

Mount Airy News.

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THE RAILROAD PROBLEM

What the country is to do with the roads is getting to be a big problem with men who think. Every school boy has heard of the seven wonders of the world, but the task of building the railroads of this country during the past fifty years is one that surpasses the pyramids and other efforts of mankind so far that comparison is useless. Almost every section of our great country, where there is any business development, is reached by a railroad. Millions have been spent to care for the passenger and freight demands. Great trunk lines reach into every section and branch lines as feeders to the trunk lines are so numerous that there is hardly space on a map to locate them.

All this effort was practically completed and the country supplied with transportation facilities that the world had never known before. Then some genius made an automobile and the whole financial world turned its eyes in that direction. Automobile factories sprang into existence like magic, and now at this early date there are enough automobiles and trucks in this country to carry every man, woman and child on a joy ride at the same hour. In other words, in round numbers there are nine million automobiles and two million trucks.

Since these automobiles began to be built so rapidly road building has kept pace, and now roads are opening up the country elsewhere. The result of all this is that the people are riding the automobile where they once rode the train. The merchant sends his truck to the city for the goods he once received by freight train. All this has gone on to such a large extent that the cry is now being heard in the land that the railroads are no longer paying propositions. Passenger trains that once carried large numbers of people are now run almost empty at times. The haul freight has almost left the roads because of the trucks.

Far-seeing men have said to be quietly taking their money out of the railroads by selling their stock to uninformed citizens.

Any thinking man will admit that the country needs the railroads and cannot get along without them, but how to use them and make them pay under the present conditions is one of the big problems of the times.

It may sound even silly for us to offer suggestion on so weighty a subject. But nevertheless there are some things that should be said. The railroads have been so managed in the past that a spirit of unfriendliness toward them exists in the minds of many people. One might even say that it is popular to defraud the railroad. Because of this hostile attitude on the part of the people it has been necessary, or they thought it was, for the railroads to employ the best lawyers in every town and city in the whole land at prices that are attractive enough to retain their services at all times. It has also been necessary, or they thought it was, to employ the best doctors in every city and town and retain them at all times to care for their interests. All this has been necessary to protect the roads from the people in the courts.

When the country began to make fight on the great meat packing houses some time ago they met the fight by buying space in every newspaper in the land and using it to give information about how they do business, how they buy and sell meat and distribute it to the country. At length they went into the details of the business deal they are giving the people.

The railroads need to do just this kind of thing. They need to inform the people that they are doing an honest service and doing it as cheaply as they can. They need to come clean with their whole financial problem and show to the world that they are not a set of robbers with their hand against every other interest of the land. No doubt they can do this and show that they are giving the people a service that is all that should be expected, when the conditions of the business world are considered. This, or some other plan, should be worked out to destroy the hostile feeling of the country towards the roads and until this is done they will have rough sailing.

A splendid musical program was rendered by the choir at Central Methodist church Sunday evening, which was thoroughly enjoyed by those attending.

OUR BOASTED CIVILIZATION

We, the people, as many think, boast of our wonderful civilization. No one ever stops to think that we may not be so highly civilized, after all. The dictionary gives as one definition of civilized, reclaimed from savagery.

No doubt we have progressed far enough from the savage state to claim to be civilized, but let us compare our state of civilization with that of some other people.

Down in the state of Chili five years ago cities began to form societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals. Since that time societies have been formed in most of the important cities of that country. Where once they threw a poisoned biscuit to a stray dog, now they have an asylum where all stray dogs are kept for 80 days, and then if no owner comes for them, they are put to death by chloroform. Compare that with our methods of dealing with dogs.

Once each year all school boys are asked to write a composition on cruelty to animals and prizes are given for the best work. One hundred prizes were given in this way last year.

The use of spurs in riding is no longer permitted by law, and animals are no longer stuck with the knife when being butchered as formerly. They have worked out a more humane way to end the life of an animal.

Last year in the city of Iquique 80 citizens were tried and convicted for overloading their teams.

In some of the larger cities they have hospitals where a sick animal can be carried and treated for its illness.

Now compare all this with our boasted civilization here in Mount Airy and Surry county. We have the law, but we are not civilized enough to enforce it.

