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W. C. Manning Editor

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Tuesday, May 16, 1933

Serious Mistake Probable

Does the Smith amendment to the recent educational machinery bill destroy our home economics and vocational agriculture departments in the Martin County schools?

So far, the school laws recently passed are so indefinite that we are unable to say whether the Smith amendment exempting and prohibiting Martin County from the privilege of any and all taxing authority so far as schools are concerned, and unless the general state law now about to become effective permits the state to furnish funds to teach agriculture and home economics four of Martin County's schools will lose their very best courses. Jamesville will lose her agriculture teacher; Williamston, Robersonville, and Oak City will lose their home economics course.

With 85 per cent of our total population becoming either farmers or housewives, we need more teaching in these sciences, and if the operation of the new law eliminates them, then a serious mistake has been made.

A Careless Legislature

The legislature of North Carolina doesn't seem to care.

Last week two gambling bills were shot through with lightning speed. One was brought in by W. T. Culpepper upon the telegraphic request of 64 Pasquotank County people to give them the same law that the MacDowell County people had; that is, to permit the Pasquotank County people to vote on the question of a certain type of horse race gambling.

Evidently people from foreign states are in North Carolina with a lobby to enable them to come to this State with their machines, which are very fascinating and enticing, yet they are the kind that soon gets the money of the men who hang around them.

The other bill was brought in by no less a man than Walter Murphy, the liquor champion. He put his bill through the House on his own personal guarantee that it was a duplicate of the other two gambling bills. However, when the bill got over in the Senate, it was found to contain a trick in that horse race gambling was legalized without a vote of the people of Rowan County. Mr. Murphy graciously denied any knowledge of the trick and put it off on a certain prominent Democratic politician, who was, he said, a lobbyist and who handed him the bill with the assurance that it was a copy of the MacDowell County bill.

Of course, we make no charge against either of the gentlemen. Mr. Murphy or the prominent Democrat, but we do say that we seem to have a careless legislator, and one which seems to delight in voting for almost any kind of bill, even if it is questionable in character.

If our legislature is a fair index, we must confess that we are going backward. While our people are struggling under financial depression, the devil is about to take charge of our morals.

Germany Burns Books

Germany is doing herself no honor in burning thousands of books written by capable authors. She is burning them simply because they do not boost German ideas.

We regard the German people as the ones responsible for the great war that took the life of tens of millions and the wounding of many other millions. We think that country is responsible for the complete bankruptcy of the entire world. For that reason it is dangerous to imbibe a pattern after the German thought. Yet, the German people are referred to as the fine beer drinkers of the world. If they would not drink so much beer, they would not be so big-bellied and foolheaded. There are no thanks due Germany.

Summer Weather

It is now beginning to look and feel much like summer time in these parts. The men are rolling their sleeves and the women are rolling their stockings which are as sure signs of a change in the seasons as the shifting geese.

On Staying At Home

One preacher has come out with a sermon on the topic, "The Mother's Place Is in the Home." A very fine subject, brother. Now, we suggest a subject for next Sunday, equally as appropriate. It is "The Home Is the Place for Stripling Boys and Girls, and Especially So at Night."

Preacher, if you can only convince the women of this country that home is the safest place for them and their boys and girls—and after you convince them they will follow that habit—you will have done a lot to break up divorce courts; you will have removed jealousies from a million breasts; and will have diminished scandals—or what used to be called scandals; we seem to have no sense of appreciation now as to what constitutes a scandal.

One other thing it will do, and that is it will increase happiness and help bring back prosperity.

The girl or boy who drinks deepest of the nectar of the modern pleasures will certainly have to drink more of the dregs of remorse and sorrow that are consequent to a mis-spent life. And when we dive too deeply into modern extravagances and the gorgeous pleasures, we too often grow tired of it all and check out of this world through the suicide gate.

The cheapest and easiest way to avoid dangers is for more people to stay home more of the time. We have all to gain and very little that has any value to lose.

Tender With the Banks

New York World-Telegram.

When a bank fails, when the depositors hunger for their cash, and when the banking officials of the government are called before official investigations, the question usually is:

"Why didn't you take action when you first found that the bank official was crooked and the bank in a bad way?"

