

The Rocky Mount Herald

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BOOTLEGGING AND ABC STORES—

The Smithfield Herald

Edgecombe County, with ABC stores now for two years, has finally got around to cracking down on the bootleggers, or else other attempts have failed to exterminate them. Fifty-six warrants were served Sunday on persons accused of violation of the State liquor laws in and around Tarboro. How many more in other parts of Edgecombe left undistributed is not known. Officers making the 56 arrests included special ABC officers working under cover.

Either the Edgecombe officers have not tried to get the bootleggers, or they have failed miserably in their attempts. One of the stock arguments in the recent liquor election held in Johnston and which went in favor of liquor stores, was that ABC stores would put the bootleggers out of business. Obviously the ABC stores in Edgecombe have not hurt bootlegging or blind tighering, if after two years 56 persons are found engaged in illicit traffic.

The Johnston County ABC board is certainly not waiting two years to crack down on offenders of the law, but it remains to be seen how effective the recent raids will be in actually dooming illegal liquor. The fight will not be won with a single clearing out of violators; it will take eternal vigilance. It will also take all officers of the law—city, county, state and even federal—working together to enforce successfully the laws having to do with liquor.

MAKING TENANT FARMERS

The Enterprise

Congress is giving much consideration to the farm tenancy problem these days, but its efforts to make farm owners out of tenants will prove fruitless unless stronger efforts are made to stop making tenants out of farm owners.

It is estimated that 200,000 farmers will lose their farms and homes this year by foreclosure, and that number will be materially increased if tobacco and cotton prices follow the route of the recently marketed Irish potato crop. Congress will have to advance a stupendous transformation program if this loss is offset and if any added gain is to follow in solving a problem that is threatening the economic life of the agricultural sections of the country.

The radical variation in farm prices within the short span of a few months has reduced more farm owners to near serfdom than any other one thing. The savings of a lifetime have been wiped out and countless farms have been placed on the block, the owners finding it impossible, after years of toil, to continue making annual payments. The government within the past three or four years materially reduced the number of foreclosures by ordering moratoriums

and providing lower interest rates. Resulting relief is only temporary. Solution of the problem rests with stability of production, as far as weather and other conditions permit and with stability of prices to a certain extent.

For a number of years, land banks have started the farmers on their way as land owners. Interest rates and principal payments proved no serious problem as long as the farmer received a fair return on his investment and a living wage. Saddled by a debt with a life of 20 years, the farmer accepted the obligations, his determination and willingness effecting something with a degree of certainty for future security. The first year passes and the installments are paid, leaving the farmer probably enough to feed himself and cover his hide. Planting season comes again, and the task of satisfying the mortgage is started, the farmer still entertaining hope that by and by the little farm will be his and there will be no heavy interest payments to sap his life's blood. The third year, the fourth, and possible the fifth year pass into history, the farmer never faltering in his efforts to handle the man-sized job.

There are sixth and seventh years, when production exceeds demand, and prices drop. Production costs are not met with the income from the crops. Personal property is seized, and the first blow that is certain to prove fatal is struck. Taxes accumulate, and the farmer turns to time buying, creating a certain gamble for himself as well as the credit man. Ordinarily heavy plantings following in due course, production surpluses pile and prices go lower. And in another year the wheels of the foreclosure machine start turning. The farmer is sold out with no credit to his account for the payments he has made, for the foreclosure sale is centered around an amount that will satisfy the mortgage holder. Sometimes there is a little left over, and then a smart public criticizes the farmer for not starting the same grind all over again.

No one is assured a market stability, but industry can alter its plans, cut production overnight. The farmer finds no advantage in closing an acre of land or in hitching and stabling a mule, for the taxes continue and the animal must be fed. It has been customary for the farmer to increase his production on the theory that if one bale of 6-cent cotton will not pay the taxes, two bales of 6-cent cotton will. Henry Ford and General Motors never added to their profits by making two cars when only one was needed. But it is a violation of the farmer's freedom for the government to come to his aid with a program that will stabilize production and prices and eliminate pitfalls that few now escape.

