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An Economical Suicide in Surry County.

By J. H. Carter.

In this time when the world is swinging around the most critical corner it has doubtless known people are ready to believe most anything they see in the newspapers and magazines of the day; in fact, they are prepared to accept situations and conditions that were impossible a few years ago. This is necessarily so to a great extent, yet it does not follow that every local and economic question should be accepted as a matter of fact and swallowed because the official solution has been labelled, "ECONOMY." In private life men recognize that there are some sorts of economy that they can not afford. In the store, if a cash register system, of reasonable cost, will save the salary of a bookkeeper year after year, a failure to buy it is a high priced economy. On the farm, if a farming implement, of reasonable cost will do the work of one or more farm hands, thereby increasing the farmer's income, a failure to own one, either solely or jointly, is a high priced economy. If a town, at a reasonable cost, can install a fire protection system that will save thousands of dollars worth of property, a failure to do so is a high priced economy. If a county, at a reasonable cost, can induce farmers to increase the wealth of the county by thousands of dollars annually, a failure to do so is an economy that cannot be afforded. The following statement of facts should be considered and discussed by every citizen of Surry County who believes in his County, and who is interested in her progress and continued development.

Six years ago the Federal Government, the State and the County realizing that the application of more scientific methods of agriculture would develop Surry County, employed a county agent to devote one half of his time to this important work. Since that time the county agent has been employed for his whole time. To be sure he has not waved a magic wand over the county, transforming the unscientific farmers into wealthy planters, and the thousands of renters and tenants into independent farmers (as all of us might have wished, and as some have confidently expected); nor has the almost unparalleled progress that has been made in the last six years been wholly due to his efforts. Yet here are the facts that speak for themselves.

Six years ago crimson clover and vetches were unknown crops in Surry County. Last year the county agent had a record of 10,000 acres, the estimated value of which for land improvement is \$10 per acre. Six years ago rye was not considered as a soil improver. Now it is a general method which is annually enriching the soil thousands of dollars. Then, (six years ago), there were no soy or velvet beans; this year thousands of acres were used for this purpose. Then there were more than three hundred car loads of Western corn being shipped into the County each year. The 1915 crop was sufficient for the needs of the County; the 1916 crop, would have been sufficient but for the July floods; and the present crop will doubtless be larger than ever. The yields of corn per acre in six years has more than doubled; the acreage has increased about 25 per cent.

In 1911 the wheat yield was 6½ bushels to the acre; now it is more than 12 bushels, and the acreage has been largely increased.

Then Surry County was a County inhabited by scrub cattle. In 1911 there was one registered bull in the County; since then the county agent has himself ordered for farmers 35 full bred bulls and a large number of heifers and cows. Today there are large numbers of Short Horns, Holsteins, Jerseys, Gurnseys and Devons. Today the only buyers that can be

found for scrub cattle are scrub farmers. Only recently Prof. Utley, of Mountain Park School remarked that cattle had improved five hundred per cent in the last few years in the County.

Then, not a creamery in the county; now there are 8 cream routes in the County, besides two creameries, one now under construction.

Six years ago a hog pasture was unknown to Surry farmers. Today there are in the County thousands of acres in winter and summer grazing crops. Then there were just a few registered hogs; today there are no scrub hogs in the County.

A few years ago little attention, almost none, was given to the rotation of crops. Since then farming has been revolutionized which is resulting in the conservation of the strength of the soil and the increase of thousands of dollars in the wealth of the County. Six years ago a scientific method of draining and terracing was not known in the County. Since then thousands of acres of land have been reclaimed and saved.

In 1911 there was one silo in the County; today there are 16 and others under construction.

Six years ago there was not a shredder or husker in the County; now they are to be found in every community. Then there were only a few riding cultivators; now hundreds of them can be found in the County. Then there was not a Boys Corn Club (whose efforts and whose exhibits are generally conceded to be responsible for the organization of the Surry County Fair), not a pig club, not a poultry club. Today the clubs of the boys—the farmers of tomorrow, and incidentally the farmers of today—have hundreds of members that seemingly doing too much splendid work to be deprived of their advisor and leader. These boys have averaged about seventy bushels of corn to the acre for the last two years. The improvement in the poultry of the County has been almost as marked as has been the cattle improvement during the last two or three years.