LIQUOR FORCES BUSY

Men who are informed are predicting that Germany and Austria will do away with the saloon before another ten years go by. The fight against liquor is becoming active in every country in the world. Even Turkey has decreed that the saloon must go.

In this connection it is interesting to note that there is a world organization on the part of the liquor forces to defeat the effort to destroy their business. It has recently become known that there is some head office somewhere from which a series of false statements are daily sent to all parts of the world. It is believed that this head office is in the city of London. It is known that almost every day there now is published in the big papers of all nations the identical stories telling of the failure of prohibition. These lies, which they are, are the same and find their way to all parts of the world at the same time. Just why the same lie about some condition in America should appear, say on Monday, in the papers of all parts of the earth is interesting. It is thought to be the work of the head office of the world organization against prohibition. All of which goes to show that humanity is awake to this mighty evil, and the day of its destruction is approaching.

John H. Dobson Passes.

John H. Dobson died at his home near the town of Rockford, N. C., last Monday and the remains were laid to rest in the Dobson family burying ground on the farm near his home on Tuesday.

Mr. Dobson had been in his usual health until about three days before his death when he had something like a stroke of paralysis from which he died. He was sixty seven years of age and leaves a wife and four children.

John Dobson, as he was familiarly known to the people of his county, was one of the most brilliant men in many ways that the country has known. He was well educated and endowed with common sense and wit and those qualities of mind that made him the leader of men that he might have been had not ill health placed its hand upon him. In his younger days he served his district as solicitor and was a brilliant young lawyer. Twice he represented his county in the legislature.

In his last years he retired from the practice of his profession and lived quietly on his large farm near Rockford where he saw his children grow up and where he prospered and spent the best years of his life.

W. W. Cornelius Dies.

Many people of this section will learn with sadness of the death of W. W. Cornelius, who passed away at his home in Winston-Salem one day last week. Mr. Cornelius lived in this city for several years and he and his family were greatly liked by our people. He is survived by his wife and several children, Mrs. Cornelius being in very declining health at this time.

CHURCH MEMBERS IN JAIL

The recent investigation into the conditions of prisoners in North Carolina brought to light that 50 percent of the inmates claim to be members of some church. The claim of the prisoners to membership in churches is causing no little comment among church people. The Charlotte Observer is of the opinion that the claim is false and that it is made solely for the purpose of creating sympathy.

We suspect they are telling the truth, for the church is popular in this part of the world and there is a prevailing opinion that the church is the best place one can find to develop character. There is a general disposition to get people into the churches, and no great things are exacted of prospective members.

Especially is this true of the professional evangelists who are common to most sections of the state. A very large number of the church members have gone into the church as the result of these so-called high pressure methods. Naturally many have gone in who were not so very serious about the matter when they joined.

We suspect that many have an erroneous idea about church membership. We have in mind the position of as vile an old reprobate as the country ever had, one of these drinking, cursing, vile mouthed old sinners, who boldly laid claim to salvation because the plan was made for all by the death of the Master.

The fact that a man belongs to a church may not mean anything for the better in his case. If a man is vile and wicked, holding enmity and spite and resentment in his mind against those about him, if he is haughty and proud and "better" than other people, he can certainly lay no claim to the blessings that are expected to come to the church member.

Any man who holds malice against his neighbor is in direct line for the chain gang, whether he admits it or not. The man who goes about with malice in his breast, or lust or revenge lurking in his system, is likely any moment to commit acts that put men on the chain gang. And church membership, unfortunately, does not get these evil passions out of men as quickly as many may think.

The theologians are divided on what salvation means. One set of teachers hold to what has been called the "funneling process," that is a man has something injected, as it were, into his system in a moment, that instantly places him in line for the better world, let him do what he may in the future. Another set of religious teachers hold to the view that salvation is overcoming, which is a process, a working out of salvation by getting rid of all that is unholy and impure, and replacing it with the virtues that were possessed by the Master and which he had to such a large degree that he was able to accomplish the wonders recorded even to overcoming death.

There is no reason why the churches should take offense at the statement that such a large number of prisoners are church members. The very fact that a man is a member of a church is some evidence that he is trying to work out his salvation, even if he has made a woeful blunder that got him behind the bars. The man who is living a life of sin needs a far of some kind to bring him to his senses. Sometimes it comes in the way of a term in prison and sometimes in the way of a long spell of sickness or some great sorrow that causes him to turn from the error of his way. The hopeless man is the one who is headed in the wrong way and no influence of any kind is causing him to see his real condition.