The little man continues to be lieve that President Roosevelt and the late Senator Robinson knew these conditions and were bent on having them corrected, even if the reform required reorganization of the Supreme Court. It is a certain fact that the rapid trend to serfdom for thousands of farmers will never be checked until a production schedule is formulated, and that production schedule need not be so entirely different in principle from that employed by industry. But, with a peculiar sense of freedom, some leaders apparently block any and all efforts to bring hope and opportunity to the down-trodden.

PUBLIC OPINION

LIQUOR AND LOVE

To the Editor:

Many arguments have been given against liquor stores in the counties which have called for a vote of the people. I strongly endorse all of these arguments; but I oppose the establishment of liquor stores in Granville county on the basis of love.

I am opposed to liquor stores because of my love for God. The statement has been made frequently that many church members have cast their ballots for the liquor store. I profess to be a Christian and I am a member of a Christian church. Because of my love for Christ I could not vote for the establishment of a liquor store. Christ died on the cross because of his love for men. It was for sinful men that he died. Liquor is the cause of many kinds of sin. Since Christ, through his love for mankind, died to save the sinner for his sin, it is inconsistent for me to say that I love Christ and then cast my ballot for liquor that is the cause of so much sin. I sincerely believe that if any person will bow upon his knees and tell God that he loves Him, he will not arise and go to the ballot box and cast his vote for the establishment of a liquor store. We are commanded to love God with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind, and all our strength. If we make the love of God supreme in our hearts, I can not be convinced that one can vote for a liquor store.

I am opposed to liquor stores in Granville county because of my love for my fellowman, who is my neighbor. We are commanded to love God with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind, and then cast my ballot for a liquor store, which would make it easier for my neighbor to sin. Liquor stores appeal to the eye. It is more tempting for one who has a taste for liquor to want it when one passes a store and sees the bottles displayed in the show window than it is when one does not see it. As a Christian it is my duty to make it harder for my neighbor to sin; but if I vote for liquor stores, it will make it

easier to love my neighbor. Because I love him, I do not want to see him commit sin. The proof of Christianity is our love for one another. Jesus says: 'By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if ye have love one for another.' I want the world to know that I am a disciple of Jesus by my love for my neighbor, and I can not prove that I love him, if I do anything that will make it easier for him to sin.

I love little children and the youth of our county too well to cast my ballot for a liquor store. Wherever liquor stores are established, there will be some of the young people who will enter those stores to buy intoxicating drinks. Somebody has said that each generation is God's fresh attempt to make a better world out of a generation that has formed the habit of strong drink. Liquor stores will make it easier for young people to form this habit. It is unthinkable for me to take a little child into my arms and say to it on August the third: 'I am going to vote for liquor stores in Granville county today. You will be tempted to drink it when you grow older. So I want to make it easier for you to get it.'

If the voters of Granville county will make the love of God supreme in their lives and love their neighbors as themselves, the vote on August the 3rd will be overwhelmingly against the establishment of liquor stores.

—M. L. Banister

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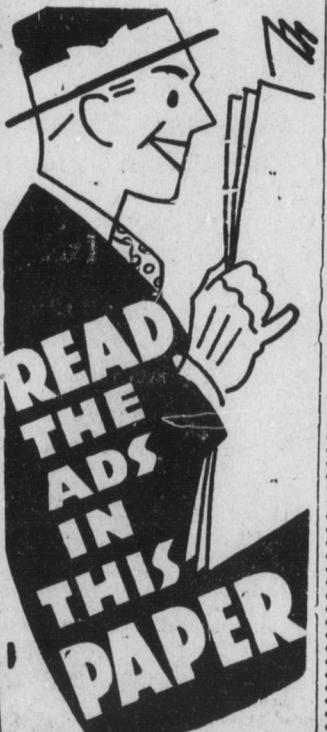
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