Six years ago the farmers had inaccurate knowledge as to the spraying, grading and marketing of Irish potatoes. This knowledge has brought into the County thousands of dollars in recent years. In 1911 not a farmer in the County knew how to keep sweet potatoes through the winter. Last winter, according to a partial list kept by the County agent, 10,000 bushels were kept. The farmers have received scientific knowledge from books and papers, but this method of keeping potatoes was given them by the county agent, he having had to promise in many cases to pay to the farmer \$1.00 a bushel for all the potatoes that were lost in this experiment.

Not only along these lines, but along others too numerous to mention, has the County advanced in knowledge and wealth. Where did all this knowledge come from? With the exception of farm journals (whose scientific methods are actually demonstrated by the county agent) and a number of new citizens who have come into the County, our farmers have the same sources of information that they had before except for the county agent.

Now for the ECONOMY PART OF IT: The Board of County Commissioners has refused to make any further allowance for this work and have officially informed the county agent that the reason for its discontinuance is solely because the County is not able to spend \$600 for this work. ECONOMY? A County that has a valuation of \$20,000,000, whereas six years ago it had less than \$10,000,000; a county building roads and bridges for convenience of its people who owe much of this development to the adoption of the scientific methods that they have been taught in recent years; a county paying comfortable salaries to its officers to execute its laws and

offices; a county erecting buildings in keeping with its size and importance; a county steadily advancing along educational lines and progressing generally, and yet a county whose Board of Commissioners begins ECONOMY by refusing to make an allowance of six hundred dollars to continue the work of the county agent. \$10,000 at least saved in sweet potatoes last year; thousands of dollars saved every year to the farmers of the county—facts whose proof is obtainable in any section of Surry County. Yet unable to pay \$600 for scientific agricultural work.

In fact, it is rumored that the statement of the Board of Commissioners was to the effect that the County not only did not have the money, but that this amount, \$600, could not be borrowed. This is doubtless a mistake, for these gentlemen would be untrue to the County to allow its credit to get to this point without notifying the citizens of such a state of affairs.

ECONOMY? Nothing but ECONOMY. No charge is being made by the Board of Commissioners that this scientific work was not beneficial to the County, and not worth its cost.

The whole situation seems to resolve itself to this: If the work has benefited the County \$600 a year, the County cannot afford to be without it. If the present county agent is inefficient, or unsatisfactory for any reason turn him off and hire another. If not, retain him, or else give him a statement of the action of the Board so that he may use it in some other progressive County whose officials are either in sympathy with the efforts for the development of their County, or who have the FINANCIAL DARING to borrow \$600 on the credit of a County of 370,712 acres and valued at \$20,000,000. ECONOMY?

Farmers, if you have an opinion about this matter, you owe it to yourselves and to your boys to express it to the Board of Commissioners who have started on ECONOMY at the end that vitally affects YOU.

Mount Airy, N.C., Sept. 11, 1917.

Asks Removal of his Brother as Sheriff

Danville, Va., Sept. 7.—Word has reached here of unusual proceedings which have taken place in Stuart, to remove from office the sheriff of Patrick county, J. H. Staples. The man bringing the charges into the court is the sheriff's brother, Archie Staples. The court is asked to remove the sheriff because of misconduct in office. Judge E. J. Harvie has issued a ruled against the sheriff returnable tomorrow morning when the case will come up.

The root of the trouble appears to lay in a shooting affair which took place some weeks ago, the son of Joe Staples, the sheriff being shot in the back of the head with a rifle by the son of Archie Staples, both sons being still in their teens. It was first claimed that the shooting was accidental but now, the grand jury is to investigate the affair.

This afternoon it was learned that the charges preferred against the sheriff by his brother is that he is alleged to have solicited and accepted valuable consideration to influence his official conduct.

To Develop Torpedo-Plane.

New York, Sept. 6.—In an effort to develop the torpedo-plane as a weapon against battleships, Godfrey L. Cabot, of Boston, a vice-president of the Aero Club of America, has placed \$30,000 at the disposal of Rear Admiral Bradley A. Fiske, U. S. N., retired, to carry on experimental work, it was announced here tonight by the club. The announcement says it is hoped to develop a machine that can carry the heaviest torpedo direct from England to the German naval base at Kiel.

