19.6 per cent of the entire 1922 highway income.

In the six New England states this contribution is 25.1 per cent. This increase is accounted for by the increase in the total number of automobiles registered and in the change in the average payment per vehicle, which has risen from \$11.70 in 1921 to \$15 per vehicle in 1922.

A very substantial part of the total highway income, 25.1 per cent, was derived from the sale of bonds, both state and local. General property taxes contributed less than half the highway income, or 44.4 per cent.

This means, worked out in another way, that of every dollar collected by the states, counties, cities, townships and other taxing districts, only 12.4 per cent was used for highway purposes.

United States is only 0.0054 cent—1 cent for each 200 miles of road.

DETECT MAIL ROBBERS

During the past year a great many registered letters and packages in the southwestern section of the United States were opened and the contents were removed. After much difficulty the location of the robberies was finally narrowed down to one of six post offices.

The only clue to the mystery was that after the packages had been rifled they were sealed. Upon this trail clue inspectors worked for several months.

Finally, one of the inspectors was struck with an idea, but because it did not seem very important he decided to try it out without confiding in the other inspectors at work on the case.

Before long an envelope that had been robbed of its contents and then resealed was given to him. He quickly mistaken the mullage on the flap and held the envelope to his nose. After taking a good long sniff he stated that he would have the mystery solved within a week.

What he had done was to prepare six lots of mullage, each with a different perfume; lilac, lily of the valley, violet, mignonette, rose and heliotrope. This mullage he distributed among the six offices under suspicion. In revealing this letter the thief used the mullage and when the inspector sniffed the perfume he traced the office from which the theft took place.

Lighting killed 425 persons in this country last year.

**Pleating
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All work returned in 24 hours
MRS. W. E. MURR
Millinery Store



Indian Chief

Briefly speaking the Indian Chief is a Big Scout, and like its famous little brother, it is away ahead of the motorcycle procession, from a standpoint of quality and up-to-the-minute. To show that the Chief is used very largely for side car work, the frame construction in the 1924 model has been greatly strengthened and reinforced. A new improved valve release lever, similar to the one supplied on the Indian Scout, is regular equipment. And the 61 or 74 with Princess side car reflects strength and beauty. Its roominess and comfortable upholstery invite closer acquaintance.

Sport, pleasure and utility are the three essential factors which have made motorcycling attractive and which enable you to enjoy ownership of a motorcycle to the utmost.

D. D. GALES
108 McKay Street

RADIO!

Important Effective August 5, 1924, Radio Corporation of America announces new reduced prices.

Important Prices of Radiola receivers are guaranteed against decline until February 1, 1925.

Important Complete line of Radiolas as now constituted is all that Radio Corporation of America will offer in the way of radio receivers for fall and winter sales.

This policy being announced by the Radio Corporation of America at the beginning of the season removes all doubt of reason for any one hesitating to place their order for this season's delivery. There will be a great demand for radio.

While we have a complete stock of radio at present and large orders placed, we are not sure just what we will be able to get. We, therefore, urge those expecting to purchase to place their order as soon as possible to guarantee delivery.

We guarantee a satisfactory installation. Get our installed prices.

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