The frequent answer is: "We hoped to save the bank. We didn't want to disturb business and banking."

In Washington on Wednesday before the Senate Judiciary Sub-Committee appeared John W. Pole, former Comptroller of the Currency, as a witness in connection with the closing of the Harriman National Bank and Trust Company. The bad condition of this bank was known nine months before its doors were closed during the bank holiday. Mr. Pole was asked why he did not proceed against the president, Joseph W. Harriman, at the time. He answered that delay in prosecution was the best course in the public interest.

Senator Robinson, of the committee, retorted: "You should have had the crook arrested at once and promptly prosecuted. It would have been a very wholesome influence."

"I think not," answered the former Comptroller. "It would have created such excitement that it might have been heard throughout the United States. The banking situation was critical. We were endeavoring to keep the banks open, and some of the bankers themselves had to be encouraged to go on."

It seems clear from the former Comptroller's statement that many banks in the country were kept going though their condition was well known to the government. This means that people were permitted innocently to place their money in empty shells, on the gamble that somehow conditions would improve or that incompetence would somehow turn into competence and that public confidence in the bank would grow out of dwindling confidence.

There should be only one rule regarding banks in difficulties and crooked bank officials: Close the bank if relief can not be obtained in a reasonable time, and move against the crooked official.

It is certain that governmental and other agencies are guilty of the loss of many thousands of dollars by persons who in good faith put their money in the Harriman Bank during the many months it was allowed to operate after its president had become involved in allegedly questionable banking transactions.

Friendless Nations

Springfield Republican.

Colonel House's observation that the United States is without a friend among the nations of the world requires no contradicting. It should be revised, however to include the fact that no other country has a friend. It is the most friendless world of nations, in this sense, that any one living can remember.

To say that Russia, or Germany, or Italy, or France, or Japan, is loved in any foreign land requires a sober face for him who would make an impression with such an idea. Germany lost in 15 days, as Rev. Harry Emerson Fosdick recently observed, the good will accumulated in 15 years. Members of the British House of Commons yesterday got so angry that they called upon the government to send to Hitler's emissary, now in London, "his marching orders." Great Britain long ago got over expecting to be loved. The realistic French are invariably amused by international love-making, even when they profit by it.

The coming world economic conference will assemble the sharpest group of traders, representing some 60 nations, seen in one room since the war. Not one of them completely trusts any other. Speaker Rainey grotesquely exaggerated the "conspiracy" abroad to ruin the United States through depreciated currencies, but Uncle Sam was never viewed in Paris or London as so innocent and naive that he was at a disadvantage in buying diamonds.

We need not worry about being "universally hated" when there isn't enough love between nations to stretch across a single frontier. What we should worry about is the prospect that the low visibility of international respect and confidence and friendship may continue. The nations must "get together" to save the most precious thing they have in common, that is to say, civilization itself.

URGES REDUCING PEANUT CROP BY FIFTY PER CENT

Prospects for Coming Crop Not At All Bright, Says Local Man

By A. R. DUPREE, Sr.

What are the prospects for this year's peanut crop?

The peanut grower would like to know, and maybe the cleaners are figuring on their profits to be derived from this crop.

If there has been any profits so far it has not inured to the farmer with a 1-cent average for the 1932 crop. When we think in normal times the average price to the farmer is around 4 cents, not taking into account the high prices obtained for them during the World War, when they reached 7 and 8 cents per pound, and compare these prices with the present ones it brings to us a very solemn thought.

Can we do something to help ourselves in this critical predicament we find ourselves against our will and over our repeated protests from time to time? We find unavailing efforts to include peanuts in what is known as the farm relief bill now in the hands of Congress. Without debating the merits of the farm bill in bringing about some relief for the farmer in those commodities which are included, it points out to us vividly that the peanut does not rank in importance with other farm commodities classed as money crops. If you would like to know why peanuts are selling at such abnormal low prices, I would suggest that the cleaners could give you this information as they are better informed on statistics than any one I have found yet, and after you get all the information obtainable of the causes of low prices, sum them all up and I think you will agree "overproduction" is the predominating one. Why, I had a mill man to tell me all the warehouses on the West coast, which includes the States of California, Washington, and Oregon were filled with imported peanuts from China and Japan, millions and millions of pounds in them waiting for the American market to take them up, that the tariff imposed on imported peanuts was not required to be paid until they were released from these warehouses.

