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THE TEMPEST IN A TEAPOT.

A considerable number of honest people regard the defeat of the Poole bill as a misfortune. But it could hardly have been otherwise, for it is evident that a great mass of thinking people have passed the place where they look on the religion of Jesus Christ or the religion of Moses and David and Job as in need of any defense from legislation. The Old Testament has come through struggles beside which this little affair is insignificant, and the New Testament, although it escaped the wars and the persecutions and the antagonisms of the Jewish development, arose from a condition that was inconceivably hostile, and it has lived through those times of human history that we of the present cannot visualize from our limited experiences.

But in spite of all, the older, the Jewish religion, is today one of the foundations on which civilization is firmly builded, and the newer, the Christian religion, is the basis of the highest morality that man has probably ever known. There are other religions, and they have been a wonderful influence for human welfare, but the religions of the Bible have never lost their hold, in spite of bitter contacts, and in spite of internal strifes and of jealousies and of divisions of sects, and of diversities of interpretations.

The trifling power of legislation is small as compared with some of the forces the religions as they stand today have encountered, and were there no strength other than in legislation no religion now observed by men would stand for a minute. If Christianity, or the Jewish tenets and history as attributed to Moses, had to depend on legislative enactment we would have no trace of either of these to call to mind what they have represented. In a civilized land where we cannot enforce so simple a law as the crossing act or the prohibition laws, or the various measures that fail to check the wave of crime, what could legislation do with laws to compel religious opinions or actions? If any man thinks the religions of civilization are dependent on human laws as laid down by legislation or by congresses he is fooled. If we cannot go deeper than that with our influences and restraining powers we might as well close the churches tomorrow. To teach an error never gives it a footing of any account, and to fight the truth never gets anywhere. That's the thing to remember. The Bible needs no help.

THE FARMER'S PLIGHT.

Max Gardner at Statesville last week talked to the farmers about conditions that are making farm prosperity difficult, and it is a long time since a man preached so much economic sense, and talked so candidly to a class of people who have been fed up on absurd sophistries as the farmers have in the last generation. Mr. Gardner told his hearers that it is not eleven cent cotton, nor any other thing over which he has no control that affects the farmer as much as one thing that he should control, and that thing is debt.

Not long ago North Carolina farms were reasonably free from debt. Now they are loaded to the muzzle with debts, and the chief cry of the farm seems to be a way to pile on more debt. Corporations are formed to make it easy for the farmer to get worse and worse into the helpless slough and to tie around his neck

the millstone that is already sinking many and will sink more before the end comes.

The quack remedies that are offered the farmer are the worst sort of delusions, for while they afford him no help they call his attention away from the things that would afford him relief. But Max Gardner is outspoken. He proposes no way to get rich quick or easy, for the plight of agriculture is one that can not yield to nostrums, no matter how pleasing the claims of those who have the goods to offer. The job that is ahead of the farmer is a hard one, and it is useless to try to persuade him that it is not. It is harder than he thinks or than most others think, for it involves a lot of work, disappointment, struggle against advisers who are mouthier than brainy, and to tell the truth The Pilot is not hopeful of any early remedies. The farmer does not get a fair share in the industrial world, but borrowing money will not give him that fairness, nor will any plans that propose to get money for him in any way but work. And if he can not pay his debts, to get further in debt is more certain suicide. Debt is the great handicap of the farmer of today, and unless he gets rid of that burden he can not be helped by any power, for debt eats up his earnings and keeps his nose tighter to the grindstone. There is no way out but to get rid of debts and then to stay rid of them.

A few sound talks like this will make Max Gardner governor of North Carolina regardless of any other help.

OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES.

Last week's issue of the University News Letter notes that Moore county ranks third in the number of high school graduates in proportion to the population. We have over 103 for each ten thousand population, while Washington has 105 and Pamlico 117, Guilford 62, Buncombe 54, Mecklenburg 53, Wake 47, Forsyth 41, Durham 40, and the average of all the counties of the State is 47, which puts Moore up to double the average and then some.

Moore county has been making resolute efforts to show progress in school matters, and to the credit of the school board, the school officials and teachers, and the school patrons the county holds a high rank. Although our county is not one of the populous or wealthy counties there are only 14 other counties in the State that graduated as many children from the high schools as Moore did. The article in the News Letter also says that in the Sandhills section is one group of counties and in the Northeast tidewater section is another group of counties which led all the rest of the State as groups. These two centers of educational effort stand out prominently. Buncombe and Guilford are the only two counties with larger towns or cities that lead Moore county's record, and New Hanover with its prominent city of Wilmington has only a rating of 30 as against Moore county's 103.

This bit of information is not printed as a desire to boast; for education is still far enough behind what it should be, and it is unnecessary to get too chesty over what has been done. But it is gratifying to know that Moore county is on the right track, and that its educational forces are accomplishing something that puts the county third on the list among the counties of the State. Moreover in the colleges of the State Moore county delegations are important and high in collegiate standing. In the same breath it seems meet to refer a minute to John McQueen, a man who lives largely for others, and particularly for the younger members of the social body, not only of Moore county, but wherever he can put his finger on some one in need of sound encouragement, and along with McQueen good old Lawhon, now gone to his everlasting rest, for he too, was one of the missionaries in this work. On the tombstones of these two men when

these stones are raised some day, should be carved the legend, "Fiat Lux," from Genesis 1, 3.

OUT THE WEYMOUTH RIDGE.

