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Governor Silzer Addresses Kiwanis Club

GOVERNOR George S. Silzer, of New Jersey, who is spending a few days here for rest and recreation, was the principal speaker at the Kiwanis Club's weekly luncheon, held at Southern Pines this week, at which there was a large and enthusiastic attendance.

The Governor was loud in his praise for North Carolina and predicted that the state has a bright future just ahead of it. He said that having the pleasure of the acquaintance of our incoming Governor, Angus McLean, he felt sure that we are in for four years of good, sane, solid and progressive government.

His address was as follows:

"I know your local problems are much like ours. Your state is growing rapidly, you are building roads on a large scale, your institutions need help, agriculture must be stimulated and education is always a question. It is only the peculiar local conditions which vary the problems.

"In New Jersey, for instance, lying as we do between the two great cities of New York and Philadelphia, our problems are intensified by their proximity. Both great ports of entry, we get a large number of recent arrivals, and more than our share of defectives and criminals to fill our institutions. Our roads are congested with out-of-the-state traffic. Every transcontinental railroad has a terminal in New Jersey. Ocean steamers dock on our shores; hundreds of thousands find living in our suburbs pleasant, while they do their work in New York and Philadelphia. These we must get to their work and back each day with speed and convenience. Transportation problems in a large congested population are different. In the summer time our hills in the north and our 150 miles of seashore furnish a pleasure ground for millions of visitors. Our Atlantic City, for instance, has no counterpart anywhere in the world as a winter and summer resort. We are principally an industrial state with a considerable agriculture.

"I have watched with interest the growth of North Carolina. Visiting here some 25 years ago as a guest of the Seaboard Air Line with a party of New Jersey newspaper men. Comparing conditions today, I can see the rapid strides you have been making.

"From what I can see, I believe that you are just beginning, and that North Carolina has a bright future just ahead of it.

"Having the pleasure of the acquaintance of your incoming Governor, Angus McLean, I feel sure you are in for four years of good, sane, solid and progressive government.

"As I said, our conditions do not differ much from yours in general, except for conditions that are purely local in character.

"I think I see something here in the south that is most gratifying. It is a tenacity for your traditions and a persistence to ideals. In the north and east there is a growing tendency

toward materialism that is not evidenced here. This tendency has forced itself upon our national life in a most unfortunate way. We are becoming entirely too prone to judge everything by material success, to gauge success by prosperity, and to measure it by wealth. This is a natural result of industrial growth, of the prosperous times we have had; of the very practical way we have of looking at everything; of the era of combination.

"In the midst of all this, sentiment is scoffed at and ridiculed. In almost any state it is much easier to interest legislators in the building of roads or making other public improvements than to secure appropriations for the insane, tubercular and others alike unfortunate. It has entered our national life as a natural consequence of these local conditions.

"Nationally it is equally difficult to arouse enthusiasm over purely humane subjects. Materialism is wholly selfish. In such an age each looks out for himself. Capital wants every dollar it can get, and labor unions the last cent for its toil. A terrible contest is started, the end of which no one knows. So long as times are good and both are prosperous, we go merrily on, but when hard times come something must give way, or somebody must be hurt. With everyone purely materialistic and selfish and not thinking of others, there cannot be that accommodation so necessary in times of stress.

"Immediately after the war we were in great fear of the march of socialism and radicalism which had made such strides in Europe. Prosperity lifted us out of the danger, for when a country is prosperous, these ideas do not appeal to a people. When prosperity disappears and hard times arrive, and the great masses have difficulty in making both ends meet, when starvation enters the home, and labor can find no employment, then socialism, radicalism and Bolshevism find a fertile field for their peculiar doctrines.

"Discontent and suffering grasps at any straw. In France the outward manifestation was Revolution. Materialism is the breeder of revolution among those who cease to prosper under such conditions. The only clear antidote for materialism is idealism, unselfish interest in and love for humanity. At a time when there is prosperity some one, at the expense of being called a pessimist, strike a note of warning before it drifts too far.

"Let us examine in passing the last political campaign. One party advocated leaving well enough alone and appealed to the purely material side of life, and this party was overwhelmingly successful, especially so in the north and east. I fear to think of the time when the South and West are swept into this maelstrom of materialism, when they too think only of present success and prosperity and forget the more humane and sentimental side of life.

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