

The Rocky Mount Herald

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TED J. GREEN News Editor and Manager
M. PACKARD Assistant Editor

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GOING TO CHURCH

The Gold Leaf Farmer, Wendell.

Sometimes we think we must be growing old. One of those times is that day that comes once in a while when it seems that the county is going to the dogs. Ordinarily we believe that things are all right, and that the country is as well off as could be expected, but there are times when we think about the lack of attendance at church services. Those times we are not so sure. We plead guilty to this failing ourselves, and we know that a constant failure to attend divine worship inevitably leads to a lowering of the spiritual plane, if it is avoidable.

As we remember, when we were in about the second or third grade everybody went to Sunday School and church. Now as we go about we note that many people are losing this wholesome habit. We would like to add our little plea to the many others that people go to church. Not necessarily every time the door is opened, but let church-going be the normal Sunday program, and other things the exception.

FAMILY REUNIONS

The Gold Leaf Farmer, Wendell.

Modern American civilization it seems is leading away from the use of the family as a social unit. There is less and less of that clannishness that made so many families of Scotland famous down the ages. In early American days children grew up around the family farm, bought neighboring lands, and the entire community was more or less of a family affair. Usually there was the kind of cooperation that enriched the social life of the state, and made the individual feel himself a part of something larger than himself—the family.

In recent years this tendency to hold the family together has necessarily grown less. Transportation has made it easy to travel from place to place. A single family of mother, father and five children may be scattered over three or four states. Every neighborhood has been filled up with people from other communities.

This scattering of the family is, it seems, necessary to modern civilization, but we are glad to note an increasing interest in family reunions. In this way, with an annual gathering of the family at some central point we believe that much of the good of close family association may be salvaged. Perhaps again that fierce feeling of family loyalty that has helped many a weak boy to resist temptation may be nourished, and with pride in a large and illustrious family may come again a desire to hold to the family traditions and keep the escutcheon bright.

WHERE ARE THEY?

The Enterprise

Now that President Roosevelt's court reform plan has been knifed by the liberty-loving few, what have they to say about taking the question to the people, who are supposedly the source of power in this democracy? They who so willingly expressed the desire to abide by the will of the people and who were so anxious to let the people reform the court by constitutional amendment, apparently have forgotten all about the court, and in their muddled minds they entertain a great feeling of satisfaction that the constitution is safe. The voices of those lovers of an out-moded constitution. If the leaders of this nation, or those occupying the seats, would only wake up, turn off the big main streets and recognize the fact that the wishes and wants of millions are not represented in the syndicated columns of high-salaried theorists, there would be a new reckoning for them.

Sensing the wishes of the people months ago, President Roosevelt advanced the program for a needed reform of the judiciary. Almost everyone agreed that reform was needed, but those who valued liberty for the masses and apparently not for the masses wanted to have reform effected by the amendment process handled by the people. Those who favored the plan apparently have forgotten all about it, and one has reason to believe that they used the argument to defeat the court plan and that they never had any idea of releasing their hold on government that the common masses might express themselves.

Mr. Bailey and Mr. Wheeler, the two men who have yelled loudest about dictatorship, should release their hold on the throats of the people and lead the fight to place the supreme court question before the people. And when Mr. Bailey does that, he will have done about the first decent and democratic act since he has been in the United States Senate.

Mr. Bailey's record will not support such a democratic step. It is certain that he would even attack such a movement, probably not openly, but in a sneaking and underhanded way.

LIQUOR AND ITS TRAGIS LESSONS—

Liquor has claimed another victim in the Wayne county man who while intoxicated took his own life yesterday in the presence of the girl whom he wanted to marry. The young twenty-eight-year old victim was man enough to lay the blame where it was due to be laid—on drink. Leaving a note for his father in which he said drink was the cause of the fatal act, he even expressed the hope that the tragedy would be a lesson to others.

But it will not be a lesson that others will heed. Perhaps not a single person will fling the bottle from thirsty lips because of the suicide of the young man. The tragic results of drink—poverty, cruelty, loss of manhood and womanhood, even death—are seen on every hand and yet the world drinks on. If by giving one's life, others might be saved from destruction, there would be virtue in the sacrifice; but drink addicts are not scared into reformation. Drunkards do reform but they usually do so because of other influences than fear of an untimely fate. Somehow they never think they will come to the same bad end.

Increase Shown In Prison Population

North Carolina's prison population June 30, at the end of the first six months of the calendar year, was 9,050, or an increase of 318 over the June 30, 1936 census, W. C. Ezzell, director of the division of institutions and corrections announced.

The report released by the state board of charities and public welfare goes into all phases of the state's wards and gives little prospect of any reduction in the state's burden which tends to grow larger with each month.

The report also shows that there were on June 30, 1937, a total of 7,072 inmates of mental institutions in the state, as compared to 6,608 on June 30, 1936, an increase of 464. They were divided as follows: Caswell Training School, Kingston, 663; State Hospital for Negroes, Goldsboro, 2,032; State Hospital, Morganton, 2,155; State Hospital, Raleigh, 2,222.

Physical defectives in state maintained institutions on June 30, 1937, numbered 638, with 164 at the orthopedic hospital in Gastonia, and 474 at the North Carolina Tuberculosis sanatorium. This showed an increase of five patients over the 633 registered a year ago.

A decrease of two was shown in institutions for the aged, with the Confederate soldiers' home at Raleigh having 7, three less than a year ago, and the Confederate Women's home at Fayetteville 43, one more than on June 30, 1936, a total this year of 50.

A total of 955 juvenile delinquents

an increase of 62 over the previous year, were under confinement on June 30 1937. The distribution was as follows, Eastern Carolina Training School, Rocky Mount, 120; Jackson Training School, Concord, 507; Samareand State Home and Industrial School for Girls, Eagle Springs, 173; Morrison Training School, Hoffman 144; Efland School for Negroes, Efland, 11.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

"Spirit" was the subject of the Lesson-Sermon in all Christian Science churches and societies on Sunday August 8, 1937.

The Golden Text was from 1 John 4: 12, 13. "No man hath seen God at we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit."

Among the citations which comprised the Lesson-Sermon was the following from the Bible: "God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (John 4, 24)

The Lesson-Sermon also included the following passage from the Christian Science textbook, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" by Mary Baker Eddy. "Eye hath neither seen God nor His image and likeness. Neither God nor the perfect man can be discerned by the material senses. The individuality of Spirit, or the infinite, is unknown and thus a knowledge of it is left either to human conjecture or to the revelation of divine Science. (Page 330)

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