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W. C. Manning Editor

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Tuesday, October 2, 1934

An Explanation

It is due any community and all factions to all controversies to have all the facts properly set out, so that the public impression may not be misleading. So, in order that a good community of good people may not be misjudged, we desire to set forth some facts about a recent happening in this county.

A church controversy usually brings forth some grief—and, too often, joy for the haters of Christianity and to the bigots of other churches. For there are too many professed Christians filled with ignorance and prejudice who get joy and gladness from the mistakes and downfall of their religious neighbors.

In 1928 the Smithwicks Creek Primitive Baptist church had some controversy on doctrinal questions after more than 125 years of service to the community and to the glory of the many fine citizens who have carried on through that long period of time. The trouble grew out of doctrinal differences between pastor and congregation.

Elder Sylvester Hassell, church historian and perhaps the leading Primitive Baptist of the world at the time, in an effort to get a perfect reconciliation in the church, issued a letter setting out and defining the points of doctrine of the church, which letters were delivered to each member of the church just prior to the fourth Saturday in May, 1928, when the letter was read in conference with 98 members present, 79 of whom willingly subscribed to the document as being and embracing the doctrine, while 19 held out.

Since then four factions have existed. One consisted of three members of the old congregation—the pastor, his wife, and two members—who went to the Missionary Baptist church. Another faction was composed of 16 who have been designated as the "Absolute Predestinarians," and who were the losers in the recent trial. One of the other two factions, who stand practically together on doctrinal lines, came from the conservative side of the "Absolute Predestinarians," and who withdrew and built a new church, now known as Hayes Swamp Primitive Baptist Church. This withdrawal and church building came as a result of the unsettled condition between what was known as the majority and minority sides to the original controversy. The fourth group is the majority side of the controversy, which was, in a way, partially settled—and should have been altogether settled by the adoption of the Hassell interpretation in May, 1928.

There now remain four factions—the original pastor and his three followers; the extremists on the other side, and the two middle-of-the-roads, who will, it is generally believed, be consolidated, since there is practically no difference in belief and who are apparently on very good terms.

All would have been well, and no new church would have been built—doubtless not more than 10 per cent of the members would now be out—and peace and happiness would have reigned but for the acts of a drunken judge—N. A. Sinclair—who tried the case

in 1930. On the night when the jury rendered its verdict favoring the majority faction of the controversy, Judge Sinclair, who was at the time walloping and blunderingly drunk, set the verdict aside.

To the outsider, all this publicity and contention may have led to a bad impression—and, of course, some ignorance and some prejudices have been displayed, which, of course, was the foundation of the trouble, as it is in most cases—yet you will find no more sympathetic, good-hearted, or accommodating people anywhere than the people of all the factions. Those who were on the extreme ends of the controversy are more deserving of pity than of condemnation.

While church rows have generally been bitter and have caused the destruction of many millions throughout the ages, it may be safely predicted that the old church, which has been for so long a light in the community, will continue to throw out its beams of light to guide the footsteps of men, and that every person involved in the great controversy may find peace, fellowship, and love with and for each other.

Abolition of the Relief List

There is wisdom in cutting off the emergency relief labor employment. Times are too good in this section for any normal able-bodied man to suffer for want of food or clothing, and our government should adopt the rule of Captain John Smith, "That he who will not work shall not eat."

This particular section is now rich enough to begin wasting money, so the best thing to do is to throw people on their own resources and let them sink or swim by their own efforts—whether it be farms, merchandising, labor, or otherwise. Let us all do our best, and we will succeed. But whatever we do, keep off the relief roll.

We need more charity donations, because there are too many old people, cripples and invalids who are unable to sustain themselves and who really suffer for the plain and simple things to sustain life.

Now is the time to pay debts, taxes, and to improve the home in which we live and the farms from which we produce our living.