The Pilot this week announces the purchase by the Weymouth interests of the Knollwood tract of land out the ridge toward the Kahler and Butler lands and beyond the Yeoman and Grover orchards. This is regarded as one of the most interesting transfers in a considerable time in that section, for it brings into the Boyd hands the continuation of the ridge land, and that has been a feature in all the Weymouth development. The sale last week to Mrs. Rose was the sale, not of a bit of land, but of a home site on the summit of Weymouth Heights, a fine outlook over all this interesting country, and a setting on top of the world.

Jackson and James Boyd have been watching that extended ridge for sometime, and when they bought the Grover ridge it was natural that folks should look for them to annex the other. That gives them the ridges on each side of the James creek water shed, and the enclosed valley, and puts them in possession of the eastern outlet from Southern Pines. As Jack Boyd has said, it is their desire to see that neighborhood grow into a pleasant place to live, and it is to be presumed that as Weymouth needs room to expand they will put the extending ridge at the disposal of people who want more room out in the country to make those interesting homes that the ridges afford room for.

That Knollwood ridge is one of the most delightful parts of

the Sandhills, and The Pilot looks forward to the day when home-makers will be selecting sites there in two or three or five or ten acre tracts, and maybe larger, and creating a type of rural homes that will be one of the strongest features of this fine home-making territory. The tract contains about 200 acres, and fits better in the Weymouth project of expansion than in that of Knollwood, as it is detached from anything else Knollwood has. The land is not bought as a speculative venture, and will not be thrust on the market. James Boyd said the other day that he liked the location and thought it a good piece of ground to have. He also added that it is a good factor in helping to make that pleasant community that he and his brother desire. But when folks ramble over that ridge and see the possibilities of it it is a good guess that Weymouth will be asked to make a price on building acreage out that way. Incidentally there would be a wonderful hotel site.

CARTHAGE

On Thursday afternoon, February 17, Mrs. H. F. Seawell entertained the Married Ladies' Bridge club.

The house was beautifully decorated with spring flowers. The George Washington idea being carried out in the score cards, favors and baskets filled with candies.

Those present were Mesdames W. R. Clegg, C. G. Spencer, W. H. Currie, U. L. Spence, O. B. Welch, R. G. Wallace, C. O. Bell, R. W. Pleasants, F. S. Cole, G. G. Grier, G. C. Penn, W. S. Shields, W. T. Overman, John Beasley, Henry Seawell, T. B. Tyson, C. L. Tyson, James Davis, H. Underwood, and Miss Augusta Mc-

Keithen. Mrs. Seawell was assisted by Miss Meade Seawell in serving a delicious salad course and coffee.

The Round Dozen Music club met with Mrs. J. G. Downing, Friday afternoon, February 18.

There were eleven members present: Mesdames C. G. Spencer, H. F. Seawell, R. W. Pleasants, R. L. Tyson, R. L. Burns, I. W. Williamson, F. S. Blue, M. G. Dalrymple, J. G. Downing, Misses Zora Lee Frye, and Augusta McKeithen. Mrs. Downing served a delicious salad course.

Frank Blue spent Tuesday and Wednesday in Raeford.

Mrs. Roy Harrington, of Lakeview is visiting her mother, Mrs. Nelia Black.

Misses May and Bess Stuart have returned from Charlotte where they spent a few days.

C. E. Clark and family visited friends at Hemp last Tuesday.

Mrs. D. B. Dennings, of Lakeland Florida, who has been visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Muse, left Saturday to visit relatives in Fayetteville.

E. J. Woodley and daughter were in town Wednesday.

Sorry to have Tom Dawson on the sick list this week.

Miss Meade Seawell spent Saturday

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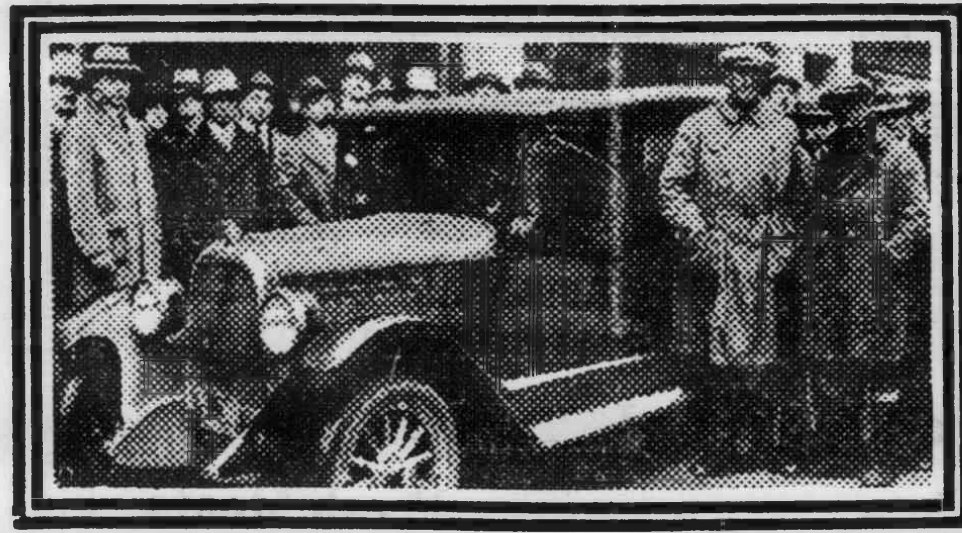
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