From every angle you select to support you in getting a better price, overproduction overshadows them. Then let us reason amount ourselves and agree that we will cut this year's crop 50 per cent. Can we expect a higher price if we raise another bumper crop when we are wholly at the mercy to take whatever is offered us? The burden is all on the peanut grower. From what source must he look for relief? If a reduction in acreage is not the logical one? If a much smaller crop is raised this year the grower will not be dependent on the machine to pick his peanuts, as hand labor will be too glad to get this work.

Food and Feed Crops Grown in Burke County

Of the 33,000 acres of cultivated land in Burke County, 31,000 acres are being used for food and feed crops this season, says R. L. Sloan, county agent.

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SAFER FARMING SUGGESTIONS AS MADE BY EXPERT

Cardwell Presents Program Adopted by Southeastern Council Recently

By GUY A. CARDWELL

This article is devoted entirely to the agricultural program adopted at a meeting of the Southeastern Council held in Atlanta February 25th-27th, inclusive, and recommended to agricultural leaders, bankers, other business men and farmers throughout the South eastern States:

The Program

With cognizance of agricultural policies and state and county plans of work proposed and advanced by the United States Department of Agriculture, State College of Agriculture, the Agricultural Extension Service, Vocational Schools and State Departments of Agriculture for improvement of the farm industry in the Southeastern States, the Southeastern Council pledges its influence in support of this work and hereby offers a few general suggestions for safer farming.

There is no mystery about a sound system of agriculture. Aside from those residing in certain specialized farming areas, the first thought of every farmer should be subsistence, and, second, disposal of surpluses. Any one crop farming system is uneconomical, unsound and hazardous.

Farms generally should be more self sustained. As far as possible, all food and feed needed for man and beast should be produced on the farm. Such a self-sustaining program is essential to the well-being of agriculture. This program includes summer and winter gardens, small grains, legumes, and cows, hogs, and poultry on every farm.

1. Every farmer should grow more than one crop. He should become expert with such crops, not only in the production, but in the handling and in the marketing. He will thus spread his risks and guarantee operations against the hazards inherent to a one-crop system.

2. Marketing is largely a local problem; a pressing problem in most sections; excepting a few crops. It can not be solved by the farmer alone. It is essentially a problem for the busi-

ness men of the cities and towns to solve.

3. Marginal or less productive lands should not be planted in cotton or tobacco or other one-row crops. Much of the agricultural loss in the South is caused by planting crops on lands that yield less than present average production. It has been proved conclusively that except in years of peak prices it does not pay to plant cotton on land that yields less than one-half bale to the acre, and we suggest that those lands be reforested or put to other uses.

4. A definite soil-building program should be followed. Rotation of crops, the planting of legumes, and the use of farm manures should be utilized as means of restoring and increasing the fertility of the soil, thereby increasing crop production.

More attention should be given to the production of high-quality products and the methods necessary to produce high yields per acre. The surest way to increase income from farm production is by growing a better product and more of it on each acre employed. A determining factor in what it costs to produce each pound of cotton, bushel of wheat, or barrel of potatoes is the number of pounds, bushels, or barrels obtained from each acre. As the yield is increased, the unit cost comes down. Lowered unit costs increases net income just as directly as higher prices. And increased per acre yields depend primarily upon an adequate supply of plant food, in conjunction with sound farm management practices.

6. It is desirable that credit be utilized more efficiently by those who obtain it and given with careful discrimination by those who control it. The demand for production credit will be less in a balanced farm program than under a single crop system.

In addition to the above safe farming suggestions, the Southern Council recommends the development of a program, both in the States and in the Nation, which will result in the replacement of a large percentage of farm tenancy with farm ownership. Such a policy should supply the necessary facilities for credit so simplified as to be made easily available to the family desiring small acreage.

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SCRATCH FEED \$1.80	CORN, Bushel 75c

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