Every one knows that the country has many citizens in so-called high standing who are criminals and would be in prison if they had their dues. They are shrewd enough to be bad and avoid the consequences so far as the law is concerned.

But the man who is bad and must call a halt is fortunate if he has a square deal, for he may see the error of his way and reform as the result of his prison experience.

Barney Key Pardoned.

On the verge of completing his two-year sentence for perjury Barney Key of this county, last week received a pardon from Gov. Morrison.

He was implicated in the divorce proceedings brought by Sanford Campbell against his wife. It was Key who swore falsely against Mrs. Campbell in order that Campbell could obtain a divorce. He later confessed that Campbell hired him to perjure himself in the case and accepted the two-year sentence, which he had almost completed when given his pardon.

Mesdames Mollie Haymore and O. R. Moore, Misses Lois Haymore and Virginia Moore and Dewey Poore motored to Winston-Salem Monday afternoon and took supper at the Robert E. Lee hotel.

Happy New Year



For each and every one of our customers and friends we wish a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

We thank you for your patronage during the year that is closing and will appreciate that which you will give in the New Year.



Carter-Walker Furniture Company

HOW TO SPREAD CRIME

It may be that not many have thought that crime is about as contagious as measles. It is a fact that much of the crime of the country is due to the fact that some other man has committed a similar crime, and thus the act is repeated because of the law of suggestion.

This can be illustrated in a thousand cases. A few weeks ago a reckless citizen down in South Carolina killed five of his neighbor's children in a fit of anger. He shot them like killing birds in a covey. The newspapers played up the story from week to week in that part of the country, and just the other day another man got on his metal and he, too, shot five of his neighbors. A for her crime, while the sensational woman goes to one of these modern picture shows and sees a picture in

which all the smutty under-world is displayed before the audience, and part of the picture is where a man plays false to his wife, and she in turn goes and arms herself with a pearl handle pistol and cunningly waits until she finds her man in a compromising position and then, in a dramatic way, takes his life and becomes a hero with the class of people who delight in that kind of entertainment. Now the picture shows are full of just such rot as this, and the newspapers are also full of accounts of where some woman played out the picture show in real life and with the pearl handle pistol shot to death her unfaithful husband and answers to the courts too, shot five of his neighbors. A for her crime, while the sensational woman goes to one of these modern picture shows and sees a picture in

The result is that the minds of thousands and thousands of people are thus filled with evil suggestions that are detrimental to good morals and good health. This is all due to the law of suggestion. A man does an act and his neighbor patterns after him and goes and does likewise. If all this is true, and we think it is, then about nine tenths of the pictures and about the same amount of the fiction stories should be sent to the wastebasket.

Drs. Cox CHIROPRACTORS

MOUNT AIRY, N. C.
Office hours: Daily 9 to 12 a. m. 3 to 5:30 p. m. Night hours: 7 to 9 p. m. Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.

Tobacco Growers

We hope you have had a Merry Christmas and wish for you a happy and prosperous New Year.

We want to thank you for your liberal patronage which has enabled us to increase our sales over 100 per cent. Our sales in 1921 to Dec. 20th, amounted to 1,038,980 lbs. This year our sales to the same date amounted to 2,124,939 lbs., an increase of 1,085,959 lbs.

The Mount Airy market made an average of \$33.66 per hundred lbs. for November, which was over \$3.54 per hundred above the state average, and was the fourth highest market in the State, and the highest market west of Roxboro. We made this average in spite of the fact that we sold a larger per cent of hail cut tobacco, than any market in the state. You see from these averages that we were helping to get you more money for your tobacco while you were increasing our business. We want you tobacco growers to feel that Mount Airy is your market as well as ours and we ask you to cooperate with us in making it a larger market as well as one of the highest.

With only a small per cent of the crop to be sold we would advise you to get it ready and sell it in January or as quick as you can while all the buyers are on the market and sales are large enough to make it interesting every buyer.

Banner Warehouse

BANNER & LOVILL, Proprietors.