Extravagance is the mother of want. And with all the light of past recollections, we should have the capacity to get out of debt and the wisdom to keep out. We can have no good times if we spend more than we get, regardless of how much we get.

Too Much Murder

There was another case of apparent first-degree murder here last week. James Wilson shot Haywood Scott, both colored, following a Sunday argument, in which Wilson is said to have cursed Scott, for which he was slapped. Wilson then left, but soon returned and began firing on Scott with a pistol. Scott shut the door to the house, whereupon Wilson is said to have run around the house and fatally wounded him by shooting through a back door.

However, it is not expected that it will be a first-degree murder case when it comes to trial; since two cases almost exactly parallel with this one were dropped from first-degree murder in the last court. The solicitor compromised by accepting a plea of second-degree murder from the killer of Sam Simmons, the slayer having approached Simmons with a pistol concealed in her apron or a handkerchief and shot him as he ran from her. Ninety-nine per cent of the people thought it was a clear-cut case of first-degree murder, and were surprised that Solicitor Gilliam accepted a compromise.

Another case dealt with the killing of a colored man named Worley by another colored man named James. The latter broke into a house where Worley was sleeping and shot and killed him. This case was also compromised by the acceptance of a second-degree plea.

Now comes the Wilson case. The accused man had trouble of a rather minor nature, returns and proceeds to shoot and kill with a pistol wrapped in a handkerchief to conceal his murderous intent.

So Martin County furnished two cases of murder for the last court and will furnish one for the next term—in which three colored men have been shot and killed.

There is entirely too much killing for the good of society. It may be that the discretion of pardoning boards fails to deter criminals in their murderous acts.

WANTS

BABY CARRIAGE WANTED:
 Must be in fairly good condition. Will pay reasonable price. See or call Wilton Knox. o2 2t

FOR SALE: FIVE ROOM HOUSE
 good location. Modern conveniences. Inquire of W. C. Manning. o2 6t

CHEVROLET TRUCK FOR SALE
 1929 model. In good condition and will give good service. Will sell cheap. See D. D. Stalls, Williamston, N. C. s25 2t

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 money on your purchase of used cars and trucks. We have a large stock of all makes priced right. Look them over. Godwin Motor Company, Suffolk, Va. s-25 4t-pd

WANTED TO BUY: 500 POUNDS
 of ham, 100 pounds of side meat, 100 pounds of shoulder. Large quantity of hens and fryers. Write or see J. E. Boykin at Darden's Department Store, giving price and amount you have for sale. s25 2t

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PHIL MARLEY'S RADIO REVUE
 Station WRVA, Richmond, every Wednesday at 8:30 P.M. A full half-hour musical variety program, featuring Phil Marley and his orchestra, with a group of radio personalities.

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

Financial Statement of
Bank of Robersonville, Robersonville, N. C.
 October 1, 1934

RESOURCES		DEPOSITS INSURED BY The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation WASHINGTON, D. C. \$5000 MAXIMUM INSURANCE FOR EACH DEPOSITOR \$5000	LIABILITIES	
Loans and Discounts, local	\$107,176.22		Capital Stock	\$ 50,000.00
Banking House and Fixtures	27,000.00	Surplus Fund	25,000.00	
Other Real Estate	6,669.05	Undivided Profits, net	7,664.52	
Tobacco Overdrafts	8,757.77	Reserves	10,290.05	
U. S. Government Securities	\$217,775.00	Deposits	825,278.94	
Short Term Investments	101,356.72			
North Carolina Bonds	60,000.00			
Other Stocks and Bonds	19,200.00			
Cash, Transit, and in Banks	370,298.75			
Total Cash and Securities	768,630.47			
TOTAL	\$918,233.51	Safe Sound Conservative	TOTAL	
J. H. ROBERSON, JR., President	R. L. SMITH, Vice President		\$918,233.51	
	H. C. NORMAN, Vice President			
	S. L. ROBERSON, Assistant Cashier			
	D. R. EVERETT, Cashier			