SOLDIERS FATHER URGES BULLETS FOR TRAITORS

"The mouth of sedition should be shut by a bullet."

These are the words of Lemuel Ely Quigg, lawyer and former Congressman from New York, who speaks with especial force against sedition and treason as a father whose only son is on his way to the trenches in France. He emphatically deplores any differences of opinion, any varying points of view on the basic principles of war and peace, and declares that the only thing now to be considered in how to win the war with the least possible loss of life. In ringing words he denounces nations "organized into beasts of prey" and pacifists whose words and acts increase the sacrifice the nation must make to render the world "safe for democracy," and in the following letter which the New York Tribune prints as a leading editorial he calls upon those too old to fight in the trenches to support the President in any steps he may take to suppress sedition at home.

The mouth of sedition should be shut with a bullet.

I am not boiling with rage, Mr. Editor. I am not even excited. The point is this—my son, my only child, in prompt response to his country's duly sounded call, is to-day reared for the France trenches, there to be the target for German bullets. Every voice raised here at home to discourage others from going with him, they to back him and he to back them, and so to make their mighty work a success at the least sacrifice to any, increases the chance, already considerable, that he will never come back to his mother and me. I think that that voice ought to be still before he has been.

But this view, so important to me, so important to the fathers and mothers of the thousands who marched down Fifth Avenue recently and to the parents of the hundreds that are being gathered from all over this land to places of training and departure, is the very least of it. The great thing is that until the world rids itself of nations organized into beasts of prey no man's home is worth building. No man's business is worth pursuing. No man's wife or his cradled baby, getting a breath of fresh air in the street in front of his house, is safe from rape or death.

I have often heard it remarked that this war is unpopular. What war ever was "popular," except to the greed, lust and ambition that caused it? What war ever was popular to people who want to live in the enjoyment of peace, order, and liberty? The word "popular" as connected with a war is despicable. But never before has there been a war where the principle of individual liberty, the right to make a home, to go about freely, to do one's lawful business without interruption, to protect one's women and children against the barbarity of lust and murder, has been so definitely presented to the American people as it is presented to us to-day. Lexington and Concord were not so bad as this. The issue that brought us into this conflict with one another sixty years ago was not so bad as this.

Not "popular"! Do you suppose that five millions of fathers like myself would permit our boys to be taken away from us, hustled into barges, and then planted straight in the way of bullets and bombs and killing stench if we didn't think it was our duty to go and our duty to urge them to go? Do you suppose that we five millions would permit a handful of men down in Washington to impose upon us billions of taxes for us to pay next year if we didn't think they ought to do it and that we ought to pay? If the war was unpopular, do you suppose that we would leave the manifestation of that fact to a rabble on a street-corner in Butte or on Broadway?

Up to now nothing has been allowed to go very far in this country unless

it accorded with the will of the people, and the reason that we are at war with Germany is because we intend to keep things that way. The reason we are standing these taxes, the reason we are handing guns to our young men is because, after patience against provocation unexampled in history, after, hopes created one day only to be blasted the next, after proofs that we could no longer doubt, we have at last become convinced that the end for which German armies were sent against France and Flanders and Russia means not their conquest only, but ours also—means that if that end is successful in Europe it is an everlasting menace to national organization and individual liberty everywhere on this earth.

What is the use of trying to keep up a home and to conduct a business, a farm, a profession, to earn a living that will content your wife and educate your children, if you have got to spend half of what your labor earns and, to the interruption of your business, spend years of your life creating military equipments and performing military service in order to be ready to beat some ravenous beast that is watching for the right-time to spring at you? The German people must get the sense of this, at whatever cost to them or us. They are responsible. They don't have to have the Hohenzollerns and the German military autocracy unless they want them, nor unless they mean what their godless rulers mean. They are not obliged to have William and his scheme any more than we have been obliged to have our Presidents, from Washington to Wilson. No blacksmith ever shod a horse, no farmer tilled a field to better result than is gotten when our President speaks the mind of the American people in answer to the Pope telling the German people that before this war can end the purposes for which they have permitted their armies to be sent out must be definitely abandoned.

How perfectly Mr. Wilson said what the nation means is proved by the fact that we have allowed Congress to enact and the President to enforce this selective draft, well knowing that others are likely to follow; that we have allowed him and the Congress to place on our shoulders a tremendous burden of taxes, well knowing that other and greater burdens will be added. Now, shall we permit anybody, big or little, rich or poor, whether his name is Hearst, or Moore, or Haywood, or Berkman, or Godman, or whatever his interest, sincere or insincere, to appeal to that instinct of avoidance of great burdens and fearful risks which is common to us all and is to be resisted only by a high sense of duty?

I don't care what anybody said a year ago about England. I might then have agreed with a whole lot of it, even if he had started with William the Conqueror and had never stopped until the day when the Germans invaded Belgium. I don't care what men said a year ago about capitalists and money power and the encroachment of entrenched wealth on the rights of the unprotected poor. I might then have agreed with most of what they said, even tho I might not have been able to agree with all they suggested in remedy. But the only thing before this country now is how to win this war with the smallest possible sacrifice of the arms, legs, lives of the boys that marched down Fifth Avenue recently; of the arms, legs, lives of those who are marching from everywhere throughout the country to points of training and departure for Europe; of the wealth that is the sustenance of American industry and that earns bread and butter to keep them in the field and to keep their wives and children, their fathers and mothers, their dependents and those on whom they may have to depend, from distress and starvation. That is the only question before the people of this country just now.

Only at the risk of his life should any man be permitted to say or do a

thing that imperils the success of our cause in this war. Only at the risk of his life should any man be permitted to say things or do things that tend to increase the sacrifices that our nation must now make to render this world "safe for democracy." Those of us who are over fifty, who are not worth drafting, who are absolutely unable to tote fifty-three pounds of ammunition and equipment, who must remain at home, in the office, behind the counter, or in the factories, or on the farm, can still do something more—we can make it damned unpleasant for sedition; and in support of any step that the President will take to suppress sedition at home, while my son and other men's sons are doing the nation's work abroad, I offer to the President my service and present to the spirit of sedition what much or little I can do for its swift extermination.

GERMANY SAID TO BE FACING A MONEY CRISIS

Demand for Last Possible Loan From Her People to be Made Soon—Collapse of War Machine is Predicted.

Washington, D. C.—Information, regarded as highly significant, has come to Washington from New York financial circles relating to a forthcoming new loan in Germany. It is understood in New York that the loan is to be demanded of the German people next month. The feature of this event which bankers consider especially interesting is that it will be the last loan the Imperial Government can expect from the people of Germany, and that if they meet the conditions of the forthcoming demand they will be giving the last of their resources and what meager savings they may have left.

So the tankers, and members of Congress also who have learned of this situation, are asking, "after that, what will happen?"

It is recalled that in the summer months all gold jewelry in Germany passed into the melting pot for the public use. More recently demands have been made upon Switzerland for a loan, the Westphalian coal being the pawn.

Reports continue to show also a steady decline in the gold reserve of Germany, and commercial interests that still maintain trade relations with surrounding neutrals are hard pressed in their exchange methods.

The forgoing information has been seized upon by many here as pointing to a sudden collapse of the Central Powers' machine, possible during the winter, when in addition to the bankruptcy of the Government itself, the civilian population will feel the pinch of privation more keenly than at any time thus far in the war. One observer of international affairs, who was asked his opinion, said: "When you ask me what I see beyond this loan, which is Germany's last, I will say I can plainly see the last ditch."

Charlotte Young Man is Dead at Fort Oglethorpe.

Charlotte, Sept. 8.—John W. Hutchinson, son of Mrs. S. A. Hutchinson, a member of the Charlotte bar, died this afternoon at Fort Oglethorpe. He left August 27 with others from Charlotte to take training at the second officers' camp and underwent an operation a week ago for appendicitis. His mother was called to his bedside several days ago. He was a kinsman of the Wadsworth family of Charlotte, a graduate of Trinity college and Harvard Law school. Mr. Hutchinson was 29 years old.

Melt Down Bronze Statues.

Copenhagen, Sept. 6.—A Berlin dispatch reports that it has been decided to melt down bronze statues for munition purposes.

The Munich correspondent of the Lokal Anzeiger reports that orders for the appropriation of statues have already been issued in Bavaria.