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Friday, September 7, 1928

The Best and Only Real Cure for Lawlessness

The Pitt County court administered the only effective medicine to a score of lawbreakers last week when Judge Nunn placed sentences of 86 years and 4 months on them for various and sundry breaches of the law.

Some people seem to think the best thing to do for a criminal is to say a few nice things to him, and then tell him to run along home and be good, but that kind of bunk has utterly failed. The lawbreaker will come into court and beg for mercy on the ground that jail will disgrace his mother and sister, apparently forgetting—or, it may be, never knowing—that his crime is the disgrace to his family rather than the punishment he suffers.

It seems that the world has lost sight of the fact that it is the crime and not the punishment that is wrong. This idea causes many to look on the commission of crime very lightly. When the courts perform their duty and punish every crime, then crime will diminish.

With two dozen Pitt County people serving 86 years in prison, those fellows who want to kill their fellow-men, those men who want to run off with their neighbors' wives, or steal their merchandise, or run over them with their automobiles, or manufacture liquor to make the world get drunk and go crazy, or who think of the commission of any other crime will think of the fate of their neighbors who committed the same crimes and who are now paying the penalty.

No man is able to tell what percentage of the people are willing to deal honestly with their State and their fellows on an even give-and-take basis; that will never be in the power of man to say. Certainly, with our restraining laws, many people go through life as fair citizens because the law holds them in line. And there are many others who care not for the law; they will sit by the side of the road and knock a man off of his wagon and rob him, break in his store and steal his goods, or go to the woods and make liquor and then bootleg it around in order that they can make money easily. Good, strong, heavy, sure punishment is the only way to minimize crime, and when men know for a certainty that they will suffer if they break a law, fewer crimes will be committed.

Again We Have With Us False Reports of Tobacco Markets

Tobacco seems to demand a different role from any other crop that goes to market. Peanuts, potatoes, corn, cotton, or any other crop price is not hard to get, even down to the fraction of a cent. Tobacco is different, however. There seems to be a desire to make folks think prices are different from what they really are.

Price estimates on Tuesday's opening ranged from 12 cents on some markets to 16 cents on others. These estimates usually come from market-boosting sources. The estimates of farmers who sold in eastern Carolina on opening day would doubtless vary considerably from the guesses carried by the newspapers of the State.

The tobacco business should elevate itself so that statements going out to the public can be relied upon. It is, perhaps, a fortunate thing that the price of all tobacco has to be given to the Department of Agriculture under oath in order that the correct prices may be known to the man who grows tobacco, and also that the user of tobacco may know how much of his dollar the farmer actually gets.

Contagious Diseases

Not a case of smallpox, measles, mumps, or whooping cough is reported in this county at present. All are contagious diseases and are easily controlled, either by vaccination or by isolation. But the chances are that before spring thousands of homes and many schools will be within the grip of one or more of these scourges, which will cost hundreds of thousands of dollars in time and expense, to say nothing of the suffering and death which will doubtless occur, because these diseases never sweep through the country without killing somebody and generally make invalids of others.

Proper attention and full cooperation would check each of these contagious diseases. Yet such will not be done, but cases will break out here and there and

the scourges will eat their way slowly along from family to family and section to section until the whole country is swept.

As much as has been done by the health authorities, the people will continue to break the laws of health, the natural as well as the statutory, until they are actually seized by disease.

The schools have a big lot of work to do in building a stronger sentiment for the observance of health laws.

Prepare for The Fair

The Fair season is almost here, and those people who expect to draw premiums on their products of garden, field, and pasture must make quick preparation.

The people of this farming section should get their living from these three places, because from the garden, field, and pasture almost everything needed for food can be produced.

Those people who know how to prepare exhibits for a fair are able to help those who do not understand so well. Therefore, they owe the service to their fellowmen of showing how to produce the best of crops and stock for the community. Many things of educational value are always found at a fair.

People should give the Midway less attention, but the fair should get far more attention, because the simplest farmer and housekeeper can learn many valuable lessons from the practical experience given by their neighbors.

Whistle To Keep Your Courage Up

Every farmer should whistle these days. It will help him to keep up his courage. There is generally more or less gloom among the farmers, at least some of them. Most of the time they outgrow their gloom.

But this year, with low-priced May Peas, low-priced sweet potatoes, non-salable Irish Potatoes, Strawberries, and Peaches rotting in bulk and tobacco going at away below cost the farmer is not to be blamed if he does look a bit gloomy. Cotton is his next hope, and with the weevil attacking it in the field and price pirates in the market, there is not so much hope there.

Then comes the lowly peanut. Nobody knows whether he will be taken for two, four, or six cents, yet in all probability at a profitless price. Then why should the farmer feel so enthusiastic? Yet he should keep whistling, for Christmas is coming bye and bye.

The farmers had better protect their organized associations. They will find they pay well in the long run, even if they do not understand very well how to handle their crops collectively at first. It is the only way to do, and no man except the fellow who handles the market and buys at his own price will dispute it.

Judge Sinclair As a Senatorial Candidate

One of the most laughable things that has been in the newspapers recently is the suggestion that Judge N. A. Sinclair, of Fayetteville, run for the office of United States Senator. Those who best know the judge doubtless know why such a suggestion sounds so funny.

Too many politicians are getting free advertising these days, and the newspapers sometimes chime in and help boost and blow bubbles.

Divorce in Paris

The first thing French guides offer American tourists is a look at the Eiffel Tower. If that is not what the tourist happens to be seeking, they are promptly taken to the divorce court.

Paris has become the most popular place in the world to shake off husbands and wives. It has actually slowed down the Reno mill.

Every State should regard people married unless they are entitled to divorce under the laws of that State.

One Argument in Which Even the Dead Have a Voice

Those folks who claim that flying is just as safe as ground traffic have lots of dead testimony against them. That is a contest in which the dead speak. Even those who are drowned and in the bottom of the sea are giving evidence of the danger in ocean flying.

General Motors to Win, Regardless of Smith and Hoover

General Motors is going 50-50 in politics. It matters not whether Hoover or Smith is elected President, General Motors will be in the saddle. Raskob and DuPont are rushing Smith, while Alfred P. Sloan, jr., president of the company, is rallying for Hoover.

Books Are Character Builders

The books that a boy reads for pleasure do more to determine his ideals and shape his character than the text-books he studies in the schools. Bad and indifferent literature is now so common that the boys will have some sort of reading. If they have a good public library they will read wholesome books and learn to admire Washington, Lincoln, and other great men. Without a library many of them will gloat over the exploits of depraved men and women, and their earliest ambitions will be tainted.—F. A. Hutchins, late secretary of Wisconsin Free Library Commission.

Promote, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge.—Washington's Farewell Address.

Again Ford Leads

According to the figures given out from the Motor Vehicle Bureau, Raleigh, there were 1,956 Ford cars and trucks registered in North Carolina during the month of August, 1928. The next highest was only 1,681; and 28 per cent of all the cars and trucks sold in North Carolina were Fords.

What would these figures have been if Ford dealers could have filled all their orders?

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