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SOME PERPLEXING PROBLEMS OF COUNTRY PASTORS

In the discussion of this question it shall not be my purpose to reflect in the least upon my big-hearted and noble country people. Far be it from me to do such a thing. That I love my country work needs no better proof than the fact that I have given the last ten years exclusively to the country pastorate, when I have had frequent opportunities to return to the town pastorate with much larger

Why should not the country work? I was born and reared in the country, converted at a country meeting, baptized by a country pastor, licensed by a country church, and preached my first sermon from an old-fashioned country pulpit over whose battlements I could scarcely see

I am now serving three country churches composed of as good people, and many of them as intelligent people, as can be found in any town, city or country. As a rule, the country people are as consecrated and as loyal to the church and pastor as any people in the world; but if it is thought that the city pastor is the only one who has perplexing problems with which to deal, let him be at once undeceived. This article was suggested to me some time ago while in company with a good brother on the train, as he related to me some of the many vexatious problems of the city pastor.

WALLACE H. HARTSELL, PASTOR OF BUNN



The above is a cut of Rev. Wallace H. Hartsell, a Stanly boy, now the pastor at Bunn. He has several churches around there, makes his trips in an automobile, and is making things move. He has a B. Y. P. U. and a fine Sunday school in each of his churches. We are proud of him. He is a son of P. G. Hartsell of Big Lick.

A SAVED DEATH.

GROWTH OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BAPTISTS.

Hight C. Moore, Editor of the Biblical Recorder.

From the figures collated by our Statistical Secretary from the associational minutes for 1914, I gather some of the more important data as follows:

We now have sixty-four associations, which is probably too many if they were laid out for the largest efficiency.

We have 2,093 churches with a membership of 256,599. For the first time we have passed the quarter million mark.

Probably the most gratifying fact of all is that showing 14,716 baptisms, for the largest ever recorded in our history.

We have 2,052 Sunday schools with an enrollment of 201,224. For the first time we have passed the 200,000 mark in this regard.

To the seven regular Convention objects (State Missions, Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Orphanage, Ministerial Education, Ministerial Relief and Sunday School Mission) the churches reported gifts amounting to \$5,695.68. This means that our per capita contributions have amounted to 76 cents. There have been 1,000 of our churches to contribute to the object, and an increasing number of all objects.

PICTURE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE BARACA CLASS



Mr. Oscar D. Caudle.

We are giving a cut of the president of our Baraca Class at West Albemarle. He is a faithful boy that comes to his class through all kinds of weather. He has not been absent many Sundays since he became the president, and that has been many months.

RIGHT YOUNG MAN ABILITY

This raised the question in my mind, is it possible that it is supposed that the country pastor has nothing but smooth sailing with no perplexing problems to annoy him? Long and faithful experience has taught me that such is by no means the case.

First of all, the average country church pays a very small salary; and it matters not how scanty the salary, or how irregularly paid, the pastor is not only expected to be a scholar, but he must keep abreast with the times in social and political affairs as well as in religious and denominational matters. And this is all right, but they fail, as a rule, to appreciate the fact that all this requires a very wide range of reading and that the pastor who thus keeps himself posted must take a number of the best magazines and periodicals in addition to his religious and denominational papers. This calls for a considerable slice from his meagre salary.

And then, too, he must give diligent attention to the preparation and delivery of his sermons. And this is also eminently proper, but this requires much time, and the pastor who studies his Bible and prepares his sermons as he should has no time left to make tents for a living. Thus it is plain to be seen that it is no simple problem for the average country pastor to meet all the demands of his people, contribute one-tenth of his income to the Lord's work, and then faithfully and promptly discharge all of his financial obligations as they come to him from time to time, all out of his scant salary. The time has passed when a pastor can make his living on the farm, or otherwise and preach to the satisfaction of the country people.

Another of the vexatious problems of the country pastor is the great ir-

The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Russell was buried at Anderson's Grove February 15. Funeral services were conducted at the home by B. G. Whitley. We extend to these worthy people our greatest sympathy. This is the second one the Lord has removed from them in the past two years. May the good Lord abundantly bless them in these dark hours. The sun will shine bright some day.

A FRIEND.

regularity of church services which seems unavoidable. In the back country, especially, the weather conditions have much to do with church attendance. When it rains, oftentimes the roads become well-nigh impassable, not unfrequently causing the pastor to lose an entire regular monthly or semi-monthly service. This makes it almost impossible to keep his church and congregation in touch with the local work in any of its departments. And then it is so much more difficult to lay the general denominational work and obligations upon their hearts.

No matter how evangelistic a pastor may be, it is not possible to keep the church up to an evangelistic spirit and line of work with the frequent missing services. Under such "conditions and circumstances" no pastor can show up at his best. Nothing will more completely demoralize any organization, and a church is no exception to the rule, than irregular attendance upon, and the frequent failure of its regular meetings. This is one of the principal reasons why country churches do not have conversions more frequently at their stated meetings, as is the case with so many of the town and city churches.

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to regular benevolence \$112.19. We have eighteen colleges and secondary schools owned and controlled by the denomination, with six others under private control, but recognized as Baptist schools.

The Woman's Missionary Union embraces 1,072 societies in fifty-two of our associations, and reported mission contributions aggregating \$40,254.13.

Our register of gains for the year shows thirty-nine churches, 11,060 church members, 1,452 baptisms, 118 Sunday schools and 10,443 Sunday School pupils.

Of course there is a dark side and fidelity to truth requires a word about it. We have 737 churches reporting no baptisms last year, 349 churches contributing not one cent to any Convention object, and 152 churches that have no Sunday schools. Our per capita contribution to the regular object has decreased one cent during the year. Twelve entire Associations have in them no W. M. U. work whatever.

On the whole, however, the figures for the year are very gratifying. We therefore thank God and take courage.

Raleigh, N. C.

Alson's Representative, Hon. F. E. Thomas, has introduced and passed the House, a bill which limits the amount of whiskey that can be obtained at the medical depository. The smallest amount you can get, provided this bill passes the Senate, is two ounces, or about one swallow, as the News and Observer says. The largest amount is one-half pint, which is enough in any ordinary case, so the physicians say. It is believed that the bill, when enacted into law, will cut out the abuse of the depository to a large extent.—Ansonian.

Marshville: Correspondence of Monroe Enquirer.

Roy A. Traywick, the young man that plead guilty to forgery at court in Monroe last week, is well known here. Until about three years ago he was considered a most excellent young man of unusual brilliancy. When he finished his high school work in 1912 he was the peer of any boy in the county in English. His English teacher, who has taught several years, declared that he was the finest English scholar she had ever taught. One of his teachers, the principal, said that Traywick would rank with John Charles McNeill as a writer if he should choose literary work. But, alas, he has fallen. These lines are not written to advertise his downfall but as a warning to others. Why did such a bright young man yield to temptation? We think we can give a partial answer at least. He took to cigarette smoking, drinking liquor, reading bad literature. Bad literature caused him to go to pieces religiously, cigarettes and liquor made an easy victim to temptation. These, in our opinion, caused his ruin. Young man, don't think because you have as splendid a religious training as this young man, or a brilliant intellect that you are immune from life's temptations. The bad habits will down you in short order. Take warning.

DEATH OF SAMUEL McMANUS

Samuel McManus died at his home in West Monroe on the 10th instant, after an illness of several weeks. He leaves a wife and several children, two brothers, and a host of relatives and friends. The funeral services were conducted by his pastor, R. M. Haigler at Corinth Baptist church of which he was a